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BIRD REPORT for 1976 and 1977

by J. Stafford

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BIRD REPORT FOR 1976 AND 1977

By J. STAFFORD

Both years yielded interesting observations and a good number of species – 188 in 1976 and 193 in 1977.

New species continue to be added to the Island list. Those recorded for the first time in 1976-77 were Egyptian Goose (presumed to be feral), Dowitcher and Bonelli's Warbler in 1976, and the expected Cetti's Warbler in 1977.

Other unusual species in 1976 were Little Ringed Plover (recorded only for the fourth time), Honey Buzzard (sixth) and Serin (ninth). Both Little Ringed Plover and Serin occurred again in 1977, along with Alpine Swift (fourth), Goshawk (fifth), Marsh Warbler (fifth) and Glaucous Gull (sixth). A Black Grouse was undoubtedly the result of an introduction somewhere, but interesting nevertheless.

Lesser rarities recorded in one of the years included Marsh Harrier, Spotted Crake, Avocet, Grey Phalarope, Stone Curlew, Pomarine Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Little Auk, Woodlark, Golden Oriole, Bearded Tit, Waxwing, Twite and Snow Bunting. Further details are to be found in the Systematic List.

Cetti's Warbler seems likely to become established as a familiar species, in the same way as the Collared Dove has done – although it will hardly be so conspicuous.

While welcoming new species, we must also accept the sad loss of old ones, although it may not be easy to say exactly when a species has finally left us. We seem to be in the process of losing both Raven and Puffin as breeding species. The Raven, on the very edge of its breeding range, had just been hanging on for some years, but there has been no suggestion of nesting since 1972, and no record at all since 1975. The Puffin, also on the edge of its range, and suffering marked setbacks even in its Scottish strongholds, is managing to survive here for slightly longer than the Raven, but over the years is being recorded less frequently and in smaller numbers.

The main event of the two years' weather was the long drought in 1976. It appeared to have no major effect on the birds, but some minor instances are noted under Tufted Duck, Pochard and Blue Tit. Different features of the weather are referred to under Swift and Wryneck.

It is especially interesting (and may have scientific significance) when occurrences here are seen to be part of wider movements observed elsewhere. Some species concerned in the two years under review were Marsh Harrier, Avocet, Black Tern, Long-eared Owl, Wryneck and Tree Sparrow.

Many observers (named below) are to be thanked for sending in their observations; the Report depends on their continued support.

Abbreviations, etc.

The sequence, numeration and nomenclature follow the British Trust for Ornithology's *Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971). ♂: male. ♀: female. S.C.P.: St. Catherine's Point. Other initials in the systematic list denote the observers concerned in certain categories of record (see *Report for 1969*).

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** In 1976, 19 flew E past S.C.P. between April 3rd and May 5th, but in 1977 there was only one, also flying E on April 17th. None recorded elsewhere.
- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** Single birds flew E past S.C.P. on March 21st and April 20th, 1976, and on April 10th and 17th, 1977.

One on Sandown Canoe Lake on December 21st, 1976 was partly oiled, but still able to dive. It spent some time on the bank preening, calling frequently, and stayed until the following morning (LS, RAS).

Single birds off Quarr on March 25th and December 9th, 1977.

- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** In 1976, one on sea at S.C.P. on March 28th, and others flying E – 2 on April 22nd, 1 on May 2nd and 9th. In 1977, also flying E past S.C.P.: 3 on April 11th, 1 on 14th, 2 on 17th, 1 on May 26th, 3 on 27th.

The divers identified at S.C.P. are only a fraction of those seen. Many others, which are most likely to be Red-throated, pass too far out to be identified. In the spring of 1977, for instance, 64 unidentified divers flew past to E, including 19 on April 16th and 13 on 17th.

Also one in Osborne Bay on December 11th, 1977.

- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.**
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.** None recorded in 1976. In 1977, 1 at Quarr on January 22nd and February 6th (FEH), and 3 with Slavonian at Woodside on January 23rd (JMC, DJH).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** 1976: 1 at Woodside on January 11th, 1 at Seaview on 27th, 2 at Bembridge on February 13th, 1 at Newtown on December 9th.

1977: 3 at Woodside on January 23rd, 2 at Quarr on January 30th and February 6th.

- 9 **Little Grebe.** One on the sea at S.C.P. on April 12th, 1976 (DBW); seldom seen on such exposed water.
- 26 **Fulmar.** Not many recorded on passage at S.C.P., the largest numbers being 11 on May 22nd, 1976, and 19 on April 23rd and 11 on 24th, 1977, all moving W.

At Main Bench in the nesting season there were up to 5 in 1976, and in 1977 up to 8, including 3 sitting on June 26th.

The only one elsewhere was off Horse Ledge, Shanklin, on June 28th, 1977 (JMC).

None recorded in autumn in either year.

- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** 1976. S.C.P.: 1 to W, April 15th; 2 to E, April 20th; 1 to E and 6 to W, April 21st; 3 to E, May 29th; 24 to E and 1 to W, June 20th. Fort Victoria: 1 to W, September 15th.
1977. Recorded only at S.C.P.: 2 to W, April 28th; 6 to E and 2 to W, May 26th; 7 to E, May 27th; 1 to E, May 28th; 17 to E, June 11th.
- 27 **Gannet.** Smaller numbers than usual recorded passing S.C.P. in 1976, the largest movement being 29 to E on April 14th. In 1977 numbers were up again, including 93 to E on April 13th and 29 to E on 14th.
Occasionally in the Solent. 1976: 1 at Newtown, August 29th; 1 at Quarr, September 20th; 2 off Alum Bay, October 3rd; 1 at Seaview, October 5th. 1977: 6 on May 1st and 5 on June 26th, at Colwell Bay.
- 28 **Cormorant.**
- 29 **Shag.** Still a few nests near The Needles: 1 in 1976 and 6 in 1977.
- 30 **Heron.** The Wootton heronry held 8 nests in 1976 and 10 in 1977. 5 nests at Bembridge in 1977.
- 45 **Mallard.** Largest numbers at Bembridge were 264 on September 11th, 1976 and 577 on September 18th, 1977.
Breeding at Quarr Marsh was especially successful in 1977: 49 young from 6 broods survived to flying stage. 82 there on December 9th.
Nested in Whitefield Wood and Swanpond Copse in 1977 (JMC).
- 46 **Teal.** Largest numbers at Bembridge were 224 on December 12th, 1976 and 213 on January 16th, 1977.
At the end of January 1976 a small movement was observed at both Quarr and S.C.P. 18 arrived at Quarr on January 30th, 3 remaining until February 13th. 20 flew E past S.C.P. on January 31st. Pintail and Shoveler (see below) were also involved.
- 47 **Garganey.** Recorded only in Brading Marsh. A pair on March 1st, 1976 (SMN) apparently did not stay. In 1977 there were frequent records of a pair from February 1st until May 28th; on some days only the ♂ was to be seen, while on March 22nd 2 additional ♀♀ stayed briefly (PJB, JMC, SL, SMN, JS).
- 49 **Gadwall.** None recorded in 1976. A ♀ at Bembridge on September 14th, 1977 (SMN).
- 50 **Wigeon.** Largest numbers at Newtown as usual: up to 380 in January 1976; 336 on November 14th, 1976, remaining over 300 to end of year.
- 52 **Pintail.** 5 at Quarr on January 31st, 1976, and 1 there on August 4th.
Numbers at Newtown continue to increase: 160 on October 17th, 1976.
- 53 **Shoveler.** 1976: 16 flew E past S.C.P. on January 31st; 7 at Quarr from February 1st to March 29th; 1 on the pond at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, during February may have resulted from the same movement.
Largest numbers at Bembridge were 33 on November 14th, 1976 and 32 on February 13th, 1977.
- 55 **Scaup.** A pair on the Yar at Bembridge on December 12th, 1976 (JMC).
A ♂ on Bembridge pond from January to April 1977 (JMC, DJH, SL, SMN).
- **Mandarin.** Nested in Alverstone area: an adult and 4 ducklings on April 29th and 6 on December 16th, 1976; 2 on November 27th and December 4th, 1977. 3 at Ashley on February 5th, 1977.
- 56 **Tufted Duck.** The largest number on the Bembridge ponds was 43 on February 15th, 1976. Seldom seen on the ponds after the 1976 drought, frequenting the

river or harbour instead (JMC).

Nested in Brading Marsh in 1976 – a juvenile seen on April 30th – and in 1977 – 8 juveniles in June and July.

A ♀ on Sandown Canoe Lake for about three weeks in November 1976 (LS, RAS). A ♂ on R. Medina near Dodnor for about the same time in December 1977.

- 57 **Pochard.** 45 at Bembridge on January 18th, 1976 was the largest count of the year. Much reduced there after the 1976 drought (JMC, SMN). But in 1977 numbers recovered to 94 on December 18th.

A pair on Dodnor Pond on February 28th, 1976 (RT).

- 60 **Goldeneye.** Regular at Newtown in winter – maximum 11 in February 1976. The only others were 4 at Bembridge on December 10th, 1976 and February 1st, 1977, and 2 at Quarr, December 9th-14th, 1977.

- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** Recorded only at S.C.P., all moving E. 1976: 1 on April 10th, 5 on 19th, 10 on 20th, 1 on 26th. 1977: 6 on April 6th, 3 on 17th, 1 on 21st, 18 on 23rd, 1 on May 1st. Almost all occurred at the peak of the Common Scoter passage (see below) in 1976, but not in 1977.

- 64 **Common Scoter.** Between March 19th and May 29th, 1976 a total of 1534 flew E past S.C.P., most of them in 3 days: 135 on April 19th, 784 on 20th, 200 on 21st. In 1977 the pattern was remarkably similar: 1511 flew E between March 26th and May 29th, including 197 on April 15th, 372 on 16th, 319 on 17th.

The only others recorded were 17 off Foreland on January 6th, 1976, 3 at Quarr on April 1st, 1976, and 10 flying NW over Spithead on September 21st, 1977.

- 67 **Eider.** 1976. 5 at Newtown on January 3rd, and 2 on 5th. 5 flew E past S.C.P. on March 27th. 20 at Quarr on April 1st. A ♂ off Gurnard in May (RT). 1977. 2 at Bembridge on January 30th. 2 flew E past S.C.P. on April 17th.

- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.** At S.C.P. in 1976, a total of 15 flew E on 4 dates in April, and 25 E on May 1st. In 1977, 3 on April 16th, and 6 on 17th, all flew E.

Regular at Newtown in winter – maximum 27-29 from November 1976 to January 1977.

Largest numbers elsewhere were 13 at Quarr on February 1st, 1976, 20 at Foreland on December 27th, 1976, and 13 at Osborne on December 11th, 1977.

- 70 **Goosander.** One flew W past Seaview on November 23rd, 1976 (SMN). A ♀ at East Medina Mill on December 26th (JMC) and 28th (PJB, DJH) 1976, and a ♂ at Newtown on 29th (PG).

None recorded in 1977.

- 71 **Smew.** None recorded in 1976. A ♀ at Bembridge on December 13th and 20th, 1977 (SMN).

- 73 **Shelduck.** 420 at Newtown on January 11th, 1976 – a typical winter peak. Very few of them remain to breed – only about 6 pairs in 1976. Similarly at Brading Marsh, there were 88 on February 15th, 1976, but only 2 pairs bred.

On May 9th, 1976, 4 landed on the cliff face at Main Bench (*cf Report for 1972 and 1973*).

Two pairs bred at Quarr in 1977.

- **Egyptian Goose.** One at St. Helens on November 14th, 1976 (JMC, DJH). The species is now on the British List, as it breeds ferally in some parts of the country, mostly in East Anglia. This bird may have come from a small feral

population which has been established near Portsmouth, but which may not turn out to be viable. In the case of a single record such as this, it is not easy to rule out the possibility that the bird has escaped from a collection. The occurrence will need to be judged against the pattern of future records.

- 75 **Greylag Goose.** The one at Newtown at the end of 1975 (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*) remained until January 2nd, 1976.

Brading Marsh, 1976: 1 on March 14th (JMC); 2 on December 10th (SMN).

None recorded in 1977.

- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** The two at Newtown at the end of 1975 (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*) remained until January 2nd, 1976, and one was there on 21st. Also at Newtown, c 20 heard flying over marsh after dark on September 7th, 1976.

5 in Brading Marsh on January 21st, 1977.

- 80 **Brent Goose.** Passed S.C.P. to E at various seasons in 1976: 2 on January 31st; 30 on March 19th; 35 on 20th; 11 on April 8th; 3 on 21st; 8 on November 28th; 1 on December 13th.

Largest numbers occurred at Newtown as usual, including 572 on February 11th and 600 on December 27th, 1976. One of the pale-breasted race *hrota* there on December 5th, 1976.

Quarr: 44 from February 20th to March 25th, 1976; 1 on November 16th increased to 29 by end of 1976, then to 80 in January 1977 which remained until March; 60 at Woodside on January 23rd, 1977 may have been some of the same birds; 10 from December 25th, 1977 to end of year.

C 100 by R. Medina on March 1st, 1976.

- 82 **Canada Goose.** Newtown. Up to 70 in January and February 1976. Two pairs nested unsuccessfully in 1976; a non-nesting pair was also present. Up to 100 through November and December, and 150 on December 31st, 1976. In 1977, 90 on January 17th and 74 on April 6th.

An echelon of 30 flew from Brading towards Bembridge on August 23rd, 1976 (JMC).

- 84 **Mute Swan.** In October 1977, 12 stayed in Sandown Canoe Lake when it was almost completely drained. They were often wading to their knees in mud. There was a heavy growth of *ruppia*, and plenty of shrimps. (LS, RAS).

- 86 **Bewick's Swan.** Recorded only at Bembridge. The two present at the end of 1975 (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*) remained until February 15th, 1976 (but 3 present on January 17th). First winter arrivals of 1976 were 2 adults and 3 juveniles on November 2nd, and there were 4 adults from November 8th to 21st. 2 adults on November 6th and 20th, 1977.

- 91 **Buzzard.** A pair nested in the Brighstone Forest area in 1976, and probably also in 1977.

Several records of single birds elsewhere outside the breeding season. 1976: Gatcombe, January 3rd; Brading, March 8th; Quarr, May 20th; St. Helens, August 21st; Newtown, September 29th. 1977: Culver, mid-August; Dodnor, August 27th; St. Lawrence, September 11th; Knighton, November 10th.

- 93 **Sparrowhawk.** Arrivals at S.C.P., all from S: 1 on April 26th, 1976; 1 on April 15th and 3 on 17th, 1977.

A ♂ flew N from Fort Victoria on January 3rd, 1976.

Several reports of visiting gardens: Cowes, March-April 1976 (RT); Shanklin,

November-December 1976, February-March 1977, August-September 1977 (LS, RAS); a different garden in Shanklin, April 1977 (JMC); Brighstone, September 1977 (JS).

- 94 **Goshawk.** One at Redcliff in mid-August 1977 (RPS). This is the fifth record for the Island, and closely resembles the last occurrence (see *Report for 1971*).

- 98 **Honey Buzzard.** Two flew SW from S.C.P. on September 19th, 1976 (DBW). The sixth record for the Island.

- 99 **Marsh Harrier.** A ♀ at Newtown on May 17th, 1977 (PJE), at a time when there was a large influx to other parts of southern England (*British Birds* 70: 356). A juvenile ♀ at Sudmoor, Brighstone, on October 16th, 1977 (JMC).

None recorded in 1976.

- 100 **Hen Harrier.** All records refer to single birds. 1976: St. Helens, September 7th; Newchurch, September 12th; Rowborough, November 7th. 1977: ♀, Cridmore, January 1st; ♀, S.C.P., and ♂, Brighstone, both on January 19th; ♀, Ashey, February 5th; ♀, Brading, October 12th, and Bembridge, October 29th.

- 103 **Osprey.** One at Yarmouth on September 20th, 1976. Possibly the same bird was seen at Newtown on 21st and 26th; on the latter date it was driven off to the E by a mob of various species, and may have been the same bird which was seen about an hour later over the Rowborough area of Brighstone Forest. One at Newtown again on October 27th.

None recorded in 1977.

- 104 **Hobby.** 1976. One arrived at S.C.P. on April 24th. 2 flew N over Newchurch on November 17th.

1977. One at Newchurch on April 16th. One at Shanklin on May 3rd, August 26th and September 5th – on the last date very high, chasing martins. One at Alverstone on September 15th.

- 105 **Peregrine.** All single birds, unless stated otherwise.

1976. ♂, Ninham, February 1st. Newtown, February 8th. Main Bench, March 21st and October 17th. Arrived at S.C.P. from SE on April 14th, and a ♀ there on 25th. Shalcombe, October 10th. Flew S over Shanklin on October 25th.

1977. Newtown, January 3rd. Apse Heath, February 19th. S.C.P., March 26th. ♀, Main Bench, April 3rd. 2, Seaview, December 29th. Shanklin, December 31st.

- 107 **Merlin.** Widespread records of single birds. 1976: Ashey, Brading, Newtown, Knighton, Alum Bay, in January and October. 1977: Ashey, Afton Down, High Down, S.C.P., Blackwater, Newchurch, Bembridge, Seaview, in January, April, and October-December. Also on August 22nd, 1977 a juvenile attempted to enter a Wootton budgerigar aviary.

- 110 **Kestrel.**

- 113 **Black Grouse.** An exhausted ♀ on Luccombe Down on May 14th, 1976 (JMC). The indigenous Black Grouse in Borthwood Forest died out about 1585. In the present century there have been attempts to introduce the species to the New Forest, and following one such attempt in the 1950s a bird was seen at S.C.P. The present record may have a similar explanation.

- 116 **Partridge.**

- 117 **Quail.** One was disturbed by a shooting party at Brading on October 23rd, 1976 (but was not shot) (SMN).

One at Park Farm, Nettlestone, during harvest on September 3rd, 1977 (SMN).

- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.**
- 121 **Spotted Crane.** One found in the Botanic Garden, St. Lawrence, on November 2nd, 1977 appeared to be ill, and died three days later (JM).
None recorded in 1976.
- 126 **Moorhen.**
- 127 **Coot.** Maxima at Bembridge have remained remarkably constant for several years: c 300 on February 15th, 1976, and 303 on January 16th, 1977 (*cf Report for 1974 and 1975*).
Nested at Quarr for the first time in 1976, at the site frequented in 1975 (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*). 6 birds present until March 24th, when the marshy field was drained. 6 young seen on May 15th, but not later. Bred there again in 1977: 2 young seen on August 2nd. (FEH).
Up to 4 at Dodnor in November and December 1977.
- 131 **Oystercatcher.** 67 at Foreland on January 6th, 1976 and for some time afterwards. In 1977 by R. Medina, 42 on January 23rd and 44 on November 29th.
- 133 **Lapwing.** On March 31st, 1976, 825 flew E past S.C.P.
In 1976 two pairs bred at Quarr (FEH) – a new locality.
- 134 **Ringed Plover.**
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover.** Single birds by pond at Rookley Brickworks on April 19th, 1976 (RA, PJB, PC, DJH, SL), at St. Helens on July 29th, 1976 (SMN), and in Brading Marsh on March 25th, 1977 (SMN). There have been only three previous records for the Island.
- 139 **Grey Plover.** 1976. Up to 4 at Quarr, January-March, and 1 in September. 79 at Newtown on June 20th. 3 at Fort Victoria, where not usually seen, on September 15th.
1977. Up to 9 at Quarr in January and February. The first autumn record by R. Medina was 7 on October 29th, increasing to 14 on December 17th.
- 140 **Golden Plover.** 650 at Newtown on January 1st, 1976, but never as many for the remainder of the year.
300 at Chale on January 16th, 1977.
- 143 **Turnstone.**
- 144 **Dowitcher.** One at Porchfield on November 14th, 1976, in a meadow adjoining the creek (BJA, HJA). Full details supplied, including photographs. The first record for the Island.
- 145 **Snipe.** 6 flew E past S.C.P. on January 31st, 1976.
Nested at Newchurch – a new locality – in 1977, but the eggs were crushed by cattle (JMC).
- 146 **Jack Snipe.** 1976. Brading Marsh: 2, January 1st; 1, January 18th and March 14th. Newtown: 1, January 18th and 27th.
1977. Brading Marsh: 9 flushed individually on November 13th (JMC, DJH); 1, December 18th. Newtown: 1, January 9th. Quarr: 1, September 23rd and October 14th.
- 148 **Woodcock.** Again recorded on migration at S.C.P. (*cf Report for 1972 and 1973*): 1 on October 30th and several on November 14th, 1976.
1976. One at Quarr on January 31st. One on saltings at Newtown on October 13th. 14 at Knighton on November 17th. 4 at Nunwell on December 4th.
1977. 12 on January 15th, and 25 on 22nd, at Ashy.

- 150 **Curlew.**
- 151 **Whimbrel.** S.C.P. An early migrant passed to E on February 24th, 1976; over 400 others also passed to E between April 19th and May 7th, including 272 on April 26th. Fewer recorded in 1977 – less than 100, all going E in April.
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** 1976. Largest number was at Newtown as usual – 220 on October 20th. R. Medina: 37, February 9th; 74, December 27th.
1977. R. Medina: 38, January 23rd; 120, February 14th; 39, November 29th.
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** Again a heavy passage to E past S.C.P. in April of both years. 1976: 315 on 19th, 800 on 20th, 1200 on 21st, 45 on 22nd, 93 on 26th. 1977. 1 on 17th, 26 on 26th, 1010 on 28th.
One at Brook – an unusual locality – on May 1st, 1976 (LS, RAS). Recorded occasionally at Bembridge, Seaview, Quarr, R. Medina and Newtown.
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** 1976. Shide, 1 on March 30th. Quarr, 1 on April 12th, May 7th, and September 17th-22nd. Brading Marsh, 1 on July 4th, 2 on August 8th, 3 on 18th. Newtown, 1 on August 29th, October 11th and December 5th. Merstone, 2 on November 9th.
1977. At Merstone, 2 again on January 29th, apparently the November birds over-wintering. Leechmore Pond, 1 on April 6th. One at Quarr, April 19th-23rd and August 10th-15th. Newchurch, 1 on June 18th. Brading Marsh, 2 on August 18th. S.C.P., 1 on October 13th.
- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.** 1976. 1 at Bembridge, August 18th-30th. 4 at Newtown, September 1st. 1 at Quarr, September 3rd.
1977. 1 at Bembridge, May 1st, August 28th and September 18th. 1 at Seaview, August 22nd.
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** At S.C.P. in 1976, 1 on April 27th, 8 on July 10th and 16 on August 12th. 3 by Sandown Canoe Lake on May 2nd, 1976.
- 161 **Redshank.** 2 pairs nested at Quarr in 1976.
- 162 **Spotted Redshank.** At Newtown, 1 or 2 were to be seen in most months. Also seen – usually singly – at Quarr in July 1976, Bembridge and Brading Marsh in August 1976, and Brading Marsh in April, October (2 birds), November and December, 1977.
- 165 **Greenshank.** Two records from what appears to be a new area for the species – the course of the former railway track between Blackwater and Horryngford. 2 near Birchmore on December 13th, 1976 (SMN), and 1 near Heasley on May 22nd, 1977 (JMC); although not far apart these two places are on opposite sides of the watershed.
1976. Largest number at Newtown was 40 on September 25th. 1 at S.C.P. on July 15th and August 27th.
1977. 1 at Quarr on April 26th. R. Medina, 1 on August 12th and 2 on September 29th. 6 at Bembridge on November 13th.
- 169 **Knot.** 1976. 20 at Newtown on September 22nd. 3 at Bembridge on November 15th.
1977. 5 flew E past S.C.P. on May 27th.
- 170 **Purple Sandpiper.** All records were from the same Foreland/Whitecliff Bay area. 1976: 9 on January 6th and 21st, 1 on October 27th, 11 on November 15th. 1977: 6 on January 9th, 4 on 29th, 12 on November 17th.
- 171 **Little Stint.** Regular at Newtown as usual, including 5 on August 30th, 1976. The only one reported elsewhere was at Quarr on March 31st, 1976.

- 178 **Dunlin.** The scarcity of this species at S.C.P. relative to other waders is well illustrated by the 1976 records – the only ones seen were 2 on April 19th and 1 on 22nd, all flying E.
- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** 1976: One at Newtown on October 1st and 9th.
1977: One at Bembridge on September 18th.
- 181 **Sanderling.** Numerous reports from the usual Ryde/Bembridge area, e.g. 200 at Seaview on November 20th, 1976, and 400 at Bembridge next day. The only others reported (all in 1976) were 1 at Newtown on April 8th, 6 flying E past S.C.P. on May 9th, and 2 flying E past Fort Victoria on September 15th.
- 184 **Ruff.** 1976. 2 by R. Medina at Shide on February 1st. 5 at Newtown on September 16th.
1977. Reported only from Bembridge or Brading Marsh: 4 on January 6th, 18 on February 1st, 1 on November 17th, 15 on December 10th.
- 185 **Avocet.** 25 flying E past S.C.P. on May 1st, 1976 (RA) were quite the largest party ever recorded on the Island. There was also a conspicuous spring passage in other parts of Britain (*British Birds* 69: 521).
None recorded in 1977.
- 187 **Grey Phalarope.** 1976. One at Quarr on September 29th. One at Bembridge on October 10th.
None recorded in 1977.
- 189 **Stone Curlew.** Five in Brading Marsh on March 28th, 1976. When disturbed they flew to an arable field (SMN).
None recorded in 1977.
- 194 **Great Skua.** 1976. 11 flew E past S.C.P. between April 10th and May 2nd. 1 flew W past Fort Victoria on September 10th.
1977. 25 flew E past S.C.P. between April 13th and May 29th.
- 195 **Pomarine Skua.** None recorded in 1976.
One flew E past S.C.P. on April 26th, 1977.
- 193 **Arctic Skua.** 1976. One off Foreland on January 6th. S.C.P.: 14 flew E between April 11th and May 7th; on September 23rd 1 flew W and 1 E (different birds – one light phase and the other dark phase); 1 to E on September 26th. Fort Victoria: on September 2nd 95 flew W in 11½ hours (73 dark phase or immature, 21 light phase); 16 to W on 10th; 1 to W on 15th. One off Newtown on September 3rd and 20th. 2 off Seaview on October 5th.
1977. One off Seaview on February 19th. 18 flew E past S.C.P. between April 16th and June 11th. One flew W past Fort Victoria on September 10th.
- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** 1976. 3 pairs nested at Main Bench.
1977. One at Quarr in late September was obviously ill, and died after a few days; four Black-headed Gulls were also found dead at the same time.
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** 1976. One pair nested at Main Bench.
1977. 48 by Military Road at Atherfield on October 30th.
- 200 **Herring Gull.** 25 pairs nested at Newtown in 1976, but were washed out by a high tide on May 15th. One took food from a covered bird table at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, several times in November and December 1976 (LS, RAS).
- 201 **Common Gull.** More than usual at Bembridge in 1976: 441 on March 13th. But largest count there in 1977 was 79 on March 19th.
- 202 **Glaucous Gull.** One at Newtown on October 2nd, 1977 (MMS). The sixth record for the Island.

- 205 **Mediterranean Gull.** None recorded in 1976.
One on R. Yar at Bembridge on October 18th, 1977 (SMN).
- 207 **Little Gull.** 1976. An immature at Fort Victoria on August 22nd, and 3 birds flew W there on October 14th. On the latter date 2 adults flew W past S.C.P.
1977. 2 followed the Yarmouth-Lymington ferry on August 20th. An immature flew W past Fort Victoria on September 10th.
- 208 **Black-headed Gull.** About 1200 birds nested at Newtown in 1976, although many nests were washed away by a high tide on May 15th.
About 730 by R. Medina on August 12th, 1977.
- 211 **Kittiwake.** Movements past S.C.P. in 1976 were in both directions, as in previous years: 3 E on April 21st, 28 W on May 22nd, 49 E on 29th. But in 1977 only movement to E was recorded: 83 on April 16th, 43 on 21st, 47 on May 26th.
The colony at Main Bench continues to grow: 68 nests on June 15th, 1976; 90 on June 26th, 1977.
- 212 **Black Tern.** 1976. 3 flew E past S.C.P. on May 29th. 20 off Seaview on September 11th. 3 at Newtown on September 17th.
1977. S.C.P.: 1 to E on April 19th, 4 to E on May 26th, and 1 present on August 27th. A remarkable passage of 180 to E past Seaview on August 24th (SMN); extensive movements were recorded in other south coast counties between August 16th and 28th (*British Birds* 71: 551).
- 217 **Common Tern.** 1976. First on April 1st, and last on October 27th, both at Quarr. Main movement at S.C.P. was 211 to E on May 29th. 110 flew W past Fort Victoria on September 10th. Nested at Newtown.
1977. At S.C.P. the main passage was at the end of May, as in 1976: 118 on 26th, 188 on 27th, 165 on 28th, 40 on 29th, all to E. At Fort Victoria too the main movement was remarkably similar to 1976: 150 to W on September 10th.
- 218 **Arctic Tern.** Not often distinguished from Common Tern, but some which were (all in 1976) were: Newtown, 1 on May 9th, 2 on July 24th, 1 on September 20th; Brook, 2 on August 1st; Bembridge, 3 on August 29th.
- 222 **Little Tern.** 1976. The first 2 flew E past S.C.P. on April 21st. Nested unsuccessfully at Newtown. 36 fishing off Woodside on September 12th.
1977. The first flew E past S.C.P. on April 17th.
- 223 **Sandwich Tern.** 1976. First off Seaview on March 19th (SMN). S.C.P.: 329 flew E between April 2nd and May 29th; 7 on September 12th and 7 on October 9th all flew W. Last 5 flew W past Quarr on October 26th.
1977. First off Seaview again, on March 28th (SMN). S.C.P.: 203 flew E between March 31st and May 28th.
- 224 **Razorbill.** Only a few seen at the nesting cliffs near the Needles, in both years. Even fewer elsewhere.
- 226 **Little Auk.** One off Ryde Pier on October 8th, 1976 (JMC).
None recorded in 1977.
- 227 **Guillemot.** On the Main Bench nesting ledges 160 birds were viewed from the sea on June 15th, 1976. On June 26th, 1977 there were 116 adults and 19 small young, in three groups.
- 230 **Puffin.** Still apparently declining at the Main Bench nesting site. 1976 was the first year since recording began, when the species was not recorded either at the cliffs or anywhere else around the Island. But there was one on the sea below the cliffs on June 26th, 1977.

- 232 **Stock Dove.** Movements in October 1976: at S.C.P. on 16th, 16 flew out to S and 33 others were present; 45 flew SW past Alum Bay on 24th.
- 234 **Woodpigeon.** Movements past S.C.P. in late October 1976: 260 to E on 25th, 500 to E on 28th, 110 to W on 30th, 600 to E on 31st.
- 235 **Turtle Dove.** 1976. First at Newtown on April 30th. Last seen feeding on corn at Newchurch on October 27th.
1977. First two in Brading Marsh on April 19th.
- **Collared Dove.** Small movements again at S.C.P. (*cf Reports for 1972-75*): in 1976, 3 in April and 19 in October, all to E.
- 237 **Cuckoo.** 1976: First at Newtown on April 12th, and 8 heard there at the same time on May 22nd.
1977: First at Quarr on April 15th.
- 241 **Barn Owl.**
- 246 **Little Owl.** An increased number of reports from all parts of the Island.
- 247 **Tawny Owl.** 1976. Heard regularly in the Newtown area, and suspected of breeding. One at Quarr on August 17th.
1977. Heard outside the breeding season: Whitwell, March 1st; Ryde, September 14th; Seaview, October 23rd; Knighton, October 25th; Merstone, October 29th.
- 248 **Long-eared Owl.** 1976. In Brading Marsh, 5 on January 10th, and 1 on 15th (SMN) [and there were said to have been 8 there earlier]. Unusual numbers were recorded throughout Britain about this time (*British Birds* 69: 419).
1977. Nested in Wroxall Copse.
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.** 1976. One at Newtown on March 14th and 17th and October 18th. One arrived at S.C.P. from S on April 15th, and one present on October 30th and 31st.
None recorded in 1977.
- 252 **Nightjar.** Outside the breeding seasons, one at Bembridge on July 18th, 1976 and one at Newchurch on August 21st, 1976.
- 255 **Swift.** 1976. First at Quarr on April 29th. Last 6 at Seaview on October 30th (SMN).
1977. First at Bembridge on April 27th. A mid-summer weather movement on June 11th, when 35, 30 and 15 flew E past S.C.P. A very heavy passage at Quarr on July 23rd. Last at Arreton on October 16th.
- 256 **Alpine Swift.** One over Shanklin with about 2000 House Martins on October 13th, 1977 (JMC). The fourth record for the Island.
- 258 **Kingfisher.** One at S.C.P., where not often seen, four times between August 12th and September 7th, 1976.
- 261 **Hoopoe.** None recorded in 1976.
1977. One on cliffs W of Gurnard on May 7th. One near Brighstone on May 19th. One killed by a cat at Niton on July 30th.
- 262 **Green Woodpecker.**
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.**
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** None recorded in 1976.
1977. One at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, on August 12th (LS, RAS). One at Shanklin again on September 8th (FEH).
- 265 **Wryneck.** On July 4th, 1976 a juvenile, barely able to fly, was seen in a Shanklin garden (JMC). Although this is not quite conclusive proof that nesting occurred

on the Island, the report is very encouraging. It is many years since a definite record of breeding here.

At the end of August 1976, weather conditions over the North Sea caused many Wrynecks to be grounded in East Anglia, and subsequently seen in other parts of England (*British Birds* 70: 312). The Island's share was 14 birds – many more than in any previous year. St. Boniface Down, August 28th. S.C.P., August 29th. Shanklin, September 2nd. Lake, September 2nd. Shorwell, September 5th – caught in a potting shed and released. W of Carisbrooke, September 6th-7th. Yarmouth, September 18th. Quarr, September 18th-19th. Following publicity in the *County Press* members of the public reported Wrynecks at Ventnor, Cowes, East Cowes, Brighstone and Totland in September – the dates rather vague but the identification checked as far as possible. The last was at the same place as the first, St. Boniface Down, on October 24th.

None recorded in 1977.

- 271 **Woodlark.** One flew E past S.C.P. on March 2nd, 1976.

None recorded in 1977.

- 272 **Skylark.**

- 274 **Swallow.** 1976. First at Quarr on March 27th. Last at Bembridge on November 14th. Main movement past S.C.P. was 5300 to E on September 19th and 4500 to E on 23rd. During the same period, 1000 flew S over Newtown, and there was a large passage over Seaview, both on 20th, and many passed Quarr to W on 23rd.

1977. First 2 at Ashey on March 19th. Last 10 at S.C.P. on November 9th. The autumn passage was much less concentrated than in 1976: main movement at Quarr was observed on September 26th and October 23rd – both to W – at Shanklin on September 29th – 2000 to SW – and at S.C.P. on October 8th – 2000 to E.

- 276 **House Martin.** 1976. First 3 over Brading Marsh on March 30th. Last 2 at Seaview on November 25th. Numbers passing S.C.P. were much smaller than Swallow; 415 on September 19th, and 50 on 23rd, to E. But over 3000 at Alum Bay on October 10th, and many passed Quarr to W on the same day.

1977. First at S.C.P. on April 14th. Last at Seaview on November 23rd. 1000 flew E past S.C.P. on October 8th; the following day they were passing Shanklin to SW at a rate of 2500 per hour.

- 277 **Sand Martin.** 1976. First at Quarr on April 1st. 100 flew E past S.C.P. on September 9th. Last at Shanklin on October 19th.

1977. First at Brading Marsh on March 29th. 20 flew E past S.C.P. on October 8th. Last at Seaview on November 19th.

At the nesting colony near Sandown Golf Course, the maximum number of birds seen in 1976 was 9 on July 2nd, but 1977 was much better, with 24 birds, and 26 holes apparently occupied, on July 11th (JMC).

- 278 **Golden Oriole.** None recorded in 1976.

One in good song at Newchurch early on June 19th, 1977 (DBW).

- 280 **Carrion Crow.**

- 282 **Rook.** One at Shanklin in 1976 with a bad leg, unable to stand, was fed and watered by others for 2-3 days, and seemed to be recovering (LS, RAS).

- 283 **Jackdaw.**

- 284 **Magpie.**

- 286 **Jay.** One flew E past S.C.P. on October 16th, 1977.
- 288 **Great Tit.**
- 289 **Blue Tit.** On August 30th, 1976, after the rain which ended the long drought, 30 arrived in a Seaview garden to feed on withies (SMN).
The bird at Totland with a deformed bill (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*) nested in a neighbouring garden in 1977, and was still present in November (RKP).
- 290 **Coal Tit.** Seldom recorded migrating, but one flew S from S.C.P. on April 23rd, 1976.
- 292 **Marsh Tit.**
- 293 **Willow Tit.** Seen and heard at Clamerkin in both years.
- 294 **Long-Tailed Tit.**
- 295 **Bearded Tit.** Heard in reeds between Alverstone and Newchurch on November 27th, 1977 (JMC).
- 296 **Nuthatch.** Two calling in Swanpond Copse, Ryde, on April 3rd, 1977 (JMC).
- 298 **Treecreeper.**
- 299 **Wren.** 12 roosted in a scaffold pipe at Ryde on December 20th, 1977 (SMN).
- 301 **Mistle Thrush.** On July 13th, 1976, c 200 flew into the plantation at Shalcombe from the neighbouring fields (SMN).
- 302 **Fieldfare.** 1976. 950 at Ashey on February 15th, and 400 there on March 13th. Last at Newtown on April 30th. First autumn birds at Quarr on October 15th. 1977. C 2000 at St. Helens on February 23rd. Last at Rowborough on March 5th. First of the autumn at Dodnor on November 15th.
- 303 **Song Thrush.** One ringed as an adult at Chillington, Wolverhampton, on May 29th, 1977 was found drowned in a bath at Whitwell on December 13th, 1977 (ELA).
- 304 **Redwing.** 1976. 400 at Ashey on March 13th. Last at Quarr on April 16th. First of the autumn at Alum Bay on October 24th.
1977. Over 100 at Quarr on January 3rd. C 1000 at St. Helens on February 23rd. Last at Rowborough on March 5th. First of the autumn at Dodnor on November 18th.
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** 1976. High Down: 1, March 28th; 1, April 6th and 10th; 1, September 27th. S.C.P.: 1, April 17th; 1, October 28th; 13, October 30th. Shalcombe: 1, April 18th. Newtown: 1, October 4th. Alum Bay: 10, October 24th. Nunwell: 1, November 6th.
1977. S.C.P.: 1, April 16th. Brading Marsh: 1, April 27th. Shalcombe: 1, September 22nd. Alum Bay: 4, September 23rd. High Down: 1, October 2nd and 9th.
- 308 **Blackbird.** In a Shanklin garden where there are usually about 8, they all disappeared from the end of August 1976 until 3 returned on December 19th; by the end of the year there were 6 (LS, RAS).
- 311 **Wheatear.** 1976. First reported were 30 at West Medina Cement Mills on March 10th. One in Brading Marsh on June 7th, and two pairs at Gurnard on 10th and 20th; June records usually cause speculation about nesting. Last 3 at S.C.P. on October 30th.
1977. First at S.C.P. on March 6th. 120 in Brading Marsh on April 27th. 120 at Bembridge, and 100 at Niton, both on August 23rd. Last at S.C.P. on October 16th.

- 317 **Stonechat.** 1976. Pairs were present in the breeding season at S.C.P., West Medina Cement Mills, and High Down. At least 16 on Shalcombe Down on October 10th, and several other records indicated a widespread influx about this time.

1977. For the first time for a number of years was apparently absent from High Down in the breeding season. The autumn influx was less concentrated than in 1976, starting on a small scale on September 11th, then building up in the High Down/Headon Warren area through the first half of October, but not in any numbers at Quarr until November 1st.

- 318 **Whinchat.** 1976. First at Quarr on April 21st, and the last 2 there on October 15th. 20 near St. Helens on May 7th, and several other records suggested a general arrival during 7th-9th.

1977. First 6 at Seaview Duver on April 27th. Last 3 at Newtown on October 16th.

- 320 **Redstart.** 1976. First at Shanklin on March 19th. 2 at S.C.P. and 6 at High Down, both on April 18th. Passage noted at both Newtown and Brighstone Down on September 16th. Last 2 at Alum Bay on October 24th.

1977. First on April 17th and last on October 2nd, both at Headon Warren.

- 321 **Black Redstart.** 1976. Headon Warren: ♀, March 23rd. S.C.P.: ♀, April 11th; 3, October 30th. St. Helens Duver: ♂, October 18th. Bembridge: 1 juvenile, October 26th.

1977. The only spring records concerned a ♂ at S.C.P. on April 4th and 15th, but there were rather more than usual in the autumn, mostly along the south coast. One near Niton on September 3rd and November 5th and 28th, and at Chale on September 22nd. A ♂ at Shanklin on October 14th. 5 at Ventnor for about two weeks from October 27th. 2 at S.C.P. on October 29th. One at St. Lawrence, November 3rd-10th. One near Luccombe on November 30th. One at Newtown on October 16th and November 1st.

- 322 **Nightingale.** First at Newtown on April 25th, 1976, and at S.C.P. on April 16th, 1977.

- 325 **Robin.** 50-60 at S.C.P. on September 12th, 1976.

- 326 **Cetti's Warbler.** The spectacular spread of Cetti's Warbler across France first brought it to Britain in 1961. As that first record was on the Hampshire coast, very close to the Island, and as the species has since become firmly established in other southern counties, its arrival in the Island had been expected for several years. That expectation was fulfilled with a vengeance in 1977, with records in no fewer than five localities.

The first was singing near S.C.P. on April 3rd (AS), and on numerous subsequent dates (JMC, DJH, SL, JS, DBW); it was both heard and seen by members attending a meeting of the Ornithological Section on April 30th. From April 17th the presence of a second bird was suspected, but this was not confirmed until June 21st. They were thought to be a pair, and in apparently suitable nesting habitat, but there was no evidence of nesting.

One singing near Sheat Manor, Chillerton, on April 19th (SL).

One singing in the Newchurch area through May and June (JMC, DJH), and one there on December 26th (SL).

One in Whitefield Wood on July 24th (JMC).

One in Brading Marsh on December 28th (SL, DJH).

- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** First 2 on High Down on April 18th, 1976.
- 333 **Reed Warbler.** 1976. First in Brading Marsh on April 27th. Last at S.C.P. on October 9th.
1977. First at S.C.P. on May 1st.
3-4 pairs nested at S.C.P. in each year.
- 334 **Marsh Warbler.** In May and June 1977, there were several records of 1 or 2, heard or seen, in an area of suitable nesting habitat. The culmination was on June 21st, when the behaviour of the two birds strongly indicated that they were paired and nesting. (JMC, DJH). There have been only four previous records for the Island.
- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** 1976. First at Newchurch on April 8th. Last at Quarr on September 18th.
1977. First in Brading Marsh on March 25th.
- 343 **Blackcap.** 1976. First in Swanpond Copse, Ryde, on April 16th, and heard in several other localities by 18th. 3 ♂ ♂ at S.C.P. on October 31st, and one ♂ there through the winter into 1977.
1977. The first apparent spring arrival at S.C.P. (apart from the wintering bird) was on April 4th.
- 346 **Garden Warbler.** The first and last in both years were all noted at Quarr – on April 8th and September 19th, 1976, and April 9th and November 8th, 1977.
- 347 **Whitethroat.** 1976. First at Quarr on April 10th. Last at S.C.P. on September 26th.
1977. First at Quarr on April 11th, and many arrived at S.C.P. on 17th.
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** 1976. Four pairs in the Newtown area during the breeding season. Last at Quarr on September 14th.
1977. First at Quarr on April 30th.
- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** In the area where birds were reported in the two previous summers (see *Report for 1974 and 1975*), a ♂ was seen in April and May 1976. In 1977 sightings were more frequent in April and May, culminating in a pair with two young on May 21st. A pair with one young on June 3rd was at a different site in the same area, and may have been a different pair.
In another locality an adult was seen in May 1976. Here too there was stronger evidence of nesting in 1977, in the form of a juvenile on September 14th.
The only one recorded away from a breeding area was in Brading Marsh on September 11th, 1976.
- 354 **Willow Warbler.** 1976. First at Quarr on April 1st. A large fall there on April 18th – at least 30 Willow Warblers, and about 100 others which could have been either this species or Chiffchaff.
1977. First at Quarr on March 25th.
- 356 **Chiffchaff.** First at Newtown on March 17th, 1976 and at Gunville on March 6th, 1977. Late birds at Merstone on November 9th, 1976 and at Seaview on December 25th, 1977; the latter, at least, seems likely to have been staying for the winter.
- 357 **Wood Warbler.** Single birds at Quarr on April 11th, 1976 and April 15th, 1977, S.C.P. on May 7th, 1977, and near Godshill on May 15th, 1977; the last one showed signs of alarm, as if nesting.
- 358 **Bonelli's Warbler.** One at Binstead on August 21st, 1976 (SLW). (See *British Birds* 70: 435). The first record for the Island.

- 364 **Goldcrest.**
- 365 **Firecrest.** 1976. Botanic Garden, St. Lawrence: 1, September 2nd. Alum Bay/High Down area: 1 on September 26th, 27th, and October 3rd. S.C.P.: 1 on October 9th, 2 on November 5th.
1977. Rowborough: 1, February 12th; 1 on December 30th, 3 on 31st. Newbridge: 1, April 4th.
- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** 1976. First on Culver Down on May 13th. Last (c 10) on Headon Warren on September 27th.
Few recorded in 1977.
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher.** 1976. S.C.P.: a ♂ on April 18th, 1 on 25th, 1 on August 29th. Freshwater: 1 on August 24th. Several records on High Down in late August – maximum 5 on 29th. 1 at Newtown on September 11th and Brighstone on 16th.
1977. 1 in Brading Marsh on April 28th. 4 at Whitwell on August 26th. 1 at Brighstone on September 2nd.
- 371 **Dunnock.**
- 373 **Meadow Pipit.** 1976. Notable autumn movements past S.C.P. included 140 to E on September 23rd, 239 to E on October 9th, and 100 to W on October 16th. But the main flocks were seen on October 10th – 700 at Seaview and 520 on High Down. Movement at Newtown was not only less, but also much earlier – maximum on August 20th.
1977. Main arrival at S.C.P. was 500 on March 23rd. Autumn movements there included 140 on October 8th, 80 on 15th, 100 on 16th, all to E.
- 376 **Tree Pipit.** 1976. Brading Marsh: 2 on April 5th. S.C.P.: 1 on April 12th and 22nd and August 19th. Newtown: 1 on August 20th (the day of the Meadow Pipit peak there).
1977. Brading Marsh: 2 on March 29th, 1 on August 8th. S.C.P.: 1 on April 12th and May 3rd.
- 379 **Rock Pipit.**
- 379 **Water Pipit.** Recorded only at Quarr: 2 on October 24th-26th, 1976, and 2 on October 30th, 1977 (FEH).
- 380 **Pied Wagtail.**
- 380 **White Wagtail.** One at Yarmouth on April 8th, 1977 (BWR).
- 381 **Grey Wagtail.** 1976. Nested at Calbourne Mill and Quarr; also present in the breeding season in suitable nesting sites at Alverstone and Brading. 4 by R. Medina between Shide and Blackwater on February 1st. 9 flew E past S.C.P. on September 19th.
1977. Nested at Lower Knighton Farm and Quarr. 1 flew E past S.C.P. on October 15th and 20th.
- 382 **Yellow Wagtail.** 1976. First at Quarr on March 27th. Arrivals at S.C.P. were all in a few days of April – 2 on 18th, 17 on 19th, 23 on 20th. The only spring bird at Newtown was also about this time – on 21st. Autumn records included 11 at Fort Victoria on August 22nd, 9 at Newtown on 26th, 20 in Brading Marsh on September 5th, and last at S.C.P. on October 22nd.
1977. First at Quarr again, on April 3rd, and nearly 100 there on 21st. 20 arrived at S.C.P. on April 24th. Widespread autumn records: 1 on St. Boniface Down on August 28th; 12 at Seaview on August 29th; also on August 29th, 20 in Alum Bay area, and 16 there on September 14th; S.C.P., 16 on September 3rd, 50 on 9th, and the last one flew E on October 16th.

- 383 **Waxwing.** None recorded in 1976.
In the autumn of 1977 several were seen on berries in Ryde Cemetery (FEH).
- 388 **Red-backed Shrike.** None recorded in 1976.
1977. A ♂ on Blackpan Common, Lake, on April 9th (JMC). A ♀ near Needles on May 1st (JMC). One at S.C.P. on September 3rd (SMN). One at Bembridge on September 19th (SMN).
- 389 **Starling.** The main autumnal movements noted at S.C.P. were in opposite directions in the two years. In 1976, 700 on October 16th, 400 on 25th, all to W. In 1977, 100 on October 15th, 45 on 16th, 110 on 20th, all to E.
- 391 **Hawfinch.** 1976: One on Ashey Down on December 2nd (SMN).
1977: Several in Stag Copse, Parkhurst, early in the year (AK); hornbeam seeds collected there in July (OHF) had been split in the way characteristic of this species.
- 392 **Greenfinch.** Fewer than usual recorded at S.C.P. in 1976; 250 to W on October 16th was the main movement.
- 393 **Goldfinch.** 1976. S.C.P. 41 arrived on April 19th, as did 32 on 29th.
1977. S.C.P. 5 arrived on April 17th. Movements to E in autumn: 80 on October 15th, 75 on 16th, 120 on 20th, 300 on 29th, 400 on November 10th.
- 394 **Siskin.** 1976. Newchurch: 2 on January 14th. Bembridge: 1 on January 18th. Shide: 2 on February 1st. Newtown: 3 on February 11th, 5 on March 7th, 12 on September 16th. S.C.P.: 17 flew W on October 16th. Calbourne: 6 on December 27th.
1977. None in the early months of the year. S.C.P.: 20 on October 26th, 12 on November 10th, all to W. 2 at Brading on December 5th. 2 at Alverstone on December 26th, and 2 the same day between Shide and Blackwater.
- 395 **Linnet.** 1976. S.C.P.: spring arrivals began with 175 on April 9th; 335 arrived from S on 19th; 230 to E on October 9th, 800 to S on 17th, 1540 to E on 24th, 160 to E on 28th. C 900 at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, October 7th-14th.
1977. S.C.P. Spring arrivals began with 16 on April 4th, then 100 on 14th and 130 on 15th. Autumn passage to E: 1,000 on October 8th, 260 on 15th, 200 on 16th, 500 on 20th, 42 on 29th.
- 396 **Twite.** None recorded in 1976.
About 30 on Idelcombe Down on November 10th, 1977 (DTB). Details supplied. There is no previous record of such a large flock on the Island, but the species is no doubt often overlooked.
- 397 **Redpoll.** 1976. Recorded only at S.C.P.: 1, April 17th-20th; 5 to W, October 16th; 2 to SE, October 24th.
1977. S.C.P.: 1 to E, October 16th; 12 to W, October 25th. Shide: 4, December 26th.
- 400 **Serin.** A ♂ singing at Shanklin on March 27th and April 10th, 1976 (JMC).
One at S.C.P. on April 10th, 1977 (PC); later the same day one flew NE past St. Lawrence (DBW).
- 401 **Bullfinch.**
- 404 **Crossbill.** 1976: 1 in Brighstone Forest on January 18th. 6 at Quarr on August 12th.
1977: 2 at S.C.P. on August 10th.
- 407 **Chaffinch.**

- 408 **Brambling.** 1976. One at Newchurch on January 14th. One at Newtown on March 24th.
1977. At S.C.P., 12 flew W on October 14th, as did 15 on 26th. One near Newchurch on November 27th. One at Shorwell on December 30th.
- 409 **Yellowhammer.**
- 410 **Corn Bunting.** 1976. 3 at Atherfield on March 19th. Singing in June or July at Little Atherfield, Leechmore Pond, and Samber Hill.
1977. Singing in June or July at Leechmore Pond and Rookley Wilderness.
- 415 **Cirl Bunting.** None recorded in 1976.
One singing at S.C.P., April 7th-12th, 1977 (DBW).
- 421 **Reed Bunting.** Two flew W past S.C.P. on October 9th, 1976.
- 423 **Snow Bunting.** One at S.C.P. on November 20th, 1976 (DBW).
None recorded in 1977.
- 424 **House Sparrow.** 10 flew W past S.C.P. on October 19th, 1976.
- 425 **Tree Sparrow.** 1976. Many more than usual in the autumn. The first 3 were seen with Linnets at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, on October 14th, and 12 were there by 18th. Meanwhile there had been a remarkable passage of 1203 to E past S.C.P. on October 16th. (A smaller eastward passage was noted on the Hampshire coast the same day – see *Hampshire Bird Report*). 5 at Newtown on October 17th. Again at S.C.P., 70 to E on October 28th, 60 present on 30th, 100 on 31st. Then no more until December: 4 at Seaview on 10th; 19 near Folly Inn on 26th; c 50 at Upper Hyde on 30th-31st.
1977. 20 at Quarr on February 11th. 7 at S.C.P. on May 21st and 27th. 1 near Shorwell on December 30th.

NOTES

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