



NEST RECORD NEWS

April 1985

A Newsletter prepared specially for
supporters of the BTO's NEST RECORD SCHEME

THE 1984 BREEDING SEASON

Cards continue to trickle into Beech Grove but the story for 1984 is now virtually complete. The request for extra support for the scheme was met with enthusiasm and this Newsletter conveys a huge 'thank you' to the 360 individuals and bird clubs who submitted from just one to 870 cards.

Historically the 1984 nesting season will best be remembered as the year in which two new species - Parrot Crossbill and Little Bittern - were finally added to the list of birds having bred in Britain. Some will recall it for the early spring nesting successes of Robin and Peregrine, despite the cold. Others will remember the unseasonably cold and very wet May Bank Holiday period that spelt early disaster for essentially single-brooded species like Tawny Owl, Blue Tit and Chaffinch. Still more will remember it for the long hot summer and drought conditions that posed problems for birds such as the divers, Lapwing, Blackbird and Swallow as water tables dropped. But for many summer migrants and multi-brooded residents like Bullfinch, Stonechat and Woodlark there was the chance to prolong nesting attempts - often with success.

The 1984 nesting season has been reviewed through the eyes of nest record scheme contributors in two issues of BTO News - 'Little Bitterns Fly as Woodpigeons Roast' No. 135 (November 1984) and 'Nest Record Totals - Ups and Downs' No. 137 (March 1985). If you have been unable to see these summaries do write to Beech Grove for a copy.

1984 NEST RECORD CONTRIBUTIONS - SOME HIGHLIGHTS

The backbone of the scheme and representative nature of the annual intake of cards is provided by those contributors who methodically complete a selection of cards each year for their 'own patch'. Others with time and expertise on their side are able to devote their energies into specific projects or helpfully co-ordinate the activities of nest-finders within a single bird club, ringing group or natural history society. A broad selection of their contributions are listed below for interest, together with some of the higher species card totals:

W.D. ALLEN (Shropshire) 140 cards including 27 Blue Tit, 12 Blackbird; P. ANDERSON (Tyne and Wear) 217 cards including 103 Lapwing, 27 Curlew, 50 Carrion Crow; G.G. & I.M. BATES & M.R. FOSTER (Caithness) 126 cards including 10 Buzzard, 16 Oystercatcher, 2 Greenshank; R.E. BATTY (Middlesex) 175 cards including 11 Woodpigeon, 17 Song Thrush, 65 Blackbird; C. BELL (Lancashire) 156 cards including 79 Oystercatcher; G. BOTTOMLEY (Cumbria) 114 cards including 55 Great Tit, 22 Blue Tit, 44 Pied Flycatcher; K.B. BRIGGS (Lancaster and District Birdwatching Society) 692 cards including 20 Mallard, 4 Goosander, 85 Great Tit; H. BRADLEY (County Antrim) 145 cards including 99 Magpie, 24 Willow Warbler; J.E.A. BROOK & R.C. COOKE (Warwickshire) 522 cards including 29 Moorhen, 63 Woodpigeon, 23 Chaffinch. P.J.K. BURTON, T.G. HOLDER D.A. LEES & M. HUNT (Hertfordshire) 439 cards including 18 Sparrowhawk, 70 Kestrel, 20 Tawny Owl. J. CALLION (Cumbria) 125 cards including 4 Dotterel, 30 Sedge Warbler, 43 Pied Flycatcher; J.M. CHEVERTON (I.O.W.)

108 cards including 6 Cormorant, 33 Blackbird; J.E.S. COOPER (Sussex)
172 cards including 4 Blue Tit, 7 Coal Tit, 16 House Sparrow; D. COX
& B. HAWES (Buckinghamshire) 371 cards including 29 Pied Wagtail, 34
Starling, 18 Greenfinch; A.V. CROSS (Shropshire) 104 cards including
20 Wheatear, 24 Stonechat, 31 Raven; R.E. DANSON (Lancashire) 111 cards
including 3 Little Owl, 65 Tree Sparrow; C.N. DAVISON (County Antrim)
123 cards including 14 Skylark, 46 Blackbird, 15 Meadow Pipit;
F. DAVISON (Northumbria Ringing Group) 266 cards including 17 Heron,
87 Great Tit, 10 Redstart, 67 Pied Flycatcher; P.G. & S.G. DAVIS
(Surrey) 176 cards including 25 Stonechat, 18 Dartford Warbler, 28 Meadow
Pipit; R.A. DENYER (Surrey) 116 cards including 15 Stock Dove, 23 Swallow;
D.M. FRANCIS (Northamptonshire) 104 cards including 13 Coal Tit, 37
Blue Tit; D. FULTON & T. CROSSMAN (Shropshire) 136 cards including 7
Spotted Flycatcher, 21 Pied Flycatcher; H.R. HAMMACOTT (Bristol
Naturalists Society) 230 cards including 24 Lapwing, 49 Willow Warbler,
16 Chaffinch; A.B.J. HARRIS (Rye Meads Ringing Group, Herts.) 336 cards
including 43 Common Tern, 69 Reed Warbler, 32 Sedge Warbler; I. & P.
HILDRED (Lincolnshire) 289 cards including 8 Turtle Dove, 15 Robin, 42
House Sparrow; D.R.E. HIRD (Kent) 114 cards including 37 Blackbird, 30
Song Thrush, 25 Linnnet; D. HOLMAN & M. GOODMAN (Northamptonshire) 76
cards including 29 Sparrowhawk; P.R. HOLNESS (Norfolk) 299 cards including
111 Swallow, 4 Cuckoo, 16 Reed Warbler; K. HUGHES & REV. J. DAGGER
(Hampshire) 113 cards including 24 Dartford Warbler, 9 Meadow Pipit,
16 Linnnet; G. KACZANOW (Devon) 109 cards including 9 Buzzard, 10 Raven,
37 Carrion Crow; M.G. KELSEY (Edward Grey Institute, Oxford) 27 cards
including 20 Marsh Warbler; J. KEISER (Hampshire) 182 cards including
21 Willow Warbler, 51 Linnnet, 14 Yellowhammer; R.C. KNIGHT (Gloucester-
shire) 239 cards including 62 Pied Flycatcher, 140 Blue Tit, 28 Great
Tit; R. LAMBERT (Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory, Lincolnshire) 170
cards including 52 Ringed Plover, 56 Little Tern, 26 Tree Sparrow;
J.M.S. LEWIS (Gwent) 439 cards including 7 Peregrine, 8 Goshawk,
17 Hawfinch; J.V. LLOYD (Dyfed) 152 cards including 13 Carrion Crow,
22 Pied Flycatcher, 17 Starling; R.J. LOUCH and D. TOMPSON (Oxfordshire)
310 cards including 22 Blackcap, 15 Garden Warbler, 8 Lesser Whitethroat;
B. MADDEN (Country Dublin) 207 cards including 103 Swallow, 12 Jackdaw,
11 Tree Sparrow; C.F. MAPLETOFT (Birklands Ringing Group, Notts.) 659
cards including 20 Wren, 146 Blackbird, 48 Dunnock; C. MATTHEWS (Avon)
135 cards including 14 Dipper, 26 Swallow, 9 Pied Wagtail; P. MAYNARD
and J. BALDWIN (Hampshire) 120 cards including 6 Hobby, 10 Redstart,
4 Dartford Warbler; H. MAYER-GROSS (Buckinghamshire) 479 cards including
6 Ruddy Duck, 102 Woodpigeon, 40 Reed Warbler; G.P. McPHERSON (South
Manchester Ringing Group) 105 cards including 22 Wheatear, 40 Meadow
Pipit, 14 Pied Wagtail; E.R. MEEK (Orkney Ringing Group) 298 cards
including 26 Hen Harrier, 13 Ringed Plover, 13 Hooded Crow; C.D.A. PLATT
(County Antrim) 870 cards including 20 Buzzard, 149 Swallow, 52 Jackdaw;
W. PROCTOR (Warwickshire) 282 cards including 13 Magpie, 123 Blackbird,
13 Linnnet; I. RENDALL (Aberdeen) 155 cards including 25 Song Thrush,
83 Blackbird, 19 Greenfinch; J. RICHARDSON, N. FENWICK and R.W. GRAINGER
(County Durham) 289 cards including 14 Lapwing, 47 Blackbird, 11 Dunnock;
G. SHAW (Dumfries and Galloway) 82 cards including 51 Shag; R. SMITH
(Grampian Ringing Group) 223 cards including 44 Sedge Warbler, 32
Whitethroat; I.M. SPENCE (Lancashire) 95 cards including 40 Swallow;
R. SQUIRES (Powys) 109 cards including 53 Pied Flycatcher, 27 Great Tit;
R.L. SWANN (Glenuquhart Bird Club) 186 cards including 20 Buzzard, 16
Tawny Owl, 12 Wheatear; DR. S.J. TYLER, R.M. LUCCIS, D. HUDSON, J. STRATFORD
and N. ALLINSON (Gwent) 183 cards including 30 Grey Wagtail, 61 Dipper;
DR. L.L.J. VICK (Edinburgh Ringing Group) 210 cards including 69 Dipper,
31 Wheatear, 43 Whinchat; J. WOOSLEY (Tyne and Wear) 178 cards including
19 Fulmar, 121 Kittiwake; I. WOLFENDEN (Lancashire) 130 cards including
45 Skylark, 9 Cuckoo, 48 Linnnet.

TOTALS FOR NEST RECORD SCHEME FROM PRE-83 - 84

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-83</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Red-throated Diver +	991	49	19	1089
Black-throated Diver +	116	8	3	127
* Little Grebe	1164	26	37	1227
* Great Crested Grebe	1472	46	45	1563
Slavonian Grebe +	116	1	1	118
Black-necked Grebe +	10	1	1	12
Fulmar	1402	25	130	1557
Manx Shearwater	51	-	-	51
Storm Petrel	18	-	1	19
Leach's Petrel +	1	1	-	2
Gannet	17	-	1	18
* Cormorant	785	-	21	806
* Shag	1719	23	230	1972
Bittern +	13	-	-	13
Little Bittern +	-	-	1	1
* Grey Heron	1609	41	89	1739
* Mute Swan	2301	50	79	2430
Greylag Goose +	166	5	11	182
Canada Goose	772	27	40	839
Egyptian Goose	2	-	-	2
Shelduck	153	4	10	167
Mandarin	66	7	6	79
Wigeon	87	-	4	91
Gadwall	40	-	-	40
Teal	144	3	3	150
* Mallard	4734	115	197	5046
Pintail +	4	2	-	6
Garganey +	6	-	-	6
Shoveler	78	1	2	81
Pochard	80	2	10	92
Tufted Duck	521	17	24	562
Eider	977	8	17	1002
Common Scoter +	25	-	4	29
Goldeneye +	7	1	-	8
Red-breasted Merganser	188	1	1	190
Goosander	88	8	10	106
Muddy Duck	4	2	2	8

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-83</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Honey Buzzard +	8	-	-	8
Red Kite +	9	1	2	12
Marsh Harrier +	5	-	-	5
Hen Harrier +	212	96	90	398
Montagu's Harrier +	44	-	1	45
Goshawk +	18	7	11	36
* Sparrowhawk	1814	172	128	2114
* Buzzard	1872	141	167	2180
Golden Eagle +	223	26	11	260
Osprey +	22	1	-	23
* Kestrel	2706	145	173	3124
Merlin +	596	55	35	686
Hobby +	210	26	21	257
Peregrine +	460	111	177	748
Red Grouse	379	7	8	394
Ptarmigan	76	1	1	78
Black Grouse	30	-	-	30
Capercaillie	59	1	-	60
* Red-legged Partridge	322	9	11	342
* Grey Partridge	652	13	16	681
Quail +	9	-	-	9
* Pheasant	1457	28	42	1527
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	-	1	-	1
Water Rail	51	1	-	52
Corncrake +	24	-	1	25
* Moorhen	14182	187	232	14601
* Coot	7003	171	192	7366
* Oystercatcher	6449	157	295	6901
Avocet +	3	-	-	3
Stone-curlew +	355	11	-	366
Little Ringed Plover +	815	60	49	924
* Ringed Plover	3808	127	145	4080
Kentish Plover +	19	-	-	19
Dotterel +	93	8	9	110
Golden Plover	418	10	126	554
* Lapwing	12668	223	497	13388
Temminck's Stint +	1	-	-	1
Purple Sandpiper +	3	-	-	3
Dunlin	358	44	10	412
* Snipe	1041	24	28	1093

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-83</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Woodcock	412	19	25	456
Black-tailed Godwit +	6	-	-	6
Whimbrel +	37	5	-	42
* Curlew	1525	26	146	1697
* Redshank	1489	16	32	1537
Greenshank +	99	4	13	116
Wood Sandpiper +	2	-	-	2
* Common Sandpiper	802	22	38	862
Red-necked Phalarope +	31	1	-	32
Arctic Skua	160	4	21	185
Great Skua	250	2	4	256
* Black-headed Gull	2725	44	51	2820
Mediterranean Gull +	2	-	-	2
* Common Gull	1532	25	37	1594
Lesser Black-backed Gull	672	6	2	680
Herring Gull	3149	37	49	3235
Great Black-backed Gull	728	13	3	744
Kittiwake	1144	18	225	1387
Sandwich Tern	138	-	-	138
Roseate Tern +	62	-	36	98
* Common Tern	2049	51	75	2175
* Arctic Tern	938	9	32	979
Little Tern +	1794	368	9	2171
Guillemot	504	9	2	515
Razorbill	266	12	5	283
Black Guillemot	149	1	13	163
Puffin	75	-	4	79
Rock Dove	92	3	6	101
Feral Pigeon	689	47	5	741
* Stock Dove	3078	132	115	3325
* Woodpigeon	14178	192	455	14825
* Collared Dove	1471	53	71	1595
* Turtle Dove	1499	23	30	1552
Ring-necked Parakeet	1	-	-	1
* Cuckoo	1150	47	48	1245
Barn Owl +	741	50	65	856
Snowy Owl +	1	-	-	1
* Little Owl	854	55	49	958
* Tawny Owl	2818	229	138	3185
Long-eared Owl	338	16	15	369

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-83</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Short-eared Owl	126	7	11	144
Nightjar	429	35	33	497
* Swift	720	12	24	756
Kingfisher +	306	14	14	334
Hoopoe +	1	-	-	1
Wryneck +	11	-	-	11
Green Woodpecker	199	1	5	205
Great Spotted Woodpecker	482	16	27	525
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	94	3	4	101
Woodlark +	292	14	10	316
* Skylark	4595	127	144	4866
Sand Martin	623	10	15	648
* Swallow	24563	644	597	25804
* House Martin	2441	104	143	2688
Tree Pipit	935	35	40	1010
* Meadow Pipit	5331	217	393	5941
Rock Pipit	398	4	13	415
Yellow Wagtail	718	8	14	740
Grey Wagtail	2514	90	161	2765
Pied Wagtail	4945	255	250	5450
Dipper	3333	290	406	4029
* Wren	9210	234	194	9638
* Dunnock	23352	321	239	23912
* Robin	12917	271	390	13578
Nightingale	314	5	2	321
Bluethroat +	1	-	-	1
Black Redstart +	107	1	-	108
* Redstart	1778	86	74	1938
* Whinchat	994	65	74	1133
* Stonechat	1539	44	71	1654
* Wheatear	1591	114	115	1820
* Ring Ousel	885	43	51	979
* Blackbird	95135	1726	1395	98256
Fieldfare +	1	-	-	1
* Song Thrush	58872	836	637	60345
Redwing +	48	4	26	78
* Mistle Thrush	4959	115	119	5193
Cetti's Warbler +	16	-	-	16
Grasshopper Warbler	220	9	3	232
Savi's Warbler +	2	-	-	2

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-83</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
* Sedge Warbler	2685	71	160	2916
Marsh Warbler +	63	-	20	83
* Reed Warbler	6927	151	154	7232
Dartford Warbler +	167	10	50	227
Lesser Whitethroat	542	13	29	584
* Whitethroat	4118	108	74	4300
* Garden Warbler	932	47	51	1030
* Blackcap	1696	67	83	1846
Wood Warbler	1021	103	78	1202
* Chiffchaff	1274	29	37	1340
* Willow Warbler	7749	313	349	8411
* Goldcrest	520	16	34	570
Firecrest +	4	3	-	7
* Spotted Flycatcher	6589	182	204	6975
Pied Flycatcher	10319	588	532	11439
Bearded Tit +	41	2	3	46
* Long-tailed Tit	2817	76	69	2962
Marsh Tit	784	22	13	819
Willow Tit	291	7	12	310
Crested Tit +	104	11	6	121
* Coal Tit	2996	95	78	3169
* Blue Tit	30920	1422	1310	33652
* Great Tit	19312	1149	1058	21519
* Nuthatch	966	78	56	1100
* Treecreeper	1344	52	39	1435
Short-toed Treecreeper +	1	-	-	1
Red-backed Shrike +	251	-	-	251
* Jay	979	35	17	1031
* Magpie	3374	136	231	3741
Chough +	227	52	9	288
* Jackdaw	2820	190	169	3179
* Rook	2533	34	140	2707
* Carrion Crow	3352	74	189	3615
Hooded Crow	442	45	61	548
* Raven	1391	69	82	1542
* Starling	8298	254	259	8811
* House Sparrow	8964	86	184	9234
* Tree Sparrow	11077	151	145	11373
* Chaffinch	13538	535	319	14392
* Greenfinch	10333	106	193	10632

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRE-81</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
* Goldfinch	2199	34	34	2267
Siskin	29	4	1	34
* Linnet	20278	233	197	20708
Twite	701	5	13	719
* Redpoll	1061	19	11	1091
Common Crossbill +	69	7	4	80
Parrot Crossbill +	1	-	2	3
Scarlet Rosefinch +	1	-	-	1
* Bullfinch	4239	59	66	4364
Hawfinch	84	-	22	106
Snow Bunting +	10	-	-	10
* Yellowhammer	4807	106	127	5040
Cirl Bunting +	54	1	-	55
* Reed Bunting	5753	111	159	6023
* Corn Bunting	274	2	32	308

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Bird species protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

- * 'Target' species which deserve special attention. These include a range of 'indicator' species which the Trust is able to use to assess variations in breeding performance between years, regions and habitats. Others are nearing the point where there is a sufficiently large sample available to merit a detailed analysis and publication of a paper on the bird's breeding biology - so all cards prized.

ADDITIONS TO FIRST NEWSLETTER

Several scarce species cards were locked away and unavailable to the compiler of the first Newsletter, hence their appearance in this issue.

CURRENT USE OF THE NEST RECORD HOLDINGS

Your painstaking fieldwork is certainly being put to good use. Within Beech Grove the computer is currently helping with the examination of long-term trends in breeding performance for birds ranging from Mute Swan and Kestrel to Redstart and Mistle Thrush. Hand analysis of the cards for the owls and woodpeckers has helped show the comparative nesting requirements of the different species. Similar work with Nightjar and Woodlark has helped to support BTO single species studies (the latter is to be counted nationwide in 1986).

Outside Beech Grove members - both amateur and professional - are examining a wide array of the Trust's nest record holdings including Mandarin (A.K. Davies, Surrey), Merlin (Dr. C.J. Bibby, RSPB, Beds), Water Rail (M.J. Bayliss, Oxford), Dotterel (J. Callion, Umbria), Jay (Dr. D.A. Hill, Hants), Dipper (Dr. S.J. Tyler, RSPB, Wales), Pied Flycatcher (P. Jennings, UWIST, Powys) and Goldcrest (R.A. Knock, Sussex).

The results of these labours have seen the publication of findings in some cases after checking within Beech Grove, others are to follow.

HELP FROM THE COMPUTER

As indicated in the last newsletter, a team of four Manpower Services Commission employees have joined the BTO staff on a short-term basis to tackle the huge task of feeding the bulk of the remaining historical Nest Record Card information into the computer. Some splendidly dedicated work has seen approximately one half of the 600,000 plus cards now coded and input with 75 species covered. The result is the realization of more rapid analyses and feedback to you in the field.

RETURNING YOUR 1985 CARDS

An early return of your completed cards would be much appreciated - by the end of the year please or 1st March 1986 at the latest. This eases the administration process within Beech Grove and allows us to use your hard won findings in the summaries in BTO News which we envisage appearing.

THE NEST RECORDER'S BIBLE

The great majority of queries arising when completing nest records are dealt with in the Instructions. Further advice, including detail about timing of visits, the laying season, clutch sizes of most species to be encountered are contained within The Nest Record Scheme by Henry Mayer-Gross (BTO Guide No. 12) available from Beech Grove price £1.75 (including postage). Recommended reading and a valuable companion in the field!

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NEST RECORDERS

Facts revealed by the analysis of nest records are constantly being used to unravel aspects of the breeding biology and aid the conservation of our bird life, but it is vital to adhere strongly to the Code of Conduct when nest searching and recording - safety of the bird and its nest must come first in all cases.

Details of the species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act are listed on the next page.

BIRD SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

A reminder that the species listed below are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If you wish to consider visiting the nests of any of these species do write to the BTO for an application form to be licensed by the Nature Conservancy Council first. No nest of the species listed may be visited without prior approval.

GENERAL LIST OF FIRST SCHEDULE SPECIES

Crossbill
Diver, Red-throated (except in Fetlar,
North and South Uist and
south of the Great Glen)
Greenshank
Kingfisher

Owl, Barn
Plover, Little Ringed
Quail, European
Redstart, Black
Tit, Crested
Whimbrel (Shetland only)

SPECIAL LIST OF FIRST SCHEDULE SPECIES

Avocet
Bee-eater.
Bittern, all species
Bluethroat
Bunting, Cirl
Bunting, Lapland
Bunting, Snow
Brambling
Buzzard, Honey
Chough
Corncrake
Crake, Spotted
Diver, Black-throated
Diver, Great Northern
Diver, Red-throated
(in Fetlar, North and South
Uist and south of the
Great Glen)
Dotterel
Eagle, all species
Fieldfare
Firecrest
Garganey
Godwit, Black-tailed
Goldeneye
Goose, Greylag (Outer Hebrides
and Highland Region only)
Goshawk
Grebe, Black-necked
Grebe, Slavonian
Gull, Little
Gull, Mediterranean
Gyr Falcon
Harrier, all species
Heron, Purple
Hobby
Hoopoe
Kite
Long-tailed Duck
Merlin

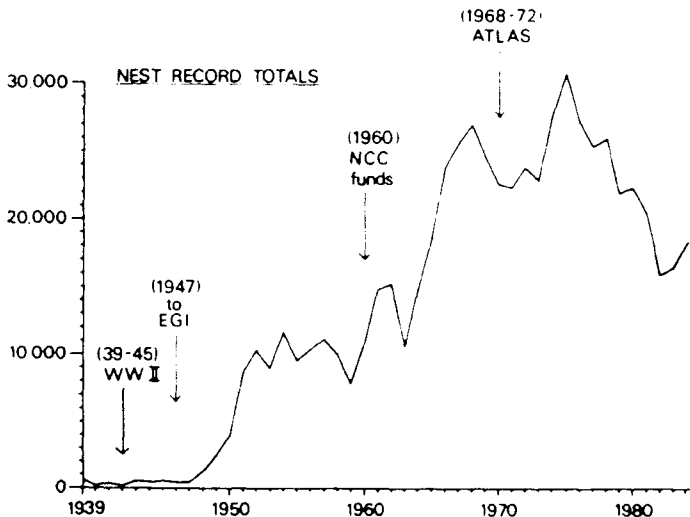
Oriole, Golden
Osprey
Owl, Snowy
Peregrine
Petrel, Leach's
Phalarope, Red-necked
Pintail
Plover, Kentish
Redwing
Rosefinch, Scarlet
Ruff
Sandpiper, Green
Sandpiper, Purple
Sandpiper, Wood
Scaup
Scoter, Common
Scoter, Velvet
Serin
Shorelark
Shrike, Red-backed
Spoonbill
Stilt, Black-winged
Stint, Temminck's
Stone Curlew
Swan, Bewick
Swan, Whooper
Tern, Black
Tern, Little
Tern, Roseate
Tit, Bearded
Treetreeper, Short-toed
Warbler, Cetti's
Warbler, Dartford
Warbler, Marsh
Warbler, Savi's
Whimbrel (except Shetland)
Woodlark
Wryneck

N.B. A rarer breeding species than these may be added to the Special List without warning so, if you find one, contact the Nest Record Officer for clearance.

FLUCTUATING FORTUNES IN CARL TOTALS

The Scheme has seen its ups and downs. After starting in 1939 as the Hatching and Fledging Inquiry, World War II placed an unwelcome damper on fieldwork. Boosts were later provided with the switch to a new premises at the Edward Grey Institute in 1947; then through the appointment of a full-time organiser in 1960; and finally with the injection of interest following the start of Breeding Atlas studies in the late 1960s.

The annual card intake peaked at 30,000 cards in 1975. The subsequent drop in numbers, leading to an annual intake of just half this total in 1982, was due in part to emphasis being placed on other BTO projects. As you can see from the figure below, our aim of improving the quantity and quality of the annual intake is well under way.



MAKE SURE YOUR CARDS ARRIVE SAFELY

Sadly during the 1984 season one large batch of cards was lost in the post, while another arrived having burst and been repacked in a polythene bag by a kind postman. Before sending off your cards do please make sure that they are in order, with a clearly marked summary sheet, the cards held by rubber bands or string, and where a large sample is involved, placed into a polythene bag before being put in the outer wrapper. It is a great shame when one's hard work in the field and unique information is lost. Please do make sure that your name and address is enclosed somewhere in the package, especially if you do not have a summary sheet to return with the cards.

HELPING THE SCHEME FURTHER

Your kind support in 1984 has gone some way towards reaching the goal of 20,000 'quality' nest histories each year, but there are several further ways of helping.

One is by completing extra cards for common 'open nesting' species such as Blackbird, Dunnock, Greenfinch, Chaffinch and actively searching for those 'target' species marked in the species totals. Also please use the leaflet, summary sheet and sample card enclosed to encourage a fellow nest finder to contribute.

For extra cards, copies of summary form, code of conduct, instructions and nest record leaflets or if you have any queries, please write to:
David Glue or Mercedes Gibbs, British Trust for Ornithology, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR.

DAVID GLUE

April 1985

BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY, BEECH GROVE, TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE HP23 5NR
Telephone: Tring 3461