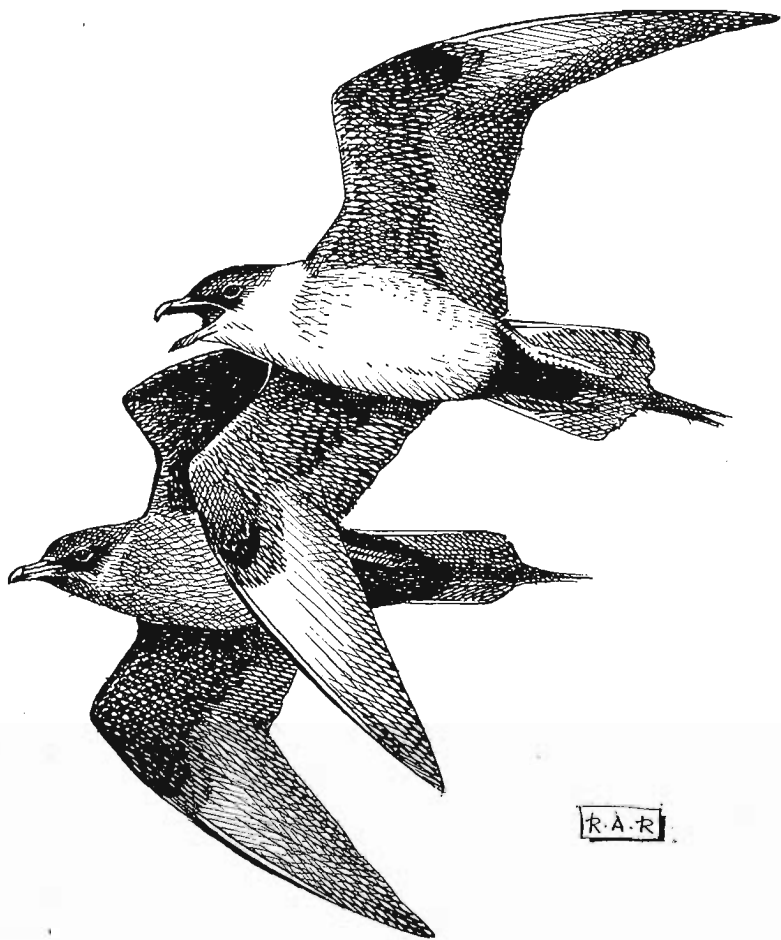


Fair Isle Bird Observatory

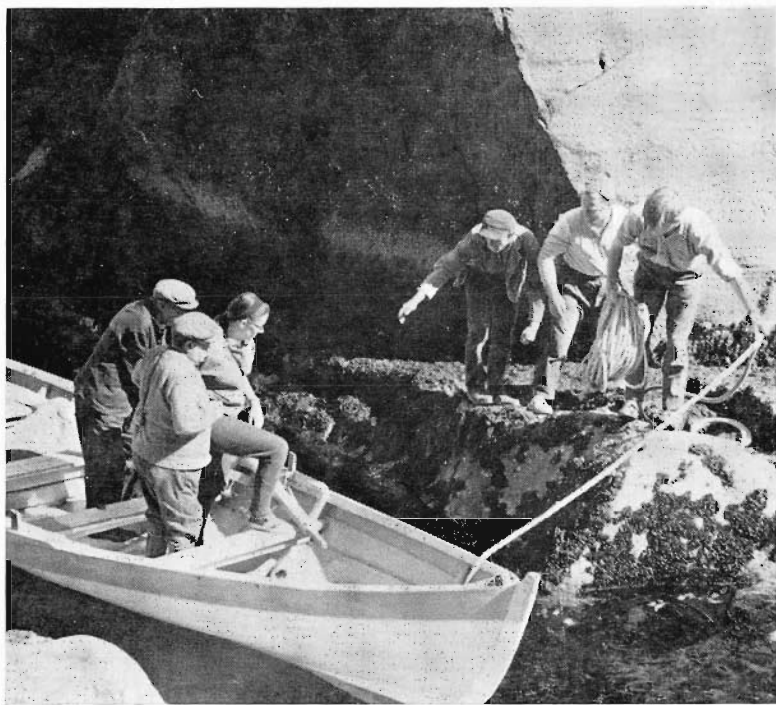
REPORT FOR 1971



PUBLISHED BY THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST
21 REGENT TERRACE, EDINBURGH, EH7 5BT
for "Friends of Fair Isle"



Crofts of Leogh



Landing at Sheep Rock

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 24

1971

Edited by the Warden, ROGER A. BROAD

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Foreword 	3
Treasurer's Report 	4
Warden's Report 	6
Systematic List 	17
Ringing Details 	41
Recoveries 	47
Ringed Strangers 	52
Recaptures 	54
The Fair Isle Mail Service	55
A Check-list of the Flora	57
Accounts 	71

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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 EH7 5BT.

FOREWORD

THIS year I have once again to chronicle with sorrow the death of one of the original trustees. Commander Sir Geoffrey Hughes-Onslow, R.N., died after a lifetime of service to his country and his native county of Ayr in the fullness of years and honours of which the most treasured was the Lieutenancy of Ayrshire an office most richly earned and filled with distinction. He had a special love of and interest in Fair Isle which has long had close associations with the Royal Navy strengthened by Admiral Stenhouse's long and fruitful association with the isle. On one of G.H.-O.'s visits he was greeted by the sight of an albatross wheeling over the Sheep Craig; an occasion he was wont to recall as preserving the link between the fabulous bird and the ancient mariner.

This year was the first under the wardenship of Roger and Judy Broad; the hopes and confidence which we all held in this appointment have been fully confirmed by the completion of a most satisfactory year. The number of visitors—human—fell a little short of what might have been expected in a normal year; one must remember however that at the time when the majority of our bookings take place the country was in the throes of a postal strike and many people who would have arranged to come to Fair Isle were unable to do so because of this disastrous dispute. Despite this the hostel had a thoroughly successful year and we look forward with confidence to a more normal year this year.

As you will see from the report the bird interest was as great as ever and there seems no reason to doubt that Fair Isle will remain as the ultimate in observatories from which to watch the flowing and ebbing tides of bird migration.

Some might say, and I would not disagree, that there are many and diverse appeals for help in the field of natural history and conservation. I do however commend our needs to you, for over the years the Fair Isle Bird Observatory has been run economically and successfully. There is no better field in which to invest than success.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN, *Chairman.*

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

Treasurer's Report

for the year ending 31st October 1971

This year, for the first time since we simplified our form of accounting, we are in a position to give you comparative figures under each heading for the previous year. The Revenue account, as was done last year, includes the Hostel account.

The year started badly due to lack of bookings for which the long postal strike was largely responsible, but picked up well in the later months.

I will, as usual, deal with the five individual accounts separately.

I. Revenue account.

Despite an increase in charges the return from board and booking fees was £500 down on last year. I think that the postal strike was in fact responsible for the drop but the gap was more than offset, whether by good luck or more probably good management on the part of Roger and Judy Broad, by a saving of £700 on Provisions. I understand that no one complained of underfeeding. Wages and National Insurance were down, but in 1970 there had been an additional assistant Warden and there may well have to be one again. Insurances, Heat and Light were much the same. Repairs and renewals were up, but some of this was in fact improvements. I have nothing else to comment upon on the expenditure side except that the figure of £10 for rings and nets is fortuitously low since a stock of rings on Fetlar was handed back. An annual figure of £75 is probably nearer the mark. The figure for Loan Interest is the true figure. Last year's figure of £145 was only for the initial period of 3½ months after payment became due. Legal fees in 1970 were high owing to exceptional items—a License Certificate and a Feu Charter.

On the credit side, apart from the drop in bookings already mentioned, the only comment I have is that the drop in Endowment Trust income is the result of having to show more than two years income in the 1970 figure. Arrangements with the Trustee Bank were not satisfactory and we have now transferred the account to Edinburgh with a view to getting easier co-operation and management.

The final result showed a surplus for the year of £229, but this included a donation of £200 from Mr William Watt, and it must be remembered that we have to meet, if possible out of

income, the annual repayment of capital to the Highlands and Islands Development Board in respect of their original loan of £9,500 towards the new Hostel building.

It is this Loan, now reduced by repayments to £8,550 that I am desperately anxious to repay as soon as possible, and I ask anyone who would like to help to do so now by a donation to the Appeal fund.

II. The Appeal Fund (carried to Balance Sheet)

There was a welcome addition to the fund in the form of a donation of \$3000 from the Colonial Research Institute in the Bahamas for which gift the Trustees are deeply grateful.

III. Capital Account (carried to Balance Sheet)

No change except for the addition of the revenue surplus for the year.

IV. Balance Sheet

The main items to note here are that we have made a further annual repayment to H.I.D.B. reducing the loan to £8,550; that the Appeal fund is up as a result of the generous donation referred to above; that the figure for fixed assets has been arrived at after depreciating Land Rover, Boat, Furnishings and Equipment and the Generator by a total of £612; and, lastly, that the net Current Asset position has improved by some £1,500.

During 1972 there will be considerable further expenditure on the Hostel furnishing and equipment which will leave us with a much reduced figure on deposit or in cash, unless we get more donations to the Appeal Fund. *I repeat that I would dearly like to pay off the remainder of the H.I.D.B. Loan, but there is no prospect of doing so immediately unless some generous benefactor boosts the fund. Please help if you can.*

V. The Endowment Fund

Little change in the figures but we have, as I mentioned, simplified our arrangements with the Trustee Bank both in regard to income control and investment policy. I might mention that since the date of this account we have sold the Grimsby Corporation stock and, I hope, reinvested more favourably as regards both income and future growth.

Finally, I should like to thank Mr William Watt for his generous donation of £200 to the Endowment Fund, in addition to the further similar gift to which I have referred earlier under Revenue.

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1971

ROGER A. BROAD

The Observatory was open from 3rd March to 8th December. Judy and I flew in from Shetland with my assistant Iain Robertson on the first date. Miss Christine Nicholls was cook for the season between March and November, and during the busy months, May-September, she was ably assisted by Miss Sally Girling. Stewart Thomson (Quoy) was caretaker for the season and kept an eye on the building during the winter months.

After helping Roy and Marina Dennis in their final season both Christine and Iain returned for a second year. With their previous experience of Fair Isle, they made our first year that much easier. We would like to extend our thanks to all our staff, for the co-operation and help they have given us through the year.

In the spring migration period, the Observatory was poorly manned, but this, we hope, was a singular occurrence caused by the extended G.P.O. strike which prevented many people from booking early in the season. Our busiest months were August and September but between the end of April and the beginning of December 276 visitors stayed at the Observatory for a total of 317 visitor-weeks. We were very pleased to welcome overseas visitors from America, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Austria. Of the trustees, George Waterston stayed at the Observatory and Dr Ian Pennie paid us a brief visit. We also received a day visit from the Highlands and Islands Development Board and the National Trust for Scotland led by the chairman of the HIDB, Sir Andrew Gilchrist and Lady Gilchrist. Mr J. C. Stormonth Darling (member of the FIBOT executive committee) was also amongst the party.

During the season several major alterations were made at the Observatory, in the light of previous experience. One of the 6-bed dormitories was partitioned to make a smaller 4-bed dormitory and a further double room. There has been a far greater demand for double and single rooms than for dormitory beds, and we hope that this will ease the situation. All the double and single rooms have been carpeted with wall-to-wall carpet tiles—an improvement that has been welcomed by everyone. Outdoor changes have included the extension of the service road and turning circle behind the link block and the reroofing of the garage with asbestos sheets.

Island Events

The winter of 1970-71 was one of the mildest on record at Fair Isle. The Good Shepherd was seldom delayed on its weekly crossings in winter and the island boys were unable to use their sledges for lack of snow. The spring was equally mild. The island community enjoyed an excellent year but the dry summer did have its drawbacks. Many of the water supplies dried up for several weeks and the islanders had to fetch water from other sources, further afield. It was a successful lambing season and the fat lambs fetched good prices on the Aberdeen market in the autumn. Two boats worked the lobsters and catches were generally very good. One disappointment was that no cruise ships called at the island during the year. However, Fair Isle knitwear is still very much in demand and the knitting committee had enough orders to keep them busy all winter.

Molly Wilson (Springfield) and Sandy Stout (Taft) were married in the autumn and are now both living at Taft. We would like to extend our very best wishes to them both. Three other happy events on the island were the births of Robert to Gwen and Bob Hunter (South Light), Serena to Sheila and Stewart Wilson (Shop) and Ewen to Catriona and Stewart Thomson (Quoy). Unhappily, Stewart Wilson's mother, who was formerly resident at Houll, died in Lerwick in the early part of the year.

Cmdr. Angus Wood, Nellie and Hamish moved temporarily to Noss in the spring, where Angus was responsible for ferrying people between Bressay and Noss. They have since taken a croft on Bressay and have given up the Haa House. The island was without its regular nurse, Mrs Sheena Mackinlay, for much of the summer, while she attended a course on the mainland. Mrs Pottinger—who has nursed previously on the island—filled the gap until Miss Smart came into the island and remained until Sheena's return. At the North Light there have been considerable changeovers; Will and Janet Wylie and their children have settled in Lerwick and Mike and Jennie McKinnon and Brenda have been posted to Rattray Head. In their places Mr and Mrs Dunsmuir and Ewan, and Mr and Mrs Arthur, Ivor and Ian have come to the island.

At the end of the year 40 islanders, including 3 children attending school full-time on Fair Isle were resident and the total population inclusive of light-house keepers, Observatory staff, school teacher, missionary, nurse and their respective families was 67.

The International Voluntary Service (IVS) again held working camps on the island, the parties staying in the renovated

fish store (Puffin Hotel) and working under Brian Wilson's supervision. They started by putting finishing touches to Field (which was last year's IVS project) and then began reconstruction work on the Houllcroft. By the end of the Observatory season, the old Houllcroft had disappeared, and a new structure had taken its place. Brian hopes to finish the interior of the bungalow himself and will move in when he gets married in July 1972. The IVS folk also made welcome contributions to the summer football matches and at the dances. Stewart Thomson and Neill (Shirva), Stewart Thomson (Quoy) and Alec Stout (Barkland) were much appreciated as the 'resident band' for all the dances.

Finally, but probably of most importance to the whole island community, through the efforts of many people, the crew have been promised a new boat to take the place of the old Good Shepherd, which has done grand service between Shetland and Fair Isle since 1937. I am sure that all intending visitors to the island will be glad to hear that the new boat should be in service by spring '72 and that she is expected to shorten the trip between Sumburgh and Fair Isle by 30 minutes to 2½ hours.

Acknowledgments

Judy and I are very grateful for the friendly welcome we have received in all the island homes. Similarly, we are all (staff and visitors alike) indebted to the islanders for allowing us access to their crofts to search for migrants, and for help in many other matters during the year. Our thanks must go to Gordon Barnes for his ornithological help, particularly for maintaining records during the winter months, to Will Wylie and Mike McKinnon for their help with our trapping, and to Digby Cyrus, who gave us a willing hand while we were treating the exterior of the observatory with wood preservative. Our thanks also to Captain Alan Whitfield and his wife, Viv, of Loganair, who did much to help us from Sumburgh, and to Richard Richardson for providing the excellent vignettes in this report. We would also like to thank everyone who has donated books or other gifts to the Observatory, or helped us during the past season, and finally to the Royal Scottish Museum for the continued loan of a collection of bird skins.

Ornithology

The year was not outstanding for 'falls' of small migrants either in the spring or the autumn; however, there was a steady trickle of birds throughout the year and many interesting species were recorded. Many of the rarities were obliging enough to stay on the island for more than one day, giving many visitors plenty of opportunity to watch and enjoy these

unusual species. During the year a record total of 199 species was recorded, including two additions to the Fair Isle list—a female Steller's Eider and a Gull-billed Tern. Other exciting species recorded included Leach's Petrel, Rough-legged Buzzard, Goshawk, Honey Buzzard (2), Osprey, Gyr Falcon, Spotted Crane, Pratincole, Long-tailed Skua, Snowy Owl, Bee-eater, Hoopoe, Short-toed Lark (4), Golden Oriole, White's Thrush, Thrush Nightingale, Great Reed Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Petchora Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Black-headed Bunting, Yellow-breasted Bunting (4), Rustic Bunting.

Monthly totals of species recorded during the Observatory season were as follows :

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
No. of species	71	116	142	99	79	92	125	116	82

Spring Migration

Few migrants were recorded in the first three weeks of March but on 7th 11 Herons, on the 8th 7 Black-tailed Godwits and on 9th a male Stonechat added interest. For the next 10 days the wind was predominantly northerly and the only birds of note were a Pied Wagtail on 14th, and Dunnock and Rook (2) on 16th. The wintering Snow Buntings peaked at 350 on 15th and the 17th was a little more interesting with 3 Shellduck, 2 Black-tailed Godwits and a Mistle Thrush. The wind then became more variable and although we found a Woodlark on 19th and Pintail (2) on 28th we had no real arrivals until 30th. On 30th the wind was SSE and low cloud covered the hill, rain showers made observation difficult but thrushes were seen moving into the trapping area in the morning. 300 Fieldfares, 100 Blackbirds, 70 Redwing and 5 Song Thrushes were counted and an estimated 1000 Starlings were recorded. Also seen were Siskin, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest (7). 11 Mallard and 12 Curlew were noted. March ended with the wind remaining from the SE, a single Grey Lag, 5 Whooper Swans, 8 Robins and an early Great Grey Shrike were seen.

During April the weather was mild and sunny for the first fortnight but birds were generally scarce. It became colder on the second half of the month with some snow showers and stronger winds. Gales were recorded on 5 days. On the first of the month the small movement that occurred in the last two days of March continued. Puffins were first ashore and Bonxie and Wheatear made their first appearances. Blackbirds increased to 150 and 17 Whooper Swans and a Stonechat were freshly arrived. For the next few days birds were fewer but not without interest, Slavonian Grebe on 3rd, Whooper

Swan (3) on 4th and Hawfinch on 4th. A small arrival was noted between 6th-7th with the wind SE, force 2-3 at first then decreasing and becoming force 0-1 and variable. On the 6th Moorhen, Dunnock (14), Ring Ousel and Bullfinch (3) were seen and on the 7th Merlin, Kestrel (3), another Moorhen, Collared Dove, Great Grey Shrike (2), Black Redstart, Robin (15), Brambling (53), Siskin (4) were noted and Starlings peaked at 1000. Then birds were again scarce, Sparrowhawk, Coot and Grey Wagtail on 11th, Great Grey Shrike (2) on 12th, an early Swallow on 13th and a Corncrake was trapped on 14th. Grey Lags (16) on 16th and a different Coot and Corn Bunting on 17th. Shoveler, Whinchat and the first Arctic Skua appeared on 19th.

The period 22nd-26th saw some renewed activity and we recorded several of the spring migrants for the first time this year. Wheatears increased to 40 on 22nd and also present were Swallow, Pied Flycatcher, Willow Warbler and Ring Ousel. The next day a brown-bellied Dipper was found at Hyukni Geo, and Turtle Dove, Tree Pipit, Blue-headed Wagtail, Grasshopper Warbler, Whitethroat and Redstart made their first appearances along with a single Ortolan. Many species increased overnight and a few others appeared—Kestrels (4), an additional Ortolan, White Wagtails (20), Willow Warbler (15), Wheatear (100), Lapland Bunting (4) and Brambling (60) all showed increases and new species recorded included Ruff, Wryneck, Sand Martin and House Martin and Waxwing. The trend continued on the 25th with further increases in some species, Ring Ousels (25) and Song Thrushes (45) were noticeably higher and Reed Buntings (30), Yellow Wagtails (4), Grasshopper Warblers (4) and Redstarts (7) all showed gains. The bird of the day was undoubtedly a female Snowy Owl between Setter and Hoini. 30 Ravens arrived on 26th and were far from welcome at the beginning of the lambing season. On the same day we noted the first Whimbrel of the year but, apart from Dunnock (20) and Robin (35) the majority of species remained the same or decreased.

These promising three days failed to build up into the main arrival; instead April fizzled out and the first three weeks of May slipped by without any significant numbers of small migrants being recorded. Nevertheless there were good birds still to be seen. 4 Wrynecks on 28th and a Waxwing on 30th saw April out. Black Redstart and 4 Mergansers were seen on 1st May. Hen Harrier on 3rd, on 9th a Nightingale was trapped and a female Steller's Eider was found at Furse. A male Black-headed Bunting on 12th, Bluethroat on 15th and Corncrake on 16th. Tree Sparrows increased to a maximum number of 37 on this date. A southern type Short-toed Lark was at Setter

on 17th, Wood Sandpiper on 19th, Moorhen and Bluethroat on 21st.

Visitors to the island in the last ten days of May certainly sampled the cream of the spring migrants. The wind went to the SE late on 21st and remained between E and SE almost to the close of the month. On the 22nd the week of rarities was heralded by a male Subalpine Warbler trapped in the Plantation, Collared Doves reached 7 and 2 Bluethroats and a Red-backed Shrike were found. The next day a Long-tailed Skua was seen and there were 2 Red-backed Shrikes and 3 Cuckoos. The main arrival of the week occurred on the 24th and migrants included Wryneck, Swallow (30), flava Wagtail (11), Red-backed Shrike (4), Sedge Warbler (10), Whitethroat (15), Willow Warbler (40), Pied Flycatcher (7), Spotted Flycatcher (40) and Redstart ((20). A total of 8 Bluethroats, Scarlet Grosbeak, Thrush Nightingale and Gull-billed Tern completed the day's tally. Many of the birds stayed to the following day when some species marginally increased (flava Wagtails, Sedge Warbler and Whinchat), only 5 Bluethroats could be found but 2 Corncrakes and a Hoopoe were now. (The Hoopoe may well have been one that was reported from the southern end of Shetland during the last few days). The weather on 26th was foul and driving rain made observation tricky but an Osprey found by Iain drew most people out. The weather improved on 27th but birds seemed scarce, many having moved on. A Pintail was newly arrived and House Martins increased to 60 and Tree Pipits to 10. Nothing notable was seen on 28th but a renewed arrival occurred overnight with many of the small migrants showing gains by the late morning. House Martins increased to 65, Garden Warbler (10), White-throat (20), Willow Warbler (70), Pied Flycatcher (6), Spotted Flycatcher (40), Whinchat (13), Redstart (20). A Great Reed Warbler was found at Haa. Many species decreased overnight but a female Marsh Harrier, Coot and Scarlet Grosbeak were found on the 30th.

Summer

June and July were pleasant months with some good, sunny spells. The wind was generally light to moderate, giving a certain amount of motion to the sea and making mist-netting less productive. We had to tailor our seabird ringing programme to those colonies that were accessible from the land and those on the east coast that we could reach by boat. Similarly, many otherwise suitable evenings for netting Storm Petrels were spoilt by the wind.

Seabirds seemed to have a good season. We checked several colonies more frequently than others, and at these selected

sites Guillemots were present in large numbers and were probably still increasing, but the mortality amongst the chicks and eggs seemed to be high. Kittiwakes were also extending their colonies and they had a very good breeding season, although some late chicks were lost in rough weather at the end of the summer.

Migrants during the two months followed the typical pattern with the late spring passage stragglers at the beginning of June and the return wader passage starting at the end of July, but it was a far from dull period. There was a good scattering of exotic species, an unprecedented Storm Petrel movement, a record build-up of terns and the threat of an oil slick in Shetland.

The Marsh Harrier stayed until 2nd June when Greenfinch and Grey Lag (6) were also seen, but pride of place must go to a Pratincole at Leogh. There were fewer birds from the 3rd but the Common Terns on the Stack 'o North Haven seemed to be settling in for a second year. On the 5th the Steller's Eider moved from Furse to South Haven where it could be watched from the Observatory. Red-backed Shrike, Whinchat and Grey Lag (3) were seen on 6th and a Short-eared Owl on 8th. A Long-eared Owl was picked up alive but coated in fulmar oil on 13th, also the last date that the Steller's Eider was seen. A Red-necked Phalarope was recorded on 18th and a second year Glaucous Gull on the 21st-22nd. Hirundines increased on 23rd with 8 Swallows, 6 House Martins and 2 Sand Martins, and there were 30 Swifts the next day. The month ended with a tremendous day on the 30th—we made our annual and very successful gull-ringing trip to the Sheep Rock in the morning and returned to learn of a Bee-eater in the south. We found it after lunch and a Golden Oriole. No sooner had we returned to the Observatory than we had a phone call telling us of a Honey Buzzard. The Bee-eater stayed for the whole of July and was last seen on 18th August, the Honey Buzzard was less fortunate—it died shortly after it was picked up in a very emaciated and fulmar-oiled state on the 6th. Following a NW gale, there was an unprecedented northerly movement of Storm Petrels past Slogar on 17th, with up to 20-30 passing per minute during the morning. A Green Sandpiper was also seen. A Marsh Warbler was trapped on 19th and wader passage began on 25th with Knot (8), Ruff, Bar-tailed Godwit and Turnstone (23). Sooty Shearwater (5) and Little Stint on 26th and Pomarine Skua on 27th. Common/Arctic Terns increased to 80 on 28th and reached a record 400+ on 29th. The majority were in family parties (presumably ex Shetland) and the whole flock was roosting near the South Light.

On 4th June a large oil slick was sighted off the east coast of Shetland and in the next day or so 1600 bodies were counted ashore. Fortunately the slick dispersed very rapidly and averted a larger slaughter. During the next few days the wind stayed between NE and NW and oiled birds still at sea would have been drifted downwind. On the 10th 21 bodies came ashore at Fair Isle, all were thickly coated with black oil, and most had been dead for several days. The majority were auks but a single Kittiwake and a Shag were also found. During the next 5 days a further 15 oiled birds were found. A total of 36 oiled birds found on Fair Isle is a very small figure but Fair Isle represents a tiny speck of land 25 miles south of Shetland. How many bodies were drifted past the island? How many sank? The final casualty list will never be known.

Autumn migration

The first week of August was notable for light winds and fog, the latter hampering observation. On the 1st, the terns at Skaddan again peaked at 400⁺ and nearby we found 13 Knot, 7 Dunlin and 14 Purple Sandpipers. The first autumn Willow Warbler was seen on 4th and the next day waders were again the main attraction. Turnstones peaked at 45, Sandlerling 9 and Green Sandpipers 6. Purple Sandpipers increased to 42 on 6th and a Honey Buzzard was seen.

In contrast to the first week, the next ten days were mainly sunny, and apart from a gale on the 9th the wind remained light-moderate, between NW and SW. A quiet period ornithologically, a single Goldcrest on 8th, 2 White Wagtails on 9th increased to 30 the following day. On the 11th a Short-eared Owl and 7 Grey Lags were seen and during the night we successfully netted for Stormies at a new site on the north cliffs; at Sheena Wheetha we trapped 89 Stormies and a Leach's Petrel. On the 12th a Wood Warbler was at Reeva and another was seen on 14th, when a Spotted Redshank was also on the island.

After a rather dull beginning to August, the 19th showed some signs of hope. The wind went to the SE late on the 18th and during the next morning the first Barred Warbler of the year was trapped and a second one seen shortly after. Willow Warbler, Whinchat, Blackcap and Garden Warbler were also recorded. A Little Stint was present on the 20th and Barred Warblers remained at 2. Both species increased by the 21st—Barred Warblers 3 and Little Stint 2. The 22nd was a lively day with Wood Warblers reaching 5, Barred Warblers 9 (5 trapped), Garden Warbler 20, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart and Whitethroat were also present. A Scarlet Grosbeak was found and a Great-spotted Woodpecker at Skaddan was hope-

fully chiselling the goal posts! An immature Red-necked Grebe was at Maver's Geo in the afternoon. Although misty on the next day a complete census was attempted and a few changes were noted. Only 7 Barred Warblers could be found but Wood Warblers increased to a maximum of 7. There seemed to be some changeover in Wheatears and additional records included Wood Sandpiper, Ruff (3), Pied Flycatcher (6) and Red-backed Shrike.

The remainder of the month was quiet. 2 Ruffs, 25 Ringed Plovers, and 2 Red-backed Shrikes on 24th. Wood Sandpiper on 25th, 70 Cormorants and Barred Warbler on 26th. On 28th White Wagtails reached 40 and 8 Greenland Wheatears were seen. On 29th Ringed Plovers reached 55. The month finished with a small arrival of continentals on 30th—10 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Goldcrests, 5 Whinchats and 2 Barred Warblers.

Apart from a settled, sunny spell with SE winds at the beginning of September the weather was variable during the month with periods of rain, fog and sun. For the birdwatcher the end of the month was a very profitable period.

A Scarlet Grosbeak and an unidentified bunting were seen on 1st. The bunting was relocated and with better views was identified as Yellow-breasted on 2nd. A Pomarine Skua and a Grey Phalarope were seen on 3rd. The Phalarope, which was at the seaward end of the gully was later mist-netted—a new species for the island ringing list. 2 Barred Warblers were found on 5th and increased to 4 on 6th. On this date several other species also increased including Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Wood Warbler (2), Garden Warbler (11) and Pied Flycatcher (15). A Water Rail and a Scarlet Grosbeak were seen on 7th and Turnstones peaked at 45 on 8th.

Some species were again moving on 9th and we recorded Wigeon (7), Velvet Scoter, Fieldfare (5), Whinchat (15) and Redstart (7). Common Gull came onto the island and reached 500 by the afternoon. A Spotted Crake was a Setter, amongst the newly cut corn and a Wryneck and 2 Reed Warblers were found. Wrynecks increased to 7 overnight and Sedge Warbler, Whinchat (20) and Blackcap (10) were further evidence of passage. Also on the 10th the second Yellow-breasted Bunting of the autumn was at Setter where it was later trapped. On the 11th 2 Yellow-breasted Buntings were on the isle but Wrynecks decreased to 1. A Redpoll, 2 Kestrels and 2 Merlins were also new.

The 12th-24th September was interesting for its trickle of birds but no 'falls' were recorded in this period. Pomarine Skua was seen on 12th, another Grosbeak on 14th, 3 Velvet Scoters, 2 Great Northern Divers and 2 Grosbeaks on 15th. An Arctic Warbler, 2 Barred Warblers, Wryneck and Grey Wag-

tail on 16th. On 17th Golden Plovers arrived in small parties during the day and by evening they totalled 60. On 19th Ring Ousel, Lapland Bunting (2), Teal (30) and Grosbeak and on the 20th 5 Barred Warblers and the season's fourth Yellow-breasted Bunting were found (a total of 4 Yellow-breasted Buntings in one season is a record for Fair Isle). A herd of adult Whooper Swans (7), 12 geese, Bar-tailed Godwit and mealy Redpoll were other species recorded on 20th. The following day several other winter visitors appeared—Brambling, Chaffinch, Siskin and Jack Snipe and a single Richard's Pipit were found. A freshly dead Stormie, still retaining some of its nestling down, was found at Setter.

The 25th-30th September was a period of considerable interest. Siskins increased to 17 on the 25th when the first Yellow-browed Warbler was seen. On the 26th a total of 9 Yellow-browed Warblers were counted, 2 Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Bluethroat were seen. A good passage of ducks and geese was noted with 62 Wigeon, 13 Teal, 35 Pink-feet and a record total of 46 Barnacle Geese. Common passerines were also much in evidence with totals of 2 Barred Warblers, 9 Lesser Whitethroats, 20 Willow Warblers, 8 Chiffchaffs, 13 Goldcrests, 20 Pied Flycatchers, 15 Redstarts, Red-backed Shrike, 100 Redwings and 22 Song Thrushes. Many of these birds remained until the next day when in addition, Little Bunting, Richard's Pipit, Velvet Scoter, Jack Snipe (5), Brambling (30) and Fieldfare (7) were seen. Lapland Bunting increased to 12, Robin to 20 and Redstarts to 38. Some of the common migrants showed further gains on 22nd—Barred Warblers (3), Blackcap (40) and Brambling (50). Yellow-browed Warblers were slightly decreased at 7 but a probable Rustic Bunting was at Setter, where 2 (eastern type) Short-toed Larks were also seen. A Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Reed Warbler were reported. The bird of the day on the 29th was a Petchora Pipit which was finally trapped at Shirva but 2 Ring Ousels, Great Grey Shrike and Red-breasted Flycatcher were also seen. A Spotted Crane was found early on the last of the month and later in the day many of the other rarities were re-found.

Wind reached gale force on 4 days in October, and storm force on two of these occasions; however, the month is likely to be remembered for its heavy goose passage. The month opened with the wind SW, force 4-5 and 56 Golden Plovers and a Water Rail were seen. On the 2nd 11 Grey Lags and ca 200 Pink-feet passed the isle, 3 Short-eared Owls were found and a Rustic Bunting was seen at Leogh and later trapped. A Grosbeak was also on the island. The following day Golden Plovers peaked at 75, there were 3 Merlins, 80 Redwings and 80 Snow

Buntings along with a single Red-backed Shrike and Barred Warbler. The latter was trapped and being the 27th caught this year, equalled the previous best year's ringing total. 2 Richard's Pipits and 2 eastern type Short-toed Larks and the Petchora Pipit were found. Snipe numbers rose to 25 on the 4th when 15 Grey Lags and 13 Pink-feet also appeared. 650 Redwings were on the island by the morning of the 5th and associated with them were 14 Blackbirds and 2 Ring Ousels. Bramblings (35), Great Grey Shrike, Yellow-breasted Warbler and Shoveler were newly arrived. The Redwings moved on during the night and only 50 were on the island the next day. 15 Whooper Swans flew over the isle on the 6th but pride of place must go to the immature Citrine Wagtail found at Field. A Spotted Redshank was seen on 7th.

A strong SW airstream became established on 10th and increased to gale force on 11th. On the 10th 2000 Greater Black-backed Gulls were resting ashore and next day large numbers of geese flew south over the island. Very few birds lingered on the isle. 44 Barnacles, ca 380 Grey Lags, 43 Pink-feet and a further 100 unidentified grey geese were recorded in the course of the day. 30 Whooper Swans were seen and Merlins peaked at 5. Goose passage continued on the 12th but, although smaller numbers were involved over the isle, counting was made difficult by birds lingering around the island. The majority were again Grey Lags (90) but a greater selection was recorded with 11 Pink-feet, 10 Brent, 6 Whitefronts and 8 Barnacles. The crew of the Good Shepherd also reported ca 300 geese heading south between Sumburgh and Fair Isle. 22 Whooper Swans, 8 Wigeon, 3 Tufted Ducks and 3 Mergansers were also moving during the day.

A Whinchat was seen at the Observatory between snow showers on 15th! Thrushes increased during the morning on 15th and 1300 Redwings, 20 Fieldfares and 20 Blackbirds were seen before the weather deteriorated and a storm blew up. With a calmer day on 16th we found Long-eared Owl, Water Rail, Great Grey Shrike, Woodcock (6), Goldeneye, Brambling (50), Jackdaw (5) and Snow Bunting (50). Redwings had decreased but there were more Blackbirds (200) and Fieldfares (60) and 7 Ring Ousels. A late Sedge Warbler and Barred Warbler were seen. By the 17th the corvid flock at Setter had risen to 5 Jackdaws and 6 Rooks.

The period 18th-23rd was a stormy spell and few birds were seen. 8 Long-tailed Ducks were recorded on 22nd and 1000 Common Gulls came onto the isle on the 23rd. A Great Grey Shrike and 300 Fieldfares were also new birds. Fieldfares rose again on the next day to 400 and 3 Great Grey Shrikes were

seen. 5 Merlins were on the hill where ca 25 Woodcock were found the next day.

Goldcrests were passing through the trapping area in small numbers all morning on the 26th and they contributed to the best day's passerine ringing of the year—61 birds! Blackbirds were also much in evidence. A Bullfinch was seen on 27th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 28th and 800 Fieldfares on 29th. On the 30th 3 Goldeneye, 2+ Long-eared Owls and a Black Redstart were found, and a Nightingale—this is the first autumn record of a Nightingale at Fair Isle. The last good bird of the month was a Little Bunting on 31st.

November was a stormy month with considerable rainfall and prematurely wintry spells. Bird watching was minimal, but the dark stormy nights gave us several opportunities for dazzling roosting gull flocks sheltering on the land. 8 Blackcaps and a Garden Warbler were present on the 1st and so were 2 Water Rails and 2 Long-eared Owls. A Waxwing was seen on 3rd, and a Little Bunting on the 4th was thought to be the same bird present on the last day of October, 2 Chiffchaffs were seen on 5th. 7000+ Herring Gulls were ashore on the 6th and at least 7 Glaucous Gulls were amongst them. A pair of Bullfinches and a Richard's Pipit were also seen. Snow Buntings peaked at 180 on 7th and a Grey Wagtail was first seen on 10th. Black Redstart on 11th and a Little Bunting on 12th. Many hundreds of Guillemots were on the sea beneath the Sheep Rock on the 12th and a few were ashore. A single Bullfinch on 12th, Woodlark on 17th when 12 Whooper Swans and 7 Grey Geese were also seen. A further 13 Whoopers were present on the 19th, when 5 Barnacle Geese and 9+ Glaucous Gulls were seen. Up to 2 Bullfinches were seen on several days to the close of the Observatory and a Goshawk was found on 25th. Waxwing on 29th November and 3 on 1st December when 2 Long-eared Owls and late Siskin and Blackcap were also seen. The Goshawk which was feeding mainly on rabbits during its stay was trapped in the Vaadal on the 3rd—a new ringing species for Fair Isle and the last but one bird to be handled during the season.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. Two on 15th September, one on 27th September.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. Singles on 9 days between 13th May and 31st July. 2 on 11th and 29th June and 30th July. 2 on 16th September. Unidentified divers, thought to be of this species, were seen on 6 occasions; 3 in June, 1 in August, 1 in September and 1 in October.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*. A juvenile seen at Maver's Geo and South Haven, 22nd-24th August.

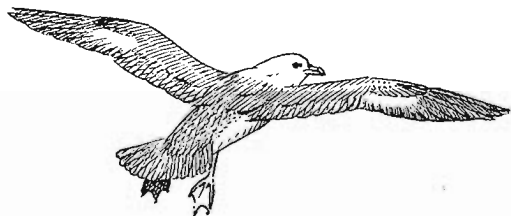
SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. One in summer plumage in South Haven, 3rd April.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One trapped at night on 11th August (Sheena Wheetha). Seen once on the crossing, 3rd November.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Seen ashore at night between 16th May and 22nd August. Birds trapped at Gunnawark, Sheena Wheetha, Kirn 'o Skroo and Buness, but no positive evidence of breeding, although a juvenile was found freshly dead at Setter on 24th September. Seen in small numbers on the crossing 18th June-5th October. An unprecedented northerly movement observed from Slogar 17th July after North Westerly gales.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*. Two on the crossing 6th April, 25th May, 4th and 23rd July. Singles on the crossing on 4 days at end of July and August. From the island, singles on 24th July, 18th, 19th and 23rd August. 7 on 25th July and 2 on 24th August.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*. Small numbers seen from the island and on the crossing, mainly August and September. First seen on the crossing 24th July and from the island 26th July. Maxima of 13 on 26th August and 7 on 5th October. The last birds seen were on the crossing: 3 on 21st October and 1 on 3rd November.



FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. Seen ashore in good numbers all months of the year with absences during rough weather in the winter months. First egg found 18th May. First chicks hatching on 3rd July. Average breeding season. Blue phase birds were seen on 24th July, 20th-21st August and 15th September. Exceptional numbers were seen from the Good Shepherd, feeding around concentrations of green plankton on 29th June.

GANNET *Sula bassana*. Monthly counts as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Maximum offshore	150	1	5	3	4	30	200	200	90
No. of days seen	6	1	3	4	3	8	15	28	30
	Oct	Nov	Dec						
	200	3	3						
	23	6	2						

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Singles on 17th and 26th January. Small numbers in spring, recorded on 12 days between 28th March-2nd June, maximum of 3. Singles on 3 days in July, 2 on 27th July. Autumn movements from 7th August, large numbers in last week of August, 70 on 26th and 75 on 28th. A second peak in the second week of September, maximum of 80 on 10th, smaller numbers for the rest of September and October with stragglers in November and December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Nest material carrying from 7th February. First eggs seen on 4th April (c/2) and fully fledged young were seen in the water first on 5th June. A good breeding season.

HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Singles on 3 days in March and 2 on 30th. 11 on 7th April and singles on 18th and 30th. Singles on 10th and 24th May, and on 4 days in first half of June. Autumn passage; small numbers regularly from 12th July-9th November, with maxima of 4 in second half of July, 10 on 22nd August, 6 on 30th August, 8 on 12th and 12 on 26th September. One seen on many days from 11th November to the end of the year.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. Small numbers (1-4) on 30 days between March-June, but 11 on 30th March and 8 on 7th April. 1-5 many days from 25th July-27th November and 7 on 26th October. Singles on 7th and 16th December.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. Recorded on 4 days in April (1-3), 4 days in May with maximum of 5 on 18th. 8 on 1st and 1-4 between 2nd-12th June. Single on 1st July. Autumn passage from 4th August-16th November, majority in September with high counts on 9th (12), 19th (30) and 26th (13).

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. 3 drakes on 11th and 21st March and single drake on 18th April. Singles on 10 days in May with 2 on 5th. Autumn passage from 9th September-11th November, mainly end of September and beginning of October. Peak of 62 on 26th September, otherwise less than 10.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. A pair on 28th March. 1-2 between 27th May-2nd June.

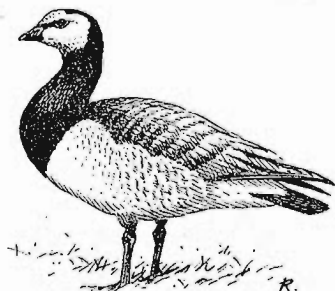
- SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*. One on 19th April and a female 5th-7th October.
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A pair on 4th and 7th May. Singles on 9th, 10th and 12th May. Single on 17th September. 3 on 12th and 1 on 14th October.
- GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. 1-2 daily, 28th March-13th April. Singles on 8th May and 7th June. Autumn birds; 1 on 16th-17th October then regularly (1-4) 29th October-1st December; the majority were males. 1-2 on several days in December.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. One on 3rd and 2 on 16th January. Singles on 3 days in April, 5 days in May and on 10th June. 1 on 22nd-24th August. Most days between 6th October-13th November with maximum of 8 on 22nd October.
- VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. A drake on 9th, 3 on 15th and a drake on 27th September.
- COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. Female on 2nd April and another from 29th May-20th June. A male 13th-20th September. 3 on 23rd September. A female on 28th September.
- EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Normal numbers resident but extended breeding season. First eggs seen on 18th May (c/2) and first brood on sea on 8th June. Some birds still incubating at beginning of July and newly hatched chicks at sea in second week of July. Autumn flocks of at least 500 in October.
- STELLER'S EIDER *Polysticta stelleri*. A female 9th May-13th June. Mainly at Furse but towards the end of its stay it moved to South Haven. First island record.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. 2 on 25th January, 2 on 28th March, 1 on 1st April, 1-4 recorded on 11 days between 19th April-5th May, 2 on 13th May. Singles on 7 days in June, 2 on 29th and 3 on 30th. 1 on 16th July. 1-3 on scattered dates 19th September-18th November.
- SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. One on 4th and 3 on 17th-18th March. 2 on 20th May-7th June when one bird found dead, the other last seen on 19th June.
- GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. 9 on 1st-2nd January. Single on 31st March. 16 on 16th, 3 on 17th, 14 on 18th reduced to 13 on 19th and 5 on 20th April. Small numbers until the end of the month, but 11 on 25th. One between 28th April-13th May, then 2-7 until end of May. 3-6 birds recorded on 5 days in June. Autumn migrants from 13th September-19th November. Singles on 3 days in September; seen on 20 days in October, usually less than 20 but 380 on 11th and 90 on 12th. Seen on 10 days in November, all singles except 10 on 5th and 7 on 17th. 2 on 28th December.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. 6 on 12th October.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*. 5 on 31st January (G. J. Barnes).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. September; 12 on 17th, 35 on 26th, 4 on 27th and singles 29th-30th. October; peaks of 200 on 2nd and 43 on 11th otherwise 1-13 between 3rd and 18th.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*. 10 on 12th October.



BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. In September, 46 on 26th and 35 on 27th. 44 on 11th, 8 on 12th and a single on 17th October. 5 on 18th November.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. 2 on 1st February, 5 on 31st March, 17 on 1st April, 3 on 4th and a single 28th-30th April. 7 adults on 22nd September. October; 15 on 6th, 3 on 7th, autumn maximum of 30 on 11th, 14 on 12th, then smaller numbers daily until the end of the month, except for 16 on 18th. November; an immature 1st-5th plus 5 others on 3rd, 12 on 17th, 13 on 19th and 6 on 24th.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus bewickii*. 2 on 7th-15th January.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*. One on 25th May feeding on a rabbit at Easter Lothar and seen later at Reeve.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. Spring; singles on 8 days in April (mainly end of the month). Singles on 9th and 17th May. Autumn; 1-2 from 28th October-6th November (at least four individuals).

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. A young male which arrived on 24th November was trapped in the Vaadal on 3rd December and was still present at the end of the year. The first to be ringed on Fair Isle.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One arrived on 30th June, seen daily until caught on 5th July. It was fulmar-oiled and in a very weak and emaciated state and it died the next day. A very dark individual seen on 6th August.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. A female on 3rd May.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*. A female 30th May-2nd June.



OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One on 26th May.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus*. A male on 17th April (G. J. Barnes).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Seen all months of the year with maximum of 2 on any day, but at least three individuals (2 males and a female). No evidence of breeding obtained.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. Very few spring records. One on 7th April, singles on 4 days in May. Autumn birds from 10th September-2nd December, mainly October. Usually 1-3 birds but 4 on 14th and 5 on 11th and 24th October.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. Spring passage 1st April-12th June in three phases; 1st-12th April (1-3), 22nd-30th April (1-4) then scattered singles 22nd May-12th June (1-2). Late single on 24th June. Autumn passage: single on 3rd August but main movement from 19th August-12th November. Maxima of 3 recorded on 7 days during this period. One was seen on several days between 29th November and the end of the year.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. 2 on 10th January and singles on 26th January, 29th March and 21st May. One on 7th and 2 on 19th September. Singles recorded on 9 days in October, but 4 on 30th and 3 on 31st. 1-2 on 12 days in November.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*. One at Setter on 9th September and one trapped in the Plantation on 30th September. 4th and 5th records for Fair Isle.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. One trapped in the Vaadal on 14th April. One on 16th May, 2 on 25th and singles on 26th, 27th and 31st. No summer or autumn records.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. 1-2 on 8 days in April. One on 21st May.

COOT *Fulica atra*. Singles on 11th and 16th April and one from 30th May-7th June.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. First seen on 13th February (1) but few until early March, 22 on 9th. Breeding as usual: first eggs noted on 14th May (c/3). Decrease noted during August but 50 together on 25th. Further decrease through September and numbers down to 5 by 22nd and 3



PLATE 1. (Above) Steller's Eider ♀ First record for Fair Isle. *Photo by Dennis Coutts*

PLATE 2. (Below) Reconstructed Plantation Trap.

Photo by Roger Broad

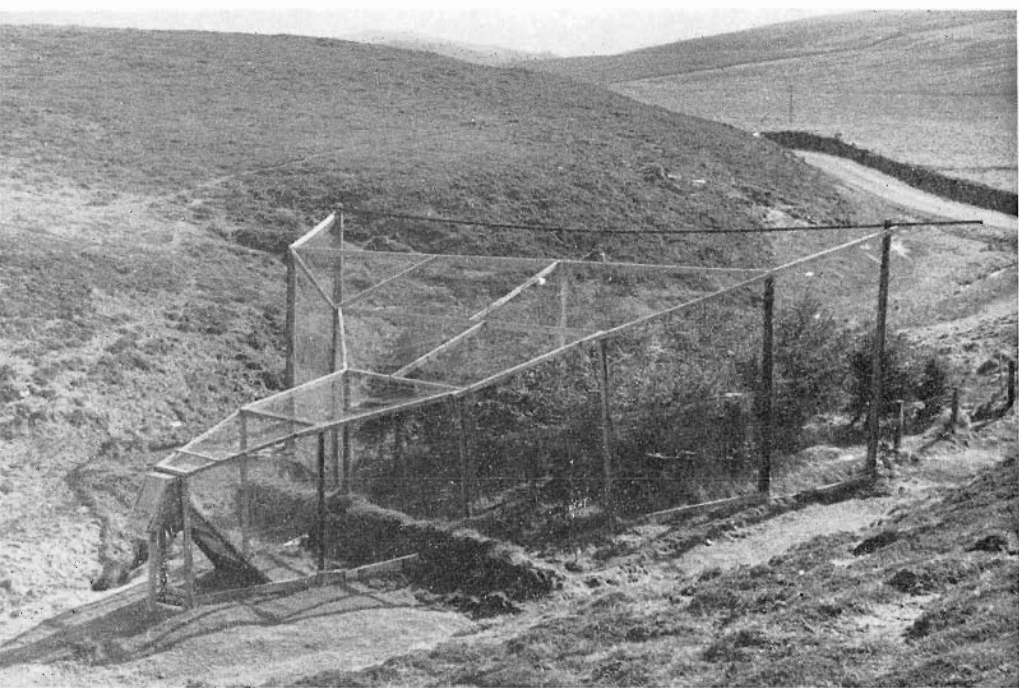
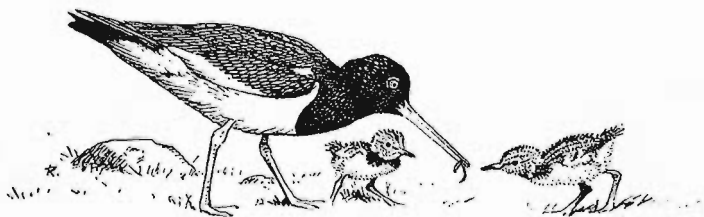




PLATE 3. Flit-boat plying between the *Good Shepherd* and the old pier, 1949.

Photo by John Topham



by the end of the month. Up to 5 in October and 1 on 1st November.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. 2 on 10th-11th January. 2-4 in February but 28 on 23rd. Recorded regularly in March-June with 30-35 on 5 days in March and peak of 50 on 1st April. Smaller numbers for the rest of April-June. Scattered July records involving 1-12 birds. Autumn movements from beginning of August, but rather sporadic, peaks of 16 on 4th-5th August, 40 on 26th September, 20 on 3rd October and 10 on 4th November. Singles recorded until 5th December.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Singles on 5 days in January-February but 2 on 24th January. One on 4th March, increased to 6 on 6th, 7 on 14th. Lower numbers through April. Small increase again in May with 13 on 16th. Three pairs bred on Bunes and first eggs noted on 16th May (c/4), one pair Pylie and one pair on the Rippack. Autumn numbers increased at the beginning of August, 17 on 4th, 40 on 5th, 26 on 7th, and peaked again at the end of the month with 50 on 27th and 55 on 29th. September numbers 20-44 at beginning of month, decreasing to less than 10 by the end of the month. Except for 11 on 5th and 14 on 9th a further decrease to 1-2 by mid-October. One remained on Bunes from 25th October-2nd December. 2 on 5th and one on 17th December.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. One on 28th-30th September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricarius*. One on 10th-14th January. Small numbers from 25th March-29th April (1-5), increase noted at beginning of May, 4-12 during first two weeks of May then scattered records until end of July. Numbers built up slowly to peak of 34 on 28th August. Another peak of 60 on 17th September and then numbers remained at 20-40 until the end of the month. Influx on 1st October (57) increasing to 75 on 3rd. Numbers then dwindled to the 31st October. One on 4th December.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Up to 8 in January. No February records. Regular in March from 8th until 2nd June, maxima: March 18, April 13 and May 12. One on 9th July

then numbers increasing at beginning of August with 45 on 3rd, 43 on 6th and 40 on 14th. Less than 25 for the rest of the month and in September, except for peaks of 34 on 1st and 45 on 8th September. Maxima of 35 in October, 40 in November and 36 in December.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*. Numbers not exceeding 5 in January-April. Seen more frequently in May with perhaps 1 or 2 pairs breeding. Larger numbers in autumn from the end of August, with peaks of 20 on 9th September, 20-25 between 2nd-4th and 15 on 23rd October. Fewer in November, and recorded only occasionally in December.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minima*. One spring record—6th May. Scattered autumn records from 6th September-11th November. Peaks of 4 on 25th and 5 on 27th September. 3 on 3rd October.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. Singles on 3 days in January and once in February and three days in March. 2-5 in first week of April. Singles on 12th and 27th May. One injured bird on 28th June-5th July. Very few in autumn, passage from 16th October, infrequent in November. Peaks of 25 on 27th and 20 on 29th October.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. A few winter records—2 days in January (1-4), 22nd February (3). Regular in spring from 6th March; some present all summer but no breeding records; autumn birds becoming infrequent by November. One on 1st December. Monthly maxima: March 12, April 11, May 12, June 10, July 24, August 17, September 10, October 6, November 4 and only singles in December.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Spring passage from 26th April, maxima of 7 on 5th, 8 on 17th and 20th May and 7 on 2nd-3rd June. 1-2 recorded sporadically at end of June and July. Small numbers in autumn, August-28th September. Maxima of 6 on 25th August, 4 on 9th September, otherwise only singles in September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. 7 on 8th and 2 from 17th-21st March.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. 2 on 3rd January. One on 8th May. One on 25th July. Singles on 2nd and 22nd September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. One on 3rd May. Good numbers in autumn, recorded on 37 days from 17th July-12th September with maxima of 3 on 31st July, 5 on 4th and 6 on 5th August.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. Singles on 19th, 24th and 29th May. One on 31st July, 23rd and 25th August.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Spring movement from

1st May-4th June. 1-3 birds daily, but 6 on 24th May. Scarce in autumn, passage from 25th July-11th August, maxima of 5 on 30th July and 4 on 10th August.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. 1-2 wintering birds January and February, but 10 on 10th January. Small increase in March, maxima of 10 on 7th and 15 on 31st. 10 was the highest count in April and 15 in May. 1-2 sporadically until the beginning of July. Variable numbers in July with peaks of 19 on 15th and 26 on 29th. August maximum of 32 on 5th and 28th. Numbers a little lower in September, October and beginning of November, except for 63 on 8th September. Decrease noted at end of November and only 4 present on 2nd December.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. Singles on 14th August and 7th October.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. One on 13th May. Single birds in autumn on 18 days between 3rd August-25th September.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Autumn birds recorded from 25th July-24th September. Highest counts of 13 on 1st and 2nd August.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Wintering maxima: January 8, February 7 and March 20. Maximum of 19 in April and 18 in May, last spring date 22nd May. Autumn dates from 16th July (1) then increasing to 29 on 29th and 42 on 6th August. Maxima of 29 in September, 12 in October, 19 in November and 15 in December.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One on 26th-28th July. One on 20th and 2 on 21st August.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. 3 on 10th and 1 on 23rd January. One on 11th-12th and 2 on 30th March. Singles on 1st, 2nd, 4th, 12th and 3 on 7th April. Recorded from 4th May-11th June with maximum of 8 on 5th June. Singles on 28th June and 7 days in first three weeks of July. Main autumn passage from last week of July-22nd September. Peaks of 14 on 2nd, 16 on 28th and 17 on 30th August and 3rd September. 1-2 from 13th-21st October and one on 4th November.

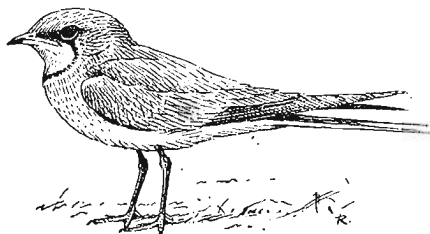
SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. One on 10th-15th and 21st-23rd January. Recorded on 4 days in spring, 1 on 2nd April, 2 on 4th, 1 on 12th and 23rd May. Return passage from 31st July (3) to 28th September, maximum of 9 on 5th August.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. One on 24th and 2 on 25th April, one 1st-2nd May. Small numbers in autumn, singles on 25th, 28th and 31st July and 2nd-3rd August. 1-4 from 22nd August-3rd September.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*. One off Skaddan and another mist-netted in the Gully on 3rd September. The ringed bird (the first to be caught on Fair Isle) remained

until 8th September. 2 phalaropes seen off Skaddan on 4th September were probably of this species.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. One seen off the North Gavel on 18th June (J. Stout and J. Wilson).



PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*. One stayed at Leogh for most of the day, 2nd June. Previously recorded in May 1934 and 1935.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*. First bird seen on 1st April, increased to 14 by 17th. 12 pairs bred. Numbers decreased from beginning of September, but 1-2 birds present at the end of October. Last recorded 7th November.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. First arrival on 19th April increased to 8 on 21st, 15 on 27th and 40 on 4th May, after which numbers built up to strength rapidly. Average breeding season. Decrease noted in August but 1-2 regularly in September until 20th.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Singles on 4th September and 12th September.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudatus*. One on 23rd May beside the North Light Road (G. J. Barnes).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Winter maxima of 1500 in January (18th and 23rd) and 500 in February. Maxima for March and April, 400 and 500 respectively. Breeding season as usual, average success. Increase noted in autumn 21st-22nd September (700-1000). During October peaks of 2000 on 10th and 22nd. November peaks of 1000 on 13th and 2000 on 21st, and 1000 recorded on 20th-21st December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. First arrival on 8th April, 6 on 11th. 25-30 pairs bred, successful breeding season, 67 large chicks ringed. Decrease noted at the end of August with very few remaining in September, last seen on 23rd September.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Winter flocks ashore in January peaked at 2000 on 18th and 1000 on 23rd. February maximum of 300. March maximum of 500 on 1st. Next large influx 14th-20th April with 1000-3000 birds ashore. Breed-

ing season as usual, good success rate. Storm driven birds ashore during the end of October. November maximum of 7000 on 6th, 1000 on 13th and 800 on 18th-19th. Up to 1000 ashore in December.

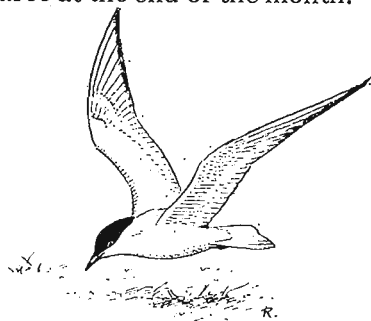
COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Small numbers seen in January, exceptionally 50 on 18th. 2 on 13th February. Small numbers in spring from 17th March with maxima of 20 on 30th March, 19th April, 23 on 18th May. Small numbers recorded through the summer. Variable autumn numbers increasing from the end of July. Maxima of 300 on 8th, 150 on 24th August, 500 on 9th, 260 on 26th September and 1000 on 23rd October. Regularly recorded until 13th November then a few to the end of the year.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. One 12th-17th, 44 on 18th and 2 on 21st January, one on 1st February. 1-2 on 6 days in March and April. One on 4th May. A second year bird 21st-22nd June. One on 18th August. Small influx from 22nd September; an adult on 4 days in September, 1-2 on 8 days in October and recorded on 15 days in November, with maxima of 7 on 6th and 9 on 19th. One on 30th December.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. Five records; 26th January, an adult on 28th March, 1 on 23rd April and an adult on 5th October and one on 20th December.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. 4 on 10th January, then small numbers from 18th March to the end of May (mainly May). More sporadic in June. Passage birds more regular from July to September. Scattered records October-November. Monthly maxima: March 8, April 21, May 30, June 6, July 24, August 25, September 8, October 3, November 3 and December 1.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Some birds occasionally ashore from 5th February, regularly from beginning of March. Breeding population still expanding. Most nests contained completed clutches by 18th May. Decrease noted ashore from August but seen regularly offshore until the end of November, though scarce at the end of the month.



GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*. One present between 24th-29th May, seen at all the cultivated strips at the south end of the island. First island record.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. 2 arrived on 21st May, joined by two others on 2nd June. 1-2 remained until 24th June but did not breed. See Common/Arctic Tern. Last date recorded in autumn was 13th September (2).

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. Two on 13th and 3 on 31st May. See Common/Arctic Tern. Last seen in autumn on 22nd August.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN. Autumn passage from 23rd June with 1-20 birds daily until 25th July. Numbers then increased rapidly with arrival of family parties, numbers rising to 400+ on 29th July and 1st August. Of these the majority were Arctic Terns approximately in the ratio 5:1. Numbers decreased slowly from 8th August until 22nd August.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. A few birds ashore from end of February and ashore regularly from beginning of March. Normal breeding season. On 9th June the majority were still incubating but a few chicks 3-4 days old. Decrease noted from mid-July and last seen ashore on 18th August. Seen offshore in small numbers in October and on crossing in October and in November on 3rd and 20th.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. c.100 seen from the Good Shepherd in January. One very early bird on the crossing 3rd September then seen on the crossing from 10th November. 3 seen off Sheep Rock on 2nd December.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Ashore sporadically from 10th January, through February and in large numbers in March. Breeding population continued to maintain its high numbers. Majority with chicks first week in June. Decrease noted in July and last birds seen ashore in first week of August. Small numbers seen offshore in September and October. 6 birds ashore and hundreds on the sea around the Sheep Rock on 13th November, also seen ashore on several days in December. Seen regularly on the crossing in October, November and December.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*. Resident, but no overall change noted.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. Seen on the crossing on 14th January and 16th February. 2 offshore on the 14th March and 2 on the crossing on 16th March. 7 ashore on the 1st April, 100 on 2nd then numbers built up quickly. Breeding population still high, and season as usual, first adults carrying fish to burrows noted on 4th June. Decrease observed from beginning of August and very few remaining to the end of the month. 1-3 seen sporadically during the first two weeks of

September. Small numbers seen on the crossing in October and 6 on 3rd November.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*. Singles on 25th-26th, 31st March and 23rd April. One 29th November-2nd December.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Maximum flock size of 15 in February-April, May 22, June 11, July 7, August 11, September 16, October 23, November 46 and December 18.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*. Spring passage from 17th March-11th June, with maxima of 7 on 25th-26th April, 9 on 2nd-3rd and 14th May. Singles 6th-7th July and 8th August. Majority of autumn records in October. Single on 26th September, 4 on 5th October decreased to 1 by 10th, 1 on 16th-23rd October, 1-3 from 26th October-1st November. Single on 4th November and 26th November-1st December.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. Spring singles 23rd and 27th April, 5th-9th May. 1-4 from 22nd May-5th June. Singles 29th-30th June, 6th-7th and 12th July. Scarce in autumn, one on 28th August, 1-2 on 3 days in September and one on 14th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Spring birds from 7th April-23rd July, scarce in April, but regular in May and beginning of June. Peaks of 7 on 13th, 22nd-23rd April and 5th June. Less frequent from 12th June, maximum of 3 on 30th June. No autumn records.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Spring passage: singles recorded on 28 days from 10th May-28th June. 3 on 24th-25th, 2 on 30th-31st May and 2 on 3rd June. Autumn passage: 1-2 from 4th-9th August, singles on 23rd and 26th August.

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. A female between Setter and Hoini on 25th April (G. J. Barnes).



LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. One on 18th-19th March and 7th April. One caught by hand on the cliffs at Skinner's Glig on 13th June, was saturated in fulmar oil and in a very emaciated condition. Recorded on 17 days in autumn from 16th October-5th December, maximum of 2-3 on 30th October-2nd November, 2 on 5th November and 1st December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. Singles on 27th April, 6 days in May and 6 days in June. 2 on 25th May, 1 on 14th July and three days in August. 1-2 on 11 days in September, 3 on 2nd October and singles on 5 other days in October.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*. One on 30th May (J. Stout).

SWIFT *Apus apus*. One on 18th May, 1-6 from 23rd May-3rd June. Singles on 4 days in mid-June. 30 on 24th June then 1-6 to the end of the month. Scattered small numbers between 1st July-21st August, maxima of 6 on 2nd July and 10 on 6th August. 2-6 on 24th-29th August and 1-4 from 1st-11th September. A late single on 1st October.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*. One which frequented Hesti Geo 30th June-18th August was the sixth island record. Recorded for the third year in succession.

HOPOE *Upupa epops*. One at Wester Lothar on 25th-29th May. Last recorded in 1968.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. In spring, 2 on 24th, 1 on 25th-26th and 4 on 28th April and one on 24th May. Autumn: one on 9th, 7 on 10th and 1 on 11th and 16th September.

GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*. One on the goal posts at Skaddan, 22nd August.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. One at Setter 17th-21st May resembled reddish western type. One on 28th-30th September and 2 on 3rd October one of which remained to the next day. The three autumn birds resembled the greyish eastern type.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. One on 19th March and one 17th November.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Less than 12 daily in January, up to 60 in February but 200 on 26th. Further arrivals at the beginning of March with peaks of 300 on 3rd-4th, 100 on 14th and 16th and 100-150 on 29th-31st. Normal breeding season. Influxes again noted in September on 12th-13th, 21st-22nd and 500+ on 25th-28th September. Decrease noted through October and numbers very low by December with only 5 on 1st.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. First arrival on 13th April (1), 2 on 22nd, 4 on 23rd and 2 on 27th April. Almost daily in May and June, maxima of 20 on 10th and 22nd, 30 on 24th and 20 on 29th May. 35 on 2nd June then smaller numbers for the rest of the month. Irregular in July, recorded on 12 days with maximum of 7. 1-3 on 4 days in first two weeks of August. 2 on 14th and 1 on 18th September, 2 on 3rd October and singles on 6 days to the 20th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. 1-2 between 24th-27th April, main numbers in spring between 6th May-26th June, maxima

of 35 on 24th, 60 on 27th, 65 on 29th May, 70 on 1st and 20 on 24th June. 1-2 on 7 days between 1st-19th July. Very few in autumn, 1 on 26th-27th August and one on 24th September.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Spring passage 24th April-31st May. 1-3 from 24th-27th April, small numbers regularly in May, maxima of 5 on 11th-12th and 7 on 24th. 2 on 23rd-24th June and 1 on 25th.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. One, probably a young male on 30th June at the Haa.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Highest winter counts of 11 on 26th February. 9-10 on 9th-16th March, 14 on 12th April and 30+ between 26th April and 3rd May. One pair succeeded in raising 2 young. Largest flocks noted in the autumn were 13 on 4th and 8 on 11th October.

CARRION and HOODED CROW *Corvus corone corone*. Carrion crows seen on 31st January and on 25 days between 23rd April and 11th June, usually singles, occasionally up to 6 but 15 on 3rd, 19 on 9th and 21 on 11th May. Hybrid birds were observed on 24th April, 9th and 29th May.

C.c.cornix. Hooded crows bred as usual, and young chicks noted in 2nd and 3rd weeks of May.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One on 22nd-24th February, one on 8th, 2 on 16th and 26th and one on 28th March. One on 19th, 4 on 22nd, 3 on 23rd and 2 on 24th April. 1-2 on 7 days 1st-16th May. One on 16th October joined by another 5 on 17th all remaining until 19th October. Single on 19th November. One on 30th-31st December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. 2 on 16th May, 5 on 16th-19th October and 1 on 29th October-2nd November.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. A reasonable breeding season with a good number of young seen away from the cliffs in the autumn.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. A brown-bellied bird at Hyuknie Geo between 23rd-25th April.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. One 13th-15th February, singles 5th and 17th March, 5 days in April but 2 on 7th and one on 1st May. Singles in autumn on 17th and 20th October.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Up to 7 daily in January but more at the end of the month with maximum of 18 on 26th. Numbers more variable in February with maxima of 30 on 14th and 40 on 20th-21st. Less than 20 at the beginning of March and spring movements from 30th March-13th April (200 on 30th-31st March and 140 on 7th April), and 19th April-19th May (peak of 100 on 24th-25th April but only 1-3 in May). One



on 16th July. Autumn movements: 1-2 on 25th-28th August, infrequent in September and beginning of October (1-8). Main movements from 14th October with peaks of 400 on 24th, 250 on 26th, 800 on 29th and 200-400 until 7th November, then less than 30 until the end of the year.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. Scattered winter records never in excess of 3 in January and February. 10 on 17th March, 2 on 20th and 5 on 30th-31st. Regular in April in small numbers, maxima of 14 on 7th, 45 on 25th and 26 on 28th. 1-5 on 21 days from 1st May-20th June. 1 on 9th and 29th July, 1-2 on 23rd-25th August. September: 1-4 between 8th-14th then arrivals from 23rd (1) increasing to 40 on 27th-28th. Small numbers up to the end of October with a peak of 35 on 17th. 1-4 on 16 days in period 1st November-1st December and one between 6th-8th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Small numbers daily during the winter but never more than 30 in January and February, scattered records in March but small influx from 29th (10) and 70 on 30th March. 35 on 11th April, otherwise less than 30 in April. 1-7 recorded on 4 days to the 15th May. One on 9th July. Singles from the 6th September, first influx on 26th September (100), smaller numbers until 5th October (650). Decrease the next day to 50, then numbers up to 100 until arrival of 1300 on 15th which decreased to 500 by the 18th. 50-300 until 7th November except for 500 on 26th October. However these fairly stable figures conceal considerable changeover. Less than 30 to the end of November and less than 5 daily in December.

RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus*. A male on 6th April. Small passage 22nd-30th April with peak of 25 on 25th. Singles on 5 days in May, last recorded on 27th. Scattered records in autumn, 1-2 on 13 days from 19th September-28th October and 7 on 16th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Up to 11 seen during the winter months. First influx in spring on 30th March (100) increasing to 150 on 1st April then 30-50 daily until 10th April.

Smaller numbers to the end of the month. 3-12 in first week of May then 3 or less until 11th June. Only singles in rest of June and on 1st and 14th July. In autumn: 1 on 11th September, 1-5 from 26th-14th October, but 14 on 5th October. Influx from 15th October (20), 200 on 16th then numbers remaining 50-200 daily until 7th November, but some turnover during this time. Less than 10 from 9th November to the end of the year.

WHITE'S THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*. One at Setter 13th February (G. J. Barnes). Fifth island record and first since 1958.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. First arrival on 1st April, singles on 5th-6th, slow increase from 9th April (4), 6 on 10th, 13 on 13th. Main influx from 22nd April (40), 75 on 23rd and 100 on 24th. Large Greenland birds were recorded between 3rd and 25th May. Nest building from 13th May, first eggs on 21st (c/2). Autumn movements were noted from the 21st August with Greenland birds between 28th August and 6th September and 19th September-10th October. Decrease in numbers noted from the 20th September but still some small influxes, 30 recorded on 3rd October, A few remaining to the 24th October (3).

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. A male on 9th March and a female on 1st April. A pair on 3rd April.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Regular in small numbers in spring from 19th April-2nd June. Peaks of 7 on 24th April, 11 on 5th, 10 on 25th and 13 on 29th May. Singles on 6th, 11th and 21st June. Autumn passage: 17th August-14th October, numbers low, maximum of 5 between 17th August-8th September but 10-20 until the 16th September then numbers lower until the end of September and scattered records to the 14th October.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Small numbers in spring: 2-7 between 23rd-29th April, 1-2 on 5 days between 8th-21st May. Another influx 23rd May-2nd June with maximum of 20 on 24th and 29th. Singles recorded to the 11th June. In autumn, singles on 22nd and 24th August, 7 on 9th and 10th September then 1-3 until 20th. Influx from 25th September (1), 15 on 26th and 40 on 29th, smaller numbers to the 4th October and a straggler on 9th October.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Single males on 16th February, 7th and 23rd-26th April, 1st-2nd May, 2 on 9th and 1 on 11th May. A female on 29th May. In autumn, singles on 30th October, 4th and 11th November.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One on 9th-11th May (trapped in the plantation on 9th). One on 30th October—the first autumn record of this species on the island.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*. One seen alive on 24th

May in the morning and found dead in the afternoon at Hunds Hælor.

BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. A female on 15th May, one on 21st May, 2 on the next day and 8 on 24th May decreasing to 5 on 25th. 2-3 until the 29th May and one on 1st June. Only one in autumn, 26th-27th September.

ROBIN *Erythracus rubecula*. Winter records of 1-3 on 11 days in January, 13 days in February and 9 days in March, but 9 on 10th March. Main spring passage from 30th March (8) to 18th April, with maximum of 15 on 7th April. Slightly larger numbers between 22nd April-11th May, maxima of 20 on 24th, 35 on 26th April and 15 on 1st May. 1-2 on 7 days to the 2nd June. One on 20th-21st July. Small numbers in autumn, one resident from 4th September-22nd October, otherwise passage from 26th September-5th October, with counts of 20 on 27th and 40 on 28th September. 1-3 birds on many days for the rest of October and November. Singles on 8th and 17th December.

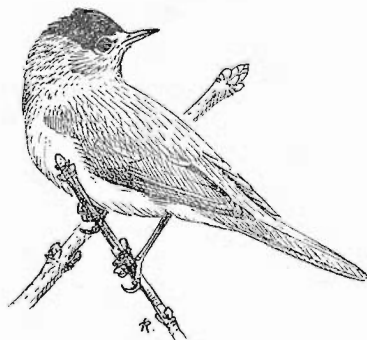
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. Spring migrants from 23rd April-27th May, not more than 4 recorded on any one day.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One at the Haa on 29th May. The fourth record for the island.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. One on 6th May, 2 on 9th-10th September and singles on 7 days between 14th-29th September.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. One on 19th July trapped in the Plantation.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Spring passage from 27th April-5th June, numbers low but 6 on 9th and peak of 12 on 25th, 10 on 27th April. Autumn singles on 10th, 27th-29th September and a late bird on 16th October.

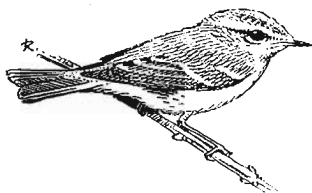


- BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*. Scarce migrant in spring, recorded on 10 days from 6th May-5th June with maxima of 4 on 24th May, 2 on 3rd and 1 on 5th June. Singles in August on 19th and 23rd but main autumn passage from 6th September-5th November. Counts of 10 or more on only 8 days, peak of 40 on 28th September and 13 on 2nd October. Late bird on 1st-2nd December.
- BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*. First seen on 19th August (2) then on all but 2 days until 28th September. Maxima of 9 on 22nd August and 5 on 20th September. Late singles on 3rd and 16th October. 27 individuals ringed.
- GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*. Scarce, small numbers in spring, 7th May-6th June (mainly 22nd May-6th June), maxima of 10 on 29th May and 8 on 2nd June. Singles on 20th, 23rd-24th June and 9th July. Autumn movements also small. 1-2 from 3rd-6th August, main passage 19th August-30th September, with peaks of 22 on 22nd August, 12 on 10th and 7 on 27th September. 1-3 on 2nd-4th October and singles on 14th and 24th October and 1st November.
- WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*. Scarce migrant: 2 on 23rd April and 1 on 25th, but main passage 5th May-8th June. Highest figures recorded, 15 on 24th and 20 on 29th May. One on 6th July. In autumn, scattered records, 2 on 22nd August, 1-2 on 6 days up to 28th September.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*. Infrequent in spring, 1-4 on 6th-10th May. Singles on 22nd, 24th, 28th-29th May, 3rd and 25th June. Autumn passage from 23rd August-14th October, 1-2 birds except for influx on 26th (9), 5 on 27th and 4 on 28th September.
- SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*. A male on 22nd May, trapped in the Plantation. Last recorded in 1969.
- WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*. First recorded on 22nd April (3), small passage until 17th May with maximum of 15 on 24th April. Renewed movement from 22nd May-13th June, with peaks of 40 on 24th May, 70 on 29th and 30 on 31st. A straggler on 28th June. First autumn arrivals 1 on 4th and 3 on 6th August. Up to 12 daily from 19th August-21st September. 20 on 26th September decreasing during the next few days, last recorded on 5th October.
- CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*. Scarce in spring, one on 30th March, next recorded on 4th April (1). 1-2 birds on 9 days in April, 3 on 22nd and 5 on 23rd. In May, 1-2 birds on 15 days but 3 on 2nd and 4 on 21st. Singles on 2nd and 5th June. Autumn records: scattered 12th September-16th October, but influx between 26th September and 4th October, with 8 on 26th and 6 on 27th September and 5 on 2nd and 4th October. 2 late birds on the 5th November.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sybilatrix*. No spring records. Reasonable numbers in autumn, singles on 12th and 14th August, 5 on 22nd increasing to 7 on 23rd. 4 on 24th and 2 on 25th. Singles daily until 2nd September, 2 on 6th and singles on 9th, 15th and 26th September.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. One at Skerryholm and Haa on 16th September, trapped at Setter on 17th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One on 25th, 9 on 26th, 8 on 27th and 7 on 28th September. One on 5th October.



GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. Daily from the 29th March-14th April, with maxima of 7 on 30th March and 8 on 1st April. Scattered records between 21st April-15th May with peak of 6 on 23rd and 5 on 25th. Singles on 8th, 26th-27th and 2 on 30th August. Small numbers between 4th-28th September with peaks of 8 on 18th and 13 on 26th. 1 on 23rd-24th, 25 on 26th October decreasing to the end of the month. 2 on 5th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. Singles on 9th-10th May and 2 on 13th, main spring passage 20th May-4th June, with peaks of 40 on 24th-25th and 29th May. Stragglers on 21st, 24th-25th June. Scattered records in autumn, 1 on 22nd and 2 on 23rd August, 1-2 on 11 days between 11th and 30th September, but 5 on 26th.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Few in spring: 1-4 from 22nd April-1st May. Influx between 24th May-2nd June with maxima of 7 on 24th and 6 on 29th May. Autumn arrivals from 23rd August (6) then a few until the end of the month and 10 on 30th. Maxima in September of 15 on 6th and 15th, influx of 20 on 26th and 25 on 27th. Late single on 11th October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*. 2 on 26th September and one 28th-30th September.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. Small numbers in spring between 16th March-2nd June. Singles on 6 days in March, arrivals on 31st March (5), 6th April (14). Slow increase from 21st April (2) to 26th (20). Stragglers after the 15th May. In

autumn, 1 on the 14th-15th October and 9 days in November and one on 13th December.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Seen on 6 days in March (1-2) from the 5th. Main movements from 1st April (20), 150 on 11th and 500 on 23rd. Breeding season as usual. Autumn movements noted in September on 4th, 6th-8th and 28th. Decrease in numbers from second week in October and only 10 birds remaining on 1st November. Last recorded on 19th (5).

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One on 23rd September and another 27th-29th September. 2 on 3rd October and 1 on 6th November.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Irregular and scarce in spring and autumn. Spring arrivals from 23rd April-7th June, scattered records with maximum of 11 on 29th May. Autumn passage between 6th September and 4th October mainly 24th-30th September with maximum of 7.

PETCHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi*. One found at Nurse's was mist-netted at the Shirva cabbages on 29th September. Also seen on 3rd October. Last recorded in 1966.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. Present in usual numbers throughout the year. The first eggs were seen on 16th May (c/4).

WHITE/PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. White Wagtail *M.a. alba*, in spring from 5th April until end of May (mostly 21st April-15th May) with maximum of 20 on 24th May. Singles on 1st, 10th and 26th June, 12th July and 14th July. In autumn regularly from 6th August to 13th October, maxima of 30 on 10th August, 25 on 20th, 40 on 28th August and 30 on 10th September.

Pied Wagtail *M.a. yarelli*, spring passage from 14th March, singles on 4 days in March, 7 days in April, 2 from 23rd-25th April. One on 4th and 7th June and 1st and 4th July.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. One on 11th April, one 16th September and one on 10th-14th November.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. An immature between 6th-12th October seen at Setter, Field, Barkland and South Harbour. It was found dead on 16th October. Recorded for the third year in succession.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. Spring passage from 23rd April-3rd June, majority at end of May. Those sub-specifically identified as follows: Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava*, one on 23rd April, 1-3 on 8 days between 2nd-22nd May, 5 on 24th increasing to 12 on 25th, 9 on 26th and 29th then 1-2 until 3rd June.

Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f. thunbergi*, 1-2 on 6 days from 24th May-1st June.

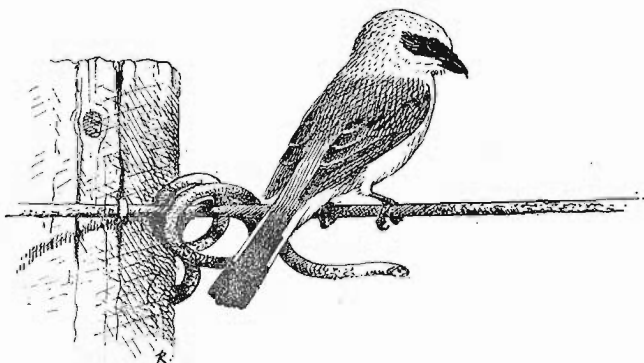
Yellow Wagtail *M.f. flavissima*, 1-4 between 24th-28th April, 3 on 5th May and 6 on 6th, singles on 7th-9th and 14th then 1-4 from 22nd May-1st June.

Autumn passage, singles on 10 days from 6th-28th September all probably Blue-headed.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Singles on 24th and 30th April. One on 3rd and 5th, 29th-30th November and 3 on 1st December.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. An early arrival on the 31st March then 1-2 on 7 days between 7th-17th April. 7 individuals in autumn, 1 from 29th September-2nd October, 1 from 5th-7th, one on 16th and a different bird on the 17th-18th, one on 23rd and 3 on 24th October.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*. Spring birds on 13 days from 22nd May-12th June with maxima of 4 on 24th and 3 on 25th. In autumn, 1-3 birds from 23rd August to the end of the month. One from 1st-10th, one 26th-28th September and one 3rd October.



STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Influx on 30th-31st March with 1000 recorded on both days, also on 7th April. Breeding season as usual, first young on the wing 11th June. Autumn movements noted on 16th-17th and 29th-31st October.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. A tired female flew into the byre at Barkland on 5th April but was unfortunately killed by a cat.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. A male on 2nd June. 2 on 21st October, 1-2 daily from 24th-28th and 10 on 29th October-4th November. One between 20th-26th December.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. Spring migrants: 30th March-2nd June. Singles on 30th March-2nd April, 1-5 many days in April. One on 29th-30th May and 2 on 2nd June. Autumn passage: singles 23rd-24th September, influx of 17 on 25th

then 3-5 until 29th September. 1-3 on 9 days between 1st-20th October. A late bird 1st-2nd December.

LINNET *Acanthis cannabina*. Singles on 2nd and 10th April. Frequent, but scattered small numbers between 21st April-2nd June with maximum of 5 on 25th and 28th April. Only singles in autumn on 9 days between 5th October-13th November. Singles on 2 days in December.

TWITE *Acanthis flavirostris*. Small numbers in winter months with maximum in January of 28 and 20 in February and March. Usual numbers bred. Autumn flocks began to build up from the end of August, 60 on 30th August. 60-70 at beginning of September, 100+ on 11th and 12th then flocks of at least 200+ on 22nd September. Decrease noted through November but 60 on 23rd. Only 3 on 1st-2nd December, but maximum during month of 15 on 30th.

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*. Mealy Redpoll: 2 on 26th and 1 on 27th February, singles on 2nd March and 16th April. 2 between 21st-26th April. 1-4 on 10 days between 3rd-20th May, but 7 on 8th. Autumn singles on 20th and 22nd September, 5 days between 21st-31st October and 4th-13th November. Greenland Redpoll: 3 on 2nd, 4 on 3rd and 3 on 4th May. One 22nd-30th September and one 3rd-12th October. Lesser Redpoll: singles on 14th and 21st May and 10th-14th September.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. 3 males 6th-7th April one remaining till the 8th. One female on 27th October. In November, a pair on 6th-7th and a female on 12th-13th. A male on 23rd November joined by a female on 24th, both staying until the 26th. 2 on 1st December one remaining the next day.

SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Singles in spring on 24th (trapped) and 30th May. Autumn singles, 22nd-23rd August and in September on 1st, 7th-12th and 2 on 14th-16th (one trapped on 16th) with one remaining until 21st. One on 2nd-6th October (trapped on 2nd).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. Single 8th-9th and 22nd January, 3rd February and 14th March and a few records until 29th March. Small movement 30th March-14th April with maximum of 18 on 7th April. 1-7 on many days from 23rd April-1st June. Small autumn movements from 23rd September-7th November, mainly 23rd-30th September, with highest daily total of 8.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. Singles on 8th and 9th January. Small spring passage from 5th April-9th May chiefly in two periods, 5th-14th April, maximum of 53 on 7th and 23rd-27th April with 50-60 daily. Autumn birds from 23rd September-11th November with high counts on

28th September (50), 17th October (65) and 6th-7th November (40). Singles on 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 17th December.

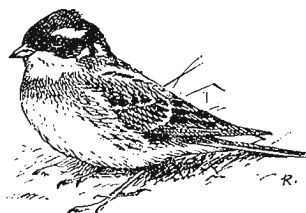
YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. 3 on 1st April, 2-3 between 5th-10th and singles on 14th and 30th April. Singles on 11th, 18th and 21st and 2 on 12th May. In autumn, one on 16th, one on 27th and 2 on 28th October. One from 5th-7th November and one on 23rd December.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 17th and 27th May.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*. A male found at the old Observatory on 12th then at Kennaby and Quoy until 15th May.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. One on 1st-4th September (Nurse's). One on 10th September (trapped at Setter), 2 on 11th-12th (one ringed), one remaining until 18th September. A fourth individual 20th-22nd September.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. Singles daily between 23rd-31st May but 2 on 24th.



RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. A male on 28th September (Setter) thought to be the same bird mist-netted at Leogh on 2nd October.

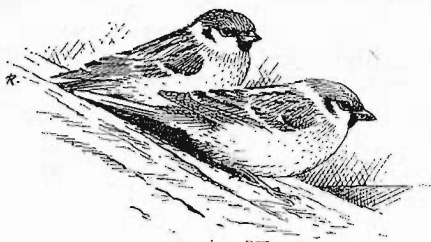
LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. Singles on 27th-30th September (trapped on 27th), 31st October, probably the same bird on 4th November. Another on 12th November.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Singles on 14th and 30th-31st March. Irregular from 6th April-4th June with peaks of 8 on 7th and 30 on 25th April. Less than 10 for the rest of the period. One on 23rd-24th June, 5th and 7th July. One on 4th September, irregular small passage from 21st September-14th November. 14 on 27th September was maximum count in the autumn.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Spring passage: 1 on 8th April, 2 on 11th. A few 22nd April-6th May, maximum of 4 on 24th. One on 20th May. In autumn small numbers from 19th-30th September, maximum of 12 on 27th. Singles on 2nd, 7th, 16th-19th and 28th October.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Winter maximum of 120 in January and 150 in February, increase in mid-March to 200-300 from 12th-16th. 70 at the beginning of April but smaller numbers and less frequently seen towards the end of the month. 1-2 in May, but 6 on 5th-6th. Singles on 1st-2nd, 19th, 24th and 26th June. Autumn movements from 5th September, less than 50 in September, but numbers a little higher in October, 80 on 3rd and 73 on 25th were the peak counts. Maxima in November, 200 on 4th and 18th-19th. Regular in December with peak of 60 on 8th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Resident in usual numbers.



TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. 3 on 15th January, 1-2 on 30th March-2nd April. One on 11th and 4 on 29th April. Regular through May, less than 10 at the beginning of the month but 30 on 14th increasing to 37 by 16th. c.20 remained until 3rd June. Seen less regularly through June and July but up to 14 on some days. Fledglings, hardly able to fly were seen in 3rd week of August. More regular sightings from 26th July to the end of October with maximum of 16. Infrequent in November and December with maximum of 12.

RINGING DETAILS

The mild winter and lack of snow meant that trap repairs were minimal, and the only extensive job was the reroofing of the Hjon Dyke trap. We were able to concentrate on the building of a larger trap at the plantation over the trees and spanning the burn. The old structure, which had become completely overgrown, was removed, and the new trap was finished in time to be a useful trap from May onwards. During the summer, the dyke supporting the northernmost of the two roadside traps collapsed, severely handicapping the catching potential of this trap.

Will Wylie and Mike McKinnon of the North Light looked after the wader traps at Easter Lothar Water during the first half of the season and although several interesting species

were trapped during the early spring period, the water dried up almost completely during the late spring and with drought conditions through the summer the dry mud did not attract many birds to the area.

Mist nets, clap-nets and dazzle-netting were all used successfully and contributed to our catches, and during the summer we increased our catch of seabirds by using our boat.

In 1971, 5487 birds of 120 species were ringed with F.I.B.O. rings and of these 1737 were nestlings (pulli). These totals include 451 birds of 20 species (including 294 pulli) ringed in Shetland by Tony Mainwood (Fetlar), Dr Brian Marshall (mostly on Mainland), Iain Robertson (Papa Stour) and Magnus Sinclair (Unst). The majority were Storm Petrels, pullus gulls (including a high total of 121 Common Gulls) and waders (including 40 Oystercatchers, 58 Lapwings and 16 Curlews). Five young Snowy Owls were ringed on Fetlar and amongst the non-breeding migrants trapped in Shetland were a Subalpine Warbler and a Thick-billed Warbler.

The monthly totals of birds ringed on Fair Isle in 1971 were as follows :

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov/ Dec
Nos.	177	344	262	832	1099	982	547	501	292

The totals of the ten leading species in 1971 were Shag 582, Fulmar 563, Storm Petrel 413, Starling 406, Blackbird 401, Wheatear 292, Rock Pipit 255, Redwing 167, Herring Gull 166 and Meadow Pipit 160. Two species were ringed on Fair Isle for the first time—Grey Phalarope and Goshawk—and a good selection of unusual species were handled including: Leach's Petrel, Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Whooper Swan (3), Spotted Crake, Glaucous Gull (5), Nightingale, Subalpine Warbler, Wood Warbler (7), Arctic Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler (8), Red-breasted Flycatcher, Petchora Pipit, Scarlet Grosbeak (3), Yellow-breasted Bunting, Ortolan, Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting.

The annual and cumulative totals are brought up to date in the following table which gives the ringing totals for the individual species, together with the number of recoveries of each species away from Fair Isle, or in a few cases from other ringing localities.

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Great Crested Grebe		1	1			
Red-necked Grebe		1	1			
Slavonian Grebe		1	1			
Little Grebe		3	3			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Storm Petrel	4856	413	5269	18	3	21
Leach's Petrel	3	1	4			
Manx Shearwater	13	1	14			
Fulmar	4145	563	4708	23	2	25
Gannet	236	1	237	4	3	7
Cormorant	6	1	7			
Shag	7680	582	8262	169	13	182
Heron	9		9			
Mallard	8		8	2		2
Teal	24		24	2		2
Wigeon	7	1	8			
Scaup	2		2			
Tufted Duck	6	1	7			
Goldeneye	5		5			
Long-tailed Duck	5		5			
Velvet Scoter	2		2			
Eider	52	5	57			
Goosander	3		3		1	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1		1			
Greylag Goose	4		4	1		1
White-front	1		1			
Pink-foot	1		1			
Barnacle Goose	1		1			
Whooper Swan	9	3	12	1		1
Goshawk		1	1			
Sparrowhawk	68	3	71	11		11
Peregrine	6		6			
Merlin	129	5	134	13		13
Kestrel	23	1	24	4		4
Red-footed Falcon	1		1			
Quail	2		2			
Great Bustard	1		1			
Water Rail	131	10	141	2		2
Spotted Crake	4	1	5			
Little Crake	1		1			
Corncrake	28	2	30	2		2
Moorhen	44	1	45	1	1	2
Coot	7		7			
Oystercatcher	592	64	656	31	2	33
Lapwing	219	58	277	4		4
Ringed Plover	240	6	246	3		3
Little Ringed Plover	1		1			
Golden Plover	15		15			
Dotterel	2		2			
Turnstone	48	1	49			
Snipe	119	4	123	6		6

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Jack Snipe	23	2	25			
Woodcock	128	7	135	6		6
Curlew	29	16	45	2		2
Whimbrel	14		14			
Black-tailed Godwit	1		1			
Bar-tailed Godwit	8		8	2		2
Green Sandpiper	18	1	19	1		1
Wood Sandpiper	9		9			
Common Sandpiper	29	2	31			
Redshank	117	7	124	2		2
Spotted Redshank	3		3			
Greenshank	5		5			
Knot	48	3	51			
Purple Sandpiper	87	1	88			
Little Stint	25		25			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Pectoral Sandpiper	3		3			
Dunlin	251	18	269	3		3
Curlew Sandpiper	3		3			
Sanderling	66		66			
Ruff	17		17	1		1
Grey Phalarope		1	1			
Red-necked Phalarope	3		3			
Bonxie	601	8	609	9	1	10
Arctic Skua	1121	14	1135	29	1	30
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Great Black-back	526	107	633	27	2	29
Lesser Black-back	407	72	479	9	2	11
Herring Gull	909	166	1075	25	3	28
Common Gull	94	122	216	1	4	5
Glaucous Gull	15	5	20	1		1
Iceland Gull	1		1			
Black-headed Gull	49	24	73	3	1	4
Kittiwake	947	86	1033	4		4
Common Tern	18		18			
Arctic Tern	115	1	116	1		1
Razorbill	778	62	840	31	1	32
Little Auk	6		6			
Guillemot	1216	81	1297	32	2	34
Black Guillemot	618	19	637	7	1	8
Puffin	4139	74	4213	8	1	9
Wood Pigeon	25	2	27	2		2
Rock Dove	4		4			
Turtle Dove	18	1	19			
Collared Dove	13	4	17			
Cuckoo	46	4	50	1		1

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Snowy Owl	12	5	17			
Long-eared Owl	49	8	57	2		2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Nightjar	3		3			
Swift	11	1	12	1		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	14		14			
Wryneck	81	3	84			
Short-toed Lark	3		3			
Shorelark	2		2			
Woodlark	2		2			
Skylark	431	12	443	2		2
Swallow	148	3	151	2		2
House Martin	75	3	78			
Sand Martin	6		6			
Raven	3		3			
Hooded Crow	31	5	36			
Rook	4		4			
Jackdaw	1		1			
Golden Oriole	2		2			
Great Tit	4		4			
Blue Tit	2		2			
Treecreeper	1		1			
Wren	410	19	429			
Dipper	8		8			
Mistle Thrush	10		10	1		1
Fieldfare	431	3	434			
Song Thrush	1016	31	1047	17	1	18
Redwing	3497	167	3664	45	3	48
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	193	2	195	3	1	4
Blackbird	10870	401	11271	210	9	219
Rock Thrush	1		1			
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Wheatear	9657	292	9949	48	1	49
Black-eared Wheatear	2		2			
Stonechat	18		18			
Whinchat	313	13	326	2		2
Redstart	959	37	996			
Black Redstart	48		48			
Nightingale	9	1	10			
Thrush Nightingale	7		7			
Bluethroat	113	6	119	1	1	2
Robin	2807	82	2889	17	2	19
Grasshopper Warbler	42	5	47			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Lanceolated Warbler	3		3			
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1		1			
River Warbler	2		2			
Great Reed Warbler	3		3			
Reed Warbler	60	4	64	1		1
Marsh Warbler	27	1	28			
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1			
Thick-billed Warbler	1	1	2			
Sedge Warbler	182	11	193			
Aquatic Warbler	10		10			
Melodious Warbler	3		3			
Icterine Warbler	41		41			
Booted Warbler	3		3			
Blackcap	874	107	981	4		4
Barred Warbler	168	27	195			
Garden Warbler	1191	62	1253			
Whitethroat	533	27	560			
Lesser Whitethroat	240	13	253			
Sardinian Warbler	1		1			
Subalpine Warbler	7	2	9			
Willow Warbler	1453	99	1552	1		1
Greenish Warbler	6		6			
Chiffchaff	254	18	272			
Wood Warbler	29	7	36			
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1			
Arctic Warbler	18	1	19			
Yellow-browed Warbler	36	8	44			
Dusky Warbler	1		1			
Goldcrest	498	47	545			
Spotted Flycatcher	253	20	273	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	435	23	458	3		3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	31	1	32			
Dunnock	654	38	692	4		4
Meadow Pipit	4901	160	5061	33	1	34
Tree Pipit	273	3	276			
Olive-backed Pipit	2		2			
Petchora Pipit	2	1	3			
Red-throated Pipit	3		3			
Rock Pipit	4288	255	4543	12		12
Richard's Pipit	7		7			
Tawny Pipit	2		2			
Pied/White Wagtail	333	2	335	3		3
Grey Wagtail	6	1	7			
Yellow Wagtail spp.	9		9			
Citrine Wagtail	3		3			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-70	1971	Total	1948-70	1971	Total
Waxwing	32	1	33			
Great Grey Shrike	50	5	55			
Lesser Grey Shrike	5		5			
Woodchat Shrike	7		7			
Red-backed Shrike	81	9	90			
Starling	7283	406	7689	67	2	69
Rose-coloured Starling	2		2			
Greenfinch	26	5	31			
Goldfinch	3		3			
Siskin	135	8	143			
Linnet	35	5	40	1		1
Twite	2006	136	2142	3		3
Redpoll	143	8	151			
Arctic Redpoll	3		3			
Bullfinch	17	2	19			
Scarlet Grosbeak	26	3	29			
Crossbill	264		264	2		2
Parrot Crossbil	35		35			
Chaffinch	620	8	628	1		1
Brambling	584	71	655	2		2
Yellowhammer	25	5	30			
Corn Bunting	2		2			
Red-headed Bunting	5		5			
Black-headed Bunting	1		1			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	4	1	5			
Ortolan Bunting	15	1	16			
Cretzschmar's Bunting	1		1			
Rustic Bunting	4	1	5	1		1
Little Bunting	12	1	13			
Reed Bunting	154	29	183	1		1
Song Sparrow	1		1			
White-throated Sparrow	1		1			
Lapland Bunting	37		37			
Snow Bunting	285	66	351	2		2
House Sparrow	982	17	999			
Tree Sparrow	47	9	56			
GRAND TOTAL	92415	5487	97902	996	65	1061

RECOVERIES 1971

65 recoveries of ringed birds were received in 1971 and full details of these are given below; the most exciting ones are displayed on the map. The international code of symbols for the method of recovery is employed:

v—caught or trapped and released with ring.

+—shot or killed by man.

x—found dead or dying.

xA—found long dead.

()—caught alive and not released, or released with ring removed.

/?/—method of recovery unknown.

Where the exact date of recovery is unknown, the date of the finder's report is given in brackets. Ringing details of each bird (ringed at Fair Isle unless otherwise stated) are given on the first line and recovery details on the second line. The distance, given in kilometres, and the direction are approximate. The abbreviations indicating age are as follows:

pull.—pullus, nestling or chick, not yet flying.

juv.—flying young.

1stY.—first year.

pj.—post-juvenile.

fg.—full-grown, age uncertain.

ad.—adult.

The co-ordinates of Fair Isle are 59°32'N 1°37'W.

STORM PETREL

699552 pj. 6.7.71

v 23.7.71 North Rona, Outer Hebrides, 250 km WSW.

699571 pj. 6.7.71

v 4.8.71 Foula, Shetland, 72 km NNW.

699588 pj. 6.7.71

v 19.7.71 Foula, Shetland.

Three recoveries from 53 birds ringed at Gunnawark on the same night emphasises the size of the 'visiting population' to Fair Isle. 699552 is the first Fair Isle ringed Storm Petrel to be controlled on North Rona (see ringed strangers).

FULMAR

SS 68537 1stY. 1.9.67

x 23.7.71 Hornum, Sylt, Frisian Islands, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 54°48'N 8°18'E.

SS 84889 pj. 3.9.69

x 10.12.70 Dunrobin Castle, Golspie (Sutherland), 216 km SW.

GANNET

1057679 pull. 31.6.66 Hermaness, Unst (Shetland)

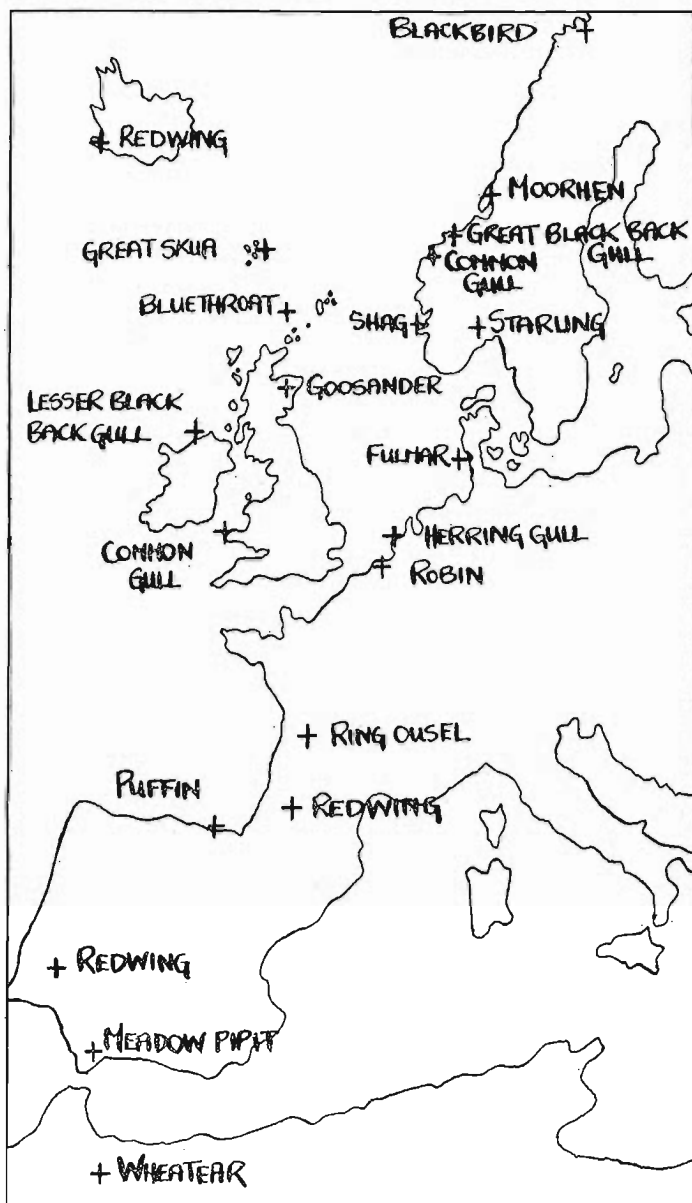
v (tangled in fishing netting) 8.6.71 Fetlar (Shetland), 25 km S.

1058030 pull. 29.6.67 Hermaness, Unst (Shetland)

x 7.6.71 Scarborough (Yorks), 740 km S.

1058770 pull. 30.6.67 Hermaness, Unst (Shetland)

x 21.11.71 Texel, Frisian Islands, Netherlands, 53°05'N 4°45'E.



Map showing some ringing recoveries in 1971.

SHAG

- 1013084 pull. 21.6.60
 x 10.12.70 Quendale Bay, Sumburgh (Shetland), 40 km NE.
 1052293 pull. 8.6.65
 + Alvheim, Alvøy (Hordaland), Norway, 60°36'N 4°49'E.
 1058280 pull. 29.6.67
 x (4.1.71) Skea, Westray (Orkney), 80 km WSW.
 1064347 pull. 19.6.68
 x 16.7.71 Bixter (Shetland), 80 km NNE.
 1068692 pull. 21.6.69
 xA 18.8.71 (2 months) Auskerri (Orkney), 83 km SW.
 1076355 pull. 26.6.70
 x 8.1.71 Dale, Walls (Shetland), 80 km N.
 1076392 pull. 27.6.70
 xA 15.6.71 (6 weeks) Gutcher, Yell (Shetland), 140 km NNE.
 1076397 pull. 27.6.70
 x 4.4.71 Longhope Pier, Hoy (Orkney), 125 km. SW.
 1076422 pull. 30.6.70
 x (14.5.71) Hinderaye, Rendall (Orkney), 96 km SW.
 1076624 pull. 4.7.70
 v(?) 16.12.70 Stromness (Orkney), 112 km SW.
 1076858 pull. 5.7.70
 x 9.12.70 Fraserburgh (Aberdeenshire), 200 km SSW.
 1076875 pull. 16.7.70
 x 29.12.70 Thurso (Caithness), 144 km SW.
 1078130 pull. 25.6.71
 x 10.9.71 Bay of Ryaesge, North Ronaldsay (Orkney), 50 km WSW.

GOOSANDER

- HW 08254 ad. ♂ 10.11.70
 + (presumed) 14.1.71 Turriff (Aberdeenshire), 224 km S.

MOORHEN

- FS 14269 ad. 12.4.71
 x (presumed) 1.5.71 Hasvag, Sor-Flatanger (Nord Trondelag), Norway, 64°27'N 10°36'E.

OYSTERCATCHER

- SS 05957 pull. 25.6.64
 x 2.2.70 Bardsea, Ulverston (Lancs), 600 km SSW.
 SS 68111 juv. 17.7.67
 x (hit by car) (20.8.71) Brant Broughton (Lincs), 710 km S.

GREAT SKUA

- HW 07801 pull. 9.7.69 Fetlar (Shetland).
 + 19.7.71 Mykines, Faeroe Islands, 62°06'N 7°35'W.

ARCTIC SKUA

- 3075620 ad. 3.6.60

xA (4.10.71) Between Portsoy and Cullen (Banffs), 215 km SSW.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

419996 1stY. 6.11.66

+ (7.10.71) Longhorsley, Northumberland), 475 km S.

HW 07782 ad. 28.10.67

() 14.3.71 Vollvagen, Raket, Smola (More & Romsdal), Norway, 63°25'N 7°50'E.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

AJ 52528 pull. 18.7.62

v 21.2.71 Sidi-Ifni, Morocco, 29°24'N 10°12'W.

GP 37734 pull. 21.7.71

x 31.10.71 Portrush (Antrim), 565 km SW.

HERRING GULL

AJ 52659 pull. 22.7.63

x (17.9.71) Newark Bay, Deerness, Orkney, 90 km SW.

GP 18236 pull. 16.7.70

x 1.3.71 Ijmuiden (Noord Holland) Netherlands, 52°28'N 4°38'E.

GP 18264 pull. 20.7.70

xA 11.8.71 Newburgh (Aberdeen), 250 km S.

COMMON GULL

EC 45222 ad. 18.8.65

() 11.6.71 Molde (More & Romsdal), Norway, 62°44'N 7°08'E.

EC 94253 1stY. 7.9.66 Pool of Virkie, Sumburgh (Shetland).

x (30.8.71) Inverbervie (Kincardine), 340 km SSW.

EF 14279 pull. 3.7.71 Clousta (Shetland)

x (17.11.71) Treverne, Fishguard (Pembroke), 950 km SSW.

EF 23497 pull. 3.7.71 Clousta (Shetland).

x 21.10.71 Bixter (Shetland), 6 km SE.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EF 23459 pull. 27.6.71 Whiteness Voe (Shetland)

x 25.7.71 Walls (Shetland), 18 km WNW.

RAZORBILL

SS 84971 pull. 18.6.70

x? (caught in salmon net) 25.5.71 Froya (Sor-Trondelag), Norway, 63°45'N 8°45'E.

GUILLEMOT

SS 22564 ad. 6.7.64

x (oiled) 28.2.67 Spjelkavik, Ellingsoy (More & Romsdal), Norway, 62°28'N 6°23'E.

GM 40024 ad. 6.7.66

x(presumed) 29.12.70 Pease Bay, Cockburnspath (Berwicks), 400 km S.

BLACK GUILLEMOT

AT 82231 pull. 24.7.61

x 14.4.71 Start Point, Sanday (Orkney), 35 km SW.

PUFFIN

ED 28766 ad. 10.8.67

x 14.4.71 Larrabasterra (Vizcaya), Spain, 43°10'N 2°50'W.

SONG THRUSH

CN 47535 ad. 1.4.71

x 14.4.71 Died on ship, Ling Bank, North Sea, 58°15'N 2°25'E.

REDWING

CS 43912 1stY. 24.9.68

+ early-3.71 Lavardac (Lot et Garonne), France, 44°11'N 0°18'E.

CP 65147 ad. 2.4.70

x 17.3.71 Reykjavik (Gullbringu), Iceland, 64°08'N 21°56'W.

CP 65744 1stY. 3.10.70

x (presumed) 7.3.71 Vila Vicosa (Alto Altentejo), Portugal, 38°46'N 7°25'W.

RING OUSEL

CP 65718 1stY. ♂ 21.5.70

x 14.11.70 Gond-Pontouvre, Angouleme (Charnete), France, 45°41'N 0°10'E.

BLACKBIRD

CN 47759 ad. ♀ 30.11.70

v 18.8.71 Norway, 61°48'N 6°10'E.

CN 47764 1stY. ♂ 2.12.70

x 25-31.12.70 Frisian Islands, Germany, 53°44'N 7°23'E.

CN 47777 ad. ♂ 30.3.71

x 18.4.71 Norway, 69°17'N 18°13'E.

CP 65530 1stY. ♂ 23.10.69

x (19.4.71) Norway, 61°52'N 6°30'E.

CP 65555 ad. ♀ 23.10.69

x 22.11.71 Preston (Lancs), 635 km SSW.

CP 65684 ad. ♂ 13.4.70

+ 19.11.70 Norway, 58°20'N 6°17'E.

CV 98062 ad. ♀ 29.3.68

x 21.10.70 Norway, 58°50'N 5°58'E.

CV 98279 ad. ♂ 30.10.70

x 27.3.71 Norway, 61°31'N 4°57'E.

S 87066 1stY. ♀ 1.11.56

ring only found, 4.4.71 Denmark, 55°53'N 12°02'E.

CN 47777 is the most northerly recovery of a Fair Isle ringed Blackbird. S 87066—the date that the ring was found presumably bears no relationship to when the bird died!

WHEATEAR

BJ 69197 1stY. 2.9.70

+ 15.10.70 Ain Mediouna (Fes), Morocco, 34°30'N 4°33'W.

BLUETHROAT

JC 38265 2ndY. ♂ 24.5.71

x(presumed) 4.6.71 Found on boat during fog, at sea, west of Shetland—60°10'N 3°20'W. c.110 km NW.

ROBIN

HV 67877 1stY. 17.10.70

x (17.1.71) Westkapelle (Zeeland), Netherlands, 51°32'N 3°27'E.

HX 86937 pj. 9.5.70

x 25.10.70 Torrejon de Ardoz (Madrid), Spain, 40°26'N 3°29'W.

MEADOW PIPIT

HV 67588 juv. 9.8.70

x 6.12.70 Jimena de la Frontera (Cadiz), Spain, 36°27'N 5°28'W.

STARLING

XX 46463 pj. ♂ 22.10.70

x(presumed) (12.12.70) Hamnavoe (Shetland), 120 km N.

XX 46570 pj. ♀ 27.10.70

x (cat) 15.5.71 Nore i Numedal (Buskerud), Norway, 60°13'N 8°59'E.

RINGED STRANGERS IN 1971

STORM PETREL

656519 ad. 13.7.65 Foula (Shetland)

v 18.8.71 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.

684777 fg. 26.7.71 Foula (Shetland)

v 12.8.71 Fair Isle

2125036 pj. 20.7.71 North Rona, Outer Hebrides

v 29.7.71 Foula

v 12.8.71 Fair Isle. An interesting double recovery, and also our first control from North Rona.

FULMAR

AT 94251 pull. 18.8.63 Foula (Shetland)

v (nesting) 21.5.71 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.

SS 37003 pull. 11.8.64 Eynhallow (Orkney)

+ 7.4.71 Fair Isle, 95 km ENE.

SHAG

1035892 pull. 19.7.66 Foula (Shetland)

x 3.5.71 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

424973 pull. 8.6.67 Nigg (Ross-shire)

v (roost) re-ringed HW 08249 14.11.71 Fair Isle, 240 km NE.

SWALLOW

HV 34173 pull. 29.6.69 Bramhall, Stockport (Cheshire)

x 28.4.71 Fair Isle, 685 km N.

BLACKBIRD

Helgoland 7466379 1stY. ♂ 22.10.70 Helgoland, Germany,
54°11'N 7°55'E.

v re-ringed CP 65998 21.11.70 Fair Isle.

REDSTART

Madrid J 65802 1stY. ♂ 25.10.69. Chipiona, Cadiz, Spain,
36°44'N 6°26'W.

x 25.4.71 Fair Isle.

JC 67863 ad. ♂ Dungeness (Kent)

v 25.5.71 Fair Isle, 970 km N. This bird showed an overall
weight loss of 3.5g between ringing and control.

BLACKCAP

Helgoland 0822457 fg. ♀ 16.10.70 Wangerooge-West, Ost-
friesische Inseln, Niedersachsen, Germany, 53°47'N 7°51'E.

v re-ringed HV 67886 1.11.70 Fair Isle.

RECAPTURES IN 1971

A large number of birds ringed on Fair Isle during 1971 were recaptured later in the year; the time interval between ringing and recapture was generally short but the details of others, which had been ringed in previous years, are summarised in the following table.

BIRDS RINGED IN PREVIOUS YEARS RETRAPPED IN 1971

Species	1955	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Storm Petrel												1		4	1	8
Fulmar (Ad)											4	2		3		8
Fulmar (Pull)						2	1	1	2	2	1					
Shag (Ad)					2	3	1			4	2	4	1	5		
Shag (Pull)							1	3	1	4	7	4	6	5	2	1
Eider									1	1						3
Oystercatcher						1(Pull)				1	1					
Redshank												1				
Great Black-backed Gull													1(Pull)			1
Herring Gull										1(Pull)						
Kittiwake																1
Arctic Skua (Pull)		1			1				1			1				
Razorbill (Ad)							1	2	2	1		2	1	5		
Razorbill (Pull)							1									
Guillemot (Ad)												1		1	1	3
Puffin (Ad)					1					1		2	1			

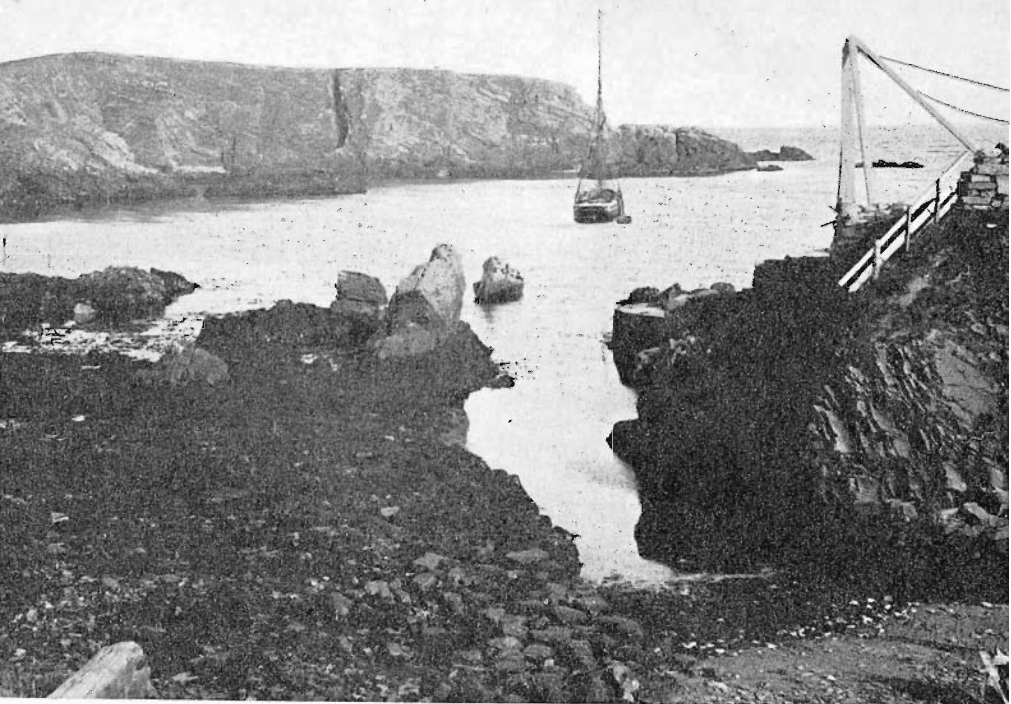


PLATE 4. (Above) The sailing smack *Columbine* at South Harbour. Wrecked Nov. 1911.
Photo by J. D. Rattar

PLATE 5. (Below) The first *Good Shepherd* off Grutness. Wrecked North Haven, 31st
 January 1937.
Photo by George Waterston





PLATE 6. (Above) The *Good Shepherd* crew in 1930's. Left to right—Dodie Stout, Jimmy Stout, Willie Stout, Tom Stout, George Stout (Fieldy) and William Stout.
Photo, Waterston collection

PLATE 7. (Below) The *Good Shepherd* crew in 1972. Left to right—George Stout, Alec Stout, Jamie Wilson, Jerry Stout, James A. Stout and James William Stout.
Photo by Dennis Coutts



Species	1955	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Tystie (Ad)						1			1							1
Tystie (Pull)								1								
Wheatear														1	2	1
Meadow Pipit											1				2	1
Rock Pipit															1	1
Starling											1	1		4	2	23
Twite																2
House Sparrow															2	1

THE FAIR ISLE MAIL SERVICE

JAMES A. STOUT OF MIDWAY

Thousands of Little Auks frequent the tidal waters of Sumburgh Roost, particularly in December and January when these waters are often at their fiercest, but with what apparent ease and disregard they sit there, in comparison to timid mortals such as me who often have to cross these waves with some trepidation. I have been crossing these waters for upwards of 30 years have seen a host of Rotchies and in that time a few waves also, but my journeying is by motor boat and I often wonder how the men in the long ago days who had no propulsion except by oars or the wind (and that often contrary) ever managed to service outposts like Fair Isle.

I do not know when the first mail was brought to Fair Isle, but I have been told that not far back, in the 1880's, the mail quantity was so trivial that a man could tuck the solitary mail bag under his arm and he be passed on the road carrying it and the bag be hardly visible; the contents being a very few letters and very rarely anything to make a parcel.

Fair Isle became the property of Bruce of Sumburgh (later the Sumburgh Co.) in 1886, and after that time small sailing smacks were used to carry goods from Lerwick to Sumburgh and other places in between, and this service was extended to Fair Isle at irregular intervals, but judging from the records that I have seen it would appear that Fair Isle was not supplied by these boats from November to February inclusive. During these winter months smacks from Sandwick serviced the Island and our grandfathers held the service rendered by these Sandwick men in very high esteem. Many smacks were lost at Fair Isle by mishap and bad weather and of course at this time there was no safe harbour.

During this period, and who knows how long before, the island men in their open skiffs made journeys both to Orkney and Shetland to trade, mostly fish oil and their womenfolk's hosiery in exchange for flour or whatever they got to barter.

One of my greatgrandfathers and three men with him perished about 1850 on one of these missions, evidently very close to the southern end of Shetland. No trace of the men or skiff was ever seen, but hosiery out of the boat was said to have been washed ashore practically dry. Another skiff which was making the journey not far behind the ill-fated boat was alleged to have escaped the same fate because the old man at the helm quietened the waves around them by seeping out some of the fish oil which they could ill afford to use for that purpose.

It was not until shortly before the First World War that the Sumburgh Co. acquired a motor-driven boat named the 'Columbine', the same name that was carried by many of her ill-fated predecessors. In fact it would have been 1912 that the boat came, and that helped quite a lot, but the war came along and altered the situation again. There were services personnel stationed on the Isle and they and the Islanders were supplied with food and mails throughout that period by naval patrol drifters every week from Orkney.

After the war, the island had no definite service for a couple of years and mail and goods were brought in by any means at disposal, but the majority came in by fishing trawlers from Aberdeen. The present Fair Isle boat service came into being because one or two of the island men, who were coming home demobbed from the navy after the First World War, observed for sale in Kirkwall an ex R.N.L.I. lifeboat which they craved to have to go fishing in. Consequently six islanders clubbed together and went to Kirkwall and bought her. It was named the 'Good Shepherd' and that name will in all likelihood always be the name of the island ferry boat. As already stated, that boat was bought solely with intentions to employ it in fishing, but as the Post Office was so often thwarted to get mails to and from the island, the Lerwick Postmaster got the six islanders to start a service with the 'Good Shepherd', and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries kindly stepped in and supplied the boat with a better engine. They also put in a slipway at North Haven and this was eventually adopted by the Zetland County Council and later improved by them, very substantially.

The first mail into the Isle by the 'Good Shepherd' was on 31st May 1921 and that boat serviced the Isle until January 1937. Her last mail run from the island was taken to Sumburgh on the 14th of that month, when a severe S.E. gale commenced, and the crew had to anchor off Grutness Voe, and a few days later in extreme conditions, Dunrossness men put out and took the crew off and lodged them ashore until they got back with mails and food to the Isle on 29th January. There

was too much swell for the boat to be put back onto the slipway and the S.E. wind again grew to gale force with heavy seas and tore the boat from its moorings on the morning of 31st to make it a total wreck. The name-plate is in the Bird Observatory lounge.

However, a new 'Good Shepherd' was then well under way in building at Buckie for the same six owners. This new boat, 46 ft long and 15 ft beam, was brought from Buckie on 12th June 1937 and started ferry runs on that day. In the intervening period, February to June, there had been 14 ferry trips performed, all of which were made by a Burra Isle boat and crew temporarily employed by the G.P.O.

A replacement for the present 'Good Shepherd' is now being made ready at Gourock and should be ready for service by midsummer (1972). This is a steel-hulled vessel, very slightly larger than the present ferry boat, but she has a much more powerful engine, which it is estimated will reduce the crossing time by at least half an hour. Many a passenger will be glad of that time saving and especially those who are seasick. If it is any consolation to those who suffer in this way, let me assure them that they will never be able to feel any worse with that ailment than I have sometimes been, but the conditions have never deterred me to return. I hope to admire the Little Auks a few times more and also to see the other birds familiar to the crossing—Gannets, Guillemots, Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, Stormy and occasionally Leach's Petrels.

A CHECK-LIST OF THE FLORA OF FAIR ISLE

By WALTER SCOTT

(Address : Easterhoull, Scalloway, Shetland)

Prof. J. W. H. Trail (1906) was the first person to compile a list of Fair Isle plants. His paper, covering some 136 species, was based on collections made on the island about 1894 by the Rev. E. Straker and by Dr W. E. Clarke in 1905. N. M. Pritchard (1957) contributed the second paper on the Fair Isle flora in which he sets out the results of his work there in 1956. In this long gap little or nothing was written about the island's flora. However, during some of this time Mrs Hannah Stout, then living on Fair Isle, made a detailed study of the flora and was able to add many new names to Trail's list. After Pritchard several articles appeared, R. S. R. Fitter (1959), A. Currie

(1960), and Palmer and Scott (1965). The present list, enumerating some 238 taxa, is an attempt to summarise these and to add to them new information from Mrs H. Stout and others who have not published their work. The card index of the flora, kept at the Bird Observatory, has also provided some new material.

Future botanical workers on Fair Isle should try to confirm the existence of these plants, regarded here as doubtful. They should also look for the following species, all widespread over the rest of Shetland, but absent from the Fair Isle list, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Thalictrum alpinum*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Anthriscus sylvestris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* (introduced but did not survive), *Myosotis secunda*, *Veronica officinalis*, *V. serpyllifolia*, *Solidago virgaurea*, *Cirsium palustre*, *Luzula pilosa*, *Juncus effusus*, *Eleocharis multicaulis*, and *Carex ovalis*. Some of these are probably absent from Fair Isle because of the lack of suitable habitats; a few of the others, if carefully searched for, may be found.

Anyone finding a plant new to the island, or in possession of additional information on species already on record, should contact the writer and at the same time enter the details in the card index. In the following list the nomenclature, sequence, and English names are taken from Clapham, Tutin, and Warburg (1962). Species appearing in print for the first time for Fair Isle are indicated by a dagger.

The writer's thanks are due to a number of people. In particular he would mention Mrs H. Stout, R. C. Palmer, J. Peterson, the present warden of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory (R. Broad), and his predecessor (R. Dennis).

Lycopodium selago L. FIR CLUBMOSS. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker but apparently not seen since.

Selaginella selaginoides (L.) Link LESSER CLUBMOSS. Moist grassy places, widespread, particularly at the north end.

(*Isoetes lacustris* L. QUILL-WORT. Listed by Pritchard (1957) from 'ponds near Ward Hill'. No specimens are known and confirmation is desirable in view of the unlikely habitat. It is also given for Fair Isle by Fitter (1959).)

Equisetum palustre L. MARSH HORSETAIL. Streamsides and boggy places generally.

(*E. arvense* L. COMMON HORSETAIL. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker, and by Mrs H. Stout (Fitter, 1959.) Confirmation required.)

Hymenophyllum wilsonii Hook. WILSON'S FILMY FERN. Burn of Gilsetter, particularly the part known as The Gully. Also reported from Ward Hill by Mrs H. Stout (*in litt.*)

Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn BRACKEN. In patches on dry heathy slopes at the north end.

Blechnum spicant (L.) Roth HARD-FERN. Burn of Gilsetter; Wirvie.

†*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* L. BLACK SPLEENWORT. The Gully, 1965 ('E.A.W.');

 extracted from card index.

A. marinum L. SEA SPLEENWORT. Crevices of steep sea-cliffs, especially in the Funniequoy to Ruska Lee section.

Athyrium filix-femina (L.) Roth LADY-FERN. The Gully.

Dryopteris dilatata (Hoffm.) A Gray BROAD BUCKLER-FERN. Ravines, and as a dwarf form among heather.

Polypodium vulgare L. agg. POLYPODY. Rocky gullies, rare. Very small plants in The Gully.

Botrychium lunaria (L.) Sw. MOONWORT. Short dry grassland at Bunes and the School.

Ophioglossum vulgatum L. subsp. *ambiguum* (Coss. & Germ.) E. F. Warb. ADDER'S TONGUE. Dwarf plants in coastal turf at Malcolm's Head and about the Bird Observatory; probably elsewhere.

Picea sitchensis (Bong.) Carr. SITKA SPRUCE. Planted at Vaadal and The Gully.

Juniperus communis L. subsp. *nana* Syme JUNIPER. Dry heathery places, sea-cliffs, etc., abundant at the north end.

Caltha palustris L. MARSH MARIGOLD. Streams, not uncommon.

Ranunculus acris L. MEADOW BUTTERCUP. Streamsides, sea-cliffs, short coastal pasture, etc., widespread.

R. repens L. CREEPING BUTTERCUP. Cultivated ground and as a garden weed.

R. flammula L. subsp. *flammula* LESSER SPEARWORT. Streams and wet places, frequent.

R. hederaceus L. IVY-LEAVED WATER CROWFOOT. Ditches and streams at various spots at the south end.

R. ficaria L. LESSER CELANDINE. The Gully, and at North Restings Geo; perhaps elsewhere.

Sinapis arvensis L. CHARLOCK. A weed of cultivation, rare.

Raphanus raphanistrum L. var. *aureus* Wilmott WILD RADISH. A weed of cultivation in a number of places.

Capsella bursa-pastoris (L.) Medic. SHEPHERD'S PURSE. A weed in fields and about houses, mainly at the south end.

Cochlearia officinalis L. (incl. *C. scotica* Druce) SCURVY-GRASS. At various points on the coast.

C. danica L. DANISH SCURVY-GRASS. Sea-cliffs at North Haven and Ruska Lee.

Cardamine pratensis L. LADY'S SMOCK. Wet places, frequent.

Barbarea vulgaris R. Br. YELLOW ROCKET. Once found at Stoneybrake.

- Viola riviniana* Rehb. COMMON VIOLET. Dry grassy heathy places, usually a small form as in the rest of Shetland.
- (*V. canina* L. HEATH VIOLET. Listed by Pritchard (1957). Its occurrence on Fair Isle should be checked as it is a very rare plant in Shetland and so far found only on serpentine formations.)
- V. palustris* L. subsp. *palustris* MARSH VIOLET. Common in suitable habitats.
- V. tricolor* L. subsp. *tricolor* WILD PANSY. A rare weed of fields near the School and elsewhere.
- Polygala serpyllifolia* Hose COMMON MILKWORT. Heaths and moist pastures, frequent.
- Hypericum pulchrum* L. SLENDER ST JOHN'S WORT. Occasional in dry heathy places where it is very dwarfed. Larger and more typical in The Gully.
- Silene dioica* (L.) Clairv. RED CAMPION. Mainly in sea-cliffs but occasionally 'inland' at the south end. Probably (if not all) subsp. *zetlandica* (Compton) Clapham.
- S. maritima* With. SEA CAMPION. Frequent on sea-cliffs; seen more than once on east side of Ward Hill, among heather.
- S. acaulis* (L.) Jacq. MOSS CAMPION. Slopes of Ward Hill.
- Lychnis flos-cuculi* L. RAGGED ROBIN. Damp pastures, not uncommon. White-flowered forms are reported by Mrs M. T. Dennis (1966).
- Cerastium holosteoides* F. COMMON MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED. Widespread over a range of habitats.
- C. glomeratum* Thuill. STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED. Found at Bunness in 1957.
- C. atrovirens* Bab. DARK-GREEN MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED. Sea-cliffs, frequent.
- Stellaria media* (L.) Vill. CHICKWEED. Frequent in cultivated and disturbed areas, and on sea-cliffs.
- S. alsine* Grimm BOG STITCHWORT. Ditches and other wet places in several areas.
- Sagina maritima* Don SEA PEARLWORT. About the coast in many places, rarely some way inland.
- S. procumbens* L. PROCUMBENT PEARLWORT. Widespread over a range of habitats.
- S. subulata* (Sw.) C. Presl AWL-LEAVED PEARLWORT. In dry rocky or stony places. The glabrous form.
- Honkenya peploides* (L.) Ehrh. SEA SANDWORT. North Haven, and South Harbour.
- Spergula arvensis* L. CORN SPURRY. Common arable weed.
- Spergularia media* (L.) C. Presl. Ledge at foot of cliff, Bunness.

Montia fontana L. subsp. *fontana* BLINKS. Common by streams and on wet rocks; subsp. *variabilis* S. M. Walters. Slopes of Ruska Lee.

Chenopodium album L. FAT HEN. Cultivated ground, Hool.

Atriplex hastata L. HASTATE ORACHE. Springfield, on a croft midden; Busta, etc. records from the coast may refer to the following.

A. glabriuscula Edmondst. BABINGTON'S ORACHE. By the coast on rocks and shingle.

A. patula L. COMMON ORACHE. A weed of cultivation; also found on the South Harbour shingle.

Linum catharticum L. PURGING FLAX. Steep rocky banks of the Burn of Gilsetter and on damp mossy ground at Homis Dale.

Radiola linoides Roth ALL-SEED. Frequent on heathy pastures about the north and north-east sides of the island.

Acer pseudoplatanus L. SYCAMORE. Planted at Vaadal and The Gully.

Ulex europaeus L. GORSE. Planted at Vaadal.

Trifolium hybridum L. subsp. *hybridum* ALSIKE CLOVER. Relic of cultivation.

T. repens L. WHITE CLOVER. Widespread in both cultivated ground and natural pasture.

T. pratense L. RED CLOVER. In cultivated ground, perhaps an introduction.

Anthyllis vulneraria L. KIDNEY-VETCH. Dry rocky turf and roadsides in the inhabited area, and on sea-cliffs.

Lotus corniculatus L. BIRDSFOOT-TREFOIL. Dry grassy heathy places and on cliffs.

Vicia cracca L. TUFTED VETCH. A not uncommon weed of arable ground.

V. sepium L. BUSH VETCH. In a few spots in arable ground at the south end.

Lathyrus pratensis L. MEADOW VETCHLING. In grassy places in one or two spots at the south end.

Filipendula ulmaria (L.) Maxim. MEADOW-SWEET. A large colony by Burn of Gilly; possibly in one other place.

Potentilla palustris (L.) Scop. MARSH CINQUEFOIL. Marshy ground near the Church and at Barkland.

P. anserina L. SILVERWEED. On beaches and about houses, common.

P. erecta (L) Räusch. COMMON TORMENTIL. Abundant in heathy places, less so in bogs and marshes.

†*Rosa dumalis* Bechst. DOG ROSE. A wild rose, probably this species, was found at Shieldi Geo in 1917 by Miss E. M. Stout

- (Mrs H. Stout, *in litt.*). Apparently not seen since.
- Sedum rosea* (L.) Scop. ROSE-ROOT. On steep sea-cliffs, local.
- (*Epilobium parviflorum* Schreb. SMALL-FLOWERED HAIRY WILLOW-HERB. Given for Fair Isle by Mrs H. Stout (Fitter, 1959) but requires confirmation.
- (*E. obscurum* Schreb. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of W. E. Clarke but is in need of confirmation.)
- E. palustre* L. MARSH WILLOW-HERB. Widespread in wet places. Interesting colour variations have been found (Scott, 1963). White-flowered forms and plants with large semi-double flowers have also been seen.
- Myriophyllum alterniflorum* DC. ALTERNATE-FLOWERED WATER MILFOIL. Burn of Gilsetter and other streams.
- Callitriche stagnalis* Scop. Common in streams and ditches.
- C. intermedia* Hoffm. Burns of Wirvie, Vatstrass, and Gilsetter but much less common than *C. stagnalis*.
- Hydrocotyle vulgaris* L. PENNYWORT. Frequent in damp ground.
- Apium inundatum* (L.) Rchb. f. Burn of Gilsetter, scarce. One of Shetland's rarest plants.
- Aegopodium podagraria* L. GOUTWEED. About Rock Cottage, etc.
- Ligusticum scoticum* L. LOVAGE. Locally common on steep sea-cliffs.
- Angelica sylvestris* L. WILD ANGELICA. On sea-cliffs and in damp pastures.
- Heracleum sphondylium* L. COW PARSNIP. Rough grassy places here and there at the south end.
- Euphorbia helioscopia* L. SUN SPURGE. A rare weed of cultivated ground.
- Polygonum aviculare* L.s.s. KNOTGRASS. Waste ground, etc., rare.
- P. boreale* (Lange) Small. In cultivated ground, frequent.
- P. arenastrum* Bor. SMALL-LEAVED KNOTGRASS. Seashores, roadsides, etc., scarce.
- P. viviparum* L. On the north and west summit slopes of Ward Hill.
- P. amphibium* L. AMPHIBIOUS BISTORT. Watery places at the south end, as in roadside ditch between Shirva and Leogh. The Fair Isle plant is the terrestrial form.
- P. persicaria* L. PERSICARIA. Garden of Rock Cottage.
- P. cuspidatum* Sieb. & Zucc. At the Haa, and at Rock Cottage, introduced.
- Rumex acetosella* L. SHEEP'S SORREL. Cultivated ground and heathy places, etc.

- R. acetosa* L. SORREL. Cultivated ground, burnsidcs, sea-cliffs, etc.
- R. longifolius* DC. Scarce.
- R. crispus* L. CURLED DOCK. About the coast on rocks and shingle and as a weed in arable ground.
(*R. crispus* x *longifolius* Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker whose specimens should be critically examined before this record can be safely accepted.)
- R. obtusifolius* L. BROAD-LEAVED DOCK. Vaascttcr.
- Urtica dioica* L. STINGING NETTLE. Here and there near habitation or among ruined buildings.
- Salix cinerea* L. subsp. *atrocinerea* (Brot.) Silva & Sobr. COMMON SALLOW. Some bushes on a barely accessible cliff-ledge at the mouth of The Gully. Seen here by Mr P. Robertson in 1943.
- S. aurita* x *cinerea* subsp. *atrocinerea* Cliff at the mouth of The Gully. One of the parents, *S. aurita*, appears to have died out.
- S. repens* L. CREEPING WILLOW. Dry heathy places and on cliffs, scarce.
- S. herbacea* L. LEAST WILLOW. Frequent about the summit of Ward Hill.
- Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull HEATHER. Abundant in the north, thinning out southwards; rarely white-flowered.
- Erica cinerea* L. BELL-HEATHER. Common in dry heath at the north end.
- Empetrum nigrum* L. CROWBERRY. Frequent in heathy places at the north end.
- (*E. hermaphroditum* Hagerup. Claimed for Fair Isle by Mrs H. Stout (Fitter, 1959) but apparently through a misunderstanding).
- Armeria maritima* (Mill.) Willd. THRIFT. Very common in coastal pastures and on cliffs; occasionally white-flowered.
- Primula vulgaris* Huds. PRIMROSE. Locally on cliffs; planted in The Gully and elsewhere.
- Trientalis europaea* L. CHICKWEED WINTERGREEN. Damp ground in the Wirvie Brecks area. This plant has a very short flowering period and should be looked for in June, or early July at the latest.
- Anagallis tenella* (L.) L. BOG PIMPERNEL. Marshy place near Pund, and streamside at Eas Brecks. Though small one of the most attractive Shetland plants.
- A. arvensis* L. subsp. *arvensis* SCARLET PIMPERNEL. Once found as a weed in the garden of Rock Cottage.
- Glaux maritima* L. SEA MILKWORT. Salt-soaked coastal turf at

- several places at the south end; probably elsewhere by the coast.
- Gentianella campestris* (L.) Börner. Dry turfy ground at the south end, rare. White-flowered forms are reported by Mrs M. T. Dennis (1966).
- Anchusa arvensis* (L.) Bieb. BUGLOSS. Arable ground, not rare. (*Myosotis scorpioides* L. WATER FORGET-ME-NOT. Listed by Pritchard (1957) but his specimens at Oxford are only *M. caespitosa*.)
- M. caespitosa* K. F. Schultz WATER FORGET-ME-NOT. Frequent by burns and in bogs and marshes; often quite large.
- M. arvensis* (L.) Hill COMMON FORGET-ME-NOT. A frequent weed in arable land.
- M. discolor* Pers. YELLOW AND BLUE FORGET-ME-NOT. Cultivated and disturbed ground, rare.
- Veronica persica* Poir. BUXBAUM'S SPEEDWELL. A rare weed in gardens and yards.
- Pedicularis palustris* L. RED RATTLE. Marshes, not common.
- P. sylvatica* L. LOUSEWORT. Wet grassy places here and there.
- Rhinanthus minor* L. YELLOW-RATTLE. Roadsides and fields, south end.
- Euphrasia*. EYEBRIGHT. The following species and hybrids are on record. †*E. micrantha* Rchb. (Col. W. Bird, det. P. F. Yeo); *E. scottica* Wettst.; *E. foulaensis* Towns. ex Wettst.; †*E. foulaensis* x *marshallii* (Col. W. Bird, det. P. F. Yeo); *E. marshallii* Pugsl.; *E. confusa* Pugsl.; †*E. confusa* x *foulaensis* (Col. W. Bird, det. P. F. Yeo); *E. borealis* Wettst.
- Odontites verna* (Bell) Dum. RED BARTSIA. In or near cultivated ground, rare.
- Pinguicula vulgaris* L. COMMON BUTTERWORT. Frequent in wet heath and by streamsides.
- Mentha aquatica* L. WATER MINT. Ditches and streams mainly in the south but extending north as far as The Gully.
- Thymus drucei* Ronn. THYME. Widespread by roads, on dry banks, etc.
- Prunella vulgaris* L. SELF-HEAL. Widespread by roadsides and in pastures. White-flowered forms are reported by Mrs M. T. Dennis (1966).
- Lamium moluccellifolium* Fr. INTERMEDIATE DEAD-NETTLE. Occasionally seen in cultivated ground.
- L. purpureum* L. RED DEAD-NETTLE. Cultivated ground, frequent.
- Galeopsis tetrahit* L. agg. COMMON HEMP-NETTLE. Cultivated ground, frequent. Pritchard (1957) records it under *G. bifida* Boenn. R. C. Palmer, in 1963, could only find *G. tetrahit* s.s.

- Plantago major* L. GREAT PLANTAIN. Here and there by houses, fields, and on waste ground.
- P. lanceolata* L. RIBWORT. Common in the drier pastures.
- P. maritima* L. SEA PLANTAIN. Abundant in cliff-top pasture and on cliffs. Also sometimes found some way from the sea on dry heath. Very variable.
- P. coronopus* L. BUCK'S-HORN PLANTAIN. Common in clifftop pasture and on cliffs and rocky foreshores.
- Littorella uniflora* (L.) Aschers. SHORE-WEED. Golden Water, and in several other suitable places.
- Jasione montana* L. SHEEP'S-BIT. Frequent on sea-cliffs and dry heathy pastures. Very variable in size; occasionally white-flowered.
- Galium saxatile* L. HEATH BEDSTRAW. Widespread in heathy places.
- G. palustre* L. MARSH BEDSTRAW. Marshy places, frequent.
- G. aparine* L. GOOSEGRASS. On the South Harbour shingle and in the Geo of Busta; likely elsewhere.
- Sambucus nigra* L. ELDER. Planted in The Gully.
- Succisa pratensis* Moench DEVIL'S-BIT SCABIOUS. Common in damp pastures, by roadsides, etc., mainly in the south.
- Senecio jacobaea* L. RAGWORT. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker. Reported again in 1953 (Currie, 1960).
- S. aquaticus* Hill MARSH RAGWORT. Frequent in pastures and by roadsides, etc., at the south end.
- S. vulgaris* L. GROUNDSEL. Cultivated ground, not common.
- S. smithii* DC. Two or three clumps in the inhabited area.
- Tussilago farfara* L. COLTSFOOT. Garden weed at Melville House.
- Gnaphalium uliginosum* L. MARSH CUDWEED. Bare disturbed ground north of Schoolton.
- Antennaria dioica* (L.) Gaertn. CAT'S-FOOT. Dry heathy places; also in The Gully.
- Aster foliaceus* Lindl. MICHAELMAS DAISY. Roadside at Stoney-brake.
- Bellis perennis* L. DAISY. Common.
- Achillea ptarmica* L. SNEEZEWORD. Fields at the south end, rare.
- A. millefolium* L. YARROW. Dry pastures, especially coastal turf, common.
- Tripleurosperum maritimum* (L.) Koch SCENTLESS MAYWEED. On sea-cliffs and in cultivated ground.
- Matricaria matricarioides* (Less.) Porter RAYLESS MAYWEED. A

- frequent weed of cultivated and disturbed areas, especially near crofts.
- †*Chrysanthemum segetum* L. CORN MARIGOLD. 'Small clump on roadside near Meadow Burn', ('E. A. W. '); extracted from card index.
- C. leucanthemum* L. OX-EYE DAISY. Claimed by Mrs H. Stout (Fitter, 1959); her station is Busta.
- C. vulgare* (L.) Bernh. TANSY. In gardens or yards in three or four places.
- Artemisia vulgaris* L. MUGWORT. Reported from fields at Ken-naby by G. B. Corbet (*in litt.*) about 1953.
- Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Ten. SPEAR THISTLE. On many Fair Isle cliffs; also here and there throughout the island by roadsides and on beaches.
- C. arvense* (L.) Scop. CREEPING THISTLE. Near houses and in fields.
- Hypochoeris radicata* L. CAT'S EAR. Roadsides in the inhabited areas.
- Leontodon autumnalis* L. AUTUMNAL HAWKBIT. In pastures, widespread; often very dwarfed.
- Sonchus arvensis* L. FIELD MILK-THISTLE. Cultivated ground in a few places; the distinct var. *glabrescens* Gunth., Grab. & Wimm. occurs at the Schoolhouse, the only place known in Shetland for this uncommon variety.
- S. oleraceus* L. MILK-THISTLE. A rare weed of cultivation.
- S. asper* (L.) Hill SPINY MILK-THISTLE. A frequent weed of cultivation.
- Taraxacum officinale* Weber agg. COMMON DANDELION. Here and there in suitable places in the inhabited areas.
- †*T. spectabile* Dahlst. agg. BROAD-LEAVED MARSH DANDELION. Marshy meadows and roadsides in several places, 1968 (the writer). Unlike the Common Dandelion, which can be found in flower from March to October the present species has a very limited flowering period spanning about three weeks at the end of May and the first of June.
- Triglochin palustris* L. MARSH ARROW-GRASS. Marshy areas, as on Sukka Moor, and near Shirva, etc.
- (*Potamogeton natans* L. BROAD-LEAVED PONDWEED. Listed by Pritchard (1957). His specimens cannot be traced at the time of writing. However, the experience of several collectors supports the view that the only pondweed on Fair Isle is *P. polygonifolius*. At present *P. natans* must be regarded with some doubt.)
- P. polygonifolius* Pourr. BOG PONDWEED. Lochs, streams and bogs. Frequent in suitable places, mainly in the north.

- Narthecium ossifragum* (L.) Huds. BOG ASPHODEL. Boggy places and damp heaths, as on Sukka Moor.
- Scilla verna* Huds. SPRING SQUILL. Dry pastures, heaths, grassy cliffs and rocks, frequent. Occasionally white-flowered.
- Juncus squarrosus* L. HEATH RUSH. Damp heathy places, especially in the north.
- J. gerardii* Lois. MUD RUSH. Salt-soaked turf, North Gavel. Probably to be found elsewhere by the coast.
- J. bufonius* L. TOAD RUSH. Damp bare ground, etc., rare.
- J. conglomeratus* L. Vaadal area, rare.
- (*J. acutiflorus* Ehrh. ex Hoffm. SHARP-FLOWERED RUSH. Listed by Pritchard (1957). In the absence of supporting material the writer feels that confirmation would be desirable.)
- J. articulatus* L. JOINTED RUSH. Streams and wet places, frequent.
- J. bulbosus* L. agg. BULBOUS RUSH. Damp heathy places, streams, etc. Probably represented entirely by the segregate *J. kochii* F. W. Schultz.
- Luzula sylvatica* (Huds.) Gaud. GREATER WOODRUSH. Steep-sided rocky stream banks as in The Gully; also on some sea-cliffs. Not common.
- L. campestris* (L.) DC. FIELD WOODRUSH. Above the Haa and perhaps in other places.
- L. multiflora* (Retz.) Lej. MANY-HEADED WOODRUSH. Heaths and moors, occasionally in coastal pasture.
- Iris pseudacorus* L. YELLOW FLAG. Streams at the south end.
- Listera cordata* (L.) R. Br. LESSER TWAYBLADE. Moorland at north end. Flowers in May and June and is easily overlooked.
- Coeloglossum viride* (L.) Hartm. FROG ORCHID. Coastal turf at Bunes and Malcolm's Head and probably elsewhere.
- Dactylorchis incarnata* (L.) Vermeul. subsp. *incarnata*. MEADOW ORCHID. In 1968 the writer found this species in several marshy places from Springfield north to Vaadal. This is doubtless the same as the plant recorded in 1957 as *Orchis strictifolia* by Miss J. Clapham and Miss A. Martin (*in litt.*). It is probably the *O. latifolia* of Trail (1906).
- D. maculata* (L.) Vermeul. subsp. *ericetorum* (E. F. Linton) Vermeul. MOORLAND SPOTTED ORCHID. Heaths, widespread.
- (*D. purpurella* (T. & T. A. Steph.) Vermeul. NORTHERN FEN ORCHID. Given by Fitter (1959) on the authority of Mrs H. Stout but requires confirmation).
- (*Sparganium erectum* L. BUR-REED. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of W. E. Clarke. The record probably refers to the following.)
- S. angustifolium* Michx. FLOATING BUR-REED. It is probably this

species which grows in a stream in the Sukka Moor area. The doubt exists because so far only barren material has been examined.

Eriophorum angustifolium Honck. COMMON COTTON-GRASS. Locally common in suitable places.

(*E. vaginatum* L. HARE'S-TAIL. Given by Fitter (1959) on the authority of Mrs H. Stout. Although a very likely species the record requires confirmation.)

Trichophorum cespitosum (L.) Hartman subsp. *germanicum* (Palla) Hegi DEER-GRASS. Common on heath in the Ward Hill area.

Eleocharis quinqueflora (F. X. Hartmann) Schwarz FEW-FLOWERED SPIKE-RUSH. Stony or boggy places on the peat, mainly in the Sukka Moor area.

E. palustris (L.) Roem. & Schult. COMMON SPIKE-RUSH. Streams and boggy ground in the Sukka Moor area and elsewhere.

Eleogiton fluitans (L.) Link FLOATING SCIRPUS. Streams in the north half, particularly at Vaadal.

Schoenus nigricans L. BOG-RUSH. Damp, often stony, peaty ground, Sukka Moor, Hoini, near Springfield, etc.

Carex binervis Sm. RIBBED SEDGE. Dry heathy places, north end.

C. demissa Hornem. YELLOW SEDGE. Widespread in wet stony places.

C. serotina Mérat YELLOW SEDGE. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker.

C. scandinavica E. W. Davies YELLOW SEDGE. Reported from 'bog, Fair Isle' by Miss E. W. Davies (1953) on the authority of E. A. G. Duffey.

C. panicea L. CARNATION-GRASS. Bogs and marshes, not rare.

C. flacca Schreb. CARNATION-GRASS. Dry turfy roadsides, marshy places, etc., frequent.

C. pilulifera L. PILL-HEADED SEDGE. Dry heaths and moors.

C. nigra (L.) Reichard COMMON SEDGE. Streams, bogs, marshes, and in short dry moorland pasture, common.

C. bigelowii Torr. ex Schwein. STIFF SEDGE. High up on Ward Hill, in dry heathy ground.

C. echinata Murr. STAR SEDGE. Bogs and marshes, mainly in the north.

C. pulicaris L. FLEA-SEDEGE. Damp heaths, as on Sukka Moor.

C. dioica L. DIOECIOUS SEDGE. Vaadal. Probably in other places as it is easily overlooked.

Molinia caerulea (L.) Moench PURPLE MOOR-GRASS. Abundant in damp heathy pastures.

- Sieglingia decumbens* (L.) Bernh. HEATH GRASS. Widespread in damp or dry grassy places.
- Glyceria fluitans* (L.) R.Br. FLOTE-GRASS. Ditches and streams.
- Festuca rubra* L. CREEPING FESCUE. Abundant in both damp and dry grassland; particularly glaucous at the west side of North Haven and elsewhere.
- (*F. ovina* L. SHEEP'S FESCUE. Given by Trail (1906) on the authority of E. Straker but requires confirmation. There are a number of other unsubstantiated records of this for Fair Isle. No genuine *F. ovina* has yet been collected anywhere in Shetland.)
- F. vivipara* (L.) Sm. Frequent in mainly dry heathy grassland.
- Lolium perenne* L. subsp. *perenne* RYE-GRASS. Often seen in or near cultivated ground.
- (*Puccinellia distans* (Jacq.) Parl. REFLEXED POA. All records for this almost certainly refer to the next species.)
- P. capillaris* (Liljebl.) Jansen NORTHERN SALT-MARSH-GRASS. At various points on the Fair Isle coast. Appears entirely to replace *P. distans* in Shetland.
- Poa annua* L. ANNUAL POA. About the inhabited areas and in places away from houses, particularly if much frequented by sheep or birds.
- P. pratensis* L. MEADOW-GRASS. Dry pastures and about cultivated ground, widespread.
- P. trivialis* L. Ditches, streams and damp cultivated ground, uncommon.
- Dactylis glomerata* L. COCK'S-FOOT. Cultivated ground, scarce.
- Cynosurus cristatus* L. CRESTED DOG'S-TAIL. Grassy places in the inhabited areas.
- Agropyron repens* (L.) Beauv. COUCH-GRASS. Cultivated ground, roadsides, etc.
- Hordeum vulgare* L. BARLEY. A casual or relic of cultivation.
- Avena strigosa* Schreb. BLACK OAT. A casual or relic of cultivation.
- A. sativa* L. A casual or relic of cultivation.
- Arrhenatherum elatius* (L.) Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl OAT-GRASS. In or near cultivated ground, scarce.
- Holcus lanatus* L. YORKSHIRE FOG. Pastures, common.
- (*H. mollis* L. CREEPING SOFT-GRASS. Given by Pritchard (1957) but his specimen at Oxford is *H. lanatus*.)
- Deschampsia cespitosa* (L.) TUFTED HAIR-GRASS. Damp pastures, frequent in some places.
- D. flexuosa* (L.) Trin. WAVY HAIR-GRASS. Dry heaths, as on Ward Hill, Rippack, etc.

- Aira praecox* L. EARLY HAIR-GRASS. Dry heaths, pastures and rocks.
- †*Agrostis canina* L. BROWN BENT-GRASS. Reported by A. Currie (*in litt.*); damp moorland, dry pastures, etc.
- A. tenuis* Sibth. COMMON BENT-GRASS. Common in heathy pastures.
- A. stolonifera* L. FIORIN. Grassy places, mainly in the inhabited areas.
- Phleum pratense* L. TIMOTHY. Sown pastures, scarce.
- Alopecurus pratensis* L. MEADOW FOXTAIL. Cultivated ground, scarce.
- A. geniculatus* L. MARSH FOXTAIL. Ditches, streams, and damp cultivated ground.
- Anthoxanthum odoratum* L. SWEET VERNAL-GRASS. Very common.
- Phalaris arundinacea* L. REED-GRASS. South end, in wet places.
- Nardus stricta* L. MAT-GRASS. Common on damp or dry heaths.

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ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1971

REVENUE ACCOUNT

1970							
£2056	Provisions	£1374
1975	Wages, National Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	1653
310	Insurances	...	...	...	...	...	344
538	Heat, Light	...	...	...	...	...	416
91	Repairs, Renewals	...	...	...	...	...	411
514	Telephone, Postages & Stationery	...	...	...	...	...	357
200	Printing Annual Report	...	...	...	...	...	184
409	Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	184
178	Motor Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	98
99	Freight Inward	...	...	...	...	...	115
105	Bird Rings & Nets	...	...	...	...	...	10
314	Administration Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	303
67	Audit & Legal Charges	...	...	...	...	...	28
145	Loan Interest	...	...	...	...	...	488
	Depreciation :						
128	Furnishings & Equipment	...	...	...	...	£180	
52	Generator	...	...	...	...	60	
95	Land Rover & Boat	...	...	...	...	97	
							337
—	Surplus for year	...	...	...	...	...	229
£7276							£6531
£5441	Board & Booking Fees	...	...	...	...	...	£4959
250	Annual Grant—National Trust for Scotland Wildlife Fund	...	...	...	...	...	250
225	Fair Isle Endowment Trust to account of Income	...	...	...	...	...	101
746	Subscriptions & Donations	...	...	...	...	...	947
165	Tax recovered from Deeds of Covenant	...	...	...	...	...	133
52	Sale of Publications	...	...	...	...	...	87
30	Interest received on Government Stock	...	...	...	...	...	54
367	Deficit for year	...	...	...	...	...	—
£7276							£6531

APPEAL FUND

£19694	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	...	...	...	...	£21647
£19694						£21647
£18743	Balance at 31st October, 1970	...	...	...	...	£19694
364	Donations received during year	...	...	...	...	1598
406	Interest from Temporary Deposits—gross	...	...	...	...	164
181	Tax recovered from Covenants	...	...	...	...	191
£19694						£21647

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£421	Adjustments for earlier years	...	...	...	...	£ —
367	Deficit for year	£ —
4217	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	4446
<hr/>						
£5005						£4446
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£4998	Balance at 31st October, 1970	£4217
7	Premium on conversion of Bonds	—
—	Surplus for year	229
<hr/>						
£5005						£4446
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BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1971

Fixed Assets	Cost or Val.	Deprec.	1970
Hostel	£51548	£ —	£51548
Sheds and Traps	150	—	150
Furnishings & Equipment	1816	308	1508
Generator	592	112	480
Scientific & Photographic Equip.	160	—	160
Land Rover	223	148	75
Boat	107	44	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£54596	£612	£53984
			£53803
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Investment			
£642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 (M.V. £677)		619	619
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Current Assets			
Stocks	£389		320
Sundry Debtors	332		686
Tax Recoverable	63		144
Temporary Deposits	4600		5050
Bank & Cash	651		78
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£6035		£6278
Less Sundry Creditors	995		2764
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Current Assets		5040	3514
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£59643	£57936
<hr/>			
Capital Account		£4446	£4217
Appeal Fund		21647	19694
Grants Received from Highlands & Islands Devt. Board		25000	25000
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£51093	£48911
Secured Loan—Highlands & Islands Development Board		8550	9025
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£59643	£57936
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NOTES

1. No Depreciation has been provided on the Hostel.
2. **Highlands & Islands Development Board**
 The loan secured over specified Trust Properties is repayable by 18 annual instalments of £475.
 The Grants are only repayable under special circumstances, such as Sale, Disposal or discontinuance of the Observatory within the next three years.

EDINBURGH, 18th January 1972.—Examined and found correct.

ARTHUR YOUNG McLELLAND MOORES & CO.,
 Chartered Accountants.

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

A special fund in memory of John Harrison of Hunstanton, Norfolk, who died in September 1967 at the early age of 19, was instituted by R. A. Richardson to help adventurous teenagers of slender means with their Hostel expenses should they choose to visit Fair Isle where John spent happy holidays in three successive years.

The Trustees wish to warmly commend this scheme to all readers of the Annual Report, and ask that all donations for this most worthy object be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh 7. Please continue to support and publicise the Fund to your friends.

Eligible applicants for financial assistance must be between the ages of 15 and 21, and should write to the Warden, enclosing letters of recommendation from two references such as a school-teacher and a senior naturalist of their acquaintance. Four lads will benefit from the Fund in 1972.

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1970	...	...	...	£278.60
Donations received during year	...	...	...	36.68
Interest received on temporary loan	...	...	...	9.68
				<hr/> £324.96
Deduct :				
Four Grants paid for Accommodation at Hostel	...	...	...	28.00
Balance of Funds held at 31st October, 1971	...	...	...	<hr/>£296.96 <hr/>

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

	CAPITAL			REVENUE	
	at 31st October, 1971			Year to	Year to
	Nominal Holding	Book Value	Market Value	31.10.70	31.10.71
Grimsby Corporation 3½% Stock 1962/72	£4325	£3524	£4260	£88.93	£90.82
Whitbread & Co. Ltd. 'A' ord. 25p shares	840	314	685	13.57	15.90
Heritable Property					
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh		3050	3050	—	—
Cash Balance					
Brought forward	£148				
Donations received during year	202	350	350	1.41	1.83
Income Tax Refund				64.62	64.60
Trustees Fees				£168.53	£173.15
				12.44	5.65
		£7238	£8345	£156.09	£167.50
Payments to FIBOT				£224.78	£100.81

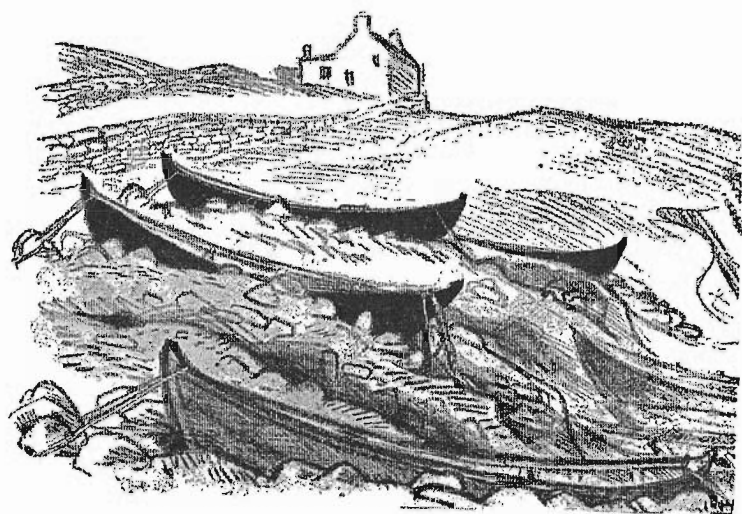
Note :

The holding in Grimsby Corporation 3½% Stock was sold on 20th December, 1971 and the proceeds invested in :

£1530 British Investment Trust Ltd. 7½% Conv. Deb. Stock 1996

£1000 Lanarkshire County Council 5½% Red. Stock 1977/79

£1000 Treasury 8¼% Loan 1987/90



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Between May and September, the island mail-boat operates on Tuesdays and Fridays, leaving Fair Isle at 6 am, arriving at Grutness pier, Sum-burgh, in the south of Shetland three hours later. It leaves Grutness on the return journey at midday. On Saturdays during the same period, the Bird Observatory operates a charter flight in and out of Fair Isle in a 7-seater 'Islander' aircraft operated by Loganair Ltd. All booking arrangements for these flights must be made through the F.I.B.O. Warden.

You can phone the Warden (Fair Isle 8) at the cheap rate after 6 pm or at weekends to discuss all booking arrangements.

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We urgently require more 'Friends of Fair Isle'. Will you help please? Ask for Membership Form. Please persuade some of your friends to subscribe—preferably by Banker's Order and Deed of Covenant.

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