

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY ANNUAL REPORT

for
1957



PETER E. DAVIS
Warden

Price 5/-
(Issued free to Friends of Fair Isle)

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

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Chairman:—Mr ARTHUR B. DUNCAN

Hon. Secretary:—Mr GEORGE WATERSTON, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr IAN R. PITMAN, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Warden:—Mr PETER E. DAVIS

Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland
(Tel: Fair Isle 8)

Solicitors:—J. & F. ANDERSON, W.S., 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Auditors:—LINDSAY, JAMIESON AND HALDANE, C.A., St. Andrew Square,
Edinburgh, 2.

Bankers:—THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, 64 George Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Annual Subscription (" Friend of Fair Isle ") **One Guinea**

Please support by Donation or Legacy

The Fair Isle Bird Observatory Endowment Fund

With the generous help of the Pilgrim Trust, the Observatory Trustees have established an Endowment Fund for Ornithology and Bird Preservation in Scotland. The objects are :—To establish the Fair Isle Bird Observatory on a permanent financial basis; to extend Fair Isle research methods to other stations in Scotland; and finally to develop Bird Sanctuaries and Bird Preservation in general.

Capital subscribed to the Fund will be held as a permanent Endowment Fund by the Trustees and cannot be spent. Income from the Fund will be carefully used by the Bird Observatory Executive Committee in keeping with the above objects.

Please write to the Hon. Secretary for particulars.

FOREWORD

The year dealt with in this report is one of outstanding interest and achievement, but I should like before dealing with this year's progress to correct a statement in last year's Annual Report which might give rise to misapprehension. In the minutes of the Ninth A.G.M. of Trustees I was reported as stating that the upkeep of the Hostel was "more the province of the National Trust for Scotland, the owners of the island." This might give a wrong impression. The Hostel is and always has been, run by the Bird Observatory Trust. What I intended to convey was that the Hostel, as such, played a great part in the life of the island and was of material assistance to the National Trust for Scotland in this great endeavour to help the islanders.

This report covers the first year of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davis's residence on Fair Isle and shows that the confidence with which we anticipated their coming to Fair Isle was in no way misplaced.

A glance at the accounts shows that the steps that the Trustees took have greatly improved the financial position, and I feel more confident than ever before in appealing for your continued support, in the certainty that the improvement of our financial affairs which has been apparent this year, due in overwhelming measure to the careful husbandry of Mr. and Mrs. Davis, will continue and put our enterprise finally on a sound basis.

Ornithologically too, this year has been of outstanding interest in the number of rarities that have visited the island. Here, of course we are more or less dependent on the weather conditions prevailing over Europe during the periods of migration, and 1957 will probably long be remembered for the favourable combinations of weather leading a large number of Eastern European birds to Fair Isle.

The long term study of the Arctic Skua colony brings forth fresh interesting and important information each year, and I cannot stress too much the cumulative importance of this work and the essential need for continuity.

Once again I would commend this enterprise to your

continuing support, both for the value of the scientific achievement which is great, and for the contribution it makes to the widening life of a remote Scottish community which contribution is vital.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,
Chairman.

TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES

The Tenth Annual General Meeting of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trustees was held in the Board Room of The National Trust for Scotland, 5, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2, on Thursday, 23rd January, 1958, at 5 p.m.

Present: Mr. Arthur B. Duncan in the Chair; Mr. A.G.S. Bryson; Dr. Frank Fraser Darling; Professor M.F.M. Meiklejohn; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mr. E.M. Nicholson; Mr. Ian R. Pitman; Professor James Ritchie; Dr. A.C. Stephen; Mr. Geo. Waterston; and Professor V.C. Wynne-Edwards. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davis were in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated from Dr. John Berry; Dr. J.W. Campbell; Mr. James Fisher; Cmdr. G. Hughes-Onslow; Col. W.M. Logan Home; Mr. G.T. Kay; Mr. Peter Scott; and Sir Landsborough Thomson.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting of Trustees, having been circulated, were taken as read. They were approved and signed.

Office-bearers: On the motion of Mr. E.M. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. A.G.S. Bryson, the Office-bearers were unanimously re-elected for 1958; viz. Chairman - Mr. A.B. Duncan; Hon. Secretary - Mr. George Waterston; and Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Ian R. Pitman.

Mr. Kenneth Williamson: The Chairman expressed the pleasure of the meeting on the appointment of our late Director - Mr. Kenneth Williamson, as Migration Research Officer to the British Trust for Ornithology. He stated that Mr. Williamson would shortly be moving to Oxford and would be relinquishing 17, India Street, Edinburgh.

Warden's Report: Mr. Peter Davis, who was welcomed to the Meeting by the Chairman, then gave his Report on the past Session. (See pps.12 - 31)

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Ian R. Pitman submitted the Accounts for the Year 1957. (See pps. 5 - 11).

Chairman's Report: In commenting on the Warden's Report and the Hon. Treasurer's Report, Mr. Arthur B. Duncan expressed the pleasure of all the Trustees at the splendid

start made by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davis. He congratulated them both not only on the economical way in which they had operated the Hostel, but also on the progress made in scientific work on the island.

Proposals for 1958: Mr. Davis thanked the Trustees for the way in which they had received his first Report and expressed the hope that the Hostel would once again show a profit in 1958. The Trustees agreed that the existing arrangements should be continued.

The Warden drew attention to the bad state of the water-pipes from the reservoir to the Hostel and stated that we would soon have to face up to a complete renewal. It was resolved that an estimate should be obtained for renewing the pipes with alcatheene piping. Attention was also drawn to the state of the diesel generator supplying electricity for the Hostel. This required a new crank-shaft. As the existing generator is unnecessarily powerful and uneconomical to run, it was resolved that the Warden should make enquiries about purchasing second-hand more economical engine as soon as possible.

The Meeting terminated at 6.30 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Having painted rather a gloomy picture in my Report for the years 1955 and 1956, I am very glad this year to be able to say that the drastic steps taken early in 1957 to reduce expenditure and at the same time encourage visitors to the Fair Isle Hostel have proved extremely successful - as you will see both from a study of the Accounts and from the Warden's Report.

The Accounts speak for themselves. In the Hostel Account a loss for 1956 of £589 has been converted into a profit of £383. In the Trust Revenue Account whereas the loss for 1956 was £1,143, that for 1957 has been reduced to £130. We can, I think, therefore hope, provided there is no great falling off in the number of subscriptions from Friends of Fair Isle, to break even, or even show a small profit for 1958.

The main credit for this improvement lies with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Davis and their assistants, since practically the whole of the improvement stems from the improved Hostel figures. We owe them a very great debt of gratitude for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Apart from the Hostel, we have tried to cut expenditure to the minimum consistent with continued publication of Bulletins, and there are no particularly outstanding figures to comment on. There is, however, one disturbing factor. If you look at the Trust Revenue Account and add together the figures received for subscriptions and for Income Tax recovered, you will see that income from these two sources has dropped for 1957 by £118 which is very nearly the equivalent of the loss for the year. This trend could be serious if it were to continue, since subscriptions and Tax recovered under Deeds of Covenant form our main source of income. Can I therefore once again appeal to all of you not only to continue your own subscriptions, preferably by Covenant, but to encourage others to support the Observatory? I think that we have shown by our efforts this year that the Trust is worth support and that it can be made to pay its way, provided that the membership does not drop any further.

Finally, I would like once more to draw the attention of all who read this to the existence and the importance of the Endowment Fund which was started in 1956 and details of which

you will find in the Accounts. The capital of the Fund is held by the Bank of Scotland as Trustees for the benefit of bird preservation and ornithology in Scotland. It is a permanent Fund and the capital cannot be encroached on, the income alone being payable to the Fair Isle Trustees. If this Fund could be materially increased, not only would it safeguard the future of the Observatory Trust, but would enable the Trustees to utilise any surplus income for the benefit of Scottish ornithology in general. Donations or legacies should be made in favour of the Fair Isle Endowment Trust either through myself as Treasurer or direct to the Bank of Scotland.

IAN R. PITMAN,
Hon. Treasurer.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

Year to 31st December 1957

1. HOSTEL REVENUE ACCOUNT

<u>Expenditure:</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
To Stores at 31st December 1956	£ 58. -. -.	£ 58. -. -.
" Foodstuffs, Supplies, etc.	972. 2. 7.	654. 15. 9.
" Telephone	25. 12. 9.	24. 5. 11.
" Wages and National Insurance	317. 6. 1.	128. 9. 10.
" Sundry Payments	81. 5. 4.	26. 14. -.
" Insurance of Huts	68. 10. -	68. 10. -
" <u>Profit</u> at 31st December, 1957		383. 1. 5.
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	£ 1,522. 16. 9d	£ 1,343. 16. 11d

Income:

By Board and Booking Fees	£ 870. 8. -.	£ 1,228. 7. -.
" Miscellaneous Receipts	5. 7. 1.	20. 9. 11.
" Stores as at 31st December, 1957	58. -. -.	95. -. -.
" Loss at 31st December, 1956	589. 1. 8.	
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	£ 1,522. 16. 9d	£ 1,343. 16. 11d

2. TRUST REVENUE ACCOUNT

<u>Expenditure:</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
To Wages and National Insurance	£ 1,205.12. -	£ 1,112. 1. 8.
<u>Less</u> Private contributions	375. - . -	250. - . -
	<hr/>	<hr/>
" Rent, Rates, Taxes, Insurance, etc.	£ 830.12. -	£ 862. 1. 8.
" Printing, Stationery, etc.	213.12.11	175.15. -.
" Subscriptions	297. 4. -	172.16.11.
" Travelling Expenses	7. 6. 4.	3. 1. -
" Expenses of Administration	150. 4. 9.	186.18. 9
" Supplies	70. 7. -	86. - . 4.
" Repairs and Renewals (Hostel)	32. 3. 8.	- . - . -.
" Freight and Carriage (Hostel)	99.12. -	64.16. 8.
" Loss on Hostel	37.14. 7.	- . - . -.
	589. 1. 8.	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 2,327.18.11d	£ 1,551.10. 4d
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Income:

By Subscriptions, etc.	£ 713. 7. 6.	£ 632. 3. 8.
" Income Tax recovered	337.14. -	300. 1. 8.
" Interest on Savings Bonds	11. 1. 6.	11. 1. 6.
" Income from Endowment Funds	21. 5. 6.	74. 8. 9.
" Proceeds from David Stephen's Lecture	- . - . -.	19.15. -.
" Profit from Hostel		383. 1. 5.
" Donation	100.11.11.	
" Loss carried to Balance Sheet	1,143.18. 6.	130.18. 4.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 2,327.18.11d	£ 1,551.10. 4d
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

3. BALANCE SHEET

Liabilities:

Capital Account - Balance per last Balance Sheet,	£	323.	15.	4.
<u>Add</u> Grant received from National Trust		1,000.	-	-
		£ 1,323.	15.	4.
<u>Less:</u> Loss from Trust Revenue Account		130.	18.	4.
		£ 1,192.	17.	-
Balance due to Messrs. J. & F. Anderson		1,558.	13.	5.
		£ 2,751.	10.	5d
		£ 2,751.	10.	5d

Assets:

Buildings Traps, etc. as per last Balance Sheet	£	350.	-	-
Furniture, Furnishings, etc., at Fair Isle per last Balance Sheet		600.	-	-
Furniture, Furnishings, etc., at 17, India Street, as per last Balance Sheet		470.	-	-
Scientific Equipment, etc. as per last Balance Sheet		196.	-	-
Investment - £642, 3% Savings Bonds 1960/70		619.	1.	3.
Consumable Stores: Food Stuffs	£	15.	-	-
Live Stock		40.	-	-
Fuel		40.	-	-
		95.	-	-
Cash in Bank: Trust Account	£	30.	10.	8.
Hostel Account		390.	15.	-
		£421.	5.	8.
Cash in hand		-	3.	6.
		421.	9.	2.
		£ 2,751.	10.	5d

EDINBURGH: Examined and found correct.
 (Signed) Lindsay, Jamieson & Haldane, C.A.

4. ENDOWMENT FUND - Trustees, The Bank of Scotland

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Balance brought forward	£ -. -. -.	£ 289.14. 2.
Donations received	28. -. -.	-. -. -.
	<hr/> <u>£ 28. -. -d</u>	<hr/> <u>£ 289.14. 2d</u>
Bank of Scotland Trustees Acceptance Fees, etc.	£ 4. 1.10.	£ -. -. -.
Investment made: £60 Whitbread & Co. Ltd., "A" Ordinary Stock	-. -. -.	259. 4. 6.
Balance carried forward	23.18. 2.	30. 9. 8.
	<hr/> <u>£ 28. -. -d</u>	<hr/> <u>£ 289.14. 2d</u>

REVENUE ACCOUNT

Balance brought forward	£ -. -. -.	£ 39. -. -.
Net Income received	84. -. -.	87. 4. 3.
Income Tax recovered	25.10. -.	51. -. -.
	<hr/> <u>£109.10. -d</u>	<hr/> <u>£ 177. 4. 3d</u>
Bank of Scotland Trustees Fees, etc.	£ 24.15. 6.	£ 4. 3. -.
Transferred to F.I.B.O. Trust	45.14. 6.	74. 8. 9.
Balance of Income carried forward	39. -. -.	98.12. 6.
	<hr/> <u>£109.10. -d</u>	<hr/> <u>£ 177. 4. 3d</u>

4. ENDOWMENT FUND - Trustees, The Bank of Scotland

BALANCE SHEET

Liabilities:

Surplus from Capital Account: Year 1955	£ 3,925.	5.	-.
Year 1956	23.	18.	2.
	<hr/>		
	£ 3,949.	3.	2.
Balance of Income on hand	98.	12.	6.
	<hr/>		
	£ 4,047.	15.	8d
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Assets:

£4,300, 3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	£ 3,659.	9.	-.
£60 Whitbread & Co. Ltd., "A" Ordinary Stock	259.	4.	6.
Balance due by Bank of Scotland: Capital Account	30.	9.	8.
Revenue Account	98.	12.	6.
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	£ 4,047.	15.	8d
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FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WARDEN 1957

G e n e r a l

The start of the 1957 season was delayed until May 1st, but observations continued until December 20th, a month later than usual. Between May 8th, when our first visitor arrived, and the departure of the last on November 13th, the hostel accommodated 139 different people for a total of 197 visitor-weeks. This was 39 weeks more than in the previous record season of 1954, and 70 more than in 1956. July and August were the busiest months, with an average of eleven people each week, followed by June and September with nine, October with three, and May with two.

Various factors contributed to this very satisfactory improvement, among them the considerable amount of publicity given to the island in the national press in the early months of the year; the reduced charges; and lengthy visits by a number of Post Office engineers, which alone produced 25 visitor-weeks, besides a great deal of incidental entertainment!

The new measures necessary to ensure the economical running of the hostel went smoothly from the start, and several returning visitors confessed that their fears of the rigours of the new regime had proved quite unfounded! The light domestic chores devolving on visitors proved no hardship, and the general standard of material comfort in the hostel remains far higher than at any other island bird observatory in this country. Most people have welcomed the "Skokholm" system whereby the staff eat and relax in company with the visitors. Indeed, the only disadvantage of the system seemed to lie in the fact that the resident ornithologists had a greater share of domestic duties than was formerly the case!

In 1957, parties of undergraduate students from the Universities of Cambridge (7) and Leicester (10) came to carry out studies in botany, invertebrate zoology, and geology, and we greatly hope they have established a precedent for future years.

Visitors with non-ornithological interests included several botanists, a representative of the Ordnance Survey, and a member

of the Linguistic Survey for Scotland. In the Spring, Mr. C. Everest, and in the autumn Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Elder, were engaged in making a film of the isle for the National Trust for Scotland. From overseas, we had an American lady, a young Swedish ornithologist, a Pakistani research student from the University Museum of Oxford, and three visitors on leave from Ghana.

Early in August, the island and the observatory were visited by Mr. John MacLay, Secretary of State for Scotland, and senior officials of the Scottish Home Office. Present to welcome them were the Earl of Wemyss and March, Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland, and Mr. George Waterston. Mr. Waterston returned for a holiday in September, in the company of Mr. George Fleming, a member of the Council of the National Trust.

Staff: We were exceptionally fortunate in having the services of Miss Pat Adams, who carried without apparent strain the burden of catering for up to twenty people, and who earned many bouquets for the results of her labours. She also took over some of my wife's work, particularly in the laundry, during September, when our son was born at Lerwick. In Peter Hope Jones we had the ideal Assistant Warden, thoroughly competent and hard-working.

The Island Community: The year was in several ways an eventful one for the islanders, and nearly all the developments point towards a better life in the future. There are now three more families resident than there were eighteen months ago; the re-opening of the Village Store has proved a great boon to everyone; several crofts now have a piped water-supply; and the reconstruction of the Nurse's house provided extra income for many homes. In 1958, if the "credit squeeze" allows, we shall see the long-awaited extension to the North Haven pier well under way, and also the rebuilding of another house (Midway). The "Good Shepherd" is to commence twice-weekly sailings in May.

We at the Hostel owe a great debt of gratitude to the islanders not only for the warm personal reception accorded us, but for the many practical ways in which they helped us to get the Hostel on an even keel, financially, this season. Often lower prices were charged for island produce than could fairly have been asked, and in several cases such items as

vegetables were gifted to us.

We were unable to offer hospitality in the Coronation Hall this year, for it now houses the hand-loom producing "Fair Isle" tweed. However, our visitors and staff joined the islanders on many social occasions in the Village Hall, for dances and the fortnightly film-shows, and the Leicester students gave a much enjoyed concert there. Religious services have also been well attended by Hostel folk, and of course there have been many pleasant conversations, over countless cups of tea, by firesides in the crofts. I am convinced that the ready hospitality of the islefolk plays a big part in bringing back our visitors, some of them annually.

Acknowledgements: The crofters have again been most co-operative about access to their land, and we offer our sincere thanks for their continued goodwill. The help of many islanders in reporting unusual birds, and often enabling us to see them, is gratefully acknowledged. Without this network of "unofficial" but highly competent observers, many migrants would have passed unrecorded.

Lt. Col. H.G. Brownlow has generously presented a quantity of timber to the observatory, for the construction of several catching-boxes to his own design.

M i g r a t i o n 1 9 5 7

The first week of May brought cold, strong northerly winds, and there were virtually no migrants on the move. From the 8th onwards, however, we rejoiced in mainly anticyclonic conditions with light easterlies; and successive minor waves of drift-migrants from the continent kept us busy until the end of the month. These movements, never on a large scale, but full of variety, have been fully described in Bulletin 3:164

Apart from a steady trickle of sub-rarities such as Blue-throats and Wrynecks, several unusual species were recorded at this time. A Thrush Nightingale (Luscinia luscinia), the third for Britain, was caught on May 10th. This bird closely resembles the common Nightingale (Luscinia megarhynchos), but has a darker mantle and striated breast, besides differences in wing-formula which are valuable in the laboratory. Its

breeding-range is centred in European Russia, but extends around the Baltic coast to eastern Denmark and south-east Sweden. The first record admitted to the British List was also at Fair Isle, a bird collected by the late Jerome Wilson of Springfield on May 15th 1911.

An adult male Red-headed Bunting (Emberiza bruniceps) was watched for a short time on the morning of May 17th. Records of this species are naturally somewhat suspect, since this is one of the commonest birds imported for cage-bird enthusiasts, but it is remarkable how many of the recent records have been from remote islands at migration seasons, and how few from urban mainland localities. Our bird was the second seen on the isle.

Another rare bunting was captured on the 22nd, a male Rustic Bunting (Emberiza rustica), whose nearest breeding areas are in North Sweden and Finland. This species has been much more infrequent at Fair Isle in recent years than it was forty or fifty years ago, and this was in fact the first spring record for the island since 1913. Our bird appeared on a north-east wind, and with a veer to south-east on the following day, another rarity with a southern and central European distribution came to light; a Woodchat Shrike (Lanius senator), which first appeared on a wire fence outside a bedroom window, and ended up ten minutes later in the catching-box of the Observatory trap! Like the two rare buntings, it was a male in immaculate plumage.

The last major rarity of the spring had probably arrived on the same wind as the Woodchat, though it was not seen until the morning of the 25th; a handsome male Serin (Serinus canarius), singing from the telephone wires by the graveyard at South Harbour. This is another southern bird, which is extending its range, and now breeds as far north as the Baltic shore of Germany, and in the extreme south of Sweden. There are only two previous Scottish records, and one of these was at Fair Isle on May 1914.

A disappointing feature of the late spring, though perhaps it is unfair to cavil, was the comparative failure of the Wheatear passage. The local and Shetland stock was established before the end of April, and we saw only one minor movement, mainly females, on May 7th. The passage of male birds of the larger Greenland/Iceland stock seems to have

passed us by, and we had only a trickle of females, mainly on the 20th and 31st. The island breeding population proved to be rather lower than in recent years.

Early June was a time of unsettled cyclonic weather, and very few migrants of note came our way; though perhaps a Hawfinch, on the 16th, and a red Crossbill on the next day may be mentioned.

The second half of the month saw the beginning of the post-breeding dispersal of waders and gulls. Redshanks were the first to appear, but from mid-summer there were movements of Curlews, Common and Black-headed Gulls. Most of the season's Swifts also occurred at this time. The Curlew migration was not on a large scale this year, but there were successive waves peaking on July 1st, 4th, and 12th, all in conditions suggestive of movement across the North Sea in easterly winds ahead of frontal disturbances.

Wader passage was to be the main feature throughout July, and August. Sixteen species were involved during July, among them Bartailed Godwit, Wood and Green Sandpiper, and Ruff; and all of these (apart from the godwit), with the addition of four or five other species, during August. Ruffs were to prove unusually common, with up to seven together during August, and there were several Little Stints in late August and September.

There was very little development of easterly winds at any time before August 31st, and passerine migrants of continental origin were exceedingly few. One notable rarity was a Short-toed Lark (Calandrella brachydactyla), which appeared on the quite exceptional date of July 19th, and lived in the crofting area until August 8th. It was a very red bird, attributable to the Southern European form; perhaps its arrival may be related to that of a Hoopoe seen in Dunrossness, Shetland in mid-July. G. Stout of Field reported an adult Rosy Starling on August 4th. An Icterine Warbler was trapped on August 8th, and Wood Warblers seen on the 12th and 16th; a Barred on the 22nd and a Reed on 29th. The numbers of the commoner warblers, such as Garden and Willow, scarcely exceeded the combined total of the rarer forms. An adult female Red-backed Shrike, in very worn plumage, was with us from the 9th to the 23rd, and a Crossbill flew over on 24th.

The dearth of drift-migrants from Europe was partially offset

by direct passage from Shetland and the north-west, particularly in the last ten days of August. Common Gulls, which had three-figure peaks on 14th, 24th-25th, and 28th, may fall into this category, but the commonest birds were Wheatears, Meadow Pipits, and White Wagtails. As in the spring, there was no large-scale Wheatear movement; small increases of short-winged birds occurred on the 22nd, 23rd and 29th, and there were a few larger individuals in the closing days of the month. Meadow Pipits were in fair numbers on the 20th and 23rd, and small parties were to be seen passing south on most mornings at this time; there was an apparent increase of Rock Pipits, usually regarded as a sedentary race, on the 23rd. The White Wagtail passage was easier to detect, and there were marked peaks of over fifty birds on the 20th and over 200 on the 23rd. Twites increased on the 22nd. The first Lapland Bunting appeared on the 23rd, and Snow Buntings on the 25th.

On August 30th and 31st we saw, at last, the advance of south-easterlies before a warm front in the North Sea, and on the last day of the month there was a minor "rush" of Willow Warblers and Wheatears, together with a few Pied Flycatchers, Whinchats, and Barred Warblers, and a sprinkling of oddities such as Dotterel and Spotted Redshank. There was also one major rarity, an immature Mediterranean Gull (Layrus melanocephalus); an addition, so far as I am aware, to the Scottish avifauna, though it has appeared in increasing numbers in England in recent years. There was some element of uncertainty about the identification on this day, owing to imperfect (and conflicting!) views of the primaries; fortunately H.G. Alexander was able to form a clearer opinion two days later, and to confirm it subsequently from the examination of museum skins.

September 1st saw the return of westerly weather, which was to predominate until 16th. A few continental birds filtered through, the most noteworthy being a Hobby on the 1st-4th, three Dotterel on the 3rd, and a Barred Warbler on the 5th, but probably these had entered Shetland at the end of August. Small movements of North western species occurred with the north-westerly winds behind each successive depression, and Wheatears of the intermediate "schioleri" (Iceland) form were caught on the best days, 5th-7th and 11th. Meadow Pipits showed one sizeable passage on the 5th, and smaller movements on the 10th-11th and 16th, and Snow

Buntings, which reappeared on the 12th, peaked at over 80 on the 15th. Lapland Buntings and Greenland Redpolls were uncommonly scarce; only three or four individuals of each were seen. Light wader passage continued on most days; parties of Knot and Sanderling were even seen flying past the isle, into the teeth of a south-east gale, on the afternoon of the 7th. Cormorant movements in the mornings were also a regular feature, and over fifty were seen on the 6th and 7th.

From September 16th to 22nd we had the finest week of the year for birds; a good old-fashioned Fair Isle rush, and a wonderful experience for any bird-watcher. Britain lay in the col between great anticyclones in the high arctic and in the south of Europe, and in N. Scotland the airstream was easterly throughout. Migrating birds were fed into this stream, from the whole of northern and eastern Europe, by the anticlockwise circulation of air around a depression which moved across Scandinavia and the Baltic to the Moscow region. On the 16th, when the wind was still northerly (though already easterly in North Scandinavia) we received an Osprey, three Little Stints, several Lesser Blackbacked Gulls of the dark-mantled form, and the first Willow Warblers. On the 17th, more warblers, including two Yellow-broweds (Phylloscopus inoratus) and a Barred, an odd Turtle Dove, Pied Flycatcher, Redstarts and Tree Pipit. The 18th saw more warblers (three Barred), additional Redstarts, Flycatchers, and Tree Pipits, the first Whinchats, three juvenile Scarlet Grosbeaks (Carpodacus erythrinus), and a Little Bunting (Emberiza pusilla), besides an influx of Skylarks. The 19th was the first "big day", with birds trickling in throughout the daylight hours; and by nightfall Redstarts had soared into three figures, with Tree Pipits, Wheatears, Whinchats, Pied Flycatchers, and Garden Warblers next in order of abundance. Among the other species to appear were Kestrel, Swift, Snipe, Ruff, Wryneck, the hirundines, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Bluethroat (3), Robin, Icterine Warbler, the commoner Sylvia Warblers, Chiffchaffs of the Scandinavian form abietinus, Spotted Flycatcher, flava wagtail, Chaffinch, Brambling, and Lapland Bunting. Nearly all the species listed on the 19th had increased sharply by the morning of the next day. Redstarts were now to be numbered in four figures, though concentrated mainly in the crops and on the

cliffs. To add to the confusion, there had been a big arrival of Wheatears - all those trapped were of the shorter-winged European stock. The Pipits were over the hundred, the Whinchats and Willow Warblers over fifty; both Skylarks and Meadow Pipits were also much in evidence. Among the newly-arrived species I may mention Buzzard, Hen Harrier Glaucous Gull, Reed Warbler, Goldcrest, and Siskin. At least four Bluethroats were seen. On the 21st there had been a tremendous slump in the Redstart figures; they were now outnumbered by Whinchats, for this was the only species, of those chiefly involved, which did not show some decrease compared with the previous day. In place of quantity, we had quality, for there was a Richard's Pipit (Anthus richardi) in the marsh at Gilsetter in the morning, and a Lanceolated Warbler (Locustella lanceolata) in a ditch at Leogh. The latter was easily caught with the aid of a piece of string netting and the famous "Craw" portable catching-box. No fewer than six of the eight British records of this East European species are from Fair Isle. Other arrivals on the 21st were Short-eared Owls, and Jack Snipe, while Lapland Buntings achieved their best score of the autumn with the magnificent total of four! The 22nd was another day of general decrease, but there was one new species for the log; two Short-toed Larks of the very grey eastern form longipennis, fellow-countrymen of Richard's Pipit in the steppes of Russian Asia. The weather was fine and clear throughout this great "rush" and most of the birds seem to have reorientated themselves, and evacuated the Shetland area, in a matter of hours. On Fair Isle there was no discernible "follow-up" in the form of redetermined movements out of Shetland in the days that followed the peak of the 20th.

The weather broke on the 26th, and of the remainder of September and the first half of October, the least said the better. It was a disheartening time of gales and rain, and of the few migrants that did break through, hardly any species save Turnstone, Redshank, and Snow Bunting ever achieved double figures. Iceland Merlins were usually present - nine of the ten we caught this autumn were of this race - and there were a few Redwings from the same source. The most surprising arrival was a Hoopoe, which stayed from October 11th to 17th. What it was doing at Fair Isle at this date, and in such conditions, is anyone's guess! The same may be said of another immature Mediterranean Gull, which flew close

by me at Skadan on the morning of 14th.

Matters improved considerably on the 15th, when southerly winds brought in the first big fall of thrushes, and their numbers were even greater on the 16th. Several hundred Continental Redwings formed the core of this movement, with much smaller numbers of Fieldfares and Blackbirds, and a seasoning of Song Thrushes, Garden Warblers, Blackcaps, and Bramblings. There was great excitement on the 16th, when a Redwing taken in the Double Dyke proved to be wearing a Stavanger Museum ring. It had been ringed as a juvenile near Stavanger on the Norwegian coast in 1956, and is the first foreign-ringed bird to be caught on the isle.

In the aftermath of these movements were a Long-eared Owl on the 17th, a late Bluethroat and a Lesser Redpoll (one of the rarer races of the species at Fair Isle) on the 20th, a Red-throated Pipit (Anthus cervinus) on the 22nd, and a Tree Pipit on the 23rd. There was another small arrival of continental birds, including two Black Redstarts, on the 25th-26th, but the main features of the ten days preceding October 30th were Snow Bunting movements, including two minor waves on the 22nd and 26th, and a much larger one on the 29th. Iceland Redwings were passing in small quantities, but it was rather surprising to discover, at the end of the month, that more than half of the 130 Redwings we had trapped in October belonged to this race. Our experience confirmed Kenneth Williamson's in 1956, that the Iceland birds are much easier to catch than the Continentals, tending to follow such guiding-lines as stone walls, and so to fall more readily to the dyke-traps.

The October Blackbird figures, which had been deplorable till now, were redeemed on the 31st. On this day, we trapped 71 and saw many more; the islanders shot over 200 Woodcock, and Fieldfares were numerous, Redwings less so. Local lore has it that the best falls of Woodcock and Blackbirds come with a good southerly blow, and preferably overnight rain, and this was certainly the situation on October 31st. There was no east in the wind anywhere in the North Sea; in fact it was S.S.W. near an eastward-moving front. The implication seems to be, that the birds were making an upwind crossing to their normal wintering area in Britain, and were diverted to the North of their expected course.

November, particularly the first half, was in every way

more stimulating than October. For one thing, there was a constant supply of Blackbirds to encourage us in our efforts at the traps - we averaged seven a day for the month. For another, several spells of south-easterlies brought in some of the more interesting birds we had vainly awaited in the previous month. A Little Bunting was present on the 2nd, Red-breasted Flycatchers (Muscicapa parva) were caught on the 4th and 5th; the only Great Grey Shrike of the autumn was also on the 4th, along with Black Redstarts, Greenfinches (rare at Fair Isle in recent years), at least 120 Chaffinches, and a Lapland Bunting. The first of a number of "Northern" Chiffchaffs, some of them definitely tristis, which were to be seen frequently until the 27th, also came in on this day, and there was another big movement of Redwings and Fieldfares. A late Wheatear was seen on the 5th, and even more surprising, a young flava wagtail (probably a Blue-headed) was present from the 6th to the 20th. Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were seen on the 10th, a Bluethroat on the 11th, together with the only Hedge Sparrow trapped this season. The 12th, which was one of the best days for Blackbirds (though not to be compared with October 31st) saw the first of the Waxwings promised by Dr. Svardson in the August number of British Birds. Up to a dozen of these delightful birds were seen each day until the 17th, and there were singles on the 29th and 30th. Two were caught.

Little and Lapland Bunting reappeared on the 13th, also the last of a trickle of Blackcaps, and the first of four or five late November Siskins. Another very late summer migrant was a Ring Ousel on the 22nd.

Snow Buntings were continually on the move, with peak figures of 300 or so on the 8th, 14th, and 28th, and Turnstone figures fluctuated widely throughout the month.

Another period of south-easterlies, from the 30th until December 2nd, showed that thrushes were still on the move. Fieldfares were commonest, reaching 150 or more on the 2nd; Blackbirds, Redwings and Songthrushes passed in smaller numbers. Stragglers from this movement remained until the middle of the month.

One last extreme rarity came to round off the season, an adult male Black-throated Thrush (Turdus ruficollis atrogularis) the fifth for Britain and the first for Fair

Isle. First seen and caught on December 8th, it lived in the vicinity of the hostel until the 16th. The normal range is in western Asia and eastern Russia, where some remain when the majority move south to winter in India. Rather curiously, all the British records are in mid-winter, December to March, and it seems likely that they are the result of hard-weather movements in eastern Europe. Our bird's arrival was preceded by a cold spell in the east, and snow reached Fair Isle on the evening of the 8th, to give complete cover on the 9th and 10th.

In all, 168 species were definitely recorded on the isle between May and December, two of them for the first time; and there was the usual crop of "probables" and "Hoodwinks."

B r e e d i n g B i r d s

(a) Arctic Skua

The long-term study of the Arctic Skua continued in 1957. Kenneth Williamson came to the isle for two weeks in June to continue the work, and to introduce me to it.

There was another small increase in the colony, the number of breeding pairs rising to 56, as compared with 51 in 1956. Breeding-success was lower than for several years; for although 88 out of 99 eggs are believed to have hatched, only 55 chicks were reared. Difficulties in finding sufficient food are thought to be mainly responsible for this, for the local Kittiwakes also appeared to have had an unsuccessful season. The weather was not unduly severe during the fledging period.

Ninety-two of the breeders had been colour-ringed by the close of the 1956 season, and of these eleven failed to return in 1957; a loss to the effective breeding strength of 11.97%, or almost exactly the same proportion as in 1956. The actual mortality-rate is certainly a little lower than this, for in 1957 two further cases of intermittent breeding were established. A bird nesting at Sukka Moor South proved to be one which had bred there in 1954-5; and one of the 1957 pair at Vaadal bore the colours of a Sway South-east bird of

1955. Neither of these was breeding on Fair Isle in 1956.

Of the 112 nesting birds in 1957 (101 of which were colour-ringed by the end of the year), only about forty have had more than three seasons' breeding experience. Of the remainder, 31 joined in 1955, 22 in 1956 and 20 in 1957.

Such changes in the pairings as occurred this year were due entirely to the failure of 1956 partners to return, and there were none of the "divorces" which had complicated the annual check in 1956. Eleven matings established in 1954 or earlier were continued in 1957, as were eight founded in 1955, and 22 founded in 1956. There were 15 new pairs. Thus two-thirds of the 1957 matings were no older than the second year.

Three of the season's new breeders had been ringed as chicks in earlier years. Two of these were 5 years of age, the other four. Two chicks of 1955, and one of 1953 were among birds netted at the non-breeders' bathing-pool in July.

Further details of the 1957 season have appeared in the Bulletin 3:181.

(b) Bonxie

In 1957 the Great Skua colony further increased to a total of twenty-one pairs, compared with 17 in 1956 and 13 in 1955. Only one of the 1956 sites (at Dronga) was vacated in 1957, but there were two new pairs at Vaasetter, bringing the number there to six, and other new territories were occupied at Sukka Moor, in Homisdale, and near the summit of Ward Hill.

Like the Arctics, the Bonxies hatched a high proportion of their eggs, but were able to fledge few young. Thirty-nine eggs were laid, and thirty-four are believed to have hatched, but only fifteen young were reared. Breeding success, at 38.5% was very little more than half the rate achieved in 1955 and 1956.

For further details, see Bulletin 3:182.

(c) Other Species: Altogether, thirty species bred on the

isle in 1957; a few of these are worthy of mention here. For the first time since the Observatory opened in 1948 there was definite evidence that Storm Petrels still breed here. Birds carrying fish-pulp to their young were caught on Malcolm's Head in August; the colony appeared to be on the precipitous cliffs in this area. Others were seen or heard at several points on the east and north coasts.

After an absence of two years, a pair of Peregrines returned to the Sheep Craig, and a second pair bred at Keesta, barely a mile away, but on the opposite coast. It is many years since two pairs were present, but they had a most successful season, for two young were reared at the Craig, and three at Keesta.

Three, perhaps four, pairs of Lapwings nested on the lower slopes of Vaasetter, though only two of them reared young; and there was again a single pair of Ringed Plovers at Bunes. No Corncrakes bred, though a single bird was calling for much of the summer.

T h e T r a p s

The thirteen permanent bird-traps suffered no serious structural damage during the winter of 1956-7, but there were extensive holes in the wire of the three dyke-traps and the observatory heligoland, which had to be repaired as soon as we returned to the island in May. The three traps at Vaasetter were not operational until the summer, but played a full part in the autumn trapping. The large heligoland at the Haa, which had received only stop-gap repairs in the previous year, was completely rehabilitated by a party of Edinburgh scouts who camped on the isle in July, a service which we gratefully acknowledge.

No new traps were constructed this year, and the only important alteration was to the Two-way Ditch, which was converted into a "Double-Ditch" by the addition of an extra funnel and catching-box.

R i n g i n g

The ringing total for the 1957 season was 2925 birds of 87 species, some 600 better than the average for the preceding eight years, and showing greater variety than before. The effects of the very poor Wheatear passage were counter-balanced by a more intensive programme of sea-bird ringing, but the Wheatears still head the list, with 449. Blackbirds follow with 359, then Rock Pipit 294, Meadow Pipit 280, Puffin 241, Starling 205, Redwing 167, Twite 136, Arctic Skua 80, Shag 65, Redstart 63, and Fulmar 61. There were ten new species to the Fair Isle ringing records, Purple Sandpiper, Ruff, Short-eared Owl, Black-throated Thrush, Thrush-Nightingale, Lanceolated Warbler, Waxwing (2), Woodchat Shrike, Greenfinch, and Rustic Bunting. Sub-rarities taken include Little Stint, Wryneck (2), Bluethroat (8), Reed Warbler (2), Icterine Warbler (2), Barred Warbler (7), Yellow-browed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher (2), Scarlet Grosbeak (2), Little Bunting, and Lapland Bunting.

TABLE 1

Totals of Birds Ringed at Fair Isle

<u>Season</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Number of Species</u>
1948	288	38
1949	1,505	63
1950	2,366	74
1951	2,236	77
1952	1,933	74
1953	2,552	80
1954	2,367	75
1955	2,478	82
1956	3,313	81
1957	2,925	87

Grand Total 21,963 birds of 150 different species.

R e c o v e r i e s

Perhaps the most spectacular recovery reported in 1957 was that of a 1954 Arctic Skua chick, which was caught on a fishing-vessel off Mossamedes, Angola, on November 3rd 1957. This is our second recovery from south-west Africa, and some 150 miles further south than the Benguela recovery of October 1953. Another bird of the 1954 hatching was found with a broken wing at Spiggie, Shetland, in June 1957.

A young Shag ringed in July, and found at Hoy, Orkney, in December was only the second to be recovered, out of over 130 ringed at Fair Isle. This is considered a very "recoverable" species at the English stations; perhaps the species is shot more extensively in the south.

Merlins are more rewarding, and one of the ten ringed this autumn was taken on October 11th on board a ship near Bremerhaven, Germany. It had been ringed five weeks earlier, on September 3rd; and was unfortunately the only bird which we had not been able to assign either to the Continental or the Iceland form, owing to intermediate measurements.

There were three results from the intensive ringing of Redwings in October 1956. The first was an Iceland bird, found at Alford, Aberdeenshire, on April 22nd, and probably already on its return passage north. The other two were both Continental birds, one near Charleville (Ardennes), France, on November 28th 1957, and the other at Alameda, near Malaga, S. Spain, on December 2nd. These were our first Redwing recoveries from France and Spain, and the Spanish bird was near the southern limit of the range.

Three Blackbird recoveries, from Norway in July and November, and from Eire in December, followed the pattern laid down in earlier years.

A Wheatear ringed in September was near Cadiz in late October, and Meadow Pipits taken in July and August were reported from Portugal and from south-west France earlier in the same month.

Two Starlings were recovered in Orkney, one at Stronsay in January and the other in Westray in May. The former had

been ringed as an adult in September 1956, the latter was a juvenile of 1955.

Further details of these recoveries, and of the more interesting recaptures in 1957, will be published in the Bulletin Vol. 3, No. 5.

TABLE 2
Recoveries of Birds ringed at Fair Isle

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Germany	Holland	Belgium	France	Portugal	Spain	Angola	Faeroe Is.	Newfoundland	England/Wales	Ireland	Scotland	Orkney	Shetland	Fair Isle	Total received	Total Ringed	Approx. %	
Shag													1			1			2	134	1 1/2	
Teal																1			1	2	50	
Sparrowhawk				1	1		2						1		3				8	30	26 1/4	
Kestrel							1												1	6	16 2/3	
Merlin				1		2	1								3		1		8	74	11	
Corncrake															1				1	6	16 2/3	
Water Rail																1			1	63	1 1/2	
Oystercatcher							2					1	2	3		1			9	215	4 1/4	
Woodcock															2				2	36	5 1/2	
Snipe												1							1	20	5	
Dunlin							1												1	27	3 1/2	
L.B.B. Gull							1												1	55	1 1/4	
Herring Gull															1			2	3	90	3 1/4	
Glaucous Gull										1									1	2	50	
B.-h. Gull																1			1	30	3 1/4	
Kittiwake											1								1	13	7 3/4	
Bonxie									1									1	2	133	1 1/2	
Arctic Skua			2			2		1	1	2		1				1	1	18	29	545	5 1/4	
Puffin												1							1	2	526	1 1/4
Tystie												1							1	57	3 1/2	
Cuckoo	1																		1	16	6 1/4	
L.eared Owl	1																		1	11	10	
Skylark															1				1	135	3 3/4	
Swallow															1				1	17	6	
Song Thrush			2				1		2			1							6	128	4 3/4	
Redwing		1		2	1	1	1	1	1					1	1				9	125	3 3/4	
Blackbird	21	3	5	1								2	10	9		1	2		54	2815	2 3/4	
Wheatear							2	2	5	1		2		1			1	13	31	4210	3 3/4	
Whinchat												1							1	113	1	
Blackcap															1				1	114	1	

	TABLE 2 (Cont'd.)													Total Ringed	Approx. %				
	Recoveries of birds ringed at Fair Isle																		
	Norway	Holland	Belgium	France	Spain	Portugal	Morocco	Italy	U.S.S.R.	North Sea	England/Wales	Ireland	Scotland	Orkney	Shetland	Fair Isle	Total rec'd.	Total Ringed	Approx. %
Meadow Pipit		1	1	4	5	1	1									4	17	1384	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rock Pipit													3	1		11	15	1498	1
Grey Wagtail														1			1	4	25
White Wagtail										1							1	112	1
Starling	2								1	1	1	2	8	4	31		50	2384	2
Twite										1				1		7	9	944	1
Crossbill							1										1	114	1
Snow Bunting											1						1	50	2
Greenland Redpoll															1		1	37	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Fair Isle recoveries and recaptures are included only where there is an interval of three years between ringing and recovery. The Newfoundland KITTIWAKE was ringed by James Wilson in 1939. BLACK-HEADED GULLS were ringed at Spiggie in the south of Shetland, and the GREENLAND REDPOLL recovery was of a bird ringed at Foula. In each case Fair Isle B.O. rings were used.

E c t o p a r a s i t e s

Mallophaga: Bird-lice were collected from eighteen host-species, and determinations were carried out by Miss Theresa Clay of the British Museum (Natural History), who has kindly furnished us with a list of the species concerned. This material, together with a number of mites, has been

added to the earlier Fair Isle collections in the museum.

Fleas: The Hon. Miriam Rothschild again received our collection of fleas, and arranged for their identification by Mr. F. Smit. She will be incorporating some of the data in a forthcoming paper on the fleas of Fair Isle. In 1957 ectoparasites of this group were collected from 20 species of bird, and also from the local race of the Field Mouse, Apodemus sylvaticus fridariensis. One form of flea from the latter, Ctenophthalmus n. nobilis, appears to be new to the island, though the race vulgaris of the same species has been recorded earlier.

P u b l i c a t i o n s

The Bulletin: The appearance of Volume 3, part 4, has been delayed by production difficulties until March 1958, but it is hoped that the part 5 will be ready before midsummer. The Trust's more stable financial position makes it reasonably certain that we can settle down to the issue of two numbers each year. This will mean that there will be less space for outside contributions than was formerly available, and preference will be given to observations from Shetland and Orkney.

Papers and Notes: The following contributions relating to work at Fair Isle appeared in the scientific journals:-

CORNWALLIS, R.K.

"The Pattern of Migration in 1955 at the East Coast Bird Observatories." Brit. Birds. 50: 105

FRITCHARD, N.

"Flora of Fair Isle". Proc. Bot. Soc. G.B.

WILLIAMSON, Kenneth.

"A Desert Race of the Great Grey Shrike, new to the British Isles." Brit. Birds 50: 246

"Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler at Fair Isle." Brit. Birds 50: 395

"Mist-nets versus Heligoland Traps." Bird Banding 28: 213

"The Annual Post-nuptial Molt of the Wheatear."

Bird Banding 28: 129

"The Bonxies of Fair Isle."

Bird Notes 27: 164

"Post-breeding Molt of Crossbills."

Scot. Nat. 69: 190

"Long-tailed Skua at Fair Isle."

Scot. Nat. 69: 195

WILLIAMSON, Kenneth, and ALEXANDER, H.G.

"The Identification of Baird's and Semi-palmated Sandpipers." Brit. Birds 50: 350

"Semipalmated Sandpiper at Fair Isle, a bird new to Scotland." Scot. Nat. 69: 145

WILLIAMSON, Kenneth and McLEAN, I.

"Migrants at North Atlantic Weather Ships in 1956."

Marine Observer 27: 152

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Work of the Observatory.—The purpose of the Bird Observatory is to provide facilities for visitors to carry out scientific research on the island, not only in the sphere of ornithology, but in every aspect of Natural History. Work will be mainly concentrated however on ornithology under the supervision of the Warden.

The Hostel.—The Hostel has accommodation for fourteen observers. It is sited at the North Haven, the main landing place, and consists of a group of well constructed timber buildings formerly occupied by the Royal Navy.

Terms.—Accommodation is organised on hostel lines, but meals are provided. Visitors look after their own bedrooms and assist with washing dishes after meals. Blankets and pillows are provided; but visitors are asked where possible to bring their own pillow slips, sheets or sleeping bags, towels, and soap.

Charges for board and accommodation are as follows:—

(a) Inclusive of provision of sheets etc.	£1 per night
(b) As (a) for persons under 21 years of age or under-graduates	17s. per night
(c) Exclusive of sheets and pillow slips	18s. per night
(d) As (c) for persons under 21 years of age or under-graduates	15s. per night

The above terms include use of bicycles, the library, and laboratory, but do not include hire of motor transport or small boats while staying on the island.

Catering.—Breakfast is served at 8.30 a.m.; Lunch at 1 p.m.; and Supper at 6.30 p.m. Facilities for early morning and late evening refreshments are provided in the Hostel Common-Room. Packed lunches may also be made available.

Bookings.—The Hostel will be open for visitors between 1st May and 31st October. Priority in bookings is given to *bona fide* naturalists prepared to take part in the scientific work of the Observatory under the leadership of the Warden. We wish to stress however that anyone interested in island life is made warmly welcome. The main migration months are May, September, and October, and visitors not so keenly interested in this are asked to come where possible during the mid-summer months.

Application should be made as follows:—

- (a) If made between 31st October and 30th April: To the Hon. Secretary, Mr George Waterston, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh 2. (Tel: 34872).
- (b) If made between 1st May and 31st October: To the Warden, Mr Peter Davis, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland. (Tel: Fair Isle 8).

A deposit of £1 per head per week must be made before final acceptance is given. This is forfeited if the booking is subsequently cancelled and the place remains unfilled; otherwise it is credited to the bill for accommodation.

Prospectus.—Giving details of transport to and from Fair Isle, and other information will be sent on application.

Publications.—The Trust publishes an *Annual Report* which is sent to all subscribers. *Bulletins* are also published at regular intervals and are obtainable free by subscribers who indicate they wish to have them.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

0 100yds. 440yds. 880yds. 1 mile

Roads Bird Trap Boundaries

