



A Field Guide *to the* *Birds of Britain* *and Europe*

ROGER PETERSON, GUY MOUNTFORT
& P. A. D. HOLLAM



PRECISE field identification of EVERY SPECIES
occurring in EUROPE

1200 ILLUSTRATIONS, 650 IN COLOUR
380 DISTRIBUTION MAPS, 352 TEXT PAGES

an INTRODUCTION BY JULIAN HUXLEY

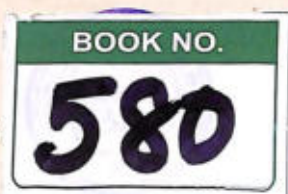
A FIELD GUIDE
TO THE
BIRDS OF BRITAIN
AND EUROPE

by

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Introduction by

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TO OUR
LONG-SUFFERING WIVES

*She laments, sir, . . . her husband
goes this morning a-birding."*

SHAKESPEARE—*Merry Wives of Windsor*

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Introduction

by Sir Julian Huxley

IN COMMON with every British ornithologist who has ever travelled (or ever intends to travel) on the Continent, I have often longed for a good handy book on the birds of Europe. Without such a guide, how could I be sure that the woodpecker I saw near Paris was a Middle Spotted Woodpecker? How could I find out the name of the strange warbler I heard in the woods of North Italy? How could I distinguish the two species of Tree Creepers on the Continent? How should I learn all the exciting new species of birds to be seen, or expected, in Switzerland or in Portugal? And I am sure that Continental ornithologists must share that longing, for the boundaries between their countries are, biologically speaking, even more artificial than that between our islands and the rest of Europe. The only handy works on the subject are half a century old, and have no pictures. One cannot carry around large systematic works like Dresser's *Birds of Europe*, and anyhow they are not designed to help the observer in the field.

What are the criteria for a good book on European birds, which will meet the needs of the field naturalist? In the first place it must be in one volume, and not too bulky to travel with, or for actual use in the field. Secondly, it must be fully illustrated, and must concentrate first and foremost on helping the naturalist to identify the new species with which he is confronted on his travels. Thirdly, it should help the naturalist to understand something of the distribution of the birds he sees. Finally, it should be scientific, based on the latest facts and the best theoretical interpretations.

This new Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe seems to me to meet these requirements admirably. All three of its authors have special qualifications for the task. Guy Mountfort has for long planned to write a handbook of continental birds. He is Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, and has travelled and observed birds in more than fifty different countries. For ten years he lived on the Continent, where he made an intensive study of West European birds.

Roger Peterson is a passionate lover and student of birds. He has the distinction of having produced a bird book whose sales far exceed those of any other ever written. His success has been due to the combination of high artistic skill with personal knowledge of birds in the field. This led to the designing of his particular

method of illustration for identification, in which the bird is portrayed with pointers indicating the special features by which it can be distinguished. His systematic working out of this method, first for birds, then for mammals, then for other organisms, has met with an overwhelming response from amateur naturalists in America. Though an American, he has a wide knowledge of Europe, and has spent much of the last three years travelling there to familiarise himself with European birds.

Finally, P. A. D. Hollom, widely travelled and known to British ornithologists as the editor of *The Popular Handbook of British Birds* and an editor of the magazine *British Birds*, has made a specialist study of the geographical distribution of the birds of the Old World.

Guy Mountfort met Roger Peterson in 1949 on Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania, where ornithologists gather annually to watch the spectacular migration of birds of prey—buzzards, eagles, hawks and falcons—riding the thermal currents above the range of the Kittatinny Mountains. Within a few minutes of their meeting, they had enthusiastically decided to go into partnership in the publication of a Field Guide to European birds, on the same general pattern as that of Peterson's Field Guides to American birds, which had been so successful in the New World, and which had already made their influence felt in the bird literature of Europe. And when it was later discovered that Hollom too had been planning a book on European birds, they decided to collaborate.

During the next three years, the authors travelled all over Europe, from Arctic Lapland to Southern Spain, from Britain to Turkey, putting the final touches to their field notes and contacts with foreign ornithologists, and combing through all the relevant literature. Between the three of them they have seen and watched in their natural habitats all but an insignificant fraction of the 565 species described in this book. Peterson has been primarily responsible for the illustrations and the accompanying caption pages, Mountfort for the main descriptive text, and Hollom for the maps and notes on distribution; however, the book is not just the sum of three separate contributors, but in all respects a product of close and critical teamwork.

The result seems to me extremely satisfactory. In spite of dealing with 565 distinct species, the book is of manageable size, a field guide to be consulted on the spot. Of these 565 species it has more than 1200 illustrations, the majority in colour, and all drawn on Peterson's system, so as to facilitate quick and accurate identification of birds of either sex and every age. Hollom has provided maps of

the breeding and winter distributions of all the species in Europe. It is remarkable that we have had to wait so long for this visual aid to the study of ornithology, and I am sure that this feature will be of the greatest value to all serious students. Finally, Mountfort's text conveys the maximum of necessary information in the minimum of space. The common names of the birds are given for the most ornithologically important European languages, and facts are included on voice, behaviour, habitats and nest-sites, which may help identification and pave the way for further study, though obviously a pocket-size field guide cannot be expected to cover all aspects of ornithology.

The birds are arranged according to the latest scientific classification, thus indicating their true relationships. And, while due recognition has been given to the facts of subspecific differentiation, emphasis is laid throughout on the species as the primary unit of study; subspecies which are recognisable in the field are briefly listed and described at the end of the account of each species.

The publication of this Field Guide seems to me an event of considerable importance to science as well as to natural history. It will certainly extend the range of interest of ornithologists in this country; it will promote international liaison between the naturalists of Western Europe; it will help to convince them that the study of the natural history of single countries is insufficient and that European ornithology deserves to be pursued in its entirety. It will, I hope, pave the way for a comprehensive handbook of the European birds, which will perform the same sort of service to European ornithology as *The Handbook of British Birds* has done for ornithology in these islands. I congratulate authors and publisher alike on their enterprise.

JULIAN HUXLEY



*The colours and monochrome reproductions were
engraved by Messrs. Gilchrist Bros. Ltd., Leeds.*

Preface

"*Though it must not be said that every species of birds has a manner peculiar to itself, yet there is somewhat in most genera at least that at first sight discriminates them, and enables a judicious observer to pronounce upon them with some certainty.*"

GILBERT WHITE, 1778

NO BRANCH of natural history has been endowed with a richer literature than ornithology. New books about birds, good, bad, and indifferent, pour forth upon a seemingly insatiable public at an average of one for every two weeks of the year, in Great Britain alone. To produce yet another, requires a word of explanation.

People whose vocation in life it is to sell books, affirm that a major part of to-day's demand for those about birds takes two forms and stems from two sources. Knowledgeable ornithologists who already possess one or several of the encyclopædic works, such as Witherby's five volume *Handbook of British Birds*, ask for a similarly authoritative and complete reference book "small enough to carry in the pocket." A far more clamorous demand is for a "really simple" book, which will enable the general public to identify birds "at a glance" and without expert knowledge. Both demands, for quite different reasons, are *cris du coeur*. The experienced ornithologist is understandably loath to carry several heavy and costly volumes with him on his expeditions, and the existing single volume works omit, for reasons of space, the very rarities which he is ever seeking. Beginners, and the vast numbers of people whose interest is often more sentimental than scientific, long for a book which will enable them to identify the birds they see around the garden, without having to disentangle the wealth of detail and technicalities which confuses them in much of the existing literature.

There is, we are told, also a third demand, from the growing numbers of bird watchers who travel each year to new ornithological territories, where unfamiliar birds occur. Because of currency or linguistic difficulties, the local handbooks, which are available in some countries, are often debarred to them. Hence the call for a book which includes illustrations of *all* European species. In this category nothing has been produced since Dresser's monumental nine-volume masterpiece of 1871-80, which to-day costs around £100.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe attempts to

fulfil all three of these seemingly conflicting requirements. Absolute simplicity is its keynote. It is non-technical. It embraces all the birds of Europe, including rare vagrants, from the tundra of northern Finland to the Mediterranean islands, westwards to Iceland, and eastwards to the Black Sea.

The birds are arranged in the Wetmore order of classification, which is now internationally accepted. The scientific names used in the latest British check-list have been incorporated. Vernacular names are given in English, Dutch, French, German and Swedish, and, because many European species are conspecific with those in the United States and Canada, the North American equivalents are also shown, where they differ from the British. The English vernacular names are those in popular usage, for this, as David Lack has pointed out, must always be the ultimate criterion.

The illustrations are primarily patternistic and functional, rather than "portraits." All are drawn strictly to scale. Similar species are shown adjacent to each other and in identical positions, occasionally regardless of systematic relationship, in order to assist comparison. Arrows indicate clearly the significant "field marks" not shared by related species. Further comparisons are given in the accompanying text. Descriptive detail of only general (i.e. non-specific) interest has been ruthlessly expunged; notes on behaviour are included only where they aid identification. Maps show the summer and winter ranges of the species, excepting those of only accidental occurrence, or where a written description can give the information more clearly. Finally, the dimensions of the Field Guide fulfil the requirement that it should literally "fit in the pocket." Those who prefer their bird books to be specialised, narrative, or even anthropomorphic in form, will find a wide choice in every bookshop: in this respect the Field Guide is non-competitive and supplementary to existing literature on the subject.

The information on which this book is based has been compiled from various sources. First, the authors' own field notes, made during many years of travel and study. Second, from intimate collaboration with leading ornithologists throughout Europe, who have generously made available their own records on such subjects as local distribution of species. Third, from a continuing study of all available ornithological literature and periodicals, not excepting the Russian. Fourth, from critical examination of skins and living birds in various museums and private collections, notably those of the British Museum of Natural History, the Zoological Society of London, the Wildfowl Trust, the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D.C., and the American Museum of New York.

To the painstaking staffs of these institutions is due the warmest gratitude of the authors. Special mention must also be made of the invaluable advice and facilities provided by Peter Scott in the final preparation of the texts and illustrations concerning ducks, geese, and swans, all of which have had the benefit of his expert scrutiny.

To Sir Landsborough Thomson and Dr. David Lack thanks are due for guidance on the complex subject of vernacular nomenclature. Acknowledgment is also made to Dr. François Bourlière, for assistance in compiling the critical list of continental literature shown in the appendix.

Space unfortunately does not permit the authors to acknowledge individually in print all the help so freely given by ornithologists in many countries. If the Field Guide has merit, it must stem from the fact that it reflects the collaboration of so wide, so distinguished, and so truly international a board of advisers. The authors' thanks must, however, be recorded for particular assistance received from the following:—

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A Note to British Readers

THIS FIELD GUIDE covers all the birds of Britain. It also includes all European birds found this side of Russia, the majority of which are on the British list. For the convenience of users in Britain who will turn to the colour plates first when they see a new bird, the following symbols are employed on the caption pages, opposite the illustrations:

- **RESIDENT, REGULAR, OR ANNUAL** occurrence in the British Isles. ("British Isles" is here used to imply the whole of Ireland.)
 - **OCCASIONAL, OR VERY RARE** in the British Isles. Twenty occurrences or more; not of regular annual occurrence, but may occur in numbers during occasional "invasions."
 - △ **ACCIDENTAL** in the British Isles. Fewer than twenty occurrences.
- No symbol means that the bird is not on the British list.

The following sex symbols are used on the illustrations:

♂ means male

♀ means female


ABOUT THE MAPS



Black area—Summer
Dotted line—Winter

The solid black areas (or the small areas indicated by a little arrow) represent the bird's **breeding range**. The area below the heavy dotted line, or enclosed by it, is the bird's **winter range**. This does not mean that the bird occurs everywhere within these limits, but locally where its proper habitat is available. Additional information is given in abbreviated form in the space between the two maps. For example, if the bird's winter range is identical with its breeding range, or if the bird entirely leaves the map area, it is so stated, and the dotted line is not used. Thus: "Resident" (if all the year); "Partial migrant" (if many but not all individuals leave northern part of range in winter); "Summer visitor"

(if the species winters entirely outside Europe). In the few cases where maps are inappropriate, brief information on range is given in the main text. This is the first time range has been mapped for many species; further information will be welcomed by the authors.



THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
EMBRACED BY THE
FIELD GUIDE.

The birds described are those resident or occurring within the unshaded portion of the map, that is to say in the British Isles and Eire, Iceland and continental Europe, eastwards to the 30° line of longitude. The islands of the Mediterranean basin are included, but Turkey and North Africa are excluded.

How to Identify Birds

MANY PEOPLE who are already mildly interested in birds, are afraid to pursue the subject because, as they sometimes express it, they "cannot tell a robin from a sparrow." Others, perhaps have shied away from an unfamiliar terminology. Such people do themselves needless injustice. The enjoyment of birds, whether casual or absorbing, which man has developed during centuries of sentimental attachment, depends neither upon intensive study nor academic qualifications. Those who claim to be unable to distinguish a robin from a sparrow certainly recognise an eagle, a gull, a duck, an owl, and many others of the various families. They are, in fact, already quite a long way on the road to "knowing the birds."

But the terms "eagle," "gull," or "duck," are very broad. There are about fifty different species of eagles in various parts of the world, and many more species of gulls and ducks. The purpose of this book is to show, without recourse to complicated symbols, how to distinguish, at reasonable distance, all the species of birds inhabiting or visiting Great Britain and the European continent.

We are concerned in Europe with only 452 basic species. All these are given full treatment in this book. An additional 113 species have occurred in Europe fewer than twenty times: these are described briefly in the appendix of "Accidentals" (page 291). The more complex subject of subspecies is discussed on page XXVII. Those subspecies which are recognisable in the field are also briefly described in the main text, and bring the grand total to 602.

What to Look For

The identification of birds is largely a matter of knowing what to look for—the "field marks." Exact diagnosis then depends upon a process of elimination, by comparison with other species which the bird may resemble. The arrows on the illustrations facilitate this process. But appearance is only one factor. Call-notes, song, attitudes, behaviour, habitat and range are also important.

What is its Size?

First acquire the habit of comparing strange birds with some familiar "yard stick"—a House Sparrow, a Blackbird, a Pigeon, etc., so that you can say to yourself "smaller than a Blackbird, a

little larger than a Sparrow," etc. The measurements quoted in this book indicate the *average* length of the bird from bill-tip to tail-tip.

What is its Shape ?

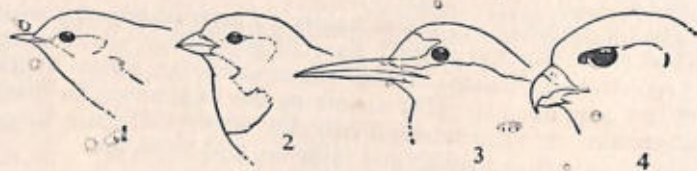
Is it plump, like a Robin (left) ; or slender, like a Wagtail (right) ?



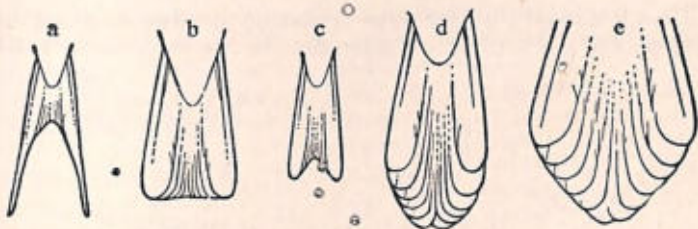
What shape are its wings? Are they sharply pointed, like a Swallow's (left); or short and rounded, like a Warbler's (right)?



What shape is its bill? Is it small and fine, like a Warbler's (1); stout and short, like a seed-cracking Sparrow's (2); dagger-shaped, like a Tern's (3); or hook-tipped, like a Kestrel's (4)?



Is its tail deeply forked, like a Swallow's (a); short and square-ended, like a Starling's (b); deeply notched, like a Linnet's (c); rounded, like a Cuckoo's (d); or wedge-shaped, like a Raven's (e)?



How does it Behave?

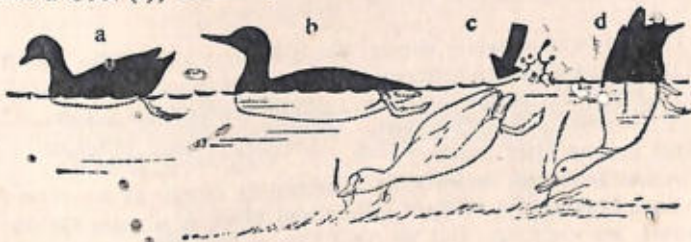
Some birds have very characteristic habits. Does it constantly wag its tail, like a Wagtail; quiver its tail, like a Redstart; cock its tail vertically, like a Wren; or sit bolt upright, with its tail downwards, like a Spotted Flycatcher?

Does it climb trees? If so, does it climb upwards in spirals, like a Tree Creeper (1); in short jerks, braced on its stiff tail, like a Woodpecker (2); or does it climb, without using its tail as a prop, as readily downwards as upwards, like a Nuthatch (3)?



If it feeds on the ground, does it walk, like a Jackdaw; hop, like a House Sparrow; run spasmodically, like a Wagtail; or shuffle along, close to the ground, like a Dunnock?

If it swims, does it sit high in the water, like a Moorhen (a); or low, with its back almost awash, like a Diver (b)? Does it dive, like a Coot (c); or merely "up-end," like a Mallard (d)?



Does it take off from the water gradually, by splashing along the surface, like a Moorhen; or spring clear in one jump, like a Teal?

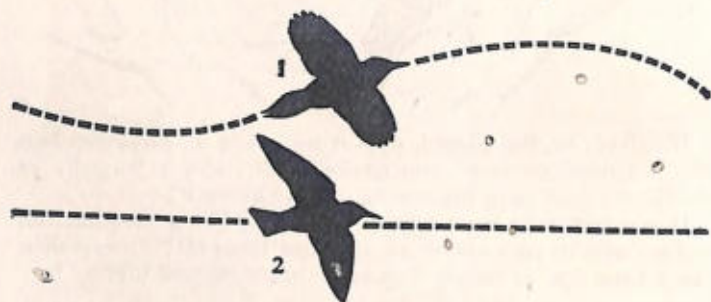


Does it hover over the water and dive headlong, like a Tern, or a Kingfisher; or plunge after fish feet-first, like an Osprey; or walk deliberately beneath the water, like a Dipper?

Does it wade? If so, does it stand motionless in the shallows for long periods, like a Heron; or run quickly along the margins, like a Sandpiper; or chase the receding waves, like a Sanderling?

How does it Fly?

Is its flight deeply undulating, like a Woodpecker's (1); or straight and fast, like a Starling's (2)?



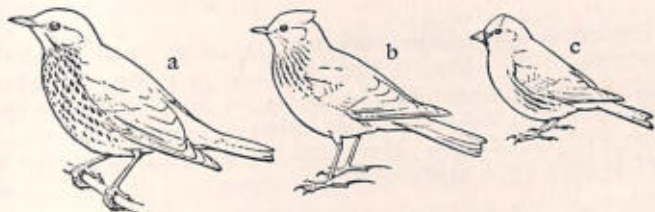
Does it beat its wings slowly, like a Heron; or rapidly, like a Mallard; or with alternate periods of wing-beats and "shooting," like a Fieldfare; or does it soar on motionless wings, like a Buzzard?

What are its Field Marks?

A few birds can be instantly identified by colour alone. There is no mistaking the brilliant yellow and black of a male Golden Oriole, for example. But we need also to look for certain field

marks to distinguish most species. These take various forms. They are indicated by pointers on the illustrations in the Field Guide, and correspond to the italicised portions of the accompanying descriptive texts. Obscure field marks are included only when the problem of identification demands completeness.

Many birds are more or less spotted or streaked below. Are these marks nearly all over the under-parts, as in the Song Thrush (*a*); only on the upper-breast, as in the Sky Lark (*b*); or only on the flanks, as in the Redpoll (*c*)?



Does the tail have a distinctive pattern? Has it a white tip, as in the Hawfinch (1); white outer feathers, as in the Chaffinch (2); or white side patches, as in the Whinchat (3)?



Some birds show a conspicuous white rump in flight—Jay, House Martin, Bullfinch, the Wheatears, many waders, and the Hen Harrier, to mention a selection. Where so many species share such a prominent feature, it is necessary to look for additional field marks.



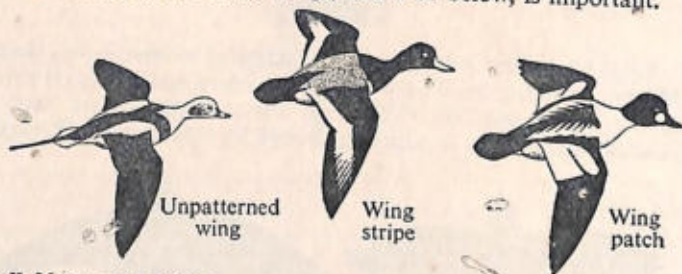
Wing-bars are very important in such families as the warblers; some are conspicuous, some obscure, some single, some double.



Eye-stripes are equally important in many small passerines (perching birds). Does the bird have a stripe above, through, or below the eye—or a combination of two, or three, of these stripes? Some warblers have distinctively coloured eyes, or eye-rims, or “moustachial” stripes. These details are useful only when the bird permits close examination, of course.



Wing patterns should always be noted, particularly with ducks and waders. Wings may be all-dark, or all-white, or half-and-half, or show conspicuous patches of white, or colour. The exact location of such marks on the wings, above or below, is important.



Call Notes and Song

Expert ornithologists often rely on their ears as much as on their eyes, to identify birds. It is difficult to portray bird voices in writing, because birds rarely make “human” sounds, and our interpreta-

tions vary: one person hears a call-note as "teu," another as "chew" or "sioo." It must be remembered, also, that birds, like humans, often develop dialectic variations in their "speech." In the Field Guide an attempt has been made to portray the chief call-notes and song phrases by simplified phonetics and similes; but the best way to learn voice identification is to go out with someone who knows the birds, and to obtain first-hand teaching. Ludwig Koch's sets of published gramophone records of bird songs are also an invaluable aid, even to the expert.

Where is it Found ?

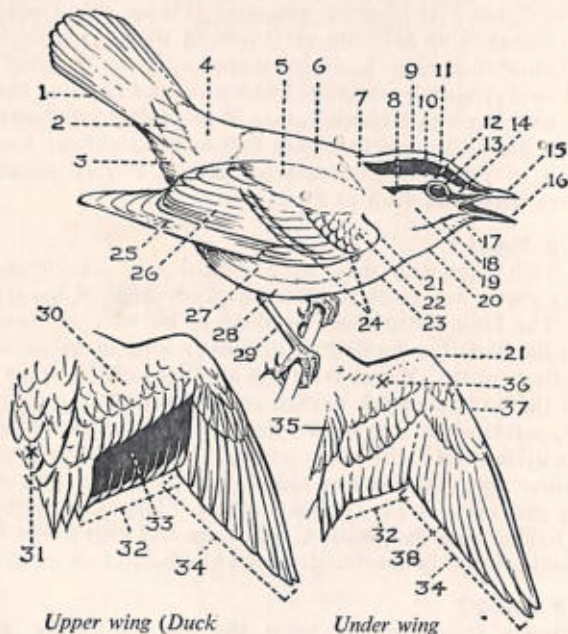
Birds which beginners may have difficulty in identifying by appearance alone, can often be placed by knowledge of the typical habitats. The Long-tailed Duck is likely to be seen only on salt water, but the Pintail, a duck which also has a longish, pointed tail, frequents fresh water. Wood Warblers are birds of the upper leaf canopy of the beech and oak woods, and do not occur out on the low, bushy scrub where one would seek the Grasshopper Warbler. Birds have quite strict limits of geography, habitat, and vegetation. Outside these they are seldom found, except during migration, when they may occur in very unlikely places. The range maps and notes on habitat and distribution, which are included in the Field Guide, should always be consulted in cases of doubtful identification.

When is it Found ?

It is always interesting to learn the seasons during which different migratory species may occur in one's area. Most good field workers keep a diary of arrival and departure dates. In a few years it becomes possible to forecast with some accuracy when the first Chiffchaff, or Swift, or Redwing, should appear. These dates may be pencilled in the margins of the Field Guide—for it is intended, not as an ornament to the bookshelf, but as a working companion.

Caution !

Where rarities are concerned, great caution should always be exercised. Rare, wind-drifted vagrants may occur in almost any locality, particularly in coastal areas, and on isolated islands. Detailed written notes and sketches should be made of any suspected rarity *on the spot*. If possible, an experienced member of the local ornithological society should be invited by telephone to corroborate the discovery. Before unusual "sight records" can be accepted, at least two independent sets of field notes are usually required for critical examination by the ornithological authorities.



TOPOGRAPHY OF A BIRD

Key showing terms used in this volume

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Outer tail-feathers | 13 Eye-ring | 26 Secondaries |
| 2 Upper tail-coverts | 14 Lores | 27 Flanks |
| 3 Under tail-coverts | 15 Upper mandible* | 28 Belly |
| 4 Rump | 16 Lower mandible | 29 Tarsus |
| 5 Scapulars | 17 Chin | 30 Wing-coverts |
| 6 Back | 18 Moustachial stripe | 31 Scapulars |
| 7 Nape | 19 Ear-coverts (cheek) | 32 Secondaries |
| 8 Eye-stripe | 20 Throat | 33 Speculum (duck) |
| 9 Crown | 21 Bend of wing | 34 Primaries |
| 10 Head-stripe | 22 Carpal (wrist) | 35 Axillaries |
| 11 Crown-stripe | 23 Breast | 36 Wing-linings |
| 12 Superciliary (eye-brow) | 24 Wing-bars | 37 Fore-edge of wing |
| | 25 Primaries | 38 Rear edge of wing |

The Problem of Subspecies

IN A BOOK embracing the birds of half a continent, the problem of the treatment of subspecies is complex. Experts who were consulted were unanimous in recommending that the authors should adhere strictly to their primary task of identification in the field, and should avoid detailed taxonomic distinctions.

This was obviously wise counsel. Europe still lacks a central ornithological authority, such as is represented in Great Britain by the British Ornithologists' Union and its *Check-List*. Peters's monumental *Check-List of the Birds of the World* was, alas, still far from completed when he died. Molineux's *A Catalogue of Birds of the palæarctic region*, is already twenty years out of date. New subspecies, questionable and defensible, are constantly being added, and arguments between the so-called "splitters" and "lumpers" will doubtless persist for many years to come. The authors of this book cannot presume to adjudicate upon the validity of decisions accepted by some authorities and discarded by others.

Nevertheless, the question of subspecies, as it concerns this book, cannot be summarily dismissed.

Subspecies have no definite entity, but merely represent sub-divisions within the geographical range of a species. They are races, usually determined by morphological characteristics, such as slight differences in measurements, shades of colour, etc. These sub-divisions, generally discernible only by expert comparison of museum series, are given, for systematic purposes, trinomial labels to denote the generic, specific and racial names. Thus, the British Coal Tit, which is slightly more olive than the continental races, bears the scientific name *Parus ater britannicus*, to distinguish it from the many continental forms. The basic species is known simply by the binomial *Parus ater*, as originally christened by Linnæus in 1758. Not all species have been split into subspecies, however.

Species are reproductively isolated and do not, in normal circumstances, hybridise. A Coal Tit will not mate with a Blue Tit; but all the twenty-one subspecies of the Coal Tit, listed in *A Catalogue of Birds*, are biologically capable of inter-breeding. Subspecies often blend so gradually that at no definite point can one declare, without being arbitrary, where, for example, the eastern and central Spanish race of the Coal Tit, *P. a. cabreræ*; stops, and the north-western Spanish and Portuguese race, *P. a. vieiræ*, begins. Scientists, of

necessity, draw arbitrary lines between them. By comparing specimens of the subspecies from either extreme of the total geographical range, quite obvious differences are usually apparent. The changes from one extreme to the other have been brought about by a closely integrated process of progressive relationship between bird population, environment, and climate. This gradient of inter-relationship, which can be observed in the Coal Tit and in certain other species, is referred to by taxonomists as a "cline." But, to field ornithologists, all the subspecies of *Parus ater* are clearly distinguishable at all times as "Coal Tits." For practical purposes, therefore, the use of sub-specific names in reference to identification *in the field* is superfluous and altogether undesirable.

Every serious ornithologist should read the brilliant discussion on this subject by B. W. Tucker,* in which he stated: "Subspecies are for the most part much less objective and clear-cut in their character than species. . . . This fact has been obscured for the majority of amateur ornithologists by the practice of giving English names to subspecies, such as British Blue Tit, Continental Blue Tit, and so on. The practice was justifiable in ornithological systematics at a time when trinomial nomenclature had not yet gained general recognition . . . but in the long run its results have been unfortunate and the writer has no doubt that it should now be discontinued." Although written by a British ornithologist about Britain, the same criticism could be applied to all European countries.

Occasionally the distinctions between neighbouring subspecies are so well defined as to be clearly visible in the field, at least during part of the year. Such instances are very few in Europe. Where they occur, as, for example, with the Lesser Black-backed Gull, the expression "the British race," or "the Scandinavian race" (or "subspecies") is employed in this book. Occasional exceptions, by the use of a vernacular name for a subspecies, for example Pied Wagtail/White Wagtail, have been made only in deference to long established usage.

Except where otherwise stated, the descriptive text matter refers primarily to the British races. In the foreign language editions of the Field Guide, descriptions will refer chiefly to the local races when plumage, habitat, etc., differ from the British.

*"Subspecies and Field Ornithology," *British Birds*, 42: 200

Check-List

This list of European birds may be used to record the species you have seen. Accidentals can be entered at the end.

-BLACK-THROATED DIVER
-GREAT NORTHERN DIVER
-WHITE-BILLED DIVER
-RED-THROATED DIVER
-GREAT CRESTED GREBE
-RED-NECKED GREBE
-HORNED GREBE
-BLACK-NECKED GREBE
-LITTLE GREBE
-WILSON'S PETREL
-LEACH'S PETREL
-STORM PETREL
-MANX SHEARWATER
-GREAT SHEARWATER
-CORY'S SHEARWATER
-SOOTY SHEARWATER
-FULMAR
-GANNET
-CORMORANT
-SHAG
-PYGMY CORMORANT
-WHITE PELICAN
-DALMATIAN PELICAN
-HERON
-PURPLE HERON
-LITTLE EGRET
-GREAT WHITE HERON
-SQUACCO HERON
-CATTLE EGRET
-NIGHT HERON
-LITTLE BITTERN
-BITTERN
-AMERICAN BITTERN
-WHITE STORK
-BLACK STORK
-SPOONBILL
-GLOSSY IBIS
-FLAMINGO
-MALLARD
-TEAL
-MARBLED DUCK
-GARGANEY
-GADWALL
-WIGEON
-PINTAIL
-SHOVELER
-MANDARIN
-RED-CRESTED POCHARD
-SCAUP
-TUFTED DUCK
-POCHARD
-FERRUGINOUS DUCK
-GOLDENEYE
-BARROW'S GOLDENEYE
-LONG-TAILED DUCK
-VELVET SCOTER
-SURF SCOTER
-COMMON SCOTER
-HARLEQUIN
-STELLER'S EIDER
-EIDER
-KING EIDER
-WHITE-HEADED DUCK
-RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
-GOOSANDER
-SMEW
-SHELDUCK
-RUDDY SHELDUCK
-GREY LAG GOOSE
-WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
-LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE
-BEAN GOOSE
-PINK-FOOTED GOOSE
-SNOW GOOSE
-BRENT GOOSE
-BARNACLE GOOSE
-CANADA GOOSE
-RED-BREASTED GOOSE
-MUTE SWAN
-WHOOPEE SWAN
-BEWICK'S SWAN
-EGYPTIAN VULTURE

- GRIFFON VULTURE
 BLACK VULTURE
 BEARDED VULTURE
 GOLDEN EAGLE
 IMPERIAL EAGLE
 TAWNY EAGLE
 SPOTTED EAGLE
 LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE
 BONELLI'S EAGLE
 BOOTED EAGLE
 BUZZARD
 ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD
 LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD
 SPARROW HAWK
 LEVANT SPARROW HAWK
 GOSHAWK
 KITE
 BLACK KITE
 BLACK-WINGED KITE
 WHITE-TAILED EAGLE
 HONEY BUZZARD
 MARSH HARRIER
 HEN HARRIER
 PALLID HARRIER
 MONTAGU'S HARRIER
 SHORT-TOED EAGLE
 OSPREY
 HOBBY
 PEREGRINE
 LANNER FALCON
 SAKER FALCON
 GYR FALCON
 ELEONORA'S FALCON
 MERLIN
 RED-FOOTED FALCON
 LESSER KESTREL
 KESTREL
 WILLOW GROUSE
 RED GROUSE
 PTARMIGAN
 BLACK GROUSE
 CAPERCAILLIE
 HAZEL HEN
 ROCK PARTRIDGE
 BARBARY PARTRIDGE
 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE
 PARTRIDGE
 QUAIL
- * PHEASANT
 ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE
 CRANE
 DEMOISELLE CRANE
 WATER RAIL
 SPOTTED CRAKE
 BAILLON'S CRAKE
 LITTLE CRAKE
 CORNCRAKE
 PURPLE GALLINULE
 MOORHEN
 COOT
 CRESTED COOT
 GREAT BUSTARD
 LITTLE BUSTARD
 HOUBARA BUSTARD
 OYSTERCATCHER
 SPUR-WINGED PLOVER
 LAPWING
 RINGED PLOVER
 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER
 KENTISH PLOVER
 GREY PLOVER
 GOLDEN PLOVER
 ASIATIC (AND AMERICAN)
 GOLDEN PLOVER
 DOTTEREL
 TURNSTONE
 SNIPE
 GREAT SNIPE
 JACK SNIPE
 WOODCOCK
 UPLAND SANDPIPER
 CURLEW
 WHIMBREL
 SHORST-BILLED CURLEW
 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT
 BAR-TAILED GODWIT
 GREEN SANDPIPER
 WOOD SANDPIPER
 COMMON SANDPIPER
 REDSHANK
 SPOTTED REDSHANK
 LESSER YELLOWLEGS
 GREENSHANK
 MARSH SANDPIPER
 TEREK SANDPIPER
 DOWITCHER

CHECK-LIST

XXXI

- KNOT
- PURPLE SANDPIPER
- LITTLE STINT
- TEMMINCK'S STINT
- WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER
- DUNLIN
- CURLEW SANDPIPER
- SANDERLING
- BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
- BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER
- RUFF
- AVOCET
- BLACK-WINGED STILT
- GREY PHALAROPE
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
- STONE CURLEW
- PRATINCOLE
- BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE
- CREAM-COLOURED COURSER
- ARCTIC SKUA
- GREAT SKUA
- POMARINE SKUA
- LONG-TAILED SKUA
- IVORY GULL
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
- HERRING GULL
- COMMON GULL
- GLAUCOUS GULL
- ICELAND GULL
- AUDOUIN'S GULL
- SLender-BILLED GULL
- MEDITERRANEAN GULL
- LITTLE GULL
- BLACK-HEADED GULL
- SABINE'S GULL
- KITTIWAKE
- BLACK TERN
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN
- WHISKERED TERN
- GULL-BILLED TERN
- CASPIAN TERN
- COMMON TERN
- ARCTIC TERN
- ROSEATE TERN
- SOOTY TERN
- LITTLE TERN
- SANDWICH TERN
- RAZORBILL
- LITTLE AUK
- GUILLEMOT
- BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT
- BLACK GUILLEMOT
- PUFFIN
- BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE
- PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE
- PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE
- STOCK DOVE
- ROCK DOVE
- WOOD PIGEON
- TURTLE DOVE
- COLLARED TURTLE DOVE
- CUCKOO
- GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO
- YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO
- BARN OWL
- SCOPS OWL
- EAGLE OWL
- SNOWY OWL
- HAWK OWL
- PYGMY OWL
- LITTLE OWL
- TAWNY OWL
- GREAT GREY OWL
- URAL OWL
- LONG-EARED OWL
- SHORT-EARED OWL
- TENGMALM'S OWL
- NIGHTJAR
- RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR
- EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR
- SWIFT
- PALLID SWIFT
- ALPINE SWIFT
- KINGFISHER
- BEE-EATER
- ROLLER
- HOOPOE
- GREEN WOODPECKER
- GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER
- SYRIAN WOODPECKER
- WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER
- LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER
- MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|THREE-TOED WOODPECKER |SHORT-TOED TREE CREEPER |
|BLACK WOODPECKER |WALL CREEPER |
|WRYNECK |WREN |
|BLACK LARK |DIPPER |
|CALANDRA LARK |SIBERIAN THRUSH |
|WHITE-WINGED LARK |MISTLE THRUSH |
|SHORT-TOED LARK |FIELDFARE |
|LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK |SONG THRUSH |
|CRESTED LARK |REDWING |
|THEKLA LARK |EYE-BROWED THRUSH |
|WOOD LARK |NAUMANN'S THRUSH |
|SKY LARK |DUSKY THRUSH |
|DUPONT'S LARK |BLACK-THROATED THRUSH |
|SHORE LARK |RING OUZEL |
|SWALLOW |BLACKBIRD |
|RED-RUMPED SWALLOW |WHITE'S THRUSH |
|HOUSE MARTIN |AMERICAN ROBIN |
|SAND MARTIN |ROCK THRUSH |
|CRAG MARTIN |BLUE ROCK THRUSH |
|GOLDEN ORIOLE |WHEATEAR |
|RAVEN |BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR |
|CARRION CROW |PIED WHEATEAR |
|HOODED CROW |BLACK WHEATEAR |
|ROOK |STONECHAT |
|JACKDAW |WHINCHAT |
|MAGPIE |RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL |
|AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE |REDSTART |
|NUTCRACKER |BLACK REDSTART |
|JAY |NIGHTINGALE |
|SIBERIAN JAY |THRUSH NIGHTINGALE |
|CHOUGH |BLUETHROAT |
|ALPINE CHOUGH |ROBIN |
|GREAT TIT |CETTI'S WARBLER |
|BLUE TIT |GRASSHOPPER WARBLER |
|AZURE TIT |RIVER WARBLER |
|COAL TIT |SAVI'S WARBLER |
|CRESTED TIT |MOUSTACHED WARBLER |
|SIBERIAN TIT |GREAT REED WARBLER |
|SOMBRE TIT |REED WARBLER |
|MARSH TIT |MARSH WARBLER |
|WILLOW TIT |BLYTH'S REED WARBLER |
|LONG-TAILED TIT |SEDGE WARBLER |
|PENDULINE TIT |AQUATIC WARBLER |
|BEARDED TIT |MELODIUS WARBLER |
|NUTHATCH |ICTERINE WARBLER |
|CORSIKAN NUTHATCH |OLIVACEOUS WARBLER |
|ROCK NUTHATCH |OLIVE-TREE WARBLER |
|TREE CREEPER |BLACKCAP |

CHECK-LIST

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- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| BARRED WARBLER | MASKED SHRIKE |
| ORPHEAN WARBLER | RED-BACKED SHRIKE |
| GARDEN WARBLER | STARLING |
| WHITETHROAT | SPOTLESS STARLING |
| LESSER WHITETHROAT | ROSE-COLOURED STARLING |
| RÜPPELL'S WARBLER | HAWFINCH |
| SARDINIAN WARBLER | GREENFINCH |
| SUBALPINE WARBLER | GOLDFINCH |
| SPECTACLED WARBLER | SISKIN |
| DARTFORD WARBLER | LINNET |
| MARMORA'S WARBLER | TWITE |
| RUFIOUS WARBLER | REDPOLL |
| FAN-TAILED WARBLER | ARCTIC REDPOLL |
| WILLOW WARBLER | CITRIL FINCH |
| GREENISH WARBLER | SERIN |
| CHIFFCHAFF | BULLFINCH |
| WOOD WARBLER | SCARLET GROSBK |
| BONELLI'S WARBLER | PINE GROSBK |
| ARCTIC WARBLER | CROSSBILL |
| YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER | PARROT CROSSBILL |
| GOLDCREST | TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL |
| FIRECREST | CHAFFINCH |
| SPOTTED FLYCATCHER | BRAMBLING |
| PIED FLYCATCHER | YELLOWHAMMER |
| COLLARED FLYCATCHER | CORN BUNTING |
| RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER | BLACK-HEADED BUNTING |
| DUNNOCK | YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING |
| ALPINE ACCENTOR | CIRL BUNTING |
| MEADOW PIPIT | ORTOLAN BUNTING |
| RICHARD'S PIPIT | CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING |
| TAWNY PIPIT | ROCK BUNTING |
| TREE PIPIT | RUSTIC BUNTING |
| RED-THROATED PIPIT | LITTLE BUNTING |
| ROCK/WATER PIPIT | REED BUNTING |
| PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL | LAPLAND BUNTING |
| GREY WAGTAIL | SNOW BUNTING |
| YELLOW/BLUE-HEADED
WAGTAIL | HOUSE SPARROW |
| WAXWING | ITALIAN SPARROW |
| GREAT GREY SHRIKE | SPANISH SPARROW |
| LESSER GREY SHRIKE | TREE SPARROW |
| WOODCHAT SHRIKE | SNOW FINCH |
| | ROCK SPARROW |

ACCIDENTALS

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B.B.E.

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B

The British Ornithological Societies

THE PRINCIPAL British societies are listed below. They do not compete but, between them, cater for every ornithological interest.

The senior society is the BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1859, for the advancement of the science of ornithology. Its interests are not restricted to Britain, but are world wide. The B.O.U. issues an important quarterly journal, *The Ibis*, in which authoritative papers are published on such subjects as ecology, behaviour, taxonomy and reviews of British and foreign ornithological literature. Scientific meetings are arranged and in all international ornithological affairs the B.O.U. takes a leading part. Address: c/o *The Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7.*

The BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB recruits its members from the B.O.U. The club meets in London nearly every month at a dinner, which is followed by short communications, films and lectures. The *Club Bulletin*, published monthly except July-September, contains articles relating to the subjects discussed, and descriptions of new species and races. Address: c/o *The Bird Room, British Museum (Natural History) London, S.W.7.*

The BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY is the focal point for organised field work. Its aim is the encouragement of individual and group research. Members take part in bird ringing and nest recording schemes and population studies. Courses are organised at Field Centres, and many meetings are held with local societies. Bulletins, reports, the quarterly *Bird Study* and field guides are published, and a fine collection of ornithological books is maintained, in conjunction with Oxford University, at the Alexander Library. Address: 2 *King Edward Street, Oxford.*

THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS is concerned with the scientific application of conservation and strives constantly to improve the Wild Birds Protection Acts. It educates the public by means of films, exhibitions and meetings, and finances and manages a network of bird sanctuaries. The Society produces an illustrated quarterly, *Bird Notes*, and many other publications. Address: 25 *Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.*

The WILDFOWL TRUST has a unique collection of ducks, geese and swans from all parts of the world. It offers ideal conditions for studying every species occurring in Britain. A large decoy is maintained for catching and ringing ducks, and it is possible to watch flocks of wild geese feeding in the adjoining fields at appropriate seasons. The Trust publishes a lavishly illustrated *Annual Report* and periodical bulletins. Address: *Slimbridge, Glos.*

DIVERS: Gaviidae

LARGE SWIMMING BIRDS OF OPEN WATERS, with sharp-pointed bills. Longer-bodied and thicker-necked than grebes. Dive and swim expertly under water. Submerge quickly when alarmed, or swim with only head above water. Fly more often and higher than grebes. Outline in flight is hunch-backed, with slight downward sweep to extended neck. Wings rather small and pointed. In flight, broad, webbed feet project behind rudimentary tail. Sometimes confused with cormorants and mergansers.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

page 6

Du—Parelduiker

Fr—Plongeon lumme

Ge—Polartaucher

Sw—Storlom

N.Am—Pacific Loon

Identification: 23-27". Smaller than Great Northern; near size of Red-throated. Distinguished in breeding plumage by grey head and hind neck and *straight*, slender, black bill; throat *black*, narrowly striped with white on sides of neck and breast; squarish white spots on upper-parts are arranged in *two distinct patches either side*. In winter looks like small Great Northern, but crown and hind neck are often paler than blackish back; Great Northern looks obscurely barred above, whereas Black-throated looks "scaly"; smaller size, *less heavy bill* and less angular contours of head are best distinctions; immature otherwise indistinguishable from young Great Northern. Distinguished from winter Red-throated by blacker, "scaly" upper-parts; bill is often as slender, but is *straight*, not up-tilted.

Voice: A deep, barking "kwow"; a shrill, rising wail.

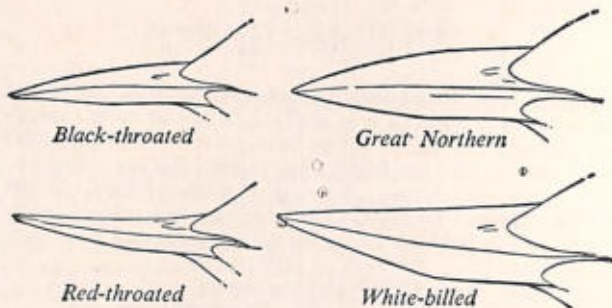
Habitat: Waters mainly along sea-coasts. In breeding season, frequents lakes with or without trees, among inland hills or coastal lowlands. Nests on islets or verges of deeper and usually larger lakes than Red-throated. Map below.



← BLACK-
THROATED DIVER
Mainly migrant.
Vagrant Faeroes,
Ireland

GREAT NORTHERN
DIVER →
Mainly mig. Winter
limits dotted.
Vagrant s. to Italy.
Non-breeders s. to
Helvides





BILLS OF DIVERS

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Gavia immer

page 6

Du—IJsduiker

Fr—Plongeon imbrin

Ge—Eistaucher

Sw—Islom

N.Am—Common Loon

Identification: 27-32". Size of small goose. Distinguished in breeding plumage by *checkered black and white upper-parts*; glossy black head and neck; *striped black and white collar* and massive, dagger-shaped bill. In winter, upper-parts are dark grey-brown; cheeks, throat and under-parts white; pattern of breeding plumage often retained into early winter. Flight with slightly drooping neck, and feet projecting behind. Thrashes along surface before taking off; alights breast-first, with great splash. Seldom on land. Distinguished from Cormorant when swimming by *horizontal* (not up-tilted) bill; in flight by much shorter neck and tail, and more white on under-parts. See other divers. **Voice:** Flight-call a short, barking "kwuk"; on breeding grounds has long wailing cries and weird quavering "laughter."

Habitat: Frequents northern lakes, nesting on islets and on grassy promontories. Winters along sea coasts, occasionally inland. Map p 1.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER

Gavia adamsii

page 6

Du—Witsnavelijsduiker

Fr—Plongeon à bec blanc

Ge—Weisschnäbliger Eistaucher

Sw—Vitnåbbad islom

N.Am—Yellow-billed Loon

Identification: Similar in size and appearance to Great Northern, but bill is *yellowish or ivory-white*, not black. However, winter bills of many Great Northerns are bluish-white, especially toward the base. Bill of Great Northern appears quite straight, while that of the rare White-billed is straight above, angled below, giving a distinctly *up-turned* effect (see diagram). Behaviour, voice, habitat and breeding details are similar. Reaches Norwegian coasts in winter, from high Arctic. Vagrant southwards to Britain, Austria, Italy.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

page 6

Du—Roodkeelduiker

Fr—Plongeon catmarin

Ge—Nordseetaucher

Sw—Smålom

N.Am—Red-throated Loon

Identification: 21-24". Smaller than Great Northern; about size of Black-throated. Slender *up-tilted* bill affords quick identification even at distance. In breeding plumage has grey head, *red throat-patch* (looks black at distance) and grey-brown *unpatterned* upper-parts. Winter plumage paler than Black-throated, being finely speckled with white; under-parts white. Bills of Black-throated and Great Northern are straight, not up-tilted; latter's is also much stouter. (But see also rare White-billed Diver.) Occasionally seen in flocks along coast in winter. **Voice:** A repeated, guttural, quacking "*kwuck*," less deep than similar note of Black-throated; also a thin, high wailing.

Habitat: Mainly coastal waters in winter. Nests on margins of quite small but deep lochs and northern coastal lagoons. Map below.

GREBES : Podicipitidae

GREBES ARE EXCLUSIVELY AQUATIC; indifferent fliers but expert divers. Distinguished from ducks by pointed bills and "tailless" appearance. Their feet, instead of being webbed, are *lobed* (flaps along toes). The larger grebes often hold their thin necks quite erect; divers and ducks do so usually only when alarmed. Usually build floating nests.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

page 6

Du—Fuut

Fr—Grèbe huppé

Ge—Haubentaucher

Sw—Skäggdopping

Identification: 19". Largest grebe. Easily identified by *blackish ear-tufts*, and, in breeding season, by *prominent chestnut and black frills* on sides of head. Appearance "tailless," with slender neck, grey-brown upper-parts and gleaming satiny-white under-parts. In winter, lacks



← RED-THROATED
DIVER
Partial migrant.
Vagrant south to
Medit. islands



GREAT CRESTED
GREBE →
Partial migrant

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DIVER
Partial migrant.
Vagrant south to
Medit. islands



GREAT CRESTED
GREBE →
Partial migrant

frills and looks white-headed, with dark crown and white stripe over eye; distinguished from Red-necked by larger size, thinner neck, less extensive dark crown, pink (not yellow and black) bill. Juvenile has black and white striped head and neck, without tufts or frills. Flight low, showing conspicuous white on wings, with head and neck low-hung. Has elaborate display ceremonials.

Voice: A barking "kar-arr," a shrill "er-wick" and various trumpeting, moaning and whirring noises.

Habitat: Lakes, gravel pits, reservoirs; winters also on coast. Breeds where vegetation provides anchorage, usually at water's edge. Map p 3.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps griseigena* page 6

Du—Roodhalsfuut Fr—Grèbe jougris
Ge—Rothalstaucher Sw—Gråhakedopping
N.Am—Holboell's Grebe

Identification: 17". A rather large grebe. Identified in summer by whitish cheeks contrasting with black crown (with small black ear-tufts), rich chestnut neck and bright yellow base to bill. Upper-parts grey-brown, under-parts silky-white. In winter looks grey and white, somewhat resembling winter Great Crested, but distinguished by smaller size, thicker, greyer neck and cheeks, lack of white eye-stripe, black crown extending to eye-level and yellow (not pink) on bill. See also winter Red-throated Diver.

Voice: A high "keck"; also a long, wailing, neighing "song."

Habitat: Winters mainly along coasts; breeds in reeds and overgrown pools and quiet waters. Map below.

HORNED or SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* page 6

Du—Kuifduiker Fr—Grèbe esclavon
Ge—Ohrentaucher Sw—Svarthakedoppiñg

Identification: 13". Larger than Little Grebe; smaller than Great Crested. In breeding plumage has large, glossy black head, with a broad golden stripe through eye, forming short ear-tufts, dark chestnut neck and flanks. Upper-parts dark, under-parts silky-white. Broad



← **RED-NECKED GREBE**

Partial migr. Has bred France, Holland. Vagrant w. to Ireland, Spain

HORNED GREBE →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant s. to Med. islands



white wing-bar conspicuous in flight. In winter, looks dark above and white below, like Black-necked, but distinguished by black crown ending sharply at eye-level, more extensive white on head and neck, and *straight* (not up-tilted) bill.

Voice: Has wide vocabulary when breeding; chief note a long, low trill.

Habitat: Ponds, lakes and river backwaters. Nests in inland shallows. Winters chiefly in sheltered bays and estuaries, but also on fresh water. Map p 4.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* page 6

Du—Geoorde fuut Fr—Grèbe à cou noir
Ge—Schwarzhalstaucher Sw—Svarthalsad dopping
N.Am—Eared Grebe

Identification: 12". Distinguished from Horned Grebe in breeding season by *black neck*. Has tuft of fan-shaped, *golden feathers* either side of head. Horned Grebe has flat top to head, Black-necked has *high black forehead and crown*. In winter looks chiefly dark above and white below, liked Horned, but distinguished by less sharply defined black crown *extending well below eyes to ear-coverts*; also by more slender, slightly up-tilted bill, and less white on sides of neck. Juvenile often has less tip-tilted bill and is doubtfully distinguishable from young Horned.

Voice: Call-note a quiet "poo-eep," also a loud, rapid chatter, usually in four-syllable phrases.

Habitat: As Horned Grebe. Breeds in small scattered groups in reedy shallows and ponds, lakes, lagoons. Winters on open lakes and along coasts. Map below.

LITTLE GREBE *Podiceps ruficollis* page 6

Du—Dodaars Fr—Grèbe castagneux
Ge—Zwergtaucher Sw—Smådopping

Identification: 10½". Smallest grebe. Blunt-ended and short-necked, with short, relatively stouter bill than other grebes. In summer, is



← BLACK-NECKED
GREBE
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Norway,
Finland



LITTLE GREBE →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Finland
(has bred), Nor-
way, Faeroes

GREBES AND DIVERS

- **HORNED (SLAVONIAN) GREBE** page 4
Summer: Buffish head tufts; rufous neck.
Winter: Black and white pattern; thin dark bill, black cap above eye.
- **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** 5
Summer: Buffish ear tufts, black neck.
Winter: Like Horned Grebe, but greyer neck, up-turned bill, black cap to below eye.
- **RED-NECKED GREBE** 4
Summer: Reddish neck, white chin and cheek.
Winter: Greyish neck, yellowish bill.
- **LITTLE GREBE** 5
Summer: Puffy, dark; light patch on bill.
Winter: Pale below. Identify by shape and bill.
- **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** 3
Summer: White neck, black "horns," rusty frill.
Winter: Satiny white; pinkish bill, white above eye.
- **RED-THROATED DIVER** 3
Summer: Grey head, dark red throat.
Winter: Pale colour; slender up-turned bill.
- **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** 1
Summer: Grey crown; back spots in patches.
Winter: Dark as Great Northern Diver; bill as slender as Red-throated, but not upturned.
- **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** 2
Summer: Black head, all-checked back, stout bill.
Winter: Dark back; stout straight bill.
- ▲ **WHITE-BILLED DIVER** 2
 Plumages like those of Great Northern Diver.
 Recognised by stout, whitish, upturned bill.



DIVERS IN FLIGHT are hunch-backed, with a slight downward sweep to the neck and the feet projecting behind.



HORNED GREBE



BLACK-NECKED GREBE



RED-NECKED GREBE



LITTLE GREBE



Summer



Winter

GREAT CRESTED GREBE



Summer



Winter

RED-THROATED DIVER

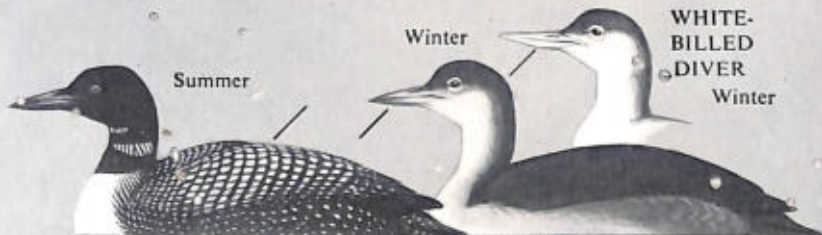


Summer



Winter

BLACK-THROATED DIVER



Summer

Winter

WHITE-BILLED DIVER

Winter

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

LEACH'S
PETREL



STORM
PETREL



WILSON'S
PETREL



Western
Mediterranean
form

FULMAR



FULMAR
Dark phase

Light phase



Atlantic
form

MANX
SHEARWATER



SOOTY
SHEARWATER



GREAT
SHEARWATER



CORY'S
SHEARWATER

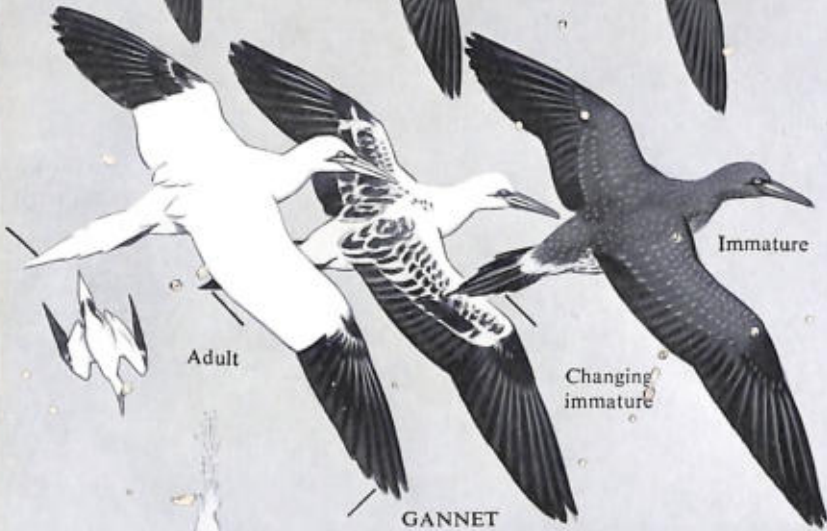


Immature

Adult

Changing
immature

GANNET



SEA BIRDS

PETRELS (little dark sea birds with white rump patches) are usually seen skimming or flitting low over the waves.

FULMARS AND SHEARWATERS fly with several flaps and a glide, banking on stiff sabre-like wings in the wave-troughs.

- LEACH'S PETREL page 8
White rump, forked tail.
- STORM PETREL 9
White rump, square-ended tail.
- △ WILSON'S PETREL 8
Differs from Storm by longer legs, yellowish feet.
- FULMAR 13
Bull-necked; stubby bill; stiff-winged, gliding flight.
Light phase: White head, light patch at base of primaries.
Dark phase: Smoky grey.
- MANX SHEARWATER 9
Black above, white below, no patch at base of tail.
Stiff winged flight.
- GREAT SHEARWATER 12
Black cap, white patch at base of tail.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER 12
No contrasting head pattern; yellow bill.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER 13
Dark body, shearwater flight distinguishes it from young skuas.
- GANNET 14
Adult: White; pointed tail, large black wing-tip.
Immature: Brown; pointed tail.
Changing immature: White patched with dark.

Other sea birds which spend most of their time flying: skuas (Plate 35), gull (Plates 37, 38), terns (Plates 39, 40, 41).

dark brown above, paler below, with *chestnut cheeks and throat*. Yellowish-green at base of bill makes *distinctive light spot* on dark head. Much paler in winter, with white throat and buffish neck. Juvenile has bold white streaks on side of head. Flight low and rapid, showing very little white on secondaries. Behaviour more skulking than other grebes, but flies more readily.

Voice: Call-note a loud, high whinneying trill, often prolonged, sometimes rising and falling; also a short "whit, whit."

Habitat: Frequents and breeds on ponds, lakes, reservoirs, backwaters, etc. Winters in estuaries, also inland. Map p 5.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS : Procellariidae

OCEANIC BIRDS, VISITING LAND ONLY WHEN BREEDING; distinguished by tube-like external nostrils. Storm Petrels are small, blackish birds with white rumps, flitting erratically over the waves. Shearwaters have slender bills, and are longer-bodied than the smaller Petrels; they bank and glide on long, narrow, stiff wings. Fulmars are stouter and more gull-like.

WILSON'S PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* page 7

Du—Wilson's stormvogeltje Fr—Pétrel océanite

Ge—Buntfüssige Sw—Havslöpare

Identification: 7". Very similar to Storm Petrel, but feet have *yellow webs* and extend *beyond* the short squarish tail. Follows ships. A wanderer from Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic breeding grounds, which in summer reaches the seas south-west of Ireland and the Bay of Biscay. Stragglers reach the British Isles. Vagrant to the Mediterranean.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* page 7

Du—Vaal stormvogeltje Fr—Pétrel cul-blanc

Ge—Wellenläufer Sw—Klykstjärtad stormsvala

Identification: 8". Distinguished from Storm Petrel by larger size, *forked tail*, longer wings and very distinctive *bounding flight*, constantly changing in speed and direction. Unlike Storm Petrel, *does not follow ships*. At short range, browner plumage, grey centre to white rump and pale band along wing-coverts are distinctive. Nocturnal at breeding grounds. See also Wilson's Petrel.

Voice: Normally silent, but at night on breeding grounds a rhythmic series of 8-9 gobbling notes "wick-a, wick-a, wi-hi-hi-i-hi." Long crooning notes heard from nest burrows.

Habitat: As Storm Petrel. Map p 9.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

page 7

Du—Stormvogeltje Fr—Pétrel tempête
Ge—Sturmschwalbe Sw—Stormsvala

Identification: 6". Smallest European sea-bird. A long-winged blackish bird with a *conspicuous white rump* and a *squared black tail*. Usually *seen following ships* well out from land, with weak flitting flight just above waves, at times "runzng" briefly on surface with dangling black feet. Nocturnal on land. Distinguished from Leach's Petrel by blacker coloration, smaller size, squared tail and weak, bat-like flight. Rare Wilson's Petrel (which also follows ships habitually) has longer legs and yellow feet, which extend beyond tail.

Voice: Makes sustained purring noise in nest burrow, terminating with characteristic "hiccough"; also has several squeaking and crooning notes.
Habitat: Strictly pelagic, except in breeding season. Nests colonially under rocks, in stone walls, peat burrows, etc., on islands. Map below.

MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus*

page 7

Du—Noordse pijlstormvogel Fr—Puffin des Anglais
Ge—Schwarzschnabel-Sturmtaucher Sw—Mindre lira

Identification: 14". Distinguished from other shearwaters by *sharply contrasting sooty-black upper-parts, and pure white under-parts*. Bill slender. Usually seen in scattered groups, gliding on stiff wings with occasional wing-beats. Veers from side to side to follow wave contours, showing alternate black and white. Does not follow ships. Swims occasionally, flocks congregating on water at evening near breeding grounds. Nocturnal at breeding grounds. Above description refers to Atlantic *P. p. puffinus* and E. Mediterranean *P. p. yelkouan* races. W. Mediterranean (Balearic) race *P. p. mauretanicus* is browner and less contrasted; individuals with dark under-parts may be mistaken for Sooty Shearwater, paler individuals for Cory's, but Manx is much smaller and slimmer than both.

Voice: Various crooning and crowing notes at breeding grounds.

Habitat: Off-shore waters rather than pelagic. Breeds locally in dense colonies in burrows, on islands and cliff-tops. Map p 12.



← LEACH'S PETREL
Summer vis. within
black line. Vag. e.
to Sicily, Finland,
Austria. Has bred
Ireland



→ STORM PETREL →
Black line encloses
nesting areas. Par-
tial migrant. Va-
grant inland and E.
Mediterranean

LONG-LEGGED MARSH BIRDS (Bitterns, Herons, Cranes)

- BITTERN page 26
Tawny-brown; barred and mottled. Bill often pointed upwards.
- AMERICAN BITTERN 26
Smaller than Bittern; more streaked, less barred. Conspicuous black neck patch.
- LITTLE BITTERN 25
Very small; large creamy wing area.
Male: Black back. *Female:* Brown back.
Juvenile: Brownish; streaked, buffish wings.
- NIGHT HERON 25
Adult: White breast, black back, black crown.
Immature: Brown; whitish spots on back and wings.
- HERON 20
Large, pale grey.
- PURPLE HERON 21
Darker, more slender than Heron; rufous neck. Crown entirely black. Immature sandier.
- CRANE 101
Black and white neck stripes; drooping feathers over tail.
- DEMOISELLE CRANE 104
Smaller than Crane; black breast, white head tufts.



HERONS (including bitterns and egrets) fly with their necks tucked back to their shoulders; Cranes and all other large long-legged marsh birds fly with their necks extended.



BITTERN



AMERICAN BITTERN

NIGHT HERON



Juv

LITTLE BITTERN



Juv



Adult

NIGHT HERON



Adult

Juv



PURPLE HERON

Adult



HERON



CRANE

DEMOISELLE CRANE

Breeding



LITTLE EGRET

Breeding



GREAT WHITE HERON

Breeding



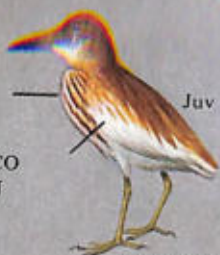
CATTLE EGRET

Adult



SQUACCO HERON

Juv



SQUACCO HERON

SPOONBILL



Adult

Juv



GLOSSY IBIS

FLAMINGO



WHITE STORK



BLACK STORK



LONG-LEGGED MARSH BIRDS

(Hérons, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Flamingo, Storks)

- Δ **LITTLE EGRET** page 21
 Small, white; yellow feet, slender black bill.
- Δ **GREAT WHITE HERON** 24
 Large, white; blackish feet, yellow on bill.
- Δ **CATTLE EGRET** 24
 Buffish plumes; heavy "jowl," reddish legs and bill.
Buffish plumes lost after breeding; bill and legs may then be yellowish or dusky.
- Δ **SQUACCO HERON** 24
Adult: Buffish back; greenish legs; bill blue and black, or in winter dusky greenish.
Juvenile: Striped breast; white wings.
- **SPOONBILL** 28
Adult: White; long, black, spatulate bill.
Juvenile: Pinkish spatulate bill, black wing-tips.
- **GLOSSY IBIS** 28
 Dark glossy body, decurved bill.
- **FLAMINGO** 29
 Bright crimson on wings, very long neck and legs.
- **WHITE STORK** 27
 White, with black on wings, red bill.
- **BLACK STORK** 27
 Black, with white belly, red bill.



WHITE STORK



FLAMINGO



BLACK STORK

GREAT SHEARWATER *Procellaria gravis*

page 7

Du—Grote pijlstormvogel

Fr—Puffin majeur

Ge—Grosser Sturmtaucher

Sw—Större lira

Identification: 18". Distinguished by *dark cap*, sharply contrasting with pure white throat, almost complete *white collar*, and *dark bill*. *Narrow white "V" at base of tail*. Upper-parts dark brown, under-parts white, with indistinctly spotted flanks and dark patch on belly. Under surfaces of wings less white than Cory's. During moult shows white line along centre of upper surface of wing. Behaviour and flight as Manx; latter is much smaller, blacker above and lacks white "V." See also Cory's.

Voice: Feeding notes raucous and gull-like.

Habitat and Range: Pelagic, occasionally off-shore. Passage migrant. Breeds in burrows on Tristan da Cunha islands, in S. Atlantic, visiting western N. Atlantic (Iceland to Portugal) in autumn. Vagrant in North Sea, also in Mediterranean east to Sardinia.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Procellaria diomedea*

page 7

Du—Cory's pijlstormvogel

Fr—Puffin cendré

Ge—Gelbschnabel-Sturmtaucher

Sw—Kuhls lira

Identification: 18". A large greyish shearwater. Distinguished from Great by *grey-brown hood* (not black cap) *merging gradually* into white throat. Bill is *yellow*. Sometimes shows narrow white "V" at base of tail, as in Great, but more often this is indistinct or lacking. *Never has white collar*. Under-parts pure white, without dark smudges on flanks and belly which occur in Great. Nocturnal at breeding grounds. See also Manx Shearwater.

Voice: On breeding grounds, a long wailing note and a gull-like "ia-gowa-gow."

Habitat: Pelagic, occasionally off-shore. Breeds socially in crevices among rocks on islands in Mediterranean and Berlengas (Portugal). Mainly resident in Mediterranean. Reaches Britain, Faeroes. Vagrant in North Sea, and inland to Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Austria. Map below.



← MANX SHEAR-
WATER

Partial migrant.
Vagrant or passage
North Sea coasts,
Portugal; also Bul-
garia, Switzerland,
Sweden

CORY'S SHEAR-
WATER →

Black line marks
N. limit of nesting
area in Medit.



SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procella^aia grisea*

page 7

Du—Grauwe pijlstormvogel Fr—Puffin fuligineux

Ge—Dunkler Sturmtaucher Sw—Grå lira

Identification: 16". Looks all-black at a distance, gliding close to waves in typical shearwater fashion. Often associates with Great Shearwater and has similar behaviour. Distinguished from all other shearwaters (except dark example of W. Mediterranean race of Manx *P. p. maur^etanicus*) by *uniform sooty plumage*. Under-surfaces of wings have pale areas, usually in form of indistinct whitish stripe along centre of wing. See also dark form of Fulmar and of W. Mediterranean race of Manx. Silent at sea.

Habitat and Range: Pelagic and off-shore in summer. Breeds in burrows on islands in southern hemisphere. In autumn visits W. Atlantic, N. to Iceland and Norway. Vagrant to southern North Sea and English Channel.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

page 7

Du—Noordse stormvogel Fr—Pétrel glacial

Ge—Eissturmvogel Sw—Stormfågel

Identification: 18½". Slightly larger than Kittiwake. Gull-like in appearance, but is stubbier, with typical shearwater flight, gliding and banking on stiff wings, close to waves. Distinguished from gulls by *thick bull-neck, and lack of black tips to narrow wings*. Bill yellow, thick and short, with "tubed" nostrils. Legs bluish. In light phase head and under-parts are white; back, wings and tail grey; wings have pale patch at base of primaries. In dark northern phase (so-called "Blue Fulmar") plumage is smoky grey, with darker wing-tips; much too pale and too stubby-billed to be mistaken for slender-billed Sooty Shearwater. Follows trawlers. Swims buoyantly, rising from water with some difficulty. On land shuffles on tarsi, sometimes aided by wings; may rise on feet briefly. Common on all northern waters, often in vast numbers.

Voice: Usual note a hoarse chuckling or grunting "ag-ag-ag-arr."

Habitat: Strictly pelagic. Breeds colonially on oceanic cliffs and islands; locally on inland cliffs and grassy hill-sides. Map below.



← FULMAR

Winter at sea from Arctic to dotted line. Vag. Finland, Czechoslo., Switzerland, Portugal

GANNET →

Partial mig. Black line encloses nest colonies. Vag. E. Med., Baltic to Finland



GANNETS : Sulidae

GANNET *Sula bassana*

page 7

Du—Jan van Gent

Fr—Fou de Bassan

Ge—Basstölpel

Sw—Havssula

Identification: 36". A goose-size white sea-bird, identified by *extensive black tips to long, narrow wings*. Twice the size of Herring Gull, with *much longer neck and larger, pointed bill* often pointing downward, and *pointed tail* (not fan-shaped). Immature is dusky, closely speckled with white, or boldly pied blackish-brown and white, according to age, but easily identified by characteristic actions and by "cigar-shaped" body. Direct flight usually low, with brief periods of gliding, but wheels majestically when feeding. Plunges headlong after fish, sometimes from 100 ft. or more. (Gulls sometimes drop into sea for food, but Gannet's submerging plunge is spectacular.)

Voice: Usual note a barking "arrah."

Habitat: Strictly maritime, often seen far out to sea. Breeds in dense colonies on ledges of steep rocky island cliffs. Map p 13.

CORMORANTS : Phalacrocoracidae

LARGE, LONG-BILLED DARK WATER-BIRDS, larger (except Pygmy Cormorant) than any duck. Sometimes confused with divers, but tail longer and bill hook-tipped. In flight, neck held slightly above horizontal (divers' necks droop slightly). Flocks usually fly in line or "V" formation, like geese. Often perch on isolated rocks, with wings half open. When swimming, resemble divers, but with necks more erect; bills tilted slightly upward.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

page 15

Du—Aalscholver

Fr—Grand Cormoran

Ge—Kormoran

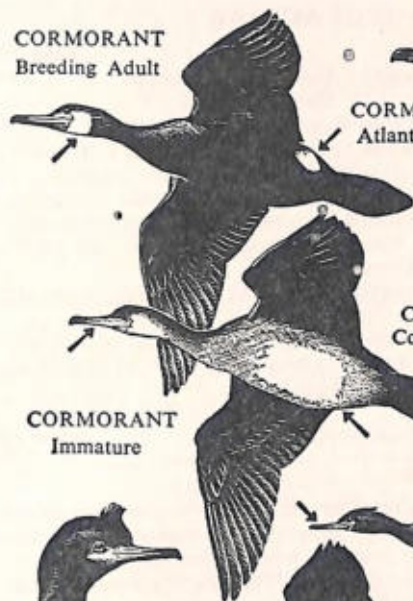
Sw—Storskarv

Identification: 36". A large blackish water bird, easily confused with Shag, but distinguished by larger size, *white chin and cheeks* and, in breeding birds, by *white patch on thighs*, and lack of crest. Juvenile brownish above, distinguished from young Shag by *whitish under-parts* and heavier bill. Perches *upright* on rocks, often with wings hanging half open. Swims low in water like diver, but with neck more erect; bill slightly raised. Flight fairly rapid and direct, neck extended and slightly above horizontal; parties usually fly in line or "V" formation. Sociable. In breeding season *P. c. sinensis* (Continent, except Norway) usually has almost completely white head and neck.

Voice: Usual note a low, guttural "r-rah."

Habitat: Coasts, estuaries, coastal lakes, occasionally inland waters. Breeds colonially, sometimes near Shags, on rocky ledges, also on inland lake islands and trees. Map p 16.

CORMORANT
Breeding Adult



CORMORANT
Atlantic Form



Adult

CORMORANT
Continental Form



CORMORANT
Immature



Adult



Adult



SHAG
Immature



SHAG
Adult



Adult

PYGMY
CORMORANT



• Cormorants and Shags (above) stand upright, often hold a 'spread-eagle' pose. They swim low in the water with bill pointed slightly upward

THE CORMORANTS

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

page 15

Du—Gekuiſde aalscholver

Fr—Cormoran huppé

Ge—Krähenscharbe

Sw—Toppskarv

Identification: 30". Smaller than Cormorant. Distinguished by *lack of white on face*; also lacks white thigh-patch of breeding Cormorant; at short range by *green-black* instead of bronze-black plumage; in breeding season has *short, up-standing crest*. Eyes pale blue-green. Immature distinguished from young Cormorant by dark brown plumage with *little, if any, white on breast*; bill is more slender than adult's and much finer than young Cormorant's.

Voice: Usual note a loud, rasping croak. At nest, a deep grunt and loud hissing.

Habitat: Strictly maritime, frequenting rocky coasts and islands with steep cliffs and sea-caves. Breeds colonially (sometimes singly) on rocky ledges and among boulders. Map below.

PYGMY CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*

page 15

Du—Dwergaalscholver

Fr—Cormoran pygmée

Ge—Zwergscharbe

Sw—Dvärgskarv

Identification: 19". Very much smaller and more active than Cormorant, but similar in shape, attitudes and behaviour. In summer, both sexes have *dark red-brown head*, glossy greenish-black plumage, *conspicuously spotted with white*, except for dark grey "saddle" across centre of back and wing-coverts. Outside breeding season white spots are absent, throat is white, breast red-brown. Juvenile has white chin, brown throat and breast, brownish-white under-parts and yellowish bill. See also Shag.

Habitat: Prefers inland waters, including rivers and marshes, to sea-coast. Breeds colonially, building untidy nest on bushes in marsh. Map p 17.



← CORMORANT
Mainly res. Winter
all coasts except
E. Baltic. Passage
central Europe.
Breeds S.E. Sweden



SHAG →
Mainly resident.
Vagrant inland,
Sweden, Denmark,
Holland, Belgium



Left: wing of White Pelican seen from above and below.
 Right: wing of Dalmatian Pelican, from above and below.

PELICANS : Pelecanidae

WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Du—Gewone pelikaan

Fr—Pélican blanc

Ge—Rosapelikan

Sw—Pelikan

Identification: 55-70". Huge wing-span. *White, with blackish primaries, long yellowish bill and throat-pouch and flesh-coloured feet.* In breeding plumage both sexes have short, shaggy crest on back of head and rosy tint on plumage. At short range, yellowish tuft of feathers at base of neck, and red eye are visible. Juvenile brown, becoming dingy white irregularly speckled with brown. Flight leisurely, with short periods of gliding, head carried well back on shoulders. Flies in regular lines, often at great height. Shows black wing-tips above, whole rear-edges of wings dark below. Snow Goose and Gannet are also white with black wing-tips, but former is much smaller and both extend neck; latter has narrower, angular, pointed wings and longer, pointed tail; Dalmatian Pelican seen from below shows no black on wings.

Habitat and Range: Large inland waters, marshes and shallow coastal lagoons. Nests colonially among reeds. Breeds Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece in winter. Accidental W. to Sweden, Germany, Spain.



← PYGMY
 CORMORANT
*Partial migrant.
 Vagrant n. and w.
 to Sweden, Den-
 mark, France,
 Italy*



DALMATIAN
 PELICAN →
*Partial migrant.
 Vag. cent. Europe,
 Med. w. to Spain*

SWANS AND GEESE

- **BEWICK'S SWAN** page 61
Adult: Base of bill yellow.
Immature: Dingy; bill dull flesh to base.
- **WHOOPER SWAN** 60
Adult: Yellow on bill more extensive, forming point.
Immature: Larger than Bewick's, longer neck.
- **MUTE SWAN** 60
Adult: Bill orange, with knob.
Immature: Bill flesh, black at base.
- **SNOW GOOSE** 57
Adult: White, with black wing tips.
Immature: Dingier; bill dark.
- **BARNACLE GOOSE** 58
 Black chest and neck, white face.
- **CANADA GOOSE** 59
 Black neck, light chest, white cheek-patch.
- **BRENT GOOSE** 58
 Black chest and neck, small white neck-spot.
 Immature birds lack the neck-spot.
Dark-bellied form: Dark under-parts.
 In Britain, mainly East and South coasts.
Pale-bellied form: Light under-parts.
 In Britain, mainly West, especially Ireland.
- ▲ **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** 59
 Chestnut breast, broad white flank-stripe, head pattern.



BEWICK'S

WHOOPER

MUTE



MUTE SWAN

WHOOPER SWAN
BEWICK'S SWAN



Adult

SNOW
GOOSE

BARNACLE

GOOSE

CANADA

GOOSE



Light-bellied
form

BRENT GOOSE

Dark-bellied
form

RED-BREASTED
GOOSE



Juv

Greenland form

LESSER
WHITE-
FRONTED

BEAN

Adult

Juv

WHITE-FRONTED
GOOSE

GREENLAND
WHITE-FRONTED
GOOSE

BEAN GOOSE

LESSER
WHITE-FRONTED
GOOSE

Eastern form

Western form

PINK-FOOTED
GOOSE

GREY-LAG
GOOSE



Western

Eastern

PINK-FOOTED

GREY-LAG

GREY GEESE

THE BEST PLACE in Europe to study geese is the New Grounds of the Wildfowl Trust, at Slimbridge. Captive examples of all birds shown on this plate can be studied there and during winter many can be seen in a wild state. The Director of the Trust, Peter Scott, has guided the preparation of the Goose plates.

Grey Geese with ORANGE Legs

- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE page 53
Pink bill with white patch around base; black blotches on belly.

- GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE 53
A subspecies; winters mostly in Ireland and western Scotland.
Darker; bill yellow.

- LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE 53
Smaller; stubby bill, *yellow ring* around eye. White more extensive on forehead. A distinct species.

- BEAN GOOSE 56
Bill yellow with black markings, but variable.

Grey Geese with PINK Legs

- PINK-FOOTED GOOSE 57
Small; dark neck, bill black and pink.

- GREY LAG GOOSE 52
Large and pale; bill has no black.

- WESTERN GREY LAG 52
(The subspecies occurring in Britain).
Darker; orange-yellow bill.

- EASTERN GREY LAG 52
Paler, with broad, light feather edges; pink bill.

DALMATIAN PELICAN *Pelecanus crispus*

Du—Kroeskoppelikaan

Fr—Pélican frisé

Ge—Krauskopfpelikan

Sw—Krushuvad pelikan

Identification: Difficult to distinguish from White Pelican except in flight; ranges overlap. Size usually slightly larger. At short range upper-parts look *silvery white* (instead of faintly rose-white); under-parts *dull greyish-white* with large yellowish patch (not tufted) on lower throat; bill-pouch more orange; primaries dark brown; legs *lead grey* (not flesh); feathers on back of head only slightly elongated and curly (not shaggy or crested); eye pale yellowish (not red). Juvenile resembles young White Pelican, distinguishable only at short range by feathers on forehead ending in nearly straight line, instead of in a point (adults have similar distinction). In flight shows dark secondaries and black wing-tips above, *all white below*. Map p 17.

HERONS AND BITTERNS : Ardeidae

STORK-LIKE WADING BIRDS WITH LONG NECKS, long legs and longish pointed bills. In sustained flight, heads are tucked back on shoulders.

HERON *Ardea cinerea*

page 10

Du—Blauwe reiger

Fr—Héron cendré

Ge—Fischreiher

Sw—Grå häger

Identification: 36". Distinguished from other herons by *large size, grey upper-parts, white head and neck with broad black streak from eye to tip of long, graceful crest.* Long, dagger-shaped bill is yellowish, legs brownish. Stands motionless for long periods in or near water, with long neck erect, or head sunk between shoulders; also perches in trees. Flight powerful, with slow, deep wing-beats; flight silhouette is distinctive, with *head back between shoulders* and legs extended.

Voice: A deep, harsh "*frank*." Numerous croaking and retching notes and bill-snapping in breeding season.

Habitat: Water meadows, rivers, lakes, sea-shores. Nests in colonies, usually in tall trees. Map below.



← HERON
Partial migrant



PURPLE HERON →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Germany, Switzerland.
Vag. n. to Britain, Scandinavia

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* *

page 10

Du—Purperreiger

Fr—Héron pourpré

Ge—Purpurreiher

Sw—Purpurhäger

Identification: 31". Distinguished from common Heron by smaller size, much darker coloration, and, when perched, by much more serpentine appearance. Upper-parts and wings dark grey, with elongated chestnut feathers drooping from rump; crown and crest black; *very long thin chestnut neck boldly striped black*; centre of breast chestnut, rest of under-parts black. Immature is sandier, with chestnut crown, no black on head or neck, and buffish under-parts. In flight, neck bulges lower, and feet look larger than in Heron; latter shows more contrasted wing-pattern. Seldom in trees.

Voice: Similar to Heron's "*frank*," but is seldom vocal.

Habitat: Swamps, overgrown ditches, dense reed-beds, etc. Breeds in colonies, sometimes with other species, in reed-beds, occasionally in bushes. Map p 20.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

page 11

Du—Kleine silverreiger

Fr—Aigrette garzette

Ge—Seidenreiher

Sw—Silkeshäger

Identification: 22". A small snow-white heron with black bill, black legs and *yellow feet*, latter conspicuous in flight. (Great White Heron is much larger, with yellow bill in winter, and black feet; Cattle Egret and Squacco both look white in distance, but they are much stockier, thicker-necked birds). In summer, adults have *very long, drooping crest* and greatly elongated scapulars, forming hazy drooping "cloak." Flight resembles Great White's, but wings look shorter and more rounded. Feeds in open in shallow water, *not among grazing cattle* like Cattle Egret.

Voice: In breeding season, a croaking "*kark*" and a bubbling "*wulla-wulla-wulla*."

Habitat: Marshes, lagbons, swamps. Nests in colonies, often with other herons, in bushes or trees, in wet marsh, swamps, dry open country and woods. Map below.

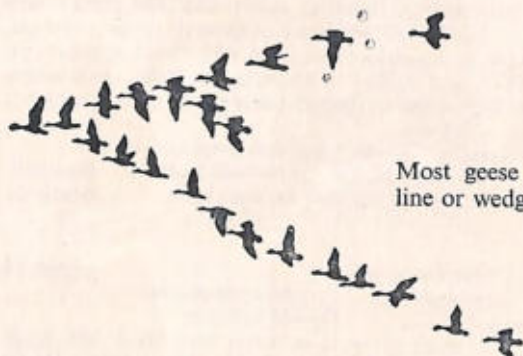


← LITTLE EGRET
Partial migrant.
Vagrant n. to Brit.
Is., Holland, Baltic
Provinces

GREAT WHITE
HERON →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Czecho.
Vagrant to Sweden,
Britain, Balearics



GEESE AND SWANS IN FLIGHT



- BRENT GOOSE page 58
 Small; black chest, neck and head.
Pale-bellied form: Light under-parts.
Dark-bellied form: Dark under-parts.

- BARNACLE GOOSE 58
 Black chest and neck, white face.

- CANADA GOOSE 59
 Black neck "stocking," light chest, white throat patch.

- WHOOPER SWAN 60
 All white; very long neck.
 Bewick's Swan is smaller, shorter-necked.

- MUTE-SWAN 60
 *Knob on forehead.
 Wings make "singing" sound in flight.

- SNOW GOOSE 57
 White; black primaries.

BRENT GOOSE

Light-bellied form

Dark-bellied form

below

BARNACLE
GOOSE

above

above

CANADA GOOSE

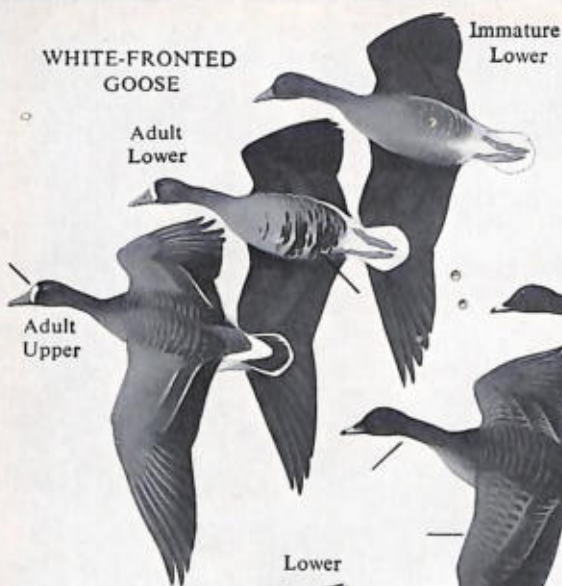
WHOOPER SWAN

MUTE SWAN

SNOW GOOSE



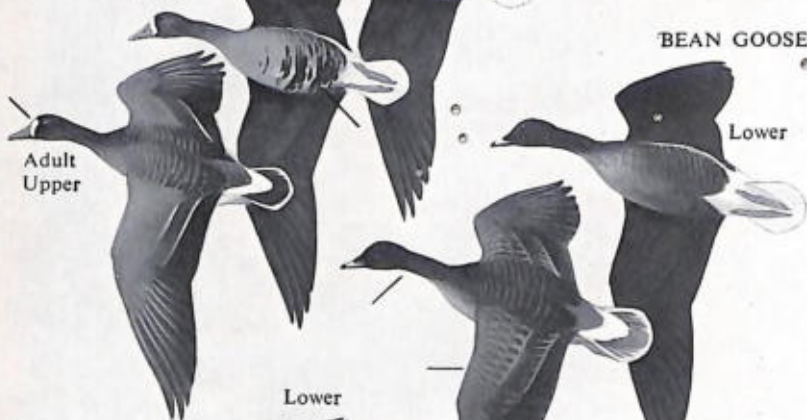
WHITE-FRONTED
GOOSE



Immature
Lower

Adult
Lower

BEAN GOOSE



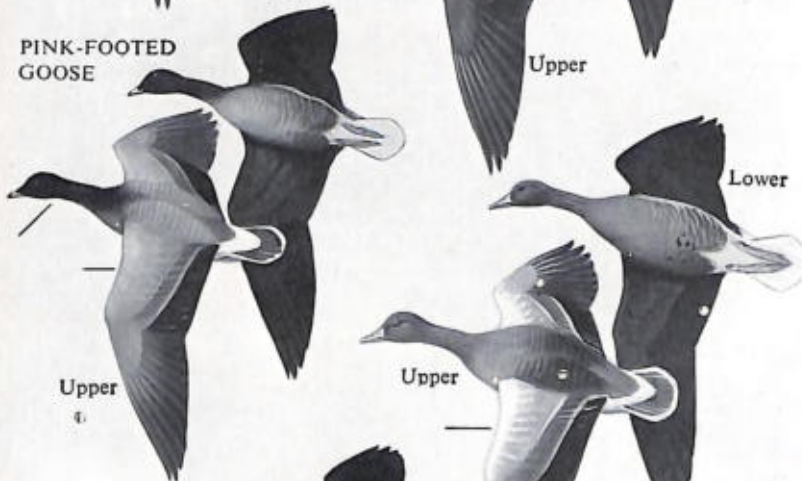
Adult
Upper

Lower

Lower

Upper

PINK-FOOTED
GOOSE



Lower

Upper

Upper

GREY-LAG GOOSE



Lower

RED-BREASTED
GOOSE

CHIEFLY GREY GEESE, IN FLIGHT

FOR THE MOST PART, the grey geese on the wing all look very similar and it requires much experience to separate them at a distance. Their voices (below) are the best clue. At close range the bill and leg colours as shown on Plate 6 are distinctive.

● WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

page 53

Adult shows black blotches on breast.

At close range, orange legs, pink bill, white forehead.

Greenland Whitefront has yellow bill.

Voice: Musical, high-pitched, usually disyllabic, sometimes trisyllabic. "Kow-lyow" or "lyo-lyok," etc.

● BEAN GOOSE

56

Dark; orange feet, black and yellow bill.

Voice: Reedy and bassoon-like "ung-unk," not unlike lower notes of Pink-foot. Relatively silent.

● PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

57

Pale body, very dark neck, pink feet.

Voice: Musical "ung-unk," higher than Bean. Sometimes "king-wink," or often repeated "wink-wink-wink."

● GREY LAG GOOSE

52

Rather large; pale head, pale fore-edge of wing.

Voice: "aahng-ung-ung," or "gaahnk," very like farmyard goose.

△ RED-BREASTED GOOSE

59

Black belly, rufous chest, white stripes.

GREAT WHITE HERON *Egretta alba* page 11

Du—Grote zilverreiger Fr—Grande aigrette

Ge—Silberreiher Sw—Vit häger

N.Am—American Egret

Identification: 35". Much larger than Little Egret (which also has dazzling white plumage) but is distinguished by slimmer shape and absence of real crest. Bill black with yellow base in summer, all-yellow in winter. Scapulars greatly elongated in breeding season to form hazy, drooping "cloak" extending below tail. Legs and feet blackish (Little Egret's feet are yellow). Squacco and Cattle Egret, which look white in distant flight, are much smaller and stockier.

Voice: Has occasional croaking note.

Habitat: Lake and river banks, open swamps, lagoons. Nests in dense reed-beds, usually colonially, rarely in bushes or trees. Map p 21.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* page 11

Du—Ralreiger Fr—Héron crabier

Ge—Rallenreiher Sw—Rallhäger

Identification: 18". Stocky and thick-necked, with pale buff plumage, white wings; long, drooping crest. Bill black and blue when breeding, dark-tipped greenish in winter. Legs greenish. In distant flight conspicuous white wings and tail can cause confusion with Little or Cattle Egrets: at close range darker back and head are distinctive. Winter plumage browner. More crepuscular and skulking than Little Egret. Usually solitary.

Voice: In breeding season a harsh, crow-like "karr," usually at dusk.

Habitat: As Little Egret, though less often in open. Nests singly, or in scattered groups, among allied species, in reed-beds, bushes, trees. Map p 25.

CATTLE EGRET or BUFF-BACKED HERON *Ardeola ibis* page 11

Du—Koreiger Fr—Héron garde-bœuf

Ge—Kuhreiher Sw—Köhäger

Identification: 20". Looks white in distance. Slightly smaller, much stockier and thicker-necked than Little Egret, with which it often nests. Distinguished at short range by long buff tufts on crown, throat and mantle; in winter, buff is very pale. When breeding the bill is yellow with a red base, legs reddish; in winter the bill is yellowish, legs yellowish or dusky. Eye is reddish. Heavy jowl is distinctive. Juvenile lacks buff tufts, has yellow bill, greenish-brown legs. Flight and actions like Little Egret. Sociable. Unlike Little Egret, usually feeds among grazing cattle. Easily confused with Squacco, which has longer, dark-tipped bill and darker upper-parts.

Voice: A variety of croaking notes in breeding season.

Habitat and Range: Less aquatic than most herons. Usually among feeding cattle in meadows, marshes, or in dry open country. Nests colonially, often with allied species, in reed-beds, bushes, or trees, over water or on dry land. Resident S. Spain, S. Portugal. Vagrant to rest of Mediterranean, Britain, Denmark, Hungary, Balkans.

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

page 10

Du—Kwak

Fr—Héron bicolore

Ge—Nachtreiher

Sw—Natthäger

Identification: 24". A stocky, rather short-legged heron. Adult is black-backed and pale below, with a black cap, long drooping white crest, red eyes, and stout bill. Legs yellowish (pinkish in breeding season). Immature dark brown above, boldly spotted with buff; no crest; in back light may be confused with much larger Bittern, but latter has mottled golden-brown plumage. Has stumpy silhouette in flight. Crepuscular, except in breeding season. Usually spends day hidden and inactive, often in trees, flying to feed at dusk.

Voice: A hoarse "guark," or "guok," usually at dusk.

Habitat: Dense tangled swamps, overgrown river banks, marshes with trees; feeds at dusk in drains, at edges of pools, or in open marshes. Nests colonially, often with allied species, in thickets, trees, locally also in reed-beds. Map below.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

page 10

Du—Woudaapje

Fr—Blongios nain

Ge—Zwergrohrdommel

Sw—Dvärgöröddrom

Identification: 14". Distinguished from other small herons by very small size, dark crown and upper-parts, very conspicuous buffish-white wing-coverts and under-parts. Male's crown and back are greenish-black. Female is streaky dark brown above, streaky buff below, with less conspicuous buff wing-coverts. Bill yellowish (red at base when breeding). Legs green. Juvenile heavily streaked above and below. Flight usually very low, with rapid wing-beats and long glides. In flight pale coverts contrast strongly with dark wings and back. Skulking and chiefly crepuscular except in breeding season.

Voice: A variety of short croaking notes. Song (day or night) a deep croak, repeated at about 2 seconds interval, sometimes for hours.

Habitat: Overgrown river banks, backwaters, ponds, wooded swamps, reed-beds. Nests near water, occasionally in small scattered groups. Map p 26.



← SQUACCO HERON

Summer visitor.
Annual Switzerland.
Vagrant n. to Brit. Is., Denmark

NIGHT HERON →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Germany.
Vag. n. to Brit. Is.,
Faeroes, Scandinavia, Finland



BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* ◊

page 10

Du—Roerdomp

Fr—Butor étoilé

Ge—Grosse Rohrdommel

Sw—Rördrom

Identification: 30". A large, brown, heron-like marsh bird, *richly mottled and barred*, with large green legs and feet and *distinctive voice*. When hiding bill is pointed vertically in characteristic elongated pose; walks with shoulders hunched, head lowered. Flight slow and reluctant, neck retracted when well under way; broad rounded wings *distinctively barred black and brown*. Skulking, solitary and usually crepuscular, hiding in reeds by day. Can be confused with immature Night Heron, which is much smaller and spotted. See also American Bittern.

Voice: A harsh "aark." Song, 2-3 quiet grunting notes, an audible intake of breath, followed by a deep, booming "woomp," sometimes audible for a mile.

Habitat: Dense reed-beds in fens, marshes, backwaters, lake shores. Nests among reeds. On Continent sometimes nests around small ponds in cultivated regions. Map below.

AMERICAN BITTERN *Botaurus lentiginosus*

page 10

Identification: 26". Distinguished from European Bittern by *smaller size*, finely freckled upper-parts (not boldly mottled and streaked), *black-tipped wings* (not barred black and brown), *chestnut crown* and *long black streak down side of neck*. Behaviour and flight are similar to European, but is more likely to be seen in open meadows. Immature Night Heron is about same size, but is greyer, without the black wing-tips.

Voice: When flushed, a rapid, throaty "kok-kok-kok."

Habitat and Range: As European species. Vagrant to Britain, Channel Isles, Ireland, Faeroes, Iceland.



← **LITTLE BITTERN**
Summer visitor,
occas. winter. Vag-
rant n. to Brit. Is.,
Iceland, Finland

BITTERN →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Ireland,
Iceland, Norway



STORKS : Ciconiidae

LARGE, LONG-LEGGED, SOMEWHAT HERON-LIKE BIRDS, with long, straight bills. Flight slow and deliberate, with *neck extended* but slightly drooped. Gait a sedate walk. Sexes similar. Juveniles browner.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* °

page 11

Du—Ooievaar

Fr—Cigogne blanche

Ge—Weisser Storch

Sw—Vit stork

Identification: 40". Easily identified by *large size*, white plumage with *jet-black flight feathers* and long, *bright red bill and legs*. Perches on trees and buildings, often on one leg. Walks deliberately. Often soars or flies at great height. Wing-beats are slow. Flight silhouette distinguished from heron's and vulture's by long, *extended neck*. Migrates in irregular flocks, *not* in regular formations. Sociable. See also immature Spoonbill.

Voice: Occasional hissing and coughing notes during breeding season; loud, rhythmic bill-clattering frequent during display.

Habitat: Marshes, water-meadows and grassy plains; in breeding season usually near houses. Nests on buildings, haystacks, or stork-poles, also in trees. Map below.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

page 11

Du—Zwarte ooievaar

Fr—Cigogne noire

Ge—Schwarzer Storch

Sw—Svart stork

Identification: 38". Distinguished from *White Stork* by *glossy black plumage*, with *white under-parts*. Almost always shy and solitary.

Voice: Has considerable range, varying from a hoarse gasping, to a noise like sharpening a saw, and several quite musical notes. Bill-clattering less frequent than with *White Stork*.

Habitat: Wild marshy tracts or meadows among coniferous or mixed forests. Nests at considerable height in forest trees. Map below.

← **WHITE STORK**

Mainly summer vis; some winter Spain, Portugal. Vag. Brit. Is., Norway, Finland

BLACK STORK →

Summer visitor. Bred Denmark, Sweden. Vag. n. to England, Norway, Finland



SPOONBILLS, IBISES: Threskiornithidae

RESEMBLE SMALL STORKS OR HERONS IN GENERAL FORM, but with long, decurved, or flattened and spatulate bills.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

page 11

Du—Lepelaar

Fr—Spatule blanche

Ge—Löffler

Sw—Skedstork

Identification: 34". Easily identified by *snow-white plumage and long, spatulate bill*. Adults have ochre tinge at base of neck and, in summer, a *bushy crest*. Legs and bill black, latter with yellow tip. Immature has black tips to wings, no ochre on neck, pinkish bill and yellowish to greyish legs. Flight regular and slow, gliding and soaring on extended wings; parties usually in file. Distinguished in flight from all "white" herons by *extended, slightly sagging neck and spatulate bill*. **Voice:** Occasional grunting noise in breeding season. Bill-clattering occurs when excited.

Habitat: Shallow, open water, reedy marshes, estuaries. Breeds in colonies in large reed-beds, on small bare islands, locally in trees or bushes. Map below.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

page 11

Du—Ibis

Fr—Ibis falcinelle

Ge—Brauner Sichler

Sw—Svart ibis

Identification: 22". Curlew-shaped, but has *uniform, almost black plumage*. At close range plumage is glossed with purple, bronze and green. Immature is *dull dark brown*. Flight silhouette is distinctive, with *rounded wings, extended neck and legs*. Wing-beats rapid, with long glides. Perches freely on trees. Has infrequent, long croak.

Habitat: Marshes, mud-flats. Breeds in colonies, frequently with herons or egrets, in large reed-beds among shallow water, occasionally in bushes or trees. Map below



← SPOONBILL

Summer vis. Ered
Denmark, Czecho.
Annual Britain
(has wintered).
Vag. n. to Faeroes,
Finland, Ireland

GLOSSY IBIS →
Summer vis. Wintered, bred, Portugal.
Vag. n. to Brit. Is., Iceland, Scand.



FLAMINGOS : Phoenicopteridae

FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus ruber*

page 11

Du—Ge—Sw—Flamingo Fr—Flamant rose

Identification: 50". Unmistakable. An extremely slender, white and rose-pink wading bird, with *abnormally long legs and neck and grotesque down-curved bill*. In flight, *neck and legs are extended* and slightly drooped, wings show magnificent combination of *crimson and black*. Immature is dingy grey-brown. Walks sedately, dipping bill or head in shallow water to feed. Strictly gregarious.

Voice: A goose-like gabble and many trumpeting cries, "ar-honk," etc., particularly in flight.

Habitat and Range: Shallow coastal lagoons, or flood waters, lakes, mudflats, etc. Breeds colonially on mud banks, or in shallow water, building mud-heap nest, a few inches above water. Resident S. Spain, S. France. Vagrant to British Isles and most European countries N. to Finland, but chiefly in Mediterranean.

DUCKS, MERGANSERS, GEESE
AND SWANS : Anatidae

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS feed by dabbling or "up-ending," rather than by diving; in taking wing they spring clear of the water; they usually have a brightly coloured speculum (rectangular patch) on the hind edge of the wing; sexes differ; juvenile plumage and eclipse (late summer) plumage of males tend to resemble that of females.

DIVING DUCKS are found in bays and coastal waters, or open inland waters; they dive for food and patter along the surface before flying.

MERGANSERS, or "Saw-bills" have slender, toothed bills adapted for seizing fish; most species have crests and are slender-bodied, more like divers than ducks; in flight they appear long-drawn, with bill, head, neck and body horizontal.

GEESE are large, noisy waterfowl; heavier and longer-necked than ducks; sexes similar (unlike ducks); chiefly terrestrial feeders; bills thick at base.

SWANS are huge white swimming birds, larger and with much longer, more slender necks than geese; like some geese, they migrate in lines or V-shaped flocks; young are brownish-white.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

pages 30-42, 50

Du—Wilde eend

Fr—Canard col-vert


Ge—Stockente

Sw—Gräsand

Identification: 23". Male has *glossy green head, narrow white collar, purplish-brown breast*, pale grey under-parts, white tail with curled black centre-feathers, yellowish bill. Female is mottled brown, with

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS (Marshes and Ponds)

- **MALLARD** page 29
Male: Green head, white neck ring.
Female: Some orange on bill, whitish tail.


- **PINTAIL** 34
Male: Needle tail, neck stripe.
Female: Grey bill, slender pointed tail.
- **GADWALL** page 33
Male: Grey body, black rear.
Female: Yellowish bill, white speculum (in flight).
- **WIGEON** 34
Male: Rufous head, creamy crown.
Female: Short blue-grey bill, light shoulders (not often visible when swimming).
- **SHOVELER** 35
Male: Spoon-like bill, dark chestnut sides.
Female: Spoon-like bill, blue shoulders (in flight).
- **MANDARIN** 35
Male: Orange "side-whiskers," orange "sails."
Female: White mark around eye, white chin.
- **TEAL** 32
Male: Small; grey with dark head, horizontal white stripe above wing.
Female: Small size, green speculum.
- **GARGANEY** 33
Male: White stripe on head, bluish shoulder patch.
Female: From Teal by greyer wings, obscure speculum.
- MARBLED DUCK** 33
Mediterranean. Dappled plumage.
Dark smudge through eye, white tail.



♂

MALLARD



♀



♂

PINTAIL



♀



♂

GADWALL



♀



♂

WIGEON



♀



♂

SHOVELER



♂

MANDARIN



♀



♂

TEAL



♀



♂

GARGANEY



♀



♂

MARBLED DUCK



GOLDENEYE



BARROW'S GOLDENEYE



FERRUGINOUS DUCK



SCAUP



TUFTED DUCK



POCHARD



RED-CRESTED POUCHARD



DIVING DUCKS

(Goldeneyes and Pochards, etc.)



DIVING DUCKS (ducks of open waters and sea) patter along the surface when taking flight. Surface-feeding ducks (marsh ducks, Plate 9) spring directly up from the water.

- **GOLDENEYE** page 40
Male: Round white spot before eye.
Female: Grey body, brown head, white collar, white on wing visible when swimming.

- BARROW'S GOLDENEYE** 41
 Iceland.
Male: White crescent on face; blacker above than Goldeneye.
Female: Very similar to Goldeneye (see text).

- **FERRUGINOUS DUCK** 40
Male: Deep mahogany; white under tail-coverts.
Female: Similar, but duller.

- **SCAUP** 36
Male: Black fore-parts, pale back, blue bill.
 "Black at both ends, white in the middle."
Female: Sharply defined white patch at base of bill.

- **TUFTED DUCK** 37
Male: Black fore-parts, black back, drooping crest.
Female: From female Scaup by suggestion of crest. White at base of bill restricted or absent.

- **POCHARD** 37
Male: Grey; black chest, rufous head.
Female: Buff mark around eye and base of bill, blue band on bill.

- **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** 36
Male: From Pochard by red bill and white sides.
Female: White cheek, dark crown; from female Common Scoter by white wing-patch, red on bill.

greenish bill (often orange at sides). Both sexes have broad purple speculum between two white bars (very conspicuous in flight), and orange legs. Male in eclipse resembles dark female, but with brighter speculum and darker breast. Flight rapid, with shallow wing-beats. Female distinguished from Gadwall by larger size, browner coloration, purple speculum (not white), less pointed wings, also sits lower in water; from female Pintail by thicker neck, white *both sides* of purple speculum, shorter whitish tail; from female Shoveler by larger size, much smaller bill, longer neck. See also male Red-breasted Merganser.

Voice: Male has quiet "yeeb"; female quacks loudly.

Habitat: Almost any water; in winter also on sea coasts and estuaries. Nests beneath undergrowth near water, occasionally in holes. Map below.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

pages 30, 42, 50

Du—Wintertaling

Fr—Sarcelle d'hiver

Ge—Krickente

Sw—Kricka

Identification: 14". Smallest European duck. Both sexes have *glossy green speculum*. Male has conspicuous *horizontal white stripe* on scapulars, *dark chestnut head with curving green eye-patch* and creamy patches either side of black "stern." At a distance male looks like a small grey duck with a *dark head*. Female speckled brown and buff with paler cheeks and under-parts; distinguished from very similar female Garganey by darker coloration and *larger, brighter, green speculum*. Flight very rapid, in very compact flocks, usually low, often erratic. Green-winged Teal *A. c. carolinensis* (subsp.), accidental in Europe, has *vertical white mark* in front of wing, instead of horizontal bar above wing.

Voice: Very vocal. Male has short, low, musical "krrit"; female, a high, harsh quack; feeding flock makes pleasant chuckling chorus of short nasal notes, like sound of child's penny squeaker.

Habitat: Reedy pools. In winter, frequents marshes, occasionally estuaries and sea coasts. Breeds on moors, marshes, among bracken in woods, often far from open water. Map below.



← MALLARD
Partial migrant



TEAL →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Spain,
Portugal

MARBLED DUCK *Anas angustirostris*

page 30

Fr—Sarcelle marbrée

Ge—Marmelente

Sw—Marmorand

Identification: 15". Slightly larger than Teal. Distinguished by light and dark brown "marbled" or dappled plumage, with *dark patch or smudge through eye*. Looks uniform pale grey-brown at a distance, with dark eye-patch. No pattern in flight, except pale secondaries and white-tipped tail. Male has slight crest on nape. Juvenile is yellower below, with dark stripe through eye and two whitish spots on wing. Behaviour sluggish and retiring. Flight like Garganey, but less powerful. **Voice:** Male has a low wheezing croak; female, a feeble quack.

Habitat and Range: A freshwater species, preferring overgrown to open water. Nests near water, along stream banks, etc. Summer visitor S. Spain, breeds rarely S. France. Occasional Portugal. Vagrant to rest of S. Europe, N. to Germany, Czechoslovakia, Roumania.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

pages 30, 42, 50

Du—Zomertaling

Fr—Sarcelle d'été

Ge—Knäkente

Sw—Årta

Identification: 15". Only slightly larger than Teal. Male distinguished in flight by *pale blue-grey fore-wing*, sharply contrasting brown breast and white belly; easily identified when at rest by *conspicuous curving white streak from eye to nape*, also by long drooping black and white scapulars; in eclipse resembles female (and Teal) but is always distinguishable by blue-grey shoulders. Female very like pale female Teal, but identified by very indistinct speculum *without black* and more pronounced eye-stripe. Behaviour and feeding habits more like Shoveler's than Teal's. Flight very rapid and agile.

Voice: Male makes peculiar dry rattling or grating noise. Female's quack is like female Teal's, but shorter.

Habitat: Much as Teal, but seldom on salt water. Breeds in long grass or rank vegetation near water. Map p 34.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

pages 30, 42, 50

Du—Krakeend

Fr—Canard chipeau

Ge—Schnatterente

Sw—Snatterand

Identification: 20". Smaller, more slender than Mallard, with which it often associates. Both sexes have *white speculum*, conspicuous chiefly in flight. Male is greyish with chestnut wing-coverts, visible chiefly in flight, when *white belly contrasts with black tail-coverts*, the best mark on the water, at a distance, is the *black "stern,"* contrasting with the grey plumage; bill grey, legs orange-yellow; in eclipse resembles female, but retains chestnut wing-coverts. Female resembles female Mallard and Pintail; distinguished from latter by shorter tail and yellowish bill, from both by *white speculum*. Flight like Mallard's, but wings are more pointed.

Voice: Female quacks loudly in falling diminuendo "*Kaaak-kaaak-kak-kak-kak*." Male has a low single note.

Habitat: Like Mallard, but less cosmopolitan and seldom occurs on sea coast. Map below.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

pages 30, 42, 56

Du—Smient

Fr—Canard siffleur

Ge—Pfeifente

Sw—Bläsand

Identification: 18". Male distinguished by *chestnut head with buff crown*, grey body and pinkish breast. In flight large white areas towards front of wings and white belly are distinctive; in eclipse resembles dark female, but distinguished by white shoulders. Female distinguished from Mallard by smaller size, much smaller bill, more rounded head, pointed tail and more rufous plumage; also by partly obscured green and black speculum and shorter-necked appearance. Feeds in shallows, on mud-flats and grazes around ponds, often resting on sea by day in compact flocks. Young male distinguished from young Gadwall by smaller bill, darker head and blackish speculum.

Voice: Male has high whistling "*whew-oo*." Female has low purring note.

Habitat: Many maritime in winter, numbers also seen on fresh water. Breeds on moors, lake islands, marshes. Map p 35.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

pages 30, 42, 50

Du—Pijlstaart

Fr—Canard pilet

Ge—Spießente

Sw—Stjärtand

Identification: 22". A slender, long-necked, surface-feeding duck with a pointed tail. Male has chocolate-brown head and neck, with *conspicuous white streak* from white breast up each side of neck, and *long, needle-pointed tail*. Upper-parts and flanks grey. Male in eclipse and when young resembles female, but with darker upper-parts. Female distinguished with difficulty from very similar females of Mallard, Gadwall and Wigeon by slim shape, thin neck, more pointed tail, obscure speculum and grey bill; in flight, light border on rear of wing



← GARGANEY
Mainly summer
visitor. Has bred
Spain. Vag. Nor-
way, Faeroes,
Ireland



GADWALL →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Spain,
Denmark. Vagrant
Norway, Finland,
Faeroes

is useful detail. Only other duck with long tail is Long-tailed Duck which is smaller, with largely *white* head and is a maritime *diving* duck. **Voice:** Seldom vocal. Male has a low whistle. Female has growling note and a low quack.

Habitat: Chiefly coastal in winter. As Wigeon in breeding season, but also nests in sand-dunes. Map below.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*

pages 30, 42, 50

Du—Slobeend

Fr—Canard souchet

Ge—Löffelente

Sw—Skedand

Identification: 20". Distinguished from all other ducks by *huge spatulate bill*. Male is largely black and white above, with green-glossed head, *chestnut belly and flanks*, white breast and pale blue patch on forewing. At rest or flying overhead male has unique pattern: dark-white-dark-white-dark. Female is mottled brownish, like Mallard, but has *blue shoulders* (so has male Garganey). On water sits very low in front, with bill pointing downwards. Flight rather laboured; in silhouette *wings appear set far back*.

Voice: Flight-note a deep "tuk-tuk." Male has low double quack; female's resembles Mallard's, though less loud.

Habitat: Less maritime than other surface-feeders. Usually in marshes and over-grown ponds. Breeds in water meadows, marshes, bushy commons. Map p 36.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

page 30

Identification: 17". Highly coloured male easily distinguished by *up-standing orange "sails"* on wings, ample chestnut "*side-whiskers*," and multi-coloured drooping crest. Female drab brownish-grey, with large whitish spots on breast and *bold white marks* behind eye and around bill. Male in eclipse and when immature resembles female, but with dark red, instead of blackish, bill.

Habitat: Usually on wooded inland waters and ornamental ponds. Artificially introduced into Europe and now breeding in feral state (in trees) in many regions, including England.



← WIGEON
Partial migrant.
Has bred Holland,
Ireland, Czecho.
Few winter Czecho.

PINTAIL →
Partial migrant.
Has bred S. Spain,
France, Belgium



RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* page 31, 43, 51

Du—Krooneend

Fr—Brante roussâtre

Ge—Kolbenente

Sw—Rödhuwad dykand

Identification: 22". A plump, large-headed diving duck, sitting high in the water. Male has *red bill, rich chestnut head* with paler erectile crown, dark brown upper-parts, black neck, breast and belly-stripe, with gleaming white flanks. In flight shows broad white band *almost full length of wing*. In eclipse resembles female, except for crest and red bill, which also distinguish it from smaller Pochard. Female is drab brown with *pale greyish cheeks, contrasting with dark brown crown; wing-bar dingy white*. Female Common Scoter is only other brown duck with pale cheeks, but has heavier bill and no white on wing.

Voice: A grating "kurr," usually in flight.

Habitat: Large reedy fresh-water lakes, or brackish lagoons, seldom on sea. Breeds among vegetation on islands in lagoons. Map below.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* pages 31, 43, 51

Du—Toppereend

Fr—Canard milouinan

Ge—Bergente

Sw—Bergand

Identification: 19". In distance male looks *black both ends and white in the middle*. Head, fore-parts and "stern" are black, back *pale grey*, flanks and under-parts white. Bill blue-grey. Distinguished from slightly smaller male Tufted by *grey back and lack of crest*. In eclipse resembles female, but with greyish back and little or no white on face. Female distinguished from female Tufted by *bold white patch around base of bill*. (Female and young Tufted often have pale patch, but never as large.) Young females of both species are very difficult to separate. Young male Scaup is distinguished by greyish back. In flight both sexes show bold white wing-bar, like Tufted. Flies in close irregular flocks or lines. Expert diver, often in rough sea.

Voice: Seldom vocal. Male has soft crooning courtship notes. Female has low harsh "karr-karr."

Habitat: Maritime except when breeding; usually in bays and estuaries. Breeds sociably on lake islands. Map p 37.



← SHOVELER
Partial migrant.
Has bred Spain

RED-CRESTED
POCHARD →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Sweden,
Finland



TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

pages 31, 43, 51

Du—Kuifeend

Fr—Canard morillon

Ge—Reiherente

Sw—Vigg

Identification: 17". Black and white male can be confused with slightly larger Scaup, but is distinguished by *uniform black upper-parts and thin drooping crest*. In eclipse resembles dark female. Female is browner, with a rudimentary crest and sometimes a light patch at base of bill (not large white patch as in female Scaup; Scaup looks similar, but shows more white on face than Tufted, also paler upper-parts and larger bill). In flight Tufted and Scaup adults both show bold white bar almost full length of wing. See also Ferruginous Duck.

Voice: Male has very soft whistling courtship note. Female growls like female Pochard.

Habitat: Seldom on sea. Frequents large and small lakes, often joining tame ducks in parks. Breeds, often sociably, on lakes and ponds. Map below.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

pages 31, 43, 51

Du—Tafelend

Fr—Canard milouin

Ge—Tafelente

Sw—Brunand

Identification: 18". Male easily distinguished by *uniform dark chestnut head and neck*, contrasting with black breast and pale grey body. Black bill with pale blue band, grey wing-band and absence of white on wings, separate male from Red-crested Pochard (red bill, white on wing). In eclipse resembles female, but is greyer above. Female has brown head and fore-parts; differs from female Scaup and Tufted by indistinct pale patch around bill and chin, bluish ring around bill, and grey (not white) wing-band. Seldom on land, resting on water by day and feeding at dawn and dusk. Dives freely. See also Wigeon.

Voice: Seldom vocal. Male has hoarse wheezing note. Female makes harsh growling noise.

Habitat: Seldom on sea. Frequents large and small lakes, backwaters, etc. Breeds in dense reeds. Map p 40



← SCAUP

Mainly migratory.
Bred Scotland,
Holland. Vagrant
Portugal, Sardinia,
Albania

TUFTED DUCK →
Partial migrant.
Bred Switzerland
(regular summer),
Yugoslavia, Alban-
ia, Bulgaria, Rou-
mania



SEA DUCKS

- **LONG-TAILED DUCK** page 41
Male in summer: Needle tail, white face-patch.
Male in winter: Needle tail, pied pattern.
Female: Dark wings, white face, dark cheek-mark.
- △ **HARLEQUIN** 45
Male: Dark; rusty flanks, harlequin pattern.
Female: Dark; face spots, small bill.
- **SURF SCOTER** 44
Male: Black body, white head-patches.
Female: Light face spots, no white on wing.
- **VELVET SCOTER** 44
Male: Black body, white wing-patch.
Female: Light face spots, white wing-patch.
- **COMMON SCOTER** 45
Male: Plumage all black, yellow spot on bill.
Female: Dark body, light cheek, dark crown.
- **EIDER** 46
Male: White above, black below.
Female: Brown, heavily barred.
- **KING EIDER** 46
Male: Whitish fore-parts, black back, orange shield. *Female:* See diagram below.
- △ **STELLER'S EIDER** 46
Male: White head, chestnut under-parts, black spot. *Female:* See diagram below.



FEMALE EIDERS can be told by their bills; long and sloping in the Eider, with a long lobe extending to the forehead; stubbier in the King Eider, with less lobing; no obvious lobes in the Steller's.





♂



♀

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER



♂



♀

GOOSANDER



♂



♀

SMEW



♂



♀

SHELDUCK



♂



♀

RUDDY SHELDUCK



♂
Summer



♀

WHITE-HEADED DUCK

MERGANSERS, SHELDUCKS, "STIFF-TAIL"

MERGANSERS ("Sawbills" or fish-eating ducks) have slender, spike-like bills with toothed edges. They swim low in the water. SHELDUCKS are large, with a somewhat goose-like aspect. "STIFFTAILS" are dumpy, with long tails, often cocked.

● RED-BREASTED MERGANSER age 47

Male: White collar, wispy crest.

Female: Crested head, blended throat and neck.

● GOOSANDER 48

Male: Long white body, dark head.

Female: Crested; sharply defined throat and neck.

● SMEW 49

Male: White, marked with black; white crest.

Female: Chocolate cap, white cheeks, thin dark bill.

● SHELDUCK 49

Rusty belt encircling fore-parts, red bill.

Male has knob on bill; female is without knob.

○ RUDDY SHELDUCK 52

Orange-brown body, pale head.

Male with narrow black neck-ring; female without.

WHITE-HEADED DUCK 47

Male: Dark body, white head, blue bill (in summer).

Female: Light cheek crossed by dark line.



POSTURES OF DUCKS ON LAND

Marsh and pond ducks (Surface-feeders) Estuary and sea ducks (Divers) Mergansers (Divers) "Stiff-tails" (Divers) Shelducks (Surface-feeders)

FERRUGINOUS DUCK (WHITE-EYED POCHARD) *Aythya nyroca*
pages 31, 43, 51

Du—Witoogeeend
Ge—Moorente

Fr—Canard nyroca
Sw—Rödbrun dykand

Identification: 16". Both sexes have *rich, dark chestnut head, neck and breast*. Gleaming white under-parts and white wing-patch are often hidden when at rest. In distance can be confused (particularly the female) with female Tufted Duck, but is usually distinguishable by *white under tail-coverts* and, in flight, by *large curved white wing-bars*; never has white at base of bill. (Tufted occasionally shows white beneath tail, but when seen together Ferruginous sits higher in water and holds tail higher.) Male has *white eyes*. Female duller, with brown eyes. Juvenile like female, but has mottled under-parts; distinguished from somewhat similar female Pochard by darker, much more rufous appearance, brown flanks and white wing-bar. Behaviour, voice and habitat as Pochard. Map below.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* pages 31, 43, 51
Du—Brilduiker
Ge—Schellente

Fr—Canard garrot
Sw—Knipa

Identification: 18". Male strikingly black and white: neck and under-parts white, back and tail black with boldly streaked scapulars; head is black, "triangular" in shape, with short black bill. Distinguished by *large circular white spot between bill and eye*. Legs orange. In flight looks big headed, short necked, with conspicuous *square white wing-patches* extending almost to front of wing. In eclipse resembles female, but retains some black markings on head. Female has mottled grey upper-parts with *chocolate-brown head, a white collar and large square white wing-patches* (showing on closed wing, unlike Tufted and Scaup). Immature is browner, without collar. Rises from water more rapidly than other diving ducks. Wings make characteristic whistling noise. See also Scaup and Barrow's Goldeneye.

Voice: Usually silent. Male has harsh nasal double note. Female's hoarse notes resemble Scaup's.



← POCHARD
Partial migrant.
Bred Spain, Belgium. Summers
Switzerl., Austria.
Vagrant Faeroes.
FERRUGINOUS
DUCK →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Holland,
Belgium. Vagrant
Brit. Is., Denmark,
Sweden, Finland



Habitat: Coastal waters, often also on inland lakes. Breeds in holes in trees, rabbit burrows, etc. along river banks and around wooded lakes. Map below.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica* page 31

Du—Íslandse brilduiker Fr—Garrot islandais

Ge—Spatelente Sw—Íslandsknipa

Identification: 21". An Iceland species. Easily mistaken for Goldeneye, though somewhat larger. Look for *crenate-shaped* white patch in front of eye. (Goldeneye has *round* white spot.) Male shows greater amount of black on sides of body, but Goldeneye in eclipse can look similar, though never as jet-black on head and wings. Barrow's head is *glossed purple* instead of green and is of very different shape, with more abrupt forehead and low, rounded crown. Shows much less white on scapulars. Female very like female Goldeneye, but bill is shorter and deeper and forehead more abrupt. Females best distinguished by males they accompany. Behaviour, voice and habitat as in Goldeneye. Resident in Iceland. Accidental Germany, Spain, Scandinavia, Faeroes.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Ísseed

Fr—Canard de Miquelon

Ge—Eisente

Sw—Alfägel

N.Am—Oid Squaw

Identification: Male 21" including *long pointed tail-feathers*; female 16". The only sea duck *combining white on body with uniform dark wings*; also distinguished by small round head and short bill. Male in winter boldly patterned with dark brown and white: head, neck, belly and scapulars white; breast, back and wings blackish-brown; large dark patch on side of neck; bill banded pink and black. Male in summer is mostly dark brown, with white belly and white patch around eye. Female in winter is dark above, white below; head white with black crown, *cheek-spot* and bill; normal length tail; in summer is darker. Juvenile like female, but greyer, with brownish throat. Swims buoy-



← GOLDENEYE
Mainly migratory.
Has bred England.
Vagrant Spain,
Portugal, Faeroes

LONG-TAILED
DUCK →
Mainly migrant.
Vagrant s. to Por-
tugal, Sardinia,
central Europe,
Yugoslavia



DUCKS IN FLIGHT

NOTE: Males only are analysed below. For females, see text.

- SHELDUCK page 49
Black, white and rufous pattern, large white fore-wing patches.
- RUDDY SHELDUCK 52
Pale cinnamon colour.
- MALLARD 33
Dark head, two white borders on speculum, neck ring.
- PINTAIL 34
Needle tail, one white border on speculum, neck stripe.
- WIGEON 34
Large white shoulder-patches, grey back.
- SHOVELER 35
Heavy spoon bill, large bluish shoulder-patches.
- GADWALL 33
Largely white speculum.
- GARGANEY 33
Small; large bluish shoulder-patches.
- TEAL 32
Small, dark-winged; green speculum.
- SMEW 49
White head and belly, white fore-wing.
- GOOSANDER 48
Merganser shape; white chest, large wing-patches.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER 47
Merganser shape; dark chest, large wing-patches.



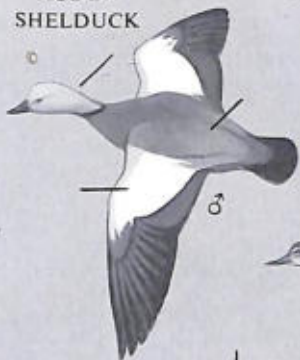
Mergansers (Smew, Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser) fly with bill, head, neck and body held in a horizontal line. (Compare with Divers, Plate I.)

SHELDUCK



MALLARD

RUDDY SHELDUCK



♂



PINTAIL



WIGEON



SHOVELER



♂

GADWALL



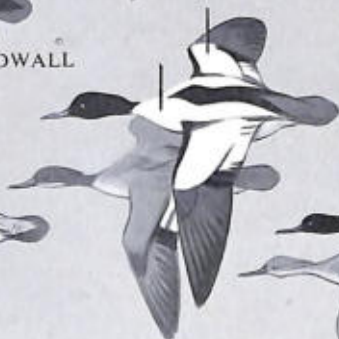
GARGANEY



TEAL



SMEW



GOOSANDER



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

TUFTED DUCK



SCAUP



♂

FERRUGINOUS DUCK



POCHARD



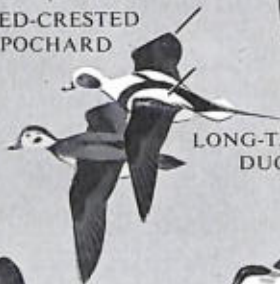
RED-CRESTED
POCHARD



GOLDENEYE



HARLEQUIN



LONG-TAILED
DUCK



KING EIDER

♂



EIDER



VELVET SCOTER



SURF SCOTER



COMMON SCOTER

NOTE: Males only are analysed below. Some females have similar wing patterns. (See text.)

- TUFTED DUCK page 37
Black back, broad white wing-stripe.
- SCAUP 36
Grey back; broad white stripe on rear edge of wing.
- FERRUGINOUS DUCK 40
Mahogany colour; wing-stripe.
- POCHARD 37
Grey back, broad grey wing-stripe.
- RED-CRESTED POCHARD 36
Broad white patch extends nearly length of wing.
- GOLDENEYE 40
Large white wing-squares, short neck, black head with white spot. Wings whistle in flight.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK 41
Dark unpatterned wings, white on body.
- △ HARLEQUIN 45
Stocky, dark; small bill, white marks.
- KING EIDER 46
Whitish fore-parts, black rear-parts.
- EIDER 45
White back, white fore-wings, black belly.
- VELVET SCOTER 44
Black body, white wing-patches.
- SURF SCOTER 44
Black body, white head-patches.
- COMMON SCOTER 45
All-black plumage.

antly, diving with agility in rough sea. Only other long-tailed duck is the larger, *dark headed* Pintail, which is a coastal or inland *surface-feeder*.

Voice: Noisy. Male has lively call of about four high nasal notes, giving musical goose-like effect from distant flock. Female has low barking note.

Habitat: Mainly maritime except in breeding season. Nests on lake islands, in tundra, or among Arctic scrub. Map p 41.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Grote zeeëend

Fr—Macreuse brune

Ge—Samtente

Sw—Svärta

N.Am—White-winged Scoter

Identification: 22". Both sexes distinguished from smaller Common and Surf Scoters by *white wing-patch*, often hidden at rest, but conspicuous when wings are flapped. When diving, reddish feet are noticeable (Surf Scoter's also red, Common's black). Male has *small white patch below eye* and yellow sides to black bill. Female usually distinguishable from Common Scoter by two whitish patches on side of head (more pronounced in young birds); when these are absent, white on wings makes identification positive. Usually in small parties or singly, often with eiders near shore.

Voice: Much less vocal than Common Scoter. Male's usual note a whistled "*whur-er*." Female growls harshly.

Habitat: As Common Scoter, but often seen in rougher water. Breeding places vary from open tundra to undergrowth in northern forests. Map below.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Gebirde zeeëend

Fr—Macreuse à lunettes

Ge—Brillente

Sw—Vjtnackad svärta

Identification: 21". Male distinguished from other scoters by more massive red, white and yellow bill, and *white patches on forehead and nape*. Both sexes have reddish legs, like Velvet Scoter. Female and



← VELVET SCOTER
Mainly mig. Summer British, German coasts. Vagr. Iceland, and s. to Mediterranean

COMMON

SCOTER →

Mainly migrant Summer coasts Germany, England, Holland. Vag. E. Med, often Switz.



immature usually have two whitish patches on side of head, like female and young Velvet Scoters, but both adults and young are distinguished by *absence of white on wings*; female may have whitish patch on nape. (Female and young Common Scoters have contrasting pale cheeks and dark crowns). Rarely vocal.

Habitat and Range: Maritime and off-shore outside breeding season. Vagrant from N. America to Faerøes, Britain, W. Europe from Finland to France.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Zwarte zeeëend Fr—Macreuse noire
Ge—Trauerente Sw—Sjöorre

Identification: 19". Male is *the only entirely black duck*; black bill has bright orange patch and large knob at base. Female and immature are dark brown with *whitish cheeks and throat, contrasting with dark crown* and mottled brownish-white under-parts; distinguished from female Red-crested Pochard (which also has pale cheeks but is not a sea-duck) by darker appearance, heavier bill and *lack of wing-bar*; from female Velvet and Surf Scoters by different face pattern and by blackish (not reddish) feet, (female Velvet Scoter also has conspicuous white wing-bar in flight). Swims buoyantly, with sharply pointed tail often raised. Flight strong, usually in wavering lines or groups.

Voice: Male has variety of melodious, cooing notes and a rapid tittering cry. Female growls harshly.

Habitat: Maritime except in breeding season, but prefers quieter water than Velvet Scoter. Breeds around lakes on high moors or tundra. Map p 44.

HARLEQUIN *Histrionicus histrionicus* pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Harlekijn-eend Fr—Garrot arlequin
Ge—Kragenente Sw—Strömand

Identification: 17". A small, very dark, short-billed duck. Male has dark blue-grey plumage (looks black at distance) with *chestnut flanks and bizarre pattern of white spots and streaks* on head, neck and breast. Has same flight-silhouette as Goldeneye, but is *uniformly dark below*. In eclipse male distinguished from female by dark slate-grey upper-parts and lack of white on breast. Female uniformly dark brown with dull whitish breast, *two indistinct white spots in front of eye, one bright spot behind eye*; distinguished from female Velvet and Surf Scoters by small size, small bill. Behaviour is diagnostic: feeding Harlequins *pack very closely together, moving like one*. Swims buoyantly, jerking head constantly, often cocking tail. Likes to dive in rough surf.

Voice: Usually silent, but male has quiet whistle. Female croaks harshly.

Habitat and Range: Winters along steep coasts with plenty of submerged rocks. Breeds sociably on islands in swift rivers, usually near rough water or waterfalls. Resident Iceland. Vagrant to Britain, Scandinavia, Germany, Italy.

STELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri*

page 38

Du—Steller's eiderend

Fr—Eider de Steller

Ge—Scheckente

Sw—Alförrådare

Identification: 18". Male unmistakable, a black and white bird with *rufous-buff under-parts, white head* with black eye-patch and throat and emerald-green patch on nape. *Round black spot* on side of breast is distinctive. *White fore-wing conspicuous in flight*. In eclipse looks like female. Female is more duck-like; with dark brown plumage mottled buffish; sides of head rufous; white wing-bar and purple speculum visible at short range. Juvenile and female easily distinguished from other eiders by much smaller size and *very different shape of small head and bill* (see diagram, p 38).

Voice: Male's crooning notes resemble Eider's, but are quieter. Female growls like Wigeon.

Habitat and Range: Winters along rocky northern coasts. Breeds on tundra. In winter N. Norway (may have bred). On passage S. Finland. Vagrant to W. Europe, S. to England, France, Germany.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Eidereend

Fr—Eider à duvet

Ge—Eiderente

Sw—Ejder

Identification: 23". Distinguished from all other ducks by large size, long heavy body, elongated profile of head and distinctive flight. Male is only duck with *black belly and white back*; breast white, tinged pinkish, whole fore-wing white, head white with black crown and pale green patches on nape; easily distinguished from male King Eider by white back and long profile of head. In eclipse male looks blackish with lighter breast and white fore-wings. Female is brown, *closely barred* with black (only eiders are so marked); distinguished from female scoters, with which eiders often associate, by warmer brown *barred* plumage; from female King Eider by flatter profile of head (see diagram, p 38). Young male at first somewhat like female, later developing chocolate head and white areas irregularly. No other duck has similar flight, with *alternate periods of wing-beats and gliding*, head carried rather low. Usually flies low, in single file.

Voice: Male has loud moaning "*coo-roo-uh*," second syllable rising and emphasised. Female has grating "*kor-r-r*."

Habitat: Strongly maritime, but also along rocky coasts. Breeds along coasts; locally inland around lakes, or on river islands. Map p 47.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*

pages 38, 43, 51

Du—Köningseidereend

Fr—Eider à tête grise

Ge—Prachteiderente

Sw—Praktejder

Identification: 22". At distance male's *fore-parts appear white, rear-parts black* (no other duck gives this effect). Distinguished from Eider by *black back*, very different shape and colours of head. Crown and nape pearl grey, face tinged green; *short bill has large orange shield*; fore-wing has large white patch. Female distinguished from Eider by

less flat profile from forehead to stubby bill (see diagram, p 38) and considerably more rufous plumage; some females have unmarked throats, giving head contrasting effect not seen in Eider. Young male has pale breast and dark brown head, amount of white varying as it acquires adult plumage. (Female Goldeneye also has dark brown head but is greyer bird, with square white wing-patches).

Voice: As Eider, but male's crooning notes usually have accent on final syllable.

Habitat and Range: As Eider, but usually breeds fairly sociably by fresh-water ponds on tundra. In summer non-breeding N. Norway, Iceland. Winters on N. Norwegian coast S. to Arctic Circle, Faeroes, Iceland. Vagrant to S. Baltic, Denmark, Britain, Ireland, France, Italy, Hungary.

WHITE-HEADED DUCK *Oxyura leucocephala* page 39

Du—Stekelstaarteend

Fr—Canard à tête blanche

Ge—Ruderente

Sw—Kopparand

Identification: 18". The only "stiff-tail" duck in Europe. Identified by large head, plump body and long, stiff, pointed tail which is often cocked *vertically* to show white under tail-coverts. Male's bill, swollen at base, is *brilliant pale blue* in courtship season. Male has conspicuous *white head* with narrow black crown, black neck, brownish body. Female is darker, with dark cap, and pale cheek *crossed by a dark line*. Behaviour skulking and grebe-like. Flight whirring, usually low over water, with characteristic silhouette of big head, stocky body, small uniform dark wings and long pointed tail (looking like projecting feet). Pintail and Long-tailed Ducks have long but flexible tails, smaller heads and thinner necks.

Habitat: Reedy inland waters and brackish lagoons. Nests among reeds and aquatic vegetation near water. Map below.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* pages 39, 42, 50

Du—Middelste zaagbek

Fr—Harle huppé

Ge—Mittelsäger

Sw—Småskrake

Identification: 23". Smaller than Mallard, with rakish form, very



← EIDER
Mainly res. Reach English Channel in winter. Almost annual Switzer., S. France. Vagrant s. to Spain, Italy

WHITE-HEADED DUCK →
Partial migrant. Vagr. n. to France, Germany, Czecho.



narrow red bill and legs, as in larger Goosander. Distinguished from latter by more conspicuous wispy *double crest*. The greenish-black head is separated from *dark chestnut breast-band* by *wide white collar*; flanks grey; wing pattern resembles Goosander's, but with two narrow black lines across the white patch. Female distinguished from very similar female Goosander by *brownish-grey* upper-parts, diffuse white chin-patch, more conspicuous crest, duller head *blending* into whitish neck. More maritime than Goosander; both may occur on same lake or river.

Voice: Usually silent; male has rasping disyllabic courtship note. Female as female Goosander.

Habitat: Chiefly maritime outside breeding season. Breeds in heather, vegetation, among rocks, etc., by wooded lakes or rivers, on islands in sea lochs and in tundra. Map below.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

pages 39, 42, 50

Du—Grote zaagbek

Fr—Harle briève

Ge—GänSESäger

Sw—Storskrake

N.Am—American Merganser

Identification: 26". Long-bodied and rakish. Larger than Mallard, with very narrow red bill and feet. Male has pinkish-white breast and under-parts, black back, glossy greenish-black head; easily identified in flight by *white body and wings, with black head and primaries*; distinguished from smaller and darker Red-breasted Merganser by lack of wispy crest and by uniform whitish breast, flanks and under-parts. Female has *crested chestnut head*, blue-grey upper-parts and flanks, white under-parts and a *square white wing-patch* conspicuous in flight; distinguished from very similar female Merganser by *sharp division* of chestnut throat from white neck and blue-grey upper-parts. Flight silhouette distinctively "long-drawn."

Voice: Usually silent. Male has low croaking note; female a guttural "karr."

Habitat: Winters on large rivers, lakes, reservoirs. Breeds in hollow trees, holes in peat banks, etc., usually among trees near water, also beyond tree limit in north. Map below.



← RED-BREASTED
MERGANSER
Partial migrant.
Has bred Holland

GOOSANDER →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Rou-
mania. Vagrant to
Mediterranean



SMEW *Mergus albellus*

pages 39, 42, 50

Du—Nonnetje

Fr—Harle piette

Ge—Zwergsäger

Sw—Salskrake

Identification: 16". Much smaller, more duck-like and shorter-billed than other mergansers. Male looks *uniformly white, with conspicuous black eye-patch*; at short range small drooping black and white crest is visible, also narrow black lines across fore-parts and above scapulars; flanks pale grey, back black; in flight looks darker, with conspicuous black and white wings; in eclipse white wing-patches are larger than female's. Female is smaller and greyer, with slightly crested *chestnut cap and white cheeks and throat*. Immature has brownish-white wing-patches. See females of Red-crested Pochard, and Common Scoter, which also have brown and white heads; see also winter Horned and Black-necked Grebes. Rises easily from water, flying in lines or in "V" formation.

Voice: Usually silent. Male has weak whistling note. Female's notes as female Goosander's.

Habitat: Lakes, reservoirs, and rivers, occasionally in estuaries and along coasts. Nests in hollow trees near water. Map below.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

pages 39, 42, 50

Du—Bergeend

Fr—Tadorne de Belon

Ge—Brandente

Sw—Gravand

Identification: 24". A large, rather *goose-like* duck, appearing white and black at long range. Distinguished by contrasting greenish-black head and neck, white body with *broad chestnut band around fore-part* and dark stripe down centre of under-parts. Scapulars and primaries black, with green speculum. Legs pink; *bill red*, male's having prominent knob. Juvenile is ashy-brown above, lacks chestnut breast-band and has whitish face and throat, pink bill, grey legs. Flight is goose-like, with slower wing-beats than most ducks. When resting on water may be confused with male Shoveler, which also has white upper-breast and dark head, but latter is smaller, sits lower in water and has dark, spatulate bill.



← SMEW

Migratory. Breeds
Roumania. Vagrant
Ireland

SHELDUCK →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Finland.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes



DUCKS OVERHEAD

NOTE: Only males are analysed below. For females, see text.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ● SHELDUCK | page 49 |
| Rusty breast-band across white under-parts. | |
| ○ RUDDY SHELDUCK | 52 |
| Pale cinnamon body. | |
| ● MALLARD | 33 |
| Dark head and chest, light belly, neck-ring. | |
| ● PINTAIL | 34 |
| White breast, long thin neck, needle tail. | |
| ● WIGEON | 34 |
| Clean-cut white belly, dark pointed tail. | |
| ● SHOVELER | 35 |
| Dark belly, white chest, big bill. | |
| ● GADWALL | 33 |
| White belly, white rear wing-patches. | |
| ● GARGANEY | 33 |
| Small size, white belly, dark fore-parts. | |
| ● TEAL | 32 |
| Small size, light under-parts, dark head. | |
| ● SMEW | 49 |
| All-white below, except on wings and tail. | |
| ● GOOSANDER | 48 |
| Black head, white body, white wing-linings. | |
| ● RED-BREASTED MERGANSER | 47 |
| Merganser shape; dark breast-band. | |

SHELDUCK



♂

RUDDY SHELDUCK



♂



MALLARD



PINTAIL



WIGEON



SHOVELER



♂

GADWALL



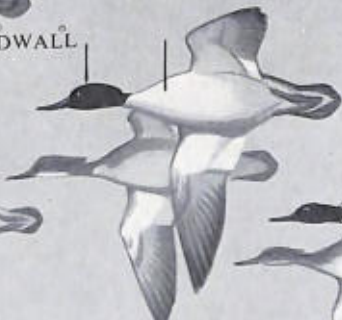
GARGANEY



TEAL



SMEW



GOOSANDER



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

TUFTED DUCK



SCAUP



♂

FERRUGINOUS DUCK



POCHARD



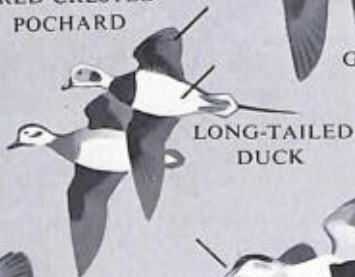
RED-CRESTED
POCHARD



GOLDENEYE



HARLEQUIN



LONG-TAILED
DUCK



♂

KING EIDER



EIDER



VELVET SCOTER



SURF SCOTER



COMMON SCOTER

DUCKS OVERHEAD

NOTE: Only males are analysed below. For females, see text.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| ● SCAUP | page 36 |
| Black chest, white stripe showing through wing. | |
| ● TUFTED DUCK | 37 |
| Not safely distinguished from Scaup overhead. | |
| ○ FERRUGINOUS DUCK | 40 |
| From most Tufted Duck by white under tail-coverts. | |
| ● POCHARD | 37 |
| Black chest, rufous head. | |
| ○ RED-CRESTED POCHARD | 36 |
| Broad black stripe down belly. | |
| ● GOLDENEYE | 40 |
| Blackish wing-linings, white patches. | |
| ● LONG-TAILED DUCK | 41 |
| Uniform dark wings, white belly. | |
| △ HARLEQUIN | 45 |
| Uniform dark colour, white spots, small bill. | |
| ○ KING EIDER | 46 |
| White chest, black belly, blunt head. | |
| ● EIDER | 46 |
| White chest, black belly, pointed head. | |
| ● VELVET SCOTER | 44 |
| Black body, white wing-patches. | |
| ○ SURF SCOTER | 44 |
| Black body, white on head. | |
| ● COMMON SCOTER | 45 |
| Black body, silvery flight feathers. | |

Voice: Seldom vocal outside breeding season. A quick, nasal "ak-ak-ak," and a deeper, louder "ark, ark." Female with young has soft twanging note.

Habitat: Sandy and muddy coasts, occasionally inland. Breeds in rabbit burrows, etc. and on bushy commons. Map p 49.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Casarca ferruginea* pages 39, 42, 50

Du—Karsarka-cend Fr—Tadorne casarca
Ge—Rostgans Sw—Rostand

Identification: 25". Distinguished by goose-like shape, uniform orange-chestnut plumage with pale head, smallish black bill and legs, black tail, black wing-feathers with green speculum. In flight, shows very conspicuous white wing-coverts. Male has narrow black collar. Female has almost white head. Flight resembles Shelduck's. Usually in pairs.

Voice: A loud, nasal "ah-onk," and several other goose-like cries.

Habitat: Much more terrestrial than Shelduck. In winter frequents sandy lake-shores, river-banks, fields and even arid steppes. Breeds in holes in dunes, cliffs, old trees, and walls. Map below.

GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser* pages 19, 23

Du—Grauwe gans Fr—Oie cendrée
Ge—Graugans Sw—Grågås

Identification: 30-35". Two European races recognisable in the field: the British and W. European race *A. a. anser* has thick orange bill; the E. European race *A. a. rubrirostris* has thick pink bill and looks paler, due to light feather edges. Both are further distinguished from other "grey geese" by lack of black markings on bill, pinkish legs and feet, head and neck no darker than body, very pale fore-wings and unbarred under-parts (but adults often have some black spots). Immature has greyish-pink legs. In distant flight all "grey geese" look much alike, usually flying in chevrons or lines; all are gregarious outside breeding season and are normally diurnal, flighting to grazing grounds at dawn. Grey geese in flight are best identified by voice. Grey Lag is distinguished from adult White-fronted and Lesser White-fronted by



← RUDDY SHELDUCK
Partial migrant.
Vagr. n. to Iceland,
Finland; central
Europe to Sicily.
Winters S. Spain,
?Greece

GREY LAG GOOSE →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Holland



larger size, lack of white patch at base of bill, un-barred under-parts and, at all ages, by pink (not orange) legs; from Bean and Pink-footed by head and neck being no darker than body, large orange bill (in W. Europe) without black markings and generally paler appearance.

Voice: Same nasal and reedy gabbling notes as domestic bird, "aahng-ung-ung," etc. Distant flock sounds rather like baaing of sheep.

Habitat: Grasslands, arable fields near coast, marshes, estuaries. Breeds sociably on moors, marshes, boggy thickets, islets. Map p 52.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* pages 19, 23

Du—Kolgans

Fr—Oie rieuse

Ge—Blässgans

Sw—Bläsgås

Identification: 26-30". Smaller and darker than Grey Lag. Adults distinguished from Grey Lag, Bean and Pink-footed by *bold white patch at base of pink bill, orange legs and broad irregular black bars on belly*. Immature lacks dark bars on belly and white forehead, but combination of orange legs and lack of extensive black on bill are distinctive. Behaviour and normal flight like Grey Lag. Greenland race *A.a. flavirostris*, which winters mainly in Ireland and West Scotland, distinguishable in the field from typical race *A. a. albifrons* by its darker coloration and *yellow* bill. See also Lesser White-fronted Goose.

Voice: Gabbling notes resemble those of other "grey geese," but are higher-pitched and quicker. Usual notes "kow-lyow," or "lyo-lyok," di- and trisyllabic.

Habitat: As Grey Lag, but seldom in stubble or potato fields. Usually breeds sociably in treeless tundra, open marshes, islets in rivers, etc. Map below.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* page 19

Du—Dwerggans

Fr—Oie naine

Ge—Zwerggans

Sw—Fjällgås

Identification: 21-26". General appearance resembles small White-fronted, but is distinguished by *much smaller, pinker bill, white forehead*



← **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**

Winter vis. from N. Russia, Greenland. Few summer Hungary (has bred). Vagr. Faeroes, Spain

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE →
Migratory. Vagr. s.w. to Italy, Spain, Britain



CRAKES, RAILS, COOTS, AND GALLINULES

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ● WATER RAIL | page 104 |
| <i>Adult:</i> Long slender bill, barred flanks. | |
| <i>Juvenile:</i> Dusky; barred under-parts. | |
| ● CORNCRAKE | 107 |
| Rusty-red wings, yellowish bill. | |
| ● SPOTTED CRAKE | 105 |
| Spotted; greenish legs, strongly-barred flanks. | |
| Buff under tail-coverts. Sexes similar. | |
| ○ BAILLON'S CRAKE | 105 |
| No red on bill, legs brownish-flesh (not green), bold bars on flanks. Sexes similar. | |
| ○ LITTLE CRAKE | 106 |
| <i>Male:</i> Legs and bill as in Spotted Crake, but no spots on breast, no dark bars on flanks. | |
| <i>Female:</i> Buffish breast, green legs, red spot on bill. | |
| ● MOORHEN | 107 |
| <i>Adult:</i> Red bill, white flank-stripe. | |
| <i>Juvenile:</i> White under tail-coverts and flank-stripe. | |
| <i>Downy young:</i> Black; red on bill. | |
| ● COOT | 108 |
| <i>Adult:</i> White bill and shield. | |
| <i>Juvenile:</i> From Moorhen by no white on tail-coverts. | |
| <i>Downy young:</i> Orange-red head. | |
| CRESTED COOT | 108 |
| Bluish-white bill, red knobs on forehead. | |
| PURPLE GALLINULE | 107 |
| Deep blue; red legs, very large red bill. | |



COOTS AND MOORHENS patter over the water when taking flight.



CRAKES, RAILS, COOTS, AND GALLINULES

- **WATER RAIL** page 104
Adult: Long slender bill, barred flanks.
Juvenile: Dusky; barred under-parts.
- **CORNCRAKE** 107
 Rusty-red wings, yellowish bill.
- **SPOTTED CRAKE** 105
 Spotted; greenish legs, strongly-barred flanks.
 Buff under tail-coverts. Sexes similar.
- **BAILLON'S CRAKE** 105
 No red on bill, legs brownish-flesh (not green),
 bold bars on flanks. Sexes similar.
- **LITTLE CRAKE** 106
Male: Legs and bill as in Spotted Crake, but no
 spots on breast, no dark bars on flanks.
Female: Buffish breast, green legs, red spot on bill.
- **MOORHEN** 107
Adult: Red bill, white flank-stripe.
Juvenile: White under tail-coverts and flank-stripe.
Downy young: Black; red on bill.
- **COOT** 108
Adult: White bill and shield.
Juvenile: From Moorhen by no white on tail-
 coverts.
Downy young: Orange-red head.
- **CRESTED COOT** 108
 Bluish-white bill, red knobs on forehead.
- **PURPLE GALLINULE** 107
 Deep blue; red legs, very large red bill.



COOTS AND MOORHENS patter over
 the water when taking flight.



WATER RAIL



CORNCRAKE



SPOTTED CRAKE



BAILLON'S CRAKE



LITTLE CRAKE



MOORHEN



MOORHEN



Adult

Juv

CRESTED COOT



PURPLE GALLINULE



Adult

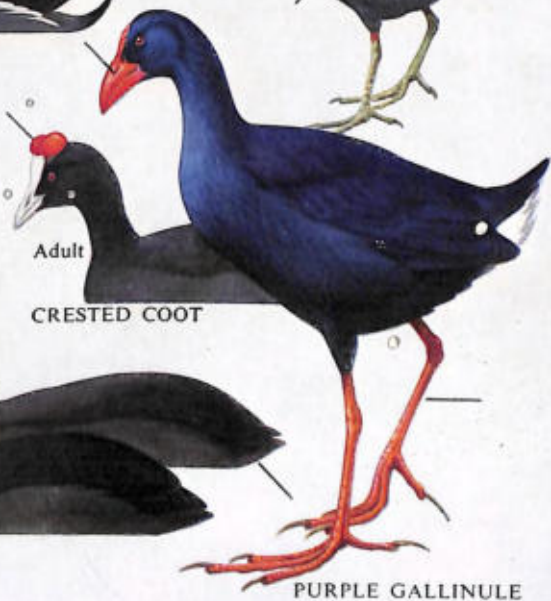
COOT

CRAKES, RAILS, COOTS, AND GALLINULES

- **WATER RAIL** page 104
Adult: Long slender bill, barred flanks.
Juvenile: Dusky; barred under-parts.
- **CORNCRAKE** 107
 Rusty-red wings, yellowish bill.
- **SPOTTED CRAKE** 105
 Spotted; greenish legs, strongly-barred flanks.
 Buff under tail-coverts. Sexes similar.
- **BAILLON'S CRAKE** 105
 No red on bill, legs brownish-flesh (not green),
 bold bars on flanks. Sexes similar.
- **LITTLE CRAKE** 106
Male: Legs and bill as in Spotted Crake, but no
 spots on breast, no dark bars on flanks.
Female: Buffish breast, green legs, red spot on bill.
- **MOORHEN** 107
Adult: Red bill, white flank-stripe.
Juvenile: White under tail-coverts and flank-stripe.
Downy young: Black; red on bill.
- **COOT** 108
Adult: White bill and shield.
Juvenile: From Moorhen by no white on tail-
 coverts.
Downy young: Orange-red head.
- **CRESTED COOT** 108
 Bluish-white bill, red knobs on forehead.
- **PURPLE GALLINULE** 107
 Deep blue; red legs, very large red bill.



COOTS AND MOORHENS patter over
 the water when taking flight.





ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD

BUZZARD



Typical

HONEY BUZZARD

Adult

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD



SPARROW HAWK

Adult

Immature

GOSHAWK

BUZZARDS AND HAWKS



BUZZARDS have heavy bodies, short wide tails.

- **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** page 73
Dark belly, whitish tail with dark terminal band.
Often hovers like ponderous Kestrel.
- **BUZZARD** 72
Dark, with blotched or barred under-parts. Vari-
able. Tail has narrow dark bars.
- **HONEY BUZZARD** 80
Head smaller, tail longer than Buzzard's.
Tail has broad black bands near base and at tip.
- LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** 76
Tail (usually) pale cinnamon, unbarred.



ACCIPITERS (true hawks) have small heads,
short wings, long tails.

- **SPARROW HAWK** 76
Male: Small; under-parts closely barred with red.
Female: Under-parts closely barred with grey.
- **GOSHAWK** 77
Adult: Large, barred; dark cheek, white eye-stripe.
Juvenile: Brown, streaked; pronounced eye-stripe.

usually extending higher on crown and tips of closed wings usually extending beyond tail. Usually looks darker than White-fronted. At short range bright yellow eye-ring is best mark. Immature lacks white base to bill and dark bars on belly, but has the yellow eye-lids. Behaviour and flight as in White-fronted.

Voice: Much higher-pitched than White-fronted. Most frequent notes "kyu-yu," or "kyu-yu-yu" (gander); "kow-yow" (goose).

Habitat: Much as White-fronted, but is a low-Arctic species and breeds at high altitudes only where range extends south, in dwarf birch and willow, around mountain lakes. In extreme north of Norway breeds at sea level. Map p 53.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser arvensis*

pages 19, 23

Du—Rietgans

Fr—Oie des moissons

Ge—Saatgans

Sw—Sädgås

Identification: 28-35". Browner and generally darker than other "grey geese," whitish emarginations appearing brighter. At a distance head and rather long neck look black. No bars on under-parts. Bill black, marked with orange-yellow, occasionally with some white at base. Legs of adult orange-yellow; immature pale yellowish. Behaviour and flight as in other "grey geese." Grey Lag is slightly larger and paler, especially on head and neck, with light grey fore-wings, white-tipped orange bill and pink legs. Adult Pink-footed is slightly smaller, with smaller pink and black bill, pink legs and blue-grey upper-parts giving greater contrast to dark head and neck. (Pink-footed is generally considered as a race of the Bean). Adult White-fronted and Lesser White-fronted are smaller, with prominent white at base of bill and broadly barred bellies.

Voice: Less vocal than other "grey geese." A rich "ung-unk," lower and more reedy than similar call of Pink-footed.

Habitat: As Grey Lag, but seldom on arable fields. Breeds in the Arctic among trees near rivers and lakes. Map below.



← BEAN GOOSE
Migratory. Vagr.
s.w. to Spain



PINK-FOOTED
GOOSE →
Migratory. Vagr.
to Ireland, Italy,
Yugoslavia, Baltic
Provinces

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* pages 19, 23

Du—Kleine rietgans Fr—Oie à bec court

Ge—Kurzchnabelgans Sw—Spetsbergsgås

Identification: 24-30". Resembles small Bean Goose, but distinguished from this and other "grey geese" by *pale blue-grey upper-parts* giving strong contrast with *very dark head and neck, small pink and black bill and pink legs*. (Pink-footed is generally considered as a race of the Bean.) During summer moult plumage varies greatly from blue-grey to brown-grey. Blue-grey fore-wings conspicuous in flight, though less so than in larger, paler Grey Lag, which lacks the blueness. Immature sometimes has paler legs, and in winter looks browner and often paler than adult. Behaviour and flight as other "grey geese." Distinguished from adult White-fronted and Lesser White-fronted by lack of white at base of bill (though some white occurs occasionally) and by lack of black bars on belly; immature extremely difficult to distinguish from immature White-fronts unless leg colour can be clearly seen, as bill patterns are very similar.

Voice: Two- and three-syllable honking notes resemble Bean Goose, but are higher-pitched. A musical "ung-unk," "wink-wink-wink," or "king-wink."

Habitat: As Grey Lag, but more frequently in arable fields. Breeds colonially among rocky outcrops on hill-sides and river gorges, also on open tundra. Map p 56.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* pages 18, 22

Du—Sneeuwgans Fr—Oie des neiges

Ge—Schneegans Sw—Snögås

Identification: 25-30". Adult easily identified by *pure white plumage, with black-tipped wings*, Stout pink bill and legs. Head often stained orange. Immature is greyish-white, with dark grey bill and legs. Behaviour and flight as in "grey geese." Feeds freely with other species. Lesser Snow Goose *A. c. hyperboreus* not certainly distinguishable in the field from Greater Snow Goose *A. c. atlanticus*, which is usually larger, heavier and shorter legged. Blue Goose *A. c. caerulescens* of N. America, which has occurred in Ireland, is presumed to be colour phase of *A. c. hyperboreus*; it is grey, with white head and neck (sometimes also breast); immature is all-blackish with white chin-spot. Snow Goose is easily distinguished from all swans by *shorter neck and black primaries*; from flying Gannet by much smaller head and bill on longer neck, short rounded tail and broader wings.

Voice: An abrupt, harsh "kaahk"; also a deep "zung-ung-ung" conversational gabble.

Habitat and Range: As in "grey geese." Breeds colonially on open tundra and lake islands. Vagrant from N. America to Iceland, Britain, Ireland, many European countries, from Norway to Greece.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

pages 18, 22

Du—Rotgans

Fr—Bernache cravant

Ge—Ringelgans

Sw—Prutgås

Identification: 22-24". *Smallest and darkest* of the "black geese" (near water of Mallard), with *sooty black head, neck and breast*, brilliant white "stern" and *small white fleck on side of neck* (sometimes looking almost like narrow collar, but absent in immature). Dark-bellied form *B. b. bernicla* has dark grey-brown belly; pale-bellied *B. b. hrota* has much paler under-parts, contrasting strongly with upper-parts (both may occur in same flock). More maritime than other geese. Strongly gregarious, feeding at water's edge along coast by day or night; rests on water at high tide; often "up-ends." Flight rapid, seldom in formation, usually in irregularly changing flocks. Distinguished from Barnacle and much larger Canada geese by *all-black head*.

Voice: A soft, throaty "rronk" or "rruk," also various lesser conversational notes.

Habitat: Maritime outside breeding season, frequenting coasts and estuaries where *Zostera* weed abounds. Breeds sociably on high rocky tundra and islets off Arctic coasts. Map below.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

pages 18, 22

Du—Brandgans

Fr—Bernache nonnette

Ge—Weisswangengans

Sw—Vitkindad gås

Identification: 23-27". Quickly identified by *black and white plumage, conspicuous white face and forehead*; black on neck extending down to breast; lavender-grey upper-parts with bold white-edged black bars, greyish under-parts, white rump and black tail. Legs and small bill black. Flight and behaviour as in "grey geese." Largely nocturnal. Strongly gregarious. Distinguished from Brent by larger size, white face and more terrestrial habits; from Canada Goose by smaller size, white forehead, black breast and grey (not brown) upper-parts.

Voice: Distant flock sounds like pack of yapping lap-dogs. Usual note a rapidly repeated barking "gnuk."

Habitat: Seldom far inland, preferring salt marshes, grass fields near



← BRENT GOOSE
Winter visitor from
high Arctic. Vagr-
ant s. to Italy,
Roumania

BARNACLE
GOOSE →

Winter vis. from
high Arctic. Pass-
age Baltic. Vagr.
s. to Spain, Italy



DUCKS, MERGANSERS, GEESE AND SWANS 59

estuaries, tidal mud-flats, or small grass-topped islands. Breeds colonially, usually on ledges of steep Arctic cliffs, rocky river gorges and hill-sides, sometimes open tundra. Map p 58.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* pages 18, 22

Du—Canadese gans Fr—Bernache du Canada
Ge—Kanadagans Sw—Kanadagås

Identification: 36-40". Largest goose occurring in Europe. Grey-brown, with black head and long black neck contrasting strongly with whitish breast. Distinguished from other "black geese" by large size and broad white patch from throat on to cheek. Bill and legs black. Distinguished from much smaller Barnacle by brown body (not grey), white patch on cheeks (not including forehead), black extending only to base of neck (not to breast). Brent is even smaller, without white on head. Gregarious outside breeding season. Normally diurnal, grazing in fields like "grey geese," but sometimes also "up-ending" in water. Chiefly a fresh-water species. Flies in regular chevron or line formations.

Voice: Flight-note a resonant "aa-honk," second syllable rising.

Habitat and Range: Fields and open marshes near fresh water; sometimes among trees and along seashores. Introduced into Europe and occurs frequently in parks. Breeds singly or in small groups on bushy islets in lakes. Feral breeder in Britain, Sweden; has occurred Ireland, Faeroes, Norway, Denmark, Holland, France.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* pages 18, 23

Du—Roodhalsgans Fr—Bernache à cou roux
Ge—Rothalsgans Sw—Rödhsalsad gås

Identification: 21-22". Easily identified by contrasting combination of black, white and chestnut plumage. At a distance white flank-stripe is most conspicuous feature. Legs and very small bill blackish. Immature is paler, duller and browner, with indistinct white patch between bill and eye. Behaviour and flight similar to "grey geese," but is extremely quick and agile when feeding and seldom flies in regular chevron or line formation. Often associates with White-fronts.

Voice: A shrill, staccato, "kik-wik," or "kee-kwa," and various rather squeaky conversational notes.

Habitat and Range: Normally winters on grassy steppes, roosting along sea coast. Breeds sociably on coastal tundra. Some winter in Hungary. Vagrant across Europe to Britain, France, Sweden, Iceland.

MUTE SWAN →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Finland,
Norway, and south
to Spain



MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

pages 18, 22

Du—Knobbelzwaan

Fr—Cygne muet

Ge—Höckerschwan

Sw—Knölsvan

Identification: 60". Same size as Whooper, larger than Bewick's. Distinguished from both by *orange bill with black knob and base* (knob greatly enlarged in male in spring). Also, when swimming, by *gracefully curved neck, with bill pointing downward*. Habitually silent. Immature browner than young Whooper, with knobless, greyish-pink bill and grey legs. *Readily assumes aggressive attitude*, with neck curved and wings arched over back. Is often domesticated. Flight powerful and direct, with neck outstretched; *wing-beats make distinctive loud singing note*. Sociable (sometimes in very large herds), except in breeding season.

Habitat: May occur anywhere. In truly wild state frequents remote marshes and lakes; in winter, on sheltered sea coasts. Map p 59.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

pages 18, 22

Du—Wilde zwaan

Fr—Cygne sauvage

Ge—Singschwan

Sw—Sångsvan

Identification: 60". *Lemon-yellow base to black bill* distinguishes Whooper from Mute, which has orange bill with black knob at base. Further distinguished by *stiffly erect neck* and frequent *bugle-call notes*; from Bewick's by considerably larger size, yellow on bill *tapering forward to a point*, and different voice. Immature marked with ashy-brown, greyer than young Mute; bill pale pinkish with dusky tip. Behaviour and flight like Mute, but walks more easily, does not arch wings aggressively and wing-beats lack characteristic singing note. Usually in noisy herds, except in breeding season, when solitary. Flies in wavering oblique lines, or chevrons.

Voice: Noisiest of swans. Flight-call a loud trumpeting or whooping "hoo-hoo-hoo."

Habitat: Sea coasts, tidal waters, lakes, large rivers. Nests on islets in swamps or lakes, moorland bogs, Arctic tundra. Map below.



← WHOOPER SWAN
Mainly migratory.
Has bred Scotland.
Vagr. s. to Medit.
Rare N.W. France,
Balkans

BEWICK'S SWAN →
Winter vis. from
N. Russia. Vag. s.
to Yugoslavia,
Italy, France



BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*

page 18

Du—Kleine zwaan

Fr—Cygne de Bewick

Ge—Zwergschwan

Sw—Mindre sångsvan

Identification: 48". *Considerably smaller* and shorter in the neck than Mute and Whooper; chiefly resembles latter; distinguished by *smaller, more rounded area of yellow on bill* and much quieter voice. Immature resembles young Whooper, except in size. Behaviour and habitat like Whooper, but seldom flies in regular formation. Does not arch wings aggressively. Wing-beats lack characteristic singing note made by Mute. **Voice:** Less vocal than Whooper. Feeding herds make musical, goose-like gabble. Flight-call a louder, goose-like honking, but lacking the trumpeting quality of the Whooper. Map p 60.

VULTURES : Aegypiidae

VULTURES ARE IMMENSE, EAGLE-LIKE BIRDS, but with very much longer wings, smaller tails and small, naked heads; they soar for hours at great altitudes on motionless wings; all are carrion eaters.

EGYPTIAN VULTURE *Neophron percnopterus*

page 65

Du—Aasgier

Fr—Percnoptère d'Égypte

Ge—Schmutzgeier

Sw—Smutsgam

Identification: 23-26". Much smaller than other vultures. Has distinctive flight-silhouette, with *long, straight-edged but pointed black and white wings* and wedge-shaped *white tail*. Head and throat of adults have *bare yellow skin*, above a shaggy whitish ruff. Plumage dingy white, with contrasting blackish primaries. Bill is *thinner* than in other vultures. Immature varies according to age from dark brown to dirty whitish, with brownish head and ruff. Although not very sociable, occasionally two or three will join Griffons at carcass to eat what the much larger birds leave. Scavenges for offal.

Habitat: As Griffon, but also frequents native villages; nests on cliffs or in trees. Map below.



← EGYPTIAN
VULTURE
Partial migrant.
Vagr. n. to Britain,
Denmark and
E. Prussia

GRIFFON
VULTURE →
Mainly resident.
Often Austria, vag.
n. to British Is.,
Denmark, Finland



HARRIERS AND KITES



HARRIERS have small heads, long bodies, long wings, long tails.

- MARSH HARRIER page 80
Male: Large blue-grey patches on wings.
Female: Dark brown; pale crown and throat.
Juvenile: Like female, or with head nearly all dark.

- MONTAGU'S HARRIER 84
Male: Black bar on wing, greyish rump, rusty marks on under-parts.
Female: Slimmer than Hen Harrier, rump patch slightly narrower.

- HEN HARRIER 81
Male: Grey, with clear white rump-patch; no black bar on wing.
Female: Brown, streaked; white rump-patch.

- △ PALLID HARRIER 84
Male: Paler than Hen Harrier, with white breast; no white rump-patch, no black wing-bar.
Female: Indistinguishable in field from Montagu's.



KITES are rather similar in shape to harriers, but have notched or forked tails.

- △ BLACK KITE 78
 Dusky; slightly forked tail.

- KITE 78
 Rusty; deeply forked tail.

- BLACK-WINGED KITE 79
 Black shoulders, white tail.



MARSH HARRIER



MONTAGU'S HARRIER



HEN HARRIER



PALLID HARRIER



BLACK KITE



KITE



BLACK-WINGED KITE



KESTREL



LESSER
KESTREL



MERLIN



PEREGRINE



LANNER
FALCON



SAKER
FALCON

Dark form
Adult



ELEONORA'S FALCON

Pale form
Adult



RED-FOOTED FALCON

HOBBY



FALCONS have rather large heads, broad shoulders, long pointed wings, longish tails.

- **KESTREL** page 92
Male: Rufous back, grey tail with black band.
Female: Rufous upper-parts; barred.

- △ **LESSER KESTREL** 91
Male: From Kestrel by absence of spots on back.
 Mediterranean. Gregarious.

- **MERLIN** 90
Male: Small; blue-grey back.
Female: Dusky back, banded tail.

- **PEREGRINE** 88
Adult: Slate back, whitish breast, heavy black moustache.
Immature: Brown, streaked; heavy moustache.

- LANNER FALCON** 89
 Golden cap, brown back.

- SAKER FALCON** 89
 Whitish head, rusty back and wings.

- **HOBBY** 88
 Like small Peregrine; streaked under-parts, rufous "trousers."

- ELEONORA'S FALCON** 90
Black phase: Black with yellow feet. (Do not confuse with rare black phase of Montagu's Harrier).
Light phase: Suggests small immature Peregrine, but moustaches narrower and cere yellow (not bluish.)

- **RED-FOOTED FALCON** 91
Male: Slaty; red feet, rusty under tail-coverts.
Female: Rusty crown and belly; barred grey back.

GRIFFON VULTURE *Gyps fulvus* page 65

Du—Vale gier

Fr—Vautour fauve

Ge—Gänsegeier

Sw—Gåsgam

Identification: 38-41". Distinguished from other vultures by flight silhouette: very long, broad wings with widely spread primaries forming rounded ends, and very short, dark, squared tail; small head is sunk well back into ruff. Sandy plumage contrasts with blackish wing and tail feathers. Head and neck covered with white down. Ruff is whitish in adult, brown in juvenile. Sociable when roosting and feeding.

Voice: Croaking and whistling notes, in breeding season only.

Habitat: Ranges over all types of country, but normal habitat is mountainous. Breeds sociably in caves, or on rocky ledges. Map 61.

BLACK VULTURE *Aegypius monachus* page 65

Du—Zwarte gier

Fr—Vautour moine

Ge—Mönchsgeier

Sw—Grå gam

Identification: 39-42". In size and flight silhouette very like Griffon, but distinguished by larger head and longer, slightly wedge-shaped tail; also by uniform sooty-brown plumage (looks black at a distance). Seen from above, wing coverts are darker than flight feathers. Neck bare bluish-pink skin, above brown ruff. Behaviour and voice like Griffon's. See also Bearded Vulture. Usually rather solitary.

Habitat: Remote mountains and plains. Nests in trees, very occasionally on ledge on cliff-face. Map below.

BEARDED VULTURE, or LAMMERGEYER *Gypaëtus barbatus* page 65

Du—Lammergeier

Fr—Gypaète barbu

Ge—Bartgeier

Sw—Lammgam

Identification: 40-45". Distinguished from other vultures by distinctive flight silhouette, more like huge falcon than vulture, with long, rather narrow, angled wings and long, wedge-shaped dark tail. Adults have greyish-black upper-parts, wings and tail, mainly creamy head with conspicuous broad black patch slanting forward from eye to prominent



← **BLACK VULTURE**
Mainly res. Vagr. cent. Europe, n. to Denmark, Baltic Provinces

BEARDED VULTURE →
Mainly resident. Recently a few summering E. Alps. Vagrant Italy.





GRIFFON



BLACK



BEARDED



EGYPTIAN



EGYPTIAN



BEARDED



GRIFFON



BLACK

VULTURES

bunch of black bristles below bill. Under-parts pale buff, rusty on breast; under-wings dark. Juvenile has dark head and neck. Less sluggish than other vultures. Normally solitary.

Voice: Has a thin, querulous cry.

Habitat: Remote mountain ranges. Nests in caves on precipices. Map p 64.

EAGLES, BUZZARDS, HAWKS, KITES, HARRIERS, FALCONS : Falconidae

EAGLES are large birds of prey with huge, hooked bills; flight is majestic; when soaring, heads look much larger than heads of buzzards or vultures; plumages are confusing when immature; most eagles hunt by pouncing on their prey, others are carrion eaters.

BUZZARDS have broad wings, broad rounded tails and relatively small bills; they are usually seen soaring and circling; some are carrion eaters.

HAWKS are much smaller, with short rounded wings and long tails; they cruise swiftly at low altitude and chase or pounce on their prey.

KITES have angular wings and are harrier-shaped, but have a more buoyant, gliding flight.

HARRIERS are slim, with long, slightly angled wings and long tails; flight is usually low and wavering, with wings held in shallow "V."

FALCONS have long, pointed wings and longish tails; wing-beats are rapid; flight often extremely fast. True falcons kill their prey by stooping on it at terrific speed.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* pages 69, 70

Du—Steenarend

Fr—Aigle royal

Ge—Steinadler

Sw—Kungöörn

Identification: 30-35". Large size, majestic gliding and soaring flight with occasional wing-beats, broadly spread up-curved primaries and ample, squarish tail are characteristic. Plumage of adult uniformly dark, with *golden tinge* on head and nape. Immature birds show *conspicuous white* at base of primaries and have *white tail with broad dark terminal band*, the white diminishing with age. Hunts by quartering mountain sides and pouncing on Ptarmigan, hare, etc., from very low altitude. Distinguished in flight from young White-tailed Eagle by larger, squarer tail and lack of whitish on under wing-coverts; when perched, by less bulky appearance and, at close range, by smaller bill and feathered tarsi. Variations of immature plumage can cause confusion with Imperial, Spotted, Lesser Spotted and Tawny Eagles. Apart from size, boldly projecting head and more ample tail prevent confusion with soaring Buzzard.

Voice: Has very occasional yelping "kya" and a few whistling notes.

Habitat: Barren mountain sides, locally also mountain forests, sea cliffs and plains. Nests on rocky ledge, occasionally in tree. Map p 67.

IMPERIAL EAGLE *Aquila heliaca*

page 69

Du—Keizerarend

Fr—Aigle impérial

Ge—Kaiseradler

Sw—Kejsarörn

Identification: 31-33". A large, rather heavy-looking eagle with blackish-brown plumage and a pale yellowish crown and nape (almost white in old birds). Usually has a few pure white feathers on scapulars. Tail rather square-cut, with 5-7 grey bars. Immature lacks white and varies from yellowish-brown to mottled blackish-brown according to age; normally shows dark streaking and has ochreous or pale rufous crown. Adult of Spanish form *A. h. adalberti* has conspicuous pure white shoulders, showing in flight as short white band along leading edge of wing; immature is more rufous and paler on crown and under-parts than in *A. h. heliaca* of E. Europe. Behaviour sluggish. See also Tawny and Golden Eagles.

Voice: A quick, barking, "owk-owk-owk."

Habitat: Plains, steppes and marshes. Builds huge conspicuous nest in isolated tall tree. Map below.

TAWNY EAGLE *Aquila rapax*

page 69

Identification: 26-31". Adults almost uniform dark brown, with indistinct grey bars on short, rounded tail. Very easily confused with adult Spotted Eagle, but Tawny often has rusty-yellow patch on nape as I never has white on upper tail-coverts of some (not all) Spotted Eagles. Juvenile is "café au lait" coloured, with blackish primaries and shows two pale wing-bars in flight. Behaviour very sluggish, often perching for long periods on ground; seldom soars and usually flies close to ground. Feeds on carrion, frogs, etc. Adults distinguished from Golden Eagle by smaller size and less ample, only faintly barred tail, without broad dark terminal band; from Imperial by dark crown. Steppe Eagle *A. nipalensis* (an accidental straggler from Asia) is indistinguishable in the field from Tawny and is probably conspecific.

Voice: Usual note a high "kow, kow, kow."

Habitat and Range: Open bushy plains or steppes. Nests on ground, on small mound. Breeds Roumania. Vagrant to Mediterranean countries.



← GOLDEN EAGLE
Mainly res., extending E. Europe in winter. Vagr. Holland, Belgium. Recently bred Ireland.

IMPERIAL EAGLE →
Part. migrant. Has bred Austria. Vagr. to Poland, Sweden, Italy, France.



SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila clanga*

page 69

Du—Bastaardarend

Fr—Aigle criard

Ge—Schelladler

Sw—Större skrikörn

Identification: 26-29". Adults are very dark purplish-brown, slightly paler below. A *little* white usually visible on upper tail-coverts; not distinguishable in the field from Lesser Spotted, though usually darker, especially on head and under-parts. Immature has *copious, large whitish spots* on upper-parts and noticeable white, often in "V," at base of tail; in flight, shows two pale bands on wings. Silhouette in flight and when perched like Golden Eagle, but behaviour is sluggish. See also Tawny and Golden Eagles, with which it is easily confused.

Voice: Like shrill yapping of small dog: "*kyak, kyak, kyak.*"

Habitat: A tree-loving species; usually near inland lakes, rivers, marshes. Nests in forest tree or bush. Map below.

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina*

page 69

Du—Schreeuwarend

Fr—Aigle pomarin

Ge—Schreiadler

Sw—Mindre skrikörn

Identification: 24-26". Adult not distinguishable in the field from Spotted, though *paler* brown than both Spotted and Tawny, especially on crown, wing-coverts and under-parts. Upper tail-coverts are never clear white, but may be flecked with white. Immature has much fewer and smaller spots and streaks than young Spotted and is further distinguished at short range by a *rusty or buffish patch on the nape*. Flight more active and voice less vibrant than in Spotted.

Habitat: Often found near water, though to lesser extent than Spotted. Frequents remote wooded country, with open ground accessible for hunting. Nests in tree. Map below.

BONELLI'S EAGLE *Hieraëtus fasciatus*

page 71

Fr—Aigle de Bonelli

Ge—Habichtsadler

Sw—Hökörn

Identification: 26-29". Upper-parts dark brown, almost black on wing-tips, paler on nape, usually showing whitish patch on back. Longish



← SPOTTED EAGLE
Mainly summer
visitor. Vag. w. to
Brit. Is., Sweden;
sometimes winters
S. France

LESSER SPOTTED
EAGLE →
Mainly summer
May nest Austria.
Vag. Finland; w. to
Sweden, Denmark





Adult

GOLDEN



Adult

TAWNY



Immature

LESSER SPOTTED



Adult

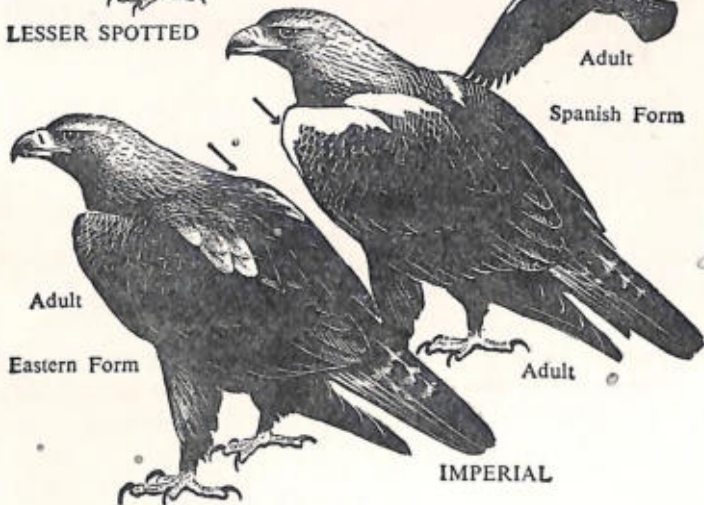
SPOTTED

Immature



Adult

Spanish Form



Adult

Eastern Form

IMPERIAL

Adult

EAGLES

EAGLES AND OSPREY OVERHEAD

● GOLDEN EAGLE

page 66

Immature: "Ringed" tail; large white patches at base of primaries.

Adult: Much larger than Buzzard; almost uniformly dark; base of tail often with pale obscure barring. When upper side is seen, golden feathers on back of head are determinative.

○ WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

79

Immature: From adult Golden by more wedge-shaped tail. Crown dark (not golden), otherwise paler than Golden, often streaked with white and brown on under-parts.

Adult: White tail.

● OSPREY

85

White head, clear white belly, black "wrist" patches.



In addition to its gleaming white under-parts, the Osprey (*left*) can often be recognised in flight at a distance by the decided kink or bow in its wings. Eagles (*right*) soar with flat wings.



GOLDEN EAGLE

Immature



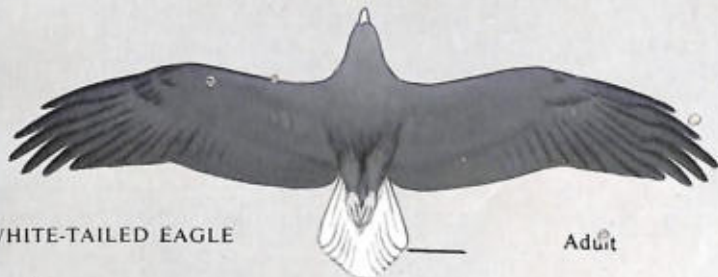
GOLDEN EAGLE

Adult



WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

Immature

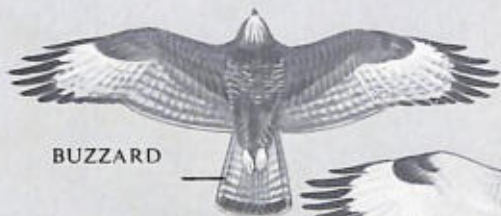


WHITE-TAILED EAGLE

Adult



OSPREY



BUZZARD



**ROUGH-LEGGED
BUZZARD**



**HONEY
BUZZARD**



**LONG-LEGGED
BUZZARD**



**BONELLI'S
EAGLE
Adult**



**BONELLI'S
EAGLE
Juvenile**



**BOOTED
EAGLE
Light phase**



**BOOTED
EAGLE
Dark phase**



SHORT-TOED EAGLE

BUZZARDS AND SMALL EAGLES OVERHEAD



BUZZARDS are bulky, with broad wings and broad tails. They soar and wheel high in the open sky. Certain of the eagles are similar in outline to buzzards, but usually have proportionately longer wings.

- **BUZZARD** page 72:
 Variable, usually dark; tail with numerous narrow bars; "wrist-patches" not conspicuous.
- **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** 73:
 Dark belly; white tail with broad black band at tip; black "wrist patches."
- **HONEY BUZZARD** 80:
 Tail longer than Buzzard's, with broad black bands near base. Note wing pattern. Variable.
- LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD** 76
 Tail pale rusty, without bars.
- BONELLI'S EAGLE** 68
Adult: Silky white under-parts, dark wings.
Juvenile: See text.
- BOOTED EAGLE** 72
 Buzzard size; longer tail. See habitat.
Light phase: White wing-linings, dark flight-feathers.
Dark phase: Dark; pale at base of primaries and tail.
- SHORT-TOED EAGLE** 85
 White under-parts and under-wings usually contrast with dark upper breast. Some birds very white below, without dark breast-band.

tail has half dozen faint bars and a broad dark terminal band. Seen from below, the narrowly streaked, *silky white or creamy under-parts* contrast with the *dark wings*, distinguishing adult from all other eagles. Juvenile has rusty head, closely streaked rufous-brown under-parts and closely barred tail. Second-year birds are confusing, almost uniform brown; under-parts lose rufous tinge, but are not yet white. Behaviour aggressive. Hunts rabbits, birds, etc. Flight rapid, recalling Goshawk; stoops on prey like falcon.

Voice: Recalls Goshawk: a chattering "*kie, kie, kikiki.*"

Habitat: Rocky mountainous country, but seldom at great altitudes; descends to plains and deserts in winter. Nests on precipitous rock-face, occasionally in tree. Map below.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus* page 71

Fr—Aigle botté Ge—Zwergadler Sw—Dvärgörn

Identification: 18-21". Easily confused with Rough-legged Buzzard, but distinguished by longer, square-cut, almost uniform tail and more slender form. Habitat usually quite different. Upper-parts mottled dark brown, with paler reddish head and white flecks on shoulders. Dimorphic: under-parts may be either dark, or whitish. Tarsi heavily feathered; feet large, yellow. Feeds on small birds and animals. Flight much more rapid and more graceful than Buzzard's, often weaving among trees.

Voice: Usual notes, a thin, high "*keee,*" with downward inflection, and various chattering cries.

Habitat: Deciduous and pine forests, near clearings for hunting. Seldom far from trees. Breeds in tall trees. Map below.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Du—Buizerd

Ge—Mäusebussard

Fr—Buse variable

Sw—Ornvråk

pages 55, 71

Identification: 20-22". Buzzards may be identified by flight silhouette (*broad wings, ample rounded tails*). Adults dark brown, mottled with white below. Amount of white on under-parts and beneath wings



← **BONELLI'S EAGLE**
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Belgium,
Germany, Bulgaria

BOOTED EAGLE →
Mainly summer
vis. May still breed
France. Vagrant
Italy, Germany,
Czechoslovakia



EAGLES, BUZZARDS, HAWKS, KITES, ETC. 73

varies, but is rarely as pronounced as in Rough-legged. Distinguished from latter by *narrowly barred* brown and grey tail with broad dark terminal band, *inconspicuous* dark carpal patches beneath wings, and unfeathered yellow tarsi. Soars circling for hours, on broad motionless wings, with tips of primaries up-curved and tail widely spread; head is carried well back, giving short-necked appearance. Flight rather heavy. Hovers occasionally. Hunts by pouncing from low altitude on small animals, beetles, rarely small birds; also fond of carrion. Often seen in small groups. See also Honey Buzzard.

Voice: A high, plaintive mewling "pee-oo," often long-drawn; also a short croaking note.

Habitat: Secluded rocky coasts, moors, plains, mountain slopes, cultivated and wooded regions. Nests on rock ledges, in trees and on broken ground. Map below.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* pages 55, 71

Du—Ruigpootbuzerd

Fr—Buse pattue

Ge—Rauhfußbussard

Sw—Fjällvråk

N.Am—Rough-legged Hawk

Identification: 20-24". Normally distinguished from Buzzard by *white tail with broad dark terminal band*; usually much whiter beneath wings and on under-parts, with dark lower breast; head looks pale. *Conspicuous dark carpal patches* beneath pale wings and dark tips to primaries are distinctive. Legs feathered whitish to base of toes (Buzzard has unfeathered yellow tarsi). Immature resembles young Buzzard, but has some white on tail. Behaviour, voice and flight are similar, but *hovers frequently*, on slowly beating wings, pouncing on prey. Feeds chiefly on rabbits and small rodents, occasionally birds. See also Honey Buzzard and Booted Eagle.

Habitat: Usually barren open country and mountain slopes, also marshes and sand-dunes. Nests on cliff ledges, or on ground in high tundra. Map below.



← BUZZARD
Partial migrant.
Re-established in
N. Ireland

ROUGH-LEGGED
BUZZARD →
Migratory. Vagr.
Ireland and s. to
Mediterranean



tail has half dozen faint bars and a broad dark terminal band. Seen from below, the narrowly streaked, *silky white or creamy under-parts* contrast with the *dark wings*, distinguishing adult from all other eagles. Juvenile has rusty head, closely streaked rufous-brown under-parts and closely barred tail. Second-year birds are confusing, almost uniformly brown; under-parts lose rufous tinge, but are not yet white. Behaviour aggressive. Hunts rabbits, birds, etc. Flight rapid, recalling Goshawk; stoops on prey like falcon.

Voice: Recalls Goshawk: a chattering "*kie, kie, kikiki.*"

Habitat: Rocky mountainous country, but seldom at great altitudes; descends to plains and deserts in winter. Nests on precipitous rock-face, occasionally in tree. Map below.

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus*

page 71

Fr—Aigle botté Ge—Zwergadler Sw—Dvärgörn

Identification: 18-21". Easily confused with Rough-legged Buzzard, but distinguished by longer, square-cut, almost uniform tail and more slender form. Habitat usually quite different. Upper-parts mottled dark brown, with paler reddish head and white flecks on shoulders. Dimorphic: under-parts may be either dark, or whitish. Tarsi heavily feathered; feet large, yellow. Feeds on small birds and animals. Flight much more rapid and more graceful than Buzzard's, often weaving among trees.

Voice: Usual notes, a thin, high "*keee,*" with downward inflection, and various chattering cries.

Habitat: Deciduous and pine forests, near clearings for hunting. Seldom far from trees. Breeds in tall trees. Map below.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

pages 55, 71

Du—Buizerd

Fr—Buse variable

Ge—Mäusebussard

Sw—Ormyråk

Identification: 20-22". Buzzards may be identified by flight silhouette (*broad wings, ample rounded tails*). Adults dark brown, mottled with white below. Amount of white on under-parts and beneath wings



← **BONELLI'S EAGLE**

Mainly resident.
Vagrant Belgium,
Germany, Bulgaria

BOOTED EAGLE →
Mainly summer
vis. May still breed
France. Vagrant
Italy, Germany,
Czechoslovakia



varies, but is rarely as pronounced as in Rough-legged. Distinguished from latter by *narrowly barred* brown and grey tail with broad dark terminal band, *inconspicuous* dark carpal patches beneath wings, and unfeathered yellow tarsi. Soars circling for hours, on broad motionless wings, with tips of primaries up-curved and tail widely spread; head is carried well back, giving short-necked appearance. Flight rather heavy. Hovers occasionally. Hunts by pouncing from low altitude on small animals, beetles, rarely small birds; also fond of carrion. Often seen in small groups. See also Honey Buzzard.

Voice: A high, plaintive mewling "pee-oo," often long-drawn; also a short croaking note.

Habitat: Secluded rocky coasts, moors, plains, mountain slopes, cultivated and wooded regions. Nests on rock ledges, in trees and on broken ground. Map below.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* pages 55, 71

Du—Ruigpootbuiserd

Fr—Buse pattue

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Sw—Fjällvråk

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Identification: 20-24". Normally distinguished from Buzzard by *white tail with broad dark terminal band*; usually much whiter beneath wings and on under-parts, with dark lower breast; head looks pale. *Conspicuous dark carpal patches* beneath pale wings and dark tips to primaries are distinctive. Legs feathered whitish to base of toes (Buzzard has unfeathered yellow tarsi). Immature resembles young Buzzard, but has some white on tail. Behaviour, voice and flight are similar, but *hovers frequently*, on slowly beating wings, pouncing on prey. Feeds chiefly on rabbits and small rodents, occasionally birds. See also Honey Buzzard and Booted Eagle.

Habitat: Usually barren open country and mountain slopes, also marshes and sand-dunes. Nests on cliff ledges, or on ground in high tundra. Map below.



← BUZZARD
Partial migrant.
Re-established in
N. Ireland

ROUGH-LEGGED
BUZZARD →
Migratory. Vagr.
Ireland and s. to
Mediterranean



HARRIERS AND KITES IN FLIGHT



HARRIERS have long wings, long tails and long bodies. Their wings are not as pointed as those of falcons and their flight is more languid and gliding, usually low over the ground. When gliding, their wings (especially in Montagu's and Hen Harriers) are usually held in a shallow "V."

- **MARSH HARRIER** page 80
Male: Contrasting blue-grey wing-patches.
Female: Dark; pale crown and pale shoulders.
- **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** 84
Male: Dark bar on wing; greyish rump.
Female: From Hen Harrier by slimmer build. White rump-patch slightly smaller.
- **HEN HARRIER** 81
Male: Pale grey; no wing-bar; white rump.
Female: Streaked brown; white rump.



KITES are rather similar in shape to harriers, but have notched or forked tails. They are buoyant gliders, making great use of their flexible tails.

- △ **BLACK KITE** 78
 Dusky; slightly forked tail; no noticeable wing pattern.
Note: Easily confused with some dark Marsh Harriers.
- **KITE** 78
 Rusty; deeply forked tail; distinctive wing-pattern.



MARSH
HARRIER



MONTAGU'S
HARRIER



HEN
HARRIER



KITE



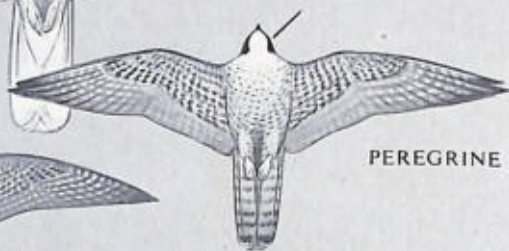
BLACK KITE



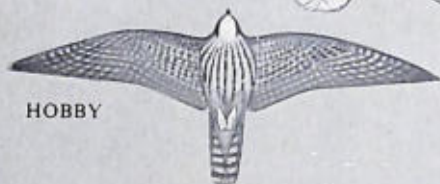
GYR FALCON
Grey phase



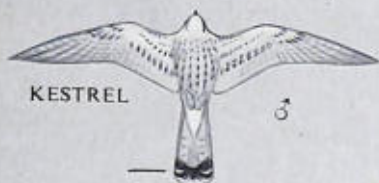
GYR FALCON
White phase



PEREGRINE



HOBBY



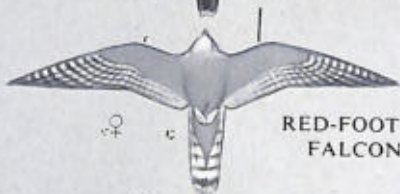
KESTREL

♂



RED-FOOTED
FALCON

♂



RED-FOOTED
FALCON

♀

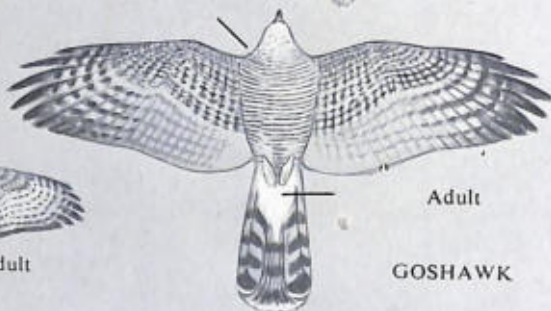


MERLIN



SPARROW
HAWK

Adult



Adult

GOSHAWK

♂

FALCONS AND ACCIPITERS OVERHEAD



FALCONS have long, pointed wings, long tails. Their wing-strokes are strong, rapid but shallow.

- GYR FALCON page 90
Grey phase: Larger than Peregrine, without contrasting face pattern.
White phase: White as a Snowy Owl.
- PEREGRINE 88
 Falcon shape; face pattern; size near that of Crow.
- HOBBY 88
 Like small Peregrine; tail shorter.
- KESTREL 92
 Small, slim; broad black band near tip of tail.
- MERLIN 90
 Smaller than Kestrel; darker, more compact.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON 91
Male: Slaty; red feet; rusty under tail-coverts.
Female: Rusty wing-linings; unmarked rusty belly.



ACCIPITERS (true hawks) have short, rounded wings and long tails. In flight they alternate several rapid wing-beats with a short glide.

- SPARROW HAWK 76
 Rather small; under-parts barred with rusty (male), or grey (female).
- GOSHAWK 77
 Very large; under-parts barred with grey; conspicuous white under tail-coverts.



FALCONS

Pointed Wings, Narrow Tail

HARRIERS

Long Wings, Long TailACCIPITERS
(Bird Hawks)*Short Rounded Wings, Long Tail*BUZZARDS
*Broad Wings
Broad Rounded Tail*

BASIC FLIGHT SILHOUETTES

LONG-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo rufinus* pages 55, 71

Du—Arendbuizerd

Fr—Buse féroce

Ge—Adlerbussard

Sw—Örnvråk

Identification: 24-26". Slightly larger and heavier than Buzzard. Has similar wide variation of plumage, from rich rufous brown, with broadly streaked creamy under-parts, to rare melanistic form with very dark brown under-parts. Adult's head is usually *pale* and the tail *unbarred*, often *cinnamon*, whereas Buzzard's tail is *barred* at all ages. In flight, looks *conspicuously whitish below*, except for dark wing-tips, carpal patches and thighs. Immature inseparable from young Buzzard.

Habitat and Range: Dry, open plains and steppes; locally in mountains. Nests on ground, occasionally in isolated tree. Breeds in Greece. Vagrant to W. Europe, N. to Denmark, more regular in S.E. Europe.

SPARROW HAWK *Accipiter nisus* pages 55, 75

Du—Sperwer

Fr—Epervier d'Europe

Ge—Sperber

Sw—Sparvhök

Identification: 11-15". Female much larger than male. Distinguished from other small birds of prey by combination of *short rounded wings and long tail*. Adults have closely barred under-parts and long yellow legs. Male has dark slate-grey upper-parts with rufous cheeks and

whitish spot on nape, under-parts finely barred with red-brown, tail boldly banded with grey and dark brown. Female has blackish-brown upper-parts, with white stripe above and behind eye and whitish under-parts finely barred with dark brown. Female looks like Goshawk, but latter is very much larger, with relatively shorter tail. Immature like brown female, but is more boldly and irregularly barred below. Hunts by cruising just above hedges, or through woodlands and pouncing on small birds and animals. Normal flight consists of a few rapid wing-beats between long glides. See also Levant Sparrow Hawk.

Voice: Has large vocabulary in breeding season: a loud, rapid "kek-kek-kek," "kee-ow," "kew," etc.

Habitat: Chiefly woodlands and farm-lands, with coppices, plantations, etc. Nests in spruce or other conifer in mixed woods, occasionally in tall bushes, thickets, etc. Map below.

LEVANT SPARROW HAWK *Accipiter brevipes*

Du—Balkansperwer

Fr—Epervier à pieds courts

Ge—Kurzfangsperber

Sw—Kortbenad sparvhök

Identification: 13-15". Not distinguishable in the field from Sparrow Hawk except at close quarters. Male is larger than male Sparrow Hawk, disparity in size between sexes is less; it has grey, instead of rufous cheeks and much more heavily barred under-parts; wings longer; bill and feet heavier. Female is greyer above than female Sparrow Hawk, with brown spots on throat. Eyes red-brown (not yellow). Immature has large brown drop-shaped spots on very white under-parts. Behaviour and habitat like Sparrow Hawk's, but more often in deciduous woods and in the open. See also Goshawk.

Voice: A shrill "ke-vek," or "gi-gik" (very unlike Sparrow Hawk).
Range: Map below.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

Du—Havik

Fr—Autour des palombes

Ge—Habicht

Sw—Duvhök

Identification: 19-24". Female much larger than male. Resembles



← SPARROW HAWK
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes

LEVANT SPARROW
HAWK →
Mainly summer
visitor. Vagrant
Czechoslovakia
and Italy



very large female Sparrow Hawk (short rounded wings, long barred tail). Upper-parts dark, with *whitish stripe* above and behind eye; under-parts whitish, closely barred with dark brown. Juvenile paler above, with buffish under-parts, boldly streaked (not barred) with dark brown. Dashes after birds, doubling among trees with extreme agility. Hunting flight among trees is fast and low, with a few rapid wing beats and long glides.

Voice: A short, Buzzard-like cry and a chattering "gig-gig-gig."

Habitat: Woods (especially coniferous) often near open country. Builds large nest, or adopts old nests of other birds, in secluded wood. Map below.

KITE *Milvus milvus*

pages 62, 74

Du—Wouw

Fr—Milan royal

Ge—Roter Milan

Sw—Vanlig glada

Identification: 24". Easily distinguished by *long, deeply forked chestnut tail*, narrow, strongly angled wings, with *large whitish patches* on underside of black primaries, red-brown upper-parts with pale edges to feathers, dark-streaked rufous under-parts and *streaked whitish head*. Immature is paler, with brownish head. Effortless soaring flight resembles Buzzard's, but silhouette is unmistakably different and normal flight much more buoyant. Partial to carrion, but also preys on animals as large as rabbits, and small birds. Distinguished from Black Kite by more deeply forked tail, more rufous plumage and more slender silhouette.

Voice: A high, Buzzard-like mewling "hi-hi-heea."

Habitat: Usually in wooded hills, but also locally in lowlands and open country with scattered trees. Nests in trees, occasionally on old crow's nest. Map p 79.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

pages 62, 74

Du—Zwartbruine wouw

Fr—Milan noir

Ge—Schwarzer Milan

Sw—Brun glada

Identification: 22". Resembles Kite, but easily distinguished by *much less forked tail*, slightly smaller size and *much darker plumage*; is also more sociable and frequently seen over inland waters. Faint whitish patches beneath wings of immature resemble Kite's, but are absent in adults. Flight and feeding habits like Kite's but also feeds on dead fish. Where



← GOSHAWK
Mainly resident; extends Holland in winter. Has bred England in recent years. Vagrant Ireland, Scotland

numerous, flocks quickly gather on carrion. See also Marsh Harrier.

Voice: Very noisy in breeding season. A thin, quavering, gull-like squeal, sometimes followed by a chatter.

Habitat: In western range usually near lakes or rivers, in areas with woods or scattered trees. In S. and E. of range more frequently in drier localities and in villages. Nests, often sociably, in trees, occasionally on old nest of crow. Map below.

BLACK-WINGED KITE *Elanus caeruleus* page 62

Fr—Elanion blanc Ge—Gleitaar

Identification: 13". About size of Kestrel, with long wings and shortish forked tail. Head whitish, upper-parts pale blue-grey, with *whitish tail* and *black "shoulders."* Primaries grey above, but black beneath, in sharp contrast to pure white under-parts. Eyes dark red. Immature grey-brown above, white below, tinged with rufous and lightly streaked with brown. Behaviour not at all kite-like; hovers on long pointed wings like Kestrel, flies slowly like miniature harrier, or more quickly on sharply angled wings. Feeds on mice, large insects. etc. Often crepuscular.

Voice: A weak, whistling "gree-er."

Habitat and Range: Cultivated areas with scattered trees, or woodland glades, forest edges, etc. Nests fairly low in trees. Resident Portugal. Vagrant in W. Europe, N. to Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia and in Mediterranean countries.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaëtus albicilla* page 70

Du—Zeearend Fr—Pygargue à queue blanche
Ge—Seeadler Sw—Havsörn

N.Am—Gray Sea Eagle

Identification: 27-36". A very bulky eagle, with a huge wing-span. Adults distinguished by *short wedge-shaped white tail*, pale brownish head and heavy yellow bill. Immature has blackish-brown head, tail and bill, but is readily distinguishable from Golden Eagle by tail being



← KITE
Partial migrant.
Resident Wales.
Has bred Norway,
Denmark. Vagrant
Scotland, Ireland,
Finland

BLACK KITE →
Mainly summer
visitor. Has bred
Sweden. Vagrant
Britain, Denmark,
Holland, Belgium



much shorter and wedge-shaped (not full and squared). Tarsi are unfeathered. Soars on straight wings, giving vulture-like silhouette. Catches fish on surface, in low cruising flight, occasionally plunging for them; catches mammals as large as weakling roe-deer, birds as large as ducks; also eats carrion.

Voice: A creaking "kri, kri, kri," and a lower, barking "kra." @

Habitat: Rocky coasts, or remote inland waters. Nests on cliff-face, or on top of rocky pinnacle, in large trees, occasionally on ground. Map below.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

pages 55, 71

Du—Wespendief

Fr—Bondrée apivore

Ge—Wespenbussard

Sw—Bivråk

Identification: 20-23". Flight silhouette differs from Buzzard's and Rough-legged Buzzard's in having narrower wings, longer tail and smaller head on longer neck; tail bars are wider apart than Buzzard's; markings on under-parts and beneath wings are brighter. (Rough-legged has white tail with single broad terminal band.) Plumage very variable. Upper-parts dark brown, often lightly spotted with white; head greyish; under-parts heavily marked with dark brown, sometimes completely brown. Immature often has creamy marking on head; under-parts streaked. Flight like Buzzard's, but soars and hovers less. Feeds on larvae of wasps and bees, sometimes mice, small birds, eggs. **Voice:** A high, squeaky "kee-er," quite unlike Buzzard's mewing; also a rapid "kikiki."

Habitat: Open glades or outskirts of woods. Usually builds on old nest of crow. Map below.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

pages 62, 74

Du—Bruine kuikendief

Fr—Busard harpaye

Ge—Rohrweihe

Sw—Brun kärrhök

Identification: 19-22". Distinguished from other harriers by larger size, heavier build, broader wings and absence of white on rump. Has low, quartering flight, with occasional wing-beats and long, wavering glides.



← WHITE-TAILED

EAGLE

W. to dotted line in winter. Has bred Czecho., Aust. Re-estab. Denmark. Vag. W. Europe.

HONEY

BUZZARD →

Summer visitor. Breeds irreg. England. Vag. Faeroes, Ireland



Plumage variable. Adult male is dark chestnut above, with *pale grey tail, contrasting grey secondaries and black primaries*; streaked buffish head, nape and breast and rich brown under-parts. Female and immature male usually lack grey and are fairly uniform dark brown, with *creamy heads and shoulders* (females sometimes are all-dark, suggesting Black Kite). Juvenile dark chocolate brown with bright creamy crown and throat. Hunts by pouncing from low altitude into reeds, etc.

Voice: A high, Lapwing-like "qūee-a" and variants.

Habitat: Almost invariably fens, swamps and marshes, with large areas of dense reeds. Builds large nest in reed-bed usually surrounded by water. Map below.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

pages 62, 74

Du—Blauwe kuikendief

Fr—Busard Saint-Martin

Ge—Kornweihe

Sw—Blå kärhök

N.Am—Marsh Hawk

Identification: 17-20". Slender, with long, slightly angled wings and long tail. Both sexes very like Montagu's, but distinguishable by *more conspicuous white on rump*, also, when seen together, by slightly heavier build, slightly shorter wings and tail. Ash-grey male distinguished by *absence of black wing-bar* and unstreaked belly and thighs. Female and immature have dark brown upper-parts and broadly streaked buffish under-parts, indistinguishable in the field from female Montagu's, though Hen Harrier's white rump-patch is usually more conspicuous. Juvenile distinguished from young Montagu's by *streaked under-parts*. Flight distinctive, usually very low, gliding buoyantly with wings held in shallow "V." See also Pallid Harrier.

Voice: A high chattering "ke-ke-ke"; also a long, wailing "pee-e."
Habitat: As Montagu's, but more frequently in open country, moors and sandy coasts than in marshes. Nests on ground on moors, in swamps, thickets, or crops. Map below.

← MARSH
HARRIER

Partial mig. Has bred Wales, Ireland. May winter E. Austria. Vag. Faeroes, Norway

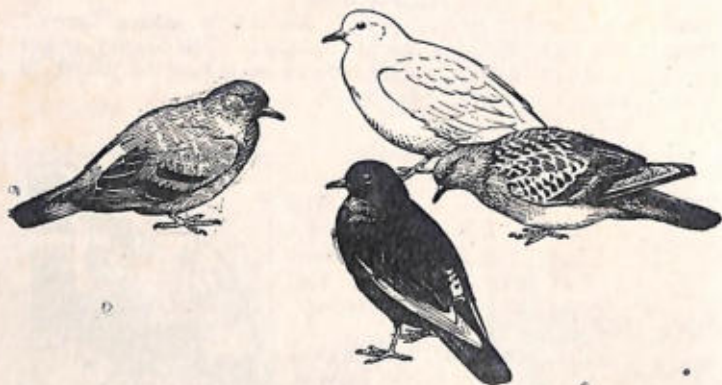
HEN HARRIER →
 Partial migrant.
 Has bred England,
 Denmark,
 Vagrant Iceland



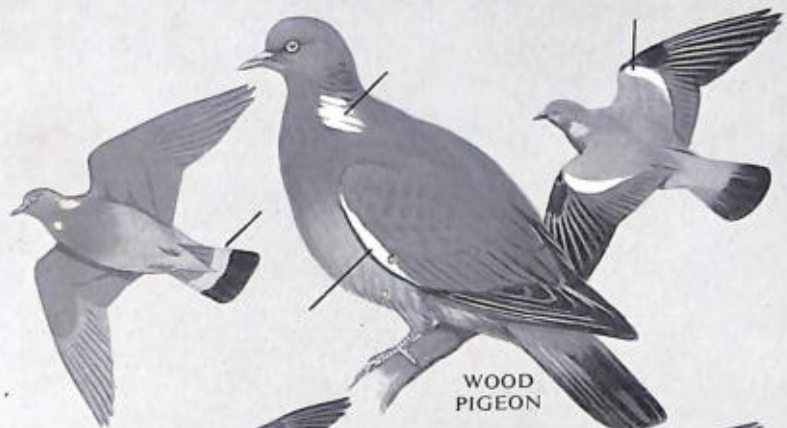
PIGEONS AND DOVES

THE TERMS "PIGEON" AND "DOVE" are loosely used and often interchangeable, but for the most part "pigeon" refers to the larger species, "dove" to the smaller.

- **WOOD PIGEON** page 164
Large; white wing-patches, white neck-patch.
- **STOCK DOVE** 163
Short black bars on secondaries; grey rump.
- **ROCK DOVE** 163
White rump, two large black wing-bars.
The various domestic pigeons are descendants of this species and many still closely resemble it.
- **TURTLE DOVE** 164
Slender, rufous; deeply rounded, white-tipped tail.
- COLLARED TURTLE DOVE** 165
Black collar; white beneath end half of tail. The domestic or Ringed Turtle Dove (*S. risoria*) is very similar, but is creamy-buff instead of vinous-grey and has pale, not dark, primaries.



Domestic pigeons (descended from Rock Dove) show great variety of colour and pattern.



WOOD
PIGEON



ROCK DOVE



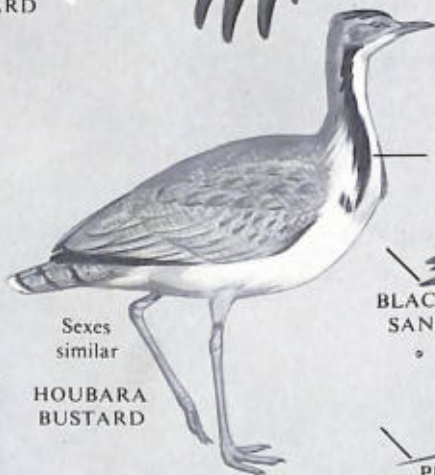
STOCK DOVE



TURTLE DOVE



COLLARED TURTLE DOVE



BUSTARDS, SANDGROUSE AND STONE CURLEW

BUSTARDS are large-bodied, long-legged birds of the open plains.
SANDGROUSE are plump, dove-like desert birds with pointed tails.

- GREAT BUSTARD

Very large size: head and neck pale grey (no black).
Female: Smaller.

page 109
- LITTLE BUSTARD

Male: Black and white neck pattern.
Female: Streaked brown head and neck.

109
- △ HOUBARA (MACQUEEN'S) BUSTARD

Long black and white feathers drooping from neck.
Sexes similar.

110
- BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE

Black belly, tail less elongated than in other sandgrouse.

162
- PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE

White belly, white wing-band, long needle-pointed tail.

162
- PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE

Black belly, long needle-pointed tail.

163
- STONE CURLEW

Hunched attitude, large pale eyes, broad light bar on closed wing.

138

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

page 62

Du—Steppenkuikendief Fr—Busard pâle
 Ge—Steppenweihe Sw—Stäpphök

Identification: 17-19". Male looks strikingly white about head and under-parts, with pale blue-grey tail and wings and contrasting black primaries. Distinguished from pale male Hen Harrier by *grey* instead of pure white rump, *white* instead of grey breast and sides of head and *less black on wings*; from pale male Montagu's by paler grey upper-parts, *lack of black wing-bar*, and *unstreaked white under-parts and thighs*. Female and immature not distinguishable in the field from those of Montagu's, but juvenile distinguished from young Hen Harrier by *unstreaked rufous under-parts*. Behaviour as Montagu's. Females cry "*preee-pri-pri-pri*" is distinctive.

Habitat: As Hen Harrier, but also in dry steppes, open plains and hill country with sparse trees. Map below.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

pages 62, 74

Du—Grauwe kuikendief Fr—Busard de Montagu
 Ge—Wiesenweihe Sw—Mindre kärnhök

Identification: 16-18". Smaller and slimmer than Marsh Harrier, with *narrower, more pointed wings and noticeably more buoyant flight*. Female closely resembles Hen Harrier, though usually with less white on rump. Male distinguished from Hen Harrier by *greyish* instead of pure white rump, *narrow black wing-bar and brown streaks on belly and thighs*. Immature like female, but with unstreaked rich rufous under-parts. Behaviour like Marsh Harrier's. Sociable where numerous. See also Pallid Harrier.

Voice: Querulous "*kek-kek-kek*," more shrill than Hen Harrier's chatter.

Habitat: Marshes, fens, moors with clumps of trees, or agricultural land. Where numerous, nests sociably in wet vegetation, or on dry heaths, occasionally in cornfields. Map below.



← **PALLID HARRIER**
Part. migrant. Has bred Sweden, Germany, Czecho. Vag. Britain, W. Europe n. to Finland

MONTAGU'S HARRIER →
Mainly summer vis. Irreg. Czecho. Vagrant Norway, Ireland



SHORT-TOED EAGLE *Circaëtus gallicus* page 71

Du—Slangenarend

Fr—Circaète Jean-le-Blanc

Ge—Schlangenadler

Sw—Ormörn

Identification: 25-27". Larger than Buzzard, with proportionately longer wings, head much larger (rather owl-like) and more projecting. Upper-parts grey-brown, with blackish primaries. Under-parts and beneath wings very distinctive, nearly uniform white, usually with only a few scattered spots, contrasting with dark upper breast and throat (dark markings occasionally lacking). Tail has 3-4 indistinct dark bars, looks rather long. Juvenile browner below, with dark bars. Flight is majestic, soaring on level wings (not in "V" like Buzzard); frequently hovers. Feeds on snakes, lizards, frogs, etc. See also Honey Buzzard.

Voice: Rather noisy. A harsh, plaintive "jee," a rather weak "ok ok, ok," or "mew-ok."

Habitat: Mountain slopes and gorges; secluded woodlands, plantations, marshy plains, coastal dunes. Nests in tree. Map below.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaëtus*

Du—Visarend

Fr—Balbuzard fluviatile

Ge—Fischadler

Sw—Fiskgjuse

page 70

Identification: 20-23". Distinguished from all other eagle-like birds of prey by contrast of blackish upper-parts and snow-white under-parts, with dusky breast-band. Has slightly crested white head, with broad black patch through eye. Wings long, narrow and decidedly angled, with black carpal patches on whitish under-sides. Tail barred. Hovers heavily above water and plunges feet first for fish. Usually perches on dead tree, or rock, near water.

Voice: A short, cheeping whistle, sometimes slightly declining.

Habitat: Invariably near water; lakes, large rivers, or sea coasts. Nests on small remote islands, rocky cliffs, trees, ruins, occasionally on sandy or rocky ground. Breeds in scattered groups in some localities. Map below.

← **SHORT-TOED EAGLE**

Part. migrant Vag. north to Finland, Sweden. Doubtful winter France, Alps

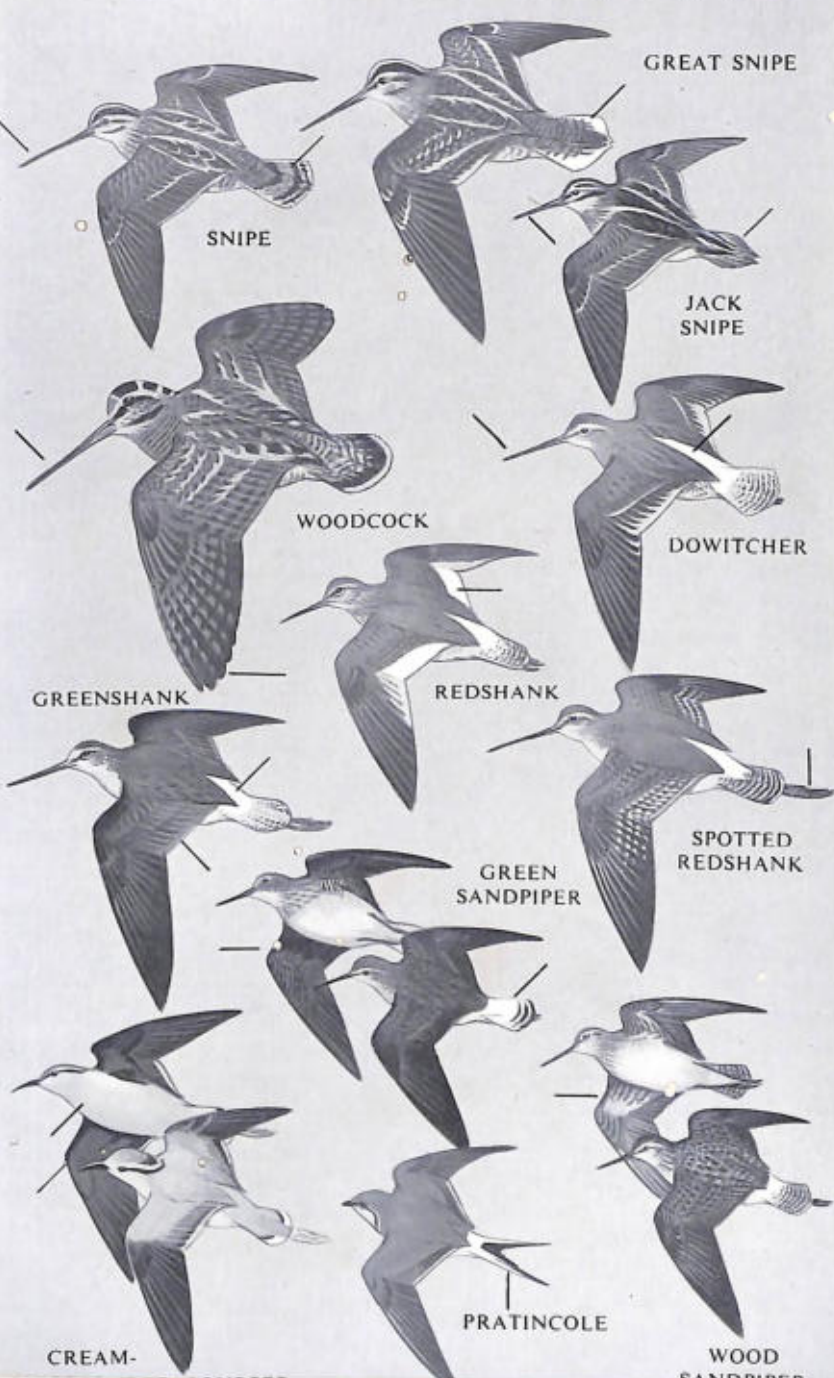
OSPREY →

Mainly summer vis. Winters Med. Has bred Scotland, Switz., N. Greece. Vagrant Iceland, Faeroes Ireland



WADERS IN FLIGHT

- **SNIPE** page 116
 Long bill, pointed wings, orange on tail, zig-zag flight.
- **GREAT SNIPE** 116
 Slightly larger than Snipe, more white on sides of tail, more direct flight.
- **JACK SNIPE** 117
 Smaller than Snipe, shorter bill; rises silently, with less zig-zagging.
- **WOODCOCK** 117
 Long bill, rounded wings, dead-leaf colour.
- **DOWITCHER** 128
 Snipe bill; long white patch on lower back, white on rear edge of wing.
- **GREENSHANK** 125
 Long white rump, no white wing-stripe.
- **REDSHANK** 124
 White rump, broad white stripe on rear edge of wing.
- **SPOTTED REDSHANK** 124
Winter: Pattern similar to Greenshank, but legs red.
Summer: Blackish, darker below.
- **GREEN SANDPIPER** 122
 Very dark; white rump, blackish under-wing.
- **WOOD SANDPIPER** 123
 From Green Sandpiper by less white on tail and rump; pale under-wing.
- **CREAM-COLOURED COURSER** 140
 Sandy buff; black under-wing.
- **PRATINCOLE** 139
 Tern-like; tail forked, white at base.



GREAT SNIPE

SNIPE

JACK
SNIPE

WOODCOCK

DOWITCHER

GREENSHANK

REDSHANK

SPOTTED
REDSHANK

GREEN
SANDPIPER

CREAM-

PRATINCOLE

WOOD
SANDPIPER



DUNLIN

Autumn



PURPLE SANDPIPER



KNOT
Winter



CURLEW SANDPIPER

Autumn



Winter

SANDERLING



COMMON SANDPIPER



LITTLE STINT



Autumn

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE



TEMMINCK'S STINT



PECTORAL SANDPIPER



GREY PHALAROPE

Autumn



STONE CURLEW



(Reeve)

RUFF

♂
Summer

WADERS IN FLIGHT

- **DUNLIN** page 131
Autumn: Plain grey; near size of Sanderling, but darker, with less conspicuous wing-stripe.
- **PURPLE SANDPIPER** 129
 Slaty colour; frequents wave-washed rocks.
- **KNOT** 128
Winter: Stocky; greyish with light rump.
- **CURLEW SANDPIPER** 131
Autumn: Suggests elegant Dunlin, but rump white.
- **SANDERLING** 132
 Has most conspicuous wing-stripe of any small wader. Follows retreating waves like clockwork toy.
- **COMMON SANDPIPER** 123
 Identify by very short wing-stroke (giving a stiffly-bowed appearance).
- **LITTLE STINT** 129
 Very small; faint wing-stripe, grey sides of tail.
- **TEMMINCK'S STINT** 130
 From Little Stint by greyer colour, white sides of tail.
- **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** 137
Autumn: Sanderling-like, but wing-stripe shorter, bill more needle-like.
- **GREY PHALAROPE** 137
Autumn: Sanderling-like, but wing-stripe less contrasting; bill thicker than Red-necked Phalarope's, feet yellowish.
- **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** 130
 Like very big stint. Wing-stripe faint or lacking.
- **STONE CURLEW** 138
 Double white wing-bar.
- **RUFF** 133
Male (Ruff): Ruff on neck in summer; very variable.
Female (Reeve): Oval white patches at base of tail.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

pages 63, 75

Du—Boomvalk

Fr—Faucon hobereau

Ge—Baumfalke

Sw—Lärkfalk

Identification: 12-14". Looks like miniature Peregrine, but adults distinguished by *much smaller size, chestnut on thighs and beneath-tail, narrower, pointed "moustaches," and heavily streaked (not barred) under-parts.* Juvenile blackish-brown above, more heavily streaked below and lacking red on thighs and beneath tail. Dashing flight like Peregrine's, but wings look longer and tail shorter (suggesting large Swift). Preys on swallows, larks, etc. and, particularly at dusk, on flying insects. Distinguished from Merlin by longer, narrower, more back-swept wings, moustachial stripe, chestnut on thighs and beneath tail. See also Red-footed Falcon.

Voice: A clear, repeated "kew," or "ket," and a rapid "kikikiki," often with varying pitch.

Habitat: Downs and commons with scattered trees, coppices, light woodlands. Breeds in trees, in old nests, particularly of crow family. Map below.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

pages 63, 75

Du—Slechtvalk

Fr—Faucon pèlerin

Ge—Wanderfalke

Sw—Pilgrimsfalk

N.Am—Duck Hawk

Identification: 15-19". Distinguished as a falcon by *long pointed wings, long, slightly tapered tail,* and rapid pigeon-like flight, occasionally broken by long glides. Identified as this species by *crow-size* and when perched, by *heavy, black, lobe-shaped "moustaches."* Male has blackish crown, slate-grey upper-parts contrasted with buffish-white under-parts, narrowly barred with black. Female considerably larger and darker. Juvenile dark brown above, with streaked (not barred) buffish under-parts. Hunts by stooping on prey almost vertically at terrific speed, with wings nearly closed. Feeds chiefly on birds up to size of pigeon, grouse, etc. See also Gyr Falcon and Hobby.

Voice: Has wide range of notes during breeding season: a repeated



← HOBBY
Summer visitor.
Occasional Norway.
Vagrant Ireland



PEREGRINE →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Faeroes

"we-chew," a high, chattering "kek-kek-kek," a short "kiack," a thin squeal, etc.

Habitat: Open wild country, cliffs, mountains, moors; in winter, also marshes, locally high spires and towers. Breeds on steep cliffs, mountain crags, etc. Map p 88.

LANNER FALCON *Falco biarmicus* page 63

Fr—Faucon lanier Ge—Feldeggsfalke

Sw—Feldeggsfalk

Identification: 17". Looks like pale Peregrine; distinguishable at close quarters by buff or sandy crown, small black moustachial stripe (not broad and lobe-shaped like Peregrine's), whitish ear-coverts and very lightly spotted (not barred) whitish under-parts. Immature is darker above than adult and much more heavily marked below. Less bold than Peregrine, preying on smaller birds; looks more slender in flight, which is less rapid. See also Saker.

Voice: A shrill "kri, kri, kri," during breeding season.

Habitat: Cliffs, ruins, rocky mountain slopes, extending to stony plains and semi-desert. Nests among rocks, sometimes in trees. Map below.

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* page 63

Fr—Faucon sacre Ge—Würgfalke

Sw—Tatarisk jaktfalk

Identification: 18". Distinguished from Peregrine by dark reddish-brown (not slate-blue) upper-parts and wings, with buffish emarginations, whitish crown and nape streaked with dark brown, narrow, indistinct moustachial streak, white under-parts lightly spotted or streaked (not barred) with brown. Tail dark brown, barred with white. Immature has more closely streaked crown and under-parts than adult, particularly on flanks. Very bold and ferocious, attacking prey far larger than itself. Frequently used for falconry in E. Europe. See also Lanner.

Habitat: Open plains, semi-deserts and deserts. Usually nests in large tree, occasionally among rocks. Map below.



← LANNER FALCON
Mainly resident.
(?) Breeds Spain.
Vagrant Portugal,
Southern France,
Roumania

SAKER FALCON →
Mainly migrant.
Vagrant w. to E.
Prussia, S. Sweden,
France, Italy



with black edges; viewed from above, secondaries show large slate-blue patch; viewed closely, white claws are distinctive (Kestrel's are black). Flight is similar, but hovers seldom and glides frequently. Feeds chiefly on flying insects.

Voice: Much more vocal and varied than Kestrel. Usual notes, a chattering "chet, che-che," and a plaintive, rising "wheee."

Habitat: Frequents old buildings, rocky gorges, etc. but usually hunts over open country. Breeds in colonies in holes in high walls, roofs, crevices in cliffs, often among pigeons, sparrows, etc. Map below.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Du—Torenvalk

Ge—Turmfalke

Fr—Faucon crécerelle

Sw—Tornfalk

pages 63, 75

Identification: 13½". Pointed wings, slim tail, mark it as a falcon; small size and *hovering flight*, as this species. Male has spotted chestnut upper-parts, warm buff under-parts with scattered black spots. Head, rump and tail grey, latter with broad black band near white tip. Female has rusty brown upper-parts, barred instead of spotted, and rusty barred tail. Perches on trees, telegraph poles, rocks, etc. Flies with rapid wing-beats, occasional short glides and frequent periods of hovering, head to wind; slants steeply down to catch mice, beetles, etc. See Merlin, Lesser Kestrel, and Sparrow Hawk for differences.

Voice: A shrill repeated "kee, kee, kee," and a more musical double note "kee-lee." Usually silent outside breeding season.

Habitat: Moors, coasts, farm-lands, open woodlands, locally cities. Breeds in old nests of crows, Magpies, etc. and on cliffs, buildings, occasionally in split trees. Map below.

GROUSE : Tetraonidae

PLUMP, CHICKEN-LIKE, CHIEFLY GROUND-DWELLING BIRDS, without the long tails of pheasants. Tarsi and often the toes are feathered. Sexes generally differ.



← LESSER KESTREL
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Britain,
Ireland, Denmark,
Germany,
Switzerland

KESTREL →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes



WILLOW GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

page 159

Du—Moerassneeuwhoen

Fr—Lagopède des saules

Ge—Moorschneehuhn

Sw—Dalripa

N.Am—Willow Ptarmigan

Identification: 16". Voice and habitat afford best distinction from Ptarmigan, which is often indistinguishable in the field. Both are extremely variable, but Willow Grouse is usually more darkly rufous in breeding plumage; at short range heavier bill is fairly obvious. In autumn, Willow Grouse becomes patchy dark brown and white; Ptarmigan becomes grey above. In winter, where ranges overlap, a pure white grouse with a black tail and an unmarked white head may be male or female Willow Grouse, or female Ptarmigan; if it has black mark through lores and eye it is a male Ptarmigan (see diagram p 159). Has habit of raising head and looking back in flight when flushed. See also Hazel Hen.

Voice: Usual call resembles Red Grouse's rapid "kowk-ok-ok-ok-ok," often preceded by a quieter "ow . . . ow."

Habitat: Moors and heaths with willow, birch and juniper scrub, at lower altitudes than Ptarmigan, higher altitudes than Hazel Hen. Nests in scrape well hidden in scrub. Map below.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus scoticus*

page 159

Du—Schotse sneeuwhoen

Fr—Lagopède d'Ecosse

Ge—Schottisches Moorschneehuhn

Sw—Moripa

Identification: 15". A stout, short-winged game bird, with dark rufous-brown plumage and darker wings and tail. At short range white feathered legs and red wattle above eye are visible. Summer plumage paler than winter, female paler and smaller than male. Irish race is yellower than the British. Flight rapid, with alternate spells of whirring wing-beats and gliding on down-curved wings. Distinguished from female Black Grouse (Greyhen) by smaller size, much more rufous colour and rounded tail; from summer Ptarmigan by dark wings and under-parts. Partridges are much smaller, with rufous tails.



← RED GROUSE (A)
Resident Britain,
Ireland. (Intro-
duced Belgium.)

← WILLOW
GROUSE (B)
Resident contin-
ental Europe

PTARMIGAN →
Resident




LARGE WADERS IN FLIGHT


- **AVOCET** page 136
Black and white pattern above, thin upturned bill.
- **BLACK-WINGED STILT** 136
White below, solid black wings, extremely long trailing red legs.
- **OYSTERCATCHER** 110
White wing-bands, black head, orange bill.
- **WHIMBREL** 120
Decurved bill, bold stripes on crown.
(Both Whimbrel and Curlew are brown with whitish rump.)
- **CURLEW** 120
Very long decurved bill, no bold stripes on crown.
- **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** 122
Long slightly upturned bill, barred tail, no wing-stripe.
- **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** 121
Very long bill, "ringed" tail, *white* wing-stripe.




OYSTERCATCHERS



AVOCET



BLACK-WINGED
STILT



OYSTERCATCHER



WHIMBREL



CURLEW



BAR-TAILED GODWIT



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT



RINGED PLOVER



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER



KENTISH PLOVER



Summer

GREY PLOVER



GOLDEN PLOVER
Northern form
Summer



Winter
above



Winter
below



above

GOLDEN PLOVER
Winter



below



DOTTEREL
Summer



TURNSTONE
Summer



Summer

LAPWING

PLOVERS AND TURNSTONE IN FLIGHT

- RINGED PLOVER page 112
Mud-brown above; dark tail with white borders.
- LITTLE RINGED PLOVER 113
From Ringed Plover by lack of wing-stripe.
- KENTISH PLOVER 113
Sand-brown above; white sides of tail.
- GREY PLOVER 114
Summer: Black under-parts, white on wings and rump.
Winter: Black axillaries, white on wings and rump.
- GOLDEN PLOVER 114
Summer: Black under-parts, no white above.
Winter: Lack of pattern above and below.
- DOTTEREL 115
Light bar across breast, dark belly.
Belly paler in winter.
- LAPWING 112
Black and white; very broad rounded wings.
- TURNSTONE 115
Harlequin pattern.



TYPICAL FLIGHT PATTERNS

- A *No wing-stripe, no tail-pattern.*
- B *No wing-stripe, white rump and tail.*
- C *Wing-stripe, dark rump and tail.*
- D *Wing-stripe, white rump and tail.*

Voice: A loud crowing "kowk, ok-ok-ok." During display male has guttural call, "go-bak, bak-bak-bak."

Habitat and Range: Moorland and peat bogs, particularly where crow-berry and cranberry abound, descending in autumn to lower levels and stubble fields. Breeds among heather and rough grass. Resident Great Britain (except in S.E.) and Ireland. Introduced E. Belgium. Map p 93.

PTARMIGAN *Lagopus mutus*

page 159

Du—Sneeuwhoen

Fr—Lagopède Muet

Ge—Alpenschneehuhn

Sw—Fjällripa

N.Am—Rock Ptarmigan

Identification: 14". A grouse of the high mountain slopes, distinguished at all seasons by *white wings* and white belly. Feet feathered white; red wattle over eye. In breeding plumage male has richly mottled blackish-brown upper-parts, breast and flanks; female is tawnier. In autumn male's upper-parts are grey, closely marked with black and white, under-parts mainly white; female is yellowish-grey and looks darker than male. In winter both sexes are *pure white with exception of black tail* (which is largely hidden at rest by white tail-coverts) but male has *black mark from bill through eye*—a clear distinction from Willow Grouse (see diagram p 159). At short range Ptarmigan's bill is obviously more slender than Willow Grouse's; both species are very variable, with three distinct changes of plumage.

Voice: A low, harsh croak; alarm a repeated grating, crackling sound; during display male has brief crowing "song."

Habitat: High barren stony mountain slopes (higher than Willow Grouse), except when driven down by weather. Nests in shelter of rock or clump of vegetation. Map p 93.

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix*

page 166

Du—Korhoen

Fr—Tétras lyre

Ge—Birkhuhn

Sw—Orre

Identification: Male 21", female 16". Male (Blackcock) easily distinguished by glossy *blue-black* plumage with *lyre-shaped tail*, conspicuous *white under tail-coverts* and white wing-bar. Female (Greyhen) distinguished from Red Grouse by larger size and *less rufous plumage*; from female Capercaillie by smaller size and *less boldly barred plumage*; from both by white wing-bar and forked tail (neither easy to observe). Both sexes have scarlet wattle above eye. Male in autumn eclipse looks dingy brownish; tail lacks distinctive shape until full grown. Usually flies higher than Red Grouse, with longer glides. Perches freely in trees. Confusing hybrids with Capercaillie, Red Grouse and Pheasant occur occasionally.

Voice: Male has a deliberate, sneezing "*tchu-shwee*." Song at "lek" (display ground) a rapid, musical chorus of gobbling or bubbling notes.

Habitat: Near trees bordering moors, marshy ground with rushes and scattered trees, peat-mosses, rocky heather-covered hills, plantations, etc. Nests on ground. Map p 97.

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus*

page 166

Du—Auerhoen

Fr—Grand Tétrás

Ge—Auerhuhn

Sw—Tjäder

Identification: Male 34", female 24". A huge grouse-like bird. Male distinguished from all other game-birds by *very large size, dark colouring and rounded tail*. At close range breast is glossy blue-green; head has scarlet skin above eye and shaggy greenish-black "beard"; under-parts and tail boldly marked with white. Female may be confused with female Black or Red Grouse, but is much larger, with *rounded tail and rufous patch on breast* contrasting with paler under-parts. Usually seen on ground in coniferous forests in summer; in trees in winter. Flight usually brief, with alternate spells of quick wing-beats and long glides; bursts out of cover noisily. Hens may hybridise with Blackcock.

Voice: Male at display ground has guttural retching call; female, a pheasant-like "kok-kok." Male's song begins with a quiet "tik-up, tik-up, tik-up" accelerating rapidly and ending with a "pop" (like withdrawing a cork) followed by a short phrase of hissing, whispering.

Habitat: Coniferous hilly woodlands. Nests among undergrowth at foot of pine, or in scrub on open high ground. Map below.

HAZEL HEN *Tetrastes bonasia*

page 166

Du—Hazelhoen

Fr—Gélinotte des bois

Ge—Haselhuhn

Sw—Järpe

Identification: 14". A woodland species. Typical grouse-shape, but with *longish tail* and slightly *crested* crown. Upper-parts greyish to rusty-brown (greyest in north of range, more rufous in south), richly spotted and barred black and brown. Broad white bands down side of throat and across scapulars. Under-parts whitish, closely marked with brown, more heavily on flanks. Male has *conspicuous black throat, broadly bordered with white*. Female has whitish throat. In flight both sexes show *conspicuous black band on grey tail*. Perches freely in trees.

Voice: A high, whistling "tsissi-tseri-tsi, tsi, tsi, tsiu."

Habitat: Mixed hill woodlands and thickets, particularly among aspen and birch; locally also in wooded plains. Map p 98.



← BLACK GROUSE
Resident



CAPERCAILLIE →
Resident

PARTRIDGES, QUAILS AND PHEASANTS : Phasianidae

CHICKEN-LIKE TERRESTRIAL BIRDS, with unfeathered legs. Pheasants have long, sweeping tails; sexes differ, females have shorter tails. Partridges and quail are much smaller, more rotund, with very short tails.

ROCK PARTRIDGE *Alectoris graeca* page 159

Du—Steenhoen

Fr—Perdrix bartavelle

Ge—Steinhuhn

Sw—Stenhöna

Identification: Indistinguishable at long range from Red-legged Partridge. Best identified by *distinctive voice*. White throat-patch is slightly larger, with black lower border *clean-cut*, instead of merging, into upper breast; forehead is ash-grey, instead of black; upper-parts are *grey-brown*, instead of red-brown.

Voice: Call note, a Nuthatch-like "whit-whit-whit"; alarm, an explosive "pitchi-i"; song (spring and autumn) a staccato "tchertsi-ritt-chi," with many variants.

Habitat: Stony and rocky slopes and lightly wooded high ground, descending to lower altitudes in winter. Nests among rocks. Map below.

BARBARY PARTRIDGE *Alectoris barbara* page 159

Identification: 13". Indistinguishable at long range from Red-legged Partridge, but at short range is easily identified by broad *chestnut* collar, speckled with whitish and by *blue-grey* cheeks, eye-stripe, throat and upper-breast. Crown and broad eye-streak pinkish-chestnut; upper-parts rusty brown, with slate-blue scapulars, broadly margined with crimson. Under-parts resemble Red-legged, flanks boldly barred with black and white. Legs reddish.

Voice: Noisy at dawn and dusk. A rapid "kakelik" and a slower "chuk, chuk, chuk, chukor, chukor."



← HAZEL HEN
Mainly resident

ROCK
PARTRIDGE →
Resident



Habitat and Range: Scrub-covered hillsides, wadis, semi-deserts with a certain amount of water and cover. Resident Gibraltar, Sardinia.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* page 159

Du—Rode patrijs Fr—Perdrix rouge
Ge—Rothuhn Sw—Rödhöna

Identification: 13½". At distance easily confused with common Partridge, but at short range adults distinguished by *red bill and legs*, black-bordered white gorget, grey crown with *long white stripe above eye*, lavender-grey flanks *heavily barred chestnut-black-white*. Juvenile is very like young common Partridge. Voice is very different; runs more swiftly than Partridge; flocks are less compact. See also Rock and Barbary Partridges.

Voice: Usual note of male "*chuck, chuck-er,*" or a slow harsh "*tschreck . . . tschreck . . .*"; when flushed, calls "*kuk-kuk.*"

Habitat and Breeding: Much as Partridge. Although often on marshy ground, normally prefers dry localities, sandy soil, chalk downs, stony wastes. Map below.

PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* page 159

Du—Patrijs Fr—Perdrix grise
Ge—Rebhuhn Sw—Rapphöna

N.Am—Hungarian Partridge

Identification: 12". A rotund, chicken-like bird, with short rounded wings and short rufous tail; flies low and rapidly, with alternate spells of whirring wing-beats and gliding on deeply arched wings. Easily confused with Red-legged Partridge, but distinguished by *pale chestnut head*, grey neck and under-parts. Male has *conspicuous dark chestnut horse-shoe mark on lower breast* (female shows trace of similar mark, juvenile none); upper-parts streaked with buff, flanks barred with chestnut. Walks in crouched attitude, squatting when alarmed and running swiftly with head well up in preference to flight. Much shorter-tailed than young Pheasant. Much larger and less sandy than Quail. See also Red-legged Partridge.



← RED-LEGGED
PARTRIDGE
Resident



PARTRIDGE →
Resident

Voice: A penetrating, grating "krrr-ic," or "kar-wic," repeated rapidly when excited.

Habitat: Farm-lands, pastures, waste-land, moors, sand-dunes, etc. Nests well hidden in hedge bottoms, in growing corn, etc. Map p 99.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

page 159

Du—Kwartel

Ge—Wachtel

Fr—Caille des blés

Sw—Vaktel

Identification: 7". Looks like tiny Partridge. Usually first identified by male's *distinctive voice*. General colour *sandy, strongly streaked* with whitish-buff and black above, paler below, with light and dark streaks (not bars) on flanks. Crown dark brown, with creamy stripe down centre and a long creamy stripe above eye. Male has blackish stripes on throat. Female has unmarked buff throat and closely spotted breast. Flight is slower and usually much briefer than Partridge's. Very difficult to flush. Solitary except on migration.

Voice: Ventriloquial. Characteristic trisyllabic call of male has accent on first syllable: a repeated "quic, quic-ic." Female has wheezing double note "queep . . . queep." Heard day and night.

Habitat: Frequents and breeds in rough pastures, crops, open ground with grass tussocks, etc. Map below.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

page 166

Du—Fazant

Ge—Fasan

Fr—Faisan de chasse

Sw—Fasan

Identification: Male 30-35", female 21-25". A familiar game-bird with a *long, pointed tail*. Male highly coloured, with glossy dark green head, scarlet wattles around eyes and short ear-tufts. Plumage very variable owing to artificially introduced stock, but usually has *white neck-ring*. Female soberly mottled buff and blackish, with shorter tail. Runs swiftly to cover rather than taking wing. Flight strong (take-off noisy), but seldom long sustained, or high.

Voice: Crowing male has strident double note "korrk-kok," usually followed by brief whirr of wing-flapping.

Habitat: Woodland borders, park-land, farm-land, shrubberies, reeds. Nests on ground, beneath low vegetation and bracken. Map below.



← QUAIL
Part. migrant.
Irreg. most Britain,
Ireland.
Formerly bred
Finland. Occas.
winters north to
Britain.

PHEASANT →
Resident



BUTTON QUAILS : Turnicidae

ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE *Turnix sylvatica* page 159

Fr—Turnix d'Andalousie Ge—Laufhühnchen

Sw—Springhöna

Identification: 6". A small, quail-like bird, very likely to be confused with Quail, when flushed. Crown dark, with buffish centre stripe; sides of head and throat pale buffish, with small dark speckles. Chief distinction from Quail is the *bright orange-rufous patch* on the breast and the *bold black spotting* on the sides. Eye-ring and eye are pale blue. Sexes similar. Extremely shy. Difficult to flush. Runs swiftly. Flight resembles Quail's. Solitary.

Voice: A very distinctive "crrooo," increasing in intensity, resembling distant lowing of cattle; heard particularly at dawn and dusk. When calling often "blows itself up" like a ball.

Habitat and Range: Sandy plains with palmetto scrub, brush-covered wastes, extensive low thickets, stubble and sugar-beet fields. Nests in dense vegetation. Breeds in S. Spain, S. Portugal.

CRANES : Gruidae

LARGE, STATELY TERRESTRIAL BIRDS, superficially resembling herons and storks. Inner secondaries much elongated, drooping over the tail. Long neck and legs extended in flight. Usually migrate in "V" or line formation. Voices trumpet-like. Gregarious outside breeding season.

CRANE *Megalornis grūs*

page 10

Du—Kraanvogel

Fr—Grue cendrée

Ge—Kranich

Sw—Trana

Identification: 45". Distinguished from storks and herons by much elongated inner secondaries, forming *drooping blackish "tail."* General colour slate-grey, with *curving white stripe* on side of head and neck, contrasting with black face and throat. At short range *red crown* is visible. Bill is shorter than in storks and herons. Behaviour extremely shy. Walks slowly and gracefully. When suspicious stretches upright, with long neck erect. Very rarely perches on trees. Flight slow but powerful, neck and legs extended. Migrating flocks assume "V" or line formations. (Storks usually fly in shapeless flocks.)

Voice: A strident, trumpeting "krooh" and a quieter guttural "kr-r-r"; various grating and hissing notes.

Habitat: In winter, avoids wooded regions, occurring on river banks, lagoons, fields and steppes. Breeds on ground in wet bogs, lightly wooded swamps, reed-beds, etc. Map p 104.

WADERS

- **RINGED PLOVER** page 112
Band across breast, yellow or orange legs.
- **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** 113
Smaller than Ringed Plover; flesh legs, white line above black on forehead. In flight shows no wing-stripe.
- **KENTISH PLOVER** 113
Black on sides of breast only; black legs, unbroken eye-stripe.
- **GREY PLOVER** 114
Summer: Black below, pale above.
Winter: Plover shape; grey above.
- **GOLDEN PLOVER** 114
Summer: Black below, dark above; broad white side stripe. (Southern form has less black.)
Winter: Plover shape; golden-brown above.
- **LAPWING** 112
Long wispy crest, black breast, iridescent back.
- **TURNSTONE** 115
Summer: Rusty back, distinctive face-pattern.
Winter: Dark breast, orange legs.
- **CREAM-COLOURED COURSER** 140
Creamy-buff; eye-stripes; long creamy legs.
- **DOTTEREL** 115
White stripe over eye, russet belly.
- **DUNLIN** 131
Summer: Rusty back; black patch on belly.
- **CURLEW SANDPIPER** 131
Summer: Decurved bill, rufous under-parts.
- **GREY PHALAROPE** 137
Female in summer: Rufous below, white cheeks.
Male in summer: Duller.
- **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** 137
Female in summer: Rusty neck, white throat.
Male in summer: Duller.

RINGED PLOVER



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER



KENTISH PLOVER



Winter



Summer

GREY PLOVER

Winter



Southern form Summer

GOLDEN PLOVER

Northern form Summer

Winter



TURNSTONE

Summer

Juv



LAPWING

DUNLIN

Summer



CREAM-COLOURED COURSER



Summer

DOTTEREL



CURLEW SANDPIPER

Summer



GREY PHALAROPE

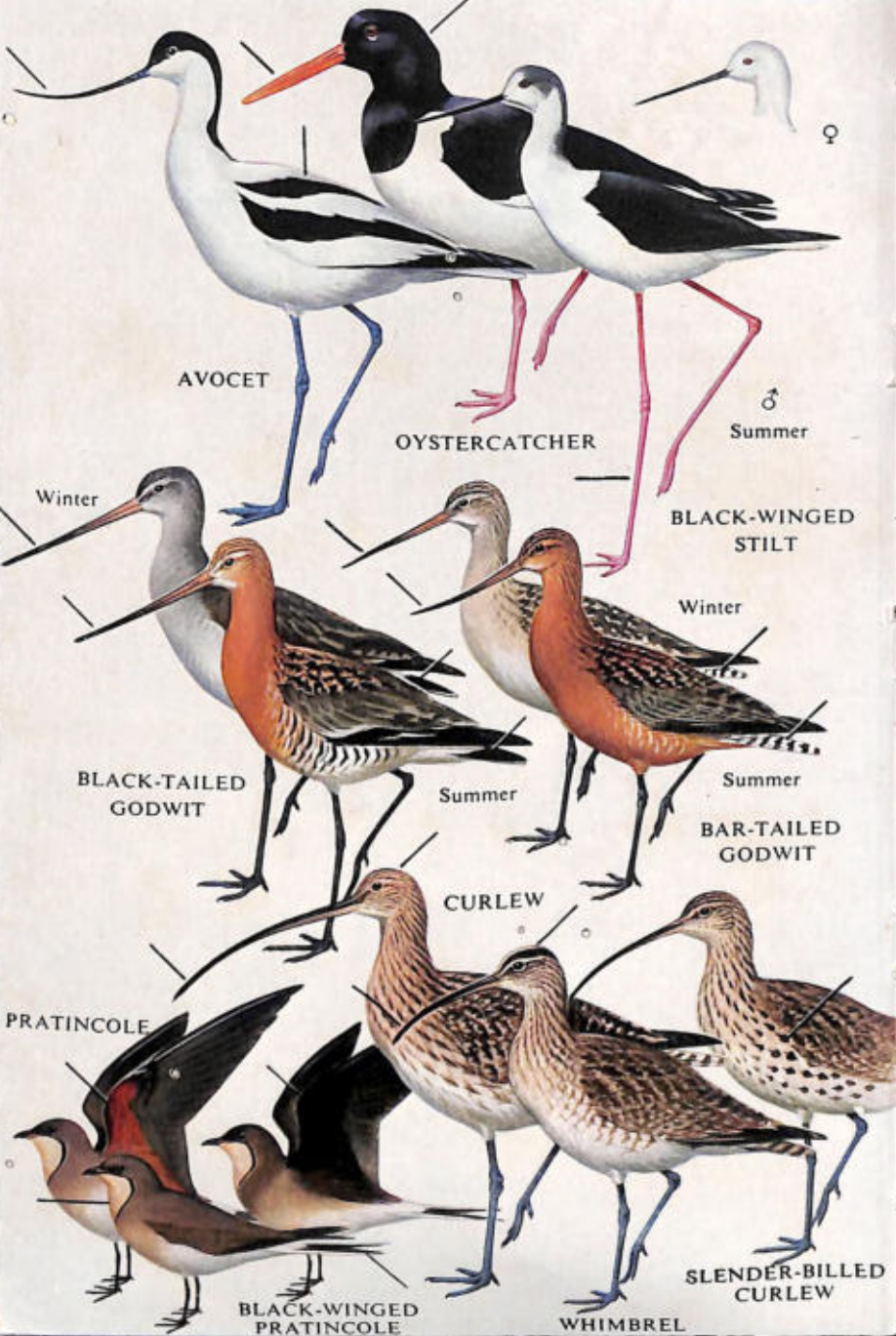


♂ Summer

♀ Summer

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE





AVOCET

OYSTERCATCHER

♂
Summer

Winter

BLACK-WINGED
STILT

Winter

BLACK-TAILED
GODWIT

Summer

Summer

BAR-TAILED
GODWIT

CURLEW

PRATINCOLE

BLACK-WINGED
PRATINCOLE

WHIMBREL

SLENDER-BILLED
CURLEW

LARGE WADERS

- **AVOCET** page 136
Upturned bill, black and white back.
- **OYSTERCATCHER** 110
Large size, black head, orange bill.
- **BLACK-WINGED STILT** 136
Black above, white below, very long pink legs.
- **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** 121
Summer: Rusty breast, long straight bill, black tail.
Winter: Grey; long straight bill, black tail.
- **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** 122
Summer: Shorter legs than Black-tailed Godwit, more upturned bill, barred tail.
Winter: Grey-brown, with above characters.
- **PRATINCOLE** 139
Rather tern-like; forked tail, light throat-patch.
- △ **BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE** 139
Like Pratincole, but *black* beneath wings, not rufous.
- **CURLEW** 120
Very long decurved bill, no head-stripes.
- **WHIMBREL** 120
Decurved bill, boldly striped crown.
- △ **SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW** 121
Bill size close to Whimbrel's, but crown like Curlew's. Note heart-shaped spots on sides.

DEMOISELLE CRANE *Anthropoides virgo* page 10

Du—Jufferkraan

Fr—Demoiselle de Numidie

Ge—Jungfernkranich

Sw—Jungfrutrana

Identification: 38". Easily distinguished from Crane by much smaller size (stands 12" shorter) and by *large crest-like tuft of white feathers behind each eye*. Plumage mostly ashy blue-grey, with black on lores, much of neck, elongated breast feathers and wing-quills. Black-tipped inner secondaries much elongated, drooping right over tail, but *without Crane's bushy effect*. Flight as Crane, with neck extended; not distinguishable at high altitude unless both together, when smaller size and shriller voice are discernible.

Voice: A loud, musical trumpeting, noticeably higher-pitched than Crane's.

Habitat and Range: Open plains and high plateaux, visiting fresh water regularly in hot weather. Nests on dry ground. Breeds Roumania, possibly Spain. Vagrant to S. Europe, northwards to Germany, Denmark, Sweden.

CRAKES, RAILS AND COOTS : Rallidae

CRAKES AND RAILS ARE COMPACT, rather chicken-shaped marsh birds of secretive habits, more often heard than seen; wings short and rounded; tails short and often cocked; flight usually brief and reluctant, with legs dangling; crakes have short bills, rails have long slender bills. Moorhens and coots have stout bodies, small heads and extremely long toes for walking on aquatic vegetation; heads often jerked while swimming.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

page 54

Du—Waterrail

Fr—Râle d'eau

Ge—Wasserralle

Sw—Vattenrall

Identification: 11". Difficult to observe; usually identified by *very distinctive voice*. Distinguished from all the "crakes" by *long red bill*.



← CRANE
Migrant. Breeds rarely Roumania; Has bred Denmark. Vagrant Faeroes, British Isles



WATER RAIL →
Partial migrant

Upper-parts dark brown, heavily streaked with black; face, throat and breast slate-grey; *flanks conspicuously barred black and white*; under tail-coverts *whitish*; legs pinkish-brown. Juvenile has mottled underparts. Nervous and skulking behaviour as Corncrake, but occasionally perches on bushes in open.

Voice: A hard, persistent "gep . . . gep . . . gep . . ."; a diminishing series "krui, krui, krui" and a variety of groaning, grunting, squeaking and purring notes. Often heard at night.

Habitat: Dense aquatic vegetation, reed and osier beds, sewage-farms, overgrown ponds, ditches, river banks. Nests among reeds or sedges above shallow water. Map p 104.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

page 54

Du—Porceleinhoen

Fr—Râle Marouette

Ge—Tüpfelsumpfhuhn

Sw—Småfläckig sumphöna

Identification: 9". Very difficult to observe, but voice is distinctive. Resembles tiny Corncrake, with *dark olive-brown upper-parts streaked and spotted with white* and short *dark brown* (not chestnut) wings. Legs greenish. Bill yellowish with red base. Breast grey, with white speckles. Jerks tail when suspicious, revealing *conspicuous buff under tail-coverts*. Solitary and largely crepuscular. Little and Baillon's are much smaller, with barred under tail-coverts. Water Rail is much larger, with long red bill.

Voice: A high, sharp "quitt . . . quitt . . . quitt." Male also has monotonous hard ticking note "tchick-tchuck," recalling Snipe's clock-like note.

Habitat: Swamps and fens, overgrown ditches, margins of ponds, rivers, etc. Nests in boggy locations. Map below.

BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*

page 54

Du—Kleinst waterhoen

Fr—Râle de Baillon

Ge—Zwergsumpfhuhn

Sw—Dvärgsumphöna

Identification: 7". Smaller than Starling. Both sexes resemble male Little Crane, but when seen well (which rarely occurs) distinguished



← SPOTTED CRAKE
Part. migrant. Occ.
winter n. to Britain.
Vagrant Ireland
(has bred)



BAILLON'S
CRAKE →
Summer visitor.
Vag. n. to Britain
(has bred), Ireland.
May breed Den-
mark, Sweden

by *smaller size* (the smallest European crane), *more rufous upper-parts, boldly and closely streaked with white, strongly barred black and white flanks, dull flesh legs* and green bill *without red base*. In flight narrow white leading edge to wing is a further distinction. Males of both species have slaty blue-grey face, throat and under-parts and barred black and white under tail-coverts. Juveniles very similar (resembling female Little Crane), though under-parts of Baillon's are more strongly barred. Behaviour and habitat as Little Crane. See also Spotted Crane.

Voice: Easily confused with trilling note of Little Crane, but Baillon's is a quicker, more jarring trill, and descends the scale more quickly, usually without intermediate conversational notes. Map p 105.

LITTLE CRAKE *Porzana parva*

page 54

Du—Klein waterhoen

Fr—Râle poussin

Ge—Kleines Sumpfhuhn

Sw—Liten sumphöna

Identification: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ". Little and Baillon's Crakes are very similar in appearance, voice and habitat and can seldom be seen closely. Both are *much smaller* than Spotted Crane. Male Little differs from male Baillon's in having *very few white streaks on wing-coverts* and in uniform slaty under-parts *without black bars on flanks*, though under tail-coverts are barred like Baillon's. Females easily separated, Little having *buff* under-parts (not grey) and a *white throat*. Both sexes have green bill *with red base*. Legs *green* (Baillon's are dull flesh coloured). Juveniles of both species resemble female Little, but young Baillon's is rather more heavily barred below. Behaviour and flight as Spotted Crane. See Baillon's.

Voice: A sharp, "*quek, quek, quek,*" often *gradually* dropping in tone and accelerating to a short trill. See Baillon's for distinction.

Habitat: As Spotted, but with fondness for ponds with floating vegetation. Map below.



← **LITTLE CRAKE**
Summer visitor.
Has bred Switzerland, Sweden, Holland, ?France, ?Spain. Vag. w. to Brit. Is.



CORNCRAKE →
Summer visitor.
Has wintered n. to England, Ireland

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*

page 54

Du—Kwartelkoning

Fr—Râle de genêt

Ge—Wachtelkönig

Sw—Ängsknarr

Identification: 10½". Difficult to observe. Presence usually indicated by male's *distinctive rasping voice*. Looks *short necked*. Plumage *yellowish-buff*, marked with blackish above; greyish on head and breast; flanks and under tail-coverts barred with chestnut. *Chestnut wings conspicuous in flight*. Behaviour solitary, crepuscular and very skulking, hiding in long grass. Distinguished from all other crakes by larger size and buffer appearance.

Voice: In breeding season male has penetrating and persistent call, a rasping, disyllabic "*rerrp-rerrp*" (often written "*crex-crex*"), usually at night, but often also by day.

Habitat: Frequents and nests in meadows, lush vegetation, crops. Map p 106.

PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio porphyrio*

page 54

Ge—Purpurhuhn

Fr—Poule sultane

Identification: 19". Much larger than Coot and Moorhen, with *longer legs*. Upper-parts rich, dark *blue-purple*, glossed with turquoise on throat and breast; under tail-coverts *pure white*. Very deep bill, frontal shield, legs and eyes are *bright red*. Juvenile is dusky bluish-slate, with grey throat and sides of head. Climbs among reeds; seldom in open; swims only occasionally. Easily distinguished in flight by long, dangling *red legs*. Coot is uniform blackish, with white frontal shield and grey legs; Moorhen is much smaller, has red frontal shield, green legs.

Voice: A weird, hooting shriek.

Habitat and Range: Swamps with extensive reed-beds, borders of lakes fringed with dense cover. Nests in reeds, cane-brakes, etc. Breeds S. Spain, (Portugal?), Sardinia, Sicily. Vagrant to N. France, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary.

MOORHEN *Gallinulâ chloropus*

page 54

Du—Waterhoen

Fr—Poule d'eau

Ge—Teichhuhn

Sw—Rörhöna

N.Am—Florida Gallinule

Identification: 13". A stout blackish bird of pond margins. Distinguished from Coot by smaller size, *red frontal shield and bill*, latter with yellow tip, *bold irregular white streak across flanks and conspicuous white under tail-coverts* with black centre stripe. Legs green, with red "garter" above joint. Juvenile browner, with greenish-brown bill and frontal shield. Jerks tail when nervous. Swims buoyantly with jerking head. Dives occasionally. Rises from water by pattering along surface. Flight usually low, legs dangling. Often feeds in flocks in winter.

Voice: A harsh penetrating "*kr-r-rk*," or "*kittick*," etc.

Habitat: Ponds, slow streams, marshes, sewage farms and adjacent meadows. Nests in reeds and bushes near water, occasionally in trees and old nests of other species. Map p 108.

COOT *Fulica atra*

Du—Meerkoet

Ge—Blässhuhn

Fr—Foulque macroule

Sw—Sothöna

Identification: 15". A stout, slaty-black water-bird, with glossy, jet-black head. Distinguished from Moorhen by larger size and *conspicuous white frontal shield and bill*; also by lack of white stripe across flanks and of white on under tail-coverts. In flight shows narrow white edge to secondaries. Legs green, with large "scalloped" toes, projecting well beyond tail in flight. Juvenile brownish-grey, with white throat and upper breast, sometimes confused with young Great Crested Grebe. Stays closer to water than Moorhen and dives frequently for food, staying submerged up to half a minute. Gregarious in winter. Distinguished at long range when swimming with ducks by bobbing action of small head. Flight is laboured and weak, alighting on water with big splash. Patters along surface when taking off.

Voice: A loud, short "tewk"; also various disyllabic calls "kt-kowk," etc., and a hard, explosive "skik."

Habitat: As Moorhen, but usually prefers larger areas of open water. Packs occur on reservoirs and salt-water in winter. Nests among reeds and other aquatic vegetation. Map below.

CRESTED COOT *Fulica cristata*

Du—Gekuijde meerkoet

Ge—Kammblässhuhn

Fr—Foulque à crête

Sw—Kamsöthöna

Identification: 16". Closely resembles Coot, but distinguished by *prominent red knobs* above each side of bluish-white frontal shield and *distinctive voice*. Lacks white on secondaries. Legs bluish-grey. Behaviour, flight and habitat as in Coot, but is more shy and keeps closer to cover.

Voice: Usual note said to be a loud, almost human "hoo, hoo."

Range: Resident S. Spain, extending to Portugal in winter. Vagrant to France, Sardinia, Italy, Sicily.



← MOORHEN
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes



COOT →
Partial migrant.
Sometimes breeds
Iceland

BUSTARDS : Otididae

CHIEFLY TERRESTRIAL BIRDS, frequenting grassy steppes and extensive cultivated fields. Gait a stately walk. Behaviour very shy, running swiftly at the first sign of danger. Flight is powerful, the broad wings and stout bodies giving a distinctive silhouette.

GREAT BUSTARD *Otis tarda* page 83

Du—Grote trap

Fr—Outarde barbue

Ge—Grosstrappe

Sw—Stortrapp

Identification: 40". Female much smaller. Easily distinguished by *very large size, stout body and long thick neck and legs*. Head and neck *pale grey* (male has long "moustaches" of whitish bristles), upper-parts rufous-buff barred with black, under-parts white with rich chestnut breast; female less stout, lacking breast-band. In flight looks *chiefly white*, with widely spread black wing-tips; neck and legs are extended; wing-beats slow, regular, but powerful. Walks sedately, with head erect. Exceptionally shy. Usually in small flocks, females predominating; in breeding season males remain in flocks. Distinguished from other bustards by much larger size and lack of black on neck.

Voice: In breeding season has occasional gruff bark.

Habitat: Frequents and breeds on open treeless plains, grassy steppes, extensive fields of corn, maize, etc. Map below.

LITTLE BUSTARD *Otis tetrax* page 83

Du—Kleine trap

Fr—Outarde canepetière

Ge—Zwergtrappe

Sw—Småtrapp

Identification: 17". Less than half size of Great Bustard. Extreme shyness makes observation difficult. Male in breeding plumage distinguished by *bold black and white collar*; upper-parts and crown finely vermiculated sandy-buff, with blue-grey face; under-parts white.



← **GREAT BUSTARD**
Resident. Vagrant north to Brit. Is., Sweden, Finland



LITTLE BUSTARD →
Part. migrant. Has bred Germany. Vag. n. to Brit. Is., Scand., Finland

Female is paler above, streaked and barred with black, buffish-white below, with barred breast and flanks, no distinctive markings on face or neck. Behaviour as Great Bustard, but runs readily and hides by crouching flat. Flight very swift and *swerving*, with rapid whistling wing-beats, recalling grouse. *Looks chiefly white in flight*, with bold black wing-tips; flies much higher than Great Bustard. Usually in small flocks, but large numbers occur in autumn. See also Houbara Bustard.

Voice: A short "dahg," or "kiak," and a snorting "ptrrr," or "prett."

Habitat: Grassy plains, large fields of corn, clover and other crops. Map p 109.

HOUBARA BUSTARD *Chlamydotis undulata* page 83

Du—Aziatische kraagtrap Fr—Houbara ondulée

Ge—Kragentrappe Sw—Kragtrapp

Identification: 25". Size between Great and Little Bustards. Both sexes distinguished at all seasons by *short black and white crest and very conspicuous tufts of long black and white feathers drooping down each side of neck*. Upper-parts pale vermiculated sandy-buff, under-parts white, with greyish throat and barred flanks. In flight bold wing-pattern shows less white than in Great or Little Bustards.

Habitat and Range: Bare stony or sandy steppes, or semi-desert. Also occurs in corn and other crops. Vagrant to Britain and most of Continental Europe.

OYSTERCATCHERS : Haematopodidae

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* pages 94, 103

Du—Scholekster Fr—Huitrier-pie

Ge—Austernfischer Sw—Strandskata

Identification: 17". A large, thick-set shore-bird with a *long orange bill*. Has black head, breast and upper-parts, contrasting with pure white under-parts, and stout pink legs. Bill flattened laterally, often slightly up-tilted. Broad white wing-bar, white rump, black and white tail, conspicuous in flight. In winter, has a white band across throat. Very noisy. Flocks rest on islets and sand-bars between tides; feed among rocks and on mud-flats. Flight strong, with shallow wing-beats.

Voice: A shrill, strident "kleep," or "klir-eep." Alarm, a loud "pic, pic, pic." Song, a long piping trill, beginning slowly, varying in volume and pace.

Habitat: Mainly sea-shores, islands, estuaries. Locally inland. Usually breeds on sea-shores, locally inland by lakes and streams, occasionally far from water. Map p 111.

PLOVERS : Charadriidae

WADING BIRDS, more compactly built, thicker-necked and more boldly patterned than sandpipers; bills are shorter and stouter, eyes larger. Plumage patterns in flight, and call-notes, are important in identification.



SPUR-WINGED PLOVER

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Hoplopterus spinosus*

Identification: 10½". Very striking *black and white* appearance. Slightly crested, jet-black crown, black centre of throat, breast and under-parts. Face, neck and under tail-coverts white. Upper-parts sandy brown. Wings and tail strongly patterned black and white, with small spur on bend of wing. Behaviour resembles Lapwing's.

Voice: Usual note, a noisy "zac-zac-zac."

Habitat and Range: Open ground and marshes. A North African and Asiatic species, occurring in N.E. Greece and European Turkey, where it may breed. Vagrant to Malta.



← OYSTER-CATCHER
Partial migrant,
wintering south of
dotted line.
Vagrant central
Europe and Med.
Islands

LAPWING →
Partial migrant



LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

pages 95, 102

Du—Kievit

Fr—Vanneau huppé

Ge—Kiebitz

Sw—Tofsvipa

Identification: 12". Typical of farming country. A large iridescent *greenish-black* and *white* plover, distinguished by a *long wispy crest* and a *broad black breast-band* contrasting with pure white under-parts; also by distinctive voice and, in flight, by *broad, very rounded wings*. Tail white, with broad black terminal band and chestnut under tail-coverts. Flight often wildly erratic, with slow, "flapping" wing beats. Gregarious, often in huge flocks in winter.

Voice: A loud nasal "*kee-wi*," or a longer "*kee-r-wee*," with variants during acrobatic display flight.

Habitat: Farm-lands, sewage farms, marshes, moors and mud-flats. Breeds on arable land, marshes, etc. Map p 111.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

pages 95, 102

Du—Bontbekpluvier

Fr—Grand Gravelot

Ge—Halsbandregenpfeifer

Sw—Större strandpipare

Identification: 7½". A plump, lively little shore-bird, with a *broad black band* across its white breast. Upper-parts hair-brown with a *white collar* and a black mark through the eye and above prominent white forehead. Bill orange with black tip; *legs orange* (can look black when muddy). White wing-bar conspicuous in flight. Wing-bar, colour of legs and voice are best distinctions from Little Ringed Plover. Immature has brownish breast-band, often incomplete in front, resembling Kentish Plover, but distinguished from latter by *yellowish* (not black) legs, white *tips* to tail (not only white sides). Behaviour active, running with brief pauses to pick up food. Flight rapid, with regular wing-beats; flocks execute mass evolutions at low altitude.

Voice: A melodious "*too-li*," or "*coo-eeep*." Song begins slowly, becoming a trilling repetition of the phrase "*quitu-weeoo*."

Habitat: Sandy and muddy shores, visiting inland waters, etc., on migration. Breeds on beaches, among dunes, salt marshes, locally inland. Map below.



← RINGED PLOVER
Partial migrant.
Has bred Czecho.
May winter S.
France

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Ireland,
Scotland



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* pages 95, 102

Du—Kleine pluvier Fr—Petit Gravelot

Ge—Flussregenpfeifer Sw—Mindre strandpipare

Identification: 6". Resembles small Ringed Plover, but distinguished by *lack of white wing-bar, flesh-coloured legs* (not orange, but colour not reliable when muddy), different voice and usually different habitat; also by white line *above black forehead-band*. At short range *yellow eye-ring* can be seen. Juvenile often has incomplete brown gorget, giving resemblance to Kentish Plover, but is distinguished by *pale flesh legs* and lack of wing-bar.

Voice: A high, piping "tee-u." Trilling song rather like Ringed Plover's, but lacks its richness, chiefly repetition of "tree-a, tree-a."

Habitat: Fresh water localities, particularly flooded gravel pits and gravelly river islands; on coasts in winter. Breeds on gravel or sand shores of inland waters, locally on coasts. Map p 112.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus* pages 95, 102

Du—Strandpluvier Fr—Gravelot à collier interrompu

Ge—Seeregenpfeifer Sw—Svartbent strandpipare

N.Am—Snowy Plover

Identification: 6½". Distinguished from Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers by *blackish bill and legs, narrower dark patch through eye, and small dark patch each side of upper-breast* (instead of complete black band). Narrow white wing-bar recalls Ringed Plover's flight-pattern, but upper-parts are paler and dark tail shows more conspicuous white at sides. Male has narrow white stripe above eye, blackish patch on front of *rufous* crown. Female is paler, with brownish instead of black patches on sides of breast and lacks black on crown. Juvenile can be confused with young Ringed and Little Ringed, which have incomplete breast-bands, and yellowish or flesh-coloured, not black, legs.

Voice: A soft "wit-wit-wit," a fluty "poo-eet," or "po-it." Alarm, "kittup." Song, a long trill, beginning slowly and accelerating.

Habitat: Mainly coastal. Frequents and nests on shingle, or mixed sand and mud beaches, dry mud-flats. Map below.



← **KENTISH PLOVER**

*Partial migrant
Vagrant Ireland,
Scotland, central
Europe*

GREY PLOVER →
*Winter vis. from
N. Non-breeders
summer on coasts.
Also inland on
passage. Vagrant
to Iceland*



GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola* pages, 95, 102

Du—Zilverpluvier Fr—Pluvier argenté

Ge—Kiebitzregenpfeifer Sw—Kustpipare

N.Am—Black-bellied Plover

Identification: 11". In breeding plumage, *black below and whitish above*. Resembles no other wader except Golden Plover, but distinguished in any plumage by *conspicuous black axillaries* ("wing-pits") contrasting with whitish under-surfaces of wings and by *whitish wing-bar, rump and tail*. Adults in summer have upper-parts spangled with *whitish* (not gold); in winter, upper-parts are more uniform brownish-grey, under-parts look whiter than Golden Plover's. Dejected, hunched attitude recalls Stone Curlew.

Voice: Call-note a plaintive, slurred whistle "tlee-u-ee."

Habitat: Chiefly coastal mud-flats, sandy beaches and shores. Breeds on Arctic tundra. Map p 113.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius aprivarius* pages 95, 102

Du—Goudpluvier Fr—Pluvier doré

Ge—Goldregenpfeifer Sw—Ljungpipare

Identification: 11". Distinguished in all plumages by dark upper-parts *richly spotted with gold*. Northern race *C. a. altifrons* in summer has *jet-black face and under-parts*, cleanly divided by broad white stripe from forehead, down neck (almost meeting at breast) and down sides to flanks. Southern race *C. a. aprivarius* is much less clean-cut, with partly obscured black face and under-parts and the white *blurred and yellowish*. Races indistinguishable in winter, with whitish faces and under-parts, mottled golden-brown on breast. No wing-bar, but under-surfaces of wings are *uniform white*, tail and rump are *wholly dark*. Can be confused in all plumages (particularly as juvenile) with Grey.

Voice: Call-note (usually in flight) a clear liquid "tlu"; alarm, a melancholy "tlu-i." Song, in display flight, a varied rippling trill, embodying repeated phrases "toori," "tirr-peeoo," etc.

Habitat: Hilly and lowland moors, and, in winter, also fields, sea-shores and estuaries; nests among heather. Map below.



← GOLDEN PLOVER
Partial migrant.
Formerly bred
Holland

DOTTEREL →
Migrant. Formerly
bred N. England.
Breeds at times
Czechos. and Italy.
Vagrant Ireland,
Faeroes



ASIATIC (and AMERICAN) GOLDEN PLOVER

Charadrius dominicus

Distinguished in all plumages from Golden (same size) and Grey (larger) by dull grey axillaries ("wing-pits"). European Golden has white axillaries, Grey has black. An Asiatic and North American species. Vagrant to Britain, Ireland, Heligoland, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Spain, Italy, Malta.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* pages 95, 102

Du—Morinelpluvier Fr—Pluvier guignard

Ge—Mornellregenpfeifer Sw—Fjällpipare

Identification: 8½". Male smaller. Very tame. Distinguished by white band between brown breast and orange-chestnut under-parts, and blackish crown with very broad white eye-stripes, joining in distinctive "V" on nape. Belly black. Winter adults and juvenile are paler, with indistinct markings and ash-brown breasts. In overhead flight the white throat, pectoral band and tail-coverts contrast sharply with dark breast and black belly; in winter, flight-pattern is less clear, but the pectoral band is always diagnostic. No wing-bar.

Voice: A repeated, piping "titi-ri-titi-ri," becoming a rapid trill.

Habitat: Stony heights and tundra; on migration on lowland heaths, marshes and coasts. Breeds on bare high ground. Map p 114.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* pages 95, 102

Du—Steenloper Fr—Tourne-pierre interprète

Ge—Steinwalzer Sw—Roskarl

Identification: 9". A robust shore-bird with "tortoiseshell" plumage, orange legs and a stout, pointed, black bill. In summer, upper-parts are rich chestnut and black, under-parts white with broad dark breast-band. In winter, "tortoiseshell" replaced by dusky brown, with white throat. Turns over stones and shells when seeking food.

Voice: A quick, staccato "tuk-a-tuk" and a long rapid trill.

Habitat: Winters along rocky or pebbly coasts. Usually breeds on exposed rocky ground on coastal islands, but in Arctic also occasionally on river islands. Map below.



← TURNSTONE
Migr. Winter (also non-breeding) birds coasts Iceland and S. Norway to S. Spain. Passage through most of Europe.



SNIFE →
Partial migrant

SNIFE, CURLEWS, GODWITS, SANDPIPERS: Scolopacidae

A NUMEROUS AND VARIED FAMILY OF WADING BIRDS. Habitat usually sea-shores and marshes, though some species frequent dry, open ground and some woodlands. Legs are longish, or very long. Wings are usually pointed and angular. Bills are slender. Plumages often differ in summer, winter and juvenile, and are often confusing when moulting. Wing-bars, rump and tail patterns are important diagnostically. Voices are very varied and often musical. Chiefly gregarious outside breeding season, some species occurring in gigantic flocks on sea-coasts.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago* pages 86, 118

Du—Watersnip

Fr—Bécassine des marais

Ge—Bekassine

Sw—Enkelbeckasin

N.Am—Wilson's Snipe

Identification: 10½". A secretive, tight-sitting, brown marsh bird, with a long, straight bill. Difficult to observe closely, but quickly identified by characteristic *zig-zag flight and hoarse rasping cry when flushed*. Much larger than shorter-billed Jack Snipe, near size of Great Snipe, smaller than Woodcock. Black and rufous back *strongly striped* with buff. Tail shows a *little white* on outer edges (adult Great Snipe shows *conspicuous white*, Jack Snipe none; young Great Snipe also shows none and is difficult to distinguish in the field from Snipe except by behaviour). Pale stripes on head are *lengthways* (Woodcock's are *across*). Long, slender bill carried downwards in flight. Flies to feeding grounds at dusk in small parties, or "wisps."

Voice: When flushed, a dry, rasping "*schape*." Song, a clock-like, monotonously repeated "*chic-ka*." In oblique dives during display-flight, a vibrating, bleating sound is produced by the widely spread outer tail-feathers, like rapidly repeated "*huhuhuhuhu*."

Habitat: Marshes, water-meadows, sewage farms, boggy moors, etc. Nests in coarse grass or rushes, occasionally in heather. Map p 115.

GREAT SNIFE *Gallinago media* pages 86 118

Du—Poelsnip

Fr—Bécassine double

Ge—Doppelschnepfe

Sw—Dubbelbeckasin

Identification: 11". Distinguished on the ground with difficulty from Snipe by *heavier, darker and more barred appearance*. More easily distinguished in flight, when adults show *much more white on outer tail-feathers*. Juveniles not separable. Flight is slower and heavier and usually direct, not twisting; *usually rises silently*.

Voice: An occasional brief croak. Males at display grounds in spring indulge in remarkable bubbling chorus singing.

Habitat: Except in breeding season often frequents drier localities

than Snipe—stubble fields, bracken-covered heaths, etc. In breeding season usually in marshy country, banks of rivers, etc. Map below.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus* pages 86, 118

Du—Bokje Fr—Bécassine sourde
Ge—Zwergschnepfe Sw—Halvenkel beckasin

Identification: 7½". Smallest snipe. Difficult to observe on the ground, but quickly distinguished from Snipe by *smaller size, relatively much shorter bill and slower, more direct flight* (though it may dodge a little occasionally). Breaks cover at last moment and drops again quickly, instead of "towering" after wild zig-zag flight, like Snipe. *Usually silent when flushed.* At short range lack of buff centre-stripe on crown, brighter stripes on back, *lack of white on tail* and lack of barring on flanks, are further distinctions from Snipe. Almost always solitary.

Voice: Muffled drumming note, delivered in display-flight and on ground.
Habitat: As Snipe. Breeds in wet swamps and bogs. Map below.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* pages 86, 118

Du—Houtsnip Fr—Bécasse des bois
Ge—Waldschnepfe Sw—Morkulla

Identification: 13½". A rather solitary woodland species. Perfect "dead-leaf" camouflage and retiring habit make observation difficult. Distinguished from Snipe by larger, stouter form, thicker bill, *finely barred buffish under-parts and transverse black bars* on back of head and neck. Large eyes set well back on round head. *Wings rounded* (Snipe's are pointed). Passes day in thick shelter, taking wing with distinctive swishing sound (but without calling), quickly dropping to cover again. Flight usually rapid and dodging. In flight looks stout and "neckless," with bill pointing downward at an angle. Crepuscular.
Voice: During slow display flight (known as "roding") above trees, at dawn and dusk, male has soft, croaking "orrrt-orrrt" and a high, sneezing "tsiwick."

Habitat: Well wooded regions, particularly with wet, over-grown rides and patches of evergreen. Usually nests at foot of tree. Map p 120.



← GREAT SNIFE
Summer visitor.
Occ. summer in
Austria. Passage
across Continent.
Vagrant west to
Ireland



JACK SNIFE →
Migrant, May
breed Holland, N.
Germany. Vagrant
Faeroes, Iceland

WADERS

- **SNIFE** page 116
Long straight bill, striped crown.
- **GREAT SNIFE** 116
Larger than Snipe, more white on sides of tail.
- **JACK SNIFE** 117
Smaller than Snipe, centre crown-stripe dark (light in other snipe).
- **WOODCOCK** 117
Stout; long bill, barred crown, barred under-parts.
- **DOWITCHER** 128
Snipe-like bill, long white rump.
Winter: Grey. Summer: Rusty.
- **GREEN SANDPIPER** 122
Very dark above, with white rump, dark legs; under-sides of wings blackish.
- **WOOD SANDPIPER** 123
Upper-parts more checkered than Green Sandpiper; legs paler. Under-sides of wing pale (not blackish).
- △ **MARSH SANDPIPER** 125
Suggests small, slender Greenshank, but has more needle-like bill. See text.
- **LESSER YELLOWLEGS (YELLOWSHANK)** 125
Long bright yellow legs, white rump, no wing-stripe.
- **RUFF** 133
Male in spring: Extraordinary ruff, extremely variable.
Male in autumn: "Scaly" upper-parts. See text.
Female (Reeve): Much smaller, but similar.
- **GREENSHANK** 125
Long greenish legs, white rump and back, no wing-stripe.
- **REDSHANK** 124
Long orange-red legs, reddish base of bill.
- **SPOTTED REDSHANK** 124
Adult in Summer: Blackish; dark red legs.
Adult in Winter: From Redshank by whiter under-parts, greyer back, longer bill, wing-pattern.



SNIPE

GREAT SNIPE

JACK SNIPE

Summer

Winter

WOODCOCK

DOWITCHER

GREEN SANDPIPER

WOOD SANDPIPER

Summer

Autumn

RUFF

♂

MARSH SANDPIPER

LESSER YELLOWLEGS

♀ (Reeve)

GREENSHANK

Summer

Winter

REDSHANK

SPOTTED REDSHANK

COMMON SANDPIPER

Winter

GREY PHALAROPE

PURPLE SANDPIPER

Winter

Winter

Winter
DUNLIN

Autumn

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE

Winter

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Winter

KNOT

TEREK SANDPIPER

SANDERLING

Summer

Summer

KNOT

Winter

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

BAIRD'S S.

WHITE-RUMPED S.

BUFF-BREASTED S.

Winter

Winter

Summer

Summer

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER

LITTLE STINT

TEMMINCK'S STINT

SMALL WADERS

- **COMMON SANDPIPER** page 123
Smudge on sides of breast; "bobs" tail.
- **GREY PHALAROPE** 137
Winter: Eye-patch, fairly thick bill, unstriped back.
- **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** 137
Winter: Eye-patch, needle-like bill, striped back.
- **DUNLIN** 131
Winter: Decurved bill, greyish breast.
- **PURPLE SANDPIPER** 129
Portly; slaty; yellow legs; prefers rocks.
- **SANDERLING** 132
Winter: Whitish; black "shoulders;" wing-stripe.
Summer: Rusty; conspicuous wing-stripe.
- **KNOT** 128
Winter: Stout, grey; light feather edgings (see text).
Summer: Rufous under-parts, relatively short bill.
- **CURLEW SANDPIPER** 131
Autumn: Grey; decurved bill, white rump.
- ▲ **TEREK SANDPIPER** 128
Uprturned bill, yellow legs.
- **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** 130
Sharp division below breast; striped back.
- ▲ **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER** 296
Buffish breast, scaly back, stint-like bill, black legs.
- **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** 132
Entire under-parts buff; small head, yellow legs.
- **WHITE-RUMPED (BONAPARTE'S) SANDPIPER** 130
Winter: White rump; differs from Curlew Sandpiper by shorter legs, shorter straight bill.
Summer: Brown (not grey).
- **LITTLE STINT** 129
Summer: Very small, rusty, legs black.
Winter: Grey; light "V" on back, whitish breast.
- **TEMMINCK'S STINT** 130
Greyer than Little Stint, legs greenish or yellowish.
- **BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER** 132
Dunlin-like bill, but back and head pattern (double eye-stripe) often suggest Jack Snipe.

UPLAND (BARTRAM'S) SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda*

Du—Bartram's strandloper Fr—Bartramie à longue-queue

Ge—Bartrams Uferläufer Sw—Högländssnäppa

Identification: 11". A large, streaked, buffish-brown wader, near size of Ruff, with no really distinctive marks. The general brown coloration, rather short bill (shorter than head), comparatively small-headed, thin-necked appearance, *rather long tawny tail* and habit of holding wings elevated upon alighting, are helpful points (under-wing surfaces are strongly barred). Wing-strokes are shallow, as in Common Sandpiper. See also Pectoral Sandpiper.

Voice: A mellow whistle in flight, "kip-ip-ip-ip."

Habitat and Range: Extensive fields, burnt ground, etc. (not sea-shores). A vagrant from North America. Has been recorded chiefly in British Isles; also Denmark, Germany, Holland, Italy, Malta.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

pages 94, 103

Du—Wulp

Fr—Courlis cendré

Ge—Grosser Brachvogel

Sw—Storspov

Identification: 21-23". Largest European wader. Easily recognised by *very long, down-curved bill* and distinctive voice. Plumage buffish-brown, closely streaked; rump white. Flight strong and rather gull-like, with measured beat; flocks usually fly high, in lines or chevrons. Whimbrel is smaller, with shorter, curved bill and boldly striped crown. See also Slender-billed Curlew.

Voice: A pure, ringing "cour-li," "crwee," or "croo-ee." Song is loud, slowly delivered and remarkably liquid, embodying long bubbling trill. Sings almost all the year.

Habitat: Mud-flats and estuaries. Occurs inland during migration. Nests on moors, marshes, meadows, sand-dunes. Map below.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

pages 94, 103

Du—Regenwulp

Fr—Courlis corlieu

Ge—Regenbrachvogel

Sw—Småspov

Identification: 16". Distinguished from Curlew by much smaller size,



← WOODCOCK
Partial migrant.
Passage Faeroes.
Prob. annual
Iceland



CURLEW →
Partial migrant.
Non-breeders summer on coasts s. to
Mediterranean

SNIBE, CURLEWS, GODWITS, SANDPIPERS 121

relatively shorter, slightly less curved bill and *boldly striped crown*. Call is entirely different. Wing-beats are quicker. See also Slender-billed Curlew. Hudsonian Curlew *N. p. hudsonicus* (a N. American race, accidental Iceland, Scotland, Spain), lacks the white rump.

Voice: An even tittering of about seven whistling notes. Song resembles the fluty, bubbling part of Curlew's song.

Habitat: As Curlew. In breeding season frequents boggy moors; nests among heather and rough grass on moors and islands. Map below.

SLENDER-BILLED CURLEW *Numenius tenuirostris* page 103

Du—Dunbekwulp

Fr—Courlis à bec grêle

Ge—Dünnschnäbler Brachvogel

Sw—Smalnåbbad spov

Identification: 16". Much smaller than Curlew; looks more like *pale Whimbrel without the two bold dark stripes on the crown* and with distinctive *heart-shaped spots* on flanks. Under-parts are whiter. Tail brightly barred brown and white, with pure white rump.

Voice: Said to resemble Curlew's, but higher-pitched.

Habitat and Range: In winter as Curlew. Breeds in marshy steppes. Occurs on passage in Balkans and Italy. Vagrant to W. Mediterranean and N. to Germany, Britain.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* pages 94, 103

Du—Grutto

Fr—Barge à queue noire

Ge—Uferschnepfe

Sw—Rödspov

Identification: 16". Distinguished from Bar-tailed by longer *straight bill, much longer legs* trailing well beyond tail in flight, *bold black band* on pure white tail and *broad white wing-bar*. In summer, head and breast are chestnut, flanks and belly white with blackish bars. Winter plumage more like dark Bar-tailed, but wing and tail pattern are unchanged. Juvenile has buffish neck and breast.

Voice: Flight-call a clear "*reeta-reeta-reeta*"; most frequent notes at breeding grounds a rapid, tittering "*tiu-i-tiu*" and a nasal "*quee-it*."

Habitat: In winter, estuaries, marshes; on passage, inland lakes and sewage-farms. Nests in water meadows, bogs, moors and dunes. Map below.



← WHIMBREL

Migr. Nonbreeders summer British, W. Europe coasts. Passage also inland. Occ. winters north to Brit. Is.

BLACK-TAILED
GODWIT →
Mig. Breeds Gt. Britain. Vagrant Scand.



BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* pages 94, 103

Du—Rosse grutto Fr—Barge rousse
 Ge—Pfuhschnepfe Sw—Myrspöv

Identification: 15". Bar-tailed is slightly smaller than Black-tailed and distinguished by *slightly upturned bill*, lack of white wing-bar, *closely barred tail*, dull white rump and considerably shorter legs, which barely project beyond tail in flight. In summer, male looks rich reddish-chestnut, particularly about head, neck and breast; female is much duller. In winter, both look strikingly pale, with mottled grey upper-parts, whitish under-parts; in distance, colour is not unlike Curlew's. Juvenile has more strongly streaked buffish breast.

Voice: Usually silent outside breeding season. Flight-note a harsh "kirrik"; alarm a shrill "krick."

Habitat: Usually coastal. Often seen in winter in dense packs at water's edge. Breeds on swampy peat moss, in marshes near or beyond tree limits. Map below.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* pages 86, 118

Du—Witgatje Fr—Chevalier cul-blanc
 Ge—Waldwasserläufer Sw—Skogssnäppa

Identification: 9". Considerably larger than Common Sandpiper. Easily distinguished in flight by *blackish* beneath wings (Wood Sandpiper has whitish) and by *blackish upper-parts*, contrasting strongly with *brilliant white rump*, most of tail and under-parts. Neck and breast greyish-brown. No wing-bar. Tail barred with black near tip. In summer, upper-parts are speckled with whitish-buff, but much less boldly than in Wood Sandpiper; faintly speckled in winter. Legs greenish and do not project beyond tail. Behaviour shy and solitary. "Bobs" head and tail. Flight rapid, with jerky, snipe-like wing-beats.

Voice: When flushed, a ringing "thütt, weet-weet." Song, a medley of high, fluty trilling "titti-looi, titti-looi," etc.

Habitat: Outside breeding season on marshes, sewage-farms, lakes and streams, seldom on sea-shore. Breeds in swampy forest regions, often in old nests in trees. Map below.



← **BAR-TAILED
 GODWIT**
*Migr. Nonbreeders
 summer coasts
 Britain, W. Europe.
 Passage (incl. in-
 land) except S.E.
 Europe*

**GREEN
 SANDPIPER** →
*Migrant. Has bred
 England, Holland*



WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* pages 86, 118

Du—Bosruiter Fr—Chevalier sylvain
Ge—Bruchwasserläufer Sw—Grönbena

Identification: 8". Distinguished in summer by dark brown upper-parts, *closely spotted with white*; head, neck and breast finely streaked; bold whitish eye-stripe. In flight, *white rump and whitish beneath wings* contrast boldly with dark upper-parts. No wing-bar. In winter, white speckles are faint, giving resemblance to Green Sandpiper, but latter is larger and blacker, with much more white on rump and tail and has *blackish* beneath wings. Legs are long, yellowish-green.

Voice: Habitually noisy, parties making high liquid trilling. When flushed, a shrill "chiff-iff-iff." Also a rising, liquid "tlui." Song embodies a musical "tleea-tleea-tleea," in high song-flight.

Habitat: On passage frequents marshes, sewage-farms, lake shores, etc. Breeds in fairly open ground near water in northern forest regions, and on tundra. Map below.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos* pages 87, 119

Du—Oeverloper Fr—Chevalier guignette
Ge—Flussuferläufer Sw—Drillsnäppa

Identification: 7½". Distinguished by *dark olive-brown upper-parts* (faintly speckled with black in summer), dark brown rump and tail with white sides, white under-parts, faintly streaked on neck and breast. Has characteristic low flight over water, with rapid, *shallow* wing-beats alternating with brief glides on *down-curved wings*, showing conspicuous white wing-bar. Also distinguished by *constant bobbing of head and tail* and by shrill voice. Runs among riverside stones. Distinguished from other sandpipers by combination of small size, dark upper-parts and rump. See also Temminck's Stint.

Voice: When flushed, a shrill piping "twee-wee-wee." Song, a high, rapid "titti-weeti, titti-weeti."

Habitat: Clear-running rivers, hill streams and lakes; on passage at sewage-farms, estuaries, etc. Breeds on banks of streams and lakes, river shingle bars, etc. Map below.



← WOOD SANDPIPER
Mig. Bred Holland.
Pass w. to Brit., Portugal. Vag. Ireland, Faeroes
COMMON SANDPIPER →
Mainly summer visitor. Has bred Holland. Few winter n. to Britain and Holland



REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

pages 86, 118

Du—Tureluur

Fr—Chevalier gambette

Ge—Rotschenkel

Sw—Rödbena

Identification: 11". Distinguished in flight by *white back and rump* and conspicuous *white hind edges of dark wings*; when perched, by long *orange-red* legs. Bill long, reddish, with black tip. Upper-parts strongly marked with black and grey. Tail barred black and white. Under-parts closely streaked and spotted. Juvenile buff above, with *yellow* legs; sometimes confused with Lesser Yellowlegs, but distinguished by white on wing, which latter lacks. Behaviour suspicious and noisy; when uneasy, often "bobs." See also Spotted Redshank.

Voice: When flushed, a volley of high-pitched notes. Usual call a musical, down-slurred "tleu-hu-hu." Alarm, an incessant yelping "teuk." Song has various repeated musical phrases, notably "taweeo."

Habitat: Marshes, moors, saltings, sewage-farms. Winters on estuaries and mud-flats. Nests in grass tussock. Map below.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

pages 86, 118

Du—Zwarte ruitter

Fr—Chevalier arlequin

Ge—Dunkler Wasserläufer

Sw—Svartsnäppa

Identification: 12". Distinguished in summer from all other waders by *sooty-black plumage*, speckled with white on upper-parts, looking at a distance darker below than above. Rump white, tail barred. In winter, looks more like Redshank, but distinguished by *lack of wing-bar*, longer and thinner bill, longer legs projecting well beyond tail in flight, and cleaner ash-grey upper-parts copiously spotted with white. Legs dark red in summer, orange in winter. Voice is very distinctive. When seen with Redshank, Spotted *stands noticeably higher* and is more active in feeding. See also Greenshank.

Voice: A loud, distinctive "tchuit," or "tuituit" and a scolding "chick-chick-chick."

Habitat: As Redshank. Breeds in open areas in northern forests. Map below.



← REDSHANK
Partial migrant

SPOTTED
REDSHANK →
Migr. Nonbreeders
summer Holland,
Germany, Austria.
At times winters
Holland, Britain,
Ireland



LESSER YELLOWLEGS (YELLOWSHANK) *Tringa flavipes* page 118

Identification: 10". Slightly smaller than Redshank; of similar proportions. Has general coloration and pattern of Greenshank (white rump, no white in wing), but has *bright yellow legs* and different call. White rump does not extend as wedge up the back. Still rarer Greater Yellowlegs *T. melanoleuca* is larger (13-15") than Greenshank with Greenshank-like call of three notes (see Accidentals, p. 295).

Voice: A soft whistle of *one or two* notes, "cu," or "cu-cu."

Habitat and Range: Frequents mud-flats, marshes, margins. A vagrant from North America, chiefly to British Isles; recorded Holland, Denmark.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* pages 86, 118

Du—Groenpootruiter

Fr—Chevalier à pattes vertes

Ge—Grünschenkel

Sw—Gluttsnäppa

Identification: 12". Distinguished from Redshank by *paler* and greyer upper-parts, whiter head and under-parts, *lack of white wing-bar* and longer, *green legs* which project well beyond tail in flight. Also by slightly larger size, very slightly up-turned blackish bill and greater area of white on back, rump and tail. See also Spotted Redshank, Lesser Yellowlegs and Marsh Sandpiper.

Voice: A ringing "tew-tew-tew," less shrill than Redshank; a repeated scolding "tyip," etc. Song, a mellow, repeated "tew-i."

Habitat: As Redshank. Breeds on moors or in patches of grass or heath in forest, usually not far from water. Map below.

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* page 118

Du—Poelruiter

Fr—Chevalier stagnatile

Ge—Teichwasserläufer

Sw—Dammsnäppa

Identification: 9". Looks like very small Greenshank, particularly in winter, but distinguished, apart from size, by *very fine straight bill*, *white forehead* and proportionately longer, much finer, greenish legs. In summer, feathers on back have black centres with buffish edges, giving *boldly spotted effect*. In flight, shows dark and white pattern



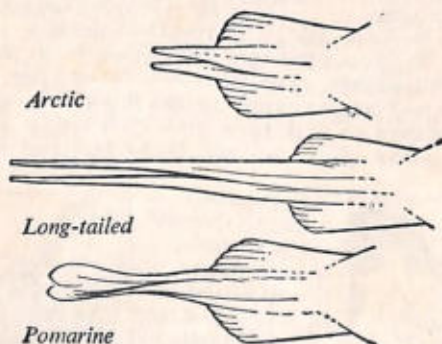
← GREENSHANK
Migr. Non-breeder
summer Austria,
Holl., Germany.
Few winter British
Is. Vag. Iceland
MARSH
SANDPIPER →
Summer vis. Pass-
age w. to Italy,
Poland. Vagr. n.
to Finland, w. to
England, Spain



SKUAS

SKUAS ARE DARK, hawk-like or falcon-like sea-birds which pursue other birds in a piratical manner. All show a white flash on the wing. Adults of the three smaller species have elongated central tail feathers (see drawing below) and occur in light, intermediate and dark phases; the tail points are often broken off. Immatures have stubbier central tail feathers and are very difficult to separate.

- **GREAT SKUA** page 141
Dark, heavily-built; wing-patches; blunt tail.
- **ARCTIC SKUA** 140
Pointed central tail-feathers (moderate length).
- **POMARINE SKUA** 141
Blunt (and partially twisted) central tail-feathers.
- **LONG-TAILED SKUA** 141
Very long, flexible, pointed central tail-feathers.



TAILS OF SKUAS (ADULTS)

GREAT
SKUA



ARCTIC
SKUA
Light phase



ARCTIC SKUA
Dark phase



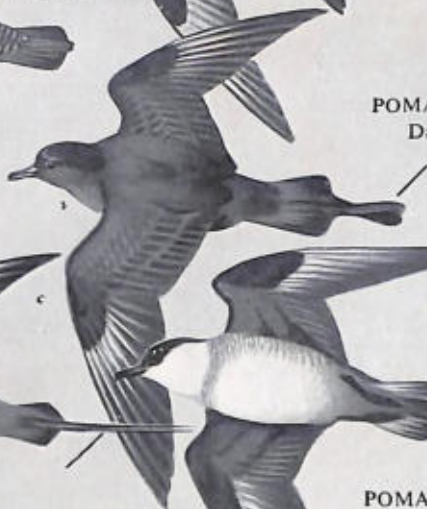
Intermediate
phase



ARCTIC
SKUA
Juvenile



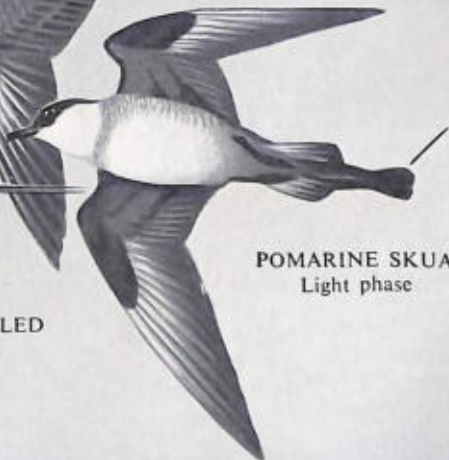
POMARINE SKUA
Dark phase



POMARINE SKUA
Light phase



LONG-TAILED
SKUA





Winter

BLACK GUILLEMOT



Summer



Winter

PUFFIN



Summer



Winter

LITTLE AUK



Summer



Immature

Winter

RAZORBILL



Summer



Winter

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT



Summer



Winter

GUILLEMOT

"Bridled" form

Summer

AUKS



AUKS are rather duck-like sea birds with stubby necks. They have a whirring flight and a straddle-legged look when about to land.

- **BLACK GUILLEMOT** page 161
Winter: Whitish body, large white patches.
Summer: Black body, pointed bill, large white patches.

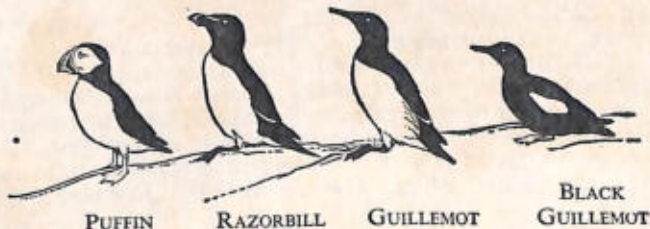
- **PUFFIN** 161
Winter: Triangular bill, dusky cheeks.
Immature: Smaller bill, dusky cheeks.
Summer: Triangular, coloured bill, whitish cheeks.

- **LITTLE AUK** 157
 Starling size, stubby bill.

- **RAZORBILL** 157
Adult: Heavy head, flat bill with white mark.
Immature: Smallish bill, with curved ridge.

- △ **BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT** 160
 Thicker bill than common Guillemot.
Winter: Dark cap to below eye.
Summer: Light mark on gape.

- **GUILLEMOT** 160
Winter: Black line on white cheek.
Summer: Slender bill, dark head.
 "Bridled" form: White eye-ring and white line.



similar to Greenshank's, but *feet project farther beyond tail*. Voice is quite different. Movements noticeably more graceful than Greenshank's. Can be confused with Wood, which has rather similar voice and flight, but latter is smaller, and its feet do not project so far in flight.

Voice: Usual notes (none very loud), "tee-oo," "tew," "teea," etc., and a twittering trill.

Habitat: Seldom on sea-shore. Winters around inland waters and marshes. Breeds (occasionally in small groups) on grassy borders of lakes and on marshy steppes. Map p 125.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Tringa terek*

page 119

Du—Terek-ruiter

Fr—Barge de Terek

Ge—Terekwasserläufer

Sw—Tereksnäppa

Identification: 9". Distinguished by *long, thin, very slightly up-curved bill*. Crown and upper-parts *pale brownish-grey*; under-parts white with faint streaks on neck and breast. In summer, has two broad, irregular black stripes forming a "V" down the back. *Legs orange-yellow*. In flight, pale rump and white rear edge of dark wings are conspicuous. "Bobs" like Common Sandpiper.

Voice: Rather noisy. A fluty "dudududu," or a loud piping twitter. In breeding season, a variety of melodious notes, some recalling Whimbrel.

Habitat and Range: Occurs along shores of large rivers, saltings, coastal flats. Breeds among willow scrub. Has bred Finland. Vagrant to Britain and most W. European countries.

DOWITCHER (RED-BREASTED SNIPE) *Limnodromus griseus*

pages 86, 118

Identification: 11½". A bird of snipe-like proportions, which, unlike true snipe, is found on *open shores*. In any plumage recognised by the very long, straight *snipe-like bill* and white lower back, rump and tail. The white extends *up the back* in a long point. Might be mistaken for Greenshank, but legs are much shorter and wings have white stripe on rear margin. In summer plumage has breast washed with cinnamon-red; in autumn with light grey. Feeds with "sewing-machine" motion, rapidly jabbing its long bill perpendicularly into the mud.

Voice: A rapid, treble "tu-tu-tu," metallic and slightly Greenshank-like, but lower pitched.

Habitat and Range: Frequents open tidal mud-flats, salt marshes. A vagrant from N. America to Brit. Is.; accidental in France, Denmark.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

pages 87, 119

Du—Kanoetstrandloper

Fr—Bécasseau maubèche

Ge—Isländischer Strandläufer

Sw—Kustsnäppa

Identification: 10". Noticeably *stocky and short in neck, bill and legs*. In summer, upper-parts strongly mottled chestnut and black; head and under-parts *russet* (Curlew Sandpiper is similar in coloration, but is much smaller, longer in leg and has longer, curved bill). In winter is nondescript "scaly" ash-grey above, white below. Identified in flight

by rather large size, *pale rump and tail* and pale wing-bar. (Dunlin and Sanderling in flight have blackish centre to their rumps and sharper wing-bars, and are much smaller). Often in *densely packed flocks*.

Voice: A low "nut"; flight-call a whistling "twit-wit."

Habitat: Frequents sandy and muddy sea-shores, occasionally on inland waters. Breeds on high Arctic barrens. Map below.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* pages 87, 119

Du—Paarse strandloper Fr—Bécasseau violet

Ge—Seestrandläufer Sw—Skärnsnäppa

Identification: 8½". Size between Dunlin and Knot. Distinguished by rock haunting habits, stocky build and, in winter, by *very dark grey-brown head, breast and upper-parts*, contrasting with white belly and spotted flanks; in summer upper-parts look paler, light rufous emarginations giving patterned effect. Tame behaviour usually permits sight of *short yellow legs and yellow base to bill*. Shows bold white wing-bar and white beneath wings. Feeds among rocks.

Voice: When flushed, a piping "weet-wit," or a short "tritt, tritt."

Habitat: In winter frequents rocky coasts. Breeds on hill-sides in tundra. Map below.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* pages 87, 119

Du—Kleine strandloper Fr—Bécasseau minute

Ge—Zwergstrandläufer Sw—Småsnäppa

Identification: 5½". Smallest wader. Looks like miniature Dunlin, but distinguished in summer, apart from size, by lack of black patch on under-parts and by rufous-tinted breast; in autumn by whiter breast and neck. Bill is straight and relatively *shorter* than Dunlin's or Sanderling's (shorter than head). In flight shows narrow, inconspicuous wing-bar and white *sides* to rump and tail, like Dunlin. See also Temminck's, summer Sanderling, and Semi-Palmated (Accidentals p 296).

Voice: A sharp "tirri-tit-tit." Song, a long undulating trill.

Habitat: On passage, much as Dunlin. Breeds in coastal marshes and on tundra among willow scrub, etc. Map p 130.



← KNOT

Winter vis. Nonbr. summer W. Europe, Faeroes. Passage most Europe except S.E.

PURPLE SANDPIPER →

Part. migrant. Non-breeders south to Britain. Vagrant to Austria, Italy, Portugal



TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* pages 87, 119

Du—Kleinste strandloper Fr—Bécasseau de Temminck

Ge—Temmincksstrandläufer Sw—Mosnäppa

Identification: 5½". Distinguished from very similar Little Stint by greyer appearance above and below, different voice and different behaviour. In flight, shows an inconspicuous white wing-bar and a little white on outer tail-feathers (Little Stint shows grey). At short range pale greenish or brownish legs are also diagnostic (Little Stint's are black). When flushed, "towers" like Snipe. See also Common Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper (Accidentals, p 295).

Voice: A short trilling "tirrr" and a clear, prolonged tittering, in display flight and from ground.

Habitat: Seldom on sea-shore. On passage frequents wet marshes, lakes, occasionally saltings and estuaries. Breeds among low vegetation on lake and river shores. Map below.

WHITE-RUMPED (BONAPARTE'S) SANDPIPER
Calidris fuscicollis page 119

Identification: 7". A small, streaked sandpiper, slightly smaller than Dunlin. In appearance like large stint with a white rump. Back brown in spring; greyish in autumn, at which season it is distinguished from Curlew Sandpiper (which also has white rump) by smaller size and shorter, straight bill.

Voice: A thin, mouse-like "jeet," of similar quality to note of Meadow Pipit.

Habitat and Range: Beaches, mud-flats. A vagrant from North America to British Isles, Holland.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* pages 87, 119

Identification: 7½". A little larger than Dunlin, smaller than Knot. Crown, neck and upper-parts streaked black and rusty brown, with buff snipe-like stripes down back. Rich brown cap contrasts with pale eye-stripe and chin. Neck and breast closely streaked, ending abruptly against pure white of lower breast. When alert, neck looks longer than



← **LITTLE STINT**
Migrant. Passage
most Europe. Has
wintered north to
Britain. Vagrant
Faeroes

**TEMMINCK'S
STINT** →
Migrant. Has bred
England, Scotland.
Passage most Eur.
Vagrant Ireland



in most similar shore-birds (more like small Reeve). *Legs ochre*. Flight erratic when flushed, showing virtually no wing-bar and very dark centre tail-feathers. See also Sharp-tailed and Baird's Sandpipers (Accidentals, p. 296).

Voice: A reedy "kriek, kriek" when flushed.

Habitat and Range: Occurs on passage on grassy mud-flats and marshes, occasionally on sea-shores. Rare autumn visitor from N. America to Britain, Ireland. Vagrant to Iceland, Norway, France.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* pages 87, 102, 119

Du—Bonte strandloper Fr—Bécasseau variable

Ge—Alpenstrandläufer Sw—Kärrensnäppa

N.Am—Red-backed Sandpiper

Identification: 7". Commonest European shore-bird. Distinguished in summer by *large black patch on lower breast*; upper-parts and crown chestnut, streaked black; upper breast white, finely streaked. Bill fairly long, slightly down-curved. In winter, streaked brownish-grey above, white below, with finely streaked greyish breast. White wing-bar and white sides of rump and tail fairly conspicuous in flight. (Sanderling in winter is larger, with whiter plumage and a brighter wing-bar; Curlew Sandpiper in winter, though more graceful, with longer legs and whiter under-parts, is best distinguished by its *conspicuous white rump*.) Feeding attitude is "hunched up."

Voice: A short, high, nasal "treeer." Song, a purring trill.

Habitat: Sea-shores, estuaries, also inland waters, sewage-farms, etc. Breeds near water on high moors, bogs, salt marshes. Map below.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea* pages 87, 102, 119

Du—Krombekstrandloper Fr—Bécasseau cocorli

Ge—Bogenschnäbler Strandläufer Sw—Spovsnäppa

Identification: 7½". In breeding plumage mainly chestnut, resembling much larger Knot; crown and upper-parts richly marked black and chestnut; sides of head, neck and under-parts *bright russet*; rump white with blackish bars. In winter, looks very similar to Dunlin,



← DUNLIN

Part. migr. Passage all Europe. Non-br. summer coasts s. of breeding range. Has bred Holland

SANDERLING → Winter vis. Non-breeders often summer coasts W. Europ. Passage most Europe



with which it associates; best distinguished by *white rump*, which is very conspicuous in flight (Dunlin's has dark centre); also by longer legs, more graceful carriage, less spotted breast, brighter eye-stripe, different voice and *more slender, longer, slightly down-curved bill*. Shape of bill is not always diagnostic, as Dunlin's is sometimes similar.

Voice: A very distinctive, liquid "chirrip."

Habitat and Range: On passage, as Dunlin. Breeds in E. Arctic Asia. On passage throughout Europe; in winter occasionally N. to British Isles.

SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*

pages 87, 119

Du—Drieteenzandloper

Fr—Bécasseau sanderling

Ge—Sanderling

Sw—Sandlöpare

Identification: 8". A small, extremely active bird which races after the retreating waves like a clockwork toy. In flight *long white stripe on dark wing* contrasts more boldly than in other small shore-birds. Dark tail has white sides. In summer, upper-parts, head and breast pale chestnut, speckled blackish, contrasting with pure white belly. (See also Little Stint) In winter, is *whitest of the sandpipers*; upper-parts pale grey with dark "shoulder-patch"; head and under-parts white; distinguished from much slimmer winter phalaropes by lack of dark eye-patch. Bill and legs black. Distinguished in winter from darker Dunlin by slightly smaller size, *much brighter wing-bar and stouter, straight bill*; in summer also by *paler upper-parts and lack of black patch on belly*.

Voice: A short "twick," or "quit."

Habitat: Winters on sandy beaches; a few occur inland on passage. Breeds on stony Arctic tundra. Map p 131.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*

page 119

Fr—Bécasseau roussé

Ge—Rötlicher Uferläufer

Identification: 8". A small shore-bird, slightly stockier than Common Sandpiper, with *entire under-parts clear buffish*. Has pale eye ring, short bill, round head and yellowish legs. No other small sandpiper is so evenly buff-coloured. The under surface of the wing is *white*, with a marbled tip. Very tame.

Voice: A low, trilled "pr-r-r-reet."

Habitat and Range: Dry fields with very short grass, in preference to shores. A vagrant from N. America. Recorded chiefly in British Isles; also Heligoland, Denmark, Holland, France.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus*

page 119

Du—Breedbekstrandloper

Fr—Bécasseau platyrhynque

Ge—Sumpfläufer

Sw—Myrsnäppa

Identification: 6½". Smaller and rather shorter legged than Dunlin. Distinguished in breeding plumage by *very dark upper-parts*, with bold, snipe-like *creamy streaks on back*; narrow dark crown has whitish lower margin, separated from the whitish eye-stripe (except forward of

the eye) by a dark line (see illustration), giving head a distinctive *striped appearance*; at rest, *copper edges* of secondaries can be conspicuous; streaked breast contrasts with white under-parts. Looks very dark in flight. In winter, is greyish above, with streaked breast, very like Dunlin, but has *white eye-stripe* and *blackish patch* at carpal joint on closed wing, almost as conspicuous as in Sanderling. Bill very slightly decurved, often appearing angled, rather than curved, near tip. Inclined to be solitary and less active than most small shore birds.

Voice: Resembles Dunlin.

Habitat: On passage, usually in marshes, mud-flats, sewage farms, less often on sea-shore. Nests in tussocks in wet bogs and morasses. Map below.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

pages 87, 118

Du—Kempnaan

Fr—Chevalier combattant

Ge—Kampfläufer

Sw—Brushane

Identification: 11½". Female much smaller. Male unmistakable in breeding plumage, with *enormous erectile ruff and ear-tufts* in various combinations of black, white, brown, buff, giving thick-necked appearance in flight. Female (Reeve) and male in winter have bold "scaly" dark and sandy upper-parts, buff breast, no ruff or ear-tufts. Adults in early or late breeding plumage are brown above, with copious dark mottling, contrasting sharply with pale chin and white belly. In winter resembles Redshank, but distinguished by shorter bill, *dark tail with conspicuous oval white patch each side*, lack of white on secondaries and more erect stance. Colour of bill and legs varies greatly. Juvenile resembles Reeve, but with more richly marked upper-parts and pinkish-buff breast.

Voice: Has occasional deep guttural gobbling note, at display mounds.

Habitat: In winter and on passage on inland marshes, lake shores, occasionally estuaries. Breeds on northern tundra; in southern range in water meadows and marshes. Sexually promiscuous. Map below.



← BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER

Summer vis. Passage Denmark, Italy eastwards. Vagr. Brit. Is., Ireland, France

RUFF →

Bred England, Austria. Vag. Iceland. Passage Faeroes. Irreg. winter n. to Holland, Britain



with which it associates; best distinguished by *white rump*, which is very conspicuous in flight (Dunlin's has dark centre); also by longer legs, more graceful carriage, less spotted breast, brighter eye-stripe, different voice and *more slender, longer, slightly down-curved bill*. Shape of bill is not always diagnostic, as Dunlin's is sometimes similar.

Voice: A very distinctive, liquid "chirrip."

Habitat and Range: On passage, as Dunlin. Breeds in E. Arctic Asia. On passage throughout Europe; in winter occasionally N. to British Isles.

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pages 87, 119

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Fr—Bécasseau sanderling

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Sw—Sandlöpare

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Voice: A low, trilled "pr-r-r-reet."

Habitat and Range: Dry fields with very short grass, in preference to shores. A vagrant from N. America. Recorded chiefly in British Isles; also Heligoland, Denmark, Holland, France.

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page 119

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Fr—Bécasseau platyrhynque

Ge—Sumpfläufer

Sw—Myrsnäppa

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the eye) by a dark line (see illustration), giving head a distinctive *striped appearance*; at rest, *copper edges* of secondaries can be conspicuous; streaked breast contrasts with white under-parts. Looks very dark in flight. In winter, is greyish above, with streaked breast, very like Dunlin, but has *white eye-stripe* and *blackish patch* at carpal joint on closed wing, almost as conspicuous as in Sanderling. Bill very slightly decurved, often appearing angled, rather than curved, near tip. Inclined to be solitary and less active than most small shore birds.

Voice: Resembles Dunlin.

Habitat: On passage, usually in marshes, mud-flats, sewage farms, less often on sea-shore. Nests in tussocks in wet bogs and morasses. Map below.

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pages 87, 118

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Fr—Chevalier combattant

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Sw—Brushane

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Voice: Has occasional deep guttural gobbling note, at display mounds.

Habitat: In winter and on passage on inland marshes, lake shores, occasionally estuaries. Breeds on northern tundra; in southern range in water meadows and marshes. Sexually promiscuous. Map below.



← BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER

Summer vis. Passage Denmark, Italy eastwards. Vagr. Brit. Is., Ireland, France

RUFF →

Bred England, Austria. Vag. Iceland. Passage Faeroes. Irreg. winter n. to Holland, Britain



GULLS (ADULT)

IN IDENTIFYING GULLS, the most important points are wing-patterns (particularly wing-tips) and colour of legs.

- **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** page 143
Large size, black back and wings, flesh legs.
- **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** 144
Size of Herring Gull, legs usually yellow or orange.
Northern form: Darker (blackish back).
Southern form: Paler (greyish back).
- **GLAUCOUS GULL** 145
Size of Great Black-backed Gull; white primaries.
- **ICELAND GULL** 146
Size of Herring Gull; white primaries.
Bill proportionately smaller than that of Glaucous.
- **IVORY GULL** 142
All white; black legs.
- **HERRING GULL** 144
Grey back and wings, black on wing-tips, flesh legs.
Mediterranean and east Scandinavian birds have yellow legs.
- **COMMON GULL** 145
Smaller than Herring; greenish-yellow bill and legs.
- **KITTIWAKE** 149
Solid black "dipped in ink" wing-tips; black legs.
- AUDOUIN'S GULL** 146
Bright red bill with black band; olive-green legs.
- **LITTLE GULL*** 147
Blackish wing-linings; no black on wings above.
- **SABINE'S GULL*** 148
Black outer primaries; white triangle; forked tail.
- **BLACK-HEADED GULL*** 148
Long wedge of white on primaries; red bill and legs.
- △ **MEDITERRANEAN GULL*** 147
No dark tips on white primaries.
- SLENDER-BILLED GULL** 146
Wing pattern as in Black-headed, but bill more slender and (in summer) head white.

*Adults in winter lose the black heads, which then resemble immatures (page 135).

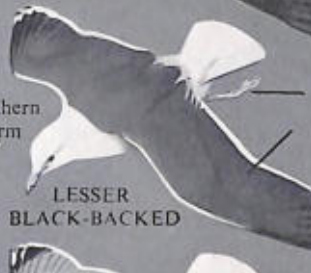


**GREAT
BLACK-BACKED**



GLAUCOUS

Southern
form



**LESSER
BLACK-BACKED**



ICELAND



HERRING



IVORY



COMMON



KITTIWAKE



AUDOUIN'S



LITTLE



SABINE'S



BLACK-HEADED



MEDITERRANEAN



SLENDER-BILLED

above

below

above

below



GREAT
BLACK-BACKED



GLAUCOUS
First winter



LESSER
BLACK-BACKED



GLAUCOUS
Second winter



HERRING

First winter



HERRING

Second winter



COMMON



KITTIWAKE



BLACK-HEADED



SABINE'S



MEDITERRANEAN



LITTLE

GULLS (IMMATURE)

- **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** page 143
 Large size; more contrast between checkered back and under-parts than in young Herring Gull.
- **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** 144
 Indistinguishable at first from young Herring Gull; but identification is possible as birds grow older.
- **GLAUCOUS GULL** 145
First winter: Buffish, with whitish primaries.
Second winter: Very white throughout.
 (Iceland Gull has same sequence of plumages.)
- **HERRING GULL** 144
First winter: Almost uniform brown.
Second winter: Whiter, with tail broadly black.
- **COMMON GULL** 145
 From second-winter Herring Gull by narrower black band on white tail; smaller size.
- **KITTIWAKE** 149
 Dark diagonal band across wing.
- **BLACK-HEADED GULL** 148
 Dark spots on cheek, narrow tail-band.
- **SABINE'S GULL** 148
 Forked tail and adult's wing-pattern.
 No dark diagonal bar as in Kittiwake.
- △ **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** 147
 From Black-headed by blackish (not whitish) leading primaries.
- **LITTLE GULL** 147
 Wing pattern as in immature Kittiwake; wings more rounded; lacks dark bar on nape.

AVOCETS AND STILTS : *Recurvirostridae*AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

pages 94, 103

Du—Kluut

Fr—Avocette

Ge—Säbelschnäbler

Sw—Skärfläcka

Identification: 17". Unmistakable. Identified by long, slender, *up-curved* bill, contrasting *black and white* plumage and long, *lead-blue* legs. Immature birds more or less suffused with brownish. In flight legs project well beyond tail. Gait, a graceful, fairly quick walk; feeds in shallows with side-to-side sifting motion of head, but also wades deeply; swims occasionally.

Voice: A high, fluty "*kleep*," or "*kloo-it*."

Habitat: Exposed mud-flats, estuaries and sand-banks. Breeds colonially among scrub and tussocks near shallow water, on sand-banks, low islands in river deltas and in water-meadows. Map below.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

pages 94, 103

Du—Steltkluut

Fr—Echasse blanche

Ge—Stelzenläufer

Sw—Styltlöpare

Identification: 15". Unmistakable. In flight, *grotesquely long pink legs* project nearly 7 inches beyond tail. Black upper-parts contrast with gleaming white under-parts. Male in summer has black back to head; female has white head and neck and dark brown mantle and wings. Juvenile and winter adults have dusky markings on head and neck. Black under-surfaces of narrow, sharply pointed wings conspicuous in flight. Gait, a deliberate long-paced walk, often wading deeply. Behaviour nervous and very noisy.

Voice: A very shrill, yelping "*kyip, kyip, kyip*."

Habitat: Wet marshes, lagoons, flood-waters. Breeds colonially, building nest in shallow water, or on tussock or mud. Map below.



← AVOCET

Partial mig. Bred
Ireland, Belgium.

Vag. E. Baltic,
Norway, Faeroes.
Few winter Engl'd.

BLACK-WINGED

STILT →

Summer vis. Has
bred N. It., Austria
n. to N. Germany,
England. Vag. Ire-
land n. to Sweden





PHALAROPE SWIMMING

PHALAROPES : Phalaropodidae

SMALL, SANDPIPER-LIKE BIRDS, with longer necks than most small waders. Bills slender. Feet lobed. Females larger and brighter than males.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* pages 87, 102 119
 Du—Rosse franjepoot Fr—Phalarope à bec large
 Ge—Thorshühnchen Sw—Brednäbbad simsnäppa
 N.Am—Red Phalarope

Identification: 8". Phalaropes are dainty, sandpiper-like birds, conspicuously tame, swimming habitually and buoyantly, often far out at sea. When feeding on shallow water they "spin" characteristically. Females larger and brighter than males. In summer, Grey Phalarope has *dark chestnut under-parts* (blackish at a distance), *white face, dark crown*; upper-parts have bold snipe-like pattern; white wing-bar conspicuous in flight. In winter, pale blue-grey above, with white head and under-parts, resembling Sanderling, but distinguished by *dark mark through eye*. Very like Red-necked Phalarope in winter, but is slightly larger, paler and less streaked above; distinguished at short range by thicker, shorter, dark-tipped bill and yellowish legs; in flight by less contrasting white on grey wings.

Voice: A shrill "whit," or "prip," resembling Sanderling.

Habitat: Pelagic outside breeding season, but occurs occasionally on passage on coasts and inland waters. Breeds on tundra around pools or lagoons. Map p 138.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* pages 87, 102, 119
 Du—Grauwe franjepoot Fr—Phalarope à bec étroit
 Ge—Odinshühnchen Sw—Smalnäbbad simsnäppa
 N.Am—Northern Phalarope

Identification: 7". Similar in habits and voice to Grey Phalarope, but distinguished in breeding plumage by smaller size, *white throat* and

under-parts, with *bright orange patch down side of neck*. In winter, distinguished by *darker, more streaked upper-parts, more brightly contrasting white wing-bar on darker wing*; at short range also by *needle-fine all-black bill* and *blackish* (not yellowish) legs. Immature resembles winter adult, but with much darker crown and upper-parts. Distinguished from winter Sanderling by characteristic dark mark through eye, much finer bill, and swimming habit.

Habitat: As Grey Phalarope. Breeds in small scattered groups in wet marshes, lake shores and river islands. Map below.

STONE CURLEWS : Burhinidae

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* pages 83, 87

Du—Griel

Fr—Oedicnème criard

Ge—Triel

Sw—Tjockfot

Identification: 16". A large, rather ungainly bird, distinguished from all other waders by round-headed appearance, *with large yellow eyes*. Has short, stout, yellow and black bill, long, heavy yellowish legs and streaked pale brown and white plumage. Shows conspicuous wing-pattern in flight, with *two bold whitish bars* (one fairly conspicuous on closed wing). Runs furtively with head low and body hunched. Rests on horizontal tarsi, flattening itself with head on ground to hide. Flight usually low, with deliberate wing-beats and occasional long glides, but may be erratic in flock evolutions at dusk.

Voice: A wailing, Curlew-like "coo-ree," or a high, shrill "kee-rrr-eee," the middle syllable dropping. Chiefly vocal in evening.

Habitat: Frequents and breeds on stony, sandy and chalky open ground, bare downs, heaths, etc. with scant vegetation, occasionally among scattered pines, cultivated fields, marshes, etc. May occur in winter on sea coasts. Map p 139.



← GREY
PHALAROPE
Summer vis. Passage/winter coasts
W. Europe, Vagr.
elsewhere (not
Balkans)

RED-NECKED
PHALAROPE →
Summer vis. Vagr.
or passage Eng-
land, most Europe



PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS : Glareolidae

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola* pages 86, 103

Du—Vorkstaartpluvier

Fr—Glaréole à collier

Ge—Brachschwalbe

Sw—Vadaresvala

Identification: 9°. Tern-like. Looks unusual, perched or flying. Has long pointed dark wings and *deeply forked black tail with white base*, black legs and short, slightly down-curved bill. Upper-parts olive-brown, under-parts buffish with white belly and *black-bordered creamy throat-patch*. In winter, throat-patch has indistinct border. Juvenile has a broad breast-band of dark brown streaks. In rapid, tern-like flight shows *chestnut* beneath wings. (Black-winged Pratincole has black beneath wings; see also Cream-coloured Courser.) Large noisy flocks hawk for flying insects. Gregarious.

Voice: Noisy in flight. Call-note a hard, rather tern-like "kyik," or a chattering "kitti-kirrik-kitik-tik."

Habitat: Sun-baked mud-flats, with low vegetation, marshes, plains, often near water. Breeds colonially. Map below.

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni* page 103

Du—Stoppenvorkstaartpluvier

Fr—Glaréole à ailes noires

Ge—Schwarzflügelige Brachschwalbe

Sw—Svartvingad vadaresvala

Identification: 10°. Indistinguishable from Pratincole, except when conspicuous *all-black* (not chestnut) under-surfaces of wings can be seen. Intermediate forms may occur. Plumage generally looks slightly darker (less olive) brown. Behaviour, flight, voice and habitat much as Pratincole. See also Cream-coloured Courser. Breeds Roumania, formerly Hungary. On passage S.E. Europe. Vagrant to Britain, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Sicily.



← **STONE CURLEW**
Part. mig. At times
winters England.
Vag. Ireland, Scot-
land, n. to Sweden



PRATINCOLE →
Summer vis. Has
bred Italy. Vag. n.
to England, Scot-
land, Denmark

CREAM-COLOURED COURSER *Cursorius cursor* pages 86, 102

Du—Renvogel

Fr—Courvite gaulois

Ge—Rennvogel

Sw—Ökenlöpare

Identification: 9". A slim, very pale sandy-coloured bird, with long, pale creamy legs, a sharply pointed down-curved bill, very conspicuous black primaries and black under-surfaces of wings. Broad black and white eye-stripe, curving from eye to nape. Behaviour plover-like, running swiftly but spasmodically and crouching to escape detection. Flight rapid, with regular beats of distinctively black, very pointed wings. Easily distinguished from pratincoles by much paler appearance, longer whitish legs, prominent eye-stripe and short rounded tail. **Voice:** Seldom vocal. Call note a harsh, barking "hark."

Habitat and Range: A desert-haunting species, occurring as vagrant on sandy beaches, dunes, etc. in most European countries, N. to Britain, Scandinavia, Finland.

SKUAS : Stercorariidae

LARGE, RATHER HAWK-LIKE SEA-BIRDS with dark plumage and narrow, angled wings. Centre tail-feathers usually elongated, but often broken short. Plumage very variable and confusing, occurring in light, intermediate and dark phases; but all show flash of white on the wing created by white wing-quills. Juveniles lack tail projections and most are similarly barred and mottled, therefore usually indistinguishable in the field. Behaviour piratical, chasing other birds until they disgorge.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

page 126

Du—Kleine jager

Fr—Labbe parasite

Ge—Schmarotzerraubmöwe

Sw—Vanlig labb

N.Am—Parasitic Jaeger

Identification: 18", including tail projection. Smaller than Pomarine, larger and heavier than Long-tailed. Distinguished by elongated but straight and pointed centre tail-feathers; Pomarine's are blunt and twisted; Long-tailed's are usually much longer and thinner. Bill more slender than Pomarine's. Light form has blackish crown, dark brown upper-parts, yellowish-white cheeks and neck, white under-parts, usually with dark breast-band. Intermediate form pale brown below, with varying whitish-buff sides of head. Dark form is uniform blackish-brown. Immature light form is closely barred and mottled above and below. See Pomarine for note on immatures. Behaviour piratical, chasing other sea birds until they disgorge. Normal flight steady and graceful, otherwise hawk-like and dashing.

Voice: Higher than Great Skua's; also a nasal, squealing "eee-air"; alarm "ya-wow" repeated.

Habitat: Off-shore and pelagic waters, occurring occasionally in large numbers on coasts on migration. Breeds colonially on tundra and moors. Map p. 142.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* page 126

Du—Grote jager Fr—Grand Labbe
 Ge—Grosse Raubmöwe Sw—Storlabb
 N.Am—Skua

Identification: 23". Size of Herring Gull, but much stockier in build. Plumage fairly uniformly dark, rustier below. Distinguished in flight from all other adult skuas and from immature gulls by heavier build, short tail, stout hooked black bill and *very conspicuous white patch across base of primaries*. Wings broad and rounded, not pointed as in other skuas. Legs blackish. Juvenile has less white on wings. Normal flight gull-like, but dashing and hawk-like in pursuit of other birds, which it forces to disgorge and occasionally kills. Solitary outside breeding season.

Voice: When attacking, a guttural "tuk-tuk"; also a harsh, nasal "skeerrr" and a deep barking "uk-uk-uk."

Habitat and Range: Pelagic and coastal waters. Breeds in scattered colonies on high moors near sea, Iceland, Faeroes, Shetlands and Orkney; recently N. Scotland. Mainly migrant in winter, extending south over Atlantic and western North Sea to S. Spain (and beyond). Vagrant Ireland, Scandinavia, Finland, central Europe and Mediterranean, east to Jugoslavia.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* page 126

Du—Middelste jager Fr—Labbe pomarin
 Ge—Mittlere Raubmöwe Sw—Bredstjärtad labb
 N.Am—Pomarine Jaeger

Identification: 20", including tail projection. Smaller than Great Skua, larger than Arctic and Long-tailed. Adults distinguished by elongated but *blunt and twisted* centre tail-feathers, giving very distinctive appearance in flight; but projections are often broken short. Occurs in light and dark forms. Light form has yellowish-white cheeks and collar, white under-parts, barred flanks and usually a dark breast-band. Less common dark form is fairly uniform dark brown. Both forms have whitish markings on upper and lower wing-surfaces, but not as white as in Great Skua. Immature uniformly mottled dark brown and buffish, heavily barred below, without tail elongations; indistinguishable in the field from young Arctic and Long-tailed, except by larger size and much heavier bill.

Voice: A harsh, quick "which-you."

Habitat and Range: Chiefly off-shore, but also pelagic. Breeds in small widely scattered colonies on Russian tundra. On passage W. European coasts and Baltic. Vagrant to central Europe and Mediterranean.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* page 126

Du—Kleinste jager Fr—Labbe longicaude
 Ge—Kleine Raubmöwe Sw—Fjällabb
 N.Am—Long-tailed Jaeger

Identification: 21", including very long tail projection. Distinguished

from pale form of commoner Arctic Skua by smaller size and usually *much longer, thinner, very flexible centre tail feathers* (but streamers are often broken short in both species). Long-tailed is much whiter on breast than Arctic and has *more clean-cut black cap, contrasting with broad white collar and pale back*; cheeks are cleaner yellow; bill black (not brown); legs grey (not black); also has less white on wings. A uniform dark brown form occurs very rarely. Immature usually indistinguishable from young Arctic, but is greyer and has little, if any, white on wings. When swimming, erect neck and long cocked tail are characteristic.

Voice: Seldom vocal. At breeding grounds a shrill "kree."

Habitat: As Arctic. Breeds in widely scattered colonies on high tundra and stony fells. Map below.

GULLS AND TERNS : Laridae

GULLS are long-winged swimming birds, more robust, wider-winged and longer-legged than terns; bills slightly hooked and carried more horizontally; tails usually squared or rounded; most gulls are white, with grey or black backs and wings; most have dark wing-tips. White headed species often have dusky streaks on head in winter; dark-hooded species lose hoods in winter. Juveniles are usually mottled with brown.

TERNs are slender, gull-like birds, narrower of wing than gulls and more graceful in flight; bills more slender and sharply pointed, often carried downward in flight; tails forked; most terns are whitish, with black caps; in winter, foreheads are white; usually hover and plunge for fish.

Terns and gulls are gregarious.

IVORY GULL *Pagophila eburnea*

Du—Ivoormeeuw

Ge—Elfenbeinmöwe

Fr—Goéland sénateur

Sw—Ismås

page 134

Identification: 17½". Easily distinguished by striking *all-white plumage*,



← ARCTIC SKUA
Mainly summer
vis. Few winter n.
to N. Sea. Vagrant
cent. Europe, Med.

LONG-TAILED
SKUA →

Summer vis. Passage
Britain, Iceland,
Baltic. Vag.
centr. Europe and
Mediterranean



short *black* legs and, when perched, by plump, densely-feathered, *pigeon-like* appearance. Bill rather short, yellowish, with dark base and tip. Eye-ring red, eye large and black. Immature has irregular grey "smudges" on face and chin, grey bill, a *sprinkling of black spots* on upper-parts (sometimes also on under-parts), small black tips to primaries, narrow black terminal band on tail. Wings relatively long; flight buoyant, almost tern-like. Seldom alights on water. Much larger Glaucous and Iceland Gulls also have unmarked white wings, but have pinkish legs.

Voice: Harsh shrill cries "*keer*," etc., are tern-like.

Habitat and Range: An Arctic species, but wanders south occasionally in winter. Breeds colonially on more or less ice-bound rocky shores. Occasional Iceland, Faeroes, N. Scandinavia. Vagrant S. to Britain, N. France, (Switzerland, 1817).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* pages 134, 135

Du—Mantelmeeuw

Fr—Goéland marin

Ge—Mantelmöwe

Sw—Havstrut

Identification: 29". Much larger than Herring and Lesser Black-backed. Distinguished from breeding adults of latter (apart from size) by *whitish-pink legs* and deeper voice. Adult is *black* above, not slate-grey as in British Lesser Black-backed, though Scandinavian Lesser Black-backed is also blackish. Bill is more massive than in Lesser Black-backed. Juvenile has bolder dark markings than young Herring, with paler head and under-parts, latter becoming progressively whiter and mantle darker in second and third years. Behaviour fiercely predatory.

Voice: Usual note a harsh, deep "*owk*."

Habitat: Off-shore waters, coasts and estuaries. Locally inland in winter. Where numerous breeds colonially, sometimes with Lesser Black-backed, on rocky coastal islands, moors, occasionally cliffs and lake islands.

Map below.



← GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL
Part. migr. Winter and nonbreeders coasts s. to dotted line; inland S. Sweden, Britain; vag. elsewhere

GLAUCOUS GULL →
Part. migr. May, breed N. Baltic. Vag. s. to Medit.



LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* pages 134, 135

Du—Kleine mantelmeeuw Fr—Goéland brun

Ge—Heringsmöwe Sw—Sillmås

Identification: 21". About size of Herring Gull; much smaller than Great Black-backed, from which (apart from size) distinguished by *yellow* legs; but some adults in winter and near-adults have flesh or pallid legs. British form *L. f. graellsii* has slate-grey upper-parts; Scandinavian *L. f. fuscus* is as black as Great Black-backed. Juvenile and first year birds are mottled dark brown, with blackish bills and brownish-flesh legs, usually indistinguishable from young Herring Gull. Older immature birds have progressively darker backs, whiter heads and under-parts, yellower legs and bills.

Voice: Like deep-toned Herring Gull.

Habitat: As Herring Gull. Nests colonially on inland moors and bogs, grassy sea islands, cliff tops. Map below.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* pages 134, 135

Du—Zilvermeeuw Fr—Goéland argenté

Ge—Silbermöwe Sw—Gråtrut

Identification: 22". Commonest coastal gull. Looks rather like Common, with similar *black and white wing-tips*, but is much larger, paler above and has a heavier yellow bill, with a red spot and *flesh-pink legs* (except in Mediterranean form *L. a. michahellis* and eastern Scandinavian form *L. a. omissus* which have *yellow* legs). Distinguished from adult Lesser Black-backed by *pale* grey upper-parts and, in typical form, by *flesh* (not yellow) legs; Glaucous and Iceland Gulls have no black on wings. Juvenile uniform brown with darker primaries and tail and blackish bill, indistinguishable from young Lesser Black-backed. Second year bird has dark tail, contrasting whitish rump.

Voice: A repeated, strident "*kyow*"; anxiety note when breeding, a dry "*gah-gah-gah*"; also varied mewing, barking and laughing notes.

Habitat: Coasts, estuaries, waters and fields often far inland. Breeds, usually colonially, on rocky cliffs, islands, beaches, occasionally in marshes. Map below.



← LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL
Mainly migrant.
Non-breeders
Greece

HERRING GULL →
Partial migrant.
Winters coasts and
to less extent in-
land all Europe
exc. where waters
freeze



COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

pages 134, 135

Du—Kleine zeeemeuw

Fr—Goéland cendré

Ge—Sturmmöwe

Sw—Fiskmå

N.Am—Short-billed Gull

Identification: 16". Adult Common and Herring look rather alike, with pale grey upper-parts and black and white wing-tips, but Common is much smaller, with more delicate *greenish-yellow bill and legs*. Herring Gull's legs are pale flesh (yellow in Mediterranean and eastern Scandinavian forms) and its heavier yellow bill has a red spot; its back is also paler. Immature distinguished from second-year Herring Gull by *narrower black band on white tail* (see picture, p 135). Juvenile largely grey-brown, with blackish bill and flesh-brown legs. Distinguished in flight from Kittiwake (same size) and Black-headed (smaller) by *bold white spots on black wing-tips*.

Voice: Much higher and shriller than Herring Gull's.

Habitat: As Herring Gull, but more often inland. Breeds colonially on moors, hill-sides and islands. Map below.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

pages 134, 135

Du—Burgemeester

Fr—Goéland bourgmestre

Ge—Eismöwe

Sw—Vittrut

Identification: 26-32". Glaucous and Iceland Gulls are "white-winged" gulls, easily confused. Adults have striking white plumage, with very pale grey mantle, *pure white primaries*, flesh-pink legs and yellow bill with red spot. Glaucous is usually distinguished by *larger size* (often larger than Great Black-backed), and *heavier bill* than Iceland or Herring. Breeding adult also distinguished at short range by *lemon-yellow eye-ring*. (Breeding Iceland Gull's eye-ring is reddish.) First year bird is pale creamy brown with dark-tipped bill; wing-tips are paler than rest of wing; tail has no dark border. Second year birds look uniformly white, the mantle becoming progressively greyer.

Voice: Resembles Herring Gull's, but usually shriller.

Habitat: As Great Black-backed. Breeds colonially above and below sea cliffs, on stacks and islands in Arctic. Map p 143.



← COMMON GULL
Partial migrant

AUDOUIN'S
GULL →
Resident. Vagrant
in Mediterranean
away from breeding
areas



ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoïdes* page 134

Du—Kleine burgemeester Fr—Goéland leucoptère
 Ge—Polarmöwe Sw—Vitvingad trut

Identification: 22-26". Closely resembles Glaucous, which it sometimes approaches in size, but is distinguished at all ages by smaller size, and *less heavy bill* (slighter than Herring Gull's). Breeding adult also distinguished at short range by *reddish eye-ring*. (Breeding Glaucous Gull's eye-ring is yellow.) Plumages of young as in Glaucous, but more black on bill in first winter. Wings look noticeably long in flight, which is more rapid and more buoyant than Glaucous Gull. See also smaller Ivory Gull. Now usually considered conspecific with Herring Gull. Winter visitor (from high Arctic) to North Scandinavia, Iceland, Faeroes, Shetlands, Orkneys and Hebrides. Vagrant south to Italy.

AUDOUIN'S GULL *Larus audouinii* page 134

Fr—Goéland d'Audouin Ge—Korallenmöwe
 Sw—Rödnäbbad gråtrut

Identification: 19½". Size between Common and Herring Gulls, with similar wing pattern. Distinguished at short range by heavy *bright coral-red bill, with black band and yellow tip*. Legs *dark olive-green*. Wing-tips conspicuously black, with single small white spot on outer primary. Under-parts may have faint rosy tinge in spring. Eye-rim red. Immature has pale grey crown and neck, with small dark mark behind eye and pale brownish upper-parts. Behaviour as Herring Gull. **Voice:** A nasal "gi-ow."

Habitat: A deep-sea species. Locally around islands, occasionally along rocky mainland coasts. Nests colonially among rocks on small Mediterranean islands. Map p 145.

SLENDER-BILLED GULL *Larus genei* page 134

Du—Dunbekmeeuw Fr—Goéland railleur
 Ge—Dünnschnäblige Möwe Sw—Rosentrut

Identification: 17". On water and in flight small head on rather long neck is *tilted distinctly downward*. Slightly larger than Black-headed Gull, with *noticeably longer dark red bill* and red legs (yellowish in winter). In breeding plumage head and neck are *pure white*. Under-parts have *faint rosy tinge*. Wing pattern resembles Black-headed. In winter, pink on under-parts disappears. Juvenile lacks rosy tinge and has black terminal bar on tail; distinguished from very similar young Black-headed by dirty yellow legs and *black-tipped yellowish bill*. See also Audouin's Gull.

Habitat: Coastal waters and estuaries. Nests in small groups or colonies, sometimes among terns, on dry mud-banks, islands in lagoons, in marshes, along river banks. Map p 147.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* pages 134, 135

Du—Zwartkopmeeuw

Fr—Mouette mélanocéphale

Ge—Schwarzkopfmöwe

Sw—Hattmås

Identification: 15½". Easily confused with Black-headed, but adults distinguished at all seasons by *pure white primaries without black tips, and much heavier bill*. Legs and bill rich red, latter crossed by dark band. In summer, head is *really black* (not brown), hood extending well down on nape. In winter, head as in winter Black-headed. Immature distinguished from young Black-headed by lack of white leading edge to brownish wings. Behaviour and voice as Black-headed.

Habitat: As Black-headed, but less often seen inland. Breeds on islets in lagoons and lakes. Map below.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

pages 134, 135

Du—Dwergmeeuw

Fr—Mouette pygmée

Ge—Zwergmöwe

Sw—Dvärgmås

Identification: 11". The smallest gull. When perched, looks like tiny Black-headed. Distinguished, apart from size, by *jet-black* (not dark brown) head, the black coming well down the nape; also by *absence of black* on upper surfaces of *rather rounded wings*. Distinguished from Black-headed in flight by contrasting *blackish under-surfaces of wings*. Bill dark red in summer, blackish in winter. Legs red. In winter, adults have head markings like Black-headed, but differences in size and wings are obvious. Immature has white under-surfaces of wings, a black-tipped tail and a transverse dark bar across fore-wing to black primaries, forming a *bold zig-zag pattern* in flight (young Kittiwake has similar zig-zag but a dark nape patch and a slightly forked, not rounded, tail); when perched, wing shows a *broad horizontal dark stripe*. Juvenile looks *almost solid blackish above*, with a broad whitish patch along centre of closed wing. Behaviour as Black-headed, but feeds in flight from surface of water. See also Sabine's Gull.

Voice: A rather low "kek-kek-kek" and a repeated "kay-ee."

Habitat: As Black-headed. Nests in scattered colonies, often with terns or other gulls, usually around inland marshes. Map p 148.



← **SLENDER-BILLED GULL**
Part. migr. Passage S. France (has bred). Vag. Italy

MEDITERRANEAN GULL →
Part. mig. Vag. Britain, Denmark, Holland (has bred), Baltic, central Europe, Spain



BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* pages 134, 135

Du—Kokmeeuw
 Ge—Lachmöwe

Fr—Mouette rieuse
 Sw—Skrattnäs

Identification: 15". A smallish, active gull, frequently seen inland. Distinguished in flight by *pure white leading edge of wings*. Under-surfaces of primaries dark grey, slender crimson bill and legs. In summer, head is *chocolate-brown*; in winter, white with brownish marks near eye. Immature has mottled brownish upper-parts and crown and a black-tipped white tail, but still shows characteristic white leading edge to wing; under-surfaces of primaries are white, becoming darker with age; bill and legs dark flesh. Flight more agile than in larger gulls; often follows plough. Common Gull is slightly larger, but is distinguished at all seasons by greenish bill and legs and different wing pattern. See also Mediterranean, Slender-billed, Little and Sabine's. **Voice:** Noisy in breeding season. Usual notes, a harsh "kwarr," a short "kwup," etc.

Habitat: Common inland and on coast, rarely far from land. Frequents lakes, sewage-farms, harbours, farm-lands. Breeds colonially on marshes, moors, shingle banks, lake islands. Map below.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* pages 134, 135

Du—Vorkstaartmeeuw
 Ge—Schwalbenmöwe

Fr—Mouette de Sabine
 Sw—Sabines tärmnäs

Identification: 13". The only gull with a quite strongly *forked tail*. (Young Kittiwake's is only very slightly forked). *Black outer primaries and broad white triangle behind them* provide unmistakable flight pattern. In summer, head is hooded with slate-grey, down to narrow black collar; head is dusky white in winter. Bill rather short, black, with yellow tip. Legs grey. Juvenile is grey-brown above, with similar flight pattern, but white tail is broadly tipped with black. Feeds largely in flight from surface of water. Sometimes confused in flight with immature Little Gull or immature Kittiwake, but distinguished by more forked tail and *lack of dark bar* on wing-coverts.

Voice: Has a grating tern-like cry.



← LITTLE GULL
Partial migrant.
Summer Austria.
Vagrant Ireland,
Iceland, Faeroes,
Norway

BLACK-HEADED
 GULL →
Partial migrant



Habitat and Range: Northern coastal waters and, in breeding season, also on Arctic tundra. Breeds on swampy islets in tundra and along low-lying coasts. Occasional Iceland, Faeroes, Britain and coasts of W. Europe. Vagrant Switzerland and Baltic.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

pages 134, 135

Du—Drieteenmeeuw

* Fr—Mouette tridactyle

Ge—Dreizehenmöwe

Sw—Tretåig mås

Identification: 16". An open-sea species. Size of Common Gull. Distinguished by *solid triangular black wing-tips, blackish legs* and unmarked yellow bill. Dark eye is also distinctive. Mantle and wings slightly darker than in Common, remainder of plumage pure white. Juvenile distinguished from young Common by grey mantle, white head and under-parts, *black band across back of neck and broad black band along closed wing*; in flight shows *conspicuous dark band diagonally across wing, giving zig-zag effect*, and black-bordered, slightly forked tail; immature Little Gull has similar flight pattern but is much smaller, with squared tail; see also Sabine's. Usually picks food off surface.

Voice: Noisy only at breeding grounds. A loud "kitti-wack," or "kaka-week," with rising inflection.

Habitat: Usually well out at sea, often at northern fishing grounds; rare inland. Breeds in close colonies on steep cliff-faces and in sea caves. Map below.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

pages 151, 158

Du—Zwarte stern

Fr—Guifette épouvantail

Ge—Trauerseeschwalbe

Sw—Svarttärna

Identification: 9½". The only tern with *all-blackish* breeding plumage, except for conspicuous *white under tail-coverts*. Back and wings are slate-grey. Immature and adults in winter have forehead, neck and under-parts white, with an *irregular dark grey patch* on side of breast in front of wing. During moult looks mottled and patchy. Bill black, legs red-brown. See Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns for



← KITTIWAKE
Part. mig. Winters
s. to dotted line.
Vag. Baltic, cent.
Europe, Mediter.

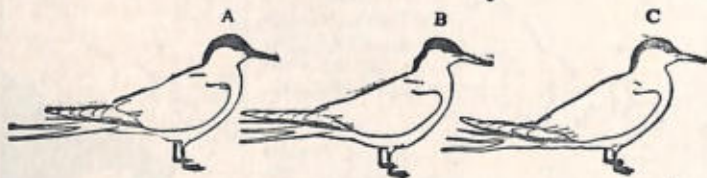
BLACK TERN →
Summer vis. Has
bred England, Fin-
land, Greece (?),
Norway. Vagrant
Ireland, Faeroes



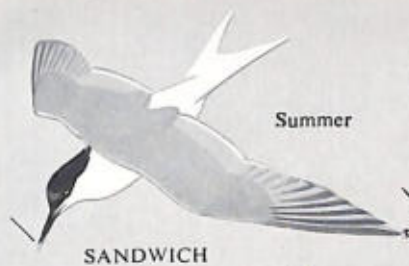
TERNS

TERNs ARE MORE SLENDER in build, narrower of wing and more graceful in flight than gulls. Bills are more slender and sharply pointed, usually held downward towards the water. Tails are usually forked. Most terns are whitish, with black caps.

- SANDWICH TERN page 156
Long slender black bill, yellow tip.
- GULL-BILLED TERN 153
Stout, gull-like black bill.
- CASPIAN TERN 153
Large size, large scarlet bill.
Much black on under-side of primaries.
- COMMON TERN 153
Look for semi-transparent wing-patch (see text).
Adult in summer: Bill orange-red with black tip.
Juvenile: White forehead, dark "shoulders."
- ROSEATE TERN 155
Adult in summer: Bill largely black; paler than
Common Tern, longer tail streamers.
Juvenile: Similar to Common Tern (see text).
- ARCTIC TERN 154
Adult in summer: Bill blood-red to tip; greyer
than Common Tern.
Juvenile: Very similar to Common Tern.



- A *Roseate Tern.* Whitest of the three; tail extends well beyond wings.
- B *Common Tern.* Tail does not extend beyond wings.
- C *Arctic Tern.* Greyer; shorter legs; tail slightly longer than Common's.



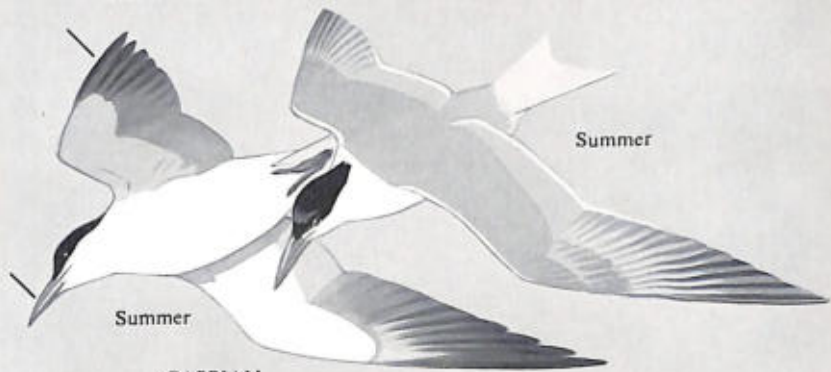
Summer

SANDWICH



Summer

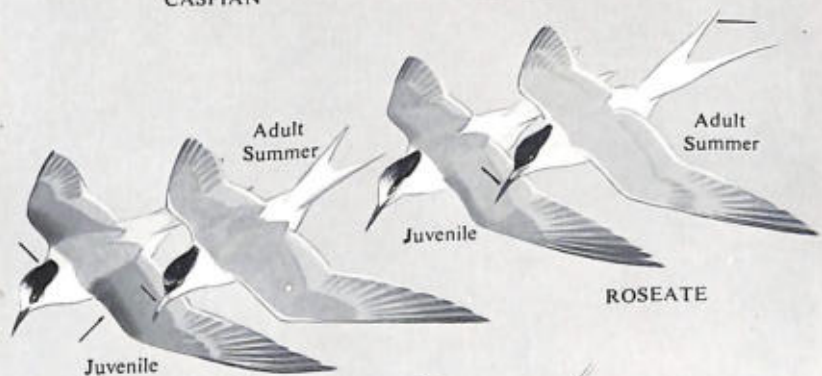
GULL-BILLED



Summer

Summer

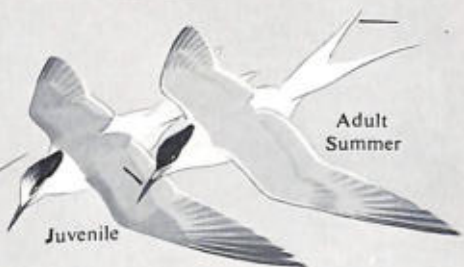
CASPIAN



Adult
Summer

Juvenile

COMMON



Adult
Summer

Juvenile

ROSEATE



Adult
Summer

Juvenile

ARCTIC

Summer

Juvenile

LITTLE
TERN

Autumn

WHISKERED
TERN

Summer

Moulting

Autumn

Summer

BLACK TERN

Summer

Autumn

Moulting

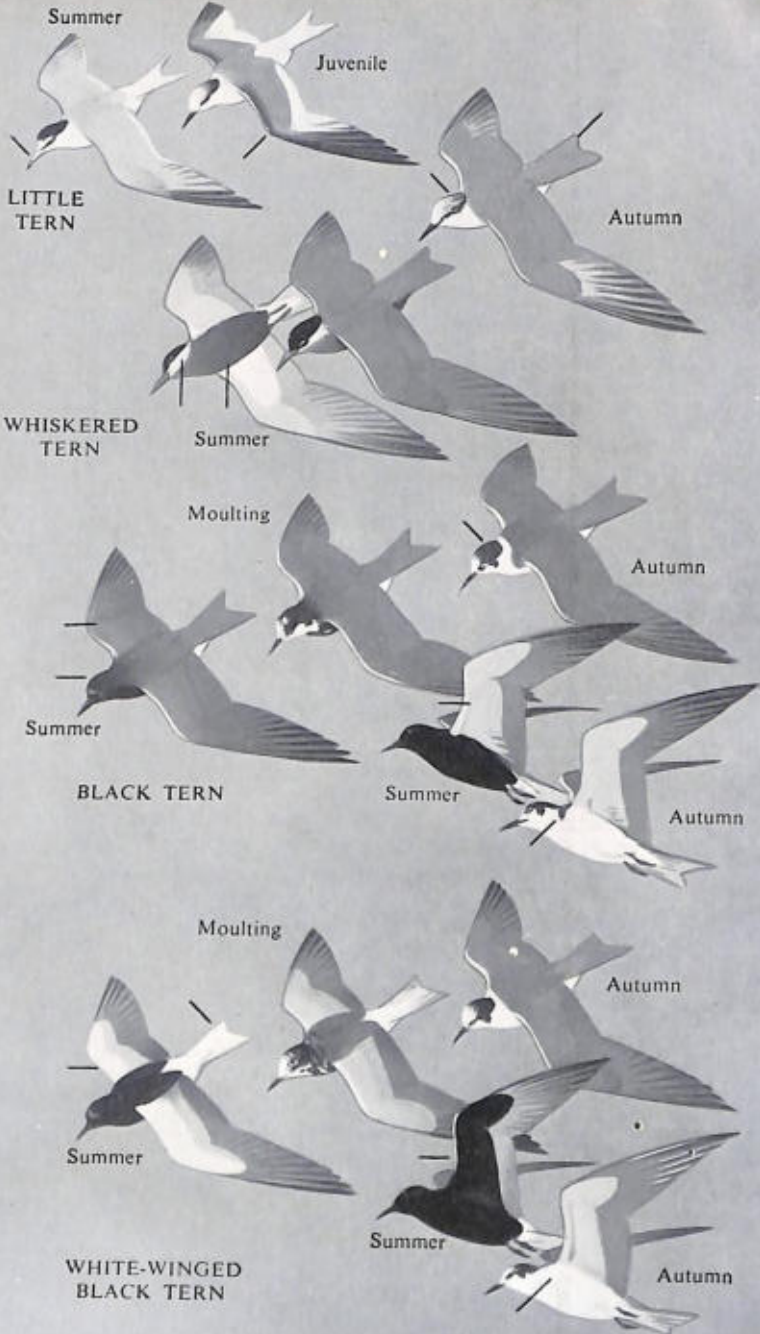
Autumn

Summer

WHITE-WINGED
BLACK TERN

Summer

Autumn



TERNs

With the exception of the Little Tern, the species shown on this plate are "marsh terns." See also Plate 41, page 158.

● LITTLE TERN

page 156

Adult in summer: Small size, yellow bill, white forehead.

Juvenile: Small size, black fore-edge of wing.

○ WHISKERED TERN

152

Adult in summer: Dusky belly, white cheek.

Autumn: Tail grey, with slight fork. Paler than Black Tern and larger, with less black on nape.

● BLACK TERN

149

Adult in summer: Black body and head, grey wings.

Autumn: Dark patch on head, dark back, grey tail. Distinguished from White-winged Black Tern by dark "shoulder" mark.

○ WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN

152

Adult in summer: Black body and head, black wing-linings. White fore-edge of wings above; white tail.

Autumn: Like Black Tern, but lacks dark mark on "shoulder."



LITTLE TERN
diving for food



BLACK TERN
skimming for food

winter comparisons. Flies back and forth over water, dipping to pick insects off surface, but very rarely plunges.

Voice: Seldom vocal. Usually a rather squeaky "kitt" or "kreek."

Habitat: Inland waters, also coastal on passage. Breeds in scattered colonies, building floating nest in shallows of marshes and lagoons. Map p 149.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* pages 151, 158

Du—Witvleugelstern

Fr—Guifette à ailes blanches

Ge—Weissflügelseeschwalbe

Sw—Vitvingad tärna

Identification: 9½". Unmistakable in summer, with startling *black plumage and conspicuous white "shoulders" and tail*. Bill and legs red in summer, blackish in winter. Commoner Black Tern also has black under-parts and contrasting white *beneath tail*, but White-winged has *white tail and black (not pale grey) beneath wings*. In winter, indistinguishable in the field from Whiskered Tern, except when shorter bill can be observed; distinguished from winter Black Tern by *absence of dark patches on sides of breast*. Behaviour, voice and habitat like Black Tern, with which it frequently associates throughout the year. Map below.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida* pages 151, 158

Du—Witwangstern

Fr—Guifette moustac

Ge—Weissbärtige Seeschwalbe

Sw—Skäggtärna

Identification: 9¾". In summer, distinguished from Black Tern and White-winged Black Tern by *white cheeks and sides of neck*, contrasting with black crown and *dark grey under-parts*; in flight, *white beneath wings and white under tail-coverts* are fairly conspicuous. Looks very much paler than other "black" terns. Bill and feet dark red in summer, blackish in winter. Adult and juvenile in winter indistinguishable in the field from White-winged Black Tern; distinguished from winter Black Tern by *absence of dark patches on sides of breast, and less black on nape*. Behaviour, flight and habitat like Black Tern's.

Voice: Various croaking notes and a rasping alarm. Map below.



← WHITE-WINGED
BLACK TERN

Summer vis. Has
bred France, Belg.,
Ger., Esto. Pass.
w. to Spain. Vag.
Brit., Den., Swed.

WHISKERED
TERN →

Summer vis. Has
bred Holl., Switz.,
Ger., Poland. Vag.
Brit. Is., Belgium



GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* pages 150, 158

Du—Lachstern Fr—Sterne hansel
 Ge—Lachseeschwalbe Sw—Engelsk tärna

Identification: 15". Resembles Sandwich Tern both in summer and winter plumage, but distinguished by *stouter, much shorter, wholly black bill* and much less forked tail. Legs black, noticeably longer than in other terns. Black cap is lost in winter, head becoming much whiter than in Sandwich. Juvenile in flight looks very like small gull, with dusky head and shortish, gull-like bill, but is distinguished by *slightly forked tail*. Behaviour as other terns, but *habit of hawking for insects over land* is certain distinction from Sandwich; seldom plunges into water.

Voice: A throaty, rasping "za-za-sa," or "kayweck," quite distinct from Sandwich Tern's higher note.

Habitat: Salt marshes, sandy coasts and inland waters. Breeds colonially on sandy shores and islets in saline lagoons. Map below.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* pages 150, 158

Du—Reuzenster Fr—Sterne caspienne
 Ge—Raubseeschwalbe Sw—Skräntärna

Identification: 21". Almost as big as Herring Gull. Distinguished by large black cap, forked tail and *heavy, bright orange-red bill*. Black cap extends just below eye, but in winter looks greyish, darkest around eye. Juvenile like winter adult, with brownish mottling on upper-parts. Looks gull-like in flight, much less buoyant than other terns, but is quickly identified by huge bill; dark under-surfaces of primaries are conspicuous.

Voice: A loud, deep, corvine "kraa-uh," or "kaah."

Habitat: Chiefly coastal, but occurs also on lakes and large rivers. Breeds singly or colonially on sandy coasts or islands. Map below.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* pages 150, 158

Du—Visdiefje Fr—Sterne Pierre-Garin
 Ge—Flussseeschwalbe Sw—Fisktärna



← GULL-BILLED TERN

Summer vis. Bred N. and S. Germany, Austria, England. Vagrant Scand.

CASPIAN TERN →
 Migrant. Has bred Denmark, S. Baltic Yugosla, Sardinia, ? Spain. Vagrant Faeroes, England and most Europe



Identification: 14". Common, Arctic and Roseate are easily confused and their usual differences are seldom completely reliable. In summer, Common usually distinguishable at short range by *black tip to orange-red bill* (Arctic's is wholly blood-red, Roseate's is mainly black). In winter, Common's bill is blackish with red base (Arctic's and Roseate's are wholly blackish). All three have red legs in summer, but when perched together Arctic usually shows noticeably shorter legs; in winter, Common's legs are still reddish (Arctic's are blackish, Roseate's orange-red). Common's tail streamers *do not project beyond closed wing-tips* (Arctic's project slightly, Roseate's go far beyond wings). In winter and immature plumage all three have incomplete black caps, with white foreheads, but Common has noticeably darker "shoulder" patches. In overhead flight Arctic's primaries are *all semi-transparent*; in Common only innermost four make *light patch* behind wing angle.

Voice: Noisy and varied. A long, grating "kreee-errr" with downward inflection, "kirri-kirri" and a chattering "kikikikik."

Habitat: Coastal and some inland waters, beaches and islands. Breeds colonially on beaches, sand-dunes and islands. Map below.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna macrura*

pages 150, 158

Du—Noordse stern

Fr—Sterne arctique

Ge—Küstenseeschwalbe

Sw—Rödnäbbad tärna

Identification: 15". Distinguished from Common Tern by *wholly blood-red bill* (wholly blackish in winter, and tip may still be black in spring); when perched, usually by *shorter legs*. Under-parts and neck usually greyer than in Common and Roseate, often showing by contrast a *white streak below the black cap*. Tail streamers usually project a *little* beyond the wing-tips when perched, but never as far as in Roseate. See Common Tern for detailed comparison between the three species.

Voice: As Common Tern, but whistled "kee-kee," with rising inflection, said to be characteristic.

Habitat and Breeding: As Common Tern, but more maritime and more frequently on rocky off-shore islets. Map below.



← COMMON TERN
Summer visitor

ARCTIC TERN →
Summer visitor,
Vagrant central
and S. Europe



ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

pages 150, 158

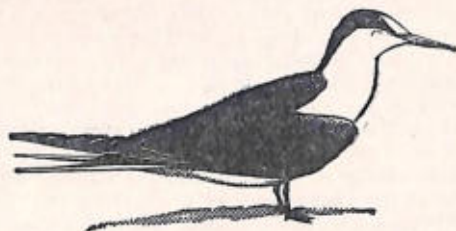
Du—Dougall's tern

Fr—Sterne de Dougall

Ge—Rosenseeschwalbe

Sw—Dougalls tärna

Identification: 15". Distinguished in mixed flock with Common or Arctic by very different voice, whiter and more slender appearance and *much longer tail streamers*. Bill black with red base in summer, all-black in winter. Rosy tinge on breast visible in spring, but soon disappears. Sandwich also often has pinkish tinge, but Roseate is easily distinguished by *red legs* and long tail streamers. When perched, tail streamers extend *far beyond wing-tips*; in Common and Arctic they seldom project. Juvenile just distinguishable from young Common and Arctic by bolder markings on crown and upper-parts. Behaviour as in Common Tern, but flight is more buoyant, with shallower wing-beats. **Voice:** A long rasping "aaak," a soft, very characteristic "chu-ick" and a long angry chattering "kekekekek," like Common or Arctic. **Habitat and Range:** As Common Tern, but exclusively maritime. Nests sociably with Common or Arctic Terns, on islets, occasionally on beaches. Summer visitor, breeding very locally in Britain from Clyde and Tay southwards, also on coasts of Ireland and off Brittany. Has bred S. France. Vagrant on coasts of W. Europe north to Sweden and east to Italy, also Switzerland.



SOOTY TERN

SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata*

Fr—Sterne fuligineuse

Ge—Russ-Seeschwalbe

Sw—Sottärna

Identification: 16". No other tern on the European list is *black above and white below* (at all seasons). Crown, back, wings and tail black; under-parts, cheeks and patch on forehead white; bill long and black; feet black. The much smaller Black Tern is grey above, never black, and has a slightly forked grey tail. The Sooty has a very deeply forked black tail with white outer margins. See also Bridled Tern (Accidentals, p 297).

Voice: A nasal "ker-wacky-wack."

Habitat and Range: Oceanic, breeding on islands in warm southern oceans. A vagrant to England, Wales, France, Germany, Italy.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

pages 151, 158

Du—Dwergzeezwaluw

Fr—Sterne naine

Ge—Zwergseeschwalbe

Sw—Småtärna

N.Am—Least Tern

Identification: 9½". Easily distinguished from other terns by *diminutive size, black-tipped yellow bill, yellow legs and white forehead*, latter contrasting sharply in summer with black crown and black stripe through eye. In winter and juvenile plumage crown is ash-grey, merging to black at back of head. Tail streamers are short. In flight, wings are relatively narrower, wing-beats quicker and periods of hovering before diving longer, than in other terns.

Voice: A high rasping "kree-ik," a sharp repeated "kitt" and a rapid chattering "kirri-kirri-kirri."

Habitat: Sand and shingle beaches, occurring inland on migration. Breeds in small scattered colonies on beaches; on Continent also on shores of lakes and rivers. Map below.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

pages 150, 158

Du—Grote stern

Fr—Sterne caugek

Ge—Brandseeschwalbe

Sw—Kentsk tärna

N.Am—Cabot's Tern

Identification: 16". Distinguished by rather large size, long wings, short forked tail and *long slender black bill with yellow tip* (yellow is hard to see in juvenile). Legs black. Under-parts may have pinkish tinge, like Roseate, but latter's very long tail streamers and bright red legs are distinctive. *Elongated feathers at back of crown* erected when excited, giving shaggy appearance; in winter, crown is chiefly white, with streaky black crest; may assume winter plumage while still breeding. Flight more gull-like than in smaller terns.

Voice: Noisier than most terns. A strident, rasping "kirrik" (higher-pitched than rather similar note of Gull-billed), or "kirr-kit."

Habitat: Almost exclusively maritime. Nests in crowded colonies on sandy or shingle beaches, rocky or sandy islands, occasionally on shores of inland waters. Map below.



← **LITTLE TERN**
Summer vis. Vag.
Finland, Norway

SANDWICH TERN →
Mainly summer
visitor, locally on
marked coasts.
Vagrant Norway,
Czecho., Switz.
Some winter in
centr. and E. Med.



AUKS : Alcidae

BLACK AND WHITE SALT-WATER DIVING BIRDS with short necks, very short, narrow wings, and legs set far back. Bill pointed, or often laterally compressed. Flight is whirring and veering, seldom for long in a straight line, large feet jutting out sideways before alighting. Carriage usually upright when standing. Gregarious.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

page 127

Du—Alk

Fr—Petit pingouin

Ge—Tordalk

Sw—Tordmule

N.Am—Razor-billed Auk

Identification: 16". Black above, white below. Distinguished from Guillemot by rather heavy head, short thick neck and *laterally compressed* bill, crossed midway by a conspicuous *white line*. Looks more squat than Guillemot when swimming and usually carries pointed tail *cocked up*. Both species have curved white bar on closed wing and conspicuous white rear edge to wings in flight. Throat and sides of head of adult are white in winter. Juvenile has smaller bill, without white stripe; young Guillemot has longer, more pointed bill and distinctive black line running back from eye. Sociable, perching upright or horizontally, on ledges with Guillemots.

Voice: A weak whirring whistle and a protracted querulous growling, at breeding grounds.

Habitat: Spends most of time in coastal and off-shore waters. Breeds in colonies, usually with Guillemots, on sea cliffs. Map below.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*

page 127

Du—Kleine alk

Fr—Mergule nain

Ge—Krabbentaucher

Sw—Alkekung

N.Am—Dovekie

Identification: 8". Smallest winter sea-bird. Not much larger than



← RAZORBILL
Part. mig., leaving
N. Baltic; winters
s. to dotted line.
Vagr. cent. Europe



GUILLEMOT →
Part. mig., leaving
N. Baltic; winters
coasts s. to Spain.
Vag. Finland; in
Med. e. to Malta

THE BILLS OF TERNS are the key features in their recognition. All terns in breeding season have *black caps*. By late summer they begin to get the white foreheads typical of winter plumage.

- **BLACK TERN** page 149
Summer: Black head.
Winter: " Pied " head (see text).

- **WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** 152
 (not shown) is similar (see plate 40).

- **WHISKERED TERN** 152
Summer: Dusky body, white cheeks.
Winter: See text.

- **LITTLE TERN** 156
Summer: Small size; yellow bill, white forehead.
Immature: Small size (see text).

- **COMMON TERN** 153
Summer: Bill orange-red, black tip.
Winter: Black patch from eye around nape.

- **ARCTIC TERN** 154
Summer: Bill blood-red, no black tip.
Winter: Similar to Common Tern (see text).

- **ROSEATE TERN** 155
Summer: Bill mostly black (some have considerable red at base).
Winter: Similar to Common Tern (see text).

- **GULL-BILLED TERN** 153
Summer: Bill gull-like, stout and black.
Winter: Black ear-patch, bill stout and black.
Juvenile: Very gull-like (see text).

- **SANDWICH TERN** 156
Summer: Crested; bill black with yellow tip.
Winter: Similar, with white forehead.

- **CASPIAN TERN** 153
Summer: Large size, large scarlet bill.
Winter: Large scarlet bill, streaked forehead.



RED GROUSE

♂



RED GROUSE

♀



♂



Winter



♂ Summer

♀ Summer

PTARMIGAN

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

below



♂ Summer

WILLOW GROUSE



♂

PARTRIDGE

QUAIL



ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE

PARTRIDGES WITH RED LEGS



ROCK →

← RED-LEGGED

BARBARY

GAME BIRDS

- **RED GROUSE** page 93
Dark rufous plumage, dark wings, dark tail.
Female less rufous, more barred.
- **PTARMIGAN** 96
Winter: White, with black tail.
Summer: White wings, grey or brown body, black tail.
- WILLOW GROUSE** 93
Winter: From Ptarmigan, see line drawing below.
Summer: Rufous; white wings, black tail.
Lower altitudes than Ptarmigan.
- **PARTRIDGE** 99
Rufous tail, rusty head.
Male with dark horseshoe mark on belly.
Red legs and rufous tails (conspicuous only in flight) characterise the following three partridges. Best separated by their neck-patterns.
- **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** 99
Necklace black, breaking into short streaks.
- ROCK PARTRIDGE** 98
Necklace black, clean-cut.
- BARBARY PARTRIDGE** 98
Necklace red-brown, with white spots.
- **QUAIL** 100
Small; sandy brown; striped head.
- ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE** 101
Quail-like; bright rufous patch on breast, bold spots on sides of breast.



PTARMIGAN ♂



WILLOW GROUSE ♂ and ♀

Note the black face patch on the male Ptarmigan in winter. Both sexes of Willow Grouse lack this, but have thicker bills.

Starling. Easily distinguished by *chubby*, "neckless" form and very short bill. In summer, head, upper-breast and upper-parts are black; narrow white wing-bar; white under-parts. In winter, ear-coverts, throat and upper breast become white.

Voice: Noisy at breeding grounds. A high, shrill chatter.

Habitat and Range: Off-shore to pelagic. Occasionally "wrecked" on shore during severe gales. Breeds in vast colonies, in holes among rocks, on high Arctic sea-cliffs, locally among mountains. Nests N. Iceland. Partial migrant. In winter extends south from Arctic to North Sea and N. Atlantic; irregular English Channel; vagrant Finland and south to Mediterranean, east to Italy.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

page 127

Du—Zeekoet

Fr—Guillemot de Troil

Ge—Trottellumme

Sw—Sillgrissla

N.Am—Common Murre

Identification: 16½". Distinguished from Razorbill by *slender, pointed bill and thinner neck*. Upper-parts of northern race *U. a. aalge* usually look as black as Razorbill's, though head is browner; but southern *U. a. albionis* is dark chocolate-brown in summer, grey-brown in winter. Fairly frequent "Bridled" form (not separate species) has narrow white eye-ring and a white line extending back from eye. In winter, sides of head and throat are white, as in winter Razorbill, but with conspicuous *black line* from eye across ear-coverts. Behaviour like Razorbill, but in flight neck looks thinner and longer and tail shorter. See also Brünnich's Guillemot.

Voice: Very noisy in breeding season. A long, harsh "arrrr," or "arra."

Habitat: As Razorbill. Breeds in dense colonies on ledges on steep cliff-faces and on flat tops of isolated stacks, often with Razorbills and Kittiwakes. Map p 157.

BRÜNNICH'S GUILLEMOT *Uria lomvia*

page 127

Du—Grote zeekoet

Fr—Guillemot de Brünnich

Ge—Dickschnabellumme

Sw—Spetsbergssillgrissla

N.Am—Brünnich's Murre

Identification: 16½". Very like common Guillemot, but distinguished at all seasons by *noticeably shorter and thicker bill* (but much less deep than Razorbill's) and, at short range, by *narrow pale line along sides of bill*. In winter also by black of crown extending *well below eye*, without dark stripe through ear-coverts. Young Razorbill may be confused with Brünnich's Guillemot, but its bill is more stubby and rounded. Flight, behaviour and voice as Guillemot.

Habitat: As Guillemot, but roams farther out to sea in winter. Breeds Iceland, winters S. to Norway, occasionally Faeroes. Vagrant on coasts S. to British Isles, N. France, Austria, Czechoslovakia.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Uria grylle*

page 127

Du—Zwarte zeekoet

Fr—Guillemot à miroir

Ge—Gryllteist

Sw—Tobisgrissla

Identification: 13½". Much smaller than Guillemot. Easily distinguished in summer by *all-black plumage, with large white wing-patch and bright red feet*. In winter, under-parts are white, black portions of upper-parts closely mottled with white. Juvenile darker above than winter adult, with whites indistinctly mottled with brown. Behaviour as Guillemot, but is usually seen in very small numbers. At distance on water might be confused with Velvet Scoter, which is much larger and shows only small white bar on closed wing and white on rear (*not front*) of wing in flight. See also winter grebes.

Voice: Very distinctive—a weak, Swift-like cry, during which brilliant vermilion gape is conspicuous.

Habitat: Stays closer to shore than other guillemots, often among rocky, even well-wooded, islands. Nests singly or in small scattered groups, in holes or under boulders on rocky shores, cliff-ledges, islands. Map below.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

page 127

Du—Papegaaiduiker

Fr—Macareux moine

Ge—Papageitaucher

Sw—Lunnefågel

Identification: 12". Easily distinguished in summer by *triangular, red, blue and yellow laterally-flattened bill, stumpy big-headed form, black and white plumage and bright orange feet*. In winter, bill is somewhat smaller, but still recognisably Puffin-shaped; cheeks greyer. Juvenile has much smaller, blackish bill, but shows typical Puffin face-pattern (see illustration). In flight looks distinctively big-headed. Perches upright, but rests horizontally.

Voice: Usually silent, but has low growling note "ow," or "arr," at breeding site.

Habitat: Coastal and off-shore waters. Breeds colonially in rabbit or shearwater burrows, or in holes excavated in turf, on cliffs or grassy islands. Map below.



← BLACK
GUILLEMOT
Mainly res. Winter
s. to dotted line.
Vagrant Holland,
Belgium, France



PUFFIN →
Summer visitor to
land. Vagrant e. to
Adriatic

SANDGROUSE : Pteroclididae

STOUT, PIGEON-LIKE TERRESTRIAL BIRDS, with very short, feathered legs and toes. Wings and tails long and pointed. Flight very rapid. Gait mincing and dove-like. Sexes dissimilar. Extremely shy. Gregarious. Habitat usually deserts and arid ground.

BLACK-BELLIED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles orientalis* page 83
 Fr—Ganga unibande Ge—Sandflughuhn
 Sw—Ringflyghöna

Identification: 14". Larger than Pin-tailed, about size of Pallas's. Distinguished from both, even at a distance, by *much less elongated tail and very conspicuous black belly*. Male has sandy-grey head, greyish upper-parts speckled with orange, orange wing-coverts, and secondaries, chestnut throat with black patch below, pinkish-grey breast, crossed with a narrow black band. Female is sandy, closely spotted on head and upper-parts, throat is yellow with a blackish patch, breast warm ochreous, closely spotted with black and crossed below with a black band.

Voice: Usual note a deep "churr-rur-rur."

Habitat and Range: Semi-desert, or undulating stony country. Nests on ground. Resident Spain, Portugal. Vagrant to Italy, Malta, Germany.

PIN-TAILED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles alchata* page 83
 Fr—Ganga cata Ge—Spiessflughuhn
 Sw—Stjärtflyghöna

Identification: 12½". On ground resembles small, pale partridge, but quickly distinguished by *long, needle-pointed centre tail-feathers*; in flight also by long, sharply pointed wings and "neckless" silhouette. Smaller than Black-bellied and Pallas's. Distinguished from both (particularly in flight) by *white belly and white wing-band*. Male in breeding plumage has dark grey-brown upper-parts, boldly spotted with lemon-yellow, chestnut wing-coverts, grey crown, orange-yellow face, *black chin and throat, broad chestnut breast-band*. Female has yellowish upper-parts, finely barred with black and lavender; throat and under-parts white, with two or three narrow black bands across the breast. Male in winter resembles female, but lacks lavender barring. Usually in much larger flocks than Black-bellied. See Black-bellied and Pallas's, and Spotted (Accidentals p 297).

Voice: A loud, croaking "catar, catar," usually in flight.

Habitat and Range: Dry, dusty plains, high stony plateaux, sun-baked mud-flats, and edges of marismas. Nests on ground. Resident S. France, Spain, Portugal. Vagrant to Italy, Sicily, Malta.

PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE *Syrhaptes paradoxus* page 83

Du—Steppenhoen Fr—Syrhapte paradoxal
 Ge—Steppenhuhn Sw—Stäpphöna

Identification: 14-16". Distinguished by long, needle-pointed centre tail-feathers (longer than Pin-tailed), lack of white on wings and conspicuous *black patch* across belly (less extensive than in *Black-bellied*). Male has orange head and throat, with curved grey mark from eye down side of neck; barred sandy upper-parts; pale greyish breast and primaries. Female has narrow black border to throat-patch and black spots on crown and neck, which lack orange. See *Black-bellied* and *Pin-tailed*.

Voice: Flocks very noisy. Usual notes "kerki," or "kerkerki."

Habitat and Range: Sandy semi-desert regions. During periodic irruptions into Europe, usually occurs on sandy coasts, stubble-fields, etc. Nests on ground. Occurs sporadically throughout Europe, W. to Britain (where it has bred, also in Denmark) and has reached Faeroes. Last big invasion 1908.

PIGEONS AND DOVES : Columbidae

PLUMP, FAST-FLYING BIRDS, with small heads and characteristically deep, crooning voices. The terms "pigeon" and "dove" are loosely used and interchangeable, but in a general way "pigeon" refers to the larger species with ample, squared or rounded tails, "dove" to the smaller, more slender species with longer, graduated tails.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* page 82

Du—Kleine bosduif Fr—Pigeon colombin
 Ge—Hohltaube Sw—Skogsduva

Identification: 13". Noticeably *smaller and darker* than Wood Pigeon, from which easily distinguished in flight or when perched by *absence of white on wings and neck*. Upper-parts bluer grey. Glossy green patch on side of neck. Two short *broken black wing-bars*. Juvenile lacks green on neck. *Behaviour like Wood Pigeon, with which it often associates in winter, but flight is more rapid. Rock Dove has distinctive whitish rump and two very broad black wing-bars.

Voice: Distinguished from Wood Pigeon's by more monotonous delivery, the first syllable being emphasised: "ooo-roo-oo," etc.

Habitat: As Wood Pigeon, but prefers more open park-land with old trees, also cliffs, sand-dunes, etc. Nests in holes in old trees, rocks, rabbit burrows, buildings, etc. Map p 164.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* page 82

Du—Rotsduif Fr—Pigeon biset
 Ge—Felsentaube Sw—Klippduva

Identification: 13". The ancestor of the familiar "Domestic Pigeon."

Distinguished from Stock Dove and much larger Wood Pigeon by *whitish rump, two broad black bands right across secondaries, and white beneath wings*. Tail has black terminal band, usually with some white on outer feathers. Plumage blue-grey, with glossy green and lilac on sides of neck. Domestic varieties vary from typical ancestral form to white, tan and blackish varieties. Flight faster than Wood Pigeon's and usually low.

Voice: Song indistinguishable from domestic pigeon's "oo-roo-coo."

Habitat: Usually in small numbers around rocky sea cliffs and adjacent fields. On Continent also locally around inland cliffs. Nests in crevices or caves among rocks. Domestic forms abundant in cities and farms, nesting in buildings. Map below.

WOOD PIGEON or RING DOVE *Columba palumbus* page 82

Du—Houtduif

Fr—Pigeon ramier

Ge—Ringeltaube

Sw—Ringduva

Identification: 16". Larger than other pigeons, with *broad white band across wing* (conspicuous in flight) and glossy green and purple on neck with *small white patch each side*. Juvenile lacks neck markings. Often roams in huge flocks in winter. Mingles freely with town pigeons and Stock Doves. "Explodes" noisily from trees when alarmed. See also Stock and Rock Doves.

Voice: Muffled cooing song, a repeated phrase of five notes, "coo-coo-roo, coo-coo," accented on second syllable.

Habitat: Occurs almost anywhere except in treeless regions and extreme north. Nests in trees, hedges, old nests, etc. Map p 165.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* page 82

Du—Tortelduif

Fr—Tourterelle des bois

Ge—Turteltaube

Sw—Turturduva

Identification: 11". Smaller than other common pigeons; recognised by much more slender shape and *well graduated black tail with white edges*. Upper-parts rufous with black centres to feathers; black and white striped patch on side of neck; soft pinkish throat and breast.



← STOCK DOVE
Partial migrant

ROCK DOVE →
Resident. Feral
birds extend to
Arctic circle in
Finland



Juvenile lacks neck-patches and vinous tinge. Usually in pairs or small parties. Flight swift and direct, wing-action more jerky than Wood Pigeon's. See also Collared, and Rufous (Accidentals p 298).

Voice: Softer and sleepier than that of other pigeons: a repeated, almost purring, "roor-r-r."

Habitat: Open bushy country with uncut hedges and small woods. Nests in bushes, thickets, orchards, etc. Map below.

COLLARED TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* page 82

Du—Turkse tortel

Fr—Tourterelle turque

Ge—Türkentaube

Sw—Turkduva

Identification: 11". Distinguished from Turtle Dove by narrow *black half-collar* around *back* of neck. Upper-parts pale dusty brown; pale blue-grey shoulders show in flight; head and under-parts paler and greyer, with vinous-pink flush, particularly on breast. Tail when spread shows much white above; below, terminal half is white. Eyes red. Distinguished from domestic Collared Dove, *S. risoria*, by *pinkish-grey* (not creamy-buff) coloration and *blackish* primaries.

Voice: A deep, "coo-cooo, coo," usually accented on second syllable, (*S. risoria* usually accents first syllable). Flight call, a nasal "hwee."

Habitat: Mainly towns and villages. Usually nests in trees; locally on buildings and ground. Map p. 168.

CUCKOOS : Cuculidae

RATHER SLENDER, LONG-TAILED BIRDS, with two toes forward and two behind. Brood-parasitic in nesting.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Du—Koekoek

Fr—Coucôu gris

Ge—Kuckuck

Sw—Gök

page 183

Identification: 13". Long tailed, rather sharp winged; in flight sometimes confused with Sparrow Hawk (which has broad, rounded wings).



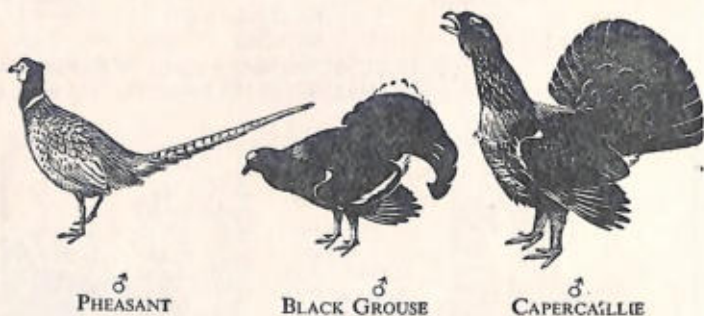
← WOOD PIGEON
Partial mig. Vag.
Iceland, Faeroes



TURTLE DOVE →
Summer visitor.
Vag. n. to Iceland,
Finland

GAME BIRDS

- **PHEASANT** page 100
Male: Highly-coloured; very long tail, usually a neck-ring.
Female: Large, brown; pointed tail.
- **BLACK GROUSE** 96
Male (Blackcock): Glossy black; lyre-shaped tail, white wing-bar.
Female (Greyhen): Large, brown; notched tail. (Notch not always evident.)
- **CAPERCAILLIE** 97
Male: Very large size, dusky coloration, fan tail.
Female: Large, brown; fan tail.
- HAZEL HEN** 97
 Partridge-size; fan tail with wide black band. Colour phases vary from rufous to grey, tending towards rufous in south of range, grey in north.



See also illustrations of other game birds on Plate 42, page 159.



♂
PHEASANT



♀
PHEASANT



♀
(Greyhen)
BLACK GROUSE



♂
(Blackcock)
BLACK GROUSE



♀
CAPER-
CAILLIE



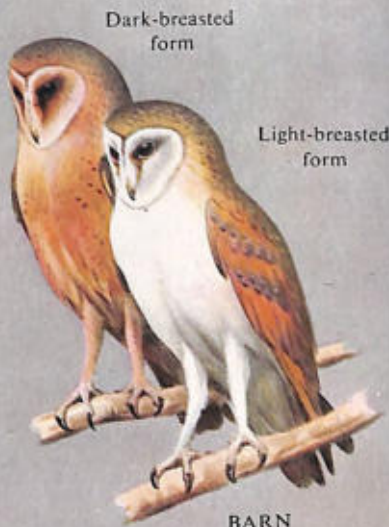
♂
CAPERCAILLIE



HAZEL HEN



SNOWY



Dark-breasted form

Light-breasted form

BARN



SHORT-EARED



SCOPS



LONG-EARED



EAGLE

OWLS

NOCTURNAL BIRDS OF PREY, large headed, with large eyes facing front, *facial discs*, and moth-like, noiseless flight.

○ SNOWY OWL page 170
Large, white.

● BARN OWL 169
Heart-shaped face, or round "monkey" face. No breast streaks.
Light-breasted form: White breast.
Dark-breasted form: Tawny breast.

● SHORT-EARED OWL 174
Buffish brown; streaked breast; marshes.

○ SCOPS OWL 169
The only very small owl with "ears."

● LONG-EARED OWL 174
The only medium-sized owl with long "ears."

△ EAGLE OWL 170
Huge, "eared"; rusty, with streaks and bars.

See also illustrations of other OWLS, Plate 45, page 182.

Call-note is unmistakable. Upper-parts and throat blue-grey; under-parts whitish, barred dark grey; tail long, rounded, slate-grey, spotted and tipped with white. Legs yellow. Juvenile is variable: upper-parts either red-brown strongly barred (suggesting female Kestrel), or grey-brown with faint bars; both forms have barred buffish-white under-parts and white patch on nape. Rufous females, similar to red-brown juvenile, occur occasionally. Flight direct, gliding before alighting. Solitary outside breeding season.

Voice: A mellow, penetrating "cuc-coo," sometimes single or treble notes; also a deep "wow-wow-wow." Female has long, bubbling note.

Habitat: Edges of woodlands, bushy commons, etc., also in treeless areas, locally on open high ground. Polyandrous and brood-parasitic, eggs laid singly, individual birds parasitising only one species. Map below.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius* page 183

Du—Kuifkoekoek

Fr—Coucou-geai

Ge—Häherkuckuck

Sw—Strutsböök

Identification: 15½". Easily distinguished by *conspicuous crest*, long graduated dark grey tail with *bold white edging*, brown upper-parts *boldly spotted with white*. Under-parts and sides of head creamy-white, yellowish on throat. Bright orange orbital ring. Juvenile has blackish head, no crest, *rich chestnut* primaries. Conspicuous and noisy, often perching on fences; magpie-like in some attitudes. Flight fairly strong and direct. Sociable.

Voice: A chattering, tern-like "kittera, kittera, kittera"; a harsh, rising "zhree" (recalling Azure-winged Magpie), a crow-like "kark" of alarm, etc.

Habitat and Range: Outskirts and glades of woods, olive groves, bushy plains with occasional trees. Brood-parasitic, eggs usually laid in nests of crow family, particularly Magpie; often lays several eggs in same nest. Summer visitor to Spain, Portugal, perhaps Bulgaria. Has bred S. France. Vagrant to S. Europe, N. to Finland, Germany, Denmark and Britain.



← COLLARED
TURTLE DOVE
*Resident, but range
extended N.W.
enormously in last
few years. Vagrant
Finland*

CUCKOO →
*Summer vis. Pass-
age Shetland. Vag.
Iceland, Faroes*



YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *Coccyzus americanus*

Identification: 12". Smaller and slimmer than Cuckoo; dull brown above and whitish below. Distinctive marks are the *yellow* lower mandible, *large white spots* at the tips of the tail feathers and *rufous* in the wings, conspicuous in flight. See also Black-billed Cuckoo (Accidentals, p 298).

Voice: A rapid, throaty "ka-ka-ka-ka-ka-kow-kow-kowp-kowp" (slower towards end).

Habitat and Range: Copses, thickets, woodlands. A vagrant from N. America, to British Isles, Iceland, France, Belgium, Denmark, Italy.

OWLS : Strigidae

LARGELY NOCTURNAL BIRDS OF PREY, with large heads, flattened faces forming "facial discs," and forward-facing eyes. Hooked bills and powerful claws. Flight is noiseless and usually moth-like. Some species have conspicuous feather-tuft "horns." Most owls have large eyes and closely feathered feet. Sexes usually similar.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

page 167

Du—Kerkuil

Fr—Chouette effraye

Ge—Schleiereule

Sw—Tornuggla

Identification: 13½". A long-legged, very pale owl, with a white face. *Pale golden-buff upper-parts*, finely speckled; *unstreaked white under-parts*. Eyes black. No ear-tufts. Nocturnal, but occasionally hunts by day. Perches upright, when "knock-kneed" long legs and large head are distinctive. Flight wavering and, at dusk, distinctly ghostly. Feeds chiefly on small rodents. Dark-breasted form *T. a. guttata* of N. and E. Europe is darker above and rich buff below.

Voice: A long, wild shriek. Hissing, snoring and yapping notes also occur.

Habitat: Very partial to human habitation, breeding in farm buildings, church towers, ruins, etc. Also frequents parks with old timber, occasionally cliffs. Map p 170.

SCOPS OWL *Otus scops*

page 167

Du—Dwergooruil

Fr—Hibou petit-duc

Ge—Zwergohreule

Sw—Dvärguv

Identification: 7½". Identified by combination of very small size and *ear tufts* (latter not always conspicuous). Plumage closely vermiculated and speckled grey-brown. Has smaller, less flat head than Little Owl and is slimmer, with more tapered shape and longer tail. *Monotonous song* is very distinctive. Chiefly nocturnal. Feeds chiefly on insects.

Voice: Usual note a persistently repeated, melancholy whistle "kyew."

Habitat: Trees near human habitation, plantations, gardens, etc.; also among old buildings. Nests in holes, occasionally in old nests of other birds. Map p 170.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*

page 167

Du—Oehoe

Fr—Hibou grand-duc

Ge—Uhu

Sw—Berguv

Identification: 26-28". Largest European owl (twice the size of Long-eared Owl), with *prominent ear-tufts*, broadly streaked tawny breast, *large orange eyes*. Upper-parts tawny, mottled with dark brown. Kills prey up to size of hare and Capercaillie. Hunts at dawn and dusk, roosting in cleft rocks or hollow trees, or perched upright on branch close to tree trunk. Solitary.

Voice: A deep, but brief "ooo-hu," second syllable falling slightly, sometimes followed by a quiet, guttural chuckling.

Habitat: Rocky promontories in forests, crags, mountain sides and open steppes. Breeds in hollow among rocks and scrub, in hollow trees, or old nests of birds of prey. Map p 171.

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*

page 167

Du—Sneeuwuil

Fr—Harfang des neiges

Ge—Schneeueule

Sw—Fjälluggla

Identification: 21-26". A *very large, white, round-headed owl*, flecked or barred with dusky brown; some much whiter than others. Chiefly diurnal and solitary. Glides slowly, or dashes swiftly after passing birds. Takes prey up to size of Arctic Hare and Eider. Perches in open on post, rock, haystack, dune, or other low vantage point. Irrupts from Arctic in considerable numbers every four years or so. Distinguished from white Gyr Falcon by larger, rounder head, rounded wings and less vigorous flight; from White-breasted Barn Owl by much larger size, white upper-parts and yellow eyes.

Voice: Usually silent. Flight-notes when breeding, a repeated loud "krow-ow," or a repeated "rick."

Habitat: Arctic tundra and barren hills. During irruptions frequents open country, dunes, marshes, sea and lake shores, etc. Nests on mossy hummocks in tundra. Map p 171.



← BARN OWL
Mainly resident.
Vagrant N. to Finland



SCOPS OWL →
Partial migrant.
Vag. British Isles,
Holland, Denmark,
Sweden, Iceland

HAWK OWL *Surnia ulula*

page 182

Du—Sperweruil

Fr—Chouette épervière

Ge—Sperbereule

Sw—Hökuggla

Identification: 14-16". Distinguished from other owls by *long, rounded tail* and rather short, pointed wings, which give hawk-like silhouette in flight, and by *closely-barred* under-parts. Face whitish, *heavily bordered with black*. Crown and upper-parts blackish-brown, barred with white. Hunts chiefly by day. Perches conspicuously on tree-top or telegraph pole, often in un-owl-like, *inclined posture* and frequently jerks tail. Flight usually low, sweeping upward to perch. Often bold and indifferent to man.

Voice: A chattering "*kiskiki*," more like hawk than owl.

Habitat: Coniferous forests and open birch scrub. Breeds in shelter of broken tree-top, in hollow trees, old nests of hawks, etc. Map p 172.

PYGMY OWL *Glaucidium passerinum*

page 182

Du—Dwerguil

Fr—Chouette chevêchette

Ge—Sperlingskauz

Sw—Sparvuggla

Identification: 6½". Smallest European owl—smaller than Starling. Distinguished by *very small size* and relatively small head. Upper-parts dark brown, spotted with whitish-buff; grey-white under-parts streaked with blackish; whitish face with small yellow eyes beneath short white "eyebrows." Tail closely barred brown and whitish, *frequently elevated or jerked upward*. Behaviour bold and active. Partly diurnal. Hunts and kills small birds in flight. Little Owl is much larger and paler, with flattened crown. See also Tengmalm's.

Voice: Very vocal. A whistling "*keoo*," "*kitchick*," etc. Song, a monotonously repeated Bullfinch-like "*wee . . . wee . . . wee*."

Habitat: Mature secluded forests, usually coniferous, in mountainous regions. Nests in hollow trees, and woodpecker holes. Map p 172.



← **EAGLE OWL**
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Britain,
Holland, Denmark

SNOWY OWL →
See map, but range
variable. Partial
mig. almost annual
Shetland. Vag. s.
to France, Austria,
Yugoslavia



LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

page 182

Du—Steenuil

Fr—Chouette chevêche

Ge—Steinkauz

Sw—Minervas ugglå

Identification: 8½". Distinguished by *small size and squat, flat-headed appearance*. Upper-parts dark brown, closely spotted and barred with white. Under-parts whitish, broadly streaked with dark brown. Flattened head and face and yellow eyes give fierce, frowning expression. Often seen in daylight. Perches upright on telegraph poles, fences, etc. Bobs and bows when suspicious. Flight low and rapid, deeply undulating. Feeds chiefly on insects and small rodents, less often on small birds. See also Tengmalm's Owl.

Voice: A shrill, rather plaintive "kiu," a sharp, barking "werro," etc.

Habitat: Varied, but usually fairly open farming country. Nests in holes in trees, especially pollarded willows, and in rocks, buildings, burrows. Map p 173.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

page 182

Du—Bosuil

Fr—Hulotte chat-huant

Ge—Waldkauz

Sw—Kattuggla

Identification: 15". *Mottled and streaked, large round head, black eyes, no ear-tufts*. Upper-parts vary from warm brown to tawny or greyish. Under-parts buffish-brown with bold dark streaks. Facial discs grey-brown. Strictly nocturnal. Feeds chiefly on small rodents, birds, insects, etc. Distinguished from Long-eared by heavier build, black eyes and absence of ear-tufts; from Short-eared by darker, less buff appearance and black eyes; from Barn Owl by larger size and much darker appearance, particularly of face and under-parts.

Voice: A shrill "ke-wick." Song, a deep musical "hoo-hoo-hoo" followed at an interval by a long, tremulous "oo-oo-oo-oo."

Habitat: Mature woods, parks, large gardens. Nests in hollow trees, old nests of large birds, occasionally in buildings and rabbit burrows. Map p. 173.



← HAWK OWL
Partial migrant.
Almost annual E.
Prussia. Vag. s. to
Britain, Switzerland,
North Yugoslavia,
Roumania



→ PYGMY OWL →
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Denmark,
Holland, Belgium,
Spain

GREAT GREY, or LAPLAND OWL *Strix nebulosa* page 182

Du—Grote grijze uil

Fr—Chouette laponne

Ge—Bartkauz

Sw—Lappuggla

Identification: 27". Near size of Eagle Owl, but easily distinguished by *grey colour, very round head, without ear-tufts* and longer tail. Plumage dusky grey, irregularly marked with dark and white on upper-parts and broadly streaked below. Facial discs very large and heavily lined; *dark patch on chin; eyes noticeably small and yellow.* Ural Owl is somewhat smaller and browner, with *dark eyes, and unlined facial discs.*

Voice: A deep-toned, booming "hu-hu-hoo," repeated at regular intervals.

Habitat and Range: Dense northern coniferous forests. Lays in old nests of large birds of prey. Resident in Arctic Norway, Sweden, Finland. In "invasion" years, extends S. over much of Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia, occasionally E. Prussia.

URAL OWL *Strix uralensis* page 182

Du—Oeraluil

Fr—Chouette de l'Oural

Ge—Habichtskauz

Sw—Slaguggla

Identification: 24". Somewhat smaller than Great Grey. General colour greyish-white, broadly streaked with dark brown; wings and rather long, well rounded tail are boldly barred. Head rounded, without ear-tufts. Facial discs greyish-white *without lines.* Eyes *blackish-brown.* Behaviour much as Tawny Owl. Great Grey is larger, with *yellow eyes* and heavily lined facial discs. Tawny is much smaller and darker, with larger eyes.

Voice: A rather high, barking "wow . . . wow . . . wow . . ." at irregular intervals, and a harsh "kawveck."

Habitat: Mixed woods, coppices and forests. Nests in hollow trees, occasionally in old nests of birds of prey. Map p 174.



← **LITTLE OWL**
Resident. Vagrant S. Sweden (has bred), Scotland, Ireland

TAWNY OWL →
Resident



LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

page 167

Du—Ransuil

Fr—Hibou moyen-duc

Ge—Waldohreule

Sw—Hornuggla

Identification: 14". Only medium-size owl with *long ear-tufts*. Difficult to observe because of nocturnal habits. Upper-parts freckled and mottled buff and grey-brown; under-parts buff, boldly marked with dark streaks and with fine cross-barring. Distinguished from Tawny by long ear-tufts (not visible in flight), slimmer shape and *yellow* (instead of black) eyes. In flight, wings and tail look longer than Tawny's. Short-eared is stockier, with much shorter ear-tufts. Roosts by day in thick foliage, or in upright elongated posture on branch, close to tree trunk. Feeds on small mammals, birds and insects. Occasionally roosts in small parties in autumn or winter.

Voice: A low, sighing "oo-oo-oo," much more moaning than cry of Tawny. Several yelping and wailing notes and wing clapping also occur. Normally silent outside breeding season.

Habitat: Coniferous forests, also small coppices of conifers, locally in deciduous woods. Breeds in old nests, and occasionally on ground in wood, or on moorland. Map below.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

page 167

Du—Velduil

Fr—Hibou brachyote

Ge—Sumpfohreule

Sw—Jorduggla

Identification: 15". Hunts at dusk and in daylight in open country, when *pale tawny body with boldly streaked under-parts*, is distinctive. Has rather long, barred wings, with dark patch on under-side at carpal joint, conspicuous when flying overhead. Distinguished from hawks by large round head and short tail; from perched Long-eared Owl by tawnier colour, scarcely visible ear-tufts, lack of freckling on upper-parts and of cross barring on under-parts. Perches chiefly on ground, with body held at distinctive inclination. Flight low and rolling, with frequent periods of gliding; occasionally flies very high. Sometimes seen in parties, during rodent "plagues."



← URAL OWL
Mainly resident.
To dotted line in
winter. Vag. Italy,
Yugosl., Hungary

LONG-EARED
OWL →
In Finland to c.
68° N. in Lemming
years. Partial
migrant. Annual
Iceland, Faeroes



Voice: A high, sneezing bark "kee-aw." Song, a repeated, deep "boo-boo-boo," usually during circling display flight. Wing clapping also occurs.

Habitat: Open marshy country, sand-dunes, moors. Breeds on ground among heather, sedges, clumps of marram grass, etc. Map below.

TENGMALM'S OWL *Aegolius funereus* page 182
 Du—Ruigpootuil Fr—Chouette de Tengmalm
 Ge—Rauhfußkauz Sw—Päruggla
 N.Am—Richardson's Owl

Identification: 10". Superficially resembles Little Owl, but distinguished by *more erect posture*, larger, much more rounded head, with deeper facial discs (not flattened over eyes as in Little Owl). Has blacker borders to facial discs, broader white eyebrows, *richer brown* coloration, and white feathered legs and feet, crown finely spotted (not streaked) with white. Juvenile reddish-brown with broad white eyebrows. Strictly nocturnal except in Arctic. Roosts by day in conifers. Voice is distinctive.

Voice: A fairly rapid phrase of 5-6 similar, high, but musical notes "poo-poo-poo," etc., the final note often diminishing in emphasis, sometimes accelerating almost to a trill.

Habitat: Coniferous forests in mountainous regions, locally in mixed woods. Winters in valleys and lowlands. Nests in woodpecker holes, or natural holes in trees. Map below.

NIGHTJARS : Caprimulgidae

NOCTURNAL INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS, with large eyes, huge gapes, tiny feet, long wings, and ample tails. Plumage beautifully camouflaged with "dead leaf" pattern. Usually pass day immobile, on ground or perched lengthways along branch.



← SHORT-EARED
 OWL
Partial migrant.
Occas. Faeroes

TENGMALM'S
 OWL →
Part. resident. At
times numerous in
winter Den. (has
bred). Vagrant w.
to Britain, Spain



NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

page 183

Du—Nachtzwaluw

Fr—Engoulevent d'Europe

Ge—Ziegenmelker

Sw—Nattskärra

Identification: 10½". Best known for remarkable nocturnal *churring song* and deliberate flight. General appearance grey-brown, closely speckled and barred with dark brown and buff, affording perfect camouflage. Large head is flattened, with very small bill and very large gape. Wings and tail are long. Male has white spots near wing-tips and conspicuous white tips to outer tail-feathers. Spends day crouched motionless along (occasionally across) branch, or on ground. Feeds on wing at night, pursuing moths. Loud "wing-clapping" is frequent during breeding season. See also Red-necked and Egyptian Nightjars.

Voice: Flight call, a soft, nasal "goo-ek"; alarm, a high "quick-quick-quick." Song, at night, a loud, rapid churring, rising and falling and sustained for as long as five minutes, sometimes "running down" with a few clucking notes.

Habitat: Moors, commons, open woodland glades with bracken. Lays eggs on bare ground. Map below.

RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus ruficollis*

page 183

Du—Roodhalsnachtzwaluw

Fr—Engoulevent à collier roux

Ge—Rothalsziegenmelker

Sw—Rödhalsad nattskärra

Identification: 12½". Looks very like common Nightjar, but distinguished by somewhat larger size, *rufous-buff collar and large white throat-patch*. Both sexes show white marks on primaries and on outer tail-feathers.

Voice: Far-carrying song consists of single, or usually double incessantly repeated notes, "kukuck, kukuck, kukuck," etc., like hard rapping on hollow wood.

Habitat and Range: Bushy, semi-desert regions and pine-clad hillsides. Lays eggs on bare ground. Summer visitor Spain, S. Portugal. Has bred S. France. Vagrant to Sicily, Malta, Britain.



← NIGHTJAR
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes

ALPINE SWIFT →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Brit. Is.,
Belg., Denmark,
Germany, Czecho.



EGYPTIAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus aegyptius*

Identification: 10". Closely resembles common Nightjar, but is paler, without the black streakings on the back, and (in the male) without white spots on the wings and tail. White on inner webs of primaries said to be noticeable in flight. Difficult to distinguish in the field.

Voice: Said to churr like Nightjar.

Habitat and Range: A desert species, of casual occurrence in Malta and Sicily. Has been recorded Heligoland, England.

SWIFTS : Apodidae

SWALLOW-LIKE IN GENERAL APPEARANCE AND BEHAVIOUR, but with slimmer, more scythe-like wings and short tails. Structurally quite distinct, with flat skulls, and all four toes pointing forward. Flight extremely rapid.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

page 198

Du—Gierzwaluw

Fr—Martinet noir

Ge—Mauersegler

Sw—Tornsvåla

Identification: 6½". Distinguished from all swallow family by sooty, blackish plumage, with whitish chin (seldom visible); long, scythe-shaped wings; short, forked tail. Sociable and exclusively aerial in habit. Very rapid, tireless flight is distinctive. Noisy during breeding season, when screaming groups chase wildly around roof-tops. See also Alpine and Pallid Swifts.

Voice: A shrill, prolonged, piercing screech; also a rapid chirruping at nest or roosting hole.

Habitat: Aerial. May occur anywhere, but especially in areas with suitable nesting sites. Usually nests in buildings under eaves, occasionally in rocky cliffs; in trees in N. Europe. Map below.



← PALLID SWIFT
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Malta



SWIFT →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes

PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

page 198

Du—Bieke gierzwaluw

Fr—Martinet pâle

Ge—Blassegler

Identification: Indistinguishable in flight silhouette from common

Swift. Against dark background, looks considerably paler grey-brown, and throat has larger area of whitish. Behaviour, voice and habitat as common Swift, with which it often associates. Map p 177.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

page 198

Du—Alpengierzwaluw

Fr—Martinet à ventre blanc

Ce—Alpensegler

Sw—Alpsgflare

Identification: $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". Much larger, paler and browner than Swift, with white under-parts and brown breast-band. Size is conspicuous when seen together. Very distinctive voice. Behaviour and flight like Swift, but often glides with wings deeply depressed. Sociable. See also Needle-tailed Swift (Accidentals p 298).**Voice:** Has loud, rising and falling, trilling flight-call, much more musical than cry of common Swift; usually in chorus while wheeling around nesting places.**Habitat:** Chiefly in high, rocky mountainous regions, locally also along sea-cliffs and among old buildings. Builds cup-shaped nest in cleft rocks, natural crevices and beneath rafters. Usually nests in colonies. Map p. 176.

KINGFISHERS : Alcedinidae

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

page 183

Du—IJsvogel

Fr—Martin-pêcheur

Ge—Eisvogel

Sw—Kungsfiskare

Identification: $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Unmistakable. Brilliant metallic blue-green upper-parts, white throat and neck-patch, chestnut cheeks and under-parts, long dagger-shaped bill. Head large, body stumpy, wings and tail short, feet small and bright red. Perches alertly, with frequent nervous "bobbing" action of head and tail, plunging into water after small fish or insects, occasionally hovering before plunging. Normal flight low, direct and very rapid. Solitary.**Voice:** A high, piping "chee," or "chee-kee," repeated rapidly when excited. Infrequent song, a short trill, of similar quality to call-notes.**Habitat:** Streams, rivers, canals, lakes. In winter also sea coast and tidal marshes. Nests in holes bored in stream banks. Map p 179.

BEE-EATERS : Meropidae

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

page 183

Du—Bijeneter

Ge—Bienenfresser

* Fr—Guêpier d'Europe

* Sw—Bjätare

Identification: 11". Unmistakable. *Vivid colours*, gliding flight, long curved bill and *projecting middle tail-feathers* are conspicuous even at long range. Both sexes have chestnut and yellow upper-parts, blue-green wings and tail, blue-green under-parts with *brilliant yellow throat*. Juvenile lacks long middle tail-feathers. Behaviour strictly gregarious; often perches on telegraph wires. Flight graceful and swallow-like.

Voice: Very distinctive. Usual note a liquid but rather creaking "prruik."

Habitat: Prefers open bushy country with a few trees, telegraph poles, etc., but also occurs in woodland glades. Breeds colonially in holes bored in cuttings, sand-pits, river banks, occasionally in level ground. Map below.

ROLLERS : Coraciidae

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

page 183

Du—Scharrelaar

Ge—Blauracke

Fr—Rolloier d'Europe

Sw—Blåkråka

Identification: 12". A heavy Jay-like bird with a powerful bill. Plumage is *pale azure-blue*, with *bright chestnut back*, *vivid blue wings*, with *black borders* (in flight), *greenish-blue tail* with brown centre feathers. Behaviour rather shrike-like, pouncing from exposed perch or overhead wires on passing insects. Flight strong, gliding occasionally; "tumbles" from considerable height during nuptial display.



← KINGFISHER
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Norway,
Finland (has bred),
and Malta

BEE-EATER →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Brit. Is.,
Denmark, S. Ger-
many. Vagr. Brit.
Is., Europe n. to
Sweden, Finland



PALLID SWIFT *Apus pallidus*

page 198

Du—Bleke gierzwaluw

Fr—Martinet pâle

Ge—Blassegler

Identification: Indistinguishable in flight silhouette from common Swift. Against dark background, looks considerably paler grey-brown, and throat has larger area of whitish. Behaviour, voice and habitat as common Swift, with which it often associates. Map p 177.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

page 198

Du—Alpengierzwaluw

Fr—Martinet à ventre blanc

Ce—Alpensegler

Sw—Alpseglare

Identification: 8½". Much larger, paler and browner than Swift, with white under-parts and brown breast-band. Size is conspicuous when seen together. Very distinctive voice. Behaviour and flight like Swift, but often glides with wings deeply depressed. Sociable. See also Needle-tailed Swift (Accidentals p 298).

Voice: Has loud, rising and falling, trilling flight-call, much more musical than cry of common Swift; usually in chorus while wheeling around nesting places.

Habitat: Chiefly in high, rocky mountainous regions, locally also along sea-cliffs and among old buildings. Builds cup-shaped nest in cleft rocks, natural crevices and beneath rafters. Usually nests in colonies. Map p. 176.

KINGFISHERS : Alcedinidae**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

page 183

Du—IJsvogel

Fr—Martin-pêcheur

Ge—Eisvogel

Sw—Kungsfiskare

Identification: 6½". Unmistakable. Brilliant metallic blue-green upper-parts, white throat and neck-patch, chestnut cheeks and under-parts, long dagger-shaped bill. Head large, body stumpy, wings and tail short, feet small and bright red. Perches alertly, with frequent nervous "bobbing" action of head and tail, plunging into water after small fish or insects, occasionally hovering before plunging. Normal flight low, direct and very rapid. Solitary.

Voice: A high, piping "chee," or "chee-kee," repeated rapidly when excited. Infrequent song, a short trill, of similar quality to call-notes.

Habitat: Streams, rivers, canals, lakes. In winter also sea coast and tidal marshes. Nests in holes bored in stream banks. Map p 179.

BEE-EATERS : Meropidae

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

page 183

Du—Bijeneter

Fr—Guêpier d'Europe

Ge—Bienenfresser

Sw—Blätare

Identification: 11". Unmistakable. *Vivid colours*, gliding flight, long curved bill and *projecting middle tail-feathers* are conspicuous even at long range. Both sexes have chestnut and yellow upper-parts, blue-green wings and tail, blue-green under-parts with *brilliant yellow throat*. Juvenile lacks long middle tail-feathers. Behaviour strictly gregarious; often perches on telegraph wires. Flight graceful and swallow-like.

Voice: Very distinctive. Usual note a liquid but rather creaking "prruik."

Habitat: Prefers open bushy country with a few trees, telegraph poles, etc., but also occurs in woodland glades. Breeds colonially in holes bored in cuttings, sand-pits, river banks, occasionally in level ground. Map below.

ROLLERS : Coraciidae

ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

page 183

Du—Scharrelaar

Fr—Rolloier d'Europe

Ge—Blauracke

Sw—Blåkråka

Identification: 12". A heavy Jay-like bird with a powerful bill. Plumage is *pale azure-blue*, with *bright chestnut back*, *vivid blue wings*, with *black borders* (in flight), greenish-blue tail with brown centre feathers. Behaviour rather shrike-like, pouncing from exposed perch or overhead wires on passing insects. Flight strong, gliding occasionally; "tumbles" from considerable height during nuptial display.



← KINGFISHER
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Norway,
Finland (has bred),
and Malta

BEE-EATER →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Brit. Is.,
Denmark, S. Germany. Vagr. Brit.
Is., Europe n. to
Sweden, Finland



Voice: A loud, deep, corvine "kr-r-r-ak," or "krak-ak," and a harsh chatter.

Habitat: Mature forests and fairly open country with a few trees. Breeds in old hollow trees, holes in banks, ruins, etc. Map below.

HOOPOES : Upupidae

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

page 183

Du—Hop

Fr—Huppe puput

Ge—Wiedehopf

Sw—Härfågel

Identification: 11". Unmistakable. Both sexes have pinkish brown plumage, *boldly barred black and white wings and tail*, long black-tipped *erectile crest* and long curved bill. Feeds chiefly on ground in open. Flight lazy and undulating, with distinctive, slow "butterfly" wing-action.

Voice: A low, far-carrying "poo-poo-poo"; also several mewing notes and a quiet chattering alarm.

Habitat: Open woodlands, orchards, park-lands, etc. Winters in more open bushy country. Nests in holes in old trees, occasionally in ruins. Map below.

WOODPECKERS : Picidae

CHISEL-BILLED, WOOD-BORING BIRDS, with powerful feet (usually two toes front, two rear), remarkably long tongues, and short, stiff tails which act as props in climbing tree trunks. Flight usually strong, but undulating. Nest in holes excavated in trees. Most males have some red on head.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

page 190

Du—Groene specht

Fr—Pic vert

Ge—Grünspecht

Sw—Gröngöling



← ROLLER

Summer visitor. Vagrant n. to Brit. Is., Iceland, Norway, Finland

HOOPOE →

Mainly summer visitor. Has bred Britain, Sweden, Finland. Almost annual Ireland. Vagrant Iceland, Faeroes



Identification: 12½". A large woodpecker with *dark green upper-parts*, pale grey-green under-parts, crimson crown, *conspicuous yellowish rump*. Sides of head and moustachial stripe are black. Male has crimson centre to very broad moustachial stripe. Juvenile is paler, distinctly spotted and barred. Frequently feeds on ground, at ants' nests. Hops heavily, in upright position. Flight deeply undulating, with long wing-closures between each upward bound. Spanish race *P. v. sharpei* has less black on face and unbarred under tail-coverts. See also Grey-headed.

Voice: A very loud ringing "laugh." Very seldom drums.

Habitat: Deciduous woods, parks, farm-lands, commons with scattered trees. Nests in holes bored in trees. Map below.

GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER *Picus canus* page 190
 Du—Kleine groene specht Fr—Pic cendré
 Ge—Grauspecht Sw—Gråspett

Identification: 10". Easily mistaken for rather small Green Woodpecker, but distinguished by *grey head and neck* with thin black stripe through eye and *narrow black moustachial stripe*. Male has bright crimson forehead (not crown). Female lacks red. Juvenile is browner and has flanks barred with brown; young males show some crimson on forehead. Behaviour as Green Woodpecker.

Voice: Call notes resemble Green Woodpecker's, but "laughing" song is much less harsh and becomes *progressively deeper and slower*. Drums for long periods in spring.

Habitat: As Green Woodpecker, but also occurs locally in deciduous mountain forests up to tree limits. Avoids coniferous woods. Map below.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major* page 190
 Du—Grote bonte specht Fr—Pic épeiche
 Ge—Buntspecht Sw—Större hackspett

Identification: 9". Considerably smaller than Green, but much larger than Lesser Spotted, from which it is distinguished by black back with *large white "shoulder" patches* and *crimson under tail-coverts*. (Upper-



← GREEN
 WOODPECKER
Resident. Vagrant
N. Norway,
Ireland

GREY-HEADED
 WOODPECKER →
Resident. Vagrant
Lapland, Denmark



OWLS

MOST OWLS ARE NOCTURNAL and therefore seldom seen well unless discovered at their daytime roosts. It is particularly important to learn their voices, which are described in the text. None of the following species has "ear tufts."

- **TAWNY OWL** page 172
Heavily built, streaked breast, black eyes, rufous or grey plumage.
- **LITTLE OWL** 172
Small, round, spotted above, low frowning "eyebrows."
- PYGMY OWL** 171
Very small, small headed; jerks up tail.
- △ **HAWK OWL** 171
Heavy black facial "frames," barred under-parts, long tail.
- **TENGMALM'S OWL** 175
From Little Owl by larger head, longer and whiter face and more heavily outlined facial discs.
- URAL OWL** 173
Very large, streaked; unlined face, small dark eyes.
- GREAT GREY OWL** 173
Very large, grey; lined face, small yellow eyes.

See also illustrations of other OWLS, Plate 44, page 167.

Grey phase



LITTLE



PYGMY

Rufous phase



TAWNY



HAWK



Juvenile

Adult

TENGMALM'S



URAL




GREAT GREY



ROLLER



HOOPOE




BEE-EATER




KINGFISHER




CUCKOO




CUCKOO
Rufous phase
(♀ only)



GREAT SPOTTED
CUCKOO



NIGHTJAR



RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR

**ROLLER, BEE-EATER, HOOPOE,
KINGFISHER, CUCKOOS AND NIGHTJARS**

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ○ ROLLER
Blue head and breast, chestnut back. | page 179 |
| ○ BEE-EATER
Yellow throat, blue-green breast. | 179 |
| ● HOOPOE
Black and white wing-pattern, erectile fan crest. | 180 |
| ● KINGFISHER
Stumpy; brilliant blue-green above. | 178 |
| ● CUCKOO
Grey head and upper breast, barred under-parts.
<i>Rufous phase of female (rare):</i> Barred above and below. | 165 |
| △ GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO
Crest, long tail; creamy below, spotted above. | 168 |
| ● NIGHTJAR
"Dead leaf" camouflage above, closely barred below. | 176 |
| △ RED-NECKED NIGHTJAR
Distinguished* from Nightjar by rusty nape, more white on throat, different voice. | 176 |

parts of Lesser Spotted give closely barred impression.) Under-parts are unstreaked white. Male (not female) has crimson nape-patch, but immatures of both sexes have *entire crown crimson*. Seldom feeds on ground. See also White-backed, Middle Spotted and Syrian Woodpeckers.

Voice: A very loud, sharp "tchick" or "kik," much louder and more frequent than similar call of Lesser Spotted. Both sexes drum very rapidly on resonant dead branches.

Habitat: As Green, but also seen in pine woods. Map below.

SYRIAN WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos syriacus* page 190

Identification: Very similar to Great Spotted (large white scapular patches and black cap), but *lacks the black cross-bar on the cheek*—see colour plate. Under tail-coverts are paler crimson than in Great Spotted. Juveniles, because of their red caps, may be confused with Middle Spotted, but black moustachial stripe joins the bill.

Voice: Like Great Spotted, but less sharp.

Habitat: As Great Spotted, but more often in cultivation. Map below.

WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos leucotos* page 190

Du—Witrugspecht

Fr—Pic à dos blanc

Ge—Weissrückenspecht

Sw—Vitryggig hackspett

Identification: 10". Slightly larger than Great Spotted. Distinguished by combination of *uniform black back and "shoulders" and white or barred rump*. Male has whitish forehead and scarlet crown extending to nape. Under-parts white, boldly streaked with black, merging into crimson under tail-coverts. Wings boldly barred black and white, *without white "shoulder" patches*. Female has black crown. Juveniles show trace of red on crown and under tail-coverts. Three-toed is only other European woodpecker with white rump, but it is much smaller and has white extending from nape to rump. Great Spotted and Middle Spotted are easily distinguished by large white "shoulder" patches.

Voice: Infrequent notes resemble Great Spotted's, but are much less strident.



← GREAT SPOTTED
WOODPECKER
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes, Ireland

SYRIAN
WOODPECKER →
Mainly resident.
Extending range
north-west



Habitat: Hilly deciduous woods with plenty of old rotting trees; locally in dense coniferous forests; around towns in winter. Nests in holes bored in rotted trees. Map below.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* page 190

Du—Kleine bonte specht Fr—Pic épeichette
Ge—Kleinspecht *Sw—Liten hackspett

Identification: 5½". Smallest European woodpecker. Distinguished from all other "pied" woodpeckers by *very small size, closely barred black and white upper-parts and absence of crimson on under tail-coverts*. Forehead, cheeks and under-parts whitish, with a few dark streaks on flanks. Male has dull crimson crown; female's is whitish; juveniles show some crimson on crown and have browner under-parts. Behaviour retiring; spends most of time among small upper branches. **Voice:** A repeated, high "kee-kee-kee," not unlike Wryneck's call, but weaker and less ringing. Also occasionally a rather weak "tchick," resembling cry of Great Spotted. Drums less powerfully than Great Spotted.

Habitat: As Great Spotted. Map below.

MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos medius* page 190

Du—Middelste bonte specht Fr—Pic mar
Ge—Mittelspecht Sw—Mellanspett

Identification: 8½". Can be confused with Great Spotted and Syrian, which are only other European woodpeckers with *white shoulder patches*. Distinguished by slightly smaller size, conspicuous and slightly crested light crimson crown *without any black edging*; conspicuous white sides to head have very narrow black moustachial stripe, but *no black eye-stripe*; white under-parts with heavily streaked flanks *merge gradually into rose-pink on belly* (instead of contrasting sharply with crimson under tail-coverts as in Great Spotted). Wings boldly barred black and white, with *narrow white "shoulder" patches*. Female is duller, with paler crimson crown. See also Syrian.

Voice: Resembles Great Spotted's quick chatter, but is slightly lower



← WHITE-BACKED
WOODPECKER
Resident. Vagrant
Italy

LESSER SPOTTED
WOODPECKER →
Resident. Vagrant
Denmark



in pitch and the first note is usually higher: "ptik-teuk-teuk-teuk-teuk." In spring has slow, nasal cry "wait . . . wait . . ." repeated in descending or ascending scale. Drums rarely.

Habitat: Much as Great Spotted, but usually seen in high branches. Excavates nest hole high up in deciduous tree. Map below.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER *Picoides tridactylus* page 190

Du—Drieteenspecht Fr—Pic tridactyle
Ge—Dreizehenspecht Sw—Tretåig hackspett

Identification: 8½". About size of Great Spotted. Feet have only three toes. Distinguished from all other European "pied" woodpeckers by *complete lack of crimson markings* (even in male), nearly all-black wings, *broad whitish stripe down back from nape to rump* and black cheeks. Male has *yellow* centre to crown; female's is black, with whitish forehead. Under-parts white, *barred with black* on flanks. Juveniles are greyer, with white backs considerably mottled with black. White-backed Woodpecker also has white rump, but its back is black and it has crimson under tail-coverts and white bars on wings.

Voice: Seldom vocal, but resembles weak Great Spotted; sometimes a chattering "kek-ek-ek-ek." Drums occasionally, rather slowly.

Habitat: Mountain and boreal forests, with preference for burnt tracts. Nests in holes bored in trees and telegraph poles. Map below.

BLACK WOODPECKER *Dryocopus martius* page 190

Du—Zwarte specht Fr—Pic noir
Ge—Schwarzspecht Sw—Spillkråka

Identification: 18". Largest European woodpecker (big as a Rook), with *uniform black plumage*. Male has slightly crested crimson crown; female has crimson confined to patch on back of head. Eyes pale yellow. Bill pale. Flight heavy and gently undulating.

Voice: A loud, whistling "kleea" and a high, grating "krri-krri-krri-krri." Song, usually in flight, a strident, ringing "choc-choc-choc," recalling Green Woodpecker, but usually slower and shorter. Drums occasionally and very loudly.



← MIDDLE
SPOTTED
WOODPECKER
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Holland
(has bred),
Portugal, Finland



THREE-TOED
WOODPECKER →
Resident. Vagrant
Italy

Habitat: Mature coniferous forests in northern and mountainous regions and in beech woods. Excavates very large nest-hole, sometimes at considerable height. Map below.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

page 190

Du—Draaihals

Fr—Torcol fourmilier

Ge—Wendehals

Sw—Göktyta

Identification: $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Although related to woodpeckers, appearance and attitudes are rather passerine. At a distance looks uniform grey-brown, with paler under-parts; at short range vermiculated plumage resembles Nightjar's. Upper-parts and longish, rounded tail closely patterned grey, brown and buff. Under-parts buffish, closely checkered with grey-brown. Feet like woodpecker's: two toes forward, two behind. Crown feathers erectile. More often heard than seen. Feeds on ground, hopping with raised tail; perches across branches, but clings like woodpecker to tree trunks.

Voice: A nasal, repeated "kyink kyink" louder and less shrill than Lesser Spotted Woodpecker's call.

Habitat: As Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Nests in natural holes in trees, masonry, nest boxes, etc. Map below.

LARKS : Alaudidae

STREAKED BROWN SONG-BIRDS, mainly terrestrial. Hind claw usually elongated and straight, or nearly so. Sexes similar (except Black Lark). Voices varied and musical. Nest on ground. Gregarious outside breeding season.

BLACK LARK *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*

page 191

Du—Zwarte leeuwerik

Fr—Alouette nègre

Ge—Mohrenlerche

Sw—Svartlärka

Identification: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ". Male unmistakable, large and black with pale



← **BLACK WOODPECKER**
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Denmark



WRYNECK →
Mainly summer
visitor. Vagrant to
Ireland, Scotland,
Iceland, Faeroes

sandy margins to feathers which, in winter, partly obscure the black. Bill short and stout, yellow with black tip. Female very like *pale Calandra*, but distinguished by *absence of black neck-patches* and by blackish beneath wings. Neither sex has white on wings or tail.

Voice: Has clear, piping call-note. Song resembles short spasms of Sky Lark's.

Habitat and Range: Grassy or 'bushy steppes, often near water, also on deserts; closer to cultivation and road-sides in winter. Vagrant in winter to central Europe, W. to Britain and S. to Malta.

CALANDRA LARK *Melanocorypha calandra* page 191

Du—Calandra leeuwrik Fr—Alouette calandre

Ge—Kalanderlerche Sw—Kalanderlärka

Identification: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ". Distinguished by large size, heavy build, *stout yellowish-horn bill and bold black half-collar on each side of neck*. Buffish breast lightly streaked with brown. In flight, tips of secondaries form *conspicuous white rear edges* to large, very dark triangular wings. No crest. Juvenile more buffish; neck-patches partly obscured. Flight very buoyant. See also White-winged Lark and female Black Lark.

Voice: A nasal chirrup "*kleetra*." Song similar to Sky Lark's, but louder, with frequent interjections of mimicry and trilling; sings in high *circling flight*, often diving silently last few hundred feet to ground.

Habitat: Stony waste-lands, farm-lands and steppes. Nests on ground. Map below.

WHITE-WINGED LARK *Melanocorypha leucoptera* page 191

Identification: 7". Distinguished from other larks by *broad white wing-patch*, very conspicuous in flight; from Calandra also by lack of black neck-patches. Tawny upper-parts have dark streaks; chestnut on crown, wing-coverts and tail; whitish under-parts, with lightly spotted buffish throat and breast. Female has streaked brown crown.

Voice: Song said to resemble short version of Sky Lark's, delivered during brief soaring flights and from ground.



← CALANDRA
LARK
Mainly resident.
Vagrant to Britain,
Norway, Finland

SHORT-TOED
LARK →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant n. to Fair
Isle, Iceland, and
central Europe to
Czechoslovakia



Habitat and Range: Mainly arid grass-steppes. Nests on ground. On passage and in hard winters in E. Roumania and S.E. Poland. Vagrant across Europe W. to Britain, and S. to Malta.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea* page 191

Du—Korttenige leeuwerik Fr—Alouette calandrelle

Ge—Kurzzehenlerche •Sw—Korttåad lärka

Identification: 5½". Pale and squat; much smaller than Sky Lark. Buffish above, with bold dark streaks; *unstreaked* buffish-white below; *small blackish patches* on sides of neck (often difficult to see). No crest. *Short* yellowish bill. Juvenile has spotted dark brown breast-band. Flight low and undulating. See also Lesser Short-toed Lark.

Voice: A short, dry chirrup, "*tchi-tchirp*," recalling House Sparrow; anxiety note "*tee-oo*." Song, chiefly in high, steeply *rising and falling* flight, a simple phrase of about eight high-pitched notes, repeated at short intervals, and long sustained.

Habitat: Open sandy or stony wastes, steppes and fields. Nests on ground. Map p 188.

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella rufescens* page 191

Du—Kleine korttenige leeuwerik Fr—Alouette pispolette

Ge—Stummellerche Sw—Mindre korttåad lärka

Identification: 5½". Very like Short-toed Lark, with which it occurs, but distinguishable at short range by *finely streaked upper breast*. Lacks dark neck patches and is generally slightly browner—less rufous.

Voice: Has short, characteristic note "*prrit*" which also occurs in song. Song is more melodious than that of Short-toed, but has similar character; sings in rising spiral, or high circling flight.

Habitat and Range: As Short-toed. Summer visitor, breeding S. Spain. Vagrant to Malta, Italy, Heligoland.

CRESTED LARK *Galerida cristata* page 191

Du—Kuifleeuwerik Fr—Cochevis huppé

Ge—Haubenlerche Sw—Tofslärka

Identification: 6¾". Plumper and rather paler than Sky Lark. Distinguished by *long upstanding crest*, rather long, slightly curved bill and short tail with dark centre and *buff* sides. Upper-parts sandy-brown, less strongly streaked than Sky Lark; under-parts creamy-buff, streaked on breast; in flight looks more rufous. Juvenile more spotted above, with shorter crest. Distinguished from Sky Lark and Wood Lark by long narrow crest, longer bill and absence of white on wings and tail. See also very similar Thekla Lark.

Voice: A liquid "*twee-tee-too*," rising and falling. Song less musical and shorter than Sky Lark's; usually in short repeated phrases, delivered from ground, low perch and in flight.

Habitat: Open grassy or arid country; often near habitation, dusty mule-tracks, road-sides, etc. Breeds on ground. Map p 192.

WOODPECKERS AND WRYNECK

- **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** page 185
 Small; barred back.
- MIDDLE SPOTTED WOODPECKER** 185
 Large white scapular patches and red cap as in juvenile Great Spotted, but black face-marks not joined. No black border to red cap.
- **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** 181
 Large white scapular patches, black crown. Juvenile has red crown.
- SYRIAN WOODPECKER** 184
 Like Great Spotted, but cross-bar on cheek absent.
- WHITE-BACKED WOODPECKER** 184
 White lower back.
- THREE-TOED WOODPECKER** 186
 White back, barred flanks, black cheeks. Male has yellow cap.
- BLACK WOODPECKER** 186
 Big, black, slightly crested. Female also has red.
- **GREEN WOODPECKER** 180
 Greenish back, yellow rump; dark face with broad pointed "moustaches." Juvenile spotted.
- GREY-HEADED WOODPECKER** 181
 Grey head with narrow black "moustaches." Male only has red cap.
- **WRYNECK** 187
 Woodpecker-like feet; Nightjar-like pattern.

LESSER
SPOTTEDMIDDLE
SPOTTEDGREAT
SPOTTEDWHITE-
BACKED



LESSER SPOTTED



MIDDLE SPOTTED



GREAT SPOTTED



SYRIAN



WHITE-BACKED



BLACK



THREE-TOED



Juvenile



WRYNECK



GREEN



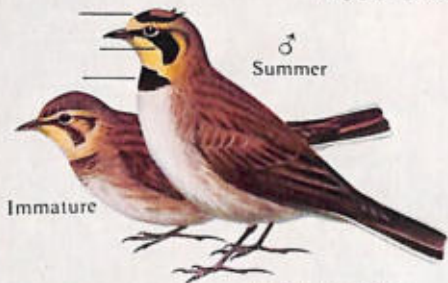
GREY-HEADED



SKY LARK

WOOD LARK

CRESTED LARK



Immature

♂
Summer

SHORE LARK



THEKLA LARK



CALANDRA
LARK

SHORT-TOED
LARK

LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK



WHITE-WINGED LARK

BLACK LARK

DUPONT'S LARK

♂
Winter

Immature

LARKS

STREAKED, MAINLY BROWN ground birds with aerial songs. They somewhat resemble pipits (Plate 58, page 247) but are less slender.



- **SKY LARK** page 192
Slightly crested, streaked, white outer tail-feathers.
- **WOOD LARK** 192
From Sky Lark by different habitat, short tail, eye-stripes meeting across nape, black and white mark on edge of wing.
- △ **CRESTED LARK** 189
Long pointed crest, short tawny-edged tail.
- **SHORE LARK** 193
"Horns," face-patch, breast-patch.
Immature: Suggestion of adult pattern.
- THEKLA LARK** 192
Very like Crested, but with slightly shorter bill, more clearly marked breast.
- △ **CALANDRA LARK** 188
Large, dark; large neck-patch, heavy bill.
- **SHORT-TOED LARK** 189
Small, pale; clear breast.
Small neck-spot sometimes visible.
- LESSER SHORT-TOED LARK** 189
Small; finely streaked breast.
- △ **WHITE-WINGED LARK** 188
Rusty crown, white wing-patch (see Snow Bunting)
- △ **BLACK LARK** 187
Black; in winter "scaled" with white.
• *Immature*: See text.
- DUPONT'S LARK** 193
Thin curved bill, conspicuous eye-stripe.
- B.B.E.** H

THEKLA LARK *Galerida theklae* page 191

Du—Kortsnavelige kuifleeuwerik Fr—Cochevis de Thékla
 Ge—Theklas Haubenlerche Sw—Lagerlärka

Identification: 6½". Indistinguishable in the field from Crested Lark unless the two can be compared at short range, where they occur together. Thekla is always slightly smaller, slightly greyer above, paler below, with *more narrowly streaked breast*; grey (not buff) beneath wings; bill is *shorter and stouter*. Song similar, a little less liquid, less melodious. Behaviour and habitat similar, though the Thekla shows some preference for dry, stony hill-sides with low, bushy vegetation and sand dunes with some cover, and occurs up to higher altitudes. Resident in Portugal, S. Spain, Balearics, perhaps S. France.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea* page 191

Du—Boomleeuwerik Fr—Alouette lulu
 Ge—Heidelerche Sw—Trädlärka

Identification: 6". Distinguished from Sky Lark by smaller size, *very short tail without white sides, conspicuous white eye-stripes joining on nape* behind and below rounded crest, finer bill and distinctive voice. Has characteristic dark mark near bend of wing. Soars in wide spirals during song flight, finally plunging with closed wings almost to ground. Perches on trees. See also Tree Pipit.

Voice: A melodious "toolooeet." Song less varied, less sustained and less powerful than Sky Lark's, but more melodious, consisting of short phrases interspersed with a liquid trilling "lu-lu-lu-lu"; from perch, ground, or in song-flight.

Habitat: Edges of woods, hill-sides with a few trees, sandy heaths, etc. Winters in fields. Nests on ground. Map below.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis* page 191

Du—Veldleeuwerik Fr—Alouette des champs
 Ge—Feldlerche Sw—Sånglärka

Identification: 7". Upper-parts brown, strongly streaked blackish; under-parts buffish-white with boldly streaked breast. *Longish tail with*



← CRESTED LARK
 Mainly resident.
 Vagrant England,
 Finland

WOOD LARK →
 Partial migrant.
 Vagrant Scotland,
 Ireland



conspicuous white on outer feathers. Hind margins of long, pointed wings show whitish in flight. Short, rounded crest. Walks in crouched position. Flight strong and slightly undulating, with alternate spells of wing-beats and "shooting" with closed wings; soars and hovers in song-flight. See also Wood and Crested Larks.

Voice: A clear, liquid "*chir-r-up*." Song, a high-pitched, musical outpouring, *very long sustained*, in hovering and slowly descending flight; occasionally from ground or low perch.

Habitat: Moors, fields, marshes, sand-dunes. Nests on ground. Map below.

DUPONT'S LARK *Chersophilus duponti* page 191

Identification: $7\frac{1}{2}$ ". An extremely secretive species, distinguished by rufous appearance, *long slender, down-curved bill* and absence of white on wings; outer tail-feathers white; pale eye-stripe is conspicuous. Rarely seen on wing, except in spring song-flight, when it soars to great height; on landing *runs remarkably swiftly* to hide in thickest available cover; stands very slim and erect.

Habitat and range: Semi-desert, with wild thyme, scrub, etc. Vagrant to Mediterranean Europe, from Malta westwards.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* page 191

Du—Bergleeuwerik Fr—Alouette hausse-col

Ge—Ohrenlerche Sw—Berglärka N. Am—Horned Lark

Identification: $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Easily distinguished from all other larks by *pale yellow face and throat, bold black breast-band and cheeks.* Pinkish-brown above, whitish below. Male has black band across crown and *small black "horns."* Female has less black. Juvenile appears spotted and duller. Adult head markings partly obscured in winter.

Voice: Clear, pipit-like, or wagtail-like: "*tsee-ee*," "*tsee-titi*," etc. Song, tinkling, irregular and high-pitched, often long-sustained, sometimes high in air in manner of Sky Lark.

Habitat: Winters along sea-shores, salt-marshes, occasionally in stubble-fields. Breeds above tree limit in dry tundra. Map below.



← SKY LARK
Partial migrant

SHORE LARK →
Mainly migratory.
Passage Baltic.
Vagrant most other
parts of Europe
except Spain and
Portugal



SWALLOWS AND MARTINS : Hirundinidae

SLIM, STREAMLINED FORM AND GRACEFUL FLIGHT are distinctive. Tiny feet, long pointed wings and short bills with very wide gapes. Insect food caught in flight.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

page 198

Du—Boerenwaluw

Fr—Hirondelle de cheminée

Ge—Rauchschwalbe

Sw—Ladusvala

N.Am—Barn Swallow

Identification: 7½". Distinguished by *long tail streamers*. Has *dark metallic blue upper-parts*, chestnut-red forehead and throat, *dark blue lower throat*, remainder of under-parts creamy white. Juvenile much duller, with shorter streamers. Flight swooping and graceful. Gregarious, though less so when breeding. House Martin has white throat and rump, no tail streamers. Sand Martin and Crag Martin are brown above, with no tail streamers. Swift is uniformly dark. See also Red-rumped Swallow.

Voice: A high "tswit," becoming a rapid twitter when excited. Alarm, a high "tswee." Song, a pleasant, weak mixture of rapid twittering and warbling notes.

Habitat: Open cultivated country with farms, meadows, ponds, etc. Builds open mud and straw nest on rafters or ledges in cow sheds, stables, etc., locally in chimneys. Map below.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica*

page 198

Du—Roodstuitwaluw

Fr—Hirondelle rousseline

Ge—Rötelschwalbe

Sw—Ostasiatisk ladusvala

Identification: 7". Distinguished immediately by *buff rump*, chestnut nape and eye-stripe, buff throat and under-parts, without dark gorget patch. Crown and back dark metallic blue, wings and forked tail



← SWALLOW
Summer visitor.
Has bred Iceland
and Faeroes

RED-RUMPED
SWALLOW →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant central
Medit., Brit. Isles,
Heligoland, Baltic,
Norway, Finland



blackish. Lacks Swallow's white tail markings and has rather shorter streamers and blunter wing-tips. Distinguished from House Martin by buffish, instead of white, rump and under-parts.

Voice: Has distinctive rough, thin flight-call. Alarm "keet." Song resembles Swallow's, but is less musical.

Habitat: Sea and inland cliffs; less partial to cultivated areas than Swallow, but in flat country locally frequents bridges and buildings. Builds nest like House Martin's, but with spout-shaped entrance, in caves, cleft rocks, under bridges, etc. Map p 194.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

page 193

Du—Huiszwaluw

Fr—Hirondelle de fenêtre

Ge—Mehlschwalbe

Sw—Hussvala

Identification: 5". The only European swallow with a pure white rump. Under-parts white; head, back, wings and tail blue-black. Tail is short and forked, and without streamers. Short legs and feet are feathered white. Behaviour like Swallow's, but more sociable, nesting in close colonies. Flight less swooping, more fluttering than Swallow's, and often flies higher. See also White-rumped Swift (Accidentals p 298).

Voice: A clear "tchirrip" or "tchichirrip"; alarm, a shrill "tseep." Song, a weak but pleasant chirruping twitter, less varied than Swallow's.

Habitat: Like Swallow, but more often near human habitation; also in open country. Builds enclosed mud nest, with entrance hole at top, cupped under eaves of houses and barns, locally on cliffs. Map below.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

page 193

Du—Oeverzwaluw

Fr—Hirondelle de rivage

Ge—Uferschwalbe

Sw—Backsvala

N.Am—Bank Swallow

Identification: 4½". Smallest European swallow. Distinguished by earth-brown upper-parts, white under-parts with brown breast-band. Strongly gregarious. Feeds chiefly over water. Flight more flitting, less swooping, than Swallow's. See also Crag Martin.



← HOUSE MARTIN
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Iceland,
Faeroes



SAND MARTIN →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Faeroes

Voice: A dry "tchrip"; alarm, a short "brrit." Song, a weak twittering.

Habitat: Open country with ponds, rivers, etc. Nests sociably, in tunnels bored in sand and gravel pits, river banks, cliffs. Map p 195.

CRAG MARTIN *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* page 198

Du—Rotszwaluw • Fr—Hirondelle de rochers

Ge—Felsenschwalbe Sw—Klippsvala

Identification: 5¾". At a distance can be confused with Sand Martin, but distinguished by stockier build; under-parts dingy white, *without breast-band*, dusker on belly and under tail-coverts; at short range also by *white spots near tip of spread tail*. Behaviour much as other swallows, but is *not gregarious* and hovers more frequently. Alpine Swift is very much larger, with white under-parts and dark breast-band.

Voice: Not very vocal: a rather weak "chich," or "tchrrri."

Habitat: Mountain gorges and rocky inland and coastal cliffs, seldom at great altitudes. Builds open half-cup shaped mud nest in cleft rocks or caves in cliff-face, occasionally with House Martins. Map below.

ORIOLES : Oriolidae

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* page 199

Du—Wielewaal Fr—Loriot d'Europe

Ge—Pirol Sw—Sommergylling

Identification: 9½". Male unmistakable *brilliant yellow*, with *black wings and tail*, latter boldly marked with yellow. Female and juvenile yellowish-green with darker wings and tails and lightly streaked greyish under-parts, difficult to see in foliage; easily distinguished from Green Woodpecker by lack of red on head. Flight rapid, in long undulations with characteristic upward sweep to regain tree-cover. Normally stays well hidden in tree-tops.

Voice: A loud, fluty whistle "weela-weeo," or "chuck-chuck-weeo," from hidden perch. Alarm a harsh "chr-r-r." Also several harsh, rather Jay-like notes.

Habitat: Essentially arboreal; well timbered parks, old orchards, river banks, woods, seldom in open. Nest usually slung between horizontally forked branches, at considerable height, near water. Map p 197.



← CRAG MARTIN
Partial migrant

CROWS : Corvidae

THE LARGEST OF THE PERCHING BIRDS. Longish, powerful bills, with nostrils covered by forward-pointing bristles. Juveniles resemble adults.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

page 201

Du—Raaf

Fr—Grand corbeau

Ge—Kolkkrabe

Sw—Korp

Identification: 25". Large size, massive black bill, shaggy throat feathers, wedge-shaped end of tail and deep, distinctive voice, easily distinguish it from smaller crows. Plumage black, iridescent in good light. Powerful, direct flight; often soars and glides; acrobatic flight during courtship.

Voice: A repeated, deep "prruk;" also a high metallic "tok;" many other croaking and clucking notes.

Habitat: Frequents and breeds on cliffs, mountains, locally in trees. Map below.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

page 201

Du—Zwarte Kraai

Fr—Corneille noire

Ge—Rabenkrähe

Sw—Svart kråka

Identification: 18½". All black; glossy in good light. Heavy black bill. Flight direct, slow and regular; soars rarely. Usually solitary or in pairs, except when roosting. Distinguished from immature Rook by heavier, more rounded bill; from Hooded Crow by uniform black plumage; from Raven by much smaller size, less massive bill, squarer tail, but most readily recognised by voice.

Voice: A harsh, croaking "kraa" repeated 3-4 times. Also querulous, repeated "keerk" and a muffled, metallic "konk."

Habitat: Moors, cultivated country with some trees, and sea-shores. Usually nests in trees, occasionally on cliffs. Map p 200.



← GOLDEN ORIOLE
Summer visitor.
Annual S.E. England (sometimes nests). Vagrant Ireland, Scotland, Faeroes, Norway



RAVEN →
Mainly resident.
Winters throughout Sweden

SWIFTS, SWALLOWS AND MARTINS



SWALLOW HOUSE MARTIN SAND MARTIN

- SWIFT page 177
Black under-parts, short forked tail.
- PALLID SWIFT 178
Paler than Swift, especially beneath wings; more white on throat.
- ALPINE SWIFT 178
Very large; white belly, dark breast-band.
- HOUSE MARTIN 195
White rump-patch, white under-parts.
- SWALLOW 194
Deeply forked tail, dark throat.
- ▲ RED-RUMPED SWALLOW 194
Buffish rump-patch; Spain, Greece, etc.
- SAND MARTIN 195
Brown back, band across breast.
- CRAG MARTIN 196
Brown back, no breast-band; squared tail with white spots when spread; mountains.



SWALLOW HOUSE MARTIN RED-RUMPED SWALLOW SAND MARTIN



SWIFT

PALLID SWIFT

ALPINE SWIFT



HOUSE MARTIN



SWALLOW



RED-RUMPED SWALLOW



SAND MARTIN



CRAG MARTIN



MAGPIE

NUTCRACKER



BLUE-WINGED
MAGPIE



ALPINE CHOUGH



JAY



CHOUGH



SIBERIAN
JAY



GOLDEN ORIOLE



SPOTLESS STARLING



Juvenile

Spring

Winter

STARLING



Adult

Juv

ROSE-COLOURED
STARLING

MAGPIES, NUTCRACKER, CHOUGHS, JAYS, ORIOLE AND STARLINGS

- **MAGPIE** page 202
Pied pattern, long tail.

- **NUTCRACKER** 203
Brown with white speckles, white under tail-coverts.

- AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE** 203
Blue wings and tail, black cap; Spain, Portugal.

- **CHOUGH** 204
Curved red bill, red legs.

- ALPINE CHOUGH** 205
Shorter yellow bill, red legs.
(See Blackbird, Plate 53, page 222).

- **JAY** 203
Blue and white patches on wings, white rump.

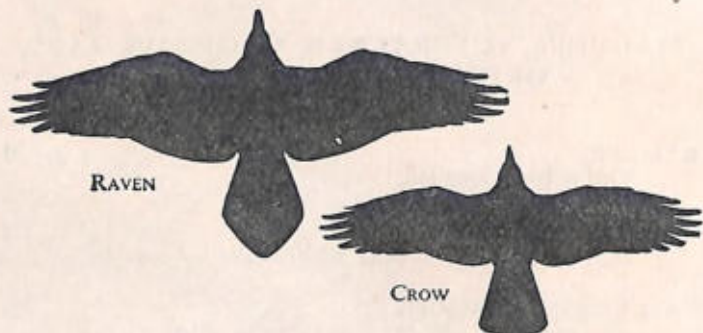
- SIBERIAN JAY** 204
Grey-brown; rufous on wings and tail.

- **GOLDEN ORIOLE** 196
Male: Bright yellow body, black wings and tail.
Female: Green above; whitish, finely streaked below.

- SPOTLESS STARLING** 271
No spots; Spain, Portugal, Sardinia, Sicily.

- **STARLING** 270
Iridescent, finely spotted plumage, sharp bill.
Juvenile: Grey or grey-brown, short tail, sharp bill.

- **ROSE-COLOURED STARLING** 271
Dull pink body, black "hood" and wings.
Juvenile: Sandy, with yellow bill.



FLIGHT SILHOUETTES OF RAVEN AND CROW
(Carrion Crow and Hooded Crow have same silhouette)

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

page 201

Du—Bonte kraai

Fr—Corneille mantelée

Ge—Nebelkrähe

Sw—Grå kråka

Identification: 18½". Easily distinguished from Carrion Crow and Rook by *grey back and under-parts*. Remainder black. Voice, habits and habitat as Carrion Crow, with which it interbreeds where ranges overlap—they are possibly conspecific. Map below.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

page 201

Du—Roek

Fr—Corbeau freux

Ge—Saatkrähe

Sw—Råka

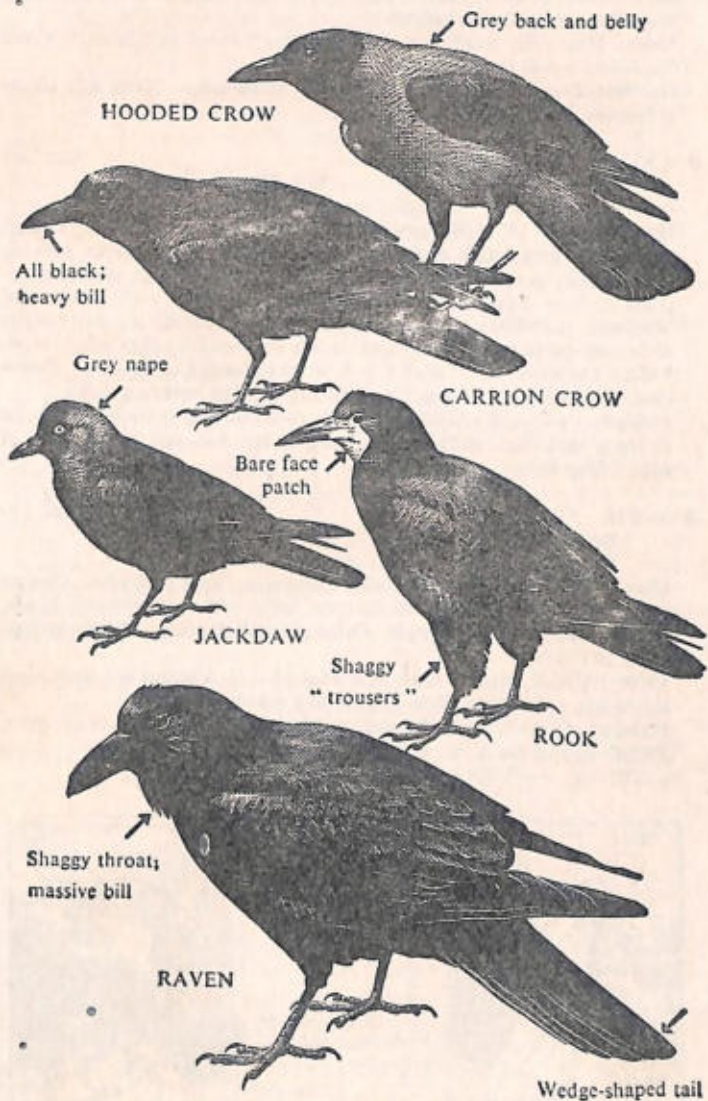
Identification: 18". Black, with iridescent gloss. Distinguished from crows by *bare, whitish face and more slender, more pointed greyish-black bill*; thighs appear noticeably shaggy when walking. Juvenile is duller, with fully feathered black face; more easily confused with crow, but



← CARRION CROW
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Ireland,
Hungary, Poland,
Scandinavia



HOODED CROW →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Iceland



HOODED CROW

Grey back and belly

All black;
heavy bill

Grey nape

CARRION CROW

Bare face
patch

JACKDAW

Shaggy
"trousers"

ROOK

Shaggy throat;
massive bill

RAVEN

Wedge-shaped tail

THE CROW FAMILY

bill is always more slender. Flight direct and regular, with faster wing-beats than crow's. Gregarious.

Voice: Has wide vocabulary. Usual notes, "kaw" or "kaaa." Voice much less harsh than crow's.

Habitat: Prefers agricultural areas with some trees. Nests and roosts in colonies in tree-tops. Map below.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

page 201

Du—Kauw

Fr—Choucas des tours

Ge—Dohle

Sw—Kaja

Identification: 13". Black, with grey nape and ear coverts. Underparts dark grey. Eye distinctively pale grey. *Smaller size*, quicker flight, jaunty actions, *shorter bill* and characteristic voice easily distinguish it from Rook and crows. Gregarious, often with Rooks and Starlings. Scandinavian form *C. m. monedula* generally has paler collar and under-parts and a barely discernible white patch either side of neck.

Voice: Unmistakable "chak" and, when excited, a chattering "chaka-chaka-chack"; also "kya" and widely varying breeding calls.

Habitat: Parks, cliffs, old buildings, farm-lands. Nests sociably in holes in trees, buildings, cliffs, occasionally in burrows and in branches of trees. Map below.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

page 199

Du—Ekster

Fr—Pie bavarde

Ge—Elster

Sw—Skata

Identification: 18". Unmistakably *contrasting black and white plumage and long tail*. Scapulars, flanks and belly white; remainder black, glossed blue, green and purple. Often in small parties; large gatherings occur in winter.

Voice: A loud, rapid "chak-chak-chak-chak." Various not unmusical chattering and piping notes in breeding season.

Habitat: Farm-lands and open country with hedges and some trees. Builds domed nest in tall trees, thorn bushes, hedgerows. Map p 203.



← ROOK
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Iceland,
N. Scandinavia
Now breeds N.
Spain

JACKDAW →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant to Iceland,
Corsica



◦ **AZURE-WINGED MAGPIE** *Cyanopica cyanus* page 199

Du—Blauwvleugelekster Fr—Pie-bleue à calotte noire
Ge—Blauelster Sw—Blåskata.

Identification: 13½". Easily recognised by *rich black cap* extending to nape and below eyes, *blue wings* with black inner edges to primaries, and long, graduated *blue tail*. Upper-parts brownish-grey, under-parts pale, with grey-brown flanks. Behaviour confident and perky, roaming the country in noisy bands. Actions resemble Magpie's.

Voice: A querulous "zhreee," with rising inflection.

Habitat and Range: Gardens, orchards, olive groves and woods, particularly where ilex and pine are abundant. Builds open nest, usually in fork of pine, ilex, poplar or oak. Breeds in scattered groups. Resident in central and S. Spain, Portugal.

NUTCRACKER *Nucifraga caryocatactes* page 199

Du—Notenkraker Fr—Casse-noix moucheté
Ge—Tannenhäher Sw—Nötkråka

Identification: 12½". Dark chocolate brown, *boldly speckled with white*. Long, heavy, blackish bill. Very conspicuous *white under tail-coverts*, with broad white border to under-side of shortish black tail (upper side shows only narrow white tip). Wings blackish and very broad in flight. Flight Jay-like. Often in small parties, except in breeding season. Likes perching on tree-tops.

Voice: A harsh "kror" and a loud, rasping "krair," often repeated fairly quickly 4-6 times, also a Jay-like "skraaak." In breeding season various croaks, clicks and mewing notes.

Habitat: Mainly coniferous forests in mountains regions, also deciduous woods in winter. Breeds in conifers. Map below.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Du—Vlaamse gaai Fr—Geai des chênes
Ge—Eichelhäher Sw—Nötskrika

page 199

Identification: 13½". Pinkish-brown body, *white rump contrasting with black tail*, bold white patch on wings, *blue and black barred wing*



← MAGPIE
Resident

NUTCRACKER →
Mainly resident,
but at times Siberian
race invades Europe as
far as Britain, S. France



BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

page 215

Du—Pimpelmees

Fr—Mésange bleue

Ge—Blaumeise

Sw—Blåmes

Identification: 4½". The only tit with *bright cobalt-blue crown, wings and tail*. Yellow under-parts; white cheeks with black line through eye and around nape and cheek to blue-black chin; white edging to crown, white spot on nape; greenish back. Juvenile has greenish-brown upper-parts, yellow cheeks. Behaviour like Great Tit.

Voice: Varied call notes, "tsee-tsee-tsee-tsit," etc., and a harsh, scolding "chur-r-r." Song, a high "tsee-tsee," followed by a long trill.

Habitat: As Great Tit. Map below.

AZURE TIT *Parus cyanus*

page 215

Du—Lazuurmees

Fr—Mésange azurée

Ge—Lasurmeise

Sw—Azurmes

Identification: 5¼". Resembles a whitish Blue Tit with a rather long tail. Distinguished by *snow white head*, with narrow dark blue stripe through eye to dark blue collar, grey-blue upper-parts, *white* under-parts, with small blue streak or patch on breast, *broad white inverted "V" on dark wing* and conspicuous white on outer tail-feathers. Juvenile has grey crown and is greyer above.

Voice: Call-note recalls Long-tailed Tit's low "tsirr"; alarm a loud "tcherpink."

Habitat and Range: Trees (notably willow) and bushes along stream and river banks and around ponds. Vagrant from U.S.S.R. to central Europe and W. to Holland, France.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

page 215

Du—Zwarte mees

Fr—Mésange noire

Ge—Tannenmeise

Sw—Svartmes

Identification: 4½". Slightly smaller than Blue Tit. The only black-crowned tit with *bold white patch on nape*. Cheeks dingy white; chin to upper breast black; upper-parts olive-grey, with narrow double white wing-bar; under-parts whitish, with buff flanks. Juvenile has yellowish cheeks, under-parts and spot on nape. Less obtrusive than Great Tit.



← GREAT TIT
Partial migrant in
northern part of
range



BLUE TIT →
Partial migrant in
northern part of
range

- o **Voice:** A clear, thin "tsu-i" or "tsee" with a short twitter, also a scolding "chi-chi-chich," and a thin "sissi-sissi-sissi." Some notes very like Goldcrest's. Song, a repeated clear "seetoo," or "seetooee," more rapid and less strident than similar notes of Great Tit.
Habitat: Shows some preference for conifers. Nests in holes in banks and tree stumps, usually near ground. Map below.

CRESTED TIT *Parus cristatus* page 215

Du—Kuifmees Fr—Mésange huppée
 Ge—Haubenmeise Sw—Tofsmes

Identification: 4½". Easily distinguished by *prominent, speckled black and whitish crest and distinctive voice*. Face whitish with curved black mark from eye behind cheek, narrow black collar and bib. Upper-parts warm greyish-brown, under-parts whitish, with buff flanks. Sometimes seeks food on tree trunks, like Tree Creeper. Less sociable than most other tits.

Voice: A short, low-pitched, purring "choor-r-r," reminiscent of Long-tailed Tit, but deeper-toned. Also a repeated, high thin "tzee-tzee-tzee."

Habitat: Usually pine woods, but also mixed woods and thickets. Nests in holes in decayed trees, fence posts, etc. Map below.

SIBERIAN TIT *Parus cinctus* page 215

Du—Arctische zwartkopmees Fr—Mésange à plastron
 Ge—Lapplandsmeise Sw—Lappmes

Identification: 5½". Has distinctly "dusty" and *fluffy appearance*, unlike neatness of most tits. Crown and nape *dusky brown*, upper-parts paler, slightly rufous; face and under-parts dingy white, with slightly rufous flanks and sooty-black throat-patch merging indistinctly into breast. Easily distinguished from smaller Marsh and Willow Tits by obviously brown cap.

Voice: Resembles Willow Tit.

Habitat: Almost exclusively in birch, or birch and coniferous forests. Nests in old woodpecker holes, or excavates holes in soft dead trees. Map p 208.



← COAL TIT
*Partial migrant in
 northern part of
 range*



CRESTED TIT →
Mainly resident

SOMBRE TIT *Parus lugubris*

page.215

Du—Rouwmees

Fr—Mésange lugubre

Ge—Trauermeise

Identification: 5½". Patterned like Willow Tit, but much larger, sides darker and bill very heavy for a tit, giving rather impression of Great Tit. *Crown and nape sooty brownish-black* (female's more chocolate-brown), upper-parts grey-brown, *face and sides of neck whitish*, under-parts dull whitish with greyish-brown flanks and large black throat-patch. Behaviour as in Great Tit, but seldom joins mixed flocks in winter.

Voice: A repeated "sirrah."

Habitat: Lowland plains and mountain slopes with mixed woods and rocky outcrops. Nests in holes in trees, occasionally among rocks. Map below.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

page 215

Du—Glanskopmees

Fr—Mésange nonnette

Ge—Sumpfmeise

Sw—Kärrmeis

Identification: 4½". Has black cap and chin. Distinguished from Coal Tit by having *no white patch on nape*, no wing-bars and browner upper-parts; from very similar Willow Tit by *glossy black crown* (instead of dull sooty), *absence of light patch on closed wing*, and distinctive call note. Cheeks and under-parts dull greyish-white. Juvenile greyer above, with dull sooty crown, not distinguishable from young Willow Tit. Seldom more than two together in mixed winter flocks of tits.

Voice: Most distinctive. A loud "pitchew," or "piti-chewee"; other notes are a deep, nasal "tchair," and a scolding "chick-adeedeede." Song varies from a repeated single musical note, to four- or five-note phrases such as "pitchaweeoo."

Habitat: Deciduous woods, hedges, thickets, etc., less often gardens. No particular fondness for marshes. Nests in existing holes in trees, usually willows or alders. Map p 209.



← SIBERIAN TIT
Mainly resident

SOMBRE TIT →
Resident. Vagrant
Italy



WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

page 215

Du—Matkopmees

Fr—Mésange boréale

Ge—Weidenmeise

Sw—Talltita

N.Am—Black-capped Chickadee

Identification: 4½". Very like Marsh Tit, but distinguished by *dull, sooty black crown, pale patch* formed by light edges to secondary wing feathers (less visible in summer) and *distinctive call-note*. Flanks darker buff than Marsh, and black bib usually rather larger; juveniles are indistinguishable. Northern race *P. a. borealis* is paler, with pure white cheeks.

Voice: Usual notes, a nasal, buzzing "eez-eez-eez," and a very high thin "zi-zi-zi" and a loud "chay." Song (seldom heard) said to be a weak, short, warbling twitter.

Habitat: More fond of swampy thickets than Marsh Tit, where it can find rotting stumps. Excavates nest cavities in rotted alder, birch, willow, etc. Map below.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

page 215

Du—Staartmees

Fr—Mésange à longue-queue

Ge—Schwanzmeise

Sw—Stjærtmes

Identification: 5½" (incl. tail 3"). Unmistakable *blackish, whitish and pinkish plumage, long graduated tail* and distinctive note. British race *A. c. rosaceus* and the W. and S. European races have head white, with bold blackish stripe over eye; mixed pink and black upper-parts; whitish below, with pinkish flanks and belly; black wings and tail with pure white outer tail-feathers. Juvenile has dark cheeks and no pink. Northern race *A. c. caudatus* has pure white head, neck and under-parts. Behaviour restless and acrobatic.

Voice: A distinctive, low "tupp," a repeated, trilling "tsirrup" and a weak "tzee-tzee-tzee." Infrequent song, a mixture of call notes and rapid "see-see-siu."

Habitat: Thickets, bushy heaths, coppices, hedgerows; also woods in winter. Builds ovoid mossy nest, usually in gorse, thorn or bramble bushes. Map p 210.



← MARSH TIT
Mainly resident



WILLOW TIT →
Mainly resident

PENDULINE TIT *Remiz pendulinus* page. 215

Du—Buidelmees

Fr—Rémiz penduline

Ge—Beutelmeise

Sw—Pungmes

Identification: 4½". Easily distinguished by striking greyish-white head and throat, with *broad black patch across face*. Back *chestnut*; belly buffish-white. Juvenile mainly pale ash-brown, without black or chestnut markings.

Voice: Usual note a soft, plaintive "seeou," recalling Robin, and a conversational "tsi-tsi-tsi."

Habitat: Marshy localities, thickets, along dykes, etc., but locally also in dry regions. Builds ovoid nest with funnel-shaped entrance, suspended in outer twigs of bush or tree and in reeds. Map below.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* page 215

Du—Baardmannetje

Fr—Mésange à moustaches

Ge—Bartmeise

Sw—Skäggmes

Identification: 6½". Distinguished by *tawny upper-parts, long tawny tail* and pinkish-grey under-parts. Male has ash-grey head with striking black "moustaches" and conspicuous black under tail-coverts. Female is paler, with tawny head, no "moustaches," and no black. Juvenile has dark back, wing-coverts and sides of tail. Flight laboured, undulating, with distinctively spread tail. Acrobatic in reed-beds.

Voice: A distinctive, twanging "tching," a scolding "p'whut," a squeaky "cheeu," etc.

Habitat: Extensive and secluded reed-beds. Nests low down near edge of wet reed-bed. Map p 211.

NUTHATCHES : Sittidae

MUCH STOUTER THAN CREEPERS, with strong, woodpecker-like bills and with large, powerful feet. Climb trees (or rocks) upwards or downwards, without using stubby tails as prop. Sexes similar. Nest in holes.



← LONG-TAILED
TIT
Partial migrant



PENDULINE
TIT →
Has bred Latvia,
Switzerland;
Wanders in winter;
apparently absent
from parts of cen.
and S.E. Europe

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

page 214

Du—Boomklever

Fr—Sittelle torchepot

Ge—Kleiber

Sw—Nötväcka

Identification: 5½". A stubby, active, tree climbing bird, with a powerful pointed bill. Distinguished by *blue-grey crown and upper-parts, buff under-parts with chestnut flanks*, white cheeks and throat, bold black streak through eye. Juvenile lacks chestnut. Climbs trees in short jerks, in any direction including *downwards*. Hammers nuts wedged in bark. Tail is *not* used as support. Under-parts are whiter in Scandinavian race *S. e. europaea*. See also Rock Nuthatch.

Voice: A ringing, metallic "*chwit, chwit, chwit*," a repeated "*tsit*," a shrill, trilling "*tsirrr*," etc. Song, a repeated, loud "*tui*," a long, trilling "*chi-chi-chi-chi*," "*qui-qui, qui-qui*," etc.

Habitat: Old deciduous trees in woods, parks, gardens. Nests in holes in trees, occasionally in walls, bird-boxes, etc., plastering entrance hole and crevices with mud. Map below.

CORSIKAN NUTHATCH *Sitta Whiteheadi*

page 214

Du—Corsicaanse boomklever

Fr—Sittelle corse

Sw—Korsikansk nötväcka

N.Am—Red-breasted Nuthatch

Identification: 4½". Much smaller than common Nuthatch. Distinguished by *black crown and broad stripe through eye, and broad, sharply defined white stripe above eye*. Under-parts dingy *whitish*. Female is duller, with slate-grey crown.

Voice: More nasal and more subdued than common Nuthatch; a weak "*pupupupu*"; a louder, ascending "*pooi*"; less frequently a loud "*quee, quee, quee*," thinner than similar call of common Nuthatch.

Habitat and Range: Confined to mountain forests and groves of Corsica. Excavates nest holes in rotting trees.

ROCK NUTHATCH *Sitta neumayer*

page 214

Du—Rotsklever

Fr—Sittelle des rochers

Ge—Felsenkleiber

Sw—Klippnötväcka

Identification: 5½". Very different in habitat from other nuthatches



← BEARDED TIT
Wanders in winter.
Vagrant Denmark,
Belgium, Switzer-
land, Finland

NUTHATCH →
Resident. Vagrant
Finland



frequenting bare rocks, but perches occasionally in trees. Resembles *very faded* common Nuthatch, with *whitish* under-parts, *brownish-buff* (not chestnut) flanks and under tail-coverts and grey tail *without white markings*. Actions as common Nuthatch.

Voice: Shrill and high-pitched, lacking rich quality of common Nuthatch: an unmusical "*hwick*," accelerating to a very rapid trill and slowing again.

Habitat: Rocky gorges, mountainsides, cliffs. Breeds in caves and crannies in rocks, plastering entrance with mud, to form short funnel. Map below.

CREEPERS : Certhiidae

ACTIVE LITTLE BIRDS with long, slender, curved bills. Usually seen creeping up tree trunks. Sexes similar.

TREE CREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

page 214

Fr—Grimpereau des bois

Ge—Waldbaumläufer

Sw—Trädkrypare

N.Am—Brown Creeper

Identification: 5". A small, *brown*, tree-climbing bird. Easily distinguished from woodpeckers and nuthatches by small size, *thin curved bill* and distinctive behaviour. Brown upper-parts, streaked with buff; silvery white under-parts. Climbs up trees spirally in short spurts, with stiff tail pressed against bark. Travels with tits in winter.

Voice: A thin, high-pitched "*tsee*" or "*tsit*." Song weak, high-pitched, starting slowly and accelerating: "*tsee-tsee-tsee-tsizzi-tsee*."

Habitat: Woodlands, parks, gardens with large trees. Nests behind loose bark, in split trees, behind ivy, etc. In central and S. Europe prefers mountain woodlands and avoids lowlands. Map p 213.



← ROCK
NUTHATCH
Resident

WALL CREEPER →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant to Eng-
land, Corsica,
Malta



SHORT-TOED TREE CREEPER *Certhia brachydactyla* page 214

Du—Boomkruiper Fr—Grimpereau des jardins
Ge—Gartenbaumläufer Sw—Kortload trädkrypare

Identification: Not always safely distinguishable in the field from common Tree Creeper, except by *voice* and *distribution*, but is less rusty on rump and has *brownish flanks* (a fairly good field mark). Bill usually slightly longer and more curved and claws shorter than common Tree Creeper's.

Voice: Distinguished from Tree Creeper's by louder, fuller quality, often recalling Coal Tit. Song lacks Tree Creeper's thin, high-pitched notes: a rhythmic "teet, teet, teeteroittitt."

Habitat: Gardens, parks, coppices, avoiding heavy woodlands. In central and S. Europe common Tree Creeper usually restricted to mountains and regions above 3,000 ft., whereas Short-toed occurs from 5,000 ft. to sea level. Map below.

WALL CREEPER *Tichodroma muraria* page 214

Du—Muurkruiper Fr—Tichodrome échelette
Ge—Mauerläufer Sw—Murkrypare

Identification: 6½". Easily distinguished by *brilliant crimson* on blackish rounded wings. Has grey upper-parts, short tail and long, slender, curved bill. *Large white spots* on edges of wings and tail. Throat and breast black in summer, whitish in winter. Has spasmodic, butterfly-flight; very broad wings constantly flicked while seeking food on rock faces or old buildings. Juvenile like adults in winter, but brownish, with straighter bill.

Voice: A thin, piping "da-du-dia-doi," on ascending scale, or a loud and melodious "zizizitui"; usually sings while climbing.

Habitat: Rocky ravines, earth cliffs, ruins. Breeds in deep crevices, on inland cliff face, in rocks, occasionally in buildings, usually from about 6,000 ft. to snow-line, wintering in rocky valleys and foothills. Map p 212.



← TREE CREEPER
Mainly resident

SHORT-TOED
TREE CREEPER →
Mainly resident



GOLDCRESTS, DIPPER, WREN, CREEPERS, AND NUTHATCHES

- **GOLDCREST** page 256
 Tiny; orange or yellow crown.
 No sharp stripe through eye.
- **FIRECREST** 257
 From Goldcrest by sharp black and white eye-
 stripes.
- **DIPPER** 216
 Portly; dark, with white "bib," short tail.
- **WREN** 216
 Tiny, rotund, brown; tail usually cocked.
- **TREE CREEPER** 212
 Slender, with curved bill; streaked brown with
 rusty rump; silvery white under-parts.
- SHORT-TOED TREE CREEPER** 213
 Nearly identical with Tree Creeper, but flanks
 brownish. Safely separated only by voice and
 distribution (see text and maps).
- △ **WALL CREEPER** 213
 Large crimson wing-patches; very rounded wings.
- **NUTHATCH** 211
 Stumpy; short tail, sharp bill, blue-grey back.
 Scandinavian form is whiter below.
- CORSICAN NUTHATCH** 211
 Small. White stripe over eye; black cap (male).
 Corsica.
- ROCK NUTHATCH** 211
 Paler than Nuthatch, larger bill, no spots on tail.
 Balkans, Greece.



GOLDCREST



FIRECREST



DIPPER



WREN



TREE CREEPER



SHORT-TOED TREE CREEPER



Summer

Winter

below

WALL CREEPER



Scandinavian form

NUTHATCH



CORSICAN NUTHATCH



ROCK NUTHATCH



GREAT



COAL



BLUE



MARSH



WILLOW

Northern form



AZURE



SOMBRE



SIBERIAN



CRESTED



BEARDED



LONG-TAILED

Northern form



PENDULINE

TITS



SMALL birds with stubby bills; extremely active, often hanging upside down in their busy search for food. Most true tits (*Parus*, first three rows), have black bibs, white cheeks and black or dark caps. In true tits the sexes are alike.

- **GREAT TIT** page 205
Black stripe on belly.
- **COAL TIT** 206
White spot on nape.
- **BLUE TIT** 206
Blue cap, yellowish under-parts.
- **MARSH TIT** 208
Glossy black cap, small "bib"; no light edging on wing.
- **WILLOW TIT** 209
Dull black cap, light area on wing formed by feather edgings. Scandinavian form is much paler, with whiter cheeks.
- **AZURE TIT** 206
White cap, white under-parts, much white on wing.
- **SOMBRE TIT** 208
Large, drab, with large bill; Balkans.
- **SIBERIAN TIT** 207
Brown cap, "dusty" appearance; far North.
- **CRESTED TIT** 207
Crest, "bridled" face pattern.
- **BEARDED TIT** 210
Male: Black "moustaches," very long tail.
Female: No "moustaches," brown, very long tail.
- **LONG-TAILED TIT** 209
White crown-stripe, or white head; very long tail.
- **PENDULINE TIT** 210
Black mask through eyes, rusty back.

WRENS : Troglodytidae

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

page 214

Du—Winterkoning

Fr—Troglodyte mignon

Ge—Zaunkönig

Sw—Gärdsmyg

N.Am—Winter Wren

Identification: 3½". A small, plump, closely barred brown bird with a *short cocked tail*. Extremely active; forages among litter on ground like a mouse, catches insects among vegetation like a warbler. Flight whirring and direct.

Voice: A loud, hard "tit-tit-tit," becoming a harsh churring when alarmed. Song, a prolonged, breathless jingle of strident but not unmusical notes and high trills. Sings almost all the year.

Habitat: Low cover, in gardens, thickets, woods, rocks, etc. Builds globular nest in hedges, hay-ricks, holes in trees, banks, or buildings. Map below.

DIPPERS : Cinclidae

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

page 214

Du—Waterspreeuw

Fr—CinCle plongeur

Ge—Wasseramsel

Sw—Strömstare

Identification: 7". A stout bird, wren-like in shape but much larger, with rather large sturdy legs; short tail often cocked. Blackish with *white breast*, bordered below by dark chestnut merging into black in British race *C. c. gularis*, but Continental races lack chestnut. Sexes alike. Juvenile slate-grey above, mottled grey and white below. "Bobs" spasmodically, perched on rock in stream. Plunges or walks into water, remaining submerged to feed on bottom; swims on or under water. Flight usually low, rapid and direct, following streams. Solitary, on same strip of water all the year.



← WREN
Partial migrant

DIPPER →
Mainly resident.
Has bred Denmark
In winter extends
over Finland,
Estonia, Sweden,
Denmark



Voice: A short "zit," or, in flight, a metallic "clink." Song, a succession of short, high grating and explosive notes interspersed with liquid warbling. Sings nearly all year.

Habitat: Swift hill streams; occasionally visits coasts in winter. Builds large globular nest in crevices under waterfalls, bridges, banks; invariably very near running water. Map p 216.

THRUSHES, WHEATEARS, CHATS, Etc. : Turdidae

RATHER LONG-LEGGED, UPSTANDING SONG BIRDS. Bills pointed, slender or fairly slender. Eyes rather large. Tails usually square-ended. Usually migratory. Most juveniles more or less spotted.

SIBERIAN THRUSH *Turdus sibiricus* page 222

Du—Siberische lijster Fr—Merle sibérien

Ge—Sibirische Drossel Sw—Sibirisk trast

Identification: 9". Male identified by *slaty-black* plumage, *conspicuous white eye-stripe* and white centre to belly. Female has olive-brown upper-parts, buffish eye-stripe, buffish-white under-parts closely spotted with brown. In flight both sexes show *conspicuous white band across under-sides of wings*, providing easy distinction from somewhat similar Dusky and Black-throated Thrushes. Vagrant from Asia westwards across Europe to Norway, France, Italy, Scotland.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* page 222

Du—Grote lijster Fr—Grive draine

Ge—Misteldrossel Sw—Dubbeltrast

Identification: 10½". Distinguished from much smaller Song Thrush and Redwing by *greyish-brown upper-parts, closely spotted under-parts* and more upright stance, with raised head. Shows white beneath wings in flight, like Fieldfare, but readily distinguished from it by *greyish* instead of chestnut back, brownish-grey instead of grey rump, *buffish-white* instead of rusty breast and *paler tail* with whitish tips to outer feathers. Juvenile strongly spotted above. Behaviour shy. Strong flight like Fieldfare's, but with longer, more regular wing closures. See also rare White's Thrush.

Voice: A dry, rasping chatter, a hard "tuc-tuc-tuc" and a thin Redwing-like "see-ip." Song is loud, somewhat Blackbird-like, but lacks mellowness and variety, repeating short, rather similar phrases. Sings in all weathers, from tree-tops.

Habitat: Large gardens, orchards, woods. Nests in bare fork in tree. Small flocks roam open country and fields in autumn. Map p 218.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

page 222

Du—Kramsvogel

Fr—Grive litorne

Ge—Wacholderdrossel

Sw—Björktrast

Identification: 10". Slightly smaller than Mistle Thrush, much larger than Song Thrush and Redwing. Distinguished by *pale grey head and rump, chestnut back* and almost black tail. Throat and breast rusty yellow, streaked with black, flanks heavily mottled with black. In flight, grey rump, white beneath wings and flight-call are distinctive. Flight less undulating than Mistle Thrush's. Has alert, upright attitude on ground. Gregarious.

Voice: A harsh, chattering "*tchak-tchak-tchak*" and a quiet "*see.*" Song, a rapid mixture of feeble squeaking notes; frequently in flight.

Habitat: Winters in open country, seeking food in fields and along hedges. Breeds usually colonially near clearings or margins of woods, particularly in birch, occasionally on buildings and haystacks; on ground above tree limit. Map below.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

page 222

Du—Zanglijster

Fr—Grive musicienne

Ge—Singdrossel

Sw—Taltrast

Identification: 9". A brown-backed bird, with a spotted breast. Distinguished from Mistle Thrush and Fieldfare by much smaller size, uniform *brown upper-parts* and yellowish-buff breast and flanks, with *small spots*; from Redwing by *lack of chestnut on flanks and beneath wings* and lack of prominent eye-stripe. Shows *buff* beneath wings. Often feeds on open ground, running spasmodically.

Voice: A loud "*tchuck,*" or "*tchick,*" repeated rapidly as alarm; flight-call a soft "*sip*" (shorter than Redwing's call). Song loud and musical, the short, varied phrases *repeated 2-4 times*, between brief pauses.

Habitat: Around human habitation, parks, woods and hedges. Nests in bushes, hedges, ivy, etc., occasionally in buildings. Map p 219.



← MISTLE THRUSH
Partial migrant

FIELDFARE →
Has bred Holland,
France. Partial
migrant, sometimes
reaching Sardinia
and Malta



REDWING *Turdus musicus* page 222

Du—Koperwiek Fr—Grive mauvis
Ge—Rotdrossel Sw—Rödvingetrast

Identification: 8½". Smallest common thrush. Resembles Song Thrush, but distinguished by *conspicuous creamy eye-stripe*, rich *chestnut* flanks, *streaked* (not spotted) breast and flanks and, in flight, by *chestnut* (not buff) beneath wings. Gregarious, roaming countryside with Fieldfares in winter. See also rare Dusky Thrush.

Voice: Distinctive note (often during night migration) a thin "see-ip"; also a harsh "chittuc." Song varies greatly locally; a repeated phrase of 4-6 fluty notes, rising or falling, typically "trui-trui-trui-troo-tri," followed by a weak, warbling sub-song.

Habitat: Winters in open country and light woods. Nests on tree stumps, wood-stacks, in trees or bushes, on ground, etc., in light woods, marshy localities, often on edges of Fieldfare colonies. Map below.

EYE-BROWED THRUSH *Turdus obscurus* page 222

Du—Vale lijster Fr—Merle obscur
Ge—Weissbrauendrossel

Identification: 7½". Look for combination of *grey* upper breast and *orange-buff* sides of breast and flanks. Olive-brown upper-parts with greyish crown, a *conspicuous white stripe above eye* and a wide white patch below eye to chin. Female is duller. Vagrant from Siberia to central Europe and W. to Belgium, France, Italy.

NAUMANN'S THRUSH *Turdus naumanni* page 222

Du—Naumann's lijster Fr—Merle de Naumann
Ge—Naumannsdrossel Sw—Naumanns trast

Identification: 9". Naumann's and Dusky Thrushes probably interbreed, therefore may be conspecific. Naumann's is distinguished by *chestnut*, instead of blackish, on breast, flanks and tail. Male has grey-brown upper-parts with *chestnut on wings*. Female is browner above, much paler below, with blackish spots on breast and flanks. Vagrant from Asia to central Europe, W. to Norway, Britain, France, Italy.



← SONG THRUSH
Partial migr. Often
winters S. Sweden.
Vagrant Faeroes



REDWING →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Scotland,
Belgium, Germany,
Austria, Czecho.
(where few winter)

DUSKY THRUSH *Turdus eunomus*page 222^o

Du—Bruine lijster

Fr—Grive à ailes rousses

Ge—Rostflügeldrossel

Sw—Sibirisk rödvingetrast

Identification: 9". Distinguished from commoner European thrushes by *blackish breast-band and flanks* (whitish fringes giving strongly "scaly" or spotted effect in winter), broad *chestnut* areas on upper as well as lower surfaces of wings and *conspicuous whitish eye-stripe*. Distinguished from Redwing by blackish breast and flanks and chestnut on upper surfaces of wings; from Naumann's (with which it may be conspecific) by *blackish* instead of chestnut on breast and flanks and *blackish* instead of chestnut tail. Vagrant from Asia westwards across Europe to Norway, Britain, France, Italy.

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis*

page 222

Du—Zwarthalslijster

Fr—Grive à gorge noire

Ge—Schwarzkehldrossel

Sw—Svarthalsad trast

Identification: 9½". Male has *black throat and upper breast* (partly obscured by whitish fringes in winter), uniform grey-brown upper-parts, narrow blackish eye-stripe, dingy white under-parts. Female browner above, with whitish throat and breast closely spotted or streaked with black. In flight shows *rusty-buff* beneath wings. Behaviour like Fieldfare. Eastern form, Red-throated Thrush *T. r. ruficollis*, has black throat of *T. r. atrogularis* replaced by brick red.

Voice: Usual note said to resemble chuckling Blackbird alarm.

Habitat and Range: Winters in open country and sheltered areas near cultivation. Vagrant from Asia and Russia westwards across Europe to Norway, Britain, France, Italy.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

page 222

Du—Beflijster

Fr—Merle à plastron

Ge—Ringdrossel

Sw—Ringtrast

Identification: 9½". Unmistakable. Male has uniform dull black plumage, with a *broad white crescent* across breast; winter plumage has light feather edges, giving "scaly" appearance. Female is browner, with narrower, duller crescent. Juvenile has no crescent and looks like very spotty young Blackbird. Flight rapid, dodging behind rocks when approached. Distinguished from occasional pied Blackbird by *grey patch on closed wing-feathers*.

Voice: A clear, piping "pee-u," and a scolding Blackbird-like "tac-tac-tac." Song, a few double or treble notes, "tcheru," "tchivi," "ti-cho-o," etc. repeated 3-4 times, between pauses, interspersed with chuckling notes.

Habitat: Hilly moorlands and mountains, usually above 1,000 ft. Breeds among heather, juniper, rocks, often by track or stream; also within tree limit on Continent. Map p. 221.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

page 222

Du—Merel

Fr—Merle noir

Ge—Amsel

Sw—Koltrast

Identification: 10". Male, a sturdy *all-black* bird, with *bright orange-yellow bill and eye-rim*. Female is uniform dark brown above, paler red-brown below, with whitish chin and brown bill. Juvenile more rufous and more mottled. Immature male brownish black with blackish bill. Occasional part-albino males distinguished from Ring Ouzel by lack of pale wing-patch and by difference in voice. Feeds on ground. Tail is raised and fanned and wings drooped on alighting.

Voice: A screeching chatter, when flushed; a persistent mobbing note "tchink, tchink, tchink"; an anxious "tchook"; a thin "tsee," etc. Song, a deliberate, loud and melodious warbling, easily distinguished from Song Thrush's by purer, fluty notes, *lack of repetitive habit* and characteristic "collapse" into weak, unmusical ending.

Habitat: Woodlands, hedges, gardens, bushy commons, etc. Nests in hedges, wood-piles, sheds, etc. Map below.

WHITE'S (GOLDEN MOUNTAIN) THRUSH *Turdus dauma* page 222

Du—Goudlijster

Fr—Merle doré

Ge—Erddrossel

Sw—Guldrast

Identification: 10½". Large as a Mistle Thrush. Distinguished by rich, *golden-brown* plumage patterned with black *crescent-shaped* tips to feathers of head and body. In flight, *bold black and white bands beneath wings* are distinctive. Flight deeply undulating. Distinguished from young "spotty" Mistle Thrush by black and white markings beneath wings and by golden appearance (instead of greyish).

Voice: Said to have quiet, Bullfinch-like call.

Habitat and Range: Normally in deep forest with heavy undergrowth. Vagrant from Asia westwards across Europe to Norway, Britain, Iceland, France, Sardinia.



← RING OUZEL
Has bred Denmark.
Partial migrant. At
times winters in
Italy. Vagrant
Faeroes

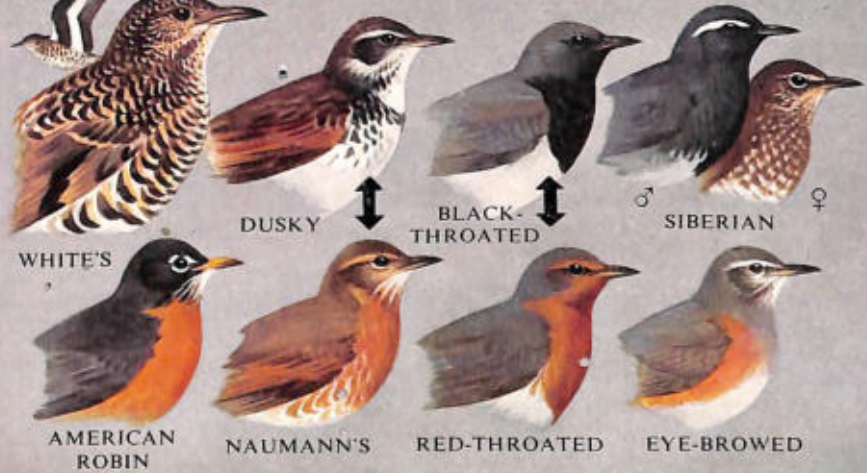


BLACKBIRD →
Partial migrant.
Annual in Iceland

- **BLACKBIRD** page 221
Male: All black; yellow bill. *Female:* Mottled brown.
- **RING OUZEL** 220
 Black, with white breast-crescent.
- **FIELDFARE** 218
 Grey head and rump, rusty back.
- **SONG THRUSH** 218
 Brown, with spotted breast, buff wing-linings.
- **MISTLE THRUSH** 217
 Larger, greyer; rounder spots; white wing-linings.
- **REDWING** 219
 Reddish flanks and wing-linings; eye-stripe.
- **WHITE'S THRUSH** 221
 Broad "scaly" pattern above and below.
- △ **DUSKY THRUSH** 220
 Dark smudge on breast, rufous wings. Dusky and Naumann's intergrade: probably conspecific.
- △ **BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** 220
 Dark hood contrasts with whitish below. Black-throated and Red-throated are races of same species.
- △ **SIBERIAN THRUSH** 217
Male: Blackish, with white "eye-brow."
Female: See text.
- △ **AMERICAN ROBIN** 224
 Brick-red breast, blackish head, broken eye-ring.
- NAUMANN'S THRUSH** 219
 Rusty breast, rusty wings.
- RED-THROATED THRUSH** 220
 Rufous breast, rufous throat.
- EYE-BROWED THRUSH** 219
 Grey upper breast, rusty sides.



SOME RARE THRUSHES



- WHEATEAR page 225
Summer ♂: Grey back, white rump, black mask.
Autumn: Brown above, buffish below, white rump.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR 225
Black-throated form: Buff back, black throat.
White-throated form: Buff back, black ear-patches.
- △ PIED WHEATEAR 226
 Black back, black throat.
- △ BLACK WHEATEAR 226
 Black, with white rump.
- REDSTART 228
Male: Rusty tail, orange under-parts, black bib.
Female: Rusty tail, brownish breast.
- BLACK REDSTART 229
Male: Black; rusty tail. *Female*: Slaty; rusty tail.
- STONECHAT 227
Male: Black head, rusty breast, white neck-patch.
Female: Brownish, with suggestion of male's pattern.
- WHINCHAT 227
 Dark cheek with white stripes; white on tail.
- ROBIN 233
 Orange face and breast. Juvenile spotted and barred.
- BLUETHROAT 232
Male: Blue throat, orange tail-patches.
Female: U-shaped necklace, orange tail-patches.
- NIGHTINGALE 229
 Brown back, plain breast, chestnut tail.
- △ THRUSH NIGHTINGALE 232
 Less chestnut in tail, mottled breast.
- △ ROCK THRUSH 224
Male: Blue head, white rump, orange breast and tail. *Female*: Barred breast, orange tail.
- BLUE ROCK THRUSH 224
Male: Slaty blue. *Female*: Barred and spotted.

AMERICAN ROBIN *Turdus migratorius*

page 222

Identification: 10". Has character of Blackbird, with *uniform brick-red breast*, dark grey head and back, *bold white markings around eye* and white tips to outer tail-feathers. Chin white, streaked with black. Bill yellow. Sexes similar, but male has blacker head. See also Naumann's, Red-throated and Eye-browed Thrushes.

Voice: Harsh, scolding call-notes are typically thrush-like.

Habitat and Range: Woodlands and thickets, often seeking human habitation. Vagrant to England, Ireland, Germany, France, Belgium, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia.

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis*

page 223

Du—Rode rotslijster

Fr—Merle de roche

Ge—Steinrütel

Sw—Stentrast

Identification: 7½". In all plumages has *short chestnut tail*, with brown centre. Male in summer has *pale slate-blue head, neck and mantle, white lower back*, blackish wings and *chestnut-orange under-parts*; in winter, colours largely obscured by buffish fringes, giving dull mottled effect. Female has strongly mottled brown upper-parts, sometimes with trace of white on back, and mottled buffish under-parts. Behaviour shy and solitary; perches upright, like Wheatear, with loosely swinging tail, before diving out of sight behind rocks. Easily distinguished from Blue Rock Thrush by *chestnut tail*.

Voice: A moderate "*chack, chack*." Song, a clear, fluty warble, from rock or post and in brief vertical display-flight.

Habitat: Breeds in open rocky regions from 3-8,000 ft., occasionally lower and among trees, or ruins. Map below.

BLUE ROCK THRUSH *Monticola solitarius*

page 223

Du—Blauwe rotslijster

Fr—Merle bleu

Ge—Blaumerle

Sw—Blåtrast

Identification: 8". Slightly larger than Rock Thrush. Male easily distinguished by *deep blue-grey plumage*; in winter looks blackish. Female bluish-brown above, paler below, finely barred with grey-



← ROCK THRUSH
Summer visitor.
Formerly S. Ger-
many. Vagrant
Britain, E. Prussia



BLUE ROCK
THRUSH →
Mainly resident,
leaves N.E. Greece
in winter

brown. Perches on rocks with drooped wings and flaunted, relatively short tail, diving out of sight when approached. Solitary. See also Rock Thrush.

Voice: A hard "tchuck," or a plaintive "tseec." Song is deliberate, loud and fluty, recalling Blackbird's, but is limited in scope; sings from rock, or in vertical display flight.

Habitat: Rocky desert regions and bare mountain-sides. Nests in crevices in rocks, cliffs and buildings. Map p 224.



WHEATEAR IN FLIGHT

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

page 223

Du—Tapuit

Fr—Traquet motteux

Ge—Steinschmätzer

Sw—Stenskvätta

Identification: 5½". Both sexes have conspicuous white rump and sides of tail, contrasting with black centre and tip of tail (like broad inverted "T"). Breeding male has blue-grey back, broad white eye-stripe; black ear-coverts and wings (brownish in autumn); buffish under-parts. Male in autumn is buffer, with brownish back. Female like autumn male. Behaviour restless, flitting across open ground, "bobbing" and waving fanned tail. Greenland race *O. o. leucorrhoea* (which passes through western Europe) is larger, tends to be richer coloured and to perch on trees, but many individuals are not safely identifiable. See also Black-eared Wheatear.

Voice: A hard "chack," "chack-weet," "weet-chack," etc. Song, a brief, lark-like warbling, combining musical and wheezy notes.

Habitat: Downs, moors, hilly pastures, cliffs, dunes. Nests in holes in walls, rabbit warrens, stone heaps, etc. Map p 226.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica*

page 223

Du—Blonde tapuit

Fr—Traquet oreillard

Ge—Mittelmeersteinschmätzer

Sw—Rödstenskvätta

Identification: 5½". Males are dimorphic, occurring either with a black patch through eye and cheek and a whitish throat, or with the black face extending to the whole throat. Body very pale sandy-buff, with whiter crown and rump, buff breast and whitish under-parts. Wings and scapulars conspicuously black. Tail white with black centre feathers and tip. Autumn plumage buffer. Female resembles common Wheat-

ear, but distinguished by *sandier* upper-parts, *blacker* wings and more white on tail; indistinguishable from female Pied, though usually paler above. Perches readily on trees.

Voice: A rasping note followed by a plaintive whistle. Song rapid and high-pitched, "*schwer, schwee, schwee-oo*" in circling display flight and from perch.

Habitat: Open or lightly wooded arid country and stony mountain slopes. Usually breeds in holes among rocks, walls, etc. Map below.

PIED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe leucomela* page 223

Du—Bonte tapuit Fr—Traquet pie
Ge—Nonnensteinschmätzer Sw—Nunnestenskvätta

Identification: 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Male distinguished from other European wheatears by *black back and breast* and whitish under-parts. Crown and nape white in summer, earthy brown in winter. White on outer tail-feathers sometimes extends nearly to tip, but centre pair is black from near base right to tip. Wings and coverts black in summer, edged pale buffish in winter. Female in summer indistinguishable from female Black-eared, though back and wings usually more earthy brown. Often feeds shrike-fashion from perch on bush or tree.

Voice: A harsh "*zack*." Song resembles Black-eared, but more variable.

Habitat and Range: Stony barrens, rocky hill-sides with a few bushes. Nests in holes in stream banks, among tree roots and stones. Summer visitor, breeding S.E. Roumania. Vagrant to Scotland, Heligoland, Italy.

BLACK WHEATEAR *Oenanthe leucura* page 223

Du—Zwarte tapuit Fr—Traquet rieur
Ge—Trauersteinschmätzer Sw—Sorgstenskvättä

Identification: 7". Easily identified by *large size* and striking, slightly glossy, *black plumage*, with white rump, under tail-coverts and sides of tail. Female like male but duller, brownish-black. See also White-rumped Black Wheatear (Accidentals p299).



← WHEATEAR
Summer visitor

BLACK-EARED
WHEATEAR →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Brit. Is.,
Heligoland, Holl.,
Switz., Austria



Voice: Song, a brief, but sweet warble, beginning and ending with a chatter.

Habitat: Rocky deserts and mountainous regions. Nests in holes among rocks, frequently screening entrance with a little wall of pebbles. Map below.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* page 223

Du—Roodborsttapuit Fr—Tarier pâtre
Ge—Schwarzkehlchen Sw—Svarthakad buskskvätta

Identification: 5". Plumper and more upright than Whinchat. Male has distinctive *black head and throat, with broad white half collar* and narrow white wing-stripe; upper-parts dark with whitish patch on rump; under-parts rich chestnut, shading to buff; autumn plumage browner and duller. Female and juvenile upper-parts brown with black streaks, no white on rump, but some black markings on throat; distinguished from Whinchat by lack of eye-stripe, reddish instead of buff breast and lack of white on sides of tail. Perches with constantly jerked wings and tail, on tops of bushes or telegraph wires. Flight low and jerky.

Voice: A persistent scolding "*wheet, tsack, tsack,*" like hitting two stones together, also a clicking note similar to Whinchat's. Song consists of irregular, rapidly repeated double notes, not unlike Dunnock's. Sings from elevated perch or in "dancing" song-flight.

Habitat: As Whinchat but usually more fond of gorse-clad commons and of coastal areas. Map p 228.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* page 223

Du—Paapje Fr—Tarier des prés
Ge—Braunkehlchen Sw—Buskskvätta

Identification: 5". Stocky, short-tailed appearance resembles female Stonechat, but distinguished at all seasons by *prominent eye-stripe, white patches at base of tail* and less upright pose. Male has strongly streaked brown cheeks, crown and upper-parts; *broad white stripe over eye and down side of throat*; white patch across blackish wings;

warm buff throat and breast. Female paler, with buff instead of white eye-stripe, smaller white wing-patches. Juvenile lacks wing-patches. Behaviour like Stonechat.

Voice: A short "*tic-tic,*" "*tu-tic-tic,*" also several clicking and churring notes. Song, a very brief, rather metallic, but pleasing warble, recalling

BLACK
WHEATEAR →
Resident. Vagrant
Britain, Bulgaria



Redstart or Stonechat. Sings from bush-top, occasionally in flight. **Habitat:** Commons, marshes, railway cuttings, open country, with a few bushes, bracken, gorse, etc. On passage in cultivated fields and bushy country. Nests in coarse grass, often at foot of small bush, or large plant. Map below.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* page 229

Identification: Size and shape of Redstart. Male has *blue* upper-parts (bright cobalt on shoulders, rump and tail, darkest on cheeks and sides of neck); creamy under-parts, with *bright orange flanks*; white stripe across forehead and above eyes. Female is olive-brown above, paler below, with bluish rump and tail and orange flanks. Immature resembles young spotted Robin. Extremely shy.

Voice: Call-note a Robin-like "tick-tick." Song is distinctive, beginning and ending very quietly, with a loud, descending, thrush-like phrase "tree-lee, tree-lee" in the middle. Sings day or night, usually from high tree-top.

Habitat and Range: Dense, virgin pine or spruce forests and damp thickets. Nests on ground. Now probably established as summer visitor to eastern Finland. Accidental from central Russia to Shetlands, Italy.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* page 223

Du—Gekraagde roodstaart Fr—Rouge-queue à front blanc

Ge—Gartenrotschwanz Sw—Rödstart

Identification: 5½". Both sexes distinguished at all ages (from all species except Black Redstart) by *constantly flickering rusty tail and rusty rump*. Male has *black face and throat*, white forehead, slate-grey upper-parts, *chestnut* breast and flanks; black throat partly obscured by white fringes in autumn. Female is greyish-brown above, buffish below; juvenile is mottled like young Robin, but with rusty rump and tail; both much paler and browner than female and juvenile Black Redstart. Behaviour much like Robin.

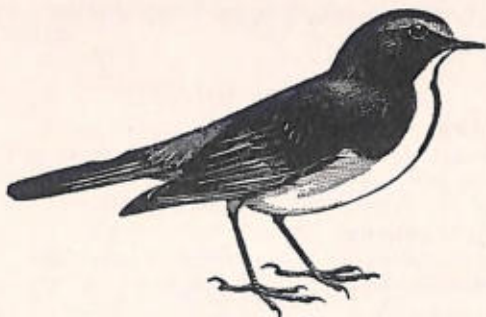
Voice: A rather tremulous "whee-tic-tic," a liquid, "wheet" very like note of Willow Warbler and a clear "tootick." Song, a short, pleasing



← **STONECHAT**
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Scandinavia, Baltic
Provinces, Faeroes



WHINCHAT →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Faeroes



RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL

jingle of hurried, Robin-like, but squeaky notes, ending in a feeble twitter.

Habitat: Woodlands, parks, heaths with bushes and old trees, occasionally ruins. Nests in holes in trees, stone walls, sheds, etc. Map p 232.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* page 223

Du—Zwarte roodstaart Fr—Rouge-queue noir

Ge—Hausrotschwanz Sw—Svart rödstjärt

Identification: 5½". Both sexes at all ages have constantly flickering *rusty tail and rusty rump* (like Redstart), but are much darker, with *blackish* (not chestnut) under-parts and beneath wings, and dark brown centre pair of tail-feathers. Male is sooty black with whitish wing-patch (some young breeding males lack this); plumage is paler in autumn, with partly obscured wing-patch. Female and juvenile resemble dark Redstarts, but have dark greyish instead of buff under-parts. Actions like Redstart, but prefers to perch on buildings or rocks.

Voice: A brief "tsip" and a stuttering "tititic," more incisive than similar call of Redstart. Short, very rapid song is simpler and less musical than Redstart's, introducing curious spluttering, hissing notes. Sings from roof-top or other prominent perch.

Habitat: Cliffs, buildings, rocky slopes, occasionally vineyards, etc. Breeds in holes in walls, rocks, buildings. Map p 232.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* page 223

Du—Nachttegaal Fr—Rossignol philomèle

Ge—Nachtigall Sw—Sydlig näktergal

Identification: 6½". Rather featureless, except for *brownish-chestnut tail, and remarkable song*. Upper-parts uniform warm brown, under-parts whitish brown. Juvenile spotted and mottled like young Robin, but easily distinguished by larger size, chestnut tail and whiter under-parts; distinguished from young Redstart by larger size and much less bright chestnut tail. Behaviour skulking and solitary. Flight and

Brown, marsh or water-loving species.

Field Marks and Habitat

Song

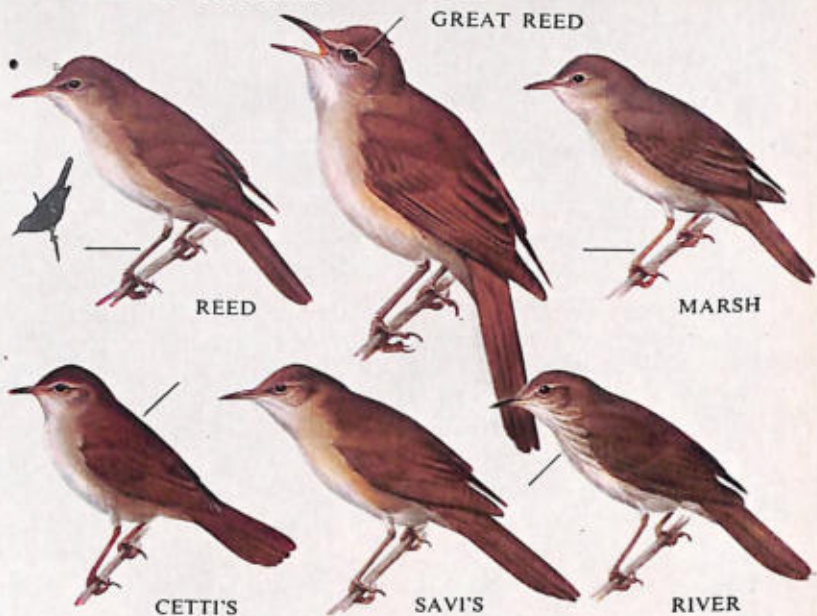
NO STREAKS ON BACK

- **REED WARBLER** page 237
 Brown above, clear buffish-white below, pale eye-ring. *Widespread; Reeds, marshes.*
 Tendency to repeat phrases 2-3 times: "chirruc-chirruc, jag-jag-jag," etc.
- **GREAT REED WARBLER** 236
 Large size, eye-stripe, strident voice. *Reed-beds.*
 Strident "karra-karra, krik-krik, gurk-gurk," etc.
- **MARSH WARBLER** 237
 More olive than Reed W., legs flesh-pink, not dark. *Wet thickets, ditches, crops.*
 More musical and varied than Reed W., with canary-like trills, mimicry, etc.
- △ **CETTI'S WARBLER** 234
 Dark rufous upper-parts. *Dense thickets, bushy ditches.*
 A loud abrupt burst, chiefly repetition of "cheweeoo."
- **SAVI'S WARBLER** 235
 Like large Reed, voice like Grasshopper W. *Swamps.*
 Like reeling trill of Grasshopper W., but lower, briefer.
- RIVER WARBLER** 235
 Soft streaks on breast. *Thickets, dense herbage.*
 Like Grasshopper W., but notes clearly separated.

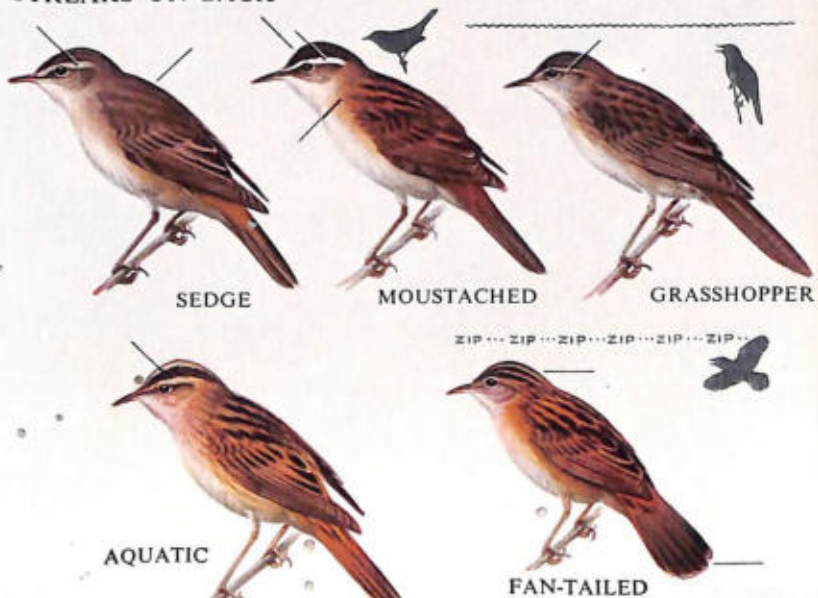
WITH STREAKS ON BACK

- **SEDGE WARBLER** 239
 Streaks, creamy eye-stripe. *Widespread; reeds, wet scrub.*
 More varied than Reed W.; trills, mimicry, chattering.
- △ **MOUSTACHED WARBLER** 236
 From Sedge by darker cap, whiter eye-stripe, rustier back. *Reed-beds, swamps.*
 Recalls Reed; sweeter, includes phrase suggesting Wood Lark's "lu-lu-lu-lu."
- **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** 234
 Obscure eye-stripe. See song. *Marshy undergrowth, scrub.*
 Long mechanical churring or buzzing on one high note.
- **AQUATIC WARBLER** 239
 Buff stripe through crown. *Open marshes, sedge, etc.*
 Very like Sedge Warbler?
- FAN-TAILED WARBLER** 250
 Heavy crown streaks, short tail. *Marshes, crops.*
 Sings in air; lisping "zip . . . zip . . . zip," etc. (or "dzeep")

NO STREAKS ON BACK



STREAKS ON BACK

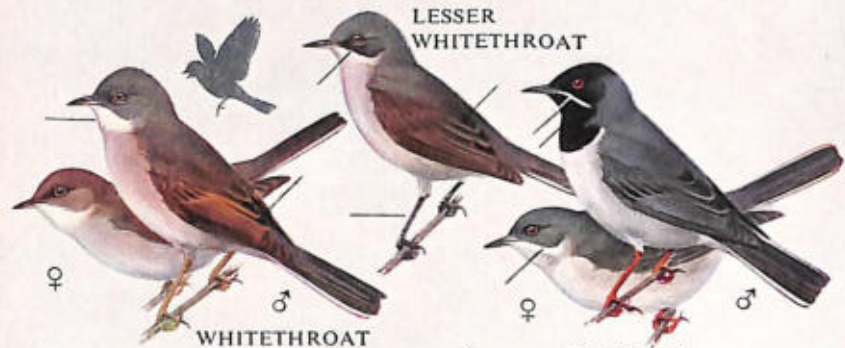




BLACKCAP

ORPHEAN

SARDINIAN



LESSER
WHITETHROAT

WHITETHROAT

RUPPELL'S



SPECTACLED

SUBALPINE

MARMORA'S



DARTFORD

Brown-backed form

Rufous form

BARRED

RUFOUS

Immature

Mostly *Sylvia*. With distinctive marks and "capped" appearance.

Field Marks and Habitat	Song	
● BLACKCAP Black cap to eye, ♂; brown in ♀. <i>Undergrowth, trees.</i>	Rich warbling notes, more varied than Garden W.	page 242
△ ORPHEAN WARBLER Black cap below white eye. <i>Woodlands, orchards, groves.</i>	Mellow thrush-like warble, phrases repeated 4-5 times.	243
△ SARDINIAN WARBLER Black cap below eye, sides grey. <i>Dry thickets, scrub.</i>	Recalls Whitethroat's; longer with staccato <i>cha-cha-cha-cha</i> .	245
● WHITETHROAT White throat, rusty on wings. <i>Bushes, bramble patches.</i>	A short urgent chatter or warble, often in display flight.	244
● LESSER WHITETHROAT Dark cheek, not rusty on wing. <i>Hedgerows, shrubbery.</i>	Unmusical rattling on one note.	244
△ RÜPPELL'S WARBLER Black throat, white moustache. <i>Aegean. Rocky scrub.</i>	Like loud Sardinian: notes interspersed with loud rattle.	244
SPECTACLED WARBLER Like small Whitethroat, pinker breast, darker cheek. <i>Mediterr.; Salicornia, scrub.</i>	Short and Whitethroat-like; quieter, without grating notes.	248
△ SUBALPINE WARBLER Pink breast; moustache. <i>Bushes, woodland glades.</i>	Recalls Sardinian; slower; lacks hard scolding notes.	245
● DARTFORD WARBLER Dark vinous breast, cocked tail. <i>Gorse, low scrub, etc.</i>	Musical chatter with liquid notes; recalls Whitethroat.	248
MARMORA'S WARBLER Dark slaty breast. <i>W. Med. Habitat as Dartford.</i>	Resembles Dartford's, but is less harsh.	249
○ BARRED WARBLER Barred breast. Imm. see text. <i>Thorny thickets, bushes.</i>	Resembles Garden W.; more rapid, briefer phrases.	242
△ RUFIOUS WARBLER Rufous; large fan tail. <i>Mediterr. Gardens, groves.</i>	Musical, disjointed, some phrases recalling Sky Lark.	249

attitudes while feeding on ground, like Robin. See also Thrush Nightingale.

Voice: A liquid "wheet," a loud "tac," a soft, very short "tuc" and a harsh "kerr" of alarm. Song is rich, loud and musical, each note rapidly repeated several times; most characteristic notes, a deep, bubbling "chook-chook-chook" and a slow "piu, piu, piu," rising to a brilliant *crescendo*. Sings day and night, from deep cover, or from low exposed perch.

Habitat: Deciduous lowland woods, moist thickets, tangled hedges. Nest well hidden near ground in brambles, nettles, etc. Map p 233.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* page 223

Du—Noordse nachtegaal Fr—Rossignol progné
Ge—Sprosser Sw—Näktergal

Identification: 6½". Very like Nightingale, but distinguished by darker, more olive-brown appearance, and, at close quarters, by *brownish mottled breast*. Behaviour like Nightingale.

Voice: Call notes like Nightingale's; song even more richly musical, with typical deep "chook-chook-chook" opening; distinguished by absence of rising *crescendo* phrases.

Habitat: Dense and damp thickets, particularly alder and birch, and in swampy undergrowth. Nesting habits like Nightingale's. Map p 233.

BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica* page 223

Du—Blauwborst Fr—Gorge-bleue
Ge—Blaukehlchen Sw—Blåhake

Identification: 5½". Robin-like in form and actions, tail spread and flirited frequently, showing *conspicuous chestnut base*. Male in spring has *bright blue throat-patch*, separated from lower breast by black and chestnut bands. Scandinavian form (Red-spotted Bluethroat, *C. s. svecica*) has *chestnut spot* in centre of throat-patch; central and southern European form (White-spotted Bluethroat, *C. s. cyanecula*) has *white spot*. In autumn, throat is usually whitish, with some blue and a black



← REDSTART
Mainly summer
visitor. Has bred
Ireland. Vagrant
Faeroes

BLACK
REDSTART →
Partial migrant.
Passage Ireland.
Vagrant n. to Ice-
land, Finland



- border and dark breast-band. Female has whitish throat-patch with black streaks at side, merging into an irregular dark necklace or breast-band, often with traces of blue and chestnut. Juvenile like streaky dark young Robin, but distinguished by chestnut base to tail. Females and immatures of Red-spotted and White-spotted forms inseparable in the field; males doubtfully separable in autumn.

Voice: A sharp "tac," a soft "wheet" and a guttural "turrc." Song, very musical and varied, in parts faintly resembling Nightingale and Wood Lark, but much higher pitched, weaker and less rich; introduces sharp, high note like striking tiny metal triangle, also a cricket-like note. Sings from perch and in zig-zag flight.

Habitat: Swampy thickets and heaths, tangled hedges, etc. Breeds close to ground among birch, willow and juniper scrub, in damp heaths; usually in high mountains and (W. cent. Europe) in Lowlands.

Map p. 234

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Du—Roodborst

Ge—Rotkehlchen

Fr—Rouge-gorge

Sw—Rödhake

page 223

Identification: 5½". A plump, "neck-less" little bird. Adults have rich orange breast and forehead and uniform olive-brown upper-parts. Juvenile lacks orange and is strongly mottled with dark brown and buff; distinguished from young Redstart by dark brown instead of chestnut tail; from young Nightingale by smaller size, buffer under-parts and dark brown tail. Confiding behaviour towards man and characteristically jaunty attitudes are well known.

Voice: A persistent and often rapidly repeated "tic," a weak "tsip," or "tsissip," and a thin, plaintive "tsee." Song, heard all year, is a varied, deliberate series of short, high warbling phrases.

Habitat: Gardens, hedges, coppices, woods with undergrowth, etc. Nests in holes or crannies in walls, banks, trees, hedge-bottoms, ivy, tin cans, etc. Map 234.



← NIGHTINGALE
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Scotland,
Ireland



THRUSH
NIGHTINGALE →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant west to
Britain, Italy

WARBLERS : Sylviidae

A NUMEROUS FAMILY of small, active, insectivorous birds, with slender bills. Sexes usually alike, juveniles resembling parents (or adult female, where parents differ). Many are confusingly devoid of distinctive markings and plumages wear very rapidly, so that autumn birds are often difficult to identify, particularly among the "leaf warblers" of the genus *Phylloscopus*. Many have rather similar call-notes. Voice, behaviour and habitat are therefore important in identification. Usually nest among low vegetation, on or near ground, or (in the genus *Acrocephalus*) suspended in reeds.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* page 230

Fr—Bouscarle de Cetti Ge—Seidensänger
Sw—Cettis sångare

Identification: 5½". Skulking habits make sight identification difficult, but *song is unmistakable*. Upper-parts *dark rufous brown*, under-parts greyish-white with browner flanks and under tail-coverts. Tail strongly rounded. Rather rufous appearance may cause confusion with Nightingale, but latter is much larger, with longer tail more rufous than upper-parts. Tail often cocked.

Voice: A loud "chee," a short "twic," a soft "huit," and a churring alarm. Song, a very loud, abrupt burst, chiefly a repetition of "settee" or "cheweeoo" with varying emphasis. Sings from dense vegetation.

Habitat: Low, tangled vegetation, usually near water, ditches, swamps, reed-beds. Nest well hidden in low vegetation. Map p 235.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* page 230

Du—Sprinkhaanrietzanger Fr—Locustelle tachetée
Ge—Feldschwirl Sw—Gräshoppsångare

Identification: 5". Very skulking. Usually identified by *distinctive song*. *Strongly streaked* olive brown upper-parts; slightly rufous, less streaked



← BLUETHROAT
Summer visitor.
Rare on passage
Britain, vagrant
Faeroes



ROBIN →
Partial migrant.
Annual Iceland.

rump; lightly streaked buffish-white under-parts; well-rounded, faintly barred tail. Creeps and runs with great agility among undergrowth, but reluctant to fly.

Voice: A short "twit," or "pitt," merging into a chatter when alarmed. Far-carrying song is a "mechanical" churring on one high note, like winding an angler's reel, often for more than two minutes; ventriloquial effect obtained by turning head. Sings day or night. See also Savi's Warbler, and Lanceolated Warbler (Accidentals p 300).

Habitat: Undergrowth in marshes, water-meadows, dry heaths, hedge-rows, etc. Nest well concealed on or near ground in long grass, rushes, undergrowth. Map below.

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis* page 230

Du—Kreketzanger

Fr—Locustelle fluviatile

Ge—Schlagschwirl

Sw—Flodsångare

Identification: 5". Distinguished from Grasshopper Warbler by *unspotted* dark olive-brown upper-parts and whitish under-parts *softly streaked* with brown on upper breast; tail rounded, slightly rufous. Juvenile has only faint streaks on throat, more rufous unspotted upper-parts and buffish-white under-parts. Very secretive behaviour and reluctant flight as in Grasshopper Warbler, but differs in song and habitat.

Voice: Has low, harsh call-note. Song somewhat resembles Grasshopper Warbler's, but is louder and clearer and the notes are much more clearly separated.

Habitat: Moist localities, also often in woodland thickets, or tangled herbage and bramble patches in open ground, or in forest glades, including pine. Nests on or close to ground, in impenetrable thickets. Map p 236.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* page 230

Du—Snor

Fr—Locustelle luscinioides

Ge—Rohrschwirl

Sw—Näktergalslik gräshoppsångare

Identification: 5½". Superficially resembles Reed Warbler, but identified



← CETTI'S
WARBLER
Mainly resident.
Vagrant England



GRASSHOPPER
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Norway

by Grasshopper Warbler-like song. Tail broad and well graduated, often faintly barred. Upper-parts *unstreaked* dark reddish-brown; under-parts brownish-white with slightly rufous-brown flanks. Short indistinct buffish eye-stripe. Distinguished from Grasshopper Warbler by *uniform* plumage; from River Warbler by *unstreaked* breast; from Cetti's by *much browner* under-parts; from all three by distinctive song. Much less skulking than Grasshopper Warbler.

Voice: A quiet, persistent "tswik" and a scolding chatter. Song very like Grasshopper Warbler's reeling trill, but lower and *brief*; often preceded by low ticking notes which accelerate until they merge into the typical reeling. Sings from reed-top.

Habitat: Swamps, reed-beds with scattered bushes. Nest well concealed among thick tangle of dead reeds and sedges. Map below.

MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Luscinola melanopogon* page 230

Fr—Lusciniole à moustaches Ge—Tamarisksänger

Sw—Tamarisksångare

Identification: 5" Distinguished with difficulty from Sedge Warbler by *almost black crown*, contrasting with *whiter eye-stripe* ending squarely at nape, *dark brown cheeks*, *very white throat*. Looks decidedly *rustier* than Sedge. Quickly distinguished from Sedge and Aquatic by *perky habit of cocking its rather short, rounded tail*. Behaviour rather skulking.

Voice: A soft but penetrating "t-trrt" and a harsher "tchuck" which runs into a scolding rattle of alarm. Song recalls Sedge Warbler's, but is sweeter and quieter, phrases repeated 4 - 6 times.

Habitat: Reed-beds and swamps. Nests in reeds or low bushes above shallow water. Map p 237.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* page 230

Du—Grote karekiet

Fr—Rousserolle turdoïde

Ge—Drosselrohrsänger

Sw—Trastsångare

Identification: 7½". Easily distinguished from Reed Warbler by *much larger size*, *longer, much stouter bill*, *usually bold eye-stripe*, and *strident*



← RIVER WARBLER

Summer visitor.
Vagrant to Norway, Finland (has bred), Holland

SAVI'S WARBLER →

Summer visitor.
Vagrant England, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark. Has bred Switz



voice. Coloration like Reed Warbler. Behaviour less skulking: perches freely on trees or telegraph wires. Flight low, with characteristically spread tail, plunging heavily into reeds.

Voice: Strident and loud. Song harsh and prolonged, audible great distance. Wide range of grating notes, each repeated 2-3 times: "karra-karra," "krik-krik," "gurk-gurk-gurk," etc.

Habitat: Breeds colonially, building suspended nest like Reed Warbler, in reeds bordering open water, on river banks, clay-pits. Map below.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* page 230

Du—Kleine karekiet

Fr—Rousserolle effarvatte

Ge—Teichrohrsänger

Sw—Rörsångare

Identification: 5". Uniform brown upper-parts, clear buffish-white under-parts, whitish ring around eye. Distinguished from Sedge Warbler by *unstreaked* head and back and very *indistinct* eye-stripe. Great Reed Warbler is much larger. Almost indistinguishable in the field from Marsh Warbler (except by voice), but is rustier-brown, with *dark legs*. Acrobatic in moving among reeds, but rather shy. Rounded tail is spread and depressed during brief flights over water. See also Blyth's Reed Warbler, and Paddyfield Warbler (Accidentals p 300).

Voice: A low "churr," a harsh "skurr" of alarm (very like Sedge's), and a weak ticking note. Prolonged song resembles Sedge's, but distinguished by tendency to repeat phrases 2-3 times: "chirruc-chirruc," "jag-jag-jag," etc., interspersed with liquid notes and mimicry. Sings day and night.

Habitat: Reed-beds and water-side vegetation; in parts of Europe also found in cultivated land away from water. Breeds colonially, suspending nest in reeds. Map p 238.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* page 230

Du—Bosrietzanger

Fr—Rousserolle verderolle

Ge—Sumpfrohrsänger

Sw—Kärrensångare

Identification: 5". Difficult to distinguish from Reed Warbler except by *remarkably musical song*; but upper-parts less rufous and more



← MOUSTACHED
WARBLER
Partial migrant.
Vagrant England,
where has bred

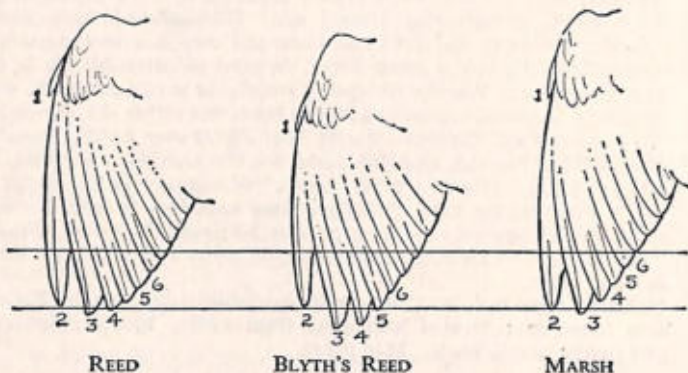


GREAT REED
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant England,
Ireland, Norway

olive-brown, under-parts whiter; legs flesh-pink, not dark brown; behaviour less skulking; silhouette plumper. See also Blyth's Reed Warbler.

Voice: A loud, repeated "*tchuc*," a quiet "*tuc*," a stuttering "*tictirric*," "*tweek*," etc. Song exceptionally musical and varied, with canary-like trills and a wide range of mimicry, interspersed with Reed Warbler-like chirrup and a distinctive nasal note.

Habitat: Dense, low vegetation in ditches, thickets, stream-banks, osier-beds, crops, often near water. Builds untidy nest, supported by "handles" woven around low vegetation. Map below.



WING FORMULAE

Note comparative length of second primary and also depth of notch on inner web



← REED WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Scotland,
Ireland (has bred)

MARSH
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Scotland,
Finland, Norway



BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

Fr—Rousserolle des buissons Ge—Buschrohrsänger

Sw—Långnäbbad rörsångare

Identification: 5°. Indistinguishable in the field from Marsh Warbler, but upper-parts usually darker brown. Doubtfully distinguishable from Reed Warbler by slightly darker and usually less rusty-brown upper-parts. Identified with certainty only in the hand, by wing formula (see line drawing). Voice and behaviour as Marsh Warbler, but is more arboreal. Summer visitor, breeding S.E. Finland and E. Estonia. Has bred Latvia. Accidental Britain.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

page 230

Du—Rietzanger

Fr—Phragmite des joncs

Ge—Schilfrohrsänger

Sw—Sävsångare

Identification: 5°. Distinguished from Reed Warbler by *conspicuous creamy eye-stripe, boldly streaked upper-parts* except for unstreaked tawny rump. Under-parts creamy, with tawny flanks. Juvenile yellower, with faint spots on throat and upper-breast; occasionally has a faint creamy stripe on crown which may cause confusion with Aquatic Warbler. Tail rather pointed. Flight and behaviour like Reed Warbler. See also Aquatic and Moustached Warblers. Other *Acrocephali* (Reed Warbler, etc.) have unstreaked upper-parts.

Voice: An explosive "tuc," becoming a stuttering rattle when excited; also a harsh churring. Song *more varied* than Reed Warbler's, a loud, rapid sequence of repeated musical and harsh chattering notes, mingled with long trills and mimicry. Sings from perch and in short, vertical display flight.

Habitat: Reed-beds and lush vegetation near water, swampy thickets, crops. Builds untidy nest in low, dense vegetation. Map below.

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola*

page 230

Du—Waterrietzanger

Fr—Phragmite aquatique

Ge—Binsenrohrsänger

Sw—Vattensångare

Identification: 5°. Looks like rather yellowish Sedge Warbler, but



← SEDGE
WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Faeroes



AQUATIC
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Latvia.
Sporadic Germany.
Passage Spain &
Portugal. Vagrant
British Is., Sweden

distinguished by *conspicuous buff stripe down centre of crown*, buff (instead of creamy) eye-stripe, prominent black streaks on back *extending to rump*, and, particularly in summer plumage, by thin, sparse streaks on breast and flanks. Distinguished from all other *Acrocephali* and from Moustached Warbler by crown-stripe and streaked rump. More skulking than Sedge Warbler.

Voice: Very like Sedge Warbler's.

Habitat: As Sedge Warbler, but prefers open marshes with low vegetation, sedge, etc. Nests near ground. Map p 239.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* page 246

Fr—Hypolaïs polyglotte Ge—Orpheusspötter

Sw—Språkmästare

Identification: 5". Extremely difficult to distinguish in the field from Icterine except by *difference in voice* and range; also by noticeably shorter, rounded wings and less blue legs. Upper-parts are a little browner, under-parts and eye-stripe deeper yellow.

Voice: A House Sparrow-like chatter, a Chiffchaff-like "hooet" and an abrupt "tit, tit." Song, often beginning slowly, is a *prolonged*, musical and very varied babbling, more hurried and less harsh than song of Icterine; often introduces sparrow-like chirping notes and mimicry, but with little repetition.

Habitat: Similar to Icterine, but more often in lush vegetation near water. Builds snug nest in bushes, or even trees. Map below.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* page 246

Du—Spotvogel

Fr—Hypolaïs icterine

Ge—Gelbspötter

Sw—Bastardnäktergal

Identification: 5½". Looks rather like heavily-built Wood Warbler. Has *lemon-yellow* under-parts and *blue-grey legs*. Upper-parts yellowish-olive, eye-stripe and under-parts including belly bright lemon-yellow. Bill rather broad, showing bright orange inside when singing. Nervous habit of erecting crown feathers gives head very round appearance. Behaviour excitable. Indistinguishable in the field from Melodious



← MELODIOUS
WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Britain,
Ireland, Belgium,
Germany, Czecho.
Switzerland

ICTERINE
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Britain &
Ireland



- Warbler, except by longer wings, distinctive song and *difference in range*.
Voice: A Blackcap-like "tec," a characteristic, musical "deederoid," a Chiffchaff-like "hooet" and a low churring alarm. Song recalls Marsh Warbler's, a loud, remarkably long sustained and varied jumble of melodious and discordant notes, each repeated several times, interspersed with jarring notes.

Habitat: Gardens, parks and cultivated land, but also found in woods, thickets and hedges. Builds snug nest in shrubs, hedges, etc. Map p 240.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER *Hippolais pallida* page 246

Du—Olijfgroene spotvogel Fr—Hypolaïs pâle

Ge—Blassspötter Sw—Blek bastardnäktergal

Identification: 5". Form and behaviour recall Icterine, or Melodious, but lacks greenish and yellowish coloration. Upper-parts *uniform pale earth-brown* with darker wings and tail; narrow buffish eye-stripe; under-parts *pale buffish-white*. Rather long bill.

Voice: Call-note similar to Icterine's "tec, tec." Alarm, a quiet ticking. Vigorous song recalls Sedge Warbler, though less varied and less harsh.

Habitat: Cultivated areas and gardens, with trees and bushes. Nests in bushes, hedges, etc., but sometimes in palm trees. Map below.

OLIVE-TREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum* page 246

Fr—Riverain des oliviers Ge—Olivenspötter

Sw—Olivbastardnäktergal

Identification: 6". No outstanding field marks. Crown and upper-parts grey-brown, with slightly olivaceous tinge; wings and tail darker; under-parts dull whitish, with faintly yellowish-buff breast. At close quarters indistinct whitish stripe above eye, rather long bill and dull blue-grey legs are useful diagnostically. Distinguished from Olivaceous by *larger size*, greyer and less warm coloration and paler flanks.

Voice: Song is loud, rapid and melodious; recalls Sedge Warbler's in character, but is more musical and richer.

Habitat: Frequents thick upper foliage of olive-groves and oak woods, keeping well out of sight. Nests in fork of olive branch. Map below.



← OLIVACEOUS
 WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Britain,
Heligoland, Italy

OLIVE-TREE
 WARBLER →
Summer visitor



BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

page 231

Du—Zwartkop

Fr—Fauvette à tête noire

Ge—Mönchsgrasmücke

Sw—Svarthätta

Identification: 5½". Male distinguished by *glossy black crown, down to eye-level*; upper-parts greyish brown, *sides of head* and under-parts ashy grey. Female has *red-brown crown* and browner under-parts. Juveniles are rustier above, yellower below; young males have blackish-brown crowns. Distinguished from Orphean and Sardinian by *sharply defined cap terminating at eye-level and absence of white in tail*. See also Garden Warbler.

Voice: An emphatic "*tac, tac,*" rapidly repeated when alarmed, and a harsh churring. Song, a remarkably rich warbling, more varied but *less sustained* than Garden Warbler's, often louder towards end.

Habitat: Woodland glades with undergrowth, overgrown hedges, fruit bushes. Nests in brambles, honeysuckle, evergreens, etc. Map below.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*

page 231

Du—Gestreepte grasmus

Fr—Fauvette épervière

Ge—Sperbergrasmücke

Sw—Hökfärgad sångare

Identification: 6". Distinguished by whitish under-parts *barred with dark, crescent-shaped markings*, much less distinct in female. Male is ashy grey-brown above, female browner. Dark brown wings have *two whitish bars*. Rather long tail shows some white in outer feathers. Adults have *bright yellow eyes*. Juvenile has slightly buffish under-parts with little or no bars; distinguished from Whitethroat and Garden Warbler by greyer appearance. Appearance is heavy, with stout legs and bill. Behaviour skulking, tail often flicked.

Voice: A hard "*tchack,*" a low churring and a distinctive, grating "*tcharr, tcharr,*" which also occurs in song. Song resembles Garden Warbler's in richness and purity, but is more rapid and *in briefer phrases*.

Habitat: Thorny thickets, bushy commons and hedges, clearings in woods, etc. Usually nests in thorn bushes. Map below.



← BLACKCAP
Partial migrant.
Passage Faeroes,
Iceland

BARRED
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Finland.
Switz. Rare pas-
sage E. Britain.
Vagrant Ireland,
Faeroes, Norway



• ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis*

page 231

Du—Grote zwartkop

Fr—Fauvette orphée

Ge—Orpheusgrasmücke

Sw—Mästersångare

Identification: 6". Resembles large, greyish male Blackcap, but easily separated by *white in outer tail-feathers*; dull, blackish cap *extending clearly below the eye* and merging into grey mantle instead of being clean-cut; also by *white*, instead of grey, throat. Eyes are distinctive pale straw. Female browner above, with lighter cap. Distinguished from Sardinian by much larger size, pale eyes, dull instead of clean-cut glossy black cap, and different habitat. Immature can be confused with young Barred, but tail is shorter and upper tail-coverts lack light tips.

Voice: A Blackcap-like "*tac, tac,*" or "*tyut, tyut,*" and a loud, rattling alarm. Song, a mellow, *almost thrush-like* musical warble, each phrase usually repeated 4-5 times, without discordant notes.

Habitat: Chiefly orboreal. Wooded districts, orchards, gardens, citrus and olive groves. Nests in bushes, low branches. Map below.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

page 246

Du—Tuinfluiter

Fr—Fauvette des jardins

Ge—Gartengrasmücke

Sw—Trädgårdssångare

Identification: 5½". A plump, uniform, *hair-brown* warbler with *pale buff* under-parts. No distinctive features, but may be identified by *sustained and beautiful song*. Distinguished from female and juvenile Blackcap by uniform hair-brown crown and upper-parts.

Voice: Call-note "*check, check,*" like Blackcap's, but less hard; a low, harsh "*tchur-r-r*" and a faint "*whit.*" Song has same mellow quality as Blackcap's, but is quieter and *much longer sustained*. Sings from undergrowth.

Habitat: Woods with abundant undergrowth, thickets, bushy commons with bramble patches, overgrown hedges, fruit bushes. Nests in low bushes and brambles. Map below.

← ORPHEAN
WARBLER

Summer visitor.
Has bred Germany,
Vagrant England,
Austria, Czecho.

GARDEN
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Faeroes



WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

page 231c

Du—Grasmus

Fr—Fauvette grisette

Ge—Dorngrasmücke

Sw—Törnsångare

Identification: $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Male has *pale grey cap* extending to nape and below eye (brownish-grey in autumn), *pure white throat*, rusty upper-parts, rather long tail with white outer feathers. Under-parts very pale pinkish-buff. Female duller, with brownish head and only faint pink on breast. Restless, darting in and out of undergrowth with raised crest and spread tail. See also Lesser Whitethroat.

Voice: A repeated "check," a hoarse, scolding "tcharr," and a quiet "wheet, wheet, whit-whit-whit" ending hurriedly. Song, a vigorous, urgent chatter, usually from bush, or in brief dancing song-flight.

Habitat: Fairly open country with bushes, brambles, gorse, nettle-beds. Nests near ground in low vegetation. Map below.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

page 231

Du—Braamsluiper

Fr—Fauvette babillarde

Ge—Klappergrasmücke

Sw—Ärtsångare

Identification: $5\frac{1}{4}$ ". Distinguished from Whitethroat by slightly smaller size, *much greyer upper-parts*, *dark ear-coverts* (giving masked appearance), *lack of chestnut on wings* and distinctive song. Tail looks shorter than Whitethroat's. More skulking than Whitethroat. See also Rüppell's and Sardinian Warblers.

Voice: Call-notes like Whitethroat's. Song begins with subdued warble, followed by outburst of unmusical rattling *on one note*. Sings in thick cover, but lacks Whitethroat's vertical song-flight.

Habitat: As Whitethroat, though usually in taller, denser vegetation, with more trees. Map below.

RÜPPELL'S WARBLER *Sylvia rüppelli*

page 231

Identification: $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Male has *black crown, face and throat*, with *conspicuous white moustachial stripe*, grey upper-parts, whitish under-parts, black tail with *bold white outer feathers*. Female duller, with pale or dusky throat, but white moustachial stripe still fairly visible. Eyes and



← WHITETHROAT
Summer visitor



LESSER
WHITETHROAT →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Ireland,
Faeroes, Spain

legs brilliant red-brown. Male distinguished from Sardinian by *black throat*, and *white "moustache."*

Voice: Easily confused with loud Sardinian. Usual note like winding wooden rattle rapidly. Song resembles Whitethroat's, but interspersed with characteristic rattle.

Habitat and Range: Breeds in bushes among low scrub with rocky outcrops. Summer visitor, breeding Aegean region. Vagrant to England, Italy, Sicily.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala* page 231

Du—Kleine zwartkopgrasmus Fr—Fauvette mélanocéphale

Ge—Schwarzkopfgasmücke Sw—Sammetshätta

Identification: 5¼". Male distinguished by *black cap*, extending well below eye, pure white throat, grey upper-parts, whitish under-parts with grey sides. *Bright reddish eye-ring* is conspicuous. Frequently-spread, blackish, graduated tail, has bold white outer feathers. Female much browner, with grey-brown cap scarcely darker than back. Flight and restless behaviour recall Whitethroat. See also Orphean, Blackcap and Ruppell's.

Voice: Has loud, staccato alarm-note, "*cha-cha-cha-cha*," like rapidly wound wooden rattle. Song faintly recalls Whitethroat's, but is longer, more musical, and interspersed with the staccato alarm note. Sings from exposed or hidden perches and in brief, dancing display-flight.

Habitat: Dry, fairly open bushy scrub, thickets, pine and evergreen oak woods, etc. Nests in low bushes and undergrowth. Map below.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* page 231

Du—Baardgrasmus

Fr—Fauvette passerinette

Ge—Bartgrasmücke

Sw—Vitskäggsångare

Identification: 4¾". Male distinguished by *white moustachial stripe* contrasting with pinkish-chestnut throat and breast. Further distinguished from Dartford (with which it often occurs) by much paler ash-grey upper-parts, unspotted throat, and conspicuous white outer feathers of dark, rounded tail. Female and juvenile duller and paler, buffish-pink below,



← SARDINIAN
WARBLER
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Switzerland,
England,
Heligoland



SUBALPINE
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Britain
and Ireland

WARBLERS

Confusing, mostly plain, greenish or brownish species.

<i>Field Marks and Habitat</i>	<i>Song</i>	
● WILLOW WARBLER From Chiffchaff by song, and (usually) pale legs. <i>Widespread, bushes, trees.</i>	A liquid musical cascade; downscale, ending in flourish.	page 250
● CHIFFCHAFF From Willow by song, dark legs. <i>Woods, trees, bushes.</i>	Deliberately repeated " <i>chiff- chaff-chiff-chiff-chaff,</i> " etc.	251
△ ARCTIC WARBLER Single wing-bar, pale legs. <i>Arctic forests and scrub.</i>	A short, high trill " <i>ziz-ziz- ziz.</i> " Call, a husky " <i>tssp.</i> "	253
△ GREENISH WARBLER Single wing-bar, dark legs. <i>Forests, coppices. S.E. Baltic.</i>	Loud, high-pitched jingle, merging into trill or gabble.	251
○ YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER Two wing bars. <i>Mixed and conifer woods.</i>	Rapid " <i>fitifitititi</i> " on one note, interspersed with trills.	256
△ BONELLI'S WARBLER Yellow rump, pale. <i>Pine forest, cork groves, etc.</i>	Loose trill on same note. Suggests Wood Warbler.	252
● WOOD WARBLER Yellow throat, white belly. <i>Woodlands.</i>	Repeated notes on one pitch accelerating into dry trill.	252
○ ICTERINE WARBLER Yellow below; bluish legs. <i>N., E. and Cent. Eur.; bushes.</i>	Jumble of notes, each re- peated, some discordant.	240
△ MELODIOUS WARBLER From Icterine by song, range. <i>S. W. Europe; bushes.</i>	Prolonged warbling babble, more musical than Icterine.	240
OLIVE-TREE WARBLER Large, grey, large bill. <i>Olive groves, oaks; Balkans.</i>	Loud, rapid, melodious, re- calls Sedge Warbler.	241
△ OLIVACEOUS WARBLER Small, brownish, large bill. <i>Cultivation. Mediterranean.</i>	Vigorous, recalling Sedge Warbler, but less harsh.	241
● GARDEN WARBLER Brown, undistinctive. See text. <i>Woods, hedges, thickets.</i>	Mellow, suggests Blackcap, but much longer, less varied.	243



WILLOW



CHIFFCHAFF



ARCTIC



GREENISH



YELLOW-BROWED



BONELLI'S



WOOD

ICTERINE



MELODIOUS



OLIVE-TREE



OLIVACEOUS



GARDEN

WARBLERS

Confusing, mostly plain, greenish or brownish species.

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○ YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER Two wing bars. <i>Mixed and conifer woods.</i>	Rapid "fitifitifiti" on one note, interspersed with trills.	256
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WILLOW



CHIFFCHAFF



ARCTIC



GREENISH



YELLOW-BROWED



BONELLI'S



WOOD

ICTERINE



MELODIOUS



OLIVE-TREE



OLIVACEOUS



GARDEN



MEADOW PIPIT



TREE PIPIT



Winter

Summer



ROCK PIPIT



WATER PIPIT

TAWNY PIPIT



RICHARD'S PIPIT



♂ Summer

Summer

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL
YELLOW WAGTAIL

Winter



Summer

RED-THROATED PIPIT



♂ Summer

♂ Summer

WHITE WAGTAIL

PIED WAGTAIL



♂ Summer

GREY WAGTAIL

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS

PIPITS are streaked brown ground birds with white, or whitish, outer tail feathers and long hind claws. They resemble larks (Plate 48, page 191) but are more slender.

WAGTAILS are boldly patterned ground birds, more slender and much longer tailed than pipits. Some pipits and all wagtails wag their tails. See further analysis of wagtails on Plate 59, page 254.

- MEADOW PIPIT page 260
Small; streaked above and below, white outer tail-feathers; open country; voice.
- TREE PIPIT 264
From Meadow Pipit by voice, habitat; also by buffer, less olivaceous colour, pinker legs.
- ROCK/WATER PIPIT 264
The only pipits with *dark legs*.
ROCK PIPIT. Dark; greyish outer tail-feathers. Coasts. WATER PIPIT. *Summer*: (mountains) pinkish unstreaked breast, greyish upper-parts, white outer tail-feathers. *Winter*: (wide-ranging) whitish breast, white eye-brow, white outer tail-feathers.
- TAWNY PIPIT 261
Sandy; unstreaked breast.
- RICHARD'S PIPIT 261
Large, dark; very long legs, streaked breast.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT 264
Summer: Brick-red throat. *Winter*: From Meadow Pipit by heavier streaks, boldly streaked rump.
- YELLOW/BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL 266
Yellow under-parts, olive-green back.
YELLOW: Yellow and olive head.
BLUE-HEADED: Blue-grey cap and cheeks.
- WHITE/PIED WAGTAIL 265
No yellow in any plumage.
WHITE: Grey back; black cap and bib separated.
PIED: Black back; black cap and bib joined.
- GREY WAGTAIL 266
Yellow under-parts, grey back. Longest tail among wagtails. Male in summer has black throat.

with much fainter moustachial stripes. Eyes appear red at close quarters. Behaviour like Dartford's, raising and spreading tail when excited, but tail is shorter.

Voice: A hard but quiet "tec, tec," and a quick, chattering alarm. Song recalls Sardinian and Whitethroat, but is more pleasing, slower and lacking hard scolding notes. Sings from bushes and during brief, dancing song-flight.

Habitat: Low bushes and thickets, often with scattered trees; also in open woodland glades and along stream banks. Nests in thick bushes. Map p 245.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* page 231

Du—Brilgrasmus

Fr—Fauvette à lunettes

Ge—Brillengrasmücke

Sw—Glasögonsångare

Identification: 5". Somewhat resembles Whitethroat, but is smaller. White throat contrasts more strongly with dark head and pinkish-brown breast. Narrow white eye-rim not very good field mark. Strikingly pale straw-coloured legs. Crown slate-grey, lores and ear-coverts darker; upper-parts brown, with bright rufous edges to wing-coverts and secondaries. Juvenile is browner, without grey on head and with more buffish-white under-parts. Actions recall Whitethroat.

Voice: Song is short and Whitethroat-like, but quieter, without grating notes; sings from exposed perch, or in "dancing" song-flight. Alarm, a subdued, very characteristic, Wren-like rattle.

Habitat: Chiefly in *salicornia* on coastal flats and (often with Dartford Warbler) in low scrub. Nests in low bush. Map below.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* page 231

Fr—Fauvette pitchou

Ge—Provencegrasmücke

Sw—Provincesångare

Identification: 5". Identified by very dark plumage and long, constantly cocked or fanned tail. Male has slate-grey head (with characteristically raised crown-feathers), shading to dark-brown upper-parts; under-parts dark purplish-brown; chin and throat spotted with white in autumn;



← SPECTACLED
WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Resident Malta



DARTFORD
WARBLER →
Mainly resident.
Vagrant Ireland

tail graduated, dark brown with white border. Eyes orange-red. Behaviour skulking. Flight weak, with characteristic "bobbing" action of tail and rapidly whirring wings. See also Subalpine and Marmora's. Voice: A scolding, metallic "tchir-r," a short "tuc," "tchir-r-tuc-tuc," also a rafting alarm. Song, a short musical chatter interspersed with liquid notes, recalling Whitethroat, but more pleasing.

Habitat: Open commons with heather and gorse, dwarf oak, cistus-covered hillsides, etc. Nests in scrub near ground. Map p 248.

MARMORA'S WARBLER *Sylvia sarda* page 231

Fr—Fauvette sarde Ge—Sardengrasmücke

Sw—Sardinisk sångare

Identification: 4½". Looks almost black at a distance. Size and shape of Dartford Warbler, but distinguished by *slate-grey* instead of purplish-brown throat and under-parts. Upper-parts dark slate-grey, with *almost black head, wings and tail*; belly brownish-white; tail slightly shorter than Dartford's; eyelids red. Female slightly browner. Juvenile is paler and greyer above and much whiter below than young Dartford. Behaviour and habitat as Dartford, but is even more skulking.

Voice: A single sharp "tzig." Song like Dartford's, but less harsh.

Range: Resident in W. Mediterranean islands, E. to Sicily.

RUFIOUS WARBLER *Agrobates galactotes* page 231

Fr—Agrobate rubigineux Ge—Heckensänger

Sw—Trädnäkttergal

Identification: 6". Slim; long-legged and rather thrush-like in some attitudes. Quickly recognised by *long, chestnut fan-tail, strikingly tipped with bold black and white*. Western race *A. g. galactotes* has all upper-parts foxy red-brown; eastern race *A. g. syriacus* (Brown-backed Warbler) has chestnut confined to rump and tail, remainder of upper-parts grey-brown; both have bold creamy eye-stripe and sandy under-parts. Behaviour much bolder than most warblers; perches conspicuously on bushes and ground, with wings drooped, long tail fanned and jerked vertically.



← RUFIOUS
WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Has bred Southern
France. Vagrant
Italy, Heligoland,
England, Ireland



FAN-TAILED
WARBLER →
Resident

Voice: Call-note, a hard "teck." Song very musical but disjointed and varying in volume, recalling Sky Lark in some short phrases. Sings from prominent perch, telegraph wires, etc., and in slow, descending display flight.

Habitat: Gardens, vineyards, palm and olive groves. Nests in prickly-pear hedges and palm bushes. Map p 249.

FAN-TAILED WARBLER *Cisticola juncidis*

page 230

Fr—Cisticole des jons Ge—Cistsänger
Sw—Grässångare

Identification: 4". Most easily seen in display flight during breeding season. Suggests small, bright Sedge Warbler. Distinguished by *lack of pale eye-stripe* and much smaller size (the smallest European warbler) and *stubby tail*. Upper-parts dark brown, with broad reddish-buff margins and rufous rump, giving heavily streaked buffish impression; throat and under-parts unstreaked whitish, tinged with rufous-buff on breast and flanks; tail short and well rounded, with black and white tips to outer feathers. Behaviour skulking.

Voice: A sharp, high, rasping "dzeep . . . dzeep . . . dzeep . . ." corresponding with each rise in weak, undulating flight, well up in the air. Call-note "teu."

Habitat: Wet and dry localities, grain fields, rough grassy plains, marshes. Builds deep purse-shaped nest suspended in long grass, growing corn, or dense undergrowth. Map p 249.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

page 246

Du—Fitis Fr—Pouillot fitis
Ge—Fitis Sw—Lövsångare

Identification: 4½". The most abundant summer visitor to northern half of Europe. Easily confused with Chiffchaff except for *distinctive song*. Plumage usually slightly yellower, but difference not reliable in late summer. *Legs usually light brown*, not blackish as in Chiffchaff, but colour not reliable for identification. Behaviour and flight as Chiffchaff. See latter for comparison of wing formulae.



← WILLOW
WARBLER
Mainly summer
visitor. On passage
reaches Iceland



GREENISH
WARBLER →
Summer visitor,
migrates east.
Vagrant British
Isles, Sweden

Voice: Note very like Chiffchaff's, but nearer to two syllables: "hooet," or "sooe." Song, a liquid, musical cadence, beginning quietly and becoming clearer and more deliberate, *descending* to a distinctive flourish "sooeet-sooeetoo."

Habitat: Less arboreal than Chiffchaff, more fond of low vegetation. Breeds on ground in open bushy localities. Map p 250.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* page 246

Du—Groene fitis Fr—Pouillot brillant

Ge—Grüner Laubsänger

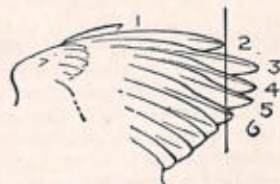
Identification: 4½". Very like Chiffchaff, but distinguished by voice, *short whitish wing-bar* and more pronounced eye-stripe. Size between Arctic and Yellow-browed, but is *greyer*, less green, than these, and eye-stripe is less prominent. Legs *dark*. (See wing formulae, p 253.)

Voice: Usual note a descending "whee-ur." Song short and loud, beginning with rapidly repeated call-note, merging into a gabbled trill.

Habitat: Very varied: deciduous or coniferous woodlands, coppices, orchards, etc. Nests on or near ground, not necessarily with undergrowth, occasionally in low stone walls. Map p 250.



WILLOW WARBLER



CHIFFCHAFF

WING FORMULAE

Note Chiffchaff's shorter second primary and emargination on sixth primary

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* page 246

Du—Tjiftjar

Fr—Pouillot vélocé

Ge—Zilpzal

Sw—Gransångare

Identification: 4½". Slim, dainty appearance very similar to Willow Warbler, but plumage is a little dingier. Best identified by *distinctive song*. Legs usually *blackish*, not light brown as in most Willow Warblers, but colour not always reliable. Upper-parts olive-brown, under-parts buffish-white faintly washed with lemon-yellow. (A useful check when trapped for ringing: 2nd primary is shorter than 6th, whereas Willow Warbler's is longer. See diagram). Behaviour restless, wings and tail frequently flicked.

Voice: A soft "hweet," a louder "twit" and a subdued "tsiff-tsiff-tsiff." Song, two notes deliberately repeated, in irregular order, "chiff, chiff, chaff, chiff, chaff," etc.

Habitat: More arboreal than Willow Warbler. Usually breeds just above ground in brambles, evergreens, etc., in light woods and bushy commons. Winters in fairly open vegetation. Map p 252.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

page 246

Du—Fluiter

Fr—Pouillot siffleur

Ge—Waldlaubsänger

Sw—Grönsångare

Identification: 5". Larger than Chiffchaff, with much longer wings. Distinguished by brightly contrasted yellowish-green upper-parts, sulphur-yellow throat and breast, and white belly. Broad yellow stripe above eye. Wings long, brown, with yellow edges to feathers. Behaviour like Chiffchaff, but does not flick wings, though it often hangs them loosely.

Voice: A liquid "piu" and a soft "whit, whit, whit." Has two songs: a piping "piu" repeated 5-20 times, and a slowly repeated "stip" accelerating to a "shivering" grasshopper-like trill "stip, stip, stip, stip-stip-stip-stip-shreeeee." Sings while moving among tree foliage and in flight.

Habitat: Deciduous woods; also found in coniferous forests in central Europe. Nests on ground among light undergrowth, usually in beech or oak woods. Map below.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*

page 246

Du—Bergfluiter

Fr—Pouillot de Bonelli

Ge—Berglaubsänger

Sw—Berglövsångare

Identification: 4½". Crown and upper-parts pale grey-brown, under-parts whitish. Pale buffish-white eye-stripe and a fairly distinct yellowish patch on rump (the best mark). Similarity of voice and habitat may cause confusion with Wood Warbler, but Bonelli's is smaller, with greyer upper-parts and much whiter under-parts.

Voice: A soft "hou-eet," more clearly disyllabic than familiar note of Willow Warbler. Song, a loose trill on the same note, slower, more musical and more clearly separated than faintly similar trill of Wood Warbler.

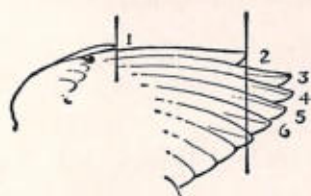


← CHIFFCHAFF
Partial migrant.
On passage Iceland

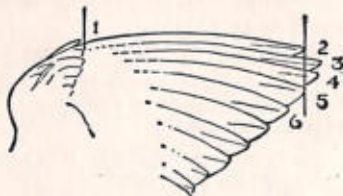


WOOD
WARBLER →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Ireland

- **Habitat:** Dense tree foliage, varying locally from dry pine forests to damp cork groves. Nests on ground under trees. Map below.



GREENISH WARBLER



ARCTIC WARBLER

WING FORMULAE

Greenish has longer first primary, shorter second primary than Arctic

ARCTIC (EVERSMANN'S) WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* page 246

Du—Siberische fitis

Fr—Pouillot boréal

Ge—Nordischer Laubsänger

Sw—Nordisk lövsångare

Identification: $4\frac{1}{4}$ ". Near size of Wood Warbler, but with whitish throat and conspicuous yellowish-white eye-stripe reaching almost to nape. Plumage variable; greyish-green to greenish-brown upper-parts (darker in 1st winter); greyish-white under-parts, sometimes with traces of yellow; usually a *narrow whitish wing-bar*, sometimes faint trace of second bar, but both may be lost in worn plumage. Legs *pale* yellowish-brown. Extremely active. See also Greenish Warbler.

Voice: A subdued, husky "tsssp" and a quiet, low-pitched rattle. Scolding note a repeated "tsirrip." Song, a repeated "tchik," followed by a short, high trill, reminiscent of Grasshopper Warbler.

Habitat: Usually near water with lush undergrowth, but also in birch and coniferous woods. Nests on ground. Map below.



← BONELLI'S
WARBLER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Wales,
Sweden

ARCTIC
WARBLER →
Summer visitor,
migrating east.
Vagrant to Britain,
Holland and Italy



WHITE WAGTAIL GROUP *Motacilla alba*, page 265
Distinguished by lack of yellow or olive in plumage.

● **PIED WAGTAIL**

M. a. yarrelli. Back black (male) or very dark (female). Black cap and black bib joined. Breeds British Isles and adjacent shores of Continent.

● **WHITE WAGTAIL**

M. a. alba. Grey back. Black cap and black bib separated. Breeds on Continent.

GREY WAGTAIL GROUP *Motacilla cinerea*, 266
Distinguished by grey back, yellow under-parts.

● **GREY WAGTAIL**

M. c. cinerea. Male in summer: Black throat, yellow under-parts. Female in winter: Whitish throat, grey back, yellow under-parts.

YELLOW WAGTAIL GROUP *Motacilla flava*, 266
Distinguished by olive-green back, yellow under-parts.

● **YELLOW WAGTAIL**

M. f. flavissima. Yellow and olive head. Breeds in British Isles, a few on adjacent shores of Continent.

● **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL**

M. f. flava. Male in summer: Eye-stripe starting at nostril. Central Europe (area not occupied by the other races).

SPANISH WAGTAIL

M. f. iberiae. Male in Summer: White stripe starting from eye. Breeds Spain and Portugal, races merging in S. France.

Δ **ASHY-HEADED WAGTAIL**

M. f. cinereocapilla. Male in summer: Grey crown, cheek, no eye-stripe. Breeds Italy, Corsica, Sar., Sicily, Albania.

○ **GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL**

M. f. thunbergi. Male in summer: Grey crown, blackish cheek, no eye-stripe. Cent. and N. Sweden, Nor., Finland.

Δ **BLACK-HEADED WAGTAIL**

M. f. feldegg. Male in summer: Black cap and cheek, no eye-stripe. Balkans.

NOTE: Systematics of the Yellow Wagtail group are complex. Some authors classify various forms as distinct species. But inter-gradation occurs where ranges overlap. Mutants resembling other races breed with birds of normal appearance. Thus birds identical with Sykes's Wagtail *M. f. beema* of Russia breed with normal Yellow Wagtails *M. f. flavissima* in England. In field work it is better to call all "Yellow Wagtails."



Sexes similar



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER



♀

PIED FLYCATCHER



♂

Summer



♂

Summer

COLLARED FLYCATCHER



♀

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER



♂



♂

WAXWING



Sexes similar



GREAT GREY SHRIKE



Sexes similar

LESSER GREY SHRIKE



♀

RED-BACKED SHRIKE



Juvenile

Sexes similar

WOODCHAT



♂

MASKED SHRIKE



Sexes similar

FLYCATCHERS, WAXWING AND SHRIKES

FLYCATCHERS are small birds which sit upright while waiting for passing insects. They frequently flick up their tails.

- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER page 257
Upright pose, grey-brown back, streaked breast.
- PIED FLYCATCHER 257
Male: Black above, white below, large white area on wing.
Female: Brown back, white area on wing.
- △ COLLARED FLYCATCHER 258
Male: From Pied by white collar, white rump.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER 258
Male: Orange throat, grey cheek, white tail-patches (see Robin).
Female: Buffish breast, white tail patches (see Whinchat).

WAXWINGS are sleek, crested, brown birds with yellow-tipped tails.

- WAXWING 267
Long crest, yellow tip on tail.

SHRIKES are hook-billed song birds with the habits of little hawks, catching insects, mice and small birds.

- GREAT GREY SHRIKE 268
Grey back, light grey forehead, white eye-stripe.
Females often barred on breast; young browner.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE 268
Grey back, black forehead, pinkish breast.
- RED-BACKED SHRIKE 270
Male: Chestnut back, grey crown.
Female: Rusty back, barred breast, no white on wings.
- WOODCHAT SHRIKE 269
Adults: Large white scapular patches, chestnut crown.
Juvenile: Thickly barred; trace of wing-patch.
- △ MASKED SHRIKE 269
From Woodchat by black crown, white forehead, reddish flanks.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* page 246

Du—Bladkoninkje

Fr—Pouillot à grands sourcils

Ge—Gelbbrauenlaubsänger

Sw—Kungsfågellik sångare

Identification: 4". Distinguished by very small size, whitish *double wing-bar*, broad whitish edges to secondaries, and *prominent creamy eye-stripe*. Upper-parts yellowish-green, with pale green rump. Under-parts whitish. Tail rather short. Sometimes has indistinct pale line down centre of crown. Often chases flies like flycatcher. Distinguished from juvenile Goldcrest by larger size, bright creamy eye-stripe and whitish under-parts. See also Pallas's Warbler (Accidentals p. 300).

Voice: A loud "weest" and a shriller, more monosyllabic version of Willow Warbler's "sooeet." Song, a rapid, twittering "fitifititi" on one note, interspersed with trills; usually from tree-top.

Habitat and Range: Mixed and coniferous woodlands; scrub and undergrowth in winter. On passage fairly regularly in Britain and Heligoland. Vagrant from Asia to Faeroes, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, and S. to Italy.

GOLDCRESTS : Regulidae

MINUTE, OLIVE-GREEN ARBOREAL BIRDS, somewhat akin in behaviour and shape to the small tits and warblers. Adults have brilliant streak of colour on crown.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

page 214

Du—Goudhaantje

Fr—Roitelet huppé

Ge—Wintergoldhähnchen

Sw—Kungsfågel

Identification: 3½". Distinguished from tits and warblers by *very small size, plump form and bright yellow crown with black border*; crest has orange centre in male, is paler yellow in female, absent in juvenile. Upper-parts olive green; under-parts dull whitish-buff, with greenish flanks. Wings have *two white bars and a broad black band*. Behaviour warbler-like. Roams with tits outside breeding season. Best distinguished from Firecrest by *lack of white eye-stripe*.



← GOLDCREST
Partial migrant.
Fairly regular
passage Faeroes



FIRECREST →
Partial migrant.
Passage, at times
winter, S. England.
Vagrant Faeroes
and Ireland

Voice: A frequent, shrill, high "zee-zee-zee." Song, a high, thin, double note, repeated about six times, terminating with a short twitter.
Habitat: Coniferous or mixed woods; in winter also in hedges and undergrowth. Builds suspended nest, usually under tip of branch of conifer (but rarely in pine). Map p 256.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* page 214

Du—Vuurgoudhaantje Fr—Roitelet à triple bandeau

Ge—Sommergoldhähnchen Sw—Brändkronad kungsfågel

Identification: $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Distinguished from Goldcrest by *bold white stripe above eye and black stripe through eye*; upper-parts greener, under-parts whiter; golden tinge on sides of neck visible under good conditions. Juvenile has rudimentary black and white stripes on head, but lacks crest. Behaviour like Goldcrest.

Voice: Like Goldcrest's, but lower-pitched and less persistent. Song, a simple repetition of one note, like the first phrase of Goldcrest's.

Habitat: As Goldcrest, but less partial to coniferous woods and more often in low undergrowth, swamps, bracken, etc. Builds suspended nest in coniferous or deciduous trees, bushes, creepers, etc. Map p 256.

FLYCATCHERS : Muscicapidae

USUALLY SEEN PERCHED *upright* ON VANTAGE POINTS, from which they repeatedly make short, erratic flights after passing insects, which are caught with an audible snap of the bill. Legs small and weak; bills broad at the base, with strong bristles. Rather indifferent songsters. Young have spotted plumage.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* page 255

Du—Grauwe vliegenvanger Fr—Gobe-mouche gris

Ge—Grauer Fliegenschnäpper Sw—Grå flugsnappare

Identification: $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Apart from characteristic upright, watchful pose, is identified by ashy-brown plumage, spotted crown and *lightly streaked whitish breast*. Wings and tail often flicked. Sallies from low perch after passing insects with rapid, agile flight. Rather solitary.

Voice: A very thin, grating "tzee" and a rapid "tzee, tuc-tuc." Song, a few thin hasty notes: "sip-sip-see-sitti-see-see."

Habitat: Gardens, parks, edges of woods. Nests on or in buildings, against tree trunk, behind creeper, etc. Map p 258.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca* page 255

Du—Bonte vliegenvanger Fr—Gobe-mouche noir

Ge—Trauerfliegenschnäpper Sw—Svart och vit flugsnappare

Identification: 5". Male in spring has head and upper-parts *black*; forehead, under-parts, *wing-patch and sides of tail, white*; autumn plumage like female, but forehead remains whitish. Female is

olive-brown above, buffish-white below, with smaller wing-patches. Juvenile distinguished from young Spotted by white on wings and tail. Fly-catching behaviour like Spotted, but seldom returns to same perch and often feeds on ground; tail constantly flirled. Wing-patches prevent confusion with other flycatchers, except Collared. See also Brown Flycatcher (Accidentals p 301).

Voice: A metallic "whit," an anxious "phweet," a persistent "tic" or "wheetic" and an explosive "tschist." Song, chiefly on two up-and-down notes, a high "zee-it, zee-it, zee-it," interspersed with an occasional Redstart-like trill.

Habitat: In British Isles, usually deciduous woods and gardens, often near water. On Continent, also in coniferous forests. Nests in holes in trees, walls, nest-boxes. Map below.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa albicollis* page 255

Du—Withalsvliegenvanger Fr—Gobe-mouche à collier

Ge—Halsbandfliegenschnäpper Sw—Halsbandsflugsnappare

Identification: 5". Very like Pied, but male distinguished by *bold white collar*. Also has whitish rump, bolder white markings on wings and forehead and less white on sides of tail. In autumn black markings replaced by dark brown, collar almost disappears and white markings are reduced. Females doubtfully separable, but Collared is usually greyer above, with brighter wing markings and some indication of whitish collar and rump. Behaviour and habitat like Pied.

Voice: Call-notes resemble Pied's. Song is shorter and simpler: "tsit-tsit-tsit-siu-si," the penultimate note dropping. Map 259.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva* page 255

Du—Kleine vliegenvanger Fr—Gobe-mouche nain

Ge—Zwergfliegenschnäpper Sw—Liten flugsnappare

Identification: 4½". Smallest European flycatcher. Male only has *bright orange throat*, summer and winter, and greyish head. Insignificant grey-brown above, pale buffish below, but quickly distinguished by *bold white patches* either side of blackish tail, which is often flicked when perched. Behaviour retiring; occasionally makes sallies in air



← SPOTTED
FLYCATCHER
Summer visitor.
Vagrant Faeroes



PIED
FLYCATCHER →
Summer visitor.
Passage Ireland,
Vagrant to Iceland,
Faeroes

or to ground after insects, but more often feeds warbler-fashion among tree-tops. Male suggests Robin, except for white on tail and different colour of face.

Voice: A brisk "chic" and a quiet, wren-like chatter. Song varied, beginning rather like opening of Wood Warbler's and ending with a quicker trill recalling Redstart.

Habitat: Usually deciduous forests; on passage also in open cultivation. Nesting habits like Pied, but also builds open nest against tree trunks. Map below.

ACCENTORS : Prunellidae

RATHER DRAB AND SPARROW-LIKE IN APPEARANCE, but with slender, sharply pointed bills. They have a distinctive shuffling gait, unobtrusive habits and brief, high-pitched jingling songs. Sexes similar.

DUNNOCK or HEDGE SPARROW *Prunella modularis* page 278

Du—Heggemus

Fr—Accenteur mouchet

Ge—Heckenbraunelle

Sw—Järnsparv

Identification: 5½". Inconspicuous and rather featureless; combination of rich brown and dark grey is the best guide. Upper-parts dark brown streaked with black; head and neck slate-grey, with brownish crown and ear-coverts, under-parts slate-grey with darkly streaked flanks. Dark, thin bill is distinctive. Feeds on ground, seldom far from cover, moving with slow, shuffling gait, with wings frequently twitched. Usually solitary.

Voice: A high, piping "tseep" and a high trilling note. Song, a hurried, weak but pleasant jingle, much shorter and weaker than Wren's, but somewhat similar in character. Sings almost all the year.

Habitat: Hedges, bushes, coppices. Nests in bushes, evergreens, wood-piles. Map p 260.



← COLLARED
FLYCATCHER
Summer vis. Vag.
to Baltic States,
S. England

RED-BREASTED
FLYCATCHER →
Summer vis. Bred
Den. Rare passage
Britain, Italy. Vag.
Faeroes, Ireland



ALPINE ACCENTOR *Prunella collaris*

page 278

Du—Alpenheggemus

Fr—Accenteur alpin

Ge—Alpenbraunelle

Sw—Alpjärnsparv

Identification: 7". Larger, plumper and more brightly coloured than related Dunnock, though attitudes and unobtrusive habits are similar. Distinguished by *black-spotted whitish chin and throat*, greyish breast, *chestnut-streaked flanks*, irregular double white wing-bar and pale buffish tips to tail-feathers. Upper-parts streaked grey-brown. Juvenile has unspotted grey throat.

Voice: A trilling, lark-like "*tchir-rip*," and a throaty "*churg*." Song, a pleasant, sustained warbling, from ground, or in brief display-flight.

Habitat: Rocky mountain slopes, up to snow-line. Winters lower. Nests in holes among rocks or vegetation. Map below.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS : Motacillidae

TERRESTRIAL BIRDS, running and walking briskly. Pipits are brown streaked birds, with white or whitish outer tail feathers, less slender than wagtails, with long hind claws; sexes alike; gregarious in winter. Wagtails are very slender, strongly patterned, with long tails, slender bills and slender legs; females and juveniles duller and sometimes different.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

page 247

Du—Graspieper

Fr—Pipit des prés

Ge—Wiesenpieper

Sw—Ängpiplärka

Identification: 5½". Very like Tree Pipit, but distinguished by *voice*, more olive upper-parts and usually *whiter, less yellow breast*, with smaller, more numerous streaks. White outer tail-feathers. Legs brownish, with *long hind claws*. Perches less frequently on trees than Tree Pipit. Rock Pipit is larger and darker. See also Red-throated.

Voice: A faint "*tseep*," rapidly repeated when alarmed; also a louder "*tissip*." Song, a thin piping, in gradually increasing tempo, ending in a musical trill, in short song-flight and during "parachute" descent.



← DUNNOCK
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Faeroes



ALPINE
ACCENTOR →
Part. mig. Spreads
to lower levels in
winter. Vagrant
Britain, Belgium,
Heligoland, Malta

Habitat: Moors, dunes, rough pastures; in winter prefers marshes, cultivated land, sea-coasts. Nests on ground. Map below.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* page 247

Du—Grote pieper

Fr—Pipit de Richard

Ge—Spornpieper

Sw—Stor piplärka

Identification: 7". A large, long-tailed, long legged pipit. Upper-parts brown, broadly streaked blackish; breast buffish, *sparsely but boldly streaked*. Pale buff stripes above eye and below cheek. Narrow black moustachial streak and black line below eye. Legs and hind claws very long. Slightly larger and darker than Tawny, but distinguished in spring by boldly marked back, longer legs and more streaked upper-breast and throat; in autumn, not safely separated from immature (streaked) Tawny, except by voice.

Voice: A rather harsh "r-reep."

Habitat and Range: Wet grass-lands, marshy steppes and rice fields. Almost annually on passage, or in winter, Heligoland, more rarely to Britain, Scandinavia, Portugal and E.-central Europe.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris* page 247

Du—Duinpieper

Fr—Pipit rousseline

Ge—Brachpieper

Sw—Fältpiplärka

Identification: 6½". More slim and wagtail-like than other pipits, but easily confused with Richard's. Pale, *almost uniform* sandy above, with paler, usually *unstreaked*, under-parts. *Conspicuous cream eye-stripe*. Indistinct brown moustachial stripe. Legs long and yellowish, though shorter than Richard's. Further distinguished from Richard's by *paler*, less boldly marked plumage and slightly smaller size. Immature (streaked breast) resembles young Richard's except for shorter legs.

Voice: Louder and more variable call-notes than other pipits, usually variants on "tzeep," "tzi-uc," etc. Song, a repeated, metallic "chivee, chivee, chivee," usually in descending song flight.

Habitat: Waste-lands, with sand and scrub, in winter also frequents cultivated land. Nests in depression. sheltered by vegetation. Map below.



← MEADOW PIPIT
Partial migrant.
Has bred Czecho.

TAWNY PIPIT →
Summer visitor.
Has bred S. Eng-
land. Vagrant n.
to Finland, Scot-
land, Ireland



FINCHES (and buntings) have *stout bills*, adapted for seed cracking. Three types of bills exist within the group: that of the Hawfinch, Bullfinch and grosbeaks, exceedingly thick and rounded in outline; the more ordinary canary-like bill of most of the finches; and that of the crossbills, the mandibles of which are crossed at the tips.

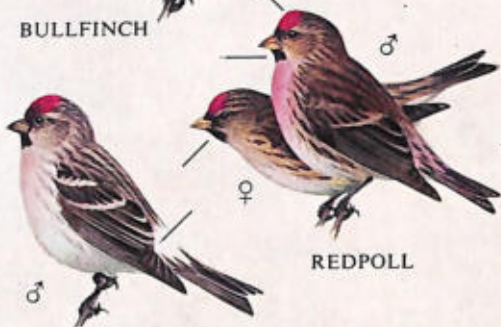
- **BULLFINCH** page 276
 Stubby bill, black cap, white rump.
Male: Rosy crimson breast.
Female: Warm buff-grey breast.
- **LINNET** 274
Male: Red forehead and breast, no black on chin.
Female: Streaked, grey head, browner back.
- **REDPOLL** 275
 Red forehead, black chin.
 Male has pink breast.
- **ARCTIC REDPOLL** 275
 From Redpoll by frostier appearance, unstreaked white rump.
- **TWITE** 274
 Rich buff with black streaks; yellow bill in winter.
 Male has pinkish rump.
- **SCARLET GROSBEAK** 277
Male: Bright red breast, crown and rump. No white wing-bars.
Female: Brown, streaked; thick bill, pale wing-bars.
- **PINE GROSBEAK** 277
Male: Large, rosy; white wing-bars, stubby bill.
Female: Grey; wing-bars; dull yellow crown and rump.
- **CROSSBILL** 280
Male: Dull red; dark wings and tail, crossed bill.
Female: Dull olive; dark wings.
- **PARROT CROSSBILL** 280
 Very stout bill. See text.
- **TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL** 281
Male: Rose-pink; white wing-bars, crossed bill.
Female: Olive; white wing-bars, streaks.



BULLFINCH



LINNET



REDPOLL



TWITE



SCARLET GROSBÆK



PARROT
CROSSBILL

PINE GROSBÆK



CROSSBILL



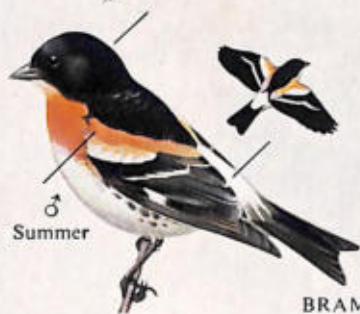
TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL



HAWFINCH



CHAFFINCH



♂
Summer

BRAMBLING



♂
Winter



♂
Sexes similar

GOLDFINCH



♀
♂
GREENFINCH



♂
Sexes similar

CITRIL FINCH



♀
♂
SISKIN



♀
♂
SERIN

FINCHES

- **HAWFINCH** page 272
Massive bill, white wing-patches, short tail.
- **CHAFFINCH** 281
Double white wing-bars, white sides of tail.
Male with blue-grey crown, pinkish cheeks.
- **BRAMBLING** 282
White rump, rusty "shoulders."
Male in summer has black head and back.
- **GOLDFINCH** 273
Red face, broad yellow band on wing.
- **GREENFINCH** 272
Male: Dull green; large yellow wing-patches.
Female: Duller, with yellow wing-patches.
- △ **CITRIL FINCH** 276
Unstreaked, greyish nape, dull green wing-bars.
- **SISKIN** 273
Male: Black crown and chin, yellow on tail.
Female: Streaked breast, yellow on tail.
- **SERIN** 276
Stumpy form; stubby bill, streaks, yellow breast,
yellow rump.



Most finches have a strongly undulating flight

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

page 247

Du—Boompieper

Fr—Pipit des arbres

Ge—Baumpieper

Sw—Trädpiplärka

Identification: 6". Best distinguished from very similar Meadow Pipit by *voice*, yellowish breast and pinkish legs, with *short* hind claws. Upper-parts brown, streaked blackish. Creamy-buff below, with blackish moustachial stripe and boldly streaked breast and flanks. Yellowish eye-stripe. White outer tail-feathers. Perches readily on trees. Rock Pipit is larger and *darker*. See also Red-throated.

Voice: A rather hoarse "teeze"; alarm, a persistently repeated "sip." Song, loud and musical, with long trills, ending in characteristic "seea-seea-seea," or with very slow "chew, chew, chew"; sings during "parachute" descent to perch from short upward flight (Wood Lark plunges to ground).

Habitat: Heaths, clearings in woods, hillsides with scattered trees and bushes. Nests under bracken, in long grass, etc. Map below.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

page 247

Du—Roodkeelpieper

Fr—Pipit à gorge rousse

Ge—Rotkehlpieper

Sw—Rödstrupig piplärka

Identification: 5½". Resembles Tree Pipit, but distinguished by darker upper-parts, *boldly streaked rump* and distinctive voice. In breeding season throat and upper breast are tinged *rusty red*. Distinguished in winter from Meadow Pipit by streaked rump and less olive upper-parts.

Voice: Call-notes: a hoarse "tzeez," a clear "pee-ez," and a soft "teu." Song less musical and higher pitched than Meadow Pipit's.

Habitat: Swampy tundra, marshes and moist cultivated land, usually with some bushes, often near coast. Nests on ground. Map below.

ROCK PIPIT and WATER PIPIT

Anthus spinoletta

page 247

ROCK PIPIT: Du—Oekerpieper

Fr—Pipit maritime

Ge—Strandpieper

Sw—Skärpiplärka

WATER PIPIT: Du—Waterpieper

Fr—Pipit spioncelle

Ge—Wasserpieper

Sw—Vattenpiplärka



← TREE PIPIT
Mainly summer
visitor.
Annual Ireland.
Vagrant Iceland

RED-THROATED
PIPIT →
Summer visitor.
Passage Europe w.
to Italy. Vagrant
to Britain, Ireland,
Portugal



Identification: 6½". Slightly larger and more slender than Meadow and Tree Pipits, with rather longer bill. Legs *much darker* than in other pipits. Typical mountain race (Water Pipit, *A. s. spinoletta*) has *white outer tail-feathers*, whitish eye-stripe, and whitish under-parts, which in autumn and winter are streaked, but are unstreaked and flushed pinkish in breeding season. Coastal races (Rock Pipit, *A. s. petrosus*, etc.) have darker, more olive appearance, with closely streaked olive-buff under-parts and *greyish* (not white) outer tail-feathers. Distinguished from Meadow Pipit in winter by browner upper-parts, *dark legs*; from Tawny Pipit by smaller size, darker upper-parts, *dark legs*. **Voice:** A thin "tsip," "jeep," or "tseep-eep." Song akin to Tree and Meadow Pipits', usually in "flapping" song flight.

Habitat: Breeds in mountainous areas (Water Pipit), or near seashore (Rock Pipits). Winters in marshy lowlands, inland waterways, mudflats and sea coasts. Nests in crevices in rocks, etc. Map below.

PIED WAGTAIL and WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* pages 247, 254

PIED WAGTAIL: Du—Rouwkwikstaart Fr—Bergeronnette d'Yarrell
Ge—Trauerbachstelze Sw—Engelsk sädesärta

WHITE WAGTAIL: Du—Witte kwikstaart Fr—Bergeronnette grise
Ge—Bachstelze Sw—Sädesärta

Identification: 7". A well patterned black and white bird with slender legs, long tail. Summer male of British subspecies (Pied Wagtail, *M. a. yarrelli*) has *black back*, crown, throat and breast; blackish wings with double white bar; black tail with white outer feathers; white forehead, sides of head and belly. Female greyer above, less black on head and breast. In winter both sexes have *black* on crown, and white throat, with crescent-shaped black bib and grey back. Continental subspecies (White Wagtail, *M. a. alba*) is similar, but in breeding season has *light grey* back and rump. More easily confused in autumn.

Voice: A lively "tchizzik"; alarm an abrupt "tchik"; song, a twitter, embodying variants of call-notes.

Habitat: Gardens, farms, open country and towns. Often, but not always, near water. Nests in holes in buildings, rocks, etc. Map below.



← ROCK PIPIT
Partial migrant

PIED WAGTAIL →
Partial migrant



GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

pages 247, 254

Du—Grote gele kwikstaart

Fr—Bergeronnette des ruisseaux

Ge—Gebirgstelze

Sw—Gråärla

Identification: 7". Distinguished at any season from all other yellow-breasted wagtails by *very long black tail with conspicuous white outer feathers, blue-grey upper-parts and yellow under tail-coverts*. Breast brilliant yellow in summer, buffish in winter. Rump greenish-yellow. Male has white eye-stripe and conspicuous white stripe from bill below dark grey cheek. Chin and throat of male *black* in summer, whitish in winter. Female is tinged greenish above, with whitish throat, summer and winter. Juvenile grey-brown above, buffish below; distinguished from Pied by *yellow under tail-coverts*. Flight and actions as Yellow. Not gregarious, except for roosting. See also Yellow Wagtail.

Voice: Call-notes more metallic than in Pied and song more varied and musical. Alarm, a shrill "see-eet," or "siz-eet."

Habitat: Shallow streams in hill country, but also lowlands, sewage farms and cultivated land, particularly in winter. Nests in holes in walls, bridges, banks, etc. Map below.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (incl. Blue-headed Wagtail, etc.) *Motacilla flava*

pages 247, 254

YELLOW WAGTAIL: Du—Engelse gele kwikstaart, Fr—Bergeronnette flavéole, Ge—Grünköpfige Schafstelze, Sw—Engelsk gulärla

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL: Du—Gele kwikstaart, Fr—Bergeronnette printanière, Ge—Schafstelze, Sw—Gulärla

Identification: 6½". A slender, long-tailed, long-legged bird with yellow under-parts. Several races occur in Europe and can, with practice, be separated in the field. Male of the yellowest race (*M. f. flavissima*), breeding in British Isles and on adjacent shores of Continent, has bright yellow eye-stripe, throat and under-parts; yellowish green upper-parts and cheeks. Females in summer and both sexes in winter are duller and browner above, paler below; juvenile has buff chin and brown bib. Male of central European race (Blue-headed Wagtail, *M. f. flava*), has bluish crown, slightly darker ear-coverts



← **GREY WAGTAIL**
Partial migrant.
Hqs bred Norway.
Vagrant Faeroes,
Iceland, Finland

YELLOW WAGTAIL →
Summer visitor.
Has bred Ireland.
Vagrant Faeroes
and Iceland



- with a few white marks, white eye-stripe and white chin. Female much duller, with white chin. For further distinctions between races, see plate 59, page 254.

Note: there is a tendency for populations to produce mutants and occasional individuals virtually identical with those of other subspecies. Most observers will be satisfied to call them all "Yellow Wagtails." See also Grey Wagtail.

Voice: A loud, musical "tsouEEP," or a more grating "tsirr." Song, a simple "tsip-tsip-tsipi."

Habitat: Usually near water, marshes, stream-banks, meadows. Nests in depression under grass, crops, etc. Map p 266.

WAXWINGS : Bombycillidae

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

page 255

Du—Pestvogel

Fr—Jaseur boréal

Ge—Seidenschwanz

Sw—Sidensvans

N.Am—Bohemian Waxwing

Identification: ♂. Identified by unmistakable pinkish-chestnut crest, and short, yellow-tipped tail. Has black eye-stripe and throat patch. Upper-parts chestnut, with grey rump; under-parts pinkish-brown, with chestnut under tail-coverts; dark wings boldly marked white and yellow, with scarlet waxy tips to secondaries (less evident on female). Juvenile lacks black throat-patch and has soft streaks below. Flight strong and starling-like. Often very tame. Acrobatic feeding habits recall Crossbill. Gregarious.

Voice: Call-note a weak, high trill, "zhreee."

Habitat: Breeds in open glades of northern coniferous and birch woods. Winters in more open country, seeking berried fruit in hedges. Map below.



← WAXWING
Partial migrant.
Extends most winters beyond limit shown. Vag. to Iceland, Ireland, Spain, Malta, Faeroes

GREAT GREY
SHRIKE →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant to Faeroes, Ireland, Malta



SHRIKES : Laniidae

STRIKINGLY COLOURED PASSERINES, with hook-tipped bills and hawk-like behaviour. Usually perch watchfully upright on conspicuous vantage points, fanning their rather long tails. Prey often impaled on thorn-bush "larders." Call-notes are harsh, but songs surprisingly musical.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* page 255

Du—Klapekster Fr—Pie-grièche grise
Ge—Raubwürger Sw—Varfågel

N.Am—Northern Shrike

Identification: 9½". Largest of the shrikes. Identified by contrasting black, white and grey plumage. Distinguished from Lesser by larger size, grey (not black) forehead, narrow white eye-stripe between black eye-patch and grey crown; much more white on scapulars; whitish or greyish (not pinkish) under-parts, longer, more graduated tail, narrower white area on open wing (closed wing often gives effect of double white bar). Female usually has faint brown wavy bars on breast. Juvenile grey-brown, with brown wavy bars on under-parts. Perches on tree-top or telegraph pole, from which it attacks small birds, mice, lizards, insects. Tail frequently waved or fanned. Flight low and usually undulating, with steep upward glide to perch; hovers frequently. South European race *L. e. meridionalis* is darker above and below.

Voice: Characteristic "shek-shek" note sometimes prolonged into Magpie-like rattle. Anxiety note, a grating "jaaeg." Song, a subdued, prolonged mixture of harsh and musical notes.

Habitat: Outskirts of woods, orchards, heaths, hedges, etc. Less fond of open country for breeding than other shrikes. Nest site varied, from high trees to thorn bushes. Map p 267.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor* page 255

Du—Kleine klauwier Fr—Pie-grièche à poitrine rose
Ge—Schwarzstirnwürger Sw—Svartpannad törnskata

Identification: 8". Resembles Great Grey, but is smaller, with proportionately longer wings; broad black face-markings continuing across forehead (less evident in female); no white eye-stripe; pale pinkish under-parts; blue-grey upper-parts; black wings and tail; very prominent white wing-bar and white outer tail-feathers. Juvenile looks yellowish at a distance, with relatively unbarred breast, finely barred dark brown on head and flanks, with brownish-black wings and tail. Behaviour like Great Grey. Flight usually direct (not low and undulating as in Great Grey); hovers frequently.

Voice: Much as Great Grey; also a clear "kvielk"

Habitat: Fairly open country with scattered trees and bushes, roadsides, commons, etc. Nests fairly high, usually near the trunk in roadside tree. Map p 269.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* page 255

Du—Roodkopklauwier Fr—Pie-grièche à tête rousse
 Ge—Rotkopfwürger Sw—Rödhuwad törnskata

Identification: 6½". Distinguished from Great and Lesser Grey Shrikes by *rich chestnut crown and nape*. Has broad black face-marking continuing across forehead, pure white throat and under-parts, blackish wings and mantle with *conspicuous white "shoulder" patches* and short wing-bar, black tail with white sides, *white rump conspicuous in flight*. Sexes similar. Immature resembles pale young Red-backed, but is less rufous, with much paler scapulars and rump; shows trace of short whitish wing-bar. Behaviour and flight like Red-backed, but less inclined to perch in open. Corsican race *L. s. badius* lacks the white wing-bar. See also Masked Shrike.

Voice: Like Lesser Grey, but more varied, with frequent House Sparrow-like chatter. Song, a sustained musical warble, interspersed with harsh notes and mimicry.

Habitat: Dry open country, olive groves, orchards, bushy commons, occasionally large woods. Nests in fairly large trees and bushes. Map below.

MASKED SHRIKE *Lanius nubicus* page 255

Du—Klein-Aziatische klauwier Fr.—Pie-grièche masquée
 Ge—Maskenwürger Sw—Masktörnskata

Identification: 6¾". Uniform black above, from crown to tail. Resembles Woodchat in size, but distinguished by *black rump, black crown* with bold white forehead and white stripe over eye; also by *reddish flanks* (otherwise white under-parts) and more conspicuous white sides to large tail. Wing markings like Woodchat's. Behaviour like Red-backed, but with more graceful flight; seldom adopts prominent perch.

Voice: A harsh, but plaintive, repeated "*keer*." Song, a subdued monotonous succession of scratchy notes.

Habitat and Range: Olive groves, gardens and lightly wooded country. Nests fairly high in trees. Summer visitor to Turkey, Greece, and S. Yugoslavia. Vagrant to England, S. Spain.



← LESSER GREY
 SHRIKE
Summer visitor.
Vagrant to Finland, Sweden, Britain



WOODCHAT
 SHRIKE →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant to Britain, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

page 255

Du—Grauwe klauwier

Fr—Pie-grièche écorcheur

Ge—Neuntöter

Sw—Vanlig törnskata

Identification: 6½". Male distinguished by *chestnut back*. Has *pale blue-grey* crown and rump, broad black face-marking through eyes to ear-coverts. Under-parts pinkish-white. Tail black with white sides, often swung side to side. Female normally lacks black face-marks and is dull rufous-brown above, buffish below, barred with brown crescent markings; distinguished from female Woodchat by *lack of white on rump and wings*. Immature has more pronounced crescent markings; difficult to distinguish from young Woodchat, except by more rufous plumage, lack of pale rump and of whitish wing-bar. Flight usually direct. Glides and hovers when hunting along hedges, but usually pounces on prey from elevated perch. Impales small birds and insects in thorn-bush "larders."

Voice: A harsh, grating "*shack*," or "*chee-uk*." Song, a quiet musical and often prolonged warbling, interspersed with call-notes and a wide range of mimicry.

Habitat: Bushy commons, uncut hedges, thickets, old quarries. Nests in bushes, small trees, bramble patches. Map below.

STARLINGS : Sturnidae

STOCKY BIRDS, WITH SHORT TAILS, LONG POINTED BILLS. Jaunty, garrulous and very active. Sexes similar. Feed on open ground. Gregarious.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

page 199

Du—Spreeuw

Fr—Etourneau sansonnet

Ge—Star

Sw—Stare

Identification: 8½". Blackish, glossed bronze-green and purple. *Short tail; pointed wings; long sharp bill*. Plumage closely speckled in winter, particularly female. Juvenile mouse-brown, with whitish throat. Bill



← RED-BACKED SHRIKE
Summer visitor.
Vagrant to Faeroes,
Ireland

STARLING →
Partial migrant



of adult dark in winter, lemon-yellow in spring. Jaunty, quarrelsome and garrulous. Flight direct and rapid, gliding occasionally. Feeds and roosts gregariously. Occurs in huge flocks in autumn and winter, congregating in dense, noisy throngs on city buildings at dusk.

Voice: A harsh descending "tcheeer." Also a medley of clear whistles, clicks, rattles and chuckles, woven into a long, rambling song, delivered from chimney-pot or tree-top. A good mimic.

Habitat: Equally at home in town or country. Breeds in holes in trees, buildings, thatches, nest-boxes, etc., or holes in ground in barren areas. Map p 270.

SPOTLESS STARLING *Sturnus unicolor* page 199

Identification: $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". Indistinguishable at a distance from common Starling, but at short range male in breeding plumage is obviously *blacker*, glossed with purple and *without spots*; bill yellow. Female is duller. In winter both adults are greyish-black, speckled with small, arrow-shaped white spots. Juvenile like dark young common Starling. Behaviour and flight like Starling.

Voice: Louder and shriller than Starling's; notably a whistling "seeooo."

Habitat: Usually in small colonies on cliffs and in towns and villages, locally in wooded regions and around isolated farms. Nests in holes in trees, cliffs, ruins, under eaves, etc. Resident in Spain, Portugal, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus* page 199

Du—Rosé-spreeuw

Fr—Martin roselin

Ge—Rosenstar

Sw—Rosenstare

Identification: $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". Similar to Starling in form and movements, including flight. Plumage unmistakable *rose-pink*, with *glossy black head, neck, wings and tail, and a distinctive crest*. Bill and legs pink, except in winter when bill is brown. Juvenile is sandy brown, with darker wings and tail and no crest; *paler* than young Starling, even in flight, and further distinguished by *yellowish bill*. Gregarious, even when nesting. Often associates with Starlings, particularly when feeding among cattle, but not in reed-beds.

Voice: Flight-notes like Starling; when perched, higher pitched, quicker and more scratchy.

Habitat and Range: Open country, agricultural land, old ruins, steppes. Breeds in holes among stones on open ground, and in walls. Passage in Greece, breeding irregularly in S.E. Europe, W. to Hungary and Italy and occurring in summer and autumn increasingly erratically westward over rest of Europe to Iceland.

FINCHES, REDPOLLS, CROSSBILLS AND BUNTINGS : Fringillidae

SEED-EATING BIRDS with short, strong bills, usually thick at the base. Sexes usually different. Juveniles usually resemble adult females.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* page 263

Du—Appelvink

Fr—Gros-bec casse-noyaux

Ge—Kernbeisser

Sw—Stenknäck

Identification: 7". Huge bill, bull-neck, short white-tipped tail, blue-black wings with bold white "shoulder" patches. Tawny head, rich brown back, pale pinkish-brown under-parts, black throat and lores. Bill gun-metal blue in spring, pale horn in winter. Female paler, less rufous on crown. Juvenile is barred with brown and has yellow throat patch. Flight rapid and usually high, but "bounding" over short distances. Flight silhouette (large head, short tail) is unmistakable. Walks with upright, waddling gait, and hops powerfully. Often in flocks in winter, feeding on ground in woods. Extremely wary.

Voice: A loud, explosive "ptik," or "ptik . . . ptik-it," a thin "tzeep," etc. Song, seldom heard, a halting "teek, teek, tur-whee-whee," with variations. Usually sings on tree-tops.

Habitat: Chiefly arboreal: mixed woodlands, parks, orchards. Nests in tree-top, or on low horizontal branch, or against trunk, often in scattered groups. Map below.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

page 263

Du—Groenling

Fr—Verdier d'Europe

Ge—Grünling

Sw—Grönfink

Identification: 5½". Olive-green, with yellow-green rump and conspicuous yellow on wings and tail. Heavy, whitish bill. Pinkish legs. Female duller, less yellow. Juvenile browner and streaked. Flight undulating.



← HAWFINCH
Partial migrant.
Balearics in winter.
Fias bred Finland,
Norway. Vagrant
Ireland, Malta



GREENFINCH →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Faeroes

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Voice: A loud, rapid trill; also a repeated short "chup," or "teu." In breeding season a prolonged nasal "tswe-e-e." Song, from tree-tops, or in bat-like flight, a canary-like twittering, mixed with call-notes.
Habitat: Gardens, shrubberies, farmlands. Nests in hedges, bushes and small trees, particularly evergreens. Map p 272.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* page 263

Du—Putter Fr—Chardonneret élégant
 Ge—Stieglitz Sw—Steglitsa

Identification: 4½". Sexes similar. Boldly marked black and yellow wings; black and white tail; scarlet, black and white head; brown back. Juvenile head and upper-parts greyish-buff, streaked and spotted brown. Flight undulating and "dancing." Sociable.

Voice: Unmistakable, liquid "switt-witt-witt-witt" frequently repeated; anxiety note a soft "ah-i"; song a canary-like, liquid twitter, incorporating variations on the call-notes.

Habitat: Gardens, orchards, cultivated land. Forages for thistle-seed in waste-lands and road-sides during autumn and winter. Nests in trees, usually near tip of branch; occasionally in hedges. Map below.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* page 263

Du—Sijsje Fr—Tarin des aulnes
 Ge—Zeisig Sw—Grönsiska

Identification: 4½". Male yellow-green, paler beneath, with black crown and chin; yellow rump, wing-bar, sides of tail and stripe behind eye; brown streaked back and flanks. Female greyer, with less yellow, no black on head, more strongly streaked whitish under-parts. Flight finch-like but very buoyant. Gregarious with redpolls in winter. See also Serin, Citril Finch and Redpoll.

Voice: Almost constant twitter. Call-notes a high, squeaky "tsy-zi" and a wheezy "tsooet." Song, a long, rapid musical twitter, often terminating with a long Greenfinch-like wheezing note.

Habitat: Coniferous woods, birch and alder thickets and uncut hedges. Nests high in conifers, usually at extremity of branch. Map below.



← GOLDFINCH
 Partial Migrant



SISKIN →
 Partial migrant.
 Has bred Belgium,
 Holland. Vagrant
 Faeroes

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

page 262

Du—Kneutje

Fr—Linotte mélodieuse

Ge—Hänfling

Sw—Hämpling

Identification: 5½". Male has chestnut-brown mantle; dark brown wings and forked tail are *edged with white*; head *greyish*; under-parts buff, streaked brownish-black; breast *pinkish*. In breeding season male has *crimson crown and breast*, whitish throat with brown streaks. Female lacks crimson, is more streaked. Flight undulating. Gregarious. In winter distinguished from Twite and Redpoll by streaked chin and throat, prominent white on sides of tail (faint in Twite), and dark bill. **Voice:** Usual call "tsooet"; flight-note a rapid twitter; song, a varied, musical twitter, interspersed with pure and nasal notes, delivered from top of bush, sometimes in chorus.

Habitat: Open country with hedges; in winter roams in large flocks over waste-ground, farm-lands, marshes. Breeds sociably, in gorse, thickets and hedges, occasionally in marram grass and heather. Map below.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

page 262

Du—Fratertje

Fr—Linotte à bec jaune

Ge—Berghänfling

Sw—Gulnäbbad hämpling

Identification: 5½". Rather Linnet-like in appearance and actions. Dull buff above, streaked black and brown, lighter below. *Throat warm buff*. Male has *distinctive pink rump*, which in female is buff streaked with black. Bill greyish-yellow in summer, light yellow in winter. Distinguished from female and juvenile Linnets by darker upper-parts, almost orange-buff throat and slightly longer tail, and, in winter, also by *yellow bill*; from Redpoll by buffer plumage, lack of black chin and lack of red cap.

Voice: A nasal "chweet." Almost constant twitter in flight. Song, Linnet-like, but slower.

Habitat: Breeds sociably on moors and high waste-lands. In winter roams in flocks over coastal regions, fields, marshes, etc. Map below.



← LINNET
Partial migrant.

TWITE →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Czecho.
and Faeroes.
Vagrant to Spain,
Italy, Hungary



REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

page 262

Du—Barmsijsje

Fr—Sizerin flammé

Ge—Birkenzeisig

Sw—Gråsiska

Identification: 5". A little streaked grey-brown finch with a *bright red forehead* and a *black chin*. Male (only) has *pink* flush on breast. Flanks streaked. Flight undulating and buoyant. Sociable. British and Alpine race (Lesser Redpoll, *C. f. cabaret*) is smaller and browner, with more streaked upper-parts and less noticeable wing-bars. Continental race (Mealy Redpoll, *C. f. flammea*) is somewhat larger, with paler and greyer plumage, whiter wing-bar and rump. Greenland race (Greater Redpoll, *C. f. rostrata*) is even larger (5½-6") and darker, with larger bill and darker flank-stripes, but usually not safely distinguishable unless in company with smaller redpolls. See also Arctic Redpoll.

Voice: High-pitched, metallic flight calls: a very rapid, sustained twittering "*chuch-uch-uch*," "*tiu-tiu-tiu*," etc. Anxiety note, a plaintive "*tsooet*." Song, a sustained series of brief trills interspersed with flight calls.

Habitat: Copses, shrubberies, preferably of alder and willow; in northern forests chiefly deciduous; also rocky outcrops above tree line in mountainous areas and on tundra. Breeds, often sociably, in birch, alder, willow or juniper. Map below.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*

page 262

Du—Witstuit barmsijsje

Fr—Sizerin blanchâtre

Ge—Polarbirkenzeisig

Sw—Sibirisk gråsiska

N.Am—Hoary Redpoll

Identification: 5". Distinguished from other redpolls by white, *unstreaked* rump, *whiter under-parts* and *paler, greyer* back. Rump tinged pink in adult male, but breast much paler pink than in palest race of Redpoll. Female lacks pink; both sexes have crimson crown. Habits similar to other redpolls.

Habitat: Similar to other redpolls, but breeding confined to treeless upper latitudes. Nests on ground, or in low scrub. Map below.



← REDPOLL
Partial migrant,
south to Mediter-
ranean at times

ARCTIC
REDPOLL →
Mainly migratory.
Uncertain Finland
in winter. Vagrant
Iceland, Britain,
central Europe



CITRIL FINCH *Carduelis citrinella*

page 265

Du—Citroensijs

Fr—Venturon montagnard

Ge—Zitronenzeisig

Sw—Citronsiska

Identification: 4½". Greenish, with greyish nape and sides of neck; greenish-yellow rump; blackish wings with greenish-yellow bar. Female duller and faintly streaked. Juvenile greyish-brown with paler under-parts, streaked above and below. Flight "dancing." Sociable. Greyish neck and unstreaked under-parts distinguish it from Siskin and Serin. **Voice:** A plaintive "tsi-i"; also a metallic "chwick." Song, a Siskin-like mixture of creaking notes and musical twittering, often during circling flight.

Habitat: Mountains with scattered conifers and open rocky ground; above 5000 ft. in summer, lower in winter. Nests in conifers. Map below.

SERIN *Serinus canarius*

page 263

Du—Europese kanarie

Fr—Serin cini

Ge—Girlitz

Sw—Gulhämpling

Identification: 4½". A tiny, streaked, yellowish finch. Distinguished by stubby bill, and bright yellow rump. Male has bright yellow forehead, eye-stripe, throat and breast. Female more streaked, greyer below, browner above; distinguished from female Siskin by shorter, heavier bill. Juvenile strongly streaked with brown, lacks yellow on rump. Flight swift and undulating; in nuptial flight rises vertically and descends in circles. Sociable.

Voice: Twittering flight call; a rapid "si-twi-twi-twi," and a hard, wren-like "chit-chit-chit"; anxiety note a liquid "tsooet". Song, delivered from tree-top, telegraph wire, or in flight, a rapid, sibilant, almost hissing, jingle, with occasional canary-like trills.

Habitat: Parks, gardens, vineyards, etc. Nests in trees, vines, small bushes. Map below.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

page 262

Du—Goudvink

Fr—Bouvreuil pivoine

Ge—Gimpel

Sw—Domherre



← CITRIL FINCH
Mainly resident.
Spreads S. France
in winter. Vagrant
Britain, Heligo-
land, Sicily



SERIN →
Partial migrant.
Range expanding
n.w. Vagr. Britain,
Ireland, Denmark,
Finland

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Identification: 5½". Male, a striking bird with *bright rose-red underparts*, blue-grey upper-parts, *black cap and chin* and *very heavy black bill*. Has black wings and tail, *white rump*. Female has similar black cap and pattern but is pinkish-brown below, grey-brown above. Flight undulating. Secretive, seldom leaving cover. N. European race *P. p. pyrrhula* is distinctly larger and brighter than British *P. p. nesa*. See Brambling, which also has white rump.

Voice: A soft, piping "*weeb*." Song, a very subdued mixture of warbling and creaking notes, including "*teek, teek, tioo*."

Habitat: Plantations, thickets, hedgerows, gardens, orchards. Nests in evergreens, garden trees, hedges. Map below.

SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus* page 262

Du—Roodmus

Fr—Roselin cramoisi

Ge—Karmingimpel

Sw—Rosenfink

Identification: 5½". Male has *brilliant rosy-carmine* head, breast and rump, heavy Bullfinch-like brown bill, dark brown wings with two indistinct bars, white belly. Female and juvenile rather nondescript: brown above, buff below, best distinguished by combination of regularly streaked breast (like Corn Bunting), very rounded crown, pale double wing-bar rather high on wing, and forked tail. Flight undulating. Distinguished from Pine Grosbeak by much smaller size, and indistinct wing-bars; from crossbills by longer tail, and uncrossed mandibles.

Voice: A quiet, piping "*tiu-eek*"; song, a clear "*tiu-tiu-ti-tiu*."

Habitat: In summer, thickets, copses, undergrowth near water. Nests low down, usually in swampy vegetation, locally in dry oak woods. Map below.

PINE GROSBEAK *Pinicola enucleator* page 262

Du—Haakbek

Fr—Dur-bec des sapins

Ge—Hakengimpel

Sw—Tallbit

Identification: 8". A large, heavy finch with a *longish tail*. Male has *rosy-pink* head, neck, breast and rump; dark wings with *double white bars*; grey belly. In female the pink parts are *greenish golden*.



← BULLFINCH
Mainly resident



SCARLET
GROSBEAK →
Summer visitor.
Vagrant to Norway, Britain, Spain, N. Italy. Has wintered Czechoslovakia

SPARROWS, ACCENTORS AND BUNTINGS

- **HOUSE SPARROW** page 288
Male: Black throat, grey crown.
Female: Plain dingy breast, dull eye-stripe.
- **TREE SPARROW** 289
 Black cheek-spot, chocolate crown. Sexes alike.
- ITALIAN SPARROW** 289
Male: Chocolate crown, no stripes on sides (intermediate between House and Spanish Sparrows).
Female: Similar to House Sparrow.
- SPANISH SPARROW** 289
Male: Chocolate crown, black streaks on sides.
Female: Similar to House Sparrow.
- ROCK SPARROW** 290
 Indistinct yellow spot on breast, striped crown, white tail-spots.
- **DUNNOCK, or HEDGE SPARROW** 259
 Combination of grey breast, brown back, thin bill.
- **ALPINE ACCENTOR** 260
 Spotted white throat, rusty sides.
- **RUSTIC BUNTING** 286
Summer: White eye-stripe, rusty band across white under-parts.
Winter: Brown, with trace of head-pattern and breast-band.
- **SNOW BUNTING** 287
 Wings largely white, head washed with brown. In summer, male has white head, black back.
- △ **SNOW FINCH** 290
 From Snow Bunting by grey head, black chin.
- **LAPLAND BUNTING** 287
Male in spring: Black throat, rusty nape.
Female and winter male: Smudge on breast, rusty nape.
Immature: Light stripe through crown; see text.
- **REED BUNTING** 286
Male: Black face and throat; white moustachial stripe and collar. *Female:* Streaked; black and white moustachial stripes.



HOUSE SPARROW



TREE SPARROW

Sexes similar



ITALIAN SPARROW

SPANISH SPARROW



ROCK SPARROW

Sexes similar



DUNNOCK

Sexes similar



ALPINE ACCENTOR

Sexes similar



RUSTIC BUNTING



SNOW BUNTING



SNOW FINCH

Sexes similar



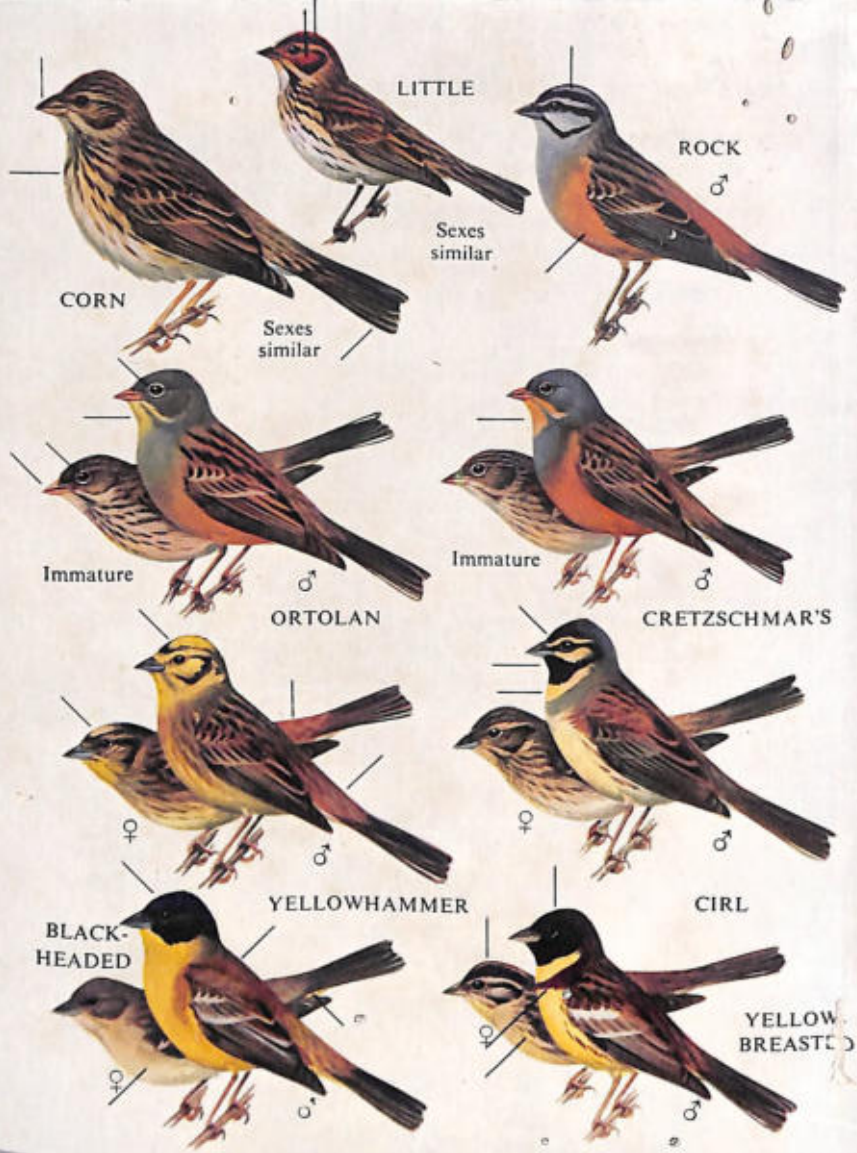
LAPLAND BUNTING

Summer



REED BUNTING

Summer



ACCIDENTAL IN EUROPE



- **CORN BUNTING** page 283
Buffish, streaked, stubby bill, no white on tail.
- **LITTLE BUNTING** 286
Rufous crown and cheeks, boldly striped with black.
- △ **ROCK BUNTING** 285
Black stripes on head, buffish-orange belly.
- **ORTOLAN BUNTING** 285
Yellow throat, yellow eye-ring, olive head and breast.
Immature: Streaked; pink bill, pale eye-ring.
- **CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING** 285
From Ortolan by rusty throat, greyer head.
Immature: Indistinguishable from immature Ortolan.
- **YELLOWHAMMER** 282
Yellowish, with rufous rump.
- **CIRL BUNTING** 284
Male: Black throat, black and yellow face-pattern.
Female: Streaked; from Yellowhammer by olive-brown rump. See text.
- △ **BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** 283
Male: Black cap, yellow throat, rufous back.
Female: Unstreaked below, bright yellow under tail-coverts.
- △ **YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** 284
Male: Black face, narrow dark band on yellow breast.
Female: Strongly striped head, streaked sides.
- △ **RED-HEADED BUNTING** 303
Male: Rufous head, yellow under-parts.
- △ **PINE BUNTING** 303
Male: White crown, chestnut throat-patch.
- △ **SIBERIAN MEADOW BUNTING** -303
Male: Chestnut crown and cheeks, white eye-brow, black "moustache."
- **MASKED BUNTING** 303
Male: Dark grey head, dull yellow under-parts.
- **CINEREOUS (GREY-HEADED) BUNTING** 303
Male: Dull yellow head, greyish body.

brown. Bill heavy and Bullfinch-like. Flight very undulating. Usually very tame. Sociable in winter. Two-barred Crossbill and Scarlet Grosbeak are also rosy, with wing-bars, but are much smaller (sparrow-size). **Voice:** A high, piping "tee-tee-tew." Alarm, a musical "cheevli-cheevli." Song consists of loud, whistling notes, interspersed with a twanging note.

Habitat: Northern mixed and coniferous woods. Usually nests in conifer. Map below.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

page 262

Du—Kruisbek

Fr—Bec-croisé des sapins

Ge—Fichtenkreuzschnabel

Sw—Mindre korsnäbb

N.Am—Red Crossbill

Identification: 6½". A bird of the conifers. Distinguished by *crossed mandibles, parrot-like actions in feeding and short, forked tail*. Male plumage *brick-red*, brighter on rump, with dark wings and tail. Young male orange-brown. Female olive with yellowish rump and underparts. Juvenile greenish-grey, strongly streaked below. Gregarious and tame. Heavy head and short tail distinctive in rapid, undulating flight. "Irrupts" in large numbers every few years and some continental birds wander to Britain to breed. Distinguished from Two-barred Crossbill by absence of white on wings. Scottish race, *L. c. scotticus*, has much heavier bill; see Parrot Crossbill. See also Pine Grosbeak and Scarlet Grosbeak.

Voice: A loud, emphatic "chip-chip-chip." Song faintly resembles Greenfinch's, but is a more regularly spaced mixture of short trills, creaking, warbling and chipping notes, notably "ti-chee, ti-chee."

Habitat: Coniferous woods, chiefly spruce, but also pine and larch. Fallen, opened cones on ground indicate presence. Breeds in conifers. Map below.

PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pityopsittacus*

page 262

Identification: Slightly larger than Crossbill, but *heavier, more rounded bill* gives more "top-heavy" appearance. Colouring and parrot-like



← PINE GROSBK
Vag. s. to England,
France, Yugoslavia

CROSSBILL →
Resid. After irreg.
"irruptions" may
nest outside normal
range in Brit. Is.,
W. Europe. Winter
S. Sweden. Vagr.
to Iceland, Malta



FINCHES, REDPOLLS, CROSSBILLS, BUNTINGS 281

actions similar, but seldom seen in such large numbers and usually keeps apart from other crossbills. Voice and habitat as Crossbill, but with preference for pines. Scottish race of Crossbill *L. c. scotticus* is relatively thick-billed and easily confused. *L. pityopsittacus* and *L. curvirostris* may be conspecific.

Range: Breeds in S. Finland and Scandinavia from 67°, southwards sporadically to E. Germany; in winter occurs Denmark, Germany, Austria, occasionally Britain, Belgium, Italy, Yugoslavia.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* page 262

Du—Witband kruisbek Fr—Bec-croisé bifascié

Ge—Bindenkreuzschnabel Sw—Bändelkorsnäbb

N.Am—White-winged Crossbill

Identification: 5½". Smaller than Crossbill. Distinguished even in flight by **bold, double white wing-bars**, which may give Chaffinch-like appearance in poor light. Male plumage more brilliant carmine than Crossbill; female lighter yellow and more streaked. Juvenile has less pronounced wing-bars than adults, otherwise like juvenile Crossbill. See also Pine Grosbeak.

Voice: A liquid "peet" and a dry "chiff-chiff" (latter corresponding to Crossbill's hard "chip-chip"). Song, a succession of loud trills on different pitches.

Habitat: As Crossbill, but prefers larch forests. Breeds rarely N. Finland, N. Sweden. Winters Baltic Provinces, sometimes reaching central, N.W. and W. Europe and British Isles.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* page 263

Du—Vink

Fr—Pinson des arbres

Ge—Buchfink

Sw—Bofink

Identification: 6". Commonest finch. Distinguished by **bold double white wing-bars** and, in flight, by **white outer tail-feathers**. Male pinkish-brown below, with chestnut mantle, greenish rump, and **slate-blue** crown and nape. Female pale olive-brown above, lighter below. Flight undulating. Gregarious, with other finches, except in breeding season;



← CHAFFINCH
Partial migrant.
Annual in Iceland

BRAMBLING →
Migrant, annual in
Iceland. Vagrant
to Malta. Has
bred Scotland,
Denmark, Estonia



sexes often in separate flocks. Immediately distinguished from Brambling by *greenish* (not white) rump.

Voice: A loud, repeated "chwink," "wheet" and "chwit"; flight-call a subdued "tsip." Song, a brief, vigorous cascade of about a dozen notes, terminating in a flourishing "choo-ee-o"; varies widely locally.

Habitat: Hedges, woods, commons, gardens, farm-lands. Nest usually fairly low, in bush or tree. Map p 281.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

page 263

Du—Keep

Fr—Pinson du nord

Ge—Bergfink

Sw—Bergfink

Identification: 5½". Easily distinguished from Chaffinch by *conspicuous white rump* and less white on wings and tail. Male has *bold orange shoulder-patch* and orange breast; head and mantle in spring are brilliant *black*, in winter brownish. Female easily confused with female Chaffinch except for white rump and dark stripes on crown. Flight more erratic than Chaffinch. Gregarious with Chaffinches in winter. Bullfinch also has white rump, but is much heavier bird, with very heavy bill.

Voice: A metallic "tsweep" and "tchuc"; latter repeated rapidly as flight-call. Song, a grating, monotonously repeated Greenfinch-like "dzweee," interspersed with a few very weak chipping notes.

Habitat: Winters in beech woods, and farm-lands. Breeds chiefly in birch, but also in conifers, usually on outskirts of wood. Map p 281.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

page 279

Du—Geelgors

Fr—Bruant jaune

Ge—Goldammer

Sw—Gulspurv

Identification: 6½". Male distinguished by *lemon yellow head and underparts and chestnut rump*; streaked chestnut back and streaked flanks. White on outer tail-feathers conspicuous in flight. Female and juvenile much less yellow, with more dark markings, particularly on head; distinguished from Cirl by *chestnut rump*.

Voice: A metallic "chip" and "twitic." Song, a rapid "chi-chi-chi-



← YELLOWHAMMER
Partial migrant
Vagrant Faeroes,
Sicily

CORN BUNTING →
Partial migrant.
Has bred Norway.
Vag. to Finland



FINCHES, REDPOLLS, CROSSBILLS, BUNTINGS 283

chi-chi . . . chweee," usually written "little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheese."

Habitat: Farm-lands, road-sides, commons, open country. Breeds on or near ground at foot of hedge, on ditch-side, etc. Map p 282.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* page 279

Du—Grauwe gors Fr—Bruant proyer

Ge—Grauammer Sw—Kornsparv

Identification: 7". Largest bunting. Female smaller. Heavily built. Sandy brown, streaked above and below. No white on wings or tail. Distinguished from larks and pipits by larger size and stubby bill. Sexes similar; juvenile lacks dark "bib." Bill and legs yellowish. Flight heavy, often with dangling legs. Perches on posts and telegraph wires. Gregarious. Usually polygynous.

Voice: A short, rasping "chip," a harsh, longer "zeep"; in autumn "tip-a-tip." Flight-call a loud twitter. Song, a distinctive, rapid, dry jingle, like rattling bunch of keys.

Habitat: Open farm-lands, commons, waste-lands, hedges. Nests in long grass, among thistles, in hedge-bottoms, etc. Map p 282.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala* page 279

Du—Zwartkopgors Fr—Bruant à tête noire

Ge—Kappenammer Sw—Ortolankung

Identification: 6½". Male has *unstreaked* yellow under-parts; *black head, with yellow collar*; chestnut back; *no white on tail*. Head brownish in autumn. Female is dull streaked olive-brown above; distinguished from other yellow-breasted buntings by *unstreaked* under-parts; yellow under tail-coverts. Red-headed Bunting, *Emberiza bruniceps*, often considered conspecific, has rich chestnut head and throat in male; females indistinguishable (see Accidentals p. 303).

Voice: A soft "chup," a short, loud "zitt" and a lower-pitched, quieter "zee." Song unusually pleasing for a bunting; begins with a few slow notes, ends with a brief but musical descending trill.

Habitat: Open country with scattered woods and undergrowth, olive groves, gardens. Breeds in low vegetation. Map below.



← BLACK-HEADED BUNTING

Summer visitor.
Vagrant w. to Ireland, n. to Baltic Provinces

CIRL BUNTING →
Mainly Ireland,
Denmark



YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola* page 279

Du—Wilgengors

Fr—Bruant auréole

Ge—Weidenammer

Sw—Brunhuvad gulspurv

Identification: $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". Both sexes have *white on wings and tail* and yellow under-parts. Male has *black face*, dark chestnut nape and upper-parts; two conspicuous white wing-bars; *distinctive narrow chestnut breast-band*; in winter, black and chestnut markings partly obscured; easily distinguished from all other buntings by white wing-bars and narrow chestnut breast-band. Female rather like Yellowhammer; distinguished from Cirl and Yellowhammer by unstreaked centre of breast, boldly striped crown and cheeks, buff eye-stripe and white on wings.

Voice: Usual call "*zipp*," also a soft, trilling "*trssit*." Song similar to Ortolan's, but higher-pitched and quicker.

Habitat and Range: Open country. In summer, chiefly birch and willow scrub near water, but also on steppes. Nests in small bushes. Breeds in west Finland. Migrates eastwards, vagrant westwards to Britain and southwards to Malta.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirlus* page 279

Du—Cirlgors

Fr—Bruant zizi

Ge—Zaunammer

Sw—Häckspurv

Identification: $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Male has *yellow under-parts with greenish breast-band, black throat* (latter obscured in winter) and streaked flanks; olive-green head with dark crown, *yellow stripes above and below eye*, black stripe through eye; back and sides of breast chestnut; distinguished from Yellowhammer by characteristic head and breast markings. Female and juvenile duller, distinguished from Yellowhammer by *olive-brown rump*. See also Yellow-breasted and Ortolan.

Voice: A weak "*sip*," flight-call "*sissi-sissi-sip*." Song, a monotonous, hurried jingle on one note, rather like Lesser Whitethroat's.

Habitat: Tall hedgerows and trees bordering cultivated land, or downs. Winters in farm-lands in mixed flocks. Nests low down in hedges, trees, sometimes on bank-sides. Map p 283.



← ORTOLAN
BUNTING
Summer visitor.
Passage E. Britain.
Vagrant to Ice-
land, Ireland

ROCK BUNTING →
Mainly resident.
Extends within
dotted lines winter.
Vagrant to Britain,
central Europe



ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* page 279

Du—Ortolaan Fr—Bruant ortolan
Ge—Ortolan Sw—Ortolansparv

Identification: 6½". Distinguished from other buntings by combination of *pinkish-buff under-parts and yellow throat*. Has *pale olive-green head and chest and pale yellow throat* with olive moustachial streak. At close quarters narrow yellow eye-ring and pink bill are visible. Upper-parts brown, streaked black. Female is paler, less green, with small dark streaks on chest. Juvenile darker, browner, streaked on under-parts, but has characteristic *eye-ring and pink bill*. See also Cretzschmar's and Rock Buntings.

Voice: A loud "tsee-ip" and "tsip" and a piping "tseu." Song recalls Yellowhammer's, but is *slower* and very variable, usually 6-7 similar clear notes, followed by occasional flourish.

Habitat: Open hilly country, often also in lowlands, gardens and scrub. Breeds on or near ground in growing crops or weeds. Map p 284.

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING *Emberiza caesia* page 279

Du—Bruinkeel-ortolaan Fr—Bruant cendrillard
Ge—Grauer Ortolan Sw—Rostsparv

Identification: 6½". Male suggests male Ortolan, but head and breast-band are unmistakable *bright blue-grey* (not olive), throat *rusty* (not yellow). Female distinguished from female Ortolan by *absence of yellow on throat*. Immature doubtfully distinguishable from young Ortolan by buffer appearance; from immature Rock Bunting by pink bill. In autumn both sexes have bright colours partly obscured.

Voice: Resembles Ortolan Bunting.

Habitat and Range: Bare rocky hill-sides and semi-desert regions with scattered and stunted vegetation. Nests on ground. Summer visitor, breeding commonly in Greece and N. to Dalmatia. Vagrant elsewhere in Mediterranean Europe, also Germany.

ROCK BUNTING *Emberiza cia* page 279

Du—Grijze gors Fr—Bruant fou
Ge—Zippammer Sw—Sippsparv

Identification: 6½". Distinguished by *ash-grey throat and head, with thin black stripes on crown and through and below the eye*. Frequently flicks tail open, to show conspicuous white when feeding on ground. Upper-parts chestnut, streaked black; "rump *unstreaked* chestnut; under-parts *buffish-chestnut*. Female is duller, browner, with breast and flanks slightly streaked. Adults distinguished from all other European buntings by *pale ash-grey throat*. Juvenile distinguished from juvenile Yellowhammer by reddish-buff under-parts; from juvenile Ortolan by chestnut rump.

Voice: Call-note a thin "seep." Song recalls Reed Bunting's; a brief "zi-zi-zi-zirr," last note rising.

Habitat: Usually rocky mountain-sides, often on trees, occasionally at sea level. Breeds on or near ground. Map p 284.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*

page 278

Du—Bosgors

Fr—Bruant rustique

Ge—Waldammer

Sw—Videsparv

Identification: 5¼". Distinguished from other buntings by pure white throat and under-parts, with large, irregular *cinnamon breast-band* and a few similar streaks on flanks. Upper-parts chestnut, streaked black. Male has *blackish crown and cheeks* (brownish in winter) with *conspicuous broad white eye-stripe*. Female has dark brown in place of black on head; faintly suggests big Whinchat. Has nervous habit of raising crest-feathers.

Voice: A repeated, high-pitched "tsip, tsip, tsip." Song rather Robin-like, but shorter and less plaintive.

Habitat: Thickets near water and mixed woods with rank undergrowth. Breeds in grass or low bushes. Map below.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*

page 279

Du—Dwerggors

Fr—Bruant nain

Ge—Zwergammer

Sw—Dvärgsparv

Identification: 5¼". Smaller than Meadow Pipit. Upper-parts brown, streaked black; under-parts whitish with *fine black streaks*. Crown and cheeks *chestnut, boldly outlined with black*. Female duller. Distinguished from female Rustic and Reed Buntings by smaller size and dull chestnut cheeks.

Voice: A repeated, Robin-like "tip." Song, a quiet, melodious twitter.

Habitat and Range: Near water in tundra, valleys with undergrowth and marshes. Breeds on ground among willows or dwarf willow scrub. Rare summer visitor, breeding in N. Finland (and eastwards); has bred N. Norway and Sweden. Occasional on passage in most W. European countries S. to Mediterranean (in Britain especially on Fair Isle).

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

page 278

Du—Rietgors

Fr—Bruant des roseaux

Ge—Rohammer

Sw—Sävspurv

Identification: 6". Male has *black head and throat, with white collar*;



← **RUSTIC BUNTING**
Summer visitor.
Vagrant W. Europe
s. to Italy, w. to
Britain

REED BUNTING →
Partial migrant.
Vagrant Faeroes



dark brown upper-parts with black streaks and greyish rump; conspicuous white outer tail-feathers; greyish-white under-parts, flanks streaked black. Female has brown head with pale buff eye-stripe and *conspicuous black and whitish moustachial streaks*; brownish rump; buff throat and under-parts with black streaks on breast and flanks.

Voice: A loud "tseek," a metallic "chink" and (alarm note) "chit." Song begins slowly, ends hurriedly, "tseek-tseek-tseek-tississisk," usually delivered from reed-stem, or bush.

Habitat: Reed-beds, sewage farms, swamps; roams farm-lands in winter. Breeds on or near ground in rank vegetation. Map p 286.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* page 278

Du—Usgors

Fr—Bruant lapon

Ge—Spornammer

Sw—Lappsparv

N.Am—Lapland Longspur

Identification: 6". Male in spring has *black head and throat*, with conspicuous curved *white band* from eye behind and below cheek, and *bright chestnut nape*. Upper-parts streaked dark brown; under-parts whitish, with streaked flanks; conspicuous white sides to tail. Female like dull male, with whitish throat. In autumn and winter is more nondescript: streaked buffish-brown, with narrow double whitish wing-bars, chestnut on coverts, some dark streaking on flanks, and varying amount of reddish on nape (in males); often has smudge of streaks across upper breast; distinguished from rather similar female Reed Bunting by shorter tail, showing less white, *pale stripe through crown*, dark angular mark behind ear-coverts and habit of *running*.

Voice: A musical "teeu," "ticky-tick-teu," etc. Song (in flight) vigorous but musical, not unlike short extract from Sky Lark's.

Habitat: Winters in coastal stubble fields and along beaches. Breeds in treeless barrens, open tundra and moss-heaths. Map below.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* page 278

Du—Sneeuwgor

Fr—Bruant des neiges

Ge—Schneeammer

Sw—Snösparv



← LAPLAND BUNTING
Migrant. Passage Baltic, British Is., Iceland. Vag. s. to Italy

SNOW BUNTING →
Partial migrant. Some years nests Faeroes. Vagrant most other European countries



Identification: $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". Looks almost pure white flying overhead. Easily identified by *broad white patches on wings and tail*. In spring, male has black back, primaries and centre tail-feathers, remainder of plumage *snow white*. Female's head and back are grey-brown, flecked black. In winter, male's head and breast are light brownish, back brown flecked with black; female and juvenile browner, but in flight white wing-patches still conspicuous. Flight "dancing" and usually high. Gregarious; large flocks in flight resemble drifting snowflakes. See also Snow Finch.

Voice: A loud "tsweet," a plaintive "teu," etc. Song, a high, very rapid, but musical "turi-turi-turi-tetitui," of almost lark-like quality; sings on downward glide from circling display flight.

Habitat: Winters along sea-shores and open coastal regions, occasionally inland downs and fields. Nests in crevices, in rocky or mountainous regions. Map p 287.

SPARROWS AND SNOW FINCHES: Passeridae

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* page 278

Du—Buismus

Fr—Moineau domestique

Ge—Haussperling

Sw—Gråsparv

Identification: $5\frac{3}{4}$ ". Perhaps the most familiar bird. Male distinguished by *dark grey crown, chestnut nape, black throat* and whitish cheeks. Female and juvenile lack the black throat and are dull brown above and dingy white below, without distinctive marks. See also Tree Sparrow.

Voice: Garrulous and varied. A loud "cheep," "chissis" and various grating, twittering and chirping notes.

Habitat: Built-up areas and cultivated land, seldom far from human habitation. Nests in holes or crevices in buildings, ivy, ricks, etc. Map below.



← HOUSE SPARROW
Mainly resident

ITALIAN SPARROW →
Resident. In Swiss Alps hybridises with House Sparrow



ITALIAN SPARROW *Passer italiae* page 278

Identification: Closely resembles House Sparrow, but male in breeding plumage has brighter coloration, with *rich chestnut-red* (not grey) crown and *whiter cheeks and under-parts*; plumage is duller and greyer in winter. Female and juvenile not distinguishable in the field from House Sparrows. Behaviour, flight, voice and habitat as House Sparrow. See also Spanish Sparrow. Map p 288.

SPANISH SPARROW *Passer hispaniolensis* page 278

Identification: Male has rich, *chestnut-red* crown, as in Italian Sparrow, but is distinguished from it and from House Sparrow by *much more extensive black throat and upper-breast, black-streaked flanks, and much blacker back*. Female and juvenile indistinguishable in the field from House Sparrows, though cheeks are whiter and upper-parts darker. Behaviour and flight much as in House Sparrow, but often seen in dense flocks far from houses. Voice is richer and less harsh.

Habitat: Not usually found near houses, preferring bushy woods and forests. Breeds colonially and singly, in foundations of occupied or unoccupied nests of storks, eagles, etc.; also in old martins' nests and in branches of trees. Map below.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* page 278

Du—Ringmus

Fr—Moineau friquet

Ge—Feldsperling

Sw—Pilfink

Identification: 5½". Sexes alike. Distinguished from male House Sparrow by *rich chocolate-brown crown, and black spot on purer white ear-coverts* which almost form white collar. More retiring than House Sparrow. See also Italian and Spanish Sparrows.

Voice: Higher pitched than House Sparrow's. A short, metallic "chik" or "chop," a repeated "chit-tchup" and a rapid, chuckling twitter. Unmistakable flight call "tek, tek."

Habitat: More rural than House Sparrow, occurring locally even in tundra. Nests in holes in trees, particularly pollard willows, nest boxes, haystacks, etc. Map below.



← SPANISH SPARROW
Mainly resident.
Vagrant S. France



TREE SPARROW →
Partial migrant
Has bred Faeroes

SNOW FINCH *Montifringilla nivalis*

page 273

Du—Sneuwvink

Fr—Pinson des neiges

Ge—Schneefink

Sw—Snöfink

Identification: 7". A mountain species. Distinguished from Snow Bunting by *grey head and black throat*, but unlikely to be seen in same localities. Warm chocolate-brown above, creamy-white below. Wings mainly white, with black primaries. Tail mainly white, with black centre, more conspicuous in flight than when perched. Female and juvenile duller, with less white on wings and tail. Bill blackish in spring, yellow in winter and juvenile. Perches upright, with nervous jerking of tail.

Voice: A harsh "tsweek." Song, in nuptial flight and when perched, a repeated "sitticher-sitticher."

Habitat and Range: Bare mountain-tops above 6,000 ft., lower in winter. Visits mountain huts and camps. Nests in rock crevices, walls, under eaves, etc. Map below.

ROCK SPARROW *Petronia petronia*

page 278

Du—Rotsmus

Fr—Moineau soulcie

Ge—Steinsperling

Sw—Stensparv

Identification: 5½". At a distance looks like female House Sparrow. Distinguished at short range by indistinct *pale yellow spot on throat* (less visible in female), and, in flight, by *conspicuous white spots on tips of tail-feathers*. Centre of crown grey-brown, sides of crown and cheeks dark brown, with pale stripe over eye. Under-parts faintly streaked pale brown. Juvenile paler, without yellow throat-patch. Altogether more alert and active than House Sparrow.

Voice: A squeaky "pey-i." Varied chirping notes are harsher than House Sparrow's.

Habitat: High rocky mountain slopes, stony ground, ruins, etc.; seldom among trees or houses. Nests in crevices. Map below.



← SNOW FINCH
Resident, spreads to lower levels in winter. Vagrant north to England, Heligoland, central Europe

ROCK SPARROW →
Resident. Virtually extinct S. Germany



Accidentals

"ACCIDENTALS" ARE DEFINED as species which have been recorded fewer than twenty times, within the geographical area embraced by this book. The following notes give the salient field marks of 116 species. The geographical origin of each species is indicated in parenthesis, followed by the European countries in which it has been recorded at least once.

WANDERING ALBATROSS. *Diomedea exulans*. Largest ocean bird (11 ft. wing-span). Mainly white, with black wing-tips and a little dark mottling on wing-coverts and tip of tail. Bill pale flesh. Female has darkish crown. Immature mainly brown, with white face and throat; wings blackish above, white below, except for black tips. (Southern oceans.) Accidental France, Belgium.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS. *Diomedea melanophrys*. 6-7 ft. wing-span. Adult has pure white head, neck, rump and under-parts, with a dark streak through the eye. Back, tail and wings blackish; under-surfaces of wings white, with black leading edge. Bill yellow. Immature has dark grey crown and blackish bill; under-surfaces of wings are dark, with pale line along centre. (Southern oceans.) Accidental northwards to Britain, Norway and Faeroes.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS. *Diomedea chlororhynchos*. 6-7 ft. wing-span. Resembles Grey-headed, but bill is black, with yellow tip and yellow upper-edge. Head, neck and rump white; back, tail and wings sooty; all-white below, with black border on both edges of wings. (Southern oceans.) Accidental Iceland, France (?)

GREY-HEADED ALBATROSS. *Diomedea chrysostoma*. Resembles Yellow-nosed (see above), but bill is dark grey, with red tip and yellow markings. (Southern oceans.) Accidental Norway.

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS. *Phoebastria palpebrata*. 6 ft. wing-span. Distinguished by pale ash-grey back and under-parts, sooty face (darkest around eye), and conspicuous broken white eye-ring. (Southern oceans.) Accidental France.

MADEIRAN PETREL. *Oceanodroma castro*. Not usually distinguishable from Leach's, but has pure white (not grey-centred) rump-band and less deeply forked tail. (Atlantic islands.) Accidental Britain.

FRIGATE PETREL. *Pelagodroma marina*. Distinguished from all other small petrels by entirely white under-surfaces of wings and body. Upper-parts dark, rump pale grey. White forehead and stripe over eye; dark crown and stripe below eye. (Atlantic islands.) Accidental Britain.

LITTLE SHEARWATER. *Procellaria baroli*. Resembles miniature Manx, but feet are very dark (not pink). Two races occur accidentally in Europe—the Madeiran, *P. b. baroli*, is the most frequent, and the Cape Verde, *P. b. boydi*; latter has black under tail-coverts and is probably indistinguishable in the field from the Audubon's. (Atlantic islands.) Accidental Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Denmark.

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER. *Procellaria lherminieri*. Smaller than Manx and much resembling it, but with *dark* feet (not pink). Much more like Little. Can be distinguished from Madeiran race of Little, *P. b. baroli*, by *dark* under tail-coverts (not white). Cape Verde race of Little, *P. b. boydi*, also has dark under tail-coverts and is probably indistinguishable. See Witherby's *Handbook of British Birds* for further distinctions. (W. Atlantic.) Accidental Britain.

BULWER'S PETREL. *Bulweria bulwerii*. Noticeably larger than Storm Petrel, a little larger than Leach's. *Entirely sooty-black*, except for grey on chin. Tail *wedge-shaped* and longer than in most petrels. Feet *pinkish*. (Atlantic islands.) Accidental Britain, Italy.

KERMADEC PETREL. *Bulweria neglecta*. About size of Manx Shearwater. Upper-parts uniform dark brown. Head and under-parts may be either brown or white, or intermediate, but always with some white on throat. Best distinguished by *white bases to primaries*, and white patches near tips of *under-surfaces* of wings. (S. Pacific.) Accidental Britain.

COLLARED PETREL. *Bulweria leucoptera*. Smaller than Manx Shearwater. Blackish above, with grey middle of back, tail-coverts and wing-coverts. Tail blackish with *pale grey outer feathers*. Face and under-parts white, with complete or partial *grey breast-band* (sometimes under-parts are all-grey except for throat). Under-surfaces of wings white, with black edges. Feet yellowish. (S. and W. Pacific.) Accidental Wales.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL (DIABLOTIN). *Bulweria hasitata*. Size of large Manx Shearwater. Resembles Great Shearwater, but distinguished by *whitish nape and forehead* (contrasting with black cap) and more extensive white or greyish on rump. Bill is shorter and thicker than Great Shearwater's. Very rare. (Caribbean.) Accidental England.

CAPE PIGEON (PINTADO PETREL). *Daption capensis*. Near size of Manx Shearwater. *Boldly checkered* upper-parts, *two large round white patches* on upper surface of each wing, dark head, white under-parts. (Southern oceans.) Accidental France, Holland, Britain (?)

MAGNIFICENT MAN-O'-WAR BIRD. *Fregata magnificens*. Large (7 ft. wing-span), black, piratical sea-bird, with very long, *deeply forked* tail (usually carried in a long point), red throat-patch and long, slender, hook-tipped bill. Female has white breast. (S. Atlantic.) Accidental France, Scotland.

BLACK DUCK. *Anas rubripes*. Size and flight silhouette of Mallard. Dark brown (looks black at distance), with pale cheeks and sides of neck, yellowish bill, purple speculum without white border. In flight *dark body and white wing-linings* are conspicuous. (N. America.) Accidental Ireland.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Anas discors*. About size of Teal. Male has *large white crescent in front of eye*, and large *chalky-blue patch* on fore-edge of wing; upper-parts red-brown. Mottled female distinguished by blue fore-wing, resembling eclipse Garganey, but no marked eye-stripe. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, Denmark, Holland.

BAIKAL TEAL. *Anas formosa*. Male unmistakable, with *white cheeks bisected by vertical black mark*. Female is brown, with dark line through eye and broken pale stripe above eye. (N.E. Asia.) Accidental Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy.

FALCATED TEAL. *Anas falcata*. Male has *iridescent bronze head*, with shaggy crest at base of crown, white throat with narrow dark collar and drooping scapulars. Female nondescript brown, with mottled flanks. (N.E. Asia) Accidental Sweden, France, Czechoslovakia, Austria.

BALDPATE (AMERICAN WIGEON). *Anas americana*. Male distinguished from Wigeon by *grey head with shining white crown*, glossy green sides of head and *mauve flanks*; in flight, large white wing-patches cover front of wings, as in Wigeon. Female easily confused with female Wigeon, but distinguished by *grey head and neck*, contrasting with *ruddy-brown breast*. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, Holland, France.

RING-NECKED DUCK. *Aythya collaris*. Superficially resembles Tufted, or a *black-backed Scaup*, but pale grey flanks come to *bold white peak* in front of wing. High-crowned head lacks crest. Chestnut collar visible at close range. *Two white bands across bill*. Female recalls female Pochard, but with white around eyes and base of bill. Broad grey rear-edge to wings in flight. (N. America.) Accidental England.

BUFFELHEAD. *Bucephala albeola*. A small duck. Male has high-crowned head and a *large white patch behind the eye and around back of head*. At rest looks chiefly white, with a black back. Female is brown above, with dusky flanks, a white cheek-spot, and white wing-patch. (N. America.) Accidental Britain.

SPECTACLED (FISCHER'S) EIDER. *Somateria fischeri*. Easily distinguished from other eiders by *large, circular, pale eye-patch*. Male has back of head and *forehead* pale green; upper-parts yellowish-white; under-parts blackish. Female closely barred brown and black, with greyish-buff head and neck. (Siberia.) Occasional in Arctic Ocean W. to Norway.

HOODED MERGANSER. *Mergus cucullatus*. Slightly larger than Smew, with merganser's typical spike-like bill and slim flight-silhouette. Male is black and white, with *fan-shaped, white, erectile crest*, outlined with black; breast white, with two black bars in front of wing, brownish flanks. Female much smaller and darker than female Goosander and Red-breasted Merganser, with dark head and neck and *prominent, bushy buff crest*. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, Ireland.

PALLAS'S SEA EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucoryphus*. Dark brown, with whitish throat and sides of head, buffish crown and nape and a *broad white band* on dark tail. Immature all-dark, with pale streaks on head. (Russia, Asia.) Accidental Poland, Norway.

AMERICAN SPARROW HAWK (AMERICAN KESTREL). *Falco sparverius*. Resembles Kestrel, but tail of male is *rufous* (not grey), wings blue-grey, head much more strikingly patterned. Female resembles female Kestrel, except for strong black and white pattern on side of head. (N. America.) Accidental Denmark.

ASIATIC WHITE CRANE. *Megalornis leucogeranus*. Snow-white plumage with elongated scapulars and black primaries. Bare fore-part of head and base of bill red. Legs reddish. (Asia.) Accidental Sweden.

SORA RAIL (CAROLINA CRAKE). *Porzana carolina*. Very similar to Spotted Crake, but adult has *black patch* on face and throat. Lacks red at base of yellow bill, and the white spots on neck and upper-breast. (N. America.) Accidental Britain.

GREEN-BACKED GALLINULE. *Porphyrio madagascariensis*. Very similar to Purple Gallinule, but smaller, with dark *blue-green* upper-parts, instead of purplish-blue. (Africa.) Accidental Sardinia, Sicily, Italy.

ALLEN'S GALLINULE. *Porphyrio alleni*. Smaller than Moorhen. Plumage black, glossed bronze-green on upper-parts, reddish-blue on neck and under-parts. Bill and legs *dark red*; frontal shield *green*. (Africa.) Accidental Spain, Italy, Sicily, Denmark, Germany.

CASPIAN PLOVER. *Charadrius asiaticus*. Size of Ringed Plover. Hair-brown above, white below. Has *broad rusty breast-band* narrowly bordered with black below. Face and eye-stripe white. Female has only faint breast-band. Male in winter resembles female. (Asia.) Accidental Britain, Heligoland, Italy, Bulgaria.

GREATER SAND PLOVER. *Charadrius leschenaultii*. Larger than Ringed Plover, with heavier bill. Sandy-buff above, white below. Male in breeding plumage distinguished by *broad rusty breast-band*. Ear-coverts and band across forehead black. Winter male is paler, with broad white stripe above eye and only traces of black or rufous. Female has grey in place of black on head. (Asia.) Accidental Greece, Sweden, Germany.

KILLDEER. *Charadrius vociferus*. Resembles *very large* Ringed Plover. Distinguished by *two black breast-bands* and by *golden-red rump* and longish, wedge-shaped tail. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, Faeroes.

SOCIABLE PLOVER. *Chettusia gregaria*. A rather slender, long-legged plover. Has broad, curved white stripe above eye joining behind in "♂" beneath black crown. Upper-parts grey. Breast grey, merging to black and chestnut on belly. Tail white, with broad black band. (European Russia, Asia.) Accidental S. Europe; westward to Spain, also Britain, Finland, Denmark, Hungary, Poland.

WHITE-TAILED PLOVER. *Chettusia leucura*. Lapwing size. Has *short white tail*, long, *bright yellow* legs, conspicuously marked, rounded black and white wings, white throat and brown to *salmon-pink* under-parts. (Asia.) Accidental France, Malta.

ESKIMO CURLEW. *Numenius borealis*. Resembles small Whimbrel, with shorter, straighter bill and *no white on rump*. Distinguished from rather similar but larger Hudsonian Curlew (American race of Whimbrel, which lacks white rump) by *paler*, more buffish under-parts, *cinnamon-buff* under surfaces of wings. Legs dark greenish. (N. America.) Has occurred Britain, Iceland. Now virtually extinct.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa solitaria*. A dark-winged sandpiper with *conspicuous white sides to dark tail*. Blackish under-sides of wings and olive-green legs recall Green Sandpiper, but *dark rump* is quick distinction. (N. America.) Accidental Britain.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Tringa macularia*. In winter indistinguishable from Common Sandpiper, but adults in summer have *large round black spots* on breast (not streaks) and black-tipped *yellow* bill. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Germany.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS. *Tringa melanoleuca*. Very like much smaller Lesser Yellowlegs, except for relatively longer, slightly up-turned bill, and Greenshank-like voice, usually having 3 notes, instead of Lesser's 1 or 2. (N. America.) Accidental Britain.

GREY-RUMPED SANDPIPER (WANDERING TATTLER). *Tringa brevipes*. Near size of Redshank. Nearly uniform grey above, white below, *finely barred* with grey across breast and flanks in summer. Dull yellow legs may cause confusion with Lesser Yellowlegs, but legs are proportionately *shorter*. (Asia.) Accidental Britain.

LEAST SANDPIPER (AMERICAN STINT). *Calidris minutilla*. Smaller than Little Stint, which it resembles, except for darker, *less rufous* appearance in summer, and *paler, yellowish or greenish legs*. In winter, breast is generally more streaked than Little Stint's (recalling Dunlin). Prefers mud and marsh to sea-shores. See also easily confused Semi-palmated Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, France, Finland.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER. *Calidris bairdii*. Larger than stints, smaller than Pectoral. Upper-parts are less streaked, more *scaly* in appearance. Head and breast *strongly buffish*, lightly streaked. Distinguished from Buff-breasted by *black legs* and *white belly*. Can be confused with spring Sanderling. (N. America.) Accidental Britain. See illustration, p. 119.

SHARP-TAILED (SIBERIAN PECTORAL) SANDPIPER. *Calidris acuminata*. Closely resembles Pectoral Sandpiper, but breast markings are much less prominent and *do not form a clean-cut breast-band*; upper-breast has warm cinnamon-buff wash. Breast spotted (rather than streaked) mostly on sides, fainter in winter. Legs greenish-grey, not yellowish. (N.E. Asia.) Accidental Britain.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER. *Calidris pusilla*. In summer is a *grey* "stint." Resembles Temminck's, but legs appear *blackish* (Temminck's are paler). In winter usually indistinguishable from Little Stint, but bill is very slightly stouter and *broadened at tip*. See also easily confused Least Sandpiper. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, France.

STILT SANDPIPER. *Micropalama himantopus*. Suggests Dowitcher. Has *strongly barred under-parts*, rusty cheek-patch below white eye-stripe and *long, spindly, greenish legs*, which project well beyond tail in flight. Slender, slightly down-curved bill is longer than in other sandpipers of similar size. Lower rump white. In winter is paler and greyer, without rusty marking and with little barring. Has Dowitcher's peculiar feeding motion. (N. America.) Accidental England.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE. *Phalaropus tricolor*. Differs in flight from other Phalaropes in *uniform dark wings and back*, with *white rump* and *longer bill*. Breast shining white, legs rather long, yellowish. Female in spring has pale grey crown, bold dark mark through eye down side of neck. (N. America.) Accidental Scotland.

GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Larus ichthyaëtus*. Size of Great Black-backed. The only *big gull* with a black head in breeding season (with white marks above and below eye). Distinguished at all seasons by *massive yellow bill*, with *black band*. Legs yellowish-green. In winter, head is white, with dusky marks on crown and near eye. Immature has white tail with bold black band. (European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Roumania, Britain, Belgium, Sardinia, Malta.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*. Size between Little and Black-headed. *Blackish hood* in summer comes well down back of head, as in Little; in winter is marked like winter Black-headed. Bill *black* at all seasons; legs red. Broken white eye-ring. Wing pattern above like Black-headed; below lacks the extensive black on undersides of primaries. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, France, Heligoland.

ROSS'S GULL. *Rhodostethia rosea*. Smaller than Black-headed. Distinguished by *rosy-white head* and under-parts, *wedge-shaped tail*, and, in summer, by *narrow black collar*. Head and neck pale blue-grey in winter. Back and wings pale grey, with narrow black edge to first primary. Bill *very small and black*. Feet red. Immature recalls young Sabine's, with contrasting brown, grey and white flight-pattern, but has wedge-shaped tail. (N.E. Siberia.) Accidental Iceland, Faeroes, Norway, Heligoland, Britain, France, Sardinia.

LESSER CRESTED TERN. *Sterna bengalensis*. About size of Gull-billed, but with more slender *orange-yellow bill*, and more deeply forked tail. Feet black. Crown of adult slightly crested, all-black in summer, streaked with white in winter. (Africa, Asia.) Accidental Sicily, Switzerland.

BRIDLED TERN. *Sterna anaethetus*. Resembles Sooty, but is smaller, with greyer back, a wide *whitish collar*, and the white forehead-patch extending in a point *behind the eye*. (Caribbean, Africa.) Accidental Britain.

ROYAL TERN. *Sterna maxima*. Resembles rather small Caspian, with *less heavy orange bill*; tail longer and more deeply forked; tips of primaries show a little less black; forehead is *white* except at beginning of breeding season; call note *higher* and less raucous. (N. America and W. Africa.) Accidental Ireland.

NODDY. *Anous stolidus*. The only *dark brown* tern (except immature Sooty) and the only tern with a full, *rounded* tail (Sooty has forked tail). The *whitish crown* on a dark bird gives a reverse, or "negative" effect, by contrast with other terns having dark caps and pale bodies. (Tropical and sub-tropical seas.) Accidental Germany.

PAROQUET AUKLET. *Cyclorhynchus psittacula*. Much larger than Little Auk. Distinguished by proportionately larger *orange-red bill and tufts of elongated white feathers* drooping from behind eye. (N. Pacific.) Accidental Sweden. See also Crested Auklet.

CRESTED AUKLET. *Aethia cristatella*. Larger than Little Auk. Entirely dark, above and below. Easily distinguished by *short black crest, curving forward*, and tufts of white feathers drooping from behind eye (as in Paroquet Auklet). Bill orange-red with whitish tip. (N. Pacific.) Accidental Iceland.

SPOTTED SANDGROUSE. *Pterocles senegallus*. Male almost uniform sandy, above and below, with *orange-yellow crown, throat and cheeks* and a pale blue-grey band bordering the crown. Female is *heavily spotted* with black and has paler yellow throat and cheeks. Both sexes have long "pin-tails" (though shorter than in *P. alchata*) and a *black ventral streak*. (Africa, Asia.) Accidental Sicily.

RUFIOUS TURTLE DOVE. *Streptopelia orientalis*. Indistinguishable from common Turtle Dove except when larger size and *darker appearance* can be observed. At close range, tips of black feathers of neck-patches and of tail-feathers are *bluish-grey* (not white). Under tail-coverts also grey. (Asia.) Accidental Scandinavia, Denmark, England, Italy.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. Closely resembles Yellow-billed (see p. 169), but *lacks rufous on wings*, has *small white spots* on tail, entirely *black bill* and a narrow red eye-ring. (N. America.) Accidental Britain, France, Italy.

AMERICAN NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles minor*. Smaller, darker and greyer than European nightjars and less strictly crepuscular. Has slightly forked tail and *bold white bands* across very long, pointed wings. (N. America.) Accidental England.

ALGERIAN MARSH OWL. *Asio capensis*. Not unlike dark Short-eared, but under-parts are spotted and vermiculated, not streaked, and eyes are *black*. Toes almost bare, feet blackish. Short ear-tufts. (N. W. Africa.) Accidental Spain, Portugal.

WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT. *Apus affinis*. Smaller than common Swift, which it resembles except for almost square tail and *white rump*. (Africa, Asia.) Accidental Italy.

NEEDLE-TAILED SWIFT. *Chaetura caudacuta*. A large swift with a very short, squared tail. Dark brown, with metallic green gloss on wings, crown and tail. White forehead, throat and *conspicuous horse-shoe mark* on under tail-coverts. (E. Asia) Accidental Britain, Italy, Finland.

PIED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle rudis*. A large, shaggily crested, *black and white* kingfisher (twice size of Kingfisher), with a broad and a narrow black band across white breast. Female has only one breast band. Occurs on fresh and salt water. (Africa, Asia.) Accidental Greece, Poland.

BELTED KINGFISHER. *Ceryle alcyon*. Larger than Pied (size of Jackdaw). *Blue-grey* above, white below, with a prominent, ragged crest and one (male) or two (female) broad breast-bands; lower band on female is rusty red and extends down flanks. (N. America.) Accidental Holland, Iceland, Ireland (?)

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER. *Merops superciliosus*. Immediately distinguished from *M. apiaster* by almost uniform green plumage without any brown on upper parts, *chestnut-orange* throat-patch and *brilliant copper under-surfaces of wings*; bill is longer. (Africa, Asia.) Accidental Italy, Malta, S. France, Scilly Is.

INDIAN SAND LARK. *Calandrella raytal*. Slightly smaller than Short-toed Lark, with *very pale silvery-grey upper-parts* and white throat and upper breast. (Asia.) Accidental Spain.

DESERT LARK. *Ammomanes deserti*. A pale nondescript desert species. *Uniform greyish-sandy* above, with faintly streaked head and slightly rufous rump; wing-feathers have pale rufous edges; under-parts whitish-sandy, faintly spotted on throat. (N. Africa, W. Asia.) Accidental Spain.

BAR-TAILED DESERT LARK. *Ammomanes phoenicura*. Resembles small Desert Lark, but with more rufous-isabelline colour; primaries and tail-feathers *tipped with black*. (N. Africa.) Accidental Malta.

BIFASCIATED LARK. *Alaemon alaudipes*. A swift-running desert species, with magnificent song. Suggests small Hoopoe in flight. Greyish sandy above, with whitish eye-stripe and dark mark through eye. Long, slightly down-curved bill. Legs white. *Two brilliant white bars, almost full length of blackish wings*. Under-parts dirty white, strongly spotted on upper breast. (N. Africa, Asia.) Accidental Malta.

CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*. A slender, long-tailed, dark slate-grey bird, with a black cap and *chestnut-red* under tail-coverts. About size of Starling, but tail is much longer. Has distinctive mewing call-note. (N. America.) Accidental Germany.

HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla guttata*. Considerably smaller than Song Thrush, which it superficially resembles. Distinguished by *bright rufous rump and tail*. Legs are flesh colour. Has distinctive habit of cocking its tail and dropping it slowly. (N. America.) Accidental Germany.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata*. Considerably smaller than Song Thrush. Uniform grey-brown above, whitish below, with irregular black streaking and spotting on creamy upper breast. Best identified by small size, *conspicuous buff eye-ring* and dark legs. (N. America.) Accidental Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Italy.

GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla minima*. Very like Olive-backed Thrush, but lacks buffish tinge on breast and conspicuous buff eye-ring. Identified at close range by *greyish cheeks*. (N. America.) Accidental Germany, Scotland.

TICKELL'S THRUSH. *Turdus unicolor*. Size of Song Thrush. Uniform grey, or grey-brown, above; greyish or buffish across breast, usually (not always) with necklace of sparse streaking on upper breast. (Himalayas.) Accidental Heligoland.

DESERT WHEATEAR. *Oenanthe deserti*. A pale, sandy wheatear, distinguished from rather similar Black-eared by *almost completely black tail and sandy* (not black) scapulars. Shows whitish patch on wing-coverts. (N. Africa, S.E. European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Britain, Heligoland, Italy, Finland, Sweden.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR. *Oenanthe isabellina*. Resembles very pale Greenland Wheatear, but is *sandy-grey*, with paler ear-coverts and wings. Shows more white beneath wings and has loud, distinctive call "*wheet whit*." (S.E. European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Britain, Greece.

WHITE-RUMPED BLACK WHEATEAR. *Oenanthe leucopyga*. Very like Black Wheatear, though both sexes are usually *blue-black*, usually with some white on crown and nape (but species is dimorphic, ranging from almost all-black to almost all-white). Rump, under tail-coverts and ventral region are always white, as is tail, except for terminal half of centre feathers, which is black. (N. Africa, W. Asia.) Accidental Malta.

MOUSSIER'S REDSTART. *Diplootocus moussieri*. Short tail and bush-perching habit give impression of cross between Redstart and Stonechat. Male distinguished from other redstarts by *white half-collar and wing-patch*. Upper-parts and head are black; forehead and eye-stripe white; rump, tail and under-parts *orange*. Female is grey-brown above, brownish-orange below, usually lacking white wing-patch. (N. Africa.) Accidental Italy.

RUBYTHROAT. *Luscinia calliope*. At a distance resembles large Bluethroat. Male's throat is *bright scarlet*, eye-stripe and moustachial stripe white, breast grey, remainder of plumage olive-brown. Female has whitish throat, buffish eye-stripe. (E. European Russia, Asia.) Accidental France, Italy.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER. *Locustella lanceolata*. Resembles small Grasshopper Warbler, but has *more heavily streaked*, browner (less olive) upper-parts and *whiter*, more copiously streaked under-parts. (European Russia, Siberia.) Accidental Britain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Yugoslavia.

PALLAS'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER. *Locustella certhiola*. Looks more like dark Sedge than Grasshopper Warbler. Distinguished from both by *whitish tips* to well-rounded darker tail. Plumage darker (less yellow) than Sedge, with lightly spotted upper breast, much fainter eye-stripe and *distinctly streaked rufous rump*. (Siberia.) Accidental Scotland, Ireland, Heligoland.

GRAY'S GRASSHOPPER WARBLER. *Locustella fasciolata*. Resembles very large Savi's Warbler, but nearer size of Great Reed Warbler. *Unstreaked* plumage, with greyish wash across upper breast. (Asia.) Accidental France.

THICK-BILLED WARBLER. *Phragmaticola aedon*. Very similar in size, shape and coloration to Great Reed Warbler, but *bill is deeper and shorter*, tail longer in proportion, rump redder, legs blue and *lacks eye-stripe*. In the hand rounded first primary is diagnostic. (S.E. Asia.) Accidental Scotland.

PADDYFIELD WARBLER. *Acrocephalus agricola*. Doubtfully distinguishable in the field from Reed, Blyth's Reed and Marsh Warblers. Usually paler and more rufous above than the reed warblers; more rufous and less olive than Marsh. Voice said to resemble Marsh. (European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Fair Isle, Heligoland, Roumania.

BOOTED WARBLER. *Hippolais caligata*. Very like small Olivaceous, but more buffish-brown above, with slightly paler rump; creamier below, with *conspicuous white on outer tail-feathers*. Legs dark brown (not greyish). (European Russia, Siberia.) Accidental Fair Isle, Heligoland.

DESERT WARBLER. *Sylvia nana*. Very pale, sandy-greyish above, slightly rufous on rump; whitish below, with slightly buffish flanks; tail well rounded, pale rufous-brown, with whitish outer feathers. Eyes and legs *pale yellowish*. Spectacled Warbler is much darker, larger, with dark cheeks and dark eyes. (N. Africa, European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Italy.

PALLAS'S WARBLER. *Phylloscopus proregulus*. Very small size ($3\frac{1}{2}$ "), yellow crown-stripe and habit of hovering to feed, cause confusion with Goldcrest. Distinguished from latter by *yellow rump-patch*, distinctive canary-like call "*whEEP*" and powerful song (each phrase repeated 4-5 times); from rather similar Yellow-browed Warbler by *prominent yellow crown-stripe, yellow eye-stripe, yellow rump* and slightly greener upper-parts. (Siberia.) Accidental Finland, Heligoland, Belgium, England, Yugoslavia.

DUSKY WARBLER. *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. Darker and browner than other *Phylloscopi* occurring in Europe. Lacks green and yellow coloration. Unstreaked dark olive-brown above (no wing-bar), buffish flanks, whitish under-parts, *rusty-white eye-stripe* contrasting with darkly mottled rusty-brown ear-coverts. Distinguished from very similar Radde's Bush Warbler by darker, more rufous appearance, rusty (not creamy) eye-stripe; browner legs, finer bill and harsh "*tchak-tchak*;" call-note. Usually feeds *on ground*. (Asia.) Accidental Britain, Heligoland (?)

RADDE'S BUSH WARBLER. *Phylloscopus schwarzi*. Resembles Dusky Warbler, but with more conspicuous *creamy* eye-stripe, stouter bill, yellower legs, paler (brownish-olive) upper-parts, *creamy*-whitish under-parts, and more arboreal habitat. Call note, a nervous "twit-twit." (Asia.) Accidental England, Heligoland.

BROWN FLYCATCHER. *Muscicapa latirostris*. Resembles small female Pied Flycatcher; distinguished by *absence of white wing-patch* and, at close range, by *narrow white eye-ring*. Distinguished from Spotted Flycatcher by smaller size and *lack of streaking* on crown and breast. (E. Asia.) Accidental England, Norway, Faeroes.

NARCISSUS FLYCATCHER. *Muscicapa narcissina*. Male has black head, back, wings and tail, with a *bold white wing-patch*, *bright orange breast*, lemon-yellow eye-stripe, flanks and rump. Female olive-brown, with yellowish-white eye-stripe and under-parts, greenish rump and rufous-brown tail. (Japan.) Accidental France.

MOUNTAIN ACCENTOR. *Prunella montanella*. Male has *black crown and face*, with *broad ochreous stripe* over eye and around dark cheek. Upper-parts dark red-brown, rump and tail grey-brown. Under-parts warm buff, with streaked flanks. Female duller, with whiter under-parts. (N. Asia.) Accidental Czechoslovakia, Italy.

PETCHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi*. Resembles Tree Pipit, but distinguished by *two pale streaks* down richly marked back, *buffish* (not white) outer tail-feathers, *spotted* rump and slightly more heavily streaked breast. Call-note a hard "pwit," usually repeated 2-3 times. (N. European Russia, Siberia.) Accidental Fair Isle.

INDIAN TREE PIPIT. *Anthus hodgsoni*. Smaller than Tree Pipit; more olivaceous above, with softer streaking; more heavily streaked on breast. (Asia.) Accidental Norway.

YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL. *Motacilla citreola*. Under-parts, *head and neck* canary-yellow; upper-parts blue-grey, with black hind-collar. Female browner and duller, lacks hind-collar. In winter resembles typical winter *flava* from in front, *alba* from behind. Wags tail and bobs head less than *alba*. (Siberia.) Accidental Scotland, Germany.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE. *Lanius isabellinus*. *Strikingly pale*, isabelline-buffish above, whiter below, with pale rufous crown and rump. Lores and ear-coverts jet-black. Tail almost *chestnut*, without white. Wings brown, with conspicuous white patch at base of primaries, forming bar in flight. (Asia.) Accidental Scotland, Heligoland.

RED-EYED VIREO. *Vireo olivaceus*. Size and shape of Blackcap. Olive green above, white below, with *grey crown* and conspicuous *black-bordered* white eye-stripe. Red eye. No wing-bar. Call-note a nasal "chway." (N. America.) Accidental Ireland.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*. Strongly striped black and white on head, body and wings. Female has whiter under-parts. Has habit of *tree-creeping*. (N. America.) Accidental Shetlands.

PARULA WARBLER. *Parula americana*. Unmistakable bluish above, with yellow throat and breast and two conspicuous white wing-bars. Male has dark rusty breast-band. (N. America.) Accidental Iceland.

MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*. Identified in any plumage by bright yellow rump, yellow on crown and in front of each wing. Male blue-grey above (brownish in winter and female), with bold inverted 'U' on white breast and flanks (partly obscured into streaks in winter). White patches each side of spread tail. (N. America.) Accidental England.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens*. Male has bright yellow face framed by black throat and olive-green crown and upper-parts; two conspicuous white wing-bars and white under-parts, with black-streaked flanks. Female and autumn birds have much less black on throat and flanks. (N. America.) Accidental Heligoland.

NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. Resembles sparrow-size thrush with short tail, conspicuous yellowish eye-stripe and heavily streaked under-parts. Behaviour and habitat recall sandpiper, running along water's edge and "teetering" constantly. (N. America.) Accidental France.

YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas*. Size of Chiffchaff. Male olive-brown above, with broad black "mask" from cheek across forehead (partly obscured in winter) framed with pale ash-grey; canary-yellow throat, with pale buffish breast and flanks and white belly. Female duller, lacks black "mask" (N. America.) Accidental England.

TRUMPETER BULLFINCH. *Bucanetes githagineus*. A rosy sparrow-size, ground-feeding bird. Earth-brown, tinged with pink on rump, wings and under-parts. Crown pale grey. Male in spring has bright red bill; female and winter male have yellowish bills. Voice is distinctive, like penny-trumpet note. (N. Africa.) Accidental S. Europe, from Spain to Italy, particularly Malta.

SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra*. Size of Corn Bunting. Adult male unmistakable, rose-red all over, with rather large whitish bill. Female yellowish-olive above, deep yellow below. Immature male patched red and green. (N. America.) Accidental Wales.

ROSEFINCH. *Carpodacus roseus*. Larger than Scarlet Grosbeak (of similar form). Male is crimson, browner on back, wings and tail; under-parts crimson, with small white speckles. Female uniform pale brown. (Asia.) Accidental Hungary.

SLATE-COLOURED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis*. Smaller than House Sparrow. Uniform dark slate-grey, with conspicuous white lower breast, belly and outer tail-feathers, and stubby whitish bill. (N. America.) Accidental Ireland, Italy.

FOX SPARROW. *Passerella iliaca*. Much bigger than House Sparrow, with *bright rufous tail* conspicuous in flight. Under-parts creamy with heavily streaked breast and flanks. (N. America.) Accidental Germany.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. Grey breasted, with clean-cut *white throat patch*, boldly striped *black and white crown*, and broad *white eye-stripe* (*yellow* between eye and bill). Wings and under-parts resemble House Sparrow. Immature has brown and buff head stripes. (N. America.) Accidental Britain.

PINE BUNTING. *Emberiza leucocephala*. Male has *white crown* and cheeks, edged with black; chestnut throat, eye-stripe and rump; whitish under-parts, with indistinctly speckled breast-band and flanks. Female like Yellowhammer, with all latter's yellow parts white. (E. European Russia, Asia.) Accidental Europe, westwards to Britain.

CINEREOUS (GREY-HEADED) BUNTING. *Emberiza cineracea*. A greyish bunting with a *dull yellow head*. Throat yellow; under-parts whitish, with grey wash across upper breast; upper-parts grey-brown. (Asia Minor.) Probably accidental S.E. Europe.

RED-HEADED BUNTING. *Emberiza bruniceps*. Now generally considered a race of *E. melanocephala* (see p. 283). Head and throat of male are *chestnut-red*, or golden, instead of black. Females indistinguishable. (Asia.) Accidental westwards across Europe to Norway, Britain, Italy.

MASKED BUNTING. *Emberiza spodocephala*. Male has *dark olive-grey head*, blacker around bill, and *yellow belly*; wings and tail blackish-brown. Female is browner, without black on face and with yellow throat and breast streaked with brown. (Siberia.) Accidental Heligoland

YELLOW-BROWNEED BUNTING. *Emberiza chrysophrys*. Black head, with *narrow white crown-stripe* and *yellow eye-stripe*. Upper-parts brown, streaked blackish; under-parts white, with blackish streaks on breast and flanks. Female duller, more spotted below. (E. Asia.) Accidental Belgium, France.

RUFOUS BUNTING. *Emberiza rutila*. Male has *chestnut-red* head, upper-parts and breast; under-parts bright yellow, with chestnut flank-stripes. Female olive-brown above, streaked blackish; crown slightly rufous, rump uniform chestnut; under-parts dull yellow; throat white, bordered with chestnut. (E. Asia.) Accidental Holland, France.

SIBERIAN MEADOW BUNTING. *Emberiza cioides*. Resembles Rock Bunting, but distinguished by *dark chestnut cheeks and crown* and often pale chestnut breast-band. (E. Asia.) Accidental Italy.

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