

General shape much as Kestrel but flight pattern different being more fluid and when seen from the side was very Hobby-like, the wings almost reaching the tail. When perched it carried its body at 45 degrees with the legs pushed forward whereas the Kestrels perched upright. Seen hovering like Kestrel, hawking insects and strangely when feeding on the ground it took insects in its bill directly.

The bird was also seen on 27th and 28th August by N.A. Clark and C.C. Baillie.

M. Rogers

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 8th September, 1975.

I was informed of the presence of this bird by C.C. Baillie at 17.40 hours and managed to snatch views for five minutes before opening the Tavern.

Structure, long and slim-necked, long legged wader intermediate between large Dunlin and small Reeve, probably nearer the latter. Bill black, fine and as long as the head, dark eye, large for size of bird, legs yellow, wings long, overlapping tail.

Plumage: Face, neck and upper breast cinnamon buff. Top of head flecked dark as was back of neck. Underparts mainly off white, a good deal paler than the bird I saw in 1973. Back as Reeve, but closer patterned, the tips of the back feathers edged buff with the edging tending to grey on the wings.

Feeding quickly on the short turf by picking, interspersed with quick runs. Neck stretching occurred when alert.

The bird was also seen by R. Britton, C.C. Baillie and N.A. Clark.

M. Rogers

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 29th September to 5th October, 1975.

The bird was seen at 10.00 hours on Airfield feeding on the short turf with a wader flock and was considerably smaller than a Golden Plover and larger than a Dunlin. The yellow legs, scaly upperparts, thin neck, buff face, white wing linings seen in flight but no conspicuous buff pattern. It was considered to be the bird seen by N.A. Clark two days previously as the buff was confined to the breast and the rest of the underparts off-white. All other usual characteristics were noted.

M. Rogers

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*. 3rd November, 1975.

The bird was seen on the ground in a weed covered stable yard feeding with Linnets and Chaffinches. It then flew up onto a wall, perched briefly and flew away. During a subsequent search the bird was flushed once and flight views obtained once again.

A 'yellow' bird when on the ground, markedly smaller than the Linnets with pale tips to the lesser and median coverts. Flying to a wall it showed a brown, unmarked tail and yellow rump. Perched on the wall the stubby bill, heavy streaking on the breast extending onto the paler, almost white belly and slight yellow-green supercilium were seen.

In flight a dumpier bird than a Siskin with very undurating flight, the yellow rump and brown tail were again visible, also the yellowish chest with paler abdomen, clearly streaked and cleft tail, more rounded than Siskin. The flight call, heard once, was a 'trill-lil-hill'.

M. Rogers

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. 19th May to 1st June, 1975.

The bird was first seen sitting on a dead tree about 15 yards from me and in spite of the short time and difficult light conditions I was confident that it was a female type of Scarlet Rosefinch. (19th May). On the following day (20th May) I relocated the bird with C.C. Baillie and I.G. Black when it was seen at ten to twenty yards range feeding amongst low bushes and rank vegetation and detailed field descriptions were taken. On 1st June, R. Britton and myself heard a snatch of song given by this bird which sounded like a short section of a Willow Warbler song but stronger and less fluty, a note with a downward inflection, followed by two brief uninflected notes and then another with downward inflection (cheeoo-chi-chi-cheeoo). The bird was later caught and ringed and then continued to feed and sing for the rest of the day being seen by I.G. Black, C.C. Baillie and others.

Description taken in the field on 20th May. Size and proportions similar to Greenfinch, bill very heavy and conical and very dark, lighter on hind portion of underside. General colouring greyish olive-brown, paler on underside.

Crown, nape and mantle, finely streaked darker brown, supercilium slightly paler than the ear coverts which seemed to have a more olive colour than the rest of the head in some lights. The wing coverts were brown with narrow pale edges and creamy tips to greater and median coverts forming a double wing-bar. Primary coverts narrowly tipped paler, forming a short diagonal bar below and behind that formed by the greater coverts. The primaries, secondaries and tail were brown with narrow pale edges, more olive in colouring than on the rest of the body and wing, brown rump, pale chin, finely and sparsely streaked dark, buffish breast with fine but distinct brown streaking, buffish flanks with indistinct darker streaking and off-white undertail coverts. The eyes were dark brown, legs and feet dark brown. No call was heard.

Wing length 85 mm, tail 54 mm, bill to feathers 11 mm, weight 24.3 gm. Primaries: 1 = primary coverts - 11 mm, 2 = L, 3 = L, 4 = L (2, 3 and 4 emarginated), 5 = -4, 6 = -10, 7 = -13.5, 8 = -17, 9 = 19, 10 = -22.5.

A.M. Taylor

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. 17th September, 1975

First seen by W. Rogers in cottage garden eight yards from window and pointed out to me. It flew away and returned several times and was then caught in a single shelf mist net.

A dumpy finch with a cleft tail and domed head, it perched very upright. In the field it was basically olive-green with two obvious off-white wing bars formed by the tips of the median and lesser coverts. Top of head striated darker as was mantle, back and rump (less streaking) Tail and wings a shade darker than the body plumage, whitish breast, streaked with diffuse markings down to the pectoral region and extending to the flanks. The soft parts were dark eye with no eye ring and legs a House Sparrow pink. Call note in flight and when perched was a 'tweak'.

In the hand a slight rufous tinge could be seen on the belly around the leg feathers.

Wing 84 mm., weight 23.5 gms., at 17.00 hours.

1st primary minute, third to fifth equal and longest and emarginated on outer webs.

M. Rogers

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. 12th, 13th October, 1975.

The bird, an immature or female, was first seen in weedy tractor ruts just north of the High Street gates, a popular feeding area for finches and buntings. At a distance the bird appeared to have a distinctly dark head as it ran along the rut feeding occasionally in a rather 'mouse-like' manner, infrequently flicking its tail in the manner of a Reed Bunting but not as often. The carriage was very horizontal. Basically a very small Reed Bunting type of bird about Linnet size with proportionately shorter tail the outer feathers of which were white. Back streaked as Reed Bunting but the effect was more subdued. The underparts were satiny white with a few dark flecks extending along the flanks. Crown brownish, separated from tawny ear coverts/cheek patch by a lighter brown or cream superciliary. Wings basically the same colour and texture as back. Median and greater coverts had slight buff tips. The bill was horn, proportionately a little longer and finer than Reed Bunting and legs pink.

A soft 'tip' call was heard frequently both on the ground and in flight less harsh than the 'tip' of a Robin. When seen later the cheek patch was seen to have light braces plus a lighter area and the bill colour noted to be light grey.

The bird was seen on both days also by N.A. Clark and a detailed description supplied.

M. Rogers