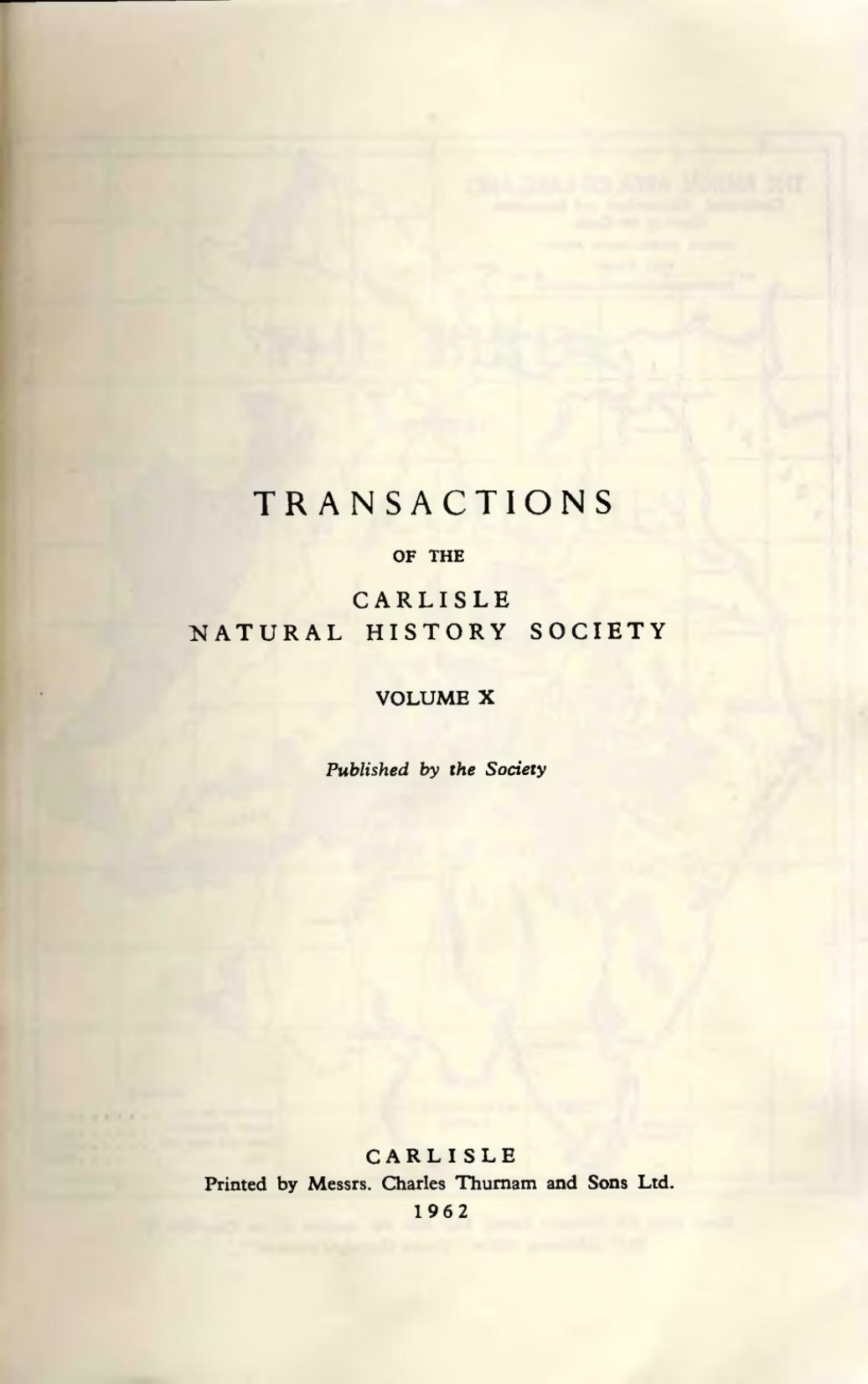


THE BIRDS  
OF THE  
LAKE COUNTIES



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OF THE  
CARLISLE  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VOLUME X

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Cumberland Westmorland and Lancashire  
North of the Sands

SCALE OF MILES

MLS 5 0 5 10 MLS



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THE BIRDS  
OF THE  
LAKE COUNTIES

By  
RALPH STOKOE

*With a contribution by*  
ERNEST BLEZARD

THE BIRDS  
OF THE  
LAKE COUNTIES

BY  
RALPH STURGEON

WITH A CONTRIBUTION BY  
HAROLD STURGEON

# CARLISLE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

THE MUSEUM, TULLIE HOUSE, CARLISLE

FOUNDED 1893

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## INTRODUCTION.

This volume follows seventy years after the publication of Macpherson's *A Vertebrate Fauna of Lakeland* which included, and for the first time described at length, all the birds known to have been found in the faunal area of the Lake Counties: Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire North of the Sands. Thus a foundation was laid for the publications of the Society, whose active life covers the same span of years.

*The Birds of Lakeland*, now in its twentieth year, gave a full account of the modern status of our birds and has remained the standard work for the area. Supplements published in 1946, 1954 and 1958 in later *Transactions* of the Society added new species and records. All, except the latest volumes of *Transactions*, are out of print and some are difficult to obtain.

Present interest in birds eclipses that in all other forms of wild-life and seems to call for a full re-statement. This is given here, though in a more condensed form than the earlier works, together with notes received from members and friends of the Society since the last publication.

The systematic arrangement and nomenclature continue to follow *The Handbook of British Birds*, still the leading authority. No later alternatives have achieved a settled and generally accepted form. At the risk of seeming reactionary, this at least has the merit of consistency. It has seemed desirable to shorten the English names by dropping the definite article throughout, *Common* from all except that of four species and *American* from Pectoral Sandpiper. The Pink-footed Goose has been treated as a separate species.

Each article has a species heading and the text discusses each bird as a species, except where there is clear reference to a particular race. To provide a full history, it was considered necessary to add, by way of note below the main heading, the sub-species which have been identified. In most cases the skin collection at the Carlisle Museum supports this statement. Other races which await recognition may occur, as, apart from a few exceptionally well-marked forms, sub-species are not normally distinguishable in the field. It should not be assumed then that the named races are the only ones which occur or that the text refers solely to those forms.

Three birds, previously included in square brackets, have been omitted: Greenland Redpoll, Bonaparte's Sandpiper and Broad-billed Sandpiper. New forms reported since 1957 and now included are: Barred Warbler, Iceland Redwing, Great Spotted Cuckoo and Collared Dove. These bring the full list to just 300 forms of 282 species.

The counties in which each species has been found are denoted at the start of each article by their initial letters—C., W. and L. These initials have also been given after place-names in the text, either to aid identification or to locate a record for which the place-name could refer to more than one county. This device has not been repeated throughout for well-known or frequently mentioned places, but each has been identified in this way at least once.

At other times the recognised physical divisions of the area have been used: North Cumberland, Cumberland Plain, Solway (south to Dubmill Point—reference 08.46 on the map), West Coast, Central Lakes and Fells, Pennines and Southern Estuaries. The Border Fells referred to from time to time lie in North Cumberland, as distinct from fells on other borders.

The status of each species is summarised and, for visiting species, is followed in brackets by the periods of occurrence. The periods when a species is regularly found are preceded and succeeded by dates denoting the extreme limits recorded; within these limits and outside the regular periods, there may have been some other appearances not always noted here.

All the records of rarities have been mentioned in some degree of detail. Here a distinction has been made between records more and less than fifty years old. Any up to 1910 have been treated as "old" records; "recent" records are regarded as those since 1910. In this way information, perhaps mainly of historical interest and available in detail in earlier publications, has received briefer treatment than that which is more likely to have relevance to present and future events.

For the rest, it has seemed more important to set down things of local significance in the way of habitat, numbers, regional distribution and migrations than to include information available in general works.

Current notes and records follow, in a different type-setting, and bring up to the end of 1961 the account of bird events in the area. They have been incorporated in the summary which precedes them, without, it is hoped, detracting in any way from the interest of the notes themselves.

Further events, affecting too many species to be included under the heading of any one, may be recounted here.

Heavy snow early in 1958 brought some spectacular bird movements. On 20 January, with three inches of snow on the ground, Sky-Larks and Fieldfares were flying south-west out to sea from St. Bees Head and thrushes were feeding on the beach. Four days later, and still snowing, four thrush species, Robins and Starlings were about the cliff face there (G. W. H. Moule).

Then on 9 February, a sudden and heavy snowstorm blanketed most of north and west Cumberland. Starting at about 10 a.m. in the south, it continued there until 2-30 p.m. and spread north, followed by milder conditions. Gale-force winds from the east produced a near-arctic blizzard. At Seascale, Sky-Larks started moving south from 10 a.m. and the passage gained momentum and variety, building up to a peak around 12-30 p.m., with Starlings, Song-Thrushes and Redwings in large numbers and also pipits, finches, including Goldfinch, and two Golden Plovers (Miss M. Garnett).

At Dubmill Point the storm continued until about 4 p.m. and there was a constant passage of birds throughout the afternoon with snow driving horizontally before a north-easterly wind. Song-Thrushes, Redwings, Blackbirds, Starlings and Meadow-Pipits were identified; many could not be recognised. Sixty Snow-Buntings were counted in one flock and small parties were going by constantly. A hundred Sky-Larks passed in three minutes and thousands were involved in the movement. A Grey Lag-Goose wandered in circles, lost, and gulls and waders were unable to find shelter.

High tides wash out nests of shore-birds in most summers, but on 12 June 1960 many more than usual were lost in this way. A thirty foot tide, driven by a strong south-westerly wind, flooded the whole of Rockcliffe Marsh to a depth of two feet, destroying all the nests and nestlings there (R. A. Laird). Other salt marshes were also affected, though Skinburness Marsh was not entirely submerged. At the same time, it has been reported by those most interested in the place, a ternery, where six hundred pairs of terns were nesting, was inundated and three-quarters of the nests were destroyed. The Sandwich Terns, which lost all their nests, left the locality. Other species laid again and the final result was less disastrous than had appeared likely.

\* \* \*

The constantly altering pattern of our bird population is evident in various changes since the last general review. Some species will be seen to have increased in numbers or widened their range. Several

new species have appeared and some have bred; there are hopes that others, extending from the south, will presently reach our borders and that some, long extinct, may yet return from the north as breeding species. For many, however, a decline is only too evident and one or two of these may be heading for extinction as breeding birds in the area. A wide range of species is affected in this way; many are insectivorous birds, though by no means all.

It is tempting to link these decreases with changes in land use and management. The use of cumulative poisons as seed-dressings has received a good deal of publicity. A much greater variety of poisons is spread about in the form of insecticides and weed-killers. These may be just as potent, though more insidious, in their effect—and not only on our wild-life. In this area, we have at least been spared some of the worst results of the wide-spread use of weed-killers on our road verges, but the application of chemicals in agriculture has grown apace and, if one includes artificial fertilisers, which some view with suspicion, there can be little farmland left which has not been treated in one way or another.

Drainage has carried its share of responsibility in the past for the extinction of several species and the acreage of marsh and damp ground continues to diminish. Subsidy-aided ploughing and re-seeding follow the drag-line. Hay is being cut earlier, perhaps green for silage, when the nesting season is at its height. Corn is harvested and threshed in one operation and the stack-yard is becoming obsolescent. Hens are put on deep-litter or in batteries. Road improvements reduce hedgerows and hedgerow trees and eliminate little corners of unregarded wilderness.

None of the war-time aerodromes and similar establishments have reverted to anything like their former condition, while new demands are made on quiet and remote places, as for atomic and rocket-testing stations, or reservoirs. The break-up of old estates has gone on, bringing large stretches of land into a more public domain and, among other things, tree-felling and a decline in game preserving.

The Lake District in its more restricted sense, now a National Park, attracts ever-growing numbers of visitors to fell, valley and lake. The intense interest in rock-climbing has had a direct effect on the bird population of several crags, while on some lakes the motor boats, yachts and water-skiers have created a traffic problem.

In 1961, the Forestry Commission planted the largest acreage in its history and continues to treat broad-leaved trees merely as an amenity. These forests are not devoid of bird life and it has been an endeavour here to show this, but they remain virtually a monoculture.

In other directions, the naming or acquisition of small pieces of land of unusual interest by public or semi-public bodies, as some sort of nature reserve, has drawn attention to their particular value and may well safeguard their future. Yet the future will not be a bright one if the really interesting facets of our natural scene are to be found only in a scattering of preserved sites in an otherwise undiversified countryside.

In a general way many of these changes are beneficial and others inevitable; all should be recognised as altering the environment in some degree and so must be recorded. There is a need to assess the strength of breeding and wintering populations in this time of change so that alterations can be more readily and accurately detected. For only a handful of species is it possible to say how many breed in Lakeland, or in any part of it. Without this knowledge, ideas of changing numbers are largely subjective.

Two side effects of the age of mechanisation are pleasant to record. Oiled sea birds are very much more of a rarity on our shores than they were ten or even five years ago. One looks for this to be reflected in an increase in the population of auks at St. Bees Head. Following the great increase in car tourists and week-end travellers picnicking at favourite road-side lay-bys, not only the fell sheep insist on their share, but also the small woodland birds — tits, Robins, Chaffinches and Blackbirds. As soon as a car stops they descend from the woods to await the crumbs; pending their arrival and as a *hors d'oeuvre*, tits will perch on a windscreen wiper or wing mirror to pick off the dead insects collected there. This, well away from houses where they may have been tamed at bird tables, shows the adaptability of some of our more successful species which have already turned to their use other unlikely amenities provided by Man.

\* \* \*

Additional contributions to this volume are a study of Bird Migration at Grune Point, a new venture of its kind in the area; and a further account of the Food of Birds, which continues from earlier *Transactions* a unique and fascinating record of permanent value.

The advice and guidance given unstintingly throughout this undertaking by Ernest Blezard is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are due to all the contributors, who have made the account possible, and to those members and friends who have read the typescript or helped in other ways. Extracts from published journals have been acknowledged in the text.

Cockermouth, March 1962.

R.S.

In other respects the language is not so much of small parts of  
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of literary interest, but the language is not so much of small parts  
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## *The Birds of the Lake Counties*

### RAVEN *Corvus corax* L. *corax* L.

C W L. Resident. Widespread; nesting in all mountain areas, usually from 1,200 to 1,800 feet and occasionally from 750 to 2,400 feet. One coastal haunt. Several tree nests recorded. Non-breeders gregarious in spring; communal roosts in autumn and winter.

Lakeland holds the bulk of the nesting Ravens of northern England. The breeding population of the area has been relatively stable, with only minor fluctuations in numbers, over the last sixty years. A local increase has been suggested as having occurred recently, but apart from an increase in the number of tree nests there is little evidence of this (D. A. Ratcliffe).

Flocks of Ravens have been reported for all times of the year by R. A. H. Coombes, but they appear to be larger in autumn and winter. Accounts of these flocks have been given in previous *Transactions*. Up to twenty eight at a Pennine roost near Hilton (W) from October 1957 to February 1958 (William Atkinson) and up to twenty on Wild Boar Fell (W) in 1959-60 (Walter Thompson) are some recent counts.

At St. Bees Head (C) four birds were seen on 3 March 1955 and 26 February 1956, then seven or eight on 30 May 1956 by G. W. H. Moule, where, in 1961, P. A. Banks considered two pairs may have nested. Adults and fledged juveniles were seen on different parts of the Head in circumstances suggesting distinct pairs, which had between them reared at least five young.

### HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* L. *cornix* L.

C W L. An increasingly infrequent winter visitor (October to April). Most records are coastal and especially from Solway. Has nested in Cumberland.

A bird was seen on Walney Island (L) on 23 October 1960 by K. Brown, J. Sheldon and Allan Smith.

### CARRION-CROW *Corvus corone* L. *corone* L.

C W L. A much increased resident. Very common in open to moderately wooded country. Nests up to 1,800 feet, in thorn bushes and crags above tree limit; also frequently in urban areas and on artificial structures.

In an area where albinos have occurred for nearly forty years, one was seen on 25 April 1959 and between February and December 1960 by Walter Thompson at Kirkby Stephen (W), where in 1960 it nested in a tree beside his house.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* L.  
*frugilegus* L.

C W L. Resident and winter visitor. Highly gregarious and abundant in agricultural country, ranging to the fells and open shore in search of food.

The breaking-up of long-established colonies when woods and copses are felled has left few large rookeries in the area (D. A. Ratcliffe). Those which continue are usually to be found in private grounds. The rookery at Penny Bridge Hall, which had 528 nests in 1945 and is stated by Clifford Oakes in *The Birds of Lancashire* to be the largest in that county, continues at about the same strength.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* L.  
*spermologus* Vieill.

C W L. Resident. Nests abundantly from coast at St. Bees Head up into crags of lower fell slopes to about 1,200 feet; occurs freely in towns and villages, where colonies are established in chimneys and old buildings. Gregarious, associating with Rooks in winter, in flocks which may include winter visitors.

A small colony was eliminated from Grune House, Skinburness (C) by placing wire guards over the tops of the chimneys. As a result the bird has become less frequent on Grune Point, though continuing to breed in Skinburness village. When the guards were fixed early in February 1960 three birds were inadvertently trapped inside one chimney. They could be seen from time to time inside the wire globe, but the workmen did not come to release them. Free members of the colony were then seen feeding the captives through the wires. One dead bird fell down the chimney into the bedroom and later a live bird made its way down and was released. The third remained and was fed for nearly two months until, in early April, it too descended the chimney into the bedroom where it was found, plump and strong, and was released. The Jackdaws then all left (Miss E. and N. Glaister).

MAGPIE *Pica pica* (L.)  
*pica* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Frequent on low ground with thick hedges and scrub, also in coniferous woods up to 1,500 feet. Generally rather local and least common in fell country. Roosts of up to two hundred birds have been recorded in the Solway region.

Up to forty birds used Holly trees at Abbotswood, Barrow-in-Furness, as a roost from January to March 1961 (Allan Smith). A late nest in the same locality was seen with young on 16 September 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* (L.)  
*rufitergum* Hart.

C W L. Resident; occasional irregular autumn movements. Generally distributed in woodlands and locally common; less frequent in fell valleys, where it occurs to 1,250 feet. Winter roosts of up to thirty birds have been recorded.

At Ennerdale (C) it was found by P. A. Banks to be thinly distributed in forestry plantations of Larch, which was preferred when available, and Spruce, to 1,250 feet.

An influx into gardens in the Coniston area was noticed by L. A. Cowcill in December 1957. The birds were very tame and doubtless hungry. They moved away during a mild spell in March 1958 and did not return with the onset of further hard weather.

Just after fledging, both young and parent Jays may be unusually tame. On 27 June 1954 a pair in Red How Wood, Lorton (C), with fledged young well able to fly, approached to ten yards squawking loudly. The young paid little or no attention though one uttered a weak squawk. On 14 July, in Holme Wood, Loweswater (C), a young bird was watched for most of the afternoon at distances of up to six feet. It was collecting brown slugs. These were carried to a branch or stump and carefully and protractedly wiped before being pulled to pieces, sometimes wiped again, and then swallowed.

As part of an unusual autumn eruption of woodland species, single birds appeared on the coast at Grune Point (C) on 1 and 15 October 1961 (Ralph Stokoe) and twelve flew south-west over Sandscale at the mouth of the Duddon Estuary on 5 October 1961 (K. Brown).

CHOUGH *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* (L.)  
*pyrrhcorax* (L.)

C W. A former resident. None recorded after about 1870, until February 1955, when one or two birds were seen at a former coastal haunt then and on many occasions up to March 1957.

There have been no records of the birds at their coastal haunt since March 1957 (G. W. H. Moule, Howard W. Smith).

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* L.  
*vulgaris* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Abundant and widespread; breeding birds continue to extend their range up unoccupied fell valleys. Roosts of non-breeding birds are augmented by breeding birds and young at end of season and then by large numbers of winter visitors, including ringed birds from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Poland (E. Prussia).

There was a roost of 10,000 birds in the reeds of Out Dubs Tarn near Esthwaite Water (L) on 30 September 1960 (Alan F. Airey). A roost of some 20,000 birds built up in thick unbrushed Spruce woods at Dovenby,

Cockermouth (C) in the winter of 1959-60. During the following summer the woods were thinned and brushed and the roost did not develop again there (Ralph Stokoe).

A Norway ringed nestling was recovered at Penrith (C) the next March (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1959). A juvenile ringed at Cope-land Bird Observatory, Co. Down on 17 July 1959 was recovered at Keswick (C) on 30 December 1960 (per R. Spencer).

### ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* (L.)

C L. Several old records up to 1898, when a bird was seen at Allonby (C) during that summer.

### GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* (L.)

*oriolus* (L.)

C W L. Recorded eleven times prior to 1958, usually in May when, on two occasions, a pair was seen. In each year from 1958 to 1961 a pair was present and is known to have bred in Lancashire in 1958 and 1959.

The nesting of a pair of orioles in a Lancashire Lakeland valley in 1958 was investigated and established by J. A. G. Barnes. The birds nested again in the same area in 1959 and were present in 1960. L. A. Cowcill had a report of a bird seen on two occasions in the same locality in 1961.

Early in June 1961 a bird described as a male oriole was seen feeding on insects at a locality a few miles outside Carlisle. Later a female was also seen and both were watched on several occasions up to 8 July by the original discoverers, Margaret Williamson and Adeline Dunsmore, and by others, including R. A. Laird who supplied these details.

### HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* (L.)

*coccothraustes* (L.)

C W L. An increasing resident, wandering in winter. A former rarity; now locally common in wooded gardens, parks and well-grown broad-leaved woods, especially in Eden Valley above Carlisle, south Westmorland and Lancashire; extending and increasing elsewhere.

Its continued presence as a well-established resident in south Westmorland and Lancashire is confirmed by J. B. and S. Bottomley, and by J. A. G. Barnes who had a nest in his garden in 1961. A flock feeding on damson stones at Crosthwaite (W) built up during November and December 1957 to over forty birds and on 3 January 1958 included an albino (H. P. Millard, J. A. G. Barnes). A flock of sixty birds was seen there in March 1937 by Mr. Millard.

A pair was watched collecting nesting material at Portinscale, Keswick on 10 May 1957. Two nests have been known in this locality in earlier years (Mrs. Enid J. Wilson). A pair nested in the orchard of a house at Thornthwaite, Keswick, rearing four young, in 1959 (B. Jackson, Ralph Stokoe). In May of that year a pair was seen about a mile to the north (J. D. Bateman). These records, all in about three miles of the same valley, are for a district in which the species has been infrequently reported hitherto.

### GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* (L.)

*chloris* (L.)

CWL. Resident and winter visitor. Common in gardens, shrubberies and open woodland in breeding season; in wandering, often mixed, flocks of up to three hundred or more birds at other times. Communal winter roosts sometimes large. Some coastal passage.

An established winter roost at Abbotswood (L) was weak in numbers during the mild winter of 1960-61, but by late December in 1961 between three and four hundred birds were converging on it at dusk (Allan Smith).

An adult, ringed at Troutbeck (W) in July, was recovered in East Lothian the following February. One ringed at Burton, Cheshire on 13 November was recovered at Flimby (C) on 27 December following (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1958 and 1960).

### GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* (L.)

*britannica* (Hart.)

CWL. Resident. Has increased markedly in present century, but remains sparse and erratic over much of area. Confined to lower ground, breeding in gardens, orchards, parks, roadside trees and hedgerows. Rough pastures, waste ground and hedge banks are searched in winter for seeding thistles and other weeds. Autumn and spring flocks may be of up to two hundred birds.

Winter flocks include one of at least a hundred birds in conifers at Tarn Hows (L) on 7 December 1956, and several small flocks of ten to twelve birds near Windermere in that winter (Alan F. Airey). There were at least twenty six at Newbiggin (L) on 29 January 1960 (Allan Smith) and twenty at Roanhead (L) on the same day (K. Brown).

Only a few single birds have been seen at Grune Point. These were on 11 October, 1 and 15 November 1959, 30 April and 27 August 1960, and 26 December 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

**SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (October to March). Usually sparse; flocks of over a hundred birds have occurred. Has bred in Cumberland, for several consecutive years in Westmorland, and possibly also in Lancashire.

Flocks seen in one winter include thirty on Roudsea Moss (L) on 15 November 1956, twenty in Lyth valley (W) and sixteen feeding among straw in a field near Ratherheath Tarn (W) on 11 January, twenty near Crosthwaite (W) on 5 February and over twenty near Cartmel (L) on 8 March 1957. Smaller numbers were also encountered near Flookburgh, Haverthwaite and Newton (L) (Alan F. Airey).

There were about twenty near Crook (W) on 25 January (R. D. Humber) and a flock of over twenty five near Windermere (W) on 21 and 27 January 1959 (J. B. and S. Bottomley). Ernest Blezard encountered fourteen in alders at Blackwell, Carlisle on 2 January 1960, and, also in Cumberland, Miss M. Milne reports one at Thurstonfield Lough on 29 November 1959, and about twenty near Bassenthwaite on 17 January 1960. In what may have been a good season for Siskins, sizeable flocks were present near Carlisle towards the end of 1961. At Blackwell twenty were seen on 18 November, over forty at Dalston on 3 December (Ernest Blezard) and also about forty at Powmaughan the same day (M. J. Holliday), all in Alders. There were six at Irton Park (C) on 2 November (P. A. Banks).

In one part of Lakeland Lancashire birds were regularly present in good numbers in conifers during the winter of 1956 and following spring. Breeding was suspected but not proved. The same locality was frequented by smaller numbers in late 1959 (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

A cock and two hens were found in a wood on the Cumberland Eden on 13 April 1961, a date when early nests may be looked for (J. A. G. Barnes).

**REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea* (L.)

*flammea* (L.)

*cabaret* (P.L.S. Müll.)

C W L. Resident, passage migrant (most September to mid October, April to late May) and winter visitor. Widespread, often sociable, breeder; winter flocks range widely, favouring Alder and Birch.

Occasional birds of the northern Continental race, Mealy Redpoll, occur in winter (November to February).

Commonly favouring tall broad-leaved scrub in the breeding season, the Ennerdale and Blengdale forests (C) were found to be widely used; especially areas of unbrushed Spruce, where birds were first noticed on 20 March 1961 and, later, fledglings were seen (P. A. Banks).

A decrease near Arnside (W) is noted by J. A. G. Barnes, where the bird was formerly a scarce breeder and regular winter visitor.

A flock of about 180 birds was feeding on Knapweed near Appleby (W) on 18 September 1960 (R. W. Robson).

A female, caught and ringed at Grune Point on 14 February 1960 out of a flock of Redpolls and other finches, showed all the characters of the Mealy Redpoll (Ralph Stokoe).

**TWITE** *Carduelis flavirostris* (L.)*pipilans* (Lath.)

CW L. Now a scarce breeding bird. Sparse but regular winter visitor and passage migrant (August to March); most frequent on Solway coast and salt marshes.

Now rare in north Westmorland, a brood was ringed by R. W. Robson in 1960 at 600 feet, near where a nest was last found about forty years previously. Birds have been seen and may breed in other Pennine localities. Two such are mentioned by Mr. Robson. Four birds were seen on Wild Boar Fell (W) on 23 May 1959 by Walter Thompson and at least a dozen Twites, with more Redpolls, at the head of Ennerdale Forest (C) early in July 1957 by J. V. Boys. Birds have been seen in spring on suitable ground in Geltsdale (C) by R. A. Laird.

Coastal flocks on the Solway include about a dozen flying inland to roost, near Cardurnock on 27 December 1959. At Grune Point some fifty birds were present from 24 January to 14 February 1960. There were two there on 15 and 29 October, a flock of thirty on 26 November and at least four on 10 December, in 1961 (Ralph Stokoe). Two were in a finch flock at Rampside (L) on 4 December 1961 (Allan Smith).

**LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina* (L.)*cannabina* (L.)

CW L. Resident and winter visitor; many breeding birds may emigrate. Widespread and often numerous on low ground; more local in fells, breeding up to 1,200 feet, and absent from some hill districts. Winter flocks are often large, especially on coast. Most nest and roost in Gorse.

A decrease is remarked upon by J. A. G. Barnes and D. A. Ratcliffe in the Arnside and Carlisle districts.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (L.)*nesa* Math. & Ired.

CW L. Resident; some dispersal and wandering flocks in autumn and winter. Widespread; favouring woodlands with thorn and Birch scrub, gardens and shrubberies. Most frequent in well-wooded country in south of area.

Larger than usual numbers and a wide dispersal became noticeable in the autumn of 1961. A female was caught and ringed at Grune Point on 14 October 1961, where two unringed females were seen the following day. A flock haunted Harris Park, Cockermouth during November and December, long enough for Starlings to have adopted the call note. On 2 December it comprised seven males and one female (Ralph Stokoe). During the same period small flocks were regular in allotment gardens at Netherton, Maryport, as noted by William Moon.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* L.*curvirostra* L.

C W L. An irruption immigrant (from July). Have stayed to nest in coniferous woods the next and perhaps subsequent years.

Following the 1956 invasion, birds remained to nest in 1957 in two localities. A pair was seen on Whinlatter Pass (C) on 14 April 1959, and six, at least three of which were juveniles, on 28 April (Mrs. Enid J. Wilson). The largest groups were in north Lancashire and an adjacent part of Westmorland. Where twenty were counted on 25 November 1956, a male was singing on 19 February and two pairs were seen on 3 March (Alan F. Airey). Nearby, numbers ran into hundreds in October 1956; later five nests were found, with evidence of many more. Some of these were ransacked after hatching, perhaps by Squirrels, but one fledged juvenile was seen. None was found here from July 1957 until July 1958 when they again became established and wintered. Two nests were found in 1959, the first on 4 March, which were successful and a party including two juveniles, seen on 19 April, represented a third successful nest. It was estimated that not less than ten pairs nested in 1959. Birds remained about until 26 April 1960, when there were over twenty, but there was no sign of breeding and none has been seen there since (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

The 1958 immigration included a group of four young birds attempting to deal with the tough scales of Scots Pine cones, near Welton (C) on 12 July (Dorothy and Ralph Stokoe).

In 1959 there were about forty in tall larches at High Borrans (W) for several days up to 2 August (Robert D. Humber), a green bird in pines on the sea front at Silloth (C) on 17 August (Robert Spencer), and seven in Larches at New Hall, Appleby on 14-15 December (R. W. Robson). More after the turn of the year included two, with Chaffinches, near Coniston (L) on 6 January, at least six at Spy Hill (L) on 29 March, a few at Grizedale (L) on 1 April, one at Rydal (W) on 4 April and about twelve on 17 April 1960 at Spy Hill (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

PARROT-CROSSBILL *Loxia pytyopsittacus* Borkh.

C. Two records: two on River Irthing about 1850, and three at Newby Cross, December 1865.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* Gm.*bifasciata* (Brehm)

C. Two records: a flock in north Cumberland, winter 1845-6, and a male at Maryport, September 1908.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla cœlebs* L.*gengleri* Kleinsch.

CW L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Widespread and abundant, nesting up to 1,500 feet. Flocks about stubble fields, stackyards and woodlands when not breeding. Migrant flocks noted, especially on coast. An adult, ringed March, recovered Belgium in November of next year; one ringed Netherlands in October recovered Cumberland three weeks later.

A fledged juvenile, caught at Grune Point on 14 May 1961, with down still adhering to some crown feathers, indicated an early successful nest. Many nests completed in April remain empty, especially during cold dry spells typical of recent springs, for as much as a fortnight (Ralph Stokoe).

The commonest bird nesting in Spruce plantations, after the tits. A deserted nest with young was found in a thirty-inch Scots Pine at Ennerdale in 1961 (P. A. Banks).

Resident birds ringed and retrapped by L. A. Cowcill include a nestling found again six years and eight months later. Of several birds released by him at Bardsea (L) on 8 January 1959, one was back in the same garden at Nibthwaite seven days later. A female released five miles to the north on 24 February 1960 returned in eight days, then released ten miles to the south on 23 March returned the next day, and finally released sixteen miles to the south-east on 7 April returned in four days. Another female released at Grange-over-Sands ten miles to the south-east was back in the trap at Nibthwaite in four hours.

A young male, ringed Netherlands 11 October 1958, was recovered at St. Bees Head three weeks later (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960). An adult female, ringed Spurn Point, Yorkshire, 2 April 1960, was recovered at Abbotswood (L) on 12 March 1961 (Allan Smith).

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* L.

CW L. Frequent but erratic and local winter visitor (October to April). Favours Beech trees and stubble fields, often with Chaffinches. Perhaps most regular in Cumberland. A bird ringed in December was recovered in Belgium the following October.

Scattered records of small flocks show no striking arrivals. There were two at Holywell Bay, Kent Estuary (W) on 12 November 1957 (Alan F. Airey), fifteen feeding on threshing waste at New Hall, Appleby on 9 February 1958, and five on 18 February 1960 (R. W. Robson), six or more under beeches at Gilsland (C) on 17 March 1957, several with other finches, buntings and Tree-Sparrows at High Corby (C) on 12 March 1958 (Ernest Blezard), at least three males with other finches at Knockupworth, Carlisle on 13 March 1960 (William French, G. A. Allison), and a female, caught at a finch roost, at Abbotswood (L) on 2 April 1960 (Allan Smith).

Hard weather movements brought thirty birds to Grune Point on 17 January 1960, where there were also one on 25 January and ten on 1 November 1959, five on 15 February 1960 and four on 29 October 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* (L.)  
*lapponicus* (L.)

C W L. Two old records of females; one female Bowness Moss (C), May 1927, and one male, Derwentwater, May 1959.

The first since 1927, and the first male bird to be found in Lakeland was with a party of Redpolls and other finches in Larches by Derwentwater (C) on 5 May 1959. The bird, in full spring plumage, was closely examined and sketched on the spot, leaving no doubt of its identity (Mrs. Enid J. Wilson).

SNOW-BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* (L.)  
*nivalis* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (end October to March). Regular on higher grassy fells, usually from 1,500 feet to summit plateaux; less frequent on coast and then mainly in hard weather.

Mountain records around the limits of date and altitude: ten at 3,000 feet on Helvellyn on 31 October 1944 (D. A. Ratcliffe), one at 2,600 feet on 2 November 1958 in High Street range (W) and three there on 18 March 1961 (Ernest Blezard and D. A. Ratcliffe), two on Blencathra (C) on 23 March 1959 (W. F. Davidson) and fourteen on 16 January and six on 26 January 1961 on Tailbridge Fell (W) at about 1,000 feet (Walter Thompson).

There are coastal records for all winter months except December:

1957-58. At St. Bees Head, two on 20th and one on 26 January; about sixty at Beckfoot (C) and many more south to Allonby, in a heavy snowstorm, on 9 February; four at Foulney Island (L) on 16 February; one at Grune Point on 9 March.

1958-59. In November, one on Foulney Island on 23rd and one on beach at St. Bees on 30th.

1959-60. A flock of thirty at Grune Point on 22 November; thirteen on Walney Island on 10 January; about fifty at Grune Point on 24 January, four on 14 February and several small parties from there south to Allonby on 21 February; seven at Sandscale (L) on 13 February.

1960-61. One in a park at Barrow-in-Furness on 2 November; one on St. Bees Head on 2 January; thirty at Grune Point on 12 March.

1961-62. Twelve on Foulney Island on 12 November.

(G. A. Allison, A. Barton, K. Brown, S. Grice, J. L. Lowther, M. Moffat, G. W. H. Moule, D. A. Ratcliffe, J. Sheldon, A. Smith, R. Stokoe).

HOUSE-SPARROW *Passer domesticus* (L.)  
*domesticus* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Abundant in towns, villages and all but the most isolated farms.

**CORN-BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra* L.

C W L. Partial resident; many probably emigrate, but winter flocks of up to forty or fifty occur. In summer very local and sometimes variable in numbers. Most frequent on Solway coast, near Wigton and Carlisle, and up the Eden valley to Kirkby Stephen. In most parts a recent decrease has been evident.

The numbers of nesting birds are considered to have decreased around Carlisle, by Ernest Bleazard and D. A. Ratcliffe. A decrease is also noted in the Appleby area by R. W. Robson; there winter flocks of up to fifty birds and a scatter of breeding birds have been absent in last two years. Changes in agricultural practice may carry some responsibility for the decline.

Two birds were caught and ringed on 13 March 1960 at Rampside (L) out of a flock of twenty (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon).

The only recent records near Arnside are of singing males at Heversham in June 1959 and in July 1960 (J. A. G. Barnes).

**YELLOW BUNTING** *Emberiza citrinella* L.

*citrinella* L.

C W L. Resident. Widespread and numerous in open or rough country, breeding up to 1,000 feet. More exposed breeding sites are deserted in autumn on formation of flocks, which favour stubble fields and farmsteads.

**CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirulus* L.

*cirulus* L.

C. First recorded 1914. Rare passage migrant (twice April, August, October). Nested in 1930's and in 1955, at Greystoke, Seascale (twice) and Carlisle.

**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla* Pall.

C. One, Siddick, 11 November 1948.

**REED-BUNTING** *Emberiza schœniclus* (L.)

*schœniclus* (L.)

C W L. Resident and breeding visitor. Common in damp, bushy and rank situations, breeding up to 1,200 feet. More exposed situations deserted autumn to March. Elsewhere, winter flocks occur on dry ground with Yellow Buntings and finches.

The preference for rather damp ground in the nesting area is dispensed with by the four or five pairs which have nested in Marram and bushy areas on Grune Point in 1959-1961. An otherwise normal adult male caught and ringed there on 16 May 1959 had a well-marked white stripe from the beak over and behind the eye (Ralph Stokoe).

TREE-SPARROW *Passer montanus* (L.)*montanus* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Local but increasingly widespread, nesting in small colonies near farms, old buildings and in rural areas generally to fringes of central fell region. Less common in south. Dispersal of young in autumn; winter flocks roam fields with finches and buntings.

Lancashire and south Westmorland records are of twenty at Low Lyth farm, Levens on 30 January 1958 (Alan F. Airey), two on Walney Island on 20 September 1959 (Allan Smith), one at Lowick (L) with Greenfinches on 26 November 1959 (L. A. Cowcill), one near Ulverston on 6 December 1959 (Jack Sheldon), and two at Rampside on 13 March 1960 (Allan Smith).

WOOD-LARK *Lullula arborea* (L.)*arborea* (L.)

C W. Former sparse breeder. The only recent record is of one at Skinburness (C), September 1933.

SKY-LARK *Alauda arvensis* L.*arvensis* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and conspicuous passage and weather migrant. Many breeding birds probably emigrate. Numerous throughout low open country from coast to vicinity of fells, then, avoiding valleys, on upland pastures and high tops, nesting up to 2,600 feet. Winter flocks on lowland stubbles, salt marshes, etc., of up to five hundred birds.

SHORE-LARK *Eremophila alpestris* (L.)*flava* (Gm.)

C L. Occasional visitor. The seven old records are all coastal (January, February, October). There are two recent Solway records: Skinburness, 7 May 1920 and Beaumont Marsh, autumn 1940.

A bird was seen on Beaumont Marsh (C) by Ernest Blezard in autumn 1940.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* Vieill.*richardi* Vieill.

C. Six records, all from Solway between Bowness and Allonby (April, May, September-November), the latest at Grune Point on 20 May 1920.

TREE-PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* (L.)*trivialis* (L.)

CW L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (12 March, early April to September, 1 October). Frequent in fairly open country with trees or other high song perches, and open woods; nesting up to 700 feet, often on railway embankments. Locally common, but has decreased in some areas.

A decrease in numbers in the Carlisle district has been noticed by Ernest Blezard and D. A. Ratcliffe; in 1958 L. A. Cowcill saw fewer around Coniston. In Ennerdale, Miterdale and Eskdale (C) P. A. Banks found birds present in fair numbers.

There was a single bird at Dalton-in-Furness on 1 October 1960 (K. Brown). The next spring, the first was seen under good conditions at Walney Island on 12 March, an exceptionally early date (Jack Sheldon, K. Brown, E. Pithers). Two more reached Rampside (L) on 31 March 1961 (Allan Smith).

MEADOW-PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* (L.)

CW L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds probably emigrate. Numerous in open rough country, breeding from coast up to 2,900 feet. The fell-breeding birds move away in September, returning in March; a few remain at up to 2,000 feet. Conspicuous diurnal passage during March, April and autumn months, inland as well as on coasts. Ringed young recovered in autumn in southern France.

There was a single bird at 1,800 feet on Brandreth (C) with extensive snow cover on 21 February 1954.

Migrant flocks feeding near Bowness and at Grune Point on 28 and 29 August 1960, were markedly reddish-brown above and golden-buff below, as compared with the usual olive-brown and creamy-buff colouring of many of the autumn migrants and all our local birds. It has been suggested (*Bird Migration*, I: 88-91) that these richer-plumaged birds are a distinguishable north-western and Icelandic race (Ralph Stokoe).

On 7 October 1961 small flocks, each of up to fifteen birds, were seen crossing the sea south from Low Furness, flying low through rain and mist into a south-south-westerly wind. A flock passed the boat every few minutes from 10 a.m. on until the late afternoon (Allan Smith). There was a marked passage the following day too, at the south end of Walney Island (Jack Sheldon).

ROCK-PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* (L.)  
*petrosus* (Mont.)

WATER-PIPIT ssp.

C W L. Resident and winter visitor. Confined to St. Bees Head as a breeding bird, but may have nested occasionally on Solway salt-marshes, where it occurs regularly in small numbers on passage and in winter, and formerly on Walney Island. Infrequent elsewhere on coast.

The montane Continental race, Water-Pipit, was recorded on the Solway in January 1938 and at Coniston Water in April 1955.

A count of breeding birds on St. Bees Head between Rottington Beck and Birkham's Quarry, which includes the whole of the North and South Heads, in late May and early June 1956 when most were feeding young, gave a total of twenty eight pairs (Ralph Stokoe).

One was on Arnside beach during January 1960 (J. A. G. Barnes), a first record for Westmorland, and one at south end of Walney Island on 17 October 1960 (Allan Smith).

Single birds have been seen fairly frequently on Skinburness Marsh (C) between October and February and there were three on 6 December 1953. Single birds have also been seen on 14 July 1956 and 11 September 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* L.  
*flava* L.  
*flavissima* (Blyth)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (late April to mid September). Locally common in meadows and rough pastures of fell districts, often near water, breeding up to 1,000 feet. Passage flocks inland and near coast. Several late records (October-December). Ringed young recovered in Morocco and Portugal in November of later years.

The mainly Continental race, Blue-headed Wagtail, nested at Alston (C) in 1928. There are three passage records for spring and late autumn: two near Ullswater (W) and one near Allonby (C).

A pair of aberrant wagtails was discovered in a Lancashire Lakeland valley on 29 June 1960 and subsequently closely examined. When first seen they were carrying food; the field was later mowed and they were not seen after early July. One bird had a whitish head with an indistinct white eyestripe and a very pale yellow breast. The other had a dark grey crown, distinct white eyestripe, grey cheeks, white throat, a small dark patch on the breast and bright yellow underparts. Both had a blackish bill and legs (Jack Sheldon, L. A. Cowcill, Allan Smith).

A nestling ringed at Kendal (W) was recovered in Portugal in November of second year (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1959).

**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* Tunst.*cinerea* Tunst.

CWL. Breeding visitor (March to September), passage migrant, and sparse resident. Frequent on streams and swifter rivers, breeding up to 1,500 feet. All but the most sheltered haunts are deserted after breeding season; a few birds winter on lower ground. Inland and coastal passage (March to mid April; end August to October). Communal autumn roost of over one hundred birds recorded. Now absent from some traditional haunts.

Birds returned to a fell breeding haunt at Roughton Farm, Ennerdale on 17 April 1961. None was seen after 21 September (P. A. Banks).

There was a passage flock of seventeen birds at Bank End, Maryport on 28 August 1959 (R. Irving).

**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba* L.*yarrellii* Gould**WHITE WAGTAIL***alba* L.

CWL. Breeding visitor, passage migrant and resident in small numbers. Widespread and common; breeding occasionally up to 2,000 feet. Upland haunts are deserted after breeding season, but some birds winter on lower ground. Passage is frequently diffuse, though large flocks occur inland and on coast at times (end February, to mid May; late July to October). Communal autumn roosts of up to seven hundred birds recorded. Ringed young recovered in France and Portugal in following and later winters.

The Continental race, White Wagtail, is a regular passage migrant, mainly coast-wise in spring (mid April to mid May), but also by an easterly inland route in autumn (mid August to October). A pair nested north of Grasmere in 1917.

On spring passage, Pied Wagtails were scattered along a considerable stretch of the west shore of Windermere (L) on 22 March 1958, including twenty at one point; most were males. Meadow-Pipits were accompanying the wagtails (Ralph Stokoe).

On autumn passage, a flock of forty Pied Wagtails were feeding on the sea-wall at Roosebeck (L) on 1 October 1957 (Alan F. Airey) and at least sixty four flew from Piel Island to Walney Island on 2 September 1959, to feed on the tide-line. From Rampside (L) eight flew out across the bay to the south-east on 8 October 1961 (Allan Smith).

On inland spring passage, two White Wagtails were at Esthwaite Water (L) on 17 April 1958, one at Great Salkeld (C) on 15 April and two at Howtown (W) on 16 April 1959. There were also two at Arnside on 26 April 1959 (J. A. G. Barnes).

A nestling, ringed at Cumdivock (C) by R. H. Brown on 12 June 1957, was recovered in north-western France on 15 January 1960 (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960).

TREE-CREEPER *Certhia familiaris* L.*britannica* Ridgw.

C W L. Resident; autumn wanderers occur on coast. Common in well-grown timber, including conifers. Associates with tits and Goldcrests in winter.

Single birds occurred at Grune Point on 12 October 1958, 5 September 1960, 22 and 25 September and 14 October 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

Some sort of communal evening gatherings were noticed at Abbotswood (L) during January-March 1961. Several small parties of up to eight birds flew in each evening to roost; five birds were caught in a low net by a field hedge on the approaches. The actual roosting sites were not discovered (Allan Smith).

NUTHATCH *Sitta europæa* L.*affinis* Blyth

C W L. Scarce resident. Nested in south Westmorland in 1916 and several later years; spring and summer records from Westmorland and Lancashire, and several widely scattered winter records, some at bird tables.

Two views, perhaps of the same bird, were obtained at Flakebridge, Appleby on 2 March 1958 (G. G. and D. Wood). One, reported taking bread and fat put out on a window-sill at Skelwith Bridge, was seen on 31 March 1960 by J. B. and S. Bottomley. A pair regularly visited a garden at Rusland (L) in 1960 (per Jack Sheldon); in this area L. A. Cowcill has also had reports of single birds. Between 9 September and 27 October 1961, a bird regularly visited a garden at Grange-over-Sands for cheese which had been put out (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

In Cumberland, where it has only been found in winter, one was seen near Bassenthwaite on 8 February 1960 (Mrs. Enid J. Wilson), and an undated but convincing account of a bird near there was given to Ralph Stokoe in that winter.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* L.*newtoni* Prazak

C W L. Resident. Common in woods, gardens and hedgerows up to lower fell valleys. Marginal breeding areas are deserted after breeding season when many birds join mixed flocks.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus* L.*obscurus* Prazak

CWL. Resident; autumn movements well-marked in some years. Numerous up to tree limit. Extended winter range includes reed-beds and some haunts of seed-eating finch flocks.

A marked movement of tits, in which this species was most strongly represented, at Grune Point during late September and the first half of October 1961, included as associated species more than usual numbers of Goldcrests and also Tree-Creepers, Jays and Bullfinches rarely found in this locality (Ralph Stokoe). Larger than usual numbers are reported from Low Furness also, in October and November 1961, by Jack Sheldon, and by K. Brown who ringed eighty birds at Millwood during this period.

COAL-TIT *Parus ater* L.*britannicus* Sharpe & Dress.

CWL. Resident and passage migrant. Common in woodlands, preferring conifers; wandering more widely in winter, visiting hedgerows and gardens.

Many more than usual visited Grune Point during September and the first half of October in 1961. One of these on 1 October, with a glossy black cap, had the nuchal and face patches tinged yellow and was generally more yellow, especially below, than other individuals handled and available for comparison. These are the characters of the Irish race *P.a. hibernicus* (R. Stokoe, R. Irving). On their winter wanderings birds show a fondness for Gorse bushes as a food source inland and on the coast.

CRESTED TIT *Parus cristatus* L.

C. One in a mixed tit flock at Derwentwater, February 1954.

MARSH-TIT *Parus palustris* L.*dresseri* Stejn.

CWL. Resident. Locally common and fairly widespread in Westmorland and Lancashire. Sparse in Cumberland, where known from the Gilsland district and the upper valley of the River Petteril. Nests have been found near Carlisle and Wigton and birds have been reported from the Eden valley.

**WILLOW-TIT** *Parus atricapillus* L.*kleinschmidti* Hellm.

C W L. Resident. Occurs over most of Cumberland, except south and east, in small numbers, where damp woods with decaying stumps provide required habitat; penetrates into central fells from west as far as Derwentwater. Only isolated records elsewhere.

Post-nesting dispersal has brought three birds to Grune Point, all singly and unassociated with other species. One was seen on 7 and 14 August, another on 27 and 28 August 1960 (Ralph Stokoe, F. H. Waters), and the third on 12 August 1961 (Robert Spencer). Both the 1960 birds were caught and ringed.

**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* (L.)*caudatus* (L.)*rosaceus* Mathews.

C W L. Resident. Frequent in hedgerows, thickets and small woods, nesting up onto lower fell slopes. Autumn and winter flocks roam woods and hedges, often with other tits and Goldcrests.

The white-headed Continental race, was recorded in Cumberland in November 1891.

A flock at Ennerdale (C) in March 1961 was feeding from the edge of a Larch plantation up into bracken and scree, at 1,250 feet (P. A. Banks). Six had reached Birkrigg Common (L), with stone walls as the only cover, on 9 December 1961 (K. Brown).

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor* L.*excubitor* L.

C W L. Winter visitor (late October to end April). Occurs sparingly, and always singly, in most years and in all regions except the west coast. Two records for June-July.

One was seen at High Newton (L) on 27-28 January (J. B. and S. Bottomley) and 29 January 1960 (H. Millard).

More than usual appeared during the winter of 1960-61 in Britain. None was found in Lakeland until the turn of the year. A male was picked up injured at Rockcliffe (C) and given to the Carlisle Museum on 1 January (David Alderson). There was one on a roadside hedge near Hesketh Newmarket (C) on 22 February (J. M. L. North). A bird which had been in the locality for some time was seen on 6 March at Burn Hill, Scaleby (C) and on various dates thereafter to 30 April (T. H. Ruddick). No doubt the same one was seen at Scaleby Moss on 31 March with a dead shrew which, on being disturbed, it carried away in its beak, settled again to transfer the prey to its claws and then made off (Raymond Laidler). A fourth was on telegraph wires near Kendal on 19 March 1961 (Ernest Blezard).



BARRED WARBLER

Grune Point, 6 September, 1959.

In its first winter plumage, the eye is dark and the breast is un-barred. The first to be found in the area.

*(Print by C. R. Johnson, from a colour transparency by Ralph Stokoe.)*



**WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator* L.

C. One, Workington, April 1872.

**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio* L.

*collurio* L.

C W L. Former sparse breeding visitor. Occasional spring passage records up to 1935.

**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus* (L.)

*garrulus* (L.)

C W L. Irruptive winter visitor (October to April). Has appeared increasingly frequently and, from 1943, every year except 1944 and 1948. Usually in small numbers; flocks of over one hundred have occurred, as in 1946-47. Seeks berry-bearing shrubs and trees.

1957-58. November: one on 13th at New Hall, Appleby; one on 29th at Corby (C). December: five early in month at Allonby (C); seventeen on 20th at Fletchertown (C). January: one at Broughton Moor (C) undated (R. W. Robson, M. Moffat, Wilson Hodgson, W. McNeil, per R. Stokoe).

1958-59. None appeared until January: about fifty during that month at Scotby Road, Carlisle, one at High Heskett (C), and up to twenty two near Brough (W) for over a fortnight; three on 11th at Anthorn (C); about twenty on 12th at Harker, Carlisle; two on 17th-18th at New Hall, Appleby; two on 25th at Crook, Kendal. February: one on 1st at Talkin (C); four on 4th at Arnside; one on 19th at Torver (L); twenty during second week at Heysham Park, Carlisle; five in mid month at West Road, Wigton (C). March: over twenty on 18th at Tower Farm, Rickerby (C); three on 18th at Cowrigg, Sowerby Row (C); four on 19th at Helton (W); fifteen on 22nd at Castle Carrock (C). April: one on 2nd at Morton House Estate, Carlisle, a female found dead (Brian Nugent, George Stephenson, R. W. Robson, V. Huggon, Thomas Graham, R. W. Robson, J. B. and S. Bottomley, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Laird, J. A. G. Barnes, Mrs. S. B. Darbishire, Heysham Park Constable, A. Lancaster, Ritson Graham, Ernest Blezard, Derek Ratcliffe, J. M. L. North, Malcolm Short).

1959-60. November: two or three on 9-14th at Appleby; three on 18th and five on 20th at Stanwix, Carlisle; about twelve up to 20th at Wigton; twenty five on 20th at Arnside, where birds had been previously; seven on 21st at Durdar, Carlisle; one on 24th at Grinsdale, Carlisle; three on 29th at Bowness-on-Solway; five or six on 30th at Little Salkeld (C). There were two at Penrith and two at Kendal about this time. December: one early in month at Wigton; a large flock on move on 6th in Brampton-Geltsdale (C) district; two females on 6th at Ulverston (L) and on 12th at Swarthmoor (L); eight on 15th at Lanercost (C); one on 23rd at Dalston Road, Carlisle; two on 27th at Scaleby (C). January: six on 13th at Allonby. February: two on 7th at Bassenthwaite; five on 11th at Wetheral (C) (R. W. Robson, A. Harrison, Stanley Dixon, J. A. G. Barnes, Walter Leslie, R. Martindale [two records], W. B. Baker,

A. J. Farquarson, N. L. Birkett, Mrs. C. F. Ritson, R. A. Laird, J. Sheldon, J. B. and S. Bottomley, Lloyd Caris, Richard Emmerson, Alan Thomlinson, Thomas Jackson, R. Stokoe, Mrs. F. M. Wilson).

1960-61. The only records this winter were of three at Stanwix, Carlisle about 4 January and one at Rockcliffe (C) at the end of January (T. C. D. Laidler, David Alderson).

1961-62. Up to 31 December there was one at Rusland (L) on 16 October; one at Boretree Farm (W) in November; one at Arnside on 10-16 December; one at Keswick on 11 December; and one at Maryport on 25 December (Jack Sheldon, Arthur Evans, per L. A. Cowcill, J. A. G. Barnes, Mrs. E. J. Wilson, R. Stokoe).

Foods recorded in these years include the fruits of the Apple, Cotoneaster, Dog Rose, Hawthorn and Pyracantha.

### SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* (Pall.)

*striata* (Pall.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (May to September, one 16 October). Widespread and common, following trees up fell valleys to 750 feet, where it occurs with the Pied Flycatcher. Coastal passage (May and August).

### PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca* (Pall.)

*hypoleuca* (Pall.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and sparse passage migrant (late April to September, though breeders virtually vanish in July). Locally common in fell valleys of central Lakeland and adjacent Pennines to 750 feet, where open woods or scattered trees, especially oak, provide nest holes. Ringed young recovered later summers in same locality and one in France in April of third year.

Early arrivals in 1959 were a male in Nunnery Woods, Kirkoswald (C) on 18 April (J. A. G. Barnes) and a female near Little Langdale (W) on 19 April (T. E. Wheeler).

Somewhat sparse in that region, two pairs were feeding young at Wasdale Hall (C) in June 1960 (D. Firth), and there were three singing males in an oak wood on Latterbarrow, Ennerdale in May 1961, the first on the 7th of that month (P. A. Banks).

During the post-nesting period, a family party was seen in tree-tops in the Cocker valley at Cockermouth in August 1960. At Grune Point, on the coast, single female or immature birds have been seen on 25 August 1957, 30 August 1959 and 18 September 1961 (Ralph Stokoe) and a male bird at Allerby (C) on 18 September 1959. On spring passage there was a male north of Maryport on 2 May 1954 (Ronald Irving).

### RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva* Bechst.

W. One, a male near Ambleside, September 1946.

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* (L.)*anglorum* Hart.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Common in coniferous and mixed woods. Has nested in Gorse. More widespread in winter, associating with tits. Regular coastal passage (mid March to mid May, September and October), where it also occurs on winter movements.

**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus* (Temm.)*ignicapillus* (Temm.)

C W. Rare passage and winter visitor (October to April). None since 1932, when some wintered at Ullswater.

**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* (Vieill.)*collybita* (Vieill.)*tristis* Blyth

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (4 March, end March to September, 2 October). Thinly distributed in lowland woods with thick undergrowth.

A bird of the Siberian race was found at Stainton (W) on 25 December 1956.

The usual first arrival dates are towards the end of March. In 1957 one was singing at Bouth (L) on 13 March (Alan F. Airey), and in 1961 birds were seen and heard at Millwood, Barrow-in-Furness, where seven arrived on 4 March (Allan Smith), at Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale on 9 March (P. A. Banks), and at Maryport on 18 March (R. Irving).

A late passage migrant was caught at Grune Point on 2 October 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

**WILLOW-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* (L.)*trochilus* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (22 March, April to September). The commonest warbler. Numerous in a wide variety of habitats with trees and bushes, breeding up to 1,000 feet in fell regions. Inland and coastal passage, the latter ill-defined in autumn.

An early arrival was singing at Maryport on 24 March 1957 (R. Irving). In 1961 four were singing at Millwood (L) on 5 and 6 April, there were about twelve on the 7th, and the movement gained momentum until thirty two birds were seen on the 11th. As at Grune Point, autumn passage was ill-defined (K. Brown).

**WOOD-WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* (Bechst.)

C W L. Breeding visitor (late April to August). Locally common in fairly open woods with sparse undergrowth, breeding up to 1,250 feet. Now absent from some traditional haunts and reduced elsewhere.

The bird has not been found in some former Cumberland haunts near Brampton recently (Major General Sir George Johnson), nor since 1957 at Loweswater (Ralph Stokoe). R. H. Brown finds that although faithful to favoured localities there has been a reduction in numbers over the last ten years. At Keswick and elsewhere Mrs. Enid J. Wilson has seen a steep decline over about forty years, partly due to disturbance and destruction of the habitat. Birds so disturbed do not seem to find alternative haunts, but simply disappear.

Birds were present and singing at Grange-in-Borrowdale on 27 May 1960 (Miss Mary Milne) and on Latterbarrow, Ennerdale, where there were two pairs in 1961 (P. A. Banks).

Rarely seen on passage, there was one in Gorse bushes on St. Bees Head on 23 May 1957 (Ralph Stokoe) and single birds at Millwood (L) on 29 April and 3 May 1961 (K. Brown).

**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus* (Blyth)

C. One, Waver Estuary, 14 October 1920.

**GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* (Bodd.)

*naevia* (Bodd.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and sparse passage migrant (mid April to September). Local and variable in numbers, frequenting coastal mosses, rough ground inland and near lakes in central region, breeding up to 500 feet.

A bird at Grune Point sang every fine morning from 23 April to 6 May 1960 between dawn and about 10 a.m., and again in the evening, perched on the top of a Gorse bush. Reluctant to stop, it would allow an approach to within fifteen yards and if disturbed resumed immediately one left the vicinity (Ralph Stokoe). Single passage birds were on Walney Island on 15 and 23 April (Jack Sheldon) and one at Sandscale (L) on 24 April 1961, where there was one singing as late as 7 August of that year (K. Brown).

Birds have been heard or seen near Dearham, Maryport on 27 April 1960 (Miss M. Milne), at Bouth (L) on 1 May 1957 (Alan F. Airey), near Santon Bridge (C) on 15 May and at Nether Welton (C), where a juvenile was flushed, on 2 August 1957 (R. H. Brown).

At least two pairs took up territory in a Larch plantation at St. Bees in 1955 and 1956 (G. W. H. Moule) and there were several singing in thirty acres of newly-planted conifers at Gosforth (C) in May 1961 (P. A. Banks). Birds were heard at Bank End, Appleby and at Kirkby Thore (W) in 1958 and 1960 (R. W. Robson, G. G. Wood).

**REED-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* (Herm.)*scirpaceus* (Herm.)

C W L. Scarce breeding visitor and rare passage migrant. Has nested in at least nine localities, mainly in the centre and south of the area, at one time or another; annually at one Westmorland tarn and for several years at a former Cumberland haunt.

Birds were found nesting at a Westmorland tarn in 1954 and, on returning to the locality, again in 1957. Since then one or two pairs have nested each year. There were two pairs present in 1961; they are likely to have bred, but due to the high water level no nest could be found (H. H. Lancaster).

**SEDGE-WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schænobaenus* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (16 April, end April to mid September). Frequent in thickets and rank vegetation on damp ground or near water; often nests at some distance from water and occasionally in wholly non-aquatic habitats.

A completely un-typical site was discovered in July 1960 at Grune Point, where a pair were watched feeding young at a nest in a Gorse-filled hollow.

Late nests are not infrequent. A brood of five at Siddick (C) was still unfledged on 19 August 1952 (Ralph Stokoe).

The earliest spring record is of one at Roanhead (L) on 16 April 1961 (K. Brown).

**BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria* (Bechst.)

C. One, a first winter bird at Grune Point, 6 September 1959.

The first Lakeland and Cumberland specimen of this eastern European species was caught at Grune Point at dusk on 6 September 1959. It proved to be a first winter bird and, after being ringed, was released (Ralph Stokoe, Austin Barton). The autumn of 1959 was remarkable for the number of Barred Warblers observed from Fair Isle down the east coast of Britain and several appeared on the Irish Sea coast and islands. In all perhaps seventy birds were seen (*British Birds*, 53: 46).

**GARDEN-WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* (Bodd.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (end April to mid September, 2 October). Common in woods, gardens and waste ground with tangled bushy undergrowth. Ringed young recovered in southern France in following September.

A late migrant was caught and ringed at Grune Point on 2 October 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* (L.)  
*atricapilla* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and sparse passage migrant (mid April to mid September). Widespread but local and less numerous than Garden-Warbler, though habitat similar. Occasionally winters (October to February); most of such birds are female.

The winter of 1959-60 was an exceptional one for wintering Blackcaps. They were frequently present at bird tables, which they tended to dominate. A male, seen several times during December 1959 at Grange-over-Sands and on 4 January 1960, had heavily abraded plumage. One at the same place on 17 April, after song had been heard two days previously, may have survived the winter (J. B. and S. Bottomley). Male birds were also seen at Appleby on 12 January (Mrs. F. Black) and at Arnside on 19 February 1960, feeding on crumbs (J. A. G. Barnes). There was a female at Newbiggin (L) on 11 October (Jack Sheldon) and at Culgaith (C) from 26 January to the middle of February 1960 (A. R. Burkitt).

In the following winter there was a female at Millwood (L) on 27 December 1960. It remained for several weeks and was at first accompanied by a smaller warbler, *Phylloscopus* sp. (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon). Another female was at Scaleby (C) on 15 January 1961 (W. R. Laidler).

The only bird so far reported in 1961-62, a female at Wigton (C), frequented several adjacent gardens on 9-20 December 1961 and refused access at bird tables to birds up to the size of Starling (Alan and Mary Ardley).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Lath.  
*communis* Lath.

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (late April to end September). Numerous in fairly open country with rough hedgerows, wood borders, clearings with tangled vegetation and Gorse commons; nests in fell districts sparsely up to 1,300 feet. After breeding season and on passage, visits fields to feed in crops. Inland and coastal passage.

The first arrivals in 1961 were seen near Barrow-in-Furness on 21 and 22 April (K. Brown, Allan Smith).

A bird ringed as a nestling at Nibthwaite (L) in 1956 was found dead a quarter of a mile from the place of ringing in July 1957 (L. A. Cowcill).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* (L.)  
*curruca* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (26 April, mid May to August). Sparse and local; there are scattered breeding records for most of area, others may be overlooked. Noted on passage at Arnside and, once, at Grune Point.

At one regular Cumberland locality the bird has not been discovered during the last few years (R. H. Brown).

Single singing males at Arnside in May 1960 and 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes) may be recent passage records for a locality where it has been seen in the past.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* L.

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant (11 July, some September, October to April, occasionally to mid May). Widespread and generally numerous in open country, feeding up to over 2,000 feet. Large flocks evident on passage and weather movements.

The bird has been found to be a favourite prey species of the Peregrine Falcon in fell country (Ernest Blezard, D. A. Ratcliffe).

Along with Starlings and Redwings in large numbers, up to a thousand Fieldfares were using the coniferous woods at Dovenby (C) as a roost during the 1959-60 winter. Whereas the other species packed into dense plantations of Spruce up to thirty feet high, these birds made for a copse of taller Scots Pines, settling in the thick upper layers.

There was a solitary early arrival at Grunc Point (C) on 24 September 1961 and a substantial influx on 19 October when flocks, each of fifty to one hundred birds, were watched at Maryport passing over at the rate of one a minute into a north-westerly head wind. This continued for about an hour from 9 a.m. and on a front as far south as Whitehaven, but not beyond (Ralph Stokoe). In Low Furness, apart from two on 5 October, few appeared until the hard weather towards the end of December 1961. They then flooded in, no doubt moving away from more snow-and ice-bound parts (Jack Sheldon, Allan Smith).

**MISTLE-THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* L.  
*viscivorus* L.

C W L. Partial resident, breeding visitor and passage migrant. Widespread and frequent, nesting up to 1,500 feet. Late summer flocks roam for wild fruits; many later emigrate, though some breeding pairs are resident and others, perhaps including immigrants, winter. Passage through fell valleys and on coast (September to December, end February to May). Ringed young recovered France in November of second year.

There is a noticeable passage of Mistle-Thrushes down the Coniston valley from October to December. They have been watched at Nibthwaite (L) by L. A. Cowcill who saw more than usual in 1961. At this time there was also an influx at Millwood (L), with birds flying north-west on 8-11 October 1961 (K. Brown).

They were found to nest commonly on the edge of Spruce plantations at Ennerdale (C), and a few inside the woods (P. A. Banks).

**SONG-THRUSH** *Turdus ericetorum* Turton  
*ericetorum* Turton  
*philomelus* Brehm

C W L. Partial resident, breeding visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Widespread and numerous in breeding season, though rarely remote from cultivation. Numbers are markedly reduced in winter (October to January), many birds going to Ireland and also Iberia. Well marked coastal passage (late August to October, late February to April).

The greyer Continental race has been recorded on three occasions (October to March) and small dark birds of unknown origin occur in autumn and winter.

Nests commonly throughout brashed and unbrashed Spruce plantations at Ennerdale, Blengdale, etc. (P. A. Banks).

A late nest at Maryport had two eggs on 12 September 1961 and three the next day. It was found deserted on the 18th after a thunderstorm (R. Irving).

The mild autumn encouraged many birds to remain and they were unusually common up to the end of December 1961 at Nibthwaite (L) (L. A. Cowcill) and on the Solway, where on 10 December birds were hunting for snails on the sand dunes the length of the coast from Maryport to Skinburness (R. Stokoe, R. Irving).

Cumberland ringed young recovered Limerick, Eire in following November. Full-grown passage birds ringed Grune Point (C) in September recovered north and north-west Spain in following December and January (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1957-1959).

#### AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius* L.

C. One, Brampton, March 1955.

#### REDWING *Turdus musicus* L.

*musicus* L.

*coburni* Sharpe

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant (5 July, few August-September, October to mid April, occasionally May, 14 and 28 June). Widespread and common on open pastures with Fieldfares, also lower ground and more wooded country. Arrives from north-east on nocturnal passage, returning by same route.

The Iceland race has been recorded once, January 1961.

A bird in song was noted in Lakeland on 28 June 1958 (*British Birds*, 51: 408).

A large roost, along with other thrushes and Starlings, developed in dense coniferous woods at Dovenby (C) during the winter of 1959-60. During February and early March 1960, out of the five thousand or so birds using the roost, fifty one were caught and ringed. All appeared to be of the nominate, Continental, race (Ralph Stokoe).

An interesting movement of Redwings was seen on 18 October 1961 when four parties, of fifty birds in all, flew west out to sea from the north end of Walney Island (K. Brown).

A male Iceland Redwing was picked up dead at Sandsfield (C) by David H. Laval on 13 January 1961 and presented to Carlisle Museum. This is the first of its race found in the area.

**RING-OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus* L.  
*torquatus* L.

CW L. Breeding visitor and sparse passage migrant (end February, end March to September, few to November). Single birds have wintered several times. Locally frequent in fell country, especially Pennines, nesting up to 2,500 feet. Post-nesting flocks wander in search of fruiting mountain plants. Occurs on coastal passage occasionally in spring; also twice in autumn.

A fluctuation from year to year has been noticed by R. H. Brown, but no marked decrease except in immediate neighbourhood of occupied Peregrine Falcon eyries. In Ennerdale, except on Bowness Knott, nests are mainly above 1,750 feet, at which level there is a chain of territories round the valley (P. A. Banks).

In spring, a male was seen at St. Bees Head on 22 March 1957 (G. W. H. Moule), another at Grune Point on 2 April 1960 with Blackbirds (Ralph Stokoe), and three birds at Barrow-in-Furness cemetery on 7 April 1961 (H. Tickle and Allan Smith).

There was one on Arnside Knott (W) on 31 July 1957, and one on the summit ridge of Helvellyn at around 3,000 feet, on 5 October 1957 (G. W. H. Moule).

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* L.  
*merula* L.

CW L. Partial resident, breeding visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Widespread and abundant, breeding up to over 1,000 feet where it overlaps with the Ring-Ouzel; a barely fledged juvenile was found at 2,930 feet on Cross Fell in August. Many young and some adults emigrate, considerable inland and coastal passage, and a large influx of winter visitors, of which many are usually immature males. On spring passage in March, birds have been found on fell summits from 2,000 to 2,950 feet. Ringed young have been recovered in Ireland in winter, winter-ringed birds in Scotland and Finland in following summer, and a Swedish-ringed adult male in winter.

Ringed young from Langwathby (C) were recovered Tory Island, Donegal following October and Tyrone following December (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1957 and 1959). An adult female ringed at Nibthwaite (L) on 25 January 1958 was recovered about eight months later in Finland (L. A. Cowcill). The species is extending its range in Finland and this is the first recovery there of a British ringed bird. An adult female ringed at Hilbre Island, Cheshire on 1 March 1959 was found dead on its nest at Brampton (C) in May 1960 (William French, G. A. Allison). One picked up dead at Lowca, Whitehaven (C) by Mr. J. Scraggs on 5 December 1961 had been ringed at Fritsla in southern Sweden as a young male on 18 October 1960.

There were over forty birds, mostly males, feeding on fallen apples at Arnside on 27 January 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes).

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* (L.)*oenanthe* (L.)*leucorrhoa* Gm.

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant. Common in open country, breeding from coast up to nearly 3,000 feet (mid March to September). Coastal and inland passage (early March to May, July to October, few November-December).

The northern race is a regular passage migrant (late April-May, September-October) on coast, and also inland though there it is less regular in autumn.

On spring passage, there was one on Walney Island on 10 March 1961 (Allan Smith) and one on St. Bees Head on 11 March 1957 (G. W. H. Moule). Forty birds were counted in a ploughed field at Maryport on 16 April 1960 (R. Irving).

In autumn, fifty five birds were counted on Walney Island south of Biggar village on 4 September 1959 (Allan Smith). Late birds were seen on coast near Drigg (C) on 2 and 7 November (Miss M. Garnett) and on Roa Island (L) on 7 November 1959 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon). There was one on Tailbridge Fell (W) on 10 October 1959 (Walter Thompson) and an exceptionally late bird on the railway track at Barron Wood, Eden valley (C) on 30 December 1957 (R. Martindale).

A nestling, ringed at Ulpha (C), was recovered in south-west France in August two years later (*British Birds*, 49: 63-73).

**ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe isabellina* (Temm.)

C. One, a female near Allonby, 11 November 1887; the first British example and the only one outside Sussex.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (7 April, end April to September, occasionally October). Formerly more widespread and numerous, now unevenly distributed in small numbers on rough grassland in fell valleys, up to 1,000 or 1,300 feet. Rather sparse coastal passage. Ringed young recovered France and Portugal in following September and October.

On spring passage, an adult male was seen at Walney Island on 7 April 1960 (Allan Smith), an exceptionally early date. In autumn, two at Newbiggin (L) on 1 October 1960 (Jack Sheldon) were later than most.

Numbers in west Cumberland in 1961 suggest a locally flourishing population. There were six pairs on rough grassland at Losca, Gosforth, and at least three pairs on a bracken slope at Lowther Park (P. A. Banks).

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* (L.)*hibernans* Hart.

CW L. Partial resident and passage migrant. Common on open coast from Grune Point to Walney Island, almost invariably near Gorse; scarce on estuaries; sparse and local inland, where less reliant on Gorse, nesting up to 1,600 feet. Inland breeding populations are now building up from an extremely low level reached in 1941. In winter some pairs remain on breeding grounds, even inland, but many emigrate; not all coastal birds then are those which breed there. Passage inland and on coast (mid February to late April, late August to mid October).

Inland breeding records show a welcome increase in Cumberland. There was a brood of young in heather in the Caldew valley above Mosedale (C) on 11 August 1957 (R. H. Brown). A pair were feeding newly-fledged young in Gorse at Wasdale Head (C) in June 1958 (C. Greenwell). Birds bred on Lazony Fell (C) in 1958 and 1959 (Ernest Blezard). In 1961, P. A. Banks located a pair which nested by the river at Gillerthwaite, Ennerdale, a pair with young at 1,000 feet in heather on Bowness Knott, two pairs on Hollow Moor, Blengdale, a family party at Cowfield, Lowther Park, several more pairs in Wasdale, Miterdale, Eskdale and on Hardknott Pass, and a male on telephone wires at Thirlmere. W. R. Laidler found a pair at Little Tarn, another at Over Water, and two or three pairs on Bolton Fell. R. A. Laird noticed a cock which took up territory in Geltsdale. A pair was found there later that year by Ernest Blezard.

In Westmorland, a pair bred at Staveley, by Newby Bridge, in 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes).

Refuting statements that the species does not nest there, Allan Smith and Jack Sheldon found at least three pairs at the south end of Walney Island in 1959 and 1960 and estimated that there were at least twelve pairs in the Barrow-in-Furness district in 1960, where several pairs also bred successfully in 1961.

On the shores of the estuaries the birds at best are local. One inland near Bowness-on-Solway on 22 October 1961 was clearly on passage (Ralph Stokoe). In the south, one or two pairs have been seen in spring on the Duddon estuary, and on the east shore of the Leven estuary where a pair reared young which fledged on 23 April 1961. They have also been found there outside the breeding season (J. B. and S. Bottomley). Round most of the Duddon, the west bank of the Leven, and on the Kent estuary none is known to nest and only occasional birds occur (K. Burgess, L. A. Cowcill, Allan Smith, J. B. and S. Bottomley).

Family parties wintering away from their breeding locality appeared in the autumns of 1960 and 1961 in and around the garden of a housing estate house at Kells, Whitehaven, and remained until the turn of the year, when the young and then the adults left (H. Roberts).

In spring, single birds appear briefly inland when on passage. There was one at Cumdivock (C) on 15 February 1961, a female at Crummock Water (C) on 19 March 1961, a male at Haweswater (W) on 30 March 1958 (R. H. Brown), a bird in a garden at Maryport on 7 March 1960 (Miss M. Milne), one on Lowick Common (L) on 1 May 1957 (Alan F. Airey), and a

male at Loweswater (C) on 17 April 1955. On the coast four were caught out of a party of eight on passage at Grune Point on 1 March 1959 (Ralph Stokoe).

After the breeding season, there were several at Lowick Common on 30 August 1960 (L. A. Cowcill). The summer of 1961 appeared to be a successful one and the autumn passage was strong. A male was seen near Ulpha (C) on 14 September 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes). At Grune Point there was a steady trickle from mid September well into October and thirteen birds were ringed, all but two of which were immature. On 1 October nine birds were together in a loose flock (Ralph Stokoe).

### REDSTART *Phœnicurus phœnicurus* (L.)

*phœnicurus* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (mid April to September; 6 October). Widespread and fairly common, except near coast, breeding up to tree limit. Well-marked coastal passage. Ringed young recovered Spain and Portugal in following October.

A pair nested in an old stove-pipe at Isel (C) in 1959 (Canon E. G. Bucknill).

At Ennerdale birds bred in scrub hardwood areas, dispersing with young into plantations of small conifers afterwards (P. A. Banks).

There was a late bird, a male, at Barrow-in-Furness on 6 October 1961 (K. Brown).

A nestling, ringed at Kendal on 6 June, was recovered in north Spain on 1 October following (*British Birds*, 49: 63-73).

### BLACK REDSTART *Phœnicurus ochrurus* (Gm.)

*gibraltariensis* (Gm.)

C W L. Occasional passage migrant (29 September, late October to December, late March—early April). Most have appeared towards the end of the year and almost all have been near the coast.

A bird was found at gravel workings on Walney Island on 23 October 1960 (K. Brown, J. Sheldon). There was a male on the cliff at St. Bees Head, where rubbish is dumped below the lighthouse, on 9 April 1961 (P. A. Banks). The surroundings chosen by these infrequent visitors tends to approximate to the screes and crags of their natural haunts and in this area often proves to be the spoil heaps and rubble of current or former industrial activity.

### BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* (L.)

*cyanecula* (Meisner)

C. One, an adult male of the mid European race, White-spotted Bluethroat, Rockcliffe, 15 April 1938.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* (L.)*melophilus* Hart.

C W L. Resident and passage migrant. Widespread and numerous in all lowland and wooded areas. Although perhaps the majority are strictly resident, some home-bred birds emigrate and there is a marked autumn passage. Paler birds seen in autumn may be of the Continental race *E. r. rubecula*, but none has been confirmed. Ringed nestling recovered north-western France following January.

An albino showing a little colour as a faint flush on the upper breast was seen at Scaleby (C) on 18 October and 1 November 1959 (T. H. Ruddick). A similar bird frequented a hedge near Allerby (C) during December and January 1961, where it was seen on 15 January (R. Irving, R. Stokoe).

A Cumberland ringed nestling recovered the following January in north-western France is mentioned in Lack's *The Life of the Robin*, London 1953.

HEDGE-SPARROW *Prunella modularis* (L.)*occidentalis* (Hart.)

C W L. Resident. Widespread and numerous throughout, reaching exposed situations with a minimum of cover in fell valleys and on coast.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* (L.)*troglodytes* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Ubiquitous and common, from shore-line up to 2,000 feet or more on high moorlands, even in winter.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* (L.)*gularis* (Lath.)

C W L. Resident. Common on rivers and fell becks from coast to at least 1,500 feet, occasionally nesting up to 2,250 feet and ranging higher still. Higher ground is deserted and lakes and tarns frequented in winter.

Reflecting decreases first commented on for these districts about twenty years ago, none is now known to breed in Low Furness west of Ulverston (Allan Smith), and no nests were found on the River Liza or its tributaries above Ennerdale Water in 1961, though birds were present below the lake and in neighbouring valleys (P. A. Banks).

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* L.  
*rustica* L.

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (24 March, April to October, few to 27 November). Widespread and common near habitations when nesting, otherwise often near water, ranging to over 1,000 feet in fell country. Away from buildings, nests below bridges, as on Solway salt marshes, and once on a rock face. Passage inland, some coastal movement especially in spring. Ringed birds recovered in winter in South Africa and, following spring, off Scilly Isles, in western Scotland and in their home localities.

A regular reed-bed roost on Coniston Water built up to an estimated fifteen hundred birds in early September 1959, immediately prior to departure (L. A. Cowcill).

There were two early arrivals at Arnside on 30 March 1958 (J. A. G. Barnes). Late birds were seen at St. Bees on 26 November 1958 and reported again the next day (G. W. H. Moule), at Roa Island (L) on 7 November 1959 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon), and at Arnside, where there were two juveniles on 13 November 1960. In 1961 there was again one at Arnside, on 14 November (J. A. G. Barnes), and at Barrow-in-Furness birds were about up to the 18th (Jack Sheldon) and 20th (Allan Smith), the last a solitary one at Rampside.

A white Swallow was reported at Holmrook (C) in 1952 and 1953, and on 20 August 1953 one was seen at Mealsgate (C) hawking with about forty normal birds. Apparently adult, it had some slight pigmentation on scapulars and axillaries and the bill and legs were dark (Ralph Stokoe).

**HOUSE-MARTIN** *Delichon urbica* (L.)  
*urbica* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (April to October, few to 19 November). Widespread and fairly common, though some decline in numbers. Virtually confined to buildings for nest sites. Flocks hawk along fell slopes and crags to over 2,000 feet. Passage mainly inland.

Colonies in fell-side villages in north Westmorland, a former stronghold, are only about half the size they were ten years ago (R. W. Robson).

A late bird was seen at St. Bees on 19 November 1958 (G. W. H. Moule). There were two young birds at Kirkby Stephen (W) on 11 November 1959 (Walter Thompson).

**SAND-MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* (L.)  
*riparia* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (14 March, end March to September, 15 October). Widespread and locally common. Everywhere restricted by availability of nest sites; least frequent in central fell region. Some decrease in numbers. Artificial sites used freely, including sand and gravel pits, spoil heaps and, in urban areas, drainage holes in walls. Inland passage, coastal mainly in spring.

On seven miles of the River Eden above Appleby, where there were six colonies each with fifty to seventy nests some years ago, only about fifty nests in all could be found in 1960 (R. W. Robson).

A colony has been established for several years at Workington (C) in circular drainage holes in a stone wall bounding the railway line above the River Derwent (Ralph Stokoe).

A bird was seen at Maryport on 16 March 1957, an early date (R. Irving).

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba* (L.)  
*melba* (L.)

C L. One old July record and one, Grange-over-Sands, 17 June 1957.

SWIFT *Apus apus* (L.)  
*apus* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (end April to early August, few September and on to 20 December). Ubiquitous and common or numerous. Nests mainly in buildings, also mine galleries and a river-gorge crag. Ranges widely, up to the highest fell tops. Inland and coastal passage and mid season movements.

A colony nesting in cracks in a red sandstone crag in the Eden valley above Armathwaite (C) has long been known as one of the few examples of a natural nesting situation in the area (Ernest Blezard).

There were twelve birds over Barrow-in-Furness on 24 October 1960 (J. L. Lowther) and one at Maryport on 3 November 1956 (R. Irving).

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europæus* L.  
*europæus* L.

C W L. Breeding visitor (May to September). Rather local and sparse, on dry ground and clearings with low cover. Breeds from Solway mosses and lower slopes of fell valleys to about 1,000 feet, ranging and perhaps nesting to 1,500 feet. Has decreased markedly in several regions.

On the Solway mosses, where formerly comparatively numerous, it is now uncommon (D. A. Ratcliffe). On the fells around Coniston Water a decline over the last ten years has been noticed and the Nightjar is now scarce there (L. A. Cowcill). Elsewhere in the south numbers are apparently higher. Several pairs continue to breed on limestone hills near Arnside, Milnethorpe and Beetham (W) (J. A. G. Barnes). In 1959 and 1960 good numbers were present in the Winster valley, though fewer in the wet summer of 1961, when a nest with three eggs was reported on Cartmel Fell (L) (Mrs. E. J. Wilson).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* L.  
*epops* L.

C W L. Occasional passage migrant (19 August to 14 October; also two old spring records and two more recently in May); near the coast and Carlisle district in autumn, and in south of area in spring.

An adult was encountered feeding on the road over Bootle Fell (C) at about 400 feet on 9 September 1958 (L. A. Cowcill). There was one at Bardsea (L) on 21 September 1958 (*Report on Birds, Lancashire, 1958*).

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus* L.  
*garrulus* L.

C W L. Five old records (May to July); one Mungrisdale (C), 15 March 1953.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* (L.)  
*ispida* L.

C W L. Resident. On slower rivers and streams, also frequenting lakes, estuaries and salt-marsh creeks in winter. Nowhere common and evidently declining.

A substantial reduction in numbers in north Westmorland is noted by R. W. Robson who has made a close search of the rivers and streams there in his study of Dippers. A decline in the Crake valley (L) is reported by L. A. Cowcill and around Carlisle by Ernest Blezard and D. A. Ratcliffe.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* L.  
*pluvius* Hart.

C W L. Resident. A rarity at turn of century; now frequent in open deciduous woods and parks throughout, breeding up to 900 feet. Occasional coastal passage.

From a distribution restricted only twenty years ago to a few favoured districts, most suitable localities are now occupied. The spread, fully documented in earlier *Transactions*, may now be followed further to some of the few previously uncolonised parts.

At Haweswater one was seen early in 1958 (Mrs. S. G. Johnson). Now regular in Low Furness, nesting took place in 1960 in Park Wood, Abbotts Wood and at Bardsea (Allan Smith). Birds were heard along the Ellen valley near Dearham Bridge, Maryport in 1959, where they are now apparently resident (Frank Moore). One was seen and heard at Stainburn, Workington on 22 February 1961 (Dr. M. McKerrow). The upper Ennerdale valley was occupied in spring 1961 when a pair nested at Gillerthwaite (P. A. Banks).

It is now perhaps less numerous, though still widespread, near Arnside, where it has been established for many years (J. A. G. Barnes).

Three appearances on passage at Grune Point are mentioned elsewhere in this volume.

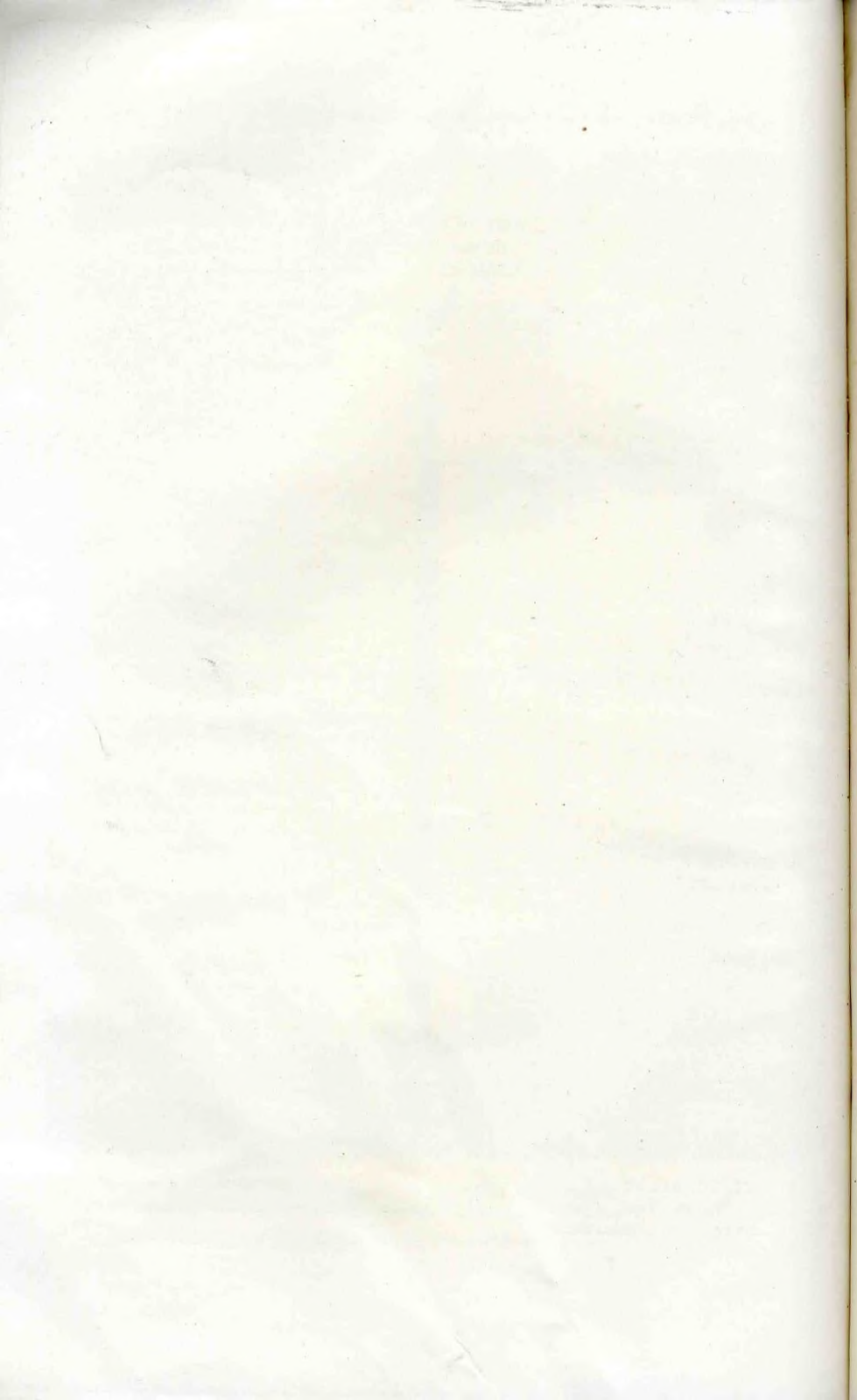


**WHITE STORK**

Ings, Westmorland, 13 April 1961.

The first for fifty years, the course of this bird was followed in detail as it traversed the area from south to north.

(*Photograph by Robert D. Humber.*)



# **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dryobates major* (L.) *anglicus* (Hart.)

C W L. Resident. Frequent in woods with dead trees, wandering in winter to hedgerows. Occasional coastal passage.

There has been an increase in numbers near Arnside, where it was locally scarce (J. A. G. Barnes).

A bird, flying low over the rocks at St. Bees Head on 29 September 1957, finally clung to the cliff face (G. W. H. Moule). On 14 May 1961 an adult male was caught and ringed at Grune Point. By measurement, it was of the British race (Ralph Stokoe).

# **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dryobates minor* (L.) *comminutus* (Hart.)

C W L. Scarce resident. Occurs sparingly in all three counties.

One was seen flying across the road, then watched for some time feeding, near Hesketh Newmarket (C) on 3 May 1953 (Raymond Laidler). Another was watched drumming near Keswick (C) on 23 May 1960 (M. Taylor). Near Barrow-in-Furness a male bird, approached to within 15 yards, was watched feeding in loose contact with a tit flock on 4 December 1960 (K. Brown). One seen at Levens Park (W) on 30 April 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes), then two the following day (J. B. and S. Bottomley), may have bred. A report of one in 1961 at Newby Bridge (L) was given to L. A. Cowcill. Their continued occurrence near Carlisle is confirmed by Ernest Blezard and near Broughton-in-Furness by K. Burgess.

# **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* L. *torquilla* L.

C W L. Former breeding visitor, now rare vagrant. Three recent records: Dallam (W), 4 April 1920; Elterwater (W), 20 June 1951; Broughton (C), 12 September 1927.

# **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* L. *canorus* L.

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (mid April to August, adults, and September, young; few on to 21 November). Widespread and frequent, commonest in low fell districts. A ringed Heligoland passage bird recovered Cumberland following summer.

# **GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO** *Clamator glandarius* (L.)

C. One, Netherby, 26 June 1960.

Excellent views to within a few yards were had of a bird at Croft Head, Netherby on 26 June 1960. The grey head, pronounced crest, long tail and other characters were all noted and reported by Major Charles Graham. A new species for Lakeland and Cumberland.

One was present on Anglesey between 3 and 15 April 1960 (*British Birds*, 53: 239).

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca* (L.)

C W. Two records: Aspatria (C), January 1930 and Langdale (W), 1959.

The second Lakeland and first Westmorland record is of a bird seen at close quarters in Langdale on 27 January 1959 by J. Birkett, who has seen the species in Norway. It was thought to be the larger female.

TENGMALM'S OWL *Ægolius funereus* (L.)

C. One, Gosforth, November 1876.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* (Scop.)

*vidalii* A. E. Brehm

C W L. Resident. A casual visitor twenty years ago; first nested about 1944. Has spread from south until now thinly distributed over most of the area north to beyond Carlisle and, from coast, breeding up to 800 feet in fells. The spread is apparently continuing generally, despite the failure to become strongly established anywhere and a decline in south Westmorland.

CUMBERLAND. On the coast they have been established for some years. At Bluedial, south of Allonby, birds continue where they were first noticed in 1954. Others have been seen at Beckfoot, May 1960, Bank End near Maryport, on slag banks south of Maryport, 1 June 1957, and at St. Bees Head in 1961 where they were first seen on the North Head in 1954 and on the South Head in 1957 (R. Stokoe, R. Irving, R. Spencer).

A pair, which have bred at Salta near Allonby since 1958, nested in the gable end of a barn and had three young on 12 June 1960 (Miss M. Milne).

Inland, there was one at Bridgefoot, Cockermouth in April 1957, another at Moota Quarry, Cockermouth in July 1958, two in a disused mine near Duddon Bridge on 9 December 1959, one on a roadside telegraph pole at Ivegill on 15 March 1960, one in an old limestone quarry near Egremont on 16 July 1960, and one at Caldbeck in July 1961. A pair reared two young in an Elm at Aglionby, Carlisle in 1959, a pair bred at Southwaite in 1958 and again in 1961, and a nest in a stone wall on Cold Fell, Calderbridge held one young on 18 July 1961 (R. Stokoe, Mrs. S. G. Johnson, E. Blezard, D. A. Ratcliffe, G. A. Allison, P. A. Banks).

WESTMORLAND. One was seen at Ashfell on 13 May 1959, a young bird at Kitchen Gill on 16 August 1959, and one at Kirkby Stephen on 31 March 1961 (Walter Thompson). A decline from a peak around 1954 is noted in the south of the county by J. A. G. Barnes, whose last record there is of one at Heversham on 26 May 1959.

LANCASHIRE. One was heard at night on the occasion of the B.T.O. conference at Kent's Bank, March 1955; a pair bred near Ulverston in 1957 and 1958. One was seen at Newbiggin on 17 November 1957, one at Rampside on 13 May 1959 and one at Leece on 13 December 1959; in 1961 birds were frequently encountered in that locality and had apparently increased. Food was being carried to a rabbit burrow nest on High Newton Fell in

June 1960 and three young were being fed near Helton Tarn in July 1961, where a bird was seen hunting in 1959 (R. Stokoe, Jack Sheldon, Allan Smith, Mrs. E. J. Wilson).

### LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* (L.)

*otus* (L.)

CWL. Resident. A much decreased species in its former haunts and now generally sparse; frequents scrub and remote woods on mosses, moors and fell slopes, breeding up to 1,200 feet.

A pair occupied a dense thicket of old gorse on the Solway coast and were seen on various occasions throughout the period from November 1958 to September 1960. One was caught and ringed at Grune Point on 13 May 1959. On being released it towered high and made off down the coast. Several small pine woods clustered at around 1,000-1,200 feet in the Cumberland fells were each found to hold a pair of owls in early spring 1959 and 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

A bird was seen at Witherslack (W) in March 1960 (P. Delap).

On Newbiggin Marsh (L) a roost, occupied by a pair of owls for three weeks, when examined on 8 March 1959 yielded a number of pellets, mainly of bird remains up to Blackbird in size (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon).

### SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* (Pontopp.)

*flammeus* (Pontopp.)

CWL. Breeding visitor, winter visitor-and passage migrant. Scarce and irregular as a breeding bird. Most often on Border hills and Solway mosses; elsewhere low moors, young plantations and sand dunes may be frequented. More widespread outside breeding season (end August to April), but still erratic except in a few favoured haunts. Usually found singly; up to thirty or forty have been recorded together.

In 1953 a pair nested on Wythemoor, Workington, where three feathered young were shown to Dorothy and Ralph Stokoe on 4 May by Robert Walker who had had the nest under observation for some time and who estimated incubation must have started before the end of March. There was a nest with four young and two eggs on 11 May 1957 and another with one young and one infertile egg on 19 May 1957 in the Border hills (R. H. Brown).

Following the breeding season, one was reported at Muncaster (C) on 31 August 1959 (L. A. Cowcill), one was seen at Roose, Barrow-in-Furness on 31 August 1960 (K. Brown), four at a tarn near Ravenstonedale (W) on 6 November 1960, making sorties at Teal on the water (R. W. Robson), two on Lazonby Fell (C) on 28 February 1958 (D. A. Ratcliffe), one at Newbiggin Marsh (L) on 6 March 1960, and three over marshy ground on Walney Island on 5 May 1959, displaying in flight (Allan Smith). A pair was seen repeatedly between 11 May and 20 December 1961 in Blengdale Forest (C) (P. A. Banks).

**SCOPS-OWL** *Otus scops* (L.)

CW. Two old records (May and November), and one near Kendal, 18 December 1956.

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* L.

*sylvatica* Shaw

CWL. Resident. Widespread and common; in woodlands, parks and other localities, including towns, ranging up to 1,500 feet. Has increased.

A hand-reared youngster, released at Thurstonfield (C) in August 1956 with a private ring, remained for a week then was found dead on a railway line near Morpeth, Northumberland on 6 November of the same year (Malcolm Moffatt).

A search of former Long-eared Owl haunts on peat mosses revealed only Tawny Owls in 1958. In Maryport and Cockermouth birds have been seen roosting by day between the pots on chimney stacks (Ralph Stokoe).

**BARN-OWL** *Tyto alba* (Scop.)

*alba* (Scop.)

CWL. Resident. Continues common throughout, breeding in buildings, hollow trees, rocky gullies and crags up to 1,200 feet in the fells.

A nest with six eggs was destroyed in March 1961 when some hay was being moved in a barn at New Hall, Appleby. The eggs, by their condition, must have been laid before 1 March (R. W. Robson). In 1959 a nest with five well-grown young was seen at Scaleby (C) on 5 October (T. H. Ruddick).

**GYR-FALCON** *Falco rusticolus* L.

*islandus* Brünn.

*candicans* Gm.

CW. Seven records: only the Greenland race has been recorded recently.

The Greenland Falcon occurred at Skinburness about 1915, near Ambleside in late 1940 and near Shap Summit in December 1960. There is also one old February record.

The Iceland Falcon has been found on three occasions, the last in October 1860.

Half a mile south of Shap Summit (W) on the main A6 road on 16 December 1960, Mr. C. Simms, who is familiar with the Peregrine Falcon in its various plumages, watched a Greenland Falcon as it flew over at a height of thirty feet and then alongside the road for fifty yards or so. Light mist did not prevent the white underside and absence of a moustachial stripe from being readily noticed, as well as other features.

It is more than a coincidence that a bird, taken on board ship in an exhausted state at the end of November in the Atlantic some 1,000 miles east of Montreal, was released at Duddington Loch, Edinburgh on 8 December 1960 and later seen soaring over Arthur's Seat (*Bird Notes*, 29: 161).

### PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus* Tunst.

*peregrinus* Tunst.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Numbers have been maintained, at least up to 1960. Nests on inland crags, mainly between 1,200 and 1,800 feet though sometimes up to 2,300 feet, and at one coastal haunt. Passage and wintering birds are frequent on the salt marshes and estuaries (some August, September to March). A ringed nestling recovered Perthshire in spring two years later.

Lakeland has long been the headquarters of the Peregrine in the north of England. The breeding population there remained fairly constant up to 1960. Some nesting haunts, deserted for varying periods of years, have nearly all eventually been reoccupied; other places, or their alternative crags, being held faithfully throughout. Nesting success has been low since 1950 and in 1961 several pairs seemed to be absent (D. A. Ratcliffe).

An ailing bird, found on Walney Island on 23 April 1959, died the next day. The Department of Veterinary Science, Cambridge, diagnosed pneumoconiosis as the cause of death (Allan Smith).

### HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* L.

*subbuteo* L.

C W. Rare visitor (May to September). Is likely to have bred in Cumberland in 1930's at least once.

### MERLIN *Falco columbarius* L.

*æsalon* Tunst.

C W L. Partial resident, breeding visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeding pairs are sparsely distributed in all fell groups to 1,800 feet, often choosing heather slopes. Occasional crag and tree nests inland; also perhaps in Marram on the coast in the past. Has declined in last ten years. Inland haunts deserted August-October to late February-April. Frequents coast and lowlands in winter and on passage. Ringed young recovered later the same year in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Shropshire and south-west France.

Most coastal records away from the Solway are suggestive of spring passage. There was one on 20 March and two on 1 June 1958 at Newbiggin (L); an adult male on 9 May 1959 at Walney Island; a female on 14 February at Roosecote (L), seen to take a Starling which it decapitated; a male on 4 April 1960 at Leece (L); one on 30 March at St. Bees; and two females on 31 March 1961 at Walney Island (Jack Sheldon, Allan Smith, K. Brown, Howard Smith).

There was a female on Walney Island on 27 December 1960 (Allan Smith), another on 15 January 1961 (K. Brown), and one at Braystones (C) on 19 November 1961 (P. A. Banks).

They are frequent on the Solway in autumn, where three were seen in one day in September 1961, and on until January, but fewer thereafter (Ralph Stokoe).

### KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* L.

*tinnunculus* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and usually sparse passage migrant. Commonest diurnal bird of prey; least frequent in open agricultural country. Nests from coast up to 2,000 feet in fells. Abundance of small rodents has a marked effect on breeding numbers and success. Birds leave upland haunts in winter; many young emigrate. Ringed young recovered to south as far as northern France.

Nesting started early in 1957, clutches were larger than average, and more pairs nested — almost colonially in places. On 22 April three pairs were found nesting within three hundred yards in Swindale (W) (D. A. Ratcliffe). In 1960, also a good year, the Mallerstang valley (W) had crag nests of seven and six eggs and a third nest in the recesses of Pendragon Castle (Walter Thompson).

On 16 June 1957, twenty nestlings were ringed in four nests near Cockermouth. From one brood of four there have been no recoveries; from a brood of five, one was recovered in northern France on 3 December 1957; from a brood of six, one was found nearby on 22 January 1958; and from the remaining brood of five, one was found at Wirral, Cheshire on 5 December 1957, one at Routh, Yorkshire on 28 October 1958 and one, long dead in a rectory water tank at Newport, Shropshire, on 1 December 1961 (Ralph Stokoe). A young bird ringed in Midlothian was recovered at Edenhall (C) six weeks later on 23 July; other birds, apparently from the same brood, were found the following winter in the ringing locality, in Pembroke and in Sussex (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958).

Dead birds are occasionally found on the tide-line, as at St. Bees on 9 January 1955 after gales and at Allonby (C) on 27 September 1958 (Ralph Stokoe).

### RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* L.

C W. Two records: a male at Lowther (W) in 1929 and another male at Alston (C) in May 1932.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaëtus* (L.)  
*chrysaëtus* (L.)

C W L. Extinct as a breeding bird since the end of the eighteenth century. Wandering, usually immature, birds have occurred in fell country and are now increasingly frequent. In 1957 a newly built but empty nest and one adult bird were found on a Lakeland crag, at which situation there have been no further developments.

Recent interest in the species, periodically renewed by uninformed and unnecessary publicity, has given rise to a spate of records and press accounts, many of which are of doubtful value and others simply inaccurate. Genuine records are of immature birds, where the view was sufficiently good to see the characteristic features. In 1958 and 1959 a bird summered in Lancashire (*Report on Birds, Lancashire*, 1958 and 1959). In 1960 a young bird, which remained in the vicinity for some time, was seen in south Westmorland on 6 May and 28 August (J. B. and S. Bottomley). No doubt it was the same bird reported at a Lancashire locality nine miles away, as the eagle flies, on 8 May (L. A. Cowcill). One seen at Torver (L.) on 9 February 1961 by Mrs. S. F. Shepherd was reported in the *Westmorland Gazette*.

Two young eagles were seen together in the Cumberland Pennines on 11 July 1959 and a roosting place was discovered (D. A. Ratcliffe). A young bird was in the Westmorland Pennines on 31 July 1959 (A. Metcalfe-Gibson, per Walter Thompson). A female approaching maturity was found dead in Bretherdale, Shap Fells (W) on 2 December 1960 by William Thwaites. The bird reached Carlisle Museum, where the skin is preserved.

In the central fells a young bird was seen on 31 March 1957 (Alan F. Airey); one on 11 January 1958, and two on 5 January 1959 in the same locality, then one on 19 January 1960 in another valley (Mrs. Enid J. Wilson). Elsewhere, a "ring-tail" appeared on 6 July 1958 (D. A. Ratcliffe, Arthur Millard) and, most recently, an immature bird in yet a different locality was seen on 28 May 1961 (Peter S. and Andrew T. Blezard).

The wanderings of two birds could account for all these appearances; though it is likely that three or more different individuals have been involved. They cover most of upland Lakeland, south of the Border hills.

**SPOTTED EAGLE** *Aquila clanga* Pall.

L. One, a tide-line corpse, Walney Island, 1875.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus* (Pontopp.)  
*lagopus* (Pontopp.)

C W. Occasional winter visitor (October to April, one 24 June). Usually singly, inland; twice in spring in Solway region.

**BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* (L.).*buteo* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Frequent in all fell districts and adjacent wooded valleys, except in north Cumberland. Nests in crags, commonly up to 1,500-1,750 feet and occasionally to 2,200 feet, and in trees. No-where near coast, except recently on southern estuaries. Juveniles and, in winter, others wander to lower country sometimes as far as coast. Numbers have fallen with a decline in the number of Rabbits.

In north Westmorland R. W. Robson found nesting at pre-myxomatosis strength in 1958, only to fall again in 1959 and 1960 with fluctuations in Rabbit numbers. Food at nests included: Mole, Brown Rat, Short-tailed Vole, Long-tailed Field Mouse, Leveret, Carrion-Crow, Jackdaw and Meadow-Pipit.

Following the development of a large Starling and thrush roost at Dovenby (C) in the winter of 1959-60, the numbers of predators increased and included two Buzzards, which were seen repeatedly during February and early March 1960. Although they nest in the Derwent valley above Cockermouth they had not previously been seen in this locality and were clearly taking advantage of the prolific supply of food (Ralph Stokoe).

A Cumberland ringed nestling, recovered ninety five miles to the north in East Lothian the following October, travelled the greatest distance recorded for this species in Britain (*British Birds*, 51: 86). A nestling ringed at Newby Bridge (L) by J. W. Allen on 28 June 1960 was recovered at Newton-le-Willows, Lancashire the following September (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960).

**MARSH-HARRIER** *Circus æruginosus* (L.)*æruginosus* (L.)

C W. Former breeding species, long extinct. Now rare vagrant (September to December, May), last seen in 1941.

**MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus* (L.)

C L. Rare vagrant (September to November). A pair, established in north Cumberland in 1923, might have nested had not the male been killed accidentally. The female remained until August.

**HEN-HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* (L.)*cyaneus* (L.)

C W L. Former resident; occasional subsequent nesting attempts. Now mainly a sparse winter visitor, though has occurred in all months, to coastal mosses, moors and open country generally. A marked increase and spread in Scotland gives expectations of its return as a breeding bird.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* (L.)*gentilis* (L.)

C. One old record; one Dalemmain, November 1920.

SPARROW-HAWK *Accipiter nisus* (L.)*nisus* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Frequent throughout, breeding up to 850 feet. Wandering, often immature, birds are regular on coast and salt marshes in autumn and, more sparingly, in spring; some may be passage birds, but there is no direct evidence of this. Otherwise markedly sedentary. Has declined in some parts.

Recent indications of reduced numbers and a failure to nest have been noticed in some parts. Few were seen in Low Furness in 1961 by Allan Smith. Near Carlisle many nests have failed since 1950, due to broken eggs. D. A. Ratcliffe, who has followed these happenings, visited four territories in May 1961, where nests with eggs had been found the previous year. Two of these were quite deserted while the other two had new and undisturbed but empty nests at a time well past the usual laying date.

Compared with forests in southern and eastern England, P. A. Banks found the bird relatively numerous and successful in the Spruce forests around Ennerdale in 1961.

At Grune Point birds have been seen on nineteen occasions in 1959-1961 and in all months except May and June. Two of these birds, accounting for four sightings, have been proved by ringing to be local, though none in fact nests on the Point (R. Stokoe).

KITE *Milvus milvus* (L.)*milvus* (L.)

C W L. Former resident. Now very rare vagrant, last recorded at Workington, June 1921.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaetus albicilla* (L.)

C W L. Former resident. Now very rare vagrant, last recorded over Coniston Water, March 1934.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* (L.)*apivorus* (L.)

C W. Rare visitor (May-June, October), last recorded in 1925. At least two pairs have been destroyed which might have nested; the female of the last pair, in June 1917, being nearly ready to lay.

### OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* (L.)

#### *haliaetus* (L.)

C.W. Former breeding visitor; now occasional passage migrant (end April to early June, mid July to end August). Frequents lakes, tarns and rivers; one off St. Bees Head.

In Cumberland, there was one, being mobbed by crows and Curlews, at Bassenthwaite Lake on 8 June 1958 (Jeffrey Bowes) and another over the same water, mobbed on this occasion by Lapwings and Curlews, on 16 May 1960 (Mr. and Mrs. Hall).

In Westmorland, a bird was seen fishing at Sunbiggin Tarn on 20 August 1958 (Dr. and Mrs. K. C. Crosbie) and there was one in the south of the county in early June 1960, which remained for some days (H. S. Millard).

### WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* (L.)

C.W. One old record; two recent records: Silloth, March 1911, and various places from south-east to north-west, April 1961.

A White Stork near Sutterton in Lincolnshire on 29 March 1961 was last seen flying off to the north (*The Field*, 13 April 1961). This record is in isolation and, perhaps, unconnected with the next remarkable series, which forms a virtually unbroken chain and a unique account of the movements of an individual bird. A Stork appeared at Southport, Lancashire on 4 April 1961 (*British Birds*, 54: 294-5) and, moving north by Pilling and Leighton Moss, entered the area near Grange-over-Sands on 10th reaching Ings, near Windermere (W) the next day. Here it was seen by William Whitwell at High House Farm, following his plough. It remained there for three days visiting neighbouring farms, feeding in the fields and by a stream bank, soaring, and resting and roosting on electricity and telephone poles. Lapwings, Jackdaws and Black-headed Gulls mobbed it repeatedly. These details, up to its departure to the west about mid-day on the 14th, were supplied by Robert Humber and H. H. Lancaster. It was next discovered at Longland Farm, Gosforth (C) by J. D. Rothery who saw it arrive on the evening of the 15th and leave about 10 a.m. the next morning. Later the same morning, the 16th, it perched on a signal gantry near the railway station at Maryport for a short time, attracting the attention of many local residents, whose impressions were passed on by W. S. Carter. Continuing north, it reached Hazliebrae Farm, near Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire next day, where it was seen by S. Nairn that morning following his plough, and stayed until the 19th, leaving in a westerly direction.

### SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* L.

#### *leucorodia* L.

C.L. Six old records (October-November, April), including two inland. Three birds on Kent estuary, July 1953.

Three were seen on the Kent estuary at Arnside on 28-30 July 1953 by Dr. G. S. Nelson, J. A. G. Barnes and H. S. Millard (Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1959).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus* (L.)  
*falcinellus* (L.)

C. One near Carlisle, September 1921, and one Gilsland moors, November 1932.

HERON *Ardea cinerea* L.

*cinerea* L.

C W L. Resident; some movement by immature birds. Widely distributed; occurs locally throughout, including central region where fell becks are followed to a considerable height when feeding. Most common near estuaries. Heronries are repeatedly dispersed by tree-felling and re-form in smaller scattered groups or single nests. Colonies with over ten nests recently have included: Great Corby, Kirklington and Muncaster in Cumberland; Dallam and Smardale in Westmorland; Underfield and Rusland in Lancashire. Birds are more widely dispersed after nesting, and many appear on coast and salt marshes. Recoveries of ringed young show a marked movement into Scotland; others have been found in Isle of Man and Montgomeryshire. A Norway ringed nestling recovered Lancashire following April.

Counts at some heronries gave the following numbers of nests:

	1958	1959	1960	1961	
<b>Cumberland:</b>					
Rattlingate ...	—	—	3-4	—	Andrew Little
Castlebank Wood, Bampton ...	—	—	2	2	Major-General Sir George F. Johnson
Cam Beck, Bampton ...	—	—	1	1	Major-General Sir George F. Johnson
Ponsonby ...	—	8-9	8-9	—	A. Long
Lowther Park ...	—	2	—	0	P. A. Banks
<b>Westmorland:</b>					
Dallam ...	47	38	39	38	J. A. G. Barnes
Smardale Hall ...	—	c12	17	—	Walter Thompson, R. W. Robson
Ormside ...	0	0	0	7	R. W. Robson
<b>Lancashire:</b>					
Rusland ...	9	c7	—	—	L. A. Cowcill, Allan Smith
Underfield ...	3	5	3	c5	L. A. Cowcill

There were about twenty nests in 1954 and 1955 at a heronry near Kirklington (C) (D. Ryan).

At Ponsonby in 1959 the nests were in Rhododendrons about six feet above the ground; in 1960 they were in Scots Pines and at a more usual height. There were broken egg-shells below the nests at Ormside (a new colony) on 12 March 1961. At Underfield the nests were in Monkey Puzzles.

Autumn congregations of up to twelve birds at Skinburness Marsh have not been maintained since 1946. Most numerous there from August to October, the most seen recently was six in 1960 (Ralph Stokoe). There

were forty four resting together on the sands of the Kent estuary on 27 September 1959 (J. A. G. Barnes).

**PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea* L.  
*purpurea* L.

C. One, near Alston, about 1850.

**SQUACCO HERON** *Ardeola ralloides* (Scop.)

C. One, Lazonby, June 1845.

**NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax* (L.)  
*nycticorax* (L.)

C W L. Six old records; most of immature birds between October and December. Two recent records: Ireleth (L), April 1957 and Netherby (C), August 1958.

A bird in immature plumage was seen at Ireleth (L) on 17 April 1957. It stayed there for three days, roosting in a Beech tree during the day and flying at dusk to feed at a nearby marsh (J. A. G. Barnes, A. L. Evans, Allan Smith). This is the first Lakeland record since 1903.

An immature bird, approached to a distance of five yards, was on a gravel bed on the River Esk at Netherby on 15 August 1958 (Major-General Sir George F. Johnson).

Birds breeding in a free state at the Edinburgh Zoo leave a doubt whether Night Herons now appearing in northern England and southern Scotland are genuine immigrants. The Edinburgh birds belong to the American form *N. n. hoactli*, but this does not enable a distinction to be made in the field.

**LITTLE BITTERN** *Ixobrychus minutus* (L.)

C. One, River Petteril, October 1847.

**BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris* (L.)  
*stellaris* (L.)

C W L. Occasional and irregular winter visitor (11 August to 18 April, most in January). The majority of the records are from near the coast and principally the Solway, but has also been found by lakes, tarns, and rivers inland.

On 17 September 1961 Mr. K. Brown saw a bird in flight over a small marsh at Millwood, near Dalton-in-Furness.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (mid October to late April). Found on many inland waters, some more regularly than others, to 1,000 feet; on estuaries and coast mainly in hard weather or on passage. Flocks rarely exceed fifty birds. Birds, usually solitary or with Mute Swans, occasionally summer. The Icelandic origin of a dead bird was suggested by the presence in its gut of black lava grit, found also in Pink-footed Geese.

A survey organised by the Wildfowl Trust gave, from provisional figures supplied by Hugh Boyd, the organiser, a total of 302 in England on the selected date in November 1960 and 449 in November 1961. Of these twenty four were found in Cumberland and Westmorland in 1960 and thirty nine in 1961. The corresponding figures for Lancashire were twenty one and twenty two, but some of these may be outside the Lakeland area. Apparently November was chosen because in 1960 there were more Whooper Swans reported then than for any other month. So far as Lakeland is concerned it is often only by the end of that month that the winter maximum is approached and the highest numbers are frequently found in December, January and February. Thereafter flocks diminish in size and few linger on into April. Occasional individuals stay throughout the summer, as did an immature bird, associating with Mute Swans, at Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness in 1960 (Allan Smith) and one on the River Eden at Great Salkeld (C) in 1961, partnered by a female Mute Swan on 8 July (G. A. K. Hervey).

Counts of wintering flocks in the area are summarised below, selecting the maximum number seen each winter at each water from a considerable volume of information supplied by Alan F. Airey, P. A. Banks, Ernest Blezard, J. B. and S. Bottomley, L. A. Cowcill, Ronald Irving, Miss M. Milne, Malcolm Moffat, G. W. H. Moule, R. W. Robson, Allan Smith, Howard Smith, Ralph Stokoe and G. G. Wood.

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	To 31 Dec. 1961
Cumberland:						
Bassenthwaite Lake ...	—	9	3	—	20	12
Broughton Moor (pond) ...	—	—	4	—	—	—
Culgaith, R. Eden ...	—	—	21	—	—	—
Crummock Water ...	—	—	—	—	—	3
Derwentwater ...	—	14	—	—	—	—
Ennerdale Water ...	—	—	—	—	—	4
Loweswater ...	—	6	—	—	—	—
Thurstonfield Lough... ..	—	7	—	3	—	—
Tindale Tarn ...	—	—	14	—	7	—
Westmorland:						
Elterwater ...	25	22	—	—	—	—
Grasmere ...	27	13	—	—	6	—
Loughrigg Tarn ...	—	5	—	—	—	—
Rydal Water ...	13	6	—	—	—	—
Sunbiggin Tarn ...	—	7	—	—	—	—
Tarn House Tarn ...	—	27	—	—	—	—
Windermere ...	—	8	—	—	—	—
Lancashire:						
Barnegates Tarn ...	—	2	—	—	—	—
Blelham Tarn ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Coniston Water ...	5	6	6	5	—	—
Yew Tree Tarn ...	—	—	—	—	—	5
Sea:						
Risehow, Maryport ...	—	—	—	—	3	—
St. Bees ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Skinburness ...	—	1	—	—	—	—

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii* Yarr.*bewickii* Yarr.

C W L. Winter visitor (November to early April). Formerly regular on Solway estuaries; now sparse and irregular, occurring on inland waters in small numbers and least frequently in south. A herd of sixteen on Ullswater on 10 January 1943 is the most recorded in recent years.

In Cumberland, at Thurstonfield Lough, there were seven on 18 March 1956 (J. B. and S. Bottomley) and one on 1 November 1959 (Miss M. Milne). Two were with Whooper Swans on the Eden at Culgaith on 15 February 1959 (R. W. Robson, G. G. Wood).

On Windermere, there were two at the mouth of the River Brathay on 23 February and seven in Waterhead Bay on 6 March 1955 (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

Two visited flood water at New Hall, Appleby on 1 January 1961 (R. W. Robson).

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* (Gm.)

C W L. Resident. On most lowland waters of over one acre, rivers, harbours and, less frequently, coast and estuaries. Non-breeding and winter flocks may be of up to eighty birds. Parties moving between haunts are a familiar sight. Continues to increase.

The British Trust for Ornithology Mute Swan census (*Bird Study*, 7: 208-223), for which the coverage of the area was incomplete, records thirty three nests and ninety two non-breeders in 1955, with Windermere (seven nests) and the River Kent (herd of twenty two) showing noteworthy totals.

As an increase over previous maxima, there were over fifty on Siddick Pond (C) on 13 June 1959 (Ralph Stokoe). On Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness there were about eighty in November 1961 (Allan Smith).

A unique record of additional interest because of its close proximity to the area, a juvenile ringed in Lithuania in 1955 was recovered at Annan, Dumfriesshire in January 1959 (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958).

GREY LAG-GOOSE *Anser anser* (L.)*anser* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant (5 September; late September, in south October, to April; few to 15 May). Passage through central fells and, in spring, also by west coast. Becoming common on Solway only in the present century, has declined again from mid 1930's; frequented southern estuaries from 1920, where now the commonest goose.

National counts of grey geese, organised by the Wildfowl Trust, discovered none in Cumberland in November 1960 and seventy in November

1961. None were recorded for Westmorland in either year; the Lancashire totals of 140 and 120 may include birds outside the area (provisional figures per Hugh Boyd).

Passage through the central region in autumn: a hundred and sixty going south over Applethwaite Common, Windermere on 2 October 1956, sixty over Windermere on 8 December 1956, and a further flock on 30 January 1958. Seventy were going north on the same route on 2 March 1958. Fifty flying south over Elterwater on 1 October 1961 hesitated between the Coniston and Windermere valleys, before choosing the latter (Alan F. Airey). Sixty flew north up the Winstar valley on 20 December 1961, with hard frost on the ground (J. A. G. Barnes) and forty went north over Cockermouth on 30 December 1961, with complete snow cover except on the coast (Ralph Stokoe). A skein of thirteen flew down the Duddon Estuary on 19 November 1960 (K. Brown).

Maximum counts on the Kent estuary (W): 230 on 25 March 1959; 295 on 4 February 1960; 285 on 25 January 1961; 120 on 9 November 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes). Three frequented Derwentwater in January and February 1959 (G. Graham).

The Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland began a scheme to introduce Grey Lags in a wild state to Lakeland in 1959, and more were released in 1960 in Cumberland and Furness. The birds are indigenous wild birds, caught at moulting time out of a flock maintained in Sutherland and originally built up with birds brought from the Outer Hebrides.

#### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* (Scop.)

*albifrons* (Scop.)

*flavirostris* Dalgety & Scott

C W L. Winter visitor (November to early April). Fairly regular in small numbers on Solway and, less frequently, southern estuaries. The European race and the Greenland race have both been identified at each haunt.

On the Kent estuary three were with a mixed flock of over two hundred grey geese at Sandside (W) on 7 April 1960 (J. B. and S. Bottomley, J. A. G. Barnes). Five settled in a field at New Hall, Appleby early in March 1961 and there were nine at Sunbiggin Tarn (W) a few days later (R W. Robson, C. W. Hull).

#### BEAN-GOOSE *Anser fabalis* (Lath.)

*fabalis* (Lath.)

C W L. Winter visitor. Formerly the common grey goose of the Solway; now rare there and very rare elsewhere. Since 1909, only seven flocks have been recorded, six on the Solway and one heading that way over Carlisle; these were in November (1937, 1938), January (1920, 1930, 1936, 1959), and February (1960).

The Bean-Goose had not been reported from anywhere in Lakeland for twenty years, until eleven were noticed flying west over Blackwell, Carlisle

on 31 January 1959 (Ernest Blezard). A flock of forty four, also going west, flew low across Grune Point in full sunlight on 14 February 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

One of the few known winter haunts of this now rare goose, in Galloway, has been watched by A. Donald Watson. He had 140 birds under observation up to 3 February in 1959 and then had a count of 150 reported to him on 26 February. The increase may simply arise from approximations in the figures. In 1960 the flock decreased from sixty birds on 13 February to twelve on the 22nd.

Events outside the area in 1961 are more revealing. At an old haunt of Bean-Geese in the Northumberland Border hills, where few now appear, Lawrence Arnold found eighty on 15 February 1961. During the following week the same number arrived in Galloway, the first to be seen there that winter.

The habitat of these geese differs from that of the ones which used to be common on the Solway. They are usually to be found by moorland tarns and on marshy fields well away from the coast.

#### PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Baill.

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant. In the present century it has become the most numerous goose on the Solway and regular on southern estuaries. On spring and autumn passage numbers may exceed 15,000 on Solway, many of which winter further south. Arriving from the north-east, birds moving on use inland routes in autumn, but some return by the west coast in spring. Exceptionally early arrivals, by-passing Solway, have been heard moving south-east through Cumberland in July and August. Most arrive from mid September, with a few occasionally as early as 5th, later moving on; though weather plays a large part in the events of any one year. Numbers increase again from February on to April. Small flocks linger into May. Birds ringed in Iceland in summer and south-east Scotland in October recovered on Solway.

Wildfowl Trust national counts of grey geese found fifty in Cumberland on the selected date in November 1960 and 750 in November 1961. The Lancashire figures of 3,200 and 4,400 will refer to flocks outside the area (provisional figures per Hugh Boyd). A recent decrease in Cumberland follows a spread westward along the Solway, which has resulted in larger numbers at some Scottish Solway haunts. An increase in the amount of shooting on both sides of the Firth has been evident.

Hard weather towards the end of 1961 brought large numbers of geese to Rockcliffe Marsh, including several thousands seen throughout the cold spell by G. A. Allison, and at the same time smaller flocks visited other marshes, where they are now not at all regular.

Following earlier similar records, two settled in a pasture field near Appleby on 11 January and seven on 20 February 1959, going north (R. W. Robson).

At Arnside there were twenty on the 7th and sixty on 8 April 1960 (J. A. G. Barnes).

SNOW-GOOSE *Anser hyperboreus* Pall.

C. Rare winter visitor. Five recent records (September to April), the last in 1925.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* (Pall.)

C. One record: Longnewton Marsh, November 1918, with Barnacle-Geese.

BARNACLE-GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (Bechst.)

CWL. Winter visitor (late September to end April, few May). Regular on Solway, irregular and uncommon on southern estuaries. The Solway flock, most frequent at Blackshaw Merse, Dumfriesshire, periodically visits Rockcliffe and occasionally other salt marshes. Much increased in last five years.

On Cumberland salt marshes there were two hundred on Rockcliffe on 22 March 1953, fifty on 16 October 1954, with more on Blackshaw Merse, and about fifteen hundred on 13 and 20 December 1959. No geese were seen in Moricambe after 1940 until two on 8 February 1947, then none, despite fairly frequent visits, until 26 December 1960 when eighty five flew into the bay and stayed on the sand for a few hours (Ralph Stokoe).

At its maximum, the Blackshaw Merse flock had increased by 1961 to 2,800 birds (Langley Roberts). In the winter of 1954 Ralph Stokoe counted three hundred (probably low) and seven hundred in 1956. Later years showed remarkable increases: 1958—1,150; 1959—1,600; 1960—2,700. The creation of a sanctuary at Blackshaw Merse has undoubtedly had a beneficial effect on the species and also perhaps tended to concentrate the Solway birds, but many spend a good part of the winter elsewhere and especially at their alternative but less protected haunt on Rockcliffe Marsh.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* (L.)

*bernicla* (L.)

*hrota* (Müll.)

CWL. Irregular and sparse winter visitor (September to April). Solway is more frequented than the southern estuaries, of which the Duddon has been the most favoured in the past. A flock of fifty on Rockcliffe Marsh in January 1947 is the largest number seen in the last 80 years. The dark-bellied and light-bellied forms both occur.

Few have been found on the Kent estuary. There was one there with Grey Lags on 5 January 1959 (J. A. G. Barnes). Now also uncommon at Walney Island, a dark-breasted bird stayed for twelve days off the south end and was seen by Allan Smith on 1 March 1960.

Coniston Water on 17 May 1960 and a nest in a Rabbit hole was found there on 2 June 1961 (L. A. Cowcill). The big-gull colony on Walney Island does not deter birds from nesting in the heart of it, but few young reach the shore (Allan Smith).

Counts of winter flocks give some indications of the potential breeding population. On 18 March 1957 there were fourteen hundred at Flookburgh (L) and in March 1958 a total of over sixteen hundred at various places on the southern estuaries from Grange-over-Sands round to Bardsea and in the Duddon (Alan F. Airey). In Moricambe, on the Solway, 367 on 12 January 1958 is the most noticed there since 401 on 7 March 1954. The return of moulted birds varies from year to year. The first hundred was seen at Moricambe as early as 18 October in 1959 and on 28 November in 1954; in most years they have arrived by 10 December, but in 1958 numbers had not reached a hundred by the end of the year (Ralph Stokoe).

A juvenile, ringed Denmark in August, recovered Barrow-in-Furness following December (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1959). One ringed flightless in moult off the Elbe/Weser estuaries on 31 August 1958 found dead at Rockcliffe (C) on 13 May 1960 (Raymond Higgs, ringing details from Miss E. P. Leach).

### RUDDY SHELD-DUCK *Casarca ferruginea* (Pall.)

C. One old July record and one Todhills Moss, October 1914.

### MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* L.

*platyrhynchos* L.

CWL. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Widespread and common, nesting up to 1,000 feet. Main passage September-October and March-April. Winter population mainly inland on some of the larger lakes and on many smaller waters and marshes, except in hard weather. Ringed birds from Novgorod, U.S.S.R., and Finland recovered in winter.

A juvenile male, ringed Finland 21 July 1958, recovered Levens (W) on 6 February 1960 (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960).

### GADWALL *Anas strepera* L.

CWL. Scarce resident and sparse winter visitor (August to April). Netherby introductions brought about an increase in the Solway area from 1922. Nested Westmorland 1947 and perhaps subsequently. In general is found, rather infrequently and perhaps increasingly so, on small inland waters away from central fell region and on estuaries.

There was one on the sea off Humphrey Head (L) in late October 1957 (R. W. Robson), a male on a pond at Soulby, Kirkby Stephen (W) on 15 November 1959 (R. W. Robson, G. G. Wood) and a pair on Sunbiggin Tarn (W) on 11 April 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes)

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* (L.)  
*canadensis* (L.)

C W L. An increasing resident, occurring more widely as numbers rise. About sixty were introduced in Westmorland in 1957 and eight at Derwentwater in Cumberland in 1958. A flock of over one hundred, long established at Kinmount House, Dumfriesshire, and others in neighbouring counties, have provided occasional wanderers.

The birds introduced in 1957 have bred successfully on several of the tarns in Westmorland and Lancashire. Introduced birds at Killington (W) reared three young in 1958 (R. D. Humber). A pair nested on Esthwaite Water (L) in 1959, where there were five in spring 1960 (K. Shepherd, per L. A. Cowcill) and four on 26 June 1960 (J. Sheldon). There were four on Whinell Tarn (W) on 30 June 1959 and one with two young on High Dam Tarn (L) on 27 June 1961 noted by J. A. G. Barnes, who also comments that there are now something like 100 birds on the River Lune between Kirkby Lonsdale and Lancaster. A pair had four young at Moss Eccles Tarn (L) on 15 June 1960 (L. A. Cowcill). In 1961 a pair bred successfully on nearby Three Dubs Tarn, fledging early in May and are believed to have done so in 1960. The adjacent Wise Ean and Wray Mires Tarns are also used (H. H. Lancaster). In Ravenstonedale (W) nests were found in 1960 and 1961 (Walter Thompson).

A pair of adults, the female unable to fly, and six juveniles, which had been reared from goslings in captivity, were released on Derwentwater (C) in July 1958. It is believed that a nest was made on one of the islands in 1959; certainly the female disappeared then. Two wilder birds occasionally joined the flock and all have alternated between Derwentwater and Thirlmere, where a pair may have bred in 1960. By this time only five birds were appearing on Derwentwater and in 1961 were reduced to four birds, which remain tame enough to take food from the hand (G. Graham).

Five juveniles on the River Eden at Sandsfield (C) on 22 January 1961 may have been from the Kinmount House flock (G. A. Allison, Raymond Irons).

SHELD-DUCK *Tadorna tadorna* (L.)

C W L. Resident, except during post-nesting moult migration. Large winter congregations on estuaries; infrequent on open shore at this time. From mid March flocks disperse to breeding haunts on all parts of the coast, inland on Solway mosses and in fields and woods beyond, and at several inland waters in south Lakeland. Moult migration eastwards (July and early August onwards) to Heligoland Bight. Then and on return (November to March, May) birds appear at inland localities where not otherwise found. Not all individuals migrate and the species is never completely absent. Flocks of non-breeding birds occur in summer.

Nesting continues on Windermere. Four pairs were seen on 5 April 1957 (Alan F. Airey) and a family party including some ten youngsters towards the end of June 1960 (J. K. Lawson). There was a pair on

**TEAL** *Anas crecca* L.*crecca* L.*carolinensis* Gm.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Widely scattered but sparse breeder, from salt marshes to 1,500 feet on Pennine moors. Main passage September-October and March-April. Numbers are highest in autumn, but many winter on estuaries and more sheltered lowland waters. The passage and wintering birds have been shown by ringing to have come from or gone to Iceland, Finland, North Russia, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Locally ringed young have been found in Ireland, though not all emigrate even in hard weather; passage birds reach France and Spain..

The American race, the Green-winged Teal, has been recorded once, Levens (W), December 1936.

Over six hundred off the south end of Walney Island on 15 November 1959, fully a thousand on 27 December 1960, with high winds to force the birds into the lee of the island (Allan Smith), and about five hundred on 17 December 1961 (K. Brown), are as large flocks as have been recorded anywhere in the area.

A juvenile, ringed Finland in July, recovered Duddon estuary following September. A first summer female, ringed Camargue, Rhone delta on 11 April 1959, recovered Kent Estuary on 30 January 1960 (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1959 and 1960).

**GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula* L.

C W L. Scarce spring passage migrant (end March to early May) and rare vagrant (February, December).

An adult male, the first recorded for Lakeland Lancashire, was seen on Walney Island on 1 May 1960 by Allan Smith and by Jack Sheldon, who, with K. Brown, watched a pair at Roanhead throughout April 1961, which eventually moved on without nesting. The breeding of this species in Lakeland has yet to be proved. Similar hesitations, which in the end yielded no result, have been observed, and remarked upon in previous volumes, in Westmorland in 1948 and in Cumberland in 1954.

**WIGEON** *Anas penelope* L.

C W L. Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. The most numerous winter duck. Largest numbers are then found on estuaries and waters near the coast, but occurs also on lower inland tarns, Bassenthwaite and some other lakes. Main passage end September-November and March-April. Has bred in Cumberland at a lake, a lough and a coastal moss and in Westmorland at an upland tarn. A locally-reared bird was recovered north-east Russia in May six years later.

There was a pair on Coniston Water on 18 February 1959, a little-frequented locality (L. A. Cowcill).

Despite increased and unrelenting shooting in Moricambe (C), the wintering flock in 1959-1960 was very large and was estimated on 17 January 1960 to contain two thousand five hundred birds (Ralph Stokoe).

On southern estuaries fewer have been seen than in some recent years. In 1956-57 there were two hundred at Grange-over-Sands on 20 October, eight hundred and fifty at Flookburgh on 30 December and three hundred and fifty at Holker. The following winter four hundred were counted at Flookburgh on 8 November and four hundred at Roosebeck on 28 December 1957 (Alan F. Airey). The Duddon and Esk estuaries have received scant attention. Five hundred birds were seen off Askham (L) on 20 November 1960 (K. Brown), and sixty at Ravenglass on 10 December 1961 (P. A. Banks). By 24 September 1961 some eighty birds were on the Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness, a rather early date for this district (K. Brown).

Exceeding previous counts there for that month, G. W. H. Moule found over seventy Wigeon at Siddick Pond (C) on 23 February 1956.

#### PINTAIL *Anas acuta* L. *acuta* L.

C W L. Sparse winter visitor and passage migrant. Has nested on a Cumberland coastal moss, perhaps for several years, on a Westmorland lake island and possibly elsewhere in these counties. Autumn and winter records are scattered throughout the area, except in the central fell region where it is infrequent; most occur on estuaries and littoral waters. It is most regular and numerous on southern estuaries; elsewhere frequent only on spring passage (mid March to mid April). A nestling ringed in Finland recovered the following winter.

Autumn immigrants on the southern estuaries have provided an interesting series of records. In 1959 there were twelve on the Kent estuary on 17 August, nine on 19 August, a pair on 22 September and three on 9 October, all in eclipse plumage (J. B. and S. Bottomley). At Newbiggin (L) there were five on 5 October, twelve on 11 October and four on 25 October (Jack Sheldon). In 1960 there were seventeen at Plumpton on the Leven estuary (L) on 30 October and no less than two hundred on the Duddon estuary on 19 November (K. Brown). No gathering of this size has previously been recorded; the only comparable flock was also in the same locality, where ninety seven were seen on 2 April 1922. The only spring sightings from these parts are of two pairs at Bardsea (L) on 23 March 1960 (L. A. Cowcill) and thirty on the Duddon on 16 April 1961 (K. Brown).

On Solway appearances follow the usual trends. At Thurstonfield Lough single pairs were seen on 7 March 1959 and 29 January 1961, and an adult male on 18 February 1961 (M. Moffatt). At Skinburness Marsh there were five in eclipse plumage on 5 October 1958 and twelve a week later (Ralph Stokoe). An immature male was shot on Longnewton Marsh on 8 November 1959 (F. Backhouse).

A nestling, ringed Finland on 19 June 1960, was recovered at Wither-slack (W) on 16 December 1960 (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960).

### SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Much increased as a nesting species since first found in 1886; lately has decreased again somewhat. Though nowhere numerous, it nests widely in coastal and lowland regions and up to 800 feet at one eastern tarn. No Lancashire nest has yet been proved, though a brood was found in 1949 on Helton Tarn, on the county border. Numbers are highest in autumn and spring, when littoral waters and estuaries are favoured. Less tolerant of hard weather than some ducks.

As a breeding species, it is considered to have declined in the Carlisle district (Ernest Blezard). Less frequent in Moricambe (C) lately, the last birds seen there were seven on 3 April 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

Estuarine flocks in the south included fourteen at Bardsea (L) on 5 October 1956, one hundred and fifty on 10 December 1956 and 7 January 1957 and twenty on 1 October 1957. At Flookburgh (L) there were two hundred on 8 November 1957 (Alan F. Airey). At Bardsea again, twenty five on 20 November 1960 included fourteen males (Allan Smith).

### RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* (Pall.)

C W. One October 1897; an adult male, south Westmorland, April 1937.

### POCHARD *Aythya ferina* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (24 July, end September to early April). No marked passage. Has nested in Cumberland; paired birds have been seen in summer in other parts. Widespread and often numerous on most lakes and lower tarns with open water of medium depth. Rarely on sea and estuaries, except in hard weather. Winter flocks are largely composed of males. Some have summered at Barrow-in-Furness for at least forty years.

Summering birds continue to be seen on Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness in small numbers, and also occasionally elsewhere in that locality. A male and two females were on a small pond in the suburbs of Barrow on 13 July 1960 and three males and two females on a reservoir on 10 May 1958 (Jack Sheldon).

Winter counts on the lakes include: eighty on Coniston Water (including seventy males) on 16 February 1958, eighty four on Rydal Water (including sixty four males) and sixty on Derwentwater on 21 February 1958 (Alan F. Airey). A flock of ninety one on Derwentwater on 8 January 1961 included eighty five males (Ralph Stokoe). Few appear on Ennerdale Water. The most seen there in 1961 were three drakes on 24 November (P. A. Banks).

Two males, one of which was shot, were on the Eden estuary off Burgh Marsh (C) on 23 October 1960 (G. A. Allison).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* (L.)

C W L. Sparse resident and common winter visitor (October to March). Passage is not well marked. Has nested, since 1914 and perhaps earlier, at several small tarns up to 1,000 feet and a few low-land sites. Wintering flocks are found on most lower waters, but rarely on salt water except in hard weather. Stragglers tend to linger in spring and summering flocks of up to thirty apparent adults have been found. Females often outnumber males in winter. A Swedish ringed bird recovered here, four years later, in October.

Two females seen on the Leven estuary (L) on 19 February 1956 (J. B. and S. Bottomley) and three males and a female off Foulney Island on 30 July 1961 (Jack Sheldon) are interesting records of birds on salt or brackish water, the latter at an unusual time.

A drake on Angle Tarn (W) on 22 June 1959 at 1,572 feet (J. A. G. Barnes) was well above normal limits of altitude.

Two males summered on Coniston Water in 1960, where one male was seen in July 1958 (L. A. Cowcill).

SCAUP-DUCK *Aythya marila* (L.)

*marila* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (end September to late May.) Regular and common on southern estuaries; more erratic and now rarely numerous on Solway and west coast despite large numbers wintering on Scottish Solway between Southernness and Carsethorn. Occasional females and juveniles are found inland; adult males are less frequent. Bad weather may account for some, but not all of these inland appearances. Has been recorded in all summer months on coast; two thousand off Skinburness, June 1917.

Off Bardsea (L) in 1957 there were a hundred and fifty on 7 January, a hundred on 13 April and twenty on 21 May. In 1958 three hundred and thirty were counted in two flocks on 8 January (Alan F. Airey).

A radical change in the channel off Silloth (C) washed away the end of the pier there and also uncovered attractive feeding grounds at Skinburness. Groups of Scaup appeared each season from March 1960; there were eight drakes and seventeen ducks on the 20th of that month and thirty on 10 December 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

As it happens, all the new inland records are of single males. One was with Tufted Ducks on Windermere on 7 and 15 February 1956 (J. B. and S. Bottomley); others were seen on the River Eden above Appleby on 26 October 1958 and 17 January 1961 (R. W. Robson, J. S. Marshall).

**GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* (L.)  
*clangula* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor (5 August, October to mid April, 30 June). Widely distributed on estuaries, rivers and, in smaller numbers, on lakes. Numbers increase on lakes in spring, prior to departure, when flocks of up to thirty birds are not unusual. Infrequent on sea and smaller inland waters. Females greatly outnumber males in winter.

A larger than usual flock of fifty five birds, of which about three-quarters were female, was on the Leven estuary (L) on 17 March 1960 (J. B. and S. Bottomley). A flock has wintered on flooded gravel workings on Walney Island for several years. In 1959-60 maximum numbers were reached in February, with thirty one birds of which twenty one were female. The next winter the largest number, forty seven including six drakes, was on 27 December; there were thirty six there on 31 March (Allan Smith), and the last left on 3 April 1961. Six returned on 5 November 1961 (Jack Sheldon). An apparently oiled female remained there during the summer of 1959 (Allan Smith). A female, able to fly and not apparently ailing, lived for two months in 1958 in the harbour at Whitehaven, sleeping at high tide in an inner basin and drifting out at the ebb. It was last seen on 13 June (Ralph Stokoe).

Earlier than most, a female was found on Windermere on 7 September 1958 (J. N. Tomlinson) and another on Esthwaite Water (L) on 18 September 1960 (K. Brown), where a pair remained until 19 May in 1957 (Alan F. Airey). Two pairs were on Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness on 28 May 1958 (Jack Sheldon).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* (L.)

C W L. Occasional winter visitor (end September to April, few to 17 July). Seen most frequently on Solway and southern estuaries, in small numbers; scarce off west coast and inland.

Two birds, at first in indeterminate plumage, were seen on Windermere (W) repeatedly from 23 January to 16 March 1958, with a third on 1 March. The gradual assumption of summer plumage enabled the opinion to be formed that there had been two first-winter males and a female present (J. B. and S. Bottomley, Alan F. Airey, L. A. Cowcill). The last-named observer saw an adult male on the same lake on 9 December 1960. Two immature birds were shot beside the ferry landing on the east shore of Windermere on 26 December 1961 by Arthur Shankley (per Robert D. Humber). There was a female on Ormsgill Reservoir, Barrow-in-Furness for eight days in February 1960 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon).

A good many have been found recently in the Piel Channel vicinity, south of Barrow-in-Furness. A female, seen on 24 April (J. Sheldon), may have stayed until 18 May 1960, when one was seen again (Allan Smith). There was a male, with Eiders, on 17 July 1961—a unique date—, then an immature bird on 12 November, a male on 19 November, and two females on 10 December 1961 (Jack Sheldon). To the north, an adult male at Sandscale on 7 February was joined by three females on 27 March and a pair lingered until 2 April 1960; one was there again on 3 December 1961 (K. Brown).

Solway, where previously most have been found, can, in this account, add the single occurrence of two in the Eden estuary, off Burgh Marsh, on 6 November 1960. One which was shot proved to be an immature male (Colin Stephenson).

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* (L.)  
*mollissima* (L.)

C.L. Resident at Walney Island; where it has nested in small numbers since 1949 and occurs in substantial off-shore flocks. Elsewhere a scarce visitor, principally to west coast where, after none between 1920 and 1953, several have appeared (July to November) north to Grune Point. Rare inland. Continues to increase and extend its nesting range.

Statistics of the Walney Island population are worth quoting in some detail and may serve to give a more accurate idea of numbers than some which have appeared. Allan Smith, living nearby and with the additional opportunity of studying flocks at sea from his boat, has contributed most of what follows.

In 1958, forty five adults and five more adults accompanying sixteen small young were off-shore on 7 July. On 22 June 1959, the flock comprised seventy four birds. A drop in numbers has been noticed in autumn in some years. On 26 September 1959 only fourteen, of which six were in some sort of male plumage, could be found.

More details are available for 1960. K. Brown saw a hundred birds on 24 January and L. A. Cowcill fifty on 7 February, in both cases with about equal numbers of males and females; then Allan Smith's counts at the breeding station are: three pairs on 28 February; fifteen pairs on 12 March; thirty six birds (twelve drakes) on 26 March; seventy four birds (thirty three drakes) on 10 April; and thirty six (seven drakes) on 23 April. On 18 May, K. Brown observed a flock of fifty birds, of which thirty five were drakes. Five nests were found on the island and, later, perhaps twenty ducklings. A flock of one hundred and twelve birds off-shore on 1 October is reported by K. Brown.

In 1961, thirty seven were off-shore on 5 March, eighty six (sixty one males) on 31 March and thirty five in a separate flock on 1 April. The counts, continued by K. Brown, then are: sixty three (thirty five males) on 3 April; thirty one (twenty males) on 13 May; twenty five males in a separate flock on 10 June; fifty adult males, ten immature males, forty seven females and about forty downy ducklings attended by twelve females on 11 June—159 in all; and finally about two hundred (sixty males) on 24 September 1961.

The number of grown birds remains out of all proportion to the nests discovered and young seen. The locality appears satisfactory in all respects save one, a serious exception, namely the presence of some thousands of large gulls at their huge breeding colony, among which the Eiders attempt to nest. This must materially affect nesting success. Yet an increase is apparent; the sixty one males in March and the forty ducklings in June 1961 are the most yet reported, and birds may be beginning to nest more widely. Its

occurrence on Piel Island in 1959 strengthens this possibility. Four drakes, four ducks and five young were observed there on 19 June 1959 (N. F. Ellison).

The run of the tide is southward here and, away from the vicinity of Walney Island, many more Eiders are found off the Lancashire coast than to the north. There was an ailing first-winter male at Grune Point on 22 November 1959 (M. Moffatt) and two brown-plumaged birds off Dubmill Point (C) on 15 August 1960 (R. Spencer).

Apart from two seen flying inland from Silloth in June 1904, the only inland record for this species is of a brown bird on Barfield Tarn, near the coast at Bootle (C), on 25 July 1958 (L. A. Cowcill).

### COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* (L.)

*nigra* (L.)

C W L. Non-breeding visitor and passage migrant. Occurs throughout the year; winter visitors often linger until June and some remain until new arrivals appear in August. Common off-shore, usually in open water, sometimes in immense flocks. Subject to oiling disasters. Frequent on inland waters in all months and usually in small numbers, though fifty seen on Ullswater in July.

Off St. Bees Head a flock of about thirty birds on 22 June 1957 included an albino bird, unfortunately at too great a distance for the details to be clear. In 1958 there were five there on 12 June, twenty on 26 June and about the same number on 29 July (G. W. H. Moule). Summering birds in Piel Channel (L) in 1961 numbered up to eighty (Jack Sheldon). Twenty five seen there on 3 June were mostly female (K. Brown).

In winter few are found off Walney Island and neighbouring coasts unless oiled or ailing. Wrecks of oiled birds continue to occur there. On the tideline south of Barrow-in-Furness sixty seven were counted on 10 November 1957 (Jack Sheldon). In the same district, twenty six were found on 12 February 1961, mostly males, twenty on 5 November 1961 (K. Brown) and twenty three nearby in October 1961 (Allan Smith).

### VELVET-SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* (L.)

*fusca* (L.)

C W L. Sparse and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant (end September to May, few to 16 July). Occurs in small numbers off-shore, often associating with Common Scoters. Infrequent inland, most Windermere.

One was seen off St. Bees Head early in October 1960 (Howard Smith) and two, and then one, with summering Common Scoters in Piel Channel on 8 and 16 July 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

### SURF-SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* (L.)

C. One, November 1856, near Carlisle.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* L.  
*merganser* L.

C W L. Breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Nested north Cumberland from 1950, progressively occupying rivers Esk, Eden, Lyne, Irthing and Gelt, though not necessarily in just that order. Pairs linger in spring on various lakes and tarns. Regular and increasingly common winter visitor to larger rivers, lakes and tarns to 1,800 feet; flocks of up to sixty occur, especially in February and March. Males in adult plumage are normally well out-numbered by grey birds.

Two pairs nested in Geltsdale (C) in 1960 (E. Blezard), and in 1961 (R. A. Laird). Pairs are regular on the Esk and Irthing, especially the former, returning to old nest-sites in successive years (Major-General Sir George Johnson).

The spread can be expected to continue to the central region, where birds have been seen in summer. A drake was swimming off a wooded part of the shore of Brothers Water (W) on 13 June 1955 (Lawrence Arnold). On one of the larger lakes a pair of adults was constantly about one part during the first week of June 1961 (Allan Smith). A pair there, with five immature birds, on 9 June was reported by Mr. Shepherd to L. A. Cowcill, who himself decided that three birds on another water on 21 May, and seen on several later occasions up to 21 July when two remained, were also immature Goosanders. Mr. Shepherd, and others, considered that the adult pair had bred and confirmation of this would establish a striking advance into a new region also being colonised by the closely-related Red-breasted Merganser.

Birds on the River Lune as far upstream as Kirkby Lonsdale (W) during January and on to April numbered as many as twelve on 3 April 1960 (J. A. G. Barnes, Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1960).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* L.

C W L. Breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. First conclusively proved to have nested in 1950, on River Esk, Longtown (C) and from about then also on sandhills of Drigg Point, Ravensglass (C). Has increased and spread, in north to River Eden, and in south to inland waters in Lancashire and south Westmorland. Family parties appear on estuaries and off west coast from July, but are less frequent there later. A rather sparse, if regular, winter visitor to salt water; scarce on fresh water, except at breeding haunts where pairs may be found from January onward.

In north Cumberland a female and eight downy ducklings were on the River Eden some miles above Carlisle on 2 August 1959 (G. A. Allison) and a female with thirteen small young were in the same locality on 20 June 1961 (M. Moffatt).

In their annual *Reports* the Nature Conservancy mention the nesting of this species within the Reserve at Ravensglass (C). Two nests were found and

there were perhaps two more in 1958; in 1959 two again were found and there were certainly more, but all known were destroyed by Foxes and only one brood reached the water. The *Reports* are less informative in this respect for 1960 and 1961. On the River Esk nearby, a pair was seen on 10 June and a duck and four young on 15 July 1958. There was a female on that river on 20 June 1959, a pair on 26 June 1960 (L. A. Cowcill) and three males and a female on 7 May 1961 (P. A. Banks).

On one of the southern lakes there was a party of eight red-heads in September 1958 (J. N. Tomlinson), two males and a female on 2 January and a pair on 23 January 1959. Then in 1960 a female with eight well-grown ducklings was found there on 30 July and seen again on 4 August. It is virtually sure that this was a local brood (J. B. and S. Bottomley). The locality continues to be popular. Two pairs of adults were displaying there on 19 February 1961 (Ralph Stokoe) and in early March (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

At another lake, in Lancashire, an adult female and twelve young were seen first on 11 July 1961 and later on various occasions into August (L. A. Cowcill, J. B. and S. Bottomley). The young had clearly been reared there.

Families next appear off-shore, especially in the estuaries. Two females off St. Bees Head (C) on 1 June 1957 (G. W. H. Moule) may have been late passage or non-breeding birds. Flocks of eight were seen off Bardsea (L) on 4 October 1960 (Alan F. Airey) and in the Duddon Estuary on 6 February 1960, where there were thirty eight on 23 July of that year (K. Brown). Off Moricambe (C), where family parties, perhaps from Scotland, could be seen each August, the species has become more numerous. The parties in August continue, as when a family of twelve was found off Stenor Scar on 14 August 1960, dispersing later; then pairs and trios of adults appear in March and on to about 20 April; there were seven on 5 April 1959 (Ralph Stokoe).

A pair was seen near Kirkby Lonsdale (W) on 4 January 1960 and three at the same place on 6 March 1960 by J. A. Black (Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1960).

### SMEW *Mergus albellus* L.

C W L. Sparse and irregular winter visitor (October to March) to lakes, lowland tarns, rivers and estuaries in small numbers.

There were four females on Bassenthwaite Lake (C) on 4 January 1958 (G. A. K. Hervey, A. J. Bull, per R. W. Robson) and one female on the Duddon estuary (L) on 11 December 1960 (K. Brown).

### CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* (L.)

*carbo* (L.)

C W L. Resident, in small numbers; common non-breeding visitor (June-August to April). A few pairs nest on St. Bees Head. Non-breeding birds are present most of the year and winter flocks may be large. Most are then found on the Solway, where there have been flocks of over a thousand birds; occurs on other estuaries and most

large inland waters. Tree-roosting noted at Coniston Water and elsewhere. Most ringing recoveries are of birds from Mochrum, Wigtownshire; one from Anglesey and one Farne Islands.

A gathering of thirty five on the Kent estuary on 27 January 1961 was a large number for that locality (J. A. G. Barnes), as was sixty two at the mouth of the Duddon estuary on 4 November 1961 (K. Brown).

A nestling, ringed at Mochrum, Wigtownshire on 27 June 1957, was recovered at Rockcliffe Marsh on 5 October of that year (G. Taylor). A nestling, ringed on the Farne Islands on 1 August 1958, was recovered at Rockcliffe Marsh on 25 October of the same year (B. Batey).

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (L.)  
*aristotelis* (L.)

C W L. Infrequent, usually storm-blown, visitor to the coast and, more rarely, to inland waters (all months, most November-December). Ringed nestling from Sutherland recovered Windermere following December.

Most appearances of the Shag on our coast, alive or dead, follow west or north-west gales. These winds do not often bring large wrecks of sea-birds and such as occur include species less frequently found. After severe gales from the west, then north-west, on 20-23 December 1954, fresh corpses strewn the coast from Siddick to Beckfoot (C). They averaged nearly sixteen to the mile and one small bay at St. Bees, which collects all the debris from a long sweep to the south, contained seventy five bodies. Most were Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Guillemots; a good many others were gulls, waders and land birds. There were two Black Guillemots and no less than twenty Shags. The search was made by A. Barton, R. Irving, W. Moon and R. Stokoe. A dead bird was found at Maryport on 18 November 1960 (R. Irving).

An immature was seen off St. Bees Head on 10 March 1957 (R. Stokoe, D. A. Ratcliffe), and an adult actively diving in Silloth Dock on 20 December 1959 (Blezard family). On 13 November 1960 after severe gales, two immature birds were fishing busily for flounders in the channel of the old harbour at Port Carlisle (C). One was appreciably larger and repeatedly robbed the other of its catch. By fair means or foul it obtained and swallowed a fish every two minutes, during the period it was watched (R. Stokoe, A. Barton).

GANNET *Sula bassana* (L.)

C W L. Summer visitor and storm-blown vagrant. Frequent off west coast (late April to July, 29 September). Vagrants, alive or dead, on coast and inland to Pennines (most months); mainly adult. Seven flying west over Brampton, October 1914.

The development of the Scar Rocks colony in Luce Bay has brought more Gannets to our waters in summer. Sightings from St. Bees Head are regular. They are now being seen off Walney Island, where there were three adults and two immatures on 18 May 1960 (K. Brown), several on 28

May 1960 (L. A. Cowcill), twenty on 23 April 1961 and others during that summer (Jack Sheldon), including three on 4 June (K. Brown). The *Reports on Birds, Lancashire* for 1958 and 1959 mention some in those years, including three on 29 September 1959, a late date.

One, found in a field near Wetheral (C) by E. G. Wood, was released at Bowness-on-Solway on 26 April 1961, but, reluctant to depart, was then taken to Hammond's Pond, Upperby, Carlisle, where it remained (*Cumberland News*, 28 April 1961).

An adult spent two days on the sea and, at low water, resting on the fore-shore at Rampside (L), apparently uninjured. It was last seen flying off south on 6 October 1961 (Allan Smith).

### STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* (L.)

C W L. Storm-blown vagrant (mainly October to December). Less subject to large wrecks than the next species. Found on all coasts and inland to the Pennines.

### LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (Vieill.)  
*leucorhoa* (Vieill.)

C W L. Storm-blown vagrant (mainly October to December). Subject to large wrecks, most recently in October 1952 when over forty birds were scattered the length and breadth of the area.

### WILSON'S PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* (Kuhl)

C L. Three old records (one November); one shore-line corpse, Allonby, winter 1932.

### FRIGATE-PETREL *Pelagodroma marina* (Lath.)

*hypoleuca* (Webb *et al.*)

L. The first British and only English record; Walney Island, November 1890.

### MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* (Brünn.)

*puffinus* (Brünn.)

C W L. Off-shore summer visitor (7 April, May to August, few to 2 November). St. Bees Head offers a good vantage point, but birds are widespread in open sea. Birds ringed at Welsh islands recovered Cumberland coast.

Most of those that visit the Solway to feed are too far out to be seen from our shores, but some approach more closely. Three were seen from Silecroft (C) on 13 May 1958 (L. A. Cowcill), forty off St. Bees on 26 June 1958 (G. W. H. Moule) and seven off Foulney Island (L) on 2 July 1961, where also a bird flew round the island for an hour on 18 June (Jack Sheldon).

Adult birds ringed at the Welsh island colonies of Skokholm and Bardsey, recovered Seascale to Silloth (C) in May, July and August. A full-grown bird, ringed at Bardsey, August 1956, recovered five days later at Allonby (C) (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1956-1959).

### FULMAR PETREL *Fulmarus glacialis* (L.)

*glacialis* (L.)

C L. Breeding visitor to St. Bees Head. First nested in 1940; the colony has now expanded along most of the sheer cliff and is still increasing. At least a few birds are present most of year, except perhaps in October. Elsewhere, infrequent visitor principally to west coast (May to August) and as winter storm-blown vagrant. An example of the northern dark-phase 'Blue' Fulmar was at St. Bees Head, March 1956.

One hundred and fifty two sites were counted on St. Bees Head in spring 1956 and the expansion has continued since that time. Competition for ledges has now become noticeable as the Fulmars nest on the stretches of cliff already densely packed with Herring-Gulls, Kittiwakes and Guillemots. At first they chose sites not favoured by these other species, but they can now be found nesting among all three. Several instances of old nests of the Herring-Gull and Kittiwake being taken over have been observed. In 1959 a Fulmar was seen by Austin Barton to have taken over a new nest of a Herring-Gull and to be sitting on the eggs.

Roaming birds explore the coast away from St. Bees Head. At Maryport, single birds have been seen on 6 August 1957, 11 June and 5 December 1960 (R. Irving). One passed south off the southern tip of Walney Island on 7 May 1960 (K. Brown) and one was seen from Foulney Island on 2 July 1961 (Jack Sheldon). These are the first two live records for Lancashire. Dead birds were found on these islands on 18 January and 31 December 1958 (Allan Smith). A dead bird was also found at Sark Foot (C) on 8 April 1961 (R. A. Laird).

### GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* (L.)

*cristatus* (L.)

C W L. Resident and regular winter visitor, in small numbers. First nested Lancashire 1908, Westmorland 1933 and Cumberland 1934. Has nested, or attempted to do so, on most suitable lakes and tarns in central region, up to 350 feet. Regular on Esthwaite Water and Blelham Tarn. Breeding birds remain throughout the winter. Winter visitors occur most frequently on the estuaries; also at times on most inland waters and larger rivers, and off open coast on passage. Occasional non-breeding birds appear at such places in summer.

A single bird visited Coniston Water each spring and was first seen in successive years on 14 March 1956, 22 March 1957, 3 April 1958 and 14 February 1959. In 1960 a pair nested for the first time in ten years and fledged three young, one of which remained until at least the end of the year. A bird returned on 7 March 1961 and a second on 13th, when display was

seen. They were still there in April and on 10 May one was cruising off a reed-bed, but no proof of nesting was obtained (L. A. Cowcill). A pair with young was seen on Windermere in 1960 (H. H. Lancaster).

At a regular breeding station, there were nine, of which four were immature, on Esthwaite Water (L) on 7 December 1956 (Alan F. Airey) and at least eight on 30 December 1959 (L. A. Cowcill). Less frequent elsewhere inland in winter, one was seen on Haweswater on 2 November 1958 (E. Blezard, D. A. Ratcliffe), and one on Bassenthwaite Lake on 17 January 1960 (Miss M. Milne).

Away from the estuaries, birds on the sea have been found most often off St. Bees Head. Single birds on each occasion were seen on 14 February 1954 (Ralph Stokoe), 4 July 1955 (G. W. H. Moule) and 4 April 1961 (Howard Smith). In the Piel Channel district there was one on 20 May 1958; then in 1961 eight spent the summer there and were seen repeatedly throughout that season (Jack Sheldon).

### RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps griseigena* (Bodd.) *griseigena* (Bodd.)

CW L. Scarce and irregular winter visitor (late October to early April, most February; also July and September). Occurs off-shore, mainly in estuaries; less frequently on lakes, tarns and rivers.

An apparently ailing bird stayed on the River Kent in Kendal for several days early in March 1955 (per J. B. and S. Bottomley). One on a pool on Walney Island on 1 April was perhaps the same bird as the one seen off Foulney Island on 3 April in 1961 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon).

### SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* (L.)

CW L. Scarce winter visitor to estuaries and inland waters (November to early March).

### BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* Brehm *nigricollis* Brehm

CW L. Scarce winter visitor (end October to February) and rare summer visitor and passage migrant (May to mid August). Bred Westmorland 1935; birds in breeding plumage 1922 and 1931. In winters occurs on sea, mainly in estuaries, and on lakes and smaller lowland waters.

Single birds were seen at Millerground Bay, Windermere (W) on 19 February 1957 and off Greenodd, Leven estuary (L) on 28 December 1957 (Alan F. Airey).

A bird, still in breeding plumage, was seen on the sea off Grunc Point on 18 August 1960 (Robert Spencer).

**LITTLE GREBE** *Podiceps ruficollis* (Pall.)*ruficollis* (Pall.)

C W L. Resident; local winter movements. Widespread and frequent, breeding on tarns, ponds and some lakes and sluggish streams, up to 1,000 feet. At end of nesting season many move to larger more open waters where not otherwise found; including lakes, rivers and even estuaries.

A pair on Ormsgill Reservoir, Barrow-in-Furness, after disturbance, built a replacement nest from which a parent was seen to leave with three small young on 17 September 1959 (Allan Smith).

Winter congregations on the huge Cavendish Dock, Barrow-in-Furness totalled twenty four birds in December 1958 and twenty eight on 28 November 1961 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon). On Ennerdale Water, a notably sterile lake free of vegetation, none were seen until 31 October when two appeared which remained until 15 November, leaving one, which was still there on 20 December 1961 (P. A. Banks).

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Colymbus immer* Brünn.

C W L. Sparse winter visitor (September to March). Most have been seen on Windermere; also other lakes, estuaries and coast. One August record, 1889.

Single birds, perhaps immature, were on Windermere on 19 January 1957 and in Piel Channel (L) on 12 December 1961 (J. B. and S. Bottomley). There was one in Piel Channel on 22 October and 12 November 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Colymbus arcticus* L.*arcticus* L.

C W L. Sparse winter visitor (January to March, 26 April) to Windermere and some other lakes; few reported from estuaries. Up to four found together.

There was one on Loughrigg Tarn (W) on 6-9 January 1957 (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

The Windermere bird, reported in *Lakeland Birds, Transactions IX*: 42, was in 1955 not 1956.

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Colymbus stellatus* Pontopp.

C W L. Regular passage migrant and frequent winter visitor (September to May). Commonest in estuaries and off-shore; found occasionally on Windermere, Ullswater and smaller inland waters, particularly in severe weather or when ailing.

St. Bees Head is a good point from which to detect these birds at sea. They are most numerous there on spring and autumn passage. At least fifty were counted along two miles of coast on 10 October 1956, including

one group of fifteen; in spring there were five on 3 May and fifteen or more on 6 May 1958 (G. W. H. Moule).

Two frequented the harbour at Maryport from 4 to 17 March 1956 (R. Irving). One visited a flooded gravel pit on Walney Island on 27 December 1960 (Allan Smith), where, on 23 April 1961, there were five off-shore (K. Brown).

### WOOD-PIGEON *Columba palumbus* L.

*palumbus* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Widespread and numerous; often abundant in winter when good supplies of acorns, beech mast or grain are available.

### STOCK-DOVE *Columba oenas* L.

C W L. Resident. Widespread and fairly common, breeding from coastal cliffs and sand-dunes up to lower fell crags. Upland haunts are deserted from autumn until February or March. Flocks of up to one hundred birds have been seen in autumn; some migration and winter immigration is probable.

Most of the birds at Grune Point have been seen in April and September (Ralph Stokoe).

### ROCK-DOVE *Columba livia* Gm.

*livia* Gm.

C. Former infrequent visitor to Solway region. No colonies of pure-bred birds are now known anywhere on the Solway, though on the Scottish coast colonies predominantly of the wild strain are frequent.

Feral pigeons of Rock-Dove ancestry occur widely, and especially in towns.

### TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* (L.)

*turtur* (L.)

C W L. Occasional passage migrant and summer visitor (May to September). Has bred in Cumberland, last in 1951. Most have been found near coast and in Eden valley; few in fell regions. An adult was killed at Penrith in December 1894.

Birds which have appeared on the Low Furness coast include two for September, a month in which the species has not previously been seen. These were at Newbiggin on 22 September 1957 and at Rampside on 28 September 1959. The first was with a Wood-Pigeon. A third bird was on Walney Island on 25 June 1960 (Jack Sheldon) and a fourth at Millwood, Barrow-in-Furness on 31 May 1961 (K. Brown).

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* (Frivaldsky)

C. Resident in one locality; rare vagrant elsewhere. First recorded in the Solway region in 1959, one pair bred then and subsequently.

The first Lakeland and Cumberland record of this rapidly spreading species is of a pair which had established themselves at a Solway coastal village by July 1959, where they bred in a Scots Pine. The shell of a hatched egg was picked up near the nest and at least one young was reared. Subsequently three birds were seen on several occasions in and around the village. One pair nested again in 1960 and reared two young (Victor Huggon). The birds were resident and remained there during the winters of 1959-60 and 1960-61.

On 7 May 1960 a single bird put in a brief appearance at Grune Point. Noticed resting in a Scots Pine, it flew off north-west almost immediately (Ralph Stokoe).

PALLAS'S SAND-GROUSE *Syrhaptes paradoxus* (Pall.)

C L. Not recorded since the great irruptions of 1863 and 1888. The 1908 irruption did not reach Lakeland.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* (L.)  
*lapponica* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant (end July to late May). Summering immatures occur. Most are found on the open sandy shores of the Solway, especially Bowness to Dubmill Point. Numerous on autumn passage (August-September), many arriving from the east. Winter flocks of a thousand or more birds are regular. In smaller numbers on west coast and in southern estuaries.

Flocks coming in at high tide to the salt marsh at Skinburness are as large as any on the Solway. There were fully fifteen hundred on 22 January 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

The Duddon estuary had a flock of eleven on 6 March 1960 and a hundred on 19 November 1960 (K. Brown). On the Walney Island and Low Furness shores, one or two were seen in 1958-59 and 1959-60. Then thirty seven appeared at Walney on 28 February 1960 on passage (Allan Smith) and eighty on 17 May 1960 (K. Brown). Next follow a hundred and twenty five at Rampside on 2 January, four hundred on Walney Island on 5 February (Jack Sheldon) and a hundred and twenty five on 5 March, reducing to thirty two by 31 March (Allan Smith), all in 1961. On 19 November 1961 forty were back at Walney Island (Jack Sheldon).

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa* (L.)*limosa* (L.)

C W L. Sparse passage migrant (July to October; April-May). Mainly an autumn visitor to the Solway; recently also on southern estuaries, where more usual in spring. Occasionally inland and on west coast; several winter records. Now regular in autumn on Scottish Solway and more frequent than formerly in Lakeland. Often in small parties, but rarely of more than four or five birds.

A wintering bird was seen at Bardsea (L) on 22 January 1958 and two adults on 28 November 1959 (L. A. Cowcill). One of two near Plumpton Hall on the Leven estuary (L) on 20 February 1960 remained until 17 March (J. B. and S. Bottomley). Four, in summer plumage, were on Walney Island on 4 April and one on 7 April 1960 (Allan Smith). One in full plumage was on Sandscale Marsh (L) on 26 March 1961 (K. Brown).

An adult with a second, perhaps immature, bird was on the Kent estuary on 19 August 1959, and another, with Greenshanks, on 19 September (J. B. and S. Bottomley). There was one on Roosecote Marsh (L) on 31 August 1961 (Jack Sheldon) and on 7 September (Allan Smith).

Two flew up the Skinburness creek by Grune Point on 31 August 1961 and continued flying low to the south until lost to sight (Ralph Stokoe).

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* (L.)*arquata* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Some breeding birds may winter locally. Widely distributed and common, nesting increasingly in lowland fields as well as on moors, to 2,600 feet. Breeding grounds occupied from late February onward and deserted from July, though some may linger until October. Numerous on estuaries and, in smaller numbers, generally on coast in winter; a few non-breeders remain all summer. Ringed young from Sweden and Finland recovered September onward. Locally ringed young recovered Ireland and Wales in later winters.

High-level nesting noticed recently in the Pennines has continued and extended with a nest with four eggs at 2,600 feet near the summit cairn of Knock Fell (W) on 2 June 1961 (D. A. Ratcliffe). A nest with six eggs was found on 17 May 1958 near Appleby (R. W. Robson).

An early coastal flock of four hundred birds was off Walney Island on 29 June 1958 (Jack Sheldon) and five hundred were counted on 7 July (Allan Smith). On the Kent estuary there were over two thousand on 27 July 1959 and four to five thousand on 10 August 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes, J. B. and S. Bottomley).

A flock wintered well inland, near New Hall, Appleby, in 1959-60. In early January it numbered over three hundred and fifty birds (R. W. Robson).

A partial albino at Hutton Roof, Kirkby Lonsdale (W) during April-May 1960 was entirely a sullied white, apart from a dark wing bar (J. A. G. Barnes).

Young birds ringed in Lakeland have been recovered in Ireland (Galway, Waterford and Limerick) and Wales (Flint) in November-January of same or later years (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1958 and 1959). A bird ringed at the nest at Töysä, central Finland, on 31 May 1961, was shot on Burgh Marsh (C) on 29 October following (Brian Batey; ringing details from University Museum of Zoology, Helsingfors).

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* (L.)  
*phaeopus* (L.)

C W L. Regular passage migrant (late April to early June; mid July to October). Frequent on coast and estuaries; few summer or winter records. Flocks now rarely exceed ten to twelve birds. Unusual inland.

A summer bird was seen at Roanhead on the Duddon estuary (L) on 26 June 1960 (K. Brown) and one summered off Rampside (L) in 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

The autumn passage in 1960 was strong, with birds about from 24 July to 2 October at Grune Point, where there were seven on 20th and thirteen on 28 August. This is in marked contrast to 1961, when two birds on 31 August was the season's total (Ralph Stokoe).

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor (November to early April), and passage migrant. Nests in woods throughout the area and most commonly in south; sometimes above tree limit in Pennines and to 1,000 feet in central fells. Infrequent in open country and scarce on coast.

One was flushed from the cliff top at St. Bees Head on 26 February 1955 in cold anti-cyclonic conditions (G. W. H. Moule).

**GREAT SNIPE** *Capella media* (Lath.)

C W. Six old and seven recent records (September to December) from north and east of area.

One was shot in a dry but rushy field near Brampton (C) on 26 December 1953 (Sir George Johnson). This is the first record for the area since one was shot in the same district in 1933.

**SNIPE** *Capella gallinago* (L.)  
*gallinago* (L.)

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Common and widespread; nests from coastal salt marshes up into the fells, occasionally to 2,600 feet. Drainage and other factors have brought about a reduction in numbers in some parts. Somewhat irregular

winter and migrational movements; flocks occur on passage on coast at times. Ringed young recovered in Ireland and Wigtownshire in winter.

A Pennine nest found by Ernest Blezard raises the upper breeding limit to 2,600 feet.

Birds may appear in creeks on Skinburness Marsh from 28 July, when there were twenty one there then in 1940, on until mid December, and especially from late September to the end of October. On 3 October 1954 a flock of seventy was flushed which circled widely for a time, eventually settling on a broken creek side. Twenty, perhaps a remnant of that flock, were in the same place a fortnight later (Ralph Stokoe).

Evidently on spring passage, sixteen flew north over Sandscale (L) on 10 February 1961 (K. Brown).

A nestling, ringed at Appleby, was recovered in Wigtownshire in following January (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958).

#### JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus* (Brünn.)

CWL. Regular but local winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers (mid September to early May; 17 May). Frequents damp places on salt marshes and mosses, the vicinity of lakes and tarns and wet moorlands.

There was one on 15 November and two on 22 November 1959 at a small Snipe-favoured marsh on Walney Island (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon), and one at Sandscale Marsh (L) on 26 March 1961 (K. Brown).

One was beside a small field pond at Grune Point on 14 February 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

#### RED-BREASTED SNIPE *Limnodromus* Wied sp.

C. One old September record. Two species of this North American wader ('Dowitcher') are now recognised: *L. griseus* and *L. scolopaceus*. Both occur in Britain. As the only local specimen, a juvenile female, no longer exists, the species can not now be determined.

#### GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* (L.)

CWL. Infrequent autumn passage migrant and storm-blown vagrant (September to December). Most have been found on the Solway; also St. Bees, Walney Island and inland at Windermere.

Following a large visitation to south-west England in October, one was seen on a fresh water pool on Walney Island on 1 and 3 November 1959 (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon, L. A. Cowcill).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus* (L.)

C L. Four old Solway records (September-October); one, Walney Island, September 1954.

A bird, apparently an adult moulting into winter plumage and still showing traces of a band of red on the sides of the neck, was on a small pool at Sandscale (L) on 20 September 1954 and watched at distances down to six feet (Jack Sheldon). The features distinguishing it from the preceding species, including the fine bill, were noticed at the time and recalled for comparison when the observer was later fortunate enough to see a Grey Phalarope. This is the first record for the area since 1892 and the first for Lancashire.

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* (L.)  
*interpres* (L.)

C W L. Passage migrant (July to early October; April to early June) and winter visitor. Common on coast wherever seaweed beds, mussel or boulder scars are available. Flocks of immature and adult birds may remain throughout summer, especially on Walney Island.

Rather large numbers are usual on Walney Island on passage and some apparently remain throughout the summer. On passage, two hundred and fifty were seen there on 7 May 1960 (K. Brown). In 1961 up to a hundred remained in that locality until the arrival of the south-bound birds (Jack Sheldon). The species may thus be found all the year round on the Furness coast, as Allan Smith confirms. It is, however, less common on the estuaries further east.

The coast off Moricambe, though apparently unpromising, can support appreciable numbers which assemble on Grune Point when the mussel scars further out are submerged. In 1961 there were sixty five on 22 January, twenty seven on 27 August and over eighty on 17 and 23 September (Ralph Stokoe, P. A. Banks).

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus* (L.)  
*canutus* (L.)

C W L. Passage migrant (mid July to November; April to mid June) and winter visitor (from mid October or later). Numerous in estuaries; few on west coast south from Dubmill Point. Immature birds may remain throughout summer. Passage birds have occurred inland. Birds ringed Norway and Iceland recovered in later winters.

At Moricambe (C) the substantial winter flocks of five thousand or more birds are not usually evident until December or January, but passage birds appeared in flocks of two hundred on 21 August 1960 and five hundred on 27 August 1961. In both years there was then a hiatus, until early December in 1960 and 15 October in 1961, when large numbers appeared again; there being some fifteen hundred on the latter date. Numbers can vary enormously as there are very large flocks on the Nith estuary, Dumfriesshire, some of which have been seen crossing the Solway during the winter (Ralph Stokoe).

The following records refer to the Rampside sands and Piel Channel neighbourhood. There was a flock of five thousand birds there on 27 February 1958 (Alan F. Airey) and similar flocks on 4 April (Allan Smith) and 23 October 1960 (K. Brown). In 1961, three thousand on 2 January (K. Brown) had reached an estimated six thousand by 30 April, with many in red plumage (Allan Smith). They dwindled, with the departure of the adults, to three thousand by June, some of which remained until August, when they too left. Only one hundred or so could be found in September and October, then two thousand in November and three thousand in December 1961 (Jack Sheldon). There were one hundred and fifty birds on the Duddon estuary on 19 February and four hundred on 8 April 1961 (Ken Brown).

Two adults, ringed Iceland in May and August, and one, ringed Norway in August, were recovered at Flookburgh (L) in later winters (November to March), one nearly six years later (*Report on Birds, Lancashire*, 1958). One, ringed Iceland in May 1957, was recovered on Foulney Island on 18 December 1960 (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1960).

### DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* (L.)

*schinzii* (Brehm)

*alpina* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. Breeds locally on the Pennine and Border fells, to 2,950 feet, and on the Solway salt marshes, where it is now much reduced in numbers (mid April to July). Occasional pairs also nest on salt marshes in the Kent estuary. The breeding form occurs on passage and probably in winter, with the northern race. Passage and wintering birds are numerous in all estuaries and common on the open coast (mid July to early June). Non-breeding birds may stay throughout the summer. Occasionally inland, at lakes and tarns, in winter and on passage. Norway ringed bird recovered on Solway a month later in October.

Nesting on Arnside and Meathop marshes (W) continues to the present time, at least occasionally, and is remarked upon in the Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1959. A single bird below Carrock Fell (C) on 15 July 1961 is one of the few found in the central fells (D. A. Ratcliffe).

Apparently summering birds are frequent around Piel Channel (L) where there were over a hundred in full plumage in one flock on 6 July 1958 (Ralph Stokoe), one hundred and twenty on 19 July 1961 (K. Brown) and in all perhaps a thousand for most of the 1961 summer (Jack Sheldon).

One of a flock on Walney Island from October 1960 on until January 1961 had white head and body plumage and normally coloured wings, beak and legs (K. Brown, J. Sheldon).

**CURLEW-SANDPIPER** *Calidris testacea* (Pall.)

C W L. Usually sparse autumn and rare spring passage migrant (end July to November; May-early June). Most frequent on Solway and southern estuaries; one Siddick Pond, November. Immature birds predominate in autumn, when flocks of up to sixty have occurred.

The only inland record is of one at Siddick Pond (C) on 3 November 1946, which had apparently moved this short distance from the shore with Dunlins and Ringed Plovers (Ralph Stokoe, W. McK. Bell).

At Moricambe (C) there was one on 28 October 1956 and another on 30 September 1959 (Ralph Stokoe). One was on the upper Kent Estuary on 19 September 1959 and it or another was seen again on 22 September and 2 October. Associated species were Little Stint and Dunlin (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

More than usual were on Roosecote Marsh (L) in 1961. Two appeared on 30 July and one or two were present at each subsequent visit until 20 August, some of the later birds being in red plumage (Jack Sheldon). There were four on 22 August (Allan Smith). An immature bird was feeding with Dunlins on 23 September on Walney Island (K. Brown) and the latest of a well-marked passage was at Arnside (W) on 14 October 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes).

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* (Leisl.)

C W L. Usually very sparse autumn and rare spring passage migrant (August to mid November; mid April-May). Most frequent on Solway and southern estuaries in September and October. Has wintered (December to February); one inland record—three at Penrith in August.

A bird was watched feeding with Ringed Plovers on the shore at Bootle (C) on 9 September 1958 (L. A. Cowcill).

The southern estuaries have monopolised all other recent appearances, added new winter months to the record for that time of year and extended the range to Lancashire. One was on the upper Kent estuary (W) with a Curlew-Sandpiper and other small waders on 22 September 1959 (J. B. and S. Bottomley, J. A. G. Barnes). Single birds at the north end of Walney Island (L) on 4 August (K. Brown) and at Humphrey Head (L) on 10 October 1960 (Alan F. Airey) are the first and second Lancashire records. One was with Dunlins on Roosecote Marsh (L) on 2 September 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

All the wintering birds were at Arnside (W) and are reported by J. A. G. Barnes. In 1960 there was one on 10 January; then in 1961, a single bird, or birds, in January and February and two together on 30 January and 1 February. There was another on 21-29 December 1961.

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** *Calidris temminckii* (Leisl.)

C. Six old September records, the last in 1891.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos* (Vieill.)

C. One October 1888, one October 1961.

The second appearance of this rare American wader after a lapse of nearly three-quarters of a century is of interest in its occurrence, like the first, in a grass meadow. The first, however, was far from the sea at Edenhall. This bird was shot at Saltcotes by Moricambe, on 1 October 1961. Examined by G. A. Allison at Carlisle Museum, it was found to be a young female in good condition and with a thick layer of body fat.

Among the North American bird vagrants reported in *British Birds*, 54: 448 for this autumn, are no less than twenty one records of Pectoral Sandpiper involving at least twenty six birds. Most appeared during the fortnight from 3 September, then several more after 5 October. By its condition this bird is likely to have been in the country for some time and may have arrived at the same time as the majority in early September.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima* (Brünn.)

*maritima* (Brünn.)

C.L. Passage migrant and winter visitor (September to April). Regular on Walney Island, occasional at St. Bees Head and neighbourhood, scarce elsewhere.

The boulder scars found along the whole of the west coast offer suitable, if not ideal, feeding grounds for the Purple Sandpiper. Away from St. Bees Head, which is less frequented than might be expected, these scars harbour most which occur. Walney Island, the most regular known haunt, has no features which obviously make it the most attractive to this species and some elsewhere may be overlooked. Previously unrecorded, two were seen on the shore at Parton (C) on 11 September 1926 (H. G. Alexander). Another new situation is the stony shore between Nethertown and Braystones (C) where twelve and another with Turnstones were seen on 16 November 1958, then five on 30 November (G. W. H. Moule).

At Walney Island, a flock of at least thirty six had gathered on the west shore on 4 November 1959, a day of strong wind. The next day was calm and small groups of up to six birds were feeding actively. Several small flocks, none of more than five birds, were present on 3 January 1960 (J. B. and S. Bottomley). Up to eleven birds were counted on several occasions at the south end of Walney Island in November 1959 (Allan Smith). Four were seen there on 9 January 1960, five on 4 December and two on 14 January 1961 (K. Brown).

**SANDERLING** *Crocethia alba* (Pall.)

C W L. Common passage migrant (mid July to October; March to mid June). In winter numbers are much reduced and in some years few remain. Occurs generally on open sandy shores. A flock of seventy, of which eleven were picked up after crashing into telephone wires, at Staveley (W) on 8 June 1938, is the most remarkable of the few inland records.

A single bird was at Grune Point on 17 July 1960, an early date (Ralph Stokoe). Six remained with the Dunlin flock in Piel Channel during the summer of 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

On the Low Furness-Walney Island coast most have been seen on the Duddon shore by K. Brown. There were two hundred on 23-24 April 1961 and a hundred and fifty on 4 June, many then in breeding plumage. By 12 August fifty six had returned and there were a hundred and twenty on 10 December 1961.

#### RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* (L.)

C W L. Regular autumn passage migrant in small numbers (mid July to September). Frequents salt marshes and damp pastures near the coast; usually flocks are of immature birds and rarely reach double figures. Few have occurred in winter or spring; rare far from sea.

At Roosecote Marsh (L) an immature bird, first seen on 11 August 1961, remained until the 15th. Then a party of five was noticed on the 18th and seen on several later occasions until the 27th of that month (Jack Sheldon, Allan Smith, L. A. Cowcill).

#### BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* (Vieill.)

C. One Solway record, September 1876.

#### COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* (L.)

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (21 March, April to September, few October). Nests commonly by rivers, streams, lakes and tarns from tidal reaches of Eden and southern estuaries to 2,350 feet in fells. Breeding birds move to coast from end of June, when flocks of up to fifty birds have been seen. Five winter records, all inland. Has declined, as a nesting bird, at least in north Cumberland.

At Moricambe (C), two on 11 May 1960 and two on 2 July 1961 are the latest spring and earliest autumn passage dates there recently (Ralph Stokoe).

After the cliff-ledge haunting bird seen at St. Bees Head in July 1952, one was seen there on 12 August 1961 feeding on a cliff-ledge twenty feet above the wave-platform (P. A. Banks). Others on the wave-platform were seen on 6 May and 26 September 1957 (G. W. H. Moule).

On 28th July 1960 twenty eight birds were counted at Greenodd (L) (Jack Sheldon).

One, ringed Suffolk in July, recovered Watendlath (C) following June (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1957).

**WOOD-SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* L.

C W L. Rare autumn passage migrant (August). Four birds, three of which were shot, were found at the same pool on Skinburness Marsh (C) at intervals over nearly forty years up to 1931. One spring record, Siddick Pond (C), April 1930. Twice inland, near Penrith, August 1867 and 1945.

One was seen on several occasions, and well enough to observe the characteristic features, on Roosecote Marsh on 3-8 August 1960 (Jack Sheldon). This is the first Lancashire record and the first for the area since 1945. Later the same month two birds were seen on Carnforth Marsh (Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1960), outside the area but of interest in association with the other record.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus* L.

C W L. Passage migrant, regular in autumn (July to October, few November), sparse in spring (April-early May). Occasional birds winter (January to March). Nested Levens (W), 1917. Usually found in salt marsh creeks, and by inland pools and streams. Often solitary, never in any large numbers. Recorded in every month except December.

Few appear in spring. At Morcambe (C) single birds were seen on 22 and 23 April 1959 and on 2 May 1960, the first May record for the area (Ralph Stokoe). There was one at a gravel pit near Barrow-in-Furness on 24 April 1960 (K. Brown).

Scarcely less frequent inland in autumn than near the coast, two were seen on several occasions at Burton Hall (W), at 800 feet, in November 1958 (William Atkinson, R. W. Robson), one near Appleby (W) on 25 October 1959 and one at Sunbiggin Tarn (W) on 22 September 1960 (R. W. Robson).

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus* (L.)

*britannica* Math.

*robusta* (Schiöler)

C W L. Resident, breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Nests commonly inland on damp ground to 1,500 feet, some birds also wintering there, as well as on the coastal salt marshes which remain its strongest haunts. Many young move south in autumn and perhaps some adults; others concentrate in flocks, especially in estuaries, where, with passage birds, large flocks form. In autumn, flocks of five hundred birds are not unusual and may reach a thousand. Winter flocks are usually smaller. Ringed young recovered later same year south to Essex, Dorset, Cornwall, Cork and Brittany.

The Iceland Redshank, identified from specimens shot on the Solway and off Barrow-in-Furness (October to March), is no doubt regular.

The autumn build-up at Grune Point reached seven hundred birds on 21 September 1958 (Ralph Stokoe). Flocks of some five hundred birds were off Walney Island; Parkhead, Leven estuary; and Askham, Duddon estuary in February and March 1961 (K. Brown).

A female, shot on Longnewton Marsh (C) on 29 November 1959 by Malcolm Moffatt, had measurements of a bird of the Iceland race.

A young bird ringed at Appleby was recovered Cheshire in October of same year (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958).

### SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* (Pall.)

C W L. Passage migrant (July to early November; end April-May; 20 June). Local, regular only in autumn and in small numbers—up to twelve. Infrequent in spring. Frequents larger salt marsh creeks, open estuaries and, occasionally, inland tarns. Feeding habits rather specialised, but associates freely with Redshank. Single birds have wintered on southern estuaries; now recorded for every month of the year.

The Spotted Redshank though continuing to excite interest is becoming less novel and fairly predictable at its favourite haunts.

The pattern of earlier years is maintained at Skinburness Marsh, though the 1956 flock of twelve has not been equalled since then. In 1957 up to three were about from 21 July, still the earliest date, to 30 September; in 1958 up to four from 7 September to 12 October; in 1959 no more than two between 10 September and 25 October; in 1960 they were there from 7 August to 9 October, with six on 24 September; and in 1961 up to three between 13 August and 15 October. In 1959 a single bird remained from 29 April to 1 May, then on 20 June an adult in full breeding plumage appeared briefly, and added a record for the only month in which the bird had not been seen in the area (Ralph Stokoe). A bird in summer plumage was on Burgh Marsh (C) on 11 May 1959 (William French).

A series of appearances at Park Bay on the Leven estuary (L) concerns a bird slightly lame in the right leg. One was seen there first in January 1955. A similar bird appeared on 9 January 1960 and remained until 22 April, by which time it was in almost complete nuptial plumage. What seems likely to be the same one returned on 30 October, remaining until 19 November. It was not seen again until 2 February 1961 then stayed until 6 April. It had not been seen in the following winter by 31 December 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes, J. B. and S. Bottomley). Other birds were seen on the Leven estuary on 6 and 16 October 1960 (J. B. and S. Bottomley).

### GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* (Gunn.)

C W L. Passage migrant (mid July to mid October; mid April to mid May) and scarce winter visitor. Regular in autumn, singly and in small parties of up to a dozen birds, and occasionally over twenty. Hardly commoner in spring than in winter, at both seasons it is scarce and irregular. There are several inland records in autumn and one in spring, from lakes, rivers and tarns throughout the area.

Often now equalled and sometimes outnumbered on Skinburness Marsh by the Spotted Redshank; the observed periods of passage and maximum numbers in recent autumns there are: 1957, 21 July to 1 September, maximum three; 1958, 7 to 21 September, up to six; 1959, 21 August to 18 October, no more than two; 1960, 24 July to 2 October, maximum three; 1961, 26 August to 7 October, maximum four. To this may be added Robert Spencer's seven on 13 August 1960 and one on 22 August 1961. The only spring birds were on 17 and 29 April 1960, with one on each date. One at Drumburgh (C) on 13 November 1960, was very late, if on passage (Ralph Stokoe).

On the Kent estuary, large numbers appeared in 1959. Birds were about from mid August until early October, in parties of up to twelve and with totals of twenty four on 19 and 22 September (J. B. and S. Bottomley, J. A. G. Barnes). At Walney Island numbers reached a peak on 20 September 1959, when there were six present; the last seen there were three on 15 November (Allan Smith). About twenty on the Kent estuary on 10 August 1961 is a large count in another year (J. A. G. Barnes).

More than usual wintering birds have been noticed. A single bird has wintered at Beckfoot (C), where one was seen on 10 January 1954, each season recently. A bird, first seen on 26 January 1958, stayed until 23 March. One returned on 12 October 1959. There were two on 17 January and 6 March, then one again on 20 March 1960. Next winter one was at the identical place at each visit from 9 October 1960 until 12 March 1961 (Ralph Stokoe). There was a winter bird on Burgh Marsh (C) on 28 January and 2 February 1961 (G. A. Allison).

Four birds wintered in the Piel Channel locality (L) during 1960-61; three were still there on 3 April 1961. One had returned on 5 November 1961 (Jack Sheldon, Ken Brown).

Inland records come from haunts where others have been found previously. Three were at Sunbiggin Tarn (W) on 30 August 1959 and one on the River Eden at Ormside (W) on 12-13 September 1960 (R. W. Robson).

## RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* L.

*hiaticula* L.

C W L. Resident, breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Nests commonly on coast and also on shingle banks of some northern rivers and at least one fell tarn. Inland and certainly some coastal breeding birds depart at end of season, returning from February onward. Large flocks appear during autumn and spring passage, and smaller numbers winter on coast and estuaries.

A flock of forty birds on a mud bank in a creek at Skinburness (C) on 7 August 1960 were feeding quietly until dusk. As darkness fell they began calling and a small group, then another, lifted high over the marsh. The second party of eight rose to perhaps five hundred feet when, levelling off, they flew steadily south in the direction of the Ennerdale fells until lost to sight. The rest followed at intervals. This mud bank held sixty eight birds at dusk on 21 August 1960 and is used regularly in this way in autumn (Ralph Stokoe).

Returning on spring passage, there were over a hundred on the Duddon estuary at Sandscale (L) on 22 May 1961. At Bardsea (L) one hundred and thirty eight were counted on 30 September 1961 (Ken Brown).

#### GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* (L.)

*apricaria* (L.)

*altifrons* (Brehm)

C W L. Breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Breeding birds are more local and generally less numerous than perhaps ten years ago; remains common on some Pennine moors up to 2,900 feet, but reduced on Border moors and some inland mosses, sparse in central fells and gone from the coastal mosses. Breeding haunts are occupied from mid February to early August. Flocks have been found on high moors as late as December and some regularly winter on lower ground inland. Most winter near the coast, where they may appear from the end of June, fighting to the shore from favoured pastures. Large flocks occur on passage.

Boldly-marked birds of the Northern race regularly appear on salt marshes, coastal fields and some northern and eastern inland haunts in spring, after wintering birds have left, and in early autumn (mid March to early May; August).

A reduction in numbers in the Skiddaw group of fells and on the Helvellyn range has been noticed since about 1950. In the Pennines and elsewhere there are probably fewer too, and distribution is irregular, but local concentrations with maintained numbers are still to be found (D. A. Ratcliffe).

At Skinburness migrant flocks are regular from mid July until September and, in some years, on into November (Ralph Stokoe). At Walney Island a small wintering flock left in January 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

#### GREY PLOVER *Squatarola squatarola* (L.)

C W L. Winter visitor and passage migrant (end August to May). Regular in small numbers and occasionally in loose flocks of up to fifty or more birds in spring and autumn. Commonest on estuaries, less frequent on open coast and very rare inland. Occasional summer records.

Substantial gatherings seem to be as usual now as in the past. There were twenty seven in Morcambe on 23 March 1952 and over fifty on 21 September 1952. Double figures have not been reached again since twelve were seen on 18 October 1954, but all these were well scattered over wide areas of sand and scar which have not been searched so thoroughly recently (Ralph Stokoe). In the Piel Channel district a good many were about early in 1961. Thirty were counted on 23 January (Jack Sheldon) and again on 19 February, with a further twenty five at Sandscale on the Duddon on the same day (Ken Brown). Grey Plovers are generally less numerous in winter than in autumn or spring which gives added interest to these Lancashire figures.

Less inclined to cross the shore-line than most waders, one was found hanging from telephone wires at Dubmill Point (C) on 12 January 1958, after gales. At Grune Point a bird formed an attachment to a newly-cleared potato field and was seen there on 29 October 1961. Although nervous, and rising at each approach, it repeatedly returned. The same field had been frequented by a small party of Oystercatchers for several weeks, though they were absent that day. Then on 10 December 1961 there were three in an adjacent pasture, with thirty Oystercatchers and two Redshanks (Ralph Stokoe).

**DOTTEREL** *Eudromias morinellus* (L.)

C W L. Rare and erratic breeding visitor (22 March, mid May to August, 3 October). Nests on stone-littered ground, usually above 2,400 feet. Infrequent on spring and scarce on autumn passage.

One flew past at Grune Point on 30 September 1957 giving good views and a typical call (G. W. H. Moule).

**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus* (L.)

C W L. Resident, breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Nests commonly from salt marshes up to 1,500 feet and, on occasion, to 2,950 feet in Pennines. Flocking and a movement to lowlands and coast takes place at end of nesting season (mid June onward). Considerable passage and weather movements. Many young and adults emigrate (August to November, returning February onward) while others remain in the area. Winter visitors and passage birds arrive from September and may be present when local birds are nesting; flocks of non-breeding birds occur in May and early June. Ringed young have been recovered in Newfoundland, in December of next year, Holland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Morocco; most have been found in Ireland.

A nest with three eggs was found below the spring tide-line on the shingle beach north of Dubmill Point (C) on 24 May 1961. The bird was seen at the nest and a colour photograph of the nest, lined with pieces of shore debris, was obtained. A Little Tern colony and a high density of Ringed Plovers in the vicinity may have some bearing on the unusual choice of site (J. A. Ismay).

Large flocks remained at New Hall, Appleby during the winter of 1959-60, there being about seven hundred birds in early January, when they are usually absent (R. W. Robson). An influx of between five and ten thousand birds to the Kent estuary on 22 November 1959 was an exceptional arrival. Autumn flocks are thought to have increased there recently (J. A. G. Barnes).

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* L.

C W L. Six records, all recent: Kent estuary, August 1934 and May 1954; Port Carlisle, September 1950 and 1954; Duddon estuary, March 1954; and Burgh Marsh, April 1960.

Though still a rarity, more Avocets have appeared in the last decade than at any time before. There were three at Arnside on 2 May 1954 (J. A. G. Barnes, Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1960) and two on Burgh Marsh (C) on 5 April 1960 (P. J. Griffiths, J. R. Hewitson).

OYSTER-CATCHER *Hamantopus ostralegus* L.

*occidentalis* Neum.

C W L. Resident, breeding visitor, winter visitor and passage migrant. Nests commonly on open shore and salt marshes and on shingle banks the length of many rivers; and increasingly frequently elsewhere, including fields near coast and rivers, an east Westmorland reservoir and one lake. The breeding range has been extending since at least 1900 and continues to do so. Infrequent in central region, though some passage birds and one nesting pair have been noticed. Inland breeding birds leave after nesting, returning from February onward. Some breeding birds and perhaps most young move south (July to September), though others are sedentary or move only a short distance. The mussel scars and cockle beds of the Solway and southern estuaries support large winter and considerable summer flocks; the latter, in numbers in excess of local breeding populations, are likely to be largely immigrant immature birds. More now feed inland by day. Ringed young from Fair Isle and Inverness recovered as non-breeders in later years.

Inland breeding birds returned to Dalefoot, Mallerstang (W) on 1 March 1958 and 3 March 1960. A nest was found with eggs at Deepgill (W), a new locality, on 24 May 1958 and another on 23 April 1960, an early date (Walter Thompson). Several pairs in fields near Highgate Farm, Penrith, well away from rivers or even streams, were present from May to July in 1960 (H. W. Richardson). A nest with one egg, and a sucked egg nearby, was found at south end of Bassenthwaite Lake on 30 May 1954 (R. Spencer, R. Stokoe). Six birds were seen in Geltsdale (C) in spring 1961 and one nest was found (R. A. Laird). A pair was probably breeding on bare earth at Lupton Reservoir, Kirkby Lonsdale, where they were seen on 23 April 1958 (J. A. G. Barnes). A pair were said to be nesting by the River Marron at Lamplugh in 1959 (J. F. Wright, per R. Stokoe).

Two flocks, each of about twenty birds, seen in flight going north over Coniston Water on 2 June 1960, may have been on late passage; such movements have become increasingly regular of late. Birds found by the lake-side at this time may have been resting; no evidence of nesting has been discovered (L. A. Cowcill). There were occasional birds at the head of Ennerdale Water in May and twenty five there on 3 August 1961 (P. A. Banks). A summering flock in the Piel Channel (L) numbered about eight thousand in 1961. By July many were in winter plumage (Jack Sheldon).

Young, ringed at Fair Isle in June 1953, recovered Walney Island in February 1957 and, ringed in Inverness in June 1957, recovered Walney Island on 4 May 1958 (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1957 and 1958).

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor* (Lath.)  
*cursor* (Lath.)

C. One old October record; one Grune Point, October 1947.

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* (L.)  
*pratincola* (L.)

C. One Solway record, 1807.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedipnemos* (L.)

C. One old March record; one Longnewton Marsh, March 1922, two Windscale, May 1955 and two near Carlisle, May 1956.

GREAT BUSTARD *Otis tarda* L.

C. One, Lanercost, March 1854.

CRANE *Grus grus* (L.)

C. One near Allonby, spring 1869.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* (L.)  
*niger* (L.)

C W L. Irregular passage migrant (21 March, May to early June; late July to early October, 8 November). Found at estuaries, lakes and tarns and sometimes with *Sterna* terns on coast, in small parties of up to eleven birds. Most autumn birds are immature. Has nested in Cumberland.

Six appeared at Sunbiggin Tarn (W) on 22 May 1959 as part of an invasion which brought birds to most parts of England (*British Birds*, 52: 276).

One was seen over Derwentwater on 25 September 1958 (Lawrence Arnold) and one at the head of the Kent estuary (W) on 3 October 1961 (J. A. G. Barnes, J. B. and S. Bottomley).

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* (Pall.)

C. One, Tindale Tarn, May 1957.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* (Temm.)

C. One, Skinburness, May 1913.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* Lath.*sandvicensis* Lath.

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (late March to early October). Nests regularly at Drigg Point and occasionally elsewhere; the Walney Island colony is now extinct. Rather infrequent on spring passage north of Ravenglass (April to early June); regular in autumn (August to early October) on post-breeding movements, when flocks may travel north, and later on passage. Ringed nestlings recovered Portugal, Gold Coast, Portuguese West Africa and Natal.

The numbers of nests counted at the Drigg Point, Ravenglass colony are: 1954, 407; 1955, 480; 1956, 450; 1957, 358; 1958, 476; 1959, 440; 1960, "some 400". These figures have been supplied by the Cumberland County Council who manage the Local Nature Reserve. At a large tern colony in another part three pairs attempted to nest in 1959, but deserted. In 1960 two pairs had their nests destroyed by a high tide; two pairs again nested in 1961.

One bird appeared off Walney Island on 20 March 1961 (Jack Sheldon) and another on 8 October 1961 (Ken Brown).

In *Lakeland Ornithology* (*Transactions*, Vol. VIII), the first three lines on page 70, which relate to this species, should be deleted and inserted at the head of page 67.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* Mont.*dougallii* Mont.

C L. Scarce and irregular breeding visitor and passage migrant (end April to mid September). A few pairs have occasionally nested among larger gatherings of Common Terns. After an absence of thirty years, three pairs were present in 1958 at a large tern colony and some have nested there each year since.

The re-appearance of this species as a nesting bird and in increasing numbers, may be regarded as a matter of congratulation to the local naturalists and one in particular, who devoted most of each summer to safeguarding the colony. The mention of names would reveal the locality, which is not desirable at the present time. Nests counted at this colony by the observer referred to, and confirmed by others, were: 1958, 3; 1959, 6; 1960, 5; 1961, 8.

A flock of several hundred adult and juvenile terns, mainly Common Terns, at Grune Point on 25 July 1959, included four adult Roseate Terns. All were involved in the post-breeding movements typical of the genus at this season (Ralph Stokoe).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* L.  
*hirundo* L.

CWL. Locally common breeding visitor and passage migrant (2 April, late April to September). Nests at Drigg Point, Rockcliffe Marsh, at times on other salt marshes and occasionally elsewhere. The Walney Island colony is virtually abandoned, due to pressure from the expanding large-gull colony there. A new colony, in another place and first noticed in 1955, is now the largest in the area. A post-breeding movement, often northward, occurs in late summer, prior to the autumn emigration. Found over inland lakes and rivers on passage occasionally. Ringed nestlings have been recovered in France, Spain, Portugal, Ghana and Senegal. One ringed at Walney Island was found dead by its nest at Drigg Point twenty-five years later.

Nests counted at the various colonies in the area are as follows:

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	
Drigg Point, Ravenglass	...	255	600	150	105	103	?	?	Per Cumberland County Council
A new colony	...	0	26	56	102	460	c450	c450	
Walney Island	...	—	—	—	38	0	3	5	R. Spencer, Allan Smith, K. Brown
Skinburness Marsh	...	0	0	0	20	20	2	4	Ralph Stokoe

None of the Walney Island nests was successful in 1959-1961, due to desertion or high tides, the birds being obliged to nest on the tide-line shingle. The nests at Rockcliffe Marsh are difficult to count. They are very widely dispersed, perhaps because of the number of cattle grazed there. An estimate would be forty or fifty pairs in a normal year. At Skinburness Marsh too a compact colony was not formed, perhaps for the same reason.

At Walney Island the first and last birds seen in 1961 were on 23 April and 23 September (Ken Brown). A solitary bird, a full month ahead of the main body that year, appeared at Grune Point on 2 April 1960.

At Grune Point, after the flocks which come in July and August have moved on, there is often a hiatus, then more appear in September which stay only a short time. One hundred and sixty birds were there on 17 September 1960 and fifty on 16 September 1961, in each case the last birds of the year (Ralph Stokoe).

Inland, one was over Coniston Water on 2 May 1960 (L. A. Cowcill). A desiccated corpse was found at the eyrie of a Peregrine Falcon in the Skiddaw group of fells on 24 June 1956 (Austin Barton).

A young bird ringed at Ravenglass (C) was recovered in Ghana on 20 April following (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna macrura* Naumann

C W L. Breeding visitor and passage migrant (end April to September, 23 October). Locally frequent, usually in small numbers, nesting on fringes of Common Tern colonies. A new colony built up to a maximum in 1957 of over two hundred nests, a figure well in excess of any previously recorded and in that year more than the Common Terns present, and continues at a high level. Participates with Common Tern in some post-breeding and passage movements, but, at least in spring, may also travel separately. Several inland records; in 1947, after westerly gales, many were found well inland from the heads of estuaries during late April and early May.

Nests counted at the two colonies in the area are as follows:

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	
Drigg Point, Ravenglass	...	40	—	12	15	19	?	?	Per Cumberland County Council
A new colony	...	0	38	84	229	140	190	c80 154	

At the second colony the identification of the species and the number of the nests were checked independently by two observers, whose conclusions are in close agreement. High tides have destroyed nests in several years and in 1961 adult and young terns were found killed, perhaps by a Stoat. From both causes the Arctic Terns suffered more severely than the Common Terns; the former nest on the edge of the combined colony and are thus more exposed to risk.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* Pall.

*albifrons* Pall.

C W L. Breeding visitor (late April to September). Small colonies of fifteen to twenty pairs nest on shingle beaches, about the spring tide-line, the length of the coast from Grune Point to Walney Island. High tides and disturbance seriously affect nesting success; numbers and locations are subject to change; colonies have built up to over a hundred pairs. The present small colonies occur on average every three miles or so of uniformly suitable beach and at wider intervals in other parts. No evidence of passage. Rare inland. Ringed young recovered in Portugal in August of a later year. Young ringed in August in Angus and Suffolk recovered here in June of later years.

Nests counted at some colonies in the area are as follows:

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	
Drigg Point, Ravenglass	...	20	9	4	10	8	?	?	*10 Per Cumberland County Council
A new colony	...	—	1	5	13	29	36	36	*P. A. Banks
Walney Island	...	—	—	—	6	2	—	3	R. Spencer, Allan Smith, K. Brown
Grune Point	...	c20	—	—	—	—	0	0	Ralph Stokoe

There has been a sad decline at Grune Point, where there were over a hundred pairs in 1917.

The first birds to be seen off Walney Island were on 25 April in 1960 (Jack Sheldon) and 23 April in 1961 (Ken Brown).

The ringing details given above are from *British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1959.

### SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata* L.

C. One, Drigg Point, June 1933.

### SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* (Sabine)

C. One old September record. Three recent records: an oiled immature male at Anthorn, October 1921; an adult female on Longnewton Marsh, December 1929 and an adult on Rockcliffe Marsh, September 1950, both after westerly gales.

### LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* Pall.

C W L. Scarce passage migrant and rare winter visitor (30 July, August to May, 29 June). Most have been found on the Solway and in the Eden valley, and a few on the Kent estuary; there are occasional isolated records from scattered inland haunts. Few adults have occurred.

An immature bird was at a pond at Morley Hill, Cumwhitton (C) from 24 April to 6 May 1960 (Ernest Blezard).

### BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* L. *ridibundus* L.

C W L. Resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Widespread and numerous, nesting in a few large and many small colonies on the coast and at inland tarns and mosses, up to 1,250 feet. Fluctuations at particular sites due to drainage, altering water levels and disturbance are frequent. Well-marked passage; many young birds and some adults move out of area in winter. Post-breeding dispersal to inland and coastal winter haunts, where numbers are augmented on arrival of winter visitors. Large roosts, when not at breeding colonies, on larger lakes and estuaries. Ringed young later recovered in Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Heligoland and Norway. One found where ringed twenty years later. Ringed young from Norway and Poland recovered in later autumns.

In 1958 the British Trust for Ornithology organised a count of nesting colonies, the report of which has not, at the time of writing, been published. The organiser, F. C. Gribble, has passed on the figures for this area which are included in the summary below under that year. Counts by contributors in other years are acknowledged opposite their contributions. The numbers refer to pairs or nests counted.

	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	
<b>CUMBERLAND.</b>						
Bassenthwaite Lake ... ..	—	20-50	—	—	—	
Blaze Fell ... ..	—	40-50	—	—	—	
Carlatten Mill ... ..	—	6	—	—	—	
Denton Fell ... ..	—	3	20	—	—	E. Blezard
Drigg Point ... ..	—	13,000-16,000	—	—	—	
Floutern Tarn ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	
Greencastle Tarn ... ..	—	up to 10	—	—	—	
Lazonby Fell ... ..	—	2	40-50	—	—	E. Blezard
Newton Marsh ... ..	—	up to 10	—	—	—	
North Scales, Heads Nook... ..	—	up to 1000	—	—	Finished	E. Blezard
Park Gate Tarn ... ..	—	c.10	—	—	—	
Rockcliffe Marsh ... ..	—	up to 40	—	—	—	
Salta Moss ... ..	—	1-2	—	—	—	
Skinburness Marsh ... ..	—	up to 20	—	—	—	
Tewit Tarn ... ..	10	6	—	—	—	Alan F. Airey
<b>WESTMORLAND.</b>						
Bolton's Tarn ... ..	—	c.15	—	—	—	
Borwick Fold Reservoir ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	
Greenside Tarn ... ..	—	c.250	—	—	—	
Halefield, Kirkby Thore ... ..	c.300	c.320	c.300	Dried up	—	R. W. Robson
Little Langdale Tarn ... ..	—	c.20	—	—	—	
Potter Fell Tarn ... ..	—	up to 15	—	—	—	
Skegges Water ... ..	—	up to 50	—	—	—	
Spital Ings, Stainmore ... ..	—	15-20	—	—	—	
Sunbiggin Tarn ... ..	—	up to 1200	—	—	—	
Tarn House Tarn ... ..	—	66	—	—	—	
<b>LANCASHIRE.</b>						
Boretlee Tarn ... ..	—	1	—	—	c.100	K. Brown
Burney Tarn ... ..	—	c.15	c.15	—	—	L. A. Cowcill
Moss Eccles Tarn ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	L. A. Cowcill
Peewit Tarn, Woodland Fell ... ..	—	—	—	—	c.3	L. A. Cowcill
Roe Rigg Tarn ... ..	—	18	—	—	—	
Three Dubs Tarn ... ..	—	c.30	—	—	—	
Ustick Moss, Sawrey ... ..	—	c.16	—	—	—	
Walney Island ... ..	—	0	2	—	12	A. Smith, K. Brown
Wise Ben Tarn ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	

Away from the huge gullery on Drigg Point, something like three thousand pairs were known to be nesting in the area in 1958. The estimate of the numbers at Drigg Point is still wide and, in the opinion of Dr. N. Tinbergen, no reliable figure has yet been obtained.

Lake roosts included some 2,400 birds in Millerground Bay, Windermere, in November 1956 and December 1957 (Alan F. Airey) and over 6,500 birds on Ullswater in January 1960 (R. W. Robson).

A nestling, ringed in Norfolk, was recovered at Waberthwaite (C) in September of the following year. A Ravenglass nestling, ringed June 1957, was found dead in Norway in May 1960 (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1956 and 1960). A nestling, ringed in Poland (formerly East Prussia) in June 1958, was recovered at Ullswater in September 1961 (R. W. Robson, ringing details from Miss E. P. Leach).

### COMMON GULL *Larus canus* L. *canus* L.

CWL. Winter visitor and passage migrant (7 June, late June to early May). Most are in adult plumage. On arrival, flocks spread throughout the area, feeding inland for the most part and roosting in huge gatherings on the estuaries and larger lakes. Passage flocks appear on the coast and inland, moving through the central fells and Eden and Lune Valleys. Nested on Solway salt marshes 1914, 1923-4 and perhaps 1931 and at Ravenglass 1931 and 1940. Ringed birds from Scandinavia recovered in winter.

There were two birds on Ennerdale Water on 7 June 1961 (P. A. Banks) and fifty at Dovenby (C) in a newly-mown hayfield on 26 June 1959 (Ralph Stokoe).

The great roost at Ullswater included over fifteen thousand Common Gulls in January 1960 (R. W. Robson).

A nestling, ringed at Oslo Fiord, Norway in June 1952 was found dying at Blackford (C) on 5 September 1959 by John Forrester (details supplied by Stavanger Museum).

### HERRING-GULL *Larus argentatus* Pont. *argentatus* Pont.

CWL. Numerous resident, dispersing in winter when some, mainly young birds, move south. Two large nesting colonies at St. Bees Head and Walney Island, and several small groups and isolated nests at Drigg Point and on salt marshes and mosses. Ringed young have been recovered at Dalton-on-Tees and Fleetwood, and from Caithness and Ross.

A count of the nests on St. Bees Head in May 1956 gave a total of 1,670 for the whole stretch from St. Bees north to Barrowmouth. This is likely to be less than the potential breeding population as many pairs would by then have failed and left their nest sites. There are more breeding pairs than available sites. Each year pairs attempt to nest on the

cliff top, but are quickly disturbed. In 1957, perhaps because a fatal accident to a boy collecting eggs discouraged others, more than usual were found on the cliff top and some with full clutches. Then on 23 May, eight nests were found in a field about fifty yards back from the cliff top (Ralph Stokoe).

The huge colony on Walney Island has continued to increase. In 1959 pairs were prospecting fields adjacent to the dunes. During the following winter some of the birds remained there (Allan Smith). Pairs had formed by early February in 1961 and the first eggs were laid on 23 April (Jack Sheldon).

At Ravenglass two pairs nested in the Reserve in 1958 and five pairs in 1959 (per Cumberland County Council).

A nestling, ringed in Ross in July, was found with a broken wing at Carlisle the following June (M. Atkinson).

### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* L.

*fuscus* L.

*graellsii* Brehm

C W L. Locally numerous breeding visitor, passage migrant and generally sparse winter visitor. Large numbers nest on Walney Island and Rockcliffe Marsh and small groups or isolated pairs on other salt marshes, mosses and moorlands in the Pennines and elsewhere. Non-breeding near-adults frequent rivers, lakes and fells in summer and more birds now winter, mainly on southern estuaries. Ringed young have been recovered in Spain, Portugal, north-west Africa and Senegal and, a year later, in Denmark.

The Continental race occurs in small numbers as a passage migrant and winter visitor (September to April).

At the huge and still expanding Walney Island colony the Lesser Black-backed Gulls, unlike the Herring-Gulls which are in similar strength, leave by the end of August. Three hundred were back on 28 February in 1960 (Allan Smith). In 1961, all were back by 12 March and the first eggs were found on 30 April (Jack Sheldon). There were twenty there on 12 February 1961 (Ken Brown).

The colonies on Foulshaw and Roudsea Mosses have been extinct since about 1947, having continued for over a century (J. A. G. Barnes). These old colonies were decreasing when the Walney Island colony was becoming established between 1926 and 1934.

Two nests were found on Newton Marsh, Moricambe in May 1957 and traces of others which were empty (Ralph Stokoe).

A second investigation into winter numbers by J. A. G. Barnes (*Bird Study*, 8: 127-147) has shown an increase and spread. The largest numbers in the Lakeland area were on the Kent estuary, with seventy two on 7 December 1959 and forty six on 4 February 1960. R. W. Robson found fifty birds in the Ullswater roosting flocks in January 1960.

At Moricambe none over-winter. A few were still present on 19 November 1939 and this date was not passed until 1954, when there was

one on 28 November. Two lingered until early December in 1956 and 1957, but none stayed as late in subsequent years until 1960 when two remained until 31 December (Ralph Stokoe).

In May 1955, G. W. H. Moule saw five or six Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Siddick Pond on 3 May and one or two on other days up to the 17th; none had previously been seen there in May.

A young bird, ringed Rockcliffe, recovered Algeria following December (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1958). A nestling, ringed at Walney Island on 30 June 1961, was recovered at Appleby on 11 August (K. Brown).

### GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* L.

C W L. Scarce resident, common and increasing winter visitor and passage migrant (mid July to early May). Non-breeding birds occur in summer, usually in small numbers. Several pairs nest on Walney Island and one or two on Rockcliffe Marsh. None is now known to nest elsewhere. Flocks appear on the estuaries from July on, and small numbers or isolated pairs and individuals on the open coast; increasingly frequent inland. Flocks are usually with or near gatherings of other species of gulls, and may be of up to eighty birds. Ringed young from north-west Russia recovered following March.

Five pairs nested on Walney Island in 1959 and 1960 (Allan Smith). The first eggs were laid on 30 April in 1961 (Jack Sheldon). One or two pairs continue to nest on Rockcliffe Marsh (Ernest Bleazard).

At least a few birds are present on Skinburness Marsh throughout the year, except from about mid May to mid July. There were twenty two on 21 July 1957, three on 13 May 1958, none after 4 April in 1960, but two on 26 June and on 17 July in that year, and two on 2 July in 1961. Passage flocks temporarily swell the population in August and September. There were thirty seven on 30 September 1956, after only twelve a week previously, and few thereafter for a period, twenty four on 18 August 1957, over fifty on 14 August 1960, twenty three adults on 10 September and over thirty adults on 15 October 1961. Near Bowness-on-Solway there were sixty six adult and immature birds in a flock on 13 August 1961.

A large flock of gulls in a field on the east shore of Ullswater in the late afternoon included twenty Great Black-backed Gulls, on 19 November 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

There are more now on the southern estuaries, including eleven on the Kent estuary on 10 September 1959 (J. A. G. Barnes), twenty on Milnethorpe Sands in October 1961 (A. F. Airey) and sixty adults off Walney Island in November 1961 (Jack Sheldon).

A nestling, ringed near Murmansk, Russia, was recovered at Walney Island in the following March (*British Birds*, Report on Bird Ringing for 1959).

**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* Gunn.

CWL. Ten records: Solway, Kent estuary, Windermere and Coniston Water (November to April). All were immature birds.

A large white gull seen on Coniston Water on 13 March 1958, with a Cormorant nearby, was judged to be an immature bird of this species (L. A. Cowcill).

**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides* Meyer

C. Six old records from Solway and Duddon estuary (January-February), all immature; one, Carlisle, February 1949.

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* (L.)  
*tridactyla* (L.)

CWL. Breeding visitor (February to August), passage migrant and winter vagrant. Nests only at St. Bees Head, where the colony has increased from twenty pairs to over sixteen hundred pairs since 1932. Post-breeding and passage birds frequent west coast (August-September). Storm-blown vagrants on coast and inland. Ringed birds from Farne Islands and North Shields on west coast in winter.

A count of all occupied nests at St. Bees Head in May 1956 gave a total of 1,651 pairs of nesting birds (Ralph Stokoe).

Large numbers of birds, driven inshore and inland during January and February 1957, appeared on south and south-west coasts of England. In Lakeland, live birds were seen off-shore, then corpses on the Lancashire and Cumberland coasts and a dead bird at Kendal on 3 March (*British Birds*, 51: 253-266). Three immature birds were in Maryport Harbour on 23 February 1959 (R. Irving); three immatures at Rampside (L) on 20 June 1960, were possibly storm-driven (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon); about twenty off Walney Island on 4 December (K. Brown) and eighty on a high tide at Arnside on 20 December 1960 (J. A. G. Barnes) had apparently been blown in. Storm blown birds on the upper Solway included two at Bowness on 20 December 1959 and three off Grune Point on 16 September 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

A nestling, ringed on the Farne Islands, was recovered off Whitehaven the following February. An adult, ringed at North Shields, Northumberland in June 1959, was found dead at Maryport the following February (*British Birds*, Reports on Bird Ringing for 1956 and 1960).

**IVORY-GULL** *Pagophila eburnea* (Phipps)

W. One adult, Cunswick Tarn, about 1850.

**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua* (Brünn.)  
*skua* (Brünn.)

CL. Scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor (mid July to early February, also 8 April and 12 June).

A bird, taken to be an immature bird because of the indistinct white wing patches, accompanied a boat for several minutes on 13 August 1961, five or six miles south-west of Walney Lighthouse (Allan Smith).

**POMATORHINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temm.)

C. Irregular, and usually scarce, autumn passage migrant (end August to late October, also 22 December, 22 April and 21 May). Most are seen off Solway and west coasts south to Drigg. Twice inland near Carlisle.

Unrecorded since 1943, a male bird in its first winter plumage was found dead at Drumburgh on 28 October 1961 (Brian Batey).

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (L.)

C W L. Sparse autumn and scarce spring passage migrant (early August to October; end April to early June). Occasional birds in late June-mid July may be non-breeders. Seen off all coasts, but most frequent in open sea; in Solway appears regularly when tern passage coincides with south-westerly gales. Eight inland records. Ringed young from Faroe Islands recovered inland following September.

There was one off St. Bees on 8 May 1958 (G. W. H. Moule) and three dark-phase birds on 9 April 1961 (Howard Smith). Two were moving north, harrying terns off Walney Island, on 17 May 1961 (Ken Brown). A juvenile flew past Foulney Island (L) on 30 July 1961 (Jack Sheldon) and two were seen off Maryport (C) on 6 August 1957 (Ronald Irving). With strong up-channel winds there was an adult off Bowness-on-Solway on 16 August 1959, two adults off Grune Point on 27 August 1961 and two adults and a juvenile on 17 September 1961 (Ralph Stokoe). One, almost certainly of this species, was chivvying gulls at Seascale on 5 October 1961 (Miss M. Garnett). A juvenile, found dead in a field at Cowmire Hall, Crosthwaite (W) on 15 October 1961 by Major Gordon, was sent to Carlisle Museum by J. A. G. Barnes.

A bird, ringed as a nestling at Strömö, Faroe Islands, on 12 July 1961 was picked up dead at Cleator Moor (C) on 2 September following (per Robert Spencer).

**LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Vieill.

C W L. Scarce autumn and rare spring passage migrant (October-early November; end April to mid June). Has occurred the length of the coast and also inland. Most appear to have been storm-driven vagrants.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda* L.*britannica* Ticehurst

C W L. Common breeding visitor to St. Bees Head (27 November, January to August). Storm-driven, ailing and oiled birds occur elsewhere on coast and also, occasionally, inland.

On St. Bees Head in May 1956, sixty breeding pairs were located. Most nests are hidden in crevices and many are not readily discoverable. The total breeding population is very much higher, though well below that of the Guillemot (Ralph Stokoe).

There were two Razorbills in the Walney Channel on 30 April 1961 (Allan Smith).

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge* (Pont.)*aalge* (Pont.)*albionus* With.

C W L. Numerous breeding visitor to St. Bees Head (28 October onward, at intervals; February to August). Storm-driven, ailing and oiled birds occur regularly elsewhere on coast and also, occasionally, inland.

The northern race is regular on passage and in winter; off-shore and tide-line corpses frequently include some of this race.

A count of the incubating birds on St. Bees Head in May 1956 gave a total of 2,009 breeding pairs. Birds incubating eggs usually sit at the back of the ledge and may not be visible from any point. In consequence this total is likely to be an under-estimate. A check by different methods of counting at suitable places suggests that up to twenty per cent. of the birds may have been missed in this way.

Bridled birds average just over one per cent. of the total. On 12 May 1956 a pale-plumaged bird was discovered. The usually dark-brown upper parts were khaki-brown and the head was paler still, especially on the cheeks and under the chin, with a dark line running from the beak through the eye.

A strong wind brought a single bird into Moricambe on 18 October 1959, which flew out again on the falling tide (Ralph Stokoe).

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Uria grylle* (L.)*grylle* (L.)

C W L. Scarce breeding visitor to St. Bees Head (February to August). One to three pairs nest annually. May linger off-shore, at least until October. Occasional tide-line corpses are washed up in autumn and winter.

The Black Guillemot may have a longer history as a resident at St. Bees Head than has been thought. The one or two pairs there now are not always easy to locate and can readily be passed by, especially as they nest away from the other auks. Macpherson, *A Vertebrate Fauna of Lakeland*,

1892, records two birds shot in spring "some thirty years ago . . . near Whitehaven" and H. G. Alexander saw a bird at St. Bees Head on 8 April 1921. *The Birds of Lakeland* mentions one on a ledge in July 1932 and a pair on the sea nearby in July 1935. The first nest was discovered in 1940.

A bird in winter plumage was off St. Bees on 11 October 1957 (G. W. H. Moule). A dead bird in winter plumage was found on the shore at Maryport in November 1954 (R. Irving) and another near Mawbray (C) on 1 January 1955 (R. Stokoe).

#### LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* (L.)

*alle* (L.)

C W L. Irregular, usually storm-driven, vagrant (end October to February, 5 May). Subject to 'wrecks', when many may appear on coast and inland, usually dead or exhausted.

A dead bird was found on the beach at St. Bees on 20 January 1957 (G. W. H. Moule) and one on Roosecote Marsh (L) on 8 March 1958 (Jack Sheldon).

As part of a widespread appearance on northern coasts, one was seen at Kentmere (L) on 5 November and another picked up dead at Crosthwaite (W) at the end of December 1959 (*British Birds*, 53: 142). Two dying birds were found at Aldingham (L) on 3 January 1960 by Mrs. Chadwick and one was sent to Carlisle Museum by Allan Smith.

#### PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* (L.)

*grabæ* (Brehm)

C W L. Sparse breeding visitor to St. Bees Head (26 February, March to August). Storm-driven, ailing and oiled birds occur elsewhere on coast, most frequently on Walney Island and also, occasionally, inland.

The breeding birds at St. Bees Head are unusual in that although earth-topped buttresses, fairly secure at least from human access, are available, most nests are placed under fallen blocks on ledges or in cracks in the sheer face of the cliff. A favourite site is a long horizontal crack in the sheer face, so low that the birds are unable to stand upright below the upper lip. Several pairs nest at the back of this. No typical earth burrows have been located. In May 1956 eight pairs were found nesting, but there have been rather more than this subsequently (Ralph Stokoe). In 1961, P. A. Banks saw about twenty birds.

#### CORN-CRAKE *Crex crex* (L.)

C W L. A much reduced breeding visitor (10 April, late April to September; one 3 January). Nests in grassland or rough waste ground to the fell foot. Now generally scarce, a few places continue to attract breeding birds fairly regularly and more appear in a good year, only to vanish again the next or later years. Has been found nesting when not heard calling. Rarely noticed on passage. A ringed nestling was recovered in France in following September.

A nest in a young plantation near Rose Castle (C) hatched twelve young on 17 June 1957 (R. H. Brown). One was seen at Milburn (W) on 9 June 1958 (P. Delap). Birds were heard calling in May and June 1959 at Crosby, Maryport (T. R. Watson), at Nateby and Newbiggin-on-Lune (W) (Walter Thompson) and at Newton Reigny (C), where one was also seen on 23 August (R. W. Holliday). In May 1960, birds were located near Warcop (W) and Appleby (G. Flemming) and on the marsh at the head of Bassenthwaite Lake, where they are said to have bred after an interval of eight years. None was found there in 1961 (Mrs. E. J. Wilson).

An early and interesting record is of a bird flushed from a gorse thicket on the shore by Biggar village, Walney Island on 10 April 1960 and clearly on passage (Allan Smith, Jack Sheldon). One flew from the sedge at the edge of Thurstonfield Lough on 26 August 1959 and was seen at close range (G. A. Allison, J. Willmot, N. Rickard).

### SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* (L.)

C W L. Rare summer visitor and scarce passage migrant (March to October). Is believed to have nested, at least in Cumberland, though this has yet to be directly confirmed. Most have been recorded in autumn (September-early October).

### LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva* (Scop.)

C L. One old April record and one other; one Dalston (C), November 1940.

### BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla* (Pall.)

*intermedia* (Herm.)

L. One, Ulverston, May 1886. Found in the same disused clay pit as a Little Crake a month earlier.

### WATER-RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* L.

*aquaticus* L.

C W L. Retiring but not uncommon resident and winter visitor. In breeding season favours low-lying and overgrown swampy ground. More widespread in winter.

One was seen at Newbiggin (L) on 25 March 1961 (Jack Sheldon), one at the south end of Walney Island on 27 September 1959 and one at Biggar village, Walney on 15 November 1959 (Allan Smith).

One was watched at Sunbiggin Tarn (W) on 21 August 1960 (R. W. Robson).

A bird was found in the ski-hut on Raise, Helvellyn on 16 October 1960 by Thomas Jackson. It was in an exhausted condition, but recovered and, after being ringed by R. H. Brown, was released at Cumdivock (C).

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* (L.)  
*chloropus* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Breeds by all still or quiet waters, including the smallest ponds and streams, from coastal salt marshes up to at least 1,000 feet. In winter there is some concentration on lower waters of birds from more exposed situations; otherwise largely sedentary.

A dead bird was found on Grune Point, where none nests, on 30 May 1960 (Ralph Stokoe).

**COOT** *Fulica atra* L.  
*atra* L.

C W L. Resident and winter visitor. Breeds commonly on larger tarns and most lakes from coast up to about 1,000 feet. Upland waters are later deserted and large flocks gather on lakes and lowland tarns (September to March). Appears on sea during periods of extreme frost.

Counts of February flocks on some larger lakes include: Windermere (Bowness), 550 in 1957 and 1958; Derwentwater, 150 in 1958; Bassenthwaite Lake, 40 in 1958 (Alan Airey). There were 350 off Nichol-end, Derwentwater, on 8 January 1961 (Ralph Stokoe).

**BLACK GROUSE** *Lyrurus tetrix* (L.)  
*britannicus* With. & Lönn.

C W L. Local resident. Frequent on moors of north Cumberland and Kentmere and in smaller numbers on suitable ground elsewhere. Liable to fluctuations with changes in use of the ground they occupy; the activities of the Forestry Commission are especially important in this respect.

Birds in the Greystoke (C) district are much reduced and may have gone. A sprinkling continues on the Bewcastle and Gilsland (C) moors and along the Pennine fringes from Tindale to Mallerstang (Ernest Blezard). A few are regular and evidently nesting on the limestone uplands near Kendal, the Barbon fells and Whitbarrow (J. A. G. Barnes). There was at least one pair on Bowness Knott, Ennerdale in 1961 and a cock at Hollow Moor, Blengdale (C) (P. A. Banks).

An increase over the last fifteen years has been evident around Brampton (C), where a lek of ten to fifteen cocks may now be found in one favoured locality. The summer of 1961 proved to be an unsuccessful breeding season however (Major-General Sir George Johnson).

RED GROUSE *Lagopus scoticus* (Lath.)  
*scoticus* (Lath.)

C W L. Resident. Common on heather moors in north Cumberland and east Westmorland; generally rather thinly distributed elsewhere, from coastal mosses, where much reduced, up to 2,200 feet.

One of the highest densities of birds noticed recently was on Kirkby Moor (L), before it was burnt (D. A. Ratcliffe). Several pairs were found on Dent Fell, near Cleator Moor (C) in spring 1961 and on Brown Edge, Blengdale (C) in November 1961 (P. A. Banks). A few pairs breed on Foulshaw Moss (W) (Lancaster and District Bird-watching Society *Annual Report*, 1959).

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus* (Montin)

C. Extinct since the end of the eighteenth century.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* L.

C W L. Resident. Common where reared and preserved, otherwise sparse.

PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* (L.)  
*perdix* (L.)

C W L. Resident. Common on cultivated ground, where not over-shot; less plentiful on grazing land and infrequent on higher ground, up to 1,500 feet.

In the springs of 1959 and 1960 a pair appeared on Grune Point (C) to take up residence, but each year were shot before they had nested (Ralph Stokoe).

A nest on a grave mound in Lowick Churchyard (L), discovered when the grass was cut, contained twenty two eggs, all but one of which hatched (L. A. Cowcill).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* (L.)  
*rufa* (L.)

C W. Unsuccessfully introduced on several occasions. A few vagrants occur, perhaps from introduced stocks in neighbouring counties, the latest at Troutbeck (W) in September 1943.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* (L.)*coturnix* (L.)

C W L. Now very scarce and irregular breeding visitor and sparse passage migrant (May to September). Most frequent in Solway region and Cumberland plain.

One was flushed from a root field and shot near Wigton (C) on 26 September 1951 (D. McNeil). One was heard and seen at Winderwath, Penrith on 31 May 1958 (H. W. D. Pollock, per R. W. Robson). A bird was calling at night at Blackwell, Carlisle in May 1959 (Ernest Blezard). Birds were calling at night during the first week of May 1960 at Grune Point (Ralph Stokoe).

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## BIRD MIGRATION AT GRUNE POINT

by *Ralph Stokoe*.

Grune Point has been known as a haunt of migrant birds and of unusual vagrants for as long as such events have held interest. No one demonstrated this more clearly than William Nichol, during his life-time of wild-fowling and fishing there, and earlier *Transactions* have recorded a great many of his observations. Indeed these are now perhaps the only surviving record, apart from some panels from his hut on which he noted events of interest and which are lodged at the Carlisle Museum. His note-book, which held a fuller account, has passed through various hands and can not now be traced.

The full tally for the Point, including these earlier records, now stands at 172 species. The present account is limited to land birds, namely: Crows to Hawks together with the Pigeons and Game Birds, following the arrangement of species used throughout this volume, and eighty nine species are mentioned.

Lying on the Solway Coast two miles north of Silloth with Skinburness village at its base, the Point projects north-east across the mouth of Moricambe towards Cardurnock. It is bounded on the landward side by the muddy creeks and salt turf of Skinburness marsh and the broad sands of the bay; to seaward the sand at low tide stretches clear to the Dumfries coast, broken only by the river channels and mussel scars characteristic of the region.

This ancient and consolidated shingle spit is rather more than a mile long and, despite its modest height, stands well above its surroundings. Only its seaward fringe is mobile. Here changes continue and a slow growth can be traced. The shingle gives way to low Marram dunes, open grassland — now ungrazed and rank, scattered Hawthorn and briar clumps, acres of Gorse and, on the sheltered side, fragments of salt marsh. All this is unenclosed common land. A belt of small fields runs down the centre of the Point, bounded by two lines of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Gorse hedges. A small pond in one field is the only open fresh water there. Remains of war-time occupation are beginning to merge into the landscape. Towards its base, the garden of Grune House, spanning the width of the Point between the paths on either side, contains the tallest trees in the neighbourhood and a mass of bushes and shrubs. The whole is reasonably immune from incursion, other than on foot, by reason of gates across the paths, kept locked by the stint-holders who have grazing rights over the common land. This combination of relative isolation and diversity of habitats attracts in their seasons a considerable variety of passage and wandering birds.

The programme of trapping and ringing on which this paper is based was started in October 1958 and has continued to the present

time. The conclusions are tentative and much remains to be discovered. The use of a caravan allowed residence at the Point during the most interesting periods so that trapping and observations could be carried on around dawn and dusk during the week as well as throughout the day at week-ends. During April and most of May in 1959 and 1960 and from the latter part of August until early October in 1959, 1960 and 1961, this was done. At other times visits were paid at week-ends, whenever conditions permitted. Practically nothing was done in spring 1961 and the summer months are not too well covered. However at least one visit has been paid each week of the year and, in the last thirty nine months, at least a part of each of over two hundred days has been spent there.

The trapping is done with fine nylon or terylene mist nets. These are a recently introduced device of Japanese origin, controlled by the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology. The standard nets are twenty feet long and about nine feet high. They are completely mobile, quickly set up and highly efficient in suitable conditions. Apart from ringing, they provide a unique means of sampling bird populations. For this reason one group of nets has been erected in the same place on each occasion as a rough control. The remaining nets would then be placed wherever seemed likely to be the most rewarding. They are highly susceptible to wind, which is rarely absent on the coast, and unsatisfactory in bad weather, so that fairly good conditions are a pre-requisite as well as a supply of birds.

Most of the trapping has been done about hedges and bushes. In consequence certain species, such as aerial and ground feeders, are poorly represented in the ringing totals. Some have not been caught at all—Partridges have twice flown straight through a net. On the other hand a satisfactory sample of those species using bush and hedge cover has been caught (though Willow-Warblers, Goldcrests and especially Wrens often slip through the mesh of the standard type of net) and some unexpected ones have come to hand, notably a Barred Warbler in 1959.

The differential effect of trapping on breeding and non-breeding birds is marked. Birds constantly encountering nets learn to avoid them and the taking up of territory considerably reduces movement of any, other than the resident pair of a particular species, through the net site in their territory. A female Blackbird first caught in 1959 on 11 January was trapped on five later occasions up to 2 April, then was not encountered again until after the nesting season. In 1960, twenty one Blackbirds were trapped or re-trapped in the first eighteen days of April. From then on until 19 May, despite daily trapping, only five more were caught. Thus, when nets are repeatedly sited in the same places there is only a limited disturbance of the species which are nesting or about to and an increased chance of taking passage birds. Outside the breeding season, those species such as

the Robin which hold territory throughout the year continue to be affected in this way, indicating how individuals which are on passage may be recognised.

The three Tables which are appended summarise some of the results obtained. Table I lists seventy six species which have been seen there in the thirty nine months ended 31 December 1961. Thirteen further species which are known to have occurred are mentioned in the footnote. Separate details are given for the White Wagtail, which has been distinguished at all times; in the field the separate races of the Wheatear have not always been distinguished in autumn and so are treated under the species heading. Other subspecies noted have been the Mealy Redpoll and a bird with the characters of the Irish Coal-Tit.

During two weekends in June 1960, a survey of the birds nesting on the Point was made and the total then is estimated at over 230 pairs. These included a pair of Sedge-Warblers nesting in a stretch of Gorse, an event which has not been found before or since, and a pair of Spotted Flycatchers, a species which does not nest every year.

The annual ringing totals are set out in the next four columns. That for 1959 also includes sixty seven birds ringed during October-December 1958. In 1961, 561 of the 610 birds were ringed in September and October. In all 2,111 birds were ringed. This does not include nestlings. Fewer of these were ringed than one would have liked. Being single-handed for much of the time, it was not always possible to look for nests or to re-visit those found at the correct time. No House-Sparrows were ringed after May 1959 and from August 1960 no records were kept of those caught. There is a resident population feeding round the hen-run and nesting in the pines and ivy-covered trees in the garden of Grune House.

The number of birds caught again are listed under the heading *Total Retrapped*. Resident birds may be caught repeatedly, but they are included only once in this context. Passage birds may be caught again the same or the following day; these quick repeats are also ignored and only retraps after an interval of a clear day are included here, and in the other Tables. Comparison of these figures with the totals of those ringed and breeding gives some indication of the relative sedentariness of different species. The oldest known resident is a male Blackbird, ringed when adult in 1958, which has appeared each summer since.

Recoveries, that is of birds found away from the place of ringing, have been few. No birds ringed elsewhere have been found at Grune Point. Several ringed there have been recovered elsewhere, but, since the average recovery rate for small birds is only one in several hundreds, one can not look for impressive returns. Also it may be that many birds found here are moving to and from thinly-populated regions. Out of twenty four Song-Thrushes ringed in September

1959, two were recovered in Spain in the following December an January and a third at Allonby, nine miles to the south, in December 1960. A Blackbird, ringed on 4 January 1959, was found at Annan, in Dumfriesshire, five weeks later. A September Hedge-Sparrow and an April Wood-Pigeon were found a few miles to the south a year or so later. A Kestrel, ringed in September 1960, was found dead at its roost on the south side of Silloth three months later and a Yellow Bunting, ringed in November 1960, was found dead near Silloth three months later. People in Skinburness and Silloth have commented on the appearance in their gardens of ringed birds and there is evidently a local scatter, mainly of young birds of the more sedentary species.

The *Periods of Occurrence* of the species are based on observations made intermittently over twenty earlier years and more detailed notes for the last three years. The regularity of migrant birds is a commonplace which continues to arouse interest and extends to many more than the familiar Swallow. Still, no two years are quite alike and it has seemed un-necessary to add precise dates to an already crowded list. The regular periods of movement are given and unusual appearances added in brackets.

Tables II and III give in some detail the events of the spring and autumn passages. All the species ringed during the fifty five spring days from 25 March to 18 May in 1959 and 1960, and the sixty one autumn days from 19 August to 18 October in 1959, 1960 and 1961 are shown in total, grouped in six-day periods. Thirty two species are common to both lists. The Corn-Bunting, Spotted Flycatcher, Grasshopper-Warbler, Mistle-Thrush, Whinchat, both Woodpeckers, two Owls, Sparrow-Hawk and Wood-Pigeon have not been ringed in autumn, though all but four have appeared then. The Jay, Bullfinch, Tree-Creeper, Willow-Tit, Barred Warbler, Redwing, two Owls and Kestrel have not been ringed in spring and only two of these species have been seen then. The difference between the two seasons is very evident, as are the main periods of passage of the various species at each season.

To a bird on spring passage the Point can be envisaged as lying at the apex of an angle, formed on the left by the long line of flat open coast running north-north-east from Maryport and Allonby and on the right by the estuary of the River Waver. Some sort of a funnelling effect may be imagined which, coupled with the short sea-crossing to be made in any direction except that from which they have come and the attraction of the stretches of cover and promise of food in an alien scene, would tend to concentrate migrants there.

In good conditions many birds will be unaffected by these trifling topographical features and pass straight on. It is possible, however, to show that they have a recognisable effect and concentrate more

birds there in spring than in autumn. Birds are more numerous everywhere in autumn, when the young of the year add to the numbers of surviving adults. In autumn too, a greater variety of species can be looked for when young birds, which are more liable to wander than their parents, turn up in out of the way places. In spring 598 birds of forty three species have been ringed, an average of 5.44 daily. In autumn 1,002 birds of forty one species have been ringed, an average of 5.48 daily — hardly more than in spring and of two fewer species. Obviously ringing would not be possible on all of the 293 days in these five seasons and good, or bad, weather conditions, the help of a companion and other external factors would also have their effect. On the basis of the amount of time actually spent trapping and the number of nets used, four birds have been caught in autumn for every three in spring. This is a good deal less than might be expected in autumn and suggests that an appreciable concentration of birds occurs in spring.

Visible migration can be striking when the wind is strong and steady. Then birds battle along against it, often at bush top height. Most have been seen when the wind is from the north-east and, in autumn as well as in spring, large numbers have been seen flying in that direction against the wind. The tip of the Point is open and inhospitable and flocks baulking the crossing slip down-wind to the bushes further back before trying again. North-westerly movements are not unusual in autumn and it has been against north-west winds that the largest arrivals of Fieldfares and Redwings have been seen. Birds arriving from Scotland in autumn and going there in spring frequently fly on a line from or to the north-west. Coastal passage in autumn can be striking and south-westerly winds occasionally force down streams of migrants, which struggle on for hours. Many birds going south, however, head south or east of south rather than along or parallel to the coast. The bulk of the birds pass unseen and often the only evidences of migration are the new arrivals and departures and at dawn, with a change in the weather, hedges or fields full of birds which were not there the night before.

Winter visitors are perhaps less relevant to the main theme. The numbers ringed can, however, be obtained in total by deduction. Only fifty eight birds of thirteen species have been ringed between 19 May and 18 August and so, these apart, the amount by which the total in Table I exceeds the totals in Tables II and III gives the number ringed between 19 October and 24 March for any species. It will be found to include the characteristic winter seed-eaters and thrushes, late and early passage birds and local winter residents; with the Twite, Chaffinch, Reed-Bunting, Tree-Sparrow, Fieldfare, Blackbird and Stonechat figuring more or less prominently in one or another category, and accounting for the larger part of the total then ringed.

Notes on some individual species may be of interest.

### JAY, BULLFINCH

Not encountered before 1961, several individuals appeared in October as part of a considerable influx of woodland species. Blue Tits and Coal-Tits predominated, with Goldcrests and Tree-Creepers in more than usual numbers.

### CORN-BUNTING

Singing males appear briefly in spring, what may be juveniles occasionally in summer and wanderers at other times. None has been found nesting recently.

### TREE-SPARROW

The flocks of young birds which build up during August and September have been a feature of each autumn. In 1959 the flock at no time exceeded a hundred birds and sixty eight were caught between 13 September and 22 November, yet only three were retraps. This suggests a substantial turnover in the individual members of the flock. They usually disperse by the end of the year. Small flocks appear at other times, notably in spring 1960. Then, a field of oats which had failed to germinate was resown by hand. Some thirty Tree-Sparrows arrived and remained, feeding there from 30 April to at least 14 May.

### MEADOW-PIPIT

Great numbers pass through in early spring, straggling on into May, but few of the birds involved in the mass movements stop there more than momentarily.

### WAGTAILS

Like some other ground-feeding birds, few have been ringed. Pied and White Wagtails are regular in spring and autumn, in flocks of up to six or seven birds at a time. The Grey Wagtail is less regular, though it occurs on both passages. The Yellow Wagtail is regular in autumn, but not in spring. This last is interesting as they are common in spring all along the Cumberland coast as far north as Dubmill Point.

### TITS, GOLDCREST

Coal-Tits and Goldcrests caught on 20 April 1960 had the sooty plumage typical of birds from an industrial area. Mention has already been made of the influx in autumn 1961. Single Willow-Tits appeared in August 1960 and 1961. Two were ringed in 1960, but there have been no recoveries and there is no means of knowing whether they were from the population breeding not so far to the east in Cumberland.

### FLYCATCHERS

Of all the regular migrants, the Spotted Flycatcher has so far proved to have the most concentrated spring passage. All the birds ringed have been caught within a period of eight days in mid May

and the sight records do not materially extend this brief period, apart from the pair which remained to nest in 1960. The Pied Flycatcher has not yet been caught. It is unknown in spring and scarce in autumn.

### WARBLERS

Most pass on quickly in spring; in autumn young Whitethroats linger, feeding in the turnip and potato fields. The few warblers retrapped had all been ringed only a few days previously, except for one Willow-Warbler which was still about fifteen days later. This bird arrived towards the end of April and may have stayed to nest. The Grasshopper-Warbler has not been noticed in autumn and the Willow-Warbler is then strikingly less numerous. Only the Blackcap and Whitethroat have been found to be more numerous in autumn. The former is not common at any time; the latter nests freely on the Point and some locally-reared young may be included in the autumn catch.

### THRUSHES

The non-resident thrushes—Fieldfare, Mistle-Thrush and Red-wing, are all erratic on the Grune. They rarely linger and frequently pass straight over. The eleven Fieldfares caught in November 1960 were part of an obviously tired flock which swept low across the Point from the south-east, settling briefly on the larger bushes. They left almost immediately.

The Song-Thrush has an extended autumn passage, including birds which, judging by their plumage, are not of local origin. Few winter and the returning birds appear first in February.

### BLACKBIRD

In the absence of any ringing in spring 1961 to add another hundred or so Willow-Warblers to the tally, the Blackbird holds first place as the most-ringed species. The accumulation of records: 102 retraps of 68 birds out of 280 ringed, gives an increasingly detailed picture of the movements of young and adults of both sexes. The wholly resident population is small, as few adult males winter and almost all the young of the year leave. The immigrant winter population includes a majority of young male birds.

### CHATS

Wheatears are a good deal more common on passage than the ringing results suggest. They are quick to notice a low net on their open feeding grounds, but some have been caught in nets in the hedge at dusk.

Whinchats are generally less numerous, but occur at both seasons and may be briefly plentiful in spring. They then stand about on the open salt marsh like Wheatears, as well as perching on docks and low bushes in the fields.

In contrast, the Stonechat is not at any time regular on passage. There were small numbers moving at the beginning of March 1959

and in early September 1960. A sustained passage in September and October 1961 included family groups and occasional small flocks.

### ROBIN, HEDGE-SPARROW

Appreciable numbers of these supposedly sedentary species have been ringed in autumn and some retrapped. Only one autumn-ringed Robin has been retrapped at a later season and though none have been recovered, it seems clear that many of these are on passage. A higher level of retrapping of autumn-ringed Hedge-Sparrows, and one recovery nearby, points to a merely local dispersal of this species.

### WOODPECKERS

The spring and autumn appearances of these birds have some interest in the light of their continuing extensions of range. The colonisation of southern Scotland by the Green Woodpecker is a matter of current study there.

### OWLS

It may be no more than a coincidence that the bulk of the Tawny Owl and Barn-Owl records are grouped at the periods of maximum migrational and ringing activities. There is an isolated January record for each species. No nest has been found on the Point.

Bird movements are less well-known on the west coast generally than on the east coast and no close study of migration, combining field observations and ringing, has been attempted before in this part of the country. Although the aims and execution of the project, which is being continued, have been limited in various ways, this introductory and selective account may serve at least to add some few new details to knowledge of local migration.

Local residents have made the project possible by allowing an invasion of their property and, with friends and colleagues who have joined in dawn to dusk or longer days in the field, have made it a most happy undertaking. Thanks are due to: P. A. Banks, A. Barton, Miss E. Glaister, Miss N. Glaister, J. Harrison, M. Harrison, R. Irving, E. Littleton, R. Littleton, W. Moon, Mrs. A. Spencer, R. Spencer (in his personal and official capacities), F. H. Waters, and, not least, my wife.

**BIRD MIGRATION AT GRUNE POINT**  
**TABLE I**  
**SUMMARY OF SPECIES FOUND, RINGED AND RETRAPPED**

Species	Breeding Pairs— June 1960	TOTAL NUMBER RINGED				Total retrapped	Periods of Occurrence
		Oct. 1958 —1959	1960	1961	GRAND TOTAL		
Carrion-Crow	2	—	—	—	—	—	All year.
Rook	—	—	—	—	—	—	All year—most September to January.
Jackdaw	—	—	—	—	—	—	All year.
Magpie	1	—	—	—	—	—	All year.
Jay	—	—	—	1	1	—	One, 1 and 15 October 1961.
Starling	2	7	3	5	15	—	All year.
Greenfinch	5	15	21	28	64	1	All year
Goldfinch	—	—	—	—	—	—	One, April, Aug., Oct., Nov. (twice), Dec.
Redpoll	—	2	18	2	22	—	September to May; few from late June.
Twite	—	—	1	4	5	—	October to end March—rather irregular.
Linnet	50	21	39	54	114	3	All year.
Bullfinch	—	—	—	1	1	—	One, 14 October; two, 15 October 1961.
Chaffinch	5	20	15	41	76	3	All year.
Brambling	—	—	1	—	1	—	Late October to February—irregular.
Corn-Bunting	—	—	1	—	1	—	Mid March to May (few July, Nov., Dec.).
Yellow Bunting	20	54	75	25	154	35	All year.
Reed-Bunting	5	19	50	11	80	7	All year—more numerous, winter.
Snow-Bunting	—	—	1	—	1	—	December to mid March—irregular.
House-Sparrow	20	17	—	—	17	5	All year.
Tree-Sparrow	—	65	20	9	94	3	Mid Aug. to May (one, June)—irregular after Dec.
Sky-Lark	15	6	10	2	18	—	All year.
Tree-Pipit	—	1	5	1	7	—	Mid April to May; mid August to September.
Meadow-Pipit	1	1	7	3	11	—	All year—irregular, winter; few, summer.
Rock-Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	One, 8 February 1947; 11 October 1959.
Yellow Wagtail	—	—	—	—	—	—	August to mid September.
Grey Wagtail	—	—	—	—	—	—	End March; end August to September.
Pied Wagtail	—	—	—	—	—	—	March to mid May; July to mid Oct.—few, winter.
White Wagtail	—	—	1	1	2	—	Mid April to mid May; mid Aug. to mid Sept.

TABLE I (continued).

Species	Breeding Pairs— June 1960	TOTAL NUMBER RINGED				Total retrapped	Periods of Occurrence
		Oct. 1958 —1959	1960	1961	GRAND TOTAL		
Tree-Creeper	—	1	1	2	4	—	September to mid October—few.
Great Tit	2	7	1	8	16	2	All year—irregular, winter.
Blue Tit	2	11	13	41	65	5	All year.
Coal-Tit	—	1	5	30	36	4	September to early April—irregular, winter.
Willow-Tit	—	—	2	—	2	—	August.
Long-tailed Tit	—	4	7	20	31	—	Sept. to Oct. (also November, March, May).
Spotted Flycatcher	1	1	14	1	16	—	Early May to August—irregular, summer.
Pied Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	End August to mid September—few.
Goldcrest	—	22	17	26	65	4	September to May—irregular, winter.
Chiffchaff	—	4	2	2	8	3	End March to May; July to early October.
Willow-Warbler	6	74	141	4	219	6	April to mid September.
Grasshopper-Warbler	—	1	—	—	1	—	Mid April to early May.
Sedge-Warbler	1	10	3	1	14	—	End April to May; first half September.
Barred Warbler	—	1	—	—	1	—	One, 6 September 1959.
Garden-Warbler	—	4	7	1	12	1	Mid May; mid August to early October.
Blackcap	—	1	2	—	3	—	Mid May; mid August to mid September.
Whitethroat	20	29	48	13	90	3	End April to September.
Fieldfare	—	2	11	—	13	—	Late September to early March.
Mistle-Thrush	—	—	3	1	4	—	September to May—irregular, winter.
Song-Thrush	15	38	46	64	148	22	All year—fewer November to January.
Redwing	—	2	1	2	5	—	Mid October to February.
Ring-Ousel	—	—	—	—	—	—	One, 2 April 1960.
Blackbird	20	115	90	75	280	68	All year.
Wheatear	—	1	6	2	9	—	Mid March to May; July to October.
Whinchat	—	4	4	—	8	—	End April to May; end August to September.
Stonechat	2	5	4	13	22	1	All year.
Redstart	—	10	15	—	25	—	Mid April to May; July to September.
Robin	10	26	36	41	103	18	All year.
Hedge-Sparrow	20	44	79	60	183	40	All year.
Wren	5	1	4	2	7	2	All year.
Swallow	—	4	9	8	21	—	Mid April to end October.
House-Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	May to September.

TABLE I (continued).

Species	Breeding Pairs— June 1960	TOTAL NUMBER RINGED				Total retrapped	Periods of Occurrence
		Oct. 1958 —1959	1960	1961	GRAND TOTAL		
Sand-Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	April and May; July to September.
Swift	—	—	—	—	—	—	May to early August.
Green Woodpecker	—	—	1	—	1	—	One, 15 April, 12 August 1959; 15 May 1960.
Gt. Sp. Woodpecker	—	—	—	1	1	—	One, 14 May 1961.
Cuckoo	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mid April to end June.
Long-eared Owl	—	1	—	—	1	—	One, 13 May 1959.
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	1	1	—	End August to January—irregular.
Tawny Owl	—	—	1	1	2	—	September to October (one, January, April).
Barn-Owl	—	1	1	—	2	—	Late March to May; September (one, January).
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	—	—	September to November; February to March.
Merlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	Early September to late April.
Kestrel	—	—	1	2	3	—	All year.
Sparrow-Hawk	—	1	2	—	3	2	End August to late April (one, July).
Wood-Pigeon	3	—	2	—	2	—	All year.
Stock-Dove	—	—	—	—	—	—	April; September (one, January, July).
Collared Dove	—	—	—	—	—	—	One, 7 May 1960.
Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	End January to May.

The seventy six species of land birds listed are all those which have been seen during the period reviewed. Additionally the White Wagtail has been treated separately, but not the northern form of the Wheatear. The breeding population, as estimated in June 1960, is shown in the second column. The next four columns show the number of fledged birds ringed in 1959 (including sixty seven ringed between October and December 1958), 1960, 1961 and the grand total, 2,111 in all, for the whole period of thirty nine months. The number of individuals retrapped are next shown; a bird retrapped several times is included only once. The *Periods of Occurrence* are summarised from records of visual observations over a period of twenty three years.

The following land birds are also known to have occurred in earlier years: Cirl Bunting; Wood-Lark; Shore-Lark; Richard's Pipit; Red-backed Shrike; Waxwing; Lesser Whitethroat; Hoopoe; Kingfisher; Greenland Falcon; Eagle (probably Spotted Eagle); Rough-legged Buzzard and Marsh-Harrier.

TABLE II  
SUMMARY OF SPRING MIGRATIONS, 1959 and 1960

Species	TOTAL NUMBERS RINGED										Remarks.
	March	April					May			GRAND	
	25-31	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	1-6	7-12	13-18	TOTAL	
Starling	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	Two retrapped, 1 and 19 mo. later. Three retrapped up to 14 mo. later.
Greenfinch	2	3	2	7	1	2	1	2	—	20	
Redpoll	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	1	12	
Linnet	1	6	5	2	3	5	3	—	—	25	
Chaffinch	—	1	2	2	—	2	1	—	3	11	
Corn-Bunting	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	Thirteen retrapped up to 13 mo. later. Three retrapped up to 12 mo. later.
Yellow Bunting	4	7	6	8	4	3	1	4	5	42	
Reed-Bunting	—	2	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	8	
Tree-Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	
Sky-Lark	—	3	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	9	
Tree-Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	One also ringed 14 May 1961.
Meadow-Pipit	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	
White Wagtail	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Great Tit	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Blue Tit	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Coal-Tit	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	One also ringed 14 May 1961.
Long-tailed Tit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Spotted Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	15	
Goldcrest	7	9	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	23	
Chiffchaff	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	
Willow-Warbler	—	2	7	25	36	80	25	16	9	200	Two retrapped, 5 and 8 days later. Six retrapped, 2—15 days later.
Grasshopper-Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Sedge-Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	4	1	10	

TABLE II (continued).

Species	TOTAL NUMBERS RINGED										Remarks.
	March	April					May			GRAND TOTAL	
	25-31	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	1-6	7-12	13-18		
Garden-Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	8	
Blackcap	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Whitethroat	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	17	17	37	One retrapped 6 days later.
Mistle-Thrush	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Song-Thrush	2	5	1	6	2	2	1	—	1	20	Nine retrapped up to 13 mo. later.
Blackbird	5	10	1	10	7	2	1	1	3	40	Eight retrapped up to 14 mo. later.
Wheatear	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	4	Latter 2 were Greenland Wheatears.
Whinchat	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	8	
Stonechat	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	Four caught 1st week of March 1959.
Redstart	—	—	—	—	5	6	5	4	3	23	
Robin	—	5	3	1	1	1	—	1	1	13	One retrapped 12 months later.
Hedge-Sparrow	—	5	4	5	2	1	1	3	—	21	Nine retrapped up to 12 mo. later.
Wren	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	One retrapped 3 weeks later.
Swallow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	
Green Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Gt. Spot'd Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	One ringed 14 May 1961.
Long-eared Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Barn-Owl	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	
Sparrow-Hawk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	Recov'd where ringed following Nov.
Wood-Pigeon	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	One shot Beckfoot (C) 13 mo. later.

The forty three species of birds ringed during the period from 25 March to 18 May in 1959 and 1960 are listed, the total numbers ringed in each six-day period during that time, and the grand total, 598 in all, for both springs are then given. Notes on birds retrapped and recovered are added. Practically no ringing was done at this time in 1961; any for that year which add to the account are also noted.

TABLE III  
SUMMARY OF AUTUMN MIGRATIONS, 1959 — 1961

Species	TOTAL NUMBERS RINGED										GRAND TOTAL	Remarks
	August		September					October				
	19-24	25-31	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	1-6	7-12	13-18		
Jay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Starling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Greenfinch	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	12	7	24	
Redpoll	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Linnet	1	4	9	1	7	10	1	12	18	12	75	One retrapped 7 weeks later.
Bullfinch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Chaffinch	—	—	—	4	1	4	1	5	6	20	41	
Yellow Bunting	2	18	16	9	5	13	—	3	3	4	73	Eighteen retrapped up to 12 mo. later.
Reed-Bunting	—	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	1	2	17	One retrapped 4 months later.
Tree-Sparrow	2	—	1	6	—	2	10	—	9	20	50	One retrapped 7 days later.
Sky-Lark	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	
Tree-Pipit	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
Meadow-Pipit	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	5	
White Wagtail	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Tree-Creeper	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	4	
Great Tit	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	2	1	—	10	One retrapped 7 weeks later.
Blue Tit	2	7	6	2	2	15	2	10	7	3	56	Two retrapped, one 7 weeks later.
Coal-Tit	—	—	—	3	2	8	—	12	3	4	32	Three retrapped, 2 to 7 days later.
Willow-Tit	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Long-tailed Tit	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	15	3	—	25	
Goldcrest	—	—	3	2	3	3	3	4	8	3	29	Three retrapped, one 7 weeks later.
Chiffchaff	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	One retrapped 7 days later.
Willow-Warbler	7	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	
Sedge-Warbler	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	

TABLE III (continued).

Species	TOTAL NUMBERS RINGED										Remarks	
	August		September					October				GRAND TOTAL
	19-24	25-31	1-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	1-6	7-12	13-18		
Barred Warbler	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	One retrapped 3 weeks later.
Garden-Warbler	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	
Blackcap	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Whitethroat	5	16	12	10	4	3	—	—	—	—	50	Two retrapped, 7 and 8 days later.
Song-Thrush	2	8	21	19	12	16	—	13	10	6	107	Two recovered Spain, 3 & 4 mo. later. Seven retrapped, one 12 mo. later.
Redwing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	31 retrapped up to 22 months later. Latest bird was a Green'l'd Wheatear. One retrapped 5 days later.
Blackbird	1	12	19	10	15	13	3	11	17	14	115	
Wheatear	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	5	
Stonechat	—	—	3	2	3	4	1	2	2	—	17	Thirteen retrapped, one 7 mo. later. 29 retrapped up to 16 months later.
Redstart	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Robin	1	7	13	13	9	17	4	3	5	2	74	
Hedge-Sparrow	5	17	20	30	18	13	5	7	7	8	130	
Wren	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	5	
Swallow	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Tawny Owl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	
Kestrel	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	

The forty one species of birds ringed during the period from 19 August to 18 October in 1959, 1960 and 1961 are listed, the total numbers ringed in each six-day period during that time, and the grand total, 1,002 in all, for the three autumns are then given. Notes on birds retrapped and recovered are added.



## FOOD OF BIRDS

by Ernest Blezard.

Series three continues on the lines of the previous papers under the same heading in *Transactions* VIII and IX. Gut contents, pellet components and field observations are again all representative of birds in Lakeland with a wider addition of the Solway Firth.

Some number of food findings not already recorded in *The Handbook of British Birds* may become evident along with an adherence to that standard work. In another reference to it, a solitary case of corn under Goldeneye there is now brought to three if the corn, in the usual sense, agrees with the oats in two birds shot together.

One of the two Dabchicks, lately examined, is the first out of seven to contain feathers in the stomach, as against the frequency in other grebes. A Yew seed in the other bird of the same kind appears in the general run of unexpected oddments perhaps swallowed along with grit.

Two additional field observations make six species of Cotoneaster whose berries have been seen eaten by Waxwings in and about Carlisle. Besides this, the Cotoneasters being exotics in cultivation, they illustrate how birds, as much as other creatures, will extend their dietary according to circumstances or opportunity, and not necessarily when they are hard put for food.

Some instances from birds in captivity, or semi-captivity, might not even be such very strange proofs of this tendency. A Pink-footed Goose, restored to health and freedom by Ralph Stokoe, showed a keen-ness for tomatoes during its convalescence. Two birds of prey on record are a Kestrel which, while belonging to an old friend, was given to stuffing itself with rice pudding, and a Peregrine which, while kept by the writer, one time devoured boiled venison with an extreme eagerness.

Different individual preferences appear in bird species as well as in other animal species. One tame Jackdaw would swallow any number of Woodlice, as fast as they were uncovered for it, while others simply would not look at them.

How long it may take for some particular kind of food to be regarded as a bird's ordinary fare is another point. On 31 March 1961, Turnstones were personally observed eating bread in the company of House-Sparrows, on the cobbles of a street by the harbour in Seahouses, Northumberland. At the same time, other Turnstones, with Oystercatchers, were feeding on kitchen scraps at the bottom of the harbour wall. Bread has come to be looked upon as quite normal food for House-Sparrows; perhaps, in the full course of time, it will be for Turnstones.

The worker, being an amateur, seeking interest while aiming at some worthwhile contribution to the subject of bird food, happens to be supported not only by essential facilities but also by the specialised knowledge of other workers.

Frank H. Day, F.R.E.S., entomologist extraordinary, has continued his identification of all manner of insects in the course of his generous help and advice freely given during his membership of our Society for the remarkable period of almost seventy years.

Acknowledgements are due to Dr. D. A. Ratcliffe for the more difficult botanical determinations.

*Blackwell, Carlisle, February 1962.*

#### RAVEN *Corvus corax* L.

♀ Skiddaw Fells, Cumberland, 10 April 1958.

Egg of domestic fowl; sheep carrion; 160 pieces of grit, mainly sharp-edged quartz and measuring up to  $22 \times 10 \times 8$  and  $17 \times 15 \times 3$  mm..

Bird found dead on nest by D. A. Ratcliffe.

A pellet, Pennines, Cumberland, 19 March 1959, held remains of sixteen Dor Beetles *Geotrupes sylvaticus* Pz., sheep wool, two basal tufts of grass and fourteen fragments of carboniferous sandstone up to  $11 \times 6 \times 4$  mm. in size.

#### JAY *Garrulus glandarius* (L.)

♂ Harker, Cumberland, 13 July 1961.

Cram of raspberries *Rubus idaeus* L.

♀ Keswick, Cumberland, 20 October 1961.

Blow-fly *Calliphora erythrocephala* Mg., ground-up acorn *Quercus*, cram of coarse grit in size up to  $7 \times 3 \times 3$  and  $5 \times 3.5 \times 2$  mm.

#### SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* (L.)

♂ ♀ Scotby, Cumberland, 3 December 1961.

Nutlets of Alder *Alnus glutinosa* Gaertn.—stripped of pericarp, very fine grit mainly white quartz.

#### TREE-CREEPER *Certhia familiaris* L.

♂ Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland, 11 November 1957.

Earwig *Forficula* and a spider.

#### WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* (L.)

Cowrigg, Cumberland, 18 March 1959.

Three birds going for hips of Wild Rose *Rosa* sp.

Duridar, Cumberland, 24 November 1959.

Seven birds in Holly House Gardens, feeding mainly on

Bramley's Seedling apples with varying attentions to hips of *Rosa alba* L. and berries of *Cotoneaster henryana* Rehder & Wilson.

Currock, Carlisle, 5 January 1962.

Two birds feeding on berries of *Cotoneaster frigida* Wallich.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* L.

Blackwell, Cumberland, December 1961—January 1962.

During hard frost and snow, a daily garden-visitor took hips of Dog Rose *Rosa canina* L., berries of *Cotoneaster horizontalis* Decaisne and berries of *Pyracantha coccinea* Roemer.

**MISTLE-THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* L.

♀ Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland, 9 December 1957.

Seven seeds of Yew *Taxus baccata* L.

**SONG-THRUSH** *Turdus ericetorum* Turton

♀ Bowness-on-Windermere, Westmorland, 3 September 1958.

Three entire fruits of Yew *Taxus baccata* L.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* L.

♂ Skinburness, Cumberland, 18 December 1960.

Cram of haws *Crataegus*.

Currock, Carlisle, 6 January 1959.

A female eating berries of *Cotoneaster frigida* Wallich.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* L.

Blackwell, Cumberland, 24 May 1960.

A nesting bird captured and carried away a Large White Butterfly *Pieris brassicae* L.

**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua* (Scop.)

Allonby, Cumberland, 14 June 1960.

Prey remains at a nest of three young, found by Miss Mary Milne, represented an adult Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* L. and two adult Little Terns *Sterna albifrons* Pall.

Kirkby Moor, High Furness, July 1958.

A pellet, per L. A. Cowcill, gave three Ground Beetles *Pterostichus niger* Schall., *P. vulgaris* L., *Amara* sp., one Dor Beetle *Geotrupes sylvaticus* Pz., and fine shreds of grass.

Aglionby, Cumberland, June-July 1959.

Four pellets, collected at a nest of two young by G. A. Allison and E.B., gave Field Vole *Microtus agrestis* L., Ground Beetles comprising two *Carabus catenulatus* Scop., four *Pterostichus*

*vulgaris* L., one Dor Beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius* Fabr., one Cockchafer *Melolontha*, one Earwig *Forficula* and shreds of grass.

**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* L.

♂ Borrowdale, Cumberland, 5 September 1961.

Bank Vole *Evotomys glareolus* Schreber.

Cumberland, 24 April 1960.

Fresh prey in a nesting hole, containing four newly-hatched young, ran to three Field Voles *Microtus agrestis* L. and a Hedge-Sparrow *Prunella modularis* (L.)

A Goosander was sitting on eleven eggs inside the same Alder tree.

**BARN-OWL** *Tyto alba* (Scop.)

♀ Ruleholme, Cumberland, 20 January 1962.

Two Field Voles *Microtus agrestis* L., three Common Shrews *Sorex araneus* L., one House Mouse *Mus musculus* L.

♀ Dalemain, Cumberland, 28 January, 1962.

Common Shrew, Field Vole, Common Shrew, Field Vole. Prey, in each case, given in the apparent order swallowed. Both birds victims of road traffic.

Aglionby, Cumberland, 6 July 1959.

One pellet gave the skulls of six Common Shrews along with other remains.

**PEREGRINE FALCON** *Falco peregrinus* Tunst.

♂ Naddle, Cumberland, 11 April 1961.

A fresh meal of Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* L.

**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus* L.

♂ Scotby, Cumberland, 8 February 1959.

Meadow-Pipit *Anthus pratensis* (L.)

♀ Scaleby, Cumberland, 19 November 1960.

Three Field Voles *Microtus agrestis* L.

♂ Cocklakes, Cumberland, 4 November 1961.

House-Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (L.)—♂.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaëtus* (L.)

♀ Lakeland, 2 December 1960.

A compact pellet of sheep wool 26 × 12 mm. and a wad 10 × 8 mm. contained in the stomach.

A pellet, collected by E.B. and D.A.R. at a Lakeland roost on 31 May 1959, composed entirely of remains of a Stoat *Mustela erminea* L.

A pellet, collected by James Birkett at another Lakeland roost, March 1961, formed of sheep wool around seven small scraps of bone.

#### BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* (L.)

♂ Eden valley, Cumberland, 19 January 1962.

A fresh meal of Domestic Pigeon.

Pellets of Lakeland Buzzards, examined since the Rabbit population became reduced, run to smaller ground mammals, sheep carrion, birds, and beetles even to relatively small species.

One of two, collected 7 April 1957, held four Field Vole skulls, the other sheep remains.

One, per R. W. Robson, 26 March 1958, held six Field Vole skulls.

One, collected by Miss M. Garnett, 16 April 1958, held the skulls of two Field Voles and three Common Shrews.

The first two pellets and the remainder collected by E.B. and D.A.R.

Two from a nest with one young, 5 July 1958, gave sheep and pigeon remains and beetles comprising two Carabids *Nebria gyllerhali* Sch. and *Calathus piceus* Marsh, one Dor *Geotrupes sylvaticus* Pz., and one Skipjack *Corymbites cupreus* var. *aeruginosus* F., common on the fells.

Eight, collected 3 January 1960, gave sheep, Field Vole, Red Grouse and *G. sylvaticus* remains.

One from a nesting ledge, 28 May 1960, had two skulls and other remains of Field Voles with sheep wool.

Two instances were met in which Buzzards had annexed remains of Peregrine kills, pigeons, to feed their own young.

Juvenile Rabbits figured as prey in Pennine nests of young in 1960 and 1961, as did a fledgling Meadow-Pipit.

#### SPARROW-HAWK *Accipiter nisus* (L.)

♀ Blackwell, Cumberland, 11 April 1958.

Sky-Lark *Alauda arvensis* L.

#### GREY LAG-GOOSE *Anser anser* (L.)

Solway Firth, 10 February 1962.

Grasses *Agrostis* and *Poa* mainly tips cropped short at 1.5 to 2 cm. with some to 3.5 cm., tip of Rush *Juncus*, fine to coarse sand.

## GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

*Anser albifrons flavirostris* Dalgety & Scott

- ♀ Solway Firth, 8 January 1961.

Leaflets of Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* L., tips of Annual Meadow-grass *Poa annua* L.—cropped at about 2 cm., fine white sand.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* Baill.

- ♀ Solway Firth, 9 December 1961.

Cram of tips of Fiorin *Agrostis stolonifera* L.—cropped mainly at between 3 and 4 cm. and up to 9 cm., stolons and leaflets of White Clover *Trifolium repens* L., fine sand to coarse grit with pieces of white quartz up to  $8 \times 7 \times 3$  and  $9 \times 6 \times 4$  mm. in size.

- ♀ Solway Firth, 26 December 1961.

Cram of grasses *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Poa annua* mostly tips cropped at 4 to 5 cm., few leaflets of White Clover, fine to coarse sand.

GADWALL *Anas strepera* L.

- ♀ Thurstonfield Lough, Cumberland, 18 November 1961.

Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum alterniflorum* D.C. in lengths 3 to 4 cm., cram of fine sand.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* L.

- ♂ Longnewton Marsh, Solway, Cumberland, 2 September 1961.

Forty five nutlets of Common Persicaria *Polygonum persicaria* L. with shredded grass remains in a cram of fine sand.

- ♂ Burgh Marsh, Solway, Cumberland, 8 February 1962.

Tips and stem and root parts of Marsh Samphire *Salicornia*, fine sand.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* L.

Thurstonfield Lough, Cumberland, 29 January 1961.

- ♂ Forty four nutlets of Beaked Sedge *Carex rostrata* Stokes, cram of fine to coarse grit.

- ♀ One nut of Burr-reed *Sparganium*, three nutlets of Beaked Sedge, cram of fine to coarse grit.

SCAUP-DUCK *Aythya marila* (L.)

- ♀ Port Carlisle, Cumberland, 18 November 1961.

Nine Common Shrimps *Crangon vulgaris* L. up to 36 mm. in length, Mussels *Mytilus edulis* L. ground into fragments, one piece of gravel  $8 \times 4 \times 3$  mm.

**GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* (L.)

Eden estuary, Cumberland, 19 November 1961.

- ♂ One Herring fry *Clupea harengus* L. 30 mm., one grain and many glumes of Cultivated Oat *Avena sativa* L., hundred pieces of coarse grit and small gravel up to  $6 \times 4 \times 4$  mm.
- ♀ Glumes of Cultivated Oat, sand, grit and small gravel up to  $6 \times 5 \times 3$  mm.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* (L.)

- ♂ Eden estuary, Cumberland, 6 November 1960.

Eighteen Grey Gurnard fry *Trigla gurnardus* L. up to 4.5 cm., coarse sand and grit with four pieces of flat gravel up to  $10 \times 9$  mm.

- ♀ Windermere, Westmorland, 26 December 1961.

Twenty four caddis cases *Limnophilidae*, coarse waterworn grit.

**SMEW** *Mergus albellus* L.

- ♀ Solway Firth, 22 January 1950.

Two nuts of Burr-reed *Sparganium* with a bundle of reduced plant fibres and coarse grit.

- ♂ Eden estuary, Cumberland, 20 February 1958.

One small Fluke *Pleuronectus flesus* Day, fifteen pieces of coarse grit.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Podiceps ruficollis* (Pall.)

- ♂ Kent estuary, Westmorland, 13 November 1960.

Cram of small fish remains, one shrimp *Crangon*, one mollusc *Sabanaea*, four nuts of a sedge *Carex*, coarse grit, four of the bird's own body feathers.

- ♀ Crosby-on-Eden, Cumberland, 8 January 1962.

One seed of Yew *Taxus baccata* L. with twenty one pieces of coarse waterworn grit and small gravel, including quartz up to  $7 \times 5 \times 4$  mm.

Bird an unusual road victim.

**STOCK-DOVE** *Columba oenas* L.

- ♂ Blackwell, Cumberland, 17 August 1960.

460 Oyster Galls of *Neuropterus*, from Oak *Quercus*, three nutlets of *Persicaria Polygonum*, two grains of Cultivated Oat. Crop contents.

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* (L.)

♀ Blackwell, Cumberland, 17 September 1959.

Cram of Blackberries *Rubus fruticosus* L., thirty four Dor Beetle larvae *Geotrupes*, three larvae of a Noctuid moth (*Agrotinae*), a Syrphid fly *Pyrophaena granditarsa* Forster.

Bird shot during a period of drought on sun-baked ground well manured by black Galloway cattle.

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus* (Brünn.)

♂ Orton Moss, Cumberland, 21 October 1961.

Three molluscs *Hydrobia ventrosa* (Mont.), two minute beetle fragments, plant remains including a grass grain and glumes.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos* (Vieill.)

♀ Longnewton Marsh, Cumberland, 1 October 1961.

Eight Laver Spire shells *Sabanaea ulvae* Pennant, remains of a small Hymenopteron, six small dipterous pupae *Muscidae*, spikelet of grass *Festuca*, fine rootlets, eight particles of grit 6 to 7 shot size.

**GREY PLOVER** *Squatarola squatarola* (L.)

♀ Mawbray, Cumberland, 8 January 1958.

Three Carabid beetles *Amara communis* Pz., six Scarabaeid comprising five *Aphodius sphaelatus* Pz., and one *A. fimetarius* L., three weevils *Otiorrhynchus*, few fine rootlets, six particles of grit and a worn fragment of Mussel shell.

Bird found hanging dead in coastal telegraph wires.

**POMATORHINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temm.)

♂ Burgh Marsh, Solway, Cumberland, 28 October 1961.

Compact pellet, 20 × 10 × 5 mm., of grass blades, roots and three decomposed scraps of a broad leaf holding two elytra from two weevils *Otiorrhynchus* and four pieces of grit up to 5 × 4 × 2 mm. in size.

**WATER-RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* L.

♂ Ludderburn Moss, Cartmel Fell, Lancashire North of the Sands, 23 December 1959.

Rayed Snail *Retinella radiatula* (Alder), Red Ant worker *Myrmica rubra* L., eight larvae of a Stratiomyid fly, sixty one seeds of Bog-bean *Menyanthes trifoliata* L., hundred and twenty six nutlets of Beaked Sedge *Carex rostrata* Stokes, Birch bud *Betula*, rush flower *Juncus*, scraps of rootlets.