

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS

The sequence and nomenclature follow that of *A Species List of British and Irish Birds (1971)*, published by The British Trust for Ornithology.

- Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*.
Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.
Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*.
 One from 25th to 30th November, two on 14th December and a different one from 19th December to end of year.
 A single bird was seen on 27th November.
- No complete census of the occupied nesting sites was taken in 1975 but 24 were seen at Devil's Chimney on 2nd January, 50 were counted at 36 sites on Gannet's Rock on 10th April where 28 sites were occupied on 11th July and 62 at 46 sites on 16th December.
- Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*.
 The first 20 appeared on 19th April and 100 were noted on 13th and 22nd May. On 2nd June 900 passed up the east side 1700 to 1800 hours and 100 were seen on 5th July.
 One was seen on crossing on 26th September.
- Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*.
Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.
Gannet *Sula bassana*.
 Three were trapped on 29th July and another on 3rd August. Four were seen on crossing on 26th September.
 Seen offshore from 19th April to the end of September. Principal numbers, 20 on 19th April, 100 on two dates in July and 31 on 17th September.
- Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.
Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.
 Ten on 28th March, seven on 5th April, up to five during August, seven on 13th September and three on 25th October.
 Present all the year but no breeding census was taken in 1975.
- Singles were regularly seen from January to June. On 16th July 16 (9+4+2+1) were watched flying north over the island. Three were seen on 12th August and singles frequent to the end of the year.
- Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*.
 A one year old bird flew north on 15th April across Landing Bay, mobbed by gulls and landed below the Rhododendrons making two more flights later. This is a first record for Lundy and has been accepted by the Rarities Committee.
 Singles on 20th July and 14-17th October.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.
Teal *Anas crecca*.
Pochard *Aythya ferina*.
Eider *Somateria mollissima*.
Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*.
 One on 4th August, two on 16th September, three on 14th October.
 One drake stayed from 18-21st December.
- One from 25th November to 2nd December.
- Four flew down the east side to Landing Bay and were seen until 4th October with one staying until 21st October. This introduced species is now breeding regularly in the wild in Somerset and Gloucestershire.
 Only one on 26th October.
- Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.
Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*.
 One was recorded nine times during the period from September to December and two on 21st September.
 One flew across Ackland Moor on 27th July and out to sea. The flight with very flat wings was characteristic and the long tail had a dark sub-terminal bar also two bars at the base which became visible as the bird soared higher.
- Harrier sp.** *Circus cyaneus* or *pyargus*.
 Single ringtails on 4th June, 12th July and 10th October. The October bird would be a Hen Harrier and the June, July birds might be also as the species is spreading in Wales while no Montagu's Harriers now breed in Devon or Cornwall.
 One at the airfield on 8th and 9th September.
- Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

- Peregrine**
Falco peregrinus. One regularly seen throughout the year and two on 6th May.
- Merlin**
Falco columbarius. Singles seen from 1st April to late October with two on 18th and 19th April.
- Red-footed Falcon**
Falco tinnunculus. A first year male appeared at the airfield on 27th and 28th August. The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee.
- Kestrel**
Falco tinnunculus. Single birds were seen in every month and two frequent from May to July, three on 28th July, five on 10th August, six on 12th August and 11th September.
- Water Rail**
Rallus aquaticus. Single birds frequent from 3rd March to 1st April and again from 29th September and during October with two usual during November and December.
- Corncrake**
Crex crex. A single record of one at airfield on 26th April.
- Oystercatcher**
Haematopus ostralegus. Recorded all the year with 20 on 29th August as the highest count.
- Lapwing**
Vanellus vanellus. Up to 27 in March, 56 in August, 68 in September and 18 at the end of the year. Many breeding pairs were noted.
- Ringed Plover**
Charadrius hiaticula. A single bird was seen almost every day from 28th July to 3rd September, two were seen on 17th September and one on 30th September.
- Grey Plover**
Pluvialis squatarola. Singles only on 21st May and 29th August.
- Golden Plover**
Pluvialis apricaria. Singles in spring from 5th April to 4th May with two on 21st April. One appeared on 19th and 20th July, three on 17th August, two on 29th August, 19 on 30th September and five on 6th December.
- Dotterel**
Eudromias morinellus. Singles were heard at airfield on 26th to 30th August.
- Snipe**
Gallinago gallinago. Up to ten in March, singles until 8th May then none until two on 10th July, up to seven frequent in August, September and October, 30 on 22nd November and 36 on 15th December.
- Jack Snipe**
Lymnocyptes minimus. One at the top at The Battery on 24th August.
- Doodcock**
Scolopax rusticola. Four on 3rd January, one on 28th January. Singles on 3rd, 8th and 19th March, 14th October, one, 2nd November, two, 6th and 14th December, one and 15th December, seven.
- Curlew**
Numenius arquata. Up to 12 in March, up to 16 in April, one or two in May, up to seven in late June and early July increasing to 50 on 7th and 64 on 29th July, up to 70 in August, 30 in September and one or two to the end of the year.
- Whimbrel**
Numenius phaeopus. The first one on 19th April, 17 on 24th, 45 on 27th April, up to 15 in May, one's and two's from 12th July, up to four in August and 17th September, four.
- Black-tailed Godwit**
Limosa limosa. Two on 13th and 14th July. One on 8th October.
- Green Sandpiper**
Tringa ochropus. Singles 27th to 29th July, 4th to 6th August and 5th September.
- Wood Sandpiper**
Tringa glareola. Two at Pondsburry on 2nd August and another at Pondsburry on 17th August.
- Common Sandpiper**
Tringa hypoleucos. Singles in spring on 24th and 27th April and 9th to 16th May. Two appeared on 2nd July and one on 29th July, ten on 17th August and the last one on 29th October.
- Redshank**
Tringa totanus. One in spring from 28th to 31st March and 1st April then 20th and 21st a single and another on 16th October.
- Spotted Redshank**
Tringa erythropus. One stayed in spring from 27th to 30th April.
- Greenshank**
Tringa nebularia. One in spring from 27th April to 1st May and one from 20th to 22nd July.
- Knot**
Calidris canutus. A single record in autumn of one on 16th September.

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis.

Great Skua

Stercorarius skua.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus.

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis.

Razorbill

Alca torda.

Guillemot

Uria aalge.

Puffin

Fratercula arctica.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas.

Wood Pigeon

Columba palumbus.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto.

Cuckoo

Cuculus apus.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco.

Long-eared Owl

Asio otus.

Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus.

Swift

Apus apus.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis.

One was seen at sea level at Dead Cow Point on 27th May.

One or two frequently recorded in spring from 22nd April until the end of May when four were seen on 31st. One or two frequent during August with four on 18th and up to four during September and October.

One on 8th September at airfield and another at north airfield from 29th September until 5th October. The records have been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

One was seen on crossing on 17th January and one flew across the island on 20th October.

No breeding census was made in 1975. On 14th September 151 were counted.

No breeding census was made in 1975. On 25th September 110 were on the island.

No breeding census was made during 1975.

One or two regular from 23rd June with four on 13th July and three on 3rd to 6th August. Five were seen on 13th December.

Forty one were on the cliffs on 19th March and 26 on the sea at North End and about 600 on 29th March. On 25th November 600 were again seen.

A single record of one on 26th May.

One only on 12th April.

Seen regularly but no breeding census was made in 1975. Eight were on the ledges by 23rd March.

No breeding census was made but on 16th December 100 were on the ledges north of Jenny's Cove.

No breeding census made in 1975. 13 were seen at Jenny's Cove on 12th April and 8 were seen on 27th May.

A single record of one on 26th October.

Seen regularly in small numbers but about 400 were seen on 1st November.

The first migrant appeared on 13th May increasing to six on 24th May with four or five regular until 6th June. Three appeared on 3rd July and the last one on 1st September.

The first one was seen on 25th February and one or two were regular increasing to 11 on 26th April, 27 on 5th May, 14 on 28th May and 13 on 7th June.

The first one was recorded on 23rd April and singles until two on 16th May and four on 11th June, singles until two on 13th August and the last one on 28th August.

One only from 26th to 28th October.

One was seen on 11th October and again on 16th October.

One on 14th September, two on 18th and one on 24th September, one on 11th October, three on 13th and one on 18th October, two on 1st November and one on 5th.

First one on 4th May, four on 12th, 20 and 13th, 50 on 17th and 18th, then up to 20 until 40 on 26th June, up to 10 during July and August with the last one on 30th August.

One at Gannets Combe on 19th August flying south.

One at Millcombe from 23rd to 25th April.

Present all year and small movements in spring and autumn but 100 on 29th October.

Swallow
Hirundo rustica.

The first one appeared on 11th April increasing to 25 on 15th 80 on 22nd, 30 on 24th April, small numbers in May but 100 on 29th May. No breeding took place and only small numbers were seen during July and August but 60 appeared on 3rd September increasing to a maximum of 300 during the month. There was a large scale movement involving many hundreds on 6th October and the last four were seen on 23rd October.

House Martin
Delichon urbica.

The first three were seen on 15th April increasing to 17 by 22nd and 30 were counted on 20th May and 3rd June. Very few in July and August but 10 on 7th September and 20 on 20th and the last two were seen on 14th October.

Sand Martin
Riparia riparia.

Several arrived on 11th April and up to five were recorded during the month. Small numbers only during July and August but 30 on 26th August, 40 on 7th September, and 12 on 6th October.

Golden Oriole
Oriolus oriolus.

One at Millcombe from 22nd to 24th May was a female and one at Millcombe from 2nd to 3rd June was possibly the same one.

Raven

Bred as usual and 9 seen on 4th March and 12 on 7th October.

Corvus corax.

Carriion Crow

Corvus corone.

Hooded Crow

Corvus corone.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula.

Magpie

Pica pica.

Great Tit

Parus major.

Blue Tit

Parus caeruleus.

Principal numbers were 14 on 17th July, and 22 on 11th September.

One appeared off Terraces on 24th April.

One on 29th March, four on 5th April, 11 on 14th April while three were seen on 29th November and 20th December.

One was seen on 24th February, two on 5th April, one on 24th April and up to three from 30th November to end of year.

One only on 28th February.

Two recorded on 9th October, one on 14th, two on 17th and one on 19th.

Singles January to March and two on 13th March then none until six on 13th October and seven on 16th. Four appeared on 16th December.

One was seen on 19th May and two on 21st then none until four on 7th October, seven on 9th, one on 1st November and two on 6th December.

15 on 18th October and six on 20th.

Coal Tit

Parus ater.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus.

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes.

A single bird on 28th September.

Seen all the year. A survey by R. Leslie in April located 28 pairs of which 10 were at Millcombe, two on Manor Farm, one near Pondsburry and the remainder as a scattering of pairs down the sheltered east side.

One on 31st March was the only spring record. Two were frequently seen from 16th October until 8 on 2nd November followed by singles on 21st and 29th November.

Six on 26th March and three on 26th April were the most seen in the early part of the year. In the autumn 60 appeared on 9th October falling to 30 on 19th and then only singles in November and December.

One's and two's were present in all months and two pairs held territories at Millcombe. In the autumn a maximum of 40 on 29th October and 20 were seen on 16th December.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus.

Singles only until 8 on 14th March and 15 on 28th with singles occasionally in April but on 14th, 8 were seen at east side and 13 at Millcombe. A large arrival of 600 on 9th October was reduced to 300 by the end of the month and on 14th December 150 was the maximum for that month.

Ring Ouzel
Turdus torquatus.

Blackbird
Turdus merula.
Wheatear
Oenanthe oenanthe.

Stonechat
Saxicola torquata.

Whinchat
Saxicola rubetra.

Redstart
Phoenicurus phoenicurus.

Black Redstart
Phoenicurus ochruros.

Nightingale
Luscinia megarhynchos.
Robin
Erithacus rubecula.

Grasshopper Warbler
Locustella naevia.

Sedge Warbler
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus.

Melodious Warbler
Hippolais polyglotta.
Icterine Warbler
Hippolais icterina.

Blackcap
Sylvia atricapilla.

Barred Warbler
Sylvia nisoria.
Garden Warbler
Sylvia borin.

A male on 6th April was the first for the spring and one or two were frequent during April with five on 26th. A single bird on 14th September was the only autumn record.

Present all year and resident as usual. The highest count was of 22 on 14th to 16th March.

The first for the spring was seen on 16th March followed by three on 20th and increasing to 30 on 15th April and up to 10 in May. A few pairs bred as usual and the autumn influx commenced with 57 on 10th August with lesser numbers later in the month, including some of the larger Greenland birds. Up to 32 were regular during September but fell to two only by 9th October and the last one on 14th October.

A single male on 3rd March was followed by two from 14th to 16th March and singles throughout April. Five were seen in the autumn on 19th September and usually up to four during October but 19 on 13th October and 7 on 1st November.

Two on 23rd April were the first migrants increasing to five by 4th May but down to a single on 21st May and then none until one on 25th June, up to three during August, six on 3rd September, three on 17th, two on 13th October and the last one on 1st November.

The first two appeared on 22nd April and singles occasionally until 3rd June. In the autumn seen regularly three on 17th September and then singles until 23rd October.

Single birds were frequently seen from 13th March until 1st June. Numerous in the autumn, as they were in southern England generally and three were frequently seen from 25th October and during November with four on 27th and 28th.

A single record of one trapped on 5th October.

Present all year and a survey by R. Leslie located 30 pairs on territories in April including 10 at Millcombe and the remainder down the east side but largely towards the south end.

Singles each day from 22nd April but five on 26th April and then singles until 13th May. Five appeared on 4th August and up to three were then frequent until the last three were seen on 19th September.

Spring migration began with one on 22nd April increasing to four on 2nd May, 8 on 15th, 10 on 17th, 15 on 18th but down to five on 19th and then singles until 1st June. Four appeared on 29th July, six on 7th August but a large movement on 4th August of 51 was down to six on 7th August although 11 were recorded 11th to 17th August with the last one on 20th September.

A single record of one in Graveyard area on 8th June.

One was seen at Jenny's Cove on 10th August two on 7th September and one was in the old hotel garden area 11th to 15th September.

One migrant on 18th April increased to four on 22nd and up to six were regular during May. Return passage from 18th September was only small but increased to 8 by 28th October and 7 were still present on 1st November with a single wintering bird on 11th and 12th December.

One in autumn on 27th September and one from 8th to 11th October was trapped.

Two early migrants on 18th April near Quarter Wall were followed by two on the east side below St. Helen's field on 22nd April but no more until two on 14th and 15th May, one on 18th and six on 19th. Singles appeared on 26th and 29th August and single migrants passed on several days in September, three on 6th October, four on 14th October and a late migrant on 1st November.

- Whitethroat**
Sylvia communis.
- The first single migrant on 22nd April was followed by occasional singles until two on 13th May, six on 16th May and ten on 19th May. A pair bred successfully this year at Millcombe, the parents carrying food on 23rd June and the young fledged by 30th June. Two or three were seen during July, up to six in August, up to five until 10th September and the last one on 21st September.
- Lesser Whitethroat**
Sylvia curruca.
- The first was recorded on 26th April but two appeared on 4th May and singles frequent until 20th. One or two singles passed through in August and the last one on 20th September.
- Willow Warbler**
Phylloscopus trochilus.
- Singles only in spring from 10th April but large numbers on 19th April and only a few in May followed by the successful breeding of a pair at Millcombe in June. Up to 20 were counted in July, 32 on 4th August, peaks of 150 on 10th and 11th, 44 on 14th August, 25 on 1st September and 20 on 21st September.
- Chiffchaff**
Phylloscopus collybita.
- One on 2nd March and two on 3rd and 17th March were followed by up to five during April but large numbers on 19th. From 1st September up to 10 were regular with a peak of 70 on 16th September, 20 on 7th October, 11 on 28th October, 15 on 1st November and a wintering bird on 6th December. Single grey long-winged birds of a northern race were trapped or seen on 26th October, to 13th November and 22nd November. The one trapped was found to be *c. tristis* and the second was 'tristis' type.
- Wood Warbler**
Phylloscopus sibilatrix.
- Singles on 18th April, 15th May, 17th, 20th and 22nd August.
- Yellow-browed Warbler**
Phylloscopus inornatus.
- Singles on 13th and 25th October.
- Goldcrest**
Regulus regulus.
- Up to 20 from 4th March with still 15 on 24th April. Four were seen on 25th June but the general autumn movement did not start until 10 on 1st September increasing to 55 on 16th September with 35 on 7th October, 45 on 9th, 100 on 16th and 70 on 18th October. Up to five were seen during November and two in December.
- Firecrest**
Regulus ignicapillus.
- One was trapped on 29th March and another seen on 3rd and 4th May. Numerous in autumn as in southern England generally this year. 28th September, one but two frequent in October with 7 on 8th and singles on 14th November and 7th December.
- Spotted Flycatcher**
Muscicapa striata.
- The first four appeared on 3rd May and two or three then regularly seen with peaks of 8 on 14th, 10 on 15th and 20 on 19th May and three on 4th, 13th and 30th June with a single until 7th July. One on 1st August increased to five on 8th, 40 on 10th, 24 on 17th, 15 on 27th August, 16 on 1st September, 42 on 2nd, 8 on 3rd and 14th, 9 on 15th, four on 21st and the last two on 26th September.
- Pied Flycatcher**
Ficedula albicollis.
- Single birds on 22nd and 26th April and 16th and 19th May were the only spring migrants. Two on 19th July were early passing birds as the main autumn passage began with a rush of 30 on 10th August and only 10 on the following day up to six regular until 1st September, then up to three occasionally until 15th September. One stayed in October from 14th to 21st.
- Red-breasted Flycatcher**
Ficedula parva.
- A single bird on 27th October.
- Duncock**
Prunella modularis.
- In April R. Leslie encountered six pairs, three centred on Millcombe, two in the Rhododendrons and one at the terraces. No movements were recorded.
- Richard's Pipit**
Anthus novaeseelandiae.
- Singles on 20th and 27th September, 12th to 14th October and 3rd to 8th November.

Meadow Pipit
Anthus pratensis.

Tree Pipit
Anthus trivialis.

Rock Pipit
Anthus spinoletta petrosus.
Pied Wagtail
Motacilla alba varrelli.

White Wagtail
Motacilla alba alba.

Grey Wagtail
Motacilla cinerea.

Yellow Wagtail
Motacilla flava.

Starling
Sturnus vulgaris.
Greenfinch
Carduelis chloris.

Goldfinch
Carduelis carduelis.

Siskin
Carduelis spinus.

Linnet
Acanthis cannabina.

Redpoll
Acanthis flammea.

Serin
Serinus serinus.

Bullfinch
Pyrrhula pyrrhula.
Scarlet Rosefinch
Carpodacus erythrinus.

Chaffinch
Fringila coelebs.

Brambling
Fringilla montifringilla.

Yellowhammer
Emberiza citrinella.

Ortolan Bunting
Emberiza hortulana.

Little Bunting
Emberiza pusilla.

Reed Bunting
Emberiza schoeniclus.

No census of the breeding population was made in 1975. 20 were counted on 2nd March and there were large numbers at north end on 5th April. Not more than 30 were counted in August but 80 were seen on 13th September and 400 on 23rd September.

15 appeared on 22nd April followed by singles during May, singles during August with four on 26th and 15 on 31st and then up to 7 until 14th September. Present all the year.

Recorded almost daily after the first three on 17th March which increased to more than 12 by 31st March. Bred as usual; 18 were counted on 4th September.

In spring, two appeared on 15th to 17th March and one on 23rd April. A single was seen on 21st July, another on 28th August, three on 31st August. In September a peak of 40 occurred on 4th and 28 on 16th.

Single birds seen fairly regularly from 2nd March to 20th October but not during June or July. Two were seen occasionally in April and four during August and September. The first migrant in spring was seen on 21st April and another on 14th May. One in autumn on 24th August increased to 8 on 30th and two on 31st, four on 1st September and 9 on 2nd. Bred as usual. 240 were counted on 7th August.

One on 28th April and three on 29th April, four on 2nd May and one on 14th were the only spring records. Four were seen 30th September, 30 on 18th October, 25 on 28th October and four on 16th December.

One on 31st March, three on 15th April, seven on 22nd April, five on 13th May, three from 15th to 20th May, two on 17th June with singles in July. Three on 9th August, five on 22nd, seven on 31st August. Eight on 5th September, 7 on 1st November, 8 on 9th December and five on 16th.

The first one was recorded on 17th October 17 on 19th, 75 on 24th, 25 on 26th October, 10 on 1st November, 100 on 11th, four on 18th and 28th November.

Up to ten from 10th to 15th April and bred as usual. 200 on 26th August during the flocking for the autumn and several hundreds passed south on 6th October.

Singles on 17th and 19th October, two on 20th, three on 13th December and one on 16th.

One on 3rd November. The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

One was trapped on 10th April and two seen on 3rd and 4th May. A male was seen in Millcombe on 2nd November.

One from 19th to 20th May and 1st June and one from 17th September to 10th October. The records have been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Present all year. Four breeding pairs and during the autumn peak movements about 850 on 13th October had decreased to 400 on 16th October and 400 were again seen on 2nd November.

During a large movement of finches on 13th October, 45 Brambling were seen but only 30 on 17th and four on 31st October and the last three on 1st November.

One at High Street on 28th February, two on 22nd April and singles on 16th and 22nd October.

One male on 4th June.

One on 12th and 13th October, at High Street. The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Singles on 19th September and 28th October.

Lapland Bunting
Calcarius lapponicus.
Snow Bunting
Plectrophenax nivalis.

House Sparrow
Passer domesticus.
Tree Sparrow
Passer montanus.

Two on 28th September increased to three on 6th October, five on 7th, 7 on 12th but only two 19th October.

One on 24th September increased to 8 on 30th and up to five 1st to 10th October, five on 24th November, two on 8th December. and one on 19th.

Bred as usual and 42 counted at High Street on 4th August.

A single on 16th March, six on 24th May, 16 on 29th, 19 on 7th June, eleven on 16th, seven on 18th July and 12 on 17th August.

RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*. 15th April, 1975. First year.

At about 16.15 hours my attention was caught by mobbing calls of Herring Gulls which were diving at a bird flying northwards along the east coast of the island. My initial impression with the naked eye was of an owl-like bird because of its broad, rounded wings and slow but buoyant wing-beats. Through binoculars its long, straight, pointed bill, feet projecting beyond tail and dark cap were clear and I realised that the bird was a Night Heron. Having flown past me it landed on the top of the cliffs about 300 yards to the north, where it was out of sight and unapproachable because of the dense Rhododendron thickets above the cliffs. I then went to fetch I.G. Black and we returned to the area where the bird's position was still clear from the mobbing activities of the gulls. Later it apparently moved a short distance without our seeing it and at about 17.30 we flushed it from the edge of the Rhododendrons. It flew south (in by now poor light), circled several times about 500 yards from us and then returned north past us (when I.G.B. was using my binoculars) and on out of sight.

Description: Length about equal to Herring Gull. Wings broad, rounded and Large. Neck not prominent in flight as in Grey Heron. Bill dagger-shaped and dark. Feet yellowish, projecting beyond short tail. Whole of body, wings and tail except mantle and scapulars uniform buff with smoky grey tinge. Mantle and scapulars dark — apparent greenish sheen noted on first sighting (AMT), bronze sheen on second sighting (IGB). On the head the buff colour faded to whitish on chin and cheeks. A narrow white forehead band separated the bill from the very dark cap which reached down to the top of the eye.

A.M. Taylor

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. 27th and 28th August, 1975.

On the morning of 27th August my wife and I noticed a falcon perched on a fence post some 150 yards from us. Through binoculars we noted large conspicuous white face patches, which, coupled with the immature Swallow-like shape led us to believe it was a juvenile Hobby. A close approach revealed the absence of any rufous thighs. The bird allowed approach to within fifteen yards and we managed to walk it a distance of 300 yards to a Heligoland trap where it took off to a greater distance. During this time it fed like a shrike, returning to the fence posts to consume the crane fly and large beetles it was catching. Later in the afternoon the same bird was on fence posts 40 yards from my cottage window and when it had gone an alarm bell rang in my mind and an immediate search was launched to relocate the bird, now a possible Red-footed Falcon. The description below is mainly from notes taken after the possibility of such a species had occurred to me.

Top of head pale ginger, looking orange in evening light. Large off white area behind eye extending to ear coverts with a thin moustachial stripe (appeared black) separating this from a smaller pale area around the bill. My wife commented when seeing the bird head on that it appeared owl-like. Back as Kestrel, although the stripes were perhaps thinner and more numerous. Underparts, deep buff with longitudinal heavy dark streaks. Tail pale tipped, barred, with a heavier subterminal band. In flight the head pattern was remarkably like a Hobby/Peregrine and reminded me of one of the North African pale capped falcons. Feet and legs yellow, thighs as underparts with no trace of fufous or ginger.