

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.

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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.

P.S.N.S. ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION
BULLETIN FOR MARCH, 1970

March came in like a lamb and departed like the proverbial lion; it did not produce many summer visitors, and many reports were received of winter visitors still with us. However, the waders which winter on the coasts have begun to move inland to their breeding grounds. At least two nests have been reported already, both of the thrush family.

The only summer visitors reported were 3 Common Sandpipers, near the end of the month, and possibly a Ring Ouzel. An early report for April is of Wheatears in the Earn Valley.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR MARCH 1970

- LITTLE GREBE 8 Noted on the 4th at Broom Farm, Earnside (HRW)
- GREAT CRESTED GREBE Quite a few reported from mid - Perthshire lochs. 2 at Stairs Dam, Birman on 22nd (EJM/PHO) at least a dozen on the Loch of the Lowes on 23rd (R & SW), 6 on Stormont Loch on 29th and 2 on Marlee Loch on 30th.
- CORMORANT Still inland 2 reports came from the Earn at the beginning and end of the month, and the Isla and Tay and Loch Tummel had pairs in the first half of the month.
- HERON Again many reports from south and mid county. The largest number was 7 on 23rd near herony at Moncrieffe Pond, Bridge of Earn. (PJO/EJM) Kings Myre, near Stanley had 3 on the 12th (IRJ).
- BARNACLE GEESE 2, with a group of Pinkfeet, spent 36 hours from 29th, in the field behind the Smithy House, B of E. (R & SW).
- GREY GEESE Still plentiful groups of geese were generally less than 100. A few grey lag were recorded from the Balbeggie area in the latter half of the month (BML) though maximum counts occurred inland there were respectively:- greylag, 500+ near Callerfountain (M.SL). pinkfeet 1700 in an area north of Mugdrum on 15th (JK) A flock of 150 pinkfeet seem to be resident in the field between Forteviot and Bridge of Earn.
- MUTE SWAN A pair at Invergowrie Bay on 2nd appears to be a rare occasion (BML). Most other reports came from the South of Perthshire, with a maximum of 12 at Crieff on 15th (R & SW).
- WHOOPEE SWANS 25 on 1st at Dunalaistar Loch (JG), on the 8th, 8 (3 immature) on Buchanty Loch (JK). and 16 on Dunalaistar Loch (ELW). 2 were at Invergowrie Bay on 15th (PJO/EJM). whilst 3 flew north over Letham on 21st (M.SL). The number increased to 10 on Buchanty Loch on 23rd, whilst 3 on the 28th increased to 8 (2 immature) on the river Isla near Coupar Angus (JK). by the next day.
- CHINESE GEESE 2 known to be escapees, were seen at Walnut Grove, on the Tay on the 15th.
- MALLARD Reported from mid and south Perthshire in good numbers. The maximum were almost 30 on the Almond (JK) and 60 on Stormont Loch on 29th (JK). 40 were reported from Broom Farm, Earnside on the 4th (HRW). and the River Isla on 15th (SL/IMcK). 13 pairs present at Crieff at the start of the month (ET).
- TEAL Present at all usual haunts. Maximum number was 15 on Moncrieffe Pond on 23rd (PJO/EJM).

- GADWALL 3 possibly, on Kings Myre, near Stanley on 23rd (R & SW).
- WIGEON Not many about maximum counts were 2 dozen on 1st at Dunalaister Loch (JG). and on 15th at Monks Myre (SL/IMcK). Dunalaister Loch had 4 on the 8th (ELW).
- POCHARD Like the Wigeon, not many about, 16 were counted on Stormont Loch on 29th (JK) and 10 on Monks Myre on 15th (SF/IMcK). Other reports came from Loch Tummel, Stair Dam and Dunalaister Loch.
- TUFTED DUCK Wide spread throughout the county. Numbers greater than 15 occurred at Monks Myre (53 on 15th (SL/IMcK). Stormont Loch (50 on 29th JK). Bertha Loch (30 on 25th. JW). Crieff. (9 pairs on 1st. ET) and Loch Blair (18 on 15th. JK).
- SHELDUCK Kingoodie mudflats had 4 in the latter half of the month (BML) whilst 10 were at Port Allen on 27th (JK).
- COMMON SCOTER 1 on 15th at Invergowrie Bay (PJO/EJM).
- GOLDENEYE Present at usual haunts; with 34 on the Isla on 15th (SL/IMcK). and 20 on the Tay at Friarton on 7th (CCS) the maximum numbers on still waters were a dozen on Loch of the Lowes on 23rd (R & SW). and 81 on Stormont Loch on 20th (JK).
- RED - BREASTED MERGANSER The Tay in Perth had a maximum of 6 (4 male , 2 female) on the 5th (JW).
- GOOSANDER Present on Loch Tummel, the Tay up to Dunkeld, Crieff and the River Almond, during the month. On the 23rd, Kings Myre near Stanley had 4 male and 2 female goosanders. (R & SW).
- SPARROW HAWK A single bird noted over Glenearn on 8th and Glenfarg on 4th, whilst the resident pair at Glenfarg House were seen on 24th (EJM/PJO) A female was seen near Methven reservoir on 14th and near Bridge of Cally on 30th (JK).
- BUZZARD 1 present over Balmiano Estate on 8th & 10th (PJO/EJM). whilst 1 appeared over Perth on 12th (SL). 2 which apparently bred in 1969 on Beins Law, Abernethy were seen there again on 30th (DB).
- HEN HARRIER 1 on 6th at Kirk of Muir, near Stanley, (IRJ).
- MERLIN An adult male on Beins Law on 30th (DB).
- KESTREL Solitary birds seen round Bridge of Earn throughout the month, at Crieff, Spittal of Glenshee, Dunning and Almondbank.
- RED GROUSE Only one on the Rohallion Estate near Birnam (EJM/PJO).
- PTARMIGAN 3 on 30th below Devils Bridge, They were in full Winter plumage. (JK).
- BLACK GROUSE Reported from Dunkeld, Glenalmond and Drimmie. At least 12 were present on 23rd on the Sma' Glen road at Foulford Hotel. Monzie. (R & SW).
- CAPERCAILLE Pickston Wood seems to have flourishing community of Capercaillie, with a maximum of 8 on 20th (JK). single and pairs of birds were seen around Birnam on 22nd (PJO/EJM).

PARTRIDGE

Reported from the Doon area, near Bridge of Earn, and Viewlands Reservoir, Perth, where they have reappeared again after the winter.

MOORHEN

Present in Perthshire up to Byres Loch, Birnam west to Crieff, and east to Bervie area. during the month.

COOT

Present at the usual haunts throughout the month 30 occurred on Monks Myre on 15th (SL IMcK).

OYSTERCATCHER

A definite movement inland during the month. Over 12 were seen by the Earn (location unknown) on 2nd (FAM). and 10 at Bankfoot on 1st (NG) 2 were at Trinity Gask on 3rd and 13 at Dalreoch on 3rd (IMcK). Over 20 at Dupplin on 7th (HRW). whilst 27 at Methven Reservoir on 14th (JK).

GOLDEN PLOVER

Reported from Kinkell Bridge (70+ on 6th; MP) the Almond (8 on 7th), near Scone Aerodrome 38 on 27th (JK). and Clenshee (40 on 31st; JHW).

LAPWING

Present all over the county, the largest flock being 300+ near Coupar Angus on 30th M.SL). and 250 near Pitlochry on 1st (JG) A nest with 1 egg was found near Balbeggie on 25th (BML).

REDSHANK

Inland reports increased, though many birds seen on the shore at Kingoodie on 29th (BML). 8 were seen in Dalreoch area on 11th (HRW). and Buchanty Loch had 9 on 23rd (JK).

COMMON SANDPIPER

3, the first of the year, at Byres Loch, Birnam on 22nd (EJM/PJO).

WOODCOCK

Aberuthven woods on 2nd (FAM), Aberargie on 3rd and Byres Loch on 22nd (EJM/PJO). a 1 had single birds.

SNIPE

Tullymet, Glenalmond, Perth, Balmianno, Birnam and Aberuthven all had snipe in their areas during the month.

GULLS

A flock throughout the month, present near Huntingtower Perth. had a very varied Common/Black Headed Gull ratio sometimes it was 1:6, at other 6:1 (CCS)

COLLARD DOVES

Wide spread during the month. Maximum number was 22 in Bervie area on 1st (BML).

GREEN WOODPECKER

1 Seen and 2nd heard on 14th in Keillour Wood, Glenalmond and 1 heard on 21st in Drumbirch Wood (JK). Birnam had 1 on 15th (NG) Loch of the Lowes 1 on 23rd (R & SW) and Rohallion Estate possibly 2 on 22nd (EJM/PJO).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

1 Near Muthill on 19th (EMW) and possibly 1 near Dunning (?) on 29th (HRW).

SKYLARK

Plentiful throughout county. Singing noted from the middle of the month. Maximum number, 19+ on Balmianno Estate on 10th (EJM/PJO).

PIED WAGTAIL

2 on 3rd at Bridge of Earn (PJO) only one report.

WAXWING

1 at High Craigie, Perth from 8th to the 15th (CYM).

DIPPER

Present on many streams and rivers during the month though none were seen at Birks of Aberfeldy on 15th (R & SW).

GOLDCREST The Birnam / Dunkeld area and the Moncrieffe Estate had birds throughout the month (JG/PJO/EJM).

FIELDFARE Still present in fare numbers, though numbers tailed off as the month advanced. Maximum numbers were (100 - 150+) at Bankhead, (Dunning?) on 11th and 24th (HRW) and 60+ at Rhynd, Earn/Tay junction on 7th (CCS) No reports after 24th.

STONECHAT 2 at Balbeggie on 26th (BML).

REDWING 3 on 3rd at Dalreoch Bridge (Iick).

(RING OUZEL Bein's Law was reported to have one on 30th. Could possibly be a partly albino blackbird ?)

MISTLE THRUSH Nest with 1 egg found on 26th in Perth. (NG)

BLACKBIRD Nest being built behind the Smithy House in the last week of the month.

LONG TAILED TIT Recorded in Perth near the Quarry (NG) Grandtully, the Moncrieff Estate and Birnam districts in the latter half of the month (EJ/PJO)

TREECREEPER Fairly common insouth of the county, up to Birnam.

CORN BUNTING 10+ on 3rd at Abruthven (FAM)

YELLOWHAMMER Pretty common in the county 1 seen in Tay St. Perth. on 26th (JG).

REED BUNTING Balmianno all month, and at viewland reservoir in the middle of the month, were the only ones reported.

SNOW BUNTING Dalnasidal, on the Perth - Inverness border. had 30 - 40 on 12th (JHW) whilst a "Flock" was seen at Rannoch (Craigemour Estate) on 7th (ELW)

CHAMPION 155 at Dunning locality on 1st (HRW).

GREENFINCH Present all month in the south of Perthshire.

GOLDFINCH 6 at Tullymet on 13th (THE). and 8 near Viewlands reservoir on 12th (SL) were the maximum nubers seen.

LINNETS 30+ on Balmianno Estate on the 14th (EJM/PJO) was the biggest flock seen. Possible bfeeding pair at Viewlands reservoir. (SL).

REDPOLL Present all month in Balmianno district (EJ)

BULLFINCH Balmanno area had a maximum of 6 on 17th whilst 4 occurred at Birman on 22nd (EJ/PJO).

TREE SPARROW 2 at Balmanno on 16th, 30+ at Dron on 17th (EJM). and 15+ at Kings Myre on 17th (IRJ).

JAY 2 near Forgandenny on 8th and a dead one at Glenfarg on 24th (EJ). 3 at Pitlochry on 27th (HB). and 2 near Methven reservoir on 14th (JK). The Pitlochry birds are near their northern limit. Has anybody reports of Jays further north?.

MAGPIE 2 in Glenalmond on 14th (JK). Beware of a tame bird in Pitlochry area!

ROOK Rookery at Dron Farm counted 95 nests. (BML).

Contributions to the bulletin were:- Mrs. S. Laing, I. McKinnie, C.Y. Murray, and E.L. Watt, Misses S. Laing, and E.M. Watson, M. Piper, and Messrs D. Bell, H. Brown, R. Burton, T.H. Evanson, N. Golby, J. Grant, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk, B.M. Lynch, F.A. Merrett, E.J. McGuire, P.J. O'Brien, C.C. Scears E. Tainsh, J.H. Wallace, J. Watt, and H.R. Wilson. Many cups of coffee fortified R. & S. Willis in getting this report written!
All reports for April by May 6th 1970 to R.G. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick, Bridge of Earn, please.

At the A.G. . in March, the following officers were elected:-
Chairman; Mr. I. McLachlan, Secretary; Mrs. S. Laing, Treasurer; Mr. I.R. Johnston, and Committee members; Mrs. I. McKinnie, and Messrs E.J. McGuire and R.G. Willis. Mrs Murray has done some good work for the committee, but has found it necessary to leave the office to somebody else. Mr. C.C. Scears, our former chairman, resigned from the committee due to his move in employment. We all found his leadership inspiring and only wish he could have stayed longer. He says he has enjoyed his time in Perth, gained valuable experience in birdwatching and made many friendships whilst in the bird club. We all hope he is successful in his new job, down in Bath, and that he has some good birdwatching down there.

Our new chairman, Mr. McLachlan, was secretary of the club for some years. We hope to see the club expand and grow under his leadership.

The club's first outing, on the 5th April, up Craiggrossie, Dunning, was attempted by 15 intrepid souls, who got absolutely drenched in the wet conditions! No ravens seen, in fact very few birds, except for pinkfeet, snipe and curlew. A few red grouse grumbled at being disturbed in the soaking conditions.

The next outing is on April 19th to the Eden Estuary, 11am. from the Museum. We hope to see fine views of waders and ducks as they are driven in by the tide. On the 29th, Methven Moss, an evening outing. This leaves the museum at 6.30pm. and it is hoped that warblers will be seen. In May, Stormontfield 6.30pm. start on the 6th and the Birks of Aberfeldy (2.30pm) on the 10th. All start from the Museum. Please ring Mrs. S. Laing (tel 22613) or Bob Willis (B of E. 406) if you wish to take part in the outings.

The trip to the Bass Rock on the 26th of July is limited to 36. The boat holds 12, and costs 14/- PER PERSON. Hence a full boat will lessen the cost per person. Names please to Mrs. Laing. The boat will make 3 trips to and from the rock.

The B.T.O. atlas has 2 more years to run before it is printed and there are quite a few squares not surveyed yet. Would reporters please have a careful look in their own particular 10Km. square and if possible other squares they might visit. Species are now recorded on an absent / present basis with breeding position if possible. The particular squares not surveyed are the following (O.S. Nos) N.N. 44, 45, 46, 56, 66, 73, 76, 77, 78, 97, and No. 07. These are in the remote North West of the county, around Rannoch and also around the Inverness - Aberdeen at Perthshire borders. Anybody would like to have an expedition to one or more of these squares, sometime in May - June, perhaps they would let Miss V. Thom, Mrs. James or myself know.

Finally, a R.S.P.B. Film show will be given at the Buchan Hall, St. Andrews on 24th April, Price 5/-. Their shows are usually pretty good.

P.S.N.S. ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.
BULLETIN FOR APRIL 1970.

April started with a cold spell, snow showers occurring during the first few days. This was followed by a short period of blustery weather, with a few rain showers and marked temperature changes. Some days were warm and dry but by the end of the month, the wind was cold again though it stayed dry. These weather conditions have not been too inviting to the summer visitors and it appears that they are late in arriving this year.

As announced in the local and national press, the ospreys are nesting at Loch of Lowes after their visit last year. They appear to have arrived in the second week of April and have settled down to add material to a nest which they started last year at the west end of the loch. If left in peace, it is hoped that they will have a successful breeding season. Whilst these were the most publicised pair of birds in the county, a great grey shrike was watched in the hills above Dunning.

As mentioned above, the summer visitors seem late in appearing. Winter visitors are also late in leaving. A visit to Methven Moss on 29th. produced an estimated 2,000 grey geese, mostly pinkfeet. Reports have also come in of fieldfare and redwing in some numbers.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR APRIL 1970

Little Grebe

1 at Stair Dam on 6th., and a pair displaying at Glenfarg Res. on 11th.
(EJM/PJO/R&SW)

Great Crested Grebe

Reported from mid-county lochs. Nesting pair on Loch of Craighlush by 24th. (NG)

Cormorant

Seen on the Tay estuary, and on Stannes Island in the Tay, in Perth on 27th. (BML/MSL/RM)

Heron

Reports from Pitnacree, Logerait, Glenfarg, Birnam, King's Myre Loch and also near Rannoch. 14 were counted at the pond in Moncrieffe, Br. of Earn on 23rd. (EJM/PJO)

Grey geese

Many reports during the month from the south and middle of the county. The flock of 100 at Br. of Earn was reduced to 19 on the 26th. (EJM) Largest counts were; -grey lag, approx. 400 near Weem on 6th (EMH); pinkfeet, possibly over 2,000 seen at Methven Moss during the Club outing on 29th.

Whooper Swan

2 flying N over Invergowrie on 27th, and 8 at Aberbothrie, near Alyth on 22nd. (BML/JHW)

Mute Swan

Present in usual habitats, with a pair nest building at Stair Dam on 10th (EJM/PJO)

Shelduck

A maximum of 60 on 13th in Invergowrie Bay, with 8 at Rossie Priory on 20th and 2 on Moncrieffe Pond on 23rd. (EJM/PJO)

Mallard

Present in usual haunts throughout the month. Nest with 10 eggs on 18th in Dron area (BR of Earn?) (BML)

Teal

Ten on Cleavage Loch on 11th (R&SW) and also in Pitkeathly Loch above Strathearn on 25th. 8 reported on Moncrieffe Pond on 23rd. (EJM/PJO)

Tufted Duck

Seen on many shallow waters. Max. numbers counted were 14 on Rossie Priory Pond on 13th (EJM/PJO), and 10 on Stair Dam on 10th, and same on Loch of Lowes on 17th. (NG)

Mandarin Duck

A pair near Perth Prison on 15th (NG). (Possible escapes)

Goldeneye

40+ on King's Myre on 4th. (IRJ). Apparently, a rare event to find these birds here.

Red-breasted Merganser

Single birds found on Loch Earn on 19th, and dead, near Loch of Lowes on 24th. (NG)

Pochard

11 on Red Mire Loch on 11th (BML)

Goosander

Reported from Pitnacree and Dunkeld at the beginning of the month, and Loch Rannoch on 30th. 9 on King's Myre on 4th (IRJ)

Osprey

As mentioned earlier, a pair returned to Loch of Lowes early in April. They added to last year's nest, and the latest news I have is that the female has been

sitting for about one week. Whether eggs have been laid is not known.

Sparrowhawk

Two reports:-1 on the 4th at Kirk-o-Muir, Stanley, and another at Loch Faskally, Pitlochry, on the 29th (IRJ/EJM/PJO). 1 at Madderty on 29th (HRW)

Buzzard

Single birds recorded at Guay (?Location) on 6th and Strathtay on 16th (THE) and over Balmanno, Strathearn on 7th (EJM)

Golden Eagle

1 being mobbed by gulls over Ballinluig on 23rd (THE) and 1 over Birnam Hill on 21st (KWW)

Hen Harrier

1 at Balquhandies, Dunning, on 22nd. (HRW)

Merlin

1 at the Smithy, Br. of Earn on 14th (SW)

Kestrel

Many reports. Dunning Glen, Kinnoul Hill, Balmanno, Luncarty, Pitkeathly Loch Murthly and Logerait and Guay districts had single birds throughout the month, whilst a pair was seen hunting at Aukmill (?location)

Red Grouse

Present on the moors and heather covered slopes.

Black Grouse

9 on 25th on the south side of Loch Tummel, together with 3 near Dunkeld on 26th. (EDC) Singles were recorded on 21st at Ardeonaig, and on 30th at Rannoch (EMH). 2 were present near Dunning on 14th and 22nd. (HRW)

Capercaillie

Up to 3 in Rohallion Wood, Birnam during month and 2 near Murthly on 27th. (KWW)

Partridge

Common in pairs in the south of the county.

Moorhen

Again, pretty common in the area. First nest reported by the Lade in Perth on 10th (EJM/PJO). 10 on Byres Loch on the same day.

Coot

No nests reported. A dozen were seen on Stair Dam on the 10th (EJM/PJO)

Oystercatcher

Seem to be wide spread over agricultural land and river valleys. Display noted on many occasions. 3 nests reported. (KWW)

Ringed Plover

1 at Kindallachan (?Strathtay area) on 5th. (THE)

Lapwing

Plentiful on agricultural land. Display flights and acrobatics seen in many places.

Redshank

Now well inland at breeding sites near still and running water. Max. number counted was 300+ in Invergowrie Bay on 13th. (BML)

Common Sandpiper

Appeared at Pitnacree on 15th and in Glen Lyon on 21st. (EMH) Lassintulloch Lochan (?Strathtay) had 2 on 30th, whilst 1 was heard over the Tay in Perth on 29th. (R&SW). Also present at Stair Dam from 10th. (KWW).

Curlew

The east of the county had groups of up to 20 in the first half of the month, after which they began to appear in greater numbers inland. 1 nest of 4 eggs found. (KWW)

Woodcock

Single birds recorded from Pitnacree, (has been "roding" since the middle of March, (EMH)), in Perth on 15th (SL), and from Luncarty, Glenfarg, Murthly, Birnam and Pitlochry. A pair at Kippen House, Dunning, on 13th. (EJM/PJO).

Snipe

Plentiful in marshy ground. Drumming noted from 19th (BML) and was especially noticed on the Club outing to Methven Moss on 29th.

Collared Dove

Max. counts were 17 on 28th at Longforan (BML) and 20 on Balmanno Est. on 22nd. (EJM/PJO)

Turtle Dove

1 pair flying east over Dalpowie on 4th (KWW)

Cuckoo

First seen near Loch Tummel on 2nd (EMH) Recorded at Pitnacree and Tullymet on 25th.

Barn Owl

2 records: 1 at Rossie Priory on 13th(EJM) and another near Murthly on 3rd(IRJ)

Short Eared Owl

1 at Kirk-o-Muir, Stanley, on 14th(IRJ), and another at Kinnardochy on the 30th(EMH)

Tawny Owl

1 on the Moncrieffe Est.(EJM) and another near King's Myre(IRJ) on the 23rd and 24th respectively.

Nightjar

None seen, though reported to be present in Gelly area(KWW)

Green Woodpecker

2 heard and seen in Moncrieffe Woods during the month(EJM/R&SW). Other records come from Strathtay, Blair Atholl and 2 localities near Murthly.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

1 seen at Dalpowie between 1st and 4th(KWW).

Skylark

In full song throughout the month.

Sandmartin

First 5 reported from the R.Tay, Perth on 13th(MSL/RM). Gradual movement N. reaching Ballinluig on 20th., Kinkell Bridge on 21st. and Blairgowrie on 22nd

Swallow

Arrived a few days after the sandmartins. 4 appeared at Pitnacree on 18th(EMH), thereafter recorded in Br. of Earn on 23rd, Loch of Lowes and Longforgan on 24th., and Pitlochry on 26th.

Meadow Pipit

Over 29 on Balmanno on 6th.(EJM/PJO).

Grey Wagtail

Pairs seen near Pitlochry on 29th(EJM/PJO) and in Balbeggie area on 19th(BML)

Pied Wagtail

Quite common in Perthshire. Max. count was 10 on 13th. near Dunning (EJM/PJO)

Great Grey Shrike

1 seen on telephone wires on Dunning Common on 11th(R&SW) and 12th(EJM/RW)

(Waxwing)

A report of 30 flying over Almondbank on 2nd. is being checked.)

Dipper

Common by running water in the county. No nests reported.

Willow Warbler

First reports from 25th at Pitlochry(HB) and Tullymet(THE). By 29th the species had spread to suitable habitats throughout the county.

Chiffchaff

One identified on 24th at Ballinluig(THE).

Goldcrest

Seems to be common in conifer woods and plantations in Perthshire.

Wheat ear

Reported from Balmanno on 8th(EJM/PJO). Main arrival seems to have been after the 15th. to 16th. A pair on territory near Pitkeathly Loch on 29th(R&SW).

Fieldfare

Still many around up to the end of the month. 300+ were seen on 10th. near Perth(SL) whilst possibly passage occurred through Pitnacree between 17th to 30th(EMH)

Blackbird

4 eggs in nest on 22nd on Balmanno(EJM/PJO).

Redwing

Apparent passage of birds during 24th to 30th at Pitnacree(EMH). 13 at Pitlochry on 25th(HB).

Song Thrush

Nest with eggs at Dunning on 17th(HRW) and at the Snithy, Br. of Earn on 26th(R&SW).

Mistle Thrush

A brood of 4 chicks on 20th in Pitlochry(HB)

Long Tailed Tit

Pretty common in birch and conifer woods. Nest found at Methven Moss on 29th, though owners not present.

Corn Bunting

1 record from Br. of Earn on 4th(EJM/PJO).

Yellowhammer

Singing birds noted in many localities.

Reed Bunting

Reported in localities which were some distance from water. Possibly nesting at Viewlands Res. in Perth from 14th(SL).

Goldfinch

Only 1 report of 1 at Almondbank on 3rd(CCS).

Linnet

A flock of about 30 near Perth on 14th(SL).

Redpoll

Two in Perth on 2nd(WS) though missing from Balmanno throughout the month (EJM).

House Sparrow

Balmanno had 1 with white tail feathers on 13th(EJM).

Tree Sparrow

Max. number reported was 10+ at the Dron, Balmanno area on 22nd(EJM).

Jay

A pair seen between 10th and 20th. near Murthly(KWW).

Rook

Young in nest seen on Moncrieffs Est. on 16th(R&SV).

Carrion Crow

4 eggs in nest found on 23rd. in Moncrieffs Est. (EJM).

Raven

Two at Lassintulloch on 30th. (EJM).

Contributors to the bulletin this month are Mrs. E.M. Harvey, S. Laing and W. Scott, and Messrs. H. Brown, E.D. Cameron, T.H. Evanson, N. Golby, I.R. Johnson, B.M. Lynch, E.J. Maguire, F.A. Merrett, P.J. O'Brien, C.C. Sears, T. Smith, J.H. Wallace, H.R. Wilson and "K.W.W." R.S. Willis drank more coffee to get this compiled.

Outings for last month included one to the Eden Estuary on the 19th. Many waders were observed and comparisons could be made between the winter and summer plumages of black-tailed godwits, knot and dunlin. Ringed plover, oystercatcher and redshank were also seen. Wild fowl included shoveler, teal, widgeon, scaup and shelduck. A few grey geese were also present. The trip to Methven Moss on the 29th. produced numerous willow warblers (and nest), long-tailed tits, snipe, curlew, and an estimated 2,000 grey geese, mostly pinkfeet. On May 6th. the Club visited Stormontfield and saw mallard with ducklings, moorhen and their youngsters, sandpipers, long-tailed tits, "roding" woodcock, snipe, willow warblers and wrens.

The next outings for May are on the 16th. to Cleavage Hills (6.30 p.m. from the Museum) and 23rd. to the Hermitage, Dunkeld (2.30 p.m.). In June, on 3rd. to Easter Rhynda, (6.30 p.m.) and on the 21st. to Fowls Heugh, near Stonehaven (10 a.m.)

The trip to the Bass Rock on the 26th. July is now full with 24 members booked to go. Members now wishing to go will be put on a reserve list in case of cancellation. However, if there is another group of 12 wishing to go, another boat can be hired. Members are reminded that, in the event of them not being able to attend and their vacant place not being filled, they are responsible for paying their share of the boat trip, namely 14 Shillings.

Reports for May to R.G. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick, Br. of Earn, by the 6th of June, please.

Anyone wishing to explore the Rannoch District and the Inverness borders this coming month, please contact R.G. Willis by the 27th of May.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR MAY 1970

This month brought the main influx of summer migrants to the county. Warblers, Redstarts and the martins were present by mid-month, though swifts and flycatchers were a bit latter.

The Ospreys nest at Loch of the Loves was blown down on 6th, together with two eggs. The birds are apparently building another nest, though it is very doubtful whether they will breed again this year. It is to be hoped that they return next year.

Outings this month were as follows: On the 16th, to the Cleveage Hills. Shoveler, Black-headed gull, redshank and teal were recorded. From there, a visit to Glenfarg reservoir produced little and great-crested grebes, Tufted and Mallard Duck, Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler and fine views of a Cuckoo flying overhead. Previously on 10th, the club visited the Birks of Aberfeldy. Compared with the previous day, the weather was fine and a profitable bird watching session was had. Jay, Heron, Kestrel, Redstart, Dipper, Buzzard, Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Capercaillie were only a few of the species seen. On the 23rd a visit to the Hermitage, Dunkeld, produced another good watching session, as noted in the "P.A." Dipper, Wood Warbler, Jay and Willow Warbler were some of the birds seen. In this present month, June, the club has been to Easter Rynie and Carper Ferry, where Mallard, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting were seen. On the same outing, a Tawny Owl and Spotted Flycatcher were seen on the Moncrieffe Estate.

A late report for April came from Scone. A cock Hawfinch was watched for 45 mins. on 22nd

Classified List for May 1970

Little Grebe. Besides the pair seen on Glenfarg Reservoir, a single bird was reported from near Loch Ard on 4th (PJO/EJM) and at Buchanty on 11th (JK).

Great Crested Grebe. Perhaps 2 pairs on Glenfarg Reservoir, whilst displaying pairs noted on Loch of Loves on 3rd (BML) and Clunie Loch on 16th (EMH). A pair also present on 17th at Stair Dam (EJM).

Fulmar. A solitary bird flying near Abernethy Glen on 22nd (EJM). Possibly one of the birds which recolonised the cliffs above Vane Farn, Kinross last year.

Cormorant. On 4th, an immature on Loch Ard (EJM/PJO); 1 on Tunnel-Fosside district on 16th (perEMH) and on Loch of Loves on 30th (SH).

Heron. Besides the nesting colony on Moncrieffe, Bridge of Earn, a pair reported from Pitnacree, Logcraig, on 17th (E.H.) and 1 at Stair Dam on 10th (I.McK).

Grey Lag Goose. 50, flying went over Loch Ard on 4th (EJM/PJO) several flocks of semi domesticated geese noted.

White Swans. Nests at Stair Dam and Loch of Loves. No doubt breeds in other places.

Shelduck. 82+ on Invergowrie Bay on 24th (BML/EJM/PJO). A nesting pair near Longforgan on 16th (BML). Numbers near Errol appeared to drop from 18 on 3rd to 2 on 19th (I.McK).

Mallard. All over the place! Largest broods so far were 11 on Viewlands Reservoir on 31st (SL) and Buchanty on 30th (JK).

Teal. A pair on the Tunnel near Fosside on 8th (EMH) on Stair Dam on 17th and 1 near Beins Law, Abernethy, on 22nd (EJM). Ducklings recorded from Glenalmond on 21st and Buchanty on 31st (JK).

Wigeon. Reports from Lassintulloch, Tunnel and the river Fearnach above Enochdhu. Ducklings on Loch Dunalastair on 30th (IMcK).

Tufted Duck. Reports received from Loch Ard, Stair Dam and Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO) Lochs Dunalastair and Tunnel at the end of the month (IMcK). and Lassintulloch (near Rannoch) Lochs Na Craig, Tunnel, Kinnardochey and Loves (EJM/SH). No ducklings yet.

Goldeneye. Tunnel and Kinnardochey had several pairs on 8th (EMH). Loch of Loves had several on 2nd (R&SW).

Red-breasted Merganser. Pairs reported on the Almond near Logie House on 2nd (JK). and Loch Ard on 4th and at the Earn, near the village on 11th (EJM/PJO). Pitnacree had a pair all month (EMH).

Gossander. Loch Katrine had 1 on 3rd (EJM/PJO) 3 at Loch Mullion, Little Glenshee on 9th and 1 at Buchanty on 10th (JK).

Buzzard. Single birds at Glenalmond, Keilloch Woods, Aberfoyle and over Balmano. The latter may be one of a pair in that district. Another pair reported from Loch Tay (EMH).

Hen Harrier. Possible nesting pair in west of county (EJM/PJO) Single bird at Buchanty on 7th (JK).

Peregrine. 2 Single birds seen in county during the month.

Kestrel. Common in the county, reports indicating hunting birds. No nest recorded.

Red Grouse. Plentiful on the moors of the county.

Ptarmigan. Coveys of 6 reported during the month between Pitlochry and Kirkmichael (SH).

Black Grouse. Aberfoyle district had 1 pair on 2nd (EJM/PJO) whilst Glenalmond had 6 on 3rd (JK). The Enochdhu area had up to 4 during the month (SH).

Capercaillie. Recorded frequently in Glenalmond district (JK). and near Queens' View, Loch Tunnel (EMH/IMCK).

Partridge. Common on agricultural land in county.

Common Crake. First record of the year from Longforan (BML). Also from Trinity Gask from 17th (IMCK). and Pitnacree on 20th (THE).

Moorhen. Like mallard, present, breeding, near most waters in the county.

Coot. Only records from Stare Dam in the first half of the month.

Oystercatcher. Breeds in good numbers in south and middle of the county.

Golden Plover. 1 report of a pair at Bankfoot on 2nd (SH).

Redshank. Present in the county along rivers and around marshes.

Common Sandpiper. Again, very common, especially around hill streams and rocky Loch Shores.

Curlew. Nests reported from Abercromby on 13th (JB) and in Glenalmond on 2nd. Chicks in the latter by the end of the month (JK).

Woodcock. Roding reported from many locations. The Birks of Aberfeldy, Aberfoyle, Pickston Wood and Bridge of Earn all had this species. A bird carrying young was seen on the Rohallion estate on 17th (EJM/PJO).

Snipe. Nest at Glenalmond on 2nd (JK).

Common Tern. Reported from Loch of Lowes on 4th & 16th and from Pitnacree from 26th (EMH).

Stock Dove. Present in Bridge of Earn and to Abernethy from 11th (PJO/EJM).

Collared Dove. Numbers at Balmano, Bridge of Earn, are reduced compared with earlier in the year. (EJM).

Cuckoo. Beside the last month's report, heard and seen on 2nd near the Hermitage, Dunkeld (NG) and Glenalmond (JK). Also recorded from Glenfarg Reservoir, Little Glenshee, Loch Rannoch, Tunnel Bridge and Glen Fife castle and Newton Brigg.

Long-eared Owl. A displaying bird seen on the Bruce/Gouric road on 3rd. Young at Kirk-o-Muir, near Stanley, on 10th.

Short-eared Owl. 1 in Sma' Glen on 15th (perEMH). and Anulree on 10th (IMCK).

T way Owl. Nest below middle water-fall in Birks of Aberfeldy. (R&SW).
Recorded in Birks of Earn district (possibly 5 in 5 mile radius). (EJM/PJO/R&SW).
and at Pitnacree district (EMH). Aberfoyle had 1 on 1st - 3rd (EJM/PJO).

Swift. First reported on 10th at Viewlands Reservoir. (SL). and Balmalcolm (THE).
and on 15th at Pitnacree (EMH). Thereafter, came in a rush, with reports indicating
this arrived. Possible nest again at Pitnacree from 26th.

Green Woodpecker. Glencalmund, Methven Reservoir, Butterstone, Aberfoyle and Rohallin
Estate all had this species in May.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. 1 on Moncrieffs Estate on 25th (EJM/JG).

Sand Martin. Colony by the river near Forgardenny Station. (R&SW).

Swallow. Common, though no nest reported as yet!!

House Martin. First appeared on 12th, way behind the swallow arrivals. on 12th at
Invergowrie (BML). Pitnacree on 16th (EMH). and Balmalcolm on 24th. Nesting activities on
26th at Longforgan (BML). Also nesting at P.R.I.

Tree Pipit. Birks of Aberfeldy had 2 on 10th (club outing) whilst appeared at
Bohally, Tunnel on the same day (EMH). Abernethy Glen had 1 on 22nd (EJM/PJO).
and Loch Tuane at Queens View on 31st (IMcK).

Grey Wagtail. Pretty common around streams and rocky waters. Nest at Hermitage.
on 16th (per EMH).

Pied Wagtail. As above, though enjoys district away from water as well. Nest from
beginning of month at Ballendrick, Bridge of Earn.

Diaper. Nests reported from Pitnacree and Hermitage (EMH) Present in Pitlochry,
Perth, Aberfoyle and Dron. Bridge of Earn. districts.

Grasshopper Warbler. 1 heard on 10th near Krik-o-Muir on 10th (IRJ).

Sedge Warbler. First heard near Errol on 3rd (IMcK). A pause, and then the bird
was seen at Balmalcolm on 11-12th (EJM). Loch of Lowes on 16th (EMH). and Longforgan
district on 17th-20th (BML).

Garden Warbler. First near South Inch, Perth on 12th (NG). then Clunie Loch on 16th
and Pitnacree on 20th (EMH). and Rohallin Estate on 17th and Balmalcolm on 26th (EJM).

Whitethroat. Aberfoyle on the 1st was the first (EJM/PJO). Balmalcolm had 1 on 8th
(6 by the 12th) (EJM/PJO). ~~XXXXXX~~ Viewlands Reservoir had 1 on 11th (SL). 1 at
Little Glenshee on 9th (JK). and 1 at Longforgan on 16th (BML). 2 near Viewlands.
Pitnacree had 1 from 20th (EMH).

Willow Warbler. Common in the wooded parts of the county.

Chiff-Chaff. 1 at the Hermitage on 14th (EMH). and 2 at Keillour Woods on 30th (JK).

Blackcap. Possible 1 at the Hermitage on 29th. Heard but not seen.

Wood Warbler. First reported from Tunnel on 9th and at the Hermitage on 14th (EMH).
Forgardenny had 2 on 1st (RW).

Goldcrest. Appears to be plentiful, though no nest recorded.

Spotted Flycatcher. First seen, at Pitnacree on 11th (ELL). The Moncrieffs Estate
had 1 on 25th (EJM/PJO). None at Longforgan yet (BML).

Whinchat. A pair seen at Little Glenshee on 14th (R&SW). The Glen Lachy and Ben ~~LXXX~~
Lawers on 19th (per EMH). and Fochis Water on 30th (JK).

Therestear. Spread throughout the county during the month.

(red Headed Bunting. A bird, identified as this species, seen near Forgardenny
Station on 24th. Possible on escape).

Chaffinch. Nesting near Longforgan, Dron and at the smithy. The cock of the Longforgan
pair was white from the neck upwards. I.E. a *Parus albus* (BML).

Redstart. On the 3rd at Achra water, Trossachs (EJM/PJO) follow by Birks of Aberfeldy on 10th (club outing) 2 at Abernethy on 22nd (EJM/PJO).

Rin Ouzel. The Trossachs had 2 on Beulach Nam Bo, on 3rd (EJM/PJO). whilst Little Glenshee had one on 1st (JK). and at least 6 on the 14th (R&SV). Upper Glenalmond had 6 on 23rd (JK). and the river Fearnoch district 6 on 26th (SH).

Blackbird. Profitable breeders 2nd clutch due soon at the Smithy.

Mistle / Song Thrush. Nesting in many areas.

Long-tailed Tit. Food (for young?) seen being carried on the 17th at Starc Dam (EJM).

Coal / Great / Blue Tit. No breeding records yet!!

Treecreeper. Pretty common in the wooded parts of county. Any nest found?

Yellowhammer. Pretty common on agricultural land, but again, no nest records!

Reed Bunting. Singing male seen near Carpow Ferry on several occasions.

Siskin Counted in groups up to 6 in mid-county districts.

Goldfinch. Common throughout the county Maximum number in a group was 8 in Glenalmond on 3rd (JK).

Linnet. Nest building on 11th at Dron. (EJM). groups of 11 at Invergowrie on 24th (EJM).

Redpoll. Nesting recorded on 19th in Monorgan area (BML) otherwise, present in several places.

Bullfinches. Bridge of Earn, Madderty and Loch Tu mel were areas where this species was reported in May.

Tree Sparrow. Present around Bridge of Earn, and Loch of Lowes area. Nests on Moncrieff Estate (EJM). and possibly at Loch of Lowes (EMH).

Jay. Present in several Mid-county and south Woods Breeding possible at Madderty (JB).

Magpie. 1 on 31st at Coglsrae (?location) (JK).

Rook. Many young seen round Bridge of Earn during the month (EJM/PJO/R&SV).

Hooded Crow. 2 at Loch Achray, Trossachs on 3rd (EJM/PJO). and 1 on 30th on the north side of Loch Rannoch (IMCK).

Raven. 2 young seen on nest near Aberfoyle on 2nd (EJM/PJO).

Contributions to this bulletin were Mrs. E. I. Harvey, S. Hudson, S. Laing, I. McKinnic, and G. Meyer and Messrs J. Buchan, T.H. Evanson, W. Golby, J. Grant, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk, B.H. Lynch, R.J. Macmillan, E.J. McGuire and P.J. O'Brien. R. & S. Willis added a few notes and compiled the list. By the way, 88 species were recorded last month!

Next outings are to Fowls Hough on 21st June (10a.m. from Museum) and the Bass Rock on 26th July (for those who have booked).

Reports for June to R.G. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick, Bridge of Earn. by July 6th 1970 Please!

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

June is a holiday month in this district and not so many contributors sent reports in. However, those who did send in their records have helped to show some trends in the breeding of local species. Thrushes and blackbirds appear to be well on to their second broods by now, though robins seem to be either not nesting or have become more expert at hiding their nests, Kestrels have been seen fairly frequently whilst tawny owls, have been seen quite a few times in the south of the county. Only a few reports of swifts and the swallow family have come in, whilst I have none of dunnoek, blackcap, chiffchaff, redstart or treecreeper.

Many reports contained records of nests and young birds seen. Can I please have as many reports as possible even if a month or two old (they must of course be authentic ones) This is to try to produce some records for the B.T.O. Atlas. Perthshire has many acres of land which have not been surveyed for its bird population.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR JUNE 1970

Little Grebe Single birds reported from Dunalastair, on 5th and Lowes Loch on 30th (EMH).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE 10 counted on Stormont Loch on 6th and 2 on Stair Dam in mid-month (SH) 6 pairs with 1 nest hatched reported (on Loch of Lowes?).

HERON Besides the colony at Moncrieffe Pond, Bridge of Earn, single birds were seen at Stair Dam on 13th (SH) at Loch of Lowes on 29th (NG) and also at Foss and Foss Burn. A pair present on the 1st at Queen's View (EMH).

CANADA GEESE 36 "arrived" at Blackwater Reservoir, Glenisla on 17th (JHW).

MUTE SWAN Cygnets seen at Loch of Lowes (6) (NG/EMH). near Coupar Angus (2) (EMH) and Stair Dam (3) (SH).

SHELDUCK 5 ducklings on Monorgan Burn (Longforgan area) on 23rd (BML) Many of this species seen by the Tay near Errol and on the Invergowrie mudflats (I.McK/BML)

MALLARD Everywhere! ducklings numbers reported as up to 7 in a brood Pitnacree area (EMH). 9 at Moncrieffe (R&SW). 11 at Viewlands Reservoir (disappeared) (SL). and 30+ with chicks at Stormont Loch (SH).

TEAL 6 ducklings raised at Loch of Lowes (EMH) Also reported from Kilspindle, near Errol (EJM/PJO) and Foss and Bally (EMH).

WIGEON 2 on Loch of Lowes on 13th (NG) and 5 on 14th (EMH) Bassentulloch had 1 male and Foss 6 pairs with 2 young on 4th (EMH).

TUFTED DUCK Reported from Perth on the Tay (7 young) and Dunsinnan Estate (30+ with young) (EJM/PJO). Stormont Loch, (30+) (SH). Loch of Lowes (40, but only 1 youngster), Foss, and Lissentulloch (EMH).

GOLDENEYE Reported from Loch of Lowes on 14th (EMH).

RED BREASTED MERGANSER 1 on the Earn at Bridge of Earn on 12th (EJM/DAMcI).

OSPREY 2 "flew high" near Birman on 29th (NG). Possibly the Loch of Lowes pair?.

BUZZARD Nest with 3 young in Killicrankie area (HB). A pair defending territory near Bridge of Earn (R&SW).

KESTREL Regular hunter along the Craigend - Bridge of Earn road. Reported also at Balmanno, Dunsinnan Estate Bankfoot, Glenearn Road, (Perth) and Pitnacree (EJM/PJO/EMH). The Smithy, Ballendrick also seems to be a favourite haunt of this predator.

RED GROUSE. Only report of Junvenile came from Glenalmond on 14th (NG).

PTARMIGAN A male, with 3 female and 7 or 8 young seen on Carn Marig, Glenlyon on 20 (EDG).

CAPERCAILLIE A family (? number of young) seen at Ballinluig on 16th (HB).

PARTRIDGE. Nest of 17 eggs on 7th at Fortevoit (SH).

CORNCRAKE Appears to be relatively plentiful compared with south of the border. Apparently, the bird at Longforgan last month was passing through as it has'nt been heard since. Other reports come from Glenisla on 12th (JHW). and ~~passing through~~ possibly 2 at Pitlochry between 6th and 17th (HB). Pitnacree had 1 to the 15th (EMH).

MOORHEN No young at Pitnacree, though 5 young at Killiekrankie on 23rd (EMH). 2 Nests in Monoygan area (BML). one young seen at Moncrieffe Pond (R&SW).

GOOT Reports from Stormont Loch, Stair Dam, Dunalastair, and Lassentulloch. 2 nests at Methven Reservoir (SH). and 5 young seen on Loch of Lowes. (EMH).

OYSTERCATCHER Nest of 3 eggs at Stanley on 30th May (PBS). Young seen at Dalguise and Kirkmichael (EMH). Many seen at Errol and behind Smithy House, Ballendrick.

GOLDEN PLOVER Many young and adults seen above Lorch Broom on 16th (HS). 12 with young on Carn Mairg, Glenlyon on 20th (EDC).

LAPWINGS Breeds in many places. Numbers are beginning to build up in fields behind the Smith House (R&SW). and around Longforgan (BML). and Pitnacree (EMH).

REDSHANK Young reported from Monzie (NG). Pairs reported from the Smith House, Pitnacree, Loch of Lowes, Buchanty, Foss and Dunfallandy (R&SW/EMH).

COMMON SANDPIPER No young reported, though birds seen by the Earn at Trinity Gask (I.McK). and Pitnacree (EMH).

CURLY V Young reported from the Smithy, Glenguaich, Loch of Lowes and near Blairgowrie (R&SW/EMH/NG/SH).

WOODCOCK Seen on Balmanno, Moncrieffe, Ballinluig, Butterstone and Graglush during the month.

SNIBE Buchanty and Murthly had birds of this species during the month.

GULLS Foss had a nest of HERRING gull (EMH). Common and Black-headed gulls have started gathering in the fields round Bridge of Earn and Pitnacree, Lesser Black-backed gulls appear in ones and twos in these groups.

COMMON TERN Reported from Glen Devon, Dunkeld, Dalguise and Pitnacree and Loch of Lowes. 10 seen on the Tay shingle on 12th (EMH).

STOCK DOVE. Reported from the Bridge of Earn district (EJM/PJO). Maximum number was 9 at Dron on 3rd and on the Moncrieffe Estate on 18th.

COLLARED DOVE The first for Pitnacree was seen on 16th (EMH). Also seen in Longforgan area (20+) (BML). and the Bridge of Earn - Balmanno area. Scornieburn (Perth) had 1 on 14th (EJM/PJO).

CUCKOO 4! in Glenloyn on 3rd (EMH). Also recorded from Pitnacree, Sma' Glen, Killiecrankie, Bridge of Earn, Foss, Bhalhally and Loch of Lowes, A pair was seen in display and courtship flights in mid-month behind the Smith. They stayed for 3 days.

SHORT-EARED OWL 1 on 23rd Kinnardocky (EMH). Also seen in Glenlyon on 31st May (EDC).

TAWNY OWL. 2 in the Bridge of Earn area, (RW/EJM/SH). and 2 at Trinity Gask Schoolhouse (I.McK). were reported.

SWIFT Nests in the roof of Invergowrie Schoolhouse and at Pitnacree (BML/EMH). Up to 35 at Loch of Lowes.

GREEN WOODPECKER 1 heard at Garry Bridge on 12th (EMH). Also 1 seen at Moncrieffe on 13th and 18th (DAMcI/EJM).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dunsinnan Estate had 1 on 8th (EJM/PJO). A nest with 3 young seen at Tulliemet near Ballinluig on 17th (HB). Adult present at the time.

SKYLARK Present in many places.

SAND MARTIN Several colonies found Pitnacree and along the Earn. 80 former area. 50 hawkflies around the Smithy in the last few days of the month.

SWALLOW Nests with young, reported from Stanley (PBS). Pitnacree (EMH). and Longforgan (BML).

HOUSE MARTIN 6 Nests with young in Ama' Glen (EMH). Nest under eaves of P.R.I. Nesting in Longforgan area.

FREE PIPIT 2 at Bohally on 1st (EMH). Reported from Ballinluig, Bridge of Balgie, Strathtay and Dunfallandy (EMH/TIE).

(ROCK PIPIT 1 at Loch Rannoch on 5th. I should like a full description of this, bird please).

MEADOW PIPIT Everywhere.

GREY WAGTAIL 2 at Bridge of Earn on 12th (EJM/DAMcI). and at Glanlyon on 3rd (EMH).

PIED WAGTAIL Many reports from central and southern Perthshire. Young seen at Bridge of Earn, Pitnacree and Dunfallandy.

WHITE WAGTAIL 1 seen at Dunbarney, Bridge of Earn. (PJO/EJM). NOT an immature pied.

DIPPER Nest with 1 young at Pitnacree (EMH). 2 at Aberfeldy on 3rd.

WREN 1 youngster at Pitnacree on 29th (EMH).

SEDGE WARBLER Seen round Bridge of Earn and Trinity Gask. A nest found at Monoygan district young had flown leaving 2 eggs (BIL).

GARDEN WARBLER Reported from Bridge of Earn, Hillyland and South Inch Perth, Killiecrankie and Ballinluig.

WHITETHROAT Pitnacree 3 locations round Bridge of Earn and Viewlands Reservoir had birds of this species. 2 pairs nested in bramble at the reservoir (SL).

WIL OW WARBLER A nest found on Dunkeld Golf Course (PBS). 3 young at least.

WOOD WARBLER Possibly a nest, with young, at Killiecrankie on 12th (EMH). Also seen at foss and Linn of Tummel.

GOLDCREST 8 - 9 including young seen on the Moncrieffe Estate on 18th (EJM/PJO).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Young at Pitnacree on 29th (EMH). Also present around Bridge of Earn, and the Dunsinnan Estate, Balbeggie (EJM/PJO).

WHINCHAT 2 young being fed between 20th - 28th near Stanley (PBS). 2 Young at Rannoch on 5th (EMH).

WHEATEAR Not many around. All reports come from 6 places central to northern Perthshire.

ROBIN No nests found round Knapp area. (BML). Possible breeding at Butterstone.

BLACKBIRD Second broods flown in Perth and Longforgan areas, though no young seen at Pitnacree.

THRUSHES Seen to have had a good season. Nests of Song Thrush at Bridge of Earn and Pitnacree. No nests of Mistle Thrush reported.

LONG-TAILED TIT Reported from Killiecrankie and Murthly (EMH). and Moncrieffe Estate (EJM/DAMcI).

COAL TIT Fledged young in Bridge of Earn on 10th (EJM).

BLUE TIT Broods reported from Stanley, Bridge of Earn, Errol, Trinity Gask, 8 Cornhill Terrace, (Perth), Pitnacree and Pitlochry. 122 young raised in nesting boxes around Pitlochry. (HB).

GREAT TIT Nests reported from Viewlands Reservoir, Moncrieffe Estate, Smithy, and Dunsinnan Estate. 94 young in nesting boxes round Pitlochry. (HB).

CORN BUNTING 1 at Culfargie, Bridge of Earn on 14th (EJM).

YELLOWHAMMER Plenty around arable land.

REED BUNTING Present in good numbers. 6 young in a nest at Bridge of Earn on 12th (EJM/DAMcI).

CHAFFINCH Again plentiful. 5 young reared at the Smithy.

GREENFINCH Many around Broods present at the Smithy and a nest (4young) in the Longforgan District (BML).

GOLDFINCH Reported from Bankfoot on 11th (SH). Balmanno, Craigie (Perth) and the Rhyndd sawmill during the month (EJM).

LINNET Again, no nests reported, but seen at Murthly on 7th (NG). and Balmanno on 3rd (PJO/EJM) Longforgan area had them all month (BML).

REDPOLL Moncrieffe Pond, Dron, Pitnacree and Butterstone all had birds of this species during the month.

BULLFINCH Though not recorded from East of the County (BML). pairs were noted at Dunsinannestate, Moncrieffe and Fearman.

TREE SPARROW Nests reported 2 places in Bridge of Earn, (EJM/PJO). and at least 5 pairs near Errol (DMcK).

STARLING Beginning to flock at Bridge of Earn and elsewhere 300+ at Inveralmond on the 14th (NG).

JAY 1 at Craighend Brae, Perth on 17th (EJM):

MAGPIE 1 near Longforgan on 21st (EJM/PJO). and 1 in Glenalmond on 24th (SH).

ROCK A totally albino bird at Bankfoot on 1st (NG).

HOODED CROW 4, the first seen in the Longforgan area, on 23rd (BML).

DOTTEREL (A missing report) 5 seen just inside the Perthshire boundary in the hills near Dalwhinnie on 7th (SH).

86 species! Those who helped to get this number were. Mrs. E.M. Harvey, S. Hudson, S. Laing, I. McKinnie, and P.E. Scott, and Messrs T.H. Evanson, W. Golby, H.I. Johnstone, B.M. Lynch, E.J. Maguire, D.A. McIntyre, P.J.O'Brien, E.D. Cameron, and H. Brown. Tea, as well as coffee, sustained R.&S. Willis in compiling this report. All reports, for July, to Bob Willis, Smithy House, Blandrick, Bridge of Earn, by the 6th August 1970 please. The report may be a bit late as I am away until the 9th of August.

Fowlisheugh was visited by the club on 21st June, Unfortunately, transport problems restricted the number who went, but a fine day was had by all. Sea birds in plenty were seen namely puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags, fulmars and kittiwakes. Rock Pipits and Corn Bunting also occurred as did an eider duck with her brood. Well worth the trip, and it was a pity no more transport was forthcoming. The Trip to the Bass Rock is hiring a Mini-bus so there should be plenty of room for those who have booked on the 26th July.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION
Report for July 1970

A month when many young birds were about and when some of the flocking starts, noted in autumn and winter, starts to take place, notably in starlings, finches and lapwings. By the end of the month, the swallows and martins are beginning to congregate together as well.

In this area at least, most species seem to have done well this year. White-throats seem a bit more abundant than last year, but not up to their previous numbers. Swifts seem to have been reduced in number as well, possibly the poor breeding success as well. Robins and dunnocks seem to have had a "quiet" time as well.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR JULY 1970

LITTLE GREBE. 1 on Loch of Lowes all month (EMH).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. Adult with 2 young around middle of the month. at Loch of Lowes (EMH/BML/PBS).

HERON Reported fishing the Farg at the Bein Inn, (AC) whilst up to 4 were recorded at Loch of Lowes (BML) 1 had a "circling match" with an osprey at the Loch on 17th (EMH).

MUTE SWAN 6 of this years cygnets and 1 of last year's on Loch of Lowes during the month (EMH). with 2 pairs at Steir Dam and Isla Bridge on 18/19th (NG).

WHOOPEE SWAN Possibly 1 summering on Loch Kinnardochy.

SHELDUCK Parties of 3 and 4 reported from Invergowrie mudflats during the month (BML).

MALLARD Only reports of young this month from Loch of Lowes (EMH/BML).

TEAL Though reported earlier, no young seen on Loch of Lowes this month 1 pair present (EMH).

TUFTED DUCK 80 still on Lowes Loch, including a few young (EMH/BML).

RED BREASTED MERGANSER. Pairs reported on 19th and 24th and 5 on 21st at Pitnacree (EMH) Young seen at Waukhill (JCB per EMH).

OSPREY 1 male and f females seen at Loch of Lowes during the month. Male seen catching fish and putting sticks on old nest, which the female has been sitting on (EMH).

GOLDEN EAGLE A pair reported from Glentilt (EMH).

KESTREL Seen hunting behind P.R.I. (SL). and in Princess Street, Perth. on 15th (EJM/PJO). Regular visitor to the Smithy.

REDGROUSE Family of 9 in Sma' Glen on 23rd. Ready for the 12th?

BLACK GROUSE 9, all males, counted on the Pitnacree Estate on 28th (EJM/PJO).

PARTRIDGE A hen with 8 eggs destroyed by a mower at Viewlands reservoir (SL). Family of 4 young at Balbeggie (BML). and other families reported from Glenguaich and Strathtay. (EMH).

CAPERCAILLIE ~~Reported from Lowes Loch, Kingoodie, Rosemount, Errol, Balbeggie, and Ayton.~~
Reported from Lowes Loch and "near the Trochry road".

CORNCRAKE No reports. Plenty in Sutherland!

MOORHEN Still young about. Lowes, Kingoodie, Rosemount golf course, Errol and Ayton all have broods of up to 5.

COOT 5 young on Lowes Loch on 8th (EMH).

OYSTERCATCHER No young reported though present in many places.

GOLDEN PLOVER. Nest reported from Ben Tarmachan with 4 hatched eggs. (EMH).

LAPWING. Young reported from the Craigie district of Perth (SL). Flocks noted round Ballinluig from mid month, and also around Longforgan (EMH/BML). 250+ near Errol on 28th (EJM).

REDSHANK. A family party of 3 at Viewlands reservoir (SL). Reported from Loch of Lowes (EMH). and Invergowrie Bay (BML).

COMMON SANDPIPER. Reported from Loch of Lowes, Glenlyon and Pitnacree. 12 at Perth Lower Harbour on 25th (NG).

CURLEW. Reported from Longforgan and the Pitnacree areas.

WOODCOCK. Young seen on Ayton Hill (2 families) (AC). whilst roding was still observed at Pitnacree up to 8th (EMH).

SNIPE Glenquaich had a couple on 12th (EMH).

BLACK-HEADED GULL 300 on cut field at Pitnacree on 9 - 11th (EMH). Young fed near Aberfeldy on 17th. Parties of gulls present in all parts of the county. Groups made up of black-headed, common and lesser black backed gulls, the later two species most common around arable land.

COMMON TERN. A single bird present at Invergowrie on 5th (BML). Up to 10 occurred at Lowes Loch during month (EMH) 1 at Pitnacree on 22nd

STOCK DOVE Single birds reported from Calvine on 4th and Fowlis Wester on 30th (NG).

COLLARED DOVE 5 at Perth Harbour on 25th (AC). Fledglings seen round Viewlands Reservoir (SL).

BARN OWL 1 at Perth Harbour on 22nd (EJM).

SHORT EARED OWL. A possible bird of this year at Kinnardochy on 13th and a second at Glen Goghill on 23rd (EMH).

TAWNY OWL Reported from many locations, on some occasions being chased and mobbed. The mobbing species included, thrushes, tits, flycatchers and swallows.

SWIFT Though reported from central ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and eastern Perthshire, no youngsters noted. Party of 11 at Pitnacree (EMH).

SKYLARK. Only fledglings reported from Viewlands Reservoir (SL).

SAND MARTIN. Many at Pitnacree and the Smithy.

SWALLOW At least 3 broods at Pitnacree (EMH). and another nest reported from Gannochy (IMcK). Brood perched on Smithy's guttering fed by parents 2 broods at least at Stanley ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Numerous elsewhere, beginning to flock from migration by end of month.

HOUSE MARTIN. 8 nests at Madderty (IMcK). 1 at Comrie and youngsters at Pitnacree (EMH). and fledged young at P.R.I. Appears to be fewer this year around Longforgan (BML).

TREE PIPIT. 1 noted at Pitnacree Estate on 29th (EJM/PJO).

ROCK PIPIT. Apparently recorded at Loch Rannoch several times (EMH).

GREY WAGTAIL. Up to 3 young noted at Pitnacree on 29th (EJM/PJO). with 1 youngster at Comrie on 23rd (EMH). Birds reported from Ballinluig, Loch of Lowes and Balbeggie (BML).

PIED WAGTAIL Many youngsters noted around Pitnacree (EMH). Viewlands Reservoir (SL). and the Bridge of Earn Hospital (EJM/PJO).

DIPPER. Recorded from Glen Lyon, Pitnacree and Glen Goulánie during the month (EMH).

WREN. Fledglings reported from Viewlands Reservoir (SL). Knapp and Monorgan (BML).

Wren contd. Recorded in other areas.

DUNLOCK. Reported young on Pitnacree Estate (EJM/PJO). No young seen at Viewlands Reservoir (SL).

WHITE THROAT. Young reported from Viewlands Reservoir (SL). and possibly at Pitnacree. Other birds seen at Loch of Lowes and in Perth.

WILLOW WARBLER. All over the place, both young and adult.

WOOD WARBLER. A pair reported from Loch of Lowes on 19th (BML).

GOLDCREST. A few reported from around Pitnacree on 28th (EJM/PJO). and the Hermitage Dunkeld on 17th (EMH).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Breeding reported from Kingoodie, Pitnacree and Viewlands ~~XXXXXX~~ Reservoir. Birds also seen at Ayton.

WHINCHAT Family party at Pitnacree on 28th (EJM/PJO).

WHEAT EAR. Reported from Smas' Glen, Glenquach, Glen Goulandie (EMH). and the Abernyte - Balbeggie district (BML). during the month.

REDSTART 3 reports; a pair at Balbeggie around 24th (BML). and 1 at Stanley Loch of Lowes. on 31st (PBS). 1 young taken at Pitnacree (LMI).

ROBIN Single ~~xxxx~~ young birds seen at Hermitage, Pitnacree (EMH). the Smithy and around the Craigie district of Perth. (SL). Perhaps a poor breeding year.

BLACKBIRD & SONG THRUSH. Many young around.

LONG-TAILED TITS. Adult and young at Ballinluig on 29th (EJM/PJO).

COAL - BLUE - GREAT TIT. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Broods of all 3 species seen in Central Perthshire.

TREECREEPER. 1 seen mobbing an owl at Ballinluig on 29th (EJM/PJO).

CORN BUNTING. A brood of 5 seen at Stanley on 31st (PBS).

YELLOWHA MER. Reported from several localities in Perthshire, though broods not noted.

CH. FINCHES. Broods at Pitnacree and the Smithy house. Flock of 30+ at Pitnacree (EJM/PJO).

GREENFINCH. Broods at Pitnacree, and the Smithy, Viewlands Reservoir and Longforrgan.

GOLDFINCH Nest, with young at Pitnacree on 29th (EJM/PJO).

LINNET. Broods at Viewlands Reservoir and other birds at Pitnacree, Longforrgan and Bridge of Earn.

TRILL SPARROW. Broods present at Smithy

STARLING. Starting to gather in flocks 300+ at Bridge of Earn on 26th (EJM).

JAY. 1 seen north of Dunkeld on 13th (EJM).

JACKDAW. 2 nests at Pitnacree (EMH). and 1 nest at the Smithy.

ROOKS Appear to be flocking 30+ at Blair Atholl on 18th (NG).

RAVEN. 5 at Colvine on 4th (NG).

Contributors to the bulletin this month were:- Mrs. E.M. Harvey, S. Laing, I. McKinnie and P.B. Scott, Miss A. Coventry, Messrs N. Golby, E.J. Maguire P.J.O'Brien and B. Lynch and Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Brown.

Reports for August 1970 to Mr. R.G. Willis, Smithy House, Ballendrick Bridge of Earn by September 5th please!

The committee have drawn up a list of topics for the winter session, and thanks to the hard work of the sections secretary in booking speakers these meetings can be announced. So will you make a note in your diaries of the following dates:-

September 9th. Bill Murray of Culterty, will be speaking on a topic of his own choosing.

OCTOBER 14th. David Grant of Errol, will be talking about 'Bird Strikes', involving aircraft and birds.

November 11th. Members might bring your slides, and any interesting topics you have and show and tell the club about them (Holidays and what you saw Etc).

December 6th. L.S. Macgregor, on "Birds of the Uists". Birds of the land and sea around the Hebrides.

1971

January 13th. John Murray about "Birds of Prey".

February 19th an open meeting of the society when Roy S. Dennis will talk about the "Seaeagles at Fair Isle".

March 10th. A.G.M. of the section when members of the committee and the various officers will be elected.

There are some very interesting topics in the list and it is to be hoped that a good turn out of members will attend the meetings. It is hoped that some outings will take place this autumn and winter to places concerned with migration and winter visitors. This will be announced later.

Members will be sorry to hear that Bob Willis is leaving the district in the next month or so, he will be a big loss to the section as he has put a lot of hard work into the monthly bulletins; If any member would like to carry on the good work the committee will be only too pleased to hear from them,

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

Bulletin for August 1970

Most of the nesting birds finished their terms as parents during this month. Parties of young warblers, finches and robins were noted in several districts. Some species were continuing to flock, notably starling and lapwing, whilst swallows and the martins were doing the same thing in preparation for migration.

Talking about migration, a period of east winds occurred from mid-month onwards. It is possible that some migrants from over the North Sea managed to reach Perthshire. The east coast is often a spectacular place to see a wing-borne migrant; several flocks of Mistle Thrush were seen in the Bridge of Earn district possibly connected with the east wind. At least 1 Fieldfare was seen at this time.

Classified List for August. 1970

Little Grebe Reported all month on the Loch of Lowes (EMH) with single birds seen at Dalreoch Bridge and Dupplin Loch on 30th (EJM/PJO).

Great Crested Grebe Youngsters reported from Loch of Lowes, Stair Dam and Dupplin Loch, right up to the end of the month.

Heron Recorded from Loch of Lowes, Pitnacree, Callerfountain (Perth) Monorgan Longforgan and Bridge of Earn during the month.

Mute Swan Reported from many districts. At least Lowes Loch, 1 youngster died after swallowing a peach stone, and another disappeared after swallowing a fish hook (EMH)?

Shelduck Party of adults 2 young 20+ at Invergowrie on 15th (BML).

Mallard Reported from mid and south of Perthshire 100+ at Dupplin Loch on 30th (EJM).

Teal Numbers up to 6 recorded on Muncruffe Pond (Bridge of Earn), Stair Dam and Dupplin Loch during the month (EJM/PJO).

Wigeon 8+ on Dupplin Loch on 30th (EJM/PJO).

Tufted Duck Stair Dam and Lowes Loch had some of this species 55+ on Dupplin Loch on 30th (EJM). Many of these were youngsters.

Red-Breasted Merganser. 2 parties seen at Pitnacree, one of which had 5 young (EMH).

Goosander. 9 at Lowes Loch on 24th (EMH).

Osprey Up to 5 seen at Lowes Loch during the month, 2 nests present (EMH).

Buzzard 3 on 4th over Loch Faskally (Possibly 1 was immature), 1 on 18th at Tibbermore and 7 over Dupplin Estate on 30th (EJM) 1 at Glenquaich on 20th, and 1 reported chasing an osprey, at Butterstone on 27th (EMH).

Peregrine 3 seen at Drumour, on about 15th by a party from Kindrogan (EMH).

Kestrel Seen on several occasions around Pitnacree Dunkeld and Madderty.

Red Grouse Few reported from Glenquaich (EMH). 22 birds reported from Enochdhu on 4th (HSH)

Ptarmigan 17 at 3000ft. on Ben Lawers on 22nd 5 were ~~xxx~~ Youngsters (R&HG):

Capercaillie Catchpenny, Dalguise, Tibbermore, Methven and Dupplin all produced records of this species during the month.

Black Grouse 5 seen at Lowes Loch on 27th (EMH).

Partridge Coveys of 6 & 7 young seen around Moneydie and Bankfoot at the end of the month (HSH). Maximum number in covey was 12 at Findogask on 30th (EJM).

Corncrake Reported 10 near Kenmore on 23rd. This is being checked. (EMH).

Moorhen Maximum number reported 9, on 11th at Staff Dam (EJM).

Coot Seen to be congregating again 140+ on Dupplin Lake on 30th (EJM).

Oystercatcher. A few reports from Mid-Perthshire.

Golden Plover The party from Kindrogan also saw a flock of these birds at Drumour on 15th (EMH).

Lapwing Large flocks reported from inland arable districts. Numbers grew to over 200 at Pitnacree (EMH). 150+ at Longforgan (BML). and 300 near Glancarse (EJM)
Possible movements connected with the weather at the time.

Redshank Many reported at Invergowrie Bay at end of month.

Curlew Only a few recorded in inland areas (EMH/NG). but larger flocks (100+) on the coast parts of the county. (EJM/BML).

Snipe 2 at Methven on 9th (EJM).

Woodcock 1 on 10th at Lowes Loch (EMH) Belonged to a family raised there.

Gulls. The floods on the South Inch, Perth attracted what appeared to be every gull in the district. These included, common; black-headed; herring; lesser and great black-backed Gulls. One estimate was 700+ on the 17th though it could have been over 1000.

Common Tern. 1 on 15th at Kingoodie (BML).

Stock Dove Reported all month in the Earn Valley. 7 around Bridge of Earn Hospital on 27th (PJO/EJM).

Collard Dove 1 at Bridge of Earn on 2nd (PJO/EJM). and nest with 2 fledged young at Pitkeathly road end, Forgandenny, on 20th (R&SW).

Tawny Owl 2 at the South Inch, Perth on 3rd (EJM). and single birds at Pitnacree 26th and comrie 19th (EMH).

Swift. Groups of up to 30 seen. Last records from month were 3 over the South Inch, on 10th (NG). and 4 at Pitnacree on 15th (EMH).

Green Woodpecker Heard around the Moncrieffe Estate, Bridge of Earn, Loch Faskally, Birnam and Dunkeld throughout the month (NG/EJM).

Great Spotted Woodpecker. 1 Seen on road east of Bridge of Earn hospital on 5th (EJM)

Sandmartin Still present round Lowes Loch round 31st (EMH).

Swallow 4 young left nest at Pitnacree on 31st (EMH). Present in many places throughout the month, 300+ at Pitfour Castle on 6th (NG).

House Martin Like swallows, still plenty around right to the end of the month.

Tree Pipit 2 at Tibbermore on 18th (EJM).

Grey Wagtail Pitnacree had 1 or 2 from the 18th to the end of the month (EMH).

Pied Wagtail Reports from Loch Tummel southwards to Bridge of Earn. Maximum number was 10+ at Buchanty on 24th (NG). Whilst a male at Bridge of Earn had only 1 leg. (EJM/PJO).

Dipper Aberfeldy and Pitnacree both had birds of this species during the month.

Wren All over the place. Good breeding year.

Sedge Warbler A brood was recorded from Kingoodie on 15th (BML). Youngsters also noted round Bridge of Earn.

Garden Warbler. Still present in south of county to the end of the month.

Whitethroat. Only report of 2 at Pitkeathly Wells, Bridge of Earn. on 3rd (EJM)
None at Pitnacree.

Willow Warbler. Still present in to the end of the month.

Goldcrest. Report-d from Moncrieffe and Loch Faskally and Linn of Tunnel.

Spotted Flycatcher. Seen all month at Bridge of Earn (EJM) and at Pitnacree (EMH)
Other reports from Methven, Comrie and Dunkeld.

Whinchat 2 at Kinardochy on 26th (EMH).

Wheatear. Longforgan, Delehinnie, Amulree, Dalguise and Glenquaich had birds of
this species. Last report from Kinnardochy on 26th (EMH).

Redstart Single birds noted at Loch Faskally on 4th Methven on 9th (EJM) and Rannoch
on 26th (EMH).

Robin Single birds reported from Longforgan, to Pitnacree, to Loch Earn and Bridge
of Earn.

Fieldfare At least 1 near Bridge of Earn, with Mistle Thrushes on 27th (R&SW).

Blackbird Nest of fledglings at Longforgan up to 23rd. 10 youngsters from this pair of
birds this year (B&L). Partly albino bird seen near South Inch again (NG).

Mistle Thrush Over 22 at Findo Gash on 30th (EJM) Several parties, possibly migrants
noted round Bridge of Earn at this time.

Long-tailed Tit. Flock of 50 on Rohallion Estate on 11th (EJM)

Coal Tit. Pretty widespread in mid-county districts.

Blue-great Tit. Pretty good sprinkling of both species throughout county. Party
of 7 blue tits at Smathy on 30th (R&SW).

Corn Bunting 1 at Elliothead (east of Bridge of Earn Hospital) on 5th (EJM).

Yellowhammer. Reported from south and central Perthshire.

Reed Bunting Not many reported, though youngsters still noted around Stanley on
10th (PBS).

Chaffinch With greenfinches these birds are beginning to flock over 80 at Methven on
9th (EJM) though no large groups around Longforgan as yet (BML). Reported several
other localities.

Goldfinch up to 4 at Pitnacree during the month (EMH). and 1 at Stanley on 25th (PBS)

Twite 3 at Loch Faskally on 4th (EJM).

Linnet East and central areas of county gave reports of these finches. Many reports
in a flock at Burghmuir on 18th (EJM).

Redpoll Comrie had a pair on 11th (EMH). Youngsters noted at Stanley on 18th (FBS)
and Lowes Loch near hide on 27th (EMH).

Bullfinch Groups of up to 4 noted in central and southern district of the county.

House Sparrow At Bridge of Earn Hospital, pair put roof on blackbirds nest and
had youngsters by end of month. (PJO):

Tree Sparrow 3 noted at Bridge of Earn on 5th (EJM)

Starling Started to flock 200+ at Bridge of Earn on 28th (EJM) and 300+ at Longforgan
on 29th (BML).

Jay 3 on Rohallion Estate on 11th and 2 near Tibbermore on 18th (EJM) with 1 at
Dunkeld on 22nd (HSH).

Rook Over 1000 flew over the hospital at Bridge of Earn on 17th (PJO/EJM).

Raven 2 at Gelnquach on 14th (EMH).

Not many reports last month, influenced by the holidays but those that did add their contributions to the bulletin were Mrs. E.M. Harvey, H.S. Hudson, and P.B. Scott and Messrs N. Golby, B.J. Lynch E.J. Maguire and P.J. O'Brien R. & H. Golby also added a few reports and R. & S. Willis tried to put the bulletin together with the help of many cups of the inevitable coffee! Miss S. Laing typed it and Mrs. I. McKinnie helped to print it.

A few dates for your diaries;

20th September, an outing to Fife Ness, leaving the Museum at 2p.m. possibility of waders, skuas, seabirds of other sorts and if the wind is right, autumn migrants. Picnic tea required.

18th October, a trip to the Lochs around Blairgowrie, Duck, Grebes (?geese) and other birds; 10a.m. start from the Museum. Lunch and possibly tea required.

6th December, this time 11a.m. start from the Museum to Dunsinan, between Perth & Coupar Angus. Finches. Lunch at least required.

Good footwear would seem the order of the day at all these places.

A very entertaining evening was had by those present at the opening meeting of ~~the~~ the bird club on the 9th September. Bill Murray came down from the Culterty Field Station at Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, and gave an excellent talk on waders, illustrated with slides, which helped a lot of those present in the identification of those birds. Mr. Murray's expert knowledge was very evident and his descriptions of the different characteristics of the species were very entertaining and interesting.

The next meeting of the club will be on October 14th when David Grant will talk about "Bird Strikes" (not of the industrial variety!) 7.30p.m. start as usual.

November 11th will be a members night. Bulletin for the other meetings of the year. (Correction - July) (December. 6th should read December 9th).

Miss Valerie Thom, who we hope is now feeling much better after her illness, has sent me a note saying "Please remind members that I should like all record cards for the B.T.O. atlas to be sent to me as soon as possible! So folks, get out the cards, fill them in with the area you surveyed, the status of every bird you saw there and send them as soon as possible to 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.

3 members have, with their permission, been co-opted on the club committee. They are Messrs J. Kirk, P. O'Brien and P. McLachlan. This brings the committee strength up to 8.

Well, its now time for me to sign off. As mentioned in the last bulletin, I move to fields anew next month, and hence to relinquish my duties with the club. I've really enjoyed my time in Perth, and meeting the naturalists of the county. I've noticed that the bulletin seems to have given a purpose to our birdwatching and believe that it would be a pity to let it fold up. So, will members please keep sending their reports in, the more the merrier and also the more interesting for the club members. The address to send them to from now on is; Mr. P. O'Brien, Murray Place, Bridge of Earn. Perthshire. by the 6th of October. 1970.

Good birdwatching! If you're around Tayport anytime, I'll take you round Tentsmuir, Abertay and Morton Lochs, time being available!.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

SEPTEMBER, 1970

A notable passage migrant arrived in Perthshire near the end of the month, the Curlew Sandpiper, their numbers did not exceed 20 - 25 but during the first few days of October numbers were considerably higher.

The geese have arrived, as if you have'nt heard!, although it seems we still have some lingering summer visitors, Flycatchers, Chats and a few warblers and what appears to be some very late swift.

Continued flocking was evident throughout the month in various species, E.G. Rooks, Gulls, Starlings, Finches and wagtails, whilst over the county Six species of Predator have been observed and a total of 81 species recorded.

CLASSIFIED LIST FOR SEPTEMBER, 70

LITTLE GREBEZ 8 on 6th at Dupplin Lake, 3 on 12th Loch of the Lowes, and 7 on 22nd at Glenfarg Reservoir. (EJM/PJO).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Numbers quite high at Loch of the Lowes 19+ (EJM/IMCK).

CORMORANT Loch of the Lowes had 1 on 12th, whilst the highest number offshore at Invergowrie was 11 on 9th (EJM).

HERON Madderty, Aberdalgie, Rossie Priory, Glenfarg Reservoir, Moncrieffe Estate and Invergowrie Bay all had this species during the month. A late report for August 11 in Invergowrie Bay.

GREY GEESE Pinkfeet, - 40+ over Forgandenny on 16th (R&SW). and 28+ Nr. Kenmore on 22nd (EMH). were the only ones indentified. The first report we have of geese is a late one and should have appeared in the August Bulletin this was a Grey Goose at Kinkell Bridge on August 28th (MP). Geese have been reported from all over Perthshire usually flying high and very moisy.

MUTE SWAN Reported from five locations in Mid County.

SHELDUCK Present all month at Invergowrie Bay 40+ on 15th (EJM).

MALLARD Dupplin had over 100 on 6th, 70+ on 19th at Sandynowe Pond (IMCK/SL/EJM). Also small societies at Invergowrie Bay (BML).

TEAL Redmyre Loch, Dupplin and Sandynowe Pond had this small duck during the month (BML/IMCK/SL/EJM).

GADWALL 2 at Dupplin Lake on 6th (EJM).

SHOVELER Dupplin Lake had 2 on 6th, Drake in eclipse (EJM).

POCHARD A drake at Redmyre Loch on 19th (BML).

TUFTED DUCK Seen on many inland waters, maximum number was over 40 at Dupplin.

RED BREASTED MERGANSER Adults and youngsters at Pitnacree (EMH).

GOOSANDER Loch of the Lowes had 20+ on 27th, these were mainly adult ducks with youngsters, few drakes. (IMCK).

OSPREY The Loch of the Lowes pair(s) disappeared on 9th - 10th en-route for Africa.

SPARROWHAWK Female at Loch of the Lowes on 12th and 13th (EJM).

BUZZARD 1 at Dalnaspidal on 12th, and 5 at Pitcaithly Mains Hill, West Dron on the 15th (EJM) the resident pair here seem to have had a successful breeding season.

HEN HARRIER Female seen at Glenfarg Reservoir on 22nd (EJM/PJO) This species has been seen here in previous month's (R&SW).

MERLIN 1 at Huntingtower on the 22nd (HSH).

KESTREL Increased number of reports throughout the county.

RED GROUSE Redmyre had 4 on 18th (BML).

PARMIGAN 2 were seen at Dalnaspideal on 3rd (HSH).

COOT Number high on Dupplin 174+ on 6th (EJM). also 11 at Methven Reservoir on 22nd (HSH).

OYSTERCATCHER No inland reports, frequent at Invergowrie in small numbers. (BML)

RINGED PLOVER All month at Invergowrie Bay on 9th (EJM). maximum number was 20 on 25th.

GOLDEN PLOVER 14 on 9th, 98 on 25th and 160 on 29th indicated a marked movement

LAPWING Large flocks reported in the Carse of Gowrie.

DUNLIN No large concentrations at Invergowrie Bay (BML).

CURLEW SANDPIPER A "few" at Invergowrie Bay on 28th -29th (EJM). Possibly slides on 11th November.

REDSHANK In excess of 1,000 at Invergowrie and area. (BML). (Conservative estimate)

BLACK TAILED GODWITS 4 on 15th at Invergowrie Bay (EJM).

BAR TAILED GODWITS Present from 15th in small numbers, 53 on 29th (EJM).

CURLEW Reported from Pitnacree (EMH) and Invergowrie Bay, where there were 500+ on 26th (BML).

SNIPE A single bird was present in a field behind the P.R.I. (SL). While 63 were seen feeding at the north end of Glenfarg Reservoir (EJM/PJO).

LARIDAE Lesser and Greater Black Backed Gulls, Herring, Common and Black headed were present in the county throughout the month.

COMMON TERN 1 on the 15th in Invergowrie Bay (EJM).

STOCK DOVE Common in the Earn and Tay valleys (EJM).

COLLARD DOVE Only reports were from Invergowrie and Perth P.R.I. (EJM/SL).

TAWNY OWL Possible one Barnhill on 1st (NG). and 2 in Pitnacree, Strathgairn area (EMH).

SWIFT Still present at Kenmore on 29th - Last years latest departure 6/8/69.

GREEN WOODPECKER 1 at Dupplin on 6th and on the Moncrieffe Estate on the 9th (EJM)

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dupplin had one of these woodpeckers on 6th, and 5 at Drumbuie Wood Nr. Dunkeld on 12th (EJM).

SHALLOW Reported from many districts as being ready to leave, biggest flock reported 3,000+ on 8th at Longforgan (BML).

HOUSE MARTIN Left Pitnacree on 16th (EMH). and the Carsehead Farm area Madderly on 29th (IMCK). the only other report received was of 10 on the South Inch on 2nd (NG).

TREE PIPIT Redmyre Nr. Longforgan had 6 on 19th. Possibly a family group (BML)

MEADOW PIPIT Common in the County..

GREY WAGTAIL Seem to be scarce this month, 1 at Glenfarg Reservoir on the 22nd was only report for the month (EJM).

PIED WAGTAIL ~~XXXX~~ 20+ at Pitnacree on 5th, and 66 at Bridge of Earn Hospital on 24th (EMH/PJO).

WHITE WAGTAIL Identified at Pitnacree where there was 3 on 19th, 3 on 23rd and 2 on 29th (EMH):

DIPPER Resident pick at Pitnecree (EMH).

WREN Good numbers throughout the county.

WHITETHROAT A single bird at Pitnecree on 4th (EMH).

WILLOW WARBLER 1 at Pitnecree till the 12th this seems to be the last.

GOLDCREST None reported, though heard on Moncrieffe Estate during the month (EJM).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Present all month at Pitnecree and Perth P.R.I. (EMH/SL).

WHINCHAT Glendevon farm, Burghuir had 10 on 2nd and Loch of the Lowes 1 on 12th (EJM).

WHEATEAR Viewlands Reservoir had 2 on 10th and 1 on 22nd (MSL/SL).

ROBIN Prevalent throughout the county, 4 at Stanley Farm all month. (PBS).

MISTLE THRUSH Flocking noted at Pitnecree (EMH) and Dunkeld (EJM) and a single bird at Longforgan on 26th (BIL).

LONG TAILED TIT Present at Pitnecree (EMH) and Dupplin had 25+ on 6th (EJM)

COAL TIT Pitnecree and Rossie Priory had this species during the month (EMH/EJM). 10 at Methven Reservoir on 22nd (HSH).

GREAT/BLUE TIT A mixed flock of 50+ on Dupplin on 6th (EJM) and 5 Blue tits at Burghmuir during September. (IMcK).

TREECREEPER 1 At Drumbuie Wood Dunkeld on 12th and 2 at Dunberney, Bridge of Earn on 21st (EJM).

YELLOWHAMMER Flocks at Lowes, Glenfarg and Stanley (PBS/EJM).

REED BUNTING 8 at Bridge of Earn on 24th (EJM).

GREENFINCH Largest flock reported was 60+ at Monorgan (BIL).

CHAFFINCH Common in the county.

GOLDFINCH Invergowrie, Loch of the Lowes Aberdare, Pitnecree, Stanley Perth P.R.I. and Kingoodie all had this finch, seem to have been widespread during the month.

LINNET 30 - 40 all month at Viewlands Reservoir. (SL).

REDPOLL Bridge of Earn had 30 on 24th present also at Loch of Lowes on 13th and Rossie Priory on 25th (EJM).

BULLFINCH 3 young at Pitnecree on 27th (EMH) and 7 adults at Rossie Priory on 25th (EJM).

TREE SPARROW Only on report, 20+ at Bridge of Earn on 13th (EJM/PJO).

ST. RLING Many in a flock at Carsehead farm Madderty on 11th (IMcK) and 100 at Luncarty Viaduct on 19th (NG).

CORVIDAE Flocks ranging from 20 to 700+ were noted in the east of the county, these contained Rook and Jackdaw.

JAY Craigvinean Nr Dunkeld had 1 on 23rd another was heard near Kenmore on 27th (EMH) and Moncrieffe Estate had 2 on 27th (EJM).

RAVEN 1 at Glenquich on 11th (EMH).

Thank you for your good wishes to us as the new bulletin editors. The inclement weather this month had minimised the number of reports but those who did contribute were Mr. E.M. Harvey, S. Hudson S. Laing, P.B. Scott and S. Willis. Misses M. Piper, S. Laing and Messrs H. Golby, B. Lynch and R. Willis. E.J. Maguire and P. O'Brien compiled the bulletin as joint bulletin editors and

passed it on to Miss P. Laing and Mrs. I. McKinnale who typed and printed it.

The next outing is to take place on 18th October to "Blair, White Lochs" to see ducks, grebes and possibly geese etc.etc., this is a 10a.m. start from the museum, and lunch and transport required, It would also be sensible to wear good strong footwear.

The outing last month to Fif Ness was very rewarding for all the members concerned, and although none of the rarer passage migrants were seen numbers were kept busy identifying the various species flying to and fro offshore, those included, Gannet, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Common and Sandwich Tern, Common Scoter and Arctic Skua. Also seen on the shore were Knot, Ringed Plover, Black Tailed Godwit and Turnstone. 14 members took part in the outing, and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. & Mrs. R. Willis for the work they have done for the section and to wish them a long and successful career with plenty of time for such fruitful Birdwatching. THANK YOU BOTH VERY MUCH INDEED.

Stock Dove Enquiry.

Would club members please report on this bird north of the county, previous reports suggest that the dove frequents areas especially near rivers, but this may not be relevant. They are very numerous in the Errol District.

There has been a small change in location for Mr. O'Brien who is now living in the hospital. Therefore the address to send the contributions for the October issue of the bulletin is;

Mr. J. O'Brien,
Ward 24,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

by 6th October, please.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

Bulletin for October. 1970

Winter visitors have certainly been the main feature of the month, with sightings of Great Grey Shrike, Waxwing, Brambling, Goldeneye, Sanderling, Grey Plover, Whooper Swan and of course the Redwing and Fieldfare. The Waxwing "Invasion" took place during the first week of November, when sizeable flocks were noted on the East Coast, from Stonehaven to Edinburgh and as far inland as Perth.

The Curlew Sandpiper was present all month at Invergowrie Bay with numbers varying from 30 - 70 ~~strong~~ during the first fortnight, thereafter most of the birds passed on and their numbers had dropped to a little as 10 by the end of the month.

Another "Invasion" this time Cormorant, Hundreds appeared on the Tay at Invergowrie on 30th of the month, over 300! This is unusual and is thought to be connected with the severe weather at this time.

The outing to "Blairgowrie Lochs" on the 18th of the month was quite an event, although rain and cold winds spoiled part of the day, nevertheless, members who took part were very enthusiastic, and the species they recorded appear in this month's classified list.

Classified List for October. 1970

Little Grebe. 2 were seen at Loch of Clunie on 18th (club outing).

Great Crested Grebe All reports from 18th Monks Myre had 1, Stormont 3, Clunie 1, and Lowes 1, (club outing).

Cormorant. Port Allen had 4 on 4th (SL/MSL/IMcK). and Invergowrie Bay had 300+ offshore on 30th (EJM).

Heron. 1 at Pitnacree on 4th (EMH). only report this month.

Grey Geese Pinkfeet 850. at Forteviot on 26th (EJM). and 350 near Wolfhill on 31st (JK). Greylag 100 at Monks Myre on 18th (club outing). 450 at Pond of Drummond on 24th and "Hundreds" at Islamouth and Meikleour on 31st (JK). Forteviot had at least 400 on 25th (EJM). and 30 spent the afternoon of the 7th at Monorgan (BML). "Grey Geese have been widespread during the month, sometimes in huge skeins, 5000+ were noted at Longforgan on 16th (BML).

Mute Swan Also widespread this month with reports from Invergowrie, Forgandenny, Stair Dam, South Inch Perth, Loch of Towes and Clunie, Strathallen Pond had 8 on 26th.

Whooper Swan 4 at Pitlochry on 15th was the first report this winter (HB). thereafter 50+ near Milnathort on 24th (MSL). 2 flying west at Stair Dam on 27th (EJM). and 4 at Carsehead Madderty. on 29th (IMcK).

Shelduck 5 at Invergowrie Bay on 22nd (EJM).

Mallard Highest numbers were 300+ at Carsebrack on 11th and 500+ at Pond of Drummond on 24th (JK). 100+ at Monks Myre on 18th (club outing).

Teal 100+ at Monks Myre on 18th (Club outing) 160+ at Carsebrack on 14th 12+ at Stormont on 25th and 90 at Sandynowe Pond on 30th (JK).

Wigeon Stair Dam had 12 on 18th (club outing) and the Inch (West of Meikleour) had 34 on 31st (JK).

Shoveller 24+ at Monks Myre on 18th (club outing) and 5 at Stormont on 25th (JK).

Pochard Female at Stair Dam on 18th and 3 on Stormont Loch the same day (club outing).

Tufted Duck Maximum reported 25+ at Port Allen on 4th (IMcK/SL)MSL/EJM) also seen on Monks Myre, Stormont, Clunie, Lowes and Stair Dam (club outing).

Goldeneye Female seen at Monks Myre on 18th (club outing).

Goosander 6 flying west at Pitnacree on 1st (EMH).

Sparrowhawk Pair at Drummonie Wood nr. Dron on 4th (EJM). Only report this month

Buzzard Rossie Priory had 4 on 5th, Moncrieffe Estate 2 on 9th and Dron Hill 2 on 21st (EJM). 1 at Kinnardochey on the 10th could have been the same one seen at Tummel-bridge the same day (EMH).

Merlin 2 at Invergowrie bay on 5th (EJM/PB). Possibly moving south. Only report this month.

Kestrel Resident bird at Viewlands Reservoir (SL). Also single birds at Lix Toll, Glen Ogle, Crainlarich, Tyndrum, Bridge of Earn, Erroll, Dron and Methven (IMcK/DMcI/EJM).

Red Grouse 3 on 11th north of Amulree (IMcK).

Black Grouse. 1 near Amulree on 11th (IMcK).

Partridge Fairly common just now, largest covey was 29+ on Moncrieffe Estate (EJM):

Silver Pheasant Escaped on the north west side of Kinnoull Hill on 10th (IMcK).

Water Rail Possibly an immature one on Clunie Loch on 18th (club outing).

Moorhen Common the county.

Coot. Highest numbers were 250+ on Clunie Loch on 18th (club outing) and 36+ on Stair Dam on 27th (EJM).

Oystercatcher 20+ nr Luncarty viaduct on 4th (NG). was the only inland reports. 47 at Invergowrie on 22nd (EJM).

Ringed Plover Maximum was 15 at Invergowrie Bay (EJM).

Golden Plover 60+ at Monks Myre on 18th (club outing) 200+ at Invergowrie Bay on 22nd and 11 Nr. Cherrybank on 26th (EJM). and a flock near Aberuthven on 20th (JHW).

Grey Plover. Invergowrie Bay had 3 on 30th (EJM).

Lapwing Seen on most agricultural ground, 300+ at Whitebank Farm, Crieff Rd. on 18th (NG). and 60+ at Monorgan on 17th (BML).

Gull Sandpiper All month at Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO) 60 - 70 on 4th (EMcK/SL/MSL/DB/EJM/).

Sanderling. 1 on 5th and 6th at Invergowrie Bay (EJM/DB).

Redshank The mudflats at Monorgan had 100+ on 17th (BML). still high numbers in Invergowrie Bay.

Bar Tailed Godwit 50+ on 4th at Invergowrie (IMcK/SL/MSL). 70+ on 30th (EJM).

Gull Movement at Pitnaree, 30 "flew east" on 2nd (EMH). and Invergowrie Bay had 15 on 30th (EJM).

Woodcock 1 at Stair Dam on 27th (EJM). Only report this month.

Snipe Invergowrie BAW had 8 on 22nd and 40+ were seen in a flooded field nr. Dalreoch Bridge on 26th (EJM).

Laridae Black headed; Common. Common; 40 at Overdurdie, Rait on 28th (EJM). Herring Gull; small numbers at Invergowrie Bay and Tay at Perth. Lesser Black Backed; a "few" at Invergowrie (EJM). Great Black Backed; 2 at Monorgan on 17th (BML).

Stock Dove Negative result to inquiry, dove seen in Earn Valley during the month (EJM/PJO).

Collared Dove 2 at Invergowrie on 1st and 1 at Erroll on 4th (EJM). 40 all month at Lower Harbour, Perth. (PMcL).

Tawny Owl 1 in Bridge of Earn on 16th (EJM/PJO).

Great Spotted Woodpecker Male at Drummonie nr. Dron on 21st (EJM). only report this month.

Skylark Marked movement at Forteviot on 26th over 100 in fifteen minutes. (EJM).

Swallow/House Martin a "few" reported; 15 at nr. P.R.I. on 5th (SL). Reports of swallow alone are; 2 on 1st at Pitlochry Station, 10 on 4th at Killin, 10 on 7th at Aberfeldy and 1 on 14th at Aberfeldy (EMH). 2 at Craigie Hill on 23rd (SL). and the last report for ~~the~~ the month was 1 in Invergowrie Bay on 30th (EJM).

Grey Wagtail More sightings this month, 1 at Pitnacree on 1st, 1 at Strathtay on 7th (EMH). 1 at Pitlochry on 4th (HB). and 1 at Perth P.R.I. on 24th (SL). on the 30th of the month 1 was seen at Stalcy Farm and 1 at Invergowrie Bay (PBS/EJM).

Pied Wagtail Common in the county, maximum reported was 13 at Aberfeldy on 1st (EMH).

White Wagtail Single bird at Pitnacree on 1st and 7th (EMH). Only report this month.

Great Grey Shrike 1 observed with a flock of Fieldfares in the Monorgan area (BML).

Waxwing First report 25th Flock at Pitnacree (EMH). this was followed by 1 in the Muirend Rd. Perth. (JHW). and 12+ at Invergowrie on 30th (EJM/UMcL).

Dipper Forteviot had 1 on 26th (EJM). resident pair at Pitnacree (EMH).

Wren Status unchanged.

Duncock As wren seemingly everywhere, a group of 6 were seen at Longforgan on 10th (BML).

Goldcrest 1 on Moncrieffe Estate on 9th, 1 at Drummonie Wood, nr Dron on 21st and 3 at Rohallion on 27th (EJM).

Robin Common.

Fieldfare First seen at Pitnacree on 13th 50+ (EMH). thereafter reported all over the county.

Blackbird Common albino (White Head) at Invergowrie (EJM).

Redwing First, at Pitnacree on 13th, 40+ (EMH). as fieldfare fairly widespread now.

Song Thrush. Reported from 1st to 5th at Pitnacree (EMH). and Bridge of Earn (PJO). A Pink one at Pitnacree on 13th (EMH).

Mistle Thrush 1 on 6th at Pitnacree (EMH). 2 at Moncrieffe Estate on 9th (EJM). and 9 at Strathban, nr. Trochry on 11th (IMcK).

Long Tailed Tit. 3 on the 17th at Pitnacree (EMH). 10 on 21st at Drummonie (EJM). and 12 on 24th at Rosemount (PBS).

Coal Tit. 2-3 at Moncrieffe on 9th (EJM). only report this month

Blue/Great Tit noted at bird tables during the month.

Treecreeper 1 at Viewland Reservoir on 31st (SL). and 1 at Megginch Erroll, on 14th (EJM).

Yellowhammer. 10 at Stair Dam on 27th (EJM). only report this month.

Reed Bunting. Only one report; this was 1 at Stair Dam on 27th (EJM).

Chaffinch/Greenfinch No large flocks reported.

Brambling 12 on 18th and 2 on 31st at Pitlochry (HB). only report this month.

Siskin Flock at Craigvinean on 11th (EMH). and 2 at Drummonie Wood, Dron on 21st (EJM)

Goldfinch 14 in Invergowrie on 2nd (EJM). only reports this month.

Linnet Forteviot had 4 on 26th (EJM). Only report this month

Redpoll Only one report; 60+ at Drummonie, Dron on 21st (EJM).

- Bullfinch Reported from Rosemount, Invergowrie, Moncreiffe and Drummonie (PBS/EJM).
- Tree Sparrow 4 at Invergowrie on 2nd (EJM) Only report this month.
- Starling Large flocks noted through-out the county. 1000+ at Longforan^{IN} on 7th (EJM).
- Jay 1 an Craigvinean on 11th (EMH). and Rossie Priory had 1 on 5th, Moncreiffe Estate 1 on 9th and Rohallion 6 on 27th (EJM).
- Rook/Jakcdaw No unusually large gatherings reported.

It has been a very rewarding month 86 species have been recored and we would like to thank all those who contributed they were;- Mrs. E.M. Harvey, S. Laing, I. McKinnie U. McLeod and P.B. Scott. Miss S. Laing, and Messrs N. Golby, J. Kirk, B.M. Lynch and P. McLachlan. E.J. Maguire and P.J.O'Brien compiled the bulletin as joint bulletin editors.

The Outing to Dunsinnan Estate on 6th Dec as notified in previous bulletins has unfortunately been postponed, In its place an outing to Glenfarg Reservoir has been arranged leaving the Museum at 10.30.a.m. on Sunday 6th December. Among the species seen in that area are Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Heron, Snipe, Finches, Buntings and Various Ducks and Geese.

Mr. Fleming Bernard, of Dunsinnan has expressed his approval of a visit from our society, but due to circumstances beyond his control, a winter visit is not possible.

All reports for November should be sent to

Mr. O'Brien,
Ward 24.,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

By 6th December. Please.

Good Birdwatching!

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

Bulletin for November 1970.

What a month it's been! Contributors have been busy and we have received some very interesting reports, among them were Snow Goose, Kingfisher, Waxwing, Barnacle Goose and Curlew Sandpiper (Again).

Seven record's of Great Grey Shrike have been received, this may appear to be unusual, but probably the reason for all these sightings is that more people are taking an interest in this subject, and possibly a wider area is being covered.

Golden Eagle and Sparrowhawk have also been noted with four sighting's of the latter. Predators are always of great interest and not only to Birdwatchers, therefore in the interest of protection, it would be wise to keep the locations of these particular raptor's within the Society.

As you know, there a number of birds which are common to all parts of Perthshire, and indeed the Country, it has been decided, after consultation, that several of these species will no longer be recorded in the Bulletin, unless of course there are good reasons for inclusion: e.g. Albinos, unusually large gatherings, movements and anything else which you may feel is of importance or of general interest.

Classified List for November 1970.

Little Grebe. Marlee Loch Had 1 on 1st, and Ochertyre 1 on 19th (J.K.) 3 were seen at Forteviot Bridge on 16th, (E.J.M.) and Clunie Loch had 1 on 8th (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.)

Great Crested Grebe. 2 on Marlee Loch on 1st and 1 at Easter Rhynd on 3rd (J.K.) Loch O' The Lowes had 2 on 8th (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.)

Cormorant. Numbers varied on the Tay at Invergowrie during the month, highest was 600+ on 15th (E.J.M.)

Barnacle Goose. Methven Moss had 5 on 7th, and 5 were seen near Balbeggie on 29th (J.K.)

Grey Geese. Greylag; 3,000 at Loch of Clunie on 8th (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.) Pinkfeet; 22,000 at Dupplin Loch on 7th (V.M.T.). 340 Greylag at Stormont on 8th (S.L./I.McK.) 63 at Marlee (Mrs. James) also on 8th. 1,600 at Monks Myre on the 8th (J.H.W. & L.D.)

Snow Goose. 1 was seen at Dupplin Loch with Pinkfeet on 7th (V.M.T.) and 1 was seen near Balbeggie on 29th (J.K.)

Whooper Swan. 2 at the Earmouth on 3rd (J.K.) 26 at Stormont on 8th (S.L./I.McK.)

Shelduck. 3 on the 26th in Invergowrie Bay (E.J.M.)

Mallard. Largest concentrations were 102 at Monks Myre on 15th (I.McK./S.L.) and 900+ on Dupplin Loch on 17th (E.J.M.)

Teal. Widespread on shallower waters, largest counts were 70 on the Inch, West of Meikleour on 1st and 50+ in the flooded area Near Dalreoch Bridge on 19th (I.McK./S.L.)

Gadwall. The smaller lake at Dupplin had 2 drakes and a duck on 17th (E.J.M.)

Videon Fairly widespread, largest counts again were, 139 West of Forteviot Bridge on 21st, 80+ in the Flooded Area near Dalreoch Bridge on 19th (I.McK./S.L.) and 60 on the Inch West of Meikleour on 1st (J.K.) Dupplin Lakes had 350+ on 17th (E.J.M.)

Shoveler 2 on Stormont Loch on 8th (J.G.) and 5 on Dupplin Loch on 17th (E.J.M.)

Pochard Loch of Clunie had 5 on 8th, 2 Drake, 3 Duck (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.) and Dupplin Lake had 1 Drake on 17th (E.J.M.)

Goldeneye More widespread this month, small number on Monks Myre, and River Tay at Tofthill Farm (I.McK./S.L.) Marlee Loch, Earnmouth and Buchanty (J.K.) Loch Freuchie (G.S.) largest count was 200+ on 26th at Invergowrie (E.J.M.)

Red Breasted Merganser On 18th there were two on the Tay at Inchyra and 3 flying up the Tay at Pye Road (I.McK./S.L.) Invergowrie Bay had 12 off shore on 22nd (E.J.M./P.J.O.)

Goosander Single birds seen during the month on the Earn at Forteviot Bridge (I.McK/S.L./E.J.M.)

Sparrowhawk Female at South Lodge, Dupplin Estate on 12th (E.J.M.) another female at Drummonie Wood (Between Bridge of Earn and Dron) on 17th was seen by a gamekeeper (per - E.J.M.) The next two reports are both from 19th, 1 was seen at Monzie, and 1 at Ochertyre was seen to catch a sparrow (J.K.)

Buzzard 2 were seen near Caputh on 1st (N.G.) and 2 seen over Pitlochry on 8th (H.B.)

Golden Eagle 2 were seen hunting the Moth End of the Sma' Glen on 22nd (G.S.)

Black Grouse Strathbraan had 50 on 8th (Miss Haggart) and 2 males were seen at Glenalmond on 22nd (J.K.)

Capercaillie 4 at Barsleton, Glenalmond on 8th (J.K.) 12 at Drumbuich Woods (?) on 29th per (J.K.) and Dupplin Estate had 6 on 16th (E.J.M.)

Coot 450+ on Dupplin Lake was the largest concentration (E.J.M.)

Oystercatcher on 21st there were 7 just west of Forteviot Bridge (I.McK./S.L./M.S.L./G.S.) This was the only inland report, 50+ was the largest flock at Invergowrie (E.J.M.)

Ringed Plover Invergowrie Bay had 2 on 15th, and Kingoodie Foreshore 7 on 19th (E.J.M.) Probably occurs daily in these areas.

Golden Plover 100+ near Easter Rhynd on 3rd, and 140 at Bachilton on 8th (J.K.) 40+ were seen flying North at Errol on 15th and the bird occurs daily at Invergowrie, largest flock was 400+ on 30th (E.J.M.)

Dunlin Occurs daily, and is abundant on Kingoodie Foreshore and Invergowrie Bay, one group can contain as many as 500 birds (E.J.M./B.M.L.)

Curlew Sandpiper 5 were seen at Invergowrie Bay on 4th (E.J.M.) Negative after this date.

Redshank a few inland reports this month, birds were heard at both Monks Myre and Inchyra, and 5 were seen at the River Earn just west of Forteviot Bridge on 21st. (I.McK./S.L.)

Bar Tailed Godwit daily at Invergowrie Bay, with just over 100 birds on 15th.

Curlew Invergowrie Bay had 26 on 15th, occurs daily here, usually in small numbers, 200+ were counted near here on 26th (E.J.M.)

Snipe Largest count this month was 27 on 19th in the flooded area at Dalreoch Bridge. (I.McK./S.L.)

Stock Dove 5 near South Lodge, Dupplin Estate on 12th, and 2 on Ballendrick Estate on 25th (E.J.M.) No results to enquiry yet (?).

Tawny Owl 1 was seen being mobbed by Jays on Dupplin Estate (E.J.M.)

Kingfisher 2 were reported from the River Almond at Almondbank, 1 was seen on 8th (J.G.)

Great Spotted Woodpecker Female in Cornhill Drive (off Jeanfield Road) Perth on 26th (S.L.) and Dupplin Estate had 1 on 16th and 17th (E.J.M.)

Grey Wagtail Single Bird in field round P.R.I. on 8th (S.L.)

Great Grey Shrike The first report of the month came from "The Courier" when 1 was seen attacking a starling at Errol, thereafter 1 on 8th at Stormont (J.G.) 1 on 12th in the Aberuthven Area (E.M.M.) 1 on 15th at Comrie (V.H.T.) 1 at "Tayside" Invergowrie on 19th (E.J.M.) 1 at Pitlochry on 28th (H.B.) and 1 near Harrietfield Glenalmond on 30th (per J.K.)

Waxwing Reported as follows; 80+ on 8th at Lower Harbort Perth (P.McL./J.J./E.J.M.), at least 100 on the 4th at Invergowrie (E.J.M./P.J.O.) this was reduced to just over 40 on 8th (B.M.L.) 14 at Kingoodie on 1st (J.G.) was probably the Invergowrie birds spreading out. Smaller numbers, up to 20, were also noted in Perth itself (I.McK/S.L./N.G./J.W.)

Dipper 1 on 8th at Almondbank (J.G.) 2 on 10th at Craigie Burn (P.McL.) and 1 at Rossie Priory on 14th (B.M.L.)

Goldcrest Invergowrie had 2 on 4th, and Rossie Priory 2 on 21st (B.M.L.) Rosemount had 2 on 8th and 6 on 21st (P.B.S.)

Long Tailed Tit Reported From; White Moss (Dunning) Invergowrie, Inchtute Area, Rosemount and Dupplin Estate. (I.McK./P.B.S./B.M.L./E.J.M.)

Corn Bunting 3 on 29th at Longforgan (B.M.L.)

Greenfinch None have been seen in the Pitlochry area since July (H.B.) are numbers up to normal in the rest of the county? This months reports are as follows; 60+ were seen in the Longforgan area during this month (B.M.L.) Mixed "Flocks" of Greenfinch and Linnet were seen near White Moss on 19th, Forteviot Bridge on 21st and again at White Moss on 25th (I.McK./S.L.) No large flocks seen in the South of the County. (E.J.M.)

Siskin 2 - 4 at the G.A. Office, Isla Road, Perth on 17th (S.L.) and a flock of 50+ was seen in the Monorgan Area on 21st (B.M.L.)

Goldfinch 1 at Almondbank on 8th (J.G.) 1 at Lowes on 8th (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.) 14 at Aberdalgie on 12th and 2 at Gask on 16th (E.J.M.)

Lesser Redpoll Invergowrie had 4 on 4th (E.J.M.) and Redmyre, North of Longforgan had a "Flock" on 14th (B.M.L.)

Bullfinch 5 on 7th and 10 on 21st at Rosemount (P.B.S.) 8 at Dupplin on 17th (E.J.M.) and 2 at Kingoodie on 1st (J.G.)

Tree Sparrow Noted at Dalreoch during the month (E.M.M.) 15 were seen at Isla Bridge on 15th (I.McK./S.L.) 6 at Stormont on 8th (J.G.) also seen at Aberdalgie, Ballendrick, Invergowrie and Castle Huntly had a flock of 40+ on 30th (E.J.M.)

Jay Reported from Rossie Priory (B.M.L.) Glenalmond and Gchertyre (J.K.) Melkleour (J.G.) Lowes (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J.) and Dupplin Estate (E.J.M.)

Magpie 2 were seen at Glenalmond Golf Course on 6th (J.K.) and 3 at Trinity College on 21st (per J.K.)

Raven 5 at Monzie on 19th (J.K.)

We would like to thank the following for this month's contributions to the Bulletin, they were, Mrs. S. Laing, E.M. Marshall, I. McKinnie, and P.B. Scott, Miss Haggart, V.M. Thom, S. Laing and L. Duncan and Messrs. H. Brown, W. Golby, J. Grant, J. Johnstone, J. Kirk (Junior) B.M. Lynch, P. McLaughlan, G. Smith and J.H. Wallace.

Subscriptions

We are sorry to be asking for money, especially during the Christmas Season, but it appears that a fair number of Subscriptions are overdue and we would ask readers who have not yet paid theirs to send a P.O. for 10/6d. to the Section's Treasurer Mr. I. Johnstone whose address is Kirk O' Muir, Kinclaven, Perthshire, as siib as possible Please. Thank You.

The next meeting is on January 13th 1971, when Mr. John Murray, of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh will be speaking on "Birds of Prey", the meeting will start at 7.30 in the Museum, so do come along!

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing a very Happy Christmas and New Year to all members and contributions to the Bulletin.

All reports for December should be sent to;

Mr. P.J. Obrien,
Ward 24,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn, - by 6th January 1971.

Please mark your envelope "P.S. N.S."

Editors: E.J. Maguire,
P.J. Obrien.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION
BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER. 1970

December produced quite a variety of Wildfowl in Perthshire with twelve species of Duck being noted, the most interesting was Pintail and Gadwall which were seen on Dupplin Lakes. Movements of Goldeneye have been evident especially on the river Tay, and on one occasion there was a count of 600+.

Great Grey Shrike and Waxwing are still being reported, although sightings of the former and numbers of the latter have certainly been reduced, in fact, Waxwing numbers had diminished at the start of the month, indicating a movement from the areas concerned.

Again, ducks were the feature of the day during the outing to the reservoir near Glenfarg on the 6th of the month, with fine views of Pochard, Wigeon, Goldeneye and Red Breasted Merganser, on the way there some of the luckier participants saw a female merlin.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Little Grebe. 1 on the River Earn by the hospital on 14th and up to 3 on the Tay above North Inch between 15th - 27th (JK).

Cormorant. A few inland reports, 6 on 14th and 7 on 28th near Kinclaven Bridge (IMcK). on 15th there was 1 at the Earmouth and on the 24th and 27th there was 1 on the Tay above Perth (JK).

Grey Geese. Greylag and Pinkfeet have been seen in their usual haunts during the month.

Whooper Swan. 9 were seen regularly during the month at Williamston Farm Madderty (IMcK). 3 on 13th near Amulree (NG). 4 on 18th in the flooded area near Dalreoch Bridge (IMcK). 6 flying north above Muirton on 15th and 6 at Stormont Loch on 26th (JK). the last report of the month, and certainly the year was 8 flying west over Bridge of Earn on 31st (EJM/PJO).

Shelduck. Slight influx at Invergowrie, with 13 on 28th (EJM).

Mallard. Largest count was almost 1,000 on Dupplin Lakes on 29th - 30th (EJM/JK).

Teal. Widespread, largest count was 94 at Sandyknowe Pond on 14th (JK).

Cadwall. Appears to be resident on the smaller lake at Dupplin. (EJM).

Wigeon. Large counts this month, 200+ on Dupplin Lake on 29th - 30th (EJM/JK). the following counts have been received from J.K. 140 on 5th in floodwater near Dalreoch Farm, 125 on 15th on the Tay shingle above North Inch, on 26th there was 65+ at Stormont and 41 near Islamouth and on 31st there was 187 on the river Tay near Meiklour. Smaller counts were also received from mid County. (IMcK).

Pintail. Female on Dupplin Lake on 29th (E.J.M.).

Shoveler. 2 Drakes and a Duck on Dupplin Lake on 29th (E.J.M.).

Pochard. Drake and duck at Glenfarg Reservoir on 6th (club outing) 10 at Stormont Loch on 26th (JK). and 50+ on Dupplin Lake on 29th (EJM).

Goldeneye. Marked movements on the Tay, between 15th and 27th numbers went from 11 to 77 at the North Inch. (JK). and numbers on the Tay at Invergowrie fluctuated between 200 - 600 (EJM). 40+ on Dupplin, 29th - 30th (EJM/JK).

Red Breasted Merganser. 3 at Glenfarg Reservoir on 6th (club outing) 1 on the Tay at Grandtully on 13th (NG). 1 on the River Forth at Loch Ard on 27th (JG). and a pair were seen regularly on the Tay during the month. (JK).

Gossander. Reported from Isla Bridge, Monks Myre and Kinclaven Bridge (IMcK/SL). and the river Teith near Deanston. (JG).

Sparrowhawk. Male seen hunting the foreshore of Invergowrie Bay on 13th (EJM/PJO).

Buzzard. 1 near Amulree on 28th (NG). also seen at Gleneagles, Sherriffmuir and Kinfauns (EJM/PJO).

Hen Harrier. Male and female seen near Bridge of Earn hospital on Christmas Day (PJO).

Merlin. Female seen on the wicks o' Baigle near Glenfarg. on 6th (club outing).

Black Grouse. Present in the Sherriffmuir area (EJM/PJO) 2 males were seen in Glen Artney on 29th (NG).

Oystercatcher. One inland report 4 seen at Viewlands Reservoir Perth on 9th (SL). Steady numbers at Invergowrie all month with 40+ being the maximum (BML).

Ringed Plover. Invergowrie Bay had 15 on 8th and 3 on 16th (EJM/PJO).

Golden Plover. 400+ almost daily at Invergowrie (EJM/PJO).

Knott. 7 on 28th at Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO).

Bar Tailed Godwit. Numbers doubled compared with last month, 200+ at High tide on 28th at Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO).

Collard Dove. 40+ at Dunblane on 1st (EJM/PJO).

Tawny Owl. Heard/seen at Trinity Gask, Madderty, Rossie Priory and Bridge of Earn. (IMcK/JB/EJM/PJO).

Green Woodpecker. 1 seen at Five Mile Wood, Bankfoot. on 21st (EJM).

Rock Pipit. Single bird seen on the foreshore of Invergowrie Bay on 16th and 28th (EJM/PJO).

Great Grey Shrike. Two sightings this month, 1 at Viewlands Reservoir on 11th (SL). and 1 at the Grange, Carse of Gowrie, on 16th (EJM).

Waxwing. All reports from Invergowrie and Kingoodie areas, 20+ on 14th in Invergowrie was reduced to 3 by the end of the month (EJM). 5 was the maximum at Kingoodie (BML).

Dipper. Lochs Earn and Voil both had 1 on 13th (JG).

Goldcrest. Reported from Stanley (PBS). and Muirward Woods (GS).

Tree Creeper. Seen at Monks Myre (IMcK). Muirward (GS). and 1 was present on the tree's outside the museum on 6th (club Outing).

Snow Bunting. 12 at Dalnaspical on 21st (EJM) and 15 - 20 were seen at Devils Elbow at the end of the month. (JK).

Siskin. 12 at Glenalmond on 8th and 35 were present in Old Scone woods all month. (JK).

Goldfinch. Largest count was 14 in Loch Ard Forest on 27th (JG).

Bullfinch. Large Flock at Sherriffmuir on 1st, 60+ (EJM/PJO).

Jay. Present at usual haunts, 7 were seen in a group at Loch Voil on 13th

Magpie. 1 was seen in the Sherriffmuir area on 1st (EJM/PJO).

We would like to thank the following contributors for reports received during December. Mrs. S. Laing, I. McKinnie and P.B. Scott, Messrs J. Luchan, N. Golby, J. Grant, J. Kirk(junior) and B.M. Lynch. thanks also to all other
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PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY. 1971

Wildfowl counts produced some unusual sightings during this first two, somewhat mild, months of the year. Velvet Scoter., Pintail., Greenland Whitefront., and Barnacle Geese, were noted, along with fairly large gatherings, and movements of Wigeon., Goldeneye., Pochard., Shelduck., and Teal. The Gadwall are resident on the smaller lake at Dupplin where 2-4 can be seen on most days, but a count in early March revealed 15 pair.

Marked movements of waders from coastal regions were more pronounced during February when flocks of Redshank., Gull., and Oystercatcher were reported inland, there was also a dispersal of Golden Plover., in the south east of the county, which indicated an early return to higher ground and this species, along with Dunlin and Black Head Gull, have started to attain summer plumage.

Some very fine hunting displays by Raptors were also witnessed during this period, a Peregrine Falcon was seen on the outskirts of Perth in mid February chasing Feral Pigeons. one just managed to escape minus a few tail feathers - a few days later a beautiful Male Merlin was spotted taking a Greenfinch in the Carse of Gowrie, and a gamekeeper in the Earn Valley has reported a pair of Sparrowhawks., also taking passerines.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

LITTLE GREBE. 1 at Isla Bridge 17/1 and 1 on the River Earn at Broomhill Farm on 24/1 (IMcK/SL). 4 at Lowes 25/2 (EJM). and 1 at Buchanty 9/2 (JK).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. Present on most lowland Lochs.

CORMORANT. Numbers up to 8, during January, at Kinclaven Bridge (IMcK/SL/JK). 350+ offshore at Invergowrie on 19/1, 43 at Kingoodie 5/2 (EJM). and 12 at Port Allen 27/2 (JK).

HERON. Seen at usual haunts, 6 at Sandyknowe Pond 27/2 (JK).

GREY LAG GOOSE 650 at Grassy Walls nr. Walkmill on 2/2 1,400 near Wester Banchory, 14/1 (JK). 800 at Dalreoch Bridge on 12/1 (IMcK/SL). 1,800 near Wolfhill on 13/2 and 1,000 at the inch, meiklour. on 13/2 (JK).

CARNICLE GOOSE. 5 with Pinkfeet at Bachilton on 7/2, 1 near Wolfhill (with Grey Lag) on 13/2 and 2 at Balgowan on 16/2 again with Pinkfeet. (JK).

WHITEFRONTED GOOSE (GREENLAND RACE). 1 near Tibbermore (with Pinkfeet) 31/1 and 2 at Methven Moss (with Pinkfeet) on 7/2. (JK).

PINKFOOTED GOOSE. Large flocks in the south and west of the county. 2,000 at Farteviot 9/2 (EJM).

WHOOPEE SWAN. 7 at Stormont 1/1 20 at the river Isla near Banchory 1/1, 13 at the Earnmouth 3/1 20 at the river Isla near Links Farm 5/1 2 at Buchanty 7/2 (JK). also smaller numbers seen at Invergowrie, Kingoodie and Bridge of Earn (BML/EJM/PJO).

SHELDUCK Marked movements at Invergowrie were as follows, 26, on 19/1, 45 on 31/1, 66 on 5/2 and 142 on 27/2 (EJM/PJO). 20 at Port Allen 27/2 (JK).

MALLARD. Largest concentrations reported were 800+ on Dupplin and 350+ in the bay at Invergowrie (EJM). 390 at Stormont 1/1 (JK).

TEAL At Dupplin Lake there was 500+ on 18/1 and 250+ on 9/2 (EJM). Reported from many locations in mid county.

GADWALL. 2 Drakes and 2 ducks were present on Dupplin (smaller lake) during Jan/Feb. (EJM).

WIGEON. 860+ on 18/1 on Dupplin Lake (EJM). 513 on 12/1 at Dalreoch Bridge (IMcK/SL) and 200+ at Carsebreck on 13/1 (JK), these were the largest concentrations.

PINTAIL. Two sightings both drakes 1 in Invergowrie Bay on 19/1 (EJM). and 1 at Isla Bridge 25/1 (IMcK).

POCHARD. The Blairgowrie Lochs had up to 30 during January (IMcK/SL/JK) Movements at Dupplin were noted, 70 on 18/1 150 on 26/1 and 80 on 9/2. 8 in Invergowrie Bay 23/2 (EJM).

TUFTED DUCK. Present on most waters largest concentrations again were 200+ on Dupplin 18/1 and 80+ on 31/1 in Invergowrie Bay (EJM).

VELVET SCOTER. A drake was indentified on Dupplin Lake on 18/1 (EJM).

GOLDENEYE. Fairly widespread, largest counts were on the river Tay at Invergowrie where movements were again evident 160 on 24/1 500+ on 11/2 (EJM) 200 on 27/2 at Port Allen (JK).

GOSSE SANDER 21 on 4/1 between Isla Bridge and Links Farm (JK). 18 at Lowes on 25/1 (IMcK/SL). this species was widespread to during Jan/Feb.

RED BRASTED MERGANSER. Pair at Port Allen 27/2 (JK). a few were seen in Invergowrie by during both months. (EJM/PJO).

SPARROWHAWK. Resident pair in the Earn Valley (TM).

BUZZARD. 1 at Sauchie, Aberdalgie 9/2, 1 over Dupplin Lake 9/2 (EJM). 2 at Pitlochry 30/1 (HB). and 2 at Buchanty at the end of February. (JK).

GOLDEN EAGLE. A single bird was seen on two occasions in upper Glenalmond (JK).

HEN HARRIER. Three sightings female at Spittalfield 18/1 (HB). Female at Monorgan, Carse of Gowrie 11/2 (EJM). and a male at Port Allen 27/2 (JK)

PEREGRINE. 1 was seen in the Earn Valley near Callersfont in Hill on 9/2 (EJM/RA) a single bird is present in the north west of the county (JK).

MERLIN. Male at the Horn, Carse of Gowrie. 11/2 (EJM).

KESTREL. Can be seen daily almost everywhere.

PTARMIGAN. A few on Ben Lui. 28/2 (JK).

BLACK GROUSE. 6 by Loch Freuchie in late February. and 20 near Drumick Glenalmond 17/1 (JK).

CAPERCAILLIE. Seen at Dunkeld, Dupplin on a number of occasions during January. (IMcK/EJM).

PHEASANT. A melanistic mutant was seen at west Banchory Farm, near the river Isla on 17/1 (IMcK/SL).

WATER RAIL. Two birds were heard calling persistantly in the river Tay reeds beds at Monorgan and Kingston, Carse of Gowrie. (EJM).

COOT. 450+ on 18/1 on the smaller lake at Dupplin (EJM).

OYSTERCATCHER. Flocks of 50+ were noted inland during February.

RINGED PLOVER. 8 At Kingoodie 5/1 (BML). and 2 in the bay at Invergowrie, on 24/1 (EJM/HJO).

GOLDEN PLOVER. 50+ at Kingoodie 5/1 (BML). 110 in Invergowrie Bay 19/1, 35 at the Horn, Carse of Gowrie. on 11/2 (EJM). and 20 near Rait, on 27/2 (JK)

DUNLIN. Largest single flock was 700+ at Kingoodie on 11/2 (EJM).

KNOT. Casual at Invergowrie 3 on 31/1 (EJM/PJO).

BAR TAILED GODWIT. 300+ on 31/1 in Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO).

CURLEW. Movement west at Kingoodie on 5/2 550+ (EJM).

SNIFE. 40+ at Kingoodie 27/2 was the largest flock (EJM).

LESSER BLZ

LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL. 8 at Dalreoch Bridge on 12/1 was the largest number seen here during last four years. (IMcK/SL).

STOCK DOVE. Flocks noted were 30 at Dupplin 26/1 and 50+ at Kingston Carse of Gowrie on 9/2 and 27/2 (EJM).

BARN OWL. 1 on 4/1 at Bridge of Earn (PJO).

SHORT EARED OWL. 1 at Viewlands Reservoir, Perth 22/1 (SL). and 1 near Port Allen 27/2 (JK).

TWANY OWL. Birds heard calling in most areas.

GREEN WOODPECKER. 2 on Dupplin Estate 26/1 and 2 near Lowes 26/2 (EJM).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER. 2 on Dupplin Estate 26/1 and 2 near Lowes 25/2 (EM).

ROCK PIPIT. 2 Birds at Kingoode 27/2 (EJM).

GREY WAGTAIL. 1 at the Grange, Carse of Gowrie 11/2 (EJM).

GREAT GREY SHIRKE. There was a report of 1 in the north of the county, the location has yet to be confirmed.

WAXWING. 5 at Invergowrie 10/1 (IMcK/EJM/PJO). 18-20 at Viewlands Reservoir 23/1 (SL/MSL). 30 at Longforgan 31/1 (BML). 21 at Kingoode 5/2 (EJM) the birds reported from Viewlands stayed all during February. (SL).

DIPPER. 1 was heard singing on a quiet stretch of the river Earn nr. Forteviot Bridge on 9/2 (EJM). 2 at Knappburn on 10/2 (BML).

GOLDCREST. ♂ on Kinnoull Hill 1/1 2 at Stormont 25/1 (IMcK) heard singing during Feb. on Dupplin Estate (EJM).

STONECHAT. Female at Invergowrie B. 5/2 (EJM).

FIELDFARE. No large flocks reported.

REDWING. As Fieldfare, departure dates of these and other wintering species should be recorded.

BLACKBIRD. Nest and eggs in the Meigle area by the 14/2 (BML).

LONG TAILED TIT. 30+ on Dupplin 26/1 (EJM) mixed tit flocks are still being reported from Longforgan (BML). and one flock on Kinnoull Hill between 30 - 40 coal/Blue tits. (IMcK).

TREECREEPER? At least 7 were seen on Kinnoull Hill on 1/2 1 at Dunkeld 4/1 1 at White Moss 12/1 and 2 at Monks Myre 25/1 (IMcK). more often heard than seen.

CORN BUNTING. 2 singing at the Horn, Carse of Gowrie on 11/2 (EJM).

REED BUNTING. Flock of 180+ at Monergan, Carse of Gowrie on 11/2 and 27/2

SNOW BUNTING. 5 or 6 at Glen Genonish beyond Crianlarich on 28/2 (JK).

BRAMBLING. 6 at Mavisbank Farm, South of Guildtown on 14/2 (IMcK/SL).

SISKIN. 35 at Cluny Loch on 25/2 (IMcK) and many were seen with redpools in Drumblie woods, Dunkeld on 25/2 (EJM).

GOLDFINCH. 1 at Bridge of Earn 23/1 and 2 at Dupplin Lake on 26/1 (EJM).

TWITE. 3 in a finch flock at Bridge of Earn 7/2 (EJM)

LINNET. 130 at Kingston Carse of Gowrie. 11/2 (EJM)

LESSER REDPOLL. Mixed flock with siskin and Drumblie Woods Dunkeld on 25/2 well over 200+ (EJM).

BULLFINCH. 8 at Balbeggie on 23/2 was the largest flock reported (BML).

HAWFINCH. A pair in s Scenne Garden in mid February. (JK).

TREE SPARROW. 5 at Bridge of River Isla near Coupar Angus 17/1 (IMcK/SL)
flock of 28 at Bridge of Earn on 7/2 (EJM).

JAY. Seen at Lowes. 2 M nearaiffe 1 Dupplin 3 and Forteviot 1 (JK/EJM)

Once again we would like to thank members who sent in their notes and observations during January & February, these were Mrs. S. Laing, I. McKinnie, Misses. M. Piper, S. Laing, and Messrs R. Anderson. H. Brown, J. Kirk (Junior) B.M. Lynch and T. Miller.

An exceptionally well attended meeting on Wednesday 15th January heard the well known Scottish Falconer. Mr. John Murray, of the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, gave a talk on "Birds of Prey" Mr. Murray soon had his audience at ease by his jocular approach to the subject, and his knowledgeable address showed that he was no novice to the Art of Falconry. The Slide shown were of a very high quality, and through them members were able to appreciate the terms used by the speaker. Mr. Murray was introduced by our president Mr. I. McLachlan and the vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. McKinnie.

Sea Eagles of Fir Isle was the topic of an open meeting held in the museum on 22nd January. Mr. R. Dennis described how these birds were re-introduced to the area, and how, although food was provided for them, it was evident that the birds were killing their own supplies. Of the four birds released, three disappeared and one was found dead. It was standing room only at this meeting and the audience showed their appreciation to Mr. Dennis whose talk was of great interest. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. I. McLachlan.

SUMMER OUTINGS.

The committee held a meeting in early January and decided on the summer outings for 1971

24th April.	Eden Estuary. (Waders)	12 Midday.
15th May	Glen Gaur.	
26th May	Glencorse House.	6.30p.m.
2nd June	Murthly.	6.30p.m.
13th June	Menteith Hills to be arranged	10 a.m.
27th June	Ython, Aberdeenshire.	
14th July.	Dubsinnan House, B lbeggie.	6.30p.m.

A.G.M.

The sections annual general meeting was held on 10th March, and the President, Mr. I. McLachlan in his opening remarks spoke of the need to increase the subscription fees of the sections. Mr. McLachlan pointed out that the section had the lowest subscription rates of the society and that the recent rise in Postal Charges had helped to make the increase necessary. The new rates for membership to the section will be 50p for adults and 25p for juniors.

The following office bearers were then elected for yet another year President. Mr. I. McLachlan. Secretary. Mrs. S. Laing, Treasurer. Mr. I. Johnson., Bulletin Editors. Messrs E.J. Maguire and PJO'Brien, Hon Recorder. Miss V.M. Thom, Committee members. Mrs. I. McKinnie, Miss M. Piper, Messrs P. McLachlan, J. Kirk and J. Duncan.

Part of the ~~entertainment~~ entertainment after the A.G.M. was provided by the showing of three short films, "By the Burn," "Stand and Stare" and "Wonder and Watch", all of which gave an insight into some of our nesting birds. Then there was a panel quiz three ladies and three gents formed the panel and Mr. McLachlan was quizmaster it was good fun, the final score was Ladies 71 and Gents. 65.

A PLEA FROM THE NATURAL HISTORY SECTION OF DUNDEE MUSEUM.

We are trying to build up a collection of skins for reference and study purposes. To do this, we need help from local bird enthusiasts and general public. We would be very grateful if you could send us fresh dead specimens
xxx

contd.

in good conditions. You may find these as road casualties or oil casualties on the beach Etc.

Storage of dead specimens at the museum is no problem since we have two large deep-freezes and our Taxidermist, Mr. Wardrope can prepare the specimens at his choosing. We are interested in any species of bird (and mammal by the way), both common and rare. We are happy to refund double the postage value that it cost to send the specimen.

Specimens to be sent should be wrapped in newspaper (not a polythene bag, since specimens deteriorate more quickly) in a cardboard box, and addressed to the Keeper of Natural History, Museum and Art Galleries, Albert Sq., Dundee.

Thanking you in anticipation,
A.B. Ritchie.

FINALLY? REPORTS FOR MARCH should be sent to

Mr. O'Brien,
Ward 24.,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

by Wednesday 7th April.

Editors. E.J. Maguire. & PJO'Brien.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION
BULLETIN FOR MARCH 1971

Fairly large flocks of Grey Geese were still evident in their usual haunts during March and on the "Goose Outing", Pinkfeet were heard at Methven Moss. Two "Black" geese were noted during the month, Barnacles, up to seven, were seen just west of Perth and a single Brent (Pale Breasted) was observed with a flock of Greylag in the Gorse of Gowrie.

Interesting wintering species recorded were Great Grey Shrike, Waxwing, and Brambling, with movements of Whooper Swan, Teal, Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Dunlin and Snow Bunting, Pintail (3pairs) were present all month on floodwater at Madderty. The only summer visitor reported was a Cuckoo, in Strathroy.

Classified List.

- Little Grebe. 1 at Buchanty 15/16th and 1 at the Isla near East Banchory on 26th (JK). 1 at Clunie on 21st (Dundee Club) 2 on Pitscarny, 14/17th (EJM).
- Great Crested Grebe Displaying pairs on Pitscarny Loch and Drummond Pond (EJM/JK). 9 at Lowes and 2 pairs at Clunie on 31st (JK).
- Heron. 2 or 3 pairs at Sandyknowe Pond, at least one nest (JK), 1 at Pitnacree on 3rd (EMH).
- Barnacle Goose. 1 with Pinkfeet at Methven Moss on 9th and 1 near Drumharvie, Findo Gask, on 11th (JK). 7 at Wester Cultmalundie nr. Tibbermore on 17th (EJM)
- Brent Goose (pale breasted) 1 at Monorgan, Gorse of Gowrie on 9th (EJM/PJO).
- Greylag/Pinkfeet. Both these species have been noted in flocks ranging from 300 to 2,000.
- Whooper Swan. Movements noted were 27 at Bridge of Earn on 3rd (EJM/PJO) and 30 flying N.W. at Madderty on 31st (TS). smaller herds were seen in the N. and W. (IMcK/JK).
- Shelduck. 100+ in the bay at Invergowrie on 26th (EJM/PJO). pair at Sandyknowe on 5th (EJM).
- Mallard. Nest and eggs near Methven Moss on 11th predicted by 23rd (JK).
- Teal. Movement near Madderty (floodwater) 100 on 11th had increased to 140 on 23rd (JK). 35 at Monks Myre on 15th (IMcK/SL).
- Gadwall. At Forteviot area 15 pairs on 14th, there was 19 pairs here by the end of the month (EJM).
- Wigeon. 50 at Pond of Drummond on 11th (JK). 300 at Forteviot on 14th (EJM) 44 at Monks Myre on 15th (IMcK/SL). Movement noted at Madderty floodwater 150 on 11th 230 on 23rd (JK).
- Pintail. 3 pairs throughout the month on Madderty floodwater, one drake was noticeably pink down the throat and chest. (JK).
- Shoveler. Movement to Forteviot area, 3 pairs on 14th, 10 pairs on 17th (EJM)
- Pochard. 5 in Invergowrie Bay on 9th, 60+ at Forteviot on 14th (EJM) 25+ at pond of Drummond on 11th and 15 at Stormont on 26th (JK). pair at Monks Myre and drake at Isla Bridge on 15th (IMcK/SL).
- Tufted Duck. Largest count was 200+ near Forteviot on 14th (EJM).
- Goldeneye. 260+ at Invergowrie Bay on 9th 20 on Dupplin on 14th/17th (EJM). 30 at Drummond on 11th (JK).
- Red Breasted Merganser. Reported from most areas.
- Goosander. As merganser, 28 at Pond of Drummond / Bennybeg Pond on 11th (JK).

- Buzzard. 2 at Dunkeld on 13th (HSH). 1 and Pitnacree on 13th and 2 at Coshieville on 26th (EMH).
- Golden Eagle. Pair seen during March in a suitable breeding area.
- Hen Harrier. Possibly 1 at Calvine on 29th (JK).
- Merlin. Two sightings female at Kingoddie on 9th (EJM/PJO). and 1 at Blair Atholl on 20th (HSH).
- Ptarmigan. 5 at Ben Dearg on 20th and 2 at Glen Shee on 27th (HSH).
- Black Grouse. Cock at Glack's saw Mill on 11th (IMcK). 6 cocks near Sluiedubh Glenalmond on 16th and 5 near Foulford Inn, Monzie on 11th (JK).
- Capercaillie. Reported from Dunkeld (HSH). Pickston wood, Graigvinearn (JK) and Forteviot. (EJM).
- Golden Plover. Movements inland were noted, largest flock was 130 at Bchilton on 16th (JK).
- Dunlin. Numbers decreased considerably between Kingoodie and Invergowrie this month (EJM/PJO).
- Bar Tailed Godwit. 20 on 16th at Invergowrie Bay (EJM/PJO).
- Durlew. This species (along with Oystercatcher, Redshank and Lapwing) was on breeding grounds by the end of the month.
- Woodcock. Pair in Pickston Wood on 20th (JK). and 1 was roding at Pitnacree by 30th (EMH).
- Snipe. 14 near Tulchan, Glenalmond on 22nd (JK). heard drumming in several localities during the month.
- Stock Dove. 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 9th Displaying pair near Bridge of Earn on 15th (EJM/PJO).
- Cuckoo. 1 heard at Pitnacree (Str thray) on 17th (EMH).
- Barn Owl. 1 Was seen twice during the first week of the month at Stanley (IRJ)
- Green Woodpecker. Resident birds on Moncrieffe and Forteviot Areas (EJM/PJO) Pair at Buchanty on 22nd heard below Kinnoull Hill on 28th and near Dunkeld House on 31st (JK). 1 on 11th Glacks Saw Mill (IMcK). 2 on 17th at Pitnacree 1 was heard yaffling here between 11am. and 1pm. on 27th (EMH). and 2 were reported from Bal inluig. (per EMH).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker. 2 At Glack's saw Mill north of Dunkeld. on 11th (IMcK).
- Skylark. Singin birds noted in most localities.
- Grey Wagtail. 4 at Oudinardo, Bridge of Earn on 3rd (EJM). and 1 in Tay St, on 30th (JG).
- Great Grey Shirke. 1 at Ruar Lodge near Dunkeld. on 13th (HSH).
- Waxwing. 80+ on Auchterarder Golf Course on 7th 30 at the top of Burgmuir Rd on 7th (SL). and 1 or 2 pair were present at Viewlands Rd. Till 10th (EMW).
- Di per. 1 in Tay St. on 30th (JG). a late report for January was of 4 at Loch Rannoch (NG). resident pair at Pitnacree (EMH).
- Goldcrest. Singing birds in Forteviot area on 17th (EJM).
- Stonechat. 1 near Kingoodie on 4th (JG).
- Fieldfare/Redwing. Both species were reported although no sizeable flocks were noted.
- Long Tailed Tit. Largest flock reported was 15-20 at Glacks Saw Mill on 11th (IMcK).

Corn Bunting. 1 at Kin goodie on 9th (EJM/PJO) and 2 at Glendevon Farm, Burghmuir on 28th (SL). These birds were singing.

Snow Bunting. 120+ at Dalwhinnie on 4th and 21 at Glan Shoe on 28th (HSH).

Brambling. 6-8 at the end of Muirend Rd. Burghmuir. on 28th (SL).

Siskin. 20+ at Dunkeld on 13th (HSH) mixed flocks of Siskin/Redpoll were seen at Grangvinearn on 31st ranging from 30-70 (JK).

Goldfinch. None Seen?.

Twite. 2 At Kingoodie on 9th (EJM/PJO).

Bullfinch. A few reports all small flocks 4-6

Jay. Reported from about 10 localities mostly mid county.

Raven. 2 at Loch o the Lowes on 21st (EMH).

Our thanks are, once again, due to the following members for reports received.:-

Mrs. E.M. Harvey, H.S. Hudson, I. McKinnie, S. Ling and Mess E.M. Watson, Messrs N.G. Iby, J. Grant, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk (JUN) and T. Smith,

Members are reminded that we are always pleased to hear from them, more reporters, especially in areas of the county that are poorly represented, would be very welcome. Would contributors please see that their full name is included in their reports.

Evening Outing (Change of Venue).

There has been a change in the locality of the outing to be held on May 5th. The outing will now be to Kings Myre, and will be led by the sections Treasurer Mr. I.R. Johnston, Meeting outside Perth Museum at 6.30p.m. PLEASE INFORM MRS. LAING, 22613 if wanting to go, or any other committee member.

You might like to be reminded of two other outings for the near future. they are:-

Glen Gaur	15th May leaving 2.30p.m. tea required.
Glencorse.	26th May leaving 6.30p.m.

These outings will also leave from Perth museum, Petrol costs will be shared on the usual basis.

Reports for April could be sent to

Mr. P.J. O'Brien,
Ward 24.,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

by Thursday 6th May.

Editors. E.J. Maguire,
P.J. O'Brien.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.
April. 1971

Summer visitors arrived slightly earlier than they did last year, this has probably been due to the exceptionally mild weather, and with the increased coverage of the county by observers, a fairly extensive picture of these arrivals has been obtained. Among the 15 species noted were Osprey, Tree Pipit, Chiffchaff, Whinchat, Redstart and Ring Ouzel, Swallows were first seen on the 11th, Sandmartins on the 14th and House Martins were present by the 21st.

Still being reported among our Winter visitors are Geese (5 species) Goldeneye, Whooper Swan and Waxwing, Movements of Fieldfare were noted, whilst very few Redwing were seen. Among our resident species (heron, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker and Raven). Reports have risen, again this is due to the coverage and we hope this will continue to expand. As in previous bulletins a few of our more common species have been omitted.

Classified List.

- Red Throated Diver. 1 at Kenmore on 5th and possibly 2 at Ardoch on 7th (EMH)
(Great Northern Diver Two observers are fairly sure they saw two birds on a Loch near Rannoch on 4th, observers please note that a "Full Discription" of this sighting should be sent to Miss. V.M. Thom. 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.)
- Little Grebe. Reported from nine locations, mostly mid county.
- Slavonian Grebe. 1 at Loch of the Lowes from 3rd to 10th. (JK).
- Great Crested Grebe. Present on most lowland lochs.
- Cormorant. Single birds seen at Lowes, and Kenmore (EMH). Loch Ard and Lake of Mentieth. (EJM/PJO).
- Heron. Increased reports this month.
- Canada. Goose. 6 at Loch Tummel (erst) 1 appeared to be sitting on a nest (HK).
- Barnacle Goose. 6 (with pinkfeet) south of Cultmalundie on 5th (JK). and 15 (possibly more) at Old England Loch. on 21st (IRJ).
- Grey Geese. Numbers started to tail off towards the end of the month especially in the east (JK).
- Snow Goose. 3 were seen in the course of Gowrie on 28th (JG).
- Whooper Swan. 16 at Dunalastair on 5th (EMH). Zwas the largest herd reported Wounded bird on the earn at Sandyknowe all month. (EJM/PJO).
- Shelduck. 70 between Powgavie and Port Allen on 10th (JK). 192 in Invergowrie Bay on 15th a pair were seen on Sandyknowe between 17th and 26th (EJM). 5 at Redmyre on 24th (BML).-
- Teal. Widespread on shallow water, 12 on floodwater at Maddery on 25th (JK).
- Gadwall. 19-20 pairs were present at one location. (EJM).
- Wigeon. Present at several sites, negative at Madderty this month. (JK).
- Shoveler. 10 pairs present all month at site near Tibbermore (EJM/PK). 10 at Stormont on 17th (JK). and 1 at Lowes on 15th and 25th (EMH).
- Pochard. 20 at Stormont on 17th (JK). approx. 25 pairs. near Tibbermore all month. (EJM).
- Mandarin Duck. 2 Drakes and a duck at Annaty bridge. Scone. on 19th and a pair at West end of Scone on 20th (EDC).
- Goldeneye. 120 at Port Allen on 10th (JK). 20 of shore at Invergowrie on 15th
~~(EJM/PK)~~. XX

(EJM/PK). smaller numbers at Lowes, Waulkmill, River Earn and Tibbermore (EJM)

Red Breasted Merganser. This species. (alogg with Gosander) was widespread during the month.

Osprey. The male arrived on 5th April. and disappeared on 6th. Both arrived back on 16th April. She laid her first egg on 7th May.

Sparrowhawk. 1 Was seen at the Lowes reserve on 15th (warden).

Buzzard. Seen at Pitnacree, Rannoch Station, Fearnan, Lowes (EMH). Near Kenmore (GS). and Loch Drunkie (EJM/PJO).

Hen Harrier. a female was seen twice in the Alyth district (DF). and a male near Aberfoyle (EJM/PJO).

Kestrel. Possible nest in the earn Valley. (EJM/PJO).

Red Grouse X Pheasant. A female near Buchanty on 24th JK).

Ptarmigan. 6 near Fealar Lodge (2000 - 3000)feet). (HSH).

Black Grouse. As capercaillie, usuall haunts.

Oystercatcher. Nest and eggs at Carsehead, Madderty on 16th (TS).

Ringed Plover. 1 (on pasture) at Balnaguard on 12th (EJM/PJO).

Golden Plover. Large flocks reported 370 at Lassintulloch on 4th (EMH). 88 near Dunalistair on 19th (JK). 40+ at Barmony Bridge (beside Isla) on 4th Smaller flocks seen in eight other locations. (HSH/EMH/GS/DF/JK).

Dunlin. A pair in full summer plumage at Invergowrie Bay on 26th (EJM) No other sightings.

Common Sandpiper. First at Lowes reserve on 7th (wardens) widespread by 25th

Bar Tailed Godwit. None seen this month at Invergowrie, still present on the Angus Coast. (EJM).

Curlew. Nest and eggs near Buchanty on 24th (JK).

Woodcock. Reported 'Roding' in fifteen localities.

Lesser Black Backed Gull. A noticeable influx was evident during the month.

Common Tern. First at Lowes, 2 on 21st and 1 on 25th (EMH).

Guillemot. Several were seen on the Tay at Stanley and Meikleour (from Colin Gibsons. Nature Dairy).

Stock Dove. Reported from Pitnacree (nest) loch Tummel, Corrymucklock, Dunbeth (EMH). Glendoick and Erroll. colony on Moncreiffe Grags. (EJM).

Collard Dove. Seen in most of the areas covered.

Cuckoo. 1 at Stormontfield on 2nd (BT) was the first for the month. Heard/seen in several localities.

Short Eared Owl. 3 Near Riemore on 2nd (JK). and 1 near Gatehouse Quarry, Aberfeldy on 9th (EDC).

Green Woodpecker. Seen/Heard in thirteen locations.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Seen/heard in seven locations. mostly mid county.

Sand Martin. First, at Lowes, 2 on 14th (SL) and one on 21st (EMH). Good numbers around by end of month.

Swallow. First, at Lowes on 11th and 12th (EMH). although numbers were still low by 25th.

House Martin. First, 2 at Bridge of Earn and 4 at Strageath, both 21st (EJM/MP)

Main arrival about 25th - 28th.

Tree Pipit. Singing birds at Kinlochard and Aberfoyle 28th- 30th (EJM/PJO).

Grey Wagtail. 2 Above Glendevon on 12th (IncK) and 1 at Kinlochard on 29th ~~XZ~~

Waxwing. 15 during the month on the outskirts of Blairgowrie (DB) and Scone had 6 or 7 on 13th and 9 on 30th (EDC).

Dipper. Present on most rivers and some lochs.

Sedge Warbler. First, and only report 1 at Lowes 7th -8th 9Wardens).

Whitethroat. First 1 at Parkfield, Scone, on 14th (EDC).

Willow Warbler. First at Lowes on 20th (EJM). singing in most areas by 30th.

Chiffchaff. First at Lowes, 1 on 6th (EMH) (seen/heard) and also on 14th (Wardens).

Whinchat. Male at Sandyknowe, Bridge of Earn. on 27th (EJM).

Stonechat. 1 near Ballinluig. on 25th (GS)

Wheatear. First, on the 9th at Hill of Pitheavlis (SL) main arrival was about 19th - 21st.

Redstart. First (only one report) 4 on 13th at Craigie Hill Golf Course (SL).

Fieldfare. Still being reported from many areas movements were noted "thousands at Stormont betw on 15th and 18th (BT) 150+ flying north of Kinkell on 9th (MP). 45+ were noted in Glenalmond towards the end of the month (JK). none seen in the Balbeggie area since 10th (BL).

Redwing. Not many 1st fowls west on 7th (EMH). 12 in Glenalmond on 23rd (JK). none seen in the Earn Valley. (EJM/PJO).

Ring Ouzel. First 4 on 17th in the Ochils (MP). also reported from Glen Fearnate, where 4 pairs were seen on 30th (HSH) and a few pairs were seen near Lochan na Lairige (CMH).

Corn Bunting. 1 Singin at Kingoodie on 15th (EJM/JK).

Siskin. Seen at Loch Tay (JG). Pitnacree and Grandtully (EJM/PJO). and Lowes (EMH).

Goldfinch. Three sightings this month, pair at Invergowrie on 26th present at Lowes (EMH). and Aberfoyle (EJM/PJO).

Twite. 6+ at Loch Goirea Dam, Glenlyon on 10th (EDC). seen/heard on high ground near Grandtully on 11th (EJM/PJO).

Jay. Usual haunts, common in the Dunkeld Areas.

Hooded Crow. Seen around the Trossachs 1 mobbing a Buzzard over Dooh Drunkie and 1 at Limegrove, Aberfoyle. both on 29th (EJM/PJO).

Raven. 7 near Ben Lawers on 1st pair near Ballintuin, Strathardle on 3rd (JK) 1 at Lowes on 19th (EJM). And a nest with fully fledged young was found near Loch Drunkie on 29th (EJM/PJO).

Contributors to the bulletin this month were
Mrs. E.M. Harvey, H.S. Hudson, S. Laing I. McKinnie. B. Rowlings. P.S. Scott.
Misses. C.M. Haggart, M. Piper, and Mrs D. Ford, N. Golby. I.R. Johnston,
J. Kirk (JUN). B.M. Lynch, G. Smith T. Smith B. Taylor and J.H. Wallace.

We would like to thank all our usual reported for their notes and also welcome those new contributors who have just joined us. This month we have had reports from 17 observers and as readers will note they were not wasting their time, as stated on extensive area was covered.

The outing by the section on Saturday 24th was to the Eden Valley

and although it was a cold, windy, overcast day about 12 members turned out. Species recorded during the visit included. Black Tailed Godwit, Knot, Sanderling and Wheatear, 2 Terns were seen but they were flying too high to identify.

Outings.

26th May.	Glencarse.	6.30p.m.
2nd June.	Murthly.	6.30p.m.
13th June.	Menteit Hill.	10.a.m.

Reports for May should be sent to J. O'Brien,
Ward 24,
Bridge of Eorn Hospital,
Bridge of Eorn.

bb June 6th Please.

Please phone Mrs. Laing at Perth 22613 if wishing to go to any of the outings.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
OR ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.
May. 1971

Warblers; Grasshopper, Garden, Wood and Blackcap were among the last of the summer migrants to arrive, as were Swift, Spotted Flycatcher and Corncrake, the latter being reported 'Heard' from at least 4 localities. Passage migrants included White Wagtail, and possibly a Dotterel, which was seen in the Ballinluig area.

Sparrowhawks have been much in evidence, being sighted in 5 atlas squares, a dead one was found in a wood near Dunalastair House - River Tummel on 29th the bird was in a fairly fresh condition and showed no apparent sign of any exterior 'injury'.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Little Grebe. All reports were from usual haunts.

Great Crested Grebe. (as little Grebes) no nest reported yet.

Cormorant. Small numbers Invergowrie Bay, Kingoodie, and up to Port Allen (none seen inland).

Heron. Young birds seen 'flapping' on west of Sandyknowe Bridge of Earn. (EJM)

Canada Goose. Breeding at Loch Tummel 7 birds seen on 25th 1 pair with 5 young (EMH).

Grey Geese. Movements were noted 'Hundreds N. over glenalmond 1st-4th (JK). and Pitlochry (HB). none reported after 4th.

Shelduck. 200+ between Invergowrie and Monorgan on 11th (EJM)

Teal.. No ducklings seen yet otherwise usual haunts.

Gadwall Present at one site (breeding).

Wigeon. Seen at Dunalastair, Loch An Dynate (EMH). Buchanty Loch Freuchie and Tibbermore. (JK/EJM).

Shoveller 9-10 pair at a site near Tibbermore (EMH).

Boobard. 26+ (pairs?) at one site (EJM) No other reports

Goldeneye. Two reports 4 at Loch Lowes on 8th (JK). and 1 offshore at Invergowrie on 11th (EJM/PJO).

Red Breasted Merganser. 2 Resident Pr. at Pitnacree (EMH) 1 pr. seen regularly on the River Earn by the Hospital (PJO). and 1 pr. at Lowes on 8th (JK).

Gosander. Widespread on Rivers and Lochs 22 at Loch Lowes on 8th (JK).

Sparrowhawk. 5 Sightings, Pitnacree (EMH). Netherton (DF). Kings Myre (outing) Dunalastair (Tummel) (IMcK). and Bridge of Earn. (EJM/PJO).

Buzzard. 1 on 22nd at Pitnacree (EMH)XX and 1 in Glenalmond on 29th (JK). were the only ones reported.

Golden Eagle. 1 Immature mobbed by Hen Harrier (Mid County).

Hen Harrier. 1 at Bardony Bridge on 10th (DF). and another this time was seen mid County.

Peregrine. 1 was seen in the N.W. of the county (Dundee Soc.).

Pteranigan 1 on 16th Glenlyon (Dundee SOC).

Black Grouse. 4 at Winardochy on 22nd (JK). were the only ones reported.

Capercaillie. Nest and Eggs in Pickstn Woods on 18th one was present (JK).

Corncrake. 4 Reports heard at Longforgan (BML). Pitnacree Strathearn (EMH).

Corncrake Contd. Bridge of Earn (EJM/PJO). 1 was seen at Erroll on 25th and from its height and direction was thought to have just flown across from Fife. (DC&A).

Ringed Plover. 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 11th (EJM).

Dotterel. 1 at Loch Br on, by Tullienet on 30th the bird may have been grounded while on passage N. as there was a heavy mist at the time (HB).

Common Sandpiper. Seen in all the areas covered.

Woodcock. 1 female with 5 young at Bucanty on 4th possibly 2 young were carried (JK).

Common Tern. 1 present from 11th at Pitnacree (EMH). 1 on 20th at Moncrigan Burn Course of Gowrie and 1 at Rossie Priory on 30th (BML).

Barn Owl. Reported from Woodside, Coupar Angus (IRJ). and Bridge of Earn. (PJO)

Short Eared Owl. 1 all month near Amulree (JK). 1 at Kings Myre on 5th (outing) and a pair high in the Ochills on 20th (MP).

Swift. Earliest 7th over South Inch Perth (NG).

Green Woodpecker. Usual haunts (mostly Heard).

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Seen at Balboggie (BML) and Moncrieffe Estate (EJM)

Tree Pipit. None Reported.

Grey Wagtail. 1 on 8th nr. Drumour and on 29th in Glenalmond (JK) and were present from 13th at Pitnacree (EMH)

White Wagtail. 2 sightings 1 at Kinfauns on 16th (EJM). and 1 at Loch An Dynate on 31st (EMH) (passage Migrant frequent in spring and on Angus coast).

Waxwing. 1 at Abernethy on 2nd (GS).

Grasshopper Warbler. 1 heard at Netherton, Alyth on 7th (DF).

Sedge Warbler. Singing in most areas nest at Pitnacree (EMH).

Garden Warbler. 2 reported 1 on 12th at Pitnacree (EMH). and 1 singing, Moncrieffe on 24th (EJM).

Blackcap. one at Invergowrie (foreshore) on 11th (EJM).

Whitethroat. 1 on 6th (singing) at Pitnacree (EMH).

Wood Warbler. 1 on 12th and 28th in Glen Lyon (EMH). and 3 near Dunalistair House on 30th (seen and heard) (IMcK)

Spotted Flycatcher. Earliest 8th at Strath Bann (JK).

Whinchat Reported from Stanly Farm (PBS) Loch Dunalistair Trinafour, and Nr. Schiehallion (IMcK). and Glen Lyon (Dundee Soc).

Redstart. 1 Lower Sma' Glen on 11th (JK). one near Tunnel Br. on 22nd (JK). and 1 on 31st in Glen Lochey (EMH). Late Report and at Cargills Leap Blairgowrie during Apr 1. (DF).

Goldfinch 2 on 4th at Willowgate by Perth Railway Bridge (RMcM) 3 on 11th at Invergowrie (EJM). and 2 on 18th at Pitnacree (EMH). 2 at Kinaird on 30th (BML)

Hawfinch. 1 report from inside the Perth City Boundary 2 at Willowgate on 4th (RMcM).

Tree Sparrow. Breeding reported from Erroll (IMcK).

Magpie. 2 on 16th Nr. Dunning (IMcL) has been recorded in this square (B.T.O. Atlas)

Hooded Crow. Resident and breeds in N.W. of County where we have no reporters.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION
REPORT FOR JUNE - JULY. 1971

Osprey News. Completion of successful breeding for the Ospreys at the Loch O' the Lowes Reserve seems inevitable now, for, by the end of July the two young birds - almost fully feathered - were exercising their wings and are expected to take their maiden flight during the first week in August.

On Passage Loch O' the Lowes produced a Salvonian Grebe and a Water Rail in lat July; the grebe was certainly on passage and since the rail has not been reported from the reserve in previous months, passage can be assumed. The status of this species in Perthshire is uncertain.

Pied Flycatcher. Again we have an extremely interesting classified list, Corncrake, Dotterel, Sparrowhawk, Hawfinch and Pied Flycatcher are included, the latter, a male was observed at Cragie Barns, Dunkeld and is the only reported sighting this year.

CLASSIFIED LIST.

Little Grebe. Breeding reported from Lowes, 5 young birds there on 5/7 (EMH) Otherwise usual haunts. Movement 1 at Viewlands Res. Perth. on 7/8 (SL).

Salvonian Grebe. 1 at Lowes at the end of July. (EMH)?

Great Crested Grebe. Youngsters noted at Lowes and other lowland lochs. Movement, 1 adult diving inshore at Kingoodie on 7/7 (EJM/NR).

Shelduck. Many youngsters seen at Kingoodie and Invergowrie during both months 124 adults on 7/7 in the Bay. (EJM/NR).

Gadwall. Colony bred locally, many young birds seen in July. although no count was attempted. (EJM).

Wigeon. As gadwall bred near Perth. No Count. (EJM).

Pintail. Belated report A young male was shot near Errol on 11th of January this year and is now in Perth Museum.

Shoveler. Bred near Perth. No count. (EJM).

Red Breasted Merganser. Bred at Linnof Tunnel and youngsters were seen at Pitnacree in July. (EJM). Movement 9 in Invergowrie Bay on 18/7 (EJM/PJO).

Osprey. As mentioned 1 pair and 2 young at Lowes. Movements a female passed through Lowes on 16/6 (EMH). and 1 was seen on the river Tay at Baldaroch on (about) 29/6 (WD).

Sparrowhawk. A pair present during June in the Longforgan area. (BML). 1 at Pitnacree on 26/6 (EMH).

Peregrine. A single bird was seen in the Dunkeld area in June. (per EJM).

Ptarmigan. Nest with 6 eggs at Graag Dhearg, Glenlyon on 6/6 (EDC)? Adult present

Water Rail. 1 heard at Lowes on 17/7 (E H).

Corncrake. Reported from Muthill and Strathardle (courier & Advertiser) also heard at Longforgan. (BML). Pitnacree (EMH). and Bridge of Earn. (EJM/NR/PJO).

Ringed Plover. 1 At Lowes i July (no date) Movements 2 on 2/7 and lon 20/7 at Invergowrie Bay (EJM).

Dotterel. 2 Birds were seen in the Ben Lowers area on 5/6 (NS).

Golden Plover. None reported inland Movement 30 at Kingoodie on 7/7 (EJM/NR)

Dunlin. Movement 4 at Invergowrie on 22/7 (EJM).

Common Sandpiper. Movements birds noted on all visits to Invergowrie during July. (max 9 on 22/7 (EJM). Max inland 6 going down river at Pitnacree on 29/7 (EMH). and 1 at Viewlands Res. on 2/8 (SL).

Lesser Black Backed Gull. Movement 250+ at Glencarse on 25/6 (NG).

Common Tern. Noted during June-July at Pitnacree and on the River Tay at Kindallac an and Baldaroch (EJM/WD). Movements at Invergowrie during July, max 9 on 22nd (EJM/PJO).

Barn Owl. Resident bird (or Birds) at Bridge of Earn. (PJO).

Short Eared Owl. 5 on 4/6 at Glen Quach and 1 at Kinnardochy on 19/7 (EMH) 1 at Scotston Farm near Aberfeldy on 13/6 (EDC).

Green Woodpecker. 1 at Invervar, Glenlyon on 13/6 (EDC). and 2 at Loch Faskally on 8/7 (EJM/NR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Drumming heard near Cultmalundie on several occasions during July. (EJM).

Bree Pipit. This birds seems to be local in Perthshire 1 at Loch Faskally on 8/7 (EJM).

Garden Warbler. Pair present most of June in Gardens off South Inch believed to have young. (NG). 1 on 4/6 at Pitnacree and 1 on 28/6 at Methven (EMH).

Whitethroat. 1 at Kinnaird on 5/6 5 at Longforgan on 26/6 (BML). and 1 Juv. at Invegowrie on 18/7 (EJM) bred at Viewlands Res. Perth. (SL). 1 also noted at Pitnacree and Methven. (EMH).

Chiffchaff. 1 from 14th May to 30th June in Scone Woods. (EDC).

Wood Warbler. Reported from Moness, Lowes and Drummond Hill in July (EMH).

Pied Flycatcher. a male at Craigie Barns Dunkeld on 16/6 (JG).

Whinchat. in June seen at Lawers Glen Quach and Aberfeldy. (EMH). 1 at Ladywell on 6/6 (BML).

Wheatear. Reported from typical haunts, movement 2 at Jeanfield Park Perth on 8/8 (SL).

Redstart. 1 on 2/7 at Monzie 1 female on 5/7 at Lowes and a Juv. which was killed by a car near Aberfeldy on 20/7 was sent to the Dundee Museum. (EMH).

Twite. a single bird seen on 12/6 in Glen Quach (EMH).

Hawfinch. two sightings of this rare finch, 1 at Bridge of Earn. on 7/6 (EJM) and 3 at Cornhill House Jeanfield Rd. Perth on 5/8 (SL).

Hooded Crow. 2 at Loch Faskally on 8/7 (EJM/NR). A reported (EMH) noted that pure breed stopped abruptly at border of argle on Oban Road.

Raven. 2 over Aberfoyle on 21/7 (PJO/JMcC). were the only ones reported. None were seen in the area covered by (EMH).

Our thanks are due to the following contributors for their reports. Mrs. E.M. Harvey, S. Laing, Miss N. Roberts, and Messrs E.D. Cameron, W. Davidson, N. Goldy J. Grant, J. McRennie and also the wardens at the Lowes Reserve.

As members will be aware, most of common species has been omitted in this issue however it is important that we continue to receive reports of all species for recording (B+T.O.) purposes.

Ythan Estuary Outing.

The sections outing to the Ythan Estuary in Aberdeenshire proved to be a very rewarding experience for the members present. Highlights of the visit was definitely the nesting terns, common, Arctic, Sandwich and the rarer little. Also noted were Shag, Razorbill, Guillemot, (also Bridled form) and Puffin. During our visit we were very lucky to have the services of Mr. Bill Murray of Culterty Field

Station, those who did not know him were soon to realize that he was a very well informed and attentive guide, his immense enthusiasm and knowledge of sea birds were very much in evidence, as members who attended the meeting he addressed last Autumn will remember.

MEETINGS.

- Sept. 8th. Open Meeting Films from R.SP.B. & B.B.C.
- October. 20th. Bede Pounder Esq.,
Pollution on the Tay and its effects on Birds.
- November. 10th. Members Night Items from Members.
- December. 15th Jack H. Swan. Esq.
Loch Leven Nature Centre and its Work.
- January. 12th. Hugh A. Ford Esq.
Birds of the Galapagos Islands.
- February, 4th Open Meeting, Mr. McCaskill,
Wildlife and Forestry.
- March. 8th. A.G.M.
Miss V.M. Thom B.T.O. Atlas.

Woodcock. In the May issue of the bulletin J. Kirk reported a Woodcock with five young. E.D.Cameron has since enquired if this is not unusual. The Handbook of British Birds (page 188, volume 4) states, normally 4 eggs occasionally 3 not very rare 5,6, eggs and young recorded.

Records by 6th October. please. to;;
Mr. O'Brien,
Ward 24.,
Bridge of Earn Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

E.J. Maguire / P.J. O'Brien.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

REPORT FOR AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1971

Passage Migrants.

On the lower reaches of the Tay, the extensive tidal mudflats of Invergowrie and Kingoodie Bays attracted a variety of passage migrants and casual visitors. Little Stint and Spotted Redshank were perhaps the most exciting, although Greenshank, Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper, Knot, Sanderling and Black Tailed Godwit were recorded. No doubt the majority of these species follow the huge flocks of Redshank and Dunlin up-river from around the Tayport - Tentsmuir area of the estuary. Results of watching offshore during high tide proved very rewarding, careful scrutiny revealed a number of uncommon migrants, Sandwich and Little Terns were seen occasionally and quite surprisingly an adult Gannet a vagrant of Perthshire.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF SECECTED SPECIES

Black Throated Diver. Successful breeding reported from a loch in Strathtay 2 juvs. seen on 8/8 (CMH) 2 Pairs also seen on Loch Rannoch on 22/8 (JK)

Slavonian Grebe. (An occasional passage migrant) 1 present at Loch of Lowes during August.

Gannet. (Vagrant) An adult at Invergowrie Bay on 8/8 (EJM)

Canada Goose. 11 Seen at Loch Mahaick during August 1 juv. seen (RMcM)

Grey Geese. Earliest reports:- skeins seen crossing the Tay at Inchyra on the 11th, 12th and 13th September (per IMcK).

Pintail. A duck at Invergowrie Bay on 13/9 and 20/9 (EJM) 1 drake and 2 ducks at Kinmount, Rhynd on 14/9 (RF) and Kingoodie Bay had a drake and 2 ducks on 16/9 (EJM/RMcM).

Shoveler. 35 were observed at White Moss on 22/9 (JK)

Pochard. 9 at Glenfarg Reservoir on 25/9 (RMcM).

Goldeneye. A drake in eclipse was seen at Loch of the Lowes on 24/8 (JK)

Red Breasted Merganser. Observed regularly, offshore at Invergowrie.

Whooper Swan. 3 were seen several times in August and September on the Isla near Coupar Angus. (JK)

Osprey. Last sighting at the Lowes was on 13/9.

Sparrow Hawk. Numerous sightings and all refer to single birds. Mains of Creuchies, Alyth-Drinnie Rd. on 13/9 Welton, Alyth on 26/8 Forneth on 1/9 (all DF). Kings Myre on 21/8 (IRJ) Tarsappie, Rhynd on 18/9 (RF) and at Pitnacree, Strathtay on 20/9, 21/8, 5/9 and 18/9 (EMH) a female at Loch of Lowes on 3/9 and a bird at White Moss on 22/9 (both JK).

Hen Harrier. A female at Kings Myre on 18/8 (IRJ)

Peregrine. An immature bird near Butterstone on 1/9 (DF)

Merlin. Female at Invergowrie Bay on 11/9 (EJM) This bird tried unsuccessfully to take a Dunlin from a small flock.

Ptarmigan. 2 on the east shoulder of Schiehallion on 5/9 (EDC)

Corncrake. 1 on 5/8 and 7/8 at Longforgan (BML)

Ringed Plover. A single bird at Glenfarg Reservoir on 15/8 (PJO'B) maximum at Invergowrie Bay was 18 on 30/9 (PJO'B)

Golden Plover. Maximum count at Invergowrie Bay 350+ on 30/9 (PJO'B)

Turnstone. (casual) 3 at Invergowrie Bay on 2/9 (EJM/JK)

Little Stint. (possibly a regular passage migrant in small numbers - can easily be overlooked) 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 30/9 (EJM/PJO'B)

Dunlin. 7 on 9/8 was the maximum count ofr August at Invergowrie, numbers built up during Seot. to 800 on 26/9 (EJM/PJO'B)

Curlew Sandpiper. (Occasional passage migrant in fluctuating numbers) 1 on 11/9 4 on 25/9 and 1 on 26/9 (EJM/PJO'B) Invergowrie.

Knot. (regular in small numbers) all records from Invergowrie Bay on on 5/8 1 on 13/9 1 on 18/9 1 on 19/9 and 3 on 15/9 (EJM)

Sanderling. (casual) 1 at Invergowrie on 9/8 (EJM)

Ruff. (Occasional Passage Migrant) 2 at Kingoodie Bay on 15/8 (HB)

Spotted Redshank Rare Autumn casual Invergowrie Bay on 9/8 1 on 10/8 and 1 on 19/9 (all EJM) There were 2 sightings in early October 1 bird seen by 3 observers.

Greenshank Breeds also regular passage migrant in small numbers. 1 at Loch Kinardochy on 20/8 and 1 at Loch Rannoch on 22/8 (JK) Invergowrie Bay 2 on 1/8 1 on 5/8 1 on 9/8 and 1 on 10/8, 1 on 28/8, 1 18/9, 01 on 19/9 and 1 on 20/9 (EJM/PJO'B)

Common Sandpiper. 2 at Invergowrie on 18/9 any later dates?

Black Tailed Godwit. Very Casual. - Invergowrie Bay 2 on 29/8, 1 on 5/9, 1 on 11/9, 1 on 16/9, 1 on 18/9 and 2 on 26/9 (EJM/PJO'B)

Bar Tailed Godwit. Regular winter visitor and passage migrant Arrived at Invergowrie Bay on 28/8, 2 birds maximum count during September was 13 on the 30th (EJM/PJO B)

Sandwich Tern. Uncommon passage migrant, Invergowrie Bay 3 on 28/8, (EJM/HB) and 1 juvenile on 2/9 (EJM/JK)

Common Tern. Last sighting at Invergowrie on 11/9.

Arctic Tern. Passage migrant has bred. Invergowrie Bay 2 on 5/8 (EJM/PJO'B) and 1 on 9/8

Little Tern. Uncommon passage migrant. 2 juvs. at Kingoodie on 15/8 (HB) and 1 adult with 2 juvs. at Invergowrie on 21/8 (EJM)

Barn Owl. 1 near Errol in early August per Courier and Advertiser and resident birds near Coupar Angus (IRJ) and Bridge of Earn. (PJO'B)

Long Eared Owl. 1 resident on the N.E. side of Coupar Angus. (IRJ)

Short Eared Owl 1 on 6/8 at Glenquach (EMH) 1 at Murthly on 10/9 (IRJ) and 1 on 10/9 at Little Glenshee. (RMCM).

Swift. Late date 5 over South Inch on 5/8 (NG)

Kingfisher. 1 on the Tay between Elcho Castle and Sleepless Inch on 17/9 (RF)

Green Woodpecker. Most records are from the Dunkeld area, Fornth (EF) and Kingss Myre (IRJ)

Great Spotted Woodpecker. 1 at Lowes Reserve on 12/9 and 1 at Welton, Alyth on 28/9 (EF)

Grey Wagtail. 1 on 11/8 at Benvie Farm, Invergowrie, (BIL) 1 on 18/9 at Scone (DEC) regular at Pitnacree (EMH) with two youngsters there on 2/8

Grasshopper Warbler 1 at Milton of Drimmie, Bridge of Cally on 16/7 late report from DF

Sedge Warbler. 1 at Invergowrie on 13/9 and seen later?

Garden Warbler. 1 on 16/9 at Pitnacree (EMH)

Willow Warbler. Last report on 12/9 from Pitnacree. (EMH)

Wood Warbler. 1 at Burghmuir, Perth from 20/8 to 3/9 (IMcK).

Spotted Flycatcher. Last reports from Pitnacree on 21/9 (EMH) and Perth on 22/9 (SL).

Whinchat. 1 youngster on 6/8 at Glenquiach (EMH) ~~xxxxPerthxxxx~~ 6 at Glenfarg Reservoir on 15/8 (EJM/PJO'B).

Wheatear. Last report 1 at Ben Y Vrackie on 4/10 (EDC)

Corn Bunting. 1 on 8/8 at the Horn, Carse of Gowrie. (EJM)

Goldfinch. 4 from 8th to 31st August. at Pitnacree (EMH) 7 on 11/8 at Comrie (EMH) 6 - 20 all September at Viewlands Res. (SL) 10 on 29/9 at Invergowrie (EJM) and 4 on 21/9 at Pitnacree (EMH)

Corrion Crow. Gathering on Invergowrie Bay on 30/9 - 187 Birds present.

Hooded Crow. 1 At Cosieville on 24/8 (EMH)

Observers whom we must thank for the information required in compiling this bulletin include:- Mrs. EM. Harvey, S. Laing. and I. McKinnie, Misses. V.M. Thom M. Ipiers, C.M. Haggart and Messrs H. Boase, E.D. Cameron, R. Fiddes, D. Ford I.R. Johnston. B.L. Lynch, R. McMillan and J. Kirk.

Subscriptions. Members are reminded that subscriptions are now due, the annual subscription being, Adults £1. Juniors 50pence. (This included the fee to the parent body). and should be sent to the Section Treasurer:-

Mr. I.R. Johnstone,
Kirk of Muir,
Kinclaven,

B.T.O. Survey.

With 1 members who are participating in the B.T.O. survey please send their Atlas Cards as soon as possible to:-

Miss V.M. Thom,
19 Braeside Gardens,
Perth.

Forthcoming Meetings.

The next meeting of the section is on Wednesday 10th November which is Members Night. The programme will be made up of slide, etc., and any other material presented will be very welcome. On November 19th there is an open meeting which will be addressed by Mr. Michael Clegg. of Dundee City Museum (whose subject is 'Wildlife on Tayside')

Records for October - November should reach us during the first week of December. addressed to:-

Mr. O'Brien,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn.

Editors. E.J. Maguire,
P.J.O'Brien.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1971.RED-THROATED DIVER:

During both months this Diver has been seen on the River Tay off Kingoodie in varying numbers. On 23/10 a count of 12 birds was thought to be exceptional, and their presence unusual, but by the end of November well over 40 were frequenting the area.

FREEZING CONDITIONS:

Waterfowl, involving most species, were affected by the freezing conditions on 20-21/11, many were forced to move - at least locally - to rivers and larger ice free lochs, Goldeneye numbers off Invergowrie soared to 200, Goosanders deserted Drummond Pond near Muthill, and these same conditions may well be connected with the presence of Water Rail in the tidal areas of the Tay.

BRENT GOOSE:

Records of Geese included a single pale bellied Brent near Keillour Castle, Greenland White-Front at Methven Moss, and Barnacle on four occasions in the vicinity of Tibbermore. Greylag and Pink-Foot will not be mentioned in the list of species as we have not yet received all the results of the official counts.

LIST OF SELECTED SPECIES.
RED-THROATED DIVER:

(Breeds in small numbers, coastal in Winter).
Max. counts off Invergowrie/Kingoodie, 12 on 23/10 and 46+ on 28/11. (E.J.M.)

CORMORANT:

Invergowrie Area, 68 on 25/11 (E.J.M.). A single bird at Bridge of Earn on 29/11 (P.J.O.).

BARNACLE GOOSE:

5 near Dupplin on 2/10 (per J.K.). 1 there on 24/10 (E.J.M.), 3 at Tibbermore on 21/11 (E.J.M./D.S.T.) and again on 28/11 (J.K.).

BRENT GOOSE: (Pale Bellied).

1 near Keillour on 7/11 (J.K.).

WHITE/

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: (Greenland Race).

1 on 24/10 near Tibbermore (J.K.).

MUTE SWAN:

17 on 19/10 at the River Isla, Coupar Angus, was the only flock of any size reported. (I.McK./S.L.).

WHOOPER SWAN:

Largest flocks were 9 at Madderty from 7/21 November (T.S.) and 9 at Loch Tubhair on 17/11. (R.McM). Only two record for October, 2 at Invergowrie Bay on 9/10 (E.J.M./D.S.T.), and 8 near Bridge of Earn on 18/10 (J.K.).

SHELDUCK:

Invergowrie Bay, 3 on 14/10 and 1 on 11/11. (E.J.M.).

TEAL:

Three fairly large counts, 55+ at Stormont on 30/10, 90 at Carsebreck on 2/11 (both J.K.), and in the Tibbermore area 80 on 24/10 and 240+ on 6/11. (E.J.M.).

GADWALL:

Near Tibbermore, 2 on 24/10, 14 on 6/11, 3 on 11/11, and a single drake at Drummond Pond, near Muthill, on 21/11. (E.J.M./D.S.T.).

WIGEON:

On 24/10 there was C.100 at Buchanty (J.K.), and C.400 near Tibbermore (E.J.M.), also 317 at Carsebreck on 11/11 (E.J.M.), 200 at the Isla, Coupar Angus on 15/11 (S.L./I.McK.), and 105 on River Tay near Meikleour on 30/10 (J.K.). These were the largest concentrations.

SHOVELER:

Counts near Tibbermore were as follows - 170 on 24/10, 130 on 6/11, 138 on 11/11, 156 on 14/11, and 110 on 21/11 (E.J.M.). 75 at Stormont on 30/10 (J.K.), and 35 at Monks Myre on 21/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T.).

POCHARD:

Seen on most lochs, largest counts were 80 at Upper Rhynd Loch, Carsebreck on 10/10 (per J.K.), and 129 at Carsebreck on 11/11 (E.J.M.). Max. near Tibbermore was 130 on 24/10.

GOLDENEYE:

Small numbers on most Rivers and Lochs. Max. counts at Invergowrie Bay were 40 on 11/11, and 206 on 20/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T./E.G.).

GOOSANDER:

Drummond Pond Nr. Muthill, 21 on 31/10, 48 on 13/11 (J.K.). None there on 21/11 (E.J.M./D.S.T.)

SPARROWHAWK/

SPARROWHAWK:

Six sightings, 1 at Rattray on 18/10 (D.F.), a fair in Glenalmond on 24/10, 1 there on 8/11 (J.K.), on 2/11, 1 at Cromlix, Dunblane (R.McM.), and 1 at Carsebreck (J.K.), 1 at Loch Clunie on 21/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T.).

PEREGRINE:

Single birds at Bamff Estate, Alyth on 18/10 (D.F.); Tibbermore on 24/10 (E.J.M.); and Loch Giorra, Glen Lyon on 28/11 (R.McM.).

MERLIN:

Female at Monorgan, Carse of Gowrie on 28/10 (E.J.M.), Male at Loch O' Lowes on 7/11 (E.J.M./P.McL./J.J./E.G.), and a female at Invergowrie Bay on 11/11 (E.J.M.).

WATER RAIL:

Three Sightings in one day! 2 at Daleally and 1 at Powgavie on 20/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T./E.G.) also a bird at Invergowrie Bay on 28/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O.).

RINGED PLOVER:

Max. counts at Invergowrie, 22 on 14/10, 13 on 28/10, and 6 on 25/11 (E.J.M.).

GOLDEN PLOVER:

250+ nr. Kings Myre, Caputh on 28/10 (R.McM.). Regular at Invergowrie during both months, max. count C.470 on 25/11 (E.J.M.).

DUNLIN:

Max. count at Invergowrie was 1,400 on 25/11 (E.J.M.).

CURLEW SANDPIPER:

Invergowrie Bay, 3 on 13/10 (E.J.M./R.McM.), and 1 on 23/10 (E.J.M.).

SPOTTED REDSHANK: (Rare Casual).

Invergowrie Bay, 1 on 7/10 (R.McM.), and 1 on 9/10 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T.).

GREENSHANK:

3 on 7/10 and 1 on 8/10 at Invergowrie Bay (R.McM.).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT:

Invergowrie Bay, 4 on 3/10 (E.J.M./P.J.O.), 2 on 7/10, 1 on 8/10 (R.McM.), 1 on 9/10 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T.), 2 on 13/10 (E.J.M./R.McM.) and 1 on 25/11 (E.J.M.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT:

Max. counts at Invergowrie Bay were 26 on 3/10 (E.J.M.), and 35 on 20/11 (E.J.M./P.J.O./D.S.T./E.G.).

ARTIC/

ARCTIC TERN:

Very late bird at Invergowrie Bay on 14/10 (E.J.M./P.J.O.).

GUILLEMOT: (Vagrant).

1 on the River Tay at Baldaroch, Nr. Stanley, on 12/10 (W.D.).

BARN OWL: (Not an Uncommon Resident).

2 on 26/10 and 1 on 23/11 at Pitnacree (E.M.H.),
1 on 10/11 at Duneaves (E.M.H. and 1 near Kinkell Bridge on
26/11 (R.McM.).

LONG-EARED OWL:

1 at Deuchnie Wood, Perth on 7/11 (E.D.C.).

GREEN WOODPECKER:

Singles at Invervar, Glen Lyon on 3/10 and 30/10,
Deuchnie Wood on 23/10 (E.D.C.), and Scone on 14/11 (E.G.).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER:

1 on 30/10 at Invervar, Glen Lyon (E.D.C.), and 1 at Scone
on 31/10 and 28/11 (E.G.).

SWALLOW:

Last sightings; 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 17/10 (E.J.M.),
and 4 at Forgandenny on 19/10 (J.K.).

HOUSE MARTIN:

Last date; 12+14 at Woodside Crescent, Craigie on 9/10 (S.L.).

WAXWING: (Irruptive Winter Visitor).

2 on 13/11 at Invergowrie (U.McL.) 2 on 22/11 at Anderson Dr. Burgh-
luir (J.D.), and 1 at Viewlands Fields, Perth on 29/11 (S.L.).

BLACKCAP: (Occasionally Winters).

1 Male on 18/11 - 26/11 at Pitnacree (E.M.H.).

WHEATEAR:

Late Date; 1 on 4/10 at Viewlands Reservoir (S.L.).

FIELDFARE:

Arrival Date; Most Reporters give arrival dates of this
species, along with REDWING, as 17-19/10.

SNOW BUNTING:

15+ near Loch Giorra, Glen Lyon on 28/11 (R.McM.).

JAY:

Unusual Record, 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 25/11 (E.J.M.).

RAVEN:

2 at Glen Quaich on 5/11 (E.M.H.) and 3 at Loch Giorra,
Glen Lyon on 28/11 (R.McM.).

In this Issue we wish to acknowledge reports from the following Members -

Mrs. J. Dick, E.M. Harvey, S. Laing, I. McKinnie,
F.B. Scott, Miss E. Jarvie, and Messrs. E.D. Cameron,
W. Davidson, D. Ford, J. Johnstone, J. Kirk, B.M. Lynch,
P. McLaughlan, R. McMillan, and D.S. Thomson.

MEETINGS:

The next two meetings being held at the ART GALLERIES for the Section are:-

WEDNESDAY, 12th JANUARY, 1972.

Mr. H.A. Ford, of Stirling University.
"Birds of the Galapagos Islands".

FRIDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 1972.

Mr. D. McCaskill.
"The Year with Nature".

The Editors, E.J. Maguire and P.J. O'Brien, would like to wish all Members and Contributors A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR and also thank everyone who sent in records during the year.

I

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 1971 - FEBRUARY 1972

GOOSE COUNTS

On 7th November 1971 a total of **31,960** Grey Geese were counted in Perthshire, most were Goose (**22,320**), the rest Pink - Feet (**9,640**). Numbers were much higher than previous years with a total of **63,110**, of which **34,360** were Pink - Feet. Of particular interest, a Pink - Foot ringed near Perth in October 1957 was shot at Leslie, Fife, in January this year, the bird was 15 years old - at least.

WINTER CASUAL

Scamp visited Loch Muir in January. This is quite unusual. The last record of this species in Perthshire was in December 1968 when a duck was seen at Monks Myre, Blairgowrie.

Great Grey Shrike and Waxwing - both irruptive winter visitors - appeared later & in much lesser numbers than in 1970. The former is a winter casual and sometimes there are numerous records of single birds, as in 1970.

LIST OF SELECTED SPECIES

LITTLE GREBE

2 wintering at Lower Harbour, Perth (R.M.C.M.)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

1 at Invergowrie Bay on 27/2 (E.J.M.)

CORMORANT

Invergowrie / Ringwood, max 90 on 29/12, 30 at Port Allen on 26/12 (E.J.M.), 7 at Kinclaven Bridge on 12/12 (I.M.C.K./S.L.), Sporadic movement east at Sleepless Inch on 16/2, 35, 1/2 m. (R.M.C.M.)

BARNACLE GOOSE

Regular in Tibbermore area, max 6 on 13/2 (E.J.M./R.M.C.M.), 1 at Ringwood nest on 29/2 (E.J.M.)

BENT GOOSE (Pale Belton)

Vagrant. Recent records refer to single birds only, 1, with Pink - Feet, at Tibbermore on 8/2 (R.M.C.M.). This species is generally a coastal feeder.

WHITE - FRONTED GOOSE (Casual)

Tibbermore area, 1 at Cultmalunzie on 19/12 and a different bird at Werriness on 22/12 (E.J.M.). Both Greenland race.

WHOOPER SWAN

10 at Isla Bridge on 12/12 and 3 at West Banchory the same day (I.M.C.K./S.L.), 3 at Dalreoch, Dunning on 23/1 (E.J.M./D.S.T.)

SHELDUCK

1 at Invergowrie Bay on 3/12 and 29/12, 10 on 15/1, 23 on 6/2, 41 on 26/2 and 60+ on 27/2 (E.J.M./R.C.).

TOTAL

Counts, 33 at Monks Myre on 12/12 (I.M.C.K./S.L.), 90 at Port Allen on 26/12 and 117 at Tibbermore on 20/1 (E.J.M.).

WIGEON

Counts 400+ at Carsebreck on 13/2 (E.J.M./R.McM.), 670 Nr. Tibbermore on 14/2 (R.McM.), 300+ at Isla Bridge on 13/2 (S.L.)

PINTAIL: (Regular in very small numbers)

A Drake near Tibbermore on 14/2 (R.McM.)

SHOVELER

22 near Tibbermore in January (E.J.M.)

POCHARD

max count was 70 at Carsebreck on 15/2 (E.J.M./R.McM.)

TUFTED DUCK

Counts, 50 at West Banchory on 12/12 (I.McM./S.L.), 100+ Invergowrie Bay 29/1 (E.J.M.), Roost at Lower Harbour, Perth, 100+ nightly, but 200+ on 29/2 (R.McM.), 60 - 70 at Isla Bridge on 13/2 (S.L.)

SCAUP. (Uncommon casual)

1 Drake, possibly 2 more, at Loch Clunne on 5/1 (E.M.H.)

GOLDENEYE

Counts, 100+ most days at Invergowrie Bay max. 161 (55% Drakes) on 26/2 (E.J.M.), 63 at Lower harbour, Perth on 2/1 (R.McM.)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Regular offshore bird at Invergowrie, Max. 23 on 29/12 (E.J.M.)

GOOSANDER

30 at Drummond Pond, Muhiin on 9/11 (E.J.M./R.McM./E.S.), 7 at Tibbermore on 17/2 (E.J.M.)

SPARROW HAN. (Still persecuted despite protective laws)

Singles at Lerock Farm, Alyth on 9/11 and 23/2 (Females) (D.F.), male near Cuthmaluncie, Tibbermore on 17/2 (E.J.M.)

BEN HARRIER. (Fairly regular on low ground in winter)

Female at Netnerton Farm, Alyth on 3/12, male at Blackhills Farm, Rattary on 9/12, female at Melton - Bamff, Alyth on 10/12 (all D.F.), male at Tibbermore on 20/1 (E.J.M.), 2 females near Ballinlung on 11/2 (R.McM.)

PEREGRINE

1 at Lerock Farm, Alyth on 10/11 (D.F.)

MERLIN

All records refer to males, New Alyth on 7/12 (D.F.), Invergowrie Bay on 27/2, and Kingoole bay on 29/2 (E.J.M.)

WATER RAIL

1 at Port Allen 26/12, 1 at Invergowrie Station 29/12 (E.J.M.) and 31/1 (N.K.A.)

GOOSE

150 at Carsebreck on 1/2 (E.J.M./R.McM.)

OYSTERCATCHER

Earliest inland, 11 at Carsebreck on 13/2 (E.J.M./R.McM.), Counts, 60 at Dalroch, Dunning on 17/2 (E.J.M.), 160 at Invergowrie / Kingoole 27/2 (E.J.M./N.A.). Addition. 45 at Isla Bridge on 1/2 (S.L.)

RINGED PLOVER

2 at Invergowrie Bay on 27/2 (E.J.M./R.O.)

GOLDEN PLOVER

Inland, 60 at Kinkell Bridge on 15/2, 130 at Tibbermore on 13/2 (E.J.M./R.O.M.). Many had started to assume summer plumage in January.

DUNLIN.

max. count at Invergowrie Bay was 2500+ on 30.1 (E.J.M.) this was down to 1,200 on 26/2.

KNOWE. (Regular in small numbers)

Invergowrie Bay, 1 on 12/12 (E.J.M./P.J.O.), 24 on 29/1, 1 on 31/1 (N.K.A.), 3 on 13/2 (E.J.M.), 1 on 16/2 (R.O.) and 4 between 26/2 and 29/2 (E.J.M./R.O.)

REDSHANK.

150 - 200 over Metham on 6/1 (S.L.)

GREEN HANK

2 at Kingoodie Bay on 17/2 (M.P.)

BLACK - TAILED GODWIT. (Very casual)

Invergowrie Bay, singles on 5/12, 21/12 and 29/1 (E.J.M.)

BAR - TAILED GODWIT

Numbers low compared with previous counts, max. 59 on 26/1 (E.J.M./R.O.)

CURLEW.

230 at Kingoodie on 27/2 (E.J.M./N.K.A.)

SNIPE.

Counts, 40 at Dalveoch on 2/1 (E.J.M./D.S.T.), 18 Kingoodie 29/2 (E.J.M.)

LITTLE GULL.

7 adults at Invergowrie Bay on 26/2 (E.J.M./N.K.A./R.O.), 1 adult and an immature on 27/2 (E.J.M./N.K.A.)

RAZORBILL (Vagant)

1, not billed, at Kingoodie on 4/2 (E.J.M.)

BARN OWL

Six records, all singles, Aberuthven on 4/12 (R.M.M.), Kinfauns on 7/12 (N.D.), The Horn, Garse or Gowie on 22/1 (E.J.M./D.S.T.), Lutterstone on 7/2 (J.S.T.), Horsehill, Craigend on 29/2 (R.M.M.), 1 found dead on road at Windyedge, Glasgow Road on 5/1 (Perth City Museum).

LONG EARED OWL

1 at Perth on 17/1 (N.K.A.)

KINGFISHER (Probably, resident in very small numbers, all records, especially during the breeding season, are wanted.)

1 at Kilgraston, Bridge of Larn on 3/12 (B.J.).

GREEN WOODPECKER

1 at Muir of Leas, Mauderly on 15/2 (E.J.M./R.M.M.), 1 at Lutterstone on 18/2 (D.F.)

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

1 at Moultonhill on 2/1 (R.M.C.M.), 1 Lerock farm, Alyth on 24/1, and Butterstone on 13/2 (D.F.).

GREAT GREY SHALKE

1 on 4/12 and 12/12 at Pitnacree, Strathtay (E.M.H.).

GAWWING.

1 at Invergowrie Bay 3/12 (E.J.M.), 6 there on 4/12 (F.C.), 1 Anderson Drive, Broughton 4/12 (L.M.C.), 2 Stanley Farm 12/12 (P.B.S.), 1 Invergowrie 17/2 (U.M.C.), 2 Faries Road 25/12 and 1 at Viewlands Res. 27/12 (S.L.).

CORN BUNTING.

1 at Melness Tibbermore 22/12 (E.J.M.).

BRAMBLING.

A male at Invergowrie Bay 31/1 (N.K.A.).

TWITE.

2 at Comichan, Auchnairree on 11/1 (E.J.M./N.S.K.).

HAWFINCH.

A male at Invergowrie on 29/1 (N.K.A.), 1 there on 15/2 (U.M.C.), 1 Kingoodie West on 27/2 (N.K.A.), 1 Viewlands Res., Perth on 2/12 (S.L.).

ROCK PIPIT

Kingoodie, singles on 3/1 (N.K.A.) and 27/2 (N.K.A./E.J.M.).

TREE SPARROW

Count, 40+ at Cultmalundie on 17/2 (E.J.M.).

RAVEN.

2 at Newton Bridge, Sme' Glen on 11/1 (E.J.M.), 3 there on 16/1 (N.K.A.).

KEY TO INITIALS

Mrs. E.M. Harvey, B. Johnstone, S. Maing, I. McKinnle, P.B. Scott, Misses. E. Jarvie, U. McLeod, M. Piper, Messrs. N.K. Atkinson, H. Bouse, R. Calligan, W. Davison & W. Darling, D. Ford, R. McMillan, M.A. Muir, D.S. Thompson.

RECORDS for March - April - May should be sent to:

Mr. P.J. O'Brien,
Staff, Ward 24,
The Hospital,
Bridge of Earn

By 6th. June please

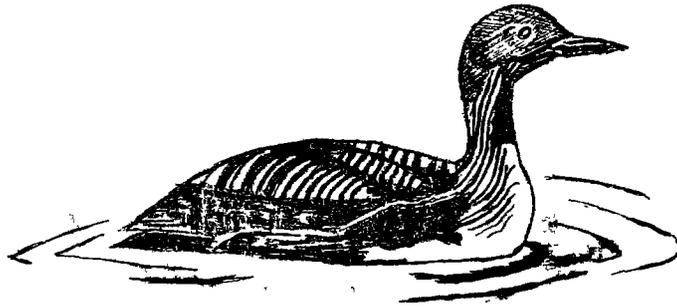
E.J. McGuire P.J. O'Brien 13th. March 1972.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR MARCH - MAY, 1972.

MIGRANT DATES: This report deals mainly with arrival - departure dates of Summer-Winter visitors and passage migrants. Regarding common species, first or last dates are given respectively; anyone with earlier or later dates than those stated in the list of species should forward the record(s) for correction in the forthcoming Bulletin.



BLACK-THROATED
DIVER (R. McM).

LIST OF SELECTED SPECIES:

RED-THROATED DIVER: Present on two known breeding Lochs. (R. McM).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. Known present on four, possibly five, Lochs. (R. McM,

LITTLE GREBE: Bred Loch an Daim (R. McM) and Tibbermore (E. J. M.) (E. M. H.)

SLAVONIAN GREBE: Passage: Records from Loch O' the Lowes 9th - 28th April, possibly 2 birds involved (M. D.); 1, in full breeding plumage, at Tibbermore 17th - 18th May (E. J. M., M. A. M.)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE: Some passage on the Tay from 12th March, maximum: - 3 at Stanners Island, Perth, and 3 at Kingoodie (E. J. M., R. C., D. S. T.)

CANADA GOOSE: 9 at Murthly on 7th April (per W. D.); 20 → W. at Lowes on 10th April.

BARNACLE GOOSE: 2 at Tibbermore from 29th March to 19th April (E. J. M., M. A. M., D. A. B.)

GREY GEESE:

Grey Lag: 300 → E at Kingoodie 9th May;

Pink Feet: 2,500 + at Tibbermore in early April, last there - 40 on 17th May.

WHITE FRONTED GOOSE: (Greenland Race): Tibbermore area, 2 on 5th March, (R. McM); 17 on 29th March, 15 on 9th and 13th April, last, 1 on 19th April (E. J. M., M. A. M., D. A. B.); 1 at Longforgan on 5th April (T. M. C.)

WHOOPEE SWAN: Maximum counts: - 13 → W. at Kingoodie on 12th March, 6 there on 26th April (E. J. M.); 6 at Loch Dochart on 8th April (R. McM).

SHELDUCK: 260+ Invergowrie - Kingoodie on 16th May, first Juvs. seen on 30th May (E. J. M., R. C., M. A. M.)

GADWALL: Maximum at Tibbermore was 23 on 25th April; 2 pair present at another known site (E. J. M.)

PINTAIL: ♂ at Lowes on 4th April (M. D.); Paid Kingoodie West 26th - 27th April, ♀ Invergowrie Bay 9th - 10th May (E. J. M., R. C., P. J. O.)

SHOVELER: Some passage at Tibbermore in late March, maximum - 60 on 27th, decrease from 9th April.

SCAUP: ♂ Invergowrie Bay on 20th March (E. J. M., R. C.) Pair at Lowes 16th May (S. L., M. D.)

GOLDENEYE: Last real flock at Invergowrie Bay - 125 on 12th March (E. J. M.); ♂ seen all May at Lowes.

OSPREY: Loch O'the Lowes. ♂ arrived 6th April, ♀ 9th April
(first Chick hatched 7th June).

SPARROWHAWK: ♀ Barnhill, Perth 12th March (E. J. M.) Five records from
Lowes.

HEN HARRIER: Migrant, - ♂ Kingoodie West 2nd April (E. J. M., I. McK.,
A. B.) ♀ near Alyth 5th March and another nearby (N. K. A.)

PEREGRINE: Birds present at seven sites (R. McM).

MERLIN: ♀ at Invergowrie Bay on 20th and 24th March, at Megginch
23rd March (E. J. M., R. C., R. McM.); single birds also seen inland in
March (R. McM) and April (N. K. A.)

WATER RAIL: Four records of single birds at Kingoodie between 2nd March and
24th April (E. J. M., R. McM., M. A. M., P. J. O.); 1 at Stanner's Island, Perth
on 15th March (E. J. M., D. S. T.); 1 at Lowes on 16th April.

CORNCRAKE: 1 at Longforgan from 12th May (J. Lynch).

RINGED PLOVER: Invergowrie Bay - 2 on 12th March, 1 on
26th March (E. J. M., R. C.)



PEREGRINE
(R. McM)

GOLDEN PLOVER: 1,000 + at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore on 27th March, two later
counts of 800 + then decrease to 120 on 19th April (E. J. M., M. A. M., D. A. B.);
earliest on hill - Birds calling in Logiealmond on 1st March (R. McM).

DUNLIN: 900 at Invergowrie Bay on 12th to 20th March, only 93 there on 24th
March, 44 at Kingoodie West on 24th April (E. J. M., R. C.); Birds seen in
probable breeding areas in Rannoch (R. McM., E. J. M.)

KNOT: Invergowrie Bay from 1st March, maximum - 9 on 20th March; last - 1 at
Kingoodie West on 24th April (E. J. M., R. C., M. A. M.)

RUF: Very rare spring record: Invergowrie Bay - ♂ 28th - 30th March, 2 ♂♂
31st March - 1st April, 1 on 2nd April (E. J. M., M. A. M., R. C., R. McM.,
I. McK., A. B.)

SPOTTED REDSHANK: Very rare Spring record; Invergowrie Bay - 1, in Summer
plumage, on 23rd April (E. J. M., R. C., P. J. O.)

REDSHANK: Roost Kingoodie West, 1,400 on 2nd March and 24th March, 1000 + on
15th April down to 250 on 24th and only 100 there by 28th April (E. J. M., R. McM.,
M. A. M., R. C.)

GREENSHANK: 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 14th April (E. J. M.), 5 Birds seen at a Loch
in Rannoch on 20th April (R. McM).

COMMON SANDPIPER: 1 at Lowes on 4th April.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT: Invergowrie Bay - 3 on 26th, 2 on 27th and 1 on 31st
March, 1 on 2nd April (E. J. M., R. C., R. McM); 1 Kingoodie West on 24th April
(E. J. M., I. McK., S. L.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: Maximum - C. 200 Invergowrie Bay on 6th March,
Last - 2 Kingoodie West on 28th April (E. J. M., R. C., R. McM).

CURLEW: Roost Kingoodie West. 400 + on 20th March down to 200 on 20th
April. Still 100 there on 24th April. (E. J. M., R. McM., M. A. M., R. C.)

WHIMBREL: Three records from Invergowrie - Kingoodie between 8th and 15th May, Maximum - 2 on 14th (E. J. M., R. C.)

JACK SNIBE : Five records from Monorgan Mouth, Kingoodie West between 2nd March (3) and 2nd April (1). Maximum 4 on 11th March (E. J. M., R. McM., M. A. M., R. C., I. McK., A. B., D. A. B.)

LITTLE GULL: Fairly frequent on Estuary; 10 at Invergowrie Bay on 11th March, 4 there on 12th March (E. J. M., R. C.),

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Concentration at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore, first there - 5 on 27th March, 97 on 9th April, 250+ on 25th April. Very few a week later (E. J. M.).

ICELAND GULL: Rare casual; 1, second year bird, at Invergowrie Bay on 10th April (E. J. M.)

COMMON TERN: 3 off Kingoodie 15th April. .

GUILLEMOT: 1, dead on beach, at Kingoodie 18th March (E. J. M.)

CUCKOO: 1 at Kinloch Rannoch 20th April (R. McM.)

BARN OWL: Six records, all singles; Kinfauns, 5th March, Horsemill, 6th March, Dalreoch Bridge 4th April (all R. McM.) Glencarse 14th March (D. S. T.); Pitnacree 17th May (E. M. H.) and Scone 28th May, (M. A. M.)

SWIFT: 1 at Scone on 10th May (E. D. C.)

SAND MARTIN: 20 at Lowes on 3rd April.

SWALLOW: 1 at Lowes on 3rd April. .

HOUSE MARTIN: Errol - Last week in April (I. McK.).

TREE PIPIT: 4 at Dalmunzie and Glenshee on 8th May (R. McM.).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE: Records from Lowes, Butterstone and East of there in December (per M. D.); 1 at Cloichfoldich on 15th December (Mr. ? Banner).

WAXWING: Art Gallery Square, Perth between 1st and 11th March, maximum - 5 on 8th. (E. J. M., D. S. T.)

MAGPIE: Very local; 1 at Trinity Gask on 7th March (M. P.)

CARRION CROW: Invergowrie Bay, five counts of 100+, maximum - 130 on 23rd April (E. J. M., P. J. O., R. C.)

HOODED CROW: Probable immigrant; 1 Kingoodie West from 27th May (R. C., E. J. M.)

RAVEN: Two pair known successful - Rannoch and Glenshee; three other pair known present in breeding areas but breeding success not known (R. McM.).

GRASSHOPPERWARBLER: Arrived Kingoodie West 28th April, 1 on 14th, 15th, 2 on 16th May (E. J. M., M. A. M., R. C., J. A. C.)

SEDGE WARBLER: 29th April - Lowes.

GARDEN WARBLER: No early dates; four pair Moncrieffe Estate on 24th May.

BLACKCAP: 1 at Pitnacree, Strathtay, 26th - 27th May (E. M. H.)

WHITETHROAT: Invergowrie 10th May. 5 Kingoodie 15th May. 16 singing Birds between Invergowrie and Powgavie on 22nd May (E. J. M.); Scone 11th May (E. D. C.)

WILLOW WARBLER: Scone - 15th April (E. D. C.)

CHIFFCHAFF: 1 at Rohallion, Birnam on 23rd April (T. M. C.)

WOOD WARBLER: 1 at Lowes on 27th April.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER: Tibbermore - 17th May (E. J. M.)

WHEATEAR: Loch Dochart - 8th April (R. McM)

WHINCHAT: Glenquaich - 26th April (E. M. H.)

STONECHAT: Two pair with fledglings at Rannoch Station on 25th May;
another pair nearby (R. McM., E. J. M.)

REDSTART: Lowes - 15th April.

RING OUZEL: No early date. Records from Rannoch; Glenshee;
Glenalmond and Glen Turret (R. McM).

REDWING: No late date.

FIELDFARE: 5 at Ashfield, Dunblane on 7th May (R. McM).

BRAMBLING: 70+ at Trochry on 5th March (R. McM).

At least 12 in a flock of 250+ Chaffinch at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore,
on 29th March, some ♂♂ in Summer plumage. (E. J. M., M. A. M.)

HAWFINCH: Twenty seven sightings of a single ♂ at Invergowrie -
Kingoodie between 1st March and 16th May (A. G., E. J. M., M. A. M.);
2 at Scone on 16th April (E. D. C.).

CORN BUNTING: Two pair Merriness, Tibbermore; 3 at Kingoodie West
26th - 27th April (E. J. M., M. A. M.)

SNOW BUNTING: 60+ at Cairn Liath, Blair Atholl on 3rd March (R. McM);
at Glen Turret on 20th May (per R. McM).

KEY TO INITIALS:

Mrs - A. Baird; E. M. Harvey; S. Laing; I. McKinnie, P. B. Scott,
Miss A. Gaudry, and M. Piper.

Messrs - N. K. Atkinson; D. A. Bonar; R. Calligan; T. M. Clegg;
J. A. Cullen; E. D. Cameron; W. Davidson; M. Drummond;
R. McMillan; M. A. Muir; N. Sanderson; D. S. Thompson.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Mr. R. McMillan.

RECORDS FOR JUNE -JULY SHOULD BE SENT TO:-

Mr. P. J. O'Brien,
Staff, Ward 24,
The Hospital,
BRIDGE OF EARN.

BY 6th AUGUST.

E. J. Maguire.

P. J. O'Brien. 12th June, 1972.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Ornithological Section Bulletin - July - September 1972

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the coming season are now due (£1 for adults & 40p for juveniles, both including the subscription to the parent Society). Bulletins are still being posted to a number of members who have allowed their subscriptions to fall into arrears, but no further copies will be issued to anyone whose subscription is more than 12 months overdue. The Committee has decided that, owing to rising costs and production difficulties, Bulletins will in future be issued at quarterly instead of 2 monthly intervals.

Volunteers wanted.

Help is still required for Wildfowl counting in Perthshire. There are 3 ways in which you can help:

- (1) by undertaking to count wildfowl at a certain place at monthly intervals throughout the winter.
- (2) by making special counts for the International Wild-Censuses in mid-November and mid-January.
- (3) by joining the local team that counts all the geese in east Perthshire early in November.

Anyone who is interested in knowing more about these enquiries can obtain full details from Miss V.M. Thom, 19 Braeside Gardens, Perth.

Summer Specials in 1972

During this final season's work on the B.T.O. Atlas of Breeding Birds, some interesting new records for Perthshire have been made. Fieldfares bred in the county for the first time, successfully rearing young in Strathardle and also holding territory in Strathbraan. A recently fledged Little Owl was picked up dead on the A9 near Bankfoot in midsummer and there have been no fewer than 3 reports of Nuthatch, all from different areas and all reported by visitors from the south who were familiar with the call of this species. By playing tapes of Blackcap song Eddie Maguire managed to persuade territory-holding males to show themselves in 8 different localities. The recording work for the Atlas is now complete but it will be some time before the results can be published owing to the careful checking required before the information can be fed into the computer which will prepare the distribution maps.

Selected Species List.

Note - owing to the delay in the production of this Bulletin early summer records have not been included except where they are of special interest. Most of the space is consequently devoted to autumn wader movements.

Slavonian Grebe: one spent much of the summer on a loch near Perth (E.J.M., R.McM.)

Pinkfooted Goose: the first report is from Glenalmond, where small numbers were seen passing over on 17/9; by 24/9 there were over 1,000 in the Tibbermore area; but it seems likely that the main arrival was rather later this year with no very marked goose movement over Perth until the first week in October.

Birds of Prey: there have been a number of reports of successful breeding of Golden Eagles, Sparrowhawks, Peregrines, Merlins and Hen Harriers this season. The Ospreys at the Loch of the Lowes successfully fledged 3 young, the last of which left on 10 September.

Red-Legged Partridge: one near Murthly on 23/6. (This is a species which is sometimes reared in captivity and released for shooting, as is done with Pheasants. Red-legs have been recorded occasionally in the past in Perthshire but never seem to have established themselves successfully in the wild).

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PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1972.

Waders: The late autumn numbers of Waders on Mid-Tay were particularly good. October/November were the peak months for Redshank, Grey Plover and Dunlin whilst the peak of Bar-tailed Godwit came much later and reached only 200 in December. Curlew Sandpipers were regular in October (up to five) the last being noted on 11th November - a late date - and Black-tailed Godwit, mainly single birds, were seen fairly often, right into December.

Gale Force Winds.

The following records could well be connected with these conditions. A Great Northern Diver at Kingoodie on 6th December (first since 1947), up to six Spotted Redshank at Invergowrie on 1st and 2nd November and a Little Gull at Drummond Pond, Muthill, in the same month could well have been blown inland. Other outstanding species which occurred during this period were Bewick's Swan, Brent Goose, Jack Snipe and Glaucous Gull.

Selected Species List:

Great Northern Diver: (rare casual) one, Kingoodie on 6th Dec. (E.J.M.).

Slavonian Grebe: late report - one at Lowes in August (E.M.H.).

Cormorant: maximum at Invergowrie - 200+ on 10th Dec.

Whooper Swan: maxima - 13 Stormont on 22nd Oct. (B.M.L.); 18 Faskally 30th Dec. (R.McM.).

Bewick's Swan: (rare casual) 8 Kingoodie West on 19th Nov. - 2 were first year (E.J.M., E.C.P.); 4 adults on the Tay at Killichonan on 2nd Dec. (E.C.P.).

Brent Goose: a single pale-bellied adult at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore on 17th Nov. (E.J.M.).

Barnacle Goose: 15 at Cultmalundie on 17th Nov. (E.J.M.); 7 flew north over Invergowrie on 19th Nov. (E.C.P.).

White-fronted Goose: 5 Greenland adults and 2 juveniles at Cultmalundie on 17th Nov.; a White-front flew south over Invergowrie - with Pink-feet - on 22nd Nov. (E.J.M.).

Snow Goose: (occasional - probably an escapee). One at Port Allen on 5th Nov. (R.McM.).

Pintail: small numbers Mid-Tay 12th-15th Oct. Max. - 4 at Port Allen on 12th (E.J.M., R.C.).

Scaup: Invergowrie Bay - 6 on 21st, 2 on 22nd Oct. (E.J.M., R.McM.). All ♀♀.

Goldeneye: maximum at Invergowrie - 60 on 3rd Dec.

Sparrowhawk: singles - Port Allen in Nov. (R.McM.) and Kingoodie West 12th and 19th Nov. (E.J.M., R.C.).

Peregrine: Invergowrie Bay - 1 on 2nd Oct. (B.M.L.); 1 seen in the Rannoch area on 30th Dec. (R.McM.).

Merlin: regular female at Invergowrie from 25th Oct. - Dec. 2 on 6th Dec. (E.J.M., R.C.).

Water Rail: Kingoodie West - up to 3 in Oct., 10 there on 5th Nov., fewer in Dec. (E.J.M.); 2 Port Allen on 12th Oct. (E.J.M., R.C.); 1 at Seaside on 23rd Dec. (R.McM.).

Ringed Plover: Invergowrie Bay - 20 on 16th Oct., 18 on 1st Nov., up to 14 in Dec. but 22 on 27th at F. West.

Grey/...

Grey Plover: maximum counts at Invergowrie - 32 on 22nd Oct., 21 on 1st Nov. (9 on 19th); up to 4 in Dec., 1 at Port Allen on 12th Oct. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Golden Plover: maximum - 520 at Kingoodie on 15th Oct.

Jack Snipe: singles Kingoodie West from 5th Nov. (2 on 19th); Invergowrie Bay - a single bird present from 15th Nov. (E.J.M., R.C.); 1 at Seaside, Nr. Errol on 25th Nov. (E.J.M.,R.McM.).

Curlew: maximum - 300 Kingoodie West 15th Oct.

Black-tailed Godwit: Invergowrie Bay - regular in small numbers. Up to 3 in Oct., 2 in Nov., and a single bird in Dec. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Bar-tailed Godwit: monthly peaks at Invergowrie - 80 on 25th Oct., 149 on 4th and 8th Nov., 200+ on 4th Dec.

Redshank: Invergowrie-kingoodie, 3,000+ in early Oct., 2,000 on 25th Oct.; 1,050 on 19th Nov.; 750+ in Dec. (E.J.M.,R.C.). 40 were cannon-netted, and ringed, on 31st Dec. (Tay Ringing Group).

Spotted Redshank: no Oct. records. 6 on 1st and 2nd, 1 on 3rd Nov. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Greenshank: Invergowrie - last bird on 4th Oct. (E.J.M.,R.C.); rare in winter - 1 Port Allen 10th Dec. (R.McM.).

Knot: scarce after good early autumn passage - single bird Invergowrie-Kingoodie 28th-31st Oct. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Dunlin: Invergowrie - peak counts - 1,045 on 22nd Oct., 2,200+ in Nov. and similar numbers in Dec. (E.J.M.,R.C.). 28 were cannon-netted, and ringed, on 31st Dec. (Tay Ringing Group).

Curlew Sandpiper: Invergowrie - regular in Oct. Max. - 5 on 16th and 25th, 3 on 3rd Nov., a single bird from 4th-11th Nov. was last there (E.J.M.,R.C.,R.McM.).

Glaucous Gull: (vagrant in winter). 1 Kingoodie East on 24th Oct. (E.C.P.).

Little Gull: (occasional inland) - 1 Drummond Pond, Muthill, 4th Nov. (R.McM.).

Rock Pipit: singles Kingoodie and Invergowrie in Nov. and Dec. (B.M.L.,E.J.M.).

Pied Wagtail: 120+ Bridge of Earn on 4th Oct. (E.J.M.,P.J.O.).

Great Grey Shrike: Pitnacree - possibly 2 on 25th Nov. and a single bird on 28th-29th Nov. (E.M.H.).

Waxwing: arrived Invergowrie Point on 14th Nov. (8), Max. - 11 on 15th, most had moved on by the 19th; singles there on 25th Nov., 2nd and 14th Dec. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Blackbird: Invergowrie Point; 62 on 29th Oct., 76 on 19th Nov.; 200+ Invergowrie-Kingoodie on 25th Nov. (E.J.M.,E.C.P.); 70+ Port Allen on 11th Nov. (R.McM.).

Redwing/Fieldfare: maxima - 2,000+ (mainly Fieldfare) at Port Allen on 11th Nov. (R.McM.); 1,000+ (mainly Fieldfare) at Kingoodie West on 12th Nov. (E.J.M.,R.C.).

Goldfinch: maximum - 40+ Invergowrie on 25th Oct. (E.J.M.).

Contributors: Mrs. E.M. Harvey, Mrs. P.B. Scott, Messrs. R. Calligan, B.M. Lynch, R. McMillan, E.C. Parker, P.J. O'Brien and E.J. Maguire.

All future records should be sent to Mr. O'Brien, 2 Peddie Street, Dundee.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1973.

The Tay Ringing Group: have been active in the Carse of Gowrie recently and on three outings have ringed some 240 birds involving 13 species. At Port Allen in January and Errol in February mist nets were used, catching mainly Blackbird (70) and Chaffinch (40), although Tree Sparrow (8), a few Greenfinch, a Long-tailed Tit and a Goldcrest were also ringed. The T.R.G. cannon-net was fired on a Redshank and Dunlin roost at Kingoodie West on 3rd March and caught 39 and 63 respectively. One of the Dunlin was found to have been ringed previously in Poland.

Wader Movements: Waders were on the move in South-East Perthshire from late February-March. At Kingoodie West Redshank had shown a marked increase by 10th March whilst Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin numbers had decreased considerably by 20th. A Black-tailed Godwit appeared on 21st and later Knot, Ruff, Grey Plover and Greenshank were also recorded. A Ruff was at Seaside on 8th March. This, and the bird noted at Kingoodie, constitutes the second consecutive Spring record of this species for the County.

List of Selected Species:

Great Crested Grebe: increase on Tay from Mid-March, 4 at Kingoodie West on 18th, 2 at Port Allen 26th and 27th.

Slavonian Grebe: 1 at Port Allen on 26th March.

Little Grebe: Wintering birds noted at Isla Bridge, on the Tay at Aberfeldy and North Inch. 8 at Tibbermore on 26th March.

Cormorant: Kingoodie-Invergowrie, maximum - 380+ on 8th February.

Bittern: Belated report - 1 at Lake of Mentieth in December 1972.

Whooper Swan: Small numbers noted in most of the areas covered, maxima - 11 at Bridge of Earn on 12th January, 15 at Port Allen on 27th March.

Snow Goose: 1 was seen in the Meikleour area, with Greylags, during January.

Barnacle Goose: 3 at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore, on 26th March.

Canada Goose: 5 at Pitnacree, Strathtay, on 25th March.

Shelduck: increase on Tay - Invergowrie to Port Allen from late January, maximum - 126 at the Bay on 18th March, 46 at Seaside on 8th March.

Mallard: maxima - 800+ at Stormont on 13th January, 876 Invergowrie Bay on 19th February.

Gadwall: 20 at Tibbermore on 26th March.

Tufted Duck: maximum - 225 at Invergowrie Bay on 21st January.

Goldeneye: maxima - 209 at Invergowrie on 19th February, 63 at Earmouth on 14th January. Fewer wintered in the Kinclaven area than usual.

Goosander: maxima - 18 at Stormont on 13th January, 19 Kingoodie West 29th January.

Sparrowhawk: Singles at Errol on 17th February and Balbeggie on 11th March.

Buzzard: Outside usual range - 1 near Errol on 28th February.

Peregrine: 1 Kingoodie West on 21st March.

Merlin: Singles Invergowrie Bay on 26th and 28th January and Kingoodie on 3rd February.

Water/...

Water Rail: Regular birds at Monorgan Mouth, Kingoodie West January-March, maximum - 4 on 3rd March; 5 calling at Seaside on 8th March, 1 at Port Allen on 28th February.

Oystercatcher: Noted inland from 5th January, 50 at Aberfeldy on 26th February; maximum on Estuary - 160 at Kingoodie West on 14th February.

Ringed Plover: Kingoodie West - 21 on 9th January, 15 on 19th February, fewer in March; 2 at Seaside on 28th February.

Golden Plover: 433 at Kingoodie West on 9th January but fewer in February and none in March; c.400 at Seaside on 8th March.

Grey Plover: 1 at Invergowrie Bay on 31st March.

Lapwing: maxima - 1,000+ Kingoodie West on 9th January, 849 at Seaside on 11th January. These records may indicate a weather movement on the Tay.

Snipe: maxima - 46 at Seaside on 8th March, 42 Kingoodie West 22nd March.

Jack Snipe: 1 at Invergowrie Bay between 19th February and 8th March. 1 Kingoodie West on 9th January; Seaside - 1 on 28th February, 1 on 22nd March.

Curlew: Counts at Kingoodie West - 544 on 31st January, 377 on 8th February, 232 on 18th March, 280 at Seaside on 8th March. Inland - 125 at Aberfeldy on 4th January.

Black-tailed Godwit: Invergowrie-Kingoodie, singles on 7th and 9th January; 21st-25th March.

Bar-tailed Godwit: Invergowrie-Kingoodie, maximum - 327 on 13th February, numbers down to 48 by 27th March.

Redshank: Invergowrie-Kingoodie, 1,045 on 11th February, passage from Mid March, counts - 1,557 on 15th, 2,205 on 18th, 2,886 on 24th and numbers possibly still rising at end of the month.

Greenshank: 1 at Monorgan Mouth on 31st March.

Ruff: 1 at Seaside on 8th March; 1 Kingoodie West 22nd-24th March.

Knot: 4 at Invergowrie Bay on 7th January, 1 on 8th; 1 at Kingoodie West 22nd-25th March.

Dunlin: Invergowrie-Kingoodie, counts - 3,000+ on 9th January, 1,746 on 11th February, down to 360 by 21st March.

Little Gull: Invergowrie Bay - 1 on 9th, 3 on 11th February.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Invergowrie from 2nd March (1), more widespread by 28th.

Great Grey Shrike: Singles Kingoodie West on 3rd March and Tibbermore 26th March.

Blackcap: A male seen regularly at Invergowrie between 20th February and 31st March.

Stonechat: singles at Kingoodie West on 14th February, Bridge of Gaur 10th February, Rhynd 14th March, 2 at Glen Artney on 16th March. 4 pairs at Little Glenshee on 10th March.

Crossbill: c.20 at Glencarse during January, c.20 at Guildtown on 4th March and c.80 at Craig a Barns on 11th March. These reports suggest an irruption of Scandinavian birds.

Wheatear: 1 at Little Glenshee on 29th March.

Hawfinch: 1 at Invergowrie on 7th February, a pair there on 31st March.

Brambling: 3 at Tirnie on 3rd January, 1 at Duneaves on 5th February; small groups at Longforan from 25th March, maximum - 20 on 28th.

Contributors: Mesdames F.M. Fleming, E.M. Harvey, I. McKinnie, U. McLeod, Miss M. Piper and Messrs. R. Calligan, B.M. Lynch, R. McMillan, D.W. Oliver, E.J. Maguire and The Perthshire Branch of the Young Ornithologists Club.

Records should be sent to E.J. Maguire, 26, Shepherds Loan, Dundee DD2 1AZ.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN - AUGUST 1973.

You will notice a change in format in this issue and we are very grateful to Mr. E.D. Cameron for the current contribution. The record list of birds of the county has not been abandoned but, as the records are not to hand at the time of printing, it is hoped to incorporate them in the next Bulletin.

Bird-watching - a personal episode.

Mr. E.D. Cameron.

My bird-watching generally takes the form of watching birds wherever I happen to be, rather than going to particular places to look for particular species. A favourite walk of mine is through a section of mature woodland at Scone. Mainly of birch, with rhododendron and rough grass undergrowth, it also has stands of pine and beech.

Here, early one Sunday morning in April, I had one of my better birding walks. Entering the wood from the road, I was greeted by the usual chorus of shrieking Blackbirds and ticking Robins, while Song Thrushes and Dunnocks continued about their business in the undergrowth. Overhead Blue and Great Tits called and chased between bouts of feeding. In such a place it pays to stand and listen. When the noisy Blackbirds had settled down, I could hear quiet twitters from the tops of the birches. Eyes up - and there was a band of Redpolls. Further on, movements among the tips of the branches attracted my attention; only Chaffinches - but that's an odd looking Chaffinch! Careful scrutiny revealed a hen Brambling. Then, of course, each "Chaffinch" had to be examined, and two more Bramblings came to light, along with seven Goldfinches and a single Reed Bunting.

Following up the drumming of a Great Spotted Woodpecker, more little twittering birds came into view, not Redpolls this time, but Siskins, feeding in the willows and birches at the wood edge. How brightly green and yellow the cock birds looked, and how different from the Redpolls. But when these two species are in typical hither and thither flight, identification is not so easy - here again ears can be of more help than eyes.

In the fields bordering the wood, I saw Pheasant, Partridge, Lapwing, Curlew and Oystercatcher. Yellowhammers and Greenfinches flitted from weeds to fence, and back again. A Longtailed Tit passed, carrying a feather to its nest, and Woodpigeons scattered in all directions. A pleasant morning's exercise, and grand bird-watching.

Summer Outings:

These were well attended and enjoyed by all. Perhaps the highlight of the outings was the view of a Kestrel's nest with young. Other interesting episodes were the finding of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker's nest and the hunting techniques of Peregrine Falcon and Short-eared Owl. Unfortunately, torrential rain marred the outing to the Bass Rock but it was a pleasant surprise to meet former section committee member, Jimmy Watt, now a lighthouse keeper there.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN.

NOVEMBER 1973.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE CENSUS.

(Contributed by E.D. Cameron).

On 2nd May and 4th July, some dozen or so Members took part in the Great Crested Grebe Census. This was a preliminary to a National Census to be held next year, which will give an indication of the Grebe's population and distribution compared with 1965, when the last National Census was held.

Below are the figures obtained for the Dunkeld-Blairstown lochs by our Members:-

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1973</u>	
	<u>Adults only.</u>	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>Young.</u>
Monk's Myre	0-2 birds	Nil	-
Stormont	8 "	4 birds	Nil
<u>White Loch</u>	Nil	2 "	4
Fingask	0-2 "	1 "	-
Rae	1-2 "	2 "	Nil
Marlee	5-8 "	11-13 "	Nil
<u>Clunie</u>	2-6 "	9-11 "	1
Butterstone	6-10 "	10 "	Nil
Craiglush	3-4 "	3 "	Nil
<u>Lowes</u>	6-8 "	6-14 "	3
<u>Stare Dam</u>	2 "	2 "	3

From these figures we can see:-

- 1) 1973 was a very poor year for breeding - only 11 young on four waters. Possible reasons are - cold weather/low water levels/disturbance.
- 2) The total number of adult birds increased over the nine years. However, only White Loch, Marlee, Clunie and Lowes show definite increases, while the others remained virtually stable, except Stormont, which lost half its population.

Now for a little speculation! It has been suggested that the introduction of boat fishing has been detrimental to the Great Crested Grebe. Only Marlee was affected in 1965 - and it rates 'plus' in 1973. Since 1965, boats have come to Monk's Myre, Fingask, Rae and Butterstone, with only the first showing 'minus', so there is no straightforward answer there. General disturbance might well have its effect - but Clunie is much frequented by the public, ashore and afloat, and again it is a 'plus'. Pollution? Perhaps next year will provide some answers on a national scale.

Meanwhile, thanks are due to those Members who turned out to cover our area this year.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:-

11th December, 1973. R.S.P.B. Film Show, Lesser City Hall, 7.30 p.m. Films - "A Welcome in the Mud", "Flying Birds", "Isles of the Simmer Dim".

12th December, 1973. Members' Night - Topics of interest presented by our own members.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS:

Sparrow Hawk: 3 separate sightings near Bridge of Earn on 11.11.73. Singles at Balnaguard (4.8.73), Moneydie (3.9.73), Keillour (30.9.73), Murrayshill (9.10.73), Keillour Parks (13.10.73), Gorthy (14.10.73), Blairdrummond (26.10.73), Kinloch (28.10.73).

Hen/...

Hen Harrier: Pair and on occasion 3 birds - Glenartney (July-October). Singles at Glenalmond (11.8 and 25.8), Kindrogan (1.9 and 26.10), Doune (16.9 and 28.10), Crieff (21.9), Errol (22.9), Little Glenshee (24.9), Keillour (13.10).

Merlin: Singles at Kingoodie West (23.8), Invergowrie Bay (26.10), Blairgowrie (8.10).

Peregrine: 3 at Glen Lochay (22.9), singles at Glen Cochill (8.7), Balnacoul (7.8), Dunkeld (1.9), Kinloch (28.10).

Osprey: Single at St. Fillans (22.9). One found dead in River Tay, near Perth, on 9.10.73 - was a young bird probably of Scandinavian origin.

Ringed Plover: Pair with chick near Meikleour (5.8). Passage from 6th August - maximum 30 (23.8).

Common Sandpiper: Maximum of 8 at Port Allen (14.7), singles (late) at Earn Mouth (16.9) and Invergowrie Bay (19.9).

Green Sandpiper: 1 at Kingoodie (12.7).

Wood Sandpiper: 1 in Braco area (September).

Greenshank: 1 near Meikleour (5.8), 3 at Port Allen (3, 11 and 21.9), 1 at Powgavie (14.9), 6 near Errol (16.9), 1 at Invergowrie Bay (22.9).

Curlew: Peaks of 300 (6.7) and 350 (11.7) at Kingoodie.

Whimbrel: At Kingoodie 4 (10.8), 2 (15.9), singles (21.8 and 12.9).

Black-tailed Godwit: 30 records at Invergowrie Bay till end of September - maximum 8 (30.8).

Bar-tailed Godwit: Invergowrie Bay - 4 birds all July. Passage from 19.8 - maximum 80 (24.9).

Ruff: 2 at Kingoodie (7.8), singles at Invergowrie Bay (29 and 30.8, and 13.9).

Knot: Passage from 15th July - peak of 15 (9.8).

Curlew Sandpiper: Passage from 19th August with peak of 9 on (27.8).

Little Stint: 3 at Invergowrie Bay (29.8), singles on (30.8 and 12 and 13.9).

Sanderling: Invergowrie Bay - 7 (5.8), 2 (26.8), singles on (6 and 21.8 and 13.9).

Spotted Redshank: 2 in summer plumage at Kingoodie West on (2 and 5.7). Passage from 18th August - 3 (19.8, 15 and 23.9), 2 (10.9). Singles (21 and 29.8, 3 and 24.9).

Arctic Skua: Passage off Invergowrie and Kingoodie from 5th August with 16 on (29.8). Single dark phase bird at Port Allen (3.9).

Sandwich Tern: Passage from 24th July; 200 in 1 hour (12.8), 140 in 1 hour (26.8), 186 (19.9), Port Allen 12 (3.9).

Common/Arctic Tern: Invergowrie Bay - Passage from 7th August (600+) with a maximum of 940 on (14.8).

Little Tern: Port Allen 4 (16.7), 5 (21.7), Kingoodie 6 (7.8), Invergowrie Bay 1 (10.8).

Manx Shearwater: Single bird spent 40 mins. at Invergowrie Bay (10.9).

Swift: Kingoodie 77 heading West (7.8).

Heron: Invergowrie Bay 18 (14.9).

Green Woodpecker: Balnagowan 2 (4.8), singles at Chapelhill (30.9) and Kinfauns (31.10).

Short-eared Owl: During July and August birds including juveniles were seen at Glen Almond, Crieff, Glen Artney, Glen Quaich and Earn Mouth.

Barn Owl: 1 over Tulloch, Perth, (5.11).

Raven: 17 in Strath a Ghlinne (8.9) and pair at Rannoch (7.10).

Fieldfare: Summering bird near Comrie (7.8). c500 Fieldfare/Redwing in Rannoch area (7.10).

Siskin/...

Siskin: Flock at Balquhiddel (7.8).

Brambling: c50 with Chaffinches at Aberargie (26.10).

Stonechat: 1 juvenile at Rannoch (7.10).

Ring Ouzel: 8 in flight, Glen Ample (19.8).

Blackcap: Female ringed at Kingoodie (7.8).

Whitethroat: 2 ringed at Kingoodie West (7.8).

Willow Warbler: 50+ at Kingoodie (7.8) - 23 ringed.

Wheatear: 1 at Port Allen (3.9).

White Wagtail: 1 - North Inch, Perth, (31.10).

Kingfisher: During September pairs were reported near Perth and near Dunblane.

Late Departures: Swallow at Seaside (10.11).

House Martin at Seaside (31.10).

Sand Martin at Port Allen (22.9).

White-Front Goose: 1 near Aberargie (26.10).

Contributors to these records:-

Mrs. I. McKinnie, Messrs. R. Calligan, S. McLaren, R. McMillan, E.J. Maguire, M. Marsland, M. Nicoll, D.W. Oliver, P.W. Sandeman, M. Shields and D. Turner.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 1973-JANUARY 1974.

At the Birdtable.

For many of us, winter is the season for studying the birds of, literally, our own backyards. Almost everybody feeds the birds. Apart from household scraps, many types of food are available to buy. In my experience, shelled peanuts are No. 1 on the avian menu. Birds will queue up to get a quick snack at the nutbag, completely ignoring the table of scraps and hopper full of seed.

Great, Blue and Coal Tits are always coming and going. They seem to prefer to wrestle a nut out through the mesh and fly off to enjoy it in private. House Sparrows have become very adroit at clinging sideways, and occasionally upside down, to feed. Half a dozen Greenfinches are regulars, ruling the roost over the other species and displaying aggressively towards one another. Star visitor to this feeding station is the Siskin. The first was noted on 3rd January this year - last year not until 4th February.

A few moments spent observing the action around the bird table can be very interesting. Take "peck order" for example. Greenfinches will successfully defend a nutbag against all other species. House Sparrows submit only to Greenfinches. Great Tits drive off Blue and Coal, but these last two appear to occupy the same rung on the ladder of dominance. Siskins dispute any takeover bid initially, but soon give up to all but Coal Tits. Chaffinches are very shy, usually joining the Hedge Sparrows scavenging on the ground. A pair of Collared Doves come about, but will only venture onto the birdtable if there are no other birds present - they seem to be more shy of other birds than of humans!

Finally, an observation that intrigues me. To provide more feeding room, I put out only about a half bag of nuts, twisting a wire round the middle of the bag to split the nuts into two sections but, always, the lower lot of nuts is eaten far more quickly than the upper. Has any Member had a similar experience, or can anyone offer an explanation?

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS - For November to early February.

Grebes to Swans: A single Great Crested Grebe was on Loch Clunie on 18/11 (E.D.C.). Inland Cormorants were singles at Meikleour flying cross-country from Isla to Tay, on 13/1 (E.D.C.), and on Loch Tummel on 3/2 (M.M.), 285 were counted at Kingoodie on 27/1 (E.J.M.).

Maximum counts of duck in this period included: Mallard 1,000+ at Kingoodie on 27/1 (E.J.M.) and 480 on the sheltered Keltie Loch, Dunning, on windy 14/1 (I.McK. and S.L.): Wigeon 1530 near Tibbermore on 27/1: Tufted 290 at Invergowrie Bay on 4/12 (both E.J.M.): Goldeneye about 100 on the Tay at Meikleour on 30/1 - a high count for an inland location (I.McK. and S.L.)

Other reports of duck were Gadwall drake at Strathallan School in December (B.G.), a drake Scaup at Invergowrie on 4/12 (E.J.M.), and a female/...

female Longtailed Duck at Carsebreck on 17/11 (C.J.H.). Early Shelduck arrivals were two at Kingoodie on 27/1 (E.J.M.).

On the partly flooded field at the Isla/Tay confluence, on 18/1, there was a gathering of 17 Greylag no less than 8 of which were trailing one wing, though some were possibly capable of limited flight (E.D.C.). Rarer geese seen were Whitefronts, of the Greenland race at Tibbermore on 20/1 (V.M.T.), with one still there on 27/1 (E.J.M.): 18 Barnacle near Blackford on 17/11 (C.J.H.), while 3 were at Tibbermore on 27/1 (E.J.M.). (Could some Barnacle Geese have been around this area for about ten weeks without being seen, and reported, by ornithologists?): and 5 Canadas on Loch Tummel on 3/2 (M.M.).

A fine herd of 27 Whooper Swans has spent some time on floodwater near Bridge of Earn (I.McK., J.K. and E.D.C.).

Raptors: Raptors reported include a total of 10 Buzzards in the Ballinluig/Tummel/Pitlochry area on 3/2 (M.M.), while a Roughlegged Buzzard frequented the Trossachs during Nov/Dec. There were several reports of Sparrowhawk from Keillour Woods (M.M.), and one was seen being mobbed by Carrion Crows over Scone on 19/1 (E.D.C.). A female was seen at Earn Mouth on 27/1, and a young male spent a few minutes in the grounds of Police H.Q., (not in custody!) on 1/2 (R.M.). One or two Hen Harriers have been seen inland, and one on passage at Kingoodie on 30/12 (E.J.M.). Records of a Peregrine seen buzzing Lapwings at Forgandenny on 16/12 (M.M.) and one at Tibbermore on 27/1 (E.J.M.) could refer to the same bird wintering in this area. A Merlin put in an appearance at Police H.Q. (!) on 8th and again (!!) on 28/1 (R.M.); while a fine cock was seen on Moulin Moor on 3/2 (M.M.).

Gamebirds and Waders: At about 08.30 on 12/11, 2 very noisy Partridges appeared in a walled garden of about ¼ acre in the middle of Scone. A big covey of 18 was feeding in a grass field at Bridge of Earn on 2/2 (E.D.C.).

Reports of waders on the Tay estuary were: Grey Plover, last 10 passage birds at Invergowrie on 5/11: a Jack Snipe at Kingoodie on 27/1: an unusual high count of 559 Bartailed Godwit at Invergowrie on 30/12, but "only" 900 Redshank there on the same date: an exceptional count of 5,740 Dunlin in the same area on 4/12 had dropped to 1,800 by the 30th: a Sanderling was seen here on the unusual date of 4/12 (all E.J.M.).

Elsewhere an obvious weather movement brought thousands of Lapwings to the Carse of Gowrie on 27/1, and a flock of 750 was at Coupar Angus on 3/2. Oystercatchers started coming inland from 31/1, with a maximum of 140 at North Inch floodwater on 3/2 (R.M.).

Gulls: 3 Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were in a flock of mixed gulls at Scone on 6/1, and there were two at Isla Bridge on 13/1 (E.D.C.). A Herring Gull at Errol on 27/1 bore a red ring, suggesting it had been ringed on the Isle of May. The S.W. gale of 29/1 brought an unprecedented movement of Kittiwakes at Invergowrie Bay - 86 in an hour, moving West, then over 300 Eastward in 1½ hours (E.J.M.).

Passerines: A roost of over 200 Collared Doves has been reported from Friarton, Perth (R.M.). This might well hold all the birds of the Perth area/...

area - certainly these doves are less evident in the winter months at Scone. A Long-eared Owl found dead near Glendoick in January is being sent to the Royal Scottish Museum (per R.M.). A pair of Kingfishers was seen near Tibbermore on 3/12 (T.H.F.). The only record of Great Spotted Woodpecker is from near Dunkeld on 25/1 (M.M.): has this species decreased in numbers in the county, or is it being under-recorded? A single Magpie near Methven on 2/12 (M.M.) is yet another in a series of scattered records from this area.

A large scale N.E. movement of about 700 Fieldfares along Strathallan on 16/12 seems noteworthy (R.E.T.). An unusually "friendly" Redwing was feeding in and around the Tulloch housing scheme in Perth on 5/2 (M.M.). A record of wintering Blackcap is of a cock in Dunblane on 14/12 (G.S.).

This has been a poor winter so far for Waxwings and Shrikes. Only reports of the former are of 3 at Scone on 12/1 (E.D.C.) and one near Buchanty the next day (M.K.M.). The single report of a Great Grey Shrike was of one near Perth on 23/11 (B.C.F. and R.W.F.).

Hawfinches were seen at Police H.Q. - 1 on 11/12 and 2 on 21/1 (R.M.). Siskins returned to a Scone birdtable in January, with a maximum of 8 on 25th (E.D.C.). An unusually large flock of 20 Bullfinches was seen near Scone on 20/1 and a similar number of Bramblings on the same day in the same area, with a few of the latter at Buchanty on 3/2 (Mr. and Mrs. A.). There were also 10 or so Bramblings at Tibbermore on 21/1 (E.J.M.). A flock of over 500 Chaffinches was there on 27/1: and a huge flock of over 2,000 mixed finches on stubble near Bridge of Cally was estimated to be made up of 70% Chaffinch, 20% Greenfinch and 10% Brambling (M.M. and R.M.).

A Corn Bunting flock of 20+ was at Seaside, Errol, on 27/1 (R.M.) and about 30 Snow Bunting in Glenshee on 26/12 (H.B.). A flock of about 20 Tree Sparrows with various other finches, has been seen regularly in the Scone area this winter, and a similar number likewise in the North Muirton area of Perth (E.D.C. and R.M.).

MISCELLANY:

Early songsters: Mistle Thrushes have been singing since 20/1 in Keillour Woods and around Scone; while 5 Song Thrushes were in full voice at Almond-bank on 2/2. A Chaffinch was singing at Keillour the next day. Great, Blue and Coal Tits have been singing since late January.

Late bedder: A Blue Tit was seen to enter a cavity above the bulb of a lit street lamp in Scone on 6/1. This occurred at 19.20 hrs., which seems very late for the tit to be going to roost for the first time that night. This lamp has since been out of action due, presumably, to the lighting restrictions, rather than to the roosting Blue Tit. This lamp no longer acts as a tit roost, and I cannot find another lamp in Scone which has a similar cavity, which might also be used for roosting.

Wintering birds: It has been suggested that Curlew and Oystercatcher may be wintering inland in the county, rather than moving to the coast. Researching back numbers of the Bulletin shows a considerable number of winter records of/...

of these species in the Forteviot and Dalreoch areas. This winter brought records of Curlew in the Meikleour/Kinclaven area. Any observations of these species, or of any waders, away from the coastal areas, in the Nov.-Jan. period would be welcomed. Lesser Blackbacked Gull is another bird of which the winter distribution would be interesting.

A scarcity of Redwings and Fieldfares around Perth has been remarked on - any comment from the north and west of the County? Longtailed Tits seem to be less numerous than usual around Scone, and Brambling generally. As noted earlier, there are very few records of Waxwing and Great Grey Shrike. What to look for: Spring is just around the corner - we hope! - and already Lapwing, Curlew and Oystercatcher are drifting back to inland nesting grounds. Soon we can expect the first of the summer migrants. Ring Ouzel and Wheatear are often first recorded in March, and Sand Martins may arrive at the end of that month. April will bring the bulk of arrivals - so notebooks at the ready, please, for "first dates".

The "last dates" of winter visitors are also of interest, though more difficult to record accurately. Stragglers of the commoner winterers will linger well into April, or even May, while odd birds stay for the summer, and may even breed in Scotland e.g. Redwing, Fieldfare and Goldeneye, of late.

I take this opportunity to point out to Members of P.S.N.S. Ornithological Section that this is their Bulletin, and needs their records, not only to produce a bulletin, but to provide an overall picture of the birds of their county - status, distribution, movements, habits, etc. - and changes therein. So, records for February, March and April to the Recorder, R. McMillan, 29, Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth, by 30th April, please.

Any articles on topics of interest, comments, criticisms, queries, or answers to queries, gratefully received by Bulletin Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to these records:-

Mr. and Mrs. Amedro, H. Brown, E.D. Cameron, T.H. Evanson, B.C. Forrester, R.W. Forrester, B. Gregory, C.J. Henty, J. Kirk, Mrs. S. Laing, M.K. MacGillivray, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R. McMillan, E.J. Maguire, M. Marsland, G. Shaw, Miss V.M. Thom and R.E. Thomas.

STOP PRESS:-

The next indoor meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 13th March, 1974.

The first outdoor meeting is scheduled for 24th April, 1974.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY-APRIL 1974.

There has been a considerable volume of records submitted over this period, which is very encouraging to the Recorder, so please continue the good work.

PERSONALITIES:-

Smew. A drake was on the Lake of Menteith on 17th February, and another on the Lowes on the same date (I.R.J.). The latter stayed for some time, apparently consorting with a Goldeneye duck, and has been watched by many members.

Slavonian Grebe. The first bird arrived back on the Lowes on 31st March and was seen on several occasions later. Let's hope they breed more successfully this year.

Osprey. The female arrived at the Lowes on 6th April and went straight to the old tree. Joined by a male on 11th, rebuilding started right away, and the birds were mating at the weekend 13th/14th. A week later the female was apparently incubating - surely a record time, (V.M.T. et al).

Nuthatch. A single bird was observed in a garden at Invergowrie on 7th March (E.J.M.). This is one of only a handful of recent Scottish sightings, mainly in Perthshire.

Hoopoe. One at Aberargie for several days had its identity confirmed on 11th and 12th April (A.C., I.McL.). The bird was not seen thereafter - successfully evading the Recorder - but it is of interest that a Hoopoe was seen at Seafield, Kirkcaldy, on the 14th; possibly the same bird moving back to sunnier climes. Amazingly enough a late report has just been received of a Hoopoe at Dunning on 28th April (J.H.). This would suggest the continuing easterly winds had also forced this bird off course. This is the first time ever there appears to have been 2 separate sightings of this species in the County in the same year.

Kingfisher. A report from near Perth on 28th April may indicate a breeding pair.

Muscovy Duck. A pair on the Tay at the Old Bridge has aroused interest, besides causing confusion to some members (C.M.H., N.S.).

Whitefronted Goose. One juvenile Greenland bird at Tibbermore on 23/3, and an adult of the rarer European form there on 3/4 (J.K.). Greenland birds were reported here in the last Bulletin.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS:-

Grebes to Swans: A Spring passage of Great Crested Grebes brought 2 to Kingoodie on 25/3 and one on 12/4 (E.J.M.). (Most of our own birds would be back on their breeding lochs by this time). The maximum Cormorant count on the Tay Estuary was 417 on 12/4 (E.J.M.), while inland records came from Marlee Loch, 4 on 17/2 and 10 on 17/3 (J.W.), with singles on Loch Clunie (E.D.C.), King's Myre (I.R.J.) and Carsebreck (S.L., I.McK), and several records from Strathtay (E.M.H.). A single Shag was at Kingoodie on 6/2 and 14/2 (E.J.M.).

Large/...

Large counts of duck in this period were of 340 Wigeon on the Isla 17/3; 41 Pochard at Monk's Myre on 18/2; and 32 there a month later (S.L., I.McK.); 347 Shelduck at Invergowrie/Kingoodie on 12/4; 270 Goldeneye at Invergowrie and 160 Goosander at Kingoodie on 4/3 (E.J.M.). Other records of duck were of two Pintail drakes at Kingoodie on 17/3; 4 Scaup at Invergowrie on 3/2 (E.J.M.); a Shoveler at Hare Myre on 18/2 (S.L., I.McK.) and one at Stormont Loch on 13 and 30/3 (J.K.); a pair of Shelduck inland at Sandyknowes Pond on 28/4 (R.McM.); and pairs of Mandarin have been seen regularly around Scone and at the Norie Miller Walk. Several broods of Mallard had been seen by the end of April.

Most geese have now moved on northwards, but there were still 500 Pinkfeet at Tibbermore on 28/4 (R.McM.), close to where up to 2,800 had been counted in March and April on Methven Moss (J.K.). Rarer geese included 3 Barnacle at Tibbermore on 22/2 (M.M.), with possibly the same three being seen regularly into April (J.K.) - three having been reported in this area in our previous Bulletin. Canada Geese have been reported from Lochs Tummel, Kinnardochy, Clunie and Lowes, with up to seven at the last (E.M.H., M.M., E.D.C.). They may well stay to breed on any of these lochs.

There were 17 Mute Swans at Invergowrie on 22/3 (R.C.), while a pair seen feeding in a field by the river above the Devil's Elbow seemed a bit out of place (I.R.J.). The Bridge of Earn herd of Whoopers stayed on into March, while small numbers were recorded from several localities, the latest being 18 on 6th, reduced to 9 on 20/4 at Loch Dochart (J.K.), and 3 at Rannoch on 21/4 (R.McM.).

Raptors. Few reports here, though there have been widespread sightings of Sparrowhawks around Perth, and three pairs were watched displaying near Struan on 9/3 (M.M., W.G.A.). Cock Merlins were seen near Newtyle on 13/2 (I.R.J.), and in Little Glenshee on 20/3 (M.M.), while a hen bird frequented the Kingoodie area in Feb/Mar. (E.J.M., R.C.).

Gamebirds and Waders. Redlegged Partridges are reported from Coupar Angus and Stormontfield (I.R.J., E.D.C.), while the Common species appeared to be paired as early as 8/2 (M.P.). 17 Blackcock with 8 Greyhen were seen at Logiealmond on 16/3, and 22 Blackcock in Glenartney, Comrie, the next day (M.M.). There was a large count of about 50 Moorhen at Invergowrie Quarry during Feb.-March (E.J.M.).

Waders have now moved inland in bulk. Large counts, inland and coastal, include:- Oystercatcher, 340 at Meikleour and 110 near Aberfeldy, both on 2/3 (R.McM., E.M.H.), 310 at Kingoodie on 25/3 (E.J.M.), while the first were noted on the Earn from 3/2 (M.P.); Lapwing, 750 near Coupar Angus on 3/2 (R.McM.); Golden Plover, 70 near Coupar Angus on 17/2 (I.R.J.), 250 near Balbeggie on 14/4 (E.D.C.), 120 at Gask the next day (J.K.), 210 at Cairnie Pier on 17/4 (L.S.), and 190 near Errol on 18th. Some of these last were definitely of the "northern" race (R.McM.) and it is likely that some in the other April flocks were also, as our breeding birds would probably be back on their nesting grounds by this time. There were 300 Curlew at Meikleour and 114 near Aberfeldy on 2/3 - cf Oystercatcher (R.McM., E.M.H.), and/...

and 640 at Kingoodie on 3/2 (E.J.M.). A record count of 726 Bartailed Godwit came from Kingoodie on 21/2, with a Spring peak of 1,900 Redshank here on 22/4 (E.J.M.).

Other wader reports were of 48 Snipe on 21/2; Jack Snipe on several dates - max 6 on 21/2 and a Greenshank on 12/4, all at Kingoodie (E.J.M.), with a Spotted Redshank, an exceptional record for Spring, there on 24/4 (R.C.). Greenshank were back on their Rannoch breeding grounds by 6/4 (R.McM.). Finally, Ruffs appeared at Kingoodie, with 2 on 25/3 and 4 on 12/4 (E.J.M.), a single being at Invergowrie on 5/4 (R.C.).

Gulls to Crows. The Invergowrie/Kingoodie area recorded Little Gulls over this period, with max of 17 on 4/3. A dead, but not oiled, Guillemot was found here on 18/3 (E.J.M.).

Large counts of Stock Doves were of 132 on 3/2 and 170 on 4/3 at Kingoodie (E.J.M.), while they were also reported, in small numbers, from Scone and Kinrossie areas. The only report of a Barn Owl comes from Stormont Loch on 18/2 (S.L., I.McK.), and of a Long-eared from Invergowrie on 16/2 (E.J.M.), but there are widespread reports of Short-eared.

Green Woodpeckers seem to be increasing and spreading in the county. Reports come from Tullybaccart, Scone, Tibbermore, Comrie, St. Fillans, Dunkeld, Strathtay and Tummelside (E.R.B., E.D.C., E.M.H., I.R.J., R.McM., M.M., L.S., V.M.T.). In contrast to this there are few reports of Great Spotted - only from Perth and the Almondbank area - a trend remarked on in the last Bulletin. Magpies have appeared in the Glenalmond-Keillour area again - two separate sightings of possibly the same pair on 7th and 22nd Feb. (M.M.). Single birds occurred at Glenshee on 31/3 (I.R.J.) and Dunblane on 18/3 (R.McM.).

Thrushes to Finches. The largest flocks of Fieldfares noted were 100+ in Little Glenshee on 22/4 (M.P.); about 300 at Balbeggie and "several hundred" at Glendevon Farm, Perth, on 28/4 (per R.McM.). Stonechats have been recorded from several areas in mid County.

A Rock Pipit was seen regularly at Kingoodie during Feb-March, with two on 4/3 (E.J.M.). A White Wagtail was identified at Rannoch on 20/4 (M.M.), and over 240 Pied flighted west over Kingoodie at dusk on 16/2 (E.J.M.); two Pieds frequently visited a bird table at Almondbank (S.L.).

There was a Great Grey Shrike at Craggan, near Muthill, on 17/3 (M.M.) - but no reports of other winter visitors such as Waxwing and Brambling. Starlings heading for the Tay Railway Bridge roost numbered 26,000 on 26/2 and 18,000 on 4/3, passing over Kingoodie (E.J.M.).

Hawfinches continue to be reported from the Bridgend and Scone areas, with 4 at Police H.Q. on 22/2 (E.D.C., R.C., J.K., R.McM.). A male was seen regularly at Invergowrie during February, and a female appeared on 1st March (E.J.M.). 26 Goldfinches were at Kingoodie on 26/2 (E.J.M.), and an even larger flock of 40 in berryfields at Fowllis, near Dundee, on 3/3 (W.G.A.). Siskin, flocks of 70+ at Kingoodie Quarry on 17/3 (E.J.M.) and of 40-50 at Almondbank from Jan. into Feb. (S.L.) were also reported. 4 Corn Buntings at Kingoodie on 21/2 (E.J.M.) and about 20 at Seaside, Errol, on/...

on 18/4 (R.McM.) are the only reports of this apparently declining species. 10-14 Reed Buntings consorted with other finches near the Almond mouth on 20/3 (S.L.). Tree Sparrows continue to be evident around Perth, with a max count of c80 at N. Muirton on 10/2 (R.McM.).

A single Snow Bunting was spotted at the summit of Schiehallion on 23/3 (M.M.), while R.McM., on the same date, saw a flock of c50 at Fealar, a remote lodge north of Kirkmichael, where they apparently spend the winter, sitting around the rooftops like sparrows.

ARRIVAL DATES.

Earliest dates reported of summer visitors:-

Common Sandpiper: Doune 24/4 (P.W.S.); widespread reports thereafter.

Cuckoo: Glenalmond 27/4 (M.M.).

Swallow: Murthly 17/4 (M.M.), Millearn 22/4 (M.P.).

Sand Martin: 3 at Forgandenny 31/3 (D.W.O.); c20 at Lowes the next day (per M.D.); then scarce till mid April.

Ring Ouzel: Back on Rannoch by 6/4 (R.McM.).

Wheatear: Glencochil (M.M.) and Glenlednock (E.M.H.) 30/3; more widespread reports thereafter.

Blackcap: Kingoodie 14/4, a female, was possibly a migrant (E.J.M.).

Willow Warbler: Scone 6/4 (E.D.C.), Perth 14/4 (R.McM.), then Comrie 21/4 (V.M.T.), but no great numbers in April.

Chiffchaff: Almondbank 7/4 (M.M.).

Tree Pipit: Dunkeld 19/4 (M.M.).

Grey Wagtail: earliest inland reports; Almondbank 14/4 (S.L.) and from 18/4 at Pitnacree (E.M.H.).

Very few of the species in this list have so far arrived in any great numbers. Some which might have been expected to figure in the list have not been reported yet. So note the first dates you spot House Martin, Swift, Wood Warbler, Whitethroat, Redstart, Whinchat and Spotted Flycatcher, and, of course, any rarer species you see.

RINGING RECOVERIES.

A cock Blackbird scraped off the road near Loch Clunie in March had been ringed on Fair Isle on 12th Oct. 1970 as a bird of the year, presumably on southward migration from Scandinavia.

Of even more interest is the recovery of a Kestrel, one of a brood of six ringed on the Section outing to Little Glenshee on 13.6.73. Details are; Ringed pullus, 13.6.73, Little Glenshee, Perthshire; Recovered 5.2.74, Ardbrecknish, Cladich, Argyll; Found decomposed; Movement c80 miles West. A most interesting movement, as South, or South West, would have been more usual.

Much work is needed on this species to establish movements of county birds, so any Member knowing of a Kestrel nest site is asked to contact Bob McMillan, who is keen to ring more young as part of a ringing programme being conducted by members of the Tay Ringing Group in an effort to learn more about our raptor population. Also, as R.S.P.B. Representative, Bob would/...

would be interested to hear of any nesting raptors, especially Golden Eagle and Peregrine, but REMEMBER, it is an offence to disturb wilfully any nesting birds.

MISCELLANY:

Collared Doves. The Braeside Gardens' residents seem to be much braver at the bird table than Scone ones! (V.M.T.). Mrs. Laing reports a dearth of this species in Almondbank, and I.R. Johnston says they are largely absent from the Blairgowrie area. They are certainly present in many inland areas of the County, so why absent from others? Members might care to look out for these noisy and obvious birds, and perhaps solve this mystery. Miss Haggart's Isla Rd. birds disappear in winter, possibly to the harbour area, where the large winter roost is now greatly reduced in number.

At the Bird Table. In answer to the query in the last Bulletin, J.C. Brown of Waulkmill writes that tits feeding from his net bag always hang on to the bottom in an upside down position. From personal observation I can't agree that tits always feed upside down, but when they do, it does mean an extra feeding position on the lower section, which would result in it being finished first.

A Woodpigeon with only one eye was found near King's Myre. Approaching on its blind side, I.R.J. was only a few yards from this normally shy species before it took to flight.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

With the breeding season in full swing, it is worthwhile to look out for evidence of breeding for some species which breed only rarely or sporadically in Scotland, or whose breeding status in the County is uncertain. Some suggestions:- on hill lochs - diver, various ducks, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. (R.McM. also interested in Common Gull colonies for ringing young); riverside - Common Tern, Ringed Plover, Kingfisher; marshland - less common waders; rough, open ground - Corncrake, Stonechat, Corn Bunting; woodland - Woodpeckers, warblers, Pied Flycatcher, Redwing, Fieldfare, Brambling, Goldfinch, Hawfinch and Magpie. BUT DO NOT DISTURB. Look out too, for "overshooting" migrants, such as the Hoopoe reported above.

OUTINGS.

The first two outings of the Summer were well attended. Members had a pleasant, though latterly chilly, walk round Callerfountain Hill on 24th April. Migrants were conspicuous by their absence, only a few Willow Warblers being heard. Redpolls and Linnets were seen, and a Kestrel showed up at the end of the evening.

Quarrymill, on 8th May, managed to produce a Swallow; a pair of Dippers preceded the party down the burnside, and a Heron put in, for those "slow on the draw", an all too fleeting appearance. Many Members were impressed by the lush and varied plant life along the burn, which helped to compensate for the shortage of bird life.

The next outing of the Section is on 22nd May, to Glen Garr, where many moor and marshland species should be seen.

In/...

In the expectation that the increased volume of records and observations will continue, it is hoped to produce the next Bulletin in early July; so, all records for May and June to the Recorder, R. McMillan, 29, Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth PH1 3BD, by 30th June, please,

and observations, comments, questions and answers to Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to these records, acknowledged by their initials were:-

Mr. and Mrs. Amedro (W.G.A.), Miss E.R. Biggart, R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, Lady Anne Coventry, R. Craig, Miss C.M. Haggart, Mrs. E.M. Harvey, J. Heggie, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk jnr., Mrs. S. Laing, Mrs. I. McKinnie, I. McLachlan, R. McMillan, E.J. Maguire, M. Marsland, D.W. Oliver, Miss M. Piper, P.W. Sandeman, L. Schofield, Miss N. Scrimgeour, Miss V.M. Thom and J. Watt.

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PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR MAY AND JUNE 1974.

Although the number of records submitted was less than for the last Bulletin, many interesting observations have been made.

PERSONALITIES:-

Slavonian Grebe. The April Lowes bird disappeared, but a pair was present there for a few days in late June. Though no breeding was recorded at the Lowes this year, another pair bred successfully elsewhere in the county (per R.McM.).

Osprey. As most Members probably know, the Lowes pair have reared two young this year (per M.D.). I wonder how many people, on spotting an Osprey within about ten miles of Dunkeld, assume that it is one of "the" pair, whereas it could well be one of another, possibly unlocated, breeding pair.

Kingfisher. The pair reported previously near Perth have probably bred. The exact location of the site is being withheld meantime, to prevent any disturbance (per R.McM.).

Dotterel. An injured bird found near Glenalmond School on 12/5 was "taken into care". Sustained on a diet of mealworms and earthworms for about a week, it was then released high on the hills of upper Glenalmond. This was obviously a passage bird moving north to its breeding territory on the high tops when it came to grief (R.McM.). Further interest is added to this record by the discovery of two pairs south of their previously known breeding range in Perthshire (B.J.G.).

Red-necked Grebe. A beautiful adult in full summer plumage was present throughout May on a local loch, later moving to Stair Dam, where it was last seen on 8/6 (R.McM., M.M.). There are few records of this Grebe summering inland in Scotland. It is mainly a winter visitor to the East Coast, and has never been recorded breeding in the U.K.; but perhaps a "first" for County and Country is on the way!

Spotted Crake. Apparently a reliable observer from the South heard this species near Kinloch Rannoch, but this record has not yet been verified (per R.McM.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS:-

Divers to Swans.

Blackthroated Divers hatched two young, only one of which survived, at one site, and another pair was probably present at a second site (S.A.L., I.McK., M.M.). Early Great Crested Grebes on passage were seen at Port Allen on 4/7 (C.McG.). A Gannet joined the Festival of Water Sports on Loch Achray in late May (H.R.).

Lingering Goldeneye were; a drake on the Tay at Seggieden 18/5 (L.S.), two ducks at Marlee Loch on 10/5, with one still there on 14/6 (B.J.G.), and a drake and three ducks at Lowes on 6/5, one duck remaining till 20th (E.M.H.). Breeding Wigeon were reported from a number of Lochs in the Tummel/Atholl area (E.M.H., J.K., R.McM.), Loch Moraig holding a maximum of 47 drakes in early June (J.K.).

Greylag/...

Greylag Geese were still passing North over Strathtay in early May (E.M.H.) and a few were seen near Meikleour on 14th (R.McM.). On 10/5 there were 3 on Loch Clunie and 5 on Marlee (B.J.G.). 5 were seen near Caputh on 12/6 (P.S.N.S. Outing), and possibly the same five on Butterstone Loch on 14/6 (B.J.G.). Meikleour also produced 5 Pinkfeet on 14/5 (R.McM.). A single Canada was on Lowes on 6/5 (E.M.H.), but there were no reports from breeding sites. A late Whooper Swan stayed on Polney Loch, Dunkeld, until at least 27/5 (Perth Y.O.C.).

Raptors.

R.McM., as R.S.P.B. Representative is disappointed by the lack of response to his request for information on nesting raptors, but he reports that "his" Peregrines did fairly well, though Golden Eagles had poor breeding success. A Buzzard was seen at Gask on 23/5 (E.M.M.), and several reports came from the Highland area, where R.McM. found successful breeders. A male Hen Harrier was seen being chased by a Kestrel at Kinloch Rannoch on 14/6 (E.M.H.), and there were other scattered sightings, but no breeding records.

Gamebirds and Waders.

Redlegged Partridges were reported from Alyth in May (per F.M.H.). Lapwings are already flocking - about 150 in one near Moneydie on 25/6 (R.McM.). An adult Woodcock with 4 young was seen in Almondbank Woods on 20/6 (S.L.), and two pairs of Ringed Plover were found breeding on the Earn at Forteviot, possibly an extension of their previous breeding range (B.J.G., L.S.).

A ringed Common Sandpiper caught in Glen Lochay on 26/5 had been ringed as a juvenile four years earlier in Northumberland (R.McM.). Two early birds were on passage at Port Allen on 4/7 (C.McG.).

Gulls to Crows.

Common Terns appeared on the Tay at Perth in early May (R.McM.), two were at Stanley on 26th (L.S.), one near Almondbank on 3/6 (S.L.) and reports also came from near Meikleour and the Lowes.

Movements of small groups of Collared Doves northwards through Drumochter Pass were noted on 9/6 (B.J.G.). This species has been resident in Dalwhinnie, on the Inverness-shire side of the Pass, for several years - E.M.H. reported 9 near there on 26/5 - and B.J.G.'s record might suggest that the original colonisation was from over the mountains to the South, rather than down the Spey valley from the Moray coast area, where the first Scottish birds settled.

A Longeared Owl was being mobbed by Jays near Dunkeld on 19/5 (M.M.); while two pairs of Shorteared bred in a small plantation in the Lawers area (E.M.H., R.McM. et al). There were also reports of the latter species from Benachally and Loch Kennard (S.A.L., I.McK.). Definite breeding of Tawny Owls was reported from near Dupplin Castle, where downy young were seen on 24/5 (L.S.) and 13/6 (B.J.G.), but our Recorder wonders, "Where have all the Barn Owls gone?" - perhaps they don't show up in the headlights these light nights!

There were widespread reports of both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, but no breeding records. The first Swifts seem to have arrived en masse on 10/5 /.

10/5 - reports came on this date from Perth (L.S., M.M.), Stanley (E.J.G.) and Lowes (E.M.H.), whilst by the 12th they had spread westward to St. Fillans (E.R.B.).

Other Passerines.

The Treecreeper nesting in the lower hide at the Lowes continued to amuse visitors, and voluntary wardens during quiet periods (if there were any!). A pair of Redwings was present in the Rannoch area, but breeding was not proved (R.McM.). The first Redstart of the summer was reported from Glenlyon on 1/5 (per R.McM.).

Grasshopper Warblers were heard singing during June in a cornfield at Forgandenny (B.J.G.), and at the Lowes (per E.M.H.); one was also reported from Drumochter, which seems an inhospitable habitat for this species. There have been widespread reports of Blackcap and Garden Warbler this summer, these coming from much the same areas. One wonders if these two species are becoming commoner in this area, lying towards the northern limit of their range, or have we acquired reporters (e.g. B.J.G., C.McG., M.M., L.S.) who are familiar with these species, which may have been overlooked here in the past. Blackcap were seen feeding fledged young on 27/6 in the Almondbank area (R.McM., M.M., S.L.), while more records came from Taymouth, Pitnacree, Killiecrankie, Forteviot, Strathallan, Kinnoull Hill and Woody Island, where four were singing on 28/6, (B.J.G., E.M.H., C.McG.). Garden Warbler records came from Taymouth, Pitnacree, Lowes, Strathallan, Stormontfield, Seggieden, Kirkton of Mailer and Almondbank (B.J.G., E.M.H., C.McG., M.M., L.S.).

Whitethroats, which have suffered a steep decline in numbers in recent years, seem to be staging a revival with more reports from around Perth, the first arrival recorded at St. Fillans on 5/5 (E.R.B.) and others at Pitnacree and Aberfeldy. Several Chiffchaffs were reported from the Almondbank area, as was a Wood Warbler (M.M.). The earliest Wood was at Caputh on 10/5 (B.J.G.), and others reported were at Dalcrue, Almondbank, Kinnoull Hill, St. Fillans, Pitnacree and Killiecrankie, where at least 10 were in song on 12/5 (B.J.G., E.M.H., M.M., L.S.).

Spotted Flycatchers were widespread, the earliest on 16/5 at Strathallan (B.J.G.), while at least 5 pairs of Pied bred successfully in the Trossachs area, using nest boxes erected with this species in mind (H.R.), and 1 or 2 pairs were around Killiecrankie on 12/5 (M.M.).

A Goldfinch was seen at St. Fillans on 9/5 (E.R.B.) and a pair at Moneydie on 27/5 (L.S.). Twite were recorded in Glenalmond, Glentilt, Glenshee, the Kirkmichael area and Ben Lawers (R.McM., E.M.H.). The only report of an apparently decreasing species, Corn Bunting, was of one holding territory near Letham, Perth, in May and early June.

MISCELLANY.

A note from Bob McMillan on the Register of Ornithological Sites.

The documentation of ornithological sites is crucial to conservation, and the British Trust for Ornithology is in the process of preparing a Register of all sites. This Register will be available to planners, industrialists, and the like, who, it is hoped, will peruse it before any development starts, and/...

and thus avoid the needless destruction of valuable habitat. As the local organiser for the Register, I am anxious to involve Members in looking at their favourite corners - it may be a wood, or a loch or pond - carrying out some simple census work, and registering the area concerned as a site. Many of the main sites in the county are already being looked at, but there are many valuable and important sites for birds, probably on your doorstep, which should also be examined closely. It is hoped to arrange a meeting in the very near future, of all those interested, so please let me know if you would like to become involved in what will be valuable and enjoyable work.

Albinism. An albino nestling was present in a brood of normal Swallows, with normal parents, at Forgardenny. There are few records of albinism in this species (B.J.G.).

Also reported was a partial albino Oystercatcher, described as mainly white with a few black patches, seen at Moneydie on 25/5 (L.S.).

Distraction Display. At Strathallan School on 10/6, an adult Blackcap gave a "broken wing display" to distract attention from a nearby young bird. Such behaviour is more commonly seen among waders and wildfowl, though not unknown among the smaller Passerines (B.J.G.).

Woodcock Carrying Young. Hugh Brown reports having witnessed woodcock carrying well grown young on two occasions. The latter was on 25/6 when the adult, rising at Hugh's feet, carried the fairly large youngster with some difficulty, at a height of 2-3 feet above the ground. The young one's legs trailed down the while. This behaviour, often discussed and disbelieved, is substantiated, at least locally, by this incident.

Birds and Roads. Ivor Johnston reports seeing a Jay, normally a very shy bird, at the side of the busy A9 between Pitlochry and Dunkeld, flapping up and down from the ground to a post, and quite oblivious to the traffic streaming past. This bird apparently survived, but not so, many young Rooks whose corpses litter the roadsides. I don't remember noticing such numbers before. Probably the mowing of the verges attracts such species as Rook, Jackdaw and Starling to feed on the short turf remaining, with resultant danger to life and limb. Bob McMillan found a House Martin that had been killed on the road, and remarks that he hasn't known of this species to be run down before. Anyway, here's a ploy for you as you motor/cycle/walk our roads - which species are attracted to the roadside, and which come to grief there. (Incidentally, do you always examine a bird corpse to see if it bears a ring? You could be lucky).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

Though some species e.g. Woodpigeon, House Martin, some finches, are still nesting, many young birds are on the move, either dispersing from breeding areas, or heading south towards winter quarters. Often difficult to identify in their sombre juvenile plumage, it is worthwhile looking for the one that is "different" and might be a rarity.

Others, young and adult, are gathering into flocks, like the Lapwings mentioned above, and Starlings, which are beginning to form roosts - just where/...

where would be interesting to discover, though many from this area seem to head towards the Tay Bridge. When Chief Superintendent Smith talked to us on "Following the Terns" he mentioned the possibility of overland migration of, particularly juvenile, terns, south westward from the Sands of Forvie area, so keep your ears attuned next month, especially after dark.

Though not expecting winter visitors just yet, such "personalities" as Osprey, Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes, Stint, Wryneck, wood Sandpiper and Shore Lark have bred, or summered, in Scotland lately and could well be on the move soon. Good hunting!

OUTINGS.

Glen Garr - 22.5.74.

Contributed by Marianne McMillan.

The outing to Glen Garr took place on a bright, windy evening. Approximately 15 members attended and were rewarded by seeing a varied assortment of birds and their offspring. Curlew, Lapwing and Redshank flew overhead welcoming (?) us and leaving nests and chicks to their fate. A small dog joined us uninvited but didn't cause too much trouble (it seemed to be "country trained") and actually helped us find two beautiful Curlew chicks. A Lapwing's nest held three eggs, one of which had just hatched and at the same time an astute member found a Linnet's nest with six eggs in a very prickly Gorse bush. Four Cuckoos were with us all evening and while three Herons flew up the Glen, a Kestrel mobbing a Buzzard gave us some unexpected entertainment. A Ring Ouzel could only be heard and drumming Snipe darted around in their own unmistakable fashion. On the way home some were fortunate enough to see a Woodcock. On our walk up the Glen willow Warbler and Treecreepers were evident among the scattered trees and on the hillside a Pheasant was disturbed from a nest containing ten eggs. A Skylark's nest with two eggs had unfortunately been "got at" and many guesses were made as to what was the cause. All in all a very pleasant evening was had by everyone and we travelled windswept and happy back to "civilisation".

Tay Shingle Beds.

Contributed by Bob McMillan.

On 12/6/74 two carloads of Members visited the Tay Shingle Beds between Meikleour and Caputh, whilst one other party travelled to the Dunkeld area for a hill walk. On the shingle beds, were discovered a total of about twelve pairs of Ringed Plover, contributing to a known county population of at least 50 pairs of this species - equal to that of the whole of Wales! (And this an essentially "inland" county, and the Ringed Plover generally considered a seashore bird! Ed.).

Redbreasted Mergansers were abundant, though no broods were seen.

Five very late Greylags were present - they have bred in the County previously - and several pairs of Common Tern were nesting. Three species of warbler - Willow, Grasshopper and Whitethroat were identified. A pair of Whinchats was seen near Caputh, where two Corn Buntings were "jangling".

Next Bulletin, hopefully, in September, so July and August records please to the Recorder, R. McMillan, 29, Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth
PH1 3BD,

anything/...

anything and everything else welcomed by the Editor, E.D. Cameron,
14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials were:-
Miss E.R. Biggart, M. Drummond, B.J. Gregory, Mrs. E.M. Harvey, J. Kirk (Jun),
Mrs. S. Laing, Miss S.A. Laing, C. McGowan, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R. McMillan,
E.M. Marshall, M. Marsland, H. Robb and L. Schofield, to whom "Many thanks".

FOR SALE.

Binoculars for Sale.

Zenith 10 x 50 with leather case - very good condition. Apply Miss S. Laing,
33, Bridgeton Brae, Almondbank. Telephone No. Almondbank 418.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1974.

Ringed Plover Breeding Census - Perthshire 1974.

R.L. McMillan.

Ringed Plover have bred on the shingle beds of the River Tay since at least the end of the last century. It is not known if the species nested on the shores of our Highland lochs before the introduction of several complex Hydro Electric schemes into the Highland area during the thirties, when the natural levels of several lochs, e.g. Ericht and Garry, were lowered, exposing extensive shingly shore. Presumably this new habitat was quickly colonised by Ringed Plovers, perhaps initially by birds pushing north to the other traditional inland breeding grounds on the Spey. The lack of data makes it impossible to judge whether the inland breeding numbers are increasing. However, birds have recently colonised sand and gravel quarries in the south of the county. Only one site away from water is known - on a stony, recently reseeded field, approximately 600 yards from a loch.

Ringed Plovers return to their breeding grounds on the lowland Tay at the beginning of March. They probably lay towards the end of April, as I have found complete clutches in early May. However, new territories were still being established in mid May, suggesting there had been a few late arrivals. Birds probably return to the Highland sites in mid-April, having been seen in display by 27th, but I suspect these will not lay until mid-May. Complete clutches have been found at Highland sites in mid-June. Unfortunately time has not allowed me to establish breeding success rates. Average clutch size from seven nests examined was 3.4. Optimum breeding density is probably reached on the Tay shingle beds at Meikleour, with one pair per 100 sq. yd. of shingle.

The following table gives estimates of numbers known during 1974, bearing in mind that these result from casual observations only. The true population of the County is possibly considerably higher, as long stretches of the Tay between Dunkeld and Aberfeldy remain unexplored, as do its tributaries, the Tummel and the Garry. These three areas contain stretches of shingle eminently suitable for the species.

I am grateful for help and information given by B.J. Gregory, L. Schofield, C. McGowan, D.W. Oliver, A. Mitchell, and members of the Ornithological Section of the P.S.N.S., all of whom will, hopefully, produce some new and more enlightening information in 1975.

Breeding Ringed Plover.

<u>Location.</u>	<u>Site.</u>	<u>Habitat.</u>	<u>Known Pairs.</u>
R. Tay	Perth to Meikleour	Natural river shingle bed.	2
"	Meikleour to Caputh	" " " "	18
"	Caputh to Dunkeld	" " " "	3
"	Dunkeld to Pitlochry	" " " "	5
R. Earn	Bridge of Earn to Forteviot.	Natural sand and shingle.	2
L. Rannoch	South Shore	" " " "	2
L. Tay/...			

<u>Location.</u>	<u>Site.</u>	<u>Habitat.</u>	<u>Known Pairs.</u>
			b/f 32
L. Tay		Natural sand and shingle.	2
L. Earn	South Shore	" " " "	1
L. Ericht	Camusericht	Lowered loch level - exposed shingle.	2
L. Garry		" " " "	5
Lednock Res'r.		" " " "	1
Trinafour	Nr. Errochty	Stony reseeded field.	1
Callander		Sand and gravel quarry.	2
Doune		" " " "	1
Total			<u>47</u>

Whooper Swans.

J. Kirk, Jnr.

Wintering Whooper Swans in Perthshire appear to have fallen in numbers in recent years, especially on the lochs within a few miles of Blairgowrie. This is possibly partly due to the poisoning of some swans in this area in 1968, leading to a loss of wintering tradition for some birds. Another possible reason for the overall drop in Whooper numbers in the county may be that in the recent mild winters, birds are staying on some of the hill lochs usually only frequented on passage in spring. Any such records of birds on the lower hill lochs would be especially welcomed, if there are any winter walkers in the Society.

While on the subject of Whooper records, it would be very interesting and valuable if Members would take note of the numbers of first year birds seen in flocks. These are markedly grey in colour, and have pinkish coloured bills instead of the usual black and yellow. In this respect, swans are among the easiest of birds for assessing breeding performance, yet comparatively little detailed information is collected each year.

PERSONALITIES:-

Hawfinch. A pair has bred in the Bridgend area of Perth. Fledged young were being fed in the grounds of Police H.Q. on 8/8, and the family party of about six was present for several days. This is the first breeding record in Perthshire - or this far north in Scotland - for many years (R.McM.).

Wryneck. One seen, 14/7, in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, Aberfoyle; but no evidence of breeding (A.M.).

Pied Flycatcher. Five pairs successfully produced broods in an area of natural oakwood in the Trossachs. Only one pair had bred in 1973, but 30 new nestboxes were erected, and the reward is obvious (H.R.).

As there are several suitable oakwoods around Perth, would it not be worthwhile for Members to get out wood, hammer and nails? What about a Section project on this? (R.McM.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS:-

Divers to Swans.

A Blackthroated Diver was on a Loch near Dunkeld on 6/7 (E.M.M.). There were/...

were 19 Great Crested Grebe on Stormont Loch on 14/7 (R.C.) and 1 on Loch Glack(?) 10/7 (E.M.H.), whilst passage birds were noted at Seaside, Errol, on 24/7 (Section Outing) and 32 there on 25/8 (J.K., R.McM.). Does this mean, perhaps, that Perthshire breeding Grebes move down the Tay and gather in large numbers before moving out into the estuary? Large young were still being fed in early September (R.McM.).

10 Herons were at Kingoodie on 6/8 (R.C.). A late Mallard brood of 9 or 10 downy ducklings was found at Scone on 21/7 (E.D.C.), whilst 280 each of this species and of Teal had gathered on the Tay at Seaside by 25/8 - ready for the start of duck shooting! (J.K., R.McM.). 12 Wigeon flew up-river here on 20/8 (J.K.) and they were fairly regular at Invergowrie around this period (R.C.); a brood of seven was on Loch Glack on 14/7 (E.M.H.). Two drake Goldeneye were at Lowes on 23/7, with a single on 26/8 (E.M.H.). July on the Tay produced broods of Red-breasted Mergansers near Meikleour (of 7 and 6 ducklings), Caputh (8), Waulkmill (10) (all J.K.) and Pitnacree (12) (E.M.H.), while 13 or 14 flew west here on 27/8, and 8 were on Loch Earn 18/8 (E.R.B.). A late, or early, Whooper Swan flew west up Loch Rannoch on 17/8 (R.McM.) - if this bird was summering, as is quite possible, where was it hiding the rest of the time? (Ed.).

Raptors.

A pair of Buzzards was seen near Almondbank in August (J.K.), and a bird of the year reported in Glen Fender on 8/8 (M.M.). Single Sparrowhawks were at Dalreoch on 1st and 9th July (E.M.M.) and at the Lowes on 14th (E.M.H.), where the Ospreys were still present at the end of August. A passage Peregrine was buzzing Teal at Port Allen on 10/8 (R.McM.); family parties of Kestrels were seen hunting near Loch Ordie on 14/7 (E.M.H.) and near Scone on 19/7 (E.D.C.), while young on the wing by 11/6 in Glenshee suggests early breeding (B.J.G., R.McM.).

Gamebirds and Waders.

Black Grouse were reported from Greenhill, Dunning, on 18/8 (E.M.M.) and Glenshee on the same date (W.G.A.), and a Greyhen with two fledged young in Glenalmond in mid August (J.K.). Two young Redlegged Partridges were seen at Lettre Farm (Aberfeldy?) in July (per E.M.H.), and one near Gilmerton on 3/7 (M.P.). A fine cock Golden Pheasant seen several times during August near Murrayshall House, Scone, was very tame, and presumably an escapee from a local collection (J.D.). Water Rails were heard calling in the Tay reed beds during July and August, and presumably bred (R.McM. et al).

Golden Plover numbers at Invergowrie rose from 50 on 10/7 to 500 on 15/8; Ringed Plover here increased from 2 on 21/7 to 9 on 15/8 (R.C.), while 7 were at Seaside on 25/8 (J.K., R.McM.), and a Turnstone was present here on the same day. Knot appeared at Invergowrie during August, mainly singles, but 2 on 20th and 3 on 23rd, and 2 Bartailed Godwit were near Errol on 26th (R.McM., L.S.).

Three Spotted Redshank were at Seaside on 20/8 (J.K., R.McM.), 3 at Invergowrie on 25/8, 4 on 3/9 (R.C.), and even larger numbers at Seaside in early September. Greenshank were present on the Tay throughout July and August/...

August, with 2 at Invergowrie on 9/8, 4 at Port Allen the next day, and one passing over Perth at 2 a.m. on 20th (M.M.) - an alternative to counting sheep? A Little Stint was identified at Seaside on 20/8 (J.K., R.McM.), and 3 Ruff were at Port Allen on 10/8 (R.McM.), the latter species being regular for a while at Invergowrie, with 3 on 23/8, and up to 5 on 3/9 (R.C.). No large concentrations of Dunlin have yet been reported. The foregoing resume of wader records should give Members an indication of the variety of wader species, many of them not common, which appears on the Tay estuary, where an hour or two's watching is always rewarding.

Gulls to Crows.

There is an unconfirmed report of a Great Skua seen recently at Kingoodie. "Comic" Tern numbers rose to c50 near Errol on 26/7 (R.McM., L.S.), and there was a maximum count of 9 Little Terns there the same day, with a late single at Seaside on 20/8 (J.K., R.McM.). A single Sandwich Tern was at Invergowrie on 13/7 (R.C.).

A Collared Dove ringed at Perth Harbour in January has been recovered near Elgin, but exact details are not yet to hand (R.McM.). This record adds interest to the suggestion put forward in the last Bulletin that there is northward overland movement of this species, from Tay to Spey.

Young Tawny Owls have been heard and seen frequently in two areas around Scone (E.D.C.), and young Longeared reported from Glenogle, and near Methven during July (M.M.). There have been numerous records of Shorteared, including a bird of the year in the Ochils on 31/7 (M.M.), and a pair in Glenshee 18/8 (W.G.A.).

Latest dates reported for Swifts have been 24/8 at Rannoch (M.M.) and 25/8 at Seaside (J.K., R.McM.). A family party of two young and two adult Green Woodpeckers was seen at Methven on 28/7 (M.M.), and one was reported near Dunkeld on 3/7 (E.M.H.). A Great Spotted was at Pitnacree on 9/8 (E.M.H.), and one was found dead on the road at Lowes in early July (R.McM.). Swallows, House and Sand Martins are still about, so latest dates in Sept./ Oct. will be welcome. A scarcity of Swallows all summer and an absence of House and Sand Martins from July, in the Waulkmill district, where in previous years they have always been numerous, seems mysterious (J.C.B.). R.McM. comments that there is no scarcity of Swallows further down the Tay, where a roost in the reed beds built up to 2,000+ in late August. The majority of these were young birds. House Martin numbers, however, could well have dropped, as colonies in Fife have been drastically reduced by the use of chemicals in agriculture. On the other hand, the Dundee Courier of 17th Sept. carried a comment on the vast pre-migration gatherings of Swallows and House Martins in the Glencarse area. Have any Members noticed a decrease in numbers this summer in their own areas?

8 Ravens were seen in Glen Fender on 2/8 (M.M.) and a large party of 24 at Rannoch on 17/8 (M.McM., R.McM.). Finally in this section, that man (M.M.) saw those Magpies near Keillour again, on 11/8!

Passerines.

A Wren hatched 4 young at Scone on the late date of 12/8, in a nest which/...

which was not lined with feathers, as usual, but only with dry grass (E.D.C.). Large parties of Mistle Thrushes are now about, especially around crops of rowan berries, with 40 at Kinloch Rannoch on 17/8 (M.McM., R.McM.). A pair of Stonechats with five fledged young were found in Glenalmond in August (J.K.), and another pair with young at Loch Ordie on 6/7 (E.M.M.). Whinchat were widespread. with reports of young coming from Loch Ordie (E.M.M.), Glenquaich (E.M.H.), Stanley farm (P.B.S.) and the Shien Hill area of Scone (E.D.C.).

Heavy passage of Redstarts at Rannoch was noted in late July and throughout August (R.McM.), and a single female appeared at Stanley on 18/8 (P.B.S.). A single female Wheatear summered at Stanley Farm, spending most of its time in a potato field, but also visiting the stackyard and even the back door (P.B.S.). Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Willow Warbler are still passing through on their way south, so latest dates, please.

Loch na Craige held a roost flock of 1,000 Starlings on 21/7 (E.M.H.). Several birds of this species were feeding on rowan berries at Scone (E.D.C.). About 50 Siskins were on the south side of Loch Rannoch on 24/8 (M.M., R.McM.), while 4 or 5 visited a Scone garden on 17/8, apparently feeding on aphids on plum foliage, and ignoring the bird table completely (E.D.C.). Numbers of Linnets are building up in N. Muirton (R.McM.), and a flock of ten settled, rather surprisingly, on top of a school boilerhouse chimney at Scone; one individual even clinging to the harling on the vertical side of the stack (E.D.C.) The only report of Corn Bunting was of a family party of 5 or 6 at Tullybelton on 18/8 (W.G.A.) - this really does seem to be a vanishing species in this area. Finally, Tree Sparrows are reported to have nested in a nest box at Stanley Farm (P.B.S.).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

The last of the summer visitors are leaving us now, so "latest dates" for these will be welcome. As they go, so the first of the winter visitors arrive, so "first dates" for them. In between, as it were, come the birds of passage, particularly among the waders, so those who attended the first indoor meeting may profit from Mr. Pounder's tips on where to go on the Tay estuary.

OUTINGS.

Sands of Forvie.

Contributed by Miss S. Laing.

The outing to the Sands of Forvie on Sunday, 23rd June, was not well attended, with only seven Members there on a cold, windy day. When we arrived at the Ythan Estuary, the first birds we saw were Eiders, males and females with young, and an abundance of terns on the sands across the estuary. Having crossed the estuary, we walked up towards the Sands and were able to identify Arctic, Common, Sandwich, and a few Little Terns; also Shelduck, Redshank and Curlew, and we had a fine view of a Reed Bunting. We then walked across the Sands to the sea and up towards the cliffs, where we saw more female Eiders with young of all ages; a single Merganser sitting in a group/...

group of Eider drakes and Ringed Plover. Some members of the party were lucky enough to see four Turnstones. Among the higher cliffs we saw throngs of nesting Kittiwakes, Fulmars and Blackheaded, Herring, Lesser and Great Blackbacked Gulls.

I am sure everybody there would like to thank Miss Thom for organising the outing, and Mr. Coull from the Reserve at the Ythan Estuary for guiding us round.

Seaside, Errol.

Contributed by N. Baines.

Notwithstanding a showery evening, 17 members joined Bob McMillan for an outing to "Seaside", Errol, on the 24th July, which proved to be most interesting.

The riverside at this juncture provides three different types of habitat, namely thick hawthorn hedge-cum-scrub, reed beds and the river, which combined are instrumental in attracting a large variety of bird life. Swallows and Shelduck were much in evidence - a Stock Dove, Common Sand-piper and Short-eared Owl flew over the reed beds, and several Grebes, Mallard and a Teal were seen on the river, which also appeared to be a lucrative fishing ground for several "Comlc" and one or two Little Terns.

A large flock of Gulls were milling about the area, apparently attracted by a food store of some description or another a few fields away, and a raft of Herring Gulls, both mature and immature, floated on the river accompanied by four or five Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Eden Estuary.

Contributed by J. Kirk.

On Sunday, 15th September, eleven Members left the Museum Car Park shortly after 11.30 a.m., parked cars in the Guardbridge lay-by and walked down to the floodbank, where Bob and Marianne McMillan were already ahead of us. Thanks to good "staff work" by Iain McLachlan, our arrival was perfectly timed to find the tide coming in, and with it a host of birds, whose number and variety proved a little overwhelming in the early moments of observation.

Clouds of Redshank, Dunlin and Golden Plover flashed and wheeled and dipped, whilst several large groups of Blacktailed Godwit joined the aerial displays, with their lovely markings clearly seen. Eight Herons stood, motionless and unmoved by all this activity, as on sentinel duties. A few Curlew were on the wing, and Greenshank in small numbers stood and flew not far from the watchers. The many Shelduck, Teal, Mallard and Wigeon tended to keep their distance out in the estuary.

A Peregrine circling royally above the tarmac runways at Leuchars was bonus enough, but to see it suddenly stoop at speed to scatter a small group of waders with much commotion, was sheer thrill. Singly and in twos and threes, Cormorants flapped past on their way down the Eden towards the sea.

Quiet and remorseless, the tide advanced over the grassy stretch in front of the floodbank, and filling the channels behind. A prolonged stay seemed likely for our party, until Bob identified a line of retreat, fortuitously taking us within twenty or thirty feet of a group of Dunlin, busily feeding and seemingly unaware of the human bystanders.

Homeward/...

Homeward bound, we called in at the Morton Lochs, to see a host of somnolent Mallard, some Teal, Wigeon, Greenshank and a family of Mute Swans. To at least one initially "doubting Thomas", the visit brought too, the certainty of his first sighting of a Spotted Redshank.

A happy finish to the season's outings. Especial thanks to Bob and John junior for their assistance and authority.

Our Recorder, Bob McMillan, thanks all those who have submitted records, and hopes for more records from even more Members for September/October. He regrets that he cannot acknowledge letters unless there are unusual records requiring confirmation or clarification. Publication in the Bulletin will acknowledge other records. So, records please to R. McMillan, 29, Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth PH1 3BD. Contributions and comment welcomed by Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials were:-

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PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1974.

EOIN - Birds.

A Gaelic contribution from A. Comrie.

Like many English bird names, many Gaelic ones are descriptive of the birds themselves; as BRU DHEARG - "red belly" for Robin, SNAGAN DARAICH - "oak creeper" for the (Great Spotted) Woodpecker, CEARC THOMAIN - "knolls hen" for Partridge, CEARC FHRAOICH - "heather hen" for Red Grouse. The cocks of these last two are known as COILEACH THOMAIN - "knolls cock" and COILEACH RUADH - "red cock", while the Blackcock is literally that - COILEACH DUBH. LACH is Duck, so LACH UAINNE - "green duck" describes the Mallard, but DUBH LACH or "black duck" refers to the Coot.

Some translations from the Gaelic give us more poetic descriptions. The Swallow is GOBHLACHAN GAIOTHE - "little forked one of the wind", and its relative, the Sand Martin, is GOBHLAN GAINMHICH - "forked one of the sand". Well known habits give rise to BREAC AN T'SIL - "speckled one of the rain" for Pied Wagtail, SGREUCHAN COILLE - "screecher of the wood" for the Jay, LASAIR COILLE - "flame of the woods" for Goldfinch, AN T-AMADAN MOINTICH or "fool of the moors" for Dotterel, MEANN ATHAIR - "kid of the air" for Snipe, and CAILLEACH OIHCHE - "old woman of the night" for the Owl. Legend leads to the Oystercatcher's pseudonym of "Servant of St. Bride" - GILLE BRIDE.

Many a rocky eminence is marked on the map with the name IOLAIRE or Eagle, and IOLAIRE UISGE; or "water eagle" is the Osprey. Other Gaelic bird names to be found on a map of Perthshire include EALA - Swan, (Loch Larig Eala in Glen Ogle) and (Ben) TARMACHAN - Ptarmigan, neighbour to Ben Lawers.

Some other Gaelic names are FEANNAG - Crow, FITHEACH - Raven, ROCAS - Rook, CATHAG - Jackdaw, FIGHEID - Jay, and PLOGHAID - Magpie. CORR - Heron, SGARBH - Cormorant, SULAIR - Gannet. FEADAG is Plover, and ADHARCAN is Lapwing, GUILBNEACH - Curlew, COILEACH COILLE - Woodcock, DRILLEACHAN - Sandpiper, FAOILEAG is Gull, and SEABHAG or CROMAN is Hawk, with SPEIRAG for Sparrowhawk, CLAMHAN or GILM for Buzzard, and EUN FIONN (pale bird) for Hen Harrier. Cuckoo is CUTHAG and Teal, CRANN LACH. Smaller birds include Blackbird - LONN DUBH, Song Thrush - SMEORACH, Lark - UISEAG, Wren - DREATHAN DONN, Bullfinch - CORCAN COILLE, Linnet - BREAC AN BEITH, and the humble Sparrow - GEALBHONN.

PERSONALITIES.

Great Grey Shrike. One reported from Tibbermore on 19/10 (E.J.M., J.C., R.C.) and one from Murrayshall, Scone, in early November (J.M.D.). These early records might suggest that we can expect to see more about this winter. Remember that this species is very territorial, even in winter quarters, so these birds may still be about.

Kingfisher. Seen in early October at the site near Perth where breeding was suspected this year (S.L.), and one was on Invergowrie Pier on 17/10 (R.C.).

Spotted Redshank have been widely reported during September/October on the Tay estuary, with a maximum of 16 at Seaside on 9/9 (J.K., R.McM.). Unprecedented/...

ented numbers of this species have occurred on the east coast of Scotland this year, including 34 at Morton Lochs, Fife.

Waxwings have been reported from several places in Perth, and round about Kinnoull Hill, Deuchnie Wood - in early November, so keep a close watch on your cotoneasters!

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Four Great Crested Grebes were present at Seaside throughout September (J.K., R.McM.); there were 6 adults and 2 juveniles at Loch Clunie on 14/9, with 2 adults still there on 13/10 (E.D.C.). Cormorant numbers reached 125 at Kingoodie on 13/10 (R.C.); whilst inland reports came from Isla Bridge, a single on 14/9, and 2 juvenile and an adult at Loch Clunie on 13/10 (E.D.C.). The largest counts of various duck were:- Mallard - c2,000 on 13/10 on the Tay between Invergowrie and Seaside (R.McM.) and 640 at Tibbermore on 19/10 (E.J.M., R.C., J.C.); Teal - 200 at Thornhill on 22/10 (W.G.A.); Wigeon - 100+ at Buchanty on 13/10 (M.M.), 50 at Stormont Loch on 20/10 (J.M.D.) and 40 at Invergowrie on 7/9 (R.C.); Tufted - 89 at Tibbermore on 19/10 (E.J.M., R.C., J.C.). Otherwise a single Pochard was reported at Invergowrie on 7/10 (R.C.) and 4 at Monk Myre on 17/9 (S.L., I.McK.). Goldeneye have been present on the Tay at Perth from 13/10 (M.McM.), and there were 2 females at Stormont Loch on 20/10 (J.M.D.); but no big counts as yet. 12 immature Shelduck lingered on at Invergowrie till 11/9, and an adult was there on 31/10 (R.C.); more unusual was one at Stormont on 17/9 (S.L., I.McK.).

First movements of Grey Geese over Scone were noted on 18 and 19/9, slightly early, with numbers building up thereafter (E.D.C., J.M.D.). 32 Pinkfeet had reached Carsebreck by the early date of 14/9 (J.K.), 50 were at Strathallan on 17/9 (B.J.G.) and 20 flying over Glenalmond on 18/9 (J.I.). A Snow Goose was seen during October in the Coupar Angus/Meikleour area; two Barnacles near Tibbermore on 28/9 (L.S.) and 12 Canadas at Haugh of Kercock, near Meikleour on 15/10 (R.McM.) complete the goose tally.

Two Mute Swans visited St. Fillans on 26/9 (E.R.B.) and a pair with a large brood of six fullgrown cygnets was on the Earn at Forteviot on 12/10 (L.S.). The first Whoopers of the winter were singles at Loch Ordie and at Seaside on 28/9 (M.M., R.McM.). There were 6 at Invergowrie on 12/10 (R.C.), and maximum recorded so far is 20 at Carsebreck on 22/10 (M.M.).

There have been more reports than usual of Buzzards in lowland areas - Glencarse 29/9 (L.S.), three at Franklyden, Balbeggie on 1/10 (J.W.), Almond-bank and Gleneagles on 2/10 (S.L., M.M.) and Murrayshall 21/10 (J.M.D.). There are indications of an influx of Roughlegged Buzzards this winter, many having been reported from the east of England, so any Buzzard away from the Highland area is worth careful scrutiny. A Golden Eagle was seen near Bridge of Balgie, Glen Lyon, on 12/10 (W.G.A.), and there have been many reports of Sparrowhawks, including one over Perth Technical College on 5/10 (M.M.). Hen Harriers on passage were spotted at Port Allen - a male on 13/10 (E.J.M., J.C.) and a female at Seaside on 23/10 (R.McM.); while another male was seen near Blair Atholl on 14/9 (M.M.). Peregrines were reported from three Highland areas during September (E.D.C., M.M.), while singles were at/...

at Tibbermore on 28/9 (L.S.) and Powgavie on 20/10 (E.J.M., J.C.). Single Merlins were seen at Invertrossachs on 12/9 (R.&M.McM.) and Methven Moss on 17/9 (M.M.).

A large covey of 23 Partridge was seen at Scone on 26/10 (E.D.C.). Water Rails have been heard calling regularly in the Seaside area (R.McM. et al). Several people have commented on the huge numbers of Lapwings about inland lately, with a maximum count of 1,950 in one flock at Tibbermore on 19/10 (E.J.M., R.C., J.C.). Associated with some of these gatherings have been Golden Plover, with 300 at Huntingtower on 1/10 (L.S.), and possibly the same flock at Tibbermore on 21/10 (I.McK.). Coastwise, Golden Plover have been regular at Invergowrie, with max. 353 on 8/10 (E.J.M.); three Grey were here on 11/9 (R.C.) and one at Seaside on 13/10 (R.McM.); Ringed Plover peaked at 23 on 26/10 at Invergowrie (R.C.), with a single Turnstone on 18/10 (E.J.M.), single Black-tailed Godwits on 4/10 and 6/10 (E.J.M., R.C.), and a max. count of 122 Bar-tailed on 13/10 (R.McM., R.C.). Latest dates for Common Sandpiper were 5/10 on the Tay below Perth (L.S.) and 6/10 at Invergowrie (E.J.M.).

Large numbers of Redshank, 5,600 and Dunlin 4,000, roosting on Dundee Airfield are reckoned to include all the Perthshire feeding birds. Other Perthshire roosts give a Tay population of nearly 8,000 for the Redshank (E.J.M., R.McM.). Ruff and Greenshank have been reported regularly on the Tay during September, but with no large counts, the latter being seen last at Port Allen on 13/10 (L.S.). 42 Knot at Kingoodie on 9/10 was the most seen on the Perthshire Tay for several years (E.J.M., R.C.). Inland there were counts of 52 Snipe near Dunblane on 11/9 and 72 Curlew at Meikleour on 15/10 (R.McM.), with 3 Woodcock at Path of Condie on 17/9 (M.M.).

58 adult Great Black-backed Gulls had congregated at Port Allen on 13/10 (E.J.M., J.C.), and Lessers have lingered into November at the Old Bridge in Perth. 14 "Comic" Terns were at Invergowrie on 11/9 (R.C.). Castle Huntly produced no less than 132 Stock Doves in one field on 20/10 (E.J.M., J.C.). An unfortunate road casualty was a Barn Owl found near Blackford on 17/10 (M.M.), whilst a more fortunate one was seen near Methven on 14/9 (R.&M.McM.). Reports of Short-eared came from Glen Quaich (W.G.A.) and Path of Condie (M.M.), with a passage bird at Seaside on 20/10 (M.M., L.S., R.McM.). Green Woodpeckers have been reported from Glen Tilt, Dunkeld, St. Fillans, Methven, Almondbank and Scone (E.R.B., E.D.C., S.L., I.McK., M.M.). Two Ravens were seen in Glen Lednock on 6/10 (E.D.C.); two Hooded Crows were with Carrions at Invergowrie on 28/10 (R.C.), and three Magpies in Glenalmond on 12/10 (W.G.A.).

A whole flock of reports of latest dates for Swallows has reached us:- Scone 30/9, Strathallan 5/10, Glenalmond 6/10, Millearnie 11/10, Port Allen 13/10 and the final straggler at Seaside on 20/10. Latest House Martins were on 20/9 at Glenalmond and 27/9 at Scone, but there were still a good few at Kingoodie on 10/10 (E.D.C., B.J.G., J.I., L.S., M.M., R.McM.). wheatears near Blair Atholl on 14/9 (M.M.) and Invergowrie 13/10 (R.McM.); a cock Redstart at Invertrossachs on 12/9 (R.&M.McM.); a Sedge Warbler at Seaside on/...

on 9/9 (J.K., R.McM.) and two very late Willow Warblers at Scone on 28/9 (E.D.C.), were other latest dates reported. A Blackcap caught and ringed at Seaside on 23/10 could be a late migrant or a wintering bird (R.McM.), while the same could apply to Grey Wagtails reported from St. Fillans on 5/9 (E.R.B.) and Queen's Bridge, Perth - two on 5/10 (L.S.).

Arriving passerine winter visitors were led by three Fieldfares in Glenalmond on 24/9 (J.I.), but the first didn't reach Glendevon till 12/10 (M.P.), with heavy movements thereafter, over the county. Redwings showed a similar pattern, with a few at Strathallan on 2/10 (B.J.G.), Glèn Lednock 6/10 (E.D.C.), 25-30 in Glendevon on 12/10 (M.P.) and many thereafter. 5 Bramblings were seen at Almondbank on 30/10, and a few at Methven the next day (M.M.).

Some large parties of Longtailed Tits have been seen - 15 at Stormont on 20/10 (J.M.D.) and 20+ by the river at Almondbank on 21/10 (S.L., I.McK.). Stonechats were noted in Little Glenshee 15/9 and Fowlis Wester 31/10 (M.M.). A pre-roosting flock of 30-40 Pied Wagtails congregated in the Barracks car park on 21/10, before flying off south-eastward over Perth at dusk - does anyone know where the actual roost is? Suggested sites are one of the Tay reed beds or the roof of a building in Perth itself.

A big charm of 30 Goldfinches was at Walnut Grove, Perth on 5/10 (L.S.), whilst smaller parties were reported from Murrayshall, Scone and elsewhere - more reports than usual coming in. Siskin flocks included c100 at Inver-trossachs on 12/9 (R.&M.McM.), 20+ at Dunkeld on 28/9 (M.M.), 20 at Keillour on 20/10 (J.I.) and 50+ at Deuchnie Wood on 24/10 (E.D.C.). In contrast, only one Redpoll flock has been reported - c100 at Strathallan School on 21/10 (B.J.G.). Over 100 Linnets were at Tibbermore on 19/10 (E.J.M., R.C., J.C.), and the N. Muirton flock held a max. of 200 on 30/9, fewer than usual (R.McM.). Six Bullfinches in Glenalmond on 12/10 (W.G.A.) and Tree Sparrows, 25 on stubble near Balbeggie 26/10 (L.S.), up to 50 in a turnip field near Scone 5/10 (E.D.C.), bring these records to a close.

RINGING RECOVERIES.

The following recoveries connected with the County have come to light:-
Golden Eagle. Ringed 17/6/73 at Colintraive, Argyll; found, long dead, 8/6/74 on Ben Vrackie, Pitlochry. This bird had moved 120 Km. north eastwards, the longest movement to date in the U.K.

Common Gull. Ringed 24/6/74 at Loch Turret, Crieff, as a nestling; found dead, 25/8/74, North Connel, Argyll.

Collared Dove. Ringed 17/1/74 at Perth Harbour; found dead, June 1974 at Elgin, Moray, 145 Km. north. This is the bird referred to in the last Bulletin.

Sand Martin. Ringed 22/8/73 at Sturry, Kent; controlled (i.e. caught and released, still ringed) in colony at Kinfauns 10/8/74. It would seem that this bird was ringed in Kent, 640 Km. S.E. of Perth, whilst on migration, and controlled at its breeding site.

Blackbird. Ringed 23/12/73 at Errol; found dead in fruit netting, 26/7/74 in Dundee, 15 Km. to the east.

WHAT/...

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

As mentioned previously, Roughlegged Buzzard, Great Grey Shrike and Waxwing are around. Look out for "strange" geese, and remember Malcolm Ogilvie's injunction to count herds of Whooper Swans and note the numbers of young birds (pale grey with pinkish bills). We are interested in numbers and locations of waders, e.g. Curlew, Oystercatcher, wintering inland, and also of Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Grey Wagtails. Locations of roosts of thrushes, Starlings, finches and those Wagtails would be of interest.

LIBRARY.

We would like to draw the attention of Section Members to the Library housed within the Museum. This amenity seems to be very much under-used, possibly due to ignorance of its availability, or even existence. The room itself, as well as the books, belongs to P.S.N.S., and the key may be obtained from the Attendant during the Museum's opening hours. A wide selection of books on various topics is in stock and the selection is added to from time to time.

COMING EVENTS.

The Section's next meeting is the Member's Night on 11th December - well worth supporting!

The annual R.S.P.B. Film Show is on Thursday, 12th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Old People's Welfare Hall, Tay Street. Tickets from Concorde, or at the door.

Records for November/December please, to R. McMillan, 29 Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth PH1 3BD.

Contributions and comment to Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials:-

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PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1974.

At a time when Geese have been much in the news, we are very pleased to have the following contribution from Valerie Thom, who probably knows as much as anybody about "our" geese.

PERTSHIRE'S WINTERING GEESE - A PLEASURE OR A PROBLEM?

Considerable consternation has been expressed recently regarding the proposal by the Secretary of State for Scotland to transfer Pinkfoot and Greylag geese from Schedule 2 to Schedule 3 of the Protection of Birds Act. This change, which is proposed only for specified counties (including Perthshire) in east-central Scotland, would mean that the geese could be shot right through the winter until they leave for Iceland in April and May. The proposal is the result of increasing pressure by those in the farming community who consider that the numbers of geese in this part of Scotland have now reached pest proportions. Nobody knows yet whether the proposal will be carried through or whether the objections made will cause the Secretary of State to reconsider the situation, but this seems an appropriate time to try and take an unbiased look at both sides of the pleasure/problem question.

Those of us who are keen - or daft? - enough to brave a November dawn and take part in the annual census of grey geese know what a thrill it is to see and hear a large flock of geese flighting out from the roost at first light to feed on the surrounding farmland. Annual autumn counts were started in the 1950's; in some years they achieve a fair degree of accuracy, while in others poor weather conditions make the figures less reliable. But, even allowing for the rate of error that inevitably occurs when one tries to assess the size of a mobile - and unpredictable - population of birds, the figures do show a progressive increase in the actual numbers of both species and in the proportion of the total British wintering flocks to be found in central Scotland in early November.

So the geese do indeed occur in very large flocks in some parts of Perthshire. Why have they increased so much in these areas? Probably three factors are involved. Firstly, geese are traditionalists: once they have established roosts and found suitable feeding grounds they will continue to use them unless some major change - such as very frequent disturbance - drives them away. Secondly, the agricultural changes in this area during the last 15-20 years have been beneficial to geese: combine harvested barley sheds a lot of grain on the stubble, especially in a late season; mechanical potato diggers leave many damaged and small potatoes in the fields; and more intensive grassland management produces better grazing earlier in the year. Thirdly, south and east Perthshire contains a number of fairly large lochs which have come to be "recognised" by the geese as safe roosts where they are little disturbed. Perhaps a fourth factor should also be taken into account - the introduction of the law prohibiting the sale of wild geese. This was intended to protect geese from indiscriminate shooting for commercial gain, protection which may have been urgently needed in some parts of their wintering range but/...

but for which there was little need in central Scotland.

The records suggest, then, that the farmers' complaints about increased numbers of geese are quite valid, but what about the complaints of damage? Some - but only some - of these are also justified. Complaints of damage in autumn and early winter are not, as a rule, well-founded - the consumption of "ground keepers" (potatoes left on the field after harvesting) is advantageous, the gleaning of grain off the stubbles does no harm and the grazing of early-sown winter wheat has been shown to have little effect on the yield. A lot of geese on a young corn crop in wet weather certainly can cause damage through compaction of the soil, resulting in poor drainage and "puddling", and in hard winters Grey Lags may eat appreciable quantities of turnips.

But on the whole it is not until the early spring that the complaints of damage really must be accepted as justified. At this time of year the farmers are anxiously awaiting the "early bite", the first growth of grass that is so valuable for both cattle and sheep. Anyone walking in March or early April over a field grazed by geese will find it impossible to argue that the birds are not competing with the farmer's beasts - such fields are often trimmed as short as bowling greens. It has sometimes been claimed that the fertilising effect of the goose droppings helps the grass later on - but it is later on, not at the time the farmer most needs it. Goose grazing of young barley in April and May can also be harmful because it delays ripening - and in a stormy autumn a week's difference in harvesting date may determine whether the crop is got in good condition or suffers heavy grain losses before and during combining.

It is an unfortunate fact that geese show very strong preferences for certain farms - usually with large fields, good visibility all round and within easy reach of a safe roost. So some farmers undoubtedly suffer considerable goose damage. Why don't they use scaring devices to keep the geese off? Almost anything "strange" in a field will keep geese away for a short time; practically nothing (other than shooting) will continue to be effective in the same place for more than a few days. Not many farmers are prepared to make the frequent changes in position that are necessary if simple scaring devices are to keep geese off a vulnerable crop over a period of several weeks, and the more elaborate and effective scarers are pretty expensive.

Most conservationists feel that it would be wrong to remove all protection from a large part of Scotland's wintering goose population on account of very localised damage to agricultural interests. But are we conservationists entitled just to sit back and say, "We object"? Should we not be pressing the appropriate bodies, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Wildfowl Trust, to carry out more investigations into the best ways of reducing the conflict between geese and agriculture? Why not use controlled disturbance to break up the biggest roosts? Why not consider the provision of grant-aid for scaring devices where real damage is likely to occur?

The total population of wintering Grey Lags and Pinkfeet is not really so very large and the problems that arise are largely due to its concentration in/...

in a few localities. If we could achieve a greater dispersal of the population over the very large areas of potentially suitable goose-ground in Scotland many of the current problems would cease to exist - the farmers would not suffer such serious damage and we would continue to get pleasure from goose-watching, even though the flocks might not be quite as spectacular as they are at present.

Though geese may be a problem to farmers, the birds have their own problems, as illustrated by Iain McLachlan's note below.

POISONING IN GEESE.

Towards the end of November deaths in Grey-lags occurred in an area stretching from Lundie in the east to Madderty in the west. Deaths occurred over a short period but it is estimated that around 500 birds died altogether. Others were noted ailing but apparently recovered. Post-mortem examinations have shown that deaths were due to poisoning by an organo-phosphorus insecticide (Carbophenothion). This is one of the permitted dressings used for seed grain. Winter wheat was widely sown in the area in the previous 10 days and the geese were noted grubbing for it. This was the same seed dressing involved in a similar incident around Coupar Angus in 1971.

ROOKERY SURVEY 1975.

Various local surveys in the past few years have shown that Rook numbers have declined drastically in many areas. To establish a base line against which to measure future changes, the British Trust for Ornithology has decided to hold a National Survey of Rookeries in 1975. This has been adopted as an official Scottish Ornithologists' Club enquiry, and is one in which all P.S.N.S. Ornithological Section Members could take an active part, as it is very straightforward.

The Survey will be conducted on the basis of the 10 Kilometre squares of the Ordnance Survey, as was the recent Atlas Project. The basic information required is simply the number of nests in each rookery, so one visit will generally suffice. The counts of nests are to be done as late in Spring as possible, but before the leaves come out enough to make accurate counting difficult - say, late April for Perthshire. Special cards will be provided for recording purposes.

If you would like to help in this Survey, and would undertake the coverage of a 10 Km. square, I would be very pleased to hear from you, and to provide more information. If you do not wish to be responsible for a Square, you could still be of great help by passing on the locations of any rookeries known to you, particularly if they are off the beaten track, or of recent origin. E.D. Cameron, Organizer for Perthshire, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ. Telephone 52167.

PERSONALITIES.

Waxwings. The first records of this colourful winter visitor came from Invergowrie Bay with two on 4/11. Numbers here increased over the next two weeks or so to a max. of 60 on 20th. Ringing evidence from the Eden Estuary suggests that incoming birds spend little time at the coast before moving on, and it seems that Invergowrie birds quickly move up the Tay, breaking up into smaller/...

smaller parties as they go. Such small parties tend to hang around a source of food until it is exhausted, then move on to another.

Reports of parties from 3 to 20 strong came from 4/11 onwards from the south west side of Perth, (? because several of our Members have colonised this area), Kinnoull Hill, Deuchny Wood, Scone and Dupplin. Several flocks stayed around the same areas of Perth into December and 10+ were reported from Dunkeld, but the only other December records came from Invergowrie, which seemed to have a steady turnover of birds, with a massive 140 odd on the 2nd, and Seaside, which had 30 moving up river on the 15th.

Only two reporters recorded what the Waxwings were feeding on; haws at Scone, apples left on the trees and privet berries in Viewlands Terrace. This is information well worth noting for this, or any other species, regarded as a "Vagrant" to the County.

Reports of Waxwings came from:- N. Baines, R.C., E.D.C., J.M.D., J. Grant, S. Illingworth, J.D. Lumsden, J.K., R.McM., M.M. and L.S.

Great Grey Shrike. The bird reported from Scone in early November only stayed for five days, and there has been no further report on the Tibbermore one. "new" Shrike was seen alongside the path at Loch of the Lowes on 10/12 (L.S.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Reports of Single Little Grebes on the Tay at Perth on dates between 7/11 and 15/12 may refer to the same bird (L.S.). 5 Cormorants were on the Tay below Inchyra on 16/11, while further inland singles were seen on Oliverburn Loch, above Kinfauns, the Tay at Scone Palace (L.S.), Loch Clunie (an immature) E.D.C., and no less than 10 at Kinclaven Bridge on 18/11 (S.L., I.McK.) and again on 14/12 (Y.O.C.). Hérons were regular at Pitnacree (E.M.H.) and Almond-bank (S.L.) and one spent the afternoon of 6/11 on Stanner's Island, Perth (L.S.).

There were high counts of 350+ Mallard at Monk Myre on 14/12 (Y.O.C.), and of Wigeon - 250 on 30/11 and 194 on 28/12 at Haughs of Kercock (R.McM.), 98 on 18/11 and 250+ on 14/12 on the Isla by Coupar Angus (S.L., I.McK., Y.O.C.), 32 on 24/12 on the Tay above the North Inch and 37 on 28/12 on floodwater near Methven (L.S.). Up to 100 Shovelers were seen near Tibbermore on 3/11 (L.S.), while Pochard numbers on Loch Clunie reached 38 on 10/11, with still 23 there on 17th (E.D.C.), Loch Freuchie had 5 on 6/12 (E.M.H.), Monk Myre 12 on 14/12 (Y.O.C.) and Bertha Loch the same number on 24/12 (L.S.). Bertha held 50 Tufted on the same day, and a maximum of 51 were reported from the Isla at Coupar Angus (S.L., I.McK.). Wintering Goldeneye passed the century mark at Haughs of Kercock on 28/12 (R.McM.) and reached 35 on the Tay below Cairnie Pier (L.S.); ones and twos were reported from various other waters. The only report of Shelduck was of one at Invergowrie on 1/11 (R.C.).

Greylag and Pink footed Geese are widespread in the County. Barnacles have become associated with both these species - a single with Greylag at Meikleour on 10/11 (J.K.) and five with the largest recorded flock of Pinkfeet, about 1,500 at Tibbermore on 28/12 (L.S.). (Remember two reported from here in September). Reports of Mute Swans came from Stare Dam, a pair with four young, up to 7 adults at Perth Harbour, where they are being fed by the locals (L.S.)/...

(L.S.) and Invergowrie Bay, where 5 are seen regularly (R.C.). Whooper Swan records were:-

8/11	6 adult	3 juveniles	Glenlyon (F.M.H.).
10/11	12 "	-	Monk Myre (J.K.).
	3 "	-	Isla Bridge (J.K.).
16/11	1 "	-	Inchyra (L.S.).
18/11	1 "	-	Monk Myre (S.L., I.McK.).
	7 "	-	Stormont L. (").
14/12	-	1	R. Isla, nr. Coupar Angus (Y.O.C.).
24/12	6 "	-	over Almondbank (S.L.), apparently all adults.
	2 "	1	L. Tummel (E.M.H.).

This gives a total of 38 adults to 5 juveniles - not a high percentage of young. The single juvenile on the Isla seems odd.

A late report for September of two Roughlegged Buzzards in Glenlednock, Comrie, seems most unlikely, and without more details of identification, must be considered extremely doubtful. Common Buzzards appear to be wintering in the Gleneagles-Carsebreck area, where up to three have been seen at the same time (M.M.); others reported were at Glenalmond and Murthly (D.F.), Almondbank (S.L.), Rait and Kinfauns (L.S.) - a goodly number for the lowland area. Sparrowhawks were reported from several widespread localities, including Stanner's Island on 19/11 (L.S.). Golden Eagles were spotted in Glen Isla (J.M.D.) and near Pitlochry (L.S.), a female Hen Harrier on 1/11 and a male on 29/12 at Seaside (R.McM., L.S.) and another at Carsebreck on 7/11 (M.M.). A Peregrine was seen on 3/11 (M.M.) and a Merlin occasionally at Invergowrie Bay throughout the period, with single sightings at Coupar Angus on 17/11, Meigle on 2/12 (D.F.) and Errol Station on 7 and 9/12 (R.McM.).

Three cock Capercaillie were jousting in a field at Dupplin on 3/11 (L.S.), and Partridge numbers seem to be up to normal. The generally mild, damp weather has resulted in large numbers of Lapwings and Golden Plover remaining inland. Flocks of both species have been frequenting fields off the Crieff Road just outside Perth, with up to 800 Lapwing and 500 Goldens (Miss S. Laing, L.S.). Similar numbers of Goldens were reported from Seaside and Invergowrie on the coast. Lapwings reached 1,000 at Haughs of Kercock towards the end of the year (R.McM.). Other waders reported inland include up to 12 Oystercatchers and 17 Redshank around the North Inch in December - most unusual for this time of year (S.L., R.McM., L.S.), and 2 Redshank near Coupar Angus on 14/12 (Y.O.C.). Curlew numbers at Haugh of Kercock rose to over 100 at the end of November, and small parties seen on Scone Racecourse and near Isla Bridge may have originated here (S.L., I.McK., R.McM., L.S., Y.O.C.). An odd Greenshank appeared at Kercock on 30/11 (R.McM.), 2 Knot at Invergowrie on 10/12, where the last two Grey Plover were seen on 14/11, and up to 18 Ringed Plover were present on 6/12 (R.C.). Has anyone seen woodcock about lately? I haven't. (Ed.).

Large concentrations of Great Black-backed Gulls were 125 at Port Allen on 15/12 and 82 at Inchcoonans Rubbish Tip, Errol, on 26/12 (L.S.), with reports/...

reports of odd singles from the Upper Tay (E.M.H.). 3 Lesser Black-backs were on the Tay in Perth on 1/11, but only one there a week later (E.D.C.), and at Pitnacree on 7/11 and 18/12 (E.M.H.). A Barn Owl became a road casualty on the A9 near Dunning on 5/12 - the second within two months in the same area (M.M.); one with better road sense was seen at Kinfauns on 29/12 (R.McM.). A fine view of a Long-eared Owl was obtained at Murrayshall, as it sat, lit up by headlights, on a fence post only a few yards away, its "ears" being blown about by the wind (J.M.D.). The only Short-eared was reported at Meigle on 8/12 (D.F.). Two Hooded Crows are regular at Invergowrie Bay (R.C.) and one was seen at Errol on 26/12 (L.S.)

Welcome reports of Great Spotted Woodpeckers have come from Almondbank (S.L.), near Blairgowrie (N.G.), Dunkeld (J.M.D.), Monk Myre (S.L., I.McK.), near Coupar Angus (Y.O.C.) and just west of Perth, where one was investigating the telegraph poles along the A9 (M.M.). Green woodpeckers were seen in three areas near Dunkeld (S. Illingworth, M.M.), Meigle (D.F.) and Auchterarder (M.M.).

Evidence of wintering Grey Wagtails comes from a series of records of birds, or a single bird, in the Bridgend area of Perth throughout Nov/Dec., another bird, or birds, at Glencarse filter beds over the same period, and one at Methven filter beds on 28/12 (L.S.). Ten Pied wagtails were seen heading towards Perth at dusk on 16/11 - has anyone found that roost yet? (E.D.C.). A Blackcap at Invergowrie on 5/11 (M. Martin, per R.C.) may be a wintering bird, or a late migrant, as the last 3 Swallows of the year were seen here on the same date (R.C.).

A pair of Stonechats outwith their normal haunts frequented gorse in the Murrayshall area from 27/11 to 12/12 (J.M.D.). Fieldfares and Redwings are still with us in some numbers - over 1,000 of the former at Seaside on 1/11 (R.McM.). The first Siskins came to peanuts at a Scone bird table on 17/12 (E.D.C.), a fortnight earlier than last winter, but no more than two birds have been seen so far, nor have they been so regular in their visits. Large flocks of Siskins were 30 at Dunkeld on 17/11 (M.M.), 50 near Scone on 7/12 (L.S.) and 30 at Foss on 24/12 (E.M.H.). A huge flock of about 60 Goldfinches was at Viewlands Reservoir on 28/11 (J. Grant) and 20 were near North Muirton on 14/11 (S.L.), with smaller numbers at Methven Loch, Ruthvenfield (L.S.) and Murrayshall (J.M.D.). Redpolls were reported from several areas, including 30-40 at the Norie Miller Walk on 10/11 (L.S.). A single Snow Bunting was seen on Ben Vrackie on 1/12 (L.S.), and 20 around the Glenshee car park on 15/12 (M.M.). Ten Crossbills were counted in Craigvinean Forest, Dunkeld, on 24/11, and possibly the same flock seen on 13/12 (M.M.). Hawfinches at Ardchoille numbered 4 on 26th and 5 on 30/11 (R.McM.). Finally, two large Tree Sparrow flocks were noted - 19 at Aberdalgie on 10/11 (I.McK.) and 75 near Errol on 30/11 (L.S.).

Postscript. At Almondbank a Robin was seen perched on a coconut and feeding from it - when? New Year's Day! Robin or S.L.?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

In spite of the unseasonable weather, our winter visitors should still be around - Waxwings, Shrikes, Bramblings, the rarer geese. Look out, too, for/...

for Grey Wagtails, Blackcaps and L.B.B. Gulls encouraged to stay by the mild weather. The first summer migrants may arrive before the next Bulletin, so keep a record of those "first dates".

The next Bulletin will cover the period January to March 1975, so records as soon after 31/3 as possible, please to R. McMillan, 29 Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth PH1 3BD.

Contributions welcomed by Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials:-

Miss E.M. Biggart, E.D. Cameron, R. Calligan, J.M. Duncan, D. Ford, N. Golby, Mrs. E.M. Harvey, J. Kirk, sen., Mrs. S. Laing, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R. McMillan, M. Marsland, L. Schofield.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY/MARCH 1975.

The three month interval since the last Bulletin has resulted in a considerable mass of records to be processed for the present one. It is good to see new names among those contributing, and to have records from areas such as Sheriffmuir and Balquhadder, which are seldom mentioned in our Bulletins. However, it is rather disturbing that several records, which should have been forwarded to the Recorder, came to his notice only as a result of casual conversation - during the very successful "cuppa" after the A.G.M., for instance. May we repeat, please submit all records which might be of importance or interest; it is up to the Recorder, poor soul!, to separate the wheat from the chaff. We have a guide line in the list of Perthshire Birds, but this is only a guide - a House Sparrow on Ben Lawers is just as worth reporting as a Peregrine in Tay Street.

PERSONALITIES.

Smew. A drake, first reported from Butterstone Loch on 26/2 (I.R.J.), had moved to Craiglush by 16/3 (E.D.C.). The first sighting came at almost the same date as last year's bird on the Lowes. The move to Craiglush may have been due to the opening of the fishing season on Butterstone, where half a dozen boats were out on 16/3. This Smew is supposed to have been seen on the Lowes around this time, but no reports have been submitted. One wonders if Members perhaps saw it on Lowes, but didn't report it because it was Lowes, and had expected the Warden to have done so. It might be worth pointing out that Mr. Drummond is not a member of our Section, and records of birds on the Lowes generally come from Voluntary Wardens who are, or from visitors.

Waxwing. Reports of small flocks, right through into April, came from various parts of Perth, and from Kinfauns, Pitcairngreen, Methven, St. Fillans and Invergowrie. The largest numbers were 15 at Viewlands Reservoir and 14 at Invergowrie (E.M.B., J.M.D., J. Hewitson, L.S.).

Roughlegged Buzzard. A satisfactory description has been submitted of a bird of this species, seen in Glenalmond on 20/1 (J.L. Innes).

Goshawk. Another difficult species for which a satisfactory description has been submitted. As these "super-Sparrowhawks" breed regularly, though in very small numbers, in England, and are alleged to have done so in Scotland, location and name are being, hopefully, withheld.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes began their return to the Blairgowrie Lochs in February (E.M.H., J.W.), but two were still to be seen on the Tay below Kinfauns on 30/3 (L.S.). Reports of Little Grebes came from these lochs, Isla Bridge, Luncarty, where one was "singing" on 22/2, and the Moncrieffe Island stretch of the Tay in Perth, where there may have been more than one bird (E.M.H., I.McK., S.L., L.S., J.W.). 44 Cormorants were at Invergowrie on 12/1 (R.C.); inland records over the three months are more widespread than ever - Lochs Marlee (max. 9), Clunie, Lowes (up to 9 again), Butterstone, Craiglush, King's Myre, Isla Bridge; on the Tay at Mugdrum (5), Elcho (2 flying upstream), Haughs/...

Haughs of Kercock (5) and Pitnacree; and 3 on the Earn near Forteviot (E.D.C., R.C., N.G., E.M.H., I.R.J., I.McK., S.L., L.S., J.W.).

Hérons, too, have been well distributed, with reports coming from St. Fillans, Aberfeldy, Oliverburn, and various points within that triangle, mainly of single birds, but with 4 together at Stormontfield and 5 regularly around Methven.

Duck numbers don't seem to have been as high as last year's, on the whole, but we have some interesting material. Shelduck at Invergowrie increased from 4 on 12/1 to 72 on 28/2 (R.C.), while further upstream up to 10 were seen off Paddockmuir, Glencarse (L.S.). Highest counts of duck were:-

Mallard: 650 at Invergowrie on 12/1 (R.C.); 760 at Carsebreck on 2/1 (R.McM.).

Teal: 68 at Paddockmuir on 1/1 (L.S.); 50 on a small pond near Methven on 11/1 (L.S.).

Wigeon: 480 at Carsebreck on 2/1 (R.McM.); 414 on the Isla near Coupar Angus on 19/1 (I.McK.); 300 on Marlee Loch on 16/3 (J.W.).

Tufted: 140 at Bertha Loch on 22/2 (J.W.).

Goldeneye: 130 at Invergowrie on 20/3 (R.C.); 121 at Kercock on 18/1 (I.McK., S.L.).

A distinct passage of Teal was noted around Methven at the end of March (M.M.). Nine Gadwall appeared on floodwater at Methven Moss on 1/3, at least two pairs staying until the 14th, while another (?) pair was seen near Forgan-denny on 31/3 (L.S.). Rarer visitors were two Pintail, a duck on Marlee on 16/3 (J.W.), and a drake on Stormont on 18/3 (Mrs. S.L.) - wonder if they met up eventually? Pochard were reported from various waters, and 5 Goldeneye from far up Glen Lyon (E.M.H.). An early Shoveler was a drake near Tibbermore on 4/1 (L.S.); and a drake Merganser was on the Tay in Perth on 28/1 (L.S.). Goosander numbers rose to 25 on the Tay at Paddockmuir on 30/3 (L.S.), and to 15 on the Lowes on 1/2 (E.M.H.).

Greylag and Pinkfooted Geese were with us as usual, though, unusually, 6 of the former appeared on Stanner's Island, Perth, on 26/1 (L.S.). Barnacles have been reported regularly from the Tibbermore/Methven Moss area, the numbers seen increasing from a single on 1/2 up to 27 on 22/3 and 31 on 31/3. Flocks of 8, 10 and 12 were reported between these dates, and there were many sightings of single birds. The larger numbers in late March may have been due to birds moving north from their wintering grounds on the Solway, (E.D.C., J.K., M.M., L.S., J.H.W.). Greenland Whitefronts also seem to favour this area, and again numbers increased in late March. The first report was a single on 1/2, the last 18 on 29/3 (E.D.C., J.K., L.S.). Almost invariably these two rarer species were associating with Pinkfeet. 4 Barnacles were also seen near Errol on 3/3 (L.S.). A pair of Canadas were on Loch Tummel on 20/3 (E.M.H.), one above Kinfauns on 23/2 (L.S.), and 5 at Kercock on 27/3 (J.H.W.). Two odd light-coloured geese have been reported; a very pale Greylag at Invergowrie around New Year (R.C.), and a dull white bird among Greylag at Kirkton of Mailer on 10/2 (J.H.W.) suggested Snow Goose - remember a suspected one around/...

around Meikleour last October?

Mute Swans were reported from loch and river, with the maximum number 9 adults and 7 juveniles at Perth Harbour. The Bridge of Earn herd of Whoopers seemed to number around 30, though the flocks seen in the area, and reported by W. Fenton, W.G.A., J.M.D., M.M., and J.H.W., fluctuated in number from 20 to 33. Other reports came from:- Paddockmuir, 6 on 1/1 (L.S.), Kingoodie 5 on 11/1 (R.C.), Lowes, 1 on 19/1 (T.R.J.), L. Earn, 6 on 27/1 (T.M.B.), Dunalastair, 20 on 5/2 and 24 on 20/3 (W.G.A.), Polney L, 5 on 17/2, 8 adult and 1 juvenile from 20-23/2, 5 on 30/3 (E.M.H.), near Coupar Angus, 5-8 throughout February (per J.H.W.), L. Dochart, 16 adult and a juvenile on 26/2 (L.S.), L. na Craig, 5 on 28/2 (J.H.W.) and near Aberfeldy, 6 on 20/2 (E.M.H.).

Among the raptors, reports of Sparrowhawk and Buzzard are widespread; one of the former even being spotted in the Tulloch area of Perth, and several of the latter apparently wintering in lowland eastern areas of the County. Golden Eagle reports come from Highland areas, as do those of Peregrine, including one of three birds together on 18/1. Hen Harriers were apparently resident at Kindrogan (M.M.), while probable passage birds occurred at Mugdrum on 8/1 (R.McM., M.M.) and Findo Gask on 16/2 (L.S.). Merlins were seen near Coupar Angus on 4/1 (I.R.J.), near Inchture on 4/2 (M.M.), Rannoch on 16/3 (R.McM., M.M.), and near Amulree on 27/3 (M.M.).

A single Blackcock was seen near L. Clunie on 4/1 (N.G.), whilst a bachelor party of 12 was seen near Calvine on 5/2 (W.G.A.) and, presumably, the same party on 27/3 (E.D.C.). Another dozen was reported from Eraes of Foss on 22/2 (M.M.) and 7 from Glen Quaich on 6/3 (W.G.A.). Two Redlegged Partridges reappeared in the same field near Guildtown where two were seen two years ago (E.D.C.). Common Partridges were reported pairing at the beginning of February (J.M.D., M.P.) - a covey at Almondbank declined in number from 20 to 2, over the three months (J.W.) - dispersal or shooting? A single Water Rail was at Mugdrum on 5/1 (R.McM.). A high count of 200 Coot was made on Marlee on 12/1 (J.W.), while two at Innerwick, Glenlyon, seemed to be breaking new ground - or water!

Most reports of waders were of the more common species moving inland to breeding areas. Numbers of Golden Plover at Invergowrie dropped from 400 at the beginning of the year to 50 on 25/2 (R.C.), but Seaside had 400 on 18/1 (R.McM.) and Cairnie Pier 500 on 15/2 (L.S.). Inland, the largest flocks were noted in March; 400 at Findo Gask on 1st (L.S.), 250 near Coupar Angus on 6th (J.H.W.), and several flocks of around 100 birds each in other localities (W.G.A., Mrs.S.L., S.L.). There was still a flock of 800 Lapwing just west of Perth at the beginning of February (L.S.) and one of 750 near Bankfoot (W.G.A.). The Kercock Curlews numbered 67 on 18/1 (I.McK., S.L.), and 60 flushed from the banks of the Earn by Dupplin on 28/2 (L.S.). Oystercatchers didn't reach Millearne, Crieff, until 1/2 (M.P.); one with crossed mandibles was found dead at Gallowflat, Glencarse, on 1/1 (L.S.). Woodcock reappeared, being reported from several places. There is a suggestion that roding ceased for a while in March, due to the cold weather. At Invergowrie Bay, Bartailed/...

Bartailed Godwits were regular, with over 300 on 12/1, several Ringed Plover and two or three Knot overwintered (R.C.). Finally two "out of place" waders; a Ringed Plover beside floodwater by Methven Moss on 1/5 (L.S.), and a Bar-tailed Godwit at floodwater by Kinfauns in March (T.B.).

There were still 30 Greater Blackbacked Gulls at Inchcoonans rubbish tip on 27/3, and three Lessers there on 3/3 (L.S.). A Greater was seen throughout the period at Pitnacree, and 5 were at Lowes on 1/2 (E.M.H.). A "white gull" at Weem on 4/2 may have been an albino Herring, or just possibly a Glaucous. Perth Harbour held over 150 Collared Doves on 16/3 (R.McM.). Yet another Barn Owl has become a traffic victim - at Kinfauns this time, around the end of January (N.G.); a live one was seen there in daylight (M.M.), and also one near Crieff (E.M.B.). A Long-eared Owl found in Glasgow Road, Perth, with a broken wing, died the same day, 25/2 (J.M.D.), and another was seen in daylight on 9/3 at Murrayshall, Scone (J.M.D.). A Short-eared was early back on breeding ground in Glen Cochill on 23/2; others were reported later at Loch na Craig and Sheriffmuir (M.M.).

A Kingfisher has been seen again in the same area near Perth as previous reported, (per Mrs. S.L.), and another not far away (J.D.). Green Woodpeckers seem to be commonest along the hill slopes above the Carse of Gowrie, but other reports are widespread, as are those of Great Spotted (E.R.B., J.D., J.M.D., Mrs. S.L., E.M.H., M.M., L.S.).

A Hooded Crow turned up at the same spot on a sandbank in the Tay off Paddockmuir, Glencarse, on 15/2 and 30/3 (L.S.), 3 were at Invergowrie on 26/2 (R.C.); 2 by the side of the A9 just south of Dalnacardoch, in deep snow, on 24/1 (E.D.C.), and six were seen together near Balquhidder on 19/2 (E.M.B.). Sightings of single Magpies have come from the Keillour area again (Mrs. S.L., S.L., M.M.), and of three from Sheriffmuir (M.M.). A flock of 8 Ravens was at Kindrogan on 2/2 (M.M.). A huge flock, 1,300 strong, of mixed crows was seen in a field near Castle Menzies, Aberfeldy on 5/2 (W.G.A.), while "a vast cloud" of the same family milled about high above Pitnacree on 19/2 (E.M.H.).

The Pied Wagtail roost mentioned in previous Bulletins was finally tracked down to Pullar's building, off Kinnoull Street, by L.S., and, independently, by J.H.W. A maximum of about 500 birds was estimated to be roosting inside the building, gaining access through ventilation slats. Grey Wagtails have wintered on the Almond (Mrs. S.L., M.M.), and on the filter beds at Glencarse and Methven (L.S.), with odd reports from elsewhere. Two cock Blackcaps were reported from Perth in March, one in Letham on 3rd (per Courier) and the other in Muirhall Terrace on 18th (A.R. Porteous). These may, of course, be two reports of the same bird, and it/they may have spent the winter in the area, or may have been on spring passage from further south.

An unprecedented number of Stonechat records has been submitted:- 3 near Kilspindie on 2/2 (E.D.C.), 1 at Aberdalgie on 28/2 (L.S.), 1 in Glen Lochay on 9/3 (M.M.), a pair (M.M.) and a cock (L.S.) near Dunning on 14/3, 1 at Kinnardochy 10/2, one near Kilmahog 24/3 (W.G.A.), 3 at Chapelhill 27/3, one Glenturret 30/3 (M.M.), and two territories being held in Little Glenshee on 30/3 (M.M.). These are most encouraging reports of a species that is very localised/...

localised and disrupted in its distribution in the County. Fieldfares and Redwings were still about throughout the period.

A flock of 10 Corn Buntings at Seaside, Errol, on 18/1 (R.McM.) is the only record for this species; also a solitary record is that of a Snow Bunting on Moulin Moor, 2/2 (M.M.), but there were widespread reports of Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting, usually in flocks of mixed finches. By far the largest Brambling flock was 200 near Lowes on 19/1 (M.M.); there were 20 at Scone on the same day (E.D.C.), 30 in the grounds of Perth Tech. on 27/1 (R.McM.), several in the grounds at Murray Royal Hospital on 4/2 (M.M.) and at Weem on the same day (E.M.H.), and 6 at Dalguise on 7/2 (E.M.H.). The largest Greenfinch flock was one of a hundred or so at Methven Moss on 1/2 (L.S.), while Goldfinch numbers reached a dozen by the Almond (Mrs. S.L., S.L., L.S.) and 20 near Methven (M.M.). There were 500 Siskins around Craig-a-Barns on 2/1 (M.M.), and 200 mixed Siskins/Redpolls at St. Fillans on 1/3 (E.M.B.), with smaller flocks of both species elsewhere, and several reports of Siskins singing and displaying. The North Muirton Linnets reached 300 on 4/2 (L.S.); Bullfinches 15 at Murrayshall on 4/2 (J.A.D.) and, in a moorland setting, 10 near L. Ordie on 2/1 (M.M.). Two Hawfinches made a fleeting appearance at Scone on 23/3 (E.D.C.) and one was seen at Bridge of Earn on 13/3 (R.McM.), but they have been seen regularly at Ardchoille (R.McM.) and Strathallan School (B.J. Gregory). Single records are forward for Crossbill, 1 at Craig-a-Barns on 2/1 (M.M.), and Twite, 40 at Sheriffmuir on 7/3 (M.M.). 30-40 Tree Sparrows were in a flock of mixed finches at Almondbank on 5/3 (Mrs. S.L.), while at East Bonhard, Scone, 20 sitting along the ridge of a farm building at dusk on 3/1 (E.D.C.) and 35 on the ground alongside on 25/1 (L.S.), suggest a roosting site nearby.

SIGNS OF SPRING.

Although no reports of the usual summer migrants, Blackcap excepted, have been received for the first three months of the year, other signs of Spring have been apparent. First dates for songsters have been reported as:- Mistle Thrush 12/1, Blackbird 2/2, Song Thrush 3/2, Great Tit 2/2, Greenfinch 1/3 and Chaffinch 2/3. The Capercaillies "popping cork" display was heard at the end of March, and a mixed choir of Fieldfares and Redwings sang from treetops in the sun on 23/3.

A Blackbird was gathering nesting material on 10/3, while the ground was still white after heavy overnight frost, and Longtailed Tits were nest-building on 24/3.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR.

Summer visitors should be flooding in by the time you read this, so take note of "first dates" please, and keep check of "last dates" for lingering winter visitors. Keep an eye open for the rarer breeders - more Ospreys, Slavonian Grebe, inland Ringed Plovers and terns - but please remember to avoid disturbance, and also for unexpected migrants, "vagrants" rather, such as last year's Hoopoe.

SURVEYS.

The National Rookery Survey is coming to a close now with the advent of Spring/...

Spring. Several Members have been very busy assisting with this Survey, but the response from the general membership of the Section to my appeal for information on the location of rookeries has been very poor. (E.D.C.).

Great Crested Grebe Census. The last national census of the Grebe took place in 1965, and the present one is scheduled for Sunday, 1st June. It is hoped to cover all the Grebe waters in the country on the same day, so that as accurate a count as possible is obtained. Bob McMillan is organising the Census for Perthshire as a Section Outing, so a good turnout is requested for 1/6.

Although the actual Census is a one-day affair, any reports of Great Crested Grebe numbers on waters in Perthshire before and after that date would be appreciated, as they could provide an important check if, for example, June 1st was a typical Scottish summer day of heavy rain and poor visibility! County waters known to hold Great Crested Grebes are the Dunkeld to Blairgowrie chain of lochs, Stare Dam and, round Crieff, Drummond Pond, Monzievairst Loch, and Loch of Balloch. News of Grebes on any other waters will be welcomed.

OUTINGS.

On the first outing of the new season, fourteen Members were conducted round Invergowrie Bay by local resident Member, Ron Calligan, whom we thank for an interesting, if uneventful evening. The state of the tide was not good for wader spotting, but those unfamiliar then with Shelduck and their amorous "quacking" or "honking", should no longer be so. Redshank, Oystercatcher and Curlew of the shore birds, Bullfinch and Linnet of the scrub, were seen, while a lucky few spotted the first Swallow of the summer as it swooped past - no doubt heading back for Africa and real summer!

The outing to Glengarr on 7th May was favoured by fine weather and attracted a record number of members. As usual, the bird-life was interesting and varied. Amongst the whins on the low ground we saw the nests of Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe. On the trip up the glen the distinctive call of the Green Woodpecker was heard twice and on the return trip we were rewarded with a fine view of the bird as it flew across the path. A pair of Buzzards circled overhead and a pair of Ring Ouzels were noted among the rocks. Other birds seen included Stonechat, Cuckoo, Red Grouse, Wheatear, Pheasant, Mistle Thrush, Wren and Golden Plover.

The next Section Outing is on 21st May to Laird's Loch, Coupar Angus, where a variety of habitats should produce some interesting species.

We hope that the next Bulletin will cover the period March to June, so all records and observations for these months, please, to the Recorder, R. McMillan, 29 Lewis Place, North Muirton, Perth PH1 3BD, as early as possible in July.

Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to these records, acknowledged by their initials were:-
Mr. and Mrs. Amedro (WGA), Mr. and Mrs. T. Binny (TB), Miss E.M. Elggart, R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, J. Dagger, J.M. Duncan, Mrs. E.M. Harvey, N. Golby, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk jnr., Mrs. S. Laing, Miss S. Laing, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R. McMillan, M. Marsland, Miss M. Piper, L. Schofield, J.H. Wallace and J. Watt.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR APRIL/JUNE 1975.

BIRD-NESTING AT STRATHALLAN SCHOOL.

B.J. GREGORY.

During the months of May, June, and part of July, a small group of boys spent a great deal of time and energy bird-nesting in the grounds of Strathallan School, Forgardenny. Contrary to the objects of most small boys' bird-nesting, the object of their efforts was to observe nests for the British Trust for Ornithology's Nest Record Scheme. Record cards were completed for all occupied nests found and, wherever possible, the nests were followed up in order to discern ultimate failure or success. A total of 156 nests of 21 species was recorded, as follows:-

<u>Species.</u>	<u>No. of nests.</u>	<u>success.</u>	<u>failed.</u>	<u>outcome unknown</u>	<u>No. of: eggs.</u>	<u>hatched young</u>	<u>fledged young</u>
Partridge	1	1	-	-	16	16	?
Pheasant	1	1	-	-	10	9-10	?
Moorhen	1	1	-	-	5	4	?
Wood Pigeon	8	1	3	4	16	8 (4nests)	2
Collared Dove	1	-	1	-	2	0	0
Swallow	5	5	-	-	22	21	19
Great Tit	3	3	-	-	18	16	16
Blue Tit	7	7	-	-	58	53	53
Wren	8	5	1	2	41 (7nests)	24-28 (5nests)	17-23
Mistle Thrush	1	-	1	-	4	0	0
Song Thrush	34	16	8	10	137	93-95 (26nests)	52
Blackbird	33	9	21	3	125	54-58 (18nests)	27
Robin	3	3	-	-	15	15	13
Willow Warbler	1	1	-	-	6	6	6
Dunnock	3	3	-	-	11	10	9
Pied Wagtail	4	2	1	1	16	9 (2nests)	9
Starling	1	1	-	-	?	?	4
Greenfinch	13	9	4	-	56	35	34
Bullfinch	1	-	1	-	3	0	0
Chaffinch	25	10	9	6	80 (20nests)	67 (17nests)	36-41
House Sparrow	2	1	1	-	8	8	4

DAWN CHORUS AT PITNACREE.

E.M. HARVEY.

Mrs. Harvey, having risen before the Lark on 8th June, has contributed the following details on the times of the first bird songs and calls that morning:

2.50 a.m. Oystercatchers.

3.05/...

3.05 a.m. Black-headed Gulls.
3.12 Song Thrush.
3.20 Robin.
3.26 Blackbird, and a startled Swallow.
3.30 chorus of Song Thrush, Blackbird and Robin.
3.45 daylight, and the chorus continues.
3.49 Rooks cawing as a pair cross the valley.
3.53 Moorhen squawking.
3.55 Wren sings briefly.
4.00 Song Thrushes silent, Blackbird still loud and clear.
4.01 return to bed.

PERSONALITIES.

Slavonian Grebe. A pair has been seen on Lowes during May and June, but there has been no evidence of breeding (E.M.H.).

Osprey. Although a pair has been seen regularly in the Lowes area, the birds have failed to settle down to breed.

Marsh Harrier. An immature male of this rare species was identified in the Carse of Lecropt in early July, and a satisfactory description submitted (D. Waugh).

Dotterel. One seen on a mountain range in mid-County during the breeding season could well have had a mate nearby. Dotterels appear to be expanding their breeding range southwards and could be more numerous in the county (I.McK., Miss S.L.).

Troutfisher. There is a report of a pair on the Earn, and one, possibly two, pairs have bred near Perth. On 25/6 four fledged young were seen, and photographed - so there can be no doubt of that record! (Mrs. S.L., M.M.).

Widgeon. One at Strathyre on 28/6 is the second record in successive breeding seasons from the southwest of the county, which is very encouraging for a declining species. (M.M.).

Red Flycatcher. There was a male singing at Almondbank on 29/5 (M.M.), and 13 pairs have bred at the usual site in the Trossachs (H. Robb). Like the Hawfinch, this species is probably not as scarce as records suggest, and would reward those who searched carefully in the few decent oakwoods we have in the area.

Crossbill. A party was reported at Faskally, Pitlochry on 8/5 (per Miss J. Stirling), and a family party at Strathyre in June (A. Mitchell).

Hawfinch. Three were seen at Moulinalmond on 29/5, with the male feeding a female in courtship display - the third bird was possibly immature (M.M.). Similar display was noted at Ardchoille, where a pair again bred and successfully fledged four young (R.McM.). A pair has also been seen at Strathallan, and may have bred (B.J.G.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

A pair of Black-throated Divers has bred again at the mid-county site (I.McK., Miss S.L., M.A. et al), and another at a new site in Rannoch (R.McM.). A report on the Great Crested Grebe Census will appear later, but pairs on L. Freuchie/...

L. Freuchie (B.J.G.) and Mill Dam, Dunkeld (M.M.) appear to be on new sites; an early passage bird was on the Tay at Paddockuir 28/6 (L.S.). At least six Little Grebes were on L. Voil, 13/4, with two pairs holding territory (E.D.C.). About 50 Cormorants were roosting at the mouth of the Earn on 14/4 (B.J.G.), while the nearby heronry held 33 pairs of breeding Hérons, and is now one of the largest in Scotland (R.McM., L.S.).

High duck counts for the time of year were 16 Pochard at Stormont Loch on 17/5, 40 Tufted there on 7/5 (J.M.D.), and 19 Goosander at Forgardenny on 5/4 (L.S.). Three Gadwall were at Strathallan on 7/4, and two, possibly out of these three, at White Moss Loch three days later (B.J.G.). A pair of Shoveler on Stormont 7/5 (J.M.D.) is not entirely unexpected, but where was the pair in flight over Glenalmond on 14/4 bound for? (B.J.G.). A drake Goldeneye lingered on the Lowes until 25/6 (E.M.H.).

There were still 300 Greylag Geese at Forgardenny on 22/4 (B.J.G.), and the same number of Pinkfeet at Methven Moss on 2/5 (E.D.C.). Four Barnacle were seen at Tibbermore on 12/4, and a single there the next day (M.M., E.D.C.). Late Whooper Swans were reported from L. Earn, 12 on 10/4 (E.R.B.), L. Kennard, 12 on 11/4 (B.J.G.) - coincidence? or one day's flight on the northward journey? - the North Inch on 24/5 (L.S.), and lastly, Lowes on 28/6 (E.M.H.).

Sparrowhawks successfully fledged four young in Glenalmond (J.K., M.M.), while two nests of Merlin, each with 4 eggs, were known in the Rannoch area, (R.McM., M.M. et al). Hen Harriers were seen in display near Amulree on 26/4 (M.M.), while other reports come from L. Kennard and Rannoch. A Peregrine appeared at Lowes on 7/6 (E.M.H.).

Reports of Ptarmigan came from the usual Highland areas; and of hen Capercaillies with young from Methven and Scone (M.M., E.D.C.), while good numbers are reported from Keillour Forest (J.L.I.). Red-legged Partridges were also seen in their usual haunts - a pair near Alyth on 27/4 and two pairs in the Wolfhill area 29/6 (E.D.C.), while one was "chuffing" on the parapet of a railway bridge at Ballathie on 24/5 (L.S.) - having gone off the rails, no doubt! A pair of Common Partridge at St. Fillans had 12 young on 22/6 (E.R.B.).

Breeding records of Ringed Plover come from the Tay at Scone Palace and Haughs of Kercock, the Earn and Errochty (B.J.G., M.M., L.S.). Early nesting Woodcock near Almondbank had 3 young on 23/4 (Mrs. S.L.), but a bird was still roding on 20/6 over Woody Island (L.S.). Golden Plover numbers were said to be high in the Glenalmond area (J.L.I.); and two Dunlin stayed at Kercock throughout May and June (L.S.).

A good passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was noted, with 41 near Tibbermore on 13/4 and 51 at Madderty on 2/5 (E.D.C.). A number of very dark mantled birds in these flocks suggests that they may have been of Scandinavian origin. Colonies of Common Gulls at Kercock and L. Tummel produced good numbers of young; a nesting colony discovered at Lochan Breaclaich, L. Tay held over 70 birds on 21/6 (I.McK.). By 24/5 numbers of/...

of Common Tern were well up to usual at Kercock, and at least six pairs were incubating; a single bird was seen about the Old Bridge in Perth on several days in mid June (R.McM.).

Cuckoos seem to be making a comeback in lowland areas, with reports from Scone Palace, Woody Island, Pitcairngreen, Methven Castle, Rait and Glen Garr, which always produces at least one for the Section Outing. A pair of Barn Owls raised 5 young near Pitcairngreen (R.McM.), while, on 7/6, one was found at 1,300 ft., above Kinloch Rannoch, sharing a crag with an immature Peregrine (R.McM., M.M., L.S.). Definite breeding records of Green Woodpecker come from Dunkeld and Almondbank (M.M.), and of Great Spotted from Almondbank (Mrs. S.L., M.M.). Other records are much more widespread for Green, than for Spotted.

The general opinion seems to be that there are fewer Swallows and House Martins about than usual, with arrival generally late. Many small Swallow broods have been noted, and it's suggested this might be due to lack of insect life during the long dry spell (I.McL.). Conversely, opinion suggests that numbers of Swifts and Sand Martins are up compared to the usual. The Recorder would welcome any comment on numbers of these four species this summer. Many Members have probably noticed how quick Sand Martins are to take advantage of a suitable sand "cliff" for nesting, as illustrated by the road works at Kinfauns. More remotely, a Swift was seen at about the 3,000 ft. mark near Ben Lawers on 22/6 (I.McK., Miss S.L.). (Swifts have been recorded breeding at 3,786 ft. on the summit of Ichnagar).

There are still reports of Magpie from the usual area but, alas, there may be fewer in future, as one met its fate at the talons of a Sparrowhawk, being found at a plucking post in Keillour Forest (R.McM., M.M., L.S.). Another unfortunate affair concerns Dippers in Glenalmond, where a high rate of infertility and predation resulted in only 14 young fledging from 25 eggs laid (J.E.I.).

This year no marked spring passage of Fieldfares was noted as in previous years, only small numbers being seen during April. One late bird, giving alarm notes in a small plantation near Scone on 15/5, raised hopes of a breeding record, but it was not seen again (E.D.C.). A "very bright" Redwing accompanied Song Thrushes at Milleerne on 6/4 (M.P.), and two were seen in Glenshee on 15/4 (B.J.G.).

The only report of Grasshopper Warbler came from Lowes in June (E.M.H.), and of a Garden Warbler from Loch Tayside, on the northern fringe of its range in Scotland, on 22/6 (I.McK.). Two reports of Chiffchaff from Almondbank may have been of the same bird, though one was in April (M.M.) and the other in May (Mrs. S.L.). Blackcaps were reported from Strathallan, Almond mouth and Scone/Stormontfield (B.J.G., L.S., E.D.C.); Wood Warblers from Logierait, Loch Tayside, Faskally, Glen Tilt, Killiecrankie, Almondbank and Kinnoull Hill (M.M., E.D.C., Mrs. S.L., B.J.G.). Whitethroats are still scarce, though three pairs were reported breeding at Stanley Farm (P.B.S.).

Goldfinches seem to be increasing in our area, with numbers reported from Scone, Almond mouth, Bridge of Earn and Glen Lyon (E.D.C., M.M., R.McM., L.S./...)

L.S.). Singing Corn Buntings were noted at Tibbermore, Dunning (two at each place) and Aberuthven (L.S., M.M., B.J.G.) - even such small numbers represent an increase on last year's records for the same period! 20 Snow Buntings were seen in Glen Lochay on 11/4 (B.J.G.). About 20 pairs of Tree Sparrows were found nesting in elms at Kintillo (R.McM.), and one pair used a nest box at Stanley Farm (P.B.S.).

ARRIVAL DATES.

The number of Members submitting notes on the first arrival dates of summer migrants was very encouraging. Most "first dates" were later than normal, and the birds were slow to appear in any great numbers. The list reads as follows:-

Common Sandpiper: 23/4 Almondbank (L.S.); Kenmore (R.McM.).
Cuckoo: 28/4 Murrayshall (J.M.D.), 3/5 Glenalmond (M.M.).
Swift: 7/5 Perth (L.S.), but main arrival mid-May.
Swallow: 16/4 Invergowrie (Section Outing), 20/4 Almondbank (Mrs.S.L.), 21/4 Perth (L.S.), 22/4 Hillearne (M.P.), 23/4 Stanley (P.B.S.), Kenmore (R.McM.), increasing numbers thereafter until main arrival early May.
House Martin: 30/4 Stanley (per R.McM.), 2/5 Forgandenny (B.J.G.) - much later than usual.
Sand Martin: 15/4 Perth (R.McM.), main influx from 20/4.
Ring Ouzel: 22/4 Kinkell (M.P.), 26/4 Glenalmond (M.M.) - rather late.
Wheatear: 14/4 Amulree (B.J.G.).
Redstart: 3/5 Sma' Glen (M.M.).
Sedge Warbler: 4/5 Almond mouth (L.S.).
Blackcap: 6/5 Strathallan (B.J.G.).
Willow Warbler: 23/4 Scone (E.D.C.), Strathallan (B.J.G.), 24/4 Cherrybank (L.S.), 25/4 Stanley (P.B.S.).
Chiffchaff: 22/4 Almondbank (M.M.).
Wood Warbler: 4/5 Logierait (M.M.), 9/5 Kinnoull Hill (B.J.G.).
Spotted Flycatcher: 15/5 Scone (E.D.C.), 20/5 Strathallan (B.J.G.).
Tree Pipit: 9/5 Kinnoull Hill - five singing males (B.J.G.).

RINGING RECOVERIES.

Two recoveries of local interest have come to hand, per R.McM.: - A Common Gull ringed as a pullus (nestling) at L. Tummel on 23/6/74 was found, recently dead, at Ardmore Point, Dunbartonshire on 27/1/75, about 60 miles S.S.W. A Grey Wagtail ringed at Newton Brig, Sma' Glen on 5/7/74 was controlled (i.e. caught and released) on the Craigmill Burn at Erbroath on 17/5/75, a movement of about 45 miles East, which is difficult to interpret.

OUTINGS.

The outing arranged to assist in the National Great Crested Grebe Census was very poorly attended, but those who did take part put in a power of good work, for which Bob McMillan is very grateful. We hope to have an article on/...

on the results of the census in our next issue.

Rather more Members visited the S.W.F. hide at Lintrathen Loch, where we were met by Mr. Garrick and Mr. Smoker of the local branch. Here the main interest was the newly established heronry. Unfortunately it was very difficult to pick out the nests among the trees, even with the fixed, high-power binocular. Mallard and Tufted Duck were plentiful, but it seems that a visit in Oct./Nov., with ducks and geese arriving for the winter, would be much more rewarding. (E.D.C.).

The outing to the St. Cyrus Nature Reserve, just north of Montrose, was attended by only nine Members, but those who were there enjoyed a lovely, sunny day, with a good variety of birds to be seen. This included three members of the Tern family - Little, Common and Arctic, which were not having a very successful nesting season, due mainly to bad weather conditions earlier in the year. A few Eider were seen out at sea, and Kinged Plover, Redshank, Common Sandpiper and a Heron on the estuary. While watching these, four Bartailed Godwit circled around overhead, watching us! The first of our winter visitors had also arrived! - three Greylag which had appeared at the Reserve only that day. A number of pairs of Stonechats were busily feeding young in the gorse bushes behind the sand dunes, where Redpoll and Linnet were also seen. It was altogether a very interesting outing, and our thanks are due to Peter Dalton, the summer Warden, and Norman Atkinson, who conducted us through the Reserve. (Miss S.L.).

ISLE OF MAY OUTING.

This has now been confirmed for Saturday, 6th September, 1975. In order to arrange boat accommodation all bookings should be made to the Secretary (Perth 24013) by August 26th at the latest. The boat carries a maximum of twelve passengers but more than one can be obtained if there is sufficient demand. It is naturally a case of first come first served. The charge for the boat will be £1.70p. per head. About 3 hours will be allowed ashore on the island. The outing will leave from the Museum at 10.30 a.m. Members should realise that the trip can only take place under favourable weather conditions.

N.B.:- Now that the exact date and cost have been established would those members who provisionally booked some time ago, please confirm that they still wish to go.

The final outing of the season is to the Eden Estuary on Sunday, 14th September, when a good variety of waders should be on view.

BIRD-WATCHING COURSE.

Attention is drawn to a non-vocational course in Bird-watching, which is to be held in Perth Technical College during the coming Term. Details can be found in the College syllabus. Members could perhaps draw this to the attention of friends who are interested in birds, but not, yet, interested enough to join the Section.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Would Members please note the Recorder's new address,

R.L. McMillan, 44, Durley Dene Crescent, Kintillo, Bridge of Earn, Perth,
to/...

to which all records for July/September should be sent - now come on, please, all you folk who see interesting birds and bird behaviour, but don't bother reporting them!

Editor:- E.D. Cameron, 14, Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials are:- Miss E.R. Biggart, E.D. Cameron, J.M. Duncan, B.J. Gregory, Mrs. E.M. Harvey, J.L. Innes, J. Kirk jnr., Mrs. S. Laing, Miss S. Laing, Mrs. I. McKinnie, I. McLachlan, R. McMillan, M. Marsland, Miss M. Piper, L. Schofield, and Mrs. P.B. Scott.

WINTER PROGRAMME.

Your copy of the Section's Winter Programme is enclosed. The Committee hope that you will find it interesting. Do come along to the meetings and bring any friends who are interested, as all the speakers deserve a good attendance. Further copies of the Programme can be obtained from the Secretary.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JULY/SEPTEMBER 1975.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE SURVEY.

The 1975 Great Crested Grebe census unfortunately did not inspire much enthusiasm among Members, but it did provide some interesting results.

The table below shows interesting comparison with previous years, particularly as regards the effects of fishing on the Grebe population, as at Butterstone and Lake of Menteith. It also points to an interesting extension of range to lochs on higher ground and in more secluded locations. This could be the result of disturbance on lowland breeding sites, as the number of adult birds estimated to be present is identical to the 1965 count, 84, though the number actually seen to be present has increased, from 65 to 75 birds.

Unfortunately too little data on breeding is available to carry out any analysis of breeding success in this area.

I would like to thank all those who helped with the survey, particularly Miss S.A. Laing, Mr. and Mrs. T. Binny and Mr. H. Robb. R.L. McMillan.

	<u>No. of Adult Birds 1965</u>	<u>No. of Pairs 1973</u>	<u>Unmated Birds 1973</u>	<u>No. of Young 1973</u>	<u>No. of Adult Birds 1975</u>
Loch of Balloch	2	1	0	0	1(2)
Loch of Butterstone	6(10)	4	1	0.W	2
Carsebreck	1	?0	0
Loch of Clunie	2(6)	4	0	1	7(10)
Loch of Craiglush	3(4)	1	1	0.W	5
Pond of Drummond	2	1	0	1	2
Dupplin Main Loch	4)	2	0	0	5(6)
Dupplin Little Loch	2)	4
Fingask Loch	0(2)	0	1	0	0
Lairds Loch	2	1	0	0	0
Loch of Lowes	6(8)	7	0	3.W	11
Marlee Loch	5(8)	6	0	0	2(4)
Lake of Menteith	14	5-6	0	c5	7(8)
Monk Myre	0(2)	0	0	0	0
Loch Monzievaird(Ochertyre)	2	1	0	1(2)	0
Rae Loch	1(2)	1	0	?	1(2)
Redmyre Loch	1	0	0	0	0
Stare Dam	2	1	0	3	4
Stormont Loch	8	2	0	0.W	16
Loch Watson	2	0	0	0	0
White Loch (Blairgowrie)	0	1	0	4	2
Loch Freuchie					2
Mill Dam					2
Glenfarg Reservoir					2

Brackets refer to estimated totals.

? denotes No. was unknown.

W denotes exceptionally low water level.

NATIONAL ROOKERY CENSUS 1975.

Several Members helped to survey the area of the County roughly north of the Earn valley and eastward to Longforgan, plus the Dunning/Glenfarg area.

As the Rook is essentially a bird of arable land, its stronghold here lies in the south-east, within a radius of about 20Km. of Perth itself. From this hub, rookeries are found strung out along the river valleys - Earn, upper Tay, Tummel, Isla - reaching up into the Highland areas. Out of fifty-one 10Km. Squares surveyed, twenty-seven, mainly in the north and west, contained no rookeries at all. The others produced 76 rookeries, containing a total of 5,434 nests, over 4,000 of them in the "hub" area.

The less densely populated Squares tended to have nests concentrated into only one rookery, this being the case in eight Squares - the number of nests ranging from 10 to 72. Of the other rookeries, 22 contained fewer than 10 nests; 12 contained over 100, the largest having over 500. Thus most rookeries held between 10 and 100 nests.

While most rookeries were found below the 500 ft. contour, outliers in the Highlands reached 750 ft. on north Loch Tayside and in Glenlyon.

Where observers noted the species of trees used, by far the largest number of nests were built in Scots pine, with beech and oak close together as second and third favourites. Sycamores were utilised quite often, with smaller numbers of ash, elm, lime, birch, larch, cedar and various other conifers.

As a footnote to all this, I should like to draw Members' attention to an article in Scottish Birds on Winter Rook Roosts in Scotland. The author lists five roosts in Perthshire; at Battleby, Marlee Loch, Rossie Priory, Highlandman and Doune; but suggests that there may be others still to be found. So any information on roosting Rooks, or on evening flights in a particular direction, as if towards a roost, would be most welcome. -

T.D. Cameron.

* THE TAY ESTUARY.

The true importance of the inner Tay Estuary has only been realised by increased observer cover during the last five years. Our knowledge of the wildfowl and waders that frequent the estuary is still limited, and there are continuing rewards for those few who persevere in their bird watching here.

On 25th August the Recorder was able to accompany Nature Conservancy officials on a boat trip between Earnmouth and Seaside, examining the many inlets and islets around Mugdrum, which cannot be observed properly from the shore. The results were even better than expected, particularly wildfowl - c800 Mallard, 500 Wigeon and 500 Teal, along with a good number of Shelduck. There were 37 Canada Geese, presumably on passage south following their annual moult on the Beaully Firth. Wader-wise, there were 8 Greenshank, a few Ruff, over 200 Golden Plover and an incredible 3,000 or so Lapwing. These/...

These counts illustrate the importance of the upper part of the estuary, particularly for Wigeon and Teal at this time. One wonders how quickly these birds disperse following the start of wildfowl shooting on 1st September! Now, what about an annual P.S.N.S. boat outing down the Tay?

Apart from this trip, the Tay has produced many good records during late summer, with Ron Calligan again doing sterling work at Invergowrie, and others observing elsewhere. It was a good year for Terns, with Sandwich counts at Seaside reaching 40 on several occasions during Aug./Sept; similarly with "Comic" Terns, with a few Little for variety. The wader highlight has been a good passage of Curlew Sandpipers, with up to 19 at Invergowrie Bay on 13/9, plus a few at Seaside. Ruff numbers were higher than usual, with 12 at Seaside in mid Sept. Single Blacktailed Godwit have been recorded at Port Allen and Seaside, with several during the period at Invergowrie. Spotted Redshank have been regular, but not in such impressive numbers as last year. A few Grey Plover put in appearances during Sept. along with Little Stints, three of the latter being seen at Seaside. Single Whimbrel were regular throughout the period, with a single at Earnmouth in July. Seaside was good for duck, and it appears to have been a particularly good year for breeding Shelduck. Up to 12 Shoveler were seen regularly, along with a small number of Pintail, and on 20/9 a flock of 17 Pochard flew west up the estuary. (Records from R.C., J.K., M.M., R.L.M., L.S.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

At least one young Great Crested Grebe fledged successfully at the Mill Dam, Dunkeld (M.M.), and a juvenile was on the Tay at North Muirton on 17/9. (L.S.). Cormorants were seen regularly on the Tay above Dunkeld during the summer (M.B.), and in the upper estuary, with 7 at Inchyra on 26/9 (L.S.). Observations of several Herons together came from Kingoodie, Isla Bridge, Stormont, Dupplin and Sleepless Inch, while a pair is reported to have bred successfully at a new site.

Redmyre Loch held two broods of Teal, as well as a dozen drake Pochard on 2/7 (E.D.C.). Several Gadwall were seen near Perth on 5/7 (M.M.) and 25 Shoveler at Stormont on 3/9 (J.M.D.), but there have been no reports of Mandarin for some time now. Two reports of Mergansers with young, totalling up to 32 birds come from the Woody Islands area in July (M.M., L.S.), and one of Goosander with young, also on the Tay on 6/7 (L.S.). There was a maximum of 56 young Shelduck at Invergowrie on 4/8 (R.C.). Eleven free flying Greylag appeared on Kerewhip Bank, off Mugdrum Island on 2/8 (L.S.) - very early migrants? Escapees? Or what? A leucistic, or fawn-coloured, Pinkfoot was seen at Windyedge on 27/9 (J.K.).

A Golden Eagle was seen at close quarters at the head of Glen Errochty on/...

on 9/9 (M.M.). Buzzards seemed to move into lowland areas during Aug./Sept., with one over Murrayshall on 17/8, two there on 12/9 (J.M.D.), one in the Pitroddie/Glencarse area on 2/8 and again on 20/9, 1 in Glen Garr the same day (N.G.), with up to 3 in easter Glenalmond on 27/9 (M.M., J.S.). Sparrowhawks appear to have had a good breeding season, and a Goshawk has been reported from a likely area. There are several records of Hen Harriers in Highland areas in August (M.M.), and a Peregrine circled over the Methven area on 27/9 (L.S.).

At Seaside, an adult and a juvenile Water Rail were seen on 27/8, and several other birds heard calling, suggesting possible breeding pairs of this most elusive bird (R.L.M.). Estuarine wader records have already been summarised, and there were few reports from elsewhere; flocks of around 1,000 Lapwings frequented the Tibbermore area in July, and c100 Golden Plover were back at their usual haunt at Huntingtower by 27/9 (L.S.). The high number of 27 Common Sandpiper were at Earnmouth on 16/7 (R.L.M.).

There was evidence to suggest that Common Terns bred on the Earn near Forteviot (L.S.), and several sub-adults were on the Tay at Perth in early July (M.M.). About 30 Sandwich Terns were off Errol airfield on 8/8, and on 11/8 four flew upriver at Perth, returning downstream a few minutes later. Several were recorded at Inchyra (L.S.) and Invergowrie (R.C.).

The first Collared Dove to be seen at Almondbank arrived on 19/7 (S.L.). A Barn Owl was hunting around Cairnie Pier at dusk on 26/9 (L.S.). Green Woodpecker reports were widespread, the most northerly from Clunes Lodge, north of Calvine on 31/8 (E.D.C.). Reports of Great Spotted were fewer, though just as widespread. A new Sand Martin colony of about 100 pairs was discovered at Luncarty (L.S.); young House Martins were still in the nest at the end of September. Scattered roosts of Swallows in the reedbeds between Inchyra and Kingoodie built up to at least 3,000 birds, and possibly many more. Roosting Sand Martins were much more concentrated, with a peak of 8,000 birds on 17/7 (R.L.M., L.S.).

Four Ravens were seen at the summit of Ben Lawers on 10/8, and one in the less likely locality of Cogbrae, Methven, on 13/9 (M.M.). Up to 4 Magpies were seen together near Glenalmond; one was feeding on roadside carrion (M.M.). Records of breeding, or presumed breeding, Stonechats came from Glenalmond, Little Glen Shee, Braes of Foss and Pitroddie (M.M., L.S.); Redstarts bred near Coupar Angus (F.S.W.). Four Wheatears on waste ground at North Muirton were presumably on passage (M.M.).

Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat numbers have been high around Inveralmond, with successful breeding (M.M.). Four singing male Blackcaps were located in the Scone/Stornontfield area, with young reared here and at Coupar Angus (E.D.C. /...)

(E.D.C., F.S.W.). Grasshopper Warblers were heard at Dupplin, Inchyra and Dunkeld (M.M., L.S., M.B.).

Up until 23/9, there were no Pied Wagtails using the Pullar's roost, but roosting movements were noted on the estuary from about this date (L.S.). On 15/8, 150 were roosting in a potato field at Bridge of Tarn. Nearby there was also a roost of about the same number of Linnets (R.L.M.). Crossbills appeared at Deuchny Wood, 1 on 31/7; Keillour, 5 on 7/8; Drumabuich, 1 on 9/9 (M.M.), and Coupar Angus, a juvenile on 13/8 (F.S.W.). There were many records of Goldfinches, a species which seems to be on the increase, and several of Twite in Highland areas. The declining Corn Bunting produced two jangling males near Coupar Angus on 7/7 (F.D.C.) and one at Tibbermore on 15/9 (M.M.).

THE LAST AND THE FIRST.

The latest dates recorded for the commoner summer migrants were:-

11/8 Cuckoo - a rufous-phase bird at Muirhall, Perth (J.M.D.)

26/8 Swift at Kintillo (R.L.M.), though one seen carrying food to nest at Almondbank on 24/8 (S.L.).

27/8 Spotted Flycatcher at Perth (R.L.M.).

11/9 Willow Warbler at Errol (R.I.M.).

14/9 Ring Ouzel at Drumochter (M.M.).

17/9 Sand Martin hawking over Tay at North Muirton (L.S.).

18/9 Wheatear last seen at Invergowrie (R.C.).

Swallows and House Martins were still present well into October.

The first of the winter visitors, Pinkfeet, arrived in mid-September, with reports from Doune on 13th (R.I.M.), Dupplin on 14th (L.S.) and Dunning on 15th (N.G.). The main arrival seems to have begun about the 21st with heavy passage of both Pinkfeet and Greylag over Kinfauns (N.G.). By the end of the month, many thousands of Pinkfeet were present in the Tibbermore area.

Fieldfares and Redwings also appeared in September. The only date actually reported was for 25th near Scone (E.D.C.).

STOP PRESS. 4 Waxwings at Almondbank on 22/10 (S.L.), and others at Scone on 1/11 and Kinnoull 12/11.

RINGING RECOVERIES.

A Swallow ringed at a roost at Errol on 20/8/74 was reported "caught" at Ilha do Principe, Gulf of Guinea on 19/5/75.

A Blackbird ringed as a nestling at Callander on 12/5/73 was recovered at Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire on 16/3/75, an odd northerly movement. However, another Blackbird ringed in Glenalmond on 13/5/74, took a southerly direction, being found dead at Eddleston, Peebles on 30/6/75.

OUTING TO EDEN ESTUARY 14/9/75.

A/...

A party of fourteen joined forces at Guardbridge about noon, and soon made their way down over the old railway track to the grassy bank above the shoreline. The light was rather variable - dull, with occasional bursts of sunshine.

The expected waders and duck were readily identified, with good numbers of Golden Plover, Redshank, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin, Mallard and Wigeon. With the tide on the way out and the birds receding, I fear some other interesting visitors may well have been overlooked. We missed the infallible diagnostic authority which Bob and John had provided last year, though certainly one Greenshank was seen flying downriver.

With the water's edge ever receding, we decided to make tracks for home via Merton Lochs. A little tree felling was in progress, but in spite of the disturbance, the visit was well worthwhile. There were small numbers of Mallard and one Greenshank on the South water, and four Shelduck on the North.

An unidentified predator, (larger than a Kestrel, pale brown on the back, S.L.). put up no less than 20 Herons from the trees at the north-west corner of the lochs, as a final sight to round off a very happy outing in good company.

J. Kirk.

The number of observers contributing records for this period has fallen below what we have come to expect, perhaps due to it covering the holiday season. So, now that winter is upon us, keep your eyes open, and let us know what you have seen. Waxwings have already been reported, there may be more about; there are Barnacle and White-fronted Geese to be found among the Pinkfeet around Methven Moss; Whooper Swans are arriving - separate adults and young in your counting, if possible. All your records and observations for October to December, please to R.L. McMillan, 44, Durley Dene Crescent, Kintillo, Bridge of Earn, Perth.

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R.S.P.B. The annual film show is to be held in the Old People's Hall, Tay Street, on 8th December, 1975, at 7.30 p.m.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1975.

PERSONALITIES.

WAXWING. Waxwings appeared regularly at Invergowrie throughout November and December, with a maximum of 18 on 20/11 (R.C.). In and around Perth, reports for November come from Scone, 3 on 1st, Kinnoull on 12th (N.B.) and Methven, 2 on 30th (D.F.). December reports come mainly from the Viewlands area, as they did last year too. Flocks ranged in number from 6 in Anderson Drive on 4th (J.H.W.), 10-20 in Viewlands (I.McK.) and 25-30 in the same area on 20th (J.M.D.), up to 50 in nearby Cherrybank Grove on 28th (M.H. and D.D. Freeland).

It is difficult to assess the actual number of birds involved here, though obviously fifty must be the minimum. More puzzling still is by which route did these birds arrive? As remarked in last year's Bulletin for the same period, the general pattern is for Waxwings to be noted first in bulk in the Invergowrie area; then to disperse inland, up-river, appearing around Perth in smaller flocks. This winter, however, Ron Calligan, "our man in Invergowrie", had a maximum of eighteen birds there at any one time. So, did he miss a big arrival in December, or did the birds miss Invergowrie, or did they trickle through and then join forces at Cherrybank? Has any Member unreported records of Waxwings that might shed some light on the mystery?

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. There have been two records of this regular winter visitor so far: one at Tibbermore on 13/10 (E.J. Maguire), and the other at Tummel Bridge on 31/10 (B. Campbell).

PALASS'S WARBLER. This very rare eastern warbler was identified at Killinchonan, Loch Rannoch, on 15/10. The record has been submitted to the Rarities Committee, and if it is accepted, as seems likely, it will be only the third for the mainland of Scotland. (W.D. Campbell).

SNOW BUNTING. On 28/11 Ben Lawers held a flock of 200 (M.M.).

CROSSBILL. Pairs were noted in lower Glenalmond throughout October, and 5 on one occasion (M.M.). Ten were seen in the Black Wood of Rannoch on 26/10 (J.P. Waltho).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes reported in October were 7 on L. Clunie on 12th, and 5 at Stormont the next day, but there are no reports since then. Numbers of Little Grebes at Isla Bridge were the largest for five years - 7 on 2/9, 5 on 13/10 and again on 15/12; six on Marlee Loch on 9/11 gave the impression of being a brood of half-grown diving ducks - diving under in quick succession, then rushing together to form a compact group again as they surfaced. (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK., E.D.C.).

Inland Cormorants are fairly frequent, but 17 at Kinclaven Bridge on 16/11 is notable. (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK.).

The highest count of Mallard was 960 on the inner Tay Estuary on 29/12 (R.McM.), and on fresh water, 300 at Stormont on 15/12 (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK.). Wigeon were present in fair numbers throughout the period, with c200 on the Tay near Meikleour in Nov. and Dec., c300 on various sections of the Isla on 16/11 /...

16/11; previously there had been 175 at Paddockmuir on 24/10. (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK., E.D.C., I.R.J., L.S.). There were up to 9 Pintail daily at Invergowrie, and a single Scaup on 5 and 6/10 (R.C., J.K.). 16 Shoveler were at Stormont on 13/10, and 20 there on 16/11. 21 Pochard were counted on the Isla on 15/12 (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK.), and over 80 Goldeneye at Invergowrie at the end of the year (R.C.). High counts of Goosander were 28 at King's Myre on 19/10 (I.R.J.) and 19 on the Isla on 15/12 (S.L., I.McK.). There were still 19 Shelduck at Invergowrie on 21/12 (R.C.), while a single was upstream at Balhepburn on 15/12 (C. McGowan), and two inland at Stormont on 13/10 (S.L., Sy.L., I.McK.).

Barnacle Geese have been seen regularly in the Methven/Madderty/Innerpefferay areas, with a maximum of 10 seen together. Six or seven Whitefronts were also seen near Innerpefferay (E.D.C., J.K., M.M., L.S.). 18 Canadas at Old England Loch seem to be resident there, but some of a flock of 60-70 seen near Stanley were wearing orange rings, indicating that they had been colour-ringed whilst moulting on the Beaully Firth, and were probably on return passage south (E.M. Watson). No less than 20 Mute Swans were feeding on spilt grain at Perth Harbour during Nov./Dec. (M.M.). From 11/10, a very tame Whooper at Inchyra was taking bread, (R.C.); more conventional birds were 10 at Invergowrie on 11/12 and 4 at L. Ordie on 26/12 (N.G.).

Three records of Merlin have come to hand. One was seen catching a Chaffinch near Blairgowrie on 2/11 (I.R.J.), one at Guldton the next day (D.F.), and one at Bridge of Earn on the 5th (M.M.). (One is tempted to suggest the same bird on passage southward!). There have been widespread reports of Buzzards from lowland areas, including one of a pair displaying and talon-grappling. Hen Harriers were seen at Over Durdie, Scone, and the Mill Dam, Dunkeld (J.M.D., N.B.). Two reports of Peregrine were both from Tibbermore, on 12/11 and 14/12 (M.M., R.McM., C.McGowan). Near Meikleour on 7/12, a Kestrel was seen feeding on a dead Rook at the roadside. It was watched, and photographed, from a car at ranges down to six feet (M.H. and D.D. Freeland).

A big covey of 28 Partridge was seen near Scone 23/11 (E.D.C.), and 55 or so Moorhen had gathered at Errol rubbish tip on 20/12 (L.S.).

Most wader records come from the Invergowrie area. 268 Golden Plover on 24/10, rising to 460 on 29/12, while 200 were on the usual fields at Letham on 1/10 (M.M.). There were about a dozen Ringed Plover, but Greys were scarce - 2 on 24/10 and 1 on 12/11. Snipe rose to a maximum of 20 on 2/11. Single Black-tailed Godwits were seen on 2/10 and 10/10, and another was seen to be shot at and wounded at Ninewells; Bar-tailed were much more in evidence, with large flocks from mid-Nov. Single Oystercatchers appeared at Scone Palace 25/11 and Errol 20/12 (L.S.), but there were 463 in the Invergowrie area on 29/12. On this date, the same area held 1,370 Lapwing, 1,560 Dunlin, 1,410 Redshank, and 392 Curlew. Inland Curlew reports came from Scone Palace, Denmarkfield (L.S.) and Kercock - possibly all the same group of birds. (All wader records from R.C. and R.McM. at Invergowrie unless otherwise stated).

Dark mantled Lesser Black-backed Gulls, possibly Scandinavian in origin, were/...

were reported from Scone Aerodrome, 2 on 30/11, 1 at Perth on 12/12, and 2 near Auchterarder on 21/12. Increasing numbers of this species are now overwintering, and at least 13 adults were roosting on Lowes in January (E.D.C.).

Dead Barn Owls were found near Blackford (twice), at Bridge of Earn (also twice, by different observers, nine days apart, and presumably different corpses), and at Balgowan. The only live specimen reported was near Forteviot, (N.G., M.M., R.McM.). This suggests that Barn Owl numbers may be increasing, but what an unfortunate way to record increase! If five dead, to one live, birds are reported, then surely "live" Barn Owls are under-recorded in Perthshire. A (live) Shorteared Owl was seen at Wolfhill on 16/10 (D.F.).

A wandering Raven was disturbed from the cliffs of Kinnoull Hill on 14/10. A grand view of its distinctive flight silhouette was obtained from above, as it spiralled down to the larches below. Here its size could be compared with that of two Carrion Crows, which, however, showed no animosity toward their larger relative (E.D.C.). In more highland settings, three were seen at Ben Vorlich, Loch Earn on 16/11 (N.G.), and no less than 51 were found roosting at a site in Glen Lednock, Comrie; the observer, R.McM. himself, reckons that many of these birds must come from further west, even from Argyll, as the surrounding area does not hold such numbers in other seasons; local keepers agree with this suggestion. A Hooded Crow was at Errol rubbish tip in Dec. (L.S.), and six Jays at Murrayshall on 5/10 (J.M.D.).

Several large flocks of Longtailed Tits would indicate a successful breeding season:- 18 at Dunning 5/10 (R.McM.), 20 at Balthayock the same day (J.M.D.), 16 at Invergowrie 16/10 (R.C.), 15 at Clunie 14/12 (E.D.C.), and flocks of 20-40 on The Knock, Crieff, in the last week of Dec. (I.McK.). An enormous flock of c100 Blue Tits was feeding in the phragmites (reeds) at Powgavie on 29/12 (R.McM.). In contrast, both Blue and Great Tits have been less evident at bird tables this winter, due, presumably, to the mild weather.

A pure albino Blackbird was seen at Guildtown on 12/11 (J.H.W.). There was a heavy passage of Fieldfares and Redwings during October, with over 2,000 at Seaside on 25th (R.McM., M.M.). A single Grey Wagtail was at Quarrymill on 9/11 (E.D.C.); 250 Pied were roosting in phragmites at Balhepburn in Oct. and Nov., whilst the Pullar's roost held over 250 during Dec. Many of these have now been ringed, and R.McM. would be very interested to hear of any ringed Pied Wagtails seen, as he is trying to discover from which areas the birds come in to this roost. He has already proved that individuals move from reed bed to Pullar's, and vice versa.

A single Hawfinch at Bridge of Earn is the only record of this elusive species. A flock of nine Goldfinches was at Murrayshall on 15/10 (J.M.D.), and one of twelve at Glencarse on 12/12 (N.G.). 35 Siskins were at Scone on 23/11 (E.D.C.), 20 at Dunkeld on 13/12 (J.M.D.) and 30 at Crieff on 26/12 (I.McK.); about 300 in lower Glenalmond were watched harrying a couple of Buzzards. About 100 Redpolls were scattered in small parties over Kinnoull Hill on 14/10, and the same number feeding in phragmites at Powgavie on 29/12 (R.McM.). Twenty Twite were found in Glen Turret on 29/11 (M.M.), and a flock of over 250 Chaffinches at Bridge of Earn on 5/12 (R.McM.). The only report/...

report so far this winter of Bramblings is of 30 at Glenalmond on 24/10 (J.L. Innes).

LATE MIGRANTS.

Sandwich Tern: 1 at Invergowrie on 1/10 was very late for this species (R.C.).
Swallow: last at Scone 9/10 (E.D.C.), and Invergowrie 25/10 (R.C.).
House Martin: last at Scone 6/10 (E.D.C.).
Blackcap: female at Seaside 25/10 (R.McM.) - no wintering records yet.
Sedge Warbler: very late bird at Balhepburn 25/10 (R.McM.).
Wheatear: Invergowrie 3/10 (R.C.).
Stonechat: a pair at Cairnie Pier 24/10, may have been on passage (I.S.).

MISCELLANY.

The large herd of Whooper Swans which frequents the Bridge of Earn/ Abernethy area has lately included several Bewick's Swans, rare visitors to these parts.

Our Recorder is preparing a review of the status and distribution in Scotland, of the Hawfinch, and would be pleased to receive any unpublished records or other relevant information.

The B.T.O. plans to undertake, probably towards the end of May, 1976, a census of gulls nesting on inhabited buildings. Such nesting sites seem highly improbable in our area, but not impossible, so if anyone does discover any, please let the Editor know.

All records for the first three months of 1976, as soon as possible after 31st March, please, to the Recorder: R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth.

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PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1976.

PERSONALITIES.

BEWICK'S SWAN. A party of seven of these rare vagrants to this area was with Whoopers near Abernethy from 12th-24th January. By the 29th they had moved across the river to the Errol area. The party had lost one of its number by 31st, but none at all could be located on 2nd February (J.K. jun. et al).

OSPREY. As Members will probably know, Ospreys have returned to the Lowes. There has also been a report of one on 11/3 in another part of the County (D.B.).

KINGFISHER. Birds have been seen in the usual area near Perth, but there have been no reports from other areas (M.M., D.M.).

WAXWING. Records for the period were: 3/1, 16 in Glasgow Rd., Perth (M.H.).
8/2, 15 at Almondbank (Mrs. S.L.).
14/2, 12 in Mill Street, Perth (R.L.M.).
31/3, 1 at Cleeve (I.McL.).

There is a possibility that the same flock was involved in the Jan/Feb. sightings. Stragglers have been reported in April.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. The only record for the period is one at the Rhynd on 4/2 (R.L.M.).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Cormorants have been reported from the usual inland waters, although it was noted that none were about Kinclaven Bridge in January and February, and only one in March, when there are usually good numbers. One was on the Earn at Forteviot on 1/2 (J.M.D., M.H., S.I., I.McK.). Mallard numbers on the Blairgowrie lochs were highest in December and January. Parties of up to a dozen Teal were reported from several waters, but the only larger number in this period was 30 on Stormont on 19/1. Highest wigeon numbers occurred during February, with about 500 on the Isla, over 400 on Old England, and over 200 at Kercock. Two drake Shoveler were on floodwater at Dalreoch on 13/2 (J.H.W.), and one near Stanley on 23/3 (R.L.M.); there were six on Stormont on 16/2, rising to 13 on 15/3 (S.L., I.McK.). Bertha Loch held over 200 Tufted from November through till February (J.W.), except in January when ice on this loch probably led to the high count of 96 on the North Inch stretch of the Tay on 6th (M.H.); numbers on the Isla near Coupar Angus rose to about the same level at about this time. There were 30-40 Pochard on Stormont in January and February, and 76 near Stanley in the latter month (I.R.J., S.L., I.McK.). Goldeneye numbers appeared to be down on last year's figures, the highest being 45 at Kercock on 17/1. On 14/3 there were 13 Goosander at Kercock and nine at Lowes; whilst seven Merganser were on Clunie on 17/1. Shelduck at Invergowrie rose from 60 on 28/2 to 135 by 20/3 (E.D.C., N.G., S.I., I.McK.).

Greenland Whitefronted Geese have been regular in the Tibbermore/Dunning area/...

area, though numbers have fluctuated between four and fourteen. Away from here, two were seen near Meikleour on 14/3 (J.K. jun., S.L., I.McK.). A Lesser Whitefront reported from the Stanley area is believed to be feral (R.L.M.). Barnacles have also been regular again around Tibbermore, with numbers up to twelve, except on 29/2, when there were 30. It is suggested that these were probably on passage, as no such numbers had been seen before nor since (J.K. jun.). A flock of about twenty Canadas has been reported several times from the Kercock area (S.L., I.McK., R.L.M.), and there has been a record of 15 from Bankfoot, where it was reported to J.H.W. by a local inhabitant, that up to fifty came in to roost with Greylag.

Reports of Mute Swan have come from all over the County, as they have of Whoopers. The largest whooper flock was the one of 45 near Abernethy, with which the Bewick's consorted. After 24/1 this flock split up, some moving to Errol with the Bewick's, and others to Bridge of Earn, where one was found dead under wires in mid-March. Elsewhere c20 spent this period around Meigle, 3-5 were regular on Polney Loch, and Loch Dochart held up to 18 (N.G., J.K., J.K. jun., M.M., J.H.W.).

Winter Buzzard records from Lowland Perthshire are as numerous as usual, and records of Sparrowhawks have been more widespread. All three records of Hen Harrier have been of females or juveniles - one at Earnmouth 17/1 (J.K. jun.), one at Murrayshall 12/3 (J.M.D.) and one hunting over rough grass alongside houses at North Muirton on 18/1 (E.D.C.). Most Peregrines were seen in Highland areas, but one spent at least two days in January around Murrayshall (J.M.D.), and one was at Forgandenny on 12/1 (R.L.M.). Merlins seen at Kintillo 6/1 (M.M.), Earnmouth 24/1 (J.K. jun.) and Craigend 14/2 (R.L.M.), could conceivably have been the same individual. One was twice seen hunting finches in raspberry fields at Almondbank (Mrs. S.L.).

Four Capercaillie were reported from Craigvinean on 7/3 (S.L., I.McK.), and one from Almondbank on 11/3 (Mrs. S.L.). M.M. has suggested that Blackcock numbers in the Keillour area have decreased, but saw 15 in Glen Tilt 28/2 and eight at Tenandry 7/3. Partridge numbers in the Scone area seemed high, with several coveys of over twenty birds (E.D.C.).

Oystercatchers were back inland in some numbers in early February. Curlew overwintered, as usual, in the Kercock area; one was in display on its Atholl breeding ground by 28/2, as were two Golden Plover; flocks of Golden, possibly on passage, were over 200 near Alyth on 27/2 and 30 at Bankfoot on 3/3 (S.L., I.McK., M.M., J.H.W.). An unusual flock of 24 Ringed Plover, - accompanied by a solitary Dunlin, was discovered at Inchtuthill on 14/3 (S.L., I.McK.). Wintering Redshank were again seen about Kercock, and also a single Greenshank on 23/3 (R.L.M.).

Thirteen adult Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were roosting with Commons on Lowes on 17/1, and a single bird was near Woody Island on 18/1 and again on 14/3 (E.D.C.). Short-eared Owls have been watched regularly hunting over a young plantation in the Lawers area, and four were seen together near Dunning on 15/2 (D.B., R.L.M.). A Barn Owl was seen near Blairgowrie/...

Blairgowrie at the beginning of April (I.K.J.).

More records than usual have come in of both species of woodpecker, and from all over the county. Thirteen Skylarks moved inland over Murrayshall Hill on 25/1, when snow was still lying (E.D.C.).

Fourteen Ravens in Glen Lednock on 28/3 were presumably non-breeders (R.L.M.). Single Magpies have been reported from the usual area (M.M.). Large flocks of Longtailed Tits were 27 at Dunning (D.D.) and 15 at Kinfauns (Mrs. H. Golby), both in January; flocks were still evident in mid-March, when nest-building has often begun, at Scone Racecourse (Miss C. Haggart) and Kercock (S.L., I.McK.). A Treecreeper was watched bathing alongside a Chaffinch in a muddy puddle at Scone on 11/1 (E.D.C.).

Many reports of mixed Fieldfare/Redwing flocks have been received, mainly for January. Northward movement of Redwings was noted near Dunkeld on 13/3 (M.M.); both species have been seen in April. First song was heard in January, at Scone, for Mistle Thrush on 13th, Song Thrush on 14th, and Blackbird on 17th (E.D.C.). A Stonechat in Glen Turret on 29/2 may have over-wintered (S.L., I.McK.).

After a remark in the last Bulletin that no wintering Blackcaps had been noted, a cock duly appeared at the beginning of the year, frequenting several gardens in the Kinnoull district. It was later joined by a hen, and both were seen regularly visiting bird tables (G. Aitchison). The Pied Wagtail roost in Pullar's building held over 600 birds at the end of March; ringing has produced some evidence of movement between this roost and roosts in the Tay reed beds (R.L.M.). A Grey Wagtail wintered on the Almond (Mrs.S.L.), but one seen near Kinfauns on 17/2 may have been an early migrant (N.G.).

Two Hawfinches were spotted at Moulinalmond 31/1 (M.M.), while reports of singles came from Glasgow Road, Perth on 3/1 (M.H.), Almondbank (Mrs.S.L.), Bridge of Earn 31/1 (R.L.M.) and Scone 23/3 (J.K.jun.). Goldfinch flocks of five at Dowally, 10/1 (N.G.) and eight at Strathtay 22/2 (M.M.) were the largest reported, though threes and fours have been seen regularly in the Perth area. Siskins have been present on Kinnoull Hill in some numbers, along with Redpolls. There was a flock of about 300 Linnets near Forgan-denny on 12/1 (R.L.). Ten Reed Bunting feeding about 900 ft. up on Ben Lawers on 10/2 seemed unusual for the time of year; two days later, ten Snow Buntings at the Lawers car park seemed more appropriate (D.B.). Winter hill walking by M.M. resulted in further Snow Bunting records - 150 in Glen Shee/Glas Maol on 17/1, two at Kinnardochy on 24/1, 30 in Glen Turret next day, six at Strathtay on 7/2, and 150 in Glen Quaich on 14/3 had been forced into stubble fields by the inclement weather.

MISCELLANY.

A Peregrine ringed as a nestling in Rannoch in June 1975 was found dead at Guildtown almost six months later. Analysis of the liver tissues showed that death was due to poisoning by the organochlorine pesticide "Dieldrin".

Summer migrants are with us again, so make a note of "first dates", please. Swallows and Martins seem to have been late in arriving in any numbers, /...

numbers, and will be interesting to see how numbers compare with last year.

Some residents started nesting early, with a Blackbird seen carrying food on 8/4, and a fledged Song Thrush seen the next day at Cleeve, Perth.

Bob McMillan would be interested to hear details of any ringed Pied Wagtails seen anywhere, as they may have been caught at local roosts. The British Trust for Ornithology, per the Editor, would like details of any instances of gulls found nesting on buildings.

OUTINGS.

On 14th April, fifteen Members left the Museum Car Park to follow John Kirk, junior, on a "wild goose chase", and two stragglers attached themselves to the flock along the way. The first stop at Gloagburn brought good views of a group of seven Barnacle Geese among a mass of Pinkfeet. Unfortunately the unsporting farmer scared off the geese, so the party moved on round the corner, where a single Barnacle was seen, again with Pinkfeet, though a Whitefront here was missed by most people. Again disturbance brought viewing to an untimely close, but a few hundred yards further on were more Pinkfeet and yet another Barnacle. Here too, were thirty-odd Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the way to their breeding grounds.

The front half of the convoy then turned up through Gask and on to Dunning, where four more whitefronts were seen, but the rear, out of sight behind, continued on through Madderty to Kinkell Bridge, returning along the Roman Road. Floodwater near Kinkell proved most rewarding, with Mute Swan, Greylag, Mallard, Teal, Coot, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Snipe, Redshank and Lapwing on or around it. Nearby were a flock of over eighty Golden Plover and a single Wheatear.

These errant Members found their leader again on the road by Dupplin Loch. On a night that was becoming distinctly chilly, a grand finale to the outing was provided by the last huge flock of geese, which seemed to be strung out for miles across the sky as they flighted in to roost.

On 28th April, 14 Members enjoyed a fine Spring evening for the visit to Invergowrie Bay. However, a rapidly receding tide rendered bird identification difficult. Many Shelduck were feeding on the mudbanks and Redshanks were the only waders near to land. At least, one car-load of members were lucky enough to see a Barn Owl on the return journey.

All records for the period April to June, as soon as possible after 30th June, please, to R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth.

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PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR APRIL-JUNE 1976.

We are very pleased to print the following contribution from Mike Marsland, a regular contributor of records to the Bulletin.

THE 'TICKING' COMMUTER.

M. MARSLAND.

During the past two years I have travelled frequently between Perth and Stirling, using both road and rail routes. In ornithological terms these journeys have provided a lot of interest, mainly because they include a variety of rich habitats. Apart from a cross section of typical lowland landscape - arable land, rough pasture and mixed woodland - there is also a fine area of loch and wetland at Carsebreck. This is the main ornithological attraction for the commuter.

Also of interest, is the River Earn with its floodplain, and the heathery braes of Sheriffmuir (which are crossed by a minor road parallel to the A9).

By car, several minor route changes are possible. The Sheriffmuir road is one of them. Also, near the Cairnie Braes there is a network of minor roads which cuts through the forested areas of Gask and out to the favoured Goose grounds of Tibbermore.

Although a single journey is unlikely to provide a great list of species, the cumulative list is impressive. Without ever stepping out of car or train I have noted 102 species in just under 2 years. There are certain highlights - 4 Buzzards soaring over the A9 at Carsebreck in early spring, a cock Capercaillie flying over the main road near Dupplin and a Pied Woodpecker climbing up a telegraph pole near Oakbank. Even the Peregrine has figured twice in my A9 records, as well as a group of Waxwings. Both these species occurred as winter wanderers.

One of the main benefits in making regular journeys however, is not in finding rarities, but in assessing seasonal behaviour patterns. These will usually be connected with migration, feeding habits or breeding.

This section of the A9 is an important route for migrants, an obvious flightline that not only avoids upland areas but also includes rich lowland feeding grounds for many species. The build up of smaller migrants, such as Willow Warblers and hirundines, is easily witnessed in spring. More dramatic are the constant movements of wild geese, especially when they are freshly arrived or anticipating departure. Other birds are more obvious in the breeding season: although rather scarce, Corn Buntings can be seen jangling from roadside song posts at Tibbermore and one or two places along the A9. Oystercatchers and Curlews display at many points en route. In winter there are many finch flocks to be seen and an interesting variety of wildfowl can be looked for.

Both modes of travel have their pros and cons. Being a train passenger is more relaxing and the railway line is better placed than the A9 for views of Carsebreck. However, you can't pull the communication cord if you see something you want to check. Furthermore, if travelling by train, minor variations of route are not possible. The car, on the other hand, allows for more flexibility, but birdwatching drivers can be something of a hazard, to/...

to themselves and to others. Unfortunately I cannot claim innocence in this respect, though if I do have the opportunity, I let somebody else drive. If enough time is available, a stop at some suitable vantage point is best. Sheriffmuir and Carsebreck can each be surveyed from strategically useful laybys.

Some common species thrive in a variety of lowland habitats (i.e. Wood-pigeon, Thrush species etc.) and can be seen throughout the route. It might therefore be of interest to single out some restricted localities where more distinctive birds occur. Although wintering Grey Geese will be seen flying anywhere in this region during the winter, they do have favoured spots along the A9, where they can be watched feeding. These include Carsebreck, the Earn meadows at the bottom of the Cairnie Braes and the farming land near Tibbermore. On several occasions there have been a few Barnacle Geese amongst the Pinkfeet flocks, easily picked out without binoculars. Also in the River Earn area I've observed Mergansers and Goosanders (usually in flight) whilst Carsebreck has a wider range of ducks. The loch itself often holds Pochard, Tufted Duck and Mute Swans, which can just about be identified from a vibrating railway carriage (the trains speed up - inconveniently - when passing over Carsebreck), but the best place to watch is the sluggish stretch of the Allan Water which runs right beside the railway track. Here I've seen Goldeneye, Wigeon, Teal and a pair of Gadwall, whilst in spring many Sand Martins and passage Common Terns sport around the banks. On the boggy ground nearby, Redshank, Snipe and Curlew occur in good numbers.

Sheriffmuir provides an excellent diversion for those travelling by car, especially in spring and autumn. Red Grouse and Pipits are common, as are Wheatears. There are a few pairs of Stonechat in the Sheriffmuir area and these can be seen right by the roadside, perching on prominent song posts. Although raptors can occur anywhere along the route (I've seen Sparrowhawk and Kestrels prospecting over the A9 at many different points) Sheriffmuir is undoubtedly the best in the autumn passage period when some Buzzards and Hen Harriers disperse from their breeding grounds in the Trossachs. Short eared Owls can also be seen at Sheriffmuir and there is a well known Blackgrouse lek in the vicinity: although this is off the main road, the odd Blackgrouse can be seen anywhere in the Sheriffmuir area. In winter the hills are quieter, but there is more than an even chance of seeing flocks of Snow Buntings or Twite if the weather is cold.

By following a particular route regularly, one becomes practised in looking at specific spots as information builds up. Whereas Magpies are rare near Perth, they are relatively frequent between Stirling and Dunblane. I nearly always see a pair near the Cornton Estate in Stirling as the train goes by. There are one or two river bends where Herons like to wait. If I see the bounding flight of a Green Woodpecker it is usually in the Dunning or Dupplin areas, or on the hillsides fringing Bridge of Allan. Although I've not been a regular night traveller I know that Barn Owls hunt along the A9 having found about half a dozen of their corpses (and incidentally a/...

a couple of Tawny Owls too) along the main road. The locations of these casualties indicate that Carsebreck and Dupplin (near the Fain) are, as expected, favourite hunting grounds.

Although the Perth-Stirling route is above average for good bird haunts, my overall impression is that the number of interesting records exceeds expectations. Anything can turn up and I'm sure that my total of 102 species grossly underestimates the possibilities.

PERSONALITIES.

BLACK THROATED DIVER. A pair with two well-grown young was at the regular mid-County nesting loch on 13/6 (I.McK.). There have been no reports from western areas.

MARSH HARRIER. On 20/5, two birds were seen about a reed bed on the Tay. One was a female, the other was possibly a young male. They were not present later, and so were presumed to have been on passage. As only a few pairs of these harriers nest in Britain now - in southern England - it would be something akin to the return of the Osprey if a pair was to breed here. (R.L.M.).

OSPREY. The male arrived at Loch of the Lowes on 5/4, to be joined later by two females. One, or both, appeared to have laid eggs, and a peculiar "triangle" situation developed, with the nest eventually being deserted. On examination later, the nest was found to be empty.

SPOTTED CRAKE. A pair present at a site in Rannoch was thought to be breeding (per R.L.M.).

DOTTEREL. Two seen on the summit of Ben Vorlich on 23/4 were very early on passage to the breeding grounds (M.M.).

WRYNECK. A pair was discovered in Rannoch on 19/6, and, although breeding was not proved, an agitated bird was seen in the area in early July (I. Dawson, M.M.).

WAXWING. A solitary straggler was seen at Burghmuir on 16/4 (I.McK.).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One at Balthayock, Perth on 6/4 (J.M.D.).

DEPARTURE DATES OF WINTER VISITORS.

GEËSE. Considerable northward movement was noticed after dark on 19/4. There were still 30 GREYLAG at Carsebreck on 3/5, while about 70 flew north over Glenalmond on 6/5. Carsebreck held about 300 PINKFOOTED on 5/5, there were 45 in Glenalmond the next day, and a lone one at Lowes on 16/5 (E.D.C., R.L.M., M.M.).

WHOOPEER SWAN. On 5/4 there were still twelve Whoopers on L. Dochart, and there were six more by 9/4. Two were on Dunalastair Reservoir on 17/4 (J.M.D., I.McK., M.M.).

FIELDFARE. Four hundred at Buchanty on 15/4 had dwindled to one hundred by 21/4. Up to three hundred were reported from the Scone area on dates between 17/4 and 26/4 (E.D.C., J.M.D., M.M.).

REDWING. Two seen at Scone on 15/4 could not be found thereafter (E.D.C.).

ARRIVAL DATES OF SUMMER VISITORS.

COMMON/...

<u>COMMON SANDPIPER</u>	25/4 Tullybelton Loch (I.McK.).
<u>SWIFT</u>	6/5 Dunblane (M.M.), 9/5 Scone (F.D.C.).
<u>SWALLOW</u>	20/4 an early bird over Kinnoull Hill (M.M.), but general arrival around the end of the month - 29/4 Invergowrie (R.C.), 2/5 Scone (E.D.C.), 3/5 Murrays- hall (J.M.D.), 6/5 Stanley (P.B.S.).
<u>HOUSE MARTIN</u>	Arrival slightly later than Swallow - 7/5 Tulloch, Perth (M.M.), 8/5 Scone (E.D.C.), 12/5 Murrayshall (J.M.D.).
<u>SAND MARTIN</u>	11/4 Loch of the Lowes (J.M.D.), 14/4 Perth (E.D.C.).
<u>CUCKOO</u>	28/4 Dunkeld (J.M.D.).
<u>WHEATEAR</u>	14/4 near Kinkell Bridge (P.S.N.S. Outing), but rumours of several birds seen previous to this date.
<u>REDSTART</u>	1/5 Male singing on Loch Tummelside (R.L.M., M.M.).
<u>SEDGE WARBLER</u>	2/5 Whitemoss Loch, Dunning (R.L.M.).
<u>BLACKCAP</u>	20/4 Woody Island, Perth (M.M.), 2/5 Scone (E.D.C.).
<u>WHITETHROAT</u>	6/5 Invergowrie (R.C.), 16/5 Inveralmond (M.M.), 18/5 Stanley (P.B.S.).
<u>WILLOW WARBLER</u>	15/4 Scone (E.D.C.), 27/4 Balhepburn (R.L.M.), 28/4 Murrayshall (J.M.D.).
<u>SPOTTED FLYCATCHER</u>	21/5 Scone (E.D.C.), 22/5 Perth (M.M.).
<u>TREE PIPIT</u>	25/4 Dunkeld (M.M.), 9/5 Butterstone (I.McK.).

Arrival dates quoted above correspond very closely to those in 1975, though Blackcap and Tree Pipit were noted about a fortnight earlier than last year.

It is a great pity to find that all the above (Arrival), and (Departure) Dates have been submitted by no more than six of our Members. Do people no longer listen for the first Cuckoo of Spring, nor look for the first Swallow that doesn't make a Summer? But perhaps they do, and the fault is in their failure to record and report these ornithologically important events. Seriously, though, DO make a note at the time, DO submit your notes to the Recorder; DO IT NOW if you have any dates preceding those quoted, R.L.M., still needs the information for his "Perthshire Bird Report", and also for submission to the "Scottish Bird Report" of the S.O.C.

PERTSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1975.

The second annual Report for the County makes just as interesting reading as its predecessor, and our thanks are due to Bob McMillan for the tremendous amount of work which he has put into it. The 1975 Report is now available from the Museum, price 20p., or direct from R.L.M., at 30p., including postage.

EAGLE POISONING INCIDENT.

Most Members will be aware from recent Press reports, of an incident which occurred near Bankfoot. A three year old male Golden Eagle was poisoned when it consumed part of a baited rabbit carcass left on an eyrie. Incidents of this kind may occur much more regularly than we imagine, and Members/...

Members are asked to be vigilant on their excursions into the country. Anyone finding eggs, or the carcasses of rabbits or hares, possibly being used as bait, or, for that matter, dead animals or birds, particularly birds of prey, which may have been poisoned, is asked to contact the Secretary or myself as soon as possible. R.L. McMillan.

All records for July, August, September, as soon as possible after 30th September, please, to the Recorder: R.L. McMillan, 44 Durlcy Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth.

Please make the effort to record what you see, when you see it, and send in the records.

Editor: E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are:-
R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, J.M. Duncan, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, M. Marsland and Mrs. P.B. Scott.

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS.

26. 9.76.	Eden Estuary	Leader J. Kirk	Leave Museum	3.15 p.m.
10.10.76.	Lintrathen Loch	" T. Binny	" "	2.00 p.m.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

BULLETIN FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1976

PERSONALITIES

SLAVONIAN GREBE A pair fledged two young at a site in north Perthshire (per RLM)

COMMON SCOTER A drake spent July on a loch in Rannoch, but no record of breeding was reported (RLM)

GOSHAWK One was seen in the Murrayshall area from 10-12 August, and one near Dunkeld on 24th July (JMD, MM)

SPOTTED CRAKE A pair probably bred in the County (per RLM)

CORNCRAKE A belated report concerned one of this declining species calling at Airtully, Stanley, on Midsummer Night (Dr. De Mornay)

WRYNECK A pair spent the summer at a suitable site, but breeding was not confirmed (MM)

FULMAR A stranded bird, far from its ocean home, was picked up at Trinity College, Glenalmond on 10/9, and later returned to sea.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS

BREEDING SEASON REPORTS

Two large broods of Mute Swan were reported, a pair with eight young on the Tay at Mugdrum on 6/8, and a pair with six young at Stormont, 21/9 (RLM, SRH). Among the raptors, Golden Eagles had a much better year, with four sites successful in north Perthshire. Further south, Buzzards raised a brood near Braco; three Sparrowhawk pairs were successful in the Bankfoot/Dunkeld area. Three pairs of Merlin reared twelve young in Rannoch, another pair nested in Atholl, and single birds were present elsewhere. (RLM, MM)

A pair of agitated Greenshank in Rannoch in July probably had young in the vicinity. Barn Owls reared three young near Almondbank and Long-eareds three near Findo Gask. Kingfishers bred again near Perth, and reports came from elsewhere including one of successful breeding near Crieff, reported in the "Courier".

A Song Thrush was watched gathering nesting material in Scone on 18/9, but no nest was located. Stonechats and Whinchats nested successfully on Dalreichmoor, near Perth; Redstarts in the Black Wood of Rannoch. Whitethroat numbers appear to be improving, though breeding was reported only from Murrayshall, whilst a Grasshopper Warbler was "reeling" near Methven on 15/7. (EDC, JMD, RLM, MM)

OTHER RECORDS

At Invergowrie there were three Pintail on 23/9, with five the next day, and 71 Shelduck on 28/9, Kingoodie having 150 next day; previously 270 had been counted at Seaside, Errol on 6/8. (RC, RLM).

Reports of Hen Harrier came from Cochrage Moor, Blairgowrie on 18/9, near Dunning on 24/8, and one being mobbed by a pair of Kestrels at Buchanty on 20/8 (SRH, RLM, MP). An immature Peregrine was seen to take a Woodpigeon near Almondbank on 25/9 (MM, D.Morris). Reports of Sparrowhawk came from Tibbermore and Scone in September (JMD, JHW) and a Merlin on passage at Invergowrie on 23/9 (RC)

The/

The usual wader species have been reported from Invergowrie; Oystercatchers numbered 125 by 15/8, and the maximum for Ringed Plover was 16 on 31/8. Single Grey Plover were seen at Invergowrie, and Seaside, while up to three Blacktailed Godwit were regular during August. The usual host of Redshank included an albino, and single Spotted Redshank appeared on three days in August. Small numbers of Curlew Sandpiper were present during September, as was a single Sanderling (RC,RLM).

Away from the estuary, there was already a flock of 650 Lapwing near Dunning by 15/8, and over 100 Golden Plover at Carsebreck the previous week. 5 Greenshank were found on the Earn at Inverdunning on 25/8 and two, possibly out of these on Strathallan Estate three days later; there were also two Spotted Redshank on the Earn near Dunning on 15/8. A single Green Sandpiper turned up on 1/9 at Glenfarg Res, where there were also 45 Snipe on the same date (RLM, MP).

Passage of terns produced 5 Commons at Woody Islands on 2/9, 15 Sandwich and about 30 Little at Errol on 6/8. (RLM, MM, MP).

DEPARTURE OF SUMMER VISITORS

The latest dates on which various summer migrant species were seen included -

Common Sandpiper 4 at Invergowrie 4/8, 1 at Balhepburn 18/9 (RC, RLM).
Swift last at Blairgowrie 18/8, but 2 in Perth on 30/8 (SRH, MM)
Swallow most left by the last week of September, Murrayshall 27th, Scone 29th, but at least one hardy, or foolish! individual tarried in Scone until 27th October, surviving several nights of frost, and much heavy rain (JMD, EDC).
House Martin still present in Perth at the end of September (MM)
Wheatear seen at Auchterarder on 29/8, and 1/9 and one, associating with a flock of Meadow Pipits, on Dalreichmoor near Perth, on 16/10 (RLM, EDC).
Willow Warbler last reported from Glenfarg Res on 1/9 (RLM).
Sedge Warbler a very late bird at Balhepburn on 30/9 (RLM).
Spotted Flycatcher one at Gleneagles on 6/9 (RLM).

ARRIVAL OF WINTER VISITORS

The first of the wintering geese arrived in mid-September as usual. Reports of Greylag came from Stanley, Clunie, Glenfarg and Kinkell Bridge between 15th and 18th. Pinkfeet were noted over Scone and at Tibbermore on 16th, and several thousand were flighting into Dupplin by the end of the month (Dr. De Mornay, EDC, MM, MP, JHW). As in previous winters, several Barnades have been associating with Pinkfeet around Tibbermore, and there has been a discreet flock of about 40 in the same area. Some Whitefronts are also present, and a single Snow Goose may still be about - DO NOT be misled by a large, white farmyard goose to be seen in the Kinkell area!

Some Whooper Swans have arrived - hopefully, look out for Bewick's among them. Redwings have appeared in vast numbers, as has been reported from other areas, followed by lesser numbers of Fieldfares. Several Bramblings have been noted feeding on the abundant beech mast, but there have been no reports yet of Waxwing nor Great Grey Shrike.

RINGING RECOVERIES

A Gannet ringed as a nestling on the Bass Rock in 1969, was found dead at Acharn, Loch Tayside on 26.6.74.

A Common Gull ringed as a nestling at Loch Tummel was found injured in Kintail, Ross-shire in July, 1976, five years later. Presumably this bird had bred in Kintail not having returned to its natal colony. (Incidentally, though a long distance by road, there are only 60 miles between the localities, as the gull flies).

A Heron nestling ringed at the Bridge of Earn colony in 1974, was found dead under wires at Ewart, Northumberland in May, 1976.

Another nestling Heron from the same colony made a very speedy journey northward. Ringed on 16.5.76, it was found dead on 5.7.76, aged 22 weeks, at Loch Wakenham, Caithness, about 150 miles away.

A juvenile Swallow ringed at an Errol roost in September, 1974, was killed by a cat on 24.6.76 at Carluke, Lanarkshire. It would be interesting to know if this bird was nesting at Carluke, thus being an exception to the general rule that Swallows return to breed at the "ancestral site".

A Pied Wagtail ringed as a nestling in Glonalmund on 5.6.75, landed on a boat in the North Sea about 115 miles NE of Spurn, Yorkshire, on 10.4.76: Returning to Scotland after wintering abroad?

A House Martin ringed as an adult 23.8.75 at Tullybaccart, Perthshire, completed the longest journey of all, to Oran, Algeria, where it was found dead on 3.5.76.

All the above, except the Gannet, were ringed by members of the Tay Ringing Group.

BTO SURVEY: Golden Plovers in Winter

Over the winters of 1976/77 and 1977/78, the British Trust for Ornithology plans to survey our wintering Golden Plovers. The aim is to locate regular wintering areas, and to carry out a co-ordinated census over the whole of Britain on the weekend of 8th/9th January, 1977 and again in 1978.

Pilot studies have shown that wintering flocks may have several feeding grounds and may range over a considerable area. PSNS records show three main locations for wintering Golden Plover - Letham/Huntingtower, Scone/Balbeggie and around Errol. There may well be others known to Members. Anyone who regularly sees Golden Plover in an area just now, or has noticed flocks over the winter period in previous years is asked to get in touch with the local co-ordinator, E.D. Cameron, likewise anyone interested in helping with the census in January.

All records for October, November, December, as soon as possible after the end of the year, please to the Recorder, R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Done Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth, who would be pleased to receive any outstanding records for 1976, for possible inclusion in his annual report to the SOC.

Editor: E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials are - R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, R.L. McMillan, M. Marsland, Miss M. Piper, J.H. Wallace.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Friday, 14th January, 1977 - (Open Meeting) "The Hen Harrier" by Mr. N. Picozzi.
- Wednesday, 9th February, 1977 - Subject of Choice by Dr. J. Greenwood
- Wednesday, 9th March, 1977 - A.G.M. and Members' Night

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1976.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Two adult and a juvenile Great Crested Grebes on the river at Isla Bridge on 17/10 were perhaps passing downstream to their coastal wintering area. The latest report was of a single juvenile at Whiteloch, Blairgowrie, on 21/11 (SRH, IMcK.). Cormorant numbers were high again at Kinclaven, with fifteen on 13/12; Stormont held eleven on 11/10, and Clunie eight on 13/11. Other inland records came from Monkmyre, Whiteloch and the Isla (EDC, SRH, IMcK, JHW). Reports of Hérons came from the same areas, and it was also noted that they had been seen more frequently on rivers, due to lochs being frozen over, (SRH, MM).

Duck numbers in the period excited no comment, but there have been some interesting reports. 48 Teal were counted on Stormont on 17/10; about the same number of Shoveler there on the same date decreased to 20 by 28/11 (SRH, IMcK). Three Shoveler were on floodwater near Kinkell Bridge on 16/10 (EDC). The largest concentrations of Wigeon were c300 on the Isla near Coupar Angus on 18/11 and 200 on the Tay near Stanley on 7/11; Loves held 40 on the latter date, and Clunie 58 on 13/11 - unusual for this loch (EDC, SRH, IMcK).

We receive few records from Loch Earn, so six Pochard there on 4/12 are noteworthy (MM). Several flights of Tufted Duck, totalling 244 birds, flew downriver over Sleepless Inch just before dusk on 29/12 (EDC, RLM), and there were 50-60 on the Isla at Coupar Angus during the period (IMcK). Only two Goldeneye were reported, on the Almond on 18/12 (SL). Stormont held eleven Goosander on 28/11 (SRH).

The Snow Goose seems to have left the Tibbermore district, though there have been rumours of one (the same?) in the Dunning area, and a "blue phase" bird has been noted lately in the Bridge of Earn area (JK). Barnacles are still about Tibbermore and Dunning, and 40-50 Canadas were seen at Tullybelton on 18/11 (JHW).

Whooper Swans have arrived in good numbers - the Bridge of Earn flock had built up to 44 in January, but no Bewick's have been spotted so far, (JMD, JK, IMcK, SRH, RLM, JHW). Some Mutes have been on the move, as numbers on Fingask Loch increased from two adults on 21/11 to seven on 30/12 (SRH).

Records of Golden Eagle came from two Highland areas, including an adult and a juvenile together on 27/12 (JMD, IMcK). Buzzards were seen in two Lowland areas, two at Bridge of Earn on 20/12, and one at Almondbank on 3/11 (RLM, JHW). Sparrowhawks were widespread, and a possible Goshawk made a brief appearance in suitable habitat (IMcK, MM). There have been more records than usual of Hen Harrier; an adult male at Loch Rannoch on 17/10, and females or juveniles near Dunblane 2/10, near Scone 16/10 and at Kercock 13/11 (EDC, JMD, MM). Peregrines were reported from the Highlands, plus one at Kingoodie on 21/10 (RC, IMcK, RLM, MM), where there had been a Merlin on 18/10, while another flew along the A9 near Luncarty on 28/12 (RLM, MM).

Fifteen Black Grouse were seen in Glen Fernate on 28/10 and Kindrogan 3/11 /...

- 2 -

3/11 (IMcK), and a cock Capercaille at Rosemount on 3/10 (SRH). Two of these secretive, under-recorded birds, Water Rails appeared at Balhepburn on 31/10 (RLM).

The Golden Plover Census for the B.F.O. was a non-event in the County, as none at all were to be found that weekend, probably due to the weather conditions of the previous weeks. Before the freeze-up, the Tibbermore/Letham area held 500 on 30/10 and 250 on 29/11; a flock near Stanley was estimated at over 450 on 7/11, but only 40 by 17th; and the Scone/Balbeggie flock at 200 on 3/10 (EDC, JMD, IMcK, MM). The only Woodcock records came from Moulinalmond on 18/12 and two at Murrayshall on 21/11 (JMD, MM). Inland, a single Curlew flew over Blairgowrie on 11/12; and single Redshanks near Stormont on 9/11, at Banchory Farm on the Isla on 13/12; and over Bridge of Earn on 14/12 (SRH, IMcK, RLM). A solitary Dunlin turned up at Stormont Loch on 3/10, and a flock of twelve was feeding with geese on a potato field at Tibbermore on 24/10 (SRH, SL).

Wintering Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were seen in twos at Kercock on 13/11 and Clunie on 12/12, but many more were moving off Kercock, at dusk, towards Marlee Loch in mid-January (EDC). Another Barn Owl became a road casualty at Dupplin on 10/10 (MM). Near Scone on 18/10 two Short-eared Owls were hunting over rough grass when one stooped at, and flushed, a cock Pheasant.

MM watched a spectacular south-westerly movement of over 2,000 Wood-pigeons. The birds were leaving the Buchanty/Lower Glenalmond area, heading towards Strathearn. Woodpeckers of both species were reported from the usual areas. Westward movements of Skylarks during hard frost were noted at Scone on 16/10 and 14/11, while several hundred were around Methven Moss on 18/10 (EDC). A Magpie at Buchanty was near the usual haunt, but one at Kindallachan, near Pitlochry in mid-December was rather surprising (SL, per RLM).

Large flocks of Longtailed Tits were 22 at Dunning 25/10, 16 at Scone 12/10, 16 at Glen Fernate 28/10, 15 at Stormont and 20 at Monkmyre, both 18/11 (EDC, DD, IMcK). A cock Stonechat was at Dowally on 2/10, and up to three stayed on Dalreichmoor, near Scone, until the snow of early December (EDC, MM). Single wintering Grey Wagtails appeared at Sandyknowes, Sleepless Inch and Scone (EDC, RLM).

Records of Goldfinches came from Woodhead of Mailer, six on 25/10, Murrayshall, two with Chaffinches on 31/10, Blairgowrie, two on 18/11, and Dunning, two on 19/12 (DD, JMD, SRH, JHN). Siskins were reported only from Craigvinean - maximum 40 - many less than usual; and Redpolls were not reported at all - this species has been much less evident in the County this past year. Reports of Bramblings, however, have been more numerous than usual, particularly from the east of the County and the Pitlochry area. Small flocks were present from October, but there seems to have been a considerable influx towards the end of the year (EDC, JMD, IMcK, MM). Eight Twite were at the Mill Dam, Dunkeld, on 2/10, and thirty Snow Buntings on Ben Vorlich on 4/12 (MM). A flock of 20 Bullfinches was seen at Dunning on 21/11 (DD).

LATE SUMMER VISITORS.

A/...

A single Wheatear was accompanying a flock of Meadow Pipits on Dalreich-moor on 16/10 (EDC).

A solitary Swallow spent the period 18th-27th October in Scone, but even later were four at Blairgowrie on 30th, reduced to two by 4th November. Latest of all was one at Pitcairn House on 29th November (FDC,SRH,SL).

A REGULAR WINTER VISITOR?

The Fieldfare is usually described as highly gregarious and nomadic in its winter quarters, so the following note is very interesting.

A single Fieldfare visited a garden in Viewlands, Perth, in Spring 1975. The same, or another, bird spent Winter '75-'76 in the same garden and surrounding area, and it, or another, has returned this winter. Is this a case of one bird homing in on a good wintering area, or coincidence involving two or three birds? (per IMcK).

RINGING.

No ringing has been undertaken this year at the Pullar's roost of Pied Wagtails, though a check has been kept on the numbers using it. These show interesting fluctuations, which RLM is studying, to see if there is any correlation with weather conditions. He would be very pleased to hear of any other winter wagtail roosts, and of any sightings of groups of wagtails feeding together during the day.

Numbers entering the Pullar's roost have been:-

17/11	570
28/11	750+
3/12	500
18/12	230+
22/12	290
30/12	340

Ringling at Balhepburn produced two controls (birds ringed elsewhere) of Pied Wagtails. The first, caught on 3/10/76, had been ringed at Drumnadrochit, 125 Km to the N.N.W. on Loch Ness-side on 16/9/76. Question: By which route did it reach Perth? Directly, over the Monadhliath Mountains; to Inverness, then coastwise; or to Inverness, along to Spey Bay, then up Spey, down Tay? Continued ringling may provide an answer in the future.

A second Pied Wagtail, caught the same evening, had previously been ringed at a large roost at Rye Meads, Hertfordshire, 555 Km to the S.S.E. on 22/12/74; so this bird may have been passing through, from breeding ground to the North, to its winter quarters in Herts. Notice the coincidence of the direction of travel of the two birds.

A Buzzard ringed as a nestling near Rannoch Station on 20/6/76, was found dead 25 Km to the East on 14/11/76, illustrates the tendency of young Buzzards to disperse from their natal area in Autumn.

Finally, a long distance traveller. A Snipe ringed at Gdansk, Poland on 29/7/76, was shot on the Tay at Errol on 1/9/76.

THE SCOTTISH FIELD STUDIES ASSOCIATION.

The attention of Members is drawn to the courses run by the above Association at Kindrogan Field Centre. Courses on various aspects of Natural History/...

History are available, and one on Birds was thoroughly enjoyed recently by one of our Members.

All records for the first three months of 1977, to the Recorder; R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth, as soon as possible after 31st March, please.

Editor; E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials were:- R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, D. Doig, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, J. Kirk, Mrs. S. Laing, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, M. Marsland and J.H. Wallace.

STOP PRESS.

Bewick's Swans have appeared lately, with whoopers, either side of the Tay in the Abernethy/Errol area. A "red head" Smew has been seen on the Tay in Perth.

PERIODICAL COPY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1977.

Spring, in spite of the weather, is here. Most of our winter visitors have gone, summer ones are arriving, though only in small numbers up till the end of April. Migrants seem to have arrived very early in the south of England, but have then been held up by the prevailing cold, windy weather.

PERSONALITIES, among the winter visitors, have been SMEI, a duck at Carsebreck on 9/1 (RLI), and another on the Tay at Perth, seen on various dates throughout the winter (LS).

SNOW GOOSE, a "blue phase" bird seen once only, by the Hospital at Bridge of Earn (JK).

BEWICK'S SWAN, two accompanied the Bridge of Earn Whooper flock for some time into April. It is believed that there may have been as many as six Bewick's present at the beginning of the year (JK).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE, one at Balbeggie on 2/1 (JLI). Two together at Rosemount on 15/2 (SRH). One near Craig-y-Barns on 27/3 (per IMcK). One at Hillbarns, Blairgowrie on 29/3 was possibly one of the Rosemount birds (IRJ).

News of other PERSONALITIES is mixed:

OSPREYS at the Lowes seem to be unsettled again this year.

SLAVONIAN GREBE appeared, and disappeared.

KINGFISHERS, however, are believed to be breeding in the usual area, with possibly a second pair nearby. There is a report of another bird from a different area of the County.

WINTER VISITORS.

The largest number of Goldeneye recorded was 97 off Farnmouth on 6/2; 62 were just downstream off Faddockmuir, Errol, on 6/1, whilst 16 were in the Perth Harbour area on 15/1, (RLI, M). 38 on Lowes on 13/3 was the largest number ever noted there by IRJ.

Pinkfooted and Graylag Geese were about in the usual numbers, but seemed to leave rather earlier than usual. Barnacles moved away, and, apart from 34 seen at Gatherleys Farm, Dunning on 6/1 (DD), only ones and twos were found at Balgowan, Muirhall, Arnbathie and Stanley (EDC, Dr. de Mornay). Two Whitefronts at Old England Loch are believed to be feral birds.

As usual, a flock of Whoopers, this year up to forty eight strong, commuted between Errol and Bridge of Earn (JK,RLI,JHW). A flock of 16 located east of Coupar Angus on 5/3 had moved to near Weigle, and decreased to ten, by 21/3 (EDC,SRH). Another big flock, thirty, was on Loch Dochart on 6/2 (MM).

Redwings and Fieldfares in small numbers were reported into April. Forty Song Thrushes and 22 Blackbirds in a field at Rosemount, plus another 17 Blackbirds nearby, on 27/1, suggests a hard-weather movement (SRH).

Comment has been made on the absence this winter of the usual large flocks of Siskins and Redpolls, but Bramblings were widespread after New Year. Largest flocks recorded were of about 100 at Gannocny, Perth, and about 50 at/...

at The Bridge of Earn Hospital, in January (FDC,JK,RLM). A few remained at Gannochy till mid-March, at Dunkeld till the end of the month, and at Kindrogan into April (IMcK). Over twenty Snow Buntings were in Glenshee on 6/1, and nine in Glen Quaich on 19/2 (JLI,MM).

SUMMER VISITORS.

Although few summer migrants had reached the County by the end of March, it seems appropriate to list here those "first dates" which have come to hand. Members may thus be encouraged to let us know of their "firsts". Remember, too, that although it's nice to be able to claim the earliest arrival date for County, Region, or whatever, the dates of main arrivals, and indications of the rate and routes of spread of migrants, are much more informative for the ornithologist.

Ringed Plover were moving inland by 25/3, when one was at Bridge of Earn; while two were on the Scone Palace shingle bed on 27th. A single Sand Martin was hawking over the river here on the same day; there were several at Kercock by 9/4. The first Swallow appeared at Scone on 20/4, and House Martin on 29th, but numbers were slow to build up.

A very early Wheatear was seen at the Mill Dam, Dunkeld on 13/3, but the next record was not until a fortnight later, when three were at the Scone Palace shingles, and there were two at Methven next day. By 9/4 they had penetrated Little Glenshee, and by 11th, as far north as Glen Tilt. A Ring Ouzel was in Glen Loch on 8/4.

A Chiffchaff was heard and seen in Scone Woods on 6/4, while Willow Warblers appeared in some numbers on 23/4. A Cuckoo just made it into April on Murrayshall Hill on 30th.

These records come from A.Baldock,EDC,JMD,T.Fegan,IMcK,RLM,JFW,C.Whitworth and C.Wilson. A complete list of "firsts" should be available for our next issue.

OTHER SELECTED RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes have returned to all the usual lochs, including the Mill Dam, Dunkeld, with one pair building on Lowes on 13/3. Cormorant numbers inland rose to a maximum of 18 on the Tay near Meikleour on 19/2. Four were on Fingask Loch on 9/1, and nine there on 20/2. One on Loch Faskally on 12/3 is interesting, as there are few records of any species from this water, (NMB,SRH,IRJ,JK,IMcK).

Highest Wigeon numbers this winter came in January, with 340 near Meikleour on 9th and 220 at Coupar Angus on 18th; also on 9th, over 300 were on the Rhynd Lochs, Blackford, (IMcK,RLM). About a hundred Teal at Balhepburn on 8/1 was the only big flock. One to three Pintail were seen at Invergowrie on various dates, and nine Snoveler were back on Stormont by 13/3, (RC,IMcK,RLM). There were about 100 Tufted on the North Inch stretch of the Tay on 16/1, when Bertha Loch was frozen over. Significantly, Bertha held 128 on the November Wildfowl Count date, was frozen over for the next Three monthly counts, then held 75 on the March date, when only ten were on the Tay. Small flocks of Pochard were present on various lochs (EDC,JV). Seven Goosander were/...

were on the North Inch stretch of the Tay on 16/1, and five downstream at Moncrieffe a month later. From one to four were often seen on the Ericht, (EDC,SRH,IMcK).

Away from Old England Loch and Kercock, Canada Geese were seen on the Tay at Perth, Loch Clunie and Stanley, where they were associating with Greylag (EDC,IRJ,JK,IMcK).

On 20/3, five Buzzards were soaring over Craigvinean, while other reports came from Loch Ordie. Old England and Blairgowrie (NMB,SRH,IRJ,MM). Sparrow-hawks were seen at St. Martins, Blairgowrie, around Scone, over Perth Tech. and the North Inch (JMD,IRJ,MM,JF.Scott). Hen Harriers were recorded at Loch Ordie, Blairgowrie, Murrayshall and Paddockmuir (NMB,JMD,SRH,RLM). Peregrines at Paddockmuir and Balhepburn, seen a month apart, may have been the same bird wintering in the area (RLM). The only Merlin report came from Dunning on 27/1 (DD). A Kestrel visited a Letham garden in pursuit of the small birds being fed there, but one at Blairgowrie actually took the bread which had been put out! (T.Binny,SRH).

The cold weather of January caused Red Grouse to gather into large flocks, several of over a hundred birds being seen in the Sma' Glen area. Black Grouse numbers seem to be on the increase in lower Glenalmond (MM). Two Water Rails appeared in January; one at Comrie on New Year's Day, the other at Balhepburn on 22nd (RLM,VA.Thom). 25 Moorhen were feeding together in a field by the Earmouth on 6/2.

Golden Plover reappeared in February after the frost had let up. Up to seventy Bartailed Godwit were usual at Invergowrie Bay, with 200 on 27/1, but Knot were scarce, with only two on 2/4 (RC). About 60 Dunlin roosted at Earmouth on 6/2 (RLM). At least twenty Lesser Blackbacked Gulls flew off from Kercock towards Marlee Loch at dusk on 15/1, and there were several on the Tay in Perth next day (EDC). A flock of Collared Doves at Bridge of Earn numbered 120 on 6/1 (RLM).

Big flocks of Skylarks were seen in January - c300 at Waulkmill and "hundreds" between Blackruthven and Tibbermore on 2nd, and c80 at Bridge of Earn Hospital on 15th. The two Shorteared Owls near Scone stayed until at least 22/1, and one returned to Keillour on 5/2 (EDC,JK,RLM,MM). Both species of Woodpecker have been recorded from widespread localities again, and Magpie from the usual confined one. Single Hooded Crows were at Invergowrie on 2/1 and West Banchory Fern, Coupar Angus, on 19/2 (RC,IMcK).

Hawfinches were seen at Craigieknowes, Perth in February; a party of ten Crossbills on Drummond Hill, Kenmore; and twelve Goldfinches at Glencarse on 3/1 (JMD,MM,JHM). A flock of c80 Yellowhammers was seen near Cleavage Loch, Dunning, on 7/1. Two cock Corn Buntings were "jangling" at Plyth on 12/3. The North Mairton Tree Sparrow flock numbered about a hundred on 20/3, but few Linnets were to be seen in the area (EDC,RLM).

RINGING RECOVERY.

A Heron found dead in Blairgowrie had been ringed as a nestling at Lintrathen. Angus, last year. Thus it had moved only about seven miles southwest/...

southwest since fledging.

ONE DAY, IN THE GARDEN, DD saw 20 Starlings, 18 Blackbirds, 17 House Sparrows, 14 Chaffinches, 10 Greenfinches, 8 Dunnocks, 6 Robins, 6 Blue Tits, 4 Great Tits, 3 Tree Sparrows, 2 each of Collared Dove, Redwing, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer, and singles of Woodpigeon, Wren, Coal Tit, Fieldfare and Siskin!

More specifically, this was at 9 a.m. on 19th Dec. 1976. Perhaps we should arrange an outing to Dunning next winter?

OUTINGS. The first two outings of the season were each attended by about twenty Members. On 13th April; plenty of Pinkfeet were found between Tibbermore and Balgowan, but neither Barnacle nor Whitefront. In the same area were a large flock of Golden Plover, and about a hundred Lesser Black-backed Gulls, both species pausing en route for their breeding grounds. Then on through Madderty to Kinkell, where the semi-permanent floodwater again proved most rewarding, with Greylag, Mallard, Teal, Tufted, Coot, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Redshank and Lapwing. A single Ringed Plover flew in and had a passage of arms with one of the Lapwings. Homeward bound in the gathering dusk, one carload saw a goose with "a white neck and a light coloured body" in a party of Greylag. This specimen remains unidentified!

On 27th April a pleasant evening was spent at Invergowrie Bay, though nothing very exciting was seen. As usual, Shelduck and Redshank predominated, with some Dunlin present. Many Willow Warblers sought the shelter of the old quarry, but no other migrants were about. Other small birds seen were Redpoll, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting and Tree Sparrow. Our thanks to Ron Calligan for guiding us around his territory so competently again.

HELP!

The B.T.O. is currently conducting an enquiry into nesting Black Redstarts; any (most unlikely!) records to Editor, please.

R.L.M. would like to know of any nesting Pied Wagtails, particularly if either parent bird is ringed.

Take note of anything that you consider noteworthy, and send notes and records for April-June, as soon as possible after 30th June, please, to R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Tarn, Perth or to Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, were:-

N.M. Baines, E.D. Cameron, R. Calligan, D. Doig, Miss S.R. Hacker, J.L. Innes, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, M. Marsland, L. Schofield, J. Watt, J.H. Wallace.

GOOD CAUSE.

Would any member like to have an enjoyable day's bird-watching and help a deserving charity at the same time? If so, please contact the Secretary who can supply the necessary sponsorship forms for CRACK, The Young Arm of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR APRIL-JUNE 1977.

PERSONALITIES.

A NUTHATCH was seen on south Loch Earnside, but there was no evidence of breeding (Lady Anne Coventry).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE. A bird seen near Wolfhill in late June is very interesting, as two pairs of this declining species bred further north in Scotland this year (per Miss V.M. Thom).

PIED FLYCATCHERS actually did breed at Forneth, Blairgowrie, (per Miss V.M. Thom).

HOBBY. A pair seen displaying in the County, but again no indication of breeding (MM).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One at Cogbrae, Methven, 11/4 (MM).

WRYNECK. A bird heard calling at one site, and probably a second elsewhere. At least two pairs of Wryneck nested in the Highlands this year (Mi).

HOPOE. As reported to R.S.P.B. and by the Press, a Hoopoe was seen in the Blair Atholl area for about a week in the Spring. It appeared to frequent a coniferous shelter belt at a height of about 1,100 ft. Later, what was presumably the same bird was seen in the Pitlochry area, though there was a suggestion that more than one bird was at Blair Atholl (Mrs. Meldrum, per RSPB).

GOLDEN ORIOLE. An unmistakable cock bird was seen in Letham, Perth, on the evening of 2/6. Good views were obtained as it perched on a low wall, before flying off westward (Mr. and Mrs. T. Binny).

WINTER VISITORS.

As we prepare to welcome next winter's arrivals, we record the latest dates of last winter's departures. Of thirteen Goldeneye at Balhepburn on 17/4, only two were drakes. A flock of c70 Pink-footed Geese was heading eastward down Glenalmond on 1/5, while there were still six Greylag on Marlee on 8/5. Two Whitefronts at Tibbermore on 10/4 were presumably on passage. Ten Whooper Swans on the Tay below Errol on 15/4 were accompanied by a single Canada Goose; but there were only five swans by the 28th. A single Whooper was seen in a party of Mutes near Kinkell on 3/5, and another single flew westward from L. Clunie on 12/6 (EDC,SRH,RLM,MP).

Latest dates for Redwing and Fieldfare were all in April. There were eight Redwing in Glen Fearnate on 8th, over 50 at Kinkell on 10th and the last in the Scone/Balbeggie area were seen on 11th. Several small parties of Fieldfare were in the Dunning area on 4th, near Crieff on 9th and around Scone up till 11th. Finally over two hundred were seen near Bankfoot on 17th (EDC,SL,IMcK,MP).

SUMMER VISITORS.

We now have a fairly comprehensive list of "first dates". It seems that the first few arrivals were earlier than usual, but the bulk of immigrants was held up further South by the inclement weather of early April. If any Member/...

Member has an earlier date for any species on the following list, please let us know, as this information is passed on to S.O.C. for the Scottish Bird Report. (Note that we have no date for Redstart, nor any record at all of Grasshopper Warbler).

Common Sandpiper 17/4 Stanley (PBS).
Common Tern 28/5 Glendevon Res. (EDC), 30/5 Blair Atholl (IMcK).
Cuckoo 26/4 Murrayshall (JMD), 1/5 Glenearn Hill (RLM),
8/5 Cochrage Moor, Blairgowrie (SRH).
Swift 4/5 Kinfauns (MM), 14/5 Blairgowrie (SRH).
Swallow 20/4 Scone (EDC, JMD), 21/4 Stanley (PBS), 22/4 Bridge
of Earn (RLM), 23/4 Millearne (MP), 29/4 Coupar
Angus (SRH).
House Martin 29/4 Scone (EDC), 2/5 Murrayshall (JMD).
Sand Martin 27/3 R. Tay at Woody Island (EDC, RLM et al), 9/4 Kercock,
17/4 Blairgowrie (SRH).
Ring Ouzel 8/4 Glen Loch (near Glen Shee) (IMcK).
Wheatear 13/3 Dunkeld (JMD), 27/3 Woody Is. (EDC, RLM et al),
29/3 Methven (JHW), 9/4 Little Glenshee (AB, TF, CWh, CWI).
Whinchat 14/5 Dunkeld (MM).
Sedge Warbler 5/5 Balhepburn (RLM), and "inland" 29/5 Murrayshall
(JMD).
Blackcap 9/5 Scone (EDC), 15/5 Huntingtower (MM).
Garden Warbler 8/5 Glenearn (RLM), 24/5 Balgowan (MM).
Whitethroat 10/5 Scone (EDC).
Willow Warbler 22/4 Millearne (MP), 24/4 Bridge of Earn (RLM), 26/4
Inveralmond (MM), 27/4 Blairgowrie and Murrayshall
(SRH, JMD), 28/4 Stanley (PBS).
Chiffchaff 6/4 Scone (EDC), 28/4 Bridge of Earn (RLM).
Wood Warbler 7/5 Kinnoull Hill (EDC), 10/5 Moulinalmond (MM),
29/5 Blair Atholl (IMcK).
Spotted Flycatcher 22/5 Scone (EDC).
Tree Pipit 1/5 Kinnoull Hill (IMcK) and Rannoch (MM).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Reports of Blackthroated Divers came from the usual breeding lochs in Rannoch, and from two other lochs in the County, but there has been no confirmation of successful breeding. Great Crested Grebes seem to have had a fairly good season, with young reported from several lochs. At least five pairs of Little Grebes were present on L. Moraig. Slavonian Grebes did not turn up at the Lowes, but there was the usual pair elsewhere. Herons continued to breed, though in smaller numbers, at Sandyknowes, in spite of the roadworks in progress alongside (EDC, SRH, IMcK, R. Taylor).

A duck Wigeon with two downy ducklings was on L. Ordie on 26/6. Two drake Shovelers were on Cleavage Loch, Dunning on 10/4, and a pair of Shelduck on floodwater near Pitroddie on 24/4. There were 30 Goosander on the Tay off Paddockmuir/...

Paddockmuir, Errol, on 11/5 (EDC, IMcK, RLM).

Golden Eagle and Buzzard records came from Highland areas, including seven Buzzards in Glen Tilt on 11/4. Urban sightings of Sparrowhawks were over Risslyn House, Perth, on 18/5, and over Bridge of Earn on 20/5 (NMB, SRH, IMcK, MM).

Six Blackcock were seen near Blairgowrie in May, three different parties in Glen Fearnate on 8/4 and a group of four in Glen Fender on 29/5. An aggressive cock Capercaillie, known as "Jock", terrorised visitors to Rannoch during April-June. Red-legged Partridges appeared in two areas, a pair at Kercock on 9/4 and a pair at the entrance to Glen Garr on the evening of our Outing (SRH, IMcK, MM).

On 5/6 a flock of 34 adult, presumably failed or non-breeding, Oyster-catchers was feeding on grassland at Tulliemet. Ringed Plover inland were only seen at Kinkell, 13/4, on our first Outing, and two at Glendevon Res., 28/4. Members on the first Outing also saw c400 Golden Plover at Black-rubven; flocks of up to twenty were seen in Rannoch in late May, and comment was made that the species "seems to be on the increase" in the Blairgowrie/Bridge of Cally area. A Jack Snipe was spotted at Errol on 11/4. Woodcock were reported from several areas, and a family party was seen crossing the Meikleour/Lowes road (NMB, EDC, SRH, IMcK, RLM, MM).

A single, sub-adult, Greater Blackbacked Gull accompanied the smaller gulls on Glendevon Res. on 28/5. Over a hundred Lesser Blackbacks were in the Tibbermore/Balgowan area on 13/4. Away from the Tay, Common Terns were at Glendevon Res., on the Garry at Blair Atholl, and on the Ericht at Blairgowrie, (EDC, SRH, IMcK).

A Long-eared Owl was heard calling in the Black Wood of Rannoch on 17/6. Short-eared were reported from several areas. Barn Owls nested successfully near Almondbank, and there have been no reports of road casualties this quarter! (SRH, MM).

Both species of Woodpecker raised young, and at least seven Greens held territory on the south side of L. Rannoch. A pre-roosting flock of Carrion Crows on a field near Kinnoull Hill held 32 birds on 10/5; a peculiar bird with white wing bars was seen at Rosemount on 21/4; and a hybrid Carrion/Hooded in Glen Tilt on 11/4. Magpies bred successfully, as an immature bird was noticed in the party on 10/7, (NMB, EDC, SRH).

Several pairs of Stonechat bred near Scone, but only one was noted in the L. Laidon area of Rannoch on 28/5. Whinchats were commented on by several Members as being very common in the Dowally/L.Ordie/Mill Dam area. Redstarts were also said to be common in Rannoch. Hawfinches were seen at Scone and Comrie, on 5/7; Twite at Rannoch and Lawers. A family party of Crossbills was seen in the Black Wood of Rannoch on 30/5, and another in the Killiecrankie area on 5/6. In both cases, three young were seen, and other adults were present. A flock of eight was seen in Larches at Craig-y-Barnes on 12/6 (EDC, SRH, IMcK, MM, PBS, J.W. Stewart).

CUCKOO/...

CUCKOO CUCKOO!

On 20th June SRH was watching two male and a female Cuckoo on Cochrage Moor, Blairgowrie. One male kept trying to drive off his rival, while the female called frequently. Eventually the pair seemed to settle down, but then flew toward SRH, who stood perfectly still. The Cuckoos flew round her at a distance of about five feet, the female then settling on a fence post about twenty feet away, giving an excellent view. Such an experience with a fairly common bird is, we feel, just as satisfying as glimpsing some once-in-a-lifetime rarity, and just as worth noting.

PIED WAGTAIL.

Good numbers of Pied Wagtails continued to use the Pullar's roost, with a very high count of 830 on 20/4. Many of these may have been birds on their way to breeding grounds, as the number roosting had fallen to 250 by 1st May.

A Pied Wagtail caught and ringed at a reed bed roost on the Tay on 10/10/76. was found dead, presumably in its breeding area, at Rannoch Station on 27/5/77. The noteworthy point in this recovery is, that when ringed, the bird was missing two toes on each foot. yet it survived over winter. Quite extraordinary when one considers how much walking and running about a Wagtail does to get food! (RLM).

Notes and records for July-September - arrival dates, numbers etc. of winter visitors; last dates of summer visitors; comments of any sort - to R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth, or to Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, as soon as possible after 30th September, please.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, were - N.M. Baines, A. Baldock, E.D. Cameron, J.M. Duncan, T. Fegan, Miss S.R. Hacker, Mrs. I. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, M. Marsland, Miss M. Piper, Mrs. P.B. Scott, J.H. Wallace, C. Whitworth and C. Wilson.

STOP PRESS.

weekend Outing.

It has been suggested that the Section hold a weekend outing (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) to some area of ornithological interest. In order that costs etc. can be worked out could anyone interested in such a venture please inform the Secretary (Perth 2401) as soon as possible? The proposed time is early March 1978.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 1977.

PERSONALITIES.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE. A single bird of this Central Asian species appeared with a few Greylag on Stormont Loch, where it was identified by SRH on 15/9. By 18/9 it had moved to Loch of the Lowes where identification was confirmed by IRJ and JRW, but it then disappeared. Although this goose was most likely to have been an escapee from a wildfowl collection, it is interesting that a single Bar-headed was accompanying some Greylag at Spey Bay, Morayshire earlier in September. Also, feral Bar-headed Geese are now breeding in southern Sweden, so this bird, assuming only one to have been involved, could have been a genuine migrant (RLM).

SNOW GOOSE. A Snow Goose has been consorting with Pinkfeet in the Dupplin area. It has been seen at Windyedge, Tibbermore, and near Methven Castle, but it seems to be very elusive when actively sought for, (VMT,SL,MM). We are told that up to six Snow Geese have passed through Aberdeenshire this winter, so more may appear in Perthshire.

HOOPOE. One stayed around a potato dump by Inveralmond for five days at the end of September (LS).

SUMMER VISITORS.

As usual, Swallows and House Martins stayed on into October. Some late dates for other migrants have been reported. Sandwich Terns passed through Invergowrie from July up to 3/8, with a maximum of fifteen, and forty Commons, on 3/8 (RC). A Cuckoo spent 20th and 21st August at Murrayshall (JMD), while one was heard to "cuckoo" by an allegedly competent audience of four, at Balhepburn on 27/7 (no names!).

Most Swifts left the Scone area about 9/8, but the last lingered until 25/8, and one was seen in Dunkeld on 25/9 (EDC,MM). About 5,000 Swallows roosted at Seaside, Errol, on 14/9 (RLM). House Martins were still visiting nests at Ardtalnaig, L. Tay on 2/10 (IMBM). Two Sand Martins were flying around a nesting colony at Kercock on 11/9 (EDC).

Twelve Ring Ouzels were seen along a two mile stretch of Glen Tilt on 1/8 (IMBM); Redstarts remained at Rannoch until 27/8 (MM); a wheatear appeared on passage at Invergowrie on 17/9, and a Stonechat on 30th (RC). Many Willow Warblers started singing again in August. The last was heard in the Tulloch area of Perth on 13/9 (MM). A Chiffchaff was heard at Scone on 11/8, at the site where one had been singing in Spring, while Tulloch had another on 19/9 (EDC,MM). The last Sedge Warbler was seen at Balhepburn on 7/9 (RLM). Later still was a Garden Warbler at Birnam on 24/9 (MM). There is a belated report of a Pied Flycatcher at Buchanty during the Summer (per JRW).

WINTER VISITORS.

The first geese of the winter were thirty Greylag reported flying west near Dunning on 10/9, with further reports from the same area on 16 and 17/9, (EMM,DD). The first Pinkfeet recorded were about a hundred on 18/9 at Tibbermore/...

Tibbermore, where numbers seem to be very high just now (MM). Some half dozen or so Barnacle Geese can be found among the Pinkfeet.

Goldeneye reached Invergowrie on 21/9 (RC), and have since spread to their various winter haunts. Redwings and Fieldfares are now abundant, the latter species being particularly so - there seemed to be a big arrival in mid-October (PBS). There have been no reports as yet, of Great Grey Shrike, Waxwing or Brambling.

INVERGOWRIE NEWS

Teal and Wigeon have been scarce so far, but two duck Pintail appeared on 3/8, and Shelduck have been regular since mid July, with numbers rising to 33 on 6/9. Ringed Plovers on passage ranged from a single on 16/7 up to 26 on 4/10, but only four Grey have been seen, on 26/9. The first Bar-tailed Godwits arrived on 19/7, and small numbers have been regular since, but only one Blacktailed, on 28/8. A few Knot passed through in September; Dunlin numbers were slow to build up, but reached 700 on 20/9. Two Sanderling were spotted on 22/8, and single Ruffs on three occasions. Two Arctic Skuas on 10/8 were perhaps accompanying terns on their southward migration (RC).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Two pairs of Great Crested Grebes raised five young between them on Glenfarg Reservoir this year. We hope this will become a regular breeding haunt (RLM). Four Herons were fishing L. Ordie on 7/9, and seven were at Port Allen on 18/7 (DM,RLM). Cormorants seem to have abandoned the resting tree at Kinclaven and taken to one on the island at L. Clunie, where six were perched on 17/9 (EDC).

There were two or three duck Wigeon on L. Clunie on 13/7, with no sign of young, but one of several on L. Moraig next day showed great anxiety at human intrusion, though again, no young were seen. Both these lochs held large numbers of Tufted ducklings, including eleven in one brood on Clunie. A single female Tufted summered on the R. Almond (EDC,IMBM,SL). A duck Mandarin, with five young, was making its way down the Annaty Burn towards the Tay on 22/7, and a ringed female appeared at Invergowrie on 28/8 (EDC,RC). Merganser and Goosander continued to breed successfully in spite of persecution.

Some Greylag Geese summered on Lochs Clunie and Tummel, and on the Tay at the North Inch, where one teamed up with a Canada. Varying numbers of Canadas have been reported from various waters. Most of these birds were probably Yorkshire residents returning from the Beaully Firth moulting ground, but a flock of 80-90 was at Fingask L. in October, which is late for Yorks birds. Eleven Mute Swans were grazing mudbank vegetation by the new Sewage Works on 26/7, whilst eight above Isla Bridge on 17/9 included four juveniles.

Raptor records came from the usual Highland areas (IMBM,RLM,DM,JRW). Elsewhere, a Peregrine was seen in lower Strathbraan on 8/10 (JF.Scott), and another was "herding Rooks" over the A9 by Carsebreck (MM). A Sparrowhawk was watched chasing a Woodcock at Craigvinean, and another, more mundanely, plucking a Blackbird at Murrayshall (MM,JMD).

Ptarmigan/...

Ptarmigan families were reported from Glas Tulaichean and Ben Lawers summit (IMBM,MM), and a Capercaillie, one at the roadside near Meikleour (MM). A single Red-legged Partridge was seen at Kercock on 10/7 (EDC). A combined Pheasant/Partridge nest, from which chicks had hatched, was found when clearing undergrowth near Dunning (DD).

Huge flocks of Lapwings are widespread on lowland fields, and Golden Plover are back in their usual haunts. Out of season Curlews turned up at Tibbermore on 7/9 and at Murrayshall on 12/9 (MM,JMD). Snipe were seen on grain stubble at Dalreoch on different occasions, with eight birds together once (EMM,JHW). A Greenshank called in at Haughs of Kercock on 6/8. On the same date there were about thirty adult, and as many juvenile, Herring Gulls at the same place. The Tay between Perth Bridge and Almondmouth held up to twenty Lesser Blackbacked Gulls on 18/9. On 14/7 there were two tiny, downy Blackheaded Gull chicks on L. Moraig, presumably hatched from a repeat clutch after the first had been destroyed (EDC).

Unfortunately we now have to report another Barn Owl road casualty, near Errol this time. Three Short-eared Owls were seen quartering the moors above L. Freuchie on 12/8 (MM). In broad daylight, a Tawny Owl was seen perched low in a pine in Scone Wood, while an apparently unconcerned Red Squirrel scrambled about within a few feet on the same tree (EDC).

An immature Kingfisher seen in the usual breeding area showed at least one pair was successful (MM). Single adults were seen in two new areas (DD,RLM).

A large flock of Mistle Thrushes at Dunning on 2/9 held more than sixty birds (DD). A Fieldfare at Glenshee on 29/7 appeared to be in moult, suggesting that it had summered, if not bred, in the area. The Viewlands Fieldfare has returned to its garden yet again (IMBM) (see Bulletin for October-December 1976).

Meadow Pipit flocks were noted on the move over farmland at Stanley from the beginning of September (PBS). 54 Pied Wagtails on a power wire near Dunning on 4/9 indicates an autumn roost in the area (DD). A single Grey Wagtail was seen at L nan Eun, at over 2,500 ft. in the Glenshee area, on 29/7, and a brood was found high on Ben Lawers on 9/7. Redpolls seem to be as numerous as ever, while Siskins in a wood in Glenshee on 29/7 may have bred in the area. Small parties of Twite were seen on Ben Lawers in July and August, and two pairs near the Spittal of Glenshee in July (IMBM,MM). There seem to be more Bullfinches than usual about (SL). Crossbills were seen in Glenshee on 29/7, and heard at Craigvinean on 10/9 (IMBM,MM). Corn Buntings, up to five, have been seen regularly on the outskirts of Perth at Letham, and a pair fledged three young at Dunning (MM,DD).

RINGING RECOVERY.

A Whitethroat ringed, age unknown, on 4.9.76 at Beachy Head, Sussex, killed itself against a window in Viewlands, Perth, on 9.5.77. This bird was obviously migrating South when ringed, and may have been in its breeding area, or still on passage Northwards, when it came to grief (Susan Jobson per IMBM).

GOLDEN PLOVER.

The British Trust for Ornithology are carrying out a survey of wintering flocks/...

flocks of Golden Plover, with counts on three week-ends between now and February. Regular wintering grounds in the County are centred on Tibbermore, Scone Aerodrome, Errol, Bridge of Farn and Stanley. These areas are being covered by volunteers, but any Member who sees Golden Plover in these areas, or anywhere else, is asked to inform the Editor, please. A note of the place and date is all that is necessary; a count of the birds would be helpful; an indication of the type of ground they were on - stubble, grass, potato field etc., would be even more so. Thank you (Ed).

WHAT'S ABOUT.

Flocks of geese, particularly Pinkfeet, are worth scanning for Snow, Barnacle and White-front. There is a large number of Whooper Swans in the Madderty area - examine carefully for Bewick's. Wintering duck are still arriving, look out for Smew.

Peregrine, Buzzard, Merlin, Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl all tend to move to lower ground for the winter, and may be seen almost anywhere. Colder weather may bring Waxwing, Great Grey Shrike and Brambling. Snow Buntings have been reported from the moors north of Dunkeld.

APOLOGY.

Due to an untimely power cut which blacked out most of Perth City, the lecture on "Birds and Other Animals of East Africa" had to be cancelled at the very last minute. However Mr. Wheeler has promised to return at some future date to fulfil this engagement.

All records for October till the end of the year, please, to R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Farn, Perth or to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, as soon after Ne'erday as possible. Thank you.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are:-

R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, D. Doig, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, I.R. Johnston, M/s S. Laing, Mrs. I.M.B. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, Mrs. E.M. Marshall, M. Marsland, D. Morris, L. Schofield, Mrs. P.B. Scott, Miss V.M. Thom, J.H. Wallace and J.R. Weir.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1977.

We are pleased to begin this Bulletin with the following contribution from John Kirk:-

GLENFARG RESERVOIR IN JANUARY.

A keen east wind made it the kind of afternoon to be well clad and to keep on the move. Low clouds obscured the sky, but held in them a lovely opalescent blue, with occasional sunlit shafts breaking through to give reminder of what lay above. Snow patches lay unevenly along the narrow road, and in drifts over the fields.

We made our way, "welly and woolly" clad, down to the reservoir along the old right of way, glad of every protecting layer. A few Reed Buntings; twittering and tail-flicking, moved to and fro, and numerous Rooks and Starlings hurried about in groups.

The reservoir held large sheets of ice in the west bays - cold comfort, no doubt, for the leathery feet of ducks and gulls where they took their frozen perch. A Heron rose at our approach and slowly flapped his way to a less disturbed sanctuary. Here and there rabbits scurried in alarm down their cold burrows. Some a hundred and fifty Mallard, a handful of Goldeneye, Great Black-backed and Common Gulls rested on the icy water, whilst a few Coot kept close to the western bank.

A brisk walk kept us warm, and the beauty of the hills and the variety of life was more than recompense for any discomfort. Suddenly a large "snowflake", a group of thirty Snow Buntings, caught our attention - a mass of energetic twisting and turning bird life - soon to disappear. Dusk was arriving, and with it small parties of Greylag Geese - early arrivals for a roosting site - soon followed by a long, shimmering skein of over a hundred of their like. So back to the warmth of the car, and an ambrosial cup of hot soup!

It had been a trip of wintry exploration; a delight to see the beauty of the snow-flecked hills and to savour the isolation. We will return in the summer months, I do not doubt, but the magic of the snow and the wild music of the grey geese, alas, will have gone.

PERSONALITIES.

SNOW GOOSE. One, presumably the same individual as was reported in Sept., was seen on 18 and 25/10 and 15/11 in the Tibbermore/Methven area, (MM,JHW).

KINGFISHER. One was seen on a tributary burn of the Tay, 1/10.

BLACKCAP. Three wintering birds have come to light. The first was reported from Stanley in the "Courier" of 5th Jan. Another has been visiting a bird table in Fairies Road, Perth (per Mrs. Millers), and the third has been frequenting the "garden" at the rear of the Museum, apparently subsisting on scraps from the Curator's table! (D.Bell).

WAXWING. Reports at last! At the beginning of December, a few were seen in Blairgowrie (per SRH), but the other records were from the Viewlands/Burghmuir area of Perth, in January. On New Year's Day three were seen, one/...

one being found dead next day, unfortunately (HGM). On 4/1, six to ten were found in Burghmuir, (JHW), and seven there on 8/1, so the same party may have been involved. There is also an undated report from the area of Craigclowan School.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Several adult and juvenile Great Crested Grebes were still present on the Blairgowrie Lochs throughout October, but there was only one, on Stormont, by 13/11. Little Grebes were found, as usual, on the Isla by Coupar Angus and the North Inch stretch of the Tay. Cormorants inland were seven on L. Clunie, on 16/10, 2 on Fingask Loch on 30/10, and six on the North Inch stretch on 18/12 (EDC,SRH,IMM).

There were high counts of Mallard at L. Clunie and the North Inch in mid-Oct., and 150 on the Tay at Stanley on 4/12. The only Teal flocks reported were at Stormont - 25 on 13/11, down to 10 on 25/12 (EDC,JMD,SRH). The biggest flocks of Wigeon were c250 on floodwater near Meikleour on 12/11, 120 on the Isla at Coupar Angus on 18/12, and over a hundred at Methven Moss on 24/12 (EDC,IMM,MM). There were 30 Shoveler on Stormont on 18/12, along with 24 Pochard; though Pochard rose to 33 by 25/12. There were from 10-30 regularly on Lowes over the period (SRH,IMM,MM). In mid-October, 60 or so Goldeneye were gathered on the Tay at Balhepburn, rising to c160 by the end of November, after which they seemed to have dispersed. Twelve were on the Tay at Murthly on 4/12 and seven drakes at Perth harbour on 11/12. Also reported in lesser numbers from all the usual waters (JMD,RLM,MM). Murthly also had 14 Goosander on 4/12, and the Tay in the City 15 on 25/12; a single drake on the Annaty Burn above Isla Road may have been injured, as it seemed unable to take flight (EDC,JMD,MM). Shelduck were scarce at Invergowrie, with only three on 21/12 (RC).

A maximum of five Barnacle Geese has been reported from the Tibbermore area, but there have been two reports of large Canada Goose flocks - 80-90 on stubble by Fingask Loch on 30/10, and 60-70 on floodwater near Meikleour on 12/11 (EDC,SRH). It could well be that the same birds were involved in both reports. About nine Mute Swans have been wintering in Perth Harbour, but the number of Whoopers in the south-east of the County can only be guessed at. Large flocks have been seen at Bridge of Earn, Forteviot Bridge, Dalreoch, and Carsehead, Madderty, but never on the same date! Chronologically, the story goes:-

2/11 35 at Dalreoch (EMM,JHW).
4/11 40 at Carsehead, Madderty - smaller groups for previous three weeks (per IMM).
12/11 32 at Dalreoch, "for several days" (JMD).
13/11 c30, and another flock of 8 at Carsehead (EDC).
15/11 40-50 at Redhills, between Madderty and Tibbermore (JHW).
16/11 30 at Forteviot Bridge (Mr. and Mrs. D. Henderson).
19/11 15 at Bridge of Earn (RLM).
4/12 23 at Bridge of Earn (EDC).

Can anyone add to the story? There are also reports of one to five birds/...

birds from other localities.

Golden Eagle and Buzzard records come from Highland areas, and Sparrowhawk sightings were widespread, including one hunting over gardens in Burghmuir on 19/10 (JHW). "Ringtail" Hen Harriers were seen in Little Glenshee on 13/10 and the Sma' Glen on 27/11 (SRH,MM). A Peregrine flew over Moulinalmond on 18/10, and another over the Lowes on 26/11 (MM,JFS). A female Merlin was at Invergowrie on 3/11, one at Dunning on 10 and 11/12, and a male at Methven on 24/12, allowing excellent views as it perched on a roadside hedge (DD,MM).

Blackcock were reported from Little Glenshee and Glenalmond (SRH,MM), while Members wishing to see Capercaillie should visit the Dupplin area, where many have been seen by several observers, on stubbles by the Kinkell Bridge road (JGO,JHW et al).

A single Oystercatcher probing the frosty grass near Balgarvie, Scone, seemed out of place on 3/12 (EDC). Ringed Plover numbers at Invergowrie fell from 26 on 4/10 down to 10 on 22/10 (RC). Wintering Golden Plover are the subject of a BTO Enquiry, but most of those reported seemed to have moved on before the count date of 26th/27th Nov. In Oct., there were up to 500 in the Scone area, 200-300 at Tibbermore, and 100 at Invergowrie. During Nov., numbers fell to nil at Scone, but there were ten near Meikleour on 13th and twenty near Coupar Angus on 18th, and, in Dec., Invergowrie raised a maximum of 160 on 31st (RC,EDC,IMM,MM,JHW). Inland sightings of Curlew included one over Murrayshall on 5/10, 6 at Tibbermore 18/10, up to 68 on floodwater near Meikleour on 13/11, and 20 at Coupar Angus on 18/12 (JMD,IMM,MM). Up to 300 Bar-tailed Godwits were regular at Invergowrie, but only three Knot (RC).

There seem to have been more Great Black-backed Gulls than usual inland, with one or two regular around Woody Islands, and twelve on the floodwater near Meikleour on 12/11 (EDC). A late Little Tern passed through Invergowrie on 8/10 and there were 40 Collared Doves (on passage?) there on 10/10 (RC). Another unfortunate Barn Owl became a road casualty on the A9 by Carsebreck (M).

Over 200 Skylarks were together at Cogbrae, Methven, on 1/10, and on 22/10 some in a flock at Invergowrie were singing (MM). A Swallow was at Picstonhill, Scone on 6/10, a few lingered further east at East Bonhard until 9th, one was seen at Auchtermuchty, just outside Perthshire on 10th, five passed Invergowrie on 19th, but the very last six stayed at Bridge of Earn until 31st (RC,EDC,JMD,RLM,EMM).

Christmas Day in the Balthayock area produced 40 Great Tit, 10 Blues, 25 Coals, and 30 Longtailed (JMD). Treecreepers were singing at Scone on the last two days of the year (EDC). Redwing and Fieldfare arrivals and movements continued throughout October; twice a mixed flock feeding at Murrayshall was disturbed and put to flight by a passing Sparrowhawk (JMD). Invergowrie had two Stonechats on 11/10, and Rotmell Loch, Dunkeld, a pair on 27/12 (RC,MM).

About 30 Goldcrests were found in Tullybaccart woods on 26/12 (T.Binny). A Grey Wagtail used a bird bath at Dalreoch on 22 and 23/10, and one was at Waulkmill/...

Waulkmill on 11/12 (EMM,MM).

A flock of 80+ Redpolls was feeding on alders near Auchterarder 17/12 (DD), and 120-130 Greenfinches spent most of Oct., on stubble at Scone (EDC). The first Bramblings were reported in Perth on 18/10, staying into early Nov., feeding on beechmast with Chaffinches. On 29/10, 15 were at Balnaguard, 20 at Cogbrae on 26/11 and c20 near Blairgowrie on 10/12 (IM,JGO,JFS). A large flock of Yellowhammers has been frequenting Viewlands Reservoir (HGM), but five Corn Buntings at Letham, Perth, on 1/10 have not been noted since (MM). Snow Buntings reported were 40 near Mill Dam, Dunkeld on 6/1, and about 150 on Meall nan Tarmachan, Lawers, on 19/11 (MM).

MUTE SWAN.

The British Trust for Ornithology is holding a Mute Swan Census this year, and help from Section Members would be much appreciated. There are two parts to this: firstly, a census of breeding pairs between 1st April and 31st May; secondly, a census of non-breeding flocks between 1st and 30th April. Only a selected sample of 10km squares is to be covered for breeding pairs, but these are scattered all over the County. Numbers of non-breeders are required for the whole County.

Mute Swans are easy to identify, breeding pairs will be defending territory, have a nest, or be escorting cygnets, so here is your chance to get out and about with a definite purpose in view, and to help in a project which is taking place right across Europe! Anyway, I would be grateful to have records of all sightings of Mute Swans between 1st April and 31st May. Lots of volunteers please, to E.D. Cameron.

All records for the first three months of 1978, as soon as possible after 31st March, please to, Recorder, R.L. McMillan, 44 Durley Dene Crescent, Bridge of Earn, Perth or to Editor, E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth.

N.B. Either of the above will gratefully accept records at any time e.g. indoor meetings or summer outings, between quarterly Bulletins.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are:-

R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, D. Doig, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, Mrs. I.M. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, Mrs. E.M. Marshall, M. Marsland, Mrs. H.G. Millers, J.G. Ogilvy, J.F. Scott and J.H. Wallace.

FIRST SUMMER OUTING.

26th April, 1978

-

Almond-Tay

-

Leader R. McMillan.

Meet at Museum Car Park 6.30 p.m.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1978.

PERSONALITIES.

SMEW. A pair was seen on the Dunning stretch of the River Earn on 23/3 and 26/3 (DD).

BRENT GOOSE. A single adult of the dark-breasted form was found in a big flock of Pinkfeet near Balbeggie on 30/3 (JK).

KINGFISHER. One or two have been seen on the Almond over this period. One zipped past the stragglers on the Section's first outing, but could not then be located, to the disappointment of the bulk of the party. Birds have also been seen regularly in two other areas.

WAXWINGS stayed in the Muirend Road/Anderson Drive area of Perth from the beginning of the year until mid-March (H.G.Millers,RLM). A few appeared at Invergowrie in March, though none had been reported there during the Autumn (RC).

CAT GREY SHRIKE. One was found dead, under a sheet of corrugated iron by the roadside!, in Methven on 13/1 (per D.Bell). March brought reports of three or four others. One was seen at Inveralmond Industrial Estate on 11th (DF), and another at Balgowan Sawmill on 29th (JK). A third, at Craiglush on 13th (IRJ), may have been the same individual as was found dead at Lowes on 17th (M.Drummond).

CRANE. A bird which was probably of this species was seen at Blair Atholl on 8/4. It finally flew off westward, (E.P.MacRae).

RING NECKED PARAKEET. Personality or escapee, on 8/4 one flew onto a small tree in a garden in Anderson Drive, Perth, where it stayed for about five minutes before taking off again. Its bright green plumage appeared to be in excellent condition, (JHW).

WINTER VISITORS. The high numbers of Goldeneye reported last year were not repeated this year; the maximum in 1978 being 23 on the Perth Bridge to Almond-math stretch of the Tay on 15/1, falling to eight by 12/2. There were eight on Stormont Loch on 18/3 (EDC,JMD). Barnacle Geese were found as usual among Pinkfeet, but in no great number; in fact no more than five together (JK,IMM,MM, JHW). Two Greenland Whitefronts were at Dunning on 3/3, and one near Methven Moss on 26/3; two of the European race were seen at Tibbermore on 4/2 (DD,JK).

Whooper Swan records came from Kinloch Rannoch in the west to Invergowrie in the east, but very few juveniles were noted. It is good to see as many as 25 in the Coupar Angus/Meigle area again. Swan spotters were EDC,RC,JMD,SRH, JK,IMM,IM,MM,JHW.

Small flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings were noted in Jan. and Feb. Five Redwings fed in a Perth garden on 14/2, whilst a Fieldfare and a Mistle Thrush fed together in a Bridge of Earn garden on 19/2. March brought larger numbers of Fieldfares, presumably starting their return migration, with about 60 at Glencarse, 100 near Dunning, and noticeable activity in lower Glenalmond, (EDC, JMD,IMM,IM,RLM,MM). The hard weather brought twelve Blackbirds into a Blairgowrie garden on 20/1 (SRH).

There seem to have been more Siskins about this winter, the largest flocks reported being 40+ at Forteviot Bridge on 15/1, and 20+ nearby at Dunning on 27/3. Both/...

Both flocks were feeding on alders. Smaller numbers were seen at Newton Brig, Almondmouth and Scone Woods (EDC, JMD, IMM, MM). In contrast there were few Bramblings about; up to six regularly visited a Perth garden during February; there were a few near Tibbermore on 29/1; single birds on three dates in Scone; and some in Glen Tilt on 5/3, (EDC, IMM, MM). Snow Buntings haunted the Glen Shee car park as usual, and there were twenty on Schiehallion on 7/1 (MM).

SUMMER VISITORS.

Only the Wheatear managed to beat the 31st March deadline, with individuals at Longforgan and Glenalmond on that date (JHW, SS). April arrival dates to hand include Ring Ouzel on 7th, Sand Martin 9th, Swallow 22nd, Willow Warbler 22nd, and Sandpiper 23rd. Please remember to send any "arrival dates" you have noted, to be included in the next Bulletin, particularly if any are earlier than those detailed here.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes returned to their breeding lochs in normal numbers in March, so it seems that Perthshire birds were not affected by the oil spillage in the Firth of Forth. However, a breeding season census of the species is being undertaken to try to ascertain which population/s were affected. Seven Herons on a ploughed field near Blairgowrie on 14/3 suggest breeding nearby (SRH); one was following only a few metres behind a plough working at Stormontfield on 5/3 (MCC).

Wigeon numbers this winter were highest in January and March; counts of over a hundred came from R. Isla at Coupar Angus and Stormont Loch in Jan; R. Isla at Banchory Farm and R. Tay near Meikleour in March (SRH, IMM). Monk Myre, not a productive water nowadays, held 36 on 2/1 (JMD). A pair of Pintail spent some time at Fingask Loch before continuing their migration northward - though a few pairs do breed in Britain (SRH). As last year, large numbers of Tufted appeared on the Tay when Bertha Loch was frozen over. Pochard flocks of 32 on Marlee Loch on 11/2 (JW) and of 33 on 2/1 and 40 on 5/3 on Stormont L. were noteworthy (SRH). Parties of seven Goosander were on the Isla at Coupar Angus on 13/1 and on the Tay at the North Inch on 10/2, (IMM, JMD). Apparently resident Canada Geese have been reported from L. Clunie, L. Tullybelton and Rohallion Mill Dam (EDC, IMM).

No less than eight Buzzards were seen in the air at the same time near Crieff on 2/1 (SS). Single birds were at Gask 8/2 and near Dunning 14/3 (JMD, DD). A Peregrine was seen in the latter area on 11/2 (RLM). A male Merlin at Invergowrie in January and again in March may have wintered in the area. A stunned male Kestrel picked up by the roadside at Balbeggie recovered its senses in the Vet. Lab. at Cleeve. After a few days it was ringed, then released at the place where it had been found, (A. Kelly, per IM).

Capercaillie were reported from Moulinalmond and Murrayshall Hill (SL, JMD). Blackcock on Easter Bleaton Hill, Glenshee, reached a maximum of fifty in Feb. (MCC). Inland Oystercatchers included 120 at Coupar Angus on 12/3 and 90 at Kinkell Bridge on 23/3. Seven Ringed Plover had moved up the Tay as far as Tay Farm, Meikleour, by 12/3, accompanied by a single Dunlin. Golden Plover reappeared at Invergowrie and Bridge of Earn in Feb, and at various haunts further inland in March. Roding Woodcock/...

Woodcock were widespread. Bartailed Godwits reached a maximum of 410 at Invergowrie on 29/1 (RC, IMM, MM, JHW).

Great and Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were to be seen around the Tay all winter in ones and twos, often feeding on stranded carcasses of salmon. Big flocks of Common Gulls around Kinkell Bridge on 23/3 were probably moving in to their breeding lochs. An immature Iceland Gull turned up at Invergowrie on 28/2 and 3/3 (RC, IMM, MM).

Another Barn Owl fell victim to traffic at Kinfauns on 16/2, and one was courting disaster by perching on a roadside fence post west of Methven on 8/2 (RLM, SS). MCC has established that there are ten pairs of Tawny Owls holding territories around Scone; one pair is known to have reared two young. Two Shorteared were seen by the Isla at Coupar Angus on 8/2, and one there next day; one was quartering marshy ground at L. Moraig on 11/3 (DF, EDC). A Long-eared was at Murrayshall on 26/1 (JMD).

A Green Woodpecker at Rattray was a new locality for this species, though widely reported elsewhere - indeed it appears to be commoner than Great Spotted in some areas. Carrion Crows at Invergowrie were accompanied by a single Hoodie on 25/1 (RC). A huge flock of Jackdaws, estimated to be about six hundred strong, was scattered over fields at Lawers, Comrie, on 22/3, whilst a smaller flock of a hundred or so was near Blairgowrie on 31/3 (IMM, SRH). A Magpie at Highlandman Loan, near Crieff, on 23 and 28/3 could indicate a dispersal from the Keillour area (SS). There was a flock of over twenty Stock Doves at Bridge of Earn on 11/2 (RLM).

On 13/2, IMM found a cock Stonechat on a sandy bank by the Isla at Coupar Angus, presumably driven down from one of the glens by the hard weather. A cock Blackcap frequented a bird table in Fairies Road, Perth until well into February, a second was seen in Muirton Bank, Perth, in Jan. (per V.M.Thon).

enty Goldcrests at Monk Myre on 2/1 seems a big number for this area, (JMD). On 9/2, in deep snow at a height of about 1,000 ft. in Glen Turret, Meadow Pipits were observed feeding alongside sheep on small, snow free patches of vegetation (SS).

A mixed flock of Greenfinches, Goldfinches and Yellowhammers (no colour problem here!) found motorway workings to their liking, feeding on the weed seeds from Jan. into late Feb. (MCC). Goldfinches were seen at Ardblair, Almondmouth, 8 on 12/2, and Quarrymill, Scone, 15 on 26/3 (SRH, JMD, EDC). Hawfinches have been spotted regularly at Scone and Almondbank; one was at Cleeve on 6/2, one at Forgandenny on 11/2, and one seen twice, or two, at Pitcairngreen on 26/2 (EDC, SL, IM, RLM, Graham Paul). Whilst EDC was counting Pied Wagtails going in to roost in Pullar's building, a solitary Linnet kept him company in the courtyard. It fed busily on the seeds of weeds (knotgrass?) growing at the foot of the wall. More sociable birds made up a flock of over forty at Rosemount on 31/3 (SRH). Almost the same number of Yellowhammers were together at Forgandenny on 11/2 (RLM). A single Reed Bunting joined a small flock of Chaffinches in Anderson Drive on 10/2 (IMM). Ten to fifteen Tree Sparrows flocked with House Sparrows near Errol on 12/3, and over thirty with Chaffinches at Highlandman Loan at the turn of the year/...

year.

SOME RINGING RECOVERIES.

A nestling Heron ringed at Bridge of Earn on 6/5/77 was recovered at Stonehouse, Lanarkshire on 19/1/78, a movement of 79 Km. S.S.W.

A nestling Swallow ringed at Glenurquhart, Inverness-shire on 27/8/77 was controlled at a reedbed roost near Errol on 23/9/77. A movement of 130 Km. S.E., this was good going for a bird which was probably less than three weeks out of the nest.

A Sedge Warbler ringed as an adult at Balhepburn, Perth on 12/8/77 moved South at a considerable speed, to be controlled at Radipole Lake, Dorset, 635 Km. away, on 29/8/77, only seventeen days later.

In contrast, a Pied Wagtail ringed as a juvenile at Balhepburn on 12/7/77 was found dead, probably killed by a cat, in Scone on 12/1/78. This recovery suggests that some locally bred Pied Wagtails remain in the area over winter (RLM).

ODDMENTS.

On 16/2 IM watched a flock of around ten Blue Tits apparently feeding on the undersides of cars in the Paradise Place car park in Perth. He suggests salt, or possibly grit, used on the roads in the prevalent wintry weather, as the attraction. Any other suggestions?

A flock of Lapwings was noted resting on the ice on Loch Clunie on 2/3 (JHW). The same behaviour was seen at Loch Moraig on 11/3. When Lapwings feeding around the loch were disturbed, they flew onto the ice in the middle of the loch, where they were joined by a small flock of Starlings (EDC).

Song Thrushes were heard singing for the first time on 5/2 at both Tulloch and Scone. But while the first Tulloch Blackbirds struck up the same day, those at Scone didn't start singing until the 13th - a day on which snow fell continuously! (MM, EDC).

Mute Swan Census. Any records of Mute Swans anywhere in the County - even the most obvious e.g. around Perth Harbour - would be appreciated. Only details required are place, date, and number of swans seen; details of breeding would be a bonus; to E.D.C. please.

OUTINGS. The number of Members attending has been consistently good, and particularly pleasing has been the high proportion of younger Members. Due to the cold Spring weather, the Almond/Tay area did not hold the variety of Warblers expected, but some Members did learn to distinguish between the songs of Chaffinch and Willow Warbler. First of the year for some were Swallow and Common Sandpiper.

The Bloody Inches produced Common Tern and Ringed Plover, plus aliens in Canada Goose and Redlegged Partridge. There were very few Sand Martins about, considering the date.

The outing to Glengarr was marred by persistent rain, which may have kept away the Cuckoos, which are usually so characteristic of this area. However the usual Lapwing and Snipe nests were found, and a brood of tiny Lapwing chicks.

The Dunning outing provided a most enjoyable evening walk, as most Members there did not know the area. A small pond held Mallard, Teal, Shoveler, Coot and Moorhen, as well as a duck of some sort which posed an insoluble identification problem/...

problem. Nests of Yellowhammer and Longtailed Tit were inspected, but a young Tawny Owl refused to show face at the entrance to its nest.

Our thanks are due to the leaders of these outings.

RECORDS for April, May and June, as soon as possible after 30th June, please, to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, were:-

R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, M.C. Chesney, D. Doig, J.M. Duncan, D. Ford, Miss S.R. Hacker, I.R. Johnston, J. Kirk, Mrs. S. Laing, Mrs. I.M. McKinnie, I. McLachlan, R.I. McMillan, M. Marsland, Mr. and Mrs. S. Shimeld, J.H. Wallace and J. Watt.

STOP PRESS.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Michael Marsland died in Dundee Royal Infirmary on 12th June, 1978 from serious injuries sustained as a result of a fall while bird-watching in Glen Loch. A native of Manchester, Mike came to Perth about 5 years ago after working in London. He is survived by his wife and two young children to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

Mike was a competent and experienced ornithologist and soon came to love the birds of the Highlands. He was especially fond of the Rannoch and Atholl areas. He was also a skilled photographer illustrating his magazine articles with his own pictures. Mike conducted classes in bird-watching at Perth Technical College and had spoken at Section meetings. He was a regular contributor of prolific records to the Bulletin. Sadly, never again will the initials "M.M." appear in the acknowledgement of contributors to our Bulletin. We will miss Mike.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR APRIL-JUNE 1978.

PERSONALITIES.

SLAVONIAN GREBE. A pair appeared on Hare Myre on 30/4, presumably on passage to the breeding area, as it was not seen here again (SRH).

GADWALL. A single drake was seen near Kinkell Bridge on 17/5 (Miss M. Piper).

PINTAIL. A pair on Fingask Loch on 11/4 was still present on 22/4, but not thereafter (SRH). On passage, like the "Slavs", or potential breeders? (Ed).

SNOW GOOSE. A bit of a mystery, this one! Reported from the Tibbermore area on 3rd April by JK, on 5th by EDC, and on 15th by IMM and Miss Laing, descriptions of the plumage vary. It could well be that two, or even three, different birds were involved.

WRYNECK. Found dying at the roadside at Newton Brig on 11/5, this bird is now preserved in Perth Museum (per DB and SS). This is a very interesting record when we consider that Wrynecks were heard calling at two sites in the County last year, while two pairs bred further north.

MARSH HARRIER. On 24/4 a Marsh Harrier was watched hunting over reed beds at the Loch of the Lowes. There are very few reports of this species for Scotland (JK).

WINTER VISITORS.

The latest dates reported suggest that our winter visitors were slower to depart than last year. There were still over five hundred Pinkfeet at Blackruthven, Perth on 1/5, and sixteen at Bloody Inches on 3/5 (IMM, JMD). Greylag were not reported after 16/4, when 52 were at Meikleour, and there was movement northward near Calvine (JMD, EDC). There were three Barnacle and two Whitefront in the Tibbermore area on 15/4, (also the Snow Goose), and two Barnacle next day (IMM). In April there were nine Whooper Swans at Madderty on 11th, five at Methven Moss on 16th and fourteen, seven of them juveniles, on Loch Dochart on 22nd. There were still four on L. Dochart on 25th May, and a single near Coupar Angus on 18th (IM, JK, MCC). The only late record for Goldeneye is of a drake on Dunalastair Reservoir on 28/5 (EDC).

Fieldfares were seen in some numbers until the end of April: 30 at Oliverburn on 27th, 200 at Gask on 29th, and 40 near Rae Loch, Blairgowrie on 30th. On 1st May there were still 250-300 at Trinity Gask, and the last ones left Glenalmond. After this only two at Killlichonan, L. Rannoch, on 5th, were reported. There were Redwings by Laird's Loch on 17/4, and the last in Glenalmond were seen on 8/5 (JMD, IMM, SRH, RLM, SS, JGO). 20/30 Bramblings at Tulchan, Glenalmond on 7/4 was the only record of this species (EDC).

SUMMER VISITORS.

From the records that have accumulated it seems that our summer visitors were generally later than usual in arriving. The roll-call reads:-

<u>Common Sandpiper</u>	22/4 Blairgowrie (SRH), 23/4 Kinloch Rannoch (DB).
<u>Common Tern</u>	3/5 Kercock (Section Outing).
<u>Cuckoo</u>	4/5 Murrayshall, Scone (JMD), 7/5 Blairgowrie (SRH).
<u>Swift</u>	3/5 Laird's Loch (JGO), 12/5 Almondbank (SL), 13/5 Blairgowrie (SRH).

Swallow/...

<u>Swallow</u>	22/4 Forgandenny (Mr. and Mrs. D. Henderson), 23/4 Kinloch Rannoch (DB), Glenalmond (SS), Almond- bank (SL).
<u>House Martin</u>	25/4 Millearn, Auchterarder (MP), 6/5 Murrayshall (JMD), Scone (EDC).
<u>Sand Martin</u>	9/4 Kercock (EDC).
<u>Ring Ouzel</u>	7/4 Sma' Glen (SS), 9/4 Amulree (SRH), 10/4 Dunal- astair (EDC, RIM).
<u>Wheatear</u>	31/3 Longforgan (JHW), Glenalmond (SS).
<u>Whinchat</u>	10/5 Glengarr (Section Outing).
<u>Grasshopper Warbler</u>	14/5 near Errol (RLM).
<u>Sedge Warbler</u>	13/5 Murrayshall (JMD), 14/5 Errol (RLM).
<u>Blackcap</u>	2/5 Scone (EDC).
<u>Garden Warbler</u>	5/5 Murrayshall (JMD).
<u>Whitethroat</u>	17/5 Scone (EDC).
<u>Willow Warbler</u>	19/5 Almondbank (SL), 22/5 Scone (EDC), 24/5 Crieff (SS) and widespread thereafter.
<u>Chiffchaff</u>	26/4 Millearn (MP), 3/5 Abercainey, Crieff (SS), 5/5 Forgandenny (RLM).
<u>Wood Warbler</u>	29/5 Almondbank (SL).
<u>Spotted Flycatcher</u>	21/5 Scone (EDC), 27/5 Blairgowrie (SRH).
<u>Tree Pipit</u>	7/5 Blairgowrie (SRH), 10/5 Glengarr (Section Outing).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Only two or three pairs of Little Grebe were present on Loch Moraig this summer, where last year there were at least six pairs. There were at least two pairs of Wigeon, here on 28/5 (IMM). About fifty Wigeon were on Stormont Loch on 8/4, and a pair frequented upper Glenalmond throughout the period (SRH,SS). A pair of Shoveler was found on floodwater by Methven Moss in early April, three pairs were on Stormont on 8th, and a pair on floodwater again, this time at Trinity Gask, on 1st May (IMM,SRH). A Scaup, rare inland in Perthshire, was on Redyre Loch on 13/5 (RC). Young Shelduck were slow to appear at Invergowrie, but there were 41 of various ages by 27/6 (RC). Canada Geese bred on L. Clunie, Tullybelton House Loch and Rohallion Mill Dam.

Raptors have had a good breeding season; young Kestrels seem to be particularly numerous. Peregrines bred in two sites which had not been used for many years. As usual there are records of Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Merlin and Hen Harrier from Highland areas. A Merlin investigated a bird table at Millearn on 27/3 (MP).

Fewer Ptarmigan than usual were seen on the Glenlyon hills (EDC). Capercaillie were proved to breed at Moulinalmond, Scone and Guildtown (SL,MCC). On 3/5, Red-legged Partridges were seen at Abercainey (SS) and Kercock (Section Outing).

A few Ringed Plover passed through Invergowrie in April, and one was at Trinity Gask on 1st May (RC,IMM). Three Golden Plover, presumably on passage, were on Methven Moss on 8/4, seven were at Invergowrie on 27/6, with thirteen two days later (IMM,RC). A scarcity of this species in its haunts in Glenlyon and Glenalmond was remarked upon (EDC,SS). The last Bar-tailed Godwits at Invergowrie were three on 22/4; summer plumaged Spotted Redshanks appeared there on 18 and 19/4 and/...

and 2/5; single Greenshanks turned up on 12 and 18/4, and the only Knot on 17/4 (RC).

Passage Lesser Blackbacked Gulls numbered twenty-four on floodwater at Methven Moss on 5/4, with ones and twos along to Madderty (EDC). A single Little Gull was at Invergowrie on 5/4, and six there on 1/5 had probably been pushed in by a strong east wind (RC). There was no sign of breeding by the few Common Terns at Kercock this year, but adults carrying food were seen near Coupar Angus on 18/5 and Blair Atholl on 30/6 (MCC, IMM): Three were seen on the Almond on 12/5, and a single several times by Blairgowrie (SL, SRH). Terns on passage at Invergowrie included a Sandwich on 27/4 and 2 Littles on 1/5 (RC).

A Tawny Owl killed on the road outside the Foulford Inn, near Crieff, at midday on 16/7, had a young rat in its talons, the corpse being still warm (SS). Another was seen to stoop half-heartedly at a stoat in the forest at Laird's Loch (JGO). A Shorteared Owl was seen by the Isla near Coupar Angus on 18/5, and nearby on 31/5, was seen to catch prey in rough grass on the river bank (MCC, EDC). Other reports came from Amulree and Cochragh Moor, Blairgowrie (SRH).

At least two pairs of Kingfishers bred on the Almond (SL); one was seen on the Section Outing on 26/4, and one elsewhere on 27/5 (EDC). Swallows took over the kennel at SL's for the fifth successive year, and raised two broods therein. The House Martin colony on Glen Turret Dam seems to be thinning, with 29 nests counted (SS).

A Hooded Crow was seen in the Sma' Glen in early Spring, while one was apparently paired with a Carrion Crow near Dunalastair on 10/4 (SS, EDC, RLM). Two Magpies were in the Buchanty area on 7/4 (EDC). Eight Jays made up a courting party in the Glen of Pitlowie on 16/4 (MCC). Tits appear to have had a mixed breeding season. Several large broods are reported to have fledged; on the other hand several broods were found dead when near to fledging. This was at a time of persistent rain, and death would seem to have been due to shortage of food.

Wheatears in the fields at Stanley Farm on 15/5 were presumably still on passage, though very late. A Whinchat here on 30/5 was probably breeding (PBS). One, possibly two, male Grasshopper Warblers were heard reeling in a reed bed near Errol from May onwards, and the species probably bred there, as two juveniles were mist-netted in August. Singing Chiffchaffs were reported from Abercairney 3/5, Faskally 7/5, Cally Loch, Dunkeld 6 and 28/5, Ardargie House 9/6 and Ochertyre, Crieff, 14/7 (SS, EDC, MCC, IMM) - more records than usual. Up to three Hawfinches together have been seen in the Scone area (EDC, JK). Goldfinch reports came from Scone, Buchanty, Gilmerton and Blairgowrie. A flock of five Twite seen above Glen Lochay on 13/7 may have been a family party (SS).

MISCELLANY.

On 16/4 three skeins of Greylag Geese were watched moving over Dalnacardoch. One flock of about a hundred followed closely the line of the A9/River Garry, thus flying almost due West at this point. The other two flocks both swung away from this line and headed almost due North towards the Galck Pass (EDC).

At Loch Moraig, a Common Gull built a large nest in the branches of a larch (IMM). Due to the high water level at Hare Myre, several Black-headed Gull nests in the colony there were built a few feet above the water, in willow scrub (SRH).

A/...

A Shorteared Owl with prey in its talons rose from a young plantation, and was persistently mobbed by a Kestrel until it dropped again into the trees. The Kestrel followed it down, but soon rose again, empty-handed (JGO).

Although outwith "our" area, an interesting note is of a small Sand Martin colony situated at a height of 1,200 ft. in Glen Markie, Laggan, Inverness-shire, (MCC).

A female Blackbird was seen to eat part of a recently hatched chick, and fly off with the remainder. Immediately above where the bird had been feeding was a Blackbird's nest (its own?) containing two recently hatched chicks and one egg (JGO).

A Grey Wagtail on breeding territory on the Annaty Burn, Scone, was discovered to be wearing coloured rings, as well as a B.T.O. one. The wagtail was mist-netted in order to trace its origin, via the ring number. It proved to have been ringed as a juvenile at Arbroath in June 1975 (EDC,RLM).

Marsh Harrier, (see "Personalities"). We feel it would be an example and encouragement to Members who spot a rarity which would need a satisfactory description to confirm the record, to print John Kirk's notes submitted with his record: "For about 30-35 minutes I had good intermittent views of the bird. ... It was a large bird, clearly a raptor - main impression pale brown - small head - very clear black outer quarter of each wing, reminiscent of male Hen Harrier. This bird appeared to me a little bigger than a Hen Harrier and it had quite a long tail - not like a Buzzard. Tail feathers grey, but not as pale as male Hen Harrier, and similar grey on outer coverts. Back pale brown, and also inner coverts. Underbody pale - almost creamy collar under neck - head greyish and small.

It was flying mainly low over the reed bed at the West end of the loch, appearing to be on the hunt - three or four wing flaps, followed by a glide, with wings held above horizontal. It was mobbed by Crows and Curlew, and at least twice appeared to land in the reeds. Then it perched on a dead birch fairly near the ground, so that I had good views at about 150 yds. Striking bright yellow legs clearly seen. Legs also appeared to be trailing down in flight as it finally crossed the loch to the South East."

OUTINGS.

The woods at Moulinalmond proved to be lacking in bird life, though one unseen songster started a Blackcap v Garden Warbler controversy among its audience. The Dunkeld area posed some identification problems with "little brown birds" - most of which were probably Meadow Pipits. Many Fallow deer were seen.

The longer outing to Fowlsheugh was much less well attended than the evening ones. However, those who went were rewarded by close-up views of the avian multistories of the cliffs - main inhabitants auks and Kittiwakes. Largely the same species featured on the Isle of May, with nothing very unusual being spotted.

The last Outing of the summer will be to the Montrose Basin on Sunday, 17th September.

MUTE SWAN SURVEY.

My thanks are due to those who surveyed 10 Km. Squares, and also to those who/...

who sent in individual records of Mute Swans, breeding and non-breeding - E.D.C.

RECORDS for July, August and September, as soon as possible after 30th Sept., please, to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, were:- D. Bell, R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, M.C. Chesney, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, J. Kirk, Mrs. S. Laing, Mrs. I.M. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, J.G. Ogilvy, Miss M. Piper, Mrs. P.B. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. S. Shimeld and J.H. Wallace.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 1978.

PERSONALITIES.

All our reports under this heading come from John Kirk junior. The reason for this is very simple; three out of the four concern geese, and John, an enthusiast for these birds, has been working on a farm in this very favoured area. The Corncrake was not associated with geese!

PINKFOOTED GOOSE. A leucistic bird was seen at Windyedge on 30/9. Looking at first sight like a Snow Goose, it was actually cream coloured, with almost white wings.

BRENT GOOSE. Three birds of the light-bellied, Western, race were in a flock of Pinkfeet near Tibbermore on 24/9.

SNOW GOOSE. One white phase bird, again with Pinkfeet at Windyedge on 30/9, and seen several times since.

CORNCRAKE. One in unharvested barley near Tibbermore on 15/9.

SUMMER DEPARTURES.

The only reported "last dates" are as follows. A Whitethroat was at Blairgowrie on the last day of August, but a later one was at Murrayshall on 21st Sept. (SRH,JMD). Groups of thirty-odd Swifts were seen over Gannochy, Perth, and Scone at the end of July; they had left Blairgowrie by 20/8; one straggler was flying among the Swallows preparing to roost in the reeds at Seaside, Errol, on 4/9 (MCC,SRH,EDC,BML). House Martins left Murrayshall on 21/9 (JMD). There were three Sand Martins over the Tay at Woody Island on 17/9, and at least five at Seaside the same day (EDC,BML). As usual a few Swallows and House Martins have lingered on into October.

WINTER ARRIVALS.

The weekend 16/17th September brought the first big influx of geese, reported by many Members. The very first report was of fifteen Pinkfeet over Methven Moss on 14th, about 5,000 arrived in the area on 17th, and as many again on 30th. The only Greylags specifically identified were 47 near Meikleour on 24th (JK,IMM).

Very early arrivals were two Bramblings at Murrayshall on 28/8, and one, possibly one of these two, was present from 27 to 30/9 (JMD).

There were no reports for this period of other usual winter birds, such as Fieldfare, Redwing and Goldeneye.

INVERGOWRIE NEWS.

Ron Calligan reports a good year for waders at the Bay, highlighted by the appearance of six Little Stints on 6/9; with singles later on 8th and 12th. Ringed Plover reached a maximum of 23. Bar-tailed Godwits returned towards the end of August, and numbers were still building up by the beginning of October. Single Spotted Redshank and Greenshank, and up to six Knot were seen regularly. Dunlin numbers are still small. No Curlew Sandpipers were seen last autumn, but this year they have been seen almost daily since 23/8, with a maximum of six on 24/8. Ruffs have also appeared regularly, with four on 16/8.

SELECTED/...

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

The only inland Cormorant was a single at Whiteloch, Blairgowrie, on 29/8 (SRH). Great Crested Grebes seem to have had a good breeding season, with young being reported from Rae and Fingask lochs, as well as the usual ones. A Little Grebe on the Isla on 24/9 was still sporting summer plumage (IMM).

Stare Dam held large numbers of Mallard, with 76 on 24/7 and about twice as many on 4/8. On the latter date, about 50 of them were disturbed, along with Woodpigeons, from an area of storm-flattened barley (EDC, IMM). A single Scaup turned up at Invergowrie on 28/8. 120 Tufted Duck on Stormont, 10/9, was a high count. Fifteen Pochard there on 10/9 rose to thirty by the 17th, while one on Glack's Sawmill Dam at Dunkeld was unusual (RC, SRH, JK, IMM).

Ten Canada Geese at Clunie and thirty at Fingask Loch in September were probably passing through on return moult migration, but the origin of one accompanying Pinkfeet near Tibbermore is problematical. Mute Swans which managed to rear cygnets were seen at Stare Dam, Forteviot Bridge, and on the Isla at Banchory Farm. Information collected during the Mute Swan Census in April/May suggests that many young die, possibly due to lack of suitable food in the breeding loch (MCC, SRH, IMM, JHW).

A series of reports of Buzzards in lowland areas during the summer, seems hopeful for breeding in the future, if it has not already occurred. A juvenile Peregrine was seen around Tibbermore several times, and one at Invergowrie on 23/9 circled the bay twice, chasing off all the waders, but was not seen to make a kill (JK, RC).

Young Moorhen chicks at Rattray on 30/9 were late in the season. About 200 Coot on Stormont on 17/9 indicated an influx from elsewhere (SRH). Away from Invergowrie, waders reported were eleven Golden Plover flying south over the Tay at Kercock on 17/9 and five Whimbrel flying downriver at Seaside on 6/8 (EDC, BML). Adult Common Terns were seen carrying food on the Garry at Blair Atholl on 1/7, and a mixed flock of 34 Common and Sandwich Terns passed through Invergowrie Bay on 24/9 (IMM, RC).

A Kingfisher appeared in the reed-bed at Seaside on 13/8 (TRG). Four Green Woodpeckers together near Dunkeld suggests successful breeding (IMM). A westward movement of Skylarks over Scone was noticed on 23/9, when there were several flocks on Methven Moss, and around Meikleour next day (EDC, IMM). Two Ravens were spotted in Glen Artney on 6/8 (JMD), and two Hooded Crows west of Calvine on 21/7. Other crows seen in the area were all distinctly Carrions (EDC).

Mistle Thrush flocks appeared at Murrayshall on 20/9, and a single Stonechat on the 12th (JMD). A Whinchat singing by the sawmill at Dunkeld on 20/7 was lower down the hill than one usually finds them; single juveniles were first-netted at Balhepburn in July and at Seaside in August, on both occasions in reeds! (IMM, TRG). Redstarts with young were seen near Dunkeld, 20/7, and a single female or juvenile near Rhynd village on 5/8. A dozen Willow Warblers accompanied a tit flock foraging along the edge of Muirward Wood, Scone on 20/8. Three pairs of Spotted Flycatchers were feeding young around Dunkeld, 20/7 (IMM, EDC).

Meadow/...

Meadow Pipits on the move included over a hundred in the Hallyburton area of Balbeggie on 3/9. Two hundred or so Pied Wagtails gathered on the roofs of the new "Lego" houses at Bridgend on 22/9 were obviously heading for the Perth roost, while 53 in Davie Park, Blairgowrie on 9/9 indicates another roost in that area (MCC,SRH). Several families of Grey Wagtails were on the Tilt by Blair Atholl on 1/7, and a pair on the Buckie Braes, Perth on 5/9 (IMM,MCC). Young Goldfinches were seen at Drimmie, Blairgowrie and Murrayshall (SRH,JMD). Family parties of Redpolls fed in birch trees at Burghmuir, Perth throughout July and August (IMM). Only one Corn Bunting was reported, a male jangling at Scone on 5/8. At Murrayshall, Reed Buntings were still feeding young in mid-July (EDC, JMD).

MISCELLANY.

A House Martin colony at Scone is expanding into an area of newer houses, but nest sites are generally restricted to a single one at the apex of each gable end (MCC).

A Woodpigeon still sitting on two eggs on 5/9 illustrates the long potential breeding season of this species (JHW).

A Robin holding a territory in a Scone garden habitually starts its song with three or four Swallow alarm calls (EDC).

The B.T.O. is sponsoring a survey of wintering Blackcaps, and information is requested for each sighting of a Blackcap from December 1978 to March 1979 inclusive. No official forms are being issued, but information required is: place, including altitude above sea level; dates; sex; habitat (urban, suburban/rural); food and feeding habits; aggression; song; any other relevant comments. The Editor will be very pleased to accept records for passing on to B.T.O.

OUTING.

The following account of the last of this summer's outings has been contributed by Irene McKinnie.

Only eight members set off for the outing to the Montrose Basin on 17th September. The first grey geese of the season, seen making their way up the Tay Estuary as the cars passed Invergowrie, seemed a good omen for the success of the day.

A local bird-watcher's tales of Green Sandpiper, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper made us envious because, unfortunately, the tide was too far into the basin for a large selection of waders to be seen. However, Greenshank, Dunlin and a duck and drake Scaup were observed at close range. The visit was also noteworthy because of the great concentration of Mute Swans.

Later at Scurdie Ness, a mile or two away, several light and dark phase Arctic Skuas were seen close to the shore and two flocks of Purple Sandpipers alighted on rocks nearby. Scoter, Guillemots, Gannets, Terns and Eider were also noted.

All agreed that another visit would be worthwhile.

WHAT'S ABOUT.

Search through those flocks of geese for the "strangers". You are almost sure to find a Barnacle somewhere, if not Whitefront or Snow. Onset of colder weather/...

weather will bring Whooper Swans, and possibly Bewick's, as well as various species of duck. There are masses of berries on hawthorn and holly, very attractive to Fieldfare, Redwing and Waxwing. Finch flocks congregate on stubbles, look out for Bramblings. Incidentally, over the winter period, a walk along the Tay between Perth Bridge and Inveralmond is hard to beat for the variety of birds which can be seen. Good spotting - and don't forget the Blackcaps!

All records for October till the end of the year, please, to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, as soon after Ne'erday as possible. Thank you.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are:-

R. Calligan, E.D. Cameron, M.C. Chesney, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, J. Kirk jun., B.M. Lynch, Mrs. I.M. McKinnie, J.H. Wallace and various members of the Tay Ringing Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Subscriptions. Subscriptions for the session are now due and should be paid to the Section Treasurer, Mrs. I. McKinnie, 23 Anderson Drive, Perth. Due to the high cost of postage etc., it is regretted that Bulletins cannot be sent to members whose subscriptions become overdue.

British Birds. Enclosed with your Bulletin is a leaflet offering a very substantial reduction from the regular subscription to this excellent monthly magazine. This offer is open only to members of certain recognised bird-clubs so this is an opportunity to save some money as a result of your Society membership while, at the same time, extending your ornithological knowledge.

PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1978.

We are pleased to begin this Bulletin with a contribution from Sandra Hacker:
A BIRDWATCHER'S MINIGUIDE TO SKYE.

Although Skye is sometimes described as disappointing to the ornithologist, a visit in April or May can be an exciting and rewarding holiday.

En route, there is a good chance of seeing red-throated divers on Loch Laggan, black-throated on Loch Quoich and red deer grazing at the roadside in Glen Shiel. Crossing over to Skye on the Kyleakin ferry, the island on the right is Eilean Bhan, "The White Island", where Gavin Maxwell of "Ring of Bright Water" fame, spent the latter part of his life before his untimely death in 1969. He intended to harvest the "eider-down" which the female eiders pluck from their breasts to line their nests.

Lochs Ainort and Sligachan hold mallard, wigeon, tufted, eider, goldeneye and shelduck, red-breasted mergansers, red-throated and great northern divers. Loch Ainort might also produce an otter and a peregrine "stooping".

There are very few sandy bays, but where there are strips of shingle, look for oyster-catchers, curlew, dunlin, snipe, turnstones, redshank, greenshank, golden and ringed plover and sandpipers.

At Duntulm, kittiwakes, razorbills, gullenots and fulmars cling to the cliff ledges, whilst far out to sea towards the Shiant Islands, gannets dive. Several flocks of redwing are in the vicinity as are the odd stonechat and tern.

There can be few more delightful experiences than camping on the shores of Loch Dunvegan, listening to the calls of oyster-catchers, curlew, redshank and heron in the quiet of the night. Good views of seals can be had here.

Loch Slapin holds a variety of waders and at Elgol, overlooking Loch Scavaig, Manx Shearwaters from their nesting sites on the neighbouring island of Rhum, skim over the sea in summer.

Buzzards, kestrels, hoodie crows, short-eared owls, wheatears, willow-warblers, rock and meadow pipits, heron, shag and black guillemot are common, with a superabundance of cuckoos! Ravens frequent the mountainous areas of Quirang, Storr and the Cuillins, with little grebe in the numerous small lochans.

In September, skeins of geese pass overhead with light-bellied brent on Loch Ainort.

Not least of the attractions of Skye are the carpets of primroses and bluebells, particularly in the "Garden of Skye" at Sleat.

PERSONALITIES.

WHITEFRONTED GOOSE. A bird of the European race was found in a flock of Pinkfeet at Cultmalundie, Tibbermore on 26 Oct (EDC,AK,SL,IMM).

SNOW GOOSE. Two white phase birds were seen on Methven Moss on 10 Dec, whilst a single had been seen earlier at nearby Merriness Farm on 5 Nov (DD,SRH,SL,IMM).

BRENT GOOSE. An individual of the pale-bellied race was located in a flock of Pinkfeet near the old Tibbermore Station on 8 Oct (SL,IMM).

HOOPOE. One frequented the Brig o' Turk area from mid-Nov until at least the end of the month (A.Black). This was very late in the year for a Hoopoe to be found in/...

in Scotland, and it survived some very inclement weather during its stay.

WAXWING. The only report of this winter visitor from Scandinavia was from the same area, and in the same period, as the Hoopoe! The Waxwing was first seen at Brig o' Turk on 18 Nov (A.Black).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. Three reports from widespread areas give this species a good start to the season. The first was near Trinafour on 23 Oct; another was seen several times over the period 29 Oct to 16 Nov at Letter Muir, Callander, where presumably the same bird held a territory last winter. The third was much nearer "home", spending at least the period from 27 Nov to mid-Dec in Viewlands Park, Perth (C.R.Steven,D.Thorogood,Mrs.H.G.Millers).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

The last Great Crested Grebe of the year was on Stormont Loch on 17 Dec (SRH). A single immature Cormorant was on L. Faskally on 13 Oct; there were at least eight between Perth Bridge and Almondmouth on 19 Dec including five flying upstream together, and three in the same area on 28 Dec (EDC,MCC).

Apart from two on L. Moraig on 13 Oct, Whooper Swan reports are concentrated in two areas. A herd located near Thornhill built up from five on 22 Oct to a maximum of 58 on 19 Nov. There were only two juveniles here (DT). The second area was Methven Moss, where, numerically speaking, the picture was rather confused, though even birds as conspicuous as swans can easily be overlooked on the Moss. Reported numbers ran thus:- 30-40 on 13 Oct, 11 on 18 Nov (including two juveniles), 40-50 the next day, 18 on 26 Nov, down to six on 26 Dec (EDC,AK,SL,IMM,PW).

Greylag and Pinkfeet seem to be as numerous as ever, though some traditional roosts had disappointing numbers at the November count. The Lower Glenalmond area saw unprecedented flocks of up to 3,000 Pinkfeet feeding around Logiealmond, and even more Greylag flighting in to roost on Buchanty Loch, during November. Seventeen Canada Geese on L. Rusky on 24 Sept may have been local birds, but 87 on L. Clunie on 21 Oct were obviously on their way south from the Moray Firth moulting grounds (DT,EDC). The largest group of Barnacle so far was of 27 at Duncrub, Dunning, on 5 Oct; other reports from the Earn side of Dupplin were of two at Blackford on 8th, and eleven at Dalreoch on 11 Nov. In the Tibbermore area Barnacles were reported from 5 Nov onwards, with a maximum of eleven on 18 Dec (KB, EDC,MCC,DD,SL,IMM,MES). In less usual areas were four at Trinity College, Glenalmond on 15 Nov, and one, with Greylags, near Meikleour on 16 Dec (PW,EDC). Finally, the tale of a hybrid, looking like a Barnacle x Snow Goose. This was seen in the same flock of Pinkfeet as the Snow Goose of 5 Nov, and appeared to be playing an odd game of "follow the leader"; one Pinkfoot, one Barnacle, the hybrid, and then another Pinkfoot were following one another among the remaining Pinkfeet, which seemed to be totally disinterested in the "game", (SRH,SL,IMM).

Mallard numbers seemed to have been high in the Autumn. The largest flocks of Teal were of thirty odd near Meikleour on 10 Oct, L. Faskally on 13 Oct and Buchanty Loch on 22 Oct; there were twenty at Stormont Loch on 17 Dec. As usual, Wigeon flocks were larger:- 80+ near Meikleour on 10 Oct, 40-50 at Buchanty on 16 Oct, 102 at Coupar Angus on 12 Nov, and 125 at Banchory Farm, Coupar Angus, on 17 Dec (EDC,SRH,SL,IMM,PW). On 22 Oct, a little lochan in Glen Quaich held 23 Teal, 5 Tufted, 4 Pochard and a Wigeon: (PW). There was a Pintail drake on Stormont on/...

on 12 Nov, and a pair on Loch Mahaick on 5 Nov (SRH,DT). A pair of Shoveler stayed on Stormont until 26 Nov, and here Pochard numbers rose to a maximum of 35 on 17 Dec (SRH). The River Isla by Coupar Angus held 71 Tufted Duck on 10 Oct, whilst downstream at Banchory Farm there were 204 on 17 Dec, along with ten Goldeneye (IMM). There were thirty Goldeneye on the Tay by Scone Race Course on 29 Oct, and a single female on a tiny pond at Scone on 27 Dec, where there were also three Mandarin (MCC).

Wader records were few. 300 Golden Plover were seen at Dalreoch on 25 Nov and 12 at Coupar Angus on 17 Dec (KB,IMM). Single Redshanks were heard at Stormont and seen by Coupar Angus on 17 Dec (SRH,IMM). 40-50 Curlews were present around Scone Palace up to 17 Dec, but only a few remained by 28 Dec; 102 near Meikleour on 10 Oct were down to seven by 16 Dec; there were 200 at Dalreoch on 20 Nov, (EDC, MCC,SL,IMM).

Winter Great Black-backed Gulls appeared in the usual places, eighteen at Haughs of Kercock on 12 Oct, two on floodwater nearby on 16 Dec, and two at the Woody Island, Perth, next day (EDC). A Barn Owl was found dead on the road at Horsemill, Bridge of Earn on 26 Oct (RLM).

Laggard summer visitors included a Swift at Blairgowrie on 21 Oct (B.Lancaster); two Swallows at Doune on 4 Oct, one over the Tay at Perth on 16 Oct, 6 at Bridge of Earn on 23 Oct and one at Rattray on 1 Nov (DT,EDC,SRH,RLM); four House Martins at Bridge of Earn on 14 Oct and 5 at Glenalmond on 2 Oct (RLM,PW); a Redstart at Dunning on 29 Oct (DD); a Blackcap at Seaside, Errol on 15 Oct, and another in Perth on 19 Nov (TRG), though the latter may overwinter; and a Chiffchaff at Seaside on 15 Oct (TRG).

A Grey Wagtail feeding on a muddy field near Scone on 2 Dec looked out of place, but it, or another, was still nearby on 30 Dec - a very wintry day indeed! (EDC). Mid-October brought an influx of Redwings and Fieldfares, though numbers didn't seem to be as high as last year. There were, however, 1,000 Fieldfares at Seaside on 11 Nov. A big flock of Mistle Thrushes, over forty, was found in Glen Lednock, Crie in Sept, but no other flocks of more than ten have been recorded since (MES, MCC,RLM,JMD).

A total of fifty Goldcrests, in two parties, was seen in Muirward Wood, Scone on 27 Dec. On 17 Nov, the same observer counted fifty Longtailed Tits as they flitted across the Blairgowrie road near Old Scone, and found thirty nearby on Christmas Day (MCC). Magpies were not reported from the usual Keillour area, but two were spotted in a field near Gleneagles Hotel on 16 Dec (MES). Over 2,000 Rooks were on a field at Kinkell Bridge on 6 Oct, and 14 Ravens joined in mobbing a Golden Eagle around Stuc a Chroin on 19 Nov (MCC). A Hooded Crow was at Blacklunans on 10 Oct (IMM).

Bramblings were first noted on 8 Nov, when twelve or so were found at Dowally; a similar number were at Rosemount on 28 Nov; about thirty around Trinity College, Glenalmond increased to a maximum of about five hundred, in several flocks, on 5 Dec (MES,SRH,PW). Only two big flocks of Siskins were recorded: about fifty at Dunkeld on 18 Dec, and 130 at Crieff on 29 Dec (MCC,MES). Redpolls were seen regularly, feeding on silver birch seeds, in the Burghmuir area of Perth until Christmas, but there are no other reports (IMM). The Callander area had an influx of Crossbills, with up to 75 being seen in plantations on the Mentieth Hills on 26/...

26 Nov, as well as smaller numbers elsewhere (DT). The odd Hawfinch has been seen fairly regularly in Scone, but 9 Dec produced an unprecedented flock of thirteen, watched feeding on haws, and also pecking something (galls?) from oak leaves still hanging on the tree (EDC). A flock of over thirty Yellowhammers at Highlandman Loan, Crieff, was at the same spot as a similar flock at the same time last year (MFS). A single Snow Bunting was flitting around the mist-enshrouded summit of Carn Gorm, Glenlyon on 11 Nov, but there were forty on Stuc a Chroin on 19 Nov (EDC, MCC).

MISCELLANY.

Pied Wagtails gathering on the North Inch prior to roosting in the willow scrub of the shingle island above Perth Bridge numbered over five hundred on 7 Oct. Also on the scene was a Peregrine. On 18 Dec, 360 Wagtails were counted entering the Pullar's roost, and again a Peregrine, presumably the same one was present (RLM).

A first year female Peregrine with a broken wing, found near Blairgowrie on 19 Nov, died a few days later. It had been ringed as a nestling in Dumfriesshire, and illustrates the random post-fledging dispersal of this species, (Mr. McKay, per M. Nicoll, Dundee Museum).

A Swallow ringed as a youngster at Errol in August 1974 was controlled, (caught, ring checked, and released) four years later, September 1978, at Potteric Carr, Yorkshire, 345 Km to the South South East. This bird must have completed four trips to South Africa and back in the interval; probably returning to the Errol area to breed. When controlled it would be on its fifth trip abroad (TRG).

About the same age as the Swallow above was a Willow Warbler controlled at Seaside in August 1978. This bird had been ringed as a juvenile, in Holland, in August 1974. Now Willow Warblers generally return to their natal area on return migration, so what was this one doing in Scotland, if it had been born in Holland? Or had it been hatched in Scotland and been wind-drifted eastward as it set off on its first migration, then moving south through the Continent? Or what? (TRG).

The Fieldfare that winters regularly in a Viewlands Road, Perth, garden, is back again. It has now appeared every winter since 1975-76. Regarding the garden as its territory, this Fieldfare chases all other birds from the bird-table. Though it eats bread, fat and other left-overs, it shows a definite preference for apples (per IMM).

All records for the first three months of 1979, as soon as possible after 31st March, please, to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, PH2 6RZ.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are, K. Brockie, E.D. Cameron, M.C. Chesney, D. Doig, J.M. Duncan, Miss S.R. Hacker, A. Kemp, Miss S. Laing, Mrs. I.M. McKinnie, R.L. McMillan, Mrs. M.E. Shmeld, D. Thorogood, Mrs. P. Wright and Tay Ringing Group.

WARBLERS. The talk on "Warblers" by S.R. da Prato which was postponed from January 10th, will now be given on Wednesday, March 14th, 1979.

BIRD MAGAZINES. To interest children in birds and bird-watching, the Museum requires bird magazines, so if any member has magazines no longer required, this is a very worthwhile use for them. They can be handed in to Perth Museum or given to the Section Secretary.

PERTSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JANUARY-MARCH 1979.

PERSONALITIES:

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. First reported on 21 Jan, two, possibly a pair, spent several weeks on the North Inch stretch of the Tay. Initially there was some confusion as to whether these birds were Red- or Black-throated, especially to those unfamiliar with divers in winter plumage. Also confusing, was the fact that one or other disappeared on some days (MCC et al).

BITTERN. In the bitter weather of mid-January, a Bittern was found in a pheasant rearer's release cage near Alyth. Very weak when found, the bird died a few days later, and is now preserved in Dundee Museum.

This bird was probably of Continental origin, rather than one of the few English residents, which would not be likely to move North to escape inclement weather conditions. (per M. Nicoll)

BEWICK'S SWAN. A flock of six Bewick's Swans stayed on floodwater at Methven Moss from at least 10th till 28 Mar, being joined by varying numbers of Whoopers for much of the time. In fact, these Bewick's were probably passed over by some observers as being Whoopers - never take anything for granted! By stalking through the damp birch wood, J.K. jun got close enough to identify a Wildfowl Trust ring on one of the birds. (JK/JK jun)

WAXWING. Not a Waxwing winter. R.C. has seen none at all at Invergowrie, but a few have been wintering in the Viewlands area of Perth, records spanning 7 Jan to 28 Mar, with a maximum of five in Feb. Reports of single birds came from Craigclowan, Perth, on 24 Jan, Stanley on 3 Feb, and Errol on 15 Feb. (IMM, HGM, Craigclowan School Y O C)

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One was seen at Myreside, near Methven, on 13 Jan (SAL). There was one at Viewlands in Dec (last Bulletin), and one at Almondbank in Apr (next Bulletin for details). Question: How many birds involved? One, two or three?

WINTER VISITORS. Floodwater on Methven Moss held no fewer than 52 Whoopers (only 4 juv) on 26 Mar, falling to 25 by the end of the month. The only other flock noted was one of twelve at Dunkirk Park, Bridge of Earn, on 5 Feb. A family party, adults and four young, was on Loch Earn on 8 Feb, there were two on the Tay near Dalguise on 11 Mar, and on 31 Mar, six flew off northward from Lowes (JK? MES, JHW)

Geese seemed to move out of the Tibbermore area during the first two months of the year, but there was a marked return of Pinkfeet in mid-March. White-fronted Geese appeared in this area:

Greenland birds on 6th and 11th Mar (two); European on 12th and 17th Mar (four). There were also three at Old England Loch, Stanley, on 18 Mar, and one at Meikleour on 31 Mar (IRJ, JK, SAL, IMM, JHW). In a less well covered area, 500 Greylag were seen at Dull, Aberfeldy, on 4 Mar (MCC). There were 85-90 Canada Geese near Meikleour on 21 Feb (MES). Barnacle numbers around Tibbermore ranged from 10 on 10 Mar to 14 on 24th (JK, SAL, IMM). Fair numbers of Goldeneye have been seen on the Tay, with 24 on the Perth Bridge to Almondmouth stretch on 13 Jan, and 33 on 18 Feb: 53 in the Kercock area on 10 Mar. 18 Mar, being a Wildfowl Count day, brought reports of 20 at Butterstone, 23 at Marlee, 21 at Drummond Pond, but only 18 on the Perth Bridge-Almond stretch of the Tay (EDC, IRJ, MES, JW)

Fieldfares and Redwings, largely absent during the worst of the weather, returned in Feb, with 75-100 Fieldfares at Methven Moss on 19th, 50 at Stormont on 24 Mar, and flocks of between 15 and 70 at Murrayshall from 28 Jan to 31 Mar. A single bird stayed in a garden at Dalreoch throughout the hard weather (MCC, JLD, EMM, JHW)

The only Redwings reported were a flock at New Abernethy in Jan, feeding on holly berries, and five at Murrayshall on 9 Feb. Bramblings fed at bird-tables in Perth, two birds from 12 Jan, and Abernethy, three birds on 9 Jan. A flock of 30 in Strathbraan on/...

on 10 Feb, and three or four in each of three flocks of mixed finches in the Libbermore area, were the only other records (AC, JMD, AMF, SAL, IMM). Snow Buntings appeared on Shien Hill, Scone, where there were six on 10 Feb; on the hills north of Loch Earn, two on 22 Feb; and on the A9 between Drumochter and Calvine, two flocks, each of about twenty, on 25 Mar (EDC? SRH, MES).

Take note of any of the above species seen in May and June, Please SUMMER VISITORS were conspicuous by their absence in this period. It seems that the normal "early birds" such as Ring Ouzel, Wheatear and Sand Martin, were late in arriving, but others, such as Swallow, House Martin and Willow Warbler were up to time. Please note personal "first" dates of all summer visitors for the next Bulletin.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

A Great Crested Grebe on the Tay at the North Inch on 13 Jan was most unusual: there were eleven back on Stormont on 18 Mar. (EDC, SRH) Cormorants were seen on the Tay and lochs as usual. Nine Herons were on the Tay alongside the Racecourse on 14 Jan (MCC). The hard weather drove Mute Swans from the various lochs, producing concentrations on the Perth-Almond stretch of the Tay, numbers reported varying from 10-12 between 13 Jan and 18 Feb; also on the Earn, where five adults and ten juveniles were at Forteviot Bridge on 14 and 21 Jan, with three adults and six juveniles at Dalreoch on the latter date. The big flock on Drummond Pond numbered 34 on 18 Mar (EDC, SAL, IMM, EMM, MES).

Two pairs of Shelduck were inland on Stormont on 24 Feb, while at Invergowrie, numbers gradually increased to about 150 (RC, MCC). Mandarin numbers off the North Inch seem to vary according to the time of day, - thirty were seen on 27 Jan, but only five on 30th (EDC, IM). Several Wigeon flocks of over a hundred were noted: - on the Isla at Coupar Angus, 209 on 7 Jan, 250-300 on 2 Feb, 180 on 18 Mar and 150 further downstream; on the Earn at Dalreoch, 137 on 21 Jan and 132 on 10 Mar (SAL, IMM, JHW).

Teal never appear in such numbers, but 32 were on floodwater near Meikleour on 20 Jan and 40 on 17 Feb, while there were 19 on Methven Moss on 24 Mar (EDC, IMM). Highest counts of Mallard were: - 300 on the Isla at East Banchory, Coupar Angus, on 7 Jan; 330 Perth Br- Almond on 13 Jan and c200 on 30 Jan; 158 at Forteviot Bridge on 14 Jan; 50 in a burn at Pitcairn on 23 Jan; 230 on Marlee on 18 Feb and 189 at Dalreoch on 10 Mar (EDC, SL, SAL; IMM, IM, EMM, JW). Floodwater at Methven Moss held four drake Shoveler on 10 Mar, and Dalreoch two the same day (JK, SAL, IMM, EMM). Ten Pochard were at Perth Harbour on 11 Feb, and 38 on Drummond Pond on 18 Mar (IM, MES). Frozen lochs brought the usual influx of Tufted Duck to the Tay at Perth - 134 Perth Br-Almond on 13 Jan and about 200 at the Harbour on 11 Feb. Mergansers were not notable, but Goosanders were, with 8 at Forteviot on 14 Jan, 40 from Perth Br-Almond on 30 Jan, 39 at Kercock on 10 Mar, 8 at Lowes on 18 Mar and 25 on Drummond Pond the same day (EDC, IRJ, IMM, IM, MES).

Bad weather forced numbers of Coot and Moorhen to the estuary at Invergowrie, but there was also a large congregation of the former on the Isla at East Banchory, where numbers increased from 00 at the beginning of Jan, up to 322 on 17 Feb. Over 70 Moorhens on Stormont on 24 Mar is also noteworthy (RC, MCC, SAL; IMM, WMattingley)

There was a maximum of 20 Ringed Plover at Invergowrie on 24 Mar. Golden Plover returned to their usual haunts in March. A single Bar-tailed Godwit spent some time on the North Inch Golf Course on 18 Mar. While the Oystercatchers with which it was associating walked about, probing through the thin snow cover, the Godwit just stood! In more appropriate surroundings were the 287 seen at Invergowrie on 4 Feb. A single Curlew appeared at Ardblair, Blairgowrie, on 30 Jan; others seen in Jan were at Scone Palace and Dalreoch, while two at Murrayshall on 27 Feb were early back at their breeding ground. The odd Redshank turned up along the Tay on various dates, and there were several at the North Inch on 11 Feb (RC, EDC, MCC, SRH, SAL, IMM, JGO).

At least one Black-headed Gull in Perth had donned full breeding plumage by 13 Jan. There were five Great Black-backed Gulls on the Scone Palace shingle on 13 Jan (EDC, IM). Sadly, again we have to report Barn Owl road casualties - two by the M90, at Craigiehill and at Moncrieffe/...

Moncrieffe, both reported on 5 Mar; one by Broxden, below wires this time, on 12 Mar; one at Carsie, Blairgowrie, on 30 Mar, was obviously not a recent victim (MCC,SRH,IDS). Short-eared Owls were recorded at Dalreoch on 21 Jan, and Shien Hill on 27 Jan, with possibly the same one at Murrayshall into March (EDC,JMD,SRH,SAL,IMM).

Kingfishers seem to have survived the winter well, with at least two pairs at usual breeding sites; but a pathetic pile of bright blue feathers downstream of the Queen's Bridge indicated that at least one had suffered some other fate.(SL,IM).

A Grey Wagtail at Muirhall Farm, Perth on 3 Feb, may have been the same one as reported in the last Bulletin. There was an obvious influx of Song Thrushes to the North Inch/ North Muirton area over 17/ 18 Mar, and around Scone on 19th(EDC). The big flock of Long-tailed Tits in Scone Wood still mustered 32 on 20 Jan, and there was a party of 16 at Bridgend, Perth on 11 Feb (EDC,MVAM). A Magpie turned up at Invermay on 18 Feb (DD)- more evidence of this species spreading in the County ?

Tree Sparrows were noted in flocks of mixed finches at Crieff, twenty plus, on 29 Jan, and thirty plus in the Tibbermore area on 18 Feb. Two parties of Goldfinches, one of them with Redpolls, were seen in the Crieff area. Siskin numbers increased in the new year:- 30 at Crieff on 1 Feb, 40-50 in Upper Glenalmond on 22 Feb; while at Almondbank, there was a maximum of 57 on 18 Mar, still present on 23rd. The only report of Redpolls, apart from that above, is of a flock of 20 at Whitemoss Loch, Dunning on 21 Jan (SRH, SL,SAL,IMM,MES). Big flocks of Bullfinches were 30 feeding in heather appearing above the snow on the moors at Ochtertyre, Crieff, on 23 Feb, and over 20 on Knock Hill, Crieff, on 9 Jan. One to four Hawfinches have been seen regularly at Scone and at Bridgend. There were also four at Almondbank on 22 Feb, and eight there on 1 Mar. On both occasions they were seen to be feeding on the stones of sloes (EDC,SAL,IMM,MVAM). The Yellowhammer flock at Highlandman Loan persisted throughout Jan and Feb; another large flock was one of forty at Tibbermore on 18 Feb (IMM,MES).

WEEKEND OUTING. We are pleased to print the following account, by Sylvia Laing, of what was evidently a most enjoyable trip.

The weekend outing to Carrbridge in March was attended by eleven Members. It was a lovely day for travelling up on Friday, 23rd with brilliant sunshine all the way, although, unfortunately, it turned cloudy and cold for the rest of the weekend. Some Members, on their way up, were lucky enough to see a few Snow Buntings, and quite large groups of Red Deer fairly far down the mountain-sides. We had all arrived at the hotel in time for our evening meal, which, I may add, was very nice indeed, as were all the meals. In fact, The hotel was very comfortable.

On the Saturday we went round by Dulnain Bridge and saw our first Crested Tits, along with other members of the tit family. Some Members also saw a Red Squirrel feeding on a garden bird table. From there we went on to Loch Garten, and en route, everybody had a marvellous view of two Peregrines circling overhead. Loch Garten was a bit disappointing, with very little to be seen. From there we went on to Loch Morlich, which was a beautiful sight, as it was completely frozen over, with very deep snow round about. Loch an Eilkan was our next stopping place. Here we had our lunch, before walking right round the loch. We saw Cormorant, goldeneye, Goosander and some more Crested Tits, but no Cross-bills. Just as we came back to the cars it started to snow slightly, so we decided to call it a day, but some Members went to have a look through the Landmark Visitor Centre, before returning to the hotel for our evening meal. We passed the evening trying to do a bird quiz brought along by Mrs Millers.

On the Sunday morning, after breakfast, we all headed for the Insh Marshes, where we were met by Russell Leavett, who had kindly agreed to meet us and take us round. Just after leaving the cars, a Raven flew overhead; which made a good start to the day. When we arrived at the hide, we saw quite large flocks of Whooper Swans, and some Mallard, Teal and Wigeon out on the marsh. We also had a marvellous view of a Buzzard sitting on a Juniper bush. After we had visited both hides, we were taken across/...

across the marsh and saw Fieldfares and Redshank. Unfortunately the weather prior to our outing was so bad that a lot of the usual migrants which pass through the area had not come so far north, so we did not see as much as expected. It is, however, a lovely area and well worth a visit in April, May or June, to anybody interested.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all who attended the weekend, to thank Iain McLachlan for the trouble he took to make the arrangements for us. It was very much appreciated.

WINTER BLACKCAPS. Details of nine birds were contributed, to be sent on to the organiser of the B.T.O. Enquiry into wintering Blackcaps. Records came from Miss Hanmer, Comrie; Mrs Russell, Crieff; MWAMartin, Bridgend; G L Aitchison, Kinnoull; B M Lynch, Seaside and Prof & Mrs Henderson, Longforgan. The last three sites each held two birds. The Comrie, Crieff and Kinnoull birds all fed on fat and crumbs at bird tables. The male of the pair at Longforgan was heard to sing.

RINGING RECOVERY. A juvenile Song Thrush ringed at Seaside, Errol, on 19 Nov 78, was found dead at Holywood, Co Down, on 6 Jan 79. This report confirms a south-westerly movement of this species across Scotland. We must remember, too, that this thrush may have crossed the North Sea to reach Seaside.

FIRSTS & LASTS. Please take note of, and report, the dates of your first sightings of summer migrants, and last dates on which you noticed winter visitors, such as Whoopers, geese, Goldeneye, Redwings, Fieldfares etc.

SURVIVAL. After such a long, hard winter, it would be useful to have an assessment of how our resident birds have survived. Personal observation suggests that tits, except perhaps, Long-tailed, and Treecreepers survived well, but Moorhen numbers seem to have dwindled. Comments from Members would be appreciated.

THANK YOU. It will be obvious to regular readers that the usual deft fingers have not been dancing lightly across the keys. In fact, Mrs McLachlan has decided to retire from her unpaid, unsung and under-appreciated position of typist to the Bulletin Editor. Having "had a go" himself, the Editor, at least, now realizes just how much time and care Nanette put into the meticulous preparation of the stencils for duplicating. To her we give our most sincere thanks for her efforts on our behalf.

To Members, and to the unavoidably nameless friend who does the duplicating, we apologise for the untidy layout of this Bulletin, and promise to practise our typing before the next one.

ALL RECORDS for April, May and June, as soon as possible after 30 June, please, to E D Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, P H 2 6 R Z.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials, are:-
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PERTHSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR APRIL-JUNE 1979.

PERSONALITIES.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. After some weeks absence, the two Black-throated Divers reappeared at the North Inch on 19 Apr, but this was the only occasion which they were reported (Dr. J. Gillingham).

WHITE STORK. First discovered at Castle Menzies, Aberfeldy, on 8 May, what was presumably the same bird spent the period 10-13 May on fields alongside Murray Royal Hospital, Perth. It, or another, reappeared in the County, near Dunkeld, on 9 June. According to the "Courier", a White Stork was seen at several places in Angus between and after the Perthshire sightings. However, some correspondents may have got confused with a Cattle Egret, which was identified positively at Loch of Kinnordy and was later spotted elsewhere in Angus.

During its stay at Perth, the Stork was seen resting, preening, feeding and flying, by many people. Although there is no doubt about the identification, there could be some doubt as to whether it was a genuine wild bird or an escape from some collection (D. McDiarmid, Mrs. H.G. Millers et al).

RED KITE Seen over Kindrogan on 18 Apr, this seems to have been correctly identified, and fits into the pattern of European raptors sighted in Britain this Spring (I.M. Walker).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE One spent at least a week, from 14 Apr at Almondbank. It favoured power cables crossing a ploughed field, and a raspberry field across the road (S.L. SAL. IMM)

WINTER VISITORS

As usual, our winter birds ~~are~~ were fairly widespread in April, with some lingering into May. The latest whoopers were one at L. Kinnardochy on 5 May and six at Carsehead, Madderty, on 7th (W.M. Smith). A rumour of a "large flock" at Errol sometime in May remains unconfirmed (per IMM). There were still a few hundred Pinkfeet in the Tibbermore area on 6 May (SAL. IMM), and 200+ Greylag flew eastward over Carsehead on 10 May (T. Smith). Of the rarer geese, four Whitefronts, believed to be of the European race, were at Cultmalundie on 22 Apr, and a single Snow Goose on Methven Moss on 14 Apr (SAL. IMM). Goldeneye records came from the Blairgowrie area, where a female was on White Loch, and two males and five females on Stormont on 8 May (SRH).

Outwith the wildfowl, only Fieldfare and Brambling have been reported. A few of the latter were feeding under roadside beeches near Chapelhill on 2 Apr (EDG). The Fieldfare records are more intriguing; two singles - one in the Sma' Glen on 25 May (SS), the other in Glen Quaich on 20 June (Miss Watson), were each seen on only the one occasion, but it is possible that they were breeding birds. A pair certainly bred, adults with three young being seen between 14 and 18 June.

SUMMER VISITORS

The first arrivals of several species were early this year, in spite of the weather, but they were very few, and numbers generally did not build up until much later. Most observers seem to agree that there are fewer Swallows about, and more Swifts; but some say House Martin numbers are well down on last year's, others that there are more about! Other species that seem to be on the "up" side of the scale are Spotted Flycatcher, Garden Warbler and Chiffchaff, while on the "Down" side are Whinchat, Blackcap and Goldcrest. Any comments?

First dates reported:

- Common Sandpiper. 20 Apr, Upper Glenalmond (SS). 28 Apr, Blairgowrie; Glenlyon (SRH.EDC).
Cuckoo. 4 May, Strathtay (WM). 6 May, Murrayshall (JMD). 8 May, Upper Glenalmond (SS),
10 May, Killin (NMCKinnie).
Swift. 8 May, Rattray (SRH). 10 May, three, Perth (MCC). 11 May, Scone, Almondbank (EDC.SL)
13 May, Aberfeldy (SS). 14 May, Kenmore, Crieff (WM.SS).
Swallow. 12 Apr, Upper Glenalmond (SS). 15 Apr, Killin (WM). 24 Apr, Scone Racecourse (JMD)
27 Apr, Murrayshall (JMD). Thereafter a general arrival from 3 May onwards.
House Martin. 8 May, several at Murrayshall (JMD). 9 May, Scone, 13 May, two at summit
of Carn Liath, Blair Atholl (MCC).
Sand Martin. 12 Apr, two at Stormont Loch (SKH).
Tree Pipit. Buckie Braes, Perth (MCC).
Redstart. 2 May, Upper Glenalmond (SS). 5 May, Kannoeh (WM). 13 May, Glenlyon (EDC).
Whinchat. 17 May, Crieff (SS). 23 May, Cochrage Moor, Blairgowrie, (SRH).
Wheatear. 11 Apr, Almondbank (SL). 15 Apr, Crieff, Cochrage Moor (SS.SRH). By 16 Apr, they
were common in Kannoeh (EDC).
Ring Ouzel. 20 Apr, Upper Glenalmond (SS). 28 Apr, Glenlyon (EDC).
Grasshopper Warbler. Two males reeling on Drummond Hill, Kenmore, 19 May (WM).
Sedge Warbler. 20 May, Murrayshall (JMD). 23 May, Crieff (SS). 25 May, Blairgowrie (SRH).
Whitethroat. 13 May, Almondbank (SL). 15 May, Weem, Rosemount (WM.SRH).
Garden Warbler. 18 May, Cluny, Aberfeldy, Scone (WM.EDC).
Blackcap. 23 May, Crieff (SS). 24 May, Almondbank (SL).
Wood Warbler. 27 May, Scone - first heard here for many years (EDC).
Chiffchaff. 15 Apr, Crieff (SS). 21 Apr, Scone; two at Cally Loch, Dunkeld, 29th (MCC).
Willow Warbler. 12 Apr, Upper Glenalmond (SS). 15 Apr, Scone (EDC). 16 Apr, Crieff,
Almondbank (SS.SL). 19 Apr, Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie (WM.SRH).
Spotted Flycatcher. 23 May, Cluny, Aberfeldy (WM).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes have bred on the usual waters, and a pair appeared on Hare Myre for the first time for several years (SKH). On 1 Apr, Fingask Loch held seven adult and three juvenile Mute Swans, which must have been just passing through; a pair on a pond near Murthly had nine well-grown cygnets on 13 June (EDC). The only Canada Geese reported were four on Lowes on 19 Apr, and three on Clunie on 22 June (SRH.EDC). A Mandarin duck took over a nest box erected for Tawny Owls near Scone, and appeared to have hatched four young from eight eggs laid (MCC). 20-25 wigeon which mobbed a visiting Osprey at a loch in Atholl in May were mainly drakes; hopefully the ducks would have been incubating in the area (SAL,IMM). The pair of Gadwall found on a pond at Dunning in May unfortunately disappeared before the Section Outing. Although the drake reappeared, giving rise to the hope that his mate was brooding nearby, there has been no sign of a family (DD). Hare Myre seems to be more attractive to water birds than it used to be, with three drake and a duck Shoveler on 8 Apr. There were five pairs of Goosander on Lowes at the beginning of April, and one duck showed off her brood at the end of June (SKH).

A Merlin at Almondbank on 20 Apr was probably on passage to its breeding ground (SL). MCC found many fewer Kestrels than he expected breeding in his study area. Buzzards bred in at least one lowland area. A pair of "possible" Goshawks was seen passing high overhead by WM. A record of a Black Kite over Loch Tummel has been forwarded to the Rarities Committee, but seems unlikely to be accepted. Otherwise, raptor records are/

are of the usual species from the usual areas.

Blackcock were displaying in Glenlednock, Comrie, on 22 Apr, where Capercaillie were also seen the same day (TB). Red-legged Partridge continue to appear: two at Madderty on 2 May, one on a fence post at Blackruthven, near Kerth, on 2 June, and several at Dirnanean, Strathardle, in June (FSMITH.EDC.SKH). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was feeding at the edge of the pond in Scone Public Park on 8 Apr (EDC). Two Common Terns at Blair Atholl on 20 May are the only records (SAL.IMM). A Short-eared Owl was seen several times in the Scone area from early May onwards; other reports come from Cochrage Moor on 23 May, and Glen Cochill on 3 June (MCC.SRH.EDC).

Stock Doves nested on an estate near Aberfeldy for the first time - another species on the "up" side?(WM). Kingfishers may now total four pairs on the Almond (AC.SL). Grey Wagtails seem to be on the "down" side, with only one pair on a stretch of burn which last year held four pairs (EDC). A flock of 70 Meadow Pipits near Balgowan on 22 Apr may have been heading for more northerly latitudes, as local birds would have been settled in territory by then (SAL.IMM).

Ravens were seen in Glenlednock on 22 Apr, and one flying down Little Glenshee on 2 Apr, circled and soared and generally played itself, croaking the while, in the warm air and smoke rising from muirburning (TB.EDC). A Chaffinch flock frequented stubble fields near Aberfeldy from 10 Apr into May, reaching a maximum of 220 birds. Goldfinches were seen in various parts of Rannoch, and were proved to have bred near Aberfeldy. Siskins also bred, and a pair at Almondbank in May might have done (WM.SL). A flock of thirty Linnets was seen in a raspberry field at Almondbank (SL). There have been more reports of Crossbills than usual: three in Rannoch on 7 Apr, about ten at Dull on 13 Apr, and again on 6 May; one adult male by Murray House, Perth, on 11 May, (seen en route to view the White Stork); a small flock at Laster Bleaton, Blairgowrie, on 9 June; and a flock of seven seen regularly at Balloch, Crieff, during June (WM.EDC.MCC.PNCoates). Eight Hawfinches were chasing each other around Goshen Den, Scone, on 6 Apr; two were spotted at the Almondbank Fish Farm on 5 May (EDC.DMBrien). 25 Yellowhammers were still in a flock at Almondbank on 9 Apr, but the only record of Corn Bunting is of a single at T.bermore on 22 April (SL.SAL.IMM).

RECORDS for July, August and September, as soon as possible after 30th September, please, to E.D.Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, PH2 6KZ.

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ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 1976.

Along with a paucity of records in general, there is a lack of any "Personalities" with which to open this Bulletin. The only candidate is a "possible" Rough-legged Buzzard seen near Dunkeld in September. Details have been submitted to the Rarities Committee of the B.T.O. It might be worthwhile scrutinizing all Buzzards spotted - look for typical tail and underwing pattern of the Rough-legged. (Miss J. Stirling).

SUMMER DEPARTURES.

The last Swift reported was over Blairgowrie on 19 Aug, although there were thirty circling over Crieff the previous day (SRH, SS). The latest Sand Martins were two roosting among the Swallows at Seaside on 28 Sep. As usual, Swallows and House Martins lingered on into October. Seven wheatears in raspberry fields at Almondbank on 3 July must have been early emigrants; another there on 19th, one at Balneburn on 26th and three near Stormont Loch on 19 Aug, were also on passage; two on Cochrage Moor, Blairgowrie, on 11 Sep were the last to be reported. Late king Gulls were singles on the hill at Invervar, Glenlyon, on 15th and above Newton Brig on 29 Sep (LDC, SRI, SL).

The final reports of warblers were:- juvenile Seage at Balneburn on 22 Sep; Whitethroat at Blairgowrie on 26 Aug; and willow at Balneburn on 9 Sep. Spotted Flycatchers at Blairgowrie were still feeding young on 30 Aug, and were last seen there on 13 Sep (LDC, SKH).

WINTER ARRIVALS.

Again the Pinkfeet arrived in mid-September. One lonely specimen at Stormont Loch on 15th led the influx; several parties were seen the next day, and several hundred were present around Tibbermore by 19th (SKH, JK, SL, SAL, IMM). Greylags seem to have been later than usual in arriving, none being reported by the end of September. There were several none-too-certain verbal reports of redwings and Fieldfares, though a few of the former had certainly arrived in September.

BLAIRGOWRIE NEWS

Golden Plover had returned to the Bay by the end of June, with 64 present on 17 July. One or two Knot have been present throughout the period, with a maximum of seven on 29 July. A single Sanderling appeared on 21 Aug, and single huffs on four dates that month. Two Curlew Sandpipers were seen on 8 Sep, with one or two on various dates up to 5 Oct. Dunlin have been very scarce, with a maximum of only nine, on 30 July. There were two Black-tailed Godwits on 21 Aug, three the next day, one singles on 8 and 11 Sep. The first Greenshanks were two on 24 Aug, the last exactly a month later. Single Turnstones have also been seen several times.

The small number of terns seen on passage in the Bay this year was disappointing, the largest gathering being only a dozen - a mixture of Sandwich and Common, on 23 August. All these records have been supplied by our ever-watchful man on the spot, K. Calligan.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Black-throated Divers bred on the usual lochs, and probably did so on a new one. A party of five on one loch was the most likely to have been a post-breeding gathering, though it is not unknown for this species to raise three young. There has been no news of Red-throated. Great Crested Grebes have had a fair breeding season, with five pairs reported on Lowes, three young at each of Clunie, Stormont and Stare Dam, and two at/

at Fingask. A juvenile appeared on the Tay at the North Inch on 18 Sep (EDC, MCC, JK, SAL, IMM). A pair of Slavonian Grebe reared two young at the usual site, but the one at which a pair nested for the first time last year held only a single bird this year.

The Mute Swans at Stare Dam had managed to rear their six goslings up till 2 Aug. It is to be hoped that all will survive to maturity. Mill Dam, Dunkeld, held two adult and one juvenile Canada Geese on 18 Jul; did they breed here, or had they flown in from elsewhere? L Clunie had three adults in July. A flock of thirty geese flying over Carsehead, Madderty, in August, was probably of this species, as was another flock heading up the Tay near Glencarse at about the same time. Ninety near Meikleour on 31 Aug may have been residents, or birds returning early from their Moray Firth moulting grounds. Two adult and three juvenile Whitefronts with these last, pose a problem as to their origin (TSmith, DD, JARG, SkH). Duck are beginning to collect in their winter haunts. Nine Wigeon at Coupar Angus, and 19 nearby at West Banchory, were early for these areas; there were 18 on L. Ordie on 2 Sep (JK, SAL IMM). On 16 Sep there were 96 Teal at Tay Farm, Meikleour - a big number for the County at any time. There were already 200 or so Mallard along the North Inch on 18 Sep. Shoveler on Stormont increased from eight on 26 Aug to a possible all time high of 63 on 7 Oct (MCC, SRH, JK, SAL, IMM).

There have been few records of raptors; only two of Hen Harriers from possible breeding areas, though Sparrowhawks seem to be as widespread as ever. Buzzards are still being seen in lowland areas; sightings of male Merlin at two places near Blairgowrie on 2 and 29 Sep may have been of the same bird; the same may apply to Peregrines at Invergowrie Bay on 27 Aug and 10 Sep (AC, DD, SkH, SS).

Away from Invergowrie, wader reports are few. Dunlin and Greenshank bred successfully in Kannoeh. Four Common Sandpipers at Balhepburn on 27 Aug were on passage. There were 23 Curlew at Tay Farm on 16 Sep, and the usual large flocks of Lapwing have formed (SAL, IMM). A Common Tern fishing off the Scone Palace shingle on 22 July flew off downstream with its catch; a few minutes later two birds came upstream and began fishing in the same area (EDC).

A Tawny Owl was abroad in daylight in Glenquaich on 19 Aug. Further to the reports in the last Bulletin of Short-eared Owls around Murrayshall / Dalreichmoor, one was again seen on Dalreichmoor on 13 July, and at the eastern end of this area, one on 4th and two on 6 Sep, with one nearer hait on 6th (EDC, MCC, GC, JK). Kingfishers maintain their numbers on the Almond; six at the same time at the Fish Farm, much to Mr Brien's disgust!, would appear to have been a family party. Single birds have been seen several times on the Ericht at Blairgowrie - one once being chased by a Dipper (SRH, SL). A young Great Spotted Woodpecker at Dowally on 2 Sep is the only indication of breeding, though records of both woodpecker species are widespread (JK).

A Hooded Crow being chased by three Carrions in Glenample on 1 Aug was just on the Carrion / Hooded border. Five Ravens in Little Glenshee were probably a family. A Magpie was spotted flying across the Crieff road between Keillor and Fowlis on 2 Sep (IMM, SS).

By 12 Aug, a Greenfinch flock numbering about a hundred, along with a few Tree Sparrows, had formed in the Scone area. Several family parties of Goldfinches have been reported, with larger parties of 16 at Invergowrie on 9th and 20 at Almondbank on 28 Sep. Two Twites were in the Sma' Glen on 18 Aug. Three Hawfinches flew Perthwards over the Woody Islands on 22 July, and one was seen at Megginon on 27th. A flock of about
a /

a hundred Crossbills feeding in larches by Craighush Loch on (Sep, were probably Continental immigrants, rather than native Scots; about eighty seen nearer Dunkeld on 23rd, and about twenty the forest carpark on 27th, were almost certainly some of the same birds, (EDC, JARG, SL, SS).

REQUESTS

Members of the Tay Ringing Group who have been studying Herons in Perthshire, Angus and Fife for several years, this Spring colour-ringed young from different colonies. Members are asked to look out for such birds, and report date and locality of sightings to the Editor, who will pass on the information.

White-fronted Geese breeding in Greenland have also been ringed, by a study group from England. In this case, the rings are white with a letter-digit-digit serial number thereon. So few Greenland whitefronts are seen in Perthshire that it is highly unlikely that one should turn up, but you never know! The Editor will be pleased to pass on any information that comes the way of a lucky goose-watcher.

WHAT'S ABOUT

— Among the many thousands of Pinkfeet in the Tibbermore / Methven Moss area, "strangers" have already been spotted - at least seven Barnacle, a Brent of the light-bellied race, and what is thought to be a leucistic i.e. a very pale, mainly fawn-coloured, Pinkfoot. Given the time and good light, it can be very rewarding to scan a goose flock bird by bird. Whooper Swans are due - look for Bewick's among them. Those Crossbills at Dunkeld may be the forerunners of an irruption this year!

FUTURE BULLETINS

In future it is proposed to print the Bulletin after the ends of February, May, August and November. By doing this we hope to ease difficulties in printing due to holiday periods, and also to cover seasonal activities in one Bulletin, e.g. the arrival dates of Summer visitors, which were previously documented in two consecutive issues.

To this end, the next Bulletin will cover only October and November, and all records for these two months should be sent as soon as possible, please, after 30th November, to E.D.Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, PH4 6RZ.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription is now £1-50 (Juniors 50p), and should be paid at the monthly meeting, or sent to the Section Treasurer, Mrs. I. McKinnie, 23 Anderson Drive, Perth. Due to the continuing high cost of postage etc, it is regretted that Bulletins cannot be sent to Members whose subscriptions become overdue.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Enclosed with your Bulletin is a leaflet offering a very substantial reduction from the regular subscription to the excellent monthly magazine, "British Birds". This offer is extended only to members of certain recognised ornithological clubs, so this is a fine opportunity to save money through your P.S.N.S. membership. A covering note from the publishers informs us that until 30 Nov, people can still subscribe at the current rate of £7-50, providing an even better bargain.

CONTRIBUTORS to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials are; R.Calligan, E.D.Cameron, M.C.Chesney, G.Craft, Mrs. J.A.R.Grant, Miss S.K.Hacker, J.Kirk, Mrs. S.Laing, Miss S.A.Laing, Mrs.I.M.McKinnie and Mr & Mrs. S.Shimeld.

PERHNSHIRE SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1979.

We are very pleased to begin this Bulletin with a topical contribution from John Kirk, to whom we express our thanks.

A GREY NOVEMBER DAY.

On a misty, gloomy Saturday forenoon, Elaine and I turned the car northwards out of Perth, needing all the encouragement of a hopeful weather forecast to continue on our way. Recent winds had torn away some of the rich autumn beauty from the trees and hedgerows, but still the larches, in particular, held a wonder of variable hues.

Our target was Loch Moraig, near Blair Atholl, approached by a narrow, climbing road, leaving the bustling stridor of the highway thankfully behind us, in the joy of returning to a well loved spot after many months. The air was keen and raw, and it seemed certain that an early fall of snow mantled the hidden high tops. The loch lay, as always, serene in its moorland setting. Mist covered the hills and the water of the loch was still. Would that I could capture the russets and browns of the hillsides, the golden larch and the dark green pine, and transfer them to paper with water, paint and brush!

As we walked down towards the boathouse, two herons rose in croaking protest. On the shallow loch waters, to our delight, were grouped eleven wnooper Swans, all adult birds, some showing clearly the rusty staining on cheek and neck feathers deriving from some far uistant Icelandic lake or stream. We moved quietly out on to the woodland promontory, thrilling to the soft bugling music of their voices, as these magnificent winter visitors communicated, fed and drifted elegantly over the dark water. They were in the good company of a mixed collection of other lovely wildfowl; the Mallard, Pochard, Tufted Duck and the few Wigeon a constantly moving scene, with, perhaps a little less lovely, a large group of resident Coot.

We continued slowly round the lochside, yet another Heron rising at our feet and flapping off ponderously, resplendent in his immaculate coat of grey and white. What a boon to be Wellington shod as we squelshed across the marshy ground. All thanks to the great Duke. The mist began to thin on the hills and blue sky appeared in patches here and there. A single Greylag flighted in from the north, no doubt relieved to find the small stretch of water and temporary rest amidst the duck. A fleeting glimpse of two large dark birds just above the northern skyline kept one on the alert. Possibly they were a pair of Raven. I shall never know for sure, and they join the long list of unidentified flying objects!

The duck grew restive, with leathery limbs stiff and cold from their watery sojourn, and they took to the air in groups, wings beating quickly as they spiralled high above and around the loch. They soon returned, no doubt with restored and tingling circulation. The lone Greylag, unrestful too, took flight, making for the south, just as the sun finally burst through with a pink and gold suffusing glow.

Night falls early in mid-November and the lights of Pitlochry beckoned us to a warm fire and tea. We could not resist the lure of the Lowes on our homeward way, pausing briefly as we passed, to see, in the gloaming, a mighty concourse of geese on the water. I hope our lone Greylag had joined them there in safety, to add to the evening chorus. A transient glimpse of Roedeer in the headlights gave final complement to the riches of a wonderful winter's day. May such pleasures be yours too, and with such pleasures, no "winter of discontent!"

PERSONALITIES/

PERSONALITIES.

BEWICK'S SWAN. One was identified on Methven Moss on 23 Oct (PW).

BRENT GOOSE. A single bird of the "pale-bellied" race was spotted in a huge flock of Pinkfeet on Methven Moss on 9 Oct (EDC).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One frequented the area of the golf course at Trinity College, Glenalmond, from 25 Nov until at least 2 Dec (PW et al).

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Several Great Crested Grebes were still to be seen on the usual lochs in October., but none were reported for November. Seven Herons had collected in a field near Blairgowrie on 7 Oct (SKH).

A few Whooper Swans arrived in Oct - six at Methven Moss on 6th, three on L.Moraig on 10th, and two on the Braan at Amulree on 20th - but early Nov saw a big influx. At Dalreoch, numbers increased from two on 4th, up to 22 on 9th (all adults), but there were none on 10th. At Carsehead, Maquerty, there were about thirty from the beginning of the month, with small parties flying in to join this nucleus, until by 11th there were fifty, and at least 58 (8 of them juveniles) on 24th. Thus it seems that the Dalreoch birds may have amalgamated with the Carsehead flock. The only other report in Nov is of nine adults and five juveniles at Invergowrie Bay on 19th, though there were about twenty just over the County boundary near Milnathort (RC, EDC, DD, JK, PW, Mr & Mrs Henderson T. Smith). Flocks of Canada Geese, totalling 61 birds, were seen flying over Glenalmond on four occasions between 16 Oct and 12 Nov; these were almost certainly birds returning south after moulting on the Beaully Firth; twelve near Meikleour on 11 Nov were probably part of the resident population (SRH, SAL, IMM, PW). As usual, Barnacle Geese appeared in the Tibbermore area, with a maximum of 16 on 11 Nov; more unusual was one with Pinkfeet at Lochton, Abernethy, on 18 Oct (RC, EDC, JK, PW). Among the thousands of Pinkfeet around Tibbermore, a leucistic specimen was noticed on 8 Oct, and two on 11 Nov (JK, SL, SAL).

Wigeon numbers built up to 150 at W. Banchory and 167 at Meikleour on 18 Nov. The Banchory flock included a leucistic bird which had already been seen at Coupar Angus on 13 Oct. There were forty (normal plumage!) on Glenalmond Loch up till mid-Oct. On 4 Nov there were 50 or so Teal on Stormont, and numbers on Glenalmond rose to c100 in mid-Nov. Shovelers on Stormont rose to a high count of 68 on 7 Oct, falling to 20 by 11th, but there were still 20 on 4 Nov. At the same loch, six "possible" duck Scaup were seen on 21 Oct. 39 Pochard on L.Moraig on 10 Oct had dwindled to only six by 28th, but there were 30 on Fingask Loch on 2 Oct, and up to 20 on Glenalmond in Oct. Four duck Pintail visited Invergowrie Bay on 13 Oct. 50 Goosanders on Drummond Pond on 10 Nov was by far the largest flock reported (RC, EDC, SRH, JK, SAL, IMM, SS).

Hen harrier, Buzzard and Golden Eagle have been reported from typical areas. A Sparrowhawk was seen flying through gardens in Anderson Drive, Perth, on 14 Oct, and one (the same?) was watched for about forty minutes, feeding on a Woodpigeon on a lawn in adjacent Mountview Road on 2 Nov (JHW, Mrs Jobson). A Blairgowrie Merlin was seen again on 24 Oct (SRH).

There were about 350 Golden Plover by Tibbermore on 27 Oct, but only about 50 in the same area on 4 Nov. Single Little Stints appeared on four dates in Oct at Invergowrie Bay; also a Curlew Sandpiper on 5th and two on 14th. Inland, Curlews seen were 82 at Dalreoch on 4 Nov, 14 at Coupar Angus on 18 Nov, and at least two on Methven Moss in October (RC, DD, SAL, IMM, PW).

A flock of 72 Skylarks was counted near Tibbermore on 20 Oct. A single Swallow at Scone on 6 Oct was followed by two the next day, but there were still six/

six at Invergowrie on 21st, with singles on four dates in Nov, the last being on 14th. The last House Martin reported was at Scone on 2 Oct (RC,EDC,SAL). Other laggard summer visitors were a Redstart at Almondbank on 10 Oct and a Ring Ouzel still in the Sma' Glen on 20 Oct (SL,DMorris). By then, Fieldfares and Redwings were moving in in considerable numbers; in fact about 1,500 were noted passing through nearby Glen Quaich the very same day. On 8 Oct a Mistle Thrush was singing at Scone; largest flocks of this species were of 20 on 20 Oct and of 30 on 20 Nov in Glenalmond (EDC,SS,PW). Three Blackcaps have been seen in the period;- a male at Seaside on 14 Oct, a female at Trinity College on 22 Oct, and another at Blairgowrie on 13 Nov (PW,SRH).

Longtailed Tits have declined in number due to the recent hard winters, so a flock passing through gardens in the Viewlands area of Perth seems noteworthy (JHw). The "Magpie area" produced two in Keillour Wood on 1 Oct, one at Drummond Castle on 14 Oct, and four near Trinity College on 12 Nov. It has also been reported that this species has been seen regularly at Tullibafine, and that a local keeper has shot four this year. On 20 Nov, four Hooded and seven Carrion Crows were seen in Glen Tarken, L.Earnside (SS, PW). The first Bramblings of the season are here- 10-12 in Glenalmond on 8 Nov, and about the same number at Ardblair, Blairgowrie, from 16 Nov. There were large flocks of Chaffinches in Glen Quaich on 20 Oct, and with them one of 20 and another of six Goldfinches. Between 300 and 400 Siskins around Trinity College on 3 Nov seemed to disappear until about 21st, since when smaller flocks have been seen in the same area. There were also 30 at Almondbank on 17 Oct. Flocks of thirty or so Crossbills have been seen at Craig y Barns on 21 Oct, and in Keillour Wood on 4 Nov. About the same number of Bullfinches were in the scrub of Methven Moss on 25 Nov (SRH, SL,SAL,IMM,SS,PW).

MISCELLANY.

Moorhens. SRH spotted ten or eleven Moorhens high in the branches of some hawthorn trees. On being disturbed, they flew even higher to perch on the branches of a tall conifer. As this was in the middle of the day, the birds were not going to roost, so what were they up to? It seems unlikely that they were berry-picking. Any suggestions?

Ducks. The Wildfowl Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology are cooperating in a survey of the summer distribution and breeding of waterfowl as part of a study of the impact of water-based recreation on these birds. The survey will involve a series of monthly visits to a site, from March to July, to count the number of ducks and young thereon. This is a very straightforward exercise, requiring only the ability to identify the commoner ducks - males and females - and will add a little purpose to your spring and summer outings. Anyone interested in helping please contact the editor, who has a list of lochs which the Survey Organiser would like to be covered.

Waders. During the current winter, waders of several species are being marked with various dyes and/ or temporary flag-shaped leg rings of various colours. This is part of an investigation of movements about and between estuaries within a winter - information urgently required by conservation and planning organisations. The work is being co-ordinated by the Nature Conservancy Council and the University of Durham, with the co-operation of many other ringers and groups, mainly at the Tees and Forth Estuaries, but also at several other sites. Sightings of these marked birds would be very helpful. Ideally, observers should note the species, colour of dye, its position on the bird (e.g. breast, belly or rump), and/ or colour of leg flag; also, if possible, the number of birds in the flock checked for marks. Less complete information is also very welcome. Records should be sent to M.W.Pienkowski, 1 West Fenton Cottages, North Berwick, East Lothian /

Lothian, EH39 5AL, who will pass on details to the relevant marker. Observers will be notified of the origins of the birds.

Fieldfare. That Viewlands Road bird is back again! This must constitute some sort of record for fidelity to a wintering site, if the same bird has been involved each winter.

Ringing News. A robin ringed at Pitlochry on 13 Feb 1975 as an adult, i.e. hatched in 1974 or previously, was found dead in the same area on 14 Aug 1979, having attained the grand old age, i.e. a Robin, of at least five years.

A juvenile Sedge warbler ringed at Seaside on 29 July 1979 was reported as having been found dead, on 10 Sep, from La Tourballe, Loire-Atlantique, France, 1,000 Km on its way to winter quarters in Africa.

SPRING WEEKEND.

Provided that there is sufficient interest shown, it is proposed to hold another weekend outing, at the end of March or beginning of April. The venue has not yet been decided, but anyone interested is asked to contact the Section Secretary, I. McLachlan, 32 Pickletullum Road, Perth (Tel. 24013) before 23 Jan 1980.

All records for December 1979, January and February 1980, as soon as possible after 29 Feb, please, to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth PH2 6RZ.

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PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF NATURAL SCIENCE.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 1979, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 1980.

PERSONALITIES.

Snow Goose. A single white phase bird was very obvious in a large flock of Pinkfeet feeding near the A93 end of the Rait road on 20 Jan (EDC, MCC, JK). Also in this flock were a Barnacle and two leucistic Pinkfeet, (? same two as seen near Tibbermore in Nov). On 23 Jan the flock was again present, with three Barnacles and the two leucistics, but no Snow (RLM).

Snew. Two "redheads" were seen on Drummond Pond, Crieff, on 19 Dec, and one on 17 Feb (WRB, SS).

Waxwing. Three at Inchtute on 8 Jan (KB). A very poor winter for this species.

SELECTED SPECIES RECORDS.

Great Crested Grebes were back on their breeding lochs by mid-Feb, though, in some cases, there was still considerable ice cover. There were twelve Herons at Drummond Pond on 17 Feb, and at least two pairs were nesting, in the Dunning area, by 24 Feb (SS, CA, DD). Mute Swans at Drummond Pond fluctuated in number - 48 in Nov, in Dec, 54 in Jan, & 39 in Feb. No other water produces such numbers, but nine adults & two juveniles at Forteviot on 27 Jan are noteworthy (wKB, SS, IMM). The big Whooper flock at Carsehead, Madderty, must have dispersed towards the end of the year. Unfortunately, three of the birds were killed, flying into power lines on a foggy night, possibly having been disturbed by something. The Bridge of Earn flock increased from 14 on 15 Dec to 29 on 19 Dec, but was down to 14 again by 14 Jan; there were 9 at Dalreoch on 2 Dec; only 7 at Carsehead on 15 Feb (MCC, SAL, TMS, JHW). Four White-fronted Geese appeared among Canadas at Kercock on 24 Dec. The latter species reached a max of 126 there on 26 Dec; away from this favoured site were two on Methven Moss on 10 Feb & two at Carsehead on 15 Feb (MCC, DD, SAL, IMM, TMS).

The largest flocks of Wigeon were 500+ at Kercock on 24 Dec; 165 on the Isla at West Banchory, Coupar Angus, on 16 Feb; & 154 in the Kercock area on the same day. A leucistic bird of Oct was still present, with 66 of its ordinary fellows, at Coupar Angus on 13 Jan. Smaller flocks were - 60 on 10 Feb, rising to 72 on 24th, at Dalreoch, and 50 at Drummond Pond on 19 Dec (WRB, MCC, SAL, IMM). Drummond Pond also held over 1,000 Mallard on this date (WRB). Pochard never seem to occur in any great number on any one loch, but good counts were c50 on Drummond & 30 on L. Freuchie in Dec, & 26 on Stormont in Feb (WRB, MCC, SRH). Goldeneye were reported from the usual lochs & the Tay, with 14 at Kercock on 8 Dec & 16 on the North Inch stretch on New Year's Day. 15 were on the flooding river Teith on 11 Dec; more unusual was a female on the Town Lade in Perth on 22 Dec (wKB, MCC, SRH). Goosander reached a max of c50 on Drummond on 19 Dec, with 32 on 17 Feb; the Isla held 9 at W. Banchory on 16 Dec, & the Tay 10 at the North Inch on 26 Feb (WRB, SS, SAL, IMM).

There was a Hen Harrier hunting Methven Moss on 20 Jan - though the Pinkfeet were not disturbed by it (JK). a Sparrowhawk also appeared here, & one in the Anderson Drive, Perth, where it seems to be a "regular". A pair of Buzzards were at their lowland breeding site on 25 Feb; singles were seen at Almondbank on 10 & 18 Feb; no less than ten were visible at one time from the hide at Loch of the Lowes on 23 Feb (JHW, DD, JK, SL, SS). a Merlin killed a Blackbird in SL's garden on 10 Dec.

Hard weather concentrations of Coot included 130 at Clunie and 180 at West Banchory on 13 Jan (SRH, SAL, IMM). Oystercatchers were back in Perth by 12 Feb, & about

about 200 were roosting on the Scone Palace shinglebed on 16th. Only Golden Plover records were 13 at Dalreoch on 2 Dec & 236 at Balgowan on 24 Feb. Four Redshank had moved up the Tay as far as Kercock by 16 Feb (EDC, MCC, SAL, IMM, PM, EMM). Great & Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued to frequent the Tay & the Earn, with 20 of the former roosting on Drummond Pond on 18 Dec (WRB). At least one Short-eared Owl wintered on Dalreichmoor, Scone/Balbeggie, being seen in each month (EDC, JK). A Kingfisher at Fingask Loch on 2 Dec was a "first" for there (SRH).

Single Grey Wagtails at Almondbank on 3 Dec & Scone on 2 Feb were the only winter records (SL, EDC). Mention of the Fieldfare wintering in a Burghmuir garden has brought to light a similar case in Scone, & one of a Redwing claiming a garden in Kinnoull for its fourth winter (JHW, GLAitchison). A winter Blackcap, a male, was spotted at Blairgowrie on 9 Dec (SRH). Good flocks of Long-tailed Tits have been seen, including one of 25 in Scone Woods on 27 Jan.

Tree Sparrow flocks of twenty or more were noted at Inveralmond on 23 Dec & Balgowan on 27 Dec (MCC, IMM). Only small flocks of Bramblings were reported, apart from c150 at Scone on 23 Jan & 30 feeding at an Inchtute birdtable in the snow of 2 Feb (RLM, KB). Ten Goldfinches were in a raspberry field at Almondbank on 16 Jan, & smaller parties in other areas (SL). Siskins were still about in large numbers - c150 on the Woody Islands on 23 Dec; at Almondbank, 50 on 4 Jan built up to over 100 by 8 Jan, fell away, but reached the century again on 11 Feb; 140 were counted in the alders at Kercock on 26 Jan; and over 100 at the Turret/Earn confluence, Crieff, on 27 Jan (MCC, SL, SS). Three Twite were unusually high on the hill in mid-Dec at about 1,500 feet up on Ben Ledi (WRB). The only Redpoll flock of note was of 30 at Crieff on 22 Dec (IMM). Good flocks of Bullfinches were 20 at Crieff on 27 Jan, with another 16 in two flocks, in the same airt, & 14 at Kercock on 24 Dec (SS, MCC). 24 Snow Buntings were at the Cairnwell car park on 12 Feb, and 50 Yellowhammers at Rumbling Bridge, Dunkeld, on 26 Dec (JK, MCC).

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SUBSCRIPTIONS & BULLETINS

It has been the custom in the past to continue to supply Bulletins to those Members who are one or two years in arrears with their Subscriptions. With ever increasing costs of paper and postage, the Committee feels that this cannot continue, so, please, you forgetful Members, pay up to date. We would also point out that Subscriptions are due in October, and with the A.G.M. traditionally held in March, it would help the Hon. Treasurer if all Subscriptions were paid before March, at the latest. Thank you.

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All Records for March, April & May to E.D. Cameron, 14 Union Road, Scone, Perth, as soon as possible after 31 May, please.

Contributors to this Bulletin, acknowledged by their initials were;-
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