

Scottish mainland. The species was first recorded in Scotland in 1945. Between then and 1961 there were six records from Fair Isle and one each from Whalsay and the Isle of May—one at the beginning of June and the others between 15th July and 19th September.—Ed.)

Pallas's Warbler at Fair Isle—a new Scottish bird

Fair Isle experienced southeast winds, due to an anti-cyclone over northern Europe, from 6th to 11th October 1966. These winds produced large numbers of thrushes, a record total of 1500 Bramblings, and several Richard's Pipits, Great Grey Shrikes and Scarlet Grosbeaks.

After a morning of rain on 11th October my wife and I found a Pallas's Warbler beside a building near the Bird Observatory. G. J. Barnes and D. Parkin were soon on the scene and we watched it for about five minutes as it fed on the ground and then in thistles. It was very confiding and at one stage was feeding only six feet from me. It fed busily in the vegetation and made short sallies after small flies, like a Goldcrest. Quite suddenly it flew off over North Haven and landed in the cliffs; we did not see it again.

It was a very small warbler, even slightly smaller than a Yellow-browed Warbler. It was rather like that species in colour, but the upperparts were greener, more Firecrest colour. The rump was yellow and showed as an obvious yellow patch when the bird was in flight. The head pattern was most distinctive, with a prominent yellow crown stripe and a long yellow superciliary in front of, over and behind the eye, being brighter yellow in front of the eye. The wings were greenish with two creamy-yellow wing-bars formed by the tips of the median and greater coverts, the latter being more prominent. The tertials were fringed creamy-yellow. The tail was short and greenish. The underparts were white, suffused yellowish on the sides of the breast and flanks. The legs, bill and eye were similar to Yellow-browed Warbler. It did not call.

This is the first record for Scotland and the nineteenth for Great Britain. This rare species, which breeds in south Siberia and normally winters in southeast Asia, has been becoming more frequent in England, in late autumn, during the last decade, and seventeen of the eighteen English records have been since 1951.

ROY H. DENNIS.