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CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
EDITORIAL	(i)
BREEDING-SEASON SPECIES IN TRIPOLITANIA	1 - 10
by G. Bundy .	
SHORT NOTES: The importance of keeping records by	11
C. Suffern.	
The Cyprus Expedition, an interim report	
from W.O. Latham	
THE PLACE OF THE CAMERA IN FIELD ORNITHOLOGY	12-13
by M. Carins.	
SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF IRAN	14-24
by F.J. Walker.	
CRESCENT ISLAND BIRD SANCTUARY ON LAKE NAIVASHA ..	25-26
by D. Wright.	
A TOUR AT R.A.F. SAXA VORD: PART 1	27-30
by E.A. Machell.	
NEW MEMBERS, ADDRESSES ETC	31

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EDITORIAL

When the formation of this society was proposed last year, there were quite a number of serving ornithologists who said, (and not always as politely) "What, another society. What can I possibly get out of it".

Those who reacted in that manner and kept their pound, gave away, amongst other things, the chance to join the ringing Expedition to Cyprus, in September, and to discover what they can get out of it.

We are not 'Just another society', we are not a collection of names just for the sake of being so, and this is manifest in the success of the Expedition.

It is not sufficient to be merely a collection of names, even if the names are those of well known individuals. Ours is a society, which, though small at present, is flourishing, progressive, and purposeful. We mean to get things done, but can only do so by team work.

It must be obvious to us all that ten ornithologists working co-operatively, can achieve far more than one ornithologist working on his own for ten times as long. To use the main purpose of the Cyprus Expedition i.e. the ringing of Eleonora's Falcon pulli, as an example; the team from U.K, who had the ringing experience, worked in co-operation with Cyprus Ornithological Society members, who knew where the nests were, and the R.A.F. Mountain Rescue Team, which had the ability & equipment to reach the nests. The results would certainly not have been as encouraging if the team had tried to 'go it alone'.

Co-operation, however, is not only confined to expeditions. Surely, the more we work together with other ornithologists, be they camp mates, fellow members of RAFOS, local bird watchers, or national organisers, then the more useful and satisfying our work becomes, not only to ourselves, but to ornithology as a whole.

Large scale breeding census's; sea watch schemes; visible migration watches, both coastal and inland; tidal wader movement counts; duck counts; roost counts, all depend on co-ordinated team work.

Even that belittled sport of 'tick' hunting must inevitably benefit if local contacts have been cultivated. Most of us can truthfully say that at some time or other we have regretted missing a rarity by not knowing it was there. Do unto others....

It is up to all of us, if we are really interested in ornithology, to participate whenever, wherever, and at whatever level we can.

R.K. NORMAN.
Editor.

BREEDING-SEASON SPECIES IN TRIPOLITANIA by BUNDY.

I have deliberately phrased the title of this short paper "Breeding-season species" because many of the species recorded during this time were suspected though not proved to be breeding. The "Breeding-season" is here treated as those months when the obvious migrants have passed, June, July and August, but some migrants are present during the latter months, and many species have begun breeding well before June. Since little is known of birds in this region, the following notes are an attempt to give a picture of the species breeding there; other papers will deal with the passage through the area, and winter visitors. During a 21-month stay at Idris, most attention was given to migration, but observations were constant, in fact daily at Idris, from the Tunisian border in the west to Touorga in the east, some 200 km. each side of Tripoli, and south to the desert wastes of the Fezzan.

The region may be described under four main habitats: the coast, the sub-desert plain, the Jebel, and the desert. The coast has a rainfall of 350 mm, rapidly decreasing inland. The coast is generally rocky, with stretches of sandy beach. In this area desert conditions sometimes reach the sea, but from the sea inland for about 50 km. (30 miles) it is mainly flat, with date-palms, citrus plantations, and irrigated Arab gardens. South of this, on the sub-desert region, are shifting barley-plots, with occasional "dune-fields" breaking the vast stony plains. On these extensive plains a good deal of vegetation survives, of short duration in winter and spring, and there is an abundance of low-growing bushes in places. A good crop of wild flowers grow in a wet spring, but for the most part it is open arid country.

The Gebel Nefusa begins as low hills near Homs and develops into a high escarpment overlooking the sub-desert plain and running roughly south-west to the Tunis border. South of this the country slopes down to pure desert in various forms. Its height, up to 2300 feet, induces a higher rainfall than the arid wastes just north and south, and, around the high towns of Garian and Jefren especially, there are many olive-tree areas and some barley-plots.

The desert is the more southerly region, where the rainfall is 25 mm, or less annually and little or no vegetation is seen.

Only two permanent "rivers" exist along the 500 km. stretch of coast covered: Wadi Turghat and Wadi Caam. The former is a trickling stream, the latter a wider though short river some 2 miles in length, 24 km. east of Horns. Both are very important as stopping places for migrants, but not especially so for breeding birds. At Touorga in the east there are some permanent pools in a date-palm oasis, with small areas of reeds, on the edge of an extensive salt-flat area.

The chief salt-flat region is in the west, stretching some miles inland and harbouring seasonal water, but is disappointing ornithologically.

Such is a brief picture of the area, an essentially arid region with only a thin bird population. Very seldom visited by ornithologists to date, it is virtually virgin territory, the published data are scanty, and I find some of the maps in Heim de Balsac and Mayand (1962), showing breeding distribution in the Tripoli area, inaccurate and doubtfully based on prolonged field work in one's region. For future workers this is designed as a guide and not an authoritative work. As mentioned above, most attention was paid to migrations, and work on breeding-seasons and species in North Africa, especially in Libya, is much to be desired. My tour was cut short in April, 1966, and my survey of breeding species was not nearly so complete as I would have hoped.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Little Grebe - Podiceps ruficollis.

A resident; discovered breeding at Touorga 24th April, 1965. The eggs from one nest being stolen by Arab children while I was there, a high success for this isolated colony of about six pairs would seem extremely unlikely. This is the first known breeding record for the region.

Egyptian Vulture - Neoparon perenopterus

Up to two pairs in the Jefren area in the springs of 65 and 66. Display flights were seen, and later juveniles. Young taken at Walnut are in the Tripoli museum.

Long-legged Buzzard - Buteo rufinus

A resident in the sub-desert and escarpment, a few also seen far to the south in the Fezzan in January 66. Juveniles were on the wing with adults near Garian on 12th June 1965.

Lanner Falcon - Falco biarmicus

A resident; though not proved breeding it obviously does so in the hillier parts of the desert areas. Often near the coast August to April.

Kestrel - Falco tinnunculus

A resident and winter visitor. Commonest in winter, but a few pairs breed along the coast and possibly the escarpment (Giado 5th June 1966).

Lesser Kestrel - Falco naumanni.

Chiefly a passage-migrant; a few pairs were found breeding in derelict buildings and low sea-cliffs some 25 km. east of Tripoli in 1965, the first positive breeding-record for the region.

Barbary Partridge - Alectoris barbara.

A resident in semi-desert areas, rather local, and by no means common. One pair was located in a Tripoli cemetery but generally a bird of arid habitat, dry rocky wadi-beds. Its alleged liking for the vicinity of water may account for its scarcity.

Moorhen - Gallinula chloropus.

A passage-migrant at the wadis, and worth mention as it may breed at the Wadis Caam, and Turghat, where it was seen up to 30th May, 1966. A good many 1st-winter examples were present at these localities in September but may have been on passage. A favourite victim for local "sportsmen".

Houbara Bustard - Calamydotis undulata.

A thinly distributed resident in the sub-deserts. Italians take a fairly heavy toll in their shooting-raids, and the species is hardly likely to increase. It is certainly not so common now as implied by Johnson (1949).

Kentish Plover - Charadrius alexandrinus.

One pair at Wadi Turghat with chicks on 30th May, 1966, was, so far as I can find, the first positive breeding - record. No others were found nesting, though it probably does so on the Sebka (Salt-Flat) in the west.

Stone Curlew - Burhinus oedicnemus.

Voous (1960) and Heim de Balsac & Mayand (1962) show this species as widely distributed in Libya. I only have records for late April, June, and August in three widely scattered areas, have no positive proof of its breeding, and found it very hard to find. Possibly overlooked but, at most, local and uncommon.

Cream-coloured Courser - Cursorius cursor.

A fairly common resident in semi-desert, wintering from September near coast. Seen in all months though no positive breeding data obtained.

Caspian Tern - Hydroprogne tschegrava.

Present throughout the year in the west off Buccamasc and Pisida and certainly

breeding there. Again, so far as can be ascertained, this is the first recorded breeding for Libya, as well as the first wintering record.

Lesser Crested Tern - Sterna benegalensis.

No colonies were found. Heim de Balsac and Mayand show it breeding in Cyrenaica. It was fairly common, however, off the Tripoli coast from mid-June through to October, with one late adult on 13th November 1966. At the Wadi Caam 28th September 1965 adults were feeding full-grown juveniles. Most of the birds seen in June and July were coasting east.

Little Tern - Sterna albifrons.

Summer visitor locally to the coast. Seen feeding young Wadi Caam 15th July 1965.

Imperial Sandgrouse - Pterocles orientalis.

Sandgrouse were hard to find in the deserts, where all four species no doubt breed. The Wadi Caam is a good watering-place in the rainless months May to September. This species was recorded on suitable breeding-grounds in sub-desert in June 65 in several widely scattered areas south to Mizda.

Coronated Sandgrouse - Pterocles coronatus.

Only at the Wadi Caam in July, the scarcest Sandgrouse and not found inland.

Spotted Sandgrouse - Pterocles senegallus.

The commonest sandgrouse by far. Parties of up to 250 were recorded, and it was found regularly in the sub-desert areas; in all months from April to November.

Pin-tailed Sandgrouse - Pterocles alchata.

Though common in other parts of N. Africa this species was curiously scarce; only one pair was found inland, and odd birds were seen watering at Wadi Caam. Sandgrouse are given to irregular local movements as desert conditions vary, and status is hard to define with any accuracy. No breeding-data were obtained, but juveniles were seen with the watering flocks, especially in the hordes of P. Senegallus.

Turtle Dove - Streptopelia turtur.

Chiefly a spring passage migrant, but a few among those which manage to stay alive breed in the coastal "green belt", records 4th April to end August.

Palm Dove - Streptopelia senegalensis

A common resident in the coastal zone. None were seen in the oasis south of the escarpment. Breeds April onwards.

Rock Dove - Columba livia.

Quite common throughout the year around the escarpment, and in semi-desert areas. Birds watering commonly at Wadi Caam in July were probably pure, though many Feral pigeons frequent the coastal towns and villages.

Little Owl - Athene noctua.

A common resident extending from the coast well into the semi-desert.

Eagle Owl - Bubo bubo.

Hardly as common as indicated in Voous (1960) though possibly overlooked. Present on the escarpment in June, where it was located twice, also in the Jebel Sanda in Jan.

Barn Owl - Tyto alba.

Either extremely scarce or almost completely overlooked. Two summer records, July and August, at Idris and a dead bird at Taguira in Feb. The former records indicate the possibility of its breeding. Adults are in the Tripoli museum, it is doubtful whether in such a bird-killing community it could survive in any strength.

Pallid Swift - Apus pallidus.

A common "Summer visitor", earliest record 9th Jan. 1965, latest 3rd Oct. 1965, especially numerous around Tripoli, young still in nest Idris, 14th September, 1964.

Bee-Eater - Merops apiaster.

Chiefly passage-migrant but found breeding near Idris and Garribulli. At Idris young flying 16th July 1964, and Garribulli, in a burrow still 16th July 1965, the first positive breeding-records.

Hoopoe - Upupa epops.

Present throughout the year, breeding April- July. Up to 172 together at Idris in autumn. Not shown as breeding by Voous (1960).

Thick-billed Lark - Rhamphocorys clot-bey.

Resident in semi-desert zone, south at least to Mizda.

Crested Lark - Galerida cristata.

Common resident in semi-desert, extending to coast but not seen south of Beni Ulid or on the Fezzan road. A clutch of four 24th April, 1965.

Thekla Lark - Galerida theklae.

Locally abundant in semi-desert, replacing G. Cristata on escarpment and in rocky wadi-beds, though the two have been found overlapping. G. theklae seems to take over in the hills and on broken ground. Juveniles out by 12th June, 1965 Bugellion.

Dupont's Lark - Chersophilus duponti.

Very local and difficult to find, probably overlooked owing to its inconspicuous behaviour. Song from 30th March 1965; it has a characteristic note which can soon betray the bird, once it is known. I wrote it down as "cooo-chic" the last syllable rising sharply.

Bifasciated Lark - Alaemon alaudipes.

Common resident in sub-desert and locally in pure desert south to the Fezzan. Song begins late Jan., feeding young by early May.

Short-toed Lark - Calandrella cinerea.

Common passage-migrant, but scarce and local during "breeding-season". Song near Touorga on Sebka 23rd April, 1965, but not positively proved breeding.

Lesser-short-toed Lark - Calandrella rufescens.

Thinly distributed in sub-desert, song from 30th Mar., 1965 feeding young by 3rd May, 1965. Like Bifasciated, is found wintering near the coast in small flocks.

Temminck's Horned Lark - Eremophila bilopha.

Common resident in sub-deserts, locally south to the Fezzan, more abundant in the north. Juveniles out by 4th May, 1965.

Desert Lark - Ammomanes deserti.

Common resident from semi-desert south to the Fezzan. Song from late March, feeding small young 3rd May, 1965. Ecological separation, if any, from A. cinctura is difficult to define; the two are found together in winter, but the present species may have a preference for hillier and more broken ground. On the Jebel Sanda (Black hills) the population is smoky and quite different from the birds on the desert plains to the north, a remarkable local colour-phase. A. cinctura was also frequenting these hills in January and had not this adaptation;

they were consequently very conspicuous against the blackish rock. Some of the dark A. deserti had strayed on to the sandy plains to the south.

Bar-tailed Desert Lark - Ammomanes cinctura.

Common resident, outnumbered by A. deserti in the Jebel Nefusa and the northern plains, but at least as numerous in pure desert further south, especially on the Fezzan road south of Bu Gnem. Song from 11th April, 1965.

Swallow - Hirundo rustica.

Recorded all months except February, breeds in very small numbers in a few coastal areas, feeding juveniles Tripoli 10th July, 1965.

House Martin - Delichon urbica.

Shown by Heim de Balsac & Mayand (1962) as breeding in coastal Tripoli. I have no evidence of this, but singles in a gorge by Giado, 5th June 1965, and Idris 1st July, 1965 could have bred locally. It could easily rest on the escarpment and be overlooked, as this is a notoriously difficult area to cover thoroughly.

Great Grey Shrike - Lanius excubitor.

Common resident along coast and well into sub-desert, eggs 24th April, 1965 Touorga. Juvs out of nest in another area 5th May, 1965. Not found in pure desert even in the scrub that exists at rare intervals there.

Woodchat Shrike - Lanius senator.

Summer visitor to coast, though not common, apart from a heavy spring passage. First arrivals 26th February, both years; young out of nests by late June.

Black Wheatear - Oenanthe leucura.

Common resident about the steep rocky escarpment slopes, but absent elsewhere. Juvenile out of nest Bugellidn 17th April 1965

White-Headed Black Wheatear - Oenanthe leucopyga.

Common resident in southern desert areas extending south at least to Sebha; only one pair located north of the escarpment some 95 km. south of Tripoli.

Black-Eared Wheatear - Oenanthe hispanica.

Chiefly seen on passage; a few pairs bred in the hills near Homs and a pair near the Garidh escarpment.

Mourning Wheatear - Oenanthe lugens.

Thinly distributed resident in semi-desert, and extending well into desert where favourable conditions occur.

Locally quite common, e.g. Beni Ulid, and Mizda roads, while in January, 1966 it was present at Sebha, 960 km. south of Tripoli. Display and copulation Mizda 2nd May, 1965, otherwise little breeding-data. Not seen in coastal zone.

Tristram's Wheatear - Oenanthe moesta.

Locally common resident in scrubby semi-desert country. Pair-formation late March, both sexes singing.

Desert Wheatear - Oenanthe deserti.

Widespread resident from Sebha, semi-desert to almost pure desert though nowhere numerous. Pair feeding young Bir Aiad 11th April, 1965.

Rufous Buschat - Cercotrichas agrobates.

Abundant summer visitor to coastal zone south to Jefren and probably beyond, locally in desert scrub. First 31st March, 1965, main arrival later, last straggler 23rd September, 1965, main departure late August. Pair still feeding full grown young Idris 7th August, 1965 were gone two days later.

Fulvous Babbler - Turdoides fulvus.

Local resident in the coastal zone, and in desert scrub, especially the thorn Zizyphus lotus. Breeds early, juveniles just out of nest on 24th March, 1966 at Idris stimulated adult into distraction display.

Olivaceous Warbler - Hippolais pallida.

Locally common in coastal zone, almost exclusively in tamarisk, also in a few oasis towns in semi-desert area where tamarisks are present. At Wadi Caam 15th July, 1965, birds were also often seen foraging in reeds. Arrival 3rd May, 1965 last seen 11th October, 1965, though almost all had gone by 20th September, 1965. Young out of nest by mid-July, earliest 30th June, 1965.

Orphean Warbler - Sylvia hortensis.

Scarce summer visitor, arriving March (first 3rd March, 1965) last seen 14th September, 1965. Only found in three localities, two coastal and one in some cover near Jefren on the barren escarpment. Young just out of nest being fed at Idris 1st July, 1965.

Spectacled Warbler - Sylvia conspicillata.

Not proved breeding, chiefly a widespread winter visitor, though Heim de Balsac & Mayand (1962) show it breeding in the salt-flats west of Tripoli. It was certainly common there in March 1966, and some males were singing.

Corn Bunting - Emberiza calandra.

Many males singing Idris air field and Azizia plain in barley during March, and early April in both years, after which they were unaccountably gone. Heim de Balsac & Mayand (1962) show it breeding here, but I could not confirm this.

House Bunting - Emberiza striolata.

Very local, frequenting old squalid Arab buildings in a few escarpment villages, notably Casow and Jefren: males singing during March.

Trumpeter Finch - Bucanetes githagineus.

Widespread and sometimes seemingly abundant in desert areas south to the Jebel Sanda on the Fezzan border and probably beyond. In winter some birds reach the coast.

Goldfinch - Carduelis carduelis.

Locally abundant resident near the coast. Breeding was proved in 1964 at Idris, the first for Tripolitania, so far as I can ascertain. A juvenile was found as early as 26th March 1966, other juveniles accompanying adults were seen in July, evidently second broods.

Linnet - Carduelis cannabina.

Chiefly a winter visitor, but males singing until May, and females or immatures re-appearing at Idris by 31st July indicate breeding, though there was no proof.

Chaffinch - Fringilla coelebs.

One of the European forms conforming in general appearance to F.C. hortensis winters, but a distinct race is resident in small numbers in the olives on the escarpment top around Jefren and Giado. This is presumably F.C. spodiogenys, which breeds in Tunisia. This is the first breeding-record for Tripolitania.

Serin - Serinus serinus.

Very common resident along the coastal "green belt", favouring, but not confined to, the acacia plantations. The extensive planting of Acacia and Eucalyptus in the 1930's must have increased the Serin population considerably. It is absent from the date-palms and does not yet extend further south than the escarpment. Breeds early, young flying by 1st March in both years 1965 and 1966.

Spanish Sparrow - Passer hispaniolensis.

Ubiquitous around the coastal towns, but extending inland as far south as Sebha, in the Fezzan. Absent from pure desert, though present around scrub in semi-desert (*Zizyphus lotus*) and cultivation.

Almost certainly the most numerous resident. Breeds March to June.

Desert Sparrow - Passer simplex.

A resident in Southern date-palm oasis surrounded by pure desert. The nearest colony to the coast was located at Waddan on the Fezzan Road, about 100 miles South of the Gulf of Sirte. Even at Sebha in the Fezzan it was greatly outnumbered by P. hispaniolensis. Pairs were displaying and inspecting potential nest-holes in mid-January 1966.

Rock Sparrow - Petronia petronia.

A local resident, fairly common on the barren escarpment, but also locally in less typical habitat near the coast in cultivation. About 10 pairs bred at Idris camp, competing with P. hispaniolensis building - sites. Pairs were building and preparing to nest in early March.

Raven - Corvus corax.

Two fairly distinct forms are resident; the all-black C. c. tingitanus is common in coastal and well down into semi-desert areas. C. c. ruficollis, treated by some as a distinct species, is resident in pure desert areas further south. Some black Ravens, however, on the coast have brown underwings and could be intermediate examples, and there is an area of overlap, the intermediates being seen chiefly in the eastern and south-east part of the region.

SUMMARY.

Brief details of status, and breeding-season where known, are given for all species breeding or suspected of breeding in Tripolitania.

Twenty one months between July, 1964 and April, 1966, were spent in the area, but attention of future observers may well be concentrated on breeding species, this paper only being offered as a guide. Details of 64 species are given, about 30% of the total recorded during my stay. At least seven species appear not to have been recorded breeding in Tripolitania before.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Without John Morgan, with whom I hope to produce further small contributions on the ornithology of Tripolitania elsewhere, my observations would have been curtailed considerably.

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SHORT NOTES.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING RECORDS

C. SUFFERN

An ornithologist posted in the R.A.F. to a foreign country of whose birds he is ignorant should always keep records of those he sees, because he may be seeing something important without knowing it. He should later submit his records to somebody of standing as an ornithologist, preferably in that foreign country. I can remember two examples of this, when I was in India, of whose fauna I was ignorant.

On June 28, 1944, I found the nest with young of a Tickell's Blue Flycatcher (Muscicapula tickelliae) at Trombay: it was in a small cleft in the bark of an ancient tree close to the "stone frigate" H.M.I.S. "Cheetah". Reference of this record to Salim Ali in Bombay showed that the nest of this species had never before been recorded for Bombay and Salsette. The nearest record was from Poona, and that was in the month of August.

The Magpie-Robin (Copsychus saularis), according to Whistler (1941), is "virtually absent from Sind"; yet one at Korangi Creek, eight miles from Karachi, was seen and heard singing on my verandah on October 4, 1944, and several subsequent mornings. At the time I was completely unaware of its rarity in this part of India. It is usually a bird of gardens and orchards, but this locality was plain desert.

THE CYPRUS EXPEDITION

An interim progress report of the expedition, sent by W.O. Latham on 17th. Sept. 1966 was most encouraging.

324 birds of 33 species had been ringed by that date, including Eleonora's Falcon (pulli); Short-toed Tree Creeper; Great Reed Warbler; and the first ever Cyprus ringed Barred Warbler. 93 migrant Willow Warblers had been caught & ringed and were markedly heavier than migrants caught in U.K.

Two trainee ringers - Flt/Lt. Pearson and Fg. Off. Stagg, had ringed 65 birds of 10 species & 115 birds of 15 species respectively.

The 104 species recorded since the arrival of the Expedition include the second record for Cyprus of Arctic Tern; Black Stork; Black-necked Grebe; Long-legged, Rough-legged, & Honey Buzzard; Osprey; European & Blue-cheeked Bee-Eaters; and Red-throated Pipit.

Since my interest in ornithology came through photography, it is only natural that I have continued one in relation to the other. Having accepted this fact I find that many possible uses of the camera are neglected. If one accepts that the general purpose of the camera is to freeze a scene, it follows that the impersonal negative can also record without observer error. The camera enables rapid movements to be frozen and large areas to be recorded instantly; similarly it supplies proof of records and enables independent checks to be made. Perhaps all this seems obvious, but from it the following points arise:

Field Note-Book - A few reels of film for record prints provide more authoritative proof than does any other evidence. With the help of a small rule, the dimensions of objects, such as nests can be recorded for reference. General habitat can also be recorded for future reference.

Colony-Counts - By using transparencies instantaneous colony counts are possible. If photographs are taken along a cliff-face, from the sea, or obliquely from the top of the cliff, a permanent record of the population at that time is obtained. If the transparencies are projected from an enlarger on to a sheet of paper, and the outlines are marked in, and the birds marked on to the sheet, easy counts of colonies can be made without the worry of allowing for movement and losing count. Work on this type of count is still in the initial stages, but it is hoped to publish further results later.

Preparation of Site Maps - In areas where there is a visible but dense nesting population large prints enable charts to be drawn of the nests under study. Rough sketches may be satisfactory for a single year; but, when one attempts to compare two sketches for two years, the advantages of photographs soon becomes evident.

Techniques - Here the camera becomes the "Handyman's Friend". It is used to record useful items seen in an observatory or in someone else's kit. It is used to record everything from a new type of trap to a novel way of packing rings. It is a portable memory, but infallible. Have you ever tried to make a fleyg* from memory?

Flight Analyses - Used at 64 f.p.s. the cine film can be used to calculate the "flapping speed" of a bird on the basis of "64 x No. of frames per flap equals rate of flight per second". This is only valid at speeds of below 16 flaps per sec. High-speed motion-studies also show the flight movements of wing and tail surfaces, particularly in soaring and gliding.

Behaviour Study - This is very expensive if done properly, since one normally thinks in terms of thousands of feet of film (at about £28 a thousand).

It can be used for long term studies from hides, recording almost every significant feature of the bird or of the nest under observation. A disadvantage seems to be noise, since few, if any, cine-cameras are completely silent.

Rare Birds - A recognisable photograph saves a lot of description and may render a "second witness" unnecessary for confirming a record. (The Rare Birds Committee has not been approached on this one, but it would seem to apply.)

Side Effect - If a camera is used in unfamiliar areas, doubtful birds can always be photographed in colour for further checks later. But one should remember that, unless a colour-chart is used in the shot, difficulties over shade can always arise. Colour-film balance is continually changing, and a certain colour-film has gone through at least three major changes in six years although still retaining the same name.

If it is remembered that the camera is a scientific instrument, as well as an adjunct of a holiday, it can be of considerable value. The old quotation that "a picture is worth a thousand words" can be true.

- * A 'Fleyg' is a catching device, somewhat similar to a lacrosse raquet with a long handle, originally used by shetlanders to sweep up puffins in flight, and thereby supplement their diet. - ED.

SOME NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF IRAN.

F.J. WALKER.

These notes cover three visits to Iran in 1962 and 1963. The first trip was to Tabriz in North-West Iran between 6th and 22nd May, 1962, and the two others, between 20th and 24th April and between 7th and 19th November, 1963, were to Babul-Sar on the South Caspian coast.

Tabriz is a large modern city, surrounded by orchards, arid mountain ranges, and dry steppe land. A day-trip was made to Lake Urmia, near the Iranian-Turkish border.

Babul Sar is a pleasant country town situated at the mouth of a river estuary on the Caspian Sea. The area consists of a flat broad sandy coast-line, backed by steep sand-dunes, which in turn give way to the orchards, woods, cotton-fields, and the flat cultivated plains stretching many miles inland to the Elburz mountains.

The return journeys from Babul Sar to Teheran were made by road, via Chalus and Mount Demavend. Some observations of birds then seen are recorded below.

Weather

The weather in May, 1962, was extremely hot and dry. In April, 1963, the first two days at Babul Sar were cool and showery, followed by high temperatures and clear skies. In November, 1963, the weather was variable, with cold easterly winds and clear skies, and wet cloudy days with south-west winds.

Migration

On my arrival at Babul Sar, at 0600 hours on the 7th November, 1963, I spent two hours on the coast watching an immense passerine movement. Birds were arriving from off the Caspian Sea, and from along the coast from the WNW and then moving ESE along the coast, (weather clear, wind ESE, force 1, temperature 40° F). Most of the birds were Fringillidae and Ploceidae, but many Motacillidae and Alaudidae were moving east, as were Emberizidae and Sturnidae. The following two days saw a very much smaller movement, and with the change of wind to the west ceased completely.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Great Crested Grebe - Podiceps cristatus

I saw none in April, but up to 100 were recorded at Babul Sar daily between 7th and 19th November.

Cormorant - Phalacrocorax carbo.

Two on 7th, seven on 11th, and nine on 12th November, 1963, flew east along coast. A few daily, mostly young birds at mouth of river. Inland ten flew south on 17th November 1963.

Dalmation Pelican - Pelecanus crispus.

Seventeen birds flew low along coast at Babul Sar in an easterly direction, finally climbing very high, on 12th November. Immature pelicans (sp?) were seen on 16th and 17th November.

Grey Heron - Ardea cinerea.

One or two in Babul Sar area during November.

Purple Heron - Ardea purpurea.

One flying over marshes at Babul on 21st April.

Little Egret - Egretta garzetta.

One on 11th and 15th November at Babul Sar.

Great White Heron - Egretta alba.

One feeding in rice-fields near Chalus on 24th April.

Cattle Egret - Ardeola ibis.

A single bird on coast with Little egret on 11th November. Yellowish bill, reddish legs well seen.

White Stork - Ciconia ciconia.

A few pairs at nests on roofs of houses in small village on outskirts of Tabriz in May 1962.

Flamingo - Phoenicopterus ruber.

An adult at sea at Babul Sar on 14th November.

Duck (sp?)

Large numbers of duck were seen flying far out at sea in November, but owing to poor light and distance they were not satisfactorily identified.

Red-Crested Merganser - Mergus serrator.

Twelve "red-heads" on 14th November flew east along coast. A few daily at sea.

Ruddy Shelduck - Casarca Ferruginea.

Several pairs on shore of Lake Urmia, in May, appeared from behaviour to be breeding.

Grey-Lag Goose - Anser anser.

A party of eight flew in off the sea from the north-east on 7th November, and C. 58 were seen flying east at dusk on 14th November. Many wild geese were heard calling overhead at Babul Sar every night.

Egyptian Vulture - Neophren percnopterus.

Two in foot-hills on the north side of Elburz range on 24th April, were the only record.

Griffon Vulture - Gyps Fulvus.

Common in Elburz range and Tabriz area.

Golden Eagle - Aquila chrysaetus.

Two recorded between Tabriz and Lake Urmia in May, and one c. 6,000 feet in Elburz range in April.

Steppe/Tawny Eagle - Aquila rapax.

A single bird of this species was present at Babul Sar between 7th and 18th November, scavenging for the most part on the estuary.

Steppe Buzzard - Buteo buteo.

Several seen on plains, and in foothills on north side of Elburz range in April and November.

Rough-legged Buzzard - Buteo lagopus.

One, perched on telegraph-pole near roadside on northern plain on 19th November, had very dark underparts, and white tail with black terminal bar.

Sparrow Hawk - Accipiter nisus.

One moving east along coast near Babul Sar on 21st April. Few present in same area between 8th and 18th November 1963.

Black Kite - Milvus migrans

Common in Caspian and Tabriz areas.

White-tailed Eagle - Haliaeetus albicilla.

Several birds present in November on the Caspian coast.

"Ring-tailed" Harriers - Circus sp.

Females or immature "ring-tailed" Harriers present on coast and on inland plains in small numbers during November.

Osprey - Pandion haliaetus.

Several birds present in Babul Sar area during April. A pair trying to nest nearby were shot in May.

Peregrine Falcon - Falco peregrinus.

One or two birds seen daily on the Caspian coast in April and November. Also recorded over Teheran in May.

Merlin - Falco columbarius.

Single birds over sand-dunes and orchards at Babul Sar from the 13th November.

Lesser Kestrel - Falco naumanni.

A colony of c.30 pairs in a gulley near Tabriz in May 1962.

Lapwing - Vanellus vanellus.

Four inland on 16th November, and four on the coast on 18th November were the only records.

Ringed Plover - Charadrius hiaticula.

Two on the coast at Babul Sar from 11th until 18th November.

Little Ringed Plover - Charadrius dubius.

All records from Babul Sar. Up to 20 daily in April; 50 on 7th November, 20 on 13th November.

Kentish Plover - Charadrius alexandrinus.

40 on 11th November increased to c.100 on 16th November.

Grey Plover - Charadrius squatarola.

One on coast at Babul Sar on 23rd April, and one there on 14th November.

Turnstone - Arenaria interpres.

A single bird with Dunlin on coast on 17th November.

Curlew - Numenius arquata.

Single birds moving east along Caspian coast on 12th and 13th November.

Whimbrel - Numenius phaeopus.

Large numbers calling overhead Babul Sar 1900-2300 hours on 21st April. On 23rd April a flock of c.200 birds resting on sand-dunes, and many in scattered parties at water's edge.

Green Sandpiper - Tringa ochropus.

Four feeding at water's edge on 9th November.

Wood Sandpiper - Tringa glareola.

Several calling overhead on coast at dusk on 23rd April.

Common Sandpiper - Tringa hypoleucos.

Single birds on coast between 20th and 23rd April. Several calling overhead at dusk on 23rd April.

Redshank - Tringa totanus.

Several calling overhead at Babul Sar on 16th November after dusk.

Spotted Redshank - Tringa erythropus.

One flying along coast on 23rd April.

Greenshank - Tringa nebularis.

One on coast on 7th November.

Terek Sandpiper - Xenus cinereus.

One with mixed party of waders at Babul Sar on 23rd April.

Dunlin - Calidris alpina.

A few on coast between 20th and 23rd April. C.20 daily from 7th November, increasing to 40 on 17th November. Large numbers calling overhead at night on 9th, 10th and 16th November.

Sanderling - Crocethia alba.

Three on 23rd April. Fairly common in November at Babul Sar, max, 200 on 7th November.

Red-Necked Phalarope - Phalaropus lobatus.

Five feeding in surf at Babul Sar on 23rd April.

Lesser Black-Backed Gull - Larus fuscus.

Up to 20 daily at Babul Sar during November.

Herring Gull - Larus argentatus.

Common along coastal areas in November.

Great Black-Headed Gull - Larus ichthyaetus.

Adults in winter plumage, and a few first-winter birds daily at Babul Sar in November.

Black-Headed Gull - Larus ridibundus.

C. 100 on coast on 20th April. Up to ten daily in November.

Gull-Billed Tern - Geolochelidon nilotica.

One feeding in estuary at Babul Sar on 20th April is the only record or any tern.

Stock Dove - Columba oenas.

Small flocks on central plains on 24th April.

Rock Dove - Columba livia.

A few in foothills of Elburz range in April.

Wood Pigeon - Columba palumbus.

Common on northern slopes of Elburz range.

Long-Eared Owl - Asio otus.

One or more present in a large garden at Babul Sar in November.

Short Eared Owl - Asio flammeus.

One is sand-dunes at Babul Sar on 8th November.

Kingfisher - Alcedo atthis.

Common on all small rivers running into Caspian Sea in April and November.

Bee-Eater - Merops apiaster.

Common on Teheran plains. Small parties moving east at Babul Sar and Chalus on 22nd April.

Roller - Coracias carrulus.

Very common in spring in Caspian and Tabriz areas. A pair breeding under eaves of a pension at Babul Sar called continuously like young Jackdaws (*Corvus monedula*).

Hoopoe - Upupa Epops.

Fairly common in spring in Caspian, Lake Urmia, and Tabriz areas. One at Babul Sar on 14th November.

Syrian Woodpecker - Dendrocopos syriacus.

At least two pairs in orchards on outskirts of Tabriz in May.

Short-Toed Lark - Calandrella cinerea.

Large numbers moving east along Caspian coast in early morning of 7th November and in smaller numbers daily until 17th November.

Lesser Short-Toed Lark - Calandrella rufescens.

Small parties moving east along coast, and on coast between 7th and 17th November. Easily separated by call from *c. cinerea*.

Crested Lark - Galerida cristata.

Common in Babul Sar, Tabriz, and Lake Urmia areas.

Woodlark - Lullula arborea.

A party of five feeding in cultivated area at Babul Sar on 9th November.

Skyllark - Alauda arvensis.

Large numbers moving east on 7th November, and small parties throughout area daily thereafter.

Swallow - Hirundo rustica.

A small movement along Caspian on 20th April. Extremely common in all town and village areas. Birds were nesting and singing in coffee-houses at Babul Sar, oblivious to noise and smoke.

Raven - Corvus corax.

A few recorded in Elburz ranges. Two on Caspian coast on 7th November.

Jackdaw - Corvus monedula.

A small colony in banks of shallow ravine at Tabriz in May.

Hooded Crow - Corone corone.

Common in Babul Sar, Tabriz; a few at Lake Urmia.

Rook - Corvus frugilegus.

Extremely common in November on Caspian plains. A low-flying aircraft put up a flock of at least 10,000 birds near Babul Sar on 17th November.

Magpie - Pica pica.

Common in all cultivated areas, and recorded up to 9,000 feet in Elburz.

Jay - Garrulus glandarius.

A few seen and heard on northern slopes of Elburz range. Not recorded from Caspian in May or November.

Great Tit - Parus major.

Common at Babul Sar, Tabriz, and Lake Urmia.

Coal Tit - Parus ater.

Small parties in woods at Babul Sar in November.

Long tailed Tit - Aegithalos caudatus.

Two small parties in orchards at Babul Sar in November.

Rock Nuthatch - Sitta neumayer.

Fairly common in high mountain passes. Birds in April were seen perched on spurs of rock, their shrill songs being heard from considerable distances.

Wren - Troglodytes troglodytes.

Not recorded in April, but seen and heard fairly commonly in Babul Sar area in November.

Song Thrush - Turdus philomelos.

One on 9th and five on 18th November were the only sight records at Babul Sar, but immense numbers were heard passing overhead every night in November.

Blackbird - Turdus merula.

A few in cultivated areas around Babul Sar during November, and large numbers heard passing overhead at night.

Blue Rock-Thrush - Monticola solitarius.

A male in a mountain pass on Demavend at 9,000 feet on 24th April.

Black-Eared Wheatear - Oenanthe hispanica.

A few seen in mountains on 24th April. No other Wheatears seen on Caspian coast in April.

Isabelline Wheatear - Oenanthe isabelline.

Very common in Tabriz and Lake Urmia regions in May.

Stonechat - Saxicola torquata.

Two on 16th and four on 18th November were the only records from the Caspian area.

Redstart - Phoenicurus phoenicurus.

Common in all woodland areas at Tabriz in May, and in Caspian region in April.

Rufous Warbler - Erythropygia galactotes.

Fairly common in Tabriz areas in May. Not recorded from Babul Sar.

Nightingale - Luscinia megarhynchos.

Common in damp ditches and woods at Babul Sar in April.

Robin - Erithacus rubecula.

Very common in Caspian areas in November.

Olivaceous Warbler - Hippolais pallida.

Found commonly throughout Tabriz and Lake Urmia areas in May.

Willow Warbler - Phylloscopus trochilus.

A few heard singing at Babul Sar in April. No positive November records.

Chiffchaff - Phylloscopus collybita.

A few of the form Ph. c. abietus found in woods at Babul Sar in November.

Spotted Flycatcher - Muscicapa striata.

Several birds in walled gardens at Tabriz in May.

Red-Breasted Flycatcher - Muscicapa parva.

Five birds at Babul Sar on 8th and more than ten there on 9th November.

Dunnock - Prunella modularis.

A few in orchards, woods, and hedges in November at Babul Sar.

Meadow Pipit - Anthus pratensis.

Extremely large numbers moving east along Caspian coast on 7th and 8th November, Fairly common elsewhere during November.

Tawny Pipit - Anthus Campestris.

Two in sand dunes at Babul Sar on 9th November.

Tree Pipit - Anthus trivialis.

A single bird on 18th November at Babul Sar is my only record.

White Wagtail - Motacilla alba.

Ten on Caspian coast on 20th April. A few parties up to 9,000 feet in Elburz range on 24th April were considered to be migrants. A few moving east along Caspian coast on 7th and 8th November. Fairly common elsewhere in November.

Grey Wagtail - Motacilla cinerea.

Up to ten daily on river-banks at Babul Sar in November. A few pairs appeared to be breeding in Tabriz area in May.

Yellow Wagtail - Motacilla flava.

Small parties around Babul Sar in April. One group of c.20 birds consisted of M.f.flava, M.f. thunbergi. A late bird was found in marshes near Babul Sar on 18th November.

Red-backed Shrike - Lanius collurio.

One in centre of Teheran on 24th April.

Starling - Sturnis vulgaris.

Fairly common in May at Tabriz and Lake Urmia. Many small flocks moving east along Caspian between 7th and 9th November.

Rose-Coloured Starling - Sturnus roseus.

Common in Tabriz-Lake Urmia areas. Not recorded elsewhere. Fledged young with adults on 20th May.

Goldfinch - Carduelis carduelis.

Very common in Caspian areas in April; flocks of up to 300 there were probably migrants. Fairly common in May in Tabriz regions.

Linnet - Carduelis cannabina.

Fairly common in central plains and on coast at Babul Sar.

Chaffinch - Fringilla Coelebs.

Passing east along Caspian coast in very large numbers a.m. on 7th and 8th November. Common in all coastal areas in that month.

Brambling - Fringilla montifringilla.

Fair numbers moving east at Babul Sar on 7th and 8th November. Small groups with Chaffinch in orchards and woods during November.

Yellow-Hammer - Emberiza citrinella.

Only record was fairly large numbers moving east on 7th November with other buntings and finches.

Reed Bunting - Emberiza schoeniclus.

Fairly common, especially on migration on 7th November. Common on inland marshes.

House Sparrow - Passer domesticus.

Common in all areas visited.

Tree Sparrow - Passer montanus.

Three flocks of c.200 each, two flocks of c.100 each, and many other small groups moving east along coast on 7th November in about one hour. Small flocks of up to 50 common inland during November.

Rock Sparrow - Petronia petronia.

Very common in foothills on outskirts of Tabriz. Some young fledged in May, feeding with adults.

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Strung along the Kenya Rift Valley are lakes of unique interest to the ornithologist: Nakuru, with its many Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber*); Elmenteita, with its volcanic landscape; and Naivasha, with its sheer beauty and wealth of bird-life, exciting the wonder of all who visit it. Unlike Nakuru and Elmenteita, which are alkaline, Naivasha is a freshwater lake. It covers some 44 square miles and lies 50 miles from Nairobi.

The route to Naivasha lies across the Great Rift Valley, and a breathtaking panorama confronted us as we rounded the hill at the top of the descent. The air was full of bird-song. The telegraph-wires had their share of perching Fiscal Shrikes (*Lanius collaris*), and I kept an eye on the cliffs above for Lammergeyers (*Gypaetus barbatus*) but had to be content with an odd Buzzard (*Buteo* spp). Stately Secretary Birds (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) stalked over the grasses, together with Crowned Cranes (*Balearica pavonina*), and on high perches sat Black-shouldered Kites (*Elanus coeruleus*) and European Bee-Eaters (*Merops apiaster*).

We arrived at the Marina Club on the lake in a cloud of the red African dust which follows one everywhere when driving off the tarmac roads. We set off for Crescent Island through a labyrinth of channels, blue water-lilies, and birds. The lake was teeming with waterfowl of all kinds. Waterlogged trees stood bare of foliage but covered with a multitude of Storks sharing perches with Grey and Purple Herons (*Ardea cinerera* & *Ardea purpurea*). From around the shores, with their Papyrus and yellow-barked Acacia trees, came the calls of many wild birds. African Lily-trotters (*Actophilornis africana*) and Purple Gallinules (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) strutted over the thick aquatic plants; Coots (*Fulica atra*) in huge numbers scuttled in front of our boat. This is indeed an ornithologist's paradise.

With a companion I set off to explore the island. We did not go far before we put up a succession of birds from the reeds; African Pochards (*Nyroca erythrophthalma*) Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Knob-billed Coots (*Fulica cristata*), Kaffir Rails and the magnificent Goliath Heron (*Ardea goliath*). I was able to compare its size with that of a Grey Heron which stood near by, and the Grey appeared exceptionally small. As this huge Heron took flight, it threshed the air with enormous wings: Fish Eagles (*Circus vocifer*), which abounded, made great sport of it, chasing it over the lake apparently for fun and not always for a disgorged meal. These Eagles, magnificent in smart black-and-white plumage, dominated the scene, perched on high branches uttering gull-like cries, and waving their heads from side to side in a most comical manner. An African Marsh Harrier (*Circus oeruginosus*) whistled past us, quartering the reeds in low flight, and reminding me of days spent in Norfolk with other Harriers.

We worked our way along the edge of the island, occasionally stalking a heron or a Little Egret (*Egretta garzatta*) to photograph as much as possible as near as possible. Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) stood long enough to enable a reasonable shot to be taken. This was the bird venerated by the ancient Egyptians as their god Thoth, and is now unfortunately rare in that country, but abounds at Naivasha. On the lower branches of trees overhanging the water African Darters (*Anhinga rufa*) spread their wings to dry in the manner of Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

After a time the heat made stalking uncomfortable; so we hid among the reeds to see what chanced to come our way. Before long a flash of vivid ultramarine blue proved to be a Malachite Kingfisher (*Corythornis cristata*); this beautiful bird, with its red bill and blue-barred crest, had a nest-hole near by, half-way down a pit dug by local Africans. As we watched, a much larger Kingfisher hovered over the lake like a Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) in search of fish. This was a Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), handsomely clad in black and white and extremely noisy.

Down to the mud in front of us came a Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*) accompanied by a pair of Blacksmith Plover (*Hoplopterus armatus*), whose calls sound like an anvil being struck. Yellow and African Pied Wagtails picked food in the mud; Swallows and Martins wheeled in search of insects; and Pelicans (*Pelecanus roseus*) flew in flocks to the centre of the lake. Their flight ending with a long low glide before they alighted on the water.

We moved on beneath the cries and wing-beats of myriads of birds. In the trees Laughing Doves (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*) were cooing, and from many branches came brilliant flashes of the royal blue of the Superb Starling (*Spreo superbus*), the friendliest bird in Kenya, and the first which one is likely to see on stepping off an aircraft at Nairobi Airport.

The sun's rays were long and low as we chugged our way across the now orange-coloured waters which made silhouettes of thousands of water-birds.

It would be impossible to mention in this article all the birds seen, but a local ornithologist said it was possible to see 200 species in a day at Naivasha.

If any member has the opportunity of visiting Nairobi, and wishes to go to Naivasha, he should contact the officer i/c Safari Club at R.A.F. Eastleigh, who will lay on everything for a party of six persons, for a cost of 19/- each, all found, which is more than reasonable for such a wonderful safari.

Introduction.

R.A.F. Saxa Vord is sited in the N.E. corner of the island of Unst, the most northern isle not only of the Shetland archipelago but also of Britain. Despite its latitude (N. of 60°) its climate is not so severe as might be expected; this equability is largely due to the Gulf Stream. The mean temperature is about 44° F., and winter and summer means vary by only about 10° and 12° from this figure. As the Shetlands are in the path of the North Atlantic depressions, gale-force winds and heavy rain are frequent features of Unst's weather.

The island extends for 29,930 acres, and has a varied habitat. High sea-cliffs and hills predominate in the north of the island, whilst to the south it is generally flatter, and most of the lochs and lochans are there. The coast, rocky in the main, is indented with many wicks, and in these bays are a few sandy beaches; long sheltered voes, however, are absent. Cover is sparse: at Halligarth there is a small wood, mainly sycamore, of almost an acre, surrounded by a six-foot wall for protection from the winds, and most crofts have an odd stunted bush or two. But away from the villages and isolated crofts the main cover is dry stone walls and an occasional bed of thistles or clump of dock. However, whilst the habitat is not favourable to passerines, except the ubiquitous Shetland Starling, it leads to an abundance of breeding seabirds and waders.

A full list of the island's birds is beyond the scope of this article, which is in two parts. This part deals with the wintering birds, the regular migrants, and some of the more notable recent records. Part 2, to follow, will be concerned with the island's breeding birds.

Wintering Birds.

To enjoy birdwatching in mid-winter on Unst one must have a taste for bleak scenery and wild weather. Frequently the walk is everything, as little may be seen, particularly away from the coast. On occasions, in three miles or so of moorland walking at this time of year, I have failed to see a single bird except the odd gull or corvid in the distance, and it is an achievement to see more than twenty-five species in a day.

Most of the birds seen at this time of year will be residents, among them the following common birds which can be seen every day: Fulmar, Shag, Mallard, Eider, Curlew, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Raven, Hooded Crow, Wren, Blackbird, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Starling, Twite, and House Sparrow. Other resident birds, which are either scarcer or more local in their habitat, include Teal, Redshank, Common Gull, and Black Guillemot.

Most of the above mentioned birds will be found around the coast, and it is there that most of the winter visitors are to be found, although there are exceptions, such as the Long-eared Owls, which winter at Halligarth.

Wintering visitors include Great Northern Diver (not seen as often as might be expected), Heron (ca. 6 birds wintered singly in separate wicks in 1963/4), Goldeneye (ca. 30 birds to be seen on the southern lochs), Long-tailed Duck (Mainly to be found in Bluemull Sound, the stretch of water separating Unst from the neighbouring island of Yell). Whooper Swan (on Easter Loch), Turnstone (ca. 250 wintered in 1963/4 in scattered flocks around the island), Purple Sandpiper (seldom more than 10 seen), and Snow Bunting (usually seen flocking in the stubble fields).

On some days a less common bird can be seen, such as a Glaucous Gull, an Iceland Gull, or a Little Auk; there are records for these birds during most years. Thus even in winter, when the bird-life of Unst is at its quietest, there is a good opportunity to study birds not often found in England. To give but one example, on a single sea-watch in February, 1964, I saw one Iceland Gull and eight Glaucous Gulls.

Regular Migrants.

During my stay at Saxa Vord (July 63 to December 64) not a month passed without the appearance of some migrant or other, and consequently I shall not attempt to give extreme dates for either spring or autumn passage. Enough to say that most migrants occur in April and May and during September and October.

Obviously, good numbers of migrants are to be found in the wood at Halligarth and in the small amount of cover around the various houses, but birds turn up in the most unexpected places, and one can literally expect anything anywhere. I saw a Bluethroat on a steep grassy sea-cliff.

Some birds which are either summer or winter visitors are also passage-migrants, and this is most obvious in a few species of waders and passerines. However, the status of some other waders, and some ducks, is not fully known, and in the case of seabird movements there is a great deal of room for further study. Several years of regular observations are needed before a full analysis can be attempted in this subject. I think that it is on these lines, and in census work on the breeding birds that members of R.A.F.O.S. posted to Saxa Vord can do the most valuable work.

To return to birds whose status is more fully known, the following are some of the migrants one can expect to see annually: Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Grey Lag, Kestrel, Golden Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Ruff, Woodpigeon,

Cuckoo, Swallow, House Martin, Jackdaw, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird, Wheatear, Redstart, Robin, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Pied Flycatcher, Dunnock, White Wagtail, Chaffinch, and Brambling.

During the appropriate irruptive years Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Waxwing, and Crossbill have all been recorded; the last two named species sometimes being seen in large numbers.

Recent Additions to the Unst List.

Leach's Petrel: 17th September 1963 - one found dying at Uyesound.

Shoveller: 15th May 1962 - one at Trolla Water, Baltasound.
24th May 1964 - 2 at Uyesound - 26th May 1964 - 4 at Norwick.
12th-14th October 1964 - one at Uyesound.

Red-footed Falcon: 19th-29th May 1964 - one at Baltasound. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Green Sandpiper: 1st June 1955 - one. 17th August 1962 - one at Hermaness.
26th April, 1964 - one at Loch of Cliff.

Wood Sandpiper: 14th June 1963 - one at Snabrough. 18th May 1964 - one at Norwick.

Spotted Redshank: 6th May 1964 - one at Haroldswick.

Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher: 23rd and 24th May 1964 - one in the vicinity of Small Waters. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Sandwich Tern: 3rd June 1961 - 2 at Haroldswick.

Collared Dove: June 1963 - one reported near Haroldswick during 1st week of month.
1st September 1964 - one found injured at Baltasound
4th September 1964 - one at Haroldswick. 1st June 1965 - one at Haroldswick.

Black Redstart: 5th - 8th November 1957 - one female. 27th May 1958 - one female.
18th March 1959 - one male. 24th - 26th October 1959 - one.

Sedge Warbler: 23rd May 1964 - one at Snarravoe. 24th May 1964 - one at Lock of Snabrough.

Barred Warbler: 4th September 1964 - one at Saxa Vord.

Yellow-browed Warbler: 11th October 1964 - one at Haroldswick.
3rd October 1965 - one at Haroldswick.

Tree Pipit: 17th May 1962 - one. 1st September 1964 - one.
4th September 1964 - 5 at Saxa Vord. 20th September 1964 - one at Saxa Vord.

Goldfinch: May 1962 - at least 3 separate birds during the 3rd week of the month.

Parrot Crossbill: 7th October 1962 - 21 at Norwick; 10 were still present on 20th October. 10th October 1962 - 10 at Haroldswick.

Lapland Bunting: 3rd October 1963 - 2 at Norwick.

APPENDIX

The scientific names of the species mentioned in the text are given below: -

Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>
Leach's Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Tufted Duck	<i>Ardea fuligula</i>	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes zetlandicus</i>
Pochard	<i>Ardea ferina</i>	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Glauca hvmalis</i>	Redwing	<i>Turdus musicus</i>
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Grey Lag	<i>Anser anser</i>	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Bluethroat	<i>Cyanosylvia svecica svecica</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Sc-edge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Golden Plover	<i>Charadrius apricarius</i>	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago faeroensis</i>	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Duncock	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Long-billed or Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus or griseus</i>	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta petrosus</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>
Sanderling	<i>Crocodylus alba</i>	Waxwing	<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>
Ruff	<i>Phalaropus pugnax</i>	Starling	<i>Sturna vulgaris zetlandicus</i>
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Parrot Crossbill	<i>Loxia ptyopsittacus</i>
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Little Auk	<i>Plautus alle</i>	Lapland Bunting	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
Black Guillemot	<i>Uria urile</i>	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		

