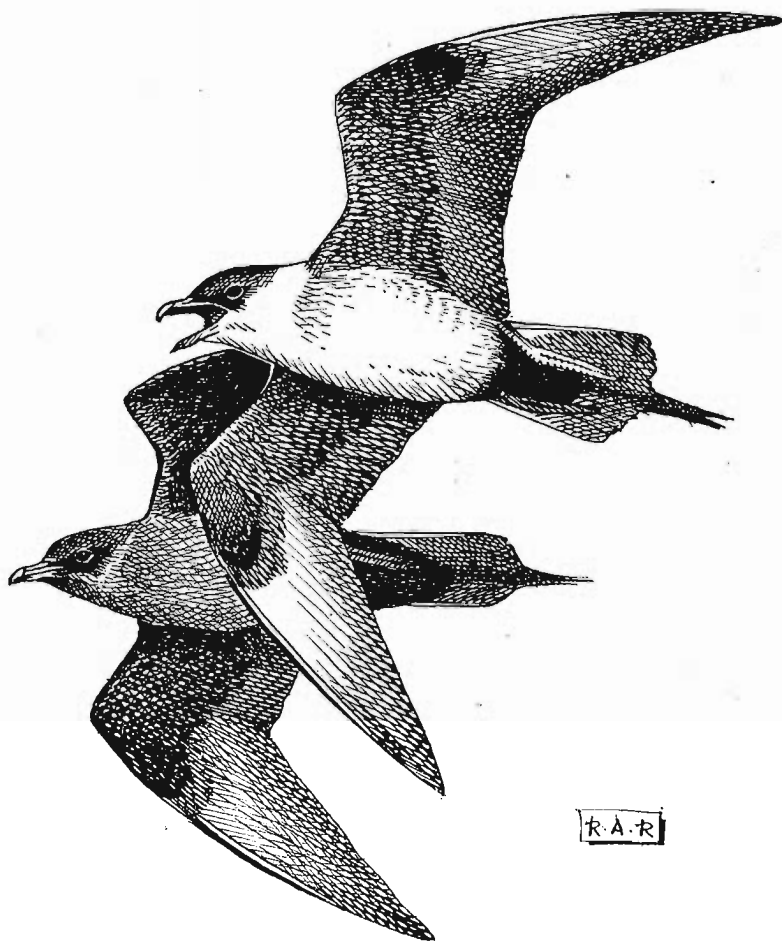


# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## REPORT FOR 1974



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

# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 27

1974

Edited by GEORGE WATERSTON

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Foreword ... ..	3
Song of the Fair Isle Wren ... ..	4
Warden's Report ... ..	5
Systematic List ... ..	16
Ringling Details ... ..	48
Recoveries ... ..	54
Recaptures ... ..	59
Ringed Strangers ... ..	60
Accounts ... ..	61

# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## Trustees

Mr D. G. Andrew; Dr John Berry; Mr A. G. S. Bryson; Sir Charles G. Connell; Sir Frank Fraser Darling; Dr W. J. Eggeling; Mr G. T. Kay; Mr E. M. Nicholson; Dr Ian D. Pennie; Sir Peter Scott; Mr P. J. Sellar; Dr P. J. B. Slater; Sir A. Landsborough Thomson; Mrs Irene Waterston; Professor V. C. Wynne Edwards.

Chairman—Sir Arthur B. Duncan

Hon. Secretary—Dr George Waterston

Hon. Assistant Secretary—Mr John Arnott

Hon. Treasurer—Mr Ian R. Pitman

## Executive Committee

Sir Arthur B. Duncan (Chairman); Mr D. G. Andrew; Mr A. G. S. Bryson; Sir Charles G. Connell; Mr J. C. Stormonth Darling; Mr Roy H. Dennis; Rev. Charles Edie; Dr W. J. Eggeling; Mr A. T. Macmillan; Dr Ian D. Pennie; Mr Ian R. Pitman; Mr R. A. Richardson; Mr P. J. Sellar; Miss Valerie Thom; Dr George Waterston; Mrs Irene Waterston; The Rt Hon. the Earl of Wemyss and March; Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

Office Address—21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT. Tel. 031 556 6042

Warden—Mr Roger A. Broad, The Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.  
Tel. Fair Isle 258

Solicitors—J. & F. Anderson, W.S., 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3LX.

Auditors—Arthur Young McLelland Moores & Co. C.A., 16 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh 3.

Bankers—The Bank of Scotland Ltd., 64 George Street, Edinburgh.

---

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — Friend of Fair Isle — At least £1.05.  
entitles you to a copy of The Annual Report

Please Support by Donation or Legacy—

## THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY ENDOWMENT FUND

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

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

Please write to the Hon. Secretary for particulars.

GEORGE WATERSTON,  
Hon. Secretary.

21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

## FOREWORD

**T**IMES, I imagine, are always difficult and challenging for a small and somewhat specialised venture such as ours in Fair Isle and, looking back over the years of our existence, I often marvel that we have not only survived but succeeded and to some extent even prospered. We could not have done so without friends, and this year we celebrate the coming of age/silver wedding of our association with one of our most constant and generous friends the National Trust for Scotland. Everyone in Scotland owes, whether they realise it or not, a great debt to the National Trust for all it has done and is doing to preserve the structure on which much that is best in our national heritage rests, but we of F.I.B.O.T. owe them especial thanks as the owners of Fair Isle for their unfailing understanding and help in a multitude of ways over the years.

The years also mean changes in the personnel of F.I.B.O.T. and Irene Waterston has had to withdraw from the work she has so splendidly done as assistant secretary to be able to devote more time to helping George through his illness. We have been very fortunate in that John Arnott, who must be well known to many of you, has agreed to undertake these duties and for this we are most grateful.

This has been another busy and successful year on the island and at the hostel thanks to the continuous enthusiasm and hard graft by Judy and Roger Broad both in the hostel and in the field.

There are two activities in the bird work that I would like to mention this year, firstly the continuing investigation into the Arctic Skua population and the inheritance of the colour phases, secondly we are beginning to get some results from the mass ringing of sea birds which has been a feature of the ringing activities for some years now: it seems possible, and even likely, that the continuation of this massive programme will shed some light on what is still a fairly little known corner of ornithological knowledge—the movements and life span of the auks.

Finally may I thank you for your continued interest and support on which the success of this enterprise rests.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,

*Chairman.*

## Editorial

WE much regret the delay in publication of the 1974 *Annual Report*—due to illness of the Editor, followed by various delays occasioned by shortage of staff at our Printers. We sincerely hope that there will be no similar hold-ups in future.

We commend your attention to the enclosed Appeal leaflet issued by the National Trust for Scotland on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of their ownership of Fair Isle.

### The Song of the Fair Isle Wren

by PAT SELLAR

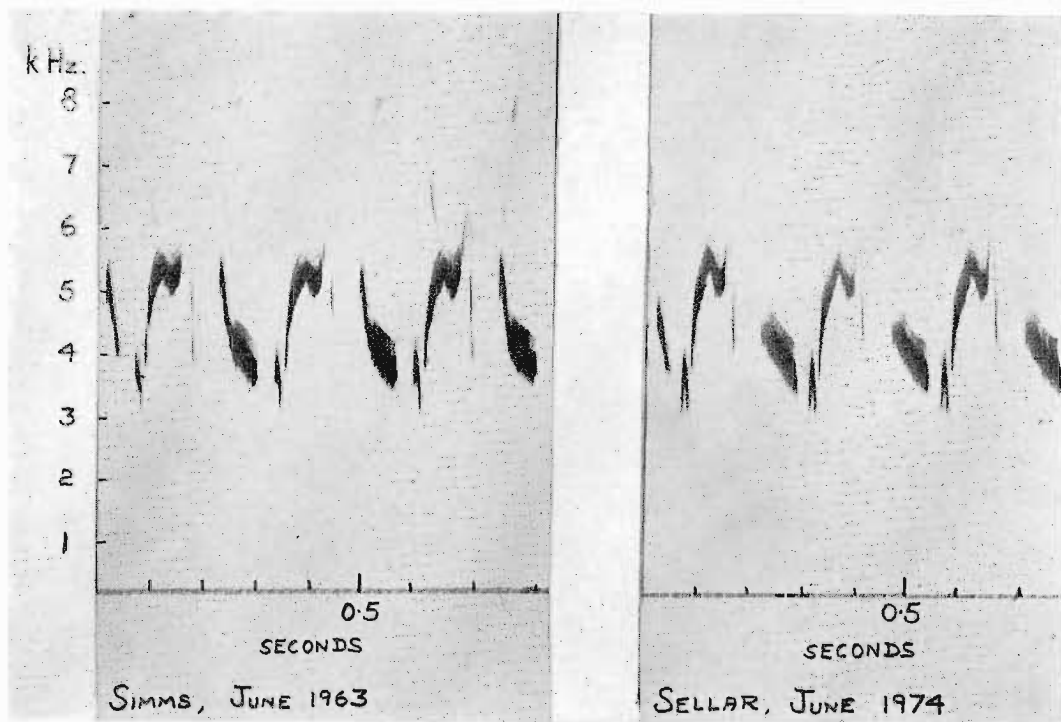
The Fair Isle Wren *Troglodytes t. fridariensis* was first described as a new race by Williamson (1951) based generally on differentiation in the plumage of the upper parts. But there is also support for differentiation on the basis of territorial song and this study is currently being taken a stage further with the aid of sound recordings and spectrograms. The other lines of divergence in the north-east Atlantic area from the typical race are *T. t. hirtensis* (Seebohm), *T. t. hebridensis* (Meinertzhagen) and *T. t. zetlandicus* (Hartert), respectively the St Kilda, Hebridean and Shetland Wren.

Although all four races sing what would easily be recognised as a typical wren song, each has a quality and manner of delivery all its own. The characteristic feature in the Fair Isle song is the inclusion of a phrase which can best be described as "WEEDLE-WEEDLE-WEEDLE". This comes twice in a full song, the first near the beginning and the second towards the end. As striking evidence of the permanency of such a detail over the years it is interesting to compare spectrograms (see below) of recordings taken at North Haven by Eric Simms in 1963 and myself in 1974. Only one "WEEDLE" phrase is shown as the diagram for the complete song is almost a metre long.

I am indebted to Joan Hall-Craggs who made the spectrograms and to Eric Simms for permission to use his recording.

#### REFERENCES

- WILLIAMSON, K. (1951). The wrens of Fair Isle. *Ibis* 93: 599.



Sound spectrograms of Fair Isle Wrens, 1963 and 1974 (see page 4)



New Observatory Heligoland Trap, November 1974.

*Photograph by Roger A. Broad*

# WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1974

By ROGER A. BROAD

## January - February

Late winter records were far from comprehensive; however, observations were sufficient to show the general pattern. Kestrel, Ringed Plover, 2 Oystercatchers and at least 2 Robins overwintered. Typical small numbers of waders were noted on many days with less usual winter records of single Jack Snipe, Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and Sanderling. Skylarks, as usual, were one of the first early migrants to press northwards and influxes were noted from mid-February. Other species recorded in the period were a party of 6 European Whitefronts and a Bean which stayed for several days from 4th January, and a Shelduck on 5th. An Iceland Gull was seen on 16th-17th February and a Rook on 1st February. Early passerines included Reed Bunting and Brambling in January and Mistle Thrush, Goldcrest and Redpoll in February.

## Spring migration

March was a fairly fine month with temperatures well up to average, generally light-moderate winds which were mainly from the SE and characterised by an extended sunny spell in the last fortnight. Ornithologically, March was a typical month, perhaps with a wider variety of species noted than in many years. Oystercatchers built up rapidly at the beginning of the month and there was a strong northerly passage of Lapwings. Ringed Plovers were already holding territory in the second half of the month when small numbers of Common and Black-headed Gulls and Curlews and larger numbers of Skylarks occurred. Small early spring passerine movements were more concentrated on 17th and 26th and in each case many birds lingered over the next few days.

A ♂ Stonechat was present on 3rd and Goldcrest and an early Meadow Pipit on 5th. A small influx of Fieldfares was noted on 6th and on 8th Moorhen, Long-eared Owl, Wood Pigeon and Rook were found (the last two species were recorded on many days later in the month). Wigeon, Teal, Scoter and Greylag were seen in the next few days and another Stonechat heralded a small but characteristic March movement. A Lapland Bunting was found on 12th and a Pied Wagtail on 16th (the forerunners of several more). On 17th there was a general increase in winter thrushes and associated with them were 3 Robins, 3 Goldcrests, Chaffinch, Reed Bunting and Dunnock. 4 Meadow Pipits were the first of a general influx of the spec-



ies during the remainder of the month. A number of the birds that arrived on 17th lingered for several days while others were the heralds of further small movements. There was also a small passage of Dunlin and a Woodcock and 2 Short-eared Owls were seen on 19th. Water Rail and Grey Wagtail were seen on 21st, Glaucous Gull and Mistle Thrush on 23rd and the first Wheatear and Black Redstart the following day. A wider variety of species was recorded on 26th when Dunnocks arrived in strength (25). The first Puffins were on the sea, Sparrowhawk, Merlin, 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Wheatears, 4 Pied and 2 White Wagtails and a Great Grey Shrike were noted. A Chiffchaff was seen on 27th and the first Bonxies and Lesser Black-backed Gulls the next day when there was also a Yellowhammer.

For much of April the Island was under the influence of a stable high pressure system. Winds were generally light and variable and temperatures above average. Apart from an extensive period of fog between 3rd-10th visibility was good. Despite the fine weather very little passerine migration was recorded until the last week of the month, when with the winds mainly in the NE, some good arrivals were noted. Small numbers of ducks were recorded from the middle of the month and there was a small raptor passage with Sparrowhawks seen from 18th and Merlins from 16th. Several species of waders were recorded and included a northerly passage of Curlews from early in the month and Golden Plover and a few Dunlin from the middle of the month. Bonxies were erratic until the third week and Arctics, after their arrival on 17th were slow to build up. As usual, there was a diurnal passage of Common and Black-headed Gulls on many days and Puffins were ashore regularly from the second week. Several species of passerine were recorded throughout the month including: Wheatear (which built up slowly), Robins, Chiffchaffs, Goldcrests, *alba* Wagtails and Snow Buntings. Twite numbers increased slowly after the first week and Chaffinches and Bramblings became more common as the month proceeded.

A Corn Bunting was seen on 1st, a Stonechat, 2 Yellowhammers and a Lapland Bunting on 3rd and on 4th there was another Stonechat. On 6th the first of several sightings of Moorhen was noted and the next day a Black Redstart was seen. 3 Wood Pigeons arrived on 8th but continuing poor visibility was responsible for the dearth of records until 11th when Glaucous Gull, Collared Dove, Short-eared Owl and a Greenfinch were found. A Water Rail and 4 Dunnocks were seen on 12th, 2 Collared Doves on 14th, 16 Barnacle Geese, a Coot, 2 Stonechats and a Linnet on 15th. Another Black Redstart was at Setter on 17th and Corn Bunting was recorded

again. There was a considerable influx of Wheatears (100) on 18th and Ring Ouzel, Green Sandpiper and a Stock Dove were reported. The northerly passage of Black-headed Gulls reached 60 on 19th when 22 Golden Plover, 25 Redshank and 4 Woodcocks were seen.

The period 20th-25th was quiet but a Greylag and Common Sandpiper were seen on 22nd, the first Whimbrel on 23rd and the first Swallow on 25th. Curlew passage increased on 26th (40) and a fine Rough-legged Buzzard was seen by many observers. The 27th was the first day of consolidated passage in April. 15 Teal were noted, waders were much in evidence and included: 2 Greenshank, 2 Black-tailed Godwits, 25 Snipe and an influx of Purple Sandpipers. There was a strong passage of Common and Black-headed Gulls and 3 Glaucous Gulls were seen. 8 Wood Pigeons, 5 Collared Doves and 2 Short-eared Owls were recorded. However, it was the outgoing thrushes that were the most noticeable. 1500 Fieldfares arrived during the day and were accompanied by 10 Ring Ouzels and 80 Blackbirds (most of the thrushes left the same evening). The first Willow Warbler was seen and there was an increase in Reed Buntings. On 28th a Great Grey Shrike was seen but the Island was quiet prior to the rush of the following two days.

On 29th Robins increased to 40, Dunnocks to 20 and Bramblings to 40 but these were the forerunners of many more the next day when the Island was alive with Robins: 83 were trapped out of an estimated 350. Dunnocks increased to 60 and Bramblings to 90. The first Whinchats and Tree Pipits appeared on 29th and there were 3 Wrynecks, 40 Ring Ouzels, Black Redstart and a Lesser Whitethroat. On 30th we found 2 Green Sandpipers and the first Redstarts and Blackcap. There was an increase in Tree Pipits, Chaffinches and Reed Buntings and Wrynecks doubled. 5 Linnets and 2 Lapland Buntings were freshly arrived. The day's ringing total, swollen by the Robins, reached 115 and to complete an excellent day we controlled a Holland-ringed Robin and a German-ringed Blackbird.

The wind remained between SE and NE for the first three weeks of May and was generally light to moderate. A trickle of migrants arrived throughout this period, although in the first week many of the birds which had arrived in the last two days of April remained to complicate the issue. The last 10 days of the month were influenced mainly by SW to NW winds except on 31st when there was a return to a SE airstream. A strong passage of thrushes was recorded in the first week and a steady trickle of the common chats, starts and warblers continued through the middle of the month, although generally in small numbers. Wrynecks were particularly numerous and

recorded almost daily. Waders were in evidence all month with frequent Greenshank records, Whimbrel, Common Sandpipers and Dunlin on most days and Golden Plover especially numerous at the beginning of the month. Glaucous Gulls and Short-eared Owls were seen on many days.

On 1st there were 3 Green Sandpipers and the first of several sightings of Jack Snipe. Many of the small birds which had arrived over the past two days remained but Robins were down and Wrynecks considerably fewer. 45 Golden Plover arrived on 2nd and Fieldfares increased to 250. However, both species were to figure more prominently the next day when a large arrival occurred during the morning. Golden Plovers increased to 130 and Fieldfares at 3000 were exceptionally numerous for the spring. Song Thrush (75) and Redwing (500) also increased and a very high total of 90 Ring Ouzels was recorded. Wrynecks increased to 8 and Bramblings to 170 and there was a visible northerly migration of Common Gulls (200). Other species recorded included Sparrowhawk, Hen Harrier, Pomarine Skua, Stock Dove and the first Sedge Warbler of the spring but pride of place went to a fine adult male Black-headed Wagtail found at Easter Lother Water. On 4th Fieldfares were still numerous and Tree Pipits increased to 30. 4 Wood Sandpipers and a Siskin were also noted. On 5th there were further small increases in a number of species including Moorhen (2), Purple Sandpiper (50), Short-eared Owl (3) and Redstart (6). There was another influx of Robins on 6th and Whinchat, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher all increased. The first Pied Flycatcher and Swallows (2) were recorded, Wrynecks increased to 9 and Iceland Gull and Rough-legged Buzzard were seen. The latter was seen at many places over the hill. The first 2 Red-throated Divers of a small passage were seen on 7th when there was a Collared Dove—the first of the spring and the forerunner of a large build-up. There were also 2 Long-eared Owls and 9 Goldcrests but generally there was a noticeable decrease in small birds compared with the previous few days.

Fewer birds were seen on the next three days but 3 Tufted Ducks, Corncrake and the first Whitethroat were seen on 8th and an Ortolan on 9th. On 10th another Tufted Duck joined the three that were still present and a female Rustic Bunting was located at Leogh. A wider selection arrived between 11th-13th. There was a small passage of hirundines on 11th when Bluethroat, Sedge Warbler and Garden Warbler all made their first appearances. 2 Grasshopper Warblers and a Stonechat were seen and less usual species included Marsh Harrier, Short-toed Lark and another sighting of the Ortolan. Warblers were more in evidence on 12th when our highest total of Wil-

low Warblers for the spring was recorded—just 20! There were also 6 Grasshopper Warblers and 4 Sedge Warblers. Wrynecks again reached 7, the first Cuckoo was seen and a Spotted Redshank recorded. Whinchats increased to 20 on 13th, a second Ortolan was found and there was an influx of Tree Sparrows (17). Wood Warbler and Red-throated Pipit added to the variety. 2 Bluethroats were present on 14th and on 15th there was a male Rustic Bunting at Wester Lothar. Both Common and Arctic Terns appeared and 10 Whimbrel were noted. Whimbrel increased to 13 the next day when the first Swift was seen in company with increased numbers of hirundines. A female Subalpine Warbler was trapped at Setter and the run of unusual species continued on 17th when a Snowy Owl was found on Ward Hill and the third Rustic Bunting of the year was located. Pied Flycatchers reached their best total of the spring—just 3, and these were more than overshadowed by a good influx of Bluethroats (10). A Turtle Dove was seen on 18th and a Woodchat Shrike trapped on 19th and a Hawfinch on 20th. On this last date there were increases in several warbler species and Black-tailed Godwit and Grey Wagtail were seen. The first of several sightings of Black Redstart was noted on 21st when a Thrush Nightingale was seen at Furse. This species was recorded again the next day at Reeva when there was a Stone Curlew at Setter and a pair of Shoveler. A Shorelark was seen on 23rd when there were also 3 Goldeneye and the next day a Scaup was seen. Cuckoos increased to 3 on this date after which few new birds were recorded before the end of the month although Corn Bunting on 28th, Shorelark and Golden Oriole on 29th are worth a mention. On the last day of the month there was a small but general increase in warblers and a Grey Wagtail was seen. Red-backed Shrikes, noticeably absent through the rest of May, appeared in force: a total of 5 being seen.

### Summer

June and July were fine months with long spells of sunshine and generally light winds. Small numbers of common migrants continued to pass through during the first week of June but by far the most obvious feature of early June was the passage of Red-backed Shrikes; up to 8 were seen daily in the first week and smaller numbers to 20th. Despite much of our attention turning to the seabirds during the summer months a number of interesting migrants were seen.

On 1st there was a small increase in Willow Warblers, a Wood Warbler and 2 Wrynecks. The next day an Icterine Warbler was seen and Collared Doves increased to 15. 4 Common Scoter and a Quail were found but a drake King Eider in the North Haven was the bird of the day. House Martins in-

creased on 3rd when 3 Wrynecks were recorded as well as Bluethroat and a final small increase in Spotted Flycatchers. From 4th small birds gradually decreased and passage was mainly confined to the arrival of isolated species. On 4th Red-backed Shrikes reached 8 and there was a Wood Warbler and a Long-tailed Skua on 5th. A Marsh Warbler was trapped on 11th, there were 2 Cuckoos on 12th and a Black-tailed Godwit on 13th. Another Marsh Warbler was seen on 15th when both Scarlet Rosefinch and Thrush Nightingale were trapped. Collared Doves increased to 18 on 18th, another Long-tailed Skua was first seen on 23rd and a Lesser Grey Shrike was near the Church on 24th.

The majority of seabirds had a good breeding season untroubled by bad weather, although many of the early Shag broods were rather small in number. One very encouraging development was the attempted breeding of Gannets on Dronger; 3 quite large nests were built although nothing was laid in them. Also in attendance during the summer were a large number of loafing birds. The small colony of Common Terns on the Stack O' North Haven continued to expand and were successful in raising a minimum of 11 young from at least 6 pairs. On Vaasetter a pair of Common Gulls again bred and there may well have been another pair resident in the same area. Curlew did not breed but Whimbrel again bred successfully on Sukka Mire (only the second breeding record). Amongst the few species of breeding landbirds Skylarks were particularly plentiful with the presence of a larger breeding population than usual.

In July a Scaup was seen on 4th, a Marsh Warbler on 5th and a Goosander on 16th, otherwise July migration was almost confined to the early return passage of waders and Common and Black-headed Gulls. Numbers of waders were generally small and passage was slow to get under way. Small parties of Curlew appeared from the first week, Turnstone from 13th and Purple Sandpiper from 16th. Sanderling and Knot appeared in the last week of the month.

### **Autumn migration**

By early August most of the Razorbills and Guillemots were vacating their breeding ledges. Wader passage was gaining momentum; Curlew flocks were seen throughout the month, smaller numbers of Whimbrel, Greenshank, Knot, Dunlin and Sanderling were recorded on many days and the numbers of Redshank increased. Golden Plover were moving through in fair numbers from 9th and Ringed Plovers from the middle of the month. Ruff were recorded more regularly than usual. As the breeding terns came to the end of their season their numbers were swollen by passage birds from the beginning of the

month. Influxes of Common Gulls were recorded throughout August and these were especially large at the end of the month. Small numbers of Fieldfares, Redwings and Song Thrushes began to move through during the month and the usual White Wagtail passage began in the third week but not until the last week of the month were any numbers or selection of small migrants seen.

Purple Sandpipers peaked at 65 on 6th, there was a Spotted Redshank on 8th and 3 on 9th when a Green Sandpiper was the first of a small passage. 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen and 4 phylloscs were the first of autumn. These were followed by both Whitethroat and Garden Warbler in the following 2 days. The first of a small Sooty Shearwater passage was seen on 16th and in the next week, Redwing, Whinchat, Lesser Whitethroat, White Wagtail and Tree Pipit all appeared. One of the landmarks of the autumn is the appearance of the first Barred Warbler and this occurred on 19th on a day when White Wagtails increased to 53. The first of the usual autumn Cormorant passage was recorded on 20th and there was a noticeable Lesser Black-back movement at the same time. A Grey Plover and 3 Bar-tailed Godwits were seen on 21st and there were 2 Barred Warblers. Turtle Dove, Reed and Sedge Warblers all appeared on 23rd and there were 4 Green Sandpipers on 24th. The first Fieldfare and Pied Flycatcher of the autumn were recorded on 25th and on 26th Little Stint and Spotted Redshank were seen. Cormorants continued to move south during this period and 50 were seen on 27th.

The wind settled in the SE on 28th and remained there until early September and this period saw one of the best movements of the autumn. On 28th, Wryneck, 3 Pied Flycatchers and a *flava* Wagtail were seen and Common Gulls increased to 450. On 29th this last species had almost doubled and a wide selection of other species had arrived. There were 3 Wrynecks, an Icterine Warbler, Barred Warblers increased to 4 and there were several Garden Warblers, phylloscs and Pied Flycatchers. The only August Scarlet Rosefinch was seen on this date and a Yellow-breasted Bunting was found at Setter. At sea Sooty Shearwater passage reached its maximum for the autumn. On 30th Sooty Shearwaters were still passing in similar numbers. A Little Stint was newly arrived and some of the small species increased and additions included a Reed Warbler and a Woodchat Shrike. Warblers increased further on the last day of the month when, despite misty conditions, some good tallies were recorded: these included 5 Wrynecks Icterine Warbler, 6 Barred Warblers, Wood Warbler and Red-backed Shrike.

The month of September, as usual, provided the widest selection of species of the year, however, unlike the previous two

Septembers the largest movements were at the beginning of the month. These were a continuation of the passage begun at the end of August. Numbers of small migrants remained high during the first ten days and there were further small arrivals of Scandinavian migrants in mid-month. Barred Warblers and Scarlet Rosefinches were less frequent than in the last two autumns but, as in spring, Wrynecks and Red-backed Shrikes were particularly numerous, especially in the first fortnight. An irruption of Siskins brought impressive numbers to the Island during the month. Cormorants and many species of wader continued to move south throughout the month and the presence of good numbers of Ruffs deserves yet another mention.

The wind continued from the SE between the 1st-3rd and the end of August movement increased in strength. On 1st Wrynecks increased and figured prominently, Whinchats (45), Garden Warblers (50) and phylloscs (35), including 3 Chiffchaffs, were the most numerous of the smaller species. 60 Tree Pipits and 40 Siskins were found late in the day having probably just arrived. There were also 2 Wood Warblers, 5 *flava* wagtails and an increase in Red-backed Shrikes. A Yellow-breasted Bunting was seen and among the larger species Teal (15), the first Merlin of the autumn, 2 Kestrels, 3 Jack Snipe, Spotted Redshank and 25 Ruff were recorded. Several species increased further on 2nd: 20 Wrynecks was a record for the autumn, and 9 Red-backed Shrikes was a very good total. Kestrel (5), Whimbrel (9), Sanderling (7) and Ruff (45) were all evidence of a renewed influx while additional species included Grasshopper Warbler (scarce in autumn), Citrine Wagtail and 3 Ortolans. The number of small birds in the trapping region was responsible for a good day's ringing and an interesting selection of species were handled including 5 Wrynecks, Barred Warbler, 3 Red-backed Shrikes and an Ortolan. The next day, on 3rd, Wrynecks had greatly decreased and only 6 could be found but 3 Little Stints and another Grasshopper Warbler were located.

An Icterine Warbler was found on 4th but the wind had moved to the west in the morning and only late in the day did it move temporarily to SE. As a result of this 4 Barred Warblers and 5 Ortolans were seen on 5th despite a return to a westerly airstream. On 6th, the same conditions persisted and there was an influx of adult male Wheatears and 4 Snow Buntings, Great Northern Diver and 3 Merlins were noted. Snow Buntings increased further on 7th and on 8th following another night of SE winds a small arrival of Scandinavian migrants occurred. Wrynecks (3), Whinchats, Whitethroats and Willow/Chiffs all increased. There was an influx of Snow Buntings (80) but a Buff-breasted Sandpiper found on Meoness probably arrived

under the influence of a different weather system. A few new birds were seen from 9th-12th and included Water Rail and Corncrake and the first of several sightings of Great Spotted Woodpecker on 9th, Moorhen, Scarlet Rosefinch and Yellow-breasted Bunting on 10th and 2 Rosefinches and an Ortolan on 11th.

A renewed small movement occurred on 13th-14th: Wigeon and Teal were moving on 13th when there were also a few more Wrynecks and Barred Warblers and the first of a build up of Siskins. On 14th Siskins increased to 70 and the first Chaffinches of the autumn were seen. Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher and a Buzzard sp. were also noted. 32 Ruff were recorded on 15th and an Aquatic Warbler was seen briefly at Leogh. On 16th, Siskins peaked at 180 and there were 2 Yellow-breasted Buntings; otherwise, it was mainly the waders (Ringed Plovers, Golden Plovers and Jack Snipe); ducks, including Pintail and Long-tailed and Glaucous Gulls (2) that were most in evidence. On 18th a drake King Eider was found off Maavie Tongue and a Spotted Crake in Gilsetter. 2 Lapland Buntings were also seen. The 19th was an exciting day, not particularly for the Greylags and Pinkfeet seen, but for the stir caused by the discovery of a Baltimore Oriole on Meoness. However, not until the following day when it showed up again at Shirva did many observers have the opportunity to watch this addition to the Fair Isle list.

A few grey geese were seen in the next few days and the first Whooper Swans on 20th. On 21st, a Great Shearwater was seen off two separate points of the Island and a Velvet Scoter was present on 22nd. The 23rd saw an increase in Merlins (3) and Scarlet Rosefinches (5) while considerable excitement was raised by a Yellow-browed Warbler and another Yellow-breasted Bunting. From 24th, Greylags could be seen daily to the end of October. A Slavonian Grebe was found and Jack Snipe increased to 4 on this date and the next day a Lapland Bunting was also the forerunner of a series of records that were to continue well into October. On 27th there was a further small influx including 3 Barred Warblers and 6 Rosefinches and a moderate NE wind on 28th produced the first sizeable influx of winter thrushes (65 Fieldfare and 500 Redwing). Also prominent were Goldcrests (35) and a few Brambling while variety was added by the presence of 2 Wrynecks and a Richard's Pipit. There was a Bluethroat on 29th and a Spotted Crake was seen on 30th.

October can usually be relied upon to produce several good arrivals of thrushes but 1975 proved to be disappointing in this respect. Only on 2nd, as part of an arrival of Scandinavian origin, were the numbers at all impressive. Robins, Chaffinches



and Bramblings were also rather thin on the ground. The last Arctic Skua was recorded on 3rd, Oystercatchers and Ringed Plovers departed by mid-month and Bonxies at the end of October. Small numbers of Whinchats and Redstarts were seen to the middle of the month and fair numbers of Chiffchaffs were recorded throughout. Moderate numbers of Snow Buntings were also present all month with larger arrivals at the end when small numbers of Waxwings were also moving through. Good numbers of Greylags continued to be seen in the first fortnight when several small parties of Whoopers were also recorded. Regular sightings of Merlins and Kestrels continued to the end of the month and Water Rails were seen, at intervals, from the middle of the month.

On 1st the Spotted Crake was seen again and there were further sightings of the Richard's Pipit. The 2nd was the only day of the month to produce a large arrival. 1000 Redwings, 150 Fieldfares and 200 Goldcrests were the main species. A small number of Redstarts, warblers (including a Barred) and Bramblings occurred. 2 Great Grey Shrikes were also typical of the time of year but a Red-backed Shrike was less expected. A late Turtle Dove, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers and a Blue-throat were seen but the best bird of the day was the autumn's second and most obliging Citrine Wagtail found at Taing. The 3rd produced a Glaucous Gull (the first of several sightings) and Greylags increased to 50. On 4th, Greylags increased further to 71 and Herons to 6. A Richard's Pipit was seen again and a Yellow-browed Warbler found. A Long-eared Owl was seen on 5th and a few warblers arrived on 6th, a date when 5 Barnacles and a late 'comic' tern were found. The main excitement however surrounded the finding of a Black-headed Bunting at Kennaby.

On 7th, 108 Barnacles was a record number for the Island. 30 Goldcrests indicated another small arrival and a Yellow-browed Warbler was seen. A few more Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were seen in the next day or two. 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers were located on 8th and a Great Grey Shrike on 9th when 600 Fieldfare came in (only the second thrush influx of significance in October). A Little Bunting was seen on 10th and on 11th, 4 Goldeneye, 6 Whoopers and an Iceland Gull reminded us of the late season. On 12th a Bean Goose was found with Greylags and Lapland Buntings, present all month, reached 10. More birds were moving on 13th; Blackbirds reached 50 for the first time during the month, Long-tailed Ducks increased to 8, there was the first of several sightings of Sparrowhawk and 2 Hen Harriers were seen. 4 Garden Warblers were newly arrived but the bird of the day was a Dusky Warbler found in the rose bushes at Leogh. It was trapped the next day at Busta on the anniversary of the only

previous Fair Isle record in 1961. 4 Swallows were seen on 15th and another small, late movement occurred on 17th when a Wryneck was the latest seen on the Island. The main species were Blackcaps (30), Chiffchaffs (12) and Bramblings (30). A Great Grey Shrike was also recorded.

The last Wheatear was seen on 20th, 5 Barnacles were seen on 21st and 2 Pinkfeet the next day. Merlins increased to 3 on 21st and the first of a small movement of Waxwings was seen on 23rd. A new influx of Glaucous Gulls brought 5 to the Island on 25th, 7 Whoopers were seen on 28th and Iceland Gull on 29th. Waxwings increased to 7 on 30th. The last day of the month was one of some quality; a Yellow-browed Warbler was found at Shirva and a Great Grey Shrike at Furse and a dark, heavy-looking dove at Setter was identified as a Rufous Turtle Dove—an addition to the Fair Isle list. November proved to be an interesting month. A few Greylags remained all month and Water Rails could be seen on many days. Glaucous Gulls were regular visitors and both Long and Short-eared Owls were seen at intervals. A steady stream of Blackcaps produced a monthly ringing total for the species in excess of any other month in 1974. A few Chiffchaffs were seen on a number of days and Waxwings continued to pass through in small numbers. 1-2 Great Grey Shrikes were noted on many days. Blackbirds appeared in moderate numbers on several days but a massive influx of Snow Buntings at the end of the first week was the sight to be remembered.

The wind was S to SE in the first 5 days of November and Blackbirds arrived on several days. 35+ Woodcock were reported on the hill on 1st and a Red-necked Grebe was in the North Haven. 25+ Woodcock were reported on the hill on 4th and these had arrived with 300 Blackbirds, 14 Blackcaps and 8 Lapland Buntings. On 5th Blackbirds had increased to 500 and Fieldfares to 600. The wind was predominantly SW on 7th and small parties of Snow Buntings started to appear from mid-day. By evening, we estimated that 1500 had arrived. However, on 8th, when a solid flock stretched from Shirva to Reeva, there were at least 3000. Many stayed for several days. On 13th, 12 Barnacles and 27 Greylags were seen, Blackcaps increased to 15 and the last Garden Warbler of the year was reported. On 14th a minimum of 4 Water Rails were seen, the 15th produced 4 Short-eared Owls, 10 Glaucous Gulls and a very large influx of Purple Sandpipers (150+) and there was a Grey Plover on 16th. Very few birds were seen in the next week although 5 Jackdaws were seen on 19th and a Stonechat on 21st. 2 Black Redstarts on 22nd were the first of the autumn and on 23rd there was another small arrival of Blackbirds (250) and a few Mallard and Teal were moving. Blackbirds

more than doubled on 24th, a second Rook joined one that had been present for some days, Goosander, Hen Harrier and 4 Jack Snipe were recorded but the surprise of the day was an Olive-backed Pipit that allowed itself to be driven into the roadside trap. Woodcock obviously arrived with the Blackbirds and on 25th, 20+ were seen on the hill. Observations were rather scanty at this time of year and only odd birds were recorded to the end of the year.

In December, Glaucous Gulls were seen at intervals, a Long-eared Owl was seen on 3rd, a late Chiffchaff on 4th, a Great Northern Diver was on the sea off the Burrian on 15th, an Iceland Gull was seen on 19th and a Short-eared Owl on 24th. It was nevertheless obvious that with the mild weather continuing to the end of the year, more birds than usual were lingering on the Island. At least 50 Blackbirds were present at the end of the year, and Water Rail, Moorhen, Lapwings, Skylarks, Rook and 2 Robins were all apparently intent on overwintering.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

The order followed is that given in 'A species list of British and Irish birds', BTO Guide No. 13.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*. Two records both of singles: one on 6th September and the other on 15th December. The December record is only the second for that month, which is surprising considering the numbers recorded elsewhere in Shetland; it probably reflects the low coverage in the winter months.

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata*. 2 on 7th May and on 15th June otherwise singles on 9 days between 7th May and 18th June. One on 22nd September. Single unidentified divers probably this species, were recorded on 5th and 7th and 2 on 9th September.

**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*. One was in the North Haven on 1st November.

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*. One on 24th September.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*. Present throughout the year with total vacation of the cliffs only in severe weather. A blue phase bird paired with a typical bird raised a chick at North Mila Hesslands at a site similarly occupied in 1973. Other sightings of blue phase birds were as follows: singles on 5 day in February and March, 23rd-24th September and 14th October. Breeding data: first eggs seen on 16th May and eggs chipping on 29th June.

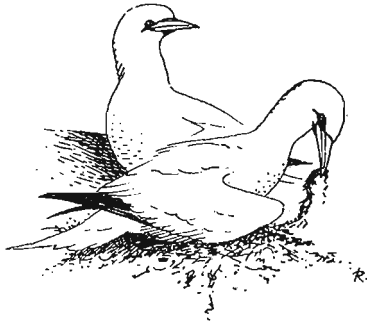
**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*. One on the crossing on 31st May. Singles were seen on the crossing on 10th and

16th August and from the Island on 5 days between 17th August and 12th September with 2 on 29th August.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis*. There were two independent sightings on 21st September, at Hesswalls (P. J. Roberts) and at Head O' Tind (T. & W. N. Loseby). This species has only been recorded in four previous years.

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*. A typical series of autumn records: small numbers, generally less than 4, recorded on several dates between 10th August and 27th September and on the crossing and from the Island but ca 15 were recorded from the Island on 28th-29th August.

**STORM PETREL** *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Rather few seen on the crossing between 15th June and 31st August. Birds were trapped ashore at Gunnawark, Ley of Milens Houlan, Bunes and Swartz Geo between 13th July and 27th September. No positive evidence of breeding.



**GANNET** *Sula bassana*. Very few recorded in the winter months, monthly maxima as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Maximum	—	2	12	6	70	101	70	100	100
No. of days recorded	—	3	3	8	31	31	31	25	30
Oct	Nov	Dec							
80	—	—							
12	—	—							

An exceedingly encouraging development was the early occupation of a ledge on the NW side of Dronger. On 26th April 4 were ashore amongst a dense colony of Guillemots and thereafter birds were seen ashore on many days until 2nd August. The maximum numbers ashore were 70 on 21st May and 101 on 5th June. On dates when large numbers were ashore some birds were also sitting on the rocky outcrops on the end

of Dronger itself. The usual number ashore through the early summer was 25-30. Three quite large nests were constructed (almost entirely of courelene and scraps of fishing net) by birds in adult plumage on the main ledge but so far as is known no eggs were laid. Needless to say the original Guillemot colony was severely depleted by the presence of the Gannets.

**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. One on 17th January. One on 18th and 6 on 19th April. 1-2 on many days in May. 2 on 13th and 18th June. Autumn passage from 20th August. 6 on 20th and 8 on 21st August, then virtually daily between 26th August and 6th October, with maxima of 50 on 27th August, 30 on 6th, 20 on 11th and 30 on 20th September. Singles on 13th October and 13th-14th November.

**SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present throughout the year in usual numbers. An albino bird was present around the Holms for much of the summer. Unlike the two nestlings reared at S. Mila Hesslands in 1972 and 1973 its eyes were unpigmented and its plumage whiter. It was unringed. Breeding data: normal season with first eggs seen on 4th April and first fledged young on the water on 4th June. Many of the first broods were smaller than usual.

**HERON** *Ardea cinerea*. Singles on 4 days in March between 9th and 17th. One on 13th and 22nd April. Two on 28th April-3rd May. Singles on many days through May-4th July. One seen on many days from 12th July to the end of the month but 3 on 25th and 6 on 26th. Up to 3 regularly through August to 14th September with peaks of 6 on 17th and 5 on 31st August and 2nd September and 8 on 14th September. One seen on many days to the end of September but up to 6 between 29th September and 4th October after which one was seen regularly to 24th. At least one immature bird was contaminated with fulmar oil during the summer and these incapacitated birds account for some of the long series of records during the year.

**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*. Singles on several days in January, and 20th-21st February. A pair on several days in March. 2-3 on most days between 14th April and 30th May but 4 on 11th May. A drake on 6th June, 2 on 2nd and one on 28th July and a drake on 3rd August. Autumn passage: small numbers regularly between 13th August-12th November with maximum of 4 in August and September but numbers a little higher in October and November with maximum of 9 on several days. 2 on 22nd and 5 on 23rd November, a pair on 1st December and one on 2nd and 10th December.

**TEAL** *Anas crecca*. Singles on 9th and 11th March. 2-3 on most days between 15th April and 15th May but 15 on 27th April

and 10 on 3rd May. Autumn passage : almost daily between 20th August and 3rd October with up to 7 on several days and 8 on 30th August. 15 on 1st, 11 on 13th and 15 on 16th September. Singles on several days in remainder of October and 3 on 6th, one on 18th and 14 on 23rd November.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. 1-2 on 5th-7th January. 40 on 10th March (unusually large number for the early spring) and 1-3 on scattered dates between 10th April and 30th May with no particular peak of activity. Almost daily between 24th August-2nd October with generally less than 5 daily but peaks of 15 on 13th and 8 on 16th-17th September. 1-3 on several days from 12th-22nd October and 1-4 on several scattered dates between 6th-18th November. A drake on 1st and 6th December.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. A duck on 29th April, a drake on 28th-29th May and one on 16th September.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*. A pair on 22nd-23rd May.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*. A duck on 24th-26th May and a drake on 4th July.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. 2 drakes and a duck on 8th were joined by a third drake on 10th-11th and one remained to 15th May. A drake was found dead on 2nd June. A drake on 6th-7th September, singles on 27th-28th September and 17th October.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. A drake on 19th-22nd April and 3 on 23rd May. 1-4 between 10th-18th October, one on 4th, 2 on 19th-21st and 1-2 from 25th November to 31st December.

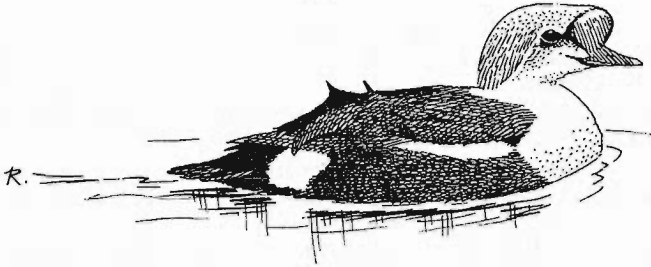
LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. One on 4th January. Probably daily between 1st February-30th March with maximum of 5 on 23rd February, 6 on 9th and 7 on 21st and 26th March. 1-4 daily from 9th-21st April. 1-4 on scattered dates between 26th April and 16th May. A drake on 23rd-30th May. In autumn: one from 16th-28th September, 1-3 almost daily 1st-12th October and 8 on 13th. 1-3 on scattered days to 6th November.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. A drake on 22nd September.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. A pair on 9th March and a duck on 2nd April. Maximum of 5 between 2nd-10th June. A duck on 15th December.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Present all months of the year with maximum recorded during autumn build-up of 1,075 in November. Breeding data: eggs (c/4) recorded on 8th May and first two families on sea on early date of 2nd June.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*. A drake discovered on 2nd June in the North Haven remained in the Maver's Geo/Dut-



field area to 4th June. A drake in eclipse plumage was located off Maavie Tongue on 18th September and this bird remained in association with the Common Eider flocks and was seen off many parts of the Island until it was last seen on 6th November. By this last date it had virtually completed its moult. These two records together with the only other record in the Observatory period last September reflect the situation in Shetland where the species has been recorded in small but increasing numbers in the past few years.

**RED-BREADED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator*. A drake on 4th March, one on 11th and a pair on 26th April. Single ducks on 3rd and 14th May and 23rd-27th June. In autumn: 1-3 on most days from 12th-26th September. 6 were together in the North Haven on 29th-30th September (all red-headed birds). Singles on 6 days in October and 5th-6th November. One remained from 24th November to 7th December.

**GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*. A drake on the unusual date of 16th July (K. J. Derrett) and one on 24th November.

**SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*. The only record was a single on 5th January (S. Thomson).

**GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*. Singles on 10th and 25th March, 22nd April and 1st May. 2 on 3rd May. 3 on 13th were reduced to 2 on 15th and these remained to 17th. 2 on 22nd May. Strong autumn passage: 8 on 19th-20th September then after 17 on 24th, records were daily to 26th October. The largest movement occurred between 2nd-10th October with 50-60 daily and peak of 71 on 4th. Numbers then lower with 20-40 daily to 26th October. 1-3 birds on many days from 29th October to 21st November but larger numbers as follows: 60 on 30th October, 7 on 6th, 27 on 13th and 13 on 20th November. 1-2 injured birds remained from 22nd November to 31st December.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons*. A family party (2 adults and 4 immatures) of the European form stayed from 4th-10th January.

**BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis*. One stayed with the Whitefronts

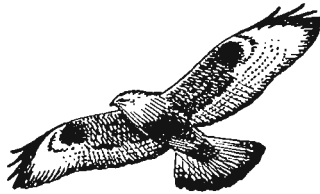
from 4th-9th January. One with Greylags from 12th-20th October. These are only the 6th and 7th records for the Island.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*. One on 7th-8th May. Scarce in autumn and recorded on only three days: 10 on 19th and 15 on 20th September and 2 on 22nd October.

**GREY GEESE** sp. *Anser* sp. Unidentified grey geese were recorded as follows: 9 on 16th, 7 on 17th, 1 on 18th, 3 on 23rd and 5 on 25th September and 19 on 24th October.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis*. 16 on 15th April. 5 on 6th and 108 on 7th (by far the largest number recorded on the Island), 5 on 21st and 24th and 7 on 25th October and 12 on 13th November.

**WHOOPEE SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus*. A small party of Whoopers were heard passing over the Observatory on 21st March in the early hours—the only spring record. In autumn: 5 on 20th, 1-3 daily from 23rd-28th September. 7 on 1st, 2 on 2nd and 4 on 4th October. 6 on 11th included the first immatures, 3 on 26th, 7 on 28th, 4 on 29th and 2 on 30th October. 2 on 2nd and 8th and one on 17th November.



κ.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus*. One on 26th April was seen at several spots over the Hill by a number of observers. A different individual flew north over the south of the Island on 6th May (R. A. Broad and B. Cochrane).

**BUZZARD** sp. *Buteo* sp. An unidentified Buzzard was seen flying across Malcolm's Head on 14th September.

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*. A ♀ on 26th-27th March. A ♀ on 18th-19th, another on 20th and a ♂ on 22nd-23rd, 2 (♂♀) on 27th-28th, ♂ on 29th and one on 30th April. Singles on 3rd (♂), 5th and 15th May. In autumn: 1-2 seen on 11 days between 1st-24th September. Singles on 7 days in October between 13th and 25th.

**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*. An immature bird was seen on 11th-15th May and picked up dead, covered in fulmar oil at Easter Lothar on 19th.



HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. One (♀) from 3rd-6th May and 1-2 (ring-tailed birds) on 13th-14th October and another on 24th-25th November.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. A ♂ was seen on 6 days in January and a ♀ on 8th. 2 ♂♂ were together on 13th and single ♂♂ seen on 17th and 25th February. At least three individuals (2 ♂♂ and ♀) were seen on many days in March, April and May. In June singles on 1st-2nd and 5th-6th were the last records until the autumn. One on 20th-21st August. Regular sightings involving at least three individuals between 17th September and 6th October, and sightings of single birds on 10 days between 10th October and 26th November. One on 31st December. This is the fifth successive year that there has been no evidence of breeding.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. One on 26th March and 1-2 on 17 scattered days from 16th April to 20th May. Autumn records: one on 1st, 3 on 6th, one on 7th, 1-2 on 11th-12th September then records virtually daily from 17th September-2nd November. Up to 2 on many days and 3 on 23rd-24th and 29th September and 22nd October. One on 18th November.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. One bird overwintered; it was seen on several occasions between January-April. First migrants seen on 17th-19th March. 1-2 on several days in May to 6th June. One on 19th June, 14th-15th and 31st July. Singles on many days in August (but involving more than one bird). Heavier passage in first half of September with 2-3 on several days between 1st-5th and 11th-17th but 5 on 2nd September. 1-2 on most days during the rest of September and first week of October. Apart from 2 on 27th October, singles were recorded on several days in October and 13th November. One (♀) on 29th November was still present in December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. Only one record—a single on 2nd June.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. One on 21st January. Singles on 21st March, 12th April and 20th May. In autumn: singles on 9th, 17th-18th, 23rd-28th September. One on 8th and 1-2 on several days from 15th October-3rd November. One on 9th and minimum of 4 between 13th-19th and 1-2 from 25th November to 30th December.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*. One in Gilsetter on 18th-19th (trapped on 18th) may have been present since 15th September. One at the same place on 30th September-1st October (not positively identified as a different bird). Recorded in autumn for the fourth successive year.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. One on 8th-12th May was the only spring record. One on 9th September—the only autumn record.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Singles on 8th-10th and another 11th and 17th March. Singles in April on 6th-7th, 13th-14th, 20th-22nd, 27th and 30th. 1-2 from 1st-12th May, one staying to 24th May. One (dead) on 10th September and singles on 13th-14th September, 22nd October, 27th November to 24th December.

COOT *Fulica atra*. One found on 15th March had been dead a few days. One on 15th April.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. 2 on 7th January had been present since early December. Spring arrivals from 1st February (1), 4 on 4th and 1 on 5th. Continuous records from 12th (4) with slow build up during the rest of February and early March with 30 on 3rd and 90 on 9th March. Decrease noted in late August and through September with only 12 remaining on 12th September and 3 at the beginning of October the last of which was seen on 14th, although 2-3 were seen on 20th-22nd October. Breeding data: early clutch (c/3) on 26th April though majority of eggs not laid before the second week of May. Population probably a little lower than in 1973.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Singles on 9th and 23rd January. Spring passage from 17th February with up to 21 present on several days to the end of the month. Almost daily in March with peaks of 40 on 2nd and heavy passage 7th-18th when 60 regularly present but 200 on 8th-9th and 170 on 17th. Smaller numbers in the rest of the month, but 45-55 on 24th-26th. Small passage noted on several days in April and May but numbers complicated by presence of up to 8 birds 'resident' on the Parks, where they were song-fighting on many occasions. 26 on 19th and 16 on 27th April, 14 on 3rd and 22nd May included some passage birds. 1-5 seen on several days in June with 13 on 14th and 12 on 30th. Return passage: a few from 1st August and almost daily in small numbers between 12th August and 10th October, numbers a little higher in mid-September with up to 17 on best days and 31 on 2nd October. Maximum of 12 recorded on scattered dates through the rest of October and until 25th November. 7-8 on 7th-11th and 4 to 31st December.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. One on 7th January had been present since early December. One on 4th February. Following the arrival of 2 on 12th February records fairly regular with slow build up of breeding population. Maximum of 5 in February and 9 in March. First autumn flocks noticed on 16th July (8) were probably local birds and no real influx

was noted until second week of August, after which 20-45 seen on many days until 16th September and peak of 60 on 5th September. Numbers smaller during the rest of September although 30 were seen on 16th. Only 12 on 1st October and last 3 seen on 9th October. Breeding data: only 7 territories held this year (2 less than last year).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. One at Skadan on 21st August and another over Field on 16th November.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*. Singles in January on 7th and 16th and in February on 5th and 18th-28th. 1-3 on a few days in March, 11th and 15th April. Larger numbers than usual during the main spring passage with continuous records between 18th April-23rd May. Up to 20 on many days but stronger passage 2nd-6th May with peaks of 130 on 3rd and 100 on 5th. Singles on 28th-29th May, 4th-5th and 1-3 on 14th-17th June, and on several days between 8th July and 3rd August. Main autumn passage from 9th August-16th October when records daily. Peaks in August on 16th (20), 19th (45) and 23rd (50), numbers higher in September with peaks of 50 on 1st, 60 on 8th-9th, 60-80 daily 13th-27th, 150 on 16th and 120 on 20th. Numbers diminishing to 16th October but up to 30 daily until 5th, including peak of 70 on 1st. 17 on 25th and 11 on 26th and up to 7 from 30th October to 1st November. 1-5 on 5 dates between 11th and 24th November.

DOTTEREL *Eudromias morinellus*. One seen on 26th August (G. J. Barnes) is the first record for that month.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Up to 12 on many days in January, February and March but 25 on 1st and 20 on 12th February, 17 on 9th and 16 on 18th March. Less frequent sightings at end of March and early April. 1-6 on several scattered dates from 8th April to 8th June including 9 on 27th April. Return passage from 13th July with first large influx on 27th July (40) after which records daily to the end of the year. Up to 30 on several days in August and September but maxima a little lower in October and November with exception of the period 13th-18th November when influx noticed peaking at 55 on 15th. Up to 20 in December.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*. Numbers low in January and February with infrequent sightings, maximum of 6 on any one day. Seen more regularly from 8th March and through the summer. Noticeable influx on 27th April (25). In autumn, sightings more frequent from the end of August but passage difficult to detect. Up to 20 on several days and 25 on 22nd September. Regularly up to 15 in October and 10 in November. Few recorded in December. Breeding data: breeding

proved at Auld Jeam's Hill (c/4 on 30th May) and in Gilsetter (newly hatched chick on 14th June).

**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*. Singles on 27th February, 6th April, 1st-2nd, 5th-9th and 12th May. In autumn: 3 on 1st, 1 on 8th, 1-2 between 11th and 17th but 4 on 16th, 1-3 from 23rd September to 15th October but 4 on 25th September and 2nd October. Singles on 20th-21st October, 2 on 6th and 1 on 7th and 15th-16th, 3-4 from 24th-28th and one on 29th November.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*. 1-2 on several 19th-29th March. Small passage 18th April to 9th May but numbers difficult to assess. Maximum of 8 on 27th April and 3rd May. 1-2 on several scattered days in rest of May and one on 11th June. In autumn: one on 7th and 1-2 on most days between 20th-31st October. 35+ on 1st, 25+ on 4th and 20+ on 25th were the highest influxes reported in November, otherwise up to 5 on scattered dates in the month.

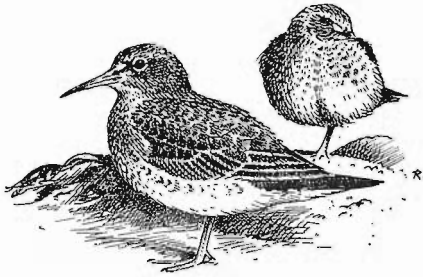
**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*. One on 5th and 4 on 7th January, 1-3 on 5 widely separate dates in February, 2 on 8th and 17th March, then almost daily from 21st March in small numbers, with peaks as follows: 12 on 19th, 20 on 21st and 25th and 40 on 26th April, 10 on 3rd and 16 on 27th May. Up to 3 in first week of June, one remaining to the first autumn influx at the end of the month. Small numbers almost daily in autumn from 27th June and through July with maxima of 15 on 2nd and 18 on 9th. Numbers higher in August with peaks of 33 on 4th, 40 on 14th and 60 on 21st. Apart from 14 on 1st up to 10 daily in September and 1-5 daily in first ten days of October after which up to 5 on scattered dates during the rest of October and November. Breeding data: at least one bird singing, mainly in the Sukka Mire area in the late spring and early summer but probably did not nest.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*. First single on 23rd April, 3 on 25th then almost daily from 27th April to the end of the month. Up to 6 on several days in May and first two weeks of June with peaks of 10 on 15th, 13 on 16th and 9 on 19th May. 3-4 present throughout the summer until the start of the return passage. Following 7 on 15th August there were up to 4 on a number of days until 9th September except for 8 on 26th August and 9 on 2nd September. Singles on 12th-14th, 16th-19th and 26th September. Breeding data: regular singing at Sukka Mire by 2 birds. One pair had c/4 on 12th June, all chipping on 1st July but only one chick reared. Singing also noted on some days at Homisdale.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*. 2 in summer plumage on 27th April and singles on 20th-22nd May and 13th June.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*. One remained in the

- Landberg/Buness area from 19th February-3rd March. Singles in May on 3rd and 12th-14th. In autumn: singles on 14 days from 19th August to 19th September and 3 on 22nd-23rd August.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. One on 18th April and 1-3 daily from 29th April-8th May. Singles on 11th and 15th May. 1-2 on 10 days between 9th-26th August but 4 on 24th. One on 25th September.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One on 4th, 1-2 on 7th-8th, one on 11th, 2 on 13th and 1 on 16th and 31st May-4th June. Singles on 18th August and 24th-28th September.
- COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. One on 22nd April (earliest spring record). 1-3 on most days in May with 4 on 13th-14th and 19th and 5 on 20th. 2 on 3rd and 1 on 18th June. Singles on 15th and 19th July. Singles heard on 12th and 30th August and 2 seen on 15th. 3 on 1st September after which 1-2 almost daily to 23rd.
- REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Maximum of 13 recorded in the first three months of the year. Influx of 25 on 19th and 15 on 22nd April otherwise generally less than 10 in April and May. 1-2 on many days in June, 1-3 daily at beginning of July and return passage noted from 13th (12) then up to 8 daily to the end of July. Up to 30 regularly in August with larger influxes as follows: 65 on 13th and 45 on 23rd August. Up to 20 on many days in September but 30 on 16th-17th and 26 on 21st. Up to 12 daily in October-November but peaks of 20-25 recorded on a number of occasions. 10-20 on many days in December.
- SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One on 12th-14th May was only the third spring record. More autumn records than usual: one on 9th, 3 on 10th and one on 11th August. Singles on 26th and 29th August, 1st, 6th, 9th and 11th September.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. 2 on 27th April. Singles on 6th, 11th-12th, 16th, 23rd-24th and 27th May. One on 29th June. 1-2 on 13 days between 7th and 30th August. One on 6th September.
- KNOT *Calidris canutus*. One in spring on 3rd-5th May. Autumn passage from 28th July to 4th October. One on 28th-31st July. Up to 5 on many days in August and 9 on 9th. Daily in September with 5-6 on several days and 10 on 11th. 4 on 3rd and 3 on 4th October.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Recorded in all months of the year with maximum of 4 in January and 14 in February but probably under-recorded. Up to 10 in March except for 24 on 9th. Up to 25 in first three weeks of April then influx noted from 27th April to 10th May with peaks



of 50 on 27th April and 5th May and 35 on 10th May. 2-6 on several days to 26th May, 2 on 6th and 1 on 20th June. Return movement from 16th July (7), 28 on 18th and almost daily records from 1st August to the end of the year. 20-30 on many days in August with peaks of 65 on 6th and 51 on 15th. Maximum of 11 in September except for 15 on 4th. In October maximum of 27 on 3rd and 20 on 19th otherwise generally less than 15. Maximum of 20 on several days in November and unprecedented influx 13th-18th November peaking at 150+ on 15th. Maximum of 23 in December.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*. Singles on 26th and 30th August. 3 on 2nd and 2 on 3rd-4th one remaining on 5th September.

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*. Singles on 20th-21st February and 9th March. Small passage 18th-23rd March with 9 on 21st. 1-5 on 5 days from 19th-29th April. Daily from 3rd May to 5th June with up to 5 on several days and peaks of 7 on 5th, 9 on 10th and 8 on 27th May. Singles on 10th, 12th, 15th, 20th-21st June and 8th July. 1-2 on 23rd-27th July followed by main autumn passage with daily records from 3rd August to 3rd October. Up to 12 in August, heavier passage in early September with 15-20 on many days in first three weeks and peak of 50 on 5th. Numbers decreased after this to the end of the period.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*. One on 13th January. Autumn records: apart from one on 28th July, all between 9th August and 27th September. 2 on 9th, 5 on 10th and 2 on 11th August. One on 14th-15th August after which records daily from 18th to the end of the period with up to 5 on several days and 7 on 2nd September but only 2 after the 8th.

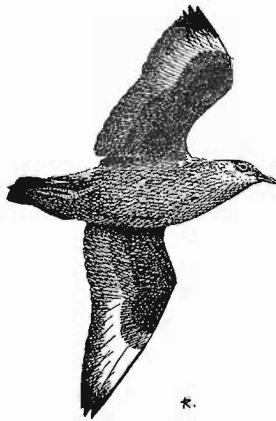
**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis*. One remained for much of the day on Meoness on 8th September. Recorded for the third successive year in September. This is the fourth record for the Island.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*. Strong autumn passage: records daily from 2nd August to 28th September. 1-4 between 2nd-9th, 14 on 10th increased to 15 on 15th but only 2 the fol-

lowing day. New influx from 18th (4) then maximum of 11 until 25th. Maximum of 15 to 31st August, 25 on 1st, 45 on 2nd after which 15 remained until the next influx of 32 on 15th. Numbers then fell slowly to the end of the passage.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicanus*. One was seen on the ploughed ground at Setter on 23rd May (A. Brown). This is only the 5th Island record.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*. 2 on 27th and one on 28th March. 3 on 1st, 1 on 2nd then records daily from 7th April with build up to 30+ by 7th May. A non-breeding flock was present for much of the summer with up to 30 in July. Decrease noted from early September and less than 10 remained by the first week in October. The last two were recorded on 17th October. Stragglers were seen on 21st, 26th and 28th (2) October. Breeding data: 17 pairs nested laying 30 eggs from which 18 chicks reached ringing size. First eggs noted on 13th May and first chick hatched on 7th June. A programme of trapping the adults has shown that of the 17 pairs that nested, 26 were trapped and of these 17 were unringed, 5 had been ringed as pulli on Fair Isle and 3 had been ringed as pulli elsewhere in Shetland (see Ringed Strangers and Retraps in 1974 for full details).



POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One was flying north with Arctic Skuas over Stoneybrake on 3rd May.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. The first birds to arrive were single dark phase birds on 17th and 19th April. 3 arrived on 21st from which date records were daily. 59 were present on 30th April and 120 by 8th May. Decrease noted in August and only 10 remained by 6th September and these quickly decreased to the last record ashore on 19th Septem-

ber. One was over the sea on 21st and 2 on 24th September and one on 3rd October. Breeding data: 116 pairs bred and the first eggs was seen on 16th May.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One on 5th June considered to be a fourth year bird was seen in flight and on the ground at Byerwall (E. Thomson). Another immature was at the airstrip on 23rd June and was also seen on 27th and 29th June (R. A. Broad).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Recorded in all months of the year and with rough weather influxes during the autumn and winter. The largest influxes were on 17th September (1000) and 27th-28th October (2500). Breeding season as usual.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One on 28th-30th March, 2 on 1st April. Continuous records from 9th April (2). 11 were present on 10th April after which numbers quickly reached breeding strength. Passage noticed especially between 20th-26th August with flock of 93 on 20th. Decrease noted at the end of August and only 12 present on 3rd September. Last single on 6th except for stragglers on 11th (4), 15th (1) and 17th (1). Breeding data: population similar to last year.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Recorded throughout the year with influxes in rough weather in autumn and winter. Up to 1000 present on several days in January, 27th-28th October, 23rd November and 10th-11th December, and 3000 on 24th December. Breeding data: first egg recorded on 7th May (c/1).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. 1-2 on many days in January and 2 days in February. Recorded regularly in March from 7th with peaks of 10 on 16th and 30th. Daily records after 7th April with 10-20 on many days and 250 moved North on 27th April. Numbers a little higher in May with 25-30 on a number of days and further northward passage recorded on 3rd (200). 50-70 present on 4th-5th May. Some small influxes were recorded in the first half of June. Up to 8 remained through the summer and the first returning birds were recorded in July from 11th with 20-40 on some days in the month. Numbers higher in August-September with 200-300 on several days and 450 on 28th and 700 on 29th August. Apart from 250 on 2nd October, numbers much smaller and records less regular in October. Up to 13 on a number of occasions during the rest of October and November. Singles on two days in December. Breeding data: one pair nested on the South Park for the second year in succession (c/3 on 2nd June, and 3 chicks two-three days old on 28th June; two reached the flying stage although one was found dead soon



afterwards). A second pair may have bred on Vaasetter. The one chick raised from the 1973 nest was retrapped in the Axell trap on 3rd August.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. Singles recorded on 7 days in January, 2 days in March and 11th April. 3 on 27th April one remaining to 2nd May. One on 8th May. At least three different birds between 23rd-31st May. In autumn: 2 on 16th September and singles on 17th and 29th-30th. 1-2 daily from 3rd-10th, up to 5 daily from 25th-30th October. Recorded on 14 days in November with majority in mid-month when up to 10 on best days. 1-6 on several days in December. The majority of birds recorded were first year birds.

ICELAND GULLS *Larus glaucoides*. 5 singles during the year: second year birds on 16th-17th February and 6th May. One on 11th October was also thought to be a second year bird and an adult on 29th October. One second year bird on 19th December.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. 1-5 on several days in early January. One on 17th February and up to 4 on several days in March and 7 on 16th. Numbers a little higher in April and northward passage evident on 19th (60) and 27th (40). Daily records in May with 14-20 on best days. Apart from 15-30 in the first week of June generally less than 10 on any day during the month. Records not continuous in July although up to 6 on some days in first three weeks. Return passage noticed on several days from 22nd (40 including the first immatures). Recorded in small numbers, generally 5-10 daily throughout August and September. 1-3 on scattered dates in October and singles on 4 days in November and two days in December.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Seen infrequently in very small numbers in January and early February. A few first seen ashore from 17th February after which numbers quickly built up ashore. Very few remained ashore after mid-August and numbers decreased offshore quickly. Less than 50 seen at the beginning of September but 200-450 present on several days at the end of September and peak of 1000 recorded on 6th October. Smaller numbers seen intermittently in the rest of October and November. Breeding data: population continues to increase. First eggs noted on 8th May (c/2). Many full grown chicks again found dead at the end of the breeding season.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. 2 arrived on 15th May after which recorded daily throughout the summer. Maximum of 11 in May, 18 in June and 15 in July. Some small influxes recorded in early August with 28 recorded on 5th. Numbers

decreased rapidly in mid-month to last 2 on 21st August. A late bird was seen on 13th September. Breeding data: marked increase over 1973 when there were only three pairs resident. This year up to 18 birds 'resident' on the Stack 'O North Haven of which 6 pairs certainly nested. A minimum of 13 chicks were seen and of these 11 were ringed and all these apparently fledged.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. One on 15th May, 1-2 on 21st-22nd and 1-2 on several days in June and first two weeks of July. Recorded on return passage regularly from 24th July on many days to 4th September but numbers small, maximum of 15 on 30th July and 6 on 7th August.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN 'Comic' terns were reported as follows: 1-4 almost daily in May from 15th, up to 5 on many days in June and July. 10-15 almost daily in first 10 days of August and 50 on 10th August (the majority of which were thought to be Common). Up to 10 on several days to the end of the month and 1-4 on several days to 22nd September. A very late bird was recorded on 6th October.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. 10 were seen on 6th February, one of which was ashore. Majority returned 17th-19th February but records not continuous ashore until mid-March. Last bird seen ashore on 30th July but up to 5 over the sea on a number of occasions in September and early October. Breeding data: first egg seen on 26th April, several days earlier than usual.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. Seen on the crossing in January and 'thousands' seen on 17th January. One was also found freshly dead ashore on this date. One sick individual was in the South Haven on 2nd February where it was taken by an immature Great Black-backed Gull. 2 were seen on the crossing on 5th November and a few on 21st and 26th November; on both these dates the birds were ca 2 miles off the North Light.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Seen ashore from the beginning of the year in suitable weather. Last recorded ashore after the breeding season on 7th August. Some birds had returned to the breeding ledges as early as the 7th October. Breeding data: population continues to expand, first egg seen on 26th April.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*. Recorded in all months of the year. Loose flock of ca 60 feeding offshore on the NE side of Dronger in the early spring. Breeding data: population similar to 1973 and season as usual.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. One was being eaten by 2 Great Black-backed Gulls on 23rd March. Of 4 seen on 26th March,

3 were on the sea and one was flying between the Holms and the main Island. A few were seen daily until 3rd April when 500+ were offshore and ca 50 were onshore. Majority returned about 10th April. Last seen ashore on 26th August (2) after which only occasional sightings over the sea until 25th September. Breeding data: first egg seen on 3rd May and adults carrying fish from 27th May.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*. Singles on 18th-23rd April and 3rd-13th May.

**ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia*. Recorded in all months of the year excluding January. Maximum of 8 in February, 7 in March, 12 in April, 15-25 on several days in May and first week of June. Smaller numbers through the summer until small flocks noticed from second half of August. Maximum of 12 in August and up to 30 on several days in the second half of September, October and early November. Larger parties of 47 on 20th, 57 on 23rd and 52 on 27th September, 40 on 6th and 60 on 30th October and 40 on 13th November after which maximum of 20 to the end of the year. Breeding data: population as usual, breeding proved at S. Mila Hesslands and at Furse.

**WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*. One on 6th February, 1-2 from 8th-27th March. Frequent records in April from 8th with 1-3 daily on many days but 5 on 12th and 8 on 27th. Daily in May with up to 11 in first three weeks. 1-3 at the end of the month and first week of June. Singles on 18th, 22nd-23rd June, 12th and 18th July but 3 on 13th. One on several days from 16th-30th August, 13th-30th September, except for 2 on 21st, 5 days in October and 1-2 throughout November.

**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*. Spring passage: singles on 17 days between 18th May and 30th June and 2 on 20th May, 1st and 6th June. In autumn: singles on 5 days between 23rd-29th August, 1-2 on most days between 7th and 27th September, and one 2nd-4th October.

**RUFIOUS TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia orientalis*. A first year bird first seen at Setter on 30th October remained in the Setter, Field and Taing area on 1st November (G. J. Barnes and R. A. Broad). The first record for the Island.

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*. One on 11th, 2 on 14th, one on 26th, 5 on 27th and 2 on 28th April. 1-3 daily from 7th-21st May. 10 on 22nd of which 7 remained to 30th and 12 on 31st May. There was a further increase to 15 on 2nd which slowly decreased to 10 on 9th June. Smaller numbers then recorded until next influx of 18 on 18th. Up to 10 remained to the end of the month and there were 1-2 on many

days during July and August until 6th September, but 4 on 13th-15th July and 3 on 1st-2nd August.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Singles on 12th and 18th May. 1-2 daily from 21st-26th but 3 on 24th May. 1-2 on 7 days from 1st-13th June. The only autumn record was of 2 on 2nd September.



SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. A first year ♀ was found on Ward Hill on 17th May and remained until 20th.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Singles on 8th and 11th March. 1-2 daily from 6th-11th May. Autumn records: singles on 5th and 9th October, daily between 31st October-7th November (more than one bird), 11th, 13th and 28th November and 3rd December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. 2 on 19th March, singles on 11th and 18th April and 1-3 recorded on many days from 27th April-8th June. One on 28th June. One daily from 2nd-8th July and another 16th-21st July—both had been contaminated with fulmar oil and were picked up in an emaciated condition from which they subsequently died. Singles on 8 days between 5th-30th September. 1-3 daily from 1st-8th October, and singles on 17th, 20th-21st, and 27th October, 4th-6th and 20th November but 4 on 15th and 2 on 16th November. One on 24th December.

Additional unidentified Long/Short-eared Owls were recorded as follows: singles on 4 days between 16th-28th and 4 on 18th October. Singles on 4 days between 8th-17th and 3 on 13th November.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. Singles on 16th, 19th and 21st May. 1-3 daily from 2nd-12th June. Singles on 16th, 19th and 21st, 4 on 29th and one on 30th June. 2 on 3rd and 4 on 5th and one on 26th July. Recorded most days between 2nd-30th August with maximum of 6 on 10th and 5 on 22nd-23rd. Daily from 4th-22nd September with maximum of 6 on 6th and 7 on 11th and 17th.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*. 2 on 9th-11th August. One on 9th-12th September was found dead

on the last date and singles on 14th and 25th September. 2 on 2nd, 8th-9th and one on 21st October.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*. Strong passage in spring and autumn. In spring 3 on 29th increased to 6 on 30th April. 1-4 daily from 1st-13th May with new arrivals shown by peaks of 8 on 3rd, 9 on 6th and 5 on 11th which increased further to 7 on 12th. 2 on 16th, 20th, 22nd-23rd and singles on 24th, 26th-27th and 30th-31st May. Up to 3 from 1st-5th June. In autumn: one on 28th, 3 on 29th, one on 30th and 5 on 31st August. 14 on 1st increased to 20 on 2nd but had decreased to 6 on 3rd and 4 on 4th. One on 7th, 3 on 8th and one on 9th-10th. Another influx of 4 on 13th-14th of which the last one was seen on 17th. 2 on 28th September and one on 17th October (the latest autumn record). A record total of 22 individuals were ringed.

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cinerea*. One at Setter on 11th-15th May (G. J. Barnes and J. Selwyn). One on 11th-15th October at Setter and Taing (G. J. Barnes, R. A. Broad, R. D. Moore and D. R. Waugh).

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*. Maximum of 7 recorded in January and first two weeks of February but probably overlooked. First spring influx from 16th (9) and 100 on 19th February. Recorded daily thereafter with passage noted on several days in March especially 8th (300), and 17th-18th (600). Autumn influxes recorded from mid-August but numbers difficult to estimate with accuracy. Very few birds remained from mid-November and maximum of 34 recorded to the end of the year. Breeding data: population higher than usual, many more nests found than in past few years. First clutch found on 28th April (c/4).

**SHORELARK** *Eremophila alpestris*. Two spring records, one on 23rd and the other on 29th May.

**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*. Singles on 25th and 28th April. Daily in spring from 6th May to 14th June with 10-15 on many dates and 20-30 from 16th-21st, 40 on 22nd, and further peaks of 30 on 30th-31st May and 25 on 2nd June. 2-6 daily from 18th-22nd June and 1-3 on scattered dates to 21st July. Singles on 5th, 11th and 15th, 3 on 18th, 1 on 19th then 1-3 daily from 29th August-5th September. One on 14th September and 4 on 15th October.

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage almost daily from 11th May to 25th June. 10-15 on many days and peaks of 25 on 16th, 40 on 20th-22nd and 20-40 daily from 2nd-5th June. One on 4th July. In autumn one on 5th August and small passage from 3rd-9th September with maximum of 10 on 5th. Singles on 15th and 28th September. A hybrid

Swallow/House Martin was feeding around the old Observatory on 8th June.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Spring passage concentrated between 13th-22nd May with 1-4 daily. One on 5th June. In autumn singles on 24th and 31st August and 11th September.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. One around the plantation and Vaadal briefly on 29th May.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Present in all months of the year with an influx at the end of September when flocks of 27 were seen on 28th and 11 on 29th. Breeding data: a minimum of two pairs attempted to breed.

HOODED AND CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. Hooded Crow *C.c. cornix*. Present throughout the year with up to 16 together in the early spring. Breeding season much as usual. Carrion Crow *C.c. corone*. Singles on 5th-12th February, 25th-26th March and on several days between 9th and 23rd April. A large build up in May was almost entirely composed of hybrids—singles on 1st-2nd, 8 on 3rd followed by 13 on 6th and 40 on 7th, most stayed to 18th after which numbers decreased to last record on 7th June (2). One on 25th October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One on 1st-20th February. 1-6 regularly between 8th March-1st April. 1-2 between 15th-23rd April. One on 8th-9th and 2 on 23rd-29th November one remaining until 31st December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. One on 3rd, 2 on 9th and one on 16th and 29th, increasing to 4 on 30th April, 2 remained to 5th May and one until 7th May. 5 on 19th November.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident throughout the year. Breeding data: minimum of 38 singing birds holding territory in the spring. Fledged young first seen on 1st June.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. Singles on 28th February, 23rd March to 1st April, 28th-29th April, 1-2 on 7th-10th and one 15th May. In autumn singles on 25th, 28th-31st August and 2 on 6th September. Singles on 6th-7th and 12th-13th October.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Recorded on most days in winter with maximum of 7 in January, up to 30 in February but 50-60 between 17th-19th. Maximum of 30 on several days in March and 10 in first week of April. Strong passage between 27th April-8th May with arrivals on 27th (1500), 29th (150), 2nd (250) and 3rd (3000). Up to 50 remained until mid-month then numbers diminished to the last single on 2nd June. Early return passage with scattered singles from 9th August but 3 on 22nd. Recorded daily from 29th August with up to 40 on several days in mid-September and larger

passage from 28th September (65). 100-250 regularly in first three weeks of October with 600 on 9th. 50 present in last week of October and new arrivals at the beginning of November. 100 on 1st and peak of 600 on 5th after which generally 50-100 throughout the month and up to 50 in December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelas*. Singles on 21st-27th January, 18th-24th and 28th February. Small passage in March and through April with peaks of 9 on 18th and 6 on 26th March and 5 on 18th April. Larger movements from 27th April to 8th May when 30-50 present daily and 75 on 3rd-4th May. Generally less than 10 daily to the end of May and singles in June on 2nd, 15th-16th and 20th and on 8th July. 1-2 on scattered dates in August from 14th. Singles on several scattered dates in September, 3 on 26th and 9 on 28th September. Daily between 2nd-14th October with 2-5 on most days after arrival of 10 on 2nd. 1-5 daily from 31st October-7th November and singles on 13th, 24th-26th November and 8th and 30th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Singles on 3 days in January and 2 on 27th February. 1-5 on 4 days in first two weeks of March. 50 on 17th March slowly decreased to the end of the month. Almost daily through April and May usually less than 20 but peaks of 40 on 18th, 100 on 27th March and 50 on 3rd-4th May. Singles on 5 days to 13th June. In autumn, singles on several dates from 1st and main passage daily after 19th September. Numbers generally less than 150 but main arrivals as follows: 500 on 28th September, 1000 on 2nd and 300 on 6th October. Smaller numbers in November, with maxima of 120 on 4th and 100 on 25th-26th. 50+ daily were recorded at the beginning of December, many still present at the end of the month.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. 2 (♂♂) on 26th and one on 29th March. Single ♂♂ on most days 18th-25th April. Very strong passage from 27th April-12th May: 10 on 27th, 40 on 29th April after which numbers remained high until 90 arrived on 3rd May. These gradually decreased and another small influx was recorded on 12th (15). Smaller numbers almost daily to 20th and 1-2 on 26th-27th May and singles on 3rd and 16th-19th June. One on 5th July. Returning singles on 9th, 23rd, 25th and 27th September and 2nd and 19th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Small numbers present all winter; maximum in January-early March of 24. Numbers a little higher from the middle of March when small arrivals recorded. 60 on 17th March and other peaks of 35 on 18th and 80 on 27th April and 40 on 6th May. Last spring record on 5th

June. Singles on 17th and 24th August. 1-2 on 28th-29th September. Daily records from 2nd October but numbers reached 50 on only 13th and 22nd. Numbers a little higher in November with larger arrivals 4th-7th peaking at 500 on 5th; 250 on 23rd increasing to 600 on 24th-25th many of which stayed on to leave 100 at the beginning of December and 50+ by mid-month—the majority staying to the end of the year.

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. One on 24th and 2 on 26th and 29th March. Slow build up of breeding numbers from 3rd April, 40 present on 17th and 100 on 18th. Greenland types were identified between 1st May and 9th June. Passage evident from second half of August but numbers difficult to estimate. An arrival on 6th September was almost entirely composed of adult ♂♂. Numbers much decreased by the end of September and only 10 remained on 1st October and the last bird was a single on 20th October. Greenland types were recorded in autumn from 24th August-8th October but majority were between 24th-28th August and 14th-23rd September. Breeding data: numbers probably not very different from last year.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*. A ♀ on 3rd, ♂ on 9th, 11th-13th and 2 ♂♂ on 14th then 2-3 daily from 17th-27th March. 1-2 on 3rd-6th and 15th-18th April. A ♀ from 11th-14th and 18th-19th May. In autumn: singles on 5th, 13th and a different bird on 15th then daily from 16th-27th September. One on 21st November (latest record).

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*. Daily in spring from 29th April-23rd May. 1-2 from 29th April to 5th, 5 on 6th decreasing to 2 on 10th, 4 on 11th increasing to 20 on 13th then up to 10 remaining to 19th which decreased to 23rd May. 1-2 on scattered dates at end of May and until 13th June. One on 1st July. In autumn: 1-2 on 13th-15th August, one on 24th-25th then daily from 29th August to 11th October. 2 on 29th August increased to 45 on 1st after which 30-40 recorded daily to 7th. 55 on 8th decreased to 20-25 on 9th-23rd September. Up to 10 daily during the rest of the month except for 20 on 28th September and up to 6 daily to 11th October.

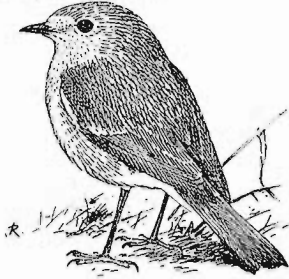
**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Numbers rather low on both passages. Daily in spring from 30th April-24th May, and one on 31st May. In main period 1-2 until 5th (6) increased to 10-12 on 6th-12th then slow decrease to last record. In autumn: one on 25th August then up to 8 from 1st-5th September after which 2-4 daily to 15th, 7 on 16th which slowly decreased to 21st. One on 28th September. 16 on 2nd October decreased to one on 5th. New arrival of 6 on 6th which decreased to the last record on 16th October.



BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Singles on 24th-25th and 29th March, 7th, 10th-12th, 17th-18th (an immaculate adult male) and 29th April, 21st-22nd, 24th-26th and 28th-29th May. The only autumn records were 2 on 22nd November one remaining to 25th.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*. Singles on 21st (Res-sensgeo) and 22nd May (Reeva) and 15th June. The last bird was trapped in the Observatory trap.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*. A ♀ on 11th-13th, 2 on 14th-16th, 10 on 17th decreased to 3 on 20th, ♀ on 23rd, 27th and a different bird on 29th and 3 on 31st May. One was found dead on 3rd June. In autumn: singles on 14th and 29th September and 2nd October.



ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. One on 11th January and 2 on 3rd February of which one, maybe both remained until mid-March when the first spring arrivals were recorded. Following 3 on 17th up to 5 were seen on several days in March and April with peaks of 10 on 29th March, 3rd and 27th April. A massive influx began on 29th April (40) and increased to 350+ on 30th when 87 new individuals and a control ringed exactly one year previously in the Netherlands were trapped. Numbers remained high 100-150 daily to 7th but figures disguise a new but smaller influx on 6th and 7th. Numbers fell slowly to 10 on 22nd and 3 at the end of May. During April and May a total of 308 new Robins were ringed. 1-2 seen at intervals in June and one bird ringed in May remained until it was killed by a Red-backed Shrike on 3rd September. Very scarce in autumn: 1-2 from 29th August-6th September and 1-3 daily 13th-28th September. One on 2nd and 2 on 7th-8th October. Singles in November on 7 days but 2 on 24th-25th one remaining to 4th December; another on 13th December remained until the end of the year.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. 2 on 11th, 6 on 12th, 2 on 13th and singles on 14th-15th and 18th-19th May. Two immatures were trapped on 3rd and 4th September.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. No spring records. One on 23rd August (trapped) another 31st August-2nd September (trapped). Singles on 5th, 16th-20th (trapped) and 23rd-30th September. Additional immature unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers, all thought to be Reed Warblers were recorded on 30th August, 8th, 13th-14th, 21st and 23rd September.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. One trapped on 11th and one seen on 15th June and another trapped on 5th July.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. In May singles on 3rd-6th, one on 11th, 4 on 12th and 2 on 13th-14th. 4 on 16th-17th increased to 8 on 19th these decreased to 23rd and one on 26th. One on 13th June. In autumn: singles on 20th and 23rd August, 1st-2nd and 10th September. 1-2 daily from 14th-20th and singles on 28th-29th September and 2nd-3rd October.

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola*. One seen at Leogh on 15th September was presumed to be the same bird found dead on 23rd.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. One on 2nd-4th June. Singles on 29th and 31st August and 4th September.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. A ♂ on 30th April, 2 ♀♀ on 1st May and single ♂♂ on 3rd and 4th. Daily between 12th-25th with maximum of 5 on 20th. Singles on 27th and 30th May, 8 scattered dates in June to 19th but 2 on 16th. Singles on 27th June and 8th July. In autumn: recorded daily from 30th August-24th September with up to 5 on many days but 10-12 from 14th-16th. Up to 8 daily from 28th September-3rd October. Another arrival 7th-10th October with maximum of 12-15 on 8th-9th. Up to 5 daily 12th-22nd October except for 8 on 15th and 30 on 17th. Singles on 25th-26th October and another wave between 30th October-7th November with peak of 14 on 4th. Final influx on 11th-21st November with 10-15 on several days and 4 on 24th November. 39 were ringed in November and this unprecedented November total was also more than in any other month in 1974.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. Less regular and generally in smaller numbers than in past few years. Only 7 individuals were ringed. 1-2 almost daily from 19th-28th August, 4-5 on 29th August-2nd September decreased to 2 on 3rd-4th. 4 on 5th then 1-3 each day to 13th (5). 2 on 14th and singles on 17th and 20th. 3 on 27th and 2 on 28th September and 1 on 2nd October. All records, as usual, were of immature birds.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. 1-3 daily from 11th-15th, 3 on 20th and 1-5 daily from 30th May-7th June but 8 on 3rd.

Singles on 13th-14th, 16th, 19th-20th June and 1-3 from 26th-28th June. In autumn: singles on 12th and 21st-22nd August then daily from 25th August-29th September with 10 on many days but numbers higher 31st August-16th September with arrivals of 25 on 31st August, 50 on 1st September, 20 on 6th and 35 on 8th September. 10 on 2nd October and 1-2 daily from 6th-10th and 1-5 between 13th-19th. Stragglers on 24th October, 4th, 11th and 13th November (only one later record).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Spring passage in two periods, the first with 1-5 daily from 8th-22nd May, except for 16th-20th when 6-8 present and the second period with 1-3 daily between 30th May-6th June and later singles on 11th, 13-14th and 18th-19th June. In autumn: singles on 10th and 30th-31st August, 3-4 on 1st-2nd and daily between 6th-19th September with peak of 8 on 8th. Singles on 25th, 27th and 29th September and from 1st-9th October.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. Spring passage from 29th April-19th June with 2-3 on many days but numbers higher during the peak of the passage from 13th-21st May when 5-8 daily. Small arrival of 6 on 31st May. In autumn one 17th August and 1-5 daily between 30th August-14th September but up to 12 on 2nd-6th. 1-3 on many scattered dates from 16th September-15th October and one on 21st October.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. A ♀ was trapped at Setter on 16th May.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. One on 27th April then daily from 29th April to 24th May, numbers generally low, no more than 10-15 on most days but up to 20 on 12th. 1-4 daily from 28th May-6th June except for 10 on 1st-2nd June. One on 14th and 2 on 21st June. In autumn: 1-6 daily between 9th-19th August and up to 10 on best days between 23rd August-8th September. A trickle of birds on most days between 11th September-13th October with up to 6 on some days.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. One trapped in the Gully on 14th September may well have been the bird seen earlier at Kennaby. The 10th record for the Island.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Small spring passage almost daily from 27th March-23rd May, 3-4 present on several days, 5 on 30th April and 6 on 1st May. Singles on 2nd and 4th June. In autumn one on 29th August and 1-3 on 8 scattered dates in September. Almost daily in October and first 5 days of November with up to 10 on many days and peak of 16 on 9th October. Late singles 13th, 16th-17th and 24th November and 4th December. Willow/Chiffs: addi-

tional birds not specifically assigned to either of these species were recorded as follows: spring—singles on 29th-30th April, up to 5 almost daily in May with higher numbers on 1st (8), 15th (12), 17th (10), 20th-21st May (10-15) and 1-4 on scattered days in June to 21st. Autumn—up to 5 daily between 9th-26th August then larger numbers from 29th August to the end of September, with 10-35 from 29th August-5th and 20-30 from 9th-14th including 50 on 10th and up to 10 to the end of September. Singles also recorded between 1st-9th October. The majority of the August and September birds were almost certainly Willow Warblers.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. One on 13th May. Singles in June on 1st, 2nd and 6th. In autumn one on 31st August, 2 on 1st and singles on 4th and 8th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. 4 records in all: one at Leogh on 23rd September, later trapped in the Quoy trap, singles at Restensgeo on 4th, Quoy on 7th and Shirva on 31st October.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. One found at Leogh on 13th October was mist netted at Busta on 14th. The only previous record for the Island was one trapped on 14th October 1961.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. One on 27th February (earliest record) and singles on 5th-9th and 11th-13th March. Daily from 17th March with up to 10 on best days and 17 on 23rd. Numbers similar and almost daily throughout April with peak of 12 on 13th. 1-2 on many days in May but 9 on 7th. Autumn passage: singles on 30th August and 1st September then 1-4 daily from 7th-18th. One on 25th preceded heavier passage—35 arrived on 28th but numbers lower until 2nd October when 200 arrived. Up to 30 remained to 10th after which maximum of 6 daily to 17th. 14 were seen on the cliffs on 22nd but may have arrived earlier. 2 different ♂♂ on 5th and 6th November.

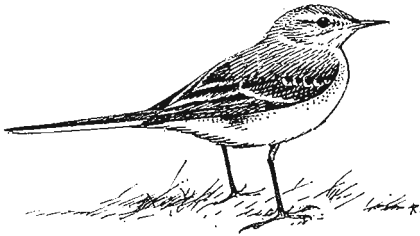
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. In spring almost daily from 5th May-13th June. 5-10 present on many days and 15 on 20th May and 3rd June. Singles on 19th and 21st June. First autumn bird was on 13th-14th August. Small passage 31st August-12th September with peak of 8 on 2nd. One on 27th September.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Rather scarce on both passages. In spring: one on 6th, 1-3 daily from 11th-17th and singles on 20th-21st May, 1st and 6th-7th June. Autumn birds: small passage from 25th August-5th September with up to 6 on several days and 10 on 29th. 3 on 8th and 1 on 9th and another small wave from 12th-22nd September with

- 10 on 12th-13th, otherwise up to 6 daily. 1-4 on scattered dates to 2nd October.
- RED-BREADED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*. One trapped in the Plantation on 14th September was seen at Hunds Heelor and Kroga Geo on 15th and 16th.
- DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. Good spring passage but scarce in autumn. Singles on 17th, 22nd-24th March and larger arrival of 25 on 26th which slowly decreased to 2nd April. One on 9th then continuous records from 12th April-23rd May. Up to 8 daily in April but 20 on 29th increased to 50-60 from 30th April-6th May. These slowly declined to 23rd May. One on 25th-27th May. 1-2 daily from 14th-22nd September and singles on 10th October and 13th November.
- RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Singles on 28th September to 1st October and 4th-9th October.
- MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. One on 5th March. Rapid build up following first arrival on 18th (4) and 60 present by the 26th March. Full complement present in early April although passage noticed especially 3rd and 21st April and 3rd-5th May. In autumn flocking behaviour observed from 16th August and much changeover during the rest of August and September. Decrease through October and only 10 present by 1st November. 38 on 6th November was the last influx after which 1-4 recorded on several days to 26th and singles on 10th and 30th-31st December. Breeding data: season as usual, fledged young first seen on 5th June.
- TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Main spring passage 29th April-22nd May including several small arrivals peaking at 14 on 30th April, 30 on 4th May, 20-25 on 8th-9th and 15 on 15th May. 2 on 24th May then 2-5 daily from 28th May-2nd June. Singles on 6th and 8th-9th June. Autumn: singles on 8 days in August from 18th-29th. Influx of 60 on 1st September numbers remaining high until 6th after which up to 15 daily until 26th September.
- OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. One trapped in the roadside trap on 24th November remained in the vicinity of the Observatory on 25th-26th (G. J. Barnes and R. A. Broad). This is the fourth Observatory record.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. One at Setter on 13th-14th May (G. J. Barnes and J. Selwyn).
- ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. Present throughout the year. Breeding data: fledged young first seen on 31st May—a very early date.
- PIED and WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. White Wagtail *M.a. alba*. Spring records: 2 on 26th and one on 29th March. 1-2 on scattered dates between 13th-27th April and up to 10

daily from 29th April-4th May then 1-4 daily from 5th-31st May. One on 31st July. Autumn passage: mainly from 13th August-30th September. 5-10 present on most days but 54 on 19th-20th which decreased to 15 by 27th. New arrivals of 15 on 8th September and 40 on 12th. One was also seen on 10th-11th October. Pied Wagtail *M.a. yarelli*. 2 arrived on 16th March after which one was seen on a number of days to 26th when 4 were seen. Some remained to 2nd April. Singles recorded on 13th-16th April, 11th May and 7th June. In autumn: singles on 6th-8th and 21st-28th October.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. One from 21st-27th March and singles in May on 20th and 31st.



CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. One remained in the damp area between Taing and Rippack from 2nd-4th September and another found at Taing on 2nd October remained until 10th October later frequenting the Shirva area.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava*. Single ♂ on 21st and 31st May and in autumn on 4th September. Yellow Wagtail *M.f. flavissima*. A ♂ on 2nd September. Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f. thunbergi*. A ♂ from 11th-16th May and 2 (♂♀) on 1st June. Black-headed Wagtail *M.f. feldeg*; an adult ♂ frequented the Chapel area from 3rd-8th May having been originally located at Easter Lother Water. Only the second Island record of this distinctive race. Flava Wagtails not sub-specifically identified were recorded as follows: in spring singles on 18th, 20th-21st May. In autumn one on 28th August, 5 on 1st September, 9 on 2nd-3rd decreasing to 8th and 1-2 on 9 days to the 24th September. 1-2 from 1st-4th October, one remaining to 10th October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Singles on 23rd-25th, 7 on 30th and 1 on 31st October. 3 on 1st-2nd, 4 on 4th and 8 on 5th then 1-3 on 9 days to 24th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. Singles on 26th-28th March and 28th-30th April. 2 on 2nd October one remaining to 5th. Singles on 9th, 17th and 31st October and 1-2 daily from 1st-14th November involving a minimum of three individuals. One on 25th-26th November.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. One frequented the fences near the Kirk between 24th-28th June.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*. A full grown bird was trapped in the Plantation on 19th May and remained to 21st. An immature frequented the fences at the base of Malcolm's Head on 30th August.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*. Strong passage in spring and autumn. 5 (3 ♂♂) arrived on 31st May; these increased to 6 on 1st June and 7 on 2nd (6 ♂♂ 1 ♀) and 8 on 4th. Of these 5-6 were present on 5th-7th and 2 on 8th, one on 11th and 13th (♂) and there were 2 (♀♀) on 14th one remaining to 15th. A single ♂ was present on 19th-20th June. Autumn passage daily from 31st August when one arrived, 5 on 1st September increased to 9 on 2nd-3rd of which 4-5 remained until 9th, 3-4 to 18th and one on 19th and 21st September. One was trapped on 2nd October. A record total of 26 were ringed, 18 in spring and 8 in autumn.



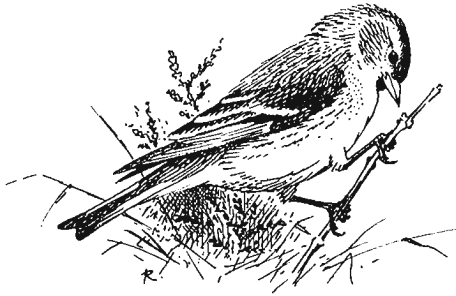
STARLING *Sterna vulgaris*. Present throughout the year with influx recorded in mid-March and April, second half of September and October. Breeding data: first young fledged on early date of 4th June.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE *Icterus galbula*. An immature seen briefly on Meoness on 19th September was well seen at Shirva, Kennaby and Quoy on 20th September by many observers. The first record of this North American species at Fair Isle.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. A ♀ trapped in the Plantation on 20th May and seen again on 21st was found dead near Taing on 22nd.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*. Scarce: a ♀ on 11th April and 1-2 daily from 30th April-5th May.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. A ♂ on 30th April and another on 4th May were the only spring records. In autumn a large influx in September: 40 arrived on 1st and had increased to 60 on 4th; all had apparently left on 5th. 4-9 daily from 8th-12th



followed by another influx of 45 on 13th. These increased to 180 on 16th of which 130 remained on 17th and only 10 on 18th. 1-4 were then seen until 25th. A ♂ on 10th November.

**LINNET** *Acanthis cannabina*. One on 15th-18th and 22nd April. 5-6 on 30th April-1st May after which 2-4 daily to 12th. Singles on 15th-16th and 18th-19th. 2 on 22nd increased to 4 on 23rd some remaining to 28th. Singles on 2nd-4th and 13th-15th June and 6th July. 2 on 16th-17th July. A ♂ on 24th September and a ♀ on 7th-10th October.

**TWITE** *Acanthis flavirostris*. Small numbers recorded in winter, maximum of 11 in January-March. Influx noted from second week of April with 15 on 12th, 45 on 16th and 70 on 18th. Autumn flocks of 200+ in mid-September to mid-October decreased to a total of 110 in early November and 10-30 in December. Breeding data: a nest containing 7 eggs was found on the cliffs at Slogar on 12th July and all hatched and fledged.

**REDPOLL** *Acanthis flammea*. Mealy Redpoll *A.f. flammea*. One on 16th February. Singles on 27th June, 16th-17th and 29th July. 1-3 daily from 23rd September-14th October and 1-3 on several days from 26th October-13th November. Redpolls not subspecifically identified were recorded on 12th April. 1-3 small, dark-looking Redpolls recorded on 11 days between 10th May and 4th June were considered to be nearer Lesser than Mealy Redpoll. Another similar bird was seen on 27th June.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A ♀ was recorded on 8th-9th November (J. A. Stout).

**SCARLET ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. The only spring record was one trapped on 15th June, still present on 16th. In autumn: one on 29th August, one on 10th September (trapped), 2 on 11th both present to 14th and one remained to 17th. One on 21st-22nd September (trapped on 22nd), 5 on 23rd and 2 recorded until 25th. 3 on 26th and 6 on 27th.



The autumn records involved a minimum of 10 individuals. All birds were females or immatures and two trapped in autumn were confirmed as first year birds.

**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*. A ♂ on 17th-18th March and then 1-4 on many days from 23rd March to 23rd April. Daily records from 26th March to 20th May following small influx at the beginning of the period which peaked at 25-30 on 30th April-5th May. Smaller numbers to the end of the period and one on 23rd May. Small autumn passage, 5 arrived on 14th September after which up to 3 seen daily to 26th. Single ♀♀ seen on 5 scattered dates in October.

**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*. One on 22nd January, a ♀ on 18th-20th February and 1-2 from 23rd-30th March. Main passage from 10th April-24th May. During this period up to 5 until 18th, 15-23 from 19th-22nd and main influx from 27th (25) April which increased to 170 on 3rd-4th May. Numbers then fell gradually to the end of the period. A ♀ on 27th June. Numbers low in autumn, 13 on 28th September decreased to 4 on the 30th. New arrival of 26 on 2nd October, numbers falling until new arrival of 30 on 17th which then decreased to the end of the month. 9 on 4th November and 1-6 on 6 scattered dates in first half of November. A ♀ on 10th December.

**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 1st April, 17th-18th, 27th-29th April and 28th May. The bird present on 17th-18th April was trapped at Setter and is only the third to be caught on the Island.

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*. A ♂ on 28th March and 1-2 on 3rd-6th April. Singles on 30th April, 1st-3rd (♂), 14th-15th, 19th and 21st (♀) May. In autumn one on 21st October, 4th and 27th-30th November.

**BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** *Emberiza melanocephala*. A ♀ on 6th-7th October frequented the Kennaby area.

**YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING** *Emberiza aureola*. 4 individuals during the autumn: one on 29th August-3rd September, one on 10th-15th joined by a second on 16th and both present on 17th. The fourth individual was present from 23rd-25th September.

**ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana*. In spring: singles daily from 9th-15th May except for 2 on 13th May. In autumn: 3 on 2nd-3rd, 2 on 4th and 5 on 5th decreased to 2 on 7th and a single on 11th September.

**RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*. A ♀ on 10th-14th May at Leogh, a ♂ at Wester Lother on 15th-16th and a different ♂ near Taing on 17th-22nd May.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. One from 10th-13th October seen mainly at Taing and Shirva.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. One on 21st January. 1-6 daily from 17th-26th March. Singles on several days in April and main spring passage from 26th with up to 5 on many days but 25 on 30th April increasing to 40 on 5th May then smaller numbers daily to 20th May. 1-2 on 23rd-25th May and singles in June on 1st and 8th-10th. A ♀ on 3rd July. Autumn passage: singles on 15th-16th and 21st September and 1-3 on many scattered dates in October and November until 8th.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Singles in March on 12th, 21st and 26th-28th and on 3rd April. 1-2 daily from 30th April-5th May. In autumn: 1 on 15th and 2 on 18th September. Daily between 25th September-18th October with up to 5 on many days and 10 on 12th and 13th. One from 24th-26th October and 2 on 4th November.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Present throughout the winter in variable numbers but up to 150 on several days in January-March. Smaller numbers in April with maximum of 16 on any day and 1-2 on several days during the first 11 days of May. A ♀ on 25th May. Rapid build up in autumn, 4 on 7th increased to 80 on 9th and 100 by 12th September then numbers generally between 40-130 daily to the end of the month. Figures a little higher in first three weeks of October and larger influxes in the last week—350 on 25th and 29th which then increased to 800 on 30th October; virtually all had gone the next day. Biggest movements of the year in the first half of November. 100 on 6th increased to 1500 on 7th and to 3000+ on 8th, of these 800 still remained on 18th. 50-100 daily to the end of November and generally 50 daily in December but up to 180 on some days.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Present throughout the year. Breeding data: no change in status.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. One on 18th March and singles on 11th and 13th (a ringed bird) and 1-2 on 26th-29th April. 1-2 on 6th-8th May and large influx from 11th which quickly increased to 17 on 13th and 37 on 17th but only one remained on 23rd. 1-3 daily from 27th May-5th June with 6 on 1st June. Recorded daily from 13th-17th June with 7 on 14th. No mid-summer records. 1-4 on many scattered dates from 19th August to 29th September and recorded almost daily 4th-14th October with maximum of 7 on 9th. Up to 3 between 20th-25th October and scattered records, up to 3, from 31st October-18th November apart from 6 on 12th November.

*Birds of doubtful origin and presumed cage birds*

RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. An adult ♂ on 1st-2nd June and ♂♂ on 14th and 25th August.

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*. A ♀ trapped on 20th May last seen on 22nd May, was certainly a cage bird.

VARIED BUNTING *Passerina versicolor*. A ♂ seen on 8th, trapped on 9th October and seen until 17th October was undoubtedly an escapee.

*Addenda to the 1973 Annual Report*

The following record was omitted from the Systematic List for 1973:

DOWITCHER *Limnodromus* sp. One was seen in flight over Field on 20th September and over Setter the following day (G. J. Barnes, H. Parker, P. Sellar *et al*). This is the first record of this Nearctic wader at Fair Isle.

*Dunnock (Prunella modularis) attempting to breed on Fair Isle*

After the 1973 report had gone to press during the early part of 1974 a nest containing 4 eggs and belonging to this species was found and removed from the Sitka Spruce Plantation by G. J. Barnes. Although this species breeds in Orkney it does not do so in Shetland and this is the first attempted breeding record for the species at Fair Isle. No indication of Dunnocks holding territory or of their attempted breeding efforts were suspected in 1973.

**Ringing Details 1974**

During the early spring the Hjon Dyke trap was completely rebuilt and the catching end of the Gully trap extensively repaired. The other traps were in good working order and to these we added a very useful Heligoland immediately behind the new Observatory. The Observatory trap was exceedingly successful, contributing 335 to the ringing total including Thrush Nightingale and Ortolan Bunting. Mist nets helped us to increase our catches and in the autumn dazzle netting considerably boosted some of the wader totals: particularly worthwhile were 10 Ruffs trapped by this method.

During the summer we continued our work on the seabirds and John Davis's research on the Arctic Skua population gave us another impressive total (218). The increased exploitation of the seabirds over the past few years is beginning to reap a good harvest of recoveries: the series of auk recoveries reported in 1974 being especially noteworthy.

The year's ringing total of 6180 was supplemented by a fur-

ther 63 birds ringed elsewhere in Shetland (a Snowy Owl on Fetlar and Arctic Skuas on Foula). On Fair Isle the monthly ringing totals were as follows:

	Jan-Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov-Dec
No. of birds	184	407	572	1048	1550	934	655	388	442
No. of species	29	31	47	40	26	39	59	35	29

Amongst the migrants trapped there were some very variable totals. It was a particularly good year for Red-backed Shrikes (26) and Wrynecks (22) and the Garden Warbler total (126) has only been bettered in one other year. A good fall of Robins in late April helped the species reach a record total (336). There were however noticeably fewer Redwings, and Blackbirds only achieved an average total by trickling through in small numbers. Redstarts (18) and Pied Flycatchers (10) were scarce and Barred Warblers (7) reached their lowest total since 1967. Nevertheless amongst the 115 species ringed there were many interesting captures including: Spotted Crake, Glaucous Gull, Shorelark, Subalpine Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Olive-backed Pipit, Woodchat Shrike, Corn Bunting and Hawfinch.

The annual and accumulative ringing and recovery totals of birds ringed at Fair Isle are shown in the following table. Birds ringed away from Fair Isle with FIBO rings are excluded from the table but their recovery details are included in the recovery section following the totals list.

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
Great Crested Grebe	1		1			
Red-necked Grebe	1		1			
Slavonian Grebe	2		2			
Little Grebe	3		3			
Fulmar	5638	540	6178	31	4	35
Storm Petrel	2486	203	2689	20	5	25
Leach's Petrel	4		4			
Gannet	20	2	22	1		1
Cormorant	7		7			
Shag	8898	355	9253	184	17	201
Heron	9		9			
Mallard	6		6	1		1
Teal	25	4	29	2		2
Wigeon	8		8			
Scaup	2		2			
Tufted Duck	7		7			
Goldeneye	6		6			
Long-tailed Duck	6		6			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
Velvet Scoter	2		2			
Eider	71		71			
Red-breasted Merganser	1		1			
Goosander	3		3	1		1
Greylag Goose	4	1	5	1		1
White-fronted Goose	1		1			
Pink-footed Goose	2		2			
Barnacle Goose	1		1			
Whooper Swan	12		12	1		1
Sparrowhawk	79	8	87	11		11
Goshawk	1		1			
Peregrine	6		6			
Merlin	121	2	123	11		11
Red-footed Falcon	1		1			
Kestrel	24		24	4		4
Quail	4		4			
Water Rail	152	16	158	2		2
Spotted Crake	7	1	8			
Little Crake	1		1			
Corncrake	26		26	2		2
Moorhen	47	3	50	2		2
Coot	7		7			
Oystercatcher	1		1			
Lapwing	651	32	683	33	2	35
Ringed Plover	209	1	210	2		2
Little Ringed Plover	246	21	267	3		3
Golden Plover	1		1			
Dotterel	12	1	13			
Turnstone	3		3			
Snipe	53		53			
Jack Snipe	143	13	156	6		6
Woodcock	36	1	37	1		1
Curlew	142	6	148	6	1	7
Whimbrel	23	5	28	1		1
Black-tailed Godwit	11	1	12			
Bar-tailed Godwit	1		1			
Green Sandpiper	6	1	7	2		2
Wood Sandpiper	20	1	21	1		1
Common Sandpiper	10		10			
Redshank	33	1	34			
Spotted Redshank	122	17	139	2		2
Greenshank	3		3			
Knot	5		5			
Purple Sandpiper	47	1	48			
Little Stint	103	6	109			
	27		27			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
White-rumped Sandpiper	1		1			
Pectoral Sandpiper	5		5			
Dunlin	298	8	306	4	1	5
Curlew Sandpiper	2		2			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Sanderling	66	2	68			
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1		1			
Ruff	18	10	28	1		1
Grey Phalarope	1		1			
Red-necked Phalarope	3		3			
Great Skua	297	35	332	4	1	5
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Arctic Skua	1463	218	1681	30		30
Great Black-backed Gull	888	59	947	34		34
Lesser Black-backed Gull	582	47	629	11	1	12
Herring Gull	1402	147	1549	32	3	35
Common Gull	20	9	29	5		5
Glaucous Gull	26	1	27	1		1
Iceland Gull	1		1			
Black-headed Gull	14	1	15	2		2
Kittiwake	1500	42	1542	7		7
Common Tern	16	11	27	1		1
Arctic Tern	5		5	1		1
Razorbill	1216	118	1334	35	6	41
Little Auk	5		5			
Guillemot	2216	268	2484	42	10	52
Black Guillemot	711	61	772	8		8
Puffin	5086	317	5403	10	1	11
Rock Dove	4	1	5			
Wood Pigeon	26	1	27	2		2
Turtle Dove	24	2	26			
Collared Dove	30	3	33			
Cuckoo	61	2	63	1		1
Snowy Owl	1		1			
Long-eared Owl	66	5	71	2		2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Nightjar	3		3			
Swift	15		15	1		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	15		15			
Wryneck	95	22	117			
Short-toed Lark	5		5			
Woodlark	2		2			
Sskylark	473	40	513	2		2

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
Shorelark	2	1	3			
Swallow	171	4	175	2		2
House Martin	115		115			
Sand Martin	6		6			
Golden Oriole	3		3			
Raven	6		6			
Hooded Crow	29	3	32			
Rook	4		4			
Jackdaw	1		1			
Great Tit	4		4			
Blue Tit	2		2			
Treecreeper	1		1			
Wren	454	18	472			
Dipper	8		8			
Mistle Thrush	14	1	15	1		1
Fieldfare	454	15	469			
Song Thrush	1137	47	1184	19	1	20
Redwing	4089	108	4197	49	2	51
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	216	23	239	4		4
Blackbird	11651	432	12083	223	8	231
White's Thrush	1		1			
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Rock Thrush	1		1			
Wheatear	10522	272	10794	50	1	51
Black-eared Wheatear	2		2			
Stonechat	22	6	28			
Whinchat	342	29	371	2		2
Redstart	1098	18	1116			
Black Redstart	61		61			
Nightingale	11		11			
Thrush Nightingale	10	1	11			
Bluethroat	131	4	135	2		2
Robin	3079	336	3415	22		22
Grasshopper Warbler	51	2	53			
Lanceolated Warbler	5		5			
River Warbler	2		2			
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1		1			
Thick-billed Warbler	1		1			
Great Reed Warbler	3		3			
Reed Warbler	74	4	78	1		1
Marsh Warbler	31	2	33			
Reed/Marsh Warbler	1		1			
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1			

	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
Sedge Warbler	217	10	227	1		1
Aquatic Warbler	14		14			
Melodious Warbler	6		6			
Icterine Warbler	48	2	50			
Booted Warbler	3		3			
Blackcap	1198	107	1305	6		6
Barred Warbler	224	7	231			
Garden Warbler	1377	126	1503			
Whitethroat	592	15	607			
Lesser Whitethroat	298	28	326			
Sardinian Warbler	1		1			
Subalpine Warbler	9	1	10			
Willow Warbler	1710	83	1793	1		1
Greenish Warbler	8	1	9			
Chiffchaff	305	42	347			
Wood Warbler	46		46			
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1			
Arctic Warbler	22		22			
Yellow-browed Warbler	60	1	61			
Dusky Warbler	1	1	2			
Goldcrest	701	51	752		1	1
Spotted Flycatcher	306	15	321	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	528	10	538	3		3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	32	1	33			
Dunnock	785	77	862	4		4
Richard's Pipit	7		7			
Tawny Pipit	2		2			
Meadow Pipit	5543	232	5775	34		34
Tree Pipit	324	34	358			
Olive-backed Pipit	2	1	3			
Pechora Pipit	3		3			
Red-throated Pipit	3		3			
Rock Pipit	4980	261	5241	15	1	16
Pied/White Wagtail	362	10	372	4		4
Grey Wagtail	8	1	9			
Citrine Wagtail	4		4			
Yellow Wagtail spp.	9		9			
Waxwing	28	4	32			
Great Grey Shrike	58	7	65	1		1
Lesser Grey Shrike	6		6			
Woodchat Shrike	8	1	9			
Red-backed Shrike	103	26	129			
Starling	8866	638	9504	73	8	81
Rose-coloured Starling	2		2			
Hawfinch	1	1	2			
Greenfinch	43	2	45			



	Numbers ringed			Numbers recovered		
	1948-73	1974	Total	1948-73	1974	Total
Goldfinch	3		3			
Siskin	151	27	178			
Linnet	66	7	73	1		1
Twite	495	177	672	3		3
Redpoll	282	5	287			
Arctic Redpoll	5		5			
Bullfinch	19		19			
Scarlet Rosefinch	41	3	44			
Crossbill	287		287	2		2
Parrot Crossbill	35		35			
Chaffinch	657	33	690	2		2
Brambling	733	98	831	2		2
Corn Bunting	2	1	3			
Yellowhammer	33		33			
Black-headed Bunting	2		2			
Red-headed Bunting	5		5			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	5		5			
Cretzschmar's Bunting	1		1			
Ortolan Bunting	16	1	17			
Rustic Bunting	6		6	1		1
Little Bunting	14		14			
Reed Bunting	195	14	209	1		1
Lapland Bunting	37		37			
Snow Bunting	368	27	395	2		2
Song Sparrow	1		1			
White-throated Sparrow	1		1			
House Sparrow	1001	1	1002	1		1
Tree Sparrow	65	1	66			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>105402</b>	<b>6180</b>	<b>111582</b>	<b>1094</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1168</b>

Number of species ringed 1948-73 - 225

1974 - 115

Total - 225

## Recoveries in 1974

The very high total of 74 recoveries (plus an additional bird ringed away from Fair Isle) was reported in 1974. The details of the most interesting ones are given in full below, but where there are long sequences of recoveries for one species these have been summarised for convenience. 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 without ring.

/?/—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 are given on the first line and the recovery details on the second line. The distance in kilometres and the direction are approximate. The international age classification has been adopted throughout this section. In this system, the age is the 'age' when ringed. The age code will be found immediately following the ring number.

1 (pull)—pullus or nestling.

2—age quite unknown, but fully grown.

3—hatched in the calendar year of ringing.

4—hatched before calendar year of ringing.

5—hatched in the last calendar year.

6—hatched before last calendar year.

7—hatched two years ago.

8—hatched three or more years ago, but exact year unknown.

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

#### FULMAR

AT82322 4 29.07.61 Fair Isle.

v 22.07.73 Foula, Shetland, 72 km NNW.

AT90880 3 30.08.62 Fair Isle.

X 09.05.74 Balmedie, Belhelvie, Aberdeen, 255 km S.

FS14673 Pull 22.07.71 Fair Isle.

x (15.08.74) On vessel, North Sea, ca 59°40'N 0°10'W.

FS46712 Pull 09.08.73 Fair Isle.

/?/ 01.01.74 Subbe Lighthouse, Verberg, Sweden, 57°5'N 12°15'E.

#### STORM PETREL

5 recoveries were reported all within Shetland. One ringed in 1972 was controlled on Mousa and the other 4 were all controlled on Foula. Of these 3 had been ringed in 1973 and the fourth ringed on 27.7.74 was controlled the following night.

#### SHAG

17 recoveries were reported, all from birds ringed as pulli. 6 were in Shetland, 4 in Orkney, one in Caithness, Aberdeen, Banff and Ross-shire, 2 in Kincardine and one in Northumberland. Apart from the unusually large number, all were typical recoveries of young birds during a period of post-

juvenile dispersal. The only exception is the Northumberland bird which was ringed as a pullus in 1959 and was found freshly dead on 27.4.74. The bird had probably never returned to breed on Fair Isle.

#### OYSTERCATCHER

SS68003 Pull 16.06.67 Fair Isle.  
+ 10.73-2.74 Burry Inlet, Glamorgan, 890 km SSW.  
FS46039 Pull 27.06.72 Fair Isle.  
+ 00.11.73 Burry Inlet, Glamorgan, 890 km SSW.

Both birds had been shot in the controversial cull of wintering Oystercatchers at the Burry Inlet in an attempt to protect the local cockle industry.

#### WOODCOCK

ED28545 2 27.10.51 Fair Isle.  
+28.07.74 Hargshamn, Stockholm, Sweden, 60°10'N 18°28'E.  
This is only our second recovery of this species in Sweden and our third abroad.

#### DUNLIN

BB28806 4 31.07.70 Fair Isle.  
v 05.05.74 Point of Air, Flints., 700 km SSW. (Sexed ♀).  
This is our second recovery at the Point of Air.

#### GREAT SKUA

HW08396 Pull 20.07.73 Fair Isle.  
X 15-30.9.73 St Trojan-les-Bains, Ile, d'Oleron, France,  
45°50'N 1°12'W.

#### ARCTIC SKUA

EF84905 Pull 02.07.74 Foula, Shetland.  
X 28.09.74 Sandwich Bay, Kent, 1010 km SSE.

#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

AJ52528 Pull 18.07.62 Fair Isle.  
v 21.02.71 Sidi Ifni, Morocco, 29°24'N 10°12'W.  
X? 25.11.73 Agadir, Morocco, 30°30'N 9°40'W.

This unfortunate bird was originally found with an injured wing in 1971 and released. On its next capture it was reported to have had both legs broken. In view of its injuries it is most likely that it has remained off Morocco since 1971.

#### HERRING GULL

AJ24941 8 11.11.60 Fair Isle.  
xA 20.05.74 Gullsfjord, Hinno, Norway, 68°44'N 16°00'E.  
GP37602 Pull 12.07.71 Fair Isle.  
xA 15.07.74 Peterhead, Aberdeen., 225 km S.  
GKO6032 Pull 26.07.74 Fair Isle.  
X 01.10.74 Fraserburgh, Aberdeen., 205 km SSW.

There are a number of other recoveries of adult Herring Gulls from the same area of Norway which were also dazzled at a winter roost on the Island.

#### RAZORBILL

- M19053 Pull 14.07.73 Fair Isle.  
 + 27.10.73 Bogense, Denmark, 55°34'N 10°06'E.  
 M18386 Pull 29.06.73 Fair Isle.  
 X 00.07.74 Berriedale, Caithness, 190 km SW.  
 M19024 Pull 08.07.73 Fair Isle.  
 X 27.06.74 Newton Haven, Northumberland, 460 km S.  
 M18268 Pull 10.07.72 Fair Isle.  
 + 03.07.74 Vidoy, Faeroe Islands, 62°20'N 6°30'W.  
 SS6894 Pull 23.06.72 Fair Isle.  
 v 05.07.74 Clo Mor, Sutherland, 210 km WSW.  
 SS68560 Pull 17.06.68 Fair Isle.  
 v 01.07.74 Foula Shetland, 72 km NNW.

An informative series of recoveries, the first shot in its first year off Denmark, 2 off the N and NE coasts of Britain in their first summer, 2 visiting other auk colonies in their second summers and the last found breeding at another colony in its sixth year.

#### GUILLEMOT

- GP79135 Pull 16.07.72 Fair Isle.  
 X 21.04.74 Seacroft, Skegness, Lincs., 720 km SSE.  
 GP37992 Pull 24.06.72 Fair Isle.  
 X 03.06.74 ca 6 nautical miles N of Halten Lighthouse, Norway, 64°10'N 9°26'E.  
 GP79290 6 09.06.73 Fair Isle.  
 xA 10.02.74 Petit-Piquoy, Lege, France, 44°48'N 1°09'W.  
 GP37876 6 24.06.72 Fair Isle.  
 X 22.12.73 Breenanddijk, Netherlands, 53°2'N 5°13'E.  
 (sexed ♂).  
 GP79719 6 10.07.73 Fair Isle.  
 X? (28.11.73) Rodoy, Norway, 66°42'N 13°05'E.

There were also 5 typical recoveries of pulli in their first winter in Norway. The recoveries of pulli in their second year and birds ringed as adults are shown in full as we have less information for these age groups. The recoveries in the Netherlands and in France are our first for these countries. The French bird is quite exceptional coming from a wintering area of more southern populations. It is also interesting that it was ringed at a small and recently established breeding site but was more likely a visitor than a breeder.

#### PUFFIN

- EF84484 6 16.07.73 Fair Isle.

X? (27.03.74) Cabo de Sante Maria, Faro, Portugal, 36°58'N 7°55'W.

This is our most southerly Puffin recovery and our first in Portugal (there have been 2 previous recoveries in Northern Spain).

#### SONG THRUSH

CJ47300 3 26.09.73 Fair Isle.

+ 28.02.74 Villamanrique de la Condesa, Spain, 37°15'N 6°18'W.

#### REDWING

CN47112 3 15.10.71 Fair Isle.

/?/ 00.01.73 Burgas, Spain, ca 43°15'N 2°45'W.

BV24206 3 08.10.73 Fair Isle.

v 20.10.73 Serrahn, Neustrelitz, East Germany, 53°20'N 13°14'E. (Hiddensee 80302656 added).

BV24206, identified as belonging to the continental form during a large fall, showed a rapid movement back across the North Sea.

#### BLACKBIRD

8 recoveries were reported, and of these one was reported in Norway in summer, 3 on spring passage in Denmark and 3 in England and Scotland in the late winter and early spring (one in the Wolverhampton area was found dead 8 years after ringing). A difficult recovery to interpret is a bird ringed on 17.3.74 which had moved to Teesside on 12.5.74.

#### WHEATEAR

BH53157 3 30.08.68 Fair Isle.

+ (03.04.74) Taouz, Morocco, 30°53'N 4°01'W.

#### GOLDCREST

PN6772 3♂ 05.10.73 Fair Isle.

X 01.01.74 Tickhill Doncaster, Yorks., 680 km S.

This is our first Goldcrest recovery.

#### ROCK PIPIT

BR01027 3 30.06.73 Fair Isle.

X 18.03.74 at Sea off West of Scotland, ca 58°N 8°W.

#### STARLING

XX65913 4♀ 25.11.72 Fair Isle.

X 24.10.73 Gorodok, Belorussia, S.S.R., 55°29'N 30°00'E.

Apart from the Russian recovery above there were a further 7 recoveries reported, 2 in Orkney, one in Caithness, one in Banff, 2 in Aberdeen and one in Inverness-shire. With the exception of the Caithness bird in September, all the others were in winter between December and March.

## Recaptures in 1974

During the season a considerable number of birds were recaptured which had been ringed previously on Fair Isle. The majority had been ringed earlier this year and the details of these are entered in the Observatory retrap files. All recaptures of birds ringed in previous years are summarised in the following table. The figures include a few birds that were found dead on the Island during the year.

### Birds ringed in previous years and retrapped in 1974

Species	1956	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
Fulmar Ad							1			1		1	1		2	3	9	1
Pull					1		1	1					2	1				
Storm Petrel										1					1		1	1
Shag Ad													1				2	
Pull							1				1		1	1	2	5	8	
Eider Ad									1									
Great Skua Pull						1	1						1	1	1			
Arctic Skua Ad																		146
Pull	1			3	1	4	1	1		1				1	1	3	2	
Great Black-backed Gull Pull												1						
Herring Gull Pull												1	1			1	1	
Common Gull Pull																		1
Razorbill Ad										1		1	1		1			7
Guillemot Ad				1		1		3	1	3	3	11	5	15				28
Pull													4					33
Tystie Ad										1			1					4
Pull							1					2			1			
Puffin Ad															1			
Pull				2	1	1								1				4
Snipe															1			1
Wren																		1
Blackbird																		4
Wheatear																	1	1
Meadow Pipit																		3
Rock Pipit															1	3	2	3
Starling										1			1	2	5	3	14	25
Twite																		6
House Sparrow												1				1		5

All the Herring Gull retraps were caught feeding around a trawler off the East coast of Fair Isle at the end of July, as was the 1960 pullus Fulmar. Of the 4 Blackbirds, 3 overwintered and one was retrapped on spring passage almost exactly one year after ringing.

## Ringed Strangers in 1974

### STORM PETREL

- 2133371 4 05.08.73 Foula, Shetland.  
v 04.08.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.  
2133907 4 28.07.74 Foula, Shetland.  
v 06.08.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.  
2132514 4 16.07.74 Lambhoga, Fetlar, Shetland.  
v 06.08.74 Fair Isle, 125 km SSW.

### SHAG

- 1023080 Pull 04.08.61 Foula, Shetland.  
X 23.06.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.

Note the time lapse between ringing and recovery. Adult Shags at Fair Isle are exceedingly sedentary and it is likely that this bird had been 'resident' at Fair Isle following its post-juvenile dispersal.

### GREAT SKUA

- 421763 Pull 14.07.65 Foula, Shetland.  
v 29.05.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.  
HWO3611 Pull 16.07.66 Foula, Shetland.  
v 24.06.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.  
HW13023 Pull 20.07.67 Foula, Shetland.  
v 27.05.74 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.  
HW17678 Pull 14.07.68 Noss, Shetland.  
X 06.05.74 Fair Isle, 75 km SSW. (sexed ♂).

The three controls from Foula were trapped as breeding adults on Fair Isle.

### ARCTIC SKUA

- ED98143 Pull 23.07.69 Hermaness, Unst, Shetland.  
v 07.06.74 Fair Isle, 155 km SW.  
ED87934 Pull 15.07.70 Bressay, Shetland.  
v 25.06.74 Fair Isle, 75 km SSW.

Both birds were trapped as breeding adults at Fair Isle bringing the total to 5 being immigrants trapped as part of the study now in progress on the Island.

### BLACK GUILLEMOT

- AT80135 4 10.07.61 Foula, Shetland.  
X 31.12.73 Fair Isle, 72 km SSE.

It is surprising that the original ring remained legible after such a length of time. The recovery also suggests that some adults may move from their breeding areas in winter.

**BLACKBIRD**

Helgoland 7546723 4 15.03.74 Heligoland, West Germany, 54°11'N 7°55'E.  
v 30.04.74 Fair Isle.

**ROBIN**

Arnhem S600721 4 30.04.73 Laaxum, Friesland, Netherlands, 52°51'N 5°25'E.  
v 30.04.74 Fair Isle.

Both the Blackbird and the Robin were controlled on the same day during a large Robin fall and the proximity of the ringing localities gives very strong indication of the immediate origins of the 'rush', and also suggests that the Robin was at the same place at the same time in consecutive years.

## Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

### *Treasurer's Report*

I am glad to be able to report, as for last year, a small surplus of £6 on the revenue account, despite the fact that the usual contribution of £250 from the National Trust for Scotland (Wild Life Fund) was not received till after the accounts were closed. That we achieved this in a year of rising prices reflects great credit on the management of Roger and Judy Broad. I would also like to say thank you to John Mellalieu, of Messrs J. & F. Anderson who has been doing all the work that, as Treasurer I should have been doing and who has re-organised with Roger and Judy the whole system of accounts. To comment on the individual accounts as usual :

#### I. Revenue Account

Provisions were up by over £1000, fortunately so were the Board and Booking fees, but to keep pace we shall have to raise the latter again. Heat and light have almost doubled and will increase as will wages and N.H.I. The other items call for little comment except that we have charged the usual depreciation on furniture, generator and boat. I should, however, mention that the Endowment Trust income for 1973 was high because £96 was received which should have been paid over in the previous year. Donations made at the Hostel totalled £90.

#### II. Appeal Fund (carried to Balance Sheet) £24,361.

Increased from last year by donations £370, temporary de-





1973						
£6948	Board	...	...	...	...	£8001
250	Grant—National Trust for Scotland—Wildlife Fund	...	...	...	...	—
375	Fair Isle Endowment Trust to account of Income	...	...	...	...	257
854	Subscriptions & Donations	...	...	...	...	936
147	Tax recovered from Deeds of Covenant	...	...	...	...	142
157	Sale of Publications	...	...	...	...	142
140	Interest received on Government Stock	...	...	...	...	225
<u>£8871</u>						<u>£9703</u>

### APPEAL FUND

1973						
£23241	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	...	...	...	...	£24361
<u>£23241</u>						<u>£24361</u>
£22497	Balance at 31st October, 1973	...	...	...	...	£23241
402	Donations received during year	...	...	...	...	370
178	Interest from Temporary Deposits—Gross	...	...	...	...	569
164	Tax recovered from Covenants	...	...	...	...	181
<u>£23241</u>						<u>£24361</u>

### CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£4729	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	...	...	...	...	£6735
<u>£4729</u>						<u>£6735</u>
£4726	Balance at 31st October, 1973	...	...	...	...	£4729
—	Donation received	...	...	...	...	2000
3	Surplus for year	...	...	...	...	6
<u>£4729</u>						<u>£6735</u>

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31st October 1974

Fixed Assets	Cost or Val.	Deprec.		1973
Hostel	£51548	£—	£51548	£51548
Sheds and Traps	150	—	150	150
Furnishings & Equipment	1816	848	968	1148
Generator	592	292	300	360
Scientific & Photographic Equipment	160	—	160	160
Land Rover	223	223	—	—
Boat	107	107	—	21
	<u>£54596</u>	<u>£1470</u>	<u>£53126</u>	<u>£53387</u>

<b>Investment</b>		
£2642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 (M.V. £2114)	2582	2582
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks ... ..	£752	473
Sundry Debtors ... ..	357	435
Tax recoverable ... ..	51	46
Deposit at 8½% repayable 15.5.75 ... ..	1000	1000
Temporary Deposits ... ..	4600	3200
Bank & Cash ... ..	211	702
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£6971	£5856
Less Sundry Creditors ... ..	1458	1255
<b>Net Current Assets</b> ... ..	5513	4601
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Capital Account</b> ... ..	£61221	£60570
<b>Appeal Fund</b> ... ..	6735	4729
<b>Grants Received from Highlands &amp; Islands Development Board</b> ... ..	24361	23241
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25000	25000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£56096	£52970
<b>Secured Loan—Highlands &amp; Islands Board</b> ... ..	5125	7600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£61222	£60570
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Notes**

1. No Depreciation has been provided on the Hostel.
2. **Highlands & Islands Development Board £9500 Loan at 5½%.** The balance of the Loan (£5125) secured over specified Trust properties is repayable by 10 annual instalments of £475 and a final instalment of £375.

EDINBURGH, 14th January, 1975.—Examined and found correct.

ARTHUR YOUNG, McCLELLEND MOORES & CO.,

Chartered Accountants.

**FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST****Summary of Account for the Year ended 31st October 1974**

	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Fund at 31st October, 1973 ... ..	£7987	
Income for year per Schedule ... ..	...	£195
Income Tax refund 1973/74 ... ..	...	85
		<hr/>
Trustees Fees & Outlays ... ..	£22	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T. ... ..	257	
		<hr/>
		279
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund at 31st October, 1974 ... ..	£7987	£1
	<hr/>	<hr/>



alloway bull at Grutness pier, prior to being brought in to Fair Isle on the 'Good Shepherd'.

*Photograph by Dennis Coultts*



Shetland ponies at Setter.

*Photograph by R. A. Bro*

Schedule	Capital		Revenue
	Market Value	Cost	
Lanarkshire County Council			
£1000 5½% Stock 1977/79	£700	£896	£38
Treasury Loan £1000 8½% Loan 1987/90	600	996	56
British Investment Trust			
£1530 7½% Conv. Deb. Stock 1996	1247	2728	79
Whitbread Co. Ltd.			
840 "A" Ord. 25p shares	315	314	21
	<u>£2862</u>	£4934	
Heritable Property,			
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh		3050	
Cash Balance		3	1
		<u>£7987</u>	<u>£195</u>

## THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Year ended 31st October, 1974

Balance at Funds at 31st October 1973	...	...	£425.79
Donations received during year	...	...	89.70
Interest received on temporary loan	...	...	33.77
			<u>£549.26</u>
<b>Deduct :</b>			
Six Grants paid for Accommodation at Hostel	...	...	£42.00
Balance of Funds held at 31st October 1974	...	...	<u>£507.26</u>

## Index for Bulletins and Annual Reports

As notified in the 1973 *Annual Report*, copies of an *Index* for *Bulletins* Vols 1-5 (1951-1967), and *Annual Reports* (1949-1970) have now been printed and are available free on request. We are much indebted to the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for a grant of £100 from their Endowment Fund towards cost of publication.

We are grateful too to Roger Broad and Roy Dennis for their painstaking compilation of the *Index*.

Application for a copy should be made to the Hon. Secretary, FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT *immediately*.

Those of you who have already ordered will find their copies enclosed with this *Report*.

S.O.C.

**BIRD BOOKSHOP**

21 REGENT TERRACE  
EDINBURGH EH7 5BT

Tel. (031) 556 6042

*Some new books*

Loch Leven: waterfowl biology. <i>Allison et al</i>	50p
Birds of Prey in Europe. <i>Bijleveld.</i>	£12.50
Birds and Mammals of Orkney. <i>Groundwater</i>	£3.60
Field Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of British and European Birds. <i>Colin Harrison</i>	£3.50
Caerlaverock: conservation and wildfowling in action. <i>J. G. Harrison (ed.)</i>	50p
Naturalist in Scotland. <i>Knowlton</i>	£4.50
Fauna and Flora of St Andrews Bay. <i>Laverack and Blackler</i>	£5.00
Changing Flora and Fauna of Britain. <i>Hawksworth (ed.)</i>	£9.20
Evolution Illustrated by Waterfowl. <i>Lack</i>	£1.50 & £3.00
Hedges (New Naturalist). <i>Pollard</i>	£3.50
Guide to Animal Tracks and Signs. <i>Bang and Dahlstrom</i>	£2.95
British Seals (New Naturalist). <i>Hewer</i>	£3.50
Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe. <i>Mitchell</i>	£2.95
Sea Fishes of Britain and North-western Europe. <i>Muus and Dahlstrom</i>	£2.95
Ocean Wanderers: migratory seabirds of the world. <i>Lockley</i>	£4.50
Ducks, Geese and Swans. <i>Merne</i>	£1.75
University of Dundee North-east Greenland Expedition 1972	£1.00
The Cairngorms (S.M.C. District Guide). <i>Adam Watson</i>	£4.80

WRITE FOR OUR CURRENT BOOKLIST

**ORDERS TALLING £2.50 SENT POST FREE**

ADD 25p FOR SMALLER ORDERS





*Photograph by Dennis Coutts*

**If you would like to spend a birdwatching holiday on Fair Isle . . . write to the Warden, Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland, for a copy of our Prospectus.**

Between May and September, the island mail-boat operates on Tuesdays and Fridays, leaving Fair Isle at 6 am, arriving at Grutness pier, Sumburgh, 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 258) at the cheap rate after 6 pm or at weekends to discuss all booking arrangements.

---

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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.

# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

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

Roads Bird Trap TRAP Boundaries

