

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**



JOURNAL

Advice to Contributors

The following is given as guidance to those submitting material for publication in the Journal.

1. Articles on any aspect of ornithology are acceptable, but preference will be given to original work from areas, especially overseas, where R.A.F. personnel are or have been stationed, and to that which has some positive connection with the Royal Air Force.
2. The number of articles and therefore the variety presented in each issue of the Journal will depend on the length of each article. As the length of the Journal has to be limited to between 10,000 and 13,000 words, a more balanced issue can be produced if the length of articles is between 1000 and 2000 words. Please try to keep to this as much as possible but do not withhold your article because it is above or below this figure. The number of words should be marked at the end of the article with due allowance for space not filled when tables or systematic lists are used.
3. Whenever possible submit material in typescript - top copy please, not a carbon - with double spacing and on one side only. If a typewriter is not used, manuscript should be clearly written and well spaced.
4. English names of species should have capitals for the initial letter of each word, except after a hyphen (e.g. Alpine Swift, Needle-tailed Swift) but references to groups should be in small letters such as waders, buntings etc. Scientific names should follow, in brackets, the first mention of the English name, but not subsequently. The subspecific name should not be mentioned unless relevant to the discussion, and only the first letter of the generic (first) name should be a capital (eg *Apus pacificus*). Each scientific name should be underlined and put in brackets.
5. Date in the narrative should take the form 1st January, 1969, but can be abbreviated where space does not allow this in full.
6. Reference lists in particular should be checked for accuracy and should take the following form:
ODUM, E.P. & PITELKA, F.A. 1969. Storm mortality in a winter Starling roost. *Auk*, 86: 451-455.

- Editor

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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JOURNAL No 10

Contents

	Page
RAFOS Field Meeting held on the Isle of Unst, Shetland Isles in June 1975	1
by R R Kersley & F J Walker	
Some Birds of the Zaire River Expedition 1974/75	29
by M Gallagher	
RAFOS Expedition to Central Labrador, Canada - Spring 1975	36
by F Kime	

Editorial Comment

Firstly, I must apologise for the series of setbacks that has delayed publication of this copy of the Journal. With assistance from Flt Lt Tony Lloyd, Sgt Peter Baker and the combined support of the HQ TC and HQ STC typing pools, these problems have now been resolved and Journal No 11 is already in the process of being compiled. As well as reflecting RAFOS efforts in Masirah and the Mull of Kintyre, Journal No 11 will include individual members articles from Mount Troodos in Cyprus and from the Maldivian island of Gan.

Secondly, may I pay tribute to Dave Bodley's splendid work in editing the Journal for the past six years - Thank you Dave!

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Copies of this Journal are available from the Editor, price 30p

RAFCS FIELD MEETING HELD AT UNST - JUNE 1975

Two parties of bird watchers camped on the outskirts of RAF Saxa Vord on the Shetland Island of Unst during the month of June 1975 to make a broad survey of breeding birds, to record sea movement from certain prominent positions and to train inexperienced members in field work. Each party spent a period of two weeks in the field in order to cover the whole of the month of June. Apart from being treated to some excellent bird watching, observers were given a sample of the varied Shetland weather, with winds from most points of the compass accompanied by cold, wintry showers from the North East. Sea mist, fog, frost and some very hot sunny days were also encountered.

As the Islands breeding birds population had recently been studied by Graham Bundy (see Shetland Bird Report 1974), it was decided to split the time between field training and counting the sea bird movement.

The Nature Conservancy Council, the Seabird Group, the RSPB and the Shetland Bird Club were interested in the movement of the Islands auk population as they flew to and from their feeding grounds. Our field meeting was an ideal opportunity to study Auk movement and various counts were made. Unfortunately, the other Islands of the Group were not covered at the same time so although the size of the passage was recorded the actual feeding grounds were not located (for details refer to Auk Movements in Unst, Shetland June 1975, following the species sightings list).

A planned radar watch from Saxa Vord Hill had to be abandoned as the auk movement was obliterated on the radar screen by 'clutter' from wind whipped waves.

A car was hired locally to carry observers to their watch points on the Island to enable a simultaneous start to the watch period, and to permit individuals to visit alternative areas of interest. Care was taken to prevent disturbance of sensitive areas in which other organised groups were studying.

For the majority of watchers the close proximity of so many birds in their breeding surrounds was an unforgettable experience. The skuas, which in the South prey on the terns as they pass on passage far from the coast, could now be seen at extremely close quarters! Pellets were collected from the Skua territory and sent to the Royal Scottish and to the British Museums. Waders were viewed in their summer plumage - a marked difference from their drab grey winter coats; close views were obtained of the various auks and of course, the usual sprinkling of the uncommon. Altogether, a total of 104 species were recorded during the visit.

Of these sightings, a very uncrake-like Corncrake (*Crex crex*) allowed itself to be watched and photographed within 20 feet as it 'crowed' upon its calling stone, only pausing to walk slowly along a wall where it again posed and crowed for its audience.

A Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) together with a party of 32 Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*) was feeding amongst sea wrack at Balta Sound on the 4th.

An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) flew round the southern part of the Island on the 6th and was seen by local observers as well. Whilst on the 11th, a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) was present near the base camp site.

On the 7th, the first team visited Herma Ness where the wind attempted to blow members over the cliffs. Excellent views were had of the Puffin (*Fratercula artica*) and on one occasion it was observed that a Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) regurgitated over a Puffin in order to evict the bird from a ledge. The Puffin was seen to preen itself for over half an hour! Subsequent attempts by Puffins to use the ledge were

thwarted by the Fulmar. As the Fulmar appears to be spreading in many areas where Puffins previously nested, this viewed action would appear to support the theory that it is the Fulmar that has ousted the Puffin from its former colonies. On this occasion a pair of Great Skuas attacking members of the party from opposite directions, collided in mid-air, but neither bird was forced to land.

On the 21st, the second team spent a day on Hermaness from whence excellent views were had of the Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*) making masterly use of the air currents along the cliffs. A Buzzard was also observed thermalling before moving off towards Saxa Vord. A count of the Gannet nesting colony on the Stacks was also made and seen from Herma Ness were c.4150 nests. Amongst the Great Skua breeding colonies on Unst were four nests containing blue eggs.

Later, at the return point (Burra Firth) good views were obtained of Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) when a pair of birds were seen just off shore; their golden coloured ear tufts and chestnut neck showing up well in the afternoon sun. On the 22nd, the fish-giving ceremony between a pair of Red-throated Divers was observed at very close range and a tape recording was made of the pair calling.

Some members of the team travelled to the island of Fetlar on the 8th where they saw 3 Snowy Owls (*Nyctea scandiaca*) including a female on the nest. On the 24th a further visit was made to Fetlar by the second team, who observed the female Snowy Owl feeding her young with a Curlew chick brought in by the male. Whilst awaiting the ferry to Unst an Iceland Gull was seen and on the return journey a count of 104 Black Guillemot was made.

A very ragged Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) was seen in the Herma Ness area on the 11th. The tatty plumage was thought to be the result of the bird having been shot at. Field notes were taken (reproduced on a later page of this report) and forwarded to the appropriate authorities for acceptance of identification.

On the 12th, a Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*) was observed near Balta Sound. It looked to be a male bird coming into adult summer plumage.

A Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*) was recorded on the 20th and 22nd at Lamba Ness, whilst on the 23rd two Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) were watched as they moved South East at Loch of Snarra Voe. Both of these records (reproduced later) have been forwarded to the Rarities Committee for acceptance.

An increase in the number of Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) over previous years was noted. Five singing males were counted and on the 25th three juveniles were being fed in Nor Wick marshes.

A Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) nest was found containing four chicks, all of which fledged.

Wheatears (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) were watched on several occasions hovering 8 - 10 ft above the ground with feet extended. Flights varied in length from 10 - 20 seconds at a time before dipping in flight and moving a short distance followed by more hovering. It is not known whether they were trying to locate food, for the birds did not feed on completion of the manoeuvre.

Seven Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*) were seen to have wool wrapped around one foot which hampered their movements. One bird with quite thick nylon string attached to the left leg was greatly hampered by a six inch trailing piece.

Two Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) were found to be nesting in Halligarth Wood. One bird was using the dis-used nest of a Hooded Crow. Although Collared Dove

(*Streptopelia decaocto*) were present no nests were found. Similarly, the male Redwing (*Turdus musicus*) heard and seen singing on most days, appeared not to have a mate and was therefore considered not to be breeding at Halligarth.

A count was made of House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) on Unst and a total of 637 were recorded. This species would therefore appear to be on the decline. The Arctic Tern count of 1175 pairs is a slight increase on the 1973 count and comparable to the 1200 pairs of 1974.

Rings were taken from the legs of the following and details forwarded to the British Trust for Ornithology who supplied the following details:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Where ringed</u>	<u>Where recovered</u>	<u>Movement</u>
Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	Foula, Shetland 30 Jul 74 as pullus	Hoga Ness Shetland 10 Jun 75	95 ks NE
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	Wirral, Cheshire 15 Dec 74 as fully grown	Balta Sound Shetland 3 Jun 75	835 ks NNE
Great Skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>)	Foula, Shetland 20 Jul 67 as pullus	Herma Ness Shetland 7 Jun 75	105 ks NE

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were nesting in most of the walls on the Island, but at one spot whilst waiting for the ferry at Toft, an adult bird was seen to carry food to its young through a hole in the ground at the base of a lamp standard. The nest was actually underground.

Special interest was taken in the species found breeding amongst the Great and Arctic Skua colonies. Examples of this association were:

a. Four female Divers were located sitting on eggs in the middle of four separate Arctic/Great Skua breeding areas. Every time the Diver left or returned to its nest it was attacked, with the attacks continuing for 3 or 4 minutes after settling on the nest. One female on Herma Ness was discovered with newly hatched chicks in transit from the nest to a nearby pool. Neither the mother or the three chicks was attacked though the move was through a Great Skua breeding area and partly through an Arctic Skua breeding area. Was it the chicks that reassured the Skuas? The Diver nests were all a considerable distance from the sea and some were on high ground a mile from the nearest stream giving access to the sea.

b. Lapwing were found breeding on the outskirts of the Great and Arctic Skua colonies but were not apparently attacked. However, when the Lapwing gave their alarm call the skuas reacted by taking to the wing.

c. Golden Plover, Dunlin and Redshank were all located breeding on the outskirts of the Skua colonies without apparent danger from the Skua.

Where Great and Arctic Skua's breeding areas were side by side it was observed that the Arctic Skua was the aggressor if its territory was violated by a Great Skua, but rarely did the Great Skua attack the Arctic Skua if its own territory was entered.

Curlew and Whimbrel breeding areas appeared to be associated with Common and Black headed Gulls which bred in adjoining areas.

Fulmar were found breeding in all areas of the island, on coastal cliffs and inland in croft ruins. In the latter, broken tops of walls were generally used, but in three crofts the central floor area was occupied, using the open doorway for access.

Two nests of Hooded Crow were located, one in Halligarth Woods consisting of twigs, string and plastic, and being occupied by a Wood pigeon, and the other in a ruined church at Lund consisting of sheep jawbones as a base with wool, fishing net, paper and plastic forming the nest.

Oystercatchers were observed to be breeding in close proximity to all other breeding species without apparent danger from attack.

Wrens were found to be breeding in several areas, using the dry stone wales as a nesting habitat. Many were observed to be feeding on the seaweed and rocks at low tide, and from the 20th flying juveniles were to be found in the parties.

At Norwich Marsh on the 28th, nineteen Snipe were drumming together whilst performing aerobatics over the heads of team members.

The Eider at Balta Sound began forming rafts on the 27th and a count of 128 young was made.

Tree pipits were seen at Norwich marsh on the 21st in display flight.

The Raven flock at Lamba Ness consisted of 26 birds that could usually be found on the rubbish tips by day. On the 27th six immature birds were observed with the flock as they went to roost on the Buss of Lamba Ness.

Auks and Shags were seen in various stages of oiling during the sea watches and some two dozen birds were found dead through oiling.

The various animals seen during the field meeting are shown at the end of the species list which follows these notes. On several occasions during broad daylight Hedgehogs were seen feeding in open fields. Unlike their Southern relatives these animals did not curl up when they were disturbed or touched.

FIELD DESCRIPTIONS OF THE UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Black Kite (Milvus migrans)

Seen at Haa, Unst for c15 mins in glasses 10 x 50 and telescope x 60. Visibility excellent, 1/3 cloud, bright sunshine with light to the right.

General impression: Large dark brown bird of prey with slightly forked tail and light brown pattern on top; pattern was a straight line. The carpal joints projected forward on the wings. Abraded plumage - possibly shot.

Bird was circling, being chased by gulls.

Plumage: Head - forehead, crown and sides of head - buffish brown. Impression of darkish ear coverts.

Upper parts - Dark brown body, lighter in the sun.

Under parts - Nondescript dark brown. Primary coverts dark, secondaries and tertiaries coverts paler. Primaries, secondaries, retrices - deep chocolate brown.

Typical flat winged flight with flexing primaries and secondaries.

Carpals pushed forward in typical milvus attitude. Tail angled to correct thermals.

Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer)

Seen near Balta Sound on water opposite the Givv through 12 x 50 glasses. Good visibility with bright sunshine from the right. Also seen with sun behind clouds. Watched for c10 minutes from 100 yards to extreme range as it floated from observers.

General impression: Heavier, stockier, thicker necked than Red Throated Divers (Gavia stellata) seen during the week.

Plumage: Crown and back of head - dark. Dark colouration did not extend down to the eye. Cheeks, neck and breast - white. Lighter grey/brown looking back with greyer mottlings.

No tail to speak of.

Bill straight and strong looking and dark in colour.

Black patch half way down the neck both sides which did not meet at the front. White ring round this black patch.

Under parts of wing and body seen to be pale when the bird stood on the water and flapped its wings.

Acrocephalus (Sp)?

On the 8th one bird was seen in a croft garden in good light only details taken were:

Acrocephalus appearance; almost Starling (Sturnus vulgaris) size. Large bill. Brown above with clean white underparts, especially throat. Suggestions of 'pointy' head, had a supercillium. Much larger than nearby Willow Warbler/Chiff chaff.

Seen perched on stout grass stems. Flew boldly to bush and small tree.

Richard's Pipit (Anthus richardi)

Seen on 20th and 22nd at Lamba Ness in good light with bright sunshine. Seen as close as 20 feet.

General impression: A large, long tailed pipit, much larger than Meadow Pipit (Anthus pratensis).

Plumage: Whole of upper parts dark brown with darker streaking. Underparts buffish with dark brown streaks on front and side of breast. Tail long, dark with whitish outer tail feathers. Pale stripe running through eye. Bill dark and stout, legs long yellowish.

Call: Hard 'zeep, zeep'.

Observers have had previous experience with this species in the Far-east.

Honey Buzzard (Pernis apivorus)

Two birds seen moving south west at Loch of Snarravoe on 23rd June. Visibility good. Range 50 feet plus.

General Impression: Flat wings; soaring, then typical Honey Buzzard drooping wing glide towards Yell.

Plumage: Primary coverts, dark brown; black carpal patch. Secondaries brownish/buff. Underparts brownish buff streaked dark brown. Tail long and narrow with black bars at base and end of tail.

EXPEDITION PERSONNEL - UNST 1975

Team 1 (1 - 14 June)

Flt Lt	K	Bomber	RAF Lossiemouth	Team Leader
WO	F	Walker	HQ STC	Field Leader
Mrs	K	Bomber		
Gp Capt	R	Dick	SHAPE	
Sgt	G F	Rivers	MOD (Air)	
Sgt	W P	Rees	HQ AFNORTH	
Sgt	P	Baker	HQ STC	
SAC	F	Peach	RAF Digby	
Jnr Tech	S J	Lumby	RAF Locking	

Team 2 (15 - 28 June)

Wg Cdr	D B	Hamley	MOD (Air)	Team Leader
FS	R	Kersley	RAF Colerne	Field Leader
Maj	D	Counsell		
Fg Off	D	Elliot	RAF Henlow	
Sgt	P	Tithecott	RAF Brawdy	
Cpl	I	Prophet	RAF Fairford	
Cpl	A S	Morgan	RAF Locking	
SAC	P	Triggs	RAF Thorney Island	

SPECIES/ DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS	
Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer)											1																					
Red Throated Diver (Gavia stellata)	1	1		4	11	8	4	2	2	6	5	6	7					14	13	26	8	21		6	15	8					Breeding recorded	
Black Throated Diver (Gavia arctica)																1															Seen from Unst/ Yell ferry	
Slavonian Grebe (Podiceps auritus)							2																									
Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)																															Breeding recorded in all areas visited - estimate c5000 breeding at Barra Firth cliffs	
Manx Shearwater (Puffinaria puffinus)				3										14											27							
Storm Petrel (Hydrobatas pelagicus)																			9							♂	♂				Birds on 21st seen off Tonga. On 27th off Fair Isle	
Black-browed Albatross (Diomedea melanophrys)																				1	1											
Gannet (Sula bassana)																																Common and breeding - nest count from Hermaness - ca150
Comorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)					1	1		1				1						2	8	2	2					1	1					Immature birds on 5, 6 and 9th with 2 on 19th June
Shag (Phalacrocorax aristot- ellus)																																Common and breeding in all areas - estimated 900+ birds in Lumbiness area
Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)	2	9	2	11	9	2	6	5	3	4	2	5					6												5	10		

[illegible]

SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)																						1			2	1	6+				Breeding recorded
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)				1		1											1														
Corncrake (<i>Orex oryx</i>)	H	H					H	2	2	1	1	H					2	H		2	2		2			3	3H				H = Heard Thought to be breeding at Norwich Marsh
Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)		1					1	4	4	1	1	1								1		1					2				
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)												1					16	6	10	26	36	88		112	82	162					At Lambness non- breeding flock of up to 93 birds
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)																	25	32				10	100			88					Sample counts
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	5	4	3	12	12	6	10	28	9	2	7	18					3	21	10	2		2		5	7	33					Breeding recorded
Golden Plover (<i>Charadrius apricarius</i>)	8	7	30	3	1	2	4	2	4	2	4	H	24				2	6	7	3	31		2			18					H = Heard Breeding recorded
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)			10	4	4	2	1	16			1	8					8	3	5					2	5	1					25th both immature 18th 6 in winter immature thought to be
Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	1	1	2	2	6		4	P	P	P	P	P	P				5	8	17	4	20		9	8	16	38					27th at Norwich Marsh 19 birds drumming at same time
Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)							1																								
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)																	16	11	33	13	8	15	38	26	12	61					

SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS	
Whimbrel (Numenius phaeopus)	1	3				1	2	3	5	P							4		3	10						5					Breeding Recorded	
Black Tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa)												2				2																
Common Sandpiper (Tringa hypoleucos)																	2	1														
Redshank (Tringa totanus)	9	9	6	12	4	7	1	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	3	15	10	6	2	24	P	1	8	62					Breeding Recorded	
Greenshank (Tringa nebularia)																									1							
Knot (Calidris canutus)	2	2	2																													
Dunlin (Calidris alpina)	16	3	13		2	A	P	P	P	2	P	P				2		2A	4	5	6	14		4	3A						Breeding Recorded	
Sanderling (Crocethia alba)	4	1									3	5							1	1												
Ruff (Philomachus pugnax)						4	1	1																								
Red-necked Phalarope (Phalaropus lobatus)					2	2						1											7			2						Breeding Recorded Counts for 8th & 24th were from Petlar
Great Skua (Stercorarius skua)																23	44	69	120	204	182	1A		86	80	216					Breeding recorded - does not include sea counts (Table A)	
Arctic Skua (Stercorarius pomarinus)																	16	43	15	90	7A	87	6		92	16	104				Breeding recorded - does not include sea counts (Table A)	

SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS		
Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)																	2	2	3	3	1	1	3	7	62	37	15	79			Breeding Recorded		
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)																	6	2	6	108	6	25	57		38	66	49				Breeding Recorded		
Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)																	P	5	56	76	42	22	9	12	29	33	46				Most sightings from Balta Sound area, small numbers at Norwich Bay		
Common Gull (Larus canus)																	21	52	156	61	70	105	224		34	300	275				Breeding Recorded		
Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus)	2		2	2							1	1																					
Iceland Gull (Larus glaucoideus)																																	
Black-headed Gull (Larus ridibundus)																	P	65	27	41	60	5	91		108	152	102				Breeding Recorded		
Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)																	26	39	38	24	2	7	72	2	1	1	1	P			Breeding recorded - 300+ 25-27th flying North over Norwich in evening		
Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)																																Sighting of 21st - exhausted on rocks at Wick of Shaw	
Arctic Tern (Sterna macrura)																	2	5	3	2	4	5			5	3	5				Breeding Recorded		
Sandwich Tern (Sterna sandvicensis)																	32	1	5	6	3	5	6		8	7	3				Feeding off Skaw Banks		
Razorbill (Alca torda)																																Breeding Recorded	
																																	Common on all sea watches - breeding recorded

Common on all sea watches - breeding recorded

SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS
Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)																															
Black Guillemot (<i>Uria grylle</i>)																															
Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>)																															
Rook Dove (<i>Columba livia</i>)																															
Wood Pigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)																															
Turtle Dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)																															
Collared Dove (<i>Streptopelia decacotta</i>)																															
Snowy Owl (<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>)																															
Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)																															
Owl (Sp)																															
Swift (<i>Apus apus</i>)																															
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)																															

Breeding
Recorded

Common in all areas of the island - breeding recorded

Common in all areas of the island - breeding recorded

Breeding
Recorded

[illegible]

1975 JUNE - WEST

OBSERVER - ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Page 15

SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS	
Blackcap (Sylvia atricapilla)								1																	2	2					25th and 27th at Halligarth woods	
Garden Warbler (Sylvia borin)								1	1							1									1						Sighted at Fetlar on 8th - all other sightings - Halligarth	
Whitethroat (Sylvia communis)								1										1													20th at House of Skaw	
Willow Warbler/Chiff- chaff (Phylloscopus - -)								1	1							1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2					one bird seen calling on 27th was a Chiffchaff	
Spotted Flycatcher (Musciopapa striata)	1						1	1									1									1						
Pied Flycatcher (Musciopapa hypoleuca)								1																								
Duncock (Prunella modularis)																										2	2	2				All at Halligarth woods
Meadow Pipit (Anthus pratensis)																										52	P	46	P			
Richard's Pipit (Anthus richardi)																				1												
Tree Pipit (Anthus trivialis)																2	1	1	2	4												
Rock Pipit (Anthus spinoletta)																																a regularly at Lumba Ness
Pied/White Wagtail (Motacilla alba)	1P	1W	1W					3A	1W	1P	1A	1W	2A	1W	1W	1P	1W	1P	1P	1P	1A											P - Pied Wagtail W - White Wagtail A - Alba Wagtail

Present all around the coast - breeding recorded in all areas

[illegible]

1975 JUNE - UNST										OBSERVER - ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY																				Page 17	
SPECIES/DATES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	REMARKS
Basking Shark					3	1													3							2					
Hedgehog						1	3	1											3	3			2		5						
House Mouse	1																														
Mouse (Sp)																				1											
Otter					3			1																							
Porpoise/Dolphin				P					2	3								3	3	1											
Rabbit																															
Seal (Sp)	1				1	1		2	1																						
Seal, Common								3		1	3	2							7	44			12			9					
Seal, Atlantic Grey								30		1	5	3						1	5			7			31						7th at Muckle Flugga
Whale					6															2						3					
Rodent Sp																															On rocks at Skaw, size of small rat, colour fawn.

Plentiful in all areas of the island

[illegible]

AUK MOVEMENT IN UNST - SHETLAND, JUNE 1975

Introduction

An attempt was made by members of the Royal Air Force Ornithological Society to collect, for interested parties, information on the movement of Auks off the island of Unst. The aims were to determine the size, duration and direction of movements by co-ordinated counts from several localities on the island.

Method

Two teams visited the island, the first from 3 - 13 June, the second from 17 - 27 June. The first team spent up to six hours a day on continuous sea watches. Teams of three worked together, two counting north and south movements, with the third member recording results. Tasks were rotated at five minute intervals. The general accuracy of the resulting counts was considered to be of a high standard.

The second team made sea watches on nine of the days, taking sample counts over a period of six hours of five minutes in every hour and determining an average hourly flow. The higher figures possibly reflect the greater number of young being fed. Teams of four worked together on each sea watch (see Tables 1 - 8).

Movements

It soon became obvious to the first team that few auks passed Hoga Ness and Mu Ness, and that the major movement was past Lamba Ness. Nevertheless, sample counts were taken from several localities including Tonga, Ness of Collaster, the Noup and Houllnan Ness.

All Northerly auk movement past Lamba Ness was on a broad front with an average heading of 320° - 330° . Birds moved past in tight flocks, streams, or loose parties from within a few yards of the shoreline to the extreme range of binoculars. Heights were from sea level to approximately 5000 feet above sea level (height from known cloud base). Birds rounding the Holm of Skaw turned onto a north-westerly heading (300° - 320°) towards Herma Ness, with small parties breaking off to the colonies on the north coast of Unst.

Sample counts of species of auks moving off Lamba Ness was virtually impossible owing to the extreme range of many groups, but the second party observed that when large numbers of Guillemot passed Puffin numbers were low, and vice versa.

Off Lamba Ness the general movement of all species was northerly, over a broad front, with large numbers involved. The north to south numbers were low on every count, eg on the 18th June at 0915 hours (BST), 17,320 birds per hour were moving north, whilst 2412 birds were moving south. The tendency was for movement to decrease as the morning progressed, and to increase from 1600 hours, with full movements taking place again at 2200 hours. It was noticed that Black Guillemot used the sea off Lamba Ness as a feeding area, with an average count of 40+. Movements of other species is shown in Table 8.

Two periods spent on radar watches were inconclusive owing to considerable wave clutter up to the radar horizon.

Feeding

Many northerly flying birds observed from Lamba Ness and Hoga Ness were seen to be carrying fish, and these birds were subject to constant harrying by Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*) and Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Attacks were not

noticed on southerly moving birds. Rafts of auks totalling many thousands of birds were observed off the Wick of Skaw on 6th June between 1000 and 1200, on the 9th June between 0900 and 1100, and between Herma Ness and the Noup on 10th June from 0915 and 1010 hours together with sightings on the 21st and 22nd June between 0900 and 1200 hours.

Gannets on their northern passage were continuously parasited by Great Skua, which used two methods of harassment. One method was to attack from above and drive the Gannet into the sea continuing to harass from above until the Gannet had disgorged. The second method was to attack from above tugging the Gannets wing until the Gannet was forced to land in the water. The wing tugging would still persist until the Gannet disgorged. It appeared that the wing tugging method was quicker in getting the Gannets to disgorge. Artic Terns were also harassed by the Artic Skua, but they were not always successful in making the Terns disgorge.

Shags at times formed feeding rafts of 500+ to the north of Lamba Ness. On 25th June, between 1320 and 1335 hrs (BST) 500+ Shags were feeding in an area of circa 100 sq m amongst a large shoal of fish. Within five minutes 270 Gannets were diving and feeding amongst the same shoal. This suddenly ceased at 1335 as the shoal moved out to sea. During this activity, four collisions by Gannets and Shag were recorded, which left one Gannet unable to fly and a Shag virtually dead. Up to 29 Great Skuas and 19 Greater Black-backed Gulls were observed attacking Shag and Gannets during this period.

Observation

With the considerable sea bird movements to and from fishing grounds off Lamba Ness and large numbers of fish eating birds breeding in the Shetland area, any spillage from fractured oil pipes or damaged oil wells could result in a disastrous slaughter of wild life. If this did occur, would the sea birds of the Shetlands ever recover their former status, and would future generations of bird watchers be denied the pleasure and excitement that we have experienced in seeing these beautiful birds in their natural environment.

Reg Kersley

- Table 1. Hourly totals of all species off Lamba Ness, Unst 18-27th June 1975.
- Table 2. Hourly totals of auk movement off Lamba Ness 5-11th June 1975.
- Table 3. Hourly totals of auk movement off Lamba Ness 18-27th June 1975.
- Table 4. Hourly totals of auk movement off Hoga Ness, Mu Ness, The Noup and the Holm of Skaw 5-11th June 1975.
- Table 5. Comparative counts of auks - Hoga Ness.
- Table 6. Hourly totals of the average movement of Gannets off Lamba Ness 18-27th June 1975.
- Table 7. Hourly totals of the average movement of Fulmar off Lamba Ness 18-27th 1975.
- Table 8. Total numbers of species not covered in Tables 2-7 off Lamba Ness 18-26th June 1975.

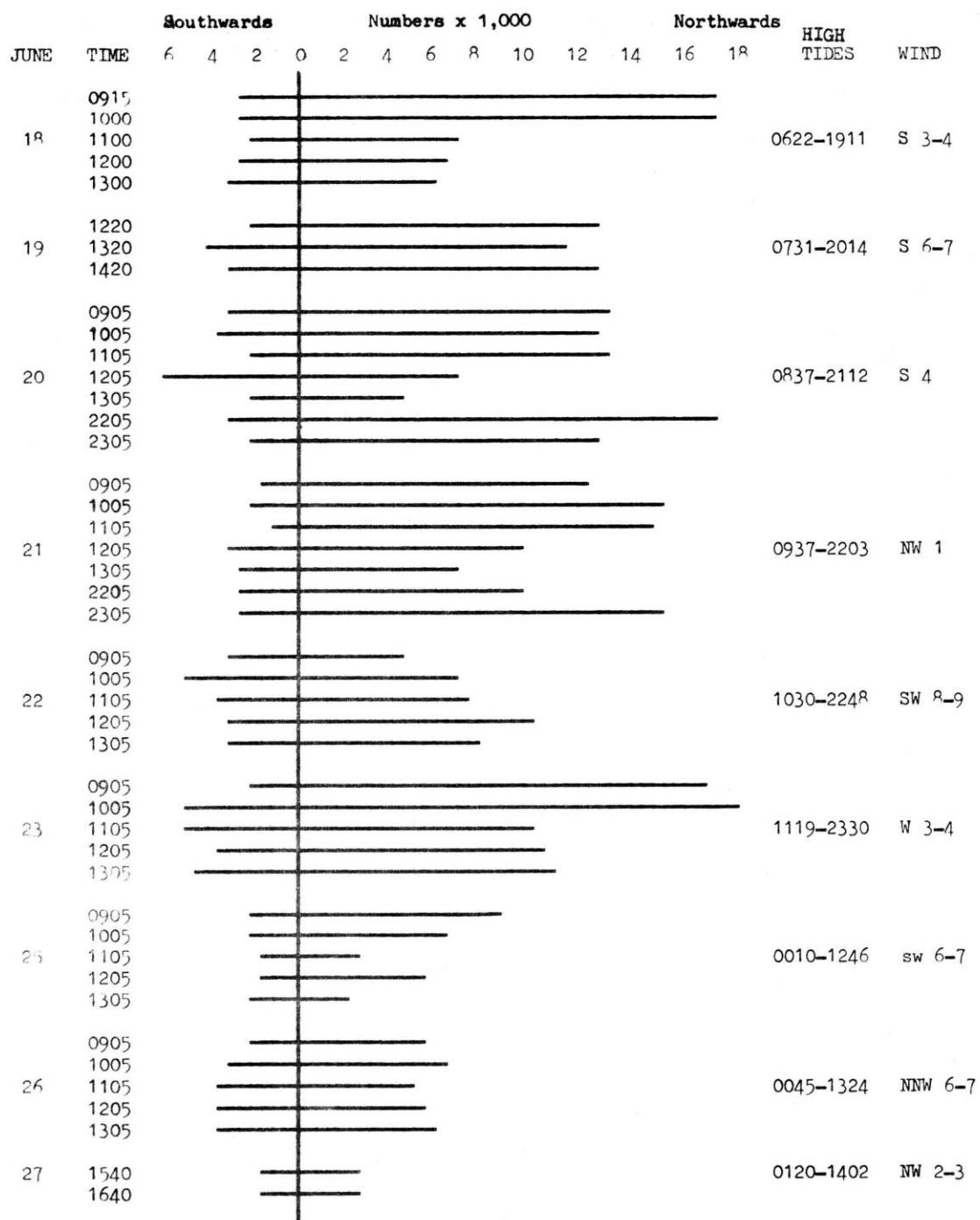


Table 1 - TOTAL HOURLY AVERAGE MOVEMENT - ALL SPECIES - LAMBA NESS UNST

18 - 27 JUNE 1975

Average Movement Northerly 9652 per hour
 Average Movement Southerly 2909 per hour

TABLE 2

HOURLY TOTALS OF AUK MOVEMENT - LAMBA NESS, UNST 5 - 11 JUNE 1975

DATE	TIME BST	HIGH TIDE BST	WIND	N O R T H		S O U T H	
				1st Hour	2nd Hour	1st Hour	2nd Hour
5 June	0900-1100	0815-2103	FSE 2-3	9632	8612	635	598
	1200-1400		ESE 5	670	542	145	113
	1500-1700		SE 6	657	731	131	179
6 June	0915-0945	0909-2147	SE 4	11280	-	1680	-
	1000-1200		SE 4	10602	5574	502	514
	1330-1400		SE 4-6	2600	-	250	- Estimated Count
	2000-2200		SE 4	13520	11095	373	140
9 June	0900-1100	1121-2340	NE 5	6659	5560	No count	- Estimated count 5529
	1100-1200		NE 5	7980	-	No count	
	2000-2200		E 4	No count	-	5685	
10 June	0830-1030	1206	E 5-2	9048	5600	No count	No count
	1030-1230		SE 3-1	4414	2760	No count	
	1930-2130		SE 2	7656	9716	No count	
11 June	0900-1100	1248	E 2	9919	7216	No count	No count
	1100-1200		E 3	4864	-	No count	

TABLE 3

HOURLY AVERAGE RATE OF AUK MOVEMENT - LAMBA NESS, UNST 18-27 JUNE 1975

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>TIME BST</u>	<u>HIGH TIDE BST</u>	<u>WIND</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
18	0935 1120 1315	0622 - 1811	S 3-4	13200 6192 3552	1152 852 3720
19	1150 1215 1335	0731 - 1914	S 6-7	1220 1067 1412	1278 No count 1188
20	0925 1025 1045 1200 1250 2215 2300	0837 - 2012	S 4	12744 21600 16000 9900 8636 17124 17140	2250 2600 3600 1600 3200 1320 3760
21	0935 1050 1145 1320 2150	0937 - 2103	NW 1	11556 14604 9456 4512 9770	1320 1668 2304 2472 1900
22	1005 1105	1030 - 2248	SW 9	3473 4360	2720 1910
23	0920 1020 1120 1250	1119 - 2330	W 3-4	16560 13392 10068 8532	2572 4668 4380 3036
25	0945 1045 1145 1245 1300	0010 - 1246	SW 6-7	3780 1270 2230 3840 3054	2005 920 900 1226 1820
26	0935 1035 1135 1250	0045 - 1324	NW 6	5076 2940 2184 210	698 660 552 10
27	1555 1640	0120 - 1402	WNW 2	2640 2364	288 526

Hourly average totals of Auks for above period:

North per hour 7590
South per hour 1859

TABLE 4

HOURLY TOTALS OF AUK MOVEMENT - HOGA NESS, MU NESS, THE NOUP AND THE HOLM OF SKAW 5 - 11 JUNE 1975

DATE	LOCATION	TIME BST	HIGH TIDE BST	N O R T H		S O U T H		WIND
				1st Hour	2nd Hour	1st Hour	2nd Hour	
5	Hoga Ness	0900 - 1100	0815 - 2103	435	164	1069	1136	SE 2
		1200 - 1400		152	143	897	820	SE 3-4
		1500 - 1700		862	784	135	136	SE 6
	Mu Ness	0900 - 1100		1240	607	69	97	SE 3
		1200 - 1400		163	126	25	19	SE 4
		1500 - 1600		292	-	32	-	SE 6
6	Hoga Ness	1000 - 1200	0909 - 2147	229	145	1290	920	SW 5
	Mu Ness	1000 - 1200 2000 - 2200		3 5650	9 3379	14 No count	2 No count	SW 3 SE 2
9	Hoga Ness	1000 - 1200	1121 - 2340	222	200	265	250	E 1
		2030 - 2230		153	150	864	800	E 2
10	Hoga Ness	0900 - 1100	1206	140	104	350	342	E 2-3
9	The Noup	0900 - 1100	1121 - 2340	W E S T		E A S T		
				2577	2004	No count	No count	SE 4
10	The Noup	0915 - 1015	1206	1427	-	No count	No count	E 4
		1100 - 1200		840	800	No count	No count	E 4-1
11	Holm of Skaw	1000 - 1200	1248	9769	5356	1830	1973	E 2-4

TABLE 5

COMPARATIVE COUNTS OF AUKS - HOCA NESS

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>TIME BST</u>		<u>GUILLEMOT</u>	<u>PUFFIN</u>	<u>BLACK GUILLEMOT</u>	<u>RAZORBILL</u>
9	1000-1200	North	233 (53.2%)	176 (40.2%)	17 (3.9%)	12 (2.7%)
		South	224 (39.8%)	301 (53.3%)	39 (6.9%)	Nil
10	0900-1100	North	72 (29.5%)	122 (50.0%)	13 (5.3%)	37 (15.1%)
		South	186 (26.8%)	419 (60.0%)	53 (7.6%)	34 (4.9%)
19	1200-1300	North	48 (19.7%)	119 (48.8%)	14 (5.7%)	49 (20.1%)
		South	198 (13.3%)	659 (44.2%)	90 (6.0%)	544 (36.5%)

TABLE 6

HOURLY TOTALS OF AVERAGE MOVEMENTS OF GANNETS, LAMBA NESS UNST 18-27 JUNE 1975

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>TIME BST</u>	<u>HIGH TIDE</u> <u>BST</u>	<u>WIND</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
18	1015 1140	0622 - 1911	S 3-4	600 804	648 120
19	1140 1400	0731 - 1400	S 6-7	1658 588	988 864
20	0937 1010 1110 1210 2210 2310	0837 - 2112	S 4	456 276 504 1056 730 610	Nil 12 60 72 396 290
21	0945 1110 1210 2215	0937 - 2203	NW 1	492 564 696 722	444 468 612 369
22	1010 1100 1200 1335	1030 - 2248	NW 8-9	228 372 324 700	28 348 192 240
25	0930 1030 1130 1230	1119 - 2330	W 3-4	786 826 912 912	492 324 288 192
25	0940 1040 1140 1240	0010 - 1246	SW 6-7	240 420 840 1620	132 120 476 360
26	0940 1040 1140	0045 - 1324	NW 6-7	240 180 204	156 36 204
27	1550	0120 - 1402	NW 2-3	204	24

Note: Average hourly movement of Gannets for the above period

North 625 per hour

South 299 per hour

TABLE 7

HOURLY TOTALS OF AVERAGE MOVEMENTS OF FULMER, LAMBA NESS UNST 18-27 JUN 1975

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>TIME BST</u>	<u>HIGH TIDE</u> <u>BST</u>	<u>WIND</u>	<u>NORTH</u>	<u>SOUTH</u>
18	1030 1250	0622 - 1911	S 3-4	1416 516	336 120
19	1205 1250 1415	0731 - 2014	S 6-7	1065 2184 2292	220 796 810
20	0945 1205 2300	0837 - 2112	S 4	648 626 68	250 120 22
21	1020 1250 2230	0937 - 2203	NW 1	852 910 678	99 120 220
22	1020 1200	1030 - 2248	NW 8-9	2168 444	148 138
23	0940 1045 1155	1119 - 2330	W 3-4	3984 2556 2016	244 193 72
25	1130 1250	0010 - 1246	SW 6-7	1600 3900	627 2500
26	1015 1115	0045- 1324	NW 6-7	4188 2280	696 2076
27	1610	0120 - 1402	NW 2-3	1392	108

Note: Average hourly totals of movement of Fulmers for above period

North 1705 per hour

South 473 per hour

TABLE 8

TOTAL NUMBERS OF SPECIES NOT COVERED IN TABLES 2 - 7: LAMBA NESS UNST 18-26 JUNE 1975

	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	26	Hourly								
	0915-1315	1115-1430	0905-1305	0915-1315	0915-1300	0900-1300	0900-1300	0900-1300	Average								
	North South	North South	North South	North South	North South	North South	North South	North South	North South								
Great Skua	38	30	-	-	74	42	29	12	14	14	9	87	26	40	24	39	25
Arctic Skua	5	5	-	-	13	6	22	20	6	6	9	6	19	10	37	9	16
Arctic Tern	30	126	52	55	27	20	19	13	86	70	38	49	170	220	40	12	58
Sandwich Tern	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diver Sp?	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-
Red throated Diver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eider	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Black back	-	7	12	7	14	9	6	20	14	26	-	8	-	28	47	10	11
Common Gull	-	-	3	9	-	-	5	9	5	1	-	-	60	5	-	-	-
Black headed Gull	-	-	18	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Black back	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	6	-	-	6	2	-	-	-
Oyster Catcher	14	21	-	-	-	-	3	1	72	5	16	7	-	-	-	-	-
Shag	-	-	27	16	120	38	52	80	118	169	63	33	526	380	380	426	167
Cormorant	-	-	2	6	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kittiwake	-	-	24	2	120	220	117	33	81	27	15	114	170	130	12	6	67
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	-	-	-
Black Guillemot	8	12	40	19	-	-	37	42	3	7	10	6	2	1	CA	40	-

Some Birds of The Zaire River Expedition 1974/75

By

Michael Gallagher

Scierie Forest

Dawn came late in the Scierie Forest, south west of Kindu in eastern Zaire, where we slept in hammocks under dense, dripping trees; but it was signalled shortly after 5 am by the many birds of the canopy far above us, and, on one unusually sunny morning, by the delightful, delicate cascade of song of a sunbird, delivered from a twig alongside my basha.

The first to call was usually the Great Blue Turaco, with a slow, resonant 'ko-ko-kok', developing into louder and more rapid calls as parties of these huge, colourful birds awoke and flew off with a whirring of their foot-long primaries to feed in other trees. The Trumpeter Hornbill, here nearly at the northern limit of its range, rivalled the turaco with croaks, braying and wailing like so many forest monsters. As it became lighter and the acrid smoke of our camp fire began to drift upwards into the tree tops the medley of sounds increased and formed the most memorable dawn chorus that one could wish to hear; the musical notes of the Grey Parrot, several tinker birds, ten or more species of bulbul and greenbul, Tambourine Dove and many more, unseen amongst the dense foliage, enlivened my three weeks stay in this remnant of primary equatorial forest in support of scientists on the Zaire River Expedition 1974/75.

Upemba

Being a member of the Scientific Group enabled me not only to share in some of the navigation of the Lualaba and Zaire Rivers (formerly the Congo) by the giant inflatable craft, but also to make minor expeditions to places of scientific interest up to 400 km away from the main river. We had flown to Zaire (previously the Belgian Congo and later the Democratic Republic of the Congo) on 4th October 1974, and within a week I had driven a party of five scientists, studying fish, their ecology and parasites, to Le Parc National de l'Upemba in the south-eastern uplands. Here, on the 1,800 metre high grassy plateaux 8° south of the Equator, was a great variety of larks, weavers, bishops and widow-birds, profiting from the various stages of growth of the vegetation. One Saddlebill Stork and one Woolly-necked Stork were present at separate water holes during my two weeks there; a party of Yellow-billed Duck was at one of the pools with a Greenshank and some Wood Sandpipers. Wattled Crane, Ground Hornbill, Denham's and Black-bellied Bustard were regularly seen, as were several vultures and eagles, Crowned Lapwing assembled noisily in the evenings, and once a party of six African Marsh Owl quartered the ground over us as we drove back to Lusinga camp at dusk.

Sorties of up to 80 km were made on most days to reach the different rivers in the heat below and we camped overnight on the banks of the Lufira river. Here the African Pied Wagtail and the Pied Kingfisher were common, but Spur-winged Goose and the Long-tailed Cormorant flew by only briefly. Amongst other kingfishers along one small stream I was delighted to find the small, remarkably crested Malachite Kingfisher. Thick trees overhanging the river banks were often seemingly alive with birds, but these were extra-ordinarily difficult to see. The Little Bee-eater, hawking from boughs and bushes was less of a problem, though rather similar to the larger Blue-breasted Bee-eater; parties of European Bee-eater, seen and heard moving west on some days in October, recalled my watching similar migrations over Bahrain six months before. Turning one's back to the river was to change the scene to dry bush and the

birds to Whistling Cisticola, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Cordon-bleu, Yellow-fronted Serin and smaller seed eaters; to Black Cuckoo-shrike in some tall trees; Black-headed Puff-back Flycatcher and Black-collared Barbet resting on high, bare branches, whilst Scimitar-bill searched tree-trunks, and Violet-backed Starling and a Spotted Flycatcher fed in or under the trees. As we gathered for supper at dusk (and met mosquitoes gathering for a similar purpose) Guinea Fowl gave us a cackling chorus as they assembled to roost.

Mulongo

From the Upemba park we had a long day's drive to spend a week on the banks of the Lualaba River near Mulongo whilst we waited for the River Group to sail through the lakes. I awoke on the first day to the call of the African Pied Wagtail, which may be found breeding at most times of the year. A Palm-nut Vulture flew silently downstream through a fine dawn mist, and Black Kite flapped their way upstream over the heads of some Zairios skilfully paddling their dug-out log pirogues to market. In scrub and tall grass on our bank parties of bishops, Black-head Weaver, Red-headed Quelea, and Pin-tailed Whydah in undistinguished non-breeding dress, were already feeding before sunrise, the smaller Bronze Manikin and fire finches feeding more openly on grass stems and on pathways. Blue-spotted Dove was common but rather shy, feeding quietly on the ground amongst low vegetation. Mournful calls echoed across the water from some birds hidden in the reeds, but the owner of cheerful, musical 'tooryoo' calls (and some swearing in reply) flew briefly into view when chased by another, and proved to be Black-headed Gonalek here near the south of its range - their crimson under-parts contrasting well with the glossy black upperparts, yellow eye and buff under tail coverts. Another shrike, but of the open spaces, was the common black and white, and often motionless and silent, Fiscal, whilst the clear fluty song of the Black-headed Bush Shrike provided further contrast amongst the local members of this family. Coucals, Black-lored Babblers, a Blue-breasted Kingfisher (one of several examples of an extension of known range), Copper Sunbird and a Long-tailed Nightjar were also seen nearby, whilst across the river I found a flock of 20 White-faced Tree Duck on a pool behind the river bank with one Black-headed Heron; a party of Open-bills roosted on the river-side thorn trees.

To Ituri Forest

Leaving Mulongo on 2nd November I made a ten-day journey by landrover, inflatable river craft (one Goliath Heron, one Anhinga, Palm Swift, White-rumped Swift, the Palaearctic migrant Whiskered Tern, are a few of those seen), and then by railway, to Scierie Forest and the three weeks amongst forest birds I mentioned earlier. In December, after eight more days travel, I spent nearly three weeks in tropical rain forest amongst the pygmies of Ituri - a memorable experience of yet more different birds (and bats, monkeys, Elephant Shrew, pangolin, Gaboon Viper, spiders), including Scaley-breasted Illadopsis amongst the secretive bulbuls; Red-headed Malimbe, a weaver of the forest canopy, black except forehead orange-red; the little known Spotted Honey Guide; the silent Black Dwarf Hornbill, and once again the Great Blue Turaco.

Kisingani

Reluctantly I had to return briefly to our new advanced base camp on the Tshopo River at Kisingani, NE Zaire, but even here there were birds of interest: Woodland Kingfisher, White-throated Bee-eater, Didric Cuckoo, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, bulbuls, Tiny Sunbird with wing 43-48 mm, Pigmy Kingfisher, weavers, cisticolas and even Yellow Wagtails; the list grew daily and indicated the variety one could see as well as hear over open grassland between river and woodland.

Yangambi

There followed a week in forest near Yangambi, and NW of Kisingani, reached by a succession of thumbed lifts from very kindly people, where at first I found few birds. Gradually they returned to the cutting in the forest recently occupied by the entomologists, and I was able to see such unusual and colourful birds as the Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill, Blue-headed Bee-eater and a Western Black-headed Oriole. Shortage of water and of time obliged me to return to Kisingani for the last time, as planned, via the pleasant agriculture research station on high ground at Yangambi overlooking the very broad Zaire River.

Kinshasa

It was now mid-January and the small River Group was well on its way down the final stretch of river, with the worst rapids, from Kinshasa to the Atlantic. I was authorised to fly westward to Kinshasa, leaving the rest of the Scientific Group, their projects completed, to sail down by river steamer. And so for the last ten days of this remarkable and very well worth while expedition I was able to continue my work in the field.

The return of the River Group by road from the Atlantic Ocean at Banana signalled the successful end of the expedition and on 26th January, before we boarded a DC 10 of Air Zaire, we were received by President Mobutu, who had shown such interest and had given such support throughout the expedition and the preparations for it. Although the tremendous distances we had to cover naturally limited our time in static camps I had been able to make a fair survey of the bird life in some little visited places, identifying over 300 species. My thanks are due to the Scientific Exploration Society for inviting me to attend, to the Daily Telegraph and others for sponsoring the expedition, but in large measure to the people of Zaire, whom I found to be cheery, friendly and most helpful.

Michael Gallagher

Scientific names of birds in the order mentioned in the text
(following Mackworth-Praed, C W & Grant, C H B 1970, 1973. Birds of
West Central and Western Africa. 2 vols. London: Longmans)

Scierie Forest

Sunbird
Great Blue Turaco
Trumpeter Hornbill
Grey Parrot
Tinker birds
Bulbuls, greenbuls
Tambourine Dove

Upemba

Larks
Weavers
Bishops and widow-birds
Saddlebill, Jabiru
Woolly-necked Stork
Yellow-billed Duck
Greenshank
Wood Sandpiper
Wattled Crane
Ground Hornbill
Denham's Bustard
Black-bellied Bustard
Vultures, eagles
Crowned Lapwing
African Marsh Owl
African Pied Wagtail
Pied Kingfisher
Spur-winged Goose
Long-tailed Cormorant
Malachite Kingfisher
Little Bee-eater
Blue-breasted Bee-eater
European Bee-eater
Whistling Cisticola
Tawny-flanked Prinia
Cordon-bleu

Nectariniidae

Corythaeola cristata (Musophagidae)
Bycanistes bucinator (Bucerotidae)
Psittacus erithacus (Psittacidae)
Capitonidae
Pycononotidae
Tympanistria tympanistria (Columbidae)

Alaudidae

Ploceidae

Ploceidae

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis (Ciconiidae)

Disoura episcopus (Ciconiidae)

Anas undulata (Anatidae)

Tringa nebularia (Scolopacidae)

Tringa glareola (Scolopacidae)

Bugeranus carunculatus (Balearicidae)

Bucorvus leadbeateri (Bucerotidae)

Neotis denhami (Otididae)

Lissotis Melanogaster (Otididae)

Falconidae

Stephanibyx coronatus (Charadriidae)

Asio capensis (Strigidae)

Motacilla aguimp (Motacillidae)

Ceryle rudis (Alceninidae)

Plectropterus gambensis (Anatidae)

Phalacrocorax africanus (Phalacrocoracidae)

Corythornis cristata (Alceninidae)

Melittophagus pusillus (Meropidae)

Melittophagus variegatus (Meropidae)

Merops apiaster (Meropidae)

Cisticola lateralis (Sylviidae)

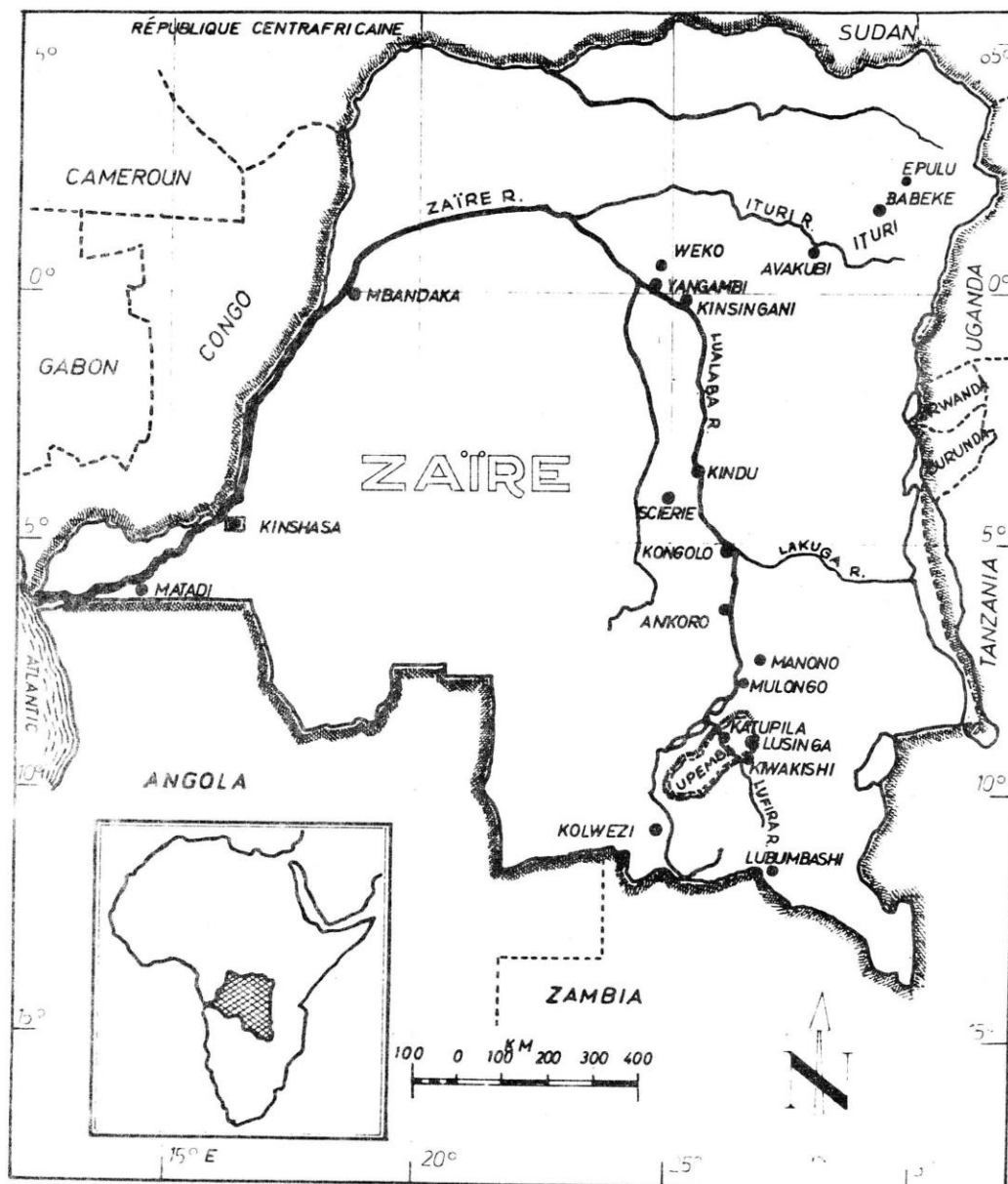
Prinia subflava (Sylviidae)

Uraeginthus angolensis (Ploceidae)

Yellow-fronted Serin	<u>Serinus mozambicus</u> (Fringillidae)
Seed-eaters	Fringillidae
Black Buckoo-shrike	<u>Campephaga sulphurata</u> (Campephagidae)
Black-headed Puff-back Flycatcher	<u>Batis minor</u> (Muscicapidae)
Black-collared Barbet	<u>Lybius torquatus</u> (Capitonidae)
Scimitar-bill	<u>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</u> (Phoeniculidae)
Violet-back Starling	<u>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</u> (Sturnidae)
Spotted Flycatcher	<u>Muscicapa striata</u> (Muscicapidae)
Guinea-fowl	<u>Numida meleagris</u> (Phasianidae)
<u>Mulongo</u>	
Palm-nut Vulture	<u>Gypohierax angolensis</u> (Falconidae)
Black Kite	<u>Milvus migrans</u> (Falconidae)
Black-head Weaver	<u>Ploceus melanoccephalus</u> (Ploceidae)
Red-headed Quelea	<u>Quelea erythrops</u> (Ploceidae)
Pin-tailed Whydah	<u>Vidua macroura</u> (Ploceidae)
Bronze Mannikin	<u>Lonchura cucullatus</u> (Ploceidae)
Fire-finches	<u>Lagonostica spp.</u> (Ploceidae)
Blue-spotted Wood-dove	<u>Turtur afer</u> (Columbidae)
Black-headed Gonolek	<u>Laniarius erythrogaster</u> (Laniidae)
Fiscal	<u>Lanius collaris</u> (Laniidae)
Black-headed Bush-shrike	<u>Tchagra senegala</u> (Laniidae)
Coucals	Cuculidae
Black-lored Babbler	<u>Turdoides melanops</u> (Timaliidae)
Blue-breasted Kingfisher	<u>Halcyon malimbicus</u> (Alcedinidae)
Copper Sunbird	<u>Cinnyris cupreus</u> (Nectariniidae)
Long-tailed Nightjar	<u>Scotornis climacurus</u> (Caprimulgidae)
White-faced Tree Duck	<u>Dendrocygna viduata</u> (Anatidae)
Black-headed Heron	<u>Ardea melanocephala</u> (Ardeidae)
Open-bill	<u>Anastomus lamelligerus</u> (Ciconiidae)
<u>To Ituri Forest</u>	
Goliath Heron	<u>Ardea goliath</u> (Ardeidae)
Anhinga, Darter, Snake-bird	<u>Anhinga rufa</u> (Anhingidae)
Palm Swift	<u>Cypsiurus parvus</u> (Apodidae)
White-rumped Swift	<u>Apus caffer</u> (Apodidae)
Whiskered Tern	<u>Chlidonias hybrida</u> (Laridae)
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis	<u>Trichastoma albipectus</u> (Timaliidae)
Red-headed Malimbe	<u>Malimbus rubricollis</u> (Ploceidae)

Spotted Honey Guide	<u>Indicator maculatus</u> (Indicatoridae)
Black Dwarf Hornbill	<u>Tockus hartlaubi granti</u> (Bucerotidae)
<u>Kisingani</u>	
Woodland Kingfisher	<u>Halcyon senegalensis</u> (Alcedinidae)
White-throated Bee-eater	<u>Aerops albicollis</u> (Meropidae)
Didric Cuckoo	<u>Chrysococcyx caprius</u> (Cuculidae)
Orange-cheeked Waxbill	<u>Estrilda melpoda</u> (Poceidae)
Tiny Sunbird	<u>Cinnyris minullus</u> (Nectariniidae)
Pigmy Kingfisher	<u>Ispidina picta</u> (Alcedinidae)
Yellow Wagtails	<u>Budytes (Motacilla flava)</u> sp. (Motacillidae)
<u>Yangambi</u>	
Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill	<u>Tockus camurus</u> (Bucerotidae)
Blue-headed Bee-eater	<u>Melittophagus muelleri</u> (Meropidae)
Western Black-headed Oriole	<u>Oriolus brachyrynchus</u> (Oriolidae)

The map of the Republic of Zaire (shown on the following page), shows the course of the Zaire-Lualaba Rivers followed by the Zaire River Expedition 1974/75, and the location of scientific camps.



THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL LABRADOR, CANADA

AIM. The aim of the expedition was to carry out a study of the bird population in a specific area of Central Labrador. The time scale was to coincide with the Spring migration, the Spring thaw, and before the start of the Black Fly season. The study was to establish the bird population during the Spring, with particular reference to migration and breeding.

METHOD. In an effort to obtain as broad a coverage as possible over the diverse habitats, the method adopted was the selective and repetitive use of line-transects. The expedition party included nine observers who were divided into four parties, three being available daily for the transects, with the fourth doing camp chores. The area selected was the Goose Bay military reserve, within road transportation distance of the RCAF Base. This limited the expedition to a locale centered around the only road in the area between Goose Bay, the settlement at Northwest River, and the derelict military site at Northwest Point. During the pre-expedition planning it was decided to site the base camp on the cleared ground around the derelict site at Northwest Point. A series of line-transects were planned to provide as wide a coverage of habitats as possible in the designated area. This would result in an area of eight miles east-west and eighteen north-south, with a coverage of all habitats found in Central Labrador: the tidal waters of Lake Melville, The Bight, Goose Bay and the eastern part of Little Lake, the fresh waters of Grande Lake, The Rapids, the western part of Little Lake, and Goslin Lake; rivers including Hamilton River, Goose River, and Goslin Brook; muskeg in an area bordered by the road, Goslin Lake and Goose Bay; marsh and wet scrub in an area north of Northwest River and inland from The Bight; dry scrub and heath in an area around Northwest Point, and Black and Sitka Spruce forest mainly to the north-west of the road. Unfortunately, on arrival we found all our extensive planning of the line-transect routes was negated by the nature of the terrain, ground conditions and weather being far worse than anticipated. So an on site re-planning was carried out.

NARRATIVE. The expedition took place between 18th May and 6th June 1975. On our arrival, which was during a period of persistent snow falls, it was found that the Spring thaw had washed the road away, making vehicle access to Northwest Point impossible. This meant that the base camp had to be resited along the road close to the washout in conditions that reflected the area - bleak! Preparatory reconnaissance proved our worst fears that ground conditions would make access to all habitats very difficult, for we found deep snow drifts, and lakes, muskeg and marsh completely frozen over. It also made any anticipation of bird life being present improbable, but we were to be surprised - pleasantly I must say - to find White-crowned Sparrow, Slate-coloured Junco, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Boreal Chickadee, Rusty Blackbird and small flocks of American Robin already in residence, with single males singing. Camp was made on the frozen ground with some difficulty, and we were very soon adopted by the camp scavengers, five Grey Jays, who became very tame.

During the first week the thaw became more noticeable, with free water appearing on all lakes. Little Lake was 90% clear, and it was here that the sea ducks were found in numerous rafts spread across the Lake, predominant amongst which were Common Goldeneye, Greater Scaup, Old-squaw, and Scoter - mainly

Common but with small numbers of Surf and White-winged. At this time Osprey were quite numerous as they circled and fished over the lake. The rivers had become turbulent floods of angry water and icefloes, and it was only in the quiet backwaters that Common Goldeneye, Great Scaup, and Common Merganser roosted in small numbers of paired birds. Belted Kingfishers were a common sight noisily flying low along the river. The forest tracks had become barely passable with progress still hindered by deep drifts, but in spite of this, bird life was still progressing in the forest itself, with Ruby-crowned Kinglet - the commonest bird - in full song and courtship. Common Redpoll were present in small parties, making their way to nowhere in particular. Isolated flocks of White-winged Crossbills were seen quietly feeding on the spruce cones close to the camp site, together with a single pair of Pine Grosbeak. Single Boreal Chickadee were seen moving and foraging through the forest. During this first week, Robins were still in small parties nervously occupying the forest fringes. The water level on the flooded muskeg had dropped considerably leaving isolated pools in which waders took up residence, the most vocal being the Greater Yellowleg, with the Lesser Yellowleg and Solitary Sandpiper seen and heard calling from deep in the muskeg. Overflying both muskeg and forest were male and female Marsh Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk, all single birds with one observation of two Red-tails together. On the dry scrub during the beginning of the week flocks of Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Horned Lark were seen feeding. Towards the end of the week this movement had dwindled to single pairs of Longspur and Horned Lark.

The second week saw Little Lake with completely free water which carried on through the Rapids into Grande Lake. Also, the Bight had become free water and this stretched well into Lake Melville, although beyond Montagnais Island it still looked wintry and inhospitable. The flocks of sea duck had increased steadily, coinciding with the Bight becoming free, and it was here that they were all to be found, having forsaken Little Lake. Around the entrance to the Rapids, Common Loon were congregating and were heard to call, whilst on most ice outcrops Glaucous Gull were roosting in twos and threes and showing little sign of movement. In contrast Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Ring-billed Gull were observed constantly moving between lakes. A small party of Northern Phalarope were seen resting on Little Lake, with one female resplendent in summer plumage. The Osprey appeared to have dispersed, with only single birds seen on the odd occasion. It was during this period that those on transects along the shoreline were experiencing a new hazard. Whereas previously we had made rapid progress across frozen shore ice, the thaw had changed the scene and the formerly solid mud flats were becoming soft and treacherous. Whilst walking across apparently inshore ice one could, and did, find a leg disappearing suddenly up to the thigh into very cold water - extremely uncomfortable, and with the frightening possibility of a broken limb which would have been hazardous for the isolated observer. This change in the shoreline encouraged the tidal flow which attracted the waders, with Shortbilled Dowitcher, Semipalmated Plover and Semipalmated Sandpiper seen prodding the tidal mud. Meanwhile, the forest floor growths were sprouting through the rapidly clearing snow, and at this time the appearance of the Spruce Grouse was noted. A number of these extremely tame birds were encountered in the most unusual places, such as roosting in the centre of the road and needing encouragement to move. Woodpeckers were not numerous and were hard to come by, but the Yellow-shafted Flicker and both the Northern and Black-backed varieties of the Three-toed Woodpecker were present. An effort was made to estimate the

numbers of Three-toed whilst on the forest transects by a count of drumming heard; we approximated one bird to every two square miles. It was during this second week that, on the 20th, with excitement and anticipation, the first of the Wood Warblers was seen - a single Tennessee Warbler moving rapidly along the line of the forest stream close by the camp site. This was followed on the next day by the first of many Myrtle Warblers, the number of which increased rapidly until, towards the end of the week, we were counting fifty to sixty a day. The Palm Warbler made a brief appearance during this week, with no sightings after the 30th. Other Wood Warblers did not appear on the scene until after the 20th, when a general influx started to build up. They were seen moving through the river bottomland and lake shores in appreciable numbers and included Magnolia Warbler, Black-and-White, Blackpoll, Tennessee, Myrtle, Wilson's and Blackthroated Green, together with the Northern Waterthrush and American Redstart. The majority of these species were at the extreme limit of their range, with the Black-and-White Warbler well beyond it. The same can be said for the single sightings of the Flycatchers, an Eastern Wood Pewee and the Eastern Phoebe. Both were heard calling whilst behaving flycatcher fashion amongst dead trees in the river bottoms. On the dry scrub nesting activity was starting, with Common Redpoll and White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows singing from lofty perches, and nest sites were noted in the vicinity. The Robins had dispersed from the forest fringes and were now in evidence as numerous individuals in scrub and willow. The general influx of the American Sparrows started after the 24th, and these included Fox Sparrow, Lincoln, Song, Swamp and Clay-coloured. All were at the extremity of their northern range, whilst the Clay-coloured, being a central prairie migrant, was way off course.

During the third week, commencing on 1st June, we could feel that at last Spring was in the air, with hot sunny days replacing the damp overcast conditions that had been with us from the start. It was in these conditions that we looked for signs of the dreaded Blackfly but fortunately none were in evidence. But in spite of the rising day time temperatures it still dipped rapidly at sundown to below freezing, so we did not relax our nightly routine of dressing for bed, donning everything from woolly nightcap to woolly socks. It was in this attire that individual members caused much amusement during the morning rush to the woodland toilet; were any outsiders to witness such goings-on they would certainly have been bemused and bewildered. It was early in the third week that the habitats in the river bottoms, lake foreshores, scrub, marsh and forest margins, and the village surrounds, became alive with bird life; that is, all except the muskeg, which remained quiet and desolate and only in the isolated pools did the Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs show any sign of breeding, with the odd pair of Black Duck rising on being disturbed. It was on the edges where Spruce battled for a foothold in the sodden ground that most bird life prevailed, with Rusty Blackbirds very active in pairs whilst singing their peculiar song. In the isolated scrub islands in the depths of the muskeg, single Swamp Sparrows were to be found proclaiming their territory, whilst Wilson's Warblers were foraging through the willow thickets. In the village, Tree Swallows were beginning to occupy the nest boxes that appeared in every garden, whilst Robins scurried noisily for cover, with Myrtle Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets seeming to occupy every bush.

As we left Goose Bay the feeling remained that, although we had witnessed the area coming to life from the stupor of winter, the high point of this Spring awakening had not been reached, and the breeding season had really only just

started. There is still a great deal to learn about the lives of the birds in this most forbidding land.

CONCLUSION. The original aim of the Expedition, to establish the bird population during the Spring period and to categorise this into Breeding or Migratory, was accomplished beyond our expectations, and this was done regardless of the atrocious ground conditions, with the weather at times making everyone wish they had fur-covered webbed feet, and taking into account the fact that the majority of the members were new to American birds and all new to life under canvas in Arctic conditions. May I record a word of thanks to each individual member for their sterling efforts and a job well done. Criticisms, yes, for it was in the individual members' planning of equipment with which to live in these conditions that proved the Expedition's weakness. We were ill-prepared for those extremely cold nights, and any future expedition would be advised to make more use of equipment available in Service Expedition Stores. The timing of our presence was correct for that particular year, but climatic conditions do vary the seasons considerably, so it is a gamble. As already stated, another week would have been to our advantage for then we would have witnessed the completed influx of migratory birds and perhaps the climax of breeding numbers.

To summarise the conclusions, the reader will find relevant information under:

- a. The Population Census by Daily Totals - at Annex A.
- b. The Breeding and Migratory Survey - at Annex B.

References:

Field Guides: 'Birds of North America' by Robbins, Bruun & Zimm - Golden Press.

'A Field Guide to the Birds (Eastern)' by Peterson.

Scientific Titles: Birds Protected List, by the United States Department of the Interior.

Canada Goose Subspecies: 'Waterfowl Tomorrow', by the United States Department of the Interior.

Finally, the Expedition members were:

Flt Lt K L Crouch	RAF Swanton Morely	Team Leader
WO F Kime	RAF Leconfield	Deputy Leader (and Author of this article)
PS W Corris	RAF St Athan	
Ch Tech D W Bodley	RAF West Drayton	
Sgt M S Davis	RAF Boulmer	
Sgt A J Heath	RAF Brampton	
Sgt R G Griffiths	RAF Brampton	
Ch Tech A M Smith	RAF North Luffenham	
Cpl A J Joyce	RAF Digby	

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(Annex A)

A Breeding & Migration Survey - Goose Bay, Labrador - Spring 1975

Species	Breeding			Notes and Comments	Habitat
	nesting	display	attracting		
Common Loon		X		paired and calling	- Lake Melville
Gavia immer			X	peaked numbers 15-27th	- Little Lake
Canada Goose (Atlantic)		X		paired birds seen	- irregular flights
			X	small flock, 22nd/29th	- marsh, Little Lake
Black Duck		X		pairs at likely sites	- muskeg pools
Anas rubripes					
Pintail		X		males chasing females	- Lake Melville &
Anas acuta				& a number of pairs	Goose Bay
European Teal-Common				male & female - 22nd	- The Bight
Anas crecca				two males - 25th	- Welbourn Bay
Green-winged Teal		X		only odd pairs, mainly	- all lakes and shore
Anas carolinus				males seen	
Blue-winged Teal				a mixed flock on one	- flight
Anas discors				day	
Greater Scaup			X	fluctuating numbers	- Little Lake &
Aythya marila					Lake Melville
Lesser Scaup		X		paired and display	- Lake Melville
Aythya affinis					
Common Goldeneye		X		males displaying	- Lake Melville
Bucephala clangula					
Oldsquaw			X	small numbers between	- Little Lake
Clangula hyemalis				the 21st and 27th	
Common Scoter			X	commonest duck, numbers	- Little Lake &
Oidemia nigra				in hundreds, very restless	Melville
Surf Scoter			X	fluctuating numbers	- Little Lake &
Melanitta perspicillata				with Common Scoter	Lake Melville
White-winged Scoter			X	fluctuating numbers	- Little Lake &
Melanitta deglandi				the rarest scoter	Lake Melville
Common (American) Merganser		X		pairs seen most days	- Lake Melville &
Mergus merganser				extremely restless	Goose River
Red-breasted Merganser		X		pairs seen most days	- Lake Melville &
Mergus serrator				also very restless	Little Lake
Goshawk				single female in flight	- north along coast
Accipiter gentilis				on the 20th	of Lake Melville
Marsh Hawk				male and female seen	- mainly over forest
Circus cyaneus				on the 20th	
Rough-legged Hawk				singles seen - one obs'	- over forest
Buteo lagopus				of a 'Light-phase'	and margins
Red-tailed Hawk				two seen soaring	- over forest
Buteo jamaicensis				together on the 21st	
Peregrine Falcon				single observation, in	
Falco peregrinus				fast high flight - SE	- over Little Lake
Pigeon Hawk		X		nest site and pair seen	
Falco columbarius				inland from The Bight	- wet & dry scrub
Sparrow Hawk (American)		X		observed mating on the	derelict building
Falco sparverius				21st	Northwest Point
Osprey			X	numbers peaked between	numbers - Little Lake
Pandion haliaetus				21st and 25th Max-10	singles all Lakes

A Breeding & Migration Survey - Goose Bay, Labrador - Spring 1975

Species	Breeding		Notes and Comments	Habitat
	nesting	display		
Spruce Grouse		X	paired birds seen on the 22nd and 4th	- forest, clearings and roadside
Canachites canadensis				
Ruffed Grouse			single bird seen on the 20th - a male	- Spruce clearing Northwest Point
Bonasa umbellus				
Willow Ptarmigan			single bird seen on the 21st	- lake shore close to Northwest River
Lagopus lagopus				
Common Snipe(Wilson's)		X	display flight on the 30th. Widespread over area	- Wellburn Bay
Capella gallinago			two seen on the 31st	- wet scrub close to the Bight.
American Woodcock				
Philohela minor				
American Bittern			single bird seen on the 3rd and 4th	- bottom-land, Goose River
Botaurus lentiginosus				
Semipalmated Plover		X	X fluctuating numbers 21st to 31st, peaked 26th	- foreshore. The Bight.
Charadrius semipalmatus			display on the 30th	- Welburn Bay
Spotted Sandpiper		X	display flight 2nd & many territorial pairs	- stream outlets to The Bight & Melville
Actitis macularia				
Solitary Sandpiper		X	display flight - 27th	- over muskeg
Tringa solitaria				
Greater Yellowlegs		X	numerically most numerous	
Totanus melanoleucus			display flight -24th	- over muskeg pools
Lesser Yellowlegs		X	only three sightings, display flight -27th	- deep in muskeg
Totanus flavipes			X movement on the 31st	- lake foreshore
White-rumped Sandpiper				
Erolia fuscicollis				
Least Sandpiper			X movement on 28th & 31st	- tidal mud. The Bight.
Erolia minutilla				
Short-billed Dowitcher			X movement on the 26th, 28th & static number during Obs.	- tidal mud. The Bight
Limnodromus griseus			X movement from 23rd-30th peaked on the 26th	- tidal mud. The Bight.
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
Ereunetes pusillus				
Northern Phalarope			X small mixed party on the 26th on the center of lake	- Little Lake
Lobipes lobatus				
Glaucous Gull			X static population increased in numbers, peak on 28th	- ice outcrops Grande, Melville
Larus hyperboreus			single observation	- The Bight
Iceland Gull				
Larus glaucoides				
Great Black-backed Gull			X numerous, peaked at 75 on the 22nd	- all lakes and flight between
Larus marinus				
Herring Gull			static population, daily average sightings 28	- all areas except forest
Larus argentatus			possible movement as numbers peaked between the 21st & 4th, max on 27th	- all lakes and flights between
Ring-billed Gull				
Larus delawarensis				
Ivory Gull			single obs of 2 with other gulls on 28th	- roosting on ice, 'spit' The Bight
Pagophila eburnea			singles on 28th, 31st	- on open water, The Bight.
Black-legged Kittiwake			pair on 30th	
Rissa tridactyla				

- A Breeding & Migration Survey - Goose Bay, Labrador - Spring 1975

<u>Species</u>	<u>Breeding</u>			<u>Notes and Comments</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Unconfirmed</u>		
Mourning Dove <i>Zenaidura macroura</i>				single observation on the 28th	
Hawk Owl <i>Surnia ulula</i>				two single obs on the 22nd & 25th	- derelict building & flight over lake
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>				four single obs on 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th	- all in flight in area of Base camp
Boreal Owl <i>Aegolius funerea</i>				single obs and good hearing of call-18th	- scrub area in Goose Bay Camp
Belted Kingfisher <i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	X			nest-site observed max ^y of 5 seen	- river bank, Goose River.
Yellow-shafted Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>				one obs of single paired birds M & F. Otherwise singles.	- Spruce forest close to road
Hairy Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos villosus</i>	X			nest-hole obs on the 29th	- Spruce bottomland Churchill River
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker <i>Picoides arcticus</i>				singles seen on the 29th, 30th, 1st, 3rd.	- all to the west of the road, in forest
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker <i>Picoides tridactylus</i>				singles, male & female seen on 27th, 28th, 1st similar density as above.	- same area as above
Eastern Kingbird <i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>				single male in willow scrub Northwest Point, on 1st, 2nd.	
Eastern Phoebe <i>Sayornis phoebe</i>				single obs on the 3rd very active in habitat and calling.	- dead trees, river bottoms, Goose River
Eastern Wood Pewee <i>Contopus virens</i>				single obs in Birch on the 30th and calling	- Birch & Willows bottom land, Goose
Horned Lark (Northern) <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>			X	movement 20th to 31st peaked at 120 on 21st	- heath, NW Point & scrub in village
Tree Swallows <i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i>	X			movement started on 22nd to nestboxes on 2nd	- village nest boxes
Bank Swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>				obs on the 22nd & 23rd only, total 3 each day	- most in flight over water & Spruce
Gray Jay <i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	X			fledglings seen on the 2nd, very common	- Spruce forest & clearings
Common Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>				single obs on widely spaced dates	- village surrounds
Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>				seen most days singles, pairs and calling	- village surrounds rubbish-tip, forest
Black-capped Chickadee <i>Parus atricapillus</i>				pair seen feeding on the 2nd	- Spruce cutting through muskeg
Boreal Chickadee <i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	X			heard singing most dates with single tail-chase	- Spruce forest
Ruby-crowned Kinglet <i>Regulus calendula</i>	X			very common, many singing, nest obs on 31st	- Spruce forest willow, clearings

- A Breeding & Migration Survey - Goose Bay, Labrador - Spring 1975

<u>Species</u>	<u>Breeding</u> common nesting	<u>Notes and Comments</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Robin (American) <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	X	very common, flocking to the 25th, then single males singing	- forest edges
Hermit Thrush <i>Hylocichla guttata</i>		singles on the 21st, 22nd	- scrub and Spruce
Swainson's Thrush <i>Hylocichla ustulata</i>	X	28th, 30th and 1st	- Spruce forest clearings
Mockingbird <i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		single obs on the 1st & heard singing after single obs on the 1st & 2nd. looked bedraggled	- stream-bed close to camp-site - willow scrub, Northwest Point
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		X movement 23rd to 4th peaked at 31 on 1st	- foreshore The Bight
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		small flock of 12	- the village and rubbish tip
Tennessee Warbler <i>Vermivora perigrina</i>	X	single 20th, influx 1st singing males 3rd	- willow scrub, river bottomland
Myrtle Warbler <i>Dendroica coronata</i>	X	single 21st, influx 24th singing males 29th	- Spruce forest edges, clearings
Magnolia Warbler <i>Dendroica magnolia</i>		singles on the 3rd & 4th	- willows. birch.
Black-throated Green Warbler <i>Dendroica virens</i>		single on 28th, pair on the 3rd	- willows
Blackpoll Warbler <i>Dendroica striata</i>		pair on 22nd, three on the 4th	- willow
Palm Warbler <i>Dendroica palmarum</i>		X small movement 27th to 30th but only singles	- forest edges and road-side.
Wilson's Warbler <i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>		single on 29th, three on the 1st, two on the 3rd	- wet willow scrub
Black and White Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>		three on 26th and one on the third	- forest edges
Northern Waterthrush <i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	X	influx on the 29th, max of 5 on 3rd, singing males	- shoreline scrub, willow thickets
American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>		single female on the 1st and 4th	- willow scrub
Rusty Blackbird <i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	X	seen on first day, max' 38 on 27th singing males	- village surrounds muskeg scrub
Pine Grosbeak <i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	X	pair obs around camp, singing male, not common	- Spruce forest
Purple Finch <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>		male/females on 28th single on the 3rd	- Spruce and Birch
Hoary Redpoll <i>Acanthis hornemanni</i>		singles with Common's on the 20th, 23rd, 24th 25th	- Spruce
Common Redpoll <i>Acanthis flammea</i>	X	X movement from 19th to 4th peaked at 24 on 24th	- Spruce
		Nest noted on 27th	- willow scrub
Pine Siskin <i>Spinus pinus</i>		two on 19th, four 29th three on the 2nd. males/females	- Spruce
White-winged Crossbill <i>Loxia leucoptera</i>		movement in flocks, max of 19th on the 29th	- Spruce

A Breeding & Migration Survey - Goose Bay, Labrador - Spring 1975

<u>Species</u>	Breeding			<u>Notes and Comments</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
	c o p i e r m e e d	p r o b a b l e	p o s s i b l e		
Savannah Sparrow	X			males in song on the 2nd	- Alder, muskeg
Passerculus sandwichensis					
Slate-coloured Junco	X			very common from 1st day,	- Forest edges &
Junco hyemalis				territorial/singing males	scrub
Tree Sparrow			X	movement 18th to 22nd, max	- Road-side scrub
Spizella arborea				13 on 19th	
Clay-coloured Sparrow				single male in song on	- Perched on top of
Spizella pallida				2nd (western prairie)	Spruce, NW Point
White-crowned Sparrow	X			very common, singing male	- Scrub and forest
Zanotrichia leucophrys				on the 18th	
White-throated Sparrow	X			common after the 23rd,	- Spruce scrub
Zanotrichia albico				singing males on 28th	
Fox Sparrow	X			common after the 28th	- Spruce scrub &
Passerella iliaca				singing males on 29th	clearings
Lincoln's Sparrow				singles after 29th	- Willow scrub, NW
Melospiza lincolnii					Point
Swamp Sparrow	X			singing/territorial male	- Spruce growth, in
Melospiza georgiana				on the 2nd	muskeg
Song Sparrow	X			singing males on the 30th	- Forest edges to
Melospiza melodia					lake, Welborn Bay
Lapland Longspur			X	movement from 19th to 24th,	- Heath and scrub,
Calcarius lapponicus				peaked with 13 on 20th	NW Point
Snow Bunting			X	with above, on the 19th	- As above
Plectrophenax nivalis				total 6	

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May										June										Status
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
Common Loon						1			5	15	2		1			2		3	P, BP		
Red-necked Grebe						1															
Common Egret							1														
American Bittern																	1	1			
Canada Goose (Atlantic)		3			121		1		2	1	1	71	2	4		2			P, BP		
Black Duck			2	1	10	6	8	6	49+	5		2	4	33			2	6	BP		
European Widgeon							1														
American Pintail		1			19+	5+	1	6	10+	2	5		1	2				12	BP		
Shoveller																		2			
European Teal					2			3													
Green-winged Teal	3				12	12	5	19	20	6	7		7	23		1			BP		
Blue-winged Teal					10				4		1		1	3							
Greater Scaup				24	2	3		10	56+	18	50+		20+		4			112	P		
Lesser Scaup													9						BP		
Ring-necked Duck																					
Common Goldeneye			1	20+	40+	53+	72	16	82+	71	55+	2	21+	100+	5		2	2	BP		
Barrows Goldeneye							1			3											
Old Squaw				4	6		1		36	14									P		
Common Scoter				20+	6	8		17	200+	160+	74+		200+	200+				260	P		

- 45 -

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May										June										Status
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
Surf Scoter					2			100+	37					30	8		120	P			
White-winged Scoter			3				4		12					2			20	P			
Common Merganser			2	3	4	4	6	8	22	49	92		14+	14			6	7	BP		
Red-breasted Merganser						4	16	6	9	20+			17	25	2		12		BP		
Goshawk		1																			
Rough-legged Hawk		3					2			2	1			2			1				
Red-tailed Hawk			2			1	1	1						1	2		1	2			
Golden Eagle					2																
Marsh Hawk		2						1		1				1							
Osprey		3	8	9	3	3	10	5	1	1	2	2	3	1			2	2	P		
Peregrine Falcon			1																		
Pigeon Hawk	1	1		3	2				2					3					BC		
American Sparrow Hawk	1	2	1	2		1	1	1	2	2	1		1	1	2				BC		
Spruce Grouse		1			4			1		1		1	1			1	1	4	BP		
Ruffed Grouse		1																			
Willow Ptarmigan			1																		
Semipalmated Plover		3	6	9	3		3	28	2	4		8	3						P, BP		
Black-bellied Plover														1							
Common Snipe				1	2	3	1	4	7	2	1	8	6	3			1		BP		

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May										June										Status
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
American Woodcock													2								
Spotted Sandpiper													11		2	2	1		BP		
Solitary Sandpiper						1	7	1	2				3						BP		
Greater Yellowlegs	3		1	1	1	1	14	17	15	2	10	3	3	2	4		1	1	BP		
Lesser Yellowlegs			2						1	1									BP		
White-rumped Sandpiper										2				7					P		
Least Sandpiper							1	3	10				1	5					P		
Short-billed Dowitcher	1								13	21		1	6				6		P		
Semi-palmated Sandpiper						2	5		21	2		5							P		
Northern Phalarope									3										P		
Glaucous Gull		1	1	1	5	10	8		2	15	19	9	18	8		3			P		
Iceland Gull						1															
Great Black-backed Gull	25	45	70	75	40	40	17	44	20	8	21	5	14	15	8		11		P		
Herring Gull	40	3	47	14	28	22	41	49	26	67	81	2	16	27	3	8	7	33			
Ring-billed Gull				50	7	3	3	1	5	49	18		25	11		4	4	4			
Ivory Gull										2											
Black-legged Kittiwake										1			2	1							
Mourning Dove										1											
Hawk Owl								1													

- 47 -

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May										June										Status
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4			
Short-eared Owl	1		1		1																
Boreal Owl	1																				
Belted Kingfisher		3				1	5	1		1	1		4		1		4	2	BC		
Yellow-shafted Flicker		3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2			
Hairy Woodpecker												1							BC		
Black-backed or Artic Three-toed Woodpecker												1	1		1						
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker										1	1				3						
Eastern Kingbird															1	1					
Wood Pewee													1								
Eastern Phoebe																	1				
Horned Lark		86	120			40	14	22	67	5	4	23	4	14		1	1		P		
Tree Swallow				5	8				1		10	8	10	15	23	37	9	19	BC		
Bank Swallow				3	3																
Grey Jay		4	15	9	3	6	12	8	3	3	11	12	3	4	7	16	5	10	BC		
Raven	2	1	5	3	5	7	1	4	4	2	1	3	1	3	1		1	1			
Common Crow					1			3	1			1	1		1						
Black-capped Chickadee																					
Boreal Chickadee	3	3	10	1	11	6	7	2	8	14	3	7	13	5	3	13	5	14	BC		

- 48 -

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May							June							Status				
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		1	2	3	4
American Robin	22	35	49	39	59	34	24	15	17	9	13	31	21	28	11	20	15	25	BC
Hermit Thrush				1	1						1		2		2				
Swainson's Thrush															1				BP
Mockingbird															1	1			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	9	14	9	23	33	11	52	7	8	12	14	16	15	14	24	21	24	BC
Veery					1														
Water Pipit			1			6	2	7	2					12	31	1	1	8	P
Starling				12	6	10	4	2	2		12	12				2		12	
Tennessee Warbler			1												3		13	7	BC
Myrtle Warbler				1	2	1	19	2	8	17	17	34	50	63	21	17	43	16	BC
Magnolia Warbler																1		1	
Black-throated Green Warbler											1						2		
Blackpoll Warbler					2													3	
Palm Warbler										1	2		1						P
Northern Waterthrush												1	1	4			5	4	BC
Wilson's Warbler												1			3	1	2	1	P
American Redstart															1				
Black & White Warbler									3								1		
Rusty Blackbird	1		4	4	2	1	3	6	6	38	12	8	6	3	3	1	1	3	BC

- 49 -

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION - GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR - DAILY TOTALS

Species	May												June							Status
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4		
Pine Grosbeak					2	2	2	1	1	2							1	BC		
Purple Finch											3						1			
Hoary Redpoll			1			20	1	1												
Common Redpoll	2	15	5	4			24	1	12	8	8	8	6	2	4	4	2	10 BC, P		
Pine Siskin	2										4				3					
White-winged Crossbill	4						11	2	2		19	2		4	2		1			
Savannah Sparrow	1	2											1	2	7	2		BC		
Slate-coloured Junco	3	10	12	39	24	10	9	5	1	2	7	17	12	5	12	10	9	12 BC		
Tree Sparrow	1	13	3	10	7	1	2	1	1		1			1				P		
Song Sparrow													6	3		3	2	BC		
White-crowned Sparrow	8	13	24	25	11	26	5	17	13	32	21	50	15	34	21	13	7	19 BC		
White-throated Sparrow		3	5		1	12	2		3	3	9	7	13	13	6	8	12	10 BC		
Fox Sparrow				1			4			1	5	4	3	2	2		6	BC		
Lincoln Sparrow												1*	1	1	2*	1	1	*ringed		
Swamp Sparrow													2			1		BC		
Lapland Longspur		9	13	2	1	1	3											P		
Snow Bunting		6																P		
Clay-coloured Sparrow																1				

NB

P = Passage
BP = Breeding
BC = Breeding

Probable
Confirmed

- 50 -

NB P = Passage
BP = Breeding Probable
BC = Breeding Confirmed