
Somerset Ornithological Society
Guidelines for the Submission of
Records

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Rarities Committee (SOSRC)

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1: INTRODUCTION

Collecting records is one of the core activities of any ornithological society and we are therefore keen that all birdwatchers send records of their observations to the Recorder. The purpose of these notes is to encourage more people to become involved with record submission and to highlight the kind of records that are suitable for holding in the Society's archives.

All records received are entered onto a computer database. You can either submit your records electronically by e-mail, on a disc or on paper but it makes life easier for the recorder if you use a standard Excel spreadsheet (see section 4.2). If the bird you have seen is scarce, or out of season, then a description may also be required. Don't be put off by this, the vast majority of records will be accepted without the need for a description - it's only if you're lucky enough to have seen something really unusual that we will need a description of it from you.

2: WHY ARE RECORDS REQUIRED?

The annual Somerset Bird Report is compiled from the many observations submitted. It is the only up-to-date account of the county's avifauna with data on occurrence, distribution, populations, breeding success and unusual records. It augments and updates the information on the county's avifauna contained in the Society's publication, the 'Birds of Somerset' (Somerset Ornithological Society, 1988) and the subsequent 'History of the Birds of Somerset' (Ballance, 2006). Together, they are valuable sources of information for general reference and are dependent on the amount and accuracy of reports received from birdwatchers in the county.

Records provide information on the numbers and distributions of birds breeding in or visiting the county. This information is important because:

- Baseline information can be generated against which future changes in populations can be matched. Changes in the distribution of a species may be the most sensitive measure of changes in population numbers;
- The habitat preferences of a particular species can be identified and this knowledge can be applied for the conservation of that species;
- The relative values of sites of conservation importance can be assessed from a knowledge of their bird fauna;
- Valuable information can be provided in response to planning enquiries to assess the environmental impact of proposed land-use changes;
- Distribution maps for a species can be matched to land use.
- Provides opportunities for future use that we don't even realise yet!

3: WHAT IS A RECORD?

A record is a statement of the details of an observation of one or more birds of a particular species.

Every record must contain four essential key pieces of information:

- Species name.

- Number seen (use only one number: terms like "many", "numerous", "hundreds" and "more than usual" are hard for the editors to interpret and have no meaning to computers. If a range is given the lower number will be selected). A guess or estimate is fine.
- Date of the (first) observation.
- Precise location of the site, by name and, if possible, an appropriate Ordnance Survey (OS) Grid Reference.

Without any one of these, the information has much less value and sometimes cannot be used at all.

Additional useful information could include:

- Age and sex, with number in each category
- Breeding status (Confirmed or Probable) and success, with number of young
- Date of subsequent and last observation(s)
- Direction of flight, with number in that direction
- Notes on interesting features of the record

4: SUBMITTING RECORDS

4.1 WHICH RECORDS?

Ideally all records should be submitted, even of the commoner species. With the decline in numbers and ranges of many common species in recent years it is becoming increasingly important to be able to monitor the health of all bird populations, particularly of declining or threatened species. What were once common may soon become even scarcer. Furthermore, with the increasing number of requests for data from Environmental Consultants etc. concerned with land-use changes, even records of common species at the 6-figure grid reference level are becoming increasingly important. Therefore, while it may be impractical to record every common bird seen, some measure of judgment is necessary - if in doubt, send it in (with as much detail as possible)!

Irrespective of the above, we would like to receive ALL records of:

- Species rare, scarce or unusual in Somerset (Description species – see Appendix 1)
- Exceptionally early or late migration dates, for which a written description may be required.
- All national rarities considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

4.2 METHODS OF RECORDING & SUBMITTING OBSERVATIONS

Records can be submitted in the following ways (in order of preference by the Recorder)

- Completion of an Excel spreadsheet using the column layout as shown in figure 1. Nine columns showing species; site; first date; last date; number; c if circa (estimate); age if known; status; notes. This should be sent by e-mail to the Recorder (currently brian.gibbs@virgin.net).

- As above, but sent by disc in the post to the Recorder
- On paper using one of the Somerset Ornithological Society (SOS) recording forms: (or Scarce Records form). These may be obtained either (a) from the Recorder, or (b) copied from the SOS website. In order to ease the task of inputting such records they should be sent to the Recorder regularly, at preferably quarterly intervals, NOT all at once at the end of the year. When submitting records on paper, please enter all records by Species.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Species	Site	First Date	Last Date	No.	If circa	Age	Status	Notes				
2	Black-necked Grebe	Cheddar Reservoir	01/01/2007	02/01/2007	2								
3	Cettis Warbler	Cheddar Clay Pits	02/04/2007		5				singing males				
4	Greater Scaup	Burnham on Sea	10/11/2007		1		adult		male flew past				
5	Lapwing	Burnham on Sea	10/11/2007		150	c			on beach				
6	Lapwing	Westhay	02/03/2007		329	c							
7	Lapwing	Pawlett Hams	01/03/2007	01/04/2007	3				pairs nesting				
8	White Stork	Glastonbury	03/05/2007		1				flew over heading north. See separate description				
9	Kestrel	Berrow	01/12/2007		3								
10	Bar-headed Goose	Brean	01/11/2007	12/12/2007	1			escape	on golf course with Canada Geese				
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													
16													

Figure 1. Example excel spreadsheet showing how records can be submitted.

For all records please enter the SITE NAME, but only use site names that are shown on the OS map (preferably 1:25,000) and avoid unpublished local or generic names. For less well known sites enter a GRID REFERENCE, preferably to 6-figures. This is most important for single bird and breeding record observations.

If either the grid reference is not given or the site name is not recognised, the record may not be useable.

5: RARE, SCARCE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS.

Birds which are rare or scarce in Somerset are defined in Appendix 1. This is a complete list of those species which have been recorded in the County as at November 2007, Species coded 'F' require 'full descriptions', those coded 'S' require 'short notes'. This list is periodically reviewed by the Somerset Ornithological Society Rarities Committee (SOSRC) against the current status of the Species in Somerset. Those for which a description is required should be submitted on the Society's SCARCE RECORDS FORM, (Appendix 2). An electronic version of this is also available from the website (<http://www.somersetbirds.uko2.co.uk/index.htm>), they will then be considered by the SOS Records Committee for acceptance before publication.

Birds which are rare nationally are considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) for acceptance and publication in 'British Birds' ('BB'). Descriptions for these species should be submitted on a Scarce Records Form or a BBRC form to the Recorder and NOT direct to BBRC (so that the Society has knowledge of the event for its own records). The Recorder will always forward them to the BBRC for consideration.

If you are lucky enough to find any species not on the list in Appendix 1, a scarce records form will also be required.

In all the above cases, the County Recorder could be contacted to discuss releasing news of the sighting if appropriate; however the welfare of the bird(s) and the views of landowners will always be considered as a priority.

Records of exceptionally early or late migration dates should also be submitted. Arrival and departure dates of migrants are published in the annual *Somerset Bird Report*. Birds which are either feral or escapes from captivity and correspondingly unusual or scarce should also be recorded. A description is not normally required for these (but one might be requested if identification or origin is problematic).

Descriptions should be sufficiently detailed both to identify the bird to the species claimed and also to eliminate any similar, confusion species (with which it should be compared). It should be based on notes taken and any sketches and photographs made or taken at the time (a copy of which could be appended to the record), NOT after referral to a field guide.

All scarce bird descriptions and records for review are circulated to members of the SOSRC by the committee's chairperson. The Records Committee consists of four members, with specialist knowledge of the County's birds and the Recorder. They may, at times, ask advice of others who have more knowledge of some rare species. Records will only be accepted if a majority of the Committee agree that the description is adequate. The criteria used by the committee are necessarily strict to maintain the credibility of the Annual Report and the data bank. The Recorder makes the final decision based on advice from the Records Committee. Records may be reviewed at a subsequent date if new information becomes available.

6: DESCRIPTION WRITING

6.1 WHO SHOULD WRITE THE DESCRIPTION?

It should normally be the responsibility of the initial finder(s) to submit a description of a scarce species. Don't assume that 'someone else' will submit a record; it sometimes happens that no description is submitted for birds seen by large numbers of observers.

It should be regarded as an obligation by all observers, of whatever experience, that they submit a description of a scarce bird. The Recorder would rather have several descriptions of the same bird than none at all.

6.2 WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FULL DESCRIPTION?

Descriptions must be as full as possible, based on observations made at the time. They should, preferably, be submitted on the Society's form. This should ensure that all the necessary information is given.

The front of the form requires details of the species claimed, the date of observation, the exact location, and the name, address and telephone number of the observer.

In addition, the following additional information should be given: the time of day, visibility, direction of the light in relation to the observer, distance from the bird, optical aids used, whether it was photographed or ringed, the presence of other observers, and comments on previous experience of this and similar species.

The reverse of the form is for the description. This should start with a brief account of the circumstances leading up to the discovery, including details of the habitat occupied. An overall impression of the type of bird, its general coloration and size, and its 'jizz', should follow with, if possible, details of other birds present against which it was compared.

The amount of detail in the description will depend largely on the species and its distinctiveness. For national rarities, only a complete description will be sufficient. As many notes as possible made at the time of observation, and a sketch with the main features indicated, should be used to compile the account. It is probably best to start with the head, bill and eyes and then work towards the tail. It helps to be familiar with the correct names for different parts of the bird and its feather tracts but always describe what was seen and state if any features could not be observed. If possible, take a photograph and submit a copy with the record.

Details of behaviour, particularly feeding, can be very useful and any calls heard should be described in detail. Flight behaviour and appearance in flight may also be crucial to making a positive identification.

Records may not be accepted for various reasons. This does not necessarily imply that the SOSRC considers the identification was incorrect; it is more likely that the reason was insufficient detail to identify adequately or distinguish the species claimed from a similar species. It is better that all the information related to a record is submitted initially, because the SOSRC is reluctant (excepting in exceptional circumstances) to enter into lengthy correspondence prior to deciding on records.

6.3 WHAT SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE SHORT NOTES

For those species requiring 'Short Notes' just a few lines describing the circumstances and identification points should be provided – this will vary depending on the species, where and when it was seen. For example a Shag seen from Hurlstone Point in the Autumn would not require much, if any, additional information as they are regular here at that time of year, however, one on an inland reservoir would require some supporting information to rule out Cormorant.

7: REFERENCES

Ballance, D. K. (2006) *A History of The Birds of Somerset*. Isabelline Books. Penryn.

Somerset Ornithological Society (1988) *Birds of Somerset*. Alan Sutton. Gloucester.

Appendix 1. Somerset List and Type of Description Required

	SPECIES		STATUS	DESCRIPTION TYPE REQUIRED (S=Short; F=Full)
1	MUTE SWAN	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Fairly common RB. Common R & WV.	
2	TUNDRA (BEWICK'S) SWAN	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Fairly common WV.	
3	WHOOPEE SWAN	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Scarce WV.	S
4	BEAN GOOSE	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Rare WV.	S
5	PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Rare WV.	S
6	GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Uncommon WV.	S
7	GREYLAG GOOSE	<i>Anser anser</i>	Uncommon feral RB.	
8	CANADA GOOSE	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Common R. Uncommon RB.	
9	BARNACLE GOOSE	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Rare WV.	
10	BRENT GOOSE	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Uncommon WV.	
11	EGYPTIAN GOOSE	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Scarce feral R. Rare feral visitor. (Accidental in 1915/1928).	
12	RUDDY SHELDUCK	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Scarce RB. Common SV & WV.	
13	COMMON SHELDUCK	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Scarce feral R. (Some escapees).	
14	MANDARIN DUCK	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Common WV.	
15	EURASIAN WIGEON	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Very rare visitor.	F
16	AMERICAN WIGEON	<i>Anas americana</i>	Rare B. Fairly common PM & WV.	
17	GADWALL	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Scarce B. Common PM & WV.	
18	COMMON TEAL	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Very rare visitor.	F
19	GREEN-WINGED TEAL	<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	Common RB & WV.	
20	MALLARD	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Fairly common WV.	
21	NORTHERN PINTAIL	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Scarce MB. Uncommon PM.	
22	GARGANEY	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
23	BLUE-WINGED TEAL	<i>Anas discors</i>	Rare B. Fairly common WV.	
24	NORTHERN SHOVELER	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Scarce feral visitor.	S
25	RED-CRESTED POCHARD	<i>Netta rufina</i>	Rare B. Fairly common WV.	
26	COMMON POCHARD	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Rare visitor.	F
27	RING-NECKED DUCK	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Rare visitor.	
28	FERRUGINOUS DUCK	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	Scarce B. Common WV.	
29	TUFTED DUCK	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Uncommon WV.	
30	GREATER SCAUP	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
31	COMMON EIDER	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Scarce WV.	S
32	LONG-TAILED DUCK	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
33	BLACK (COMMON) SCOTER	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Rare PM & WV.	S
34	VELVET SCOTER	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Uncommon WV.	
35	COMMON GOLDENEYE	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Scarce WV.	
36	SMEW	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Scarce PM & WV	
37	RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Very rare B (since 1993). Uncommon WV.	
38	GOOSANDER	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		

39	RUDDY DUCK	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Very rare B (since 1994). Uncommon WV.	
40	RED-THROATED DIVER	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
41	BLACK-THROATED DIVER	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
42	GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
43	LITTLE GREBE	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Fairly common RB, PM & WV.	
44	GREAT CRESTED GREBE	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Fairly common RB, PM & WV.	
45	RED-NECKED GREBE	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
46	SLAVONIAN GREBE	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
47	BLACK-NECKED GREBE	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
48	NORTHERN FULMAR	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Fairly common SV. Scarce B & WV.	
49	CORY'S SHEARWATER	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Very rare PM.	F
50	SOOTY SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
51	MANX SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Common (mainly in the west) SV & PM.	
52	MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
53	LITTLE SHEARWATER	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record).	F
54	WILSON'S STORM-PETREL	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record).	F
55	EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	Scarce PM.	S
56	LEACH'S STORM-PETREL	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Scarce PM. Occasional autumn 'wrecks'.	S
57	NORTHERN GANNET	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Fairly common SV. Scarce WV.	
58	GREAT CORMORANT	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Fairly common PM & WV. Uncommon SV.	
59	EUROPEAN SHAG	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Scarce visitor. Rare inland.	S
60	GREAT BITTERN	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Scarce WV.	
61	AMERICAN BITTERN	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Accidental visitor (2-old records).	F
62	LITTLE BITTERN	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Very rare PM & SV.	F
63	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Very rare PM.	F
64	SQUACCO HERON	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records).	F
65	CATTLE EGRET	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records)	F
66	LITTLE EGRET	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		
67	GREAT (WHITE) EGRET	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Very rare PM (4 records)	F
68	GREY HERON	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Fairly common RB. (Passage status?).	
69	PURPLE HERON	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Very rare PM & SV.	F
70	BLACK STORK	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records).	F
71	WHITE STORK	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	Very rare PM.	F
72	GLOSSY IBIS	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Accidental visitor (4 records).	F
73	EURASIAN SPOONBILL	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Rare PM.Â	S
74	EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Rare PM.	F
75	BLACK KITE	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records).	F
76	RED KITE	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Scarce PM & WV	
77	WHITE-TAILED EAGLE	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Accidental visitor (13 records)	F
78	EGYPTIAN VULTURE	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F

79	EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Scarce MB & PM.	
80	HEN HARRIER	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
81	MONTAGU'S HARRIER	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Rare PM.	F
82	NORTHERN GOSHAWK	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Scarce RB. Rare PM.	S
83	EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Common RB. (Passage status?)	
84	COMMON BUZZARD	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common RB. (Passage status?)	
85	ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Very rare WV.Â	F
86	OSPREY	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Scarce PM.	
87	COMMON KESTREL	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common RB. (Passage status?)	
88	RED-FOOTED FALCON	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
89	MERLIN	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Scarce B. Uncommon PM & WV.	
90	EURASIAN HOBBY	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Scarce MB. Uncommon PM.	
91	GYR FALCON	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
92	PEREGRINE FALCON	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Uncommon RB, PM & WV.	
93	WILLOW PTARMIGAN (RED GROUSE)	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Scarce RB.	F
94	BLACK GROUSE	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	Formally a scarce RB. Extinct since 1981.	F
95	RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Uncommon RB. Some reared & released.	
96	GREY PARTRIDGE	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Uncommon RB. Some reared & released.	
97	COMMON QUAIL	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Scarce MB & SV. Nos. highly variable.	S
98	COMMON PHEASANT	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Fairly common RB. Many reared & released.	
99	WATER RAIL	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Scarce RB. Fairly common WV.	
100	SPOTTED CRAKE	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Rare PM. Very rare WV.	F
101	LITTLE CRAKE	<i>Porzana parva</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
102	BAILLON'S CRAKE	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Accidental visitor (5 old records)	F
103	CORNCRAKE	<i>Crex crex</i>	Rare PM & SV. Last bred 1954.	F
104	COMMON MOORHEN	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common RB & WV.	
105	COMMON COOT	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Common RB & WV.	
106	COMMON CRANE	<i>Grus grus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
107	LITTLE BUSTARD	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>	Accidental visitor (3 old records)	F
108	GREAT BUSTARD	<i>Otis tarda</i>	Accidental visitor (1 old record)	F (without tags)
109	EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Scarce RB. Fairly common WV.	
110	BLACK-WINGED STILT	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
111	PIED AVOCET	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Scarce PM & WV	
112	STONE-CURLEW	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
113	CREAM-COLOURED COURSER	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
114	COLLARED PRATINCOLE	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	Accidental visitor (1 old record)	F
115	BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
116	LITTLE (RINGED) PLOVER	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Rare B (since 1995). Scarce PM.	
117	RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Scarce MB. Uncommon PM & WV.	

118	KENTISH PLOVER	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Very rare PM & WV.	F
119	EURASIAN DOTTEREL	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	Rare PM.	S
120	AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Accidental visitor	F
121	EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Common WV.	
122	GREY PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Fairly common WV.	
123	NORTHERN LAPWING	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Fairly common B. Abundant WV.	
124	RED KNOT	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Common PM & WV.	
125	SANDERLING	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
126	SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Accidental visitor (2 or 3 records)	F
127	LITTLE STINT	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Uncommon PM. Rare WV.	
128	TEMMINCK'S STINT	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	Rare PM.	F
129	WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Very rare visitor (3 records)	F
130	BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
131	PECTORAL SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Rare PM	F
132	CURLEW SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Uncommon PM. rare WV.	
133	PURPLE SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Scarce WV.	
134	DUNLIN	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Common PM. Abundant WV.	
135	BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
136	BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Very rare visitor.	F
137	RUFF	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
138	JACK SNIPE	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Uncommon WV.	
139	COMMON SNIPE	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Uncommon B. Common WV.	
140	GREAT SNIPE	<i>Gallinago media</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records)	F
141	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Very rare visitor.	F
142	EURASIAN WOODCOCK	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Rare B. Fairly common WV.	
143	BLACK-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Rare B. Fairly common PM & WV.	
144	BAR-TAILED GODWIT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Fairly common PM & WV.	
145	WHIMBREL	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Common spring PM. Uncommon in autumn.	
146	EURASIAN CURLEW	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Uncommon B. Common PM & WV.	
147	UPLAND SANDPIPER	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Accidental visitor (1 old record)	F
148	SPOTTED REDSHANK	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
149	COMMON REDSHANK	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Uncommon B. Common PM & WV.	
150	MARSH SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
151	COMMON GREENSHANK	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Uncommon PM. Rare Wv.	
152	LESSER YELLOWLEGS	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
153	GREEN SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Uncommon PM & WV. More in autumn.	
154	WOOD SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Uncommon autumn PM. Scarce in spring.	
155	TEREK SANDPIPER	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
156	COMMON SANDPIPER	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Fairly common PM. Scarce WV.	

157	SPOTTED SANDPIPER	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Very rare visitor (4 records).	F
158	RUDDY TURNSTONE	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Common PM & WV.	
159	WILSON'S PHALAROPE	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Very rare visitor.	F
160	RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
161	GREY PHALAROPE	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Scarce PM. Rare WV.	S
162	POMARINE SKUA	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Scarce PM. Rare WV.	S
163	ARCTIC SKUA	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Uncommon PM. Rare WV.	
164	LONG-TAILED SKUA	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Rare PM.	F
165	GREAT SKUA	<i>Catharacta skua</i>	Uncommon PM. Rare WV.	
166	MEDITERRANEAN GULL	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Uncommon visitor, mainly in winter.	
167	LAUGHING GULL	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
168	FRANKLIN'S GULL	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
169	LITTLE GULL	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Uncommon PM. Scarce WV.	
170	SABINE'S GULL	<i>Larus sabini</i>	Rare PM.	S
171	BONAPARTE'S GULL	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
172	BLACK-HEADED GULL	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Rare B. Fairly common SV. Abundant WV.	
173	RING-BILLED GULL	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Rare WV.	F
174	MEW (COMMON) GULL	<i>Larus canus</i>	Common PM & WV.	
175	LESSER-BLACK BACKED GULL	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Scarce B. Common PM & WV.	
176	HERRING GULL	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Fairly common RB. Common SV & WV.	
177	YELLOW-LEGGED GULL		Scarce visitor, mainly winter.	S
178	ICELAND GULL	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Rare WV.	S
179	GLAUCOUS GULL	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Rare PM & WV.	S
180	GREAT-BLACK BACKED GULL	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Rare RB. Scarce SV. Uncommon WV.	
181	BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Fairly common PM. Large nos. after gales.	
182	IVORY GULL	<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>	Accidental visitor (1 old record)	F
183	LITTLE TERN	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	Uncommon PM.	
184	GULL-BILLED TERN	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
185	CASPIAN TERN	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
186	WHISKERED TERN	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Very rare PM (3 records).	F
187	BLACK TERN	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Uncommon PM mainly in autumn.	
188	WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Rare PM.	F
189	SANDWICH TERN	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Uncommon PM.	
190	FORSTER'S TERN	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
191	COMMON TERN	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Fairly common PM.	
192	ARCTIC TERN	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Uncommon PM.	
193	ROSEATE TERN	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Very rare PM.	F
194	RAZORBILL	<i>Alca torda</i>	Fairly common (in west) SV. Scarce WV.	
195	BLACK GUILLEMOT	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Accidental visitor.	F
196	LITTLE AUK	<i>Alle alle</i>	Rare WV.	F
197	ATLANTIC PUFFIN	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Rare PM & WV.	F

198	PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE	<i>Syrhaptes paradoxus</i>	Accidental visitor. Old records (c. 40 in 1888).	F
199	ROCK (FERAL) PIGEON	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common feral RB. Never as wild form.	
200	STOCK DOVE	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Fairly common RB & WV. (Passage status?).	
201	COMMON WOOD PIGEON	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common RB. Abundant PM & WV.	
202	EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common RB. Uncommon PM.	
203	EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Uncommon MB & PM.	S
204	ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Very rare feral visitor/escapee.	
205	COMMON CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common MB & PM.	
206	YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
207	BARN OWL	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Uncommon RB.	
208	SNOWY OWL	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i>	Accidental visitor (4 records)	F
209	LITTLE OWL	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Fairly common RB. Scarce in the west.	
210	TAWNY OWL	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Common RB.	
211	LONG-EARED OWL	<i>Asio otus</i>	Scarce RB & WV.	S
212	SHORT-EARED OWL	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
213	EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Uncommon MB & PM.	
214	COMMON SWIFT	<i>Apus apus</i>	Common MB & PM.	
215	ALPINE SWIFT	<i>Apus melba</i>	Very rare PM.	F
216	COMMON KINGFISHER	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Fairly common RB. Some winter on coast.	
217	EUROPEAN BEE-EATER	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records)	F
218	EUROPEAN ROLLER	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Accidental visitor (4 records)	F
219	HOOPOE	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Scarce PM. Pairs bred in 1931 & 1978.	F
220	EURASIAN WRYNECK	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Rare PM. Last bred in 1924.	F
221	GREEN WOODPECKER	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Common RB.	
222	GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Common RB.	
223	LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	UNcommon RB.	
224	GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	Very rare PM (3 records)	F
225	CRESTED LARK	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
226	WOOD LARK	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Rare PM & WV. Last bred in 1973.	S
227	SKY LARK	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
228	HORNED (SHORE) LARK	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Rare PM & WV.Â	F
229	SAND MARTIN	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Uncommon MB. Common PM.	
230	BARN SWALLOW	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common MB & PM.	
231	RED-RUMPED SWALLOW	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
232	HOUSE MARTIN	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	Common MB & PM.	
233	RICHARD'S PIPIT	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Rare PM. Very rare WV.	S
234	TAWNY PIPIT	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	Rare PM.	F
235	TREE PIPIT	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Fairly common MB & PM.	
236	MEADOW PIPIT	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
237	RED-THROATED PIPIT	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records of 3 birds)	F

238	ROCK PIPIT	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Uncommon RB, PM & WV.	
239	WATER PIPIT	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Uncommon PM & WV.	
240	YELLOW WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla flava flavissima</i>	Fairly common MB & PM.	
241	BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	Uncommon PM. Rare SV.	
242	GREY WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Fairly common RB, PM & WV.	
243	PIED WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
244	WHITE WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	Fairly common spring PM. Scarce in autumn.	
245	BOHEMIAN WAXWING	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Rare WV.	S
246	WHITE-THROATED DIPPER	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Fairly common RB.	
247	WINTER WREN	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Abundant RB.	
248	HEDGE ACCENTOR (DUNNOCK)	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Common RB. (Passage status?).	
249	ALPINE ACCENTOR	<i>Prunella collaris</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
250	EUROPEAN ROBIN	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Abundant RB. Common PM & WV.	
251	COMMON NIGHTINGALE	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Fairly common MB. Uncommon PM.	
252	BLUETHROAT	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Very rare PM.	F
253	BLACK REDSTART	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	Uncommon PM & WV. A pair bred in 1996.	
254	COMMON REDSTART	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Fairly common MB. Uncommon PM.	
255	WHINCHAT	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Common MB. Uncommon PM.	
256	STONECHAT	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	Common RB. Fairly common PM & WV.	
257	NORTHERN WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Fairly common MB & PM.	
258	WHITE'S THRUSH	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
259	RING OUZEL	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Fairly common MB. Uncommon PM.	
260	COMMON BLACKBIRD	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Abundant RB. Common PM & WV.	
261	FIELDFARE	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Common PM & WV.	
262	SONG THRUSH	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
263	DARK-THROATED THRUSH	<i>Turdus ruficollis</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
264	REDWING	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Common PM & WV.	
265	MISTLE THRUSH	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Fairly common RB. Uncommon PM.	
266	CETTI'S WARBLER	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Fairly common RB. Rare PM.	
267	COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Fairly common MB. Uncommon PM.	
268	SAVI'S WARBLER	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Very rare PM.	F
269	AQUATIC WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Rare PM.	F
270	SEDGE WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Common MB.	
271	MARSH WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Very rare PM & MB.	F
272	EURASIAN REED WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Common MB. Fairly common PM.	
273	GREAT REED WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
274	ICTERINE WARBLER	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
275	MELODIOUS WARBLER	<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Very rare PM (4 records)	F

276	DARTFORD WARBLER	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	Scarce breeder since 1993. Rare PM & WV.	
277	SARDINIAN WARBLER	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
278	BARRED WARBLER	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Very rare PM (4 records)	F
279	LESSER WHITETHROAT	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Fairly common MB. Uncommon PM.	
280	COMMON WHITETHROAT	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common MB. Fairly common PM.	
281	GARDEN WARBLER	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Common MB. Fairly common PM.	
282	BLACKCAP	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Common MB. F'com PM. Uncommon WV.	
283	PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus proregulus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
284	YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	Very rare PM.	S
285	DUSKY WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus fuscatus</i>	Accidental visitor	F
286	WOOD WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Common MB. Uncommon PM.	
287	CHIFFCHAFF	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common MB & PM. Uncommon WV.	
288	WILLOW WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common MB & PM.	
289	GOLDCREST	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Common RB. Fairly common PM & WV.	
290	FIRECREST	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Scarce PM & WV. Rare B.	
291	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Fairly common MB & PM.	
292	RED-BREADED FLYCATCHER	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
293	PIED FLYCATCHER	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Common MB. Uncommon PM.	
294	BEARDED TIT	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Uncommon RB. Scarce autumn and WV.	
295	LONG-TAILED TIT	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Common RB.	
296	MARSH TIT	<i>Parus palustris</i>	Fairly common RB.	
297	WILLOW TIT	<i>Parus montanus</i>	Uncommon RB.	F
298	COAL TIT	<i>Parus ater</i>	Common RB. Uncommon PM & WV.	
299	BLUE TIT	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Abundant RB.	
300	GREAT TIT	<i>Parus major</i>	Abundant RB.	
301	WOOD NUTHATCH	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Fairly common RB.	
302	WALLCREEPER	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records)	F
303	EURASIAN TREECREEPER	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Fairly common RB.	
304	EURASIAN PENDULINE TIT	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records)	F
305	EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Rare PM. Very rare MB.	S
306	ISABELLINE SHRIKE	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>	Accidental visitor (2 records, both <i>phoenicuroides</i>)	F
307	RED-BACKED SHRIKE	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Very rare PM.	F
308	LESSER GREY SHRIKE	<i>Lanius minor</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records)	F
309	GREAT GREY SHRIKE	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Scarce WV.	S
310	WOODCHAT SHRIKE	<i>Lanius senator</i>	Accidental visitor (5 records)	F
311	EURASIAN JAY	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Fairly common RB. Scarce PM.	
312	BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	<i>Pica pica</i>	Common RB.	
313	SPOTTED NUTCRACKER	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	Accidental visitor.	F
314	RED-BILLED CHOUGH	<i>Pyrocorax pyrocorax</i>	Very rare visitor.	F

315	EURASIAN JACKDAW	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Common RB. Scarce PM.	
316	ROOK	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Abundant RB.	
317	CARRION CROW	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Abundant RB.	
318	HOODED CROW	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	Rare WV.	F
319	COMMON RAVEN	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Fairly common RB.	
320	COMMON STARLING	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Abundant RB, PM & WV.	
321	ROSY STARLING	<i>Sternus roseus</i>	Accidental visitor.	F
322	HOUSE SPARROW	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Abundant RB.	
323	EURASIAN TREE SPARROW	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Scarce RB & PM.	
324	CHAFFINCH	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Abundant RB. Common PM & WV.	
325	BRAMBLING	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Fairly common PM & WV.	
326	EUROPEAN SERIN	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	Very rare PM.	F
327	EUROPEAN GREENFINCH	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
328	EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
329	EURASIAN SISKIN	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Uncommon RB. Common PM & WV.	
330	COMMON LINNET	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common RB, PM & WV.	
331	TWITE	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	Scarce WV.	S
332	LESSER REDPOLL	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Uncommon RB & PM. Fairly common WV.	
333	MEALY REDPOLL	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record).	F
334	TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record).	F
335	COMMON CROSSBILL	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Fairly common irruptive visitor. Rare B.	
336	COMMON ROSEFINCH	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>	Accidental visitor (3 records).	F
337	COMMON BULLFINCH	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Fairly common RB.	
338	HAWFINCH	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Scarce PM & WV. Has bred - last in 1968.	S
339	DARK-EYED JUNCO	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record).	F
340	LAPLAND LONGSPUR (BUNTING)	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Scarce PM.	S
341	SNOW BUNTING	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Scarce PM & WV.	S
342	YELLOWHAMMER	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Common RB. Winter & passage status?	
343	CIRL BUNTING	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Rare visitor. Was scarce RB.	F
344	ORTOLAN BUNTING	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>	Very rare PM.	F
345	LITTLE BUNTING	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	Very rare PM (4 records)	F
346	YELLOW-BREADED BUNTING	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
347	REED BUNTING	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Common RB. Fairly common PM & WV.	
348	BLACK-HEADED BUNTING	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>	Accidental visitor (1 record)	F
349	CORN BUNTING	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Scarce PM & WV. Extinct breeder?	S
	GREENLAND WHEATEAR	<i>Oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	Scarce PM.	
	WHISTLING SWAN		Accidental visitor (1 for five winters)	

Appendix 2.

**SOMERSET ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RARITIES COMMITTEE
SCARCE RECORDS FORM**

SPECIES:

Number of birds:

Age/Sex:

PLACE:

OS Grid reference: (6 figs)

DATE:

Dates of earlier/later sightings:

Times:

Total duration:

OBSERVER:

Address:

Post code:

Telephone No.:

Email Address:

Other Observers:

Who found it?:

Who first identified it?:

Who else is reporting it?:

Was it photographed?:

Photographers:

Was it trapped for ringing?:

Ringer:

If dead, is it preserved?:

Where?:

Binoculars used:

Telescope used:

Distance from bird:

Weather conditions:

Light in relation to Observer:

Previous experience of species:

Experience of similar species, that day:

Experience of similar species previously:

Do you wish to be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance?: YES/NO (If YES, pls enclose a stamp if submitting by post).

SOMERSET ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE - SCARCE RECORDS FORM

DESCRIPTION: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird based on notes taken at the time of the observation and before reference to books. Attach original field notes, sketches and photographs, if available.

The description should cover as many of the following features as possible:- size, type, general coloration, habitat, behaviour; bill, eye, eye ring & stripe(s), lores, forehead, crown, nape, mantle, rump, tail; chin, throat, breast, belly, undertail coverts; tertials, primaries, primary extension and overlap with tail, secondaries, coverts and wing bars; legs, stance, gait, flight and calls. Attach extra sheets as necessary.

Is this record 100% certain?:

Any who disagree?:

Signature:

Date submitted: