

the Indian Ocean. By 1976 there seemed to be 15 British records involving 13 birds, all since 1951 and mostly in southern England in late spring. This is the first Scottish record and its photograph appeared in the 1975 Scottish Bird Report (9: plate 17a). With the gradual westward extension of its breeding range and its increasing frequency in England we can expect more. Sadly, Mr Simpson died before we went to press.—Ed.]

Rufous Turtle Dove at Fair Isle

On 31st October 1974 G. J. Barnes had a brief view of what he initially thought to be a late migrant Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* at Setter, Fair Isle. Late in the afternoon he saw it again more clearly and gained the impression that it was large, very dark, with narrow buffish edges to the forewing and scapulars giving a very mottled effect in flight, and an obvious long grey rump. Its flight was atypical—more like Stock Dove and he had been very surprised to hear it clap its wings twice on rising from the ground. In failing light GJB and I relocated the bird on the stubble at Setter but it quickly flew away. My impressions were scant but complementary to his.

The following day I had several brief, mainly flight views, as I inadvertently flushed it from various patches of stubble. On each occasion it rose rapidly to fly away low with a direct flight that lacked the side to side actions of most Turtle Doves. Eventually I saw the bird feeding with two Rock Doves on stubble and was able to approach to about 50 m (54 yds.) and watch it through a telescope in good light for more than ten minutes. When it flew, of its own accord, it passed close overhead.

Although obviously a turtle dove *Streptopelia* sp. it appeared hefty, lacking the slimness associated with *turtur* and in flight the wings were broader based and rather rounded at the tips and the tail appeared a little shorter. On the ground it approached the Rock Doves in size and bulk. The plumage appeared dark, the upperparts lacking much of the rufous hue of Turtle Dove and the underparts appearing generally dark grey on the belly, flanks and underwing.

Description Crown, nape and neck grey, a little paler on forehead; mantle browner than neck; rump dark grey from lower back to the upper tail-coverts (very striking in flight). Bill greyish; eye ring probably dull reddish (difficult to see). Sides of face mainly grey, similar to crown; no collar marks present on neck (indicating it was a bird of the year). Underparts dark vinous-grey, uniform on belly and flanks but a little darker on upper breast and neck. Scapulars and wing coverts dark brown, feathers with narrow rufous fringes, narrowest on inner greater coverts, lower scapulars and tertials; outer median coverts and lesser coverts paler and more buff; dark grey stripe probably formed by outer 1-2 greater coverts, running

front to back part way across the wing; underwing as dark or a little darker than flanks, grey without vinous tinge and lacking brown colour of flight feathers. Tail very dark brown with narrow whitish border to all except central feathers.

We identified the bird as a Rufous Turtle Dove *S. orientalis*, our pooled descriptions agreeing with the reference works at our disposal except in one particular point. All the works consulted indicated that the margin to the tail is white in *turtur* and grey in *orientalis*. At no time were we able in the field to make this distinction between greyish or whitish.

R. A. BROAD

[This is the first Scottish and only the fifth British record. The species breeds and winters within Asia.—ED.]

Barn Owl on dead Hedgehog

Whilst driving near Carrington, Midlothian, at about 23.00 BST on 30th July 1977 we saw quite clearly by the light of our headlights a Barn Owl perched on a dead Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* in the road. The Hedgehog looked fully grown and freshly run over, although not flattened, with some red flesh showing on the underside. From its position the owl looked as if it had been or was about to commence eating from the Hedgehog's underside but it flew off after about five seconds.

CHRISTINE and BOB DUNSIRE

[David Glue comments that he can trace no previous records of Barn Owls taking Hedgehogs or carrion.—ED.]

Dusky Warbler at Fair Isle

On 13th October 1974 I. G. Black located a small, dull coloured, skulking *Phylloscopus* warbler in a dense patch of vegetation at Leogh on Fair Isle. His attention had been attracted to the bird by its harsh *tchak* call, given from cover. The call together with the details that he had been able to see led him to believe it was either a Dusky or a Radde's Warbler. R. D. Moore and D. R. Waugh soon joined IGB and between them they compiled a description that G. J. Barnes and I were able to confirm when we arrived.

We watched the bird at ranges down to 5 m as it intermittently came out of cover into view. It was feeding among thick rose bushes, occasionally emerging to feed along the top of a surrounding wall or creeping about on the side of a