

## LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED AT THE NEW GROUNDS

between 1st January, 1948, and April, 1949

- Raven** (*Corvus corax*).—One on Dumbles, 8th January, 1948, mobbed by young tiercel Peregrine (P. Scott).
- Hooded Crow** (*Corvus cornix*).—One on Dumbles during November, 1948 (S. T. Johnstone *et al.*).
- Carrion-Crow** (*Corvus corone*).—Numerous in winter, a few pairs stay to breed.
- Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Rookery of 21 nests in elms beside Headquarters. Three other rookeries on New Grounds.
- Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*).—Numerous in summer and early autumn. Disappear in winter. One ringed.
- Magpie** (*Pica pica*).—Common in the district but fortunately not numerous on New Grounds.
- Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*).—A few noted high over Dumbles (date not recorded). Wanderers from nearby woodlands or birds on passage.
- Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—A few pairs bred. Up to 100 frequented the pens during some parts of winter. Three ringed.
- Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).—One in Decoy Wood, 19th and 20th January, 1948 (P. Scott).
- Greenfinch** (*Chloris chloris*).—Nests commonly in and around decoy. Large flocks assemble in winter round Duck House, feeding on duck food (grain). Seventy-six ringed.
- Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Numerous in decoy in autumn. At least one pair bred.
- Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*).—Party of nine or ten round decoy, 31st October, 1948 (H. H. Davis).
- Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*).—Numerous small parties about the decoy on passage in autumn.
- Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).—Several resident pairs. At least one nest in Decoy Wood.
- Chaffinch** (*Fringilla caelebs*).—Very common. Eight ringed.
- Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*).—Four with Chaffinches in the Tack Piece on 9th February, 1948 (P. Scott).
- Yellow Bunting** (*Emberiza citrinella*).—At least three pairs bred in hedgerow along lane between Headquarters and Canal.
- Reed-Bunting** (*Emberiza schœnichus*).—Resident and fairly common along the rhines. One pair nested in the Rushy Pen. Two ringed.
- House-Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*).—Much too common.
- Tree-Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*).—About three pairs round Duck House all winter; may have bred, but no nests found.
- Sky-Lark** (*Alauda arvensis*).—Large flocks feeding on Dumbles throughout the winter. Many pairs breed in Tack Piece and other fields.
- Meadow-Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*).—Common in spring and autumn and seen most times of the year.
- Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava flavissima*).—Common breeding bird. It is estimated that more than 30 pairs bred on the New Grounds. Two (possibly three) pairs bred in the Rushy Pen.
- Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*).—One in decoy, 5th March, 1949 (E. Overend). One in decoy and later in Rushy Pen, 7th March, 1949 (J. Yealland).
- Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*).—Seen occasionally in pens. A pair bred near Canal Bridge.
- White Wagtail** (*Motacilla a. alba*).—A few on spring passage.
- Tree-Creeper** (*Certhia familiaris*).—Several pairs resident in Orchard and Decoy Wood.
- Great Tit** (*Parus major*).—Common round Duck House and in decoy. Seven ringed.

- Blue Tit** (*Parus caeruleus*).—Very common round Duck House. Twenty-seven ringed.
- Marsh-Tit** (*Parus palustris*).—Frequent in decoy in autumn. May have bred.
- Long-tailed Tit** (*Aegithalos caudatus*).—This species fared comparatively well in the cold winter of 1946–47. Fair numbers have been seen in the Decoy Wood ever since. One pair had a completed nest by last week of March, 1949.
- Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*).—At least six pairs bred in Decoy Wood. A favourite nesting site is on the ivy-covered screens of the pipes. Eight ringed.
- Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*).—Seen occasionally in spring. One seen in decoy, 13th and 22nd March, 1949.
- Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*).—Heard in spring; almost certainly nested although no nests found. Three ringed.
- Willow-Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).—Breeds freely in decoy. Five ringed.
- Grasshopper-Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*).—One heard and seen singing in thicket in decoy c. 30th April, 1948 (P. Scott, E. Overend).
- Reed-Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).—Nested in *Phragmites* bed in Bottom New Piece in June.
- Sedge-Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schænobænus*).—A few pairs nested about the rhines.
- Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*).—Heard and seen in decoy during spring, but no nest found.
- Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*).—At least two pairs bred beside lane leading from Headquarters to Canal.
- Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*).—One pair in lane. One trapped in Decoy Wood and ringed.
- Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*).—Large flocks in latter part of winter in decoy and along hedge behind sea wall.
- Mistle-Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*).—A pair or two resident.
- Song-Thrush** (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Resident and fairly numerous. Four ringed.
- Redwing** (*Turdus musicus*).—With Fieldfares in the decoy in winter, and along hedge behind sea wall.
- Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*).—Resident and numerous. Three ringed.
- Wheatear** (*Oenanthe æ. oenanthe*).—A few, evidently of British race, on the Dumbles in April. Greenland birds (*O. æ. leucorroha*) though not actually reported, doubtless occurred later.
- Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*).—One pair bred in Rushy Pen.
- Redstart** (*Phœnicurus phœnicurus*).—One pair bred in pollard willows in Rushy Pen.
- Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—Common in Decoy Wood and round buildings. Four ringed.
- Hedge-Sparrow** (*Prunella modularis*).—Common in Decoy Wood and round buildings.
- Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).—As in the case of Long-tailed Tits, the Wrens did not seem to be so hard hit by the cold winter as elsewhere and have remained in fair numbers.
- Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*).—One pair nests in farm buildings. One over Dumbles as late as 30th October (W. B. Alexander). Four ringed.
- House-Martin** (*Delichon urbica*).—Breeds near Canal Bridge. Seen hawking flies over the Decoy pool in spring and autumn.
- Sand-Martin** (*Riparia riparia*).—A few hawking flies over Decoy pool on several occasions in late summer.
- Swift** (*Apus apus*).—Frequent in summer. One caught in decoy pipe. Two ringed.
- Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*).—One (or possibly a pair) frequently seen on rhine and once in decoy. May possibly have bred on rhine.



- Green Woodpecker** (*Picus viridis*).—One feeding regularly in field at the back of the decoy during winter.
- Greater Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates major*).—Seen frequently in Decoy Wood during winter, but did not breed there.
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dryobates minor*).—One in Decoy Wood, end October, 1948 (S. T. Johnstone).
- Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*).—One pair throughout summer, occasionally two males.
- Little Owl** (*Athene noctua*).—One pair on lane between Headquarters and Canal, at least two other pairs on the New Grounds.
- Tawny Owl** (*Strix aluco*).—One pair bred in Decoy Wood. One caught in south pipe of decoy, 13th September, 1948.
- Barn-Owl** (*Tyto alba*).—One pair resident. Nest not found.
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*).—A pair present on the Dumbles during most of the winter. They usually sat on top of the cliff-edge of the marsh.
- Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*).—Did not nest on the New Grounds. The following were seen—one, 4th July (P. Scott), two, 14th August (R. H. Poulding) and one with kill on the 22nd (H. H. Davis).
- Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*).—One over Rushy Pen, 18th December, 1948 (P. Scott). One over Big Pen, 19th February, 1949 (S. T. Johnstone).
- Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*).—Seen hunting regularly over the Tack Piece and the Rushy Pen.
- Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*).—Seen twice soaring over Headquarters. One, 28th March, 1948 (P. Scott). Other date not recorded.
- Sparrow-Hawk** (*Accipiter nisus*).—Frequently seen in Decoy Wood. Two were caught and ringed in the decoy in November, 1948.
- Common Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*).—Common on mudflats all the year round. Occasionally come to decoy pool for a few days. One caught in the west pipe and ringed on 21st September, 1948. Nearest heronry (of about 15 nests) is about two miles from Headquarters.
- [**Whooper Swan** (*Cygnus cygnus*).—See page 31. Seven birds which came to Rushy Pen on 3rd November, 1948, may have been of this species.]
- Bewick's Swan** (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*).—One came in to Rushy Pen *c.* 5th November, 1948, and remained for some weeks until it was caught : it is now part of the collection (see page 30).
- Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*).—A pair bred on the Canal. Various birds have visited the pens. Seven arrived in the Rushy Pen on 31st January, 1949.
- Greylag Goose** (*Anser a. anser*).—One (possibly two) present among White-fronted from 16th January, 1949, for more than a week.
- White-fronted Goose** (*Anser a. albifrons*).—Forms vast majority of wild goose flocks between mid-October and March.
- Lesser White-fronted Goose** (*Anser erythropus*).—One on Dumbles from 20th December to 13th February (see page 5).
- Bean-Goose** (*Anser a. arvensis*).—One on Dumbles, 13th February, 1949 (E. Overend, P. Scott, *et al.*).
- Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser a. brachyrhynchus*).—Fewer than in previous season. Only 58 at peak time during first half of November. All had left by 26th November. Thereafter odd ones and pairs were present at various times for varying periods.
- Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*).—About 200 birds spent the summer on the estuary but did not, apparently, breed very successfully, as few young ones were seen. One female laid in the foot of a pollard willow in the decoy, and was ringed. Another was ringed from a nest in the Old Decoy across the Canal. Some Shelducks seem to remain all winter, but peak numbers are to be seen in February and March—312 on Dumbles, 7th February, 1948 ; 155 on 17th March, 1949.

- Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—Probably about 100 pairs are the basis of the resident stock. These were augmented during the winter, and there were more than 1,000 Mallards from December onwards.
- Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*).—Two females first seen on decoy pool, 27th October, 1948 (C. P. A. Garnett). These moved to the Big Pen and remained for whole winter and are still present (15th April, 1949). One was caught and ringed on 28th December (see page 10).
- Teal** (*Anas crecca*).—Peak numbers on the estuary about 1,500 on 21st December, 1948. Over 500 still present on 17th March, 1949. The maximum number in the decoy was 53 on 4th January, 1949.
- Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*).—One pair caught in decoy, 26th March, 1948. Second pair seen 28th March. Two females caught, 5th April, 1948. One immature male caught, 22nd August, 1948. One male of pair caught, 16th April, 1949.
- Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*).—Seven hundred on the Dumbles, 27th December, 1948. This seems to have been peak number for season. C. 200 still present, 17th March, 1949. For numbers in decoy see page 10.
- Pintail** (*Anas acuta*).—About 100 on the estuary 1st February, 1948, and again 15th February, 1949. At least 50 in mid-December, 1948. C. 12 on decoy during September, 1948. Up to seven or eight wild ones in pens during winter (see page 32).
- Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*).—About 50 were present in August, 1948 (17 of them on the decoy on 6th August). About 50 were again present on 17th March, 1949, but there is no evidence that these were on the estuary all winter, although there were always some.
- Common Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*).—A dozen on Dumbles after a high tide on 27th February, 1948. Up to nine in decoy during January, 1949 (see page 11).
- Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*).—Eight on estuary on 21st November (K. Shackleton). Wild female came to Rushy Pen on 7th December, 1948, and was still present at end of March, 1949.
- Goldeneye** (*Bucephala clangula*).—One, brown headed, on the estuary on 21st November, 1948 (K. Shackleton).
- Long-tailed Duck** (*Clangula hyemalis*).—Two females or immature males on the estuary on 21st November, 1948 (K. Shackleton).
- Common Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*).—Two females or immature males (probably females) on Canal, 1st April, 1949 (M. Everitt).
- Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Up to 20 usually to be seen sitting on edge of marsh at high tide.
- [**Southern Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*).—An adult Cormorant on Dumbles, 15th March, 1948, and four adults and an immature in same place on 27th may have been of this race. The adults had strikingly, almost pure, white heads, and on the latter date they formed a separate group resting on the river-bank about 50 yards from a party of 11 dark headed Cormorants. It is understood that the head of *P. c. carbo* may occasionally become as white as that of the southern race, and that distinguishing features described in *The Handbook* are under review. The record is therefore given in square brackets].
- Shag** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*).—Six adults and three immatures on Dumbles, 21st September, 1948 (L. W. Hayward).
- Little Grebe** (*Podiceps ruficollis*).—Occasional birds frequently to be seen on decoy pool, but the species did not breed there.
- Wood-Pigeon** (*Columba palambus*).—Several pairs breed in the decoy. Some large flocks roosted in the Spinney during February. One ringed.
- Stock-Dove** (*Columba oenas*).—One pair in Decoy Wood which probably bred, but no nest found.



- Turtle-Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*).—One pair in Decoy Wood raised two broods. One pair bred in lane. Two caught in decoy pipe and ringed.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*).—Party of five on mud-banks, 25th September (M. Bratby).
- Black-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa limosa*).—One on estuary, 26th March, 1948 (J. Savidge). Three 14th August, 1948 (R. H. Poulding).
- Common Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*).—Very numerous on the estuary, even during the summer (300 on 14th August, 1948).
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*).—Small numbers on estuary during end of April and early May, 1948. Heard and seen in flight in August.
- Common Snipe** (*Capella gallinago*).—A few in the rhines during the winter. One on rhine in Big Pen for several days during April, 1948. One in Decoy-side Pens, February, 1949.
- Jack Snipe** (*Lymnocyrtes minimus*).—One in the Tack Piece, 28th February, 1948 (P. Scott, E. Overend).
- Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*).—Four on Dumbles, 6th August, 1948 (P. Scott). One 22nd August (H. H. Davis).
- Knot** (*Calidris canutus*).—Small numbers during autumn. Eleven on 14th August, 1948 (R. H. Poulding). Three on 22nd August (H. H. Davis).
- Northern Dunlin** (*Calidris a. alpina*).—Up to 1,000 or more (assumed to be of this race) winter on the estuary.
- Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*).—One with Dunlins on Dumbles, 22nd August, 1948 (H. H. Davis).
- Sanderling** (*Crocethia alba*).—Eleven, 22nd August, 1948 (R. H. Poulding) and six on 24th (M. J. Wotton).
- Ruff** (*Philomachus pugnax*).—One over Rushy Pen, 7th March, 1948. Next day probably the same bird was asleep on the island in the Rushy Pen and allowed approach to 10 yards without taking its bill from its scapulars (P. Scott, Kennet *et al.*). Two on Dumbles, 22nd August (H. H. Davis) and one 6th September (M. J. Wotton).
- Common Sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*).—A number on the estuary during autumn.
- Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*).—One on Dumbles, 22nd August (H. H. Davis). One in Decoy-side Pens and flying over decoy (P. Scott, S. T. Johnstone).
- Redshank** (*Tringa totanus*).—Common on the estuary in winter. No evidence of birds remaining to breed.
- Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*).—A few in spring, more in autumn, on the Dumbles and estuary. Two lived at far end of Rushy Pen for a week from 16th August, 1948.
- Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—Common on the estuary, especially in the autumn.
- Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria* (*subsp.*)).—Flock of up to 100 on Dumbles and in fields throughout January and February, 1949. Much larger flock reported from Frampton end of New Grounds. What were most probably two examples of the northern race (*P. a. altifrons*) were seen on Dumbles, 1st May, by M. J. Wotton.
- Grey Plover** (*Squatarola squatarola*).—A few, often with Dunlins, throughout winter. Most often heard flying at dusk.
- Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*).—Common on the New Grounds, although there were no very large numbers.
- Oyster-catcher** (*Hamatopus ostralegus*).—One reported on 18th November, 1948, on Dumbles in company with Redshanks.
- Black-headed Gull** (*Larus ridibundus*).—Common on the estuary during winter.

- Common Gull** (*Larus canus*).—Very large numbers of gulls, chiefly of this species, roost on the estuary throughout the winter, flying out to the Wolds by day and returning early in the afternoon. Estimate of this flock at peak time—11,000 on 7th January, 1949 (P. Scott *et al.*). Three ringed.
- Herring-Gull** (*Larus argentatus*).—Common on estuary in winter but less numerous than Common or Black-headed.
- Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*).—About 30 regularly to be seen on Dumbles all winter, especially at high tide.
- Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*).—One immature picked up dead near Canal. March, 1949.
- Water-Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*).—One frequently seen during winter in rhine in Bottom New Piece. One captured near Dursley was ringed and released, and remained rest of winter in decoy and in lane leading to Dumbles. There may have been an unringed one there too.
- Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*).—Very common in decoy, in pens, and in surrounding rhines. Fifty-two ringed and sent away for homing experiments (see page 27).
- Coot** (*Fulica atra*).—A few in the decoy and one for a time in the Rushy Pen in March, 1949. One caught in decoy and ringed, 20th November, 1948.
- Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*).—A very few. One cock lives in back of Decoy Wood.
- Common Partridge** (*Perdix perdix*).—One covey occasionally in Bottom New Piece during the autumn.

