

European news

This is the fifth summary in this regular six-monthly series. It is very pleasing to note the record total of 19 countries supplying records for this selection; we especially welcome contributions from the two new contributing areas: the Faeroe Islands and the Latvian SSR.

Records awaiting formal verification by national assessment committees are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Unless otherwise stated, records refer to single individuals

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* FAEROE ISLANDS Total of about ten pairs breeding.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* NETHERLANDS Only 12 previous records, but at least five (at Goeree, Oostvoorne and IJmuiden) in January-February 1979*.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* PORTUGAL Exceptionally common on the reservoirs in north in winter 1978/79.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* BELGIUM First summering: one at Mol-Postel from 14th May to 15th June 1978. FRANCE First breeding since at least beginning of century: one pair reared one young southwest of Paris in spring 1978. (cf. increased summering in UK, *Brit. Birds* 71: 13.)

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* DENMARK Largest-ever concentrations: at Bornholm, 23 in January 1979 and 70 in February 1979; sightings are normally of only single birds.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* SWITZERLAND First breeding record since 1971: three young being fed and carried by parents at altitude of 1,000 m on Lac de Joux on 5th August 1978.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* NETHERLANDS Third record: Noordwijk on 1st October 1977.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* DENMARK Probably best-ever autumn in 1978 on north coast of Zealand and Jutland (e.g. 60 in two hours at Skagen). NETHERLANDS Unprecedented numbers, exceeding total of all previous occurrences: 1,200 in August-November 1978, including 270 on 11th September and 500 on 19th September.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers have declined.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* DENMARK Total of 160—either this species or

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*—at Blåvand, Westjütland, on one day in October 1978. NETHERLANDS Total of 150 in September-November 1978, including 45 on 17th September.

Gannet *Sula bassana* ITALY Rare until a few years ago, but now easy to see immatures and adults in Tyrrhenian Sea from end of November to early March.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* DENMARK First record: north Jütland in autumn 1977, apparently not an escape* (cf. sixth Austrian record, in November 1977, *Brit. Birds* 71: 583).

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC On the Elbe in Lüchow-Dannenberg, Lower Saxony, from 11th December 1976 to 6th March 1977 (may have escaped from captivity).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* ITALY Recently discovered breeding in southern Toscana and Northern Apulia. SWITZERLAND Unusual number of reports in November-January 1978/79.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* ITALY Po Valley colonies total 7,000-10,000 breeding pairs.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* ITALY Total of 400-500 breeding pairs, all in Po Valley except for 10-15 near Manfredonia.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* ITALY Total of 3,500-4,000 breeding pairs, all in Po Valley except for 20-25 pairs near Castiglione della Pescaia and 40-50 pairs near Manfredonia.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba* ITALY Some regularly wintering in Venice Lagoon; two in National Reserve of Alviano Lake in Tiber Valley from October 1978 to February 1979. NETHERLANDS First breeding record: several individuals present in 1976, 1977 and 1978, and nest with four

young found in Flevoland in 1978*.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* ITALY Total of 400-500 breeding pairs in Po Valley and four or five pairs at Castiglione della Pescaia.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* ITALY Total of 1,500-2,000 breeding pairs in Po Valley, c. 15 pairs at Castiglione della Pescaia, 80-100 pairs in at least seven colonies in Sardinia and c. 50 pairs near Manfredonia.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Numerous reports from rivers (lakes frozen) in central and southern Lower Saxony, Westphalia and Rheinland, much farther south than usual, in winter 1978/79. LATVIAN SSR First breeding in 1973 and, at same place, in 1974. In 1977, two new breeding sites discovered and in 1978 a fourth: all on fish-ponds.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* BELGIUM Exceptional numbers (tens of thousands) in coastal areas of western Flanders in January 1979. DENMARK Largest-ever flock: 1,100 at Møn in early February 1979.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* BELGIUM Exceptional numbers (tens of thousands) in coastal areas of western Flanders in January 1979.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* BELGIUM Two near Damme, western Flanders, in January 1979.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding resumed: c. five pairs. SPAIN Highest number ever in Doñana National Park: 63,000 in December 1978.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* DENMARK Largest-ever flock: 900 at Møn in early February. GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC In winter 1978/79, first significant invasion from Sweden into Lower Saxony, Westphalia and Rheinland: several hundred wintered.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* POLAND Clear increase in frequency on passage, both inland and on coast.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* BELGIUM One near Damme, western Flanders, in January 1979.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata* ESTONIAN SSR First record: male at Kingissepa from 23rd to 29th August 1978.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* POLAND Several new breeding records in Poznań, Wrocław and Stupsk provinces (West

Poland) in 1970s (cf. expansion in Austria and Czechoslovakia, *Brit. Birds* 71: 583).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* FRANCE First wintering: near Paris in winter 1977/78; another male near Sarthe for several days in winter 1978/79. GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Two adult males: near Bad Salzufen, Northrhcin Westphalia, on 13th March 1978 and at Bremen on 22nd April 1978. SPAIN Male at Gijón in January 1978.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* FAEROE ISLANDS Increased as migrant and in summer; perhaps a few pairs breeding.

Scaup *Aythya marila* FAEROE ISLANDS Increased as migrant; perhaps one pair breeding.

Steller's Eider *Polysticta stelleri* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC First on west coast of Schleswig-Holstein this century: adult male at Amrum from 10th to 15th July 1975 (cf. increases in Finland, Poland and Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 71: 255, 584).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* DENMARK Third or fourth record: male at Hvide Sande, west Jutland, in October 1978*.

Smew *Mergus albellus* BELGIUM Total of several tens of individuals on unfrozen waters, particularly the River Meuse, in January-February 1979.

Goosander *Mergus merganser* BELGIUM Several hundreds on unfrozen waters, particularly the River Meuse, in January-February 1979. DENMARK High concentration: 4,000 at Rørvig, north Zealand, in mid January 1979. SPAIN Notable influx in winter 1978/79, with maximum of 11 on Ebro Reservoir, Santander, on 19th January 1979.

White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Sixth record: 41, mostly males and juveniles, on Dřínov Lake, northern Bohemia, on 3rd November 1974; previous records all involved ones or twos.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* BELGIUM First breeding in Flanders: Moerbeke in 1976; also attempt at Wachtebeke in 1977 and possibly successful attempt at Deinze in 1978.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* BELGIUM First breeding in Flanders: Assenede in 1977 (cf. nesting in the Netherlands in 1977, *Brit. Birds* 71: 255).

Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* NETHERLANDS First and second records: adult near Barneveld on 12th October

1976, and immature in Flevoland in January 1979*, at same time as three White-tailed Eagles *H. albicilla*.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* AUSTRIA More than usual wintering in 1978/79: up to five together on lower Danube and March rivers. FINLAND Many migrants in autumn 1978 at Åland Islands, where 15 wintered.

Griﬃon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* AUSTRIA Good numbers at feeding place established by WWF near Rauris, Salzburg; largest flock: 34 on 4th July 1978. NETHERLANDS Fifth record: Gaasterland on 5th March 1978 (probably an escape, as was Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus* near Groningen in March 1974).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* BELGIUM During 1978/79, more numerous than in previous winters, particularly in province of Brabant. SWITZERLAND In December 1978 to mid February 1979, over 60 reports, including 60 individuals in Broye plain around 20th January; influx started at Christmas and reached peak during 11th to 25th January, but only four remained by 5th to 9th February.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* NETHERLANDS First since 1966: immature north of The Hague in November-December 1978, the seventeenth record*.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* DENMARK In 1978/79, the many wintering individuals disappeared around the turn of the year, after the first winter storm. NETHERLANDS In comparison with previous years, high numbers wintering in 1978/79.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* PORTUGAL Number of breeding pairs decreasing.

Bonelli's Eagle *Hieraetus fasciatus* NETHERLANDS Third record: immature in Flevoland in November 1978*.

Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* SPAIN Now withdrawn from list of gamebirds and given full legal protection, since populations estimated to be down to 475♂♂ in the Cantabrian Mountains and 477♂♂ in the Pyrenees.

Crane *Grus grus* BELGIUM Passage heavier and later than usual in 1978, extending until 10th December. SWITZERLAND Two overwintered in Lake Zürich region.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* BELGIUM First record since 1963: female ringed in German Democratic Republic reported from province of Hainaut at end of January 1979.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Invasion from east in winter 1978/79, the first since 1969/70; at least 120 in Lower Saxony and eastern Westphalia, and 60 in Rheinland; data being collated by Dr Dietrich Hummel (Trinchenberg 4, 3302 Cremlingen 1), who would welcome reports from other countries. NETHERLANDS Large influx with cold weather in January 1979: at least 40, but probably more; some still present in early March.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* BELGIUM Inland breeding increasing: e.g. at the Turnhouse Kempen, 15 pairs in 1973, 36 pairs in 1978.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* PORTUGAL More than usual wintering in 1978/79.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus* SWITZERLAND December 1977.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* MALTA Fourth record: July 1978. POLAND Second record: near Gdańsk on 4th and 12th September 1978.

Spur-winged Plover *Hoplopterus spinosus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Second record: Jadebusen, Lower Saxony, on 3rd September 1978.

Sociable Plover *Chettusia gregaria* NETHERLANDS Only three up to 1974, but six since, including two in 1978: Veldhoven in May and Callantsoog in July.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers increased.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* NORWAY Exceptional numbers in autumn 1978, including about 1,000 ringed at one locality in county Møre og Romsdal.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC First record: Clauen, near Hildesheim, Lower Saxony, autumn 1978*.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* DENMARK First and second records: adult at Ulshale, Møn, on 17th July 1978 and juvenile there on 26th October 1978.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii* NETHERLANDS Second record: Oostvoortne on 22nd January 1977.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers greatly declined.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* POLAND Breeding proved far inland: downy young found in Biebrza Marshes, where nesting suspected in 1960s.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* AUSTRIA Third record: Rheindelta from 4th to 13th October 1978. GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Fourth record: two at Westerheversand, Schleswig-Holstein, on 3rd August 1978. MALTA Second record: October 1978. POLAND First and second records: Nysa on 22nd September 1978, and Otmuchów on 17th October 1978, both localities in Opole province, Silesia.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* DENMARK Highest-ever number: 3,570 at Vidåen, south Jutland, in mid May 1978.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* POLAND Several displaying in April and then nests found on 16th and 21st May 1977 in Biebrza Marshes.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Meldorf, Schleswig-Holstein, on 19th August 1978.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* ROMANIA First record: western Sahalinul Mare region, Danube Delta, on 15th July 1972.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers declined.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* CZECHOSLOVAKIA Unusual number of skuas in 1976, mostly in September-October, one in July. Six Pomarines and also two Arctic Skuas *S. parasiticus*, all juveniles.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers declined.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* LATVIAN SSR Total of 30 exhausted immatures counted on southwest coast in September-October 1978.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* FAEROE ISLANDS Most breeding colonies have declined.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyæus* POLAND First record: immature near Nysa, Silesia, on 18th September 1978.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* ITALY First evidence of breeding: c. 25 breeding pairs at Comacchio Lagoon, Ravenna, in summer 1978. POLAND More frequent occurrence: only eight records before 1970, but at least 12 since, some of adults in breeding season. (cf. nesting in Austria, *Brit. Birds* 71: 584.)

Little Gull *Larus minutus* POLAND Only sporadic breeding in recent years at the regular site at Lake Drużno, but colony of over 50 nests found in Biebrza Marshes in 1978.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei* ITALY First evidence of breeding outside Sardinia: two pairs on same island as Mediterranean Gulls in summer 1978.

Common Gull *Larus canus* AUSTRIA Exceptionally abundant, with largest concentration ever in winter 1978/79: several thousands (2,000, mainly adults, at one site) feeding on dead fish at frozen lakes in Seewinkel, northeast Burgenland, in late February.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers greatly increased.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* SWITZERLAND Second record: first-winter at Horn and Reichenau Island from 23rd December 1978 to 12th February 1979; mainly in German territory, but also flew to Swiss shore of lake*.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers greatly increased.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* ITALY First evidence of breeding: one or two breeding pairs on same island as Mediterranean Gulls in summer 1978 (see above).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* BELGIUM First records, hybridising with Common Tern *S. hirundo*: at Zwin reserve, one from 9th May to 9th August 1976, reared one chick (presumably paired with Common Tern); one, again at Zwin, 11th June and 23rd June to 26th July, hybridised with Common Tern.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisæa* BELGIUM First breeding record: Zwin reserve in 1976. SWITZERLAND Second record: Geneva on 13th and 14th May 1978.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* NORWAY First record: two in county Vestfold on 15th May 1976.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* BELGIUM Practically vanished as breeding bird in last ten years.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus* ITALY About 60 pairs breed regularly in Valle Santa and Valle Campotto Natural Reserve, Ferrara.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* POLAND Marked increase and westerly range expansion: breeding pairs in Biebrza Marshes in northeast Poland have risen from 20-25 in 1966-68 and c. 90 in 1971 to 200-250 pairs in 1978; during

1976-78, also found breeding near Konin in central Poland.

Brünnich's Guillemot *Uria lomvia* DENMARK First record since 1925: one dead (oiled) at Skagen, north Jutland. NETHERLANDS Eighth record (and first one seen alive): Brøuwersdam, Zeeland, from 4th to 10th February 1979, when found dead (oiled)*.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers greatly increased (Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* has also increased, but Guillemot *Uria aalge* and Razorbill *Alca torda* have both declined).

Rock Dove *Columba livia* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers increased.

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* NORWAY Second record: ringed in county Möre og Romsdal in August 1978. SWITZERLAND Sixth record: immature at La Connex, Geneva, from 2nd to 4th July 1978.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* FINLAND The very cold winter of 1978/79 created problems: young rescued from freezing after they had attempted but failed to catch Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos*, Black Guillemots *Cepphus grylle* and other waterbirds on Åland Islands.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* FRANCE Three colonies in south of Parisian region (Fontainebleau) totalled 26 pairs in 1978 compared with four pairs in 1977 (cf. nesting in Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 71: 585).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* NETHERLANDS Second and third records: Wassenaar on 3rd October 1978, and Castricum on 24th October 1978.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Unprecedented numbers in winter 1978/79 in northern and central Germany. SWITZERLAND Fanel on 24th December 1978, Tägerwilen from 15th to 17th January 1979 and Rhine Delta on 17th and 18th January 1979*.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* NETHERLANDS Few in 1978 compared with 1977.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* SWITZERLAND Analysis of 1,736 records of migrants during 1957-78 shows that spring peak occurs during 20th-30th April and autumn peak during the last few days of August and the first three weeks of September; migrating pipits were usually singletons, but resting flocks were often of four to 18 birds and exceptionally up to 35.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* MALTA First record: trapped at Ghadira on 30th October 1977 (*Il-Merrill* 19: 11). POLAND First record: Nysa, Silesia, on 6th September 1978.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* ROMANIA The black-headed race *feldegg*, recorded in 1960 in south of Oltenia near Danube, seen carrying food to young in July 1972 north of Craiova in Isalnita and north of Dragasani in Olt Valley.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* SWEDEN The record of breeding already noted (*Brit. Birds* 70: 496) concerned a male feeding three fully fledged young on 14th and 17th July 1977; as in the case of the English breeding record (*Brit. Birds* 71: 209-213), the fledglings could not be specifically identified with certainty (*Vår Fågelvärld* 38: 47).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* DENMARK Expanding as breeding species: now on many streams in western Jutland (cf. first breeding in Estonian SSR and increase in southern Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 71: 256, 585).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* AUSTRIA Small influx in east from mid January 1979; parties of up to 80 in mid February. DENMARK Very few in autumn 1978. FAEROE ISLANDS Invasions in October 1974 and autumn 1977. NORWAY Even fewer in autumn 1978 than in 1977, only two or three flocks of about 30, and a few small parties, around Oslo in October-November (usually common in flocks of 50 or more); practically none after December.

Rufous Bush Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* ROMANIA First record: Calimanesti, on islet in River Olt, on 21st August 1974.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* NETHERLANDS Singing at Texel and Vlieland in May 1978 (only four previous records, the first in 1968).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* DENMARK Expanded as breeding species: now common even in small towns; at least 150 breeding pairs in southern Jutland.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* NETHERLANDS Two of one of the eastern races, *maura* or *stejnegeri*, near Katwijk in October 1978*.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers greatly increased.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* NETHERLANDS Second record: adult male and female or immature at Amsterdams Bos, Amstelveen, from 24th to 26th April

1977 (previous record was on 27th October 1843) (*Limosa* 51: 170-172). (cf. reports in Finland in spring 1978, *Brit. Birds* 71: 585.)

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* NETHERLANDS Second record: *atroregularis* at Katwijk on 8th October 1978* (first was nominate race in 1966).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* AUSTRIA Unusually large flocks (6,000-7,000 on one occasion) in Seewinkel, northeast Burgenland, in second half of December 1978. FRANCE Westward expansion continues: nested in department of Aube (cf. *Brit. Birds* 71: 585).

Fan-tailed Warbler *Cisticola juncidis* BELGIUM After spectacular year of 1975, records decreased, and none in 1978. SWITZERLAND In 1978, first observation on 20th August: singing male at Chavornay.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* NORWAY Established as breeding species in county Rogaland since 1976; present at several localities there in summer 1978.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* NORWAY First record of singing male: in forest north of Oslo in June-July 1978.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Neuwerk, Elbe Estuary, on 19th October 1978*. LATVIAN SSR Five records: first in 1967, two in 1976 and two in 1978: all in Pape.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Neuwerk, Elbe Estuary, on 16th October 1978*. LATVIAN SSR First recorded in 1967 (six); subsequently, one in 1968, four in 1969, one in 1971, four in 1974, three in 1975 and two in 1978: all in Pape.

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC First record: Oststeinbeck, Schleswig-Holstein on 21st November 1977. NETHERLANDS First record: Terschelling from 19th to 22nd October 1978*.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* DENMARK Heavy decrease in cold period of February-March 1978; feared that species will be extinct in Denmark after 1978/79 winter. ESTONIAN SSR First record: two males in southwest, at Ikla and Kabli in Pärnu district, near border with Latvian SSR, on 15th April 1978.

Siberian Tit *Parus cinctus* ESTONIAN SSR First record: caught and released at Kabli, Pärnu district, on 11th October 1977.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* SWITZERLAND Invasion: visible movements from early September 1978; at Col de Bretolet, where not caught annually, 29 ringed between 11th and 27th September, a record number.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* FINLAND Large numbers (hundreds in many places) in south during 7th-10th March.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea* DENMARK Still expanding as breeding species: now common in many inland localities.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* FINLAND Very common, especially in interior, during winter 1978/79; breeding.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* FINLAND In early 1979, commonly breeding in many places, especially on coast.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* FRANCE Singing male in forest of Tronçais (Allier) from end of May to 8th July 1977.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator* LATVIAN SSR Heavy invasion in 1976; smaller one in 1978.

Fox Sparrow *Zonotrichia iliaca* GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Second record: Scharhorn on 24th April 1977.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* FAEROE ISLANDS Breeding numbers now increased to about five pairs.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* ROMANIA Expansion of breeding range: recorded in southwest in 1913, extended to northwest of Oltenia by 1968; in 1972, singles at Arges Dam and Oltet Gorges.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* NORWAY Enormous decrease in about 1960: formerly common in southeast, but now confined mainly to Gudbrandsdalen in county Oppland and a few other localities in Oppland, Hedmark and Buskerud; no recent breeding records in counties Akershus and Vestfold, where once almost as common as Yellowhammer *E. citrinella*.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* ESTONIAN SSR First record: singing male at Aravete, Paide district, on 12th May 1978 (cf. expansion in Sweden, *Brit. Birds* 71: 587). MALTA Eighth and ninth records: October and November 1978.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* ESTONIAN SSR First record: singing male in area of upper reaches of Ahja River, Polva district, on 15th May 1977. MALTA Fourth record: September 1978. NETHERLANDS Third record: Rottumerplaat on 15th July 1978.

Correspondents

- AUSTRIA Peter Prokop, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Vogelkunde, c/o Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, A-1014 Wien 1, Burgring 7, Postfach 417
- BELGIUM René de Liedekerke & Drs F. L. L. Tombeur, c/o L'Agaric, 5371-Pailhe
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA Dr Karel Štastný, Institute of Landscape Ecology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Bezručova 927, 251 01 Ríčany
- DENMARK Lasse Braac, Bistrupvej 145A, 3460 Birkerød
- ESTONIAN SSR Vilju Lilleleht, Institute of Zoology and Botany, 21 Vanemuise St., SU-202400 Tartu
- FAEROE ISLANDS Dorete Bloch, J. C. Svabosgøta 7, DK-3800 Tórshavn
- FINLAND Kalevi Hyttiä, Itäranta 40 C 15, 41160 Tikkakoski
- FRANCE Philippe Dubois, 36 rue d'Angivillier, 78000 Versailles
- GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC Alistair Hill, Albrecht-Haushofer-Strasse 10, 3200 Hildesheim
- ITALY Dr S. Allavena, Via degli Estensi 165, 00164 Rome
- LATVIAN SSR J. Baumanis, Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR, Institute of Biology, Riga 229021
- MALTA Joe Sultana & Charles Gauci, The Ornithological Society, PO Box 498, Valletta
- NETHERLANDS C. J. G. Scharringa, Haverkamp 421, 2592 BG Den Haag
- NORWAY Geoffrey Acklam, Nordliveien 18, 1320 Stabekk
- POLAND Dr Ludwik Tomiałojć, Museum of Natural History, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław
- PORTUGAL Nuno Gomes Oliveira, Portuguese Center for Wildlife Study and Protection, Rua da Boa Hora, 85 r/c Esq, 4000 Porto
- ROMANIA Dr Victor Ciocchia, Str. Pavilioanele CFR nr 30, R2200 Brasov
- SPAIN Dr Francisco Purroy, Facultad de Ciencias, Tercer Pabellon (Planta 9), Madrid-3
- SWITZERLAND Dr Raffael Winkler, Schweizerische Vogelwarte, CH-6204 Sempach