High pressure to the west maintained a cool unsettled flow of northerly air over Britain and Ireland during the first seven days. Much warmer southerly air arrived from the south after the centre of pressure moved to the Continent, with temperatures exceeding 25 °C in many areas from 12th to 20th, after which the anticyclone moved westward, and cooler unsettled weather arrived from the Atlantic.

A bevy of bevies

As reported in May, Quails Coturnix coturnix were on the move, but, from this month’s records, many stayed to give the largest invasion since 1970. That year, incorporated in the 1968-72 ‘Atlas’ census period, was well covered, and the resulting map provides an interesting comparison with the pattern of this June’s unorganised reports. The distribution of calling males in southern England indicated their liking for the chalk downlands, as expected, but with more into the West Country. Unexpected, however, were numerous reports from Shropshire (82 in eight areas), with also many in the neighbouring West Midlands and Worcestershire and from southeast Scotland, where over 60 were heard. The exceptionally dry weather during May could have made these areas more attractive to the species. Elsewhere, the numbers were lower and well scattered, with very few in Ireland and northern counties of Scotland.

Divers to herons

A Black-throated Diver Gavia arctica was a late stayer in the Isles of Scilly on 15th, as was a White-billed Diver G. adamsii in Shetland on 3rd. A Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis in Orkney on 2nd was only the second record for the islands. Unusual seabird reports were of 30 Storm Petrels Hydrobates pelagicus off Jersey (Channel Islands) on 8th and the finding of a Leach’s Petrel Oceanodroma leucorhoa in the former species’ colony on Skokholm (Dyfed) on 22nd, but most exciting was the sight of a Magnificent Frigatebird Fregata magnificens at Dalkey (Co. Dublin) on 18th. Non-breeding southern herons continued to wander between suitable wetlands. A Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus remained in the Isles of Scilly until 7th. Little Egrets Egretta garzetta were found on the Camel Estuary (Cornwall) and Ribble Estuary (Lancashire) on 4th, with one arriving to stay on Lewis (Western Isles) on 8th, and a Great White
Egret *E. alba* stayed briefly in Nottinghamshire on 16th and 17th, called in at Slimbridge (Gloucestershire) on 18th before settling down to stay around the Fal Estuary (Cornwall) from 24th. Purple Herons *Ardea purpurea* were seen at Kenfig (Mid Glamorgan) on 1st, Cley (Norfolk) on 14th and Wintersett Reservoir (West Yorkshire) on 17th, a Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* stopped briefly at Leighton Moss (Lancashire) on 10th and 11th, another was reported in the Highlands, and, of the 15 reports of Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, ten referred to the same two or three birds in East Anglia.

**Wildfowl**

Brent Geese *Branta bernica* were very much out-of-season visitors to Gibraltar Point (Lincolnshire), 15 on 18th, and to Spurn Point (Humberside), on 25th and 28th. The news of the discovery of four pairs of breeding Pintails *Anas acuta* on Skomer Island (Dyfed) was most unexpected, and their continued success would be most welcome for this attractive duck. Six King Eiders *Somateria spectabilis* remained into June, one being found on the Ythan Estuary (Grampian) on 1st. A pair of Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* bred for the first time in the Borders, at Bemersyde, but the brood was unfortunately later taken by a predator. A few Long-tailed Ducks *Clangula hyemalis* continued to delay moving north, with seven individuals still present in mid month.

**Birds of prey**

Of the six reports of migrant Honey Buzzards *Pernis apivorus*, three were from East Anglia, with others seen on Guernsey (Channel Islands), at Penmaenmawr (Gwynedd) on 1st and in Orkney on 15th, the Devon breeding birds giving excellent displays from the public watch point at Halidon. There were seven reports of Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, six Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* passed along the East Coast, and 13 Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* were noted moving through, the majority over English lowland waters. Many Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus* stayed after the May influx, with five records still from the East Coast, ten from inland localities in England, some staying for a week or more (plates 348 & 349), and singles from Kenfig (Wales), Shetland, Isles of Scilly and Lough Money (Co. Down).

**Crakes and waders**

Three Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* were reported, one calling on Islay (Strathclyde), one at Strathdon (Grampian) on 10th and one in Orkney on 16th. Two Corncrakes *Crex crex* were found in southeast Scotland, others near Inverness (Highland) and one at Llanafan (Powys).

The waders show some movement in June, but which way is not always clear. A
Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus at Great Yarmouth (Norfolk) on 17th was a usual find, but an American Golden Plover Pluvialis dominica on Jersey from 3rd to 5th was decidedly not. In this early period of northerly winds, notable records were of 60 Sanderlings Calidris alba at Aberlady (Lothian) on 3rd and 380 at Gibraltar Point on 4th, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Tryngites subruficollis at Haverton Hole (Cleveland) from 1st to 3rd (plate 350), a Great Snipe Gallinago media at Dagenham Chase (London) on 1st and 2nd, and eight Red-necked Phalaropes Phalaropus lobatus between 1st and 8th, four on the East Coast and four inland. By mid month, with anticyclonic easterlies, 190 Grey Plovers Pluvialis squatarola were found at Aberlady on 19th. Long-billed Dowitchers Limnodromus scolopaceus were seen at Ballycotton (Co. Cork) from 16th to 18th and at Titchwell (Norfolk) on 18th, adult-plumaged Spotted Redshanks...
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Tringa erythropus began arriving from 12th, building to 50 at Fingringhoe (Essex) by 20th, and Terek Sandpipers Xenus cinereus were seen at Cliffe Pools (Kent) from 12th to 13th and at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir (West Yorkshire) on 16th. Some species occurred in both periods, Broad-billed Sandpipers Limicola falcinellus being at Cley, between 1st and 4th and another at Ballycotton between 19th and 21st (plate 351), and on the 29th, after a strong westerly blow, a White-rumped Sandpiper Calidris fuscicollis arrived at Holme (Norfolk).

Gulls, terns and auks

A few single dispersing Mediterranean Gulls Larus melanocephalus were noted, a Sabine's Gull L. sabini was seen off the Western Isles on 25th, a Ring-billed Gull L. delawarensis stayed at Hayle (Cornwall) and another was seen at Hayling Island (Hampshire) on 7th. Iceland Gulls L. glaucaoides and Glaucous Gulls L. hyperboreus remained in small numbers, mainly around Scottish fishing ports. Gull-billed Terns Gelochelidon nilotica were present in Cheshire on 16th and inland at Blithfield Reservoir (Staffordshire) on 19th. A Caspian Tern Sterna caspia passed Anglesey (Gwynedd) on 1st, but more obliging was one at Killington Reservoir (Cumbria) on 14th and 15th. The Lesser Crested Tern S. bengalensis on the Farne Islands (Northumberland) remained in the tern colony all month, and among the few marsh terns seen were Whiskered Terns Chlidonias hybridus at Waxham (Norfolk) on 4th, at Hayle from 12th to 24th and at Alvecote Pools (Warwickshire) on 17th and a White-winged Black Tern C. leucopterus at Meikle Loch (Griparian) on 25th and 26th. A Brünnich's Guillemot Uria lomvia at Sumburgh Head (Shetland) attracted many birders when found on 16th, and a Little Auk Alle alle was also a summer rarity off Eyemouth (Borders) on 17th.

Swifts to passerines

Swifts Apus apus showed a spectacular movement from 25th to 28th both at Spurn Point and at Gibraltar Point: 20,000 were estimated flying south on 25th at the former and the same number again moving south on 27th at the latter, with smaller counts on the other days. An Alpine Swift Apus melba...
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was seen at Loch Ken (Dumfries & Galloway) on 11th. The most spectacular birds of the month were the Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters *Merops superciliosus* at Kennack Sands and later at Cadgewith (Cornwall) on 1st and, more obligingly, another at Great Cowden (Humberside) from 25th into July. Most observers would now die happy. Ordinary (!) Bee-eaters *M. apiaster* were also seen again at Kennack Sands on 2nd and 4th, at Hele (Devon) on 3rd, in northeast Norfolk on 17th and on North Ronaldsay (Orkney) on 18th. Equally spectacular and even more obliging were Rollers *Coracias garrulus* at East Budleigh Common (Devon) from 1st to 18th and another at Shapwick Heath (Somerset) from 13th to 15th. A few passerine vagrants were still on the move during the month. A Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* was found on South Uist (Western Isles) on 7th, Bluethroats *Luscinia svecica* were seen at Blakeney Point (Norfolk) on 3rd and on Fair Isle on 5th, with the usual records there of Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*, three on 4th out of ten all month. This species also was found elsewhere in Shetland on 10th and 11th, in Dinton Pastures Country Park (Berkshire) on 11th, at Winterset Reservoir, one from 18th to 21st with two on 19th, and in Hampshire, one on 13th. A further four Subalpine Warblers *Sylvia cantillans* arrived early in the month. Interesting records were of Cetti’s Warblers *Cettia cetti* breeding in Dyfed, a Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* singing in Suffolk on 28th, Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata* breeding in north Cornwall, Nuthatches *Sitta europaea* breeding for the first time in Scotland in the Borders, and the Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus* reappearing at Minsmere on 24th (plate 352). Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* were logged by Roller-watchers at East Budleigh on 4th to 10th, and at Shapwick Heath on 9th, and others were noted in Dyfed and at Kenfig. A Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* stayed at Penmaenmawr and a Woodchat Shrike *L. senator* was at Almer (Dorset) from 2nd to 9th. Four Rose-coloured Starlings *Sturnus roseus* were well scattered, with one on the Old Head of Kinsale (Co. Cork) from 11th to 18th, one at Portland Bill (Dorset) on 14th, one at St John’s Point (Co. Down) on 24th to 30th and another on Fair Isle on 19th. Singing Scarlet Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* were heard at Durleston Country Park on 3rd, at Minsmere on 7th, at Spurn Point on 2nd and 7th, and at Portland on 23rd, with three others also seen. A total of five Red-headed Buntings *Emberiza bruniceps* perhaps indicates real vagrancy: one stayed on Skokholm from 30th May to 4th, one was landed at Hull (Humberside) on 12th after boarding a ship in the North Sea, others were on Fair Isle on 18th and in Orkney on 21st, and there was a long-staying individual at Crask Inn (Highland).

352. Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*, Suffolk, June 1989 (Stephen Culley)