

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS, 1978

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*. Singles were seen on 14th February, 2nd April, 20th September and 5th October. A species of Diver was seen on 27th October.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Seen as usual until August. They reappeared ashore at Jenny's in December, increasing from three on 3rd December to 28 on 27th December.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Ten were seen on 22nd April and they came ashore during the night 30th April/1st May. At least 40 were counted in late May rising to over 200 in 11th June, 400 on 21st June, at least 1,000 on 22nd June and 2,000 on 11th July. Ten were seen on 15th August but from 5th to 8th October up to 100 were found.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. During very misty weather one flew onto 'Polar Bear' three miles out on 8th March.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. The first four were seen on 6th March, up to ten during May and 20 in June, ten in July while 50 on 16th August were the last for the year.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Two on 25th February, three on 26th March, 21 on 15th April, up to five in May, June and July. In the autumn 20 were seen on 30th August, 26 on 11th September and the last for the year on 9th October.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Nesting as usual and thirteen were ringed.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Singles on 19th March, 19th June and three passed south on 11th July. Singles were seen on five dates between 17th July and 11th September.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. A single bird was seen on 24th and 28th April, accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Only one on 19th September.

Teal *Anas crecca*. Singles on 20th February and 1st April and two on 20th July. Singles were seen many times during August and September, six on 19th October, up to three during November and six seen frequently during December.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. One was seen in the autumn on 22nd October.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. One only from 20th to 23rd December.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. A drake was seen on 7th April.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Two on 6th March and one from 22nd to 26th December.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. Two seen on 27th April, one on 8th June and two on 19th June.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*. Two passed north on 28th April and two appeared in the autumn on 19th October.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. A single one on 29th October.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. One on 18th and 19th February and one 17th and 18th March.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. One on 21st March, one 22nd to 26th April, two on 2nd May and one on 17th May. In autumn one only on 25th August.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. A male was seen on 25th February. In the autumn one was seen from 23rd October until 9th November.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. One passed in spring on 17th May and one in the autumn on 1st September.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. One was seen on 23rd and 24th April and one on 27th August.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. Singles on 7th February, 17th and 25th August and one on 20th and 28th December.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. A single bird was frequently seen from 30th March until the end of April and one or two from 15th October until 3rd November.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. A female was seen on 30th May, accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Up to four seen frequently all year and one pair reared four young.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. Singles regular from January until 3rd March and up to four frequent from 1st August until the end of the year.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*. A spring representative on 30th April and one in autumn on 5th September.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. A single on 27th and 28th September.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. Resident as usual but not more than ten in September.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Some were present all the year and breeding took place as usual. A count of 170 on 17th February represented a movement as up to 50 were on the island from June to November and up to 17 during December.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. Singles only in spring on 23rd and 27th April and 2nd May. On 25th August ten appeared but singles only on many days in September and until 9th October with three on 18th September.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Seen in every month of the year in fluctuating numbers. Usually up to six only but 23 on 12th February and ten on 9th October.

Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*. Two on 22nd and 23rd April and a single until 18th May.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. One appeared on 25th March and five on 27th March. A single on 20th May but no more until one on 6th and 12th September, two on 13th and one on 20th September.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. 1st January, six, 11th February, twelve, and up to three in March, April and until 3rd May. Ones and twos from 13th July to October and up to 12 in November and December.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*. One was seen on 7th February, another on 18th March and one on 5th April. Singles on 7th and 18th September, 29th October, 8th November, 19th and 28th December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Singles 7th, 9th, 21st and 26th February and 18th March. One on 15th and 21st October was followed by four on 29th and 30th October, one on 28th November while a single was seen on five dates in December.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. On 17th February 25 were seen but only singles in March, up to seven during April, singles in May and up to three in June. 34 on 16th July, 35 on 30th July, 16 on 27th August and 25 on 20th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. The first appeared on 16th April rising to 13 at the end of the month and up to 12 during May. Singles were recorded from 15th July to 12th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. One on 14th and 15th July and another on 19th August.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. One on 19th June and another on 2nd to 10th August.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*. Singles on 14th April, 5th and 10th May, two on 5th July and three on 11th August.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. One on 21st March, two on 17th April then singles until 14th May. One on 4th July, two on 12th and 13th and one on 28th July.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*. 18th June, one and 1st to 11th September, one.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Ones and twos from 22nd April until 4th May. One on 14th June and another from 15th to 17th July.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. Two were found on 17th April.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. One appeared on 28th March and another on 31st May.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. Spring passage from 17th April to 28th May but nine on 2nd May was the highest number. Two were seen on 7th August and one on 24th and 25th August. A small movement of 15 on 22nd October.

Phalarope species *Phalaropus fulicarius* or *lobatus*. One was seen on 17th November.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*. One on 23rd June and one on crossing on 19th December. Two on crossing on 29th December.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*. 8th April, one male was seen on crossing.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. 15th July, one and 8th September one at Pondsbury.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Present all year and breeding.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*. One 3rd year and two juveniles were seen in Landing Bay on 11th August.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Present all year and breeding.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Seen from 1st March and bred as usual. One wintering bird was seen on 26th December.

Common Gull *Larus canus*. No less than ten were seen on 21st and 26th February, all adults.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Up to three in February, up to three in June, five in July and singles for the rest of the year.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. 450 were offshore on 27th February. 300 were counted on 2nd November and 200 on 27th December.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. Three were seen on 5th December on a very unusual date.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. One only on 10th May.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. Five appeared at Landing Bay on 27th February with 11 off Terraces on 3rd March and plentiful at Jenny's on 30th March. The first eggs were on 14th May. On 6th August only ten remained and none on 9th August. On 27th December two were seen.

Little Auk *Plautus alle*. One was found dead on 18th December.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. 87 were counted at Jenny's Cove on 2nd April and the first eggs on 12th May. Only 20 on 6th August but one adult and one chick came ashore on 10th August. On 29th December 50 came to Jenny's.

The oil slicks appeared off the west side on 18th October with oiled Guillemots offshore and four were killed. On 20th October six heavily oiled Guillemots and two Razorbills were killed with another ten still in the water offshore. On 21st October 29 Guillemots and five Razorbills all heavily oiled were killed and 40 could be seen offshore. On 22nd October six Guillemots and one Razorbill were killed and one Razorbill was taken off by the steamer for treatment at

Taunton. On 23rd October treated oil was on Lamentry Beach and untreated oil on each side of the island and 10 Guillemots and one Razorbill were destroyed. Ten Guillemots and a Gannet were found dead. On 24th October five Guillemots and one Razorbill were ashore dead and one Guillemot destroyed. On 25th October one Razorbill and one Guillemot were destroyed. On 26th October three Guillemots were found dead and one destroyed. On 27th October there were 7 dead Guillemots and one Razorbill. The treated oil was dispersed from Lundy by winds on 1st and 2nd November.

The effect on the resident populations of Guillemots and Razorbills on Lundy will become apparent during 1979.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. On 1st April six were at Battery and on 3rd April nine were at Jenny's. From 26th to 28th July about 40 were at Jenny's but only five on 6th August and these had gone by 9th August.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. Singles from 26th February frequent until 9th April and two were seen on 14th April.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. From 11th February six were frequently seen increasing to eight at the end of the month and on 27th March 17 were counted while 12 were occasionally found during April.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. The first migrant came on 2nd May followed by singles until two on 16th, 7 on 17th, 13 on 19th and 11 on 31st May and 9 on 2nd June. Autumn singles from 18th August and during September with one on 6th October and one from 7th to 11th November.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. The first one on 7th April increased to five during the month. On 2nd May a migrating surge of 39 was followed by 11 on 17th and 22 on 18th May while up to 11 were regular in June. One was seen on 15th and 22nd September.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. The first was on 7th April and up to four frequent in May with up to six during June. One or two were regular during July and on 1st August a juvenile appeared and one was seen from 30th August until 8th September.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*. One was seen on 12th November.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*. One appeared on 31st August and 1st September, three on 30th October, one on 2nd November and another on 22nd November.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. Singles on 26th September, 18th and 20th October with three on 30th October and 8th November and a single on 18th and 19th December.

Swift *Apus apus*. Two early migrants were seen on 30th March and one appeared on 27th April but on 16th May about 2,000 appeared while up to 60 were seen during July. After 25 on 11th August and three on 19th August a single was about from 24th to 27th August, three on 6th September, two on 23rd September and one on 24th September.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*. One was found on 18th March and another on 3rd June.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Present all year but an increase was noted on 17th September.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. One appeared on 7th and 8th May.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. Two early on 30th and 31st March were followed by ones and twos from early April increasing to 250 migrants on 22nd April and a rush of about 2,000 on 16th May. Up to 20 were regular in June but only eight in July. Young birds in August when up to 20 were counted preceded the main rush of migrants on 17th to 19th September when about 2,000 could be seen. 100 on 6th October was followed by diminishing numbers but still ten at the end of the month, 50 on 1st November and the last one on 7th November. One, possibly two, pairs bred. At least two broods fledged.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. The first five on 16th April with ten on 23rd April and 50 on 16th May falling to about 20 during June and only four during July and August. A peak passage of 500 on 18th September with 100 on 20th September fell away to no birds until 20 were seen on 22nd and 30th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Early singles on 11th and 19th March, a movement of 17 on 31st March, 20 on 16th April and 80 on 16th May but only up to six during June and up to three in August. On 4th September 15 were seen but a mass movement took place on 18th September of about 2,000 during the rush of migrating Swallows.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. Males were recorded on 11th May and 2nd to 9th June with two on 4th and 5th June.

Raven *Corvus corax*. Present all year as usual.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*. The largest count during the year was 6th to 11th September of 26.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*. Singles were seen on 9th June and 3rd November.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. One from 16th to 23rd February, three on 18th March, six on 31st March, up to ten frequent during April and singles on 12th and 24th May.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. One from 16th to 20th February and one on 6th March, four on 18th March, up to five frequent during April, two on 18th May and one on 25th May. A single was seen on 25th December.

Great Tit *Parus major*. One on 7th February and one from 12th to 17th February.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. One during January and February and until 6th March. Four were seen on 19th April, one from 14th to 22nd October and one was seen several times during November and December.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*. One 26th September, two on 29th September, one seen on six days during October, one on 25th November, one 11th to 14th December, two on 18th and one on 24th December.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Present as usual.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. One on 22nd February, three on 23rd February, two the next day and one until 7th March with a single on 9th April. In autumn singles on 16th and 19th October with ten on 20th, five on 23rd October and six on 30th October. A single appeared on 17th December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. Up to 7 in January and 15 in February. four in March, two in April with the last one on 27th April. In autumn 49 were counted on 19th October and over 100 on 28th October with up to 20 during December.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. Eight on 1st January and 30 seen occasionally during February and March. Two in April and one seen carrying food. Two were seen frequently from April to December with movements of 50 on 19th and 30th October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. The year started with 40 on 1st January but the cold spell in February increased the number to 150 by 23rd February. They soon departed with warmer weather and only ones and twos were seen during March and until 19th April. The first for the autumn was on 11th October but a surge of 200 on 13th October was followed by 1,000 on 19th and 27th and 500 on 30th October. Only about 50 could be found during November and December.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. Two early migrants on 13th March were followed by singles on 28th March and most days in April and the last two for spring on 19th April. The first in autumn was on 6th September and ones or twos on most days until 2nd October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Present all year with no great movements but a small increase was noted in the early morning of 2nd April.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. The first one appeared on 25th March and increased to 16 on 30th March while up to 50 were seen at the beginning of May. One of the Greenland sub-species passed on 17th May. At least three pairs bred. Autumn passing birds were up to 30 in August and up to 50 during September and another Greenland bird passed on 14th September. On 6th October ten were found and the last two on 16th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. Two on 23rd February and nine on 25th February but only four during March with one on 8th April. In autumn one appeared on 8th September and another on 23rd September increasing to three by 5th October and three again on 22nd October and the last two on 29th October.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. The first migrant, a male, was on 24th April with two on 27th April, ten on 1st May, 15 on 2nd May and singles on 29th May and 14th June. Singles appeared occasionally during July and one on 10th August with seven on 27th and 28th August while two were frequent during September and the last one on 8th October.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. The first came through on 26th April rising to 10 on 1st May, 12 on 2nd May and one or two until 19th May. In autumn the first was on 26th August rising to three on 5th September and two frequent during the month and also during October with three on 12th October while the last one was 8th November.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Singles on 26th March and 14th to 22nd April, one on 25th May and 2nd and 3rd June. In autumn one came through on 13th October, four on 18th and one on 29th October while one was frequently seen from 6th to 14th November.

Robin *Erithacus rubecola*. Present all year as usual but some increase was noticed on 17th September.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. The first was on 15th April and ones and twos frequent until 27th April. On 2nd May 12 passed through and a single on 17th May. In autumn singles only on 3rd and 16th August.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. The only one came through on 15th October.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. One appeared on 27th April, 20 on 1st May, 30 on 2nd May but only singles were then occasional until 19th June. Singles were seen occasionally in autumn from 4th August until 2nd September.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. One appeared on 18th August and was trapped and ringed and one was seen on 24th and 25th August.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. A wintering female was seen on 2nd January. The first migrant was on 17th April increasing to seven on 28th April while 30 passed through on 2nd May with the last one on 6th June. A single appeared on 5th July but the autumn movement did not start until 18th September with ones and twos until three on 8th October rising to ten on 18th October falling to five with the last one on 14th November.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. A single on 27th April, two on 27th May and 31st May. One appeared on 30th August, two on 5th September, singles on 7th and 13th September and singles five times in October until 30th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. One on 26th April increasing to 30 by 2nd May but down to 8 on 8th May and four in June. A pair nested. Up to five in August but then singles until a passage of 12 on 18th September, four on 19th and the last two on 20th September.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. One on 27th April, two on 1st May and one on 2nd May were the only spring records and none were seen in the autumn.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. One was singing on 2nd April and peak movements were of 200 on 16th April, 250 on 2nd May, 40 on 3rd May but then only up to three but one was carrying food on 15th July. 70 on 3rd August was the highest peak in the autumn and after 12 on 24th September, singles only during October until three on 29th October and the last one on 3rd November.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. One male was found singing its distinctive song at Millcombe on 14th and 15th July and perhaps the same bird on 8th August.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. Two overwintering birds 7th to 11th February and one 13th February with two on 3rd March. A spring run of 18 on 31st March with up to 12 during April and up to five in May followed by singles until 21st June. In autumn four on 17th October and up to three until 29th October with the last single on 6th November.

Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus trochilus/collybita*. A run of 80 on 18th September.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. One on 16th and 17th May and another on 25th August.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Present all year and one pair bred in May. The numbers moving through were not high with 25 on 3rd April, about 50 on 17th and 18th October and only three in December.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*. One on 1st January, one on 16th February, one on 1st April, singles on 25th September, 15th October, 1st November, and 17th December, two on 24th December, two on 28th December and one on 30th December.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. The first one was on 25th April increasing to 8 on 2nd May and 25 on 17th May. One again appeared on 2nd June, two on 3rd to 5th June, singles on 14th July and 3rd to 5th August with six on 7th and 7 on 17th August with a run of 30 on 23rd August, about 60 on 25th August and up to 15 on most days in September with the last singles on 6th, 8th and 23rd October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. One on 28th April rose to 10 on 2nd May. On 19th August two appeared again and up to six were then regular but 10 on 7th September falling to singles each day until 30th September but two came in from 18th to 20th October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Present all year.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. Present all year with increases noted on 27th February and 6th September.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. One early on 9th April and four on 18th and five from 24th to 27th April, six on 2nd May and three on 9th May. In autumn the first one on 10th August increased to 7 by 31st August. Two were seen on 6th September and a single from 9th to 13th October.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. Present as usual.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*. The first one on 23rd February increased to 12 by the end of March and some bred in May. 40 were noted on 30th August and 60 on 7th September.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*. Singles on 4th March and 19th April with five on 21st April and 20 on 28th April with 26 on 16th May.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. One on 2nd March, two on 12th March and 8th April and one on 15th May, another on 28th August and singles frequent during September and October.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. The first spring migrant on 22nd April was followed by several each day and five on 28th April. One of the Blue-headed variety was found on 27th April. Five were still present on 2nd May, singles on

9th and 19th June and singles occasionally in July with three on 14th. In autumn 10 on 28th August increased to 15 on 30th August down to 10 again on 7th September, four on 24th with the last late single from 9th to 18th October.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. One of this increasingly rare species was seen from 26th to 30th May and one in autumn from 5th to 12th September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Present all year and on 4th March 300 were flying south-east at dusk. In autumn 150 on 2nd August and 200 on 22nd August moved through and there was a large movement on 12th October.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Singles appeared in autumn on 25th August, 1st to 23rd October, 3rd and 8th November and 18th December.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. No large scale movements this year but 20 were seen on 25th March and up to seven in April and May. From 22nd September to the end of the year singles were regular but nine on 1st November and four on 3rd November.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Up to three in February and March and up to five in April while 10 were seen on 2nd May with a single from 4th to 10th June, singles on 19th and 20th July, one on 8th October and a single during the whole of December.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. Three in autumn from 28th to 29th October.

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*. A single was seen four times during February but numbers increased during March to 30 and during April to 60. One appeared on 25th August, two on 17th December and one on 21st December.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*. Singles in spring on 22nd April, 2nd and 17th May.

Serin *Serinus serinus*. On 3rd May one was seen and heard singing, accepted by the Rarities Committee.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. Only one from 8th to 19th May.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One female on 21st June.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Present all year and a large movement was noted on 11th October. On 1st November about 8,000 passed through and another 400 on 9th November.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. One on 5th and 6th March and two on 9th April were the only early records. Two appeared on 25th September, four on 10th October. Four on 30th October were followed by 80 on 1st November, 20 on 3rd November, 17 on 8th November and up to 27 from 9th to 27th December.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 19th April, 16th May and 3rd June.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. One was seen frequently from 10th April until 5th May.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Two came on 25th August, one on 27th August, three on 5th September, four on 6th and one from 10th to 12th September.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. One on 16th and 30th April, 3rd and 23rd May. In autumn one was frequent from 9th to 25th September and one from 18th to 22nd October.

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*. One on 22nd September, three on 19th October and one on 20th October.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Singles regular from 22nd February until 6th April with two on 6th and 21st April. In autumn two were seen on 7th to 10th October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Not very many this year.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Three on 16th May increasing to 9 by 30th May until 3rd June.