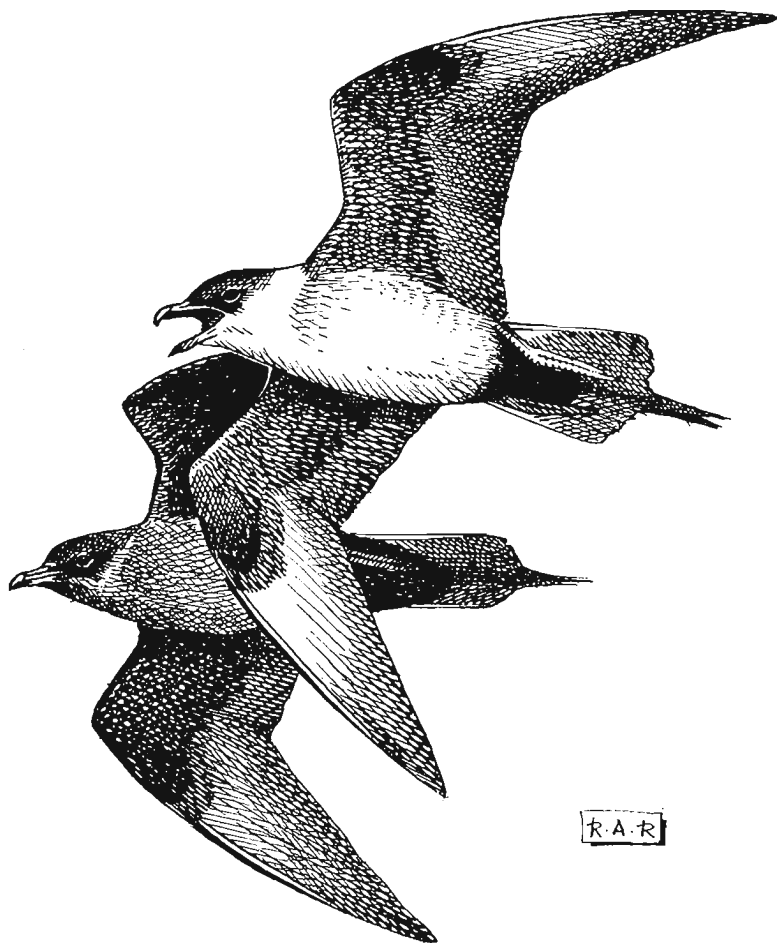


# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## REPORT FOR 1967



PUBLISHED BY THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST  
21 REGENT TERRACE, EDINBURGH 7  
for "Friends of Fair Isle"

## *Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust*

### **Trustees**

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**Hon. Secretary**—\*Mr George Waterston, 21 Regent Terr., Edinburgh 7

**Hon. Treasurer**—\*Mr Ian R. Pitman, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7

\*denotes Member of Executive Committee

**Warden**—Mr Roy H. Dennis, The Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland  
(Tel. Fair Isle 8)

**Solicitors**—J. & F. Anderson, W.S., 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh 2

**Auditors**—Haldane Brown & Co., C.A., 24 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh

**Bankers**—The Bank of Scotland, 64 George Street, Edinburgh 2

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — **Friend of Fair Isle** — ONE GUINEA  
entitles you to a copy of The Annual Report

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 Protection in general.

Capital subscribed to the Fund will be held as a permanent Endowment 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.

GEORGE WATERSTON,  
Hon. Secretary.

21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7

## FOREWORD

OUR regular subscribers will notice that we have given the cover of our new Annual Report a 'face-lift'. We are much indebted to one of our enthusiastic "Friends of Fair Isle"—R. A. Richardson—for his fine drawing of the Arctic Skuas, one of the most typical and delightful of the breeding species on the island. The view of the Bird Observatory hutted camp which formerly adorned our covers will shortly, we hope, be outmoded.

The Trustees have decided to discontinue publication of the *Bulletins* issued twice-yearly in the past, and to concentrate on producing a more attractive and comprehensive Annual Report with more news of the island and with a selection of illustrations. In this Report we have included some old photographs of Fair Isle, taken during World War I. Roy Dennis will prepare one more *Bulletin*, together with an Index for the series—something that is badly needed. Then it will cease; but detailed Fair Isle records will be taken up in future in *Scottish Birds*, the quarterly journal of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. Unfortunately some of the early *Bulletins* are now out of print and unobtainable.

At the instigation of Richard Richardson, a Fund has been established in memory of a young man, John William Harrison, who in a life cut prematurely short, spent three very happy holidays on Fair Isle. The "John Harrison Memorial Fund" will enable young people requiring financial help to obtain special Grants to visit Fair Isle. This is a splendid object, and I hope that many of our "Friends" will subscribe to it. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer and ear-marked "John Harrison Memorial Fund." Particulars are given on p. 4.

With a view to strengthening the direction of scientific research at the Bird Observatory, arrangements have been made through one of our Trustees, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards, for a close affiliation with the University of Aberdeen for advice on research projects. It is hoped that students from the University will be persuaded to assist with field work at Fair Isle.

In the past year, two remarkable characters in the bird world have died, and their deaths have left that world less colourful and more mundane. Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen had lived a rich, varied, and sometimes dangerous life. The Reverend John Morell McWilliam on the other hand had a quiet and peaceful life, comparatively uneventful as befitted his cloth. To both these remarkable men, the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust owes much; to Colonel Meiner-

tzhagen as a Trustee, and to the Minister as a prominent member of the Council of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club at the time when the Trust was set up. We salute them both.

The Warden's report for 1967 deals with the events on the island both ornithological and social; and fascinating events, as usual, they were. This season was particularly rich in rarities. It is perhaps fashionable to decry the interest of recording rarities, but surely the occasional taste of caviare is a pleasant change from the monotony of hot pot. There is no better centre for ornithological caviare than Fair Isle.

Since the Bird Observatory was founded in 1948, it has been housed in a former Naval hutted camp constructed at the beginning of World War II. The wooden huts are beginning to deteriorate and have now become very costly to maintain and operate. With this Report we enclose a copy of an Appeal for funds to build a new permanent Bird Observatory Hostel on the existing site at North Haven. I will not enlarge on our plans here; you can read all about them in our Appeal brochure. We are most grateful to the Highlands and Islands Development Board for a substantial offer of financial support towards the capital sum of £36,000 required. If we can raise £10,000—the scheme will proceed. Even before the official launching of our Appeal, we collected a sum of over £100 from people who took part in the famous S.O.C. Bird Islands Study Cruise round Scotland in 1966. We are particularly grateful for a substantial donation from some American "Friends."

*I ask you all to support this exciting and very well worthwhile project.*

Finally, I wish to draw your attention to an important change in our administration plans. Formerly, all subscriptions of "Friends of Fair Isle" were sent to our Hon. Treasurer's own office address, while correspondence and mailing of publications was handled by the Hon. Secretary from his office. Because of the division of the work, mistakes have arisen in our mailing list. We know that, although we have not been notified, some of our "Friends" have died or have allowed their subscriptions to lapse. We feel that it would make for greater efficiency and control if all subscriptions were now addressed to the Hon. Treasurer at the Hon. Secretary's address at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7.

We wish to overhaul our Register of "Friends of Fair Isle" to ensure that everyone listed in it is in fact a regular subscriber. This Report and copy of the Appeal brochure is being sent to everyone who has supported us in one way or another during the past twenty years. Please assist a much over-worked Hon. Secretary by completing the enclosed

postcard, notifying him of your full name and address, and whether or not you wish to continue to subscribe. Future Reports will be sent only to people who wish to subscribe annually or to those who have already signed Banker's Orders.

If you have *not* subscribed this year, please send your 1968 subscription of one guinea to the Hon. Treasurer, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,  
*Chairman.*

## IN MEMORIAM

*John William Harrison*

(1947 - 1967)

I like to believe that it was no mere chance when, on March 11th, 1965, I met John for the first time—a perky, tousled seventeen year-old who bounced out of a cafe in Hunstanton and came across to inspect my motor-bike.

We were soon talking birds and he took me home to meet his adoptive parents of whom he was very proud and who lost no time in making me feel like one of the family.

We had three holidays together on Fair Isle and John's amazement that such a wonderful place was there for him to enjoy made them the happiest days for both of us. John's funniest remarks were often unintentionally so; thus the South Light became the "Fog-house" and when I nearly fell off the Stack of North Haven when landing it was because I had "bent the boat." To him the lambs were irresistible and he never tired of recounting (with lurid embellishments) his tangles with the skuas.

He came to accept my fondness for Shetland music as played by the Lerwick Fiddlers though with the reservation,—"They'll never get anywhere in the 'Charts'."

He had his faults of course but they were easily forgotten beneath the impact of his sparkling personality and the gentle concern for his cat and puppy and the Muscovy duck which was hatched by the fireside and reared to maturity.

Time and again, while at Hunstanton, I have seen him disappear quietly into other parts of the house to search quite unnecessarily for some small present to give me. Here as I write are two old coins, a notebook, the Three Wise Monkeys, a crucifix, and a shoe-horn; each one a simple token of his friendship.

In recent months John's health began to fail until, burdened with recurrent asthma and the hopes and fears he

never shared. his brave young heart could take no more. On the evening of September 28th, 1967 God's hand upon his shoulder, he turned to a blind friend who was staying with the family and asked, "If anything happens to me Auntie, could you have my eyes?"

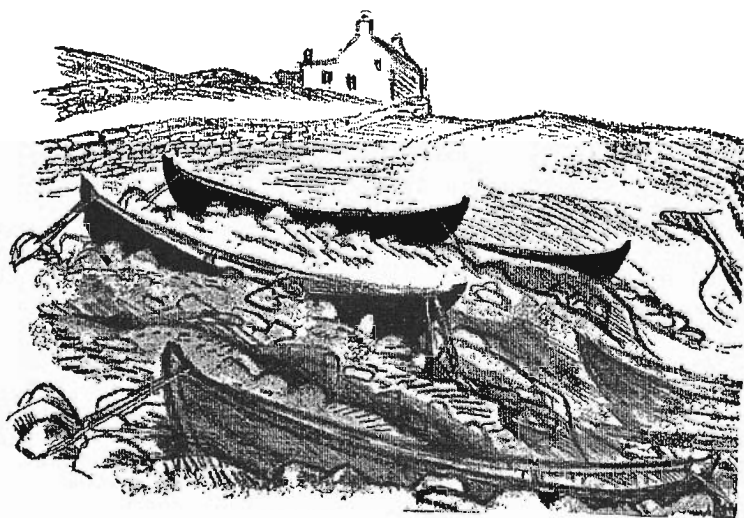
Our Johnny has assuredly joined the Great Ones from this world and his Mum and Dad, sweetheart Angela and all who loved him will walk in his radiance for the rest of our lives.

R. A. RICHARDSON.

### *John Harrison Memorial Fund*

A small fund has been established in memory of the late John Harrison by his friends. Each year it is intended that the money from this fund will help young naturalists of slender means to pay for their hostel charges at the Fair Isle Bird Observatory. Depending on how much money is available each season, the warden has been authorised to give a grant of at least five pounds per visit for two or more teenagers per year.

Young people between fifteen and twenty wishing to visit Fair Isle but requiring some financial help should write to the warden requesting a donation from the John Harrison Memorial Fund; and also supplying two referees—a senior bird-watcher or naturalist of their acquaintance and another, such as a school-teacher or lecturer.





JOHN WILLIAM HARRISON

(1947 - 1967)



(Above) Upper Stoneybrake. (c. 1914-18).

(Photos by James Linklater)

(Below) Tom Wilson at North Haven with stores for the Shop. (c. 1914-18).





## TREASURER'S REPORT

The year to 31st October 1967 shows a slightly different picture from last year. As you will see from the figures given below, there would have been a deficit on the Trust Revenue Account had it not been for the increased profit on the Hostel Account. Thanks to the great work put in by Roy and Marina Dennis on the Hostel, the overall picture still resulted in a profit for the year of £180 as opposed to £250 last year. Roy and Marina have done a first class job and in this connection I think the figures speak for themselves.

I. *Hostel Account.* There was a £400 increase in board and booking fees and although this was naturally off-set to a degree by an increase in food and supplies the net result brought out a profit for the year of £370, which is a great achievement. The rest of the items in the Hostel Account have remained roughly the same except that there is an item of £12 for motor expenses and £21 for depreciation which were not incurred in the previous year.

II. *Trust Revenue Account.* Wages and National Insurance were up by almost £120. Travelling expenses were down. There were only minor changes in the other items. On the income side there was a sharp fall in subscriptions from £550 to £412, a slight rise in Income Tax recovered; but had it not been for the profit on the Hostel, there would have been a loss of £190 on Revenue Account as against the figure which I gave you last year showing a small favourable balance of £40.

*This is a situation which can only be remedied by an increase in subscriptions from Friends of Fair Isle, an increase in the Endowment Fund or by donations and legacies preferably into the Endowment Fund. I would ask anyone who can to help in one or other of these ways.*

III. *Balance Sheet.* I have little to comment on here. There has been no further writing down of the assets which are probably in at a fair value. There is sufficient cash in hand to more than off-set the balance due at the date of the Report of £143 to Messrs J. & F. Anderson. The only new items are (1) a donation of £250 from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. This donation was part of the surplus on the cruise on the "Devonia" and the remainder of the profits were distributed amongst other Ornithological Societies, and (2) a sum of £117, 10s 3d which has been given in various small donations towards the prospect of building a new Bird Observatory single building to replace the old huts. As you will have seen in the Chairman's Foreword, we have

launched an Appeal for this somewhat expensive project with the full support of the Highlands and Islands Board.

IV. *Endowment Fund*. I have little to comment on here except to say that there has been a rise in the value of the Fund during the year of slightly over £300.

## Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

Year to 31st October 1867

### I. HOSTEL REVENUE ACCOUNT

1966					
£40	0	0	To Livestock as at 1st Nov. 1966	£40	0 0
693	11	1	To Foodstuffs, Supplies, etc.	844	19 5
43	2	8	To Telephone ... ..	41	17 6
281	17	10	To Wages and Nat. Insurance	280	17 8
5	6	6	To Sundry Payments ... ..	3	12 0
62	15	0	To Insurance of Huts ... ..	62	15 0
141	14	0	To Fuel and Power ... ..	139	12 6
58	1	6	To Repairs and Renewals ... ..	132	7 8
10	11	9	Postages ... ..	36	11 0
0	0	0	Motor Expenses ... ..	12	16 0
0	0	0	Depreciation ... ..	21	10 0
209	8	2	Profit for year ... ..	370	8 4
<hr/>				<hr/>	
£1546	8	6		£1987	7 1
<hr/>				<hr/>	
£1479	0	6	By Board and Booking Fees	£1879	9 1
27	8	0	Miscellaneous ... ..	67	18 0
40	0	0	Livestock at 31st October 1967	40	0 0
<hr/>				<hr/>	
£1546	8	6		£1987	7 1
<hr/>				<hr/>	

### II. TRUST REVENUE ACCOUNT

£574	12	8	To Wages and Nat. Insurance	£692	5 2
1	0	0	To Rent and Insurance ... ..	7	19 6
7	17	8	To Interest paid ... ..	16	13 10
193	1	11	To Travelling Expenses ... ..	138	18 10
62	8	8	To Bird Rings, Nets, etc. ... ..	57	0 2
145	7	5	To Printing, Stationery etc. ... ..	133	4 3
24	0	7	To Freight ... ..	47	8 3
3	13	0	To Subscriptions paid ... ..	5	13 0
75	17	4	To Expenses of Administration	84	17 8
249	2	2	To Profit for year ... ..	180	15 4
<hr/>				<hr/>	
£1337	1	5		£1364	16 0
<hr/>				<hr/>	

£552	7	10	By Subscriptions etc.	...	...	£412	7	2
367	14	8	By Income Tax recovered	...	...	402	0	5
11	6	4	By Interest on Savings Bonds	...	...	11	6	4
196	4	5	By Income from Endowment Fund	...	...	168	13	9
209	8	2	By Profit on Hostel Account	...	...	370	8	4
<hr/>								
£1337	1	5						
<hr/>								

Cash in Bank:									
306	4	5	Trust Account	...	£87	16	7		
569	1	0	Hostel Account	...	690	8	3		
					£778	4	10		
4	10	1	Cash on hand	...	2	9	6		
								780	14 4
0	0	0	Income Tax recoverable	...				320	0 0
<hr/>								<hr/>	
£2543	17	0						£2968	6 1
<hr/>								<hr/>	

EDINBURGH, 29th December, 1967.—Examined and found correct.

(Sgd.) HALDANE BROWN & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants.

### FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Funds as at 30th June 1967

	Book Value	Value as at 31st Oct. 1967
£4,325 Grimsby Corporation 3½% Stock 1962-72 ... ..	£3523 16 2	£3719 10 0
840 Whitbread & Co. Ltd. "A" Ordinary Shares of 5s each	313 11 0	441 0 0
	£3837 7 2	£4160 10 0
Heritable Property—21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh ... ..	3050 0 0	3050 0 0
	£6887 7 2	£7210 0 0
Add Sum at credit of Bank Account	207 12 9	207 12 9
Consisting of—		
Balance of Capital on hand	£148 8 7	
Balance of Revenue on hand	59 4 2	
	£207 12 9	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£7094 19 11	£7418 2 9
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1967

ROY H. DENNIS

During the winter, I gave illustrated lectures to the London Natural History Society, the Bird Observatories Conference and at other centres, including Ayr, Perth, Dundee, Nairn and Lerwick.

We returned to the island on 16th March with our new son, Gavin, and the Observatory was open until 28th November, when a small plane gave me a lift from the old airstrip to Kirkwall. Between 4th April and 6th November the record total of 203 visitors stayed at the hostel for a total of 254 visitor-weeks. We were very busy in spring; and for three weeks in late May and June we were completely booked. The bookings for 1968 are also very encouraging and we hope for another good season.

Three F.I.B.O. trustees visited the island in 1967. George Waterston and Ian Pitman stayed from 15th to 17th September and explored the possibilities for building the proposed new Observatory at North Haven. Peter Slater visited us earlier in the month and we are grateful to him for the donation of a 35mm photographic enlarger.

Visitors from overseas included seven from France, three from Sweden (including Mikael Kristersson from Falsterbo who made a colour cine-film of the island), three from Holland, two from Switzerland and singles from Finland, Spain and Australia. We co-operated with Academy Travel in organizing bird-watching tours to Fair Isle.

*Staff.* My wife, Marina, continued to run the hostel, bookings, laundry, etc., and we were extremely pleased to have Miss Catriona Pennie as cook from 4th April to 30th October and we cannot thank her enough for all her hard work and co-operation. We are very pleased that she is returning in 1968. During the summer, my wife and Catriona were assisted by Miss Helen Grant in August and Miss Elsie Barclay in September. Bill Landells most ably carried out the duties of Assistant Warden until late September when he started his medical studies at University. I was then assisted by Tony Mainwood and it is good news that he is returning in 1968.

*Island events.* Despite atrocious weather in 1967, Fair Isle enjoyed another year of progress and morale was high with the fears of depopulation receding even further.

A few days after we arrived back in March, the island

experienced some of the roughest storms in living memory and on one particularly ferocious night the South Lighthouse was effectively an island, with the waves reaching the surrounding walls. Spring was delayed by cold windy weather and after some sunny days in May and June we had a very wet autumn. There were hardly two consecutive days without some rain between July and the end of the year, and this caused great losses of crops, especially potatoes and oats.

Two wedding receptions were held in the village hall during the summer. Tommy Stout of Busta married Miss Sheila Smith from Whiteness in May and James Stout, junior of Midway married Miss Florence Laurenson from Virkie in July. Mrs Perry Barnes (Setter) gave birth to a son, Alan, at Lerwick in October.

Ted Bancroft and his family left the island in April because of ill-health and hiscroft was let to James Stout who intends to return to the island. Mr Brown was taken ill in the summer and he and Mrs Brown (the school-teacher) left the island. With the departure of the Bancroft children and later Magnus MacDonald (the principal keeper at the South Light) and his family the school roll dropped to three children. Mrs Shepherd did relief duties until Mr and Mrs Gulland and their three children arrived in November to fill the combined post of teacher, missionary and nurse. A succession of nurses did relief duties on the island during the year, and our doctor came in twice.

The Fair Isle Committee of islanders met regularly during the year and projects pursued were further hill reclamation, the proposed new airstrip which we hope will soon be built on Vaasetter, building plans, illegal fishing, etc. In July, Dr Skewis (Highland Development Board) and Mr J. Moar (Zetland County Surveyor) visited the island in connection with the airstrip project and at the same time, I showed Dr Skewis over the Bird Observatory and outlined our plans for a new building. My wife, with other young women on the island, started a Ladies Circle, which met weekly throughout the summer.

The I.V.S. returned to the island and worked hard at the old fishstore at Skadan which they converted into comfortable accommodation for future working parties. They worked at several smaller projects but no majorcroft renovations were started. The old lifeboat shed on Skadan was vacated and the life-saving equipment was moved to a new Coastguard hut at the Houll.

The islanders fished for lobsters, halibut and white fish but had to put up with severe competition from larger boats out of Shetland and Orkney working close inshore. It would be

hoped that some system of control is placed on the inshore fishing of lobsters at isolated islands, like Fair Isle, because excessive fishing by outside interests will rob the islanders of an important part of their economy.

No National Trust for Scotland cruises visited the island but the Orcadia from Kirkwall visited the island twice in summer and brought several hundred holiday-makers. Other visitors to the island included more yachts than usual, a new large R.N.L.I. lifeboat from Stronsay and Loganair's new Islander plane, which landed on the old strip and intends to start charter flights to the island in 1968. The Land-rover, which I purchased in Inverness on behalf of the Observatory, arrived by boat in early summer and proved a tremendous asset.

*Acknowledgements.* We are again very grateful to the islanders, who reported many interesting birds and allowed us to examine their crops for migrants. Tommy and Katie Russell, North Lighthouse, helped us with our wader traps and we are indebted to them. The Royal Scottish Museum very kindly continued to loan us a collection of bird skins and I am indebted to Mr Ian Lyster of the bird room. Mr Peter Slater very kindly donated a photographic enlarger to the Observatory, which has been most useful. Lastly, Gordon Barnes was again a great friend to the Observatory and we are very grateful to him for looking after our interests in the winter and many other kindnesses.

*Fieldwork.* We continued all the routine work of the Observatory, which included the trapping and ringing of migrant and resident birds, the daily search for migrants and the studies of breeding birds. We continued census work on the breeding birds and I paid particular attention to Black Guillemots. We instructed many of our visitors in identification and ringing. The observatory boat was used throughout the summer to visit the cliff-nesting seabirds and it was invaluable for ringing operations.

In late June, I visited Shetland to ring Storm Petrels, Gannets and other seabirds; during my stay I helped Bobby Tulloch with the protection of the Snowy Owls in Fetlar and I am very grateful to him and his wife for looking after me.

Subjects studied by non-ornithological visitors included moths, marine biology, demography and geology, the latter part of the geological survey of Shetland.

*Ornithology.* 190 species were recorded on the island in 1967, which is equal to the record set in 1965. No less than four new species were found on the island in the year. They were Black Tern, Marsh Harrier, Sardinian Warbler and

Cretzschmar's Bunting; the warbler was new to Scotland and the bunting was new for Britain. It is interesting that we can still record new species annually and the following table shows that they are by no means decreasing.

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
No. of species	183	179	184	190	187	190
New species	5	1	2	4	3	4

Other species included Great Shearwater, Goshawk, Osprey, Hobby (2), Great Snipe, Pectoral Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope (2), Red-necked Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Short-toed Lark (2), Golden Oriole, Nightingale (2), Sub-alpine Warbler (2), Arctic Warbler (2), Red-breasted Flycatcher (2), Red-throated Pipit (2+), Woodchat (2), Yellow-breasted Bunting (3), Rustic Bunting (2) and Little Bunting (4+).

1967 was an excellent year for rare species, especially in spring, but some of the commoner migrants were in short supply. March and April were cold and windy and very few migrants were found. It was not until the first week of May that the weather pattern changed and we saw large movements of departing winter visitors and summer migrants, many of them behind schedule. The next two months were ideal at Fair Isle with a mainly south-east wind and a nearly continuous trickle of migrants, many of them rare and interesting. There was a spectacular fall of continental night-migrants on 25th May when Garden and Willow Warblers were very plentiful.

No Crossbills were seen in mid summer and the early autumn migrants, such as waders and Common Gulls, were in smaller numbers than usual. The large falls of small continental migrants which usually occur in late August and early September did not materialise and the ringing totals were low. The rest of the autumn was marked by nearly continuous westerly winds and rather few migrants. Most thrush species were scarce, although Fieldfares peaked at 2500 on 23rd October. Blackbirds, Redwings and Woodcocks were in very small numbers and the bulk of the Blackbirds occurred on 9th November. Glaucous Gulls were commoner than usual in autumn and we caught 4 birds at night on Bunness; Little Auks were plentiful at sea.

The spectacular influx of Richard's Pipits and Yellow-browed Warblers in September, October and November was unprecedented at Fair Isle and was certainly the most interesting aspect of the autumn. The very high totals for both species are noted in the systematic list and I am preparing a paper on the influx of these two species into Britain in 1967.



Most species had a successful breeding season although many were late with egg-laying. A pair of White Wagtails nested successfully in the cliff by the Observatory, but both pairs of Peregrines failed to have any young. Quail were heard calling but breeding was not proved and a pair of Corncrakes seen at Gaila in the spring did not stay.

Details of the bird migrants were regularly sent to *Scottish Birds*, *British Birds* and the British Trust for Ornithology. Advice on identification was given to *Scottish Birds* and to bird-watchers in Orkney and Shetland. During the year I was elected to serve on the British Birds Rarities Committee and also appointed an area recorder for the new Scottish Bird Report.

### *Systematic List for 1967*

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. Singles on 7th and 24th May and 4th and 15th October.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. One or two seen on ten days between 12th May and 12th June. Singles on 1st and 19th July. One or two on four days between 23rd September and 11th October.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*. Singles in North Haven, 31st August to 3rd September and 23rd September to 11th October.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. One on 11th and another on 14th October, both present until 20th and last one seen on 24th October.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One flying west just off the North Light on 26th September; seen from Good Shepherd.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Seen on the crossing from 9th June and on land from 10th June. Windy conditions on the cliffs at night made netting difficult and only 61 new birds were ringed. Fair Isle and Foula ringed birds were controlled. No nests were found and it certainly seems that the number of breeding pairs is far less than the great number of birds visiting the cliffs at night. They were very plentiful on the crossing on some days in summer and were last seen on 10th October.

MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus*. Two on 25th April, three on 26th May and singles on four days between 1st August and 29th September were all seen from the Good Shepherd.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Procellaria gravis*. One flew west past the North Light on 27th August (G. J. Barnes).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. First seen on 14th

August; small numbers offshore and on the crossing until 30th September, maximum 12 in thirty minutes sea-watching on 14th September.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*. Ashore nearly continuously in first three months, except for a break in bad weather in third week of March. A build-up from 7th April and pre-egg-laying dispersal from 5th to 17th May. First eggs seen on 21st May. Population increasing slightly but none nesting inland yet although some were prospecting in the Haa and South Harbour area. Average fledging success, and marked decrease after 7th September. Numbers ashore most days until end of year, especially numerous 18th to 23rd October but absent from 2nd to 9th December. Blue phase birds commoner than usual from 27th August.

**GANNET** *Sula bassana*. Small numbers offshore in first half of year, maximum 20 on 23rd April; numbers higher in autumn with 107 on 3rd and 120 on 28th September. During the summer several were found on the beaches entangled in courlene fishing net; one, which was rescued and released, was found dead at Sanday, Orkney, about ten days later.

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Recorded on nine days, maximum three, between 21st March and 26th June. Autumn passage from 14th August but very small numbers until October, when 24 on 3rd and 40 on 22nd. Singles in November.

**SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Some nests were completed by 16th March but egg-laying delayed by bad weather and first clutches (c/2 and c/1) seen on 13th April. First flying young on 17th June. A good year for chicks.

**HERON** *Ardea cinerea*. Singles on 23rd April, 8th June, 1st and 31st July. Passage from 5th August to 27th September, maxima of 9 on 27th August and 16 on 15th and 16th September; stragglers until 21st November and a late bird on 17th December.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*. One to three recorded on four days in January, once in February, four days in March, once in April, six days in May and June and twice in July. Autumn passage from 1st August until 28th September, peaks of 7 on 6th August and 8 on 11th October.

**TEAL** *Anas crecca*. Spring passage from 1st March to 1st June, maximum two pairs. Return passage from 8th August, mainly 23rd August to 15th October with peaks of 20 on 18th and 18 on 19th and 24th September. Stragglers until 21st December.

**WIGEON** *Anas penelope*. Singles on 18th February, 30th March and 2nd May; a pair on 4th and 5th May. Two on

8th August and passage from 26th August to 13th November, mainly September with 16 on 18th and 19 on 20th.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*. A ♀ from 28th July to 5th August.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*. A ♂ on 8th May.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A ♂ from 11th to 17th May.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*. A ♂ on 18th and 19th September.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. Scarce in 1967; only singles on 16th and 29th November and 31st December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. Small numbers from 2nd March to 19th May; maximum 5 on 9th April. Autumn arrivals from 3rd October, with peaks of 10 on 14th and 16th October. About half a dozen sickly birds were seen, several were found dead and others were seen in odd places.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. A ♀ (trapped) in North Haven from 20th to 23rd October and a ♂ on 28th December, found dead at North Haven on 31st.

SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. A ♂ from 28th March to 1st April and a ♀ from 2nd to 10th April. A pair on 24th May and 5 from 29th May to 1st June. One on 30th September and 16 on 11th October.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Pairs ashore from 10th May and first clutch (c/2) found on 22nd May. A nest containing nine eggs was found on Buness but later found robbed. The first young were on the sea on 18th June. Autumn flock reached 300 on 8th August and 360 on 13th September.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. One on 20th January and singles on six days between 16th May and 3rd July, but 2 on 12th June. A ♂ on 15th August. Autumn passage from 19th September to 16th November; maxima 4 on 25th September and 6 on 4th and 11th October. A ♀ on 29th December.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. A ♀ on 22nd April and another ♀ from 12th to 19th May.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. Singles on 8th and 11th March, 19th May to 5th June and 5th to 26th August (juvenile).

GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. One from 11th January was shot on 3rd February. Three on 27th April and one until 14th May. Autumn passage from 10th October, mostly late October, maximum 44 on 17th. Small numbers until 26th November (8). 22 arrived on 6th December and 5 stayed until 10th.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. Nine, almost certainly Greenland birds, on 20th and 21st October.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Two on 7th Feb-

- ruary and singles on 8th, 9th, 14th and 15th October.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One on 16th and 18th, 13 on 19th, one on 21st, 6 on 22nd and one on 23rd October.
- WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. 6 on 26th and 10 on 28th February, 6 on 6th April. Autumn passage from 2nd to 27th October, peaks of 34 on 11th and 12 on 16th; late birds of 5 on 5th and 18th November and 4 on 15th December.
- SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. A ♂ on 6th May and a ♀ on 7th and 9th May. Autumn singles on 16th, 18th, 19th and 30th September, 12th to 14th and 20th to 22nd October.
- GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One flying north along Burra-shield on 21st May (G. Bundy).
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. A ♀ on 6th and 7th May.
- MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*. A ♀ first seen at Setter and later at Lerness on 9th May, stayed until 11th. The first definite record for Fair Isle.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One on 8th and 9th May is the eleventh record for the island; eight of these being on spring migration between 1962 and 1967.
- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. Singles on 7th May and 3rd June.
- PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Two pairs resident. The traditional Lerness ledge was used and the birds were seen incubating but no young hatched. Another pair frequented Sheep Rock and Shaldi Cliff but there was no evidence of breeding. This is the second season running that two pairs have failed to have any young; see Table 1.

Table 1. Peregrine breeding success at Fair Isle.

Year	No. of pairs	results
1960	one	one or two chicks
1961	one	one chick
1962	one	two chicks
1963	one	incubated, no chicks
1964	one and half	two chicks
1965	two	one, probably two, chicks at Lerness
1966	two	no chicks
1967	two	no chicks

- MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. A ♂ from 3rd to 14th January. Spring passage from 28th March to 1st June, maximum 3 on 8th and 9th May. Autumn passage from 8th September, except early bird on 28th August, to 19th November, mainly October with peaks of 8 on 3rd, 10+ on 5th and 8 on 18th. One on 17th December.
- KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. Spring passage from 12th March to 20th June, small numbers, maximum 3. Autumn pas-

sage from 18th August to 18th October, with peaks of 4 on 5th and 6 on 23rd September and 5 on 2nd October. Singles on 7th and 11th November.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. Singles on 24th, 28th to 30th May. Song at Barkland from 6th June, with three singing on 10th June. One bird sang from small patch of hay until 17th July but no evidence of breeding. One seen on 30th July.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. One or two wintered until 21st January. Spring birds on 8th and 9th April and 27th May. Singles on 13th, 13th (dead) and 15th October; regular from 3rd November, maximum 3 on 7th-9th December.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. First on 5th May, 2 on 8th and 3 on 9th; small numbers until 9th June but singles found dead on 22nd and 23rd May. Although song was heard at Gaila in early June there was no evidence of breeding. One on 11th October.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. One from 30th September to 21st October, singles 25th October, 3rd, 4th and 10th November.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. One on 7th and two on 15th January. Arrivals of breeding birds from 6th February, mainly end of month. First nest (c/3) at Furse on 28th April was also the earliest nest in 1966. Numbers similar to last year. Departures from 4th August and down to 35 by end of month and to 6 by 28th September. Small numbers in October, only three at end of month and last bird on 22nd November.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. A few seen from 17th January, but more from 26th February and large passage in March when 48 on 8th, 100 on 10th, 400+ on 11th, 500+ on 12th, decreasing to 100 on 13th, 150 on 14th; another peak of 75 on 25th. Four pairs nested and two of them hatched young. Most gone by 20th July, only stragglers until passage from 26th August to 20th November, maxima 27 on 25th September and 20 on 6th November.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Arrivals from 19th February and small movements in May and early June. Pairs nested at Muckle Urie Geo, Skervallie (one, possibly two pairs), Slogar and south Bunes. Passage from 14th July to 9th October, with peaks of 34 on 22nd August and 35 on 4th, 15th and 16th September. Singles on 21st October and 3rd November. Birds of the arctic race identified on 10th and 11th August.

GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola*. Singles on 20th May and 22nd September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apricarius*. Small numbers in

spring from 8th March to 10th June, but our largest ever influx in late April, when 17 on 29th, 86 on 30th, (all northern birds in full summer plumage) and 49 on 5th May. Return passage from 28th June to 20th October, mainly 3rd August to 16th October with peaks of 24 on 20th August, 40 on 1st and 17th, 55 on 24th and 62 on 25th September. Late singles on 11th and 12th November and 1st December.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Small numbers wintered and small passage until 5th June. Five on 21st June and return passage from 30th June, mainly 1st August. Peaks of 40 on 16th and 31st August, 35 on 1st September, 55 on 26th October and 45 on 13th November.

SNIPE *Capella gallinago*. Small numbers in winter, maximum 7 on 8th March. Song-fighting from 30th April and some spring movements, maximum 10 on 7th and 8th May. One or two pairs probably nested. Autumn passage from 19th August with peaks of 20 (a flock in from north-east) on 21st August, 35 on 30th September, 28 (one flock) on 17th October and 12 on 3rd November. Up to 7 until end of year.

GREAT SNIPE *Capella media*. One at Setter on 6th December (G. J. Barnes).

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*. None in spring. Autumn passage from 5th September to 27th October, peaks of 8 on 18th September and 4 on 8th, 9th and 18th October. A late one on 15th December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. Singles on 11 days between 27th January and 22nd May, but two on 15th April. One on 30th June and another 12th August. Autumn passage 14th October, with small peaks of 40 on 23rd, 20 on 24th October and 30 on 9th November, stragglers to end of year.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Recorded on 8 days in January and twice in February. Spring passage from 1st March, mainly April and May with peaks of 20 on 13th and 18 on 27th April and 20 on 8th May. Seen daily throughout summer but none nested. Returning birds from 25th June with peaks of 30 on 9th and 10th July, 20 on 1st and 23 on 27th August and 12 on 15th September. Small numbers until end of year.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Spring passage from 28th April to 25th June, peaks of 6 on 8th, 8 on 17th and 7 on 18th May. Autumn passage from 3rd July to 15th September, mainly August and September, maximum 6 on 27th August.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. Three arrived on Bunness in strong westerly winds on 19th April, six there on

- 20th and 21st, five until 24th and two on 25th April. They were in summer plumage and there was much display; on the last two days they were on marshy ground at Barkland. Weather conditions would suggest Icelandic birds.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. Singles on 14 days between 26th August and 15th September and 2 on 5th September. One on 9th October.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. One on 5th, two 6th to 8th, one 9th and 11th May. Singles on 12th to 15th August and 5th September.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. Singles on 8th, 9th and 26th May.
- COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Spring passage from 7th May to 6th June, peaks of 4 on 8th and 14th May and 1st June. Recorded on 22 days between 31st July and 14th October, mostly singles but 2 on 3 days and 3 on 2nd September.
- REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Up to 7 wintered; spring passage until 31st May, peaks of 18 on 20th April and 12 on 6th May. Autumn passage from 18th June, mainly from 15th July (25) with maxima of 65 on 29th August. 35 on 3rd and 5th September, 40 on 5 days in October and 30 on 2nd November. Up to 7 in December.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Singles on 8th and 13th May. 6 on 2nd September and singles seen on 5 days between 15th August and 7th September.
- KNOT *Calidris canutus*. One on 11th and 12th April and 5 on 5th May. Autumn passage from 17th July to 16th October, mainly August and September with peaks of 8 on 16th August, 10 on 7th and 20 on 17th September.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Very few recorded in winter and small passage from 17th March to 23rd May; maxima of 12 on 20th April, 13 on 7th and 15 on 21st May. Autumn passage from 15th July, mainly from 2nd August with monthly maxima of August (20), September (47), October (30) and November (4). Scarce in December, maximum 2.
- LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One on 6th and 7th September. 14 arrived on 18th September, decreased daily to 3 by 23rd and one until 27th. Best numbers recorded on island except for a similar arrival of 17 on 17th September 1960.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. One on 11th August at the pool on the Head of Tind. Fifth record for Fair Isle.
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Small spring passage from 4th May to 26th June, maximum 9 on 19th May. Autumn passage from 12th July to 26th October, mainly August and Sep-

- tember with peaks of 9 on 4th August, 13 on 9th, 14th and 15th and 21 on 17th September.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea*. An adult retaining some chestnut feathering on 11th August and a first-year bird from 7th to 15th September.
- SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. One on 29th and 30th May. Autumn passage from 23rd July to 28th September, mainly 7th August to 19th September; maximum 5.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Recorded between 17th August and 30th September, peaks of 9 on 3rd and 16 on 18th September.
- GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Two during strong west gale on 26th October; one in South Haven and another killed against wires near the Kirk.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. One swimming in the sea off the Sheep Rock on 15th July allowed us to approach closely in our boat. The sixth Fair Isle record and the first in July.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. First seen on 8th April and increases on 12th and 21st. The colony continued its decline and only about 12 pairs nested. First eggs noted on 27th May. Decrease noted from 17th August, down to 10 by end of September and last seen on 26th October.
- ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. First seen on 14th April when two displayed over Eas Brecks. Increases noted, especially on 25th and 27th April and 21st May. Colony continues to thrive and probably a little up on 1966. First eggs on 20th May and first chicks on 20th June. Emigration from 17th August but good numbers lingered on into September; down to three by 21st and last seen offshore on 14th October.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One flew south past the Houll on 14th October and one, probably same bird, at Easter Lothar in the afternoon.
- LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One on the crossing on 30th May.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. At least 1000 ashore on 21st and 22nd January in a gale. Increases noted between April and July must have been from the Herring fleets. Large flocks ashore in late autumn; 3000+ on 25th and 26th October and 1500 on 27th November.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. First two on 3rd April and main arrival from 19th April. 12 Scandinavian birds on 18th and one on 19th May. About 25 pairs nested and not very successfully. Last seen on 17th September.
- HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Roosting flocks of 500 on



21st and 22nd January and 200 on 15th February. An adult albino on 22nd and 25th May. Breeding numbers seemed to be lower than in 1966. A tame pair are fed by the keepers at the North Lighthouse; one bird is ringed and was present throughout the year, the other has a drooping wing and this year it returned on 29th March (very exhausted) and left after breeding on 9th September. Autumn flocks of 1000 on 25th and 26th October and 1500 on 27th November.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Small numbers from 19th February, peaks of 28 on 24th April, 37 on 19th and 60 on 29th May. Return passage from 27th June to 15th November; first young migrant on 11th July and peaks of 60 on 26th July, 180 on 6th, 250 on 26th and 480 on 28th August. 300 on 11th and 350 on 18th September, 260 on 7th and 350 on 23rd October. Three from 13th to 17th December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. Singles on 7 days in January but 3 on 17th. One on 4th, 10th and 12th June. Commoner than usual in autumn from 16th October, singles on many days and peaks of 4 on 28th and 3 on 29th October, 3 on 7th and 8th and 4 on 11th November.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. A second-year bird at Malcolm's Head on 23rd April.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One on 6th February. Passage from 5th April to 23rd June, maximum 41 on 8th May. Return passage from 28th June to 22nd October; first juveniles on 10th July and peaks of 25 on 29th August and 15 on 7th September. Late stragglers until 17th December.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. First seen ashore on 8th February, regularly from 23rd March and continuously at colonies from 7th April. A good breeding season and 181 chicks ringed. Good numbers were ashore throughout September and there was even display at the colonies by adults until mid-October; thereafter numbers were lower and the last adults sitting on old nests were seen on 5th November. Small numbers offshore until 20th November.

COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS *Sterna hirundo* and *macrura*. Spring passage from 10th May to 26th June; first identified Commons on 26th and Arctics on 29th May. Small numbers in July, mainly Arctics and an influx of Arctics from 11th to 18th August, maximum 30 on 13th. Small numbers in autumn until 15th October but another influx from 17th to 20th September, nearly all Commons, maximum 35 on 19th.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. One on 24th May.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*. One at Gaila on 6th May was

the forerunner of unprecedented arrival in Shetland. First record for Fair Isle.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*. Ashore from 4th March, good numbers from 28th and colonies continuously occupied from 8th April. A good breeding season. Emigration from 10th July and last seen ashore on 8th August. Small numbers offshore until 7th October.

**LITTLE AUK** *Plautus alle*. Small numbers on crossing in January and oiled birds on 13th and 29th. One on 8th February and another seen on crossing on 3rd April. One offshore on 24th September. Small numbers from 17th October and lots on crossing of 21st November, when the crew estimated ca. 1000 off Sumburgh.

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*. Ashore on fine days January to March and continuously from 8th April. Some found oiled in late January and early February. Numbers probably higher than last year. Emigration from 10th July and last seen ashore on 13th August. Strong numbers, up to 100, offshore in September and October and ca. 30 were back ashore on the Lang Cole and North Reeve on 19th November. Large numbers on crossing on 21st November.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cephus grylle*. First eggs found on 8th June and first chicks seen on 12th July. 55 chicks were ringed. A good breeding season and autumn flock of 40 in Furse on 28th August.

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*. Singles found oiled on 15th, 21st and 27th January. Seen on crossing on 3rd April and ashore from 7th. Numbers high and a good breeding season. Decrease from beginning of August and last ashore on 23rd. Stragglers stayed around island and one bird was surprisingly ashore on 3rd September. Small numbers offshore until 1st October.

**ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia*. Up to 8 wintered and spring maximum flock of 12, increased to 22 on 4th June. Probably 8 to 10 pairs nested. Autumn flock peaked at 18 on 21st September, 26 on 5th October and 20 on 2nd November.

**WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus*. Two on 2nd February. Spring passage from 26th March to 14th June, maxima 8 on 9th and 10 on 10th May. One on 13th and 16th September; small numbers between 9th October and 12th November.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*. Spring passage from 6th May to 28th June, maximum 4 on 12th June. One on 18th July. Autumn passage from 31st August to 24th September, maximum 4, with a late bird on 18th October.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Scarcer than last two years and only recorded on 55 bird/days as against 200

in 1966 and 86 in 1965. One from 23rd to 25th April. Small numbers from 6th May to 27th June, maxima of 4 on 16th May and 7 on 14th June; some were heard in song and one pair mated at the Haa but no nest was found. Singles on 12th July and 20th August.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. One to three daily from 23rd May to 1st June and one from 14th to 17th June. Autumn singles on 1st and 28th August.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Singles on 16th to 18th, 20th and 31st October.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. One on 26th January. Singles on 7th and 10th April, 5th and 6th May, two on 7th, three on 8th May and one 9th June. Small numbers (one on 7 days and two on 3 days) between 20th September and 14th November.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*. A ♀ trapped on 4th June at Restensgeo (a new species for the Observatory's ringing list), a ♀ at the same place on 10th June and a ♂ at Duttfield on 29th and 30th June.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. First three on 7th May, seen on 5 other days in May, maximum 10 on 31st. Common in June with peaks of 12 on 1st, 8 on 3rd, 7 on 14th and 6 on 26th. Seen on 8 days in July, maximum 14 on 13th, and 8 days in August, maximum 5 on 4th. Singles on 3 days in September and in October, 2 on 14th and 3 on 15th.

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*. One flew south-east over Double Dyke on 29th May (N. Elkins & R. MacIntyre).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. In May, 5 on 7th, 3 on 8th, 5 on 9th and singles on 13th, 14th and 24th. Seen on ten days in autumn between 27th August (2) and 24th September (3), mainly singles but 3 on 18th.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. Singles of the race *brachydactyla* at Lower Leogh on 7th May and at Busta on 11th to 13th May.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Small numbers wintered, arrivals from 20th February and peaks of 100 on 28th February, 300 on 9th and 200 on 10th and 11th March. Further increases noted until 7th May; a good breeding season and numbers high. Autumn passage from 15th September, rather few in October but large movements in early November, when 500 on 3rd, 200 on 4th, 600 on 5th and 500 on 6th. Very few after 22nd.

SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. 6 on 3rd, 3 on 8th, one on 10th, 2 on 11th, 3 on 12th and 13th May; the largest arrival ever recorded at Fair Isle. A young ♀ was trapped on 5th November, stayed until 7th. A new species for the Fair Isle ringing list.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. First one on 24th April and daily passage from 5th May to 1st July, peaks of 50 on 11th, 26th, 27th and 29th and 100 on 30th May. Three stragglers in July and two juveniles on 28th. In autumn, only one on 2nd and 2 on 27th August and up to 4 between 5th and 12th September; one on 12th, 10 on 14th, 12 on 15th and 17th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage from 7th May to 1st July, peaks of 120 on 30th May, 55 on 1st and 30 on 5th June, scarce after 11th June. Small numbers on 26th to 30th August, 5th to 8th and 20th to 25th September and 14th and 15th October.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Spring passage from 9th May to 7th June, peaks of 6 on 11th, 7 on 30th and 8 on 31st May. Singles on 24th June, 2nd and 29th July and 2nd August. Small numbers, maximum 3, between 26th August and 8th September.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. A ♀ at Kennaby on 26th May. Eighth record.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. About 12 wintered; four pairs nested, three of them successfully. Autumn flock of up to 19.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. Spring passage from 7th April, with peaks of 6 on 7th and 8 on 24th April, 8 on 6th and 9 on 22nd May. A hybrid in the non-breeding group from 1st April to end of December. Up to 4 until 19th July, and up to 3 from 22nd August to 27th October may have been the same birds.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix*. About 12 pairs nested; several of the known nests were unsuccessful. The autumn flock peaked at 20.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. Two birds, one of them wearing a ring, from 4th January to 18th March when joined by two more. Spring passage from 26th March to 1st June, maxima of 7 on 29th March and 8 on 27th April. In autumn, one from 29th October to 29th November and a second bird 3rd to 9th November.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. One from 7th to 24th February, when found dead. Singles on 28th February, 1st to 11th and 29th March, 4th and 10th April. In autumn, one on 22nd October; 5 arrived on 2nd November, decreased to 2 on 3rd and one until 9th.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. No complete census but numbers about average. A completed nest found in Mavers Geo on 3rd May but on 14th it was found destroyed with one egg left in the lining. This is the third year in succession that a nest has been built in exactly the same site and

each time it has been robbed, almost certainly by the  
Mavers Geo Hooded Crows.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. A black-bellied bird trapped on 2nd  
November in Gully and present until 20th November and  
almost certainly the same bird on 7th December.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. Very scarce only singles  
on 2nd February and 9th April and two on 7th November.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Small numbers in first three  
months, except 19 on 23rd January. Only seen on three  
days in April until 26th when 40 arrived. Similar numbers  
until 5th May when 150 seen, increasing to 170 on 6th  
and a fantastic fall of 1200 on 7th. This is the biggest  
spring fall at Fair Isle and later than usual. Most gone by  
9th and only small numbers from 10th to 11th June. A  
single on 24th to 27th June. An early bird on 11th and 12th  
August; autumn passage from 29th August to 1st Decem-  
ber, mainly from 15th September to 6th November with  
peaks of 400 on 18th September, 2500+ on 23rd, 1500 on  
24th and 25th, 1000 on 26th and 300 on 27th October, 300  
on 2nd and 3rd November. A few in December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. Small spring passage from  
7th March to 27th May; maxima 30 on 7th and 40 on 8th  
May. Singles on three days in June and 14th to 19th July.  
A dark bird of British stock on 10th to 14th July. Autumn  
passage from 21st August to 21st November, scarcer than  
usual with peaks of 40 on 27th September, 40 on 3rd and  
80 on 5th November.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Singles on 20th January and 14th  
February and two on 19th February. Small passage from  
1st to 19th March and 4th April to 27th May, mainly April  
when a movement of Icelandic birds between 14th and  
26th, maximum 45 on 16th and 20 on 21st. One late bird  
on 2nd and 3rd June. Autumn passage from 1st September  
to 1st December, mainly 18th September to 15th Novem-  
ber, with peaks of 350 *coburni* on 13th, 250 on 23rd and  
25th October and 300 on 2nd and 3rd November. A few in  
December.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. Spring passage from 5th April  
to 17th June, mainly May when peaks of 14 on 5th, 65 on  
7th, 50 on 8th and 15 on 9th. Autumn records from 17th  
September to 27th October, nearly all in September; maxi-  
ma 13 on 18th, 15 on 19th and 40 on 20th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Up to 7 wintered but 50+ on  
24th and 25th January. Small spring passage from 9th  
March (150) to 22nd June, other peaks of 200+ on 11th  
March and 35 on 19th April. Small numbers from 13th  
September, mainly from 20th October to 20th November.

Peaks of 350 on 23rd October and 100 on 4th November, but a large fall of 2000 arriving after 0930 hours on 9th November. Stragglers until end of year.

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. First four on 12th April, increased to 15 by 14th, 35 by 23rd and 50 by 25th. Further movements noted, especially on 26th April, 5th, 14th, 19th and 24th May. Greenland birds were noted on last three dates and on 4th and 5th June. A good breeding season but numbers slightly lower. Migrants noted from 20th August, Greenland birds from 27th but rather few in early September. Numbers down to 30 by 30th September and 8 by 15th October; last one on 28th October except for a late migrant on 6th November.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*. A ♂ on 9th and another ♂ on 29th March. In autumn, a ♂ trapped on 10th, joined by two more ♂♂s on 12th; two present until 20th and one to 21st October.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*. Spring passage from 4th May to 5th June, maxima 12 from 9th to 11th and 25th and 10 on 26th May. Autumn passage from 25th August to 30th September; maxima 18 on 30th August and 25 on 12th September, stragglers until 24th October.

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Spring passage from 4th May to 14th June, mostly in early and late May with peaks of 8 on 9th to 11th and 20 on 25th. Return passage from 28th August, mostly 13th to 30th September; maxima 50 on 18th, 35 on 19th and 25 on 20th. Late birds on 20th and 21st October and one or two from 3rd to 6th November.

**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Singles on 13th April and four days in early May; small passage from 25th to 31st May when 3 on 25th, 4 on 29th and 5 on 30th. A ♂ in Hjukni Geo on 16th July is first summer record for Fair Isle. Scarce in autumn, singles on 21st, 23rd and 30th October.

**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. Singles trapped at Observatory on 8th May and in Gully on 14th June. 4th and 5th records for Fair Isle.

**BLUETHROAT** *Cyanosylvia svecica*. Small numbers, maximum 3 on 23rd, between 18th and 27th May. In autumn, 5 on 18th September and up to 4 until 27th; one from 12th to 21st October.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*. One or two wintered. Passage from 12th March to 22nd May, rather small numbers with peaks of 12 on 11th April and 12 on 9th May. 2 on 1st, one on 5th and 2 on 12th June. Sparse autumn passage from 18th September; very scarce in October and maxima of

- 15 on 4th and 20 on 5th November. One to 3 in December.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. Singles on 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th and 25th May and 22nd and 23rd September.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Small numbers from 19th May to 5th June, maximum 3 on 26th and 30th and 4 on 27th. Singles on 10th to 12th and 20th to 22nd September.
- MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. One trapped at South Haven on 31st May and singing there on 1st June; another at Schoolton ditch on 4th and 6th June.
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Spring passage from 7th May to 7th June, with peaks of 14 on 22nd, 10 on 23rd, 25th, 26th and 30th May. In autumn, singles on 1st, 2nd, 28th and 29th August and one or two between 6th and 20th September.
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. An unprecedented fall in spring, when at least 6 arrived on 25th May. Daily totals thereafter were 5 on 26th, 8 on 27th, one on 28th and 29th, 3 on 30th and 7 on 31st May, one on 1st, 3 on 2nd, 2 on 3rd and one on 4th and 5th June. Autumn singles on 22nd August and 10th to 16th September.
- BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. Spring passage from 6th May to 4th July, maxima of 9 on 25th and 6 on 27th May. Autumn passage from 3rd September to 21st November, with peaks of 16 on 18th, 22 on 22nd and 16 on 27th September and 20 on 20th October.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. One or two daily from 12th to 16th August. Small numbers daily from 27th August to 16th September; maxima 3+ on 27th August, 4 on 3rd and 10th, and 5 on 12th. Late ones on 24th and 26th September.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Spring passage from 5th May to 26th June, mainly last week May and first week June; maxima 100 on 25th and 35 on 26th May. In autumn from 9th August to 7th November, the majority in September, when peaks of 25 on 5th, 50 on 6th and 20 on 7th and 10th; stragglers later.
- WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Strong spring passage from 6th May to 5th June, mainly late May when 15 on 19th, 60 on 25th and 45 on 26th. Singles on 19th June, 3rd and 16th July. Seen on four days in August from 10th and regular, maximum 7, between 5th and 29th September; a late one on 3rd and 4th October.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. One on 5th May and passage from 20th to 31st May, maximum 5 on 25th and 3 on 26th and 27th. Singles on 1st, 7th, 8th and 25th June. At least one on 8th August and one or two most days 5th to 24th September, but 4 on 18th.

SARDINIAN WARBLER *Sylvia melanocephala*. A ♂ trapped at Observatory on 26th May, present on 27th. A new species for Scotland and Fair Isle.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. A ♂ at Setter and North Grind (trapped) on 25th to 27th June and a ♀ at Setter on 26th June. A similar arrival of a pair occurred on 12th to 14th June 1958.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring passage from 4th May to 5th June with peaks of 25 on 8th and 9th, 120 on 25th, 80 on 26th and 50 on 27th May. Northern birds on 26th May (3), 1st (2) and 5th June. Autumn passage from 10th August to 30th September with peaks of 40 on 15th and 30 on 28th August, 30 on 10th and 25 on 18th September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. In spring, small numbers from 13th April to 17th June, mainly early May when 10 on 5th and 8 on 7th and 8th. Autumn birds from 18th September to 12th October, mainly one or two but 4 on 23rd. One on 29th October and northern birds on 30th October and 2 to 3 from 4th to 8th November.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Singles on 22nd and 27th May, 19th and 20th June. Autumn singles on 8th-9th and 26th-27th August and 15th September.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. One trapped behind Nurse's Cottage on 30th August, present to 4th September and another at Haa on 21st September. Now 22 records for Fair Isle.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. A spectacular autumn for this species. Seen on 27 days between 14th September and 29th October for a total of at least 69 bird/days, with peaks of 8 on 23rd, 5+ on 25th, 7+ on 26th, 8 on 27th and 4 on 29th; fewer in October but 4 on 6th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. Small numbers from 27th March to 30th April, maximum 6 on 29th March. Two on 29th May. Small passage from 4th September to 9th November with peaks of 6 on 20th September, 15 on 11th October and 10 on 4th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. Spring passage from 14th May to 5th June, peaks of 10 on 20th and 20 on 25th. Singles on 13th and 25th June. Small numbers from 30th August to 30th September, maximum 5 on 18th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. Small spring passage from 8th to 29th May, maximum 3. In autumn, from 11th August to 27th September with peaks of 22 on 28th and 9 on 29th August and 7 on 3rd and 10th September.



RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. Singles on 19th and 26th September.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. Spring passage from 7th April to 28th May; two to eight most days. Scarce in autumn, one to two on 17 days between 15th September to 5th November, except 4 on 2nd November.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Arrivals from 19th February, mainly from 28th March (20) and most from 13th-15th April. A good breeding season. Passage noted end of August and September, Icelandic type birds in early and late September, especially 3rd and 30th. Noticeably decreased after 17th October and singles until 29th November. One on 2nd and 9th December.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. A spectacular autumn for this species as well as Yellow-browed Warblers. Seen on 28 days between 15th September and 9th November, mainly in September, for a total of 64 bird/days with peaks of 4+ on 23rd and 25th, 8 on 27th September and 3 on 6th October and 9th November. There was much variation in plumage from pale to very dark birds and some were in advanced stages of moult; four were trapped.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Spring passage from 5th May to 4th June with peaks of 25 on 7th and 9th and 15 on 27th May. Autumn passage from 28th August to 30th September, maxima 17 on 18th and 25 on 20th-21st; late birds on 13th and 17th October.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. At least 2 on 21st September (one trapped at Haa); the ringed one stayed at Taing until 25th.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. First song on 27th March and nesting rather late, first completed clutch found on 3rd June. Some autumn passage, especially 3rd and 4th September.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*. A few from 28th March and passage from 27th April, maximum 9 on 8th May. A pair bred in the cliff at Stiggin, by the Observatory, and reared one, probably two, young. Autumn passage from 18th August to end of September, peaks of 30 on 28th August, 35 on 5th and 30 on 7th September, stragglers until 19th October.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. Singles on 11 days between 1st March and 9th April and a resident ♂ from 4th August to 1st October.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. One on 7th and 8th May.

YELLOW WAGTAILS *Motacilla flava* sp. One to three Yellow Wagtails *flavissima* from 4th to 8th May; small numbers

of Blue-headed Wagtails *flava* from 8th May to 4th June, maximum 5 (3♂♂) on 8th and 3 on 10th; a ♂ Grey-headed Wagtail *thunbergi* on 22nd May and 3 (1 ♂) on 25th-26th and a pair on 27th-29th May. A ♀ Blue-headed summered from 14th July to at least 12th September, usually with Gordon Barnes's cattle, joined by migrants from 27th August to 21st September, maximum 3 on 27th August.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Sporadic movements from 28th October to 27th November, maxima 35 on 31st October, 8 on 1st and 5 on 6th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. April singles on 13th, 18th and 23rd. Autumn birds on 30th September, strong passage 7th to 23rd October, when maxima of 5 on 11th, 7+ on 12th (highest Fair Isle total) and 3 on four other days. Two on 3rd November.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*. Singles on 9th to 13th June at Wirvie and later at Houll and on 13th July at Stoneybreck.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. A pair on 25th-26th May, a ♀ on 27th May and a very pale ♀ (trapped) from 1st to 6th June. Seen in autumn on 9th, 10th, 11th (2), 12th and 18th September.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Very little passage noted in spring; late in nesting and numbers lower. Autumn movements on some days between 11th October and 4th November, but no large flocks.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. 5 on 1st November and one or two until 19th November.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. Small numbers between 10th May and 4th June, maxima 8 on 14th and 5 on 17th-19th. A ♂ on 27th June. Small numbers between 25th September and 2nd October, maximum 4, and singles on 13th and 14th October and 10th November.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. Singles on 18th to 28th March and 7th to 27th April. Passage from 5th May to 7th June, maxima 8 on 8th and 6 on 16th May. One bird ringed on North Ronaldsay was controlled on 9th May and had returned to North Ronaldsay by 14th May. Two on 21st June. In autumn, one on 9th, 3 on 13th, 6 on 15th and one on 18th October and one on 13th November.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. Small numbers from 4th February, mainly from 6th April; spring flock maxima of 35 on 15th April and 45 on 6th May. Breeding numbers are improving since the ban on toxic spring dressings. Autumn flocks peaked at 80 on 21st August, 100 several times in September and 160 on 20th and 150 on 25th; in October

numbers down to 40 by 27th and to 6 by 7th November; stragglers until 29th November.

**REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*. Spring ♂ Mealy Redpolls *flammea* on 14th May and 24th May to 2nd June. Small numbers of Greenland birds *rostrata* from 3rd September to 17th November, mainly September when 4 on 9th and 5th on 12th. A Lesser Redpoll *cabaret* on 12th October and a Mealy on 21st October.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A ♀ on 2nd February.

**SCARLET ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. A ♀ at graveyard on 5th June. In autumn, one on 29th August, one on 9th, 4 on 10th, 2 on 11th-12th September and one or two from 18th to 27th September, but 3+ on 24th.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*. Two on 1st January and a ♂ resident from 24th January to at least 4th April; spring passage from 13th March to 19th May, mainly 7th April to 12th May, maximum 16 on 10th April. A ♀ on 5th June. Autumn passage from 18th September, mainly 15th October to 5th November, with peaks of 75 on 20th and 60 on 25th-27th October; small numbers to 26th December.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*. Small numbers, up to 4, from 25th January to 8th February. Spring passage from 10th April to 11th June, scarce in April but strong passage of 80 on 7th, 150 on 8th (highest ever spring total) and 45 on 9th May; small numbers after 11th. Autumn passage from 20th September to 21st November, majority between 11th October and 6th November when peaks of 60 on 13th, 280 on 18th, slightly lower numbers to 22nd and 60 on 4th November.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*. Singles on 16th and 18th March and 8th May; two on 14th June.

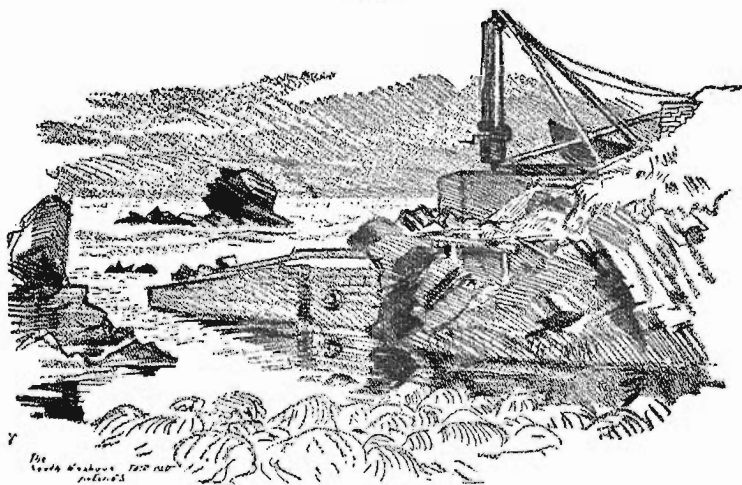
**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 10th-14th March, 18th April, 8th May and 2nd June.

[**RED-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza bruniceps*. A ♂ on 10th May, one or two ♂♂s on 11 dates between 2nd and 18th June, a ♀ on 23rd to 28th July and a ♂ on 9th to 21st September. All treated as escaped cage-birds.]

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola*. Two on 10th September, one until 12th and a new bird on 18th-19th September. All first-year or female birds.

**ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana*. Seen on 12 days between 7th and 26th May, including 2 ♂♂s and a ♀ on 8th and 9th and 2 ♂♂s on four dates. A ♂ on 13th-14th June. Autumn singles on 5th-7th and 20th-26th September.

**CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING** *Emberiza caesia*. One seen briefly on 10th June but not seen again until 14th when trapped



and identification confirmed; present until 20th June. First British record.

**RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*. A ♀ at Easter Lothar on 25th May and a superbly plumaged ♂ at Stackhoull on 11th June.

**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*. Singles on 17th-19th and 26th September, 18th (trapped) and 20th October and 12th November.

**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Irregular passage from 26th March but numerous from 7th to 14th May when 60 on 7th and 8th, 50 on 9th and 40 on 10th; smaller numbers to 11th June. Small autumn passage from 2nd October to 4th November.

**LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*. Small numbers on 9 days between 3rd April and 6th May, maximum 3 on 27th April. Small numbers from 6th September to 11th October, mostly one or two but 5 on 7th and 4 on 30th September. One to two rather pale birds from 3rd to 8th November.

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Up to 23 in winter; increasing to 50 at end of February and passage until 25th May, mainly until 14th April with peaks of 75 on 8th and 40 on 30th March. Autumn passage from 4th September, with a rapid build-up from 8 on 4th to 70 on 8th. Further peaks of 50 on 23rd September, 120 on 13th and 300 on 27th-28th October, 250 on 2nd-3rd November, big increase to 84 on 4th, 700 on 5th and up to 200 on other days in November; small numbers in December except 75+ on 26th.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*. Breeding population

slightly increased; visited the Observatory in spring and October but did not breed.

**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*. Four arrived on 5th May, increased to 7 on 6th, 17+ on 7th, 30 on 8th-9th, and 80 on 10th May. Nearly all gone by 15th, and about ten most days until further increases on 5th (16) and 11th June (28); another rapid departure and last seen on 23rd June (2).

## *Ringing*

The strong winds in the winter and early spring damaged the traps and we had to do major repairs on the Gully, Double Dyke and Observatory traps. The Plantation trap was redesigned and enlarged, and a new duck/wader trap was placed at Easter Lothar water. Mist-nets, elastic powered clap-nets and dazzling were again used successfully. We ringed good numbers of sea-birds from the boat, especially Kittiwake chicks by carrying a ladder with us in the boat and floating it ashore to place against the base of the cliffs and so get to nests which are usually just inaccessible.

In 1967, 5361 birds of 131 species were ringed with Fair Isle Bird Observatory rings, mainly at the island. Included in the grand total were 277 birds of 8 species, including four Snowy Owl chicks, ringed by Bobby Tulloch in the North Isles; 198 birds of 17 species ringed by Mike Carins at Sumburgh, included waders, terns and gulls dazzle-netted at night on the Pool of Virkie; 97 birds of 11 species, including 2 Great Tits and 3 House Martins, ringed by Magnus Sinclair in Unst and 180 birds of 12 species ringed by RHD in Shetland, including Mallard and Long-eared Owl, the latter a chick at Kergord. Another 202 birds of 12 species were ringed by RHD in the winter in Speyside; they were mainly tits and included 5 Crested and 11 Long-tailed Tits.

The monthly totals of birds ringed at Fair Isle in 1967 are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

	Mar/Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
No. of birds ringed	193	288	376	1211	874	639	505	311

The totals for the ten leading species in 1967 were Shag 848, Fulmar 483, Blackbird 403, Storm Petrel 264, Wheatear 254, Kittiwake 249, Guillemot 215, Rock Pipit 195, Redwing 189 and Meadow Pipit 159.

Species ringed for the first time at the island were Black-tailed Godwit, Nightjar, Shorelark, Sardinian Warbler and Cretzschmar's Bunting. Snowy Owl was a new species for

the British ringing list and Coal, Crested and Long-tailed Tits had not previously been ringed with F.I.B.O. rings.

Other unusual species ringed were Long-tailed Duck (2), Velvet Scoter, Glaucous Gull (4), Turtle Dove, Wryneck (4), Sand Martin, Black-bellied Dipper, Stonechat (2), Nightingale (2), Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler (7), Subalpine Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler (8), Richard's Pipit (4), Red-throated Pipit, Waxwing, Great Grey Shrike (5), Scarlet Rosefinch and Little Bunting.

The annual and cumulative totals are brought up to date in Table 2.

TABLE 2

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Birds</i>	<i>No. of Species</i>
1948-60	36334	166
1961	5656	111
1962	5754	125
1963	5863	120
1964	3795	106
1965	5017	123
1966	6311	130
1967	5361	131
Grand Total	74091	212

Table 3 gives the ringing totals for the individual species, together with the number of recoveries of each species away from Fair Isle, or in few cases from other ringing localities.

TABLE 3

	<b>Numbers Ringed</b>			<b>Numbers Recovered</b>		
	1948-66	1967	Total	1948-66	1967	Total
Slavonian Grebe	1		1			
Little Grebe	1		1			
Storm Petrel	942	264	1206	2		2
Fulmar	2549	483	3032	11	4	15
Gannet	125	107	232	1	2	3
Cormorant	5		5			
Shag	5165	848	6013	124	12	136
Heron	8		8			
Mallard	6	1	7	1	1	2
Teal	14	3	17	2		2
Wigeon	6		6			
Scaup	2		2			
Tufted Duck	5		5			
Goldeneye	2		2			
Long-tailed Duck	3	2	5			
Velvet Scoter	1	1	2			
Eider	39	3	42			

Red-br. Merganser	1		1			
Greylag Goose	4		4	1		1
White-front	1		1			
Pink-foot	1		1			
Barnacle Goose	1		1			
Whooper Swan	9		9		1	1
Sparrowhawk	55	2	57	9		9
Peregrine	5		5			
Merlin	109	8	117	12	1	13
Kestrel	20	1	21	3	1	4
Red-footed Falcon	1		1			
Quail	2		2			
Water Rail	120	3	123	2		2
Spotted Crake	2		2			
Corncrake	24		24	2		2
Moorhen	36	1	37			
Coot	6		6			
Oystercatcher	512	30	542	21	5	26
Lapwing	209	2	211	3		3
Ringed Plover	181	22	203	3		3
Little Ringed Plover	1		1			
Golden Plover	9	1	10			
Dotterel	2		2			
Turnstone	33	11	44			
Snipe	99	4	103	3		3
Jack Snipe	22		22			
Woodcock	106	7	113	5	1	6
Curlew	17	7	24			
Whimbrel	12		12			
Black-tailed Godwit		1	1			
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	2	8	2		2
Green Sandpiper	14	1	15			
Wood Sandpiper	7		7			
Common Sandpiper	22	3	25			
Redshank	68	31	99	1		1
Spotted Redshank	3		3			
Greenshank	3		3			
Knot	30	9	39			
Purple Sandpiper	61	6	67			
Little Stint	10	2	12			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Pectoral Sandpiper	3		3			
Dunlin	143	19	162	2		2
Curlew Sandpiper	1		1			
Sanderling	47	5	52			
Ruff	10	1	11	1		1
Red-necked Phalarope	3		3			
Bonxie	534	27	561	6		6

Arctic Skua	1097	2	1099	27	1	28
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Great Black-back	369	49	418	16	3	19
Lesser Black-back	303	37	340	5	2	7
Herring Gull	586	98	684	15	4	19
Common Gull	63	20	83			
Glaucous Gull	7	4	11	1		1
Iceland Gull	1		1			
Black-headed Gull	38	8	46	2	1	3
Kittiwake	283	249	532	1		1
Common Tern	12	4	16			
Arctic Tern	98	15	113		1	1
Razorbill	502	63	565	21	1	22
Little Auk	4		4			
Guillemot	582	215	797	18	3	21
Black Guillemot	389	62	451	4		4
Puffin	3702	89	3791	6	2	8
Wood Pigeon	20	1	21	2		2
Rock Dove	2	1	3			
Turtle Dove	12	1	13			
Collared Dove	9	1	10			
Cuckoo	34	3	37	1		1
Snowy Owl		4	4			
Long-eared Owl	35	2	37	2		2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Nightjar		1	1			
Swift	7		7	1		1
Great Std. Woodpecker	8		8			
Wryneck	42	4	46			
Short-toed Lark	2		2			
Shorelark		1	1			
Woodlark	1		1			
Skylark	363	17	380	2		2
Swallow	101	8	109	1		1
House Martin	36	3	39			
Sand Martin	1	1	2			
Raven	3		3			
Hooded Crow	23		23			
Rook	4	1	5			
Great Tit	2	13	15			
Blue Tit	2	95	97		1	1
Coal Tit		59	59			
Crested Tit		5	5			
Long-tailed Tit		11	11			
Treecreeper	2	1	3			
Wren	359	15	374			
Dipper	6	1	7			
Mistle Thrush	10		10			



Fieldfare	274	27	301			
Song Thrush	748	40	788	14	2	16
Redwing	2824	189	3013	36	1	37
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	113	19	132	1		1
Blackbird	8792	403	9195	164	6	170
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Wheatear	8458	254	8712	43	2	45
Black-eared Wheatear	2		2			
Stonechat	13	2	15			
Whinchat	262	13	275	2		2
Redstart	647	34	681			
Black Redstart	37	3	40			
Nightingale	3	2	5			
Thrush Nightingale	4		4			
Bluethroat	86	3	89	1		1
Robin	2260	66	2326	14	1	15
Grasshopper Warbler	23	2	25			
Lanceolated Warbler	3		3			
Pallas's Grass-						
hopper Warbler	1		1			
River Warbler	1		1			
Great Reed Warbler	2		2			
Reed Warbler	40	5	45	1		1
Marsh Warbler	19	1	20			
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1			
Thick-billed Warbler	1		1			
Sedge Warbler	131	20	151			
Aquatic Warbler	6		6			
Melodious Warbler	2		2			
Icterine Warbler	24	7	31			
Booted Warbler	2		2			
Blackcap	504	96	600	2		2
Barred Warbler	106	4	110			
Garden Warbler	768	118	886			
Whitethroat	384	41	425			
Lesser Whitethroat	157	6	163			
Sardinian Warbler		1	1			
Subalpine Warbler	6	1	7			
Willow Warbler	917	86	1003			
Greenish Warbler	5		5			
Chiffchaff	173	9	182			
Wood Warbler	18	1	19			
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1			
Arctic Warbler	10	1	11			
Yellow-browed						
Warbler	23	8	31			

Dusky Warbler	1		1			
Goldcrest	445	19	464			
Spotted Flycatcher	193	9	202	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	351	24	375	2	1	3
Red-br. Flycatcher	29		29			
Dunnock	501	34	535	3	1	4
Meadow Pipit	4273	159	4432	33		33
Tree Pipit	191	8	199			
Olive-backed Pipit	2		2			
Pechora Pipit	2		2			
Red-throated Pipit	1	1	2			
Rock Pipit	3577	195	3772	8	2	10
Richard's Pipit	3	4	7			
Tawny Pipit	1		1			
Pied/White Wagtail	283	11	294	3		3
Grey Wagtail	5		5	1		1
Yellow Wagtail spp.	8		8			
Citrine Wagtail	3		3			
Waxwing	13	1	14			
Great Grey Shrike	29	5	34			
Lesser Grey Shrike	5		5			
Woodchat Shrike	5		5			
Red-backed Shrike	42	1	43			
Starling	5905	154	6059	46	4	50
Rose-col. Starling	1		1			
Greenfinch	14	1	15			
Goldfinch	2		2			
Siskin	119	2	121			
Linnet	20	4	24		1	1
Twite	1796	63	1859	2	1	3
Redpoll	127	7	134			
Arctic Redpoll	3		3			
Bullfinch	8		8			
Scarlet Rosefinch	20	1	21			
Crossbill	263		263	2		2
Parrot Crossbill	35		35			
Chaffinch	507	37	544			
Brambling	307	18	325	1		1
Yellowhammer	18		18			
Corn Bunting	2		2			
Red-headed Bunting	4	1	5			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	2		2			
Ortolan	8		8			
Cretzschmar's Bunting		1	1			
Rustic Bunting	4		4	1		1
Little Bunting	10	1	11			
Reed Bunting	74	7	81	1		1

Song Sparrow	1		1			
White-throated Sparrow	1		1			
Lapland Bunting	35	1	36			
Snow Bunting	166	5	171	2		2
House Sparrow	787	27	814			
Tree Sparrow	14	15	29			
GRAND TOTAL	68633	5360	73993	726	69	795

### *Recoveries 1967*

Sixty-nine recoveries of birds ringed with Fair Isle Bird Observatory rings were reported during the year. Most of them are referred to below but full details will appear in the next Bulletin.

Four Fulmars were reported: one and two year old birds caught in trawling gear in the eastern North Sea in summer; a 1961 chick was found dead at Barmouth, Wales in July, and a 1966 chick was taken by Spanish fishermen at sea, east of Nova Scotia on 3rd April. A 1966 Gannet chick was taken off Spain in April and a third year bird found entangled in fishing net and released at Fair Isle on 8th August was found dead at Sanday, Orkney about ten days later. Reports of ten Shags came from Shetland (6), Orkney (2), Caithness and Edinburgh; and Fetlar ringed birds were found in West Yell and Unst.

A young Mallard ringed at Walls by RHD on 2nd July was shot locally on 7th October. A Whooper Swan ringed in March 1959 was found long dead in Orkney. An August 1957 Kestrel was recovered in Norway in 1960 and one of the chick Merlin ringed at Scalloway in July by RHD was found shot at South Nesting in August.

A 1951 Oystercatcher chick was shot in Lancashire on 25th January, nearly 16 years old. A 1964 chick was found at Portsoy in August and three 1966 chicks were reported from Norfolk in August, Plymouth, Devon, in April and Galway in September. A Woodcock ringed in April 1966 was shot in Ireland in December 1966.

An adult Great Black-backed Gull ringed on 8th November 1959 was shot in North Norway in July and first year birds ringed on 6th and 11th November 1966 were found in Sutherland in January and Durham in June. A 1960 chick Lesser Black-backed Gull was killed in Spain in September and a 1967 Sumburgh Head chick was caught in the southern North Sea in August. Four Herring Gulls were recovered, the furthest in Banff. An Arctic Tern was dazzle-netted and

ringed on 6th September 1966 and released at 1925 hours; at 1100 hours on 8th September 1966 it was killed at Orre, Jylland in Denmark. Only one skua was reported, an Arctic chick of 1962 found at Bressay in June.

A 1960 Razorbill chick was found dead in Norway in 1961. Three Guillemot recoveries were received; a 1959 adult, controlled at Fair Isle in 1966, was found dead at Whalsay in July; a 1964 adult was found dead at Fraserburgh on 28th January and a 1967 chick from Sumburgh had moved to Norway in October. A 1959 Puffin chick was found dead at Aberporth, Wales in May and a 1962 chick was found at Sumburgh Head in May.

An April 1966 Song Thrush was killed in France in November 1966 and an October 1966 bird was killed in Spain in October, a year later. A Redwing ringed on 12th April 1964 was found dead in Iceland about 20th April 1964. Six Blackbirds were reported from Norway (2), Denmark, Ireland (2) and Heligoland; the last bird was ringed at Fair Isle at 0650 hours on 27th April 1967 and controlled at Heligoland at 1315 hours on 29th April. 1966 juvenile Wheatears were found in Spain in August and North Ronaldsay in April. A Robin ringed on 9th April 1966 was killed by a cat in Belgium on 19th November 1966 and a Dunnock ringed on 25th April 1966 was controlled in the foothills of the French Pyrenees on 18th February.

Local Rock Pipit chicks of 1965 and 1967 were found in North Berwick in March and Kirkwall in September respectively. March 1963 and April 1965 Starlings were found dead in Denmark in September and Norway in June whereas November 1965 and October 1966 birds were found in Shetland in July and Kincardine in May.

Ken Walker of North Ronaldsay controlled three of our birds during the year; they were a Pied Flycatcher ringed on 9th September and controlled on 13th September; a Linnet ringed on 9th May and controlled on 14th May and a Twite ringed on 27th September 1966 and caught there on 12th May.

### *Ringed Strangers*

Four Storm Petrels were controlled at Fair Isle; they had been ringed at Foula in 1966 (2) and 1967 (2). A bird caught at Red Banks, Fetlar on 14th July by Bobby Tulloch had been ringed at Foula on 2nd September 1963. I controlled 25 ringed Storm Petrels at Mousa on 1st July 1967; one had been ringed at Foula on 8th August 1966 and the rest had been ringed at Mousa between 1958 and 1966.

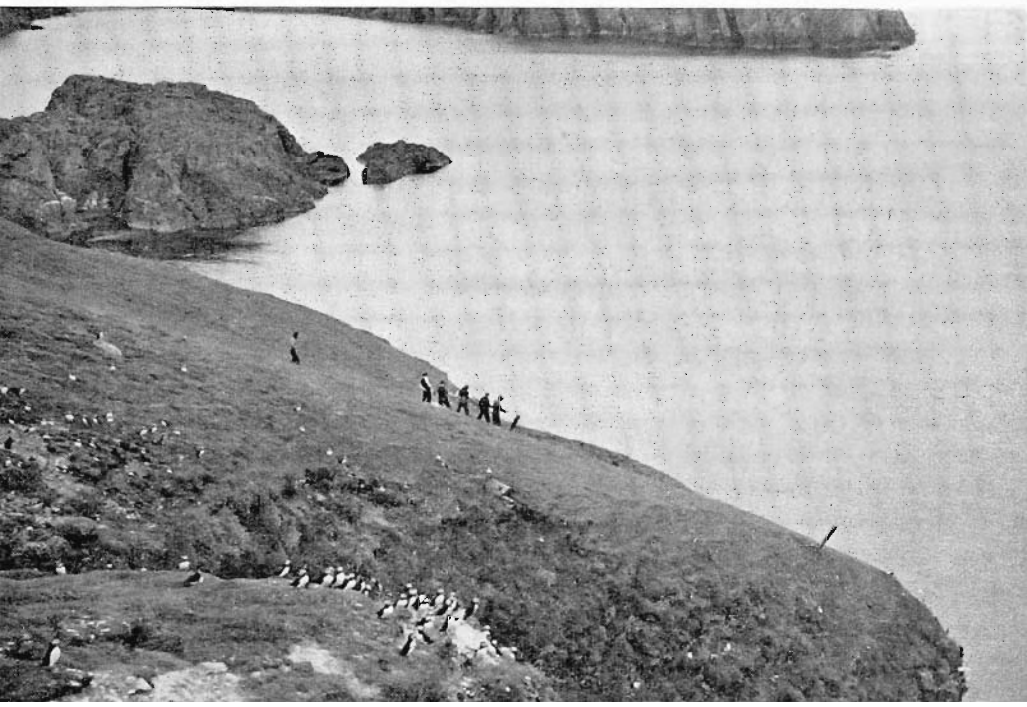




(Above) Sheep ready for rooin' in the makeshift cro'.

(Photographs by Jack Peterson, F.R.P.S., reproduced by courtesy of Oliver & Boyd Ltd.

(Below) Puffins and men—residents and interlopers—on the top of Sheep Craig.



## *Dead Birds 1967*

Since the beginning of 1966, I have kept a 'dead bird book' at the Observatory and all dead or dying birds recorded on the island have been noted in chronological order. Notes are made on age, plumage, place and cause of death if known. The results obtained so far have been interesting and a preliminary break down of the 1967 records are shown in the table below. The column headings refer to: A—killed or shot by man or against wires etc.; B—killed by bird or cat; C—killed at Lighthouse; D—oiled; E—found dead or dying in scrap fishing net; F—diseased; G—exhausted or starved; H—cause of death unknown; and I—monthly totals.

<i>Month</i>	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
March	3	3				1		2	9
April	6	2					5	5	18
May	5	13				1+	4	16	39
June	4	9		1	1	4	6	23	48
July	4	1			6	5	9	38	63
August	12	13			3	6	23	33	90
September	13	19	2	1		6	9	11	61
October	43	42		4		7	6	11	113
November	20	10		1		1	2	2	36
Total	110	112	2	7	10	31	64	141	477

The high figures in column A in September, October and November include geese, duck and Woodcock shot by islanders. The peaks in column B correlate with the passage of Merlins and Kestrels in May, August, September, October and November. It can be seen in column C that deaths at night at the lighthouses are minimal; the Fair Isle lighthouses have a good record for not killing migrant birds. Only seven birds were found oiled on the beaches, four of them in October; no oil traces were seen on any of the breeding auks and seabirds. The number of birds found dead or dying entangled in scrap fishing net is higher than expected and is probably due to the newer coullene nets which float. The birds get caught in small pieces of net which are scrapped and thrown overboard from fishing boats; Gannets and Shags are the usual victims and both these species have the habit of collecting brightly coloured bits of netting for their nests; a Manx Shearwater was also found killed in this manner.

Disease figures include gulls with puffinosis in the summer and early autumn and some Long-tailed Ducks in October; a Raven and a Hooded Crow were found with severely soiled and greasy skin and feathers, suggesting a dermatitis sort of complaint. It was often difficult to distinguish between

disease, exhaustion and starvation and the high numbers in July and August refer to chicks and newly fledged birds found dead with no external signs of death.

It was often impossible to arrive at the cause of death, see column H, but most of these birds were found washed up on the beaches, either intact with no visible signs of death or rotten or eaten by beach scavengers. In these latter cases one could not tell whether gulls and skuas had killed a seabird and eaten it, or whether they had eaten it after finding it dead in the water. Fresh adult carcasses of Gannet and Kittiwake were sent for post mortem analysis to Lasswade, and J. W. MacDonald reported that both were in poor condition with enlarged and inflamed kidneys suggesting death due to some stress factor.

Unusual deaths included a Hooded Crow suddenly attacked and killed by several other Hooded Crows in March; one Corncrake killed by a cat, another against telephone wires and a third found dead four feet from an Oystercatcher's nest and eggs; it was still bleeding from the bill and had severe lacerations on the flanks, back and rump, as well as a loss of feathers, and must have been killed by the Oystercatchers because it was too near the nest. Two Rock Pipits were drowned in a tar barrel and a ♀ Wren dead in a nest, at South Haven, containing one egg appeared to be egg-bound. Three Meadow Pipits, a Rock Pipit, a Redwing, a Starling, a Robin, a Robin or a Blackcap and a House Sparrow were noted as Great Grey Shrike prey; the sparrow was found impaled on barbed wire at the Haa.

### *Publications*

The annual report for 1966 was circulated to Friends of Fair Isle in August and the Bulletin Vol. 5, No. 7 was published in December. References to birds recorded at Fair Isle appeared in various ornithological journals and included the following:

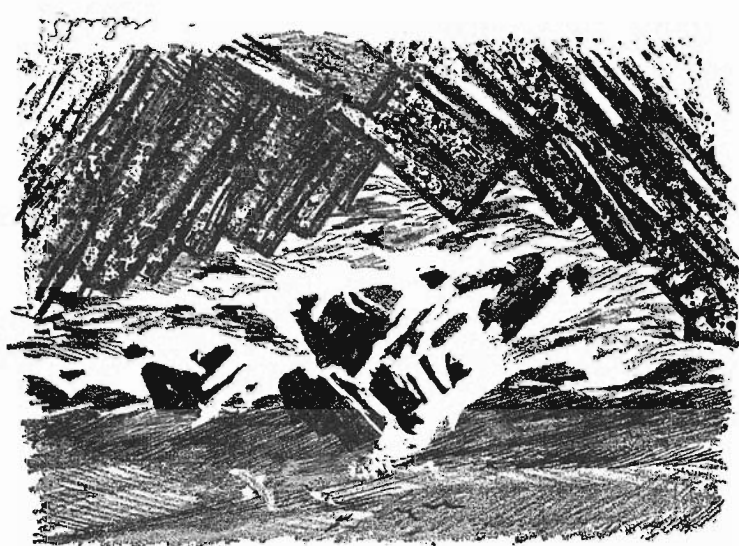
Dennis, R. H. Olive-backed Pipits on Fair Isle: a species new to Britain and Ireland. *Brit. Birds* 60: 161-166.

Dennis, R. H. Sardinian Warbler at Fair Isle. *Brit. Birds* 60: 483-485.

Dennis, R. H. Pallas's Warbler at Fair Isle—a new Scottish bird. *Scot. Birds* 4: 454.

MacDonald, McMartin, Walker, Carins and Dennis. Puffinosis in Fulmars in Orkney and Shetland. *Brit. Birds* 60: 356-360.







# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

