A conservation strategy for Ireland’s birds

THE IRISH WILDBIRD CONSERVANCY, in conjunction with the Irish government’s Office of Public Works and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, has produced a Conservation Strategy for Birds in Ireland. This follows on from the RSPB’s Strategy for the UK, focusing on the most-threatened species and their relationships to various habitat types.

The similarities between the two documents are many, but the conclusions are slightly different, as is to be expected when the geographical unit of Ireland is divorced from Great Britain. This also puts Northern Ireland in the unique position of having two strategies (UK and Ireland) which have to be dovetailed together!

The twelve most-threatened breeding species are Common Scoter Melanitta nigra, Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus, Red Grouse Lagopus lagopus, Grey Partridge Perdix perdix, Common Quail Coturnix coturnix, Corn Crake Crex crex, European Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria, Northern Lapwing Vanellus vanellus, Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii, Barn Owl Tyto alba, European Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus and Corn Bunting Miliaria calandra. This assessment omits sporadic breeding species such as Red-throated Diver Gavia stellata and Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca, which are under threat only through rarity. The five most-threatened habitats for breeding birds are lowland wet grassland, machair, bogs, fens and waterside vegetation and non-intensive grassland. Other habitats, such as turloughs, are highly threatened, but do not have the ornithological importance to bring them into the list of priorities.

The document also clearly highlights the importance of Ireland’s Red-billed Choughs Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax, wintering waterfowl and breeding seabirds, as well as threats to habitats for wintering birds, such as intertidal flats, salt-marsh and other coastal regions. (Contributed by Dave Allen)

Project Halmahera

This year, the In Focus County Bird Race and the British Birdwatching Fair are both raising money for BirdLife International’s Project Halmahera. Halmahera, a small island in Indonesia, is one of the top world bird-conservation priorities. About the size of East Anglia, together with a few small nearby islands, it is home to an almost unbelievable 26 species of birds that are found nowhere else in the world. If the forest here goes, so do 26 bird species, lost to the world for ever.

BirdLife International is working with the Indonesian Government to set up two protected areas on Halmahera—although the authorities are keen to do this, they lack sufficient resources. Project Halmahera is an opportunity for British birders to make a fantastic contribution to the conservation of one of the world’s true bird hot-spots.

This year’s British Birdwatching Fair is being held at Rutland Water, on 19th-21st August.
Some new discoveries—spiders, birds and monkeys

In our never-ending search to bring you news of additions to various lists, be they British or world, here are some goodies for you:

New to Britain: Coleosoma blandum, a small tropical spider first described from a male specimen from Sri Lanka. Worldwide it is now located in such tropical areas as Malaysia and the Seychelles. In July 1993, however, in leaf litter beneath the oaks of Queen’s Wood, Highgate, London, an adult female was trapped. There is little doubt that man has been closely associated with its new locality, but such niceties seem less important to arachnologists than to birders.

New to the World: Xenoperdix udzungwensis, not only a new species but a new genus as well. And it is a bird. Not established by some museum splitter, but discovered by a group of Danish ornithologists working in the montane forest of Tanzania. What makes this partridge-like bird particularly interesting is its apparent relationship with similar species in Asia, rather than those of Africa.

New to the World: Two for the price of one—both primates and both from the tropical forests of Brazil. Both species have a very limited distribution and very little is known concerning either species. The Black-headed Marmoset Callithrix nigriceps has one of the smallest geographical ranges for any Amazonian monkey, and its future is most precarious. It is formally classified as ‘endangered’, as is the other new species, Ka’apor Capuchin Cebus kaapori. Present evidence is that this is the more widely distributed of the two species, and, indeed, may have been much more numerous before extensive deforestation.

Site designations in the balance

Birding goes soft?

Many of us are old enough to remember the times when a visit to a bird observatory was a chilly experience, shivering through the night as the tilley lamps were pumped, and the evening meal was prepared on the primus stove. Oh, how things have changed! The latest news to reach us is that at Dungeness Bird Observatory, Kent, not only are the shower, freezer, washing-machine, electric stoves and similar equipment well in place, but central heating is now added. Will there be any mid-winter birding from now on?

Nightjar news

Vaurie’s Nightjar Caprimulgus centralasicus was known only from a single specimen taken in western China in 1929. Then came the news, not known to the Western world until 1993, that ‘several’ specimens had been collected by Chinese ornithologists from Beijing University in 1975, the collection site being only some 250 km from the original record. News has, unfortunately, just been passed on that the specimens in fact refer to the European Nightjar C. europaeus so it is back to being the rarest of all, just a single record.

Good news, however, of another nightjar, Satanis Eared-nightjar Eurostopodus diabolicus. Confined to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the species had not been seen since 1931. Now comes news that members of a KingBird Tour have seen what may well have been this species in the Lore Lindu National Park.

New warden for Cape Clear

Although bird observatories in general have experienced a trough in terms of visitor numbers, interest in the Republic’s only bird observatory remains strong. Perhaps it is the renowned social scene and the friendliness of the islanders that brings birders back, though we suspect that Cape’s record for seabird passage and October rarities has an effect.

The Council of CCBO is delighted to appoint Alan D’Alton as Warden for the 1994 season. Alan has been a regular visitor to Cape since his teenage days and is particularly interested in sketching the island’s avifauna during his stay—he was formerly employed as a graphic artist in his native Dublin. For information on bookings write to K. Grace, 84 Dorney Court, Shankill, Co. Dublin.

(Contributed by Oran O’Sullivan)
Bluebirds over . . .
A splendid little leaflet entitled ‘Birdwatching in White Cliffs Country’, written by Pett Findley and illustrated by John Hollyer, tells you where to go birchvatching in the Dover area. For a copy, telephone the White Cliffs Countryside Project on Dover (0304) 241806.

New date for OBC meeting
The Oriental Bird Club’s Manchester meeting will take place on 18th June (not 25th June), at the United Reform Church, Elm Road, Gatley, near Manchester. Details from the Meetings Officer, OBC, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Weather service for ornithologists
When is just the right time to head for the east coast, or St Ives Bay, or Dungeness? We all know just what a critical part the weather plays in what birds will be where and when. A new service, introduced by Telephone Information & Services and the Meteorological Office, may well help plan the weekend’s venue. The new system is called ‘Weathercall Fax’, but to take part you need ready access to a fax machine. Set up with this extra piece of technology (one presumes you already have a telephone, pager and assorted electronic gadgetry), a simple call will deliver to your fax machine a hard copy of charts, satellite pictures and full explanatory text for ‘all bird enthusiasts’. Different numbers will give you satellite images, national weather situation, or a five-day outlook (either nationally or in one of seven regions). The calls are charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times. A satellite image, with very fine detail, takes some six minutes to be transmitted—some £3.00 a time. It is an interesting idea, but somehow we cannot believe that birders will be the major users of the system. Perhaps we shall be proved wrong? Further information from TIS, London (071) 975-9000.

Stanley Cramp
Stanley Cramp, who died in 1987, was acknowledged as having devoted a lifetime to ornithology (Brit. Birds 85: 387-414) with a close association with this monthly journal. Further acknowledgment to Stanley now exists in a newly described subspecies of the Fantailed Raven Corvus rhipidurus stanleyi (Dutch Birding 15: 258-262). The author, C. S. Roselaar, states ‘The new subspecies is named in honour of Stanley Cramp, OBE (1913-87), initiator of BWP. Stanley had a strong interest in both crows and the Middle East. Without his stimulating correspondence throughout the first five volumes, the handbook would never have reached its present status.’

Seabirds in Iberia
Apparently the final count for the number of breeding pairs of Audouin’s Gulls Larus audouinii in the Ebro Delta colony, Spain, in 1993, was a staggering 9,360. Andy Paterson tells us that this, and lots more data on the status of Iberian seabirds, will be published in May 1994. The book, entitled ‘Aves marinas de Iberia, Baleares y Canarias’, will be in Spanish, but with extra-long English summaries and in a format that will be easily understood. In addition to the information on status, the book includes an introduction by Bill Bourne and details of all the rare seabirds in Iberia and the island groups.

More on those gulls
Herring Larus argentatus, Yellow-legged L. cachinnans and Lesser Black-backed Gulls L. fuscus ‘represent a superspecies. Our data imply that gene flow between the 3 gull species must be negligible and furthermore, that they represent rather young species which may have split 100 000-500 000 years ago. The recognition of L. cachinnans as a distinct species is supported by molecular evidence.’ So say Michael Wink, Ute Kahl and Petra Heidrich (J. Om. 135: 73-80).

Gone for ever
In the context of the impact of man on migratory birds, it is sobering to be reminded by Professor Peter Berthold (Bird Migration, 1993, reviewed on pages 220-221) of the current estimates that human influences will reduce the number of plant and animal species on Earth by between 50% and 90% over the next 100 years. Thus, even if all conservation measures are totally successful, half the world’s current living species will be extinct before the year AD2100. God help us! (JTRRS)
Biodiversity and sustainability

There was a time when the word 'Environment' was linked almost solely to wildlife and the countryside. It was associated with conservation organisations wishing to safeguard Britain's flora and fauna. Then, somehow or other, the word was hijacked. It began to be used for a wider meaning. It included, among other things, housing and roads, and eventually we were presented with the Department of the Environment.

Now the discussion is all biodiversity and sustainability. The voluntary conservation sector (including, among others, Friends of the Earth, RSNC, RSPB and WWF) has produced a document entitled 'Biodiversity Challenge—an agenda for conservation in the UK'. This was followed by no fewer than four documents from the Department of the Environment: 'Sustainable Development: The UK Strategy'; 'Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan'; 'Climate Change: The UK Programme'; and 'Sustainable Forestry: The UK Programme.' Lots of words running to hundreds of pages. Let us hope that it is more than just words, and that clear action follows in the months ahead. For those of you with a little spare reading time, 'Biodiversity Challenge' is available from the Biodiversity Challenge Group, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL; summaries of the DoE Strategy are available from DoE, PO Box 151, London E15 2HF. The full document (Cm 2426) is available from HMSO bookshops at £22.00.

Flicking through these various publications can be quite fascinating. There are stated targets for a whole range of bird species, including increasing Slavonian Grebes Podiceps auritus to at least 80 pairs within 10 years, and maintaining both the Wryneck Jynx torquilla and Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio as UK breeding species. The one we really like appears under 'Coleoptera' (beetles): 'Aglipiptinus agathidioides (a beetle) An endemic British species known only from one male and one female collected from a Moorhen's Gallinula chloropus nest in Potter’s Bar, Hertfordshire, on 14th April 1912. Clarify true world status and protect if rediscovered.'

BTO membership soars

Having enrolled over 1,300 new members in 1993, the BTO is poised to recruit its 10,000th member in 1994. If you are not a member, then now is a good time to join. Thanks to the generosity of Leica Camera UK, a £700 pair of Leica binoculars will be presented to the lucky new member who is number 10,000. If you should be unlucky enough to be number 9,999 or 10,001, there is still a good deal to be had. Basic membership costs £19.00; pay by Direct Debit and get a £3.00 discount plus vouchers worth £15.00 against books and bird-sound recordings: total cost, £1.00. Full details from Sue Starling, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU.

Twitchers to become criminals?

It may just have escaped your notice, but the 'Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill', currently going through Parliament, has a section entitled 'Collective Trespass or Nuisance on Land'. This is intended to combat problems such as new-age travellers and hunt saboteurs. It does, however, give powers to the police to remove trespassers if 'two or more persons' are involved, and, if they fail to leave, or return again within three(!) months, they are liable for a term of imprisonment. Now, we are not suggesting for one minute that this will present any problem to the well-behaved birder, but if a landowner had a 'mega' on his property, and was particularly unhelpful, then . . .

Messina’s illegal hunting

The Strait of Messina is a key route for bird migration from Africa to Europe, together with the Bosphorus and the Strait of Gibraltar. Thousands of birds of prey and hundreds of storks are concentrated in this area each year. In spring 1993, more than 25,000 birds of 29 species were counted, including 5,000 Honey-buzzards Pernis apivorus in one day. Unfortunately, there is also intense poaching activity. In past years, WWF registered more than 1,000 shots and 50 birds of prey killed in a day.

In the last 13 years, special observation camps have been organised, helping to halt illegal hunting and taking a census of the migrating birds. This year the camp will be managed by WWF Italy, along the Sicilian side of the Strait of Messina, from 2nd April to 28th May. To participate and receive more information about 'Spring in the Strait' activity, please contact WWF Italy—Camps Office, Via Donatello, 5/B, 20100 Milano, Italy; telephone 02-29.40.42.60.
Cull of Goosanders and Cormorants on the Welsh border

Licences issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for shooting Great Cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* and Goosanders *Mergus merganser* on the river Wye, are the latest in a series issued elsewhere, e.g. in Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales. In 1988, the MAFF was advised that the adoption of management tactics to alleviate the ‘problem’ (of Great Cormorants at fish farms and inland waters) is a much more promising line to take than an attempt to kill birds. A lack of information exists on the effect of shooting on Great Cormorant numbers and behaviour, and on the output of fish. If there is a continuous turnover of Great Cormorants on any water, then birds that are scared away or shot would be rapidly replaced by immigrants, rendering attempted control ineffective.

Would that the MAFF adopted the view of the government in the Netherlands (where angling waters are public) that birds have as much right to feed in the waters as anglers to fish. (Contributed by Stephanie Tyler)

Two tasks for the YOC in May

In the close fishing season, the YOC and the National Federation of Anglers will be asking young conservationists and anglers to count Mute Swans *Cygnus olor* on their local river, lake or canal, and at the same time collect discarded fishing-line. Similar collections have taken place three times in the last 15 years. It will be interesting to learn if the situation has improved.

On 21st and 22nd May, thousands of youngsters will take part in ‘Birdathon ’94’, seeing as many birds as possible in one day and raising money (the target is £25,000) to buy an extension to the RSPB’s Surlingham Marsh reserve in Norfolk. Good luck to them.

Honour for George Dunnet

Among the new Commanders of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year’s Honours List was Professor G. M. Dunnet, Chairman of the Salmon Advisory Committee, for services to conservation, but best known to us for his work on Fulmars * Fulmarus glacialis*. Our warmest congratulations from all the ‘BB’ team.

Neotropical Bird Club off the ground

The inaugural meeting of the newly formed club—membership at 350 will be held at Cley Village Hall, Norfolk, on 29th May. The proceedings start at 12 noon. Further details from David Wege on Cambridge (0223) 277318.

Forktail-Leica Award

*Leica Camera UK* is involved with an annual award from the Oriental Bird Club. The recent winner of the £1,000 award is J. C. Uttangi, who will be using the money to survey the birds of a little-known protected area of the Anshi National Park, India. The area is threatened by extensive forest clearance as part of a hydro-electric dam development. The information collected will, it is hoped, assist in the conservation of at least part of a genetically diverse semi-evergreen forest.

The annual award is given for projects based in the Orient and related to globally-threatened bird species. Further information from Melanie Heath, OBC Conservation Officer, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL.

Pelagics in the Western Approaches

Departing from Penzance on the good ship *Chalice* will be a series of two-day pelagic birding trips out to the Western Approaches. Departure dates in 1994 are 5th, 7th, 9th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 19th, 21st and 23rd August and 9th September. Further details on Buxton (0298) 25513.
Additions to British & Irish List

Two species with records accepted by both the BBRC and the BOURC have been admitted to Category A of the British & Irish List in the latest BOURC report (Ibis 136: 253-256):


**Spectacled Warbler** *Sylvia conspicillata* Filey, North Yorkshire, 24th-29th May 1992.

The report also adds two races to the British & Irish List: the North American and east Siberian race of **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra amaicana* (Gosford Bay, Lothian, 6th-31st December 1987 to 1st January 1988) and the central Russian race of **Common Gull** *Larus canus heinei* (three, all trapped: Essex, 18th February 1984; West Sussex, 21st January 1987; Kent, 31st January 1987), for which the BOURC comments ‘identification of this race in the field is not recommended.’

Two Far-Eastern species, both possible vagrants but also kept in captivity and therefore possible escapes—are placed in Category D, which does not form part of the British & Irish List:

**Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurka* (Fair Isle, Shetland, first-summer, 1st-2nd July 1992) and **Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki* (Sunk Island Battery, Stone Creek, Humberside, first-winter 16th-17th November 1991).

The Norfolk **Baird’s Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* claimed in 1903 (Brit. Birds 3; 29; 86: 22, 199) was rejected, and that on St Kilda, Outer Hebrides, on 28th September 1911 accepted as the first British & Irish record.

A record of one species was withdrawn by the observer: **Yellow-nosed Albatross** *Diomedea clionopterus* (at sea off Cornwall, 29th April 1983); and a record of another species was not accepted because the identification was considered not to have been established beyond doubt: **Eastern Phoebe** *Sayornis phoebe* (Slapton, Devon, 22nd April 1987, preceding the accepted Lundy record, Brit. Birds 86: 500, by two days).

Records of four species were not admitted to the list, even though identification was accepted, because of the low-vagrancy but high-escape potential: **Ross’s Goose** *Anser rossi*, **Red-fronted Serin** *Serinus pusillus*, **Lazuli Bunting** *Passerina amoena* and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. In addition, **Painted Bunting** *Passerina ciris* was removed from Category D for the same reason.

These changes bring the current total number of species on the British & Irish List to 552 (made up of 524 in Category A, 19 in Category B and 9 in Category C); a further 21 species are held in Category D.

The address of the BOU is c/o The Natural History Museum, Sub-department of Ornithology, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 6AP.

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**R & M Conference 1994**

I thought last year’s conference was a good one and so was this. The presence of several heads of European ringing schemes, in the UK for their annual meeting, had enabled the conference organisers to include three of them among the speakers. Lukas Jenni, of Vogelwarte Sempach, Franz Baerle, of Vogelwarte Helgoland, and Rinse Wassenaar, of Vogeltrekstation Arnhem, gave excellent talks on, respectively, ageing and sexing of European passerines, a Euro-African study of migration, and the way in which the Dutch ringing scheme is organised.

The other talks ranged equally widely, and I especially enjoyed Peter Rock’s study of roof-nesting gulls in Bristol, which also took him down their migration route through Portugal to Morocco; Beatriz Arroyo’s delightful account of her study of Montagu’s Harriers * Circus pygargus* in Spain; and Dave Okill’s report on the * Braer* tanker stranding, which took place just one year before, a report very much from the man on the spot. I also listened with a mixture of admiration and envy to John Willsher’s description of how to create a ringing site from scratch—first buy your farm, then create wetlands, then reedbeds, then . . . ring 50,000 birds a year. As a change from birds, Tony Hutson told us much more about bats than the one fact that all ringers know: a bat caught in a mist-net invariably bites the hand that frees it.

Finally, last year’s critic of the Ringing Office duly got himself elected on to the BTO Ringing Committee. He told me that he did not approve of what I wrote last year on this subject, so watch this space next year to see what impact he has made and how I report it.

(MAO)
The Seventh Bedfordshire Ornithological Conference, held at Silsoe Agricultural College on 13th November 1993, was attended by about 180 participants. The previous six conferences were held during 1949-54, with the speakers including such eminent names as W. B. Alexander, R. P. Bagnall-Oakeley, Dr Bruce Campbell, James Fisher, E. M. Nicholson, B. W. Tucker and G. K. Yeates.

David Kramer, President of the newly formed Bedfordshire Bird Club, chaired the 1993 Conference. To set the scene, ex-County Recorder Paul Trodd gave a 'Brief History of the Birds of Bedfordshire', noting the large recent increase in numbers of fieldworkers, but decrease in Hawfinches Coccothraustes coccothraustes, the latter perhaps not unconnected with their habit of perching in tree-tops and the increase in Eurasian Sparrowhawks Accipiter nisus.

Rob Hume gave a potted history of the journal British Birds, founded in June 1907 and still flourishing today.

Richard Woolnough, the Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust's Director of Conservation, opened a few eyes with his thoughts on 'Managing Bedfordshire’s Reserves for Birds' and Karen Bradbury of the RSPB continued the conservation theme with an ebullient account of 'Wild Birds and the Law'. In a lighter vein, Barry Trevis described birding in the Andes, and Gordon Langsbury took us on a photographer's trip through Europe.

For me, however, the highlight of the day was David Harper's description of his research into Corn Buntings Miliaria calandra on the South Downs. Would any male Homo sapiens be able to 'deal' with ten females, as do some male Corn Buntings? The male's preoccupations elsewhere leave his females to attend to all the nest-building, incubation, brooding and feeding duties. The current population decrease in the UK is about 10% annually, resulting in part from changes in cereal agriculture: more wheat, but less of the favoured barley.

Paul Trodd, who conceived and organised the event, deserves an all-embracing thank-you. It was a huge success.

Rachel Warren was Young Ornithologist of the Year in 1977, winning the senior section at the age of 13. She won the prize for identifying bird songs and calls at the BTO Conference in December 1993, where we invited her to tell us what she has been up to since we presented the YOY award to her in 1977.

She told us that her most exciting ornithological experience to date has been her involvement in 1993 in a project studying Long-tailed Manakins Chiroxiphia linearis at Monteverde in Costa Rica.

Rachel read Natural Sciences at Newnham College, Cambridge, obtaining an upper second class degree in 1985. She then joined the Cavendish Laboratory, obtained a PhD in experimental physics and next spent two years at the University of Colorado studying the chemistry of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) replacements, essential in calculating global-warming and ozone-depletion potentials.

She also worked on a study of the breeding success of the local Mountain Bluebirds Sialia currucoides.

Rachel is a trainee ringer with the Runnymede Ringing Group in Surrey, with which she was involved in a ringing trip to Portugal. She has also spent some weeks voluntary warden ing on RSPB reserves at Minsmere and Loch Garten, and recently also on Skomer.

She is now working at the Centre for Environmental Technology at Imperial College, London, where she runs a computer model relating to the European acid-rain problem.

Rachel would welcome news of any long-term or vacation-length ornithological opportunities, whether voluntary or for a professional, anywhere in the world.

We cannot but comment with pride that the Young Ornithologists of the Year competition seems to have provided encouragement at just the right time for a very able environmentalist-cum-birdwatcher. We wish Rachel well in the future. Any offers should be sent to Dr Rachel Warren, Flat 24, 7 Elm Park Gardens, London SW10 5QG.

We should like to hear news of any other Young Ornithologists.
Silly corner
We do not normally make fun of sister magazines and journals; after all, we are all human and mistakes slip through. Since, however, *Bird Watching* magazine claimed egg on its own face, this one must be worth a mention. The January 1994 issue of that illustrious and popular publication reported that 'The British Trust for Ornithology’s New Breeding Atlas was recently launched in the presence of HRH The Duck of Edinburgh'. They were quick to follow up in the February issue, under the heading 'Duck-egg on our faces', with a letter from a reader asking if it will be accepted by the Rarities Committee? How good it is to see that the fun has not departed the birding scene!

New Recorders
Andy Webb, 4 Morningside Place, Aberdeen AB1 7NG, has taken over from Ken Shaw as Recorder for Grampian (except Moray).

Andrew MacKay, 68 Leicester Road, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9RE, has taken over from Roger Davis as Recorder for Leicestershire.

May ‘Bird Watching’
The May issue of the monthly *Bird Watching* magazine includes a photo-feature on displaying birds; assessments of the best-selling tripods; how to find Temminck’s Stints *Calidris temminckii*, Little Ringed Plovers *Charadrius dubius* and summer migrants; details of the best birdwatching sites in Worcestershire, Speyside and Devon; a debate on the origins of the recent Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala*; and colour photographs of rarities, including Black-faced Bunting, Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola* and Ross’s Gull *Rhodostethia rosea*.

REGIONAL NEWS TEAM
Dave Allen—Northern Ireland
Tim Cleeves—Northeast
Frank Hamilton—Scotland
Barrie Harding—East Anglia
Oran O’Sullivan—Republic of Ireland
Alan Richards—Midlands
John Ryan—Southwest
Don Taylor—Southeast
Dr Stephanie Tyler—Wales
John Wilson—Northwest

Opinions expressed in this feature are not necessarily those of ‘British Birds’