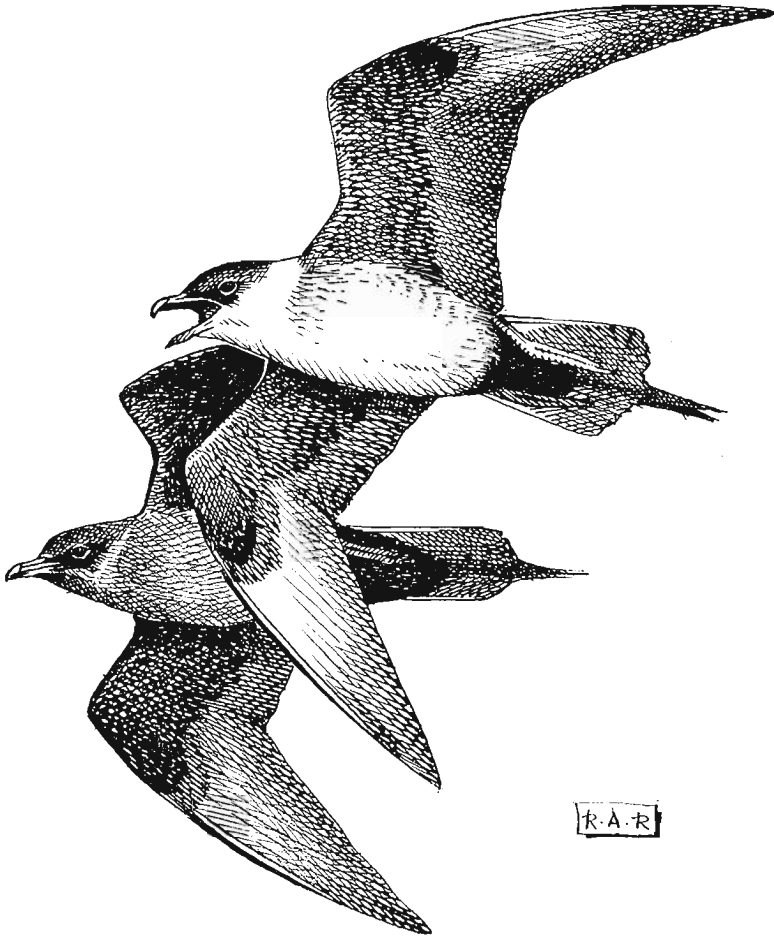


Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT FOR 1977



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. 30 1977

Edited by GEORGE WATERSTON

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Fair Isle Bird Observatory

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

Warden—Mr Iain S. Robertson, The Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
Tel. Fair Isle (035 12) 258

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

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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

IT is inevitable as the years go on that we have to record the death of some of our colleagues in FIBOT. This year our losses have been especially heavy.

Sir Landsborough Thomson, the premier authority on Bird Migration of our time and an ornithologist of quite outstanding eminence—his *New Dictionary of Birds* could not have been written by anybody else since the days when Newton wrote the original *Dictionary*—was one of our original Trustees and always took a deep interest in our affairs, as indeed though long resident in London he did in all matters affecting his native land. Richard Richardson not only enlivened many annual reports with his gifted line drawings but was a most regular migrant himself to the isle usually both on spring and autumn migration. He was deeply interested in all our affairs and most generous in life and death to the Trust. Ken Williamson, our first warden, above all set the Trust's feet on the way it should go.

This spring Roger and Judy Broad leave us to take up an important post with the R.S.P.B. Apart from the Williamsons they have been longer on the isle than any of our wardens and theirs has been a very happy, fruitful wardenship. We thank them most warmly and wish them well in their new undertaking. I am confident that the R.S.P.B. have made a very wise choice.

The Iain Robertsons who are going to Fair Isle now, have, apart from belonging to what, if modesty did not forbid, I would call the best of the Scottish clans, much going for them. They were both on Fair Isle, Iain having been an assistant with both Roy Dennis and Roger Broad. They have had observatory experience elsewhere at Portland, where they have been in charge for some time. They are both lovers of the Northern Islands. We welcome them with pleasure and confidence.

This has been one of the most successful years we have had on the island, as you will see from reading the report and the treasurer's statement, in every way and, with your continued support, we can face the future with a measure of confidence.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,
Chairman.

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1977

by ROGER A. BROAD

There was an encouraging increase in visitors staying at the Observatory during the year compared with the previous year. The final figure of 462 visitor-weeks has only been exceeded on one previous occasion (1975 with 470 visitor-weeks). Of all the months, October showed the most significant increase with almost double the number of bookings of recent years. This welcome trend will, we hope, be continued—October is one of the chief months for migration during the autumn and regrettably the Observatory is rarely more than half full. For the second successive year the Observatory was the base for an independently led course for ornithologists. The group led by Eric Meek and Brian Little was highly successful. The Observatory makes an ideal centre for ventures of this type and it is hoped that one or two courses of this nature can be encouraged annually. The John Harrison Memorial Fund, instigated by Richard Richardson, continues to benefit young ornithologists of slender means with help towards their hostel expenses, and in 1977 there were eight successful applicants to the fund.

Through the season Judy continued to manage the domestic arrangements which were carried out so cheerfully and conscientiously by an able team. Lizzie Camm returned to cook for a second season until she left in the early autumn to take up a teaching post on the Isle of Muck. Angela Cook, who had been assistant cook from the spring stepped in to cook for the busy autumn period and invaluable added help was given at various times through the season by Maggie Lorrain-Smith, Mary Taylor and Christine Sharp. I was fortunate to have the help of two assistants—Mike Peacock and Martin Sutherland—through the year and additional help in the late summer from Roger Auger. The extra manpower was particularly welcome during the strenuous seabird season and the success of the Storm Petrel project and the Arctic Skua work directly resulted from the keenness of this team.

Work was begun on the improvements recommended by the Firemaster to bring the Observatory up to the required standard laid down in the Fire Precautions Act, 1971. By the end of the season several major jobs were completed or under way. The provision of a break-glass fire alarm system coupled with heat and smoke detectors at high risk points and linked to a system of emergency lights in all escape corridors will be im-

mediately obvious to all returning visitors. Apart from the obvious safeguards this system provides, there is the added advantage of providing lights in the corridors and stairwell after the generator is switched off in the evening. The small supply necessary to power these circuits has been negotiated with the GPO and a supply established via the UAX (unattended automatic exchange) building at the North Haven from the Bullock Holes generators. The provision of safe escape routes has necessitated lining many of the corridors with an additional layer of insulating plasterboard, the erection of an uninterrupted passageway across the 6-bed dormitory to a new external fire escape and the replacement of existing bedroom doors with $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour fire check doors. It is hoped that work, already advanced on these jobs, will be completed before the start of the new season. The division of the dormitory will result in two smaller rooms but no overall loss of dormitory accommodation will occur.

The ornithological work carried out during the year has been similar to the last few years, with introductory training and instruction in the techniques of handling and examining birds being an integral part of the Observatory work. Regular census of migrants and monitoring some of the more important and vulnerable breeding seabird populations have also become routine. As usual, the Observatory has participated in the British Trust for Ornithology moult enquiry and the nest record scheme. Other more detailed studies have included the continued co-operation with Dr Peter O'Donald on his research into the Arctic Skua population, the collection of food samples from Puffins for Dr Mike Harris, the use of tape lures to capture and determine more about the status of Storm Petrels visiting Fair Isle, and studies on the Tysties.

Island Events

Tommy and Sheila Stout and their children Alec and Helen have moved back to Whiteness in Shetland leaving the crofts at Springfield and Busta untenanted and the house empty. The National Trust for Scotland bought the houses and the Springfield croft was allocated to Bill and Margo Murray to work from the Haa. The vacant croft at Busta has been taken over by Barry and Ann Sinclair who have been running the Island shop for the past four years. Barry has also taken up a share in the Good Shepherd and is now a crew member in place of Tommy. Work on modernising Busta has been going on since the summer and when finished Barry and Ann will be vacating Stackhoull to live at Busta. The shop itself has already changed hands and is being run by John and Sue Holloway. Before moving to the Island John and Sue and their two young child-

ren, Hazel and Hayden, were living on Stronsay in Orkney, but they are not newcomers to the Isle. They have previously holidayed here and John helped Roy Dennis in the winter of 1970 at the new Observatory. At present, until the house at Stackhoull is vacated, they are living at Springfield.

Much of the early demolition work on the old house at Busta, the digging of the new foundations and the job of pipe-laying was carried out by a series of three Enterprise Youth work camps during the summer. The work of rebuilding is being carried out by Barry with the help of Jerry Eunson (nephew of Willie at Leogh) who has been staying at Stackhoull since the early autumn. Jim Wilson has returned to the Isle to live with his parents at Schoolton, and he has been working as joiner for the National Trust for Scotland at Busta. With Stackhoull changing hands, the tradition of keeping a small stock of sheep on Sheep Rock is again in the balance. The Rock has always been the 'croft' of Stackhoull (built on the site of what was called Rock Cottage) and Barry has now removed his flock from the Rock to stock his new (and far more accessible) croft at Busta.

Mary and Brian Wilson (Houll) now have a second son, Alan who was born during the year, and at the South Light Liz and Jimmy Watt also have an addition to their family, a daughter—Angela. Half of the families at the two lighthouses have been shifted during the year. The principal keeper from Fair Isle South, John and Eliza McWilliam and Ailsa have moved to Buchaness and Norman Muir from St Abbs Head has taken over. Robert and Liz Hepburn and George, also from the South Light, have been replaced by Angus Edwards. At the North Light Tommy Eunson has married Barbara and Peter Henderson has replaced Ann and George McDermid. Following years of speculation there now seems to be a definite move towards making the North Light a 'rock' station sometime in 1978. This move is a step towards the conversion of the manned light into a fully automatic light. The interim change from a 'shore' to a 'rock' station will involve the removal of the lightkeepers' families to a shore base elsewhere, and the light will be manned by a shift system of keepers, ferried in and out at regular intervals by helicopter.

A small team of workmen continued work on the mains water system throughout the year, completing the dam and pumphouse and erecting the fibreglass reservoir and filter tanks. By the end of the year the only major job still remaining was the provision of a suitable filtration medium in the filter tank. Another job also begun in 1976 and continued into 1977 was the new Busta road. It has now been built, complete

with cattle grid at the junction with the east road opposite the Chapel entrance, and is waiting for its final surface of road metal. Island labour working for the Shetland Islands Council also carried out the important job of erecting gabions on the South Haven beach in an attempt to stop the undermining effect of the sea on the road and the retaining wall across the causeway between the Havens. Late in the year a temporary aerial was erected on the Head 'O Tind. This structure is being tested by Guardline with a view to providing a radio beacon on Fair Isle to assist oil-related traffic in charting their position with considerable accuracy.

Following a trial run in 1976, Loganair Ltd. continued to run a well-patronised, successful scheduled service from Sumburgh. Their summer timetable (April-October inclusive) involved four flights a week, twice each on Mondays and Fridays (leaving Sumburgh on Monday at 0855 and Friday at 1500 hours) and during the winter two flights weekly on the same days (leaving Sumburgh on Monday at 0855 and Friday at 1500 hours). The success of this venture is indicated by Loganair's intention to continue the service in 1978. The Orcadia made its annual excursion to the Island in the summer and landed its passengers at the South Harbour.

Colin Martin returned with a team of divers and continued his detailed archaeological underwater investigations into the Spanish Armada wreck—El Gran Grifon—at Stroms Hellier (a report on their first discoveries was published in FIBO report for 1970). I am particularly grateful to Colin for his assistance during the summer in ferrying us to various seabird colonies, and helping with our Tystie studies.

The Shetland ponies re-introduced to the Island in 1974 by Gordon and Perry Barnes have, with the exception of one mare at Quoy, been shipped off the Island. Likewise, the peaceable Galloway bull, which arrived in the same year as the ponies, has been replaced with a young Welsh Black bull.

Acknowledgments

It becomes more difficult year by year to acknowledge and adequately thank the growing number of people who have contributed in their own individual ways to the very existence of the Observatory, supported our aims and helped us personally over the past year. There are several groups who tend to be overlooked or taken for granted, yet we fully appreciate their help; our Island friends on whom we rely so heavily, our seasonal staff who set the tone and the pace and all our visitors who set the atmosphere of the Observatory week by week.

One further group on whom we rely for guidance and support are the trustees, committee members and office bearers and it was particularly gratifying to be able to welcome no less than eight of their number to the Observatory during 1977. Among these various groups there have been individuals who have made particularly generous and exceptional gifts in 1977 and we are very grateful to them all. Richard Richardson, despite his early death this autumn, will always be remembered. He was one of our strongest supporters and it is fitting comment to his generous nature that on his last visit in May he presented me with a boxful of more than 60 paintings—the originals of his vignettes which have so enlivened our reports over the past years. Each vignette had been individually coloured, mounted and priced for sale at the Observatory and the proceeds were to be split between the Observatory library and the John Harrison Memorial Fund. We thank John Best for his line drawings which illustrate this report.



Ornithology — Monthly Details

January - February

The first two months of the year were a little drier and sunnier than average and several species successfully overwintered in larger numbers than usual, some undoubtedly as hangers-on following the spectacular 1976 autumn migration. 1-2 Herons, Peregrine, Merlin, Kestrel and Water Rail were all seen regularly. The number of Redshanks, Purple Sandpipers and Turnstones were typical but Snipe were commoner than in many winters and there were occasional Jack Snipe records. Lapwing, Ringed Plover and small numbers of Oystercatchers, Curlew and Dunlin were among the waders less regularly present in winter. 4-5 Glaucous Gulls were in regular attendance throughout January. Small flocks of Skylarks remained around the crofts all winter and while they were unusually common for the time of year Snow Buntings were very scarce. 2 Shorelarks were seen on several days in January and like the scatter of Rooks, Blackbirds, Robins and Dunnocks were remainders of the last autumn's passage.

A Mistle Thrush on 1st January was atypical as was a Grey Plover on 6-12th January but, for the second winter in succession, a Bean Goose appeared in late January and was accompanied by a Whitefront and 2 Barnacles. There was a noticeable influx of winter thrushes in mid-January with at least 120 Fieldfares on several days, but they were followed by little else until mid-February when several Mistle Thrushes arrived, preceding the first spring influx of Lapwings on 28th February.

March

Oystercatchers made their first noticeable and noisy entrance during the first week and Stonechats arrived in strength on 6-7th with the assistance of a strong, mainly southerly airstream which persisted on 8th when Lapwings increased to over 100. A Meadow Pipit appeared on 10th, and along with more Stonechats on 12th came the first real influx of Skylarks. 17 of the Rooks which had been with us all winter took the opportunity to leave on 13th and we watched them fly out NE against a clear sky. The wind backed SE on 14th and the first two Wheatears made an early appearance in Homisdale. A Pied Wagtail and several Chaffinches also arrived and the following day this early spring movement was consolidated by the arrival of several more Chaffinches, 12 Dunnocks (including a foreign-ringed control) and the unexpected sight of a Great Tit flying in over the Old Observatory. This bird was to take up residence for several weeks. There

was little further movement in the next few days, except for a steady trickle of Dunnocks and Chaffinches. A Black Redstart arrived on 23rd and a second Great Tit appeared briefly. 13 Whooper Swans were seen on 24th and a few Common and Black-headed Gulls were moving north against a moderate NE airstream on 25-26th. A few more Wheatears appeared and on 28th the first Ring Ousel was recorded.

April

With generally wintry weather during the first two weeks of the month there was little to encourage movements of any species. Glaucous and Iceland Gulls recorded in the first week reflected the weather conditions, but a modest arrival of Meadow Pipits was recorded on 5th. 12 Whooper Swans flew north on 9th but not until the third week of the month did the spring seem any closer. A Linnet and a Corn Bunting were seen on 14th, and on 15th (rather later than usual) Puffins were present in full strength for the first time. The strong winds on 15th became briefly SE on 16th before going northerly. The effect was to produce a modest arrival on 16th which included an increase in thrushes, notably Blackbirds (150), Meadow Pipits and Bramblings (150). A very large arrival of Common Gulls (800) was accompanied by small numbers of Black-headed Gulls. Both Golden Plover and Curlew increased and there were 7 Woodpigeons and a Great Grey Shrike. More than half the Common Gulls had departed the following day but Song Thrushes increased to 60 and additionally a Black Redstart was found. The first sizeable arrival of Wheatears occurred on 19th when flocks sheltering, particularly in the hollows between Easter and Wester Lothar, totalled 90. 2 Pied and a White Wagtail and the year's first Whimbrel were also seen and the first Arctic Skua appeared on 20th. Rather changeable weather in the next few days produced a steady trickle of new arrivals including 2 Sparrowhawks, Stock Dove and the first Collared Dove, but not until 26th, following a spell of SE weather with rain, did any further 'falls' occur. Between 26-30th many of the common spring migrants appeared for the first time (Sand Martin, Swallow, Redstart, Whinchat, Grasshopper, Sedge and Willow Warblers, Chiff-chaff, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Whitethroat). A second large wave of Wheatears (160) arrived on 26th and there were more Whimbrel, a Sandwich Tern in the North Haven, a Short-eared Owl and 2 splendid, summer plumaged Lapland Buntings. A Moorhen was seen on 27th and Green Sandpipers on 28th when 6 Rooks arrived and Lapland Buntings had increased to 5. The last mentioned quickly found the new plough and stayed for some while, becoming very approachable as they fed in the furrows. A few more Rooks arrived on 29th and Ring Ousels

increased to 6. There was a Black Redstart and both Yellow and Grey-headed Wagtails were identified but pride of place went to a Hoopoe.

By the close of the month it was evident that the majority of Scandinavian thrushes wintering in Britain and the Goldcrests had returned by a route distant from Fair Isle. None of these species had put in more than a modest appearance. On the other hand, both Chaffinches and Dunnocks had occurred in fair numbers, not by arriving in strength but by occurring in a steady trickle over an extended period.

May

Changeable weather dominated the first half of the month and produced a series of moderate-sized arrivals, after which a fairly stable high pressure system resulted in a very fine fortnight with sunny days and light winds. This period was exceptional for the movements of hirundines and Red-backed Shrikes and the arrival of a series of southern 'overshoots'.

The first few days had predominantly SE to E winds and on 1st there was a small arrival of Robins, 2 Shelducks, 2 Common Sandpipers, Turtle Dove, Wryneck, Black Redstart and a few warblers. The following day the selection of warblers broadened, Whinchats increased and there were 25 Tree Pipits. Willow Warblers (20) and Bramblings (70) were chief among the new arrivals on 3rd but in addition there were 2 Pintail, Green Sandpiper, House Martin and 7 Jackdaws. On the 4th numbers of most species increased still further and there were 6 Common Sandpipers, 2 Wrynecks, 14 Whinchats and 25 Redstarts but the species commonest among the passerines were Tree Pipit (80) and Reed Bunting (45). A fine male Grey-headed Wagtail was trapped as it went to roost in the Plantation in the evening. There were further increases on 5th with Brambling (150) being the most evident. However, it was the discovery of both Red-backed and Great Grey Shrikes and Ortolan and Little Buntings that captured the attention until the evening when the Hoopoe flew into the recently-extended Single Dyke trap. With the wind remaining predominantly light and from an easterly quarter over the next few days there continued to be a steady trickle of new arrivals daily. On 6th, Willow Warblers had increased to 35 and 3 Ortolans were found. The 7th saw the return of the first Common Tern, the first Spotted Flycatcher of the spring and 2 Red-backed Shrikes. On 8th a Scarlet Rosefinch was found. The 9th was varied with an increase in hirundines: 25 Swallows and 15 Sand Martins (the latter a good total for the Isle). Ring Ousels and Pied Flycatchers were more in evidence and a fine male Hen Harrier and an Osprey were recorded. The Osprey apparently did not stop and continued, flying straight on over

Ward Hill. There were more hirundines on 10th and a Corn-crake and a Bluethroat were seen. A Nightingale was trapped in the Double Dyke early on 11th and on 12th, Wood Sandpiper and the first Cuckoo were recorded. There was a Shore-lark on 13th but a Hoopoe was probably the ringed bird re-discovered.

A high pressure system and light winds dominated the weather over the next fortnight and there was a marked renewal of hirundine passage from 14th. Among the waders on the same day were Green Sandpipers, 8 Common Sandpipers and 2 Knots. On 15th, Swallows were again much in evidence but there were also 4 Wrynecks, Bluethroat and a few Robins and Whitethroats. 2 Wood Warblers and an Ortolan were also apparently new arrivals but many of these birds were not found until the afternoon—much of the morning was taken up by the surprise capture shortly after breakfast in the Double Dyke trap of Britain's first White-crowned Sparrow! Another fine and sunny day on 16th produced more hirundines again, with at least 70 Swallows and 12 Sand Martins recorded and a considerable variety of other species including Hen Harrier, Jack Snipe, Wood Sandpiper, 2 Black Redstarts, 3 Bluethroats and 2 Red-backed Shires. The Wood Sandpiper had been joined by 2 others the next day and this species was to remain in evidence for several days. On 18th, 3 Red-backed Shrikes were found and in brilliant sunny weather Scotland's first Myrtle Warbler was observed feeding among the rocks just north of the South Light. The Myrtle was not seen the following day but Bluethroats which had been increasing steadily from 16th peaked at 8. The beautiful weather continued and on 20th Red-backed Shrikes arrived in force, increasing to 15. A Buzzard sp. was seen and there were a few Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers. Only 8 shrikes could be relocated on 21st but a Thrush Nightingale was found at the Lower Station and there were 3 Turtle Doves. Fog banks and haze over the next few days put an end to the sunshine but the winds remained light. The first Swift was not recorded until 24th when a Marsh Warbler (the first of 2-3) was trapped. On 25th the wind returned light from the E and a good selection of species were seen. A Corncrake, a Green Sandpiper and a few Common Sandpipers were seen. There were more Collared Doves and at least 3 Cuckoos, 4 Sedge Warblers, an Icterine and a Wood Warbler, a new arrival of Red-backed Shrikes (9) and a Scarlet Rosefinch. The 26th was a repeat of 25th with most species increased and several new additions. The most remarkable feature was the discovery of no less than 25 Red-backed Shrikes—by far the most ever recorded on the Island. Hirundines were much in evidence and there was a good scatter of Wrynecks, Whinchats, Redstarts and Blue-

throats. A Quail, 2 Marsh Warblers, 12 Whitethroats, 12 Willow Warblers and 14 Spotted Flycatchers were recorded and a Tawny Pipit gave good views around Malcolm's Head. The following day 25+ Red-backed Shrikes were again located but the proportion of females was much higher than the previous day indicating some newly-arrived birds. Passage of hirundines reached exceptional proportions with 250+ Swallows and 120+ House Martins estimated for the day. Many of the hirundines were seen leaving the Island in a northerly direction. On 28th a second Thrush Nightingale was trapped before breakfast and later a fine Dotterel was found on Ward Hill. A new arrival of Collared Doves occurred but Red-backed Shrikes had obviously decreased. The remaining few days of the month witnessed a general exodus of migrants and May closed with a fine male Subalpine Warbler at South Harbour on 29th, a Hen Harrier on 30th and a Black Redstart on 31st.

June

The weather was rather indifferent for the time of year, cold at the beginning of the month and generally with little sunshine. The spring migration seemed to have virtually ceased with the end of May. Although a scatter of interesting migrants occurred through the month there were no arrivals of note. The only exceptions were hirundines and Black-headed Gulls which were present in some numbers all month, and Red-backed Shrikes which occurred in small numbers until the 17th.

The month opened promisingly with a Temminck's Stint at Field—which was an addition to the ringing list in the afternoon. Several observers looking for the Stint were fortunate to see an Osprey overhead. Wryneck and Corn Bunting were also recorded. On 2nd, 2 late Greylags were identified, there was a Scarlet Rosefinch on 3rd and on 6th a further 15 grey geese were seen. Lapland and Snow Bunting made their last spring appearances at this time and there was an Icterine on 8th. The 13th produced another Temminck's Stint—flushed from a ditch in Gilsetter—and a few flycatchers. Reed Warbler and Grey Wagtail were seen on 14th and Collared Doves continued to arrive in small flocks on several days. A Grey Plover was seen on 17th, a Quail on 21st and a Long-tailed Duck on 25th completed the month, with the exception of late Black-caps (2) on 28th and a Chiffchaff on 29th.

July

Although rainfall was below average in July, summer still seemed to be lacking; the sun was all too often obscured by cloud, drizzle or fog. 2 Sandwich Terns were seen on 2nd and a Cuckoo on 3rd. The usual trickle of returning waders began

in earnest on 8th with a flock of 60 Redshanks, and Purple Sandpipers arrived from 11th. 2 Pinkfeet were seen on 12th and a Shoveler was the first of 3 present for several days. Knot and Sanderling were seen on 17th and the latter increased to 6 by 19th. The first Sooty Shearwater was reported offshore, south of Fair Isle on 23rd when the southerly passage of Black-headed Gulls got under way. Turnstones were present in usual numbers by the end of the month and a Shelduck was seen on 29th and 2 Tufted Ducks on 31st.

August

Settled, fine weather with light winds predominated during the first half of August. This was followed by a persistent E or NE airstream until the last week of the month which returned to a more changeable pattern. Waders provided much of the interest in the first two weeks but both numbers and variety increased as the month proceeded. A Red-necked Phalarope was flushed from a ditch in Gilsetter on 3rd and presumably the same bird was self-caught in the Gully trap on 5th. The autumn's first Merlin was recorded on 8th and the same day 6 Herons were passing through. A Leach's Petrel was seen from the *Good Shepherd* on 9th and on 10th the first small party of Cormorants was recorded flying south. A few Willow Warblers, 2 Pied Flycatchers and 2 *alba* wagtails also appeared on 10th and were followed by a Black Redstart and a Wood Warbler on 11th. A skulking Nightingale sp. at Stoneybrake, proved when caught to be the first autumn record of Thrush Nightingale for the Isle. A further small arrival of Willow Warblers on 13th was accompanied by 2 Wood Warblers and both Little Stint and Little Gull were recorded. The warblers proved to be the forerunners of a more extensive arrival on 14-15th, during which Willow Warblers increased to 25 and there were 3 Wood Warblers, Wryneck, several Whinchats, Garden Warbler, Scarlet Rosefinch, Red-backed Shrike and the first Barred Warbler. A number of new waders appeared including 20 Whimbrel and 3 Wood Sandpipers. Sooty Shearwaters were seen offshore for the first of many sightings through the autumn. Also on 14th a ♂ Two-barred Crossbill was seen flying in from the sea over Hesti Geo by two lucky observers. A Pomarine Skua was seen on 15th and another on 17th.

A light N wind on 18th veered NE overnight on 19th and persisted for several days. On 19th, 3 Barred Warblers were found and the next day newly-arrived waders included 25 Curlew, 55 Redshank and a Spotted Redshank. 2 Wrynecks, 4 Red-backed Shrikes and more Willow Warblers were seen. A Booted Warbler was found in the Observatory garden during the morning and an Arctic Warbler later in the day at Haa.

(The Booted was within days of the '76 record). The majority of the common species again increased on 21st but notable were 7 Wood Warblers (a very good total for the Island) and 2 Scarlet Rosefinches. On 22nd Willow Warblers reached 70 and several new Wood Warblers were found. The following couple of days were quieter with fewer arrivals until 300 Common Gulls on 25th together with 3 Ruffs, Wryneck, Reed and Icterine Warblers were the prelude to another arrival on 26th. On this date, there was a good sea passage of Sooty Shearwaters, another influx of waders included Grey Plover, Spotted Redshank and 11 Ruffs and a selection of warbler. Sparrowhawk, Corncrake and Nightingale were seen on 27th. The last named was well seen at Hesti Geo and (like the Thrush Nightingale earlier in the month) was the first autumn record for the species. A sea watch on 28th produced 18 Sooty Shearwaters and the Island's first record of the Mediterranean race of the Manx Shearwater. On the 29th a Scarlet Rosefinch and 4 Barred Warblers were seen and another influx of waders included 20 Dunlin. Tree Pipits, *alba* and *flava* wagtails were all more numerous on 30th when an Ortolan was also found and Scarlet Rosefinches had increased to 3 by the last day of the month.

September

A series of Atlantic depressions at the beginning of September were accompanied by strong to gale force winds on several days with periods of rain. With high pressure building up over North Scotland in mid-month the winds became lighter but chiefly from a westerly direction. By the third week the high pressure began to drift NE allowing a return of NE winds followed by changeable weather, as a further series of depressions with strong associated winds affected the Island.

The strong winds of the first week produced very few passerines, with the exception of *alba* wagtails which peaked at 60 on 4th, and the first autumn records of Snow and Lapland Bunting. Sea watching was quite profitable with regular sightings of Sooty Shearwaters and flocks of southbound Cormorants. 3 Phalaropes (2 identified as Grey) were recorded on 5th, 2 of which were close in at the South Harbour, and an immature Sabine's Gull in the Havens proved to be the first Island record. An approachable Dotterel was found on the Rippack on 6th when an Ortolan was also seen. Another Grey Phalarope was found on 8th and a Scarlet Rosefinch, and on the 9th, 2 Grey Plovers and the first Jack Snipe of the autumn were recorded. The wind decreased by 10-11th and remained south of west, however an arrival of typically Continental migrants occurred on 11th and included 3 Wrynecks, Blue-throat, Grasshopper Warbler, 4 Barred Warblers, several Gar-

den Warblers and Pied Flycatchers and an Ortolan. There was feverish activity following the discovery of a Yellow-breasted Bunting at Pund and the discovery of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (which proved to be very flighty) at Field. Later in the day a Richard's Pipit was also found. The 12th produced increases in several of the commoner species and notable were Barred Warblers which increased to 6. Additionally there were several Jack Snipe, 2 Scarlet Rosefinches, Little Bunting and 20 Lapland Buntings.

Very few birds arrived in the next few days but the period 16-22nd was typically topsy-turvy with a fine series of outstanding eastern rarities and a noticeable dearth in common arrivals. On 16th an Arctic Warbler was found at Springfield and an immature Citrine Wagtail, which stayed for many days, was found nearby. The Wagtail was seen flying all over the Island and this led to speculation of more than one bird. Another Scarlet Rosefinch was found on 17th and a new Yellow-breasted Bunting on 18th, when a Great Northern Diver, a Sandwich Tern and the first herd of Whooper Swans were seen. The winds were predominantly NE on 17-18th and a fine selection of warblers was recorded on 19th—Lanceolated (very skulking) at Shirva, Wood, Yellow-browed and 2 Hippolais warblers. One of the Hippolais warblers trapped the next day proved to be a Melodious, the other was probably an Icterine. On the same day 2 Bluethroats, Rosefinch and another Yellow-breasted Bunting appeared. A third Yellow-breasted Bunting was caught in the Gully trap on 21st (2 of the buntings remained for several days), and a very 'contrasty' pipit seen at Busta late in the evening was identified the following morning (and trapped) as a Pechora.

The northerly winds of 20th veered gradually SE until 26th and a wide selection of species arrived and redressed the top-heavy balance of the past week. A few Fieldfares and Ring Ousels arrived on 22nd and 2 Yellow-broweds were located. On 23rd the first sizeable influx of thrushes and winter finches occurred and included 200 Song Thrushes, 700 Redwings, 18 Ring Ousels and 60 Bramblings. There was a wide selection of most of the common migrants and also 5 Yellow-broweds, Red-backed Shrike and a Rosefinch. The 24th produced a similar picture with more of most species and a Little Bunting. Teal, Wigeon, 5 Barnacle Geese and 10 Jack Snipe were also seen. Blackcaps became, typically for the time of year, the commonest warbler on 25th when 35 were counted. 2 Little Stints and a Curlew Sandpiper were found on 25th too. The 26-27th saw the arrival of several more species but overall the birds present over the past few days began to leave. Siskin increased to 18 on 26th and Barnacle Geese to 50 on 27th when a Buzzard sp. was seen on the crossing, and a Sparrow-

hawk and 3 Merlins were on the Island. A Great Northern Diver was offshore on 28th when Sooty Shearwaters were again moving in good numbers. Large numbers of Barnacles and Pink-feet were also recorded on 28th when numbers of Wheatears, which had been gradually decreasing through September, were swollen by the arrival of 300+. A Corncrake was seen on 29th and a Long-eared Owl on 30th. 14 Whooper Swans and 2 Moorhens were also recorded on the last of the month when Merlins were very much in evidence, with more sightings than for several years.

October

The month was mild but generally overcast conditions resulted in only occasional glimpses of the sun. The strong NW airstream on 1st became more northerly on 2-3rd and the main bird movements observed were offshore. Merlins were however very much in evidence and remained common all month. On 1st there were 35 Cormorants, 15 Scoter and 14 Whooper Swans and a Short-toed Lark was identified (it had probably been present for 2-3 days). On 2nd, 2 Great Northern and 4 Red-throated Divers were seen from the South Light. Small parties of Wigeon were flying past and the first numbers of Long-tailed Ducks were recorded. The wind fell light on 3rd but increased from the SE later in the day. A Goldeneye and several Mergansers were seen and 350 Common Gulls arrived. There was also a Black Redstart and a Grey Wagtail. A good arrival of thrushes on 4th included 4,500 Redwings and several Ring Ousels, and among a small selection of warblers were 2 Yellow-broweds. Jack Snipe were again in evidence and Corncrake, Wryneck, Mistle Thrush and Red-backed Shrike were all seen. The wind was mainly light and variable on 5th but became predominantly NE on 6-8th and many birds arrived during this period. On 6th, Blackcaps (50) were the most obvious species but there was a scatter of Goldcrests on the cliffs, a late Reed Warbler, a Great Grey Shrike and for the lucky few, a Great Snipe flushed several times west of Barkland. Parties of both Pink-feet and Barnacle Geese were seen on 7th when there was a new arrival of thrushes including the first arrival of Blackbirds in excess of 100. Redstarts, Goldcrests, Bramblings and Reed Buntings were all common and 2 Great Grey Shrikes were seen. A Great Tit first seen at Shirva remained for several weeks. At least 150 Blackcaps were seen on 8th and many were trapped. Thrushes, particularly Fieldfares (1000) and Redwings (4000) were still arriving and there were more Robins. The local Starlings were increased with the arrival through the day of many immigrants, and Brambling numbers reached 400. Both Jack and Common Snipe increased and a Little Bunting was found. A late Turtle Dove was seen and a Cuckoo, found in the Meadow

Burn area, should have been several hundred miles further south. Unbelievably, Blackcaps increased to more than 200 on 9th and the ringing total for this species for the 8-9th passed the 100 mark. A late Swallow was seen and a Great Spotted Woodpecker at the South Light was the only record of this species for the year.

The wind was light on 9-10th but veered gradually NW before becoming briefly SE on 11th following the passage of a weak ridge of high pressure. A large party of Greylags was seen on 10th when a few more Chiffchaffs and Whinchats were located but a lot of the day was spent trying to relocate a Siberian Stonechat seen in the morning near Shirva. A Yellow-browed was seen on 11th. The brief SE period on 12th produced another fall of thrushes (100 Song Thrushes, 8,000 Redwings and 8 Ring Ouzels), Bramblings (300) and another Little Bunting was seen briefly in the failing light at Taing.

The weather was calm and sunny on 14th; another Great Tit was recorded and both Grey and *flava* Wagtails seen. Unfortunately, the weather did not continue in this vein and fog and overcast conditions seriously hampered field work between 15-22nd. A few species did manage to make a landfall and on 15th there were 2 Sparrowhawks. The 16th produced a fine male Hen Harrier and a Great Grey Shrike and the 17th produced 3 local rarities—a drake Gadwall, 2 Pochard and a Goldfinch. The following day the last mentioned species increased to 3. The 20th began overcast but rain cleared the fog early in the morning and we found a new arrival of thrushes—700 Fieldfares, 100 Song Thrushes and 1000 Redwings. The fog returned on the 21st.

The rest of the month was wetter, but the wind remained mainly S or SE, moderate to strong on several days towards the end of the month before the wind became strong SW again on 28-30th. Unlike 1976, this period produced no large falls but there was plenty of interest. A late Scarlet Rosefinch and a new wave of Bramblings arrived on 23rd. Blackcaps remained common and quite unexpectedly a fine male Crossbill was trapped in the Gully trap early on 26th. Later in the day several more were seen or heard and these included a party of 22 over Vaasetter. A Goosander and a Long-eared Owl were also found. Goldeneye, Barnacle Geese, Greylags and Whooper Swans were all moving on 28-29th, and on 31st, with the gale of the 30th having petered out, there was a new arrival of Redwing and an influx of Snipe and Woodcock. Moorhens are usually scarce visitors to the Island and the arrival of 4 on the last of the month is certainly noteworthy.

November

The month opened with mild weather and a few skylarks

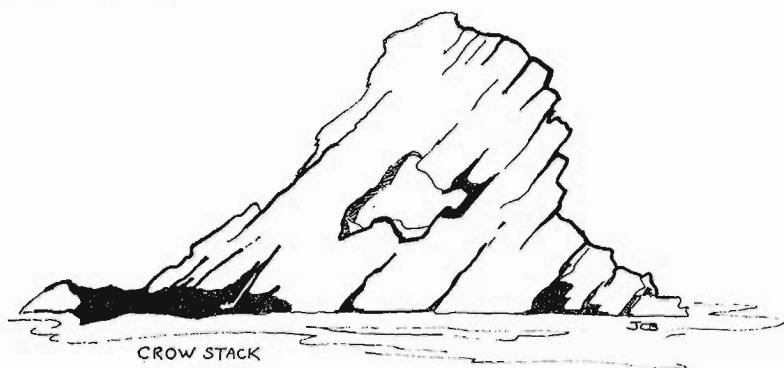
were moving south in the first few days. 6 Siskins arrived on 1st and these were the beginnings of a small influx. 8 Whoopers were also seen and this species was also to remain common with frequent records to 16th. The moderate S-SE airstream on 1-3rd culminated in the arrival of a typical selection of early November, Continental migrants on 2nd including 35+ Woodcock, 1000 Redwings, 4 Ring Ousels, 80 Blackbirds, 9 Robins, 16 Blackcaps, 2 Garden Warblers, 100 Goldcrests and the first of several parties of Snow Buntings. Many of the thrushes were seen to leave the Island again at dusk and they were accompanied by a Short-eared Owl, all flying out south. Another male Crossbill was found. The following day we were called to see a very late, and obviously very tired Corncrake feeding in the 'neeps at Quoy. The NW wind of the 4th backed rapidly into the SE ahead of a fast moving depression on 5th and the 6th saw the arrival of the last sizeable fall of the autumn from the Continent. There was another small arrival of Woodcocks, 16 Rooks, 2 Jackdaws, the last few Ring Ousels 1500 Redwings and 600 Blackbirds. Siskins peaked at 14 and a pair of Crossbills were found. A few more Woodcock were found on 7th and a few Greylags were still moving south. On 8th, Snow Buntings increased to 500. With the onset of decidedly more wintry weather with a lot of rain and very strong winds over the following fortnight, migration and observations virtually came to a halt. As expected the rough weather brought in many gulls including several Glaucous. A late influx of Common Gulls occurred on 10-11th and the last Bonxie was seen on 11th and a Black Redstart on 13th. A few ducks were still moving at this time and were particularly in evidence on 16th when Mallard, Teal and Long-taileds all increased. There was little to punctuate the typical selection of winter species which were already well-established by mid-November although at least one Waxwing was seen on 26th.

December

The last month of the year is not usually exciting ornithologically and the recording is generally confined to determining the overwintering populations of the few species remaining. December 1977 was fairly typical in this respect. A typical small winter population of waders was recorded and among the passerines only a few Blackbirds, Redwings and Fieldfares were at all noticeable. 3 Tree Sparrows were intent on staying on but a cat accounted for one before the close of the year. Influxes of gulls are always expected in rough winter weather and December produced a good series of Glaucous Gull records associated with these influxes.

A handful of less regular visitors occurred during the month

and included a Moorhen on 1st, Tufted Duck and a ♂ Goosander on 6th and a Shelduck on 9th. Co-incident with the new moon period and gales on 9-11th there was an influx of Snipe, and dazzle netting proved to be very worthwhile. A number of Jack Snipe were also seen on these outings and one caught had originally been ringed during the previous winter. A small influx of Fieldfares was recorded on 12-13th and at the same time Shorelark, 1-2 late Blackcaps, Yellowhammer and a Lapland Bunting were seen. A Lapland Bunting was seen again on 23rd when the last small southerly passage of the year involved ca 25 Snow Buntings seen heading out from the south end of the Island.



Systematic List

(The order followed is that given in 'A Species list of British and Irish Birds'. BTO Guide No. 13).

Details of all birds preceded by * are still being considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Observers' names are only included where uncommon species have been seen by few observers.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. Singles on 18th and 28th September and 2 on 2nd October.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. An early record on 8th March then singles on several scattered dates 10th May-5th August but 2 on 17th May and 4 on 16th June. In October 4 on 2nd and an adult on the sea off Landberg 3-7th. (See also Diver sp.)

DIVER Sp. *Gavia sp.* Unidentified divers, the majority of which were probably Red-throated were recorded on 4th August,

in September on 1st, 18th (2) and 19th and in October on 3rd (4).

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. Recorded ashore as usual in all months, except during severe winter weather. Blue phase birds were seen ashore during the breeding season at Guidicum (2) and at North Mila Hesslands and in October at Furse. They were also recorded offshore on several days in August, September and October. Breeding data: the first eggs were seen on 19th May. A pair again laid an egg in an inland planticrub.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*. Seen on the crossing on 29th July, in August on 9th (2) and 16th and on 17th October. 1-2 seen on several days from the Island between 26th August-14th September and one on 10th October. A bird seen close inshore from the South Light on 28th September was thought to be referable to the Mediterranean form *P. p. mauretanicus* (the Balearic Shearwater), and is the first record of this race for the Island.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*. First recorded on 23rd July from a boat between Orkney and Fair Isle. Small numbers seen on the Fair Isle to Shetland crossing between 23rd August-17th October. From the Island: one on 5th August and then almost daily 14th August-6th September with 5-18 on several days and 40 on 26th August. 1-4 on many days 9th September-3rd October but larger numbers were seen on 14th (15), 27th (14) and 28th (25). The last record was one on 13th October.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Birds were trapped ashore at many sites between 12th July and 9th September. Churring, stimulated by the use of taped calls, was heard from several cliff sites. A young bird still with some down adhering was found among the rocks at the bottom of S. Reeva on 27th September. It was not in a nesting cavity. Another, very 'fluffy' bird was caught at the S. Light on the night of 9th October.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Singles seen on the crossing on 9th and 23rd August. One was seen clearly on the night of 11th August as it clung to a mist net set for petrels on Malcolm's Head.

GANNET *Sula bassana*. Recorded offshore in all months, but usually only small numbers January-March and mid-October-December. An unusually large gathering was recorded on 4th March (200). The largest numbers were seen between August-mid October when steady passage noted and 150-200+ recorded on many days. Breeding data: birds were seen ashore at Dronger between 3rd March-30th October.

A minimum of 34 sites were occupied and showed some signs of nest construction. Of these 26 were full-sized nests. A minimum of 20 eggs are known to have been laid from which about 15 chicks fledged. For the first time, a site was occupied on the vertical cliff above the main ledge. Between June-August 60-80 birds were regularly seen ashore at Dronger and at times the numbers were temporarily increased by non-breeding birds. This was particularly evident in early July when 450+ were ashore—some at Dronger, Da Fless and a few at Cathedral Rock. Two of the breeding adults died as a result of becoming entangled in their own nests which are invariably constructed, in part, of courlene and scraps of fishing net.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Occasional singles recorded January-February. 1-3 on many days March-5th June. One on 23rd June. Small parties (1-10) recorded occasionally in August from 9th. Seen on many days 2nd September-10th October with largest numbers in September on 7th (34), 17th (20), 21st (20) and in October on 1st (35) and 3rd (20). Apart from 8 on 20th October and 4 on 27th November, 1-3 recorded on several days to the end of the year.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Recorded in all months as usual. Breeding data: first eggs were seen on 4th April (c/3).

HERON *Ardea cinerea*. 1-2 overwintered being seen on many days January-24th March. Singles on 3 days in May. First noticed in autumn on 28th-29th July (1-2). In August, 6-8 on 8-9th, one on 17-18th and then up to 5 on many days 23-31st. 1-4 on most days 12th September-13th October and 1-2 at intervals until 12th December.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. 3 on 2nd January. 1-4 on several days February-March and 1-2 occasionally April-1st June. A pair on 23rd June and in July a ♂ on 4th and 2 on 25th. In autumn: 1-2 daily 9-20th August, 1-5 occasionally 25th August-5th September, 4-5 most days 12-19th September and seen on many days 24th September-16th November, usually less than 10 but 15 on 4th October. 1-2 occasionally in the rest of November and December.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. One on 22nd January. 1-4 on several days 18th April-12th May. In June one on 4-11th and one on 14th July. Recorded in autumn on most days 2nd August-13th October, but rarely exceeding 10 on any day. 1-2 at intervals during the rest of the year but 6 on 10th November and 7 on 16th November.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*. A drake on Easter Lothar on 17th October.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. 2 ♂♂ on 18-25th February. A ♂ on 21st April, a pair on 22-23rd May and 1-2 on 6-9th June. One on 30-31st July. 2 on 21st August. Recorded almost daily during the main autumn passage, 4th September-9th October when occasionally up to 15 present and 30 on 2nd October. 1-4 on many days 15th October-2nd November, and a ♂ on 16th November.

PINTAIL *Anas actuta*. A pair on 3rd May, a ♂ on 12th and a ♀ on 17th September.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*. In July a ♀ on 12th was joined by a second ♀ on 13th and a third on 14-19th. 4 (2♂♂) were recorded on 8th October.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. In May 3 (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀) on 21st, 2 ♀♀ on 22-23rd and one ♀ on 24th. 2 ♂♂ on 31st July-1st August. In September, a ♀ on 11-12th, 4 (2♂, 2 ♀) on 13th, 2 ♀ on 14th, 4 ♀ on 15th and 2 ♀ on 16th. In October a ♀ on 8th, 2 ♀♀ on 9th, one remaining to 10th. One on 6th December.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*. 2 ♂♂ on 17-18th October.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. 1-3 seen at intervals in January-11th April. A ♂ on 20th April and 1-2 most days 9-24th May. Autumn records: in October, one on 3rd, ♂ on 28th and a brown-headed bird on 29-31st. In November, singles on 13th, 16th and 17th and one on 18th December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. One on 3rd February. 2 on 22-25th March. One on 4-11th April and a pair on 2-7th May. Single ♂♂ on 27th May and 25th June. In autumn: 1-3 recorded on most days 2-18th October but 15 on 3rd. 1-4 on several days 30th October-12th December and 6 on 16th November.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. Up to 9 ♀♀ were seen regularly 13th January-4th February. 3 ♀♀ on 4th March. 6 (3 ♂, 3 ♀) on 23-24th and 2 on 27th May. Autumn records: in October, 15 on 1st, ♂ on 12th and single ♀♀ on 13th and 20-21st (died).

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Recorded in all months as usual. A complete count in November revealed an autumn peak of 894 birds. Breeding data: pairs first seen walking inland on 18th May. Chicks first seen on the sea on 18th June.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. 1-2 occasionally 26th March-17th April. 4 (3♂) on 30th April and 3 on 1st May. 2 on 10th May and 14th June. One on 31st July. Recorded on many days in autumn; 14th September-14th October with 4-5 on several days and 7 on 3rd October and 1-2 on many days in November and three days in December.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. A brown-headed bird on 26th October and ♂ on 6-13th December.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. One on 31st March, one on 16th April, 2 on 1st May and in autumn one on 29-31st July and one on 17th August and one on 9th December.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. In April, 2 on 15th and one on 28th, 2 on 1st and one on 20th May, 2 on 2nd June. In October 65+ were recorded on 10th and 16 on 11th. Ca 60 were close around the S. Light early in the night on 14th, 2 on 28th, 52 on 29th October and in November 24 on 5th and 15 on 7th after which 1-2 on many days until 16th December. (See also Grey Goose sp.)

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. One of the European form on 22-28th January. A Greenland bird on 2-6th November had probably been present since 30th October.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*. One on 21st January-3rd February.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE. *Anser brachyrhynchus*. One on 25-30th May, 2 on 12th July. Large parties moved south on 28-30th September (70, 30 and 26 respectively). In October, 12 on 7th and 4 on 9th.

GREY GOOSE Sp. *Anser* sp. 15 on 6th June. In September, one on 18th, one on 27th, 11 on 28th and 12 on 29th. In October, 4 on 1st, 15 on 3rd, one on 22nd and 14 on 23rd, 8 on 19th November were probably Greylags. One on 26th November.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. 2 on 22nd January-4th February. Recorded daily 23rd September-2nd October with build up from one on 23rd to 50-60 on 27-28th but only 5 remained 29th September-3rd October. Several birds were seen to be ringed with yellow darvic rings (e.g. 10 out of 33 on 28th) indicating that the birds were part of the Spitzbergen breeding population in transit to the Solway for the winter (see also Ringed Strangers). Later in October, one on 5th, 25 on 7th, 4 on 9th, 2 on 18th and 15 on 28-29th.

WHOOPE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. 13 on 24th and 2 on 29th March. In April, 12 on 9th and 10 (Swan sp. presumed this species) on 25th. Autumn records: in September, 13 on 18th, 3 on 25th and 14 on 30th. In October, 14 on 1st, 2 on 4th, 2-4 on 13-14th and then recorded on many days between 24th October-16th November, generally less than 10 but 34 on 28th October.

BUZZARD Sp. *Buteo* sp. One seen on 20th May. One on 27th September seen ca 5 miles north of Fair Isle from the Good Shepherd was heading SE (probably a Rough-legged Buzzard).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. 1-2 on several days in spring,

3rd April-30 May. In autumn: one on 27-28th August and one on 27th September. 1-2 recorded on many days 15th October-3rd November, and singles on 10-12th and 23-25th November.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. A ♂ on 9-12th May. Single ♀♀ on 16-17th and 30th May. A ♂ on 16-18th October.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One on 9th May flying over Ward Hill (M. P. Sutherland). One gave good views on 28th May as it perched on the cliff at South Harbour and later at Stroms Heelor. At the latter site it was seen to be ringed. One on 1st June was seen flying north over Field.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Occasional sightings in all months of the year, except December. Several different individuals recorded, but only once in May and on 3 days in early September were 2 different birds seen on the same day.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. 1-2 recorded at intervals January to 21st April. Singles on 20-21st and 25th May. In autumn, one on 8th August then 1-2 recorded on most days 17th August-26th September. Numbers higher from 27th September-13th October, especially between 30th September-2nd October when 6+ present, after which up to 3 seen regularly to 12th November and singles on many days to the end of the year. More autumn records than for many years.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. 1-2 seen at intervals January-February. Recorded more regularly mid March-22nd May with 2-3 on several days in early May. One on 5th June. In autumn, 1-2 on many days 13th August-5th October and 3 on 28th September. One seen at intervals 15th October-6th December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One on 26th May and singles in June on 13th and 21st.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. 1-2 seen at intervals January-22nd March. Singles on several days between 22nd April-21st May. In autumn: singles on 24th August and 2nd September and on many days between 22nd September-16th November. At least 5 different birds in November. In December, one on 1st and 2 on 19th.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. Singles in spring on 10-11th and 25th May. One was heard calling late in the summer on 27th August. Autumn singles were recorded on 29-30th September and 4th October. One very late and very weak bird was at Quoy on 3rd November.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. A good series of records through the year. One on 27th April. Singles in May on 6-9th, 14-15th and 22nd. Autumn records: in September, one on 26th and 2 on 30th. Singles in October on 6th, 11th (adult),

13th, 22-24th and 4 (one adult, 3 immatures) on 31st. One remained on 1st November. Singles on 16th November, 1st and 7th December.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. Up to 5 overwintered. First arrivals noticed from 17th February and numbers had built up to 30+ by 5th March. Main arrival during the following week with 130+ present by 12th March. Numbers decreased after the breeding season through August and September and only 6 remained in early October. 3-4 still present in early November and last recorded on 14th November, except for one on 13th December. Breeding data: first eggs seen on 11th May (c/2). Population between 80-90 pairs.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Maximum of 8, at intervals in January-February. Spring passage most evident between 28th February-1st April with largest flocks as follows: 75 on 28th February; in March, 60 on 7th, 102 on 8th, 46 on 19th and 42 on 24-25th and in April 54 on 1st. Smaller numbers, generally less than 10 recorded on many days during the rest of April and May and occasionally June-September. Main autumn passage 23rd September-15th November when 40-50 recorded on several days and 85 on 12th October. Singles on 21st and 24th November and 11th December.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. 1-2 overwintered. First spring arrival recorded 27-28th February with most of the breeding birds returning in the first week of March. Flocks began to form in early August and 25-35 recorded at intervals between 15th August-9th September, thereafter numbers generally less than 10 daily to 29th September after which 1-2 recorded at intervals to 21st October. Singles in November on 5-6th and 1-2 from 17th November-late December. Breeding data: first eggs seen on 13th May. 10 pairs bred, including one successful pair among the Arctic Skuas on Wirvie Brecks.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. One on 6-12th January (the first winter record). One on 17th June. In autumn, one on 26th August and 2 on 9th September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*. 1-2 occasionally January-10th April. 10 on 16th April. Recorded virtually daily 26th April-1st June but not exceeding 9 on any day. 1-2 at intervals June-July. Recorded on most days in autumn 5th August-4th November, generally less than 20 but in September, 38 on 23rd, 50 on 26th and 43 on 30th. Singles on 13th and 20th November and 8th December.

DOTTEREL *Eudromias morinellus*. One on Ward Hill on 28th May. A first year bird on the Rippack on 6-8th September.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. 20-40 recorded regularly Jan-

uary-March but 45-48 on 7-9th January. Generally less than 10 daily in April-9th May after which up to 11 seen on many days until returning birds recorded from mid July. Almost daily records in autumn-winter from 11th July. Numbers built up to 20-30 by the end of July and up to 30-40 recorded August-end of the year with larger influxes in September on 2-4th (53-62) and 28th (45); in October on 13th (55) and in December on 26th (54).

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*. Present throughout the winter with 15-25 on several days in January-February. Numbers generally a little lower from March to the breeding season. In autumn, 10-20 on many days from mid August-November with larger numbers as follows: 30 on 24th September; in October, 30-35 on 8-9th, 30-40 on 18-20th and 35 on 31st. Numbers a little lower through November and December except for 30+ on 9-10th December. Breeding data: breeding proved at Ferny Cup and Gilsetter. At the former site four eggs were hatching on 23rd May. Population similar to last year.

***GREAT SNIFE** *Gallinago media*. One flushed three times west of Barkland on 6th October (R. Johns and H. Gilston).

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. One on 9th and 3 on 16th February. One on 16th May. Autumn records: virtually daily 9th September-31st October. In September one on 9-10th increased to 5 on 12th after which 2-4 daily to 19th and one on 20-22nd. 5 on 23rd increased to 10 on 24th then numbers a little lower until next influx in October between 4-8th (10) with further increase on 9th (15). Smaller numbers then recorded daily to 20th and at intervals to 31st October. Singles in November on 8th and 11th and up to 3 on 9-11th December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. 1-2 occasionally between February-May. One on 12th June. In autumn, one on 27th September. Small numbers, generally less than 10, seen on most days 8th October-16th November with larger influxes in October on 31st (45+) and in November on 2nd (35+) and 6-7th (30+). One on 7th December.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Up to 16 overwintered and were seen regularly in January and February. 1-10 recorded on most days in March-April except for 20 on 16th April. Up to 6 seen regularly May-June and returning birds seen from 3rd July (14). Generally less than 10 in July-mid October except in August on 20th (25), 26th (15) and 31st (15). 1-3 seen occasionally 15th October-20th November. Up to 8 from 21-27th November and up to 4 remained to the end of the year. Breeding data: a pair again nested in Sukka Mire (c/4 on 21st May). After hatching the chicks were

taken into Gilsetter; 2 were ringed and both were thought to have fledged.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Singles on 19th and 22nd April. Recorded daily 25th April-6th June with 4-6 on several days but 8 on 26-29th April and in May, 9 on 7th and 10 on 12th. 1-3 recorded at intervals during the rest of June and July. In autumn, 1-4 recorded on many days 2nd August-16th September and one on 25th September but larger numbers as follows: in August, 20 on 14th, 6 on 24th and 5 on 26th, and in September, 8 on 9th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. 2 on 20th May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. One on 28th August.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. Singles in spring on 28-29th April and many days between 3-26th May. In autumn, singles on most days in August between 5-19th and 26-29th and in September, daily between 21-26th.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. Spring records all in May, with one on 12th, 1-3 on 16-21st, one on 24th and 1-2 on 28-29th. Autumn records daily between 14-22nd August when up to 3 recorded.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Recorded virtually daily 1st May-6th June but apparently in three waves: up to 6 between 1-8th May and peaks of 8 between 10-23rd May and 25th May-6th June. 2 on 13th and 15th and singles on 20th and 23rd June. In autumn, generally 1-2 on many days between 9th August-30th September but up to 5 between 23rd August-5th September.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Recorded most days January-3rd June, generally less than 10, except for 17 on 31st March. 1-3 seen on many days 6th June-7th July. 60 on 8th July after which 1-10 on most days until 7th August. Numbers higher, usually 10-20 and occasionally up to 30 between 8th August-31st October with larger parties as follows: in August, 55 on 20th, 45 on 28th and 40 on 30th and in September 45 on 2nd. Present daily November-December but rarely exceeding 10-15.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. Recorded in August on 20-23rd, 26th and in September on 2nd and 4th (2).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Singles in spring on 24-25th April and in May on 6-7th, 15-16th, 18th and 25th. In autumn, singles in August on 2-3rd and 12-18th. 1-3 from 25th August-9th September.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. 2 on 14-16th May. The remains of one found dead on 19th May had been killed by a raptor. In July, singles on 17-18th and 27th. Recorded on most days 5th Aug-

ust-24th September, generally less than 10, but in August 12 on 21st and 13 on 26th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Up to 12 recorded regularly January-24th April except for 25 on 12th March. Numbers a little higher 25th April-3rd May when up to 36 recorded, after which numbers decreased until the last spring record on 29th May. Autumn influx from 11th July (13) increased to 30 by the end of July. Numbers then fluctuated between 20-50 throughout August-September. Rather fewer seen 1-24th October with no more than 8 on any day. 10-35 present 25th October-31st December, but 45 on 30th December.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One on 13th August. Singles daily 21-30th August and 1-2 on 21-27th September.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. One at Field on 1st June was trapped and ringed (the first to be caught on Fair Isle). Another was seen in Gilsetter on 13th June (M. P. Sutherland).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Up to 5 from 1-9th January and singles on several days later in the month and on 4th February. One on 12-15th March. Up to 10 recorded virtually daily in spring 5th May-15th June. Autumn records: 1-4 at intervals 11-27th July. Recorded daily 31st July-30th September, generally less than 5 in August until 22nd, after which numbers a little higher, particularly 30th August-2nd September when 30 present. 1-2 on many days in October and up to 7 between 8-14th. One on 24th November.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*. Singles in September on 5th and 25-30th.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*. In July, 2 on 17-18th increased to 6 on 19th then decreased to one on 21st. In August, 2 on 3rd, one on 5th and 1-3 daily from 15-29th. 1-4 daily in September between 1-12th and 17-20th and 1-2 on 25-26th September.

***BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Tryngites subruficollis*. One first seen flying over Field on 11th September proved to be very unsettled but was seen on the ground at Meoness, Rippack, Tarryfield and Chatham's Land later in the day and on 12th.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. In August, a ♂ on 6th, ♀ on 10th and single ♂♂ on 11th, 14-15th and 17th. 3 ♀♀ on 25th increased to 11 (5 ♂♂) on 26th. One on 27th, 8 on 28th and 1-3 on several days 30th August-10th September. 3 on 28th September, one remained to 30th. A ♂ on 12th October.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*. A phalarope, most likely to have been this species, was seen off Bunness on 5th September. Later in the day 2 were found in S. Harbour,

these remained until 7th when they were dazzled. Both were found to be thin and light. They were released at the S. Haven but both were subsequently found dead. Another bird was seen on 8th September.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. A first year bird was seen in Gilsetter on 3rd August and was found self-caught in the Gully trap on 5th.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*. One arrived on 1st April and was quickly joined by others to build up to 30+ by 26th April. Numbers much decreased by mid September but recorded regularly until 31st October. One on 11th November. Breeding data: 25 pairs attempted to breed; first eggs were recorded on 11th May. A non-breeding flock of 20-30 birds was resident throughout June-July.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. In August, one on 15th (immature) and one on 17th (adult).

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. The first 4 were seen on 20th April and these had increased to 25+ by the end of the month. Numbers then built up rapidly in May. Normal exodus noted through August and the last bird was seen over land on 10th September. Occasionally recorded at sea until 28th September. Breeding data: 138 pairs attempted to breed; first eggs were recorded on 19th May.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Recorded in all months, with influxes in severe winter weather on 10th January (500), 3rd February (1000), 27th October (500+); in November on 4th (300+) and between 15th-24th (500+) and several full clutches seen on 7th May.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One on 27th March increased to 13 on 30th and 30+ by mid-April. Decrease noticed through August and probably all local birds departed by 25th August. Generally less than 10 recorded 29th August-16th September, except for influx of 20-40 on 4-7th September. Singles on 2nd and 4th October. Breeding data: population and season as usual.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Recorded in all months with influxes in severe winter weather on 10th January (7000), 3rd February (1000+), 27th October (500+), 6th November (1000) and (3000+) between 10-25th November and on many days in December. Breeding data: season as usual; first eggs seen on 7th May.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. 1-3 recorded on many days January-mid March. Northerly passage first noticed on 25-26th March (2 and 12 respectively) after which no significant numbers until 800 arrived on 16th April. Numbers gradually decreased until new arrival on 24th April (200) after which

generally 20-40 recorded daily until the last big influx of the spring on 12th May (110). 10-25 recorded on many days during the rest of May until the first returning birds noticed on 8th August (61). This movement also included the first juveniles. Thereafter, 20-50 on many days until 9th October with larger influxes as follows: in August, 200 on 14th, 300 on 25th, 100 on 30th; in September, 100 on 4-5th, 200 on 11th, 130 on 25th and in October, 250 on 3rd. From 10th October, generally less than 10 recorded on many days until 31st December but ca 100 on 10-11th November.

Breeding data: 3 pairs bred; one at Tarryfield (c/1 on 24th May) fledged 3 chicks; one on S. Park hatched 3 and fledged one chick; one on Vaasetter hatched 3 (chipping on 17th June) and probably only fledged one chick.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. Singles recorded on several days January-5th March but in January 4 on 10th (one adult) and 5 on 14th. In April, singles on 5-7th and 12th and one on 17th May (adult). In the autumn-winter period, one on 17-22nd, 2 on 23rd and one on 29th September; in October, one on 15th (adult) and one on 30th and recorded on many days 6th November-13th December with 4-6 on several days and 8 on 6th December. These included adults on 22nd and 24th (3) November. 13+ (2 adults) were seen on 30th December. Except where stated all were immatures.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus*. A second year bird was seen on 6th April.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. One, a second summer bird, in the Havens on 13th August (A. Knox). This species has not been recorded since 1972.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. Singles recorded at intervals in January-February. 1-8 on several days, 13th March-5th April and northerly passage noticed on 25-26th March. Recorded on most days 13th April-31st May, generally less than 20 but 30 on 16th April and 30th May. Seen on many days June-14th July, generally less than 10 but 15-17 on 12-13th June. Recorded on many days in autumn, from 18th July (including the first juveniles) until 17th October, numbers rarely exceeding 15 except in July on 23rd (23) and in September on 9th (20). One on 22nd October and 2-3 on most days 26th October-8th November, except for 10 on 29th October. One on several days 7-12th December.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini*. An immature in the Havens on 5th September (L. Degnan, H. Ibbotson, N. Whitehouse and S. Twell). This is the Island's first record of this Arctic breeding species.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Many ashore in mild weather

from mid February. After the breeding season numbers seen offshore regularly into early October and less frequently and in smaller numbers in November and December.

Breeding data: complete clutches were first seen on 19th May. Selected colony counts indicate that the population continues to expand.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. First recorded on 7th May (2). Breeding birds seen regularly from 14th May (with main arrival in the third week of May) until 22nd August. A few migrants noted later in the autumn to 6th September and up to 4 between 25-27th September. (See also Common/Arctic Tern). Breeding data: a minimum of 13 pairs nested on the Stack 'O North Haven. 23 chicks were ringed and a further 3 unringed birds were found dead. Several of the largest chicks died during gales coincident with their fledging period.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. Identified in small numbers at intervals from 12th May-17th June. Seen more regularly 2nd July-9th August but not more than 6 on any day. Occasional records to 29th September. (See also Common/Arctic Tern).

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN 'Comic' terns were recorded between 8-27th May (1-2) 12-15th June (3-15) and at intervals in autumn between 28th July-30th September with 19 on 5th August being the largest number seen. One on 7th October.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. One in the Havens on 26th April, 2 at the S. Harbour on 1st July and one off the Burrian on 18th September.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. Recorded ashore from mid February to July. Occasionally seen ashore in August and September but in very small numbers. In November, 2 were seen on 2-3rd and 27th. One freshly dead on 22nd December. Breeding data: season as usual; first eggs laid before 7th May.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. One found freshly dead on 28th March. First recorded on the crossing on 16th November.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Some recorded ashore in fine weather through the winter. Last recorded ashore at the end of the breeding season on 11th August (6). Thereafter recorded occasionally offshore until the first birds seen back ashore on 29th October. A nearly white individual was seen off Guidicum on 17th May and possibly the same bird was ashore at Sauversteen later in the breeding season. Breeding data: season as usual; first eggs recorded on 22nd April. Observations show that expansion of the population still continues.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*. Recorded in all months as

usual. Breeding data: adults present in usual strength but many regularly used nesting sites unsuccessful, some pairs probably not even laying eggs.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. First recorded in spring on 1st April when 10 were seen and of these 5 were already ashore. Probably not all returned until 19th April. Last recorded ashore on 28th August after which occasional sightings at sea until 15th September. Breeding data: season a few days later than usual, first being carried into burrows on 14th June and adults were seen ashore in good numbers into mid-August. Colonisation of several small boulder beaches recorded.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*. One on 22-27th April and one on 26-27th September.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Recorded in all months. In January-February, 10-16 recorded on many days; numbers a little higher in March-May with up to 35 on some days. Numbers increased again in the autumn with 20-50 seen regularly from mid September to December.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*. Singles on 3 days in February and 1-4 on several days in March. 5-12 on many days between 1st April-31st May with the main arrivals on the following dates in April: 1st (5), 16th (7), 26-30th (6 increasing to 12) and in May on 3rd (6) and 28th (6). 1-4 at intervals 2nd June-3rd July. In autumn: 1-3 daily from 18-28th September and in October, 1-2 on 7-9th and singles on 13th and 26th. In November 1-2 on 12th-16th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. In spring, singles on most days 1-10th May. 1-4 daily between 15th May-2nd June and singles on 8th, 19th and 21st and 3 on 24th. One on 8th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. 1-4 between 25th April-9th May. One on 12th May. Another influx 15-23rd May with peak of 12 and another wave 25th May-7th June with peak of 14. 1-3 recorded on many days 12th June-21st July but 7 on 15th June and 17 on 21st June. Singles in August on 3rd and 7-9th.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. 1-3 recorded virtually daily in spring 12-29th May. 1-2 recorded on 5 dates between 1-13th June and one on 3rd July. In autumn, one on 21st August and one very late individual on 8th October.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. One on 18-19th March. Singles on 29-30th September, 2nd and 26th October. A very poor year. (See also Long/Short-eared Owl).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. Singles in April on 26th and 30th and 1-2 on many days 4-29th May. One on 27th

Jul^v. In September, singles on 2nd, 25th and 27th. In October, 2 on 3rd increased to 6 on 5th (including one seen to leave the Island in a southerly direction) numbers then decreased to one on 14-15th. 4 on 16th increased to 9 on 17th after which up to 4 seen at intervals to 2nd November. (See also Long/Short-eared Owl).

LONG/SHORT-EARED OWL Additional birds not assigned to either species were recorded as follows: one on 1st April and in October, 3 on 5th, singles on 7-8th and 31st and 2nd November.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. Up to 6 between 24-27th May. One on 31st May and 1-3 at intervals in summer between 9th June-20th July, except for 10 on 3rd July. In autumn, small numbers between 2-13th August, maximum of 11 on 10th. 1-2 on several days 26th August-4th September. One on 23rd October.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*. One on 29th April-9th May, trapped in the Single Dyke trap on 5th May (the first to be caught on the Island). Probably the same bird rediscovered on 13th May remained to 21st May.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*. One at Skaddan on 9th October.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. In spring, singles on most days 1-10th May but 2 on 4th. One on 14th May increased to 4 on 15th after which up to 5 seen daily to 26th May. One on 1st June. Autumn records: in August, one on 14th, 1-3 between 20-22nd and 1-2 between 25-28th. Up to 4 in September between 11-13th. One on 4th October.

*SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. One seen on 1st October (R. Johns and H. Gilston) may have been present on 29-30th September.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Between 80-150 recorded throughout January and February until the first noticeable influx on 12th March (300+). Passage noticed in autumn from 11th September and continued on many days until early November. Overall decrease in numbers to ca 200 by the end of October and less than 10 present by the end of November, a few of which remained to the end of the year. Breeding data: season as usual; first eggs recorded on 17th May (c/3).

SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. 1-2 recorded at intervals in January from 1-23rd had originally arrived in the autumn of 1976. One on 13-14th May and another on 28th May. One on 12-13th December.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. Recorded virtually daily in spring, 26th April-29th June with largest movements as follows: in May, 25-30 on 9-10th, strong passage 14-22nd May when 30-50 daily and 70 on 16th. Very large northerly movement on 27th May when ca 250 recorded of which at least 100 left the Island from the N. Light. In June, numbers a little lower and peaks rarely exceeded 10. 1-2 on scattered days in July. Autumn passage: 1-5 recorded 31st August-2nd September, 12-13th and 23-28th September. One on 9th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage: 1-9 daily between 3-11th May, numbers a little higher 15-23rd May with peak of 15 on 20-21st. Recorded almost daily 25th May-28th June with 10-15 on many days and large movement 26-28th May with peak of 120 on 27th. In autumn, singles on 21st August and 29th September-2nd October.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. 2 on 26th April. In May, 3 between 5-7th, 15 on 9th and 8 on 10th. Recorded daily 14-22nd May with peak of 12 on 16th. 1-3 between 25-28th and 2 on 31st May. 2 on 13th June. In autumn, recorded in August, with singles on 15th, 26-27th and 2-3 on 30-31st.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Recorded in all months as usual, with occasional small flocks (up to 14), probably including some migrants in February, March and October. Breeding data: at least 3 pairs occupied territory, one pair fledged young.

HOODED AND CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. Hooded Crow *C.c. cornix*. Recorded in all months as usual, occasional small flocks recorded probably included some migrants (e.g. a 'mixed' flock on 26th April contained 7 Hooded and 6 Carrion). Breeding data: population probably a little lower than last year. Carrion Crow *C.c. corone*. 1-2 on 19-24th April. 6 arrived on 26th (see Hooded Crow above) and some remained until 2nd June. One on 8-14th June. A hybrid was recorded on 28th April.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. Up to 19 present January-12th March. On this last date 17 left the Island in a northerly direction. Thereafter up to 5 were seen on many days to 21st April. One on 26th April increased to 10 on 29th and some remained until 27th May. Singles in June on 9th and 12-13th. In autumn, 2 on 20-26th October and 16+ on 6th November and one on 6th December.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. One on 11th February. 6 arrived on 19th February and some remained until 1st March. In March, 2 on 5th, 3 on 10-12th (on the last date 2 were seen leaving this Island to the North), one on 15-21st and one on

31st was joined by another on 1st April. 1-3 at intervals 10th April-20th May but 7 between 3-5th May. In autumn, one on 10th October flying over the Island, 2 on 6th November and singles on 15-16th and 20th November.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*. A ♂ arrived at the North Haven on 15th March and later took up residence near the School until 19th April. It was joined briefly by another on 23rd March. One was found at Shirva on 7th October and was joined by a second bird on 14th October. One remained until 3rd November. It was caught on 19th October when it flew inside the house at Quoy. It was a ♀ and referable to the Continental form *P. m. major*. It remained on the Island and was last seen alive on 3rd November but its remains were found inside the Houll Coastguard Hut in early December.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident population, recorded in all months as usual. A migrant trapped on 28th April was referable to *T. t. troglodytes*. Breeding data: census of singing males in spring revealed a minimum of 30 occupied sites.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. One in January on 1st. One on 1-4th February. Recorded daily 18-28th February with peak of 5 on 20-21st. 1-3 on several days in March. One on 16th May. Singles in October on 4th and 7th.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Influx between 20-27th January when 60-120 present, otherwise up to 20 seen regularly in winter. Numbers occasionally a little higher in March and a series of small arrivals between 16th April-17th May, with up to 45 on several days and 60 on 23rd April. An injured bird remained from 18th May into the autumn. The first signs of autumn passage were one on 14th August and 2-3 between 1-4th September. Numbers increased from 19th September to 80 on 24th and this was followed by a series of arrivals in October-November with main arrivals in October on 8-9th (1000), 20th (700) and in November on 6th (300). Following a general decrease, ca 50 remained at the end of November and 30-40 remained to the end of the year following the arrival of 60 on 13th December.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. 2-4 recorded at intervals in January-February. Up to 15 daily between 7th March-9th April. 30 on 16th April increased to 60 on 17th after which numbers decreased and generally less than 10 recorded almost daily to 3rd June. Singles on 24th and 29th August, 12th and 17th September. 2 on 21-22nd September increased to 200-300 on 23-24th September and most had departed before the next arrival of 200 on 4th October. Numbers remained high throughout much of October and early November, with main arrivals on 8th (150), 12th (100) and 20th

(100) and in November on 2nd (70). Recorded daily until 1st December but less than 10 present after 11th November. 3 on 13th and one on 17th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. An influx of 20-30 recorded 22-27th January, otherwise generally less than 10 seen daily until first evidence of light spring passage in mid March. The only spring movements of note were between 12-25th March (generally 20-30 but 60 on 19th) and again between 16-25th April when up to 20-30 on some days. A few recorded until last spring single on 1st June. One on 21st June. In autumn: 1-2 on 28-30th August and one on 12th September. Recorded daily from 16th September with main arrivals as follows: in September, 100 on 21st, 700+ on 23rd; in October, 4500 on 4th, 2000 on 7th increased to 4000 on 8-9th, 8000 on 12th, 1000 on 20th and in November, 1000 on 2nd and 1500 on 6th. Numbers then decreased and only 50-60 present at the end of November and 20-30 throughout December.

RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus*. A ♂ on 28th March-2nd April. Up to 5 almost daily 16th April-1st June and larger numbers on 29th April-1st May (6-10), 4th (8) and 9th May (18). Singles in June on 5th and 21st. One on 12th September. One on 22nd September increased to 18 on 24th after which up to 12 seen on several days to 13th October. 1-4 on many days 18th October-6th November.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. 10-20 recorded regularly in winter, except for influx of 40-50 between 22-27th January. Numbers only a little higher from mid March until the first and only spring movement of any significance between 16-21st April when 150 recorded on several days. After this only small numbers recorded daily until 25th May and thereafter 1-2 seen occasionally June-August. Recorded daily in autumn-winter from 22nd September with main arrivals as follows: in September, 45 on 27th; in October, 150 on 7-8th, 120 on 20-22nd and in November 600+ on 6th. Ca 50 remained at the end of November and 20-30 remained in December.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. 2 (♂ ♀) on 14-16th March then, apart from 6 on 25th March, 1-3 recorded irregularly until main arrival from 16th April. 90 arrived on 19th April after which numbers were soon up to breeding strength. Passage, including some Greenland birds was recorded into late May. Evidence of autumn movements first recorded on 21st August. Numbers generally declined from mid-September (falling from 200+ on 11th to 25 on 17th). Influx of 300+ on 28th September was short-lived and 35 on 1st October decreased to one on 27th October. A ♂ on 1-4th November. A partial albino ♂ with white head and mantle was display-

ing on Byerwall on 21-24th April. Breeding data: the first young were on the wing on 29th June.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. A ♂ was seen on 15th February. 5 arrived on 6th March and increased to 9 on 7th after which recorded daily to 19th March with a second peak of 12 on 12th. 1-2 ♀♀ between 22-26th March. In April, a ♀ on 6th and ♂ on 10th. A ♂ on 31st May. Only one autumn record a ♀ at Shirva on 10th October—referable to one of the eastern races (either *S. t. maura* or *stegneri*).

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Generally less than 10 recorded daily 28th April-22nd May but 15-20 on 4-8th May and 16th May. 1-3 daily from 25th May-2nd June except for peak of 10 on 26th May. Singles in June on 9th and 12-14th. Recorded virtually daily in autumn between 14th August-22nd October but no more than 10 on any day except for 30th August (12) and 27th September (12).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Generally less than 10 recorded daily 28th April-23rd May but 25 on 4-5th and 20 on 8-9th May. Up to 8 daily between 25th May-1st June. 1-2 on 8-13th June. Autumn records: ♂ on 14-15th August, 1-4 daily 21st August-1st September and 1-3 between 11-15th September. Recorded daily 20th September-11th October with peaks of 7-10 in September on 23-27th and in October 15-17 on 7-9th. 1-2 recorded until last record on 26th October.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A ♂ on 23-25th March. Singles in April on 17-21st and 29th. 1-2 on several days 1-22nd May and one on 31st May. Autumn records: one on 11-15th August; in September, 2 on 26th-27th, one remaining on 28th September, one on 3-9th October and singles on 29th October, 2-4th November and 13th November.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One on 11-12th May, trapped in the Double Dyke trap on 11th. One at Hesti Geo on 27th August was the first autumn record. (see also Nightingale sp.).

*THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*. One on 21st May, trapped at Lower Station on Ward Hill and another on 28th May caught in the Double Dyke trap. One on 12-15th August was originally found at Upper Stoneybrake where it was trapped on 13th. It remained in the Observatory garden after release. The first autumn record. (see also Nightingale sp.).

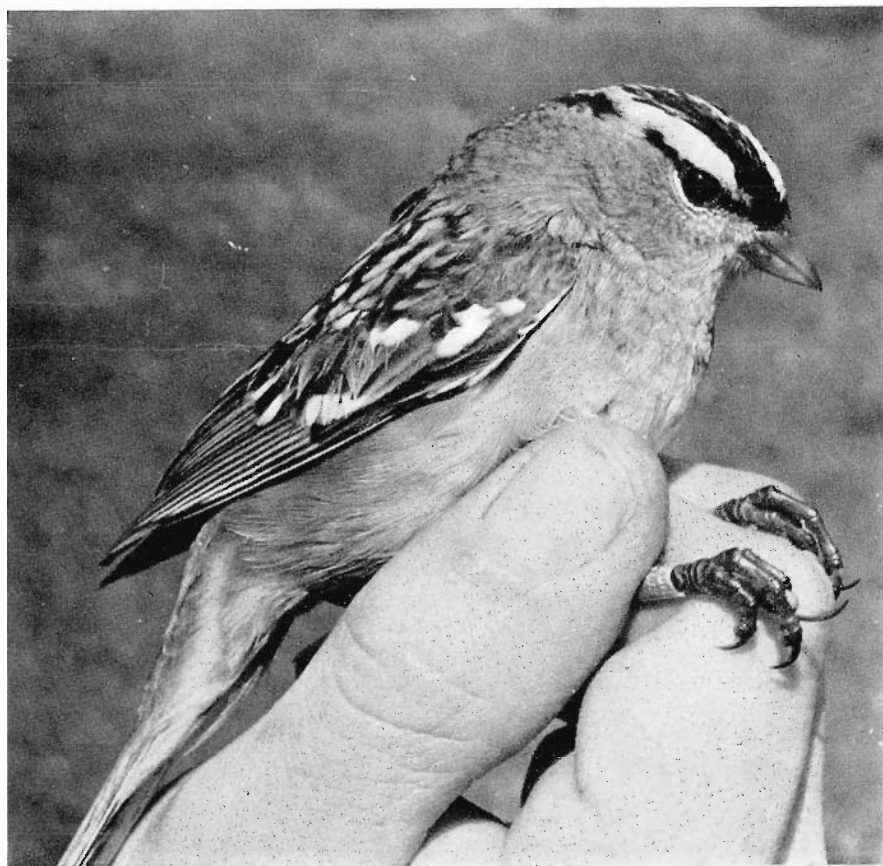
NIGHTINGALE Sp. One seen briefly at Taing on 17th August. The possibility that it was the Thrush Nightingale last seen at the Observatory on 15th August cannot be totally ruled out.



The late Richard A. Richardson.
Photograph by Dennis Coutts.

(Below) The late Kenneth Williamson.
Photograph by Hulton Press Ltd.





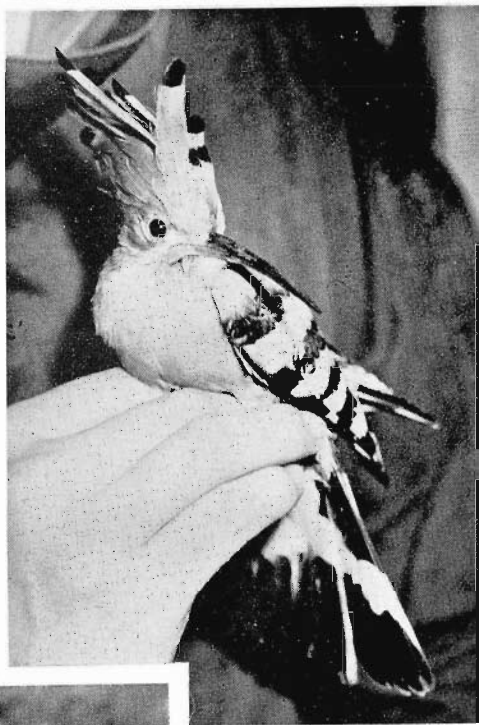
Another new bird for Fair Isle. White Crowned Sparrow, 15th May 1977.

Photograph by R. A. Broad.



RICHARD'S PIPIT

*Photograph by
R. A. Broad*



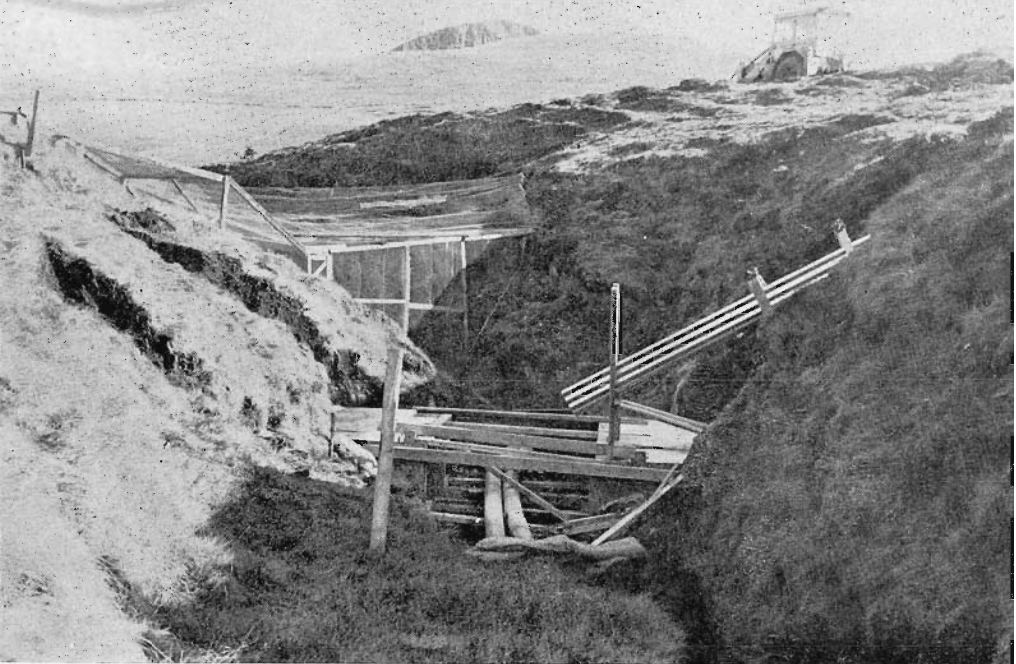
HOOPOE

Photograph by R. A. Broad



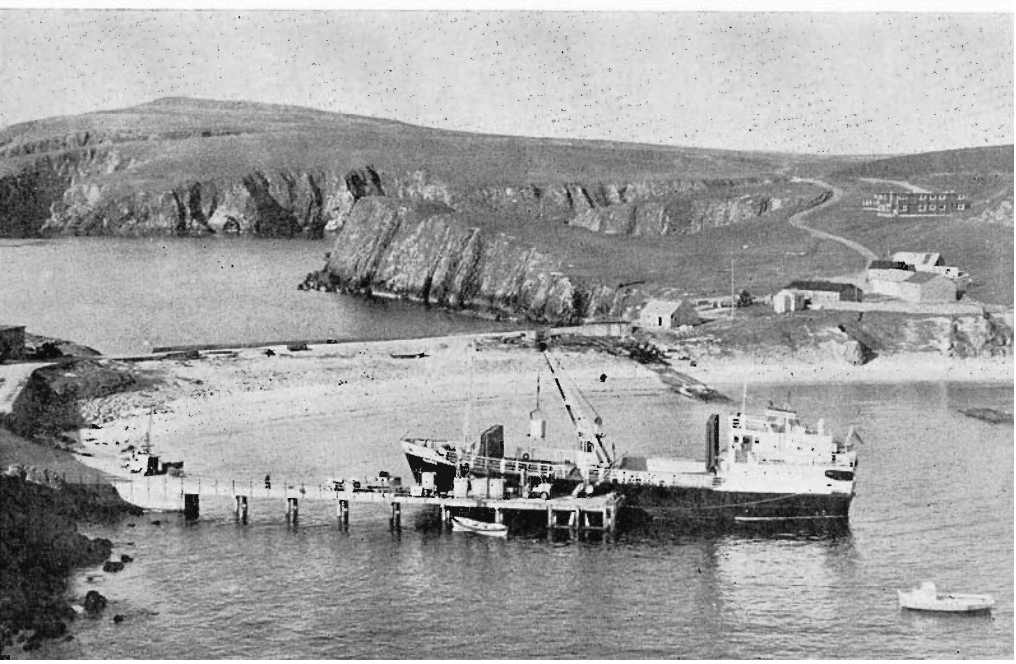
LAPLAND BUNTING ♂

*Photograph by
R. A. Broad*



(Above) Construction work in progress on new dam for Water Scheme above the Vaadal Trap. Spring 1977.
Photograph by R. A. Broad.

(Below) The 'Islander' at the pier delivering diesel oil. Spring 1977.
Photograph by R. A. Broad.



BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*. Spring records: in May 1-2 on 10-12th, virtually daily 15-31st with peaks of 8 on 19th and 5 on 26th. Autumn records: 1-2 recorded daily 11-28th September. One on 10th October and one 13-19th October.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. Probably as many as 10 overwintered. Spring migrants recorded daily 6th March-23rd May but numbers exceeded 10 only on 19th April (11) and 1st May (12). One on 22nd June. Up to 8 recorded daily 23-30th September. Numbers generally a little higher 4th October-10th November with 10-20 between 8-10th October. One on 21-27th December.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. Singles on 28-30th April. 2-3 daily between 1-7th May and 1-2 on many days 11-23rd May. 3 autumn records in September on 11th, 24th and 29th.

*LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata*. One trapped at Shirva on 19th September.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. One on 14th June. Singles in autumn on 25-26th August. (see also Reed/Marsh Warbler).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. 1-3 daily 24-31st May (3 trapped). (see also Reed/Marsh Warbler).

REED/MARSH WARBLER Unidentified, unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers belonging to one of these species were recorded as follows: in spring, singles on 13th, 15th, 19th and 21st June. In autumn, singles on 17th August, 9-13th September, a different bird on 13-16th (probably Reed), one on 25-26th September and one on 6th October (probably Reed).

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. In spring, recorded on many days between 29th April-2nd June with peaks of 5 on 8th and 4 on 20th and 25th May and 6 on 1st June. Singles on 15th and 19th June. In autumn: singles on 3-4th and 17th August and in September on 27th and 29-30th.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*. One trapped at the Vaadal on 20th September was probably seen at Restensgeog bracken the day before. Last recorded in 1973.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. One on 25-27th May, another on 8th June. Singles in autumn on 25-26th August and a *Hippolais* sp. probably of this species was seen on 19th-20th September.

*BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*. One found in the Observatory garden on 20th August was later trapped in the Observatory trap. It remained until 27th August. The 6th Island record, the last was on 25th August 1976.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. 1-4 on many days 30th April-27th May. In June, one on 6th and 2 on 28th. One ♀ on 1-2nd

July. Autumn records: 1-3 on 26-31st August. One on 12th September. Recorded daily 23rd September-8th November with main arrivals as follows: 35-40 on 25-27th September; in October, 50 on 6th, 150+ on 8th increased to 200+ on 9th, 40 on 14th, 35 on 24th and in November 16 on 2nd. The arrival of 8-9th October is the largest ever on record. In December, a ♀ on 12th and probably a different ♀ on 13th.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. Immatures recorded in autumn as follows: in August, one on 15-16th and 3 on 19th. 1-3 daily between 21st August-1st September but 4 on 29th August. In September, 1-2 most days 3-9th, 4 on 11th, 6 on 12th after which 2-3 daily to 18th. 1-2 on 23-27th September. Another year with rather few records and only 4 birds ringed.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. In May, singles on 14th and 19th, 5 on 21st, up to 4 between 25-31st and singles in June on 6th, 9th and 13-15th. One on 3rd July. Autumn records: one on 8th August; recorded daily 13th August-7th September (peaks of 16 on 21-22nd and 10 on 26th), 11-14th September (up to 7), 17-30th September (peak of 10 on 23-24th) and 4-11th October (peak of 10 on 8th). 2 on 14th October, singles on 24th and 26th and 2 on 3rd November.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Recorded in spring on most days 29th April-1st June with 4-6 on several days and 7 on 8th, 12 on 26th and 10 on 27th May. One on 13-15th June. Autumn records: 1-3 on many days 16th August-9th October but 6 on 12th September.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. In May, one on 1st, 1-4 daily between 7-10th, 14-16th and 19-29th May. Singles on 31st May-1st June, 8th and 22nd June. Autumn records: singles in August on 15-18th and 26-27th and in September, on 1-2nd, 12th and 16-17th. 1-4 virtually daily from 22nd September-9th October.

***SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Sylvia cantillans*. A ♂ at the South Harbour on 29th May (trapped).

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. 9 arrived on 29th April after which 10-15 recorded on most days to 22nd May but 20-35 between 4-9th May. Smaller numbers daily 24-31st May with peak of 12 on 26th. 1-2 on scattered days in June between 7-22nd. Autumn records: in August, one on 5-7th, peak of 10 between 9-11th then recorded daily, with 15-40 on most days 13th August-6th September and peak of 70 on 22nd August. Recorded daily, but generally less than 10, between 9th September-14th October but 18 on 23rd September. (see also Willow/Chiffs).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. 2 on 29th April, one on

30th April-1st May. In May, 12 on 4th decreased to 3 on 10th. 1-2 between 16-22nd, singles on 26th and 31st. In June, 2 on 1st, one remained until 8th and one on 29th. In autumn, 1-3 at intervals 18th August-28th September. Seen virtually daily 4-14th October with 9 on 10th and 1-2 at intervals until 4th November. (see also Willow/Chiffs).

WILLOW/CHIFFS Additional birds referable to one or other of these species were recorded on many days in spring between 26th April-29th May, generally less than 10 but 30 on 4th May and 15 on 5th May. One on 12th June. In autumn, one on 5th September, one on 1st October, 3 on 6th and one on 2nd November.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Spring records all in May: one on 9th, 2 on 15-16th and singles on 18-19th and 25-27th. Recorded virtually daily in autumn 11-27th August with 2-3 on several days and 7+ on 21-22nd. One on 19th September. A good series of records in autumn.

***ARCTIC WARBLER** *Phylloscopus borealis*. One at Skerryholm on 20th August and another at Springfield on 16th September (trapped).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. In September, one on 19th, 2 on 22nd, 5 on 23rd, 3 on 24th and one on 25-27th. In October, 2 on 4th and one on 11th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. 1-4 recorded daily 14-23rd March. One on 10th April. 12 on 16th April after which 1-3 on several days to 1st May. 1-2 on 16-17th May. Like 1976, another very poor spring passage. Autumn records: in September, 3 on 13th, recorded daily 23-28th with peak of 15 on 27th. In October, daily 4-17th with peak of 50 on 7th, 1-2 on 23-26th. In November, 100 on 2nd decreased to the last one on 8th.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. In spring up to 3 on several days 7-22nd May but peak of 10 on 21st. A new arrival increased from one on 24th to 20 on 27th and peaked again at 15 on 31st May. Thereafter, 1-6 on many days in June to 13th and singles on 22-23rd and 26th June and 2nd July. Autumn records: 1-3 on many days 14-31st August; one on 27-28th September and singles in October on 3rd and 9th.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Small numbers in May on many days 3-30th with peaks of 11 on 9th and 12 on 16th. In June, 2 on 9th and 13th and one on 20th. Autumn records: 1-4 on most days 10-31st August but 6 on 22nd. In September, up to 7 between 11-13th then recorded daily 17-30th with peak of 18 on 24th. Singles in October on 1st and 3-4th.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. Probably as many as 6-8 overwin-

tered. This is the first time that Dunnocks have overwintered. Spring migrants first recorded on 15th March (12, including a control). Recorded daily in spring until 1st June with 5-12 on many days. Autumn passage: recorded on many days 23rd September-7th November, usually less than 5 but 9 on 13th October.

*RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One on 11-17th September, seen at many places on the Island. It finally settled mainly in the Johnny Arcus Park area.

*TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*. One at Linni Geo and Malcolm's Head on 26th May. Recorded for the second year in succession.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. First recorded in spring on 10th March but numbers increased only slowly until 12th April. Passage birds, first recorded in autumn in last fortnight of August, became very numerous in the first week of September. Numbers generally decreased in October and only ca present by 1st November; all had departed by 16th. Singles on 26th November and 8th December. Breeding data: the first nest was found on 18th May (c/3).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Recorded daily in spring 28th April-22nd May, numbers built up steadily from first record to 100 on 5th May after which 50-60 seen daily to 14th. Numbers then declined gradually to 22nd May. After 23rd May, 1-3 were seen on many days until 6th June. Autumn records: in August, singles on 10-11th and 22nd, recorded daily 25th August-7th September with 10-25 on many days, 2 on 13th, 3 on 19th and up to 12 daily 22-28th September. In October, a small arrival 2-6th with 5 on 4th and singles on 14th and 17th.

*PECHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi*. One found at Busta on 21st September was trapped at Springfield on 22nd. On release it returned to Busta where it was seen daily to 25th September by many observers. It was seen again at the same spot on 1st October (R. Johns and H. Gilston).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. Recorded in all months as usual with noticeable influx on 12th March. Some passage detected in first week of September and marked decrease noticed throughout October. Breeding data: season and numbers the same as the last few years.

WHITE AND PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. White Wagtail *M. a. alba*. 1-3 almost daily 16-28th March. One on 2nd April. 1-6 seen on most days 19-26th April. Recorded daily 28th April-31st May, one remaining until 24th June, with largest movement in first ten days of May when 10-15 seen on several days and 20 on 7th May. In autumn, recorded virtually daily 12th August-10th October when generally less than 10 ex-

cept between 30th August-12th September when 20-30 on several days and peak of 70 on 4-6th. Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarelli*. 1-2 on several days 14th March-4th April. 1-2 on 19-20th and 28-29th April, one on 8-24th July and singles on 26th August and 5th October. Additional small numbers of unidentified *alba* wagtails were seen on several days in spring. In autumn, the first *alba* wagtails were recorded on 7th and 10th August (2). The majority of the autumn records were also *alba* wagtails but it may be assumed that the majority were Whites. Singles were also recorded on 19-20th October and 2nd November.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. Singles recorded on 14th June and in October on 3rd and 14th.

*CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. An immature first located near Springfield on 16th September was seen at many places on the Island until 24th September.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*. In May a ♀ on 6th, ♂ and ♀ on 7th, ♀ on 8-9th, ♂ on 10th, single ♀♀ on 12-13th and 18th and single ♂♂ on 27th and 30th. British Yellow Wagtail *M. f. flavissima*. A ♂ on 29th April and 1st May, ♀♀ on 4th and 5th (2) and a ♂ on 8th May. 1-2 (♂♀) seen daily 16-22nd, 2 ♂♂ on 27th and 2 ♀♀ on 28th May. Grey-headed Wagtail *M. f. thunbergi*. ♂♂ on 29th April-1st May and in May on 4th, 5th (2), 8th, 18-19th and 27-29th. *Flava* wagtails not specifically identified were seen in spring on 28th April and in May on 22nd, 26th and 30th. 1-4 seen daily in August between 26-31st and in September on 12th, 17th and 24-26th. One was also seen on 14th October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. One, possibly two, on 26th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. Singles in spring on 16-18th April and 5-11th May. Autumn records: in October on 6th, 2 on 7-9th and one on 10th. Singles on 16th, 18-21st and 22-23rd (different bird) October.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*. In May, a ♂ on 5-6th, 2 ♂♂ on 7-8th and a ♂ on 10th. Recorded daily, 16th May-3rd June with peaks of 15 (8 ♂♂) on 20th May and 25 (8 ♀♀) on 26th May. 25 were again recorded on 27th May but the number of ♀♀ increased to 15 indicating a new arrival. A ♂ on 6th June, 3 (2 ♂♂) on 10th and 13th, a pair on 14th and a ♂ on 16-17th June. In autumn, one on 15th August increased to 3 on 16th and 4 on 20-23rd—all had departed by 27th August. One on 30th August-2nd September and singles on 13th and 23-26th September and 4th October. The late May arrivals are by far the largest on record.

STARLING *Sternus vulgaris*. Recorded in all months of the year as usual. Passage movements and influxes recorded in March (19th), in April (16-20th), on many days in October, especially 8th (1000) and 12th (800+) and in early November. Breeding data: first young were seen on the wing on 15th June; a few days later than usual.

*MYRTLE WARBLER *Dendroica coronata*. A ♂ was found at Pylie (to the NW of the South Lighthouse) on 18th May where it was observed for most of the afternoon as it fed among the rocks. This is the first Scottish record of this widespread North American species.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*. A ♂ on 9-10th and another 26-30th April. A ♀ on 3-6th and another 17-28th May. One on 30th September. In October, 3 on 12th increased to 6 on 13th, 1-2 remained until 20th. Singles on 26th and 29th October, 6th November and 8-15th November.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. One on 17th October increased to 3 on 18-19th and one remained on 20th October. Recorded for the third year in succession; there are only 6 records prior to this arrival.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. Only one spring record on 12th March. One on 23rd September increased to 15 on 24th and 18 on 26th September which then decreased slowly to 30th October. A new arrival in November, 6 on 1st increased to 14 on 6th and the last one remained to 12th. One on 26th and 3 on 27th November. Singles on 1-2nd and 19th December.

LINNET *Acanthis cannabina*. In April, singles on 14-15th, 18-19th, 2 on 22nd increased to 6 on 27th then decreased to one by 30th. In May, 2 on 1st increased to 9 by 6th which then decreased to 2 on 16th. 2-3 on 20-25th May. One on 1st and 2 on 6th June. Autumn records: in October, one on 3rd increased to 3 on 4th, 2 remaining to 6th. One on 6th November.

TWITE *Acanthis flavirostris*. Recorded in all months. 20-40 regularly in January-April and numbers noticeably increased in early May. After the breeding season at least 800 young birds recorded at peak in mid-September. Numbers gradually decreased through October and only ca 100 remained at 1st November. Generally less than 30 seen in November and December with the exception of 70 on 26th.

Breeding data: fledged young first noted on 1st July.

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*. The majority of Redpolls recorded were not critically examined. 1-4 were seen at intervals 16th February-5th March. In May, 1-3 were recorded occasionally 6-21st. The only bird subspecifically identified in spring was a ♂ Lesser Redpoll (*C. f. cabaret/disruptis*) on

9-10th May. Mealy Redpolls (*C. f. flammea*) were recorded in June on 25th (2) and in August on 25th. Redpolls were recorded regularly 30th September-14th October and 1-6 occasionally 19th October-3rd November, of these several were referable to the Greenland form (*C. f. rostrata*) (one on 30th September and 1-2 on 1-14th October and 1-2nd November). Of the remainder some were thought to be Mealy Redpolls. 1-2 Redpolls were seen on several days 1-13th December.

*SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. All records were of immatures or females. Three spring records: 8-9th, 25-27th May and 3rd June. In autumn, probably as many as 14 individuals; one on 14th August, 1-3 daily 21-27th August, a new arrival 29th August-5th September again with 1-3 daily. In September, one on 8th, 2 on 12-13th, singles on 17th and 20th and daily 23rd September-3rd October. One on 23-24th October.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. Ca 30 on 26th October, including a flock of 22. One remained on 27th. A ♂ on 2-5th November and a different ♂ with a ♀ on 6th November. An unusual number of records for so late in the autumn, the majority of previous records have fallen in the late summer and early autumn.

*TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*. An adult ♂ was seen to fly in from the sea near Hesti Geo on 14th August. It landed at the base of Malcolm's Head where it was well seen (S. Berry and A. Sobey).

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. 1-4 recorded in January between 11-16th. Occasional singles in February and 1-7th March. Almost daily 12th March-2nd June with 10-15 on several days and 20 on 21-23rd March; in April 25 on 3rd and 20 on 7th. Daily in autumn from 23rd September (12) to 25th November. Generally less than 10, except for up to 25 in September between 24-27th and in October 20-25 on several days between 13-20th and 27 on 26th and in November 22 on 2nd. 1-2 seen irregularly in December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. In March, 3 on 15th and singles on several days 19-24th. 150 arrived on 16th April after which 20-40 daily until the next arrival on 3rd May (70). Numbers increased to 150 on 5-6th then gradually decreased to 23rd May. One on 19th June-19th July was in poor condition. In autumn, first arrival 23-26th September (60) after which numbers fell slowly until next arrival of 80 on 4th October. Numbers remained high throughout October and several new arrivals occurred as follows: 140 on 7th, increasing to 400 on 8th, 300 on 12-13th and 100 on 23-24th. After the last arrival numbers generally decreased

to 16th November. Singles on 27th November, 1st and 15th December.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. One on 14-16th April and one on 1st June.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. One on 14th March. Singles in April on 21st and 24th, and in May on 6-7th and 13th. Autumn records: in October, one on 7-8th, 9th (2) and one on 12-13th; in November on 11-15th and in December on 13th.

*YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. 4 different autumn records (all immatures or female), and all in September. One on 11-15th, another arrived on 18th, a third arrived on 20th when it was trapped in the Gully, and a fourth was identified on 21st. 2-3 were then seen daily to 27th.

ORTOLAN *Emberiza hortulana*. Spring records: all in May, one on 5th, 3 on 6-7th after which 1-3 seen daily to 12th and a ♂ on 15-20th. Singles in autumn on 30th August-2nd September, 7th and 12th September.

*LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. One on 5-9th May was originally found at Quoy. Four autumn records: one at Skerryholm on 12th September; one on 24th September was initially seen at Restensgeo, later at Gilsetter and it settled at Boini Mire until 1st October; one at Skerryholm on 8th was trapped and released at the Observatory which it frequented until at least 18th October; another bird was seen at Taing on 12th October and again at Skerryholm on 14th. One of these last two birds remained until 22nd October.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. 1-2 on several days 10-21st March. One on 17th April. Daily in spring 25th April-3rd June; numbers increased gradually from one on 25th April to 14 on 3rd May. Following the arrival of 45 on 4th May numbers remained high until 11th May after which there was a slow decrease to 3rd June. Autumn records: in September one on 11th and 1-3 on most days 23-30th. Recorded on most days 4th October-3rd November, generally less than 10 except for 20-25 on 7-10th October. Singles recorded at intervals in the rest of November to 23rd.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. 2 on 26th April increased to 5 on 28-30th after which 1-3 daily to 10th May. Single ♂♂ on 14-16th, 17-18th, 30th May and 6th June. In autumn, recorded daily 5-16th September and 19th September-24th October, up to 10 on several days and larger numbers in September as follows: 20 on 12th, 20 on 23-24th and 27th. Singles on 2nd November, and in December on 12th and 23rd.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Infrequent sightings un-

til mid-February. Recorded on many days 17th February-6th May but rarely exceeding 20, except for 42 on 11-12th March. 1-2 on several days 12th May-12th June. Recorded daily in autumn from 8th September; 20-40 on several days in September and October, 70 on 1st November increased to 300 by 6th and 500 by 8th after which 200-300 daily to 16th. Generally less than 30-40 for the rest of the year, except for 100 on 26th. 25 flew south on 23rd December.

*WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. One found at the entrance to the Double Dyke trap on 15th May was quickly trapped. It was released at Shirva and was seen there the following day. This is the first British record of this widely distributed North American species.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Present in usual numbers all year. A hybrid House x Tree Sparrow was seen on several occasions between 30th September and mid-October. Breeding data: season as usual.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. 1-4 on most days 27th April-10th May, 2-3 on 15-18th May and larger influx 22-31st May with peak of 14 on 28th. In June, 3 on 5th, 7 on 9th, 2 on 12th and one on 20th. In autumn: 1-2 on many days in August between 11-24th. 3-7 on 27th August-3rd September. Seen on most days 6th September-14th October with up to 12 on some days in September but in October, except for 7 on 5-6th, generally less than 5 on any day. 1-4 recorded at intervals through the rest of the year.

Presumed Cage Birds

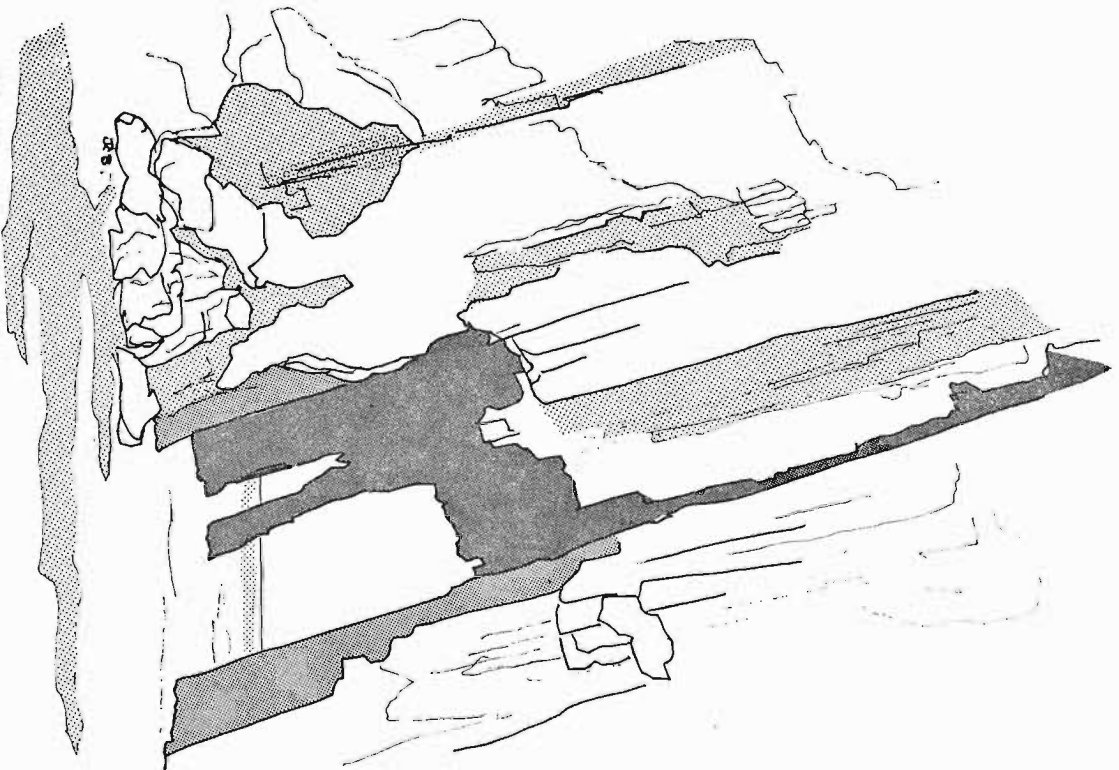
RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A ♂ present on 28th May-6th June.

Supplementary details to the 1976 Systematic List

The following additional record was omitted:

GYRFALCON *Falco rusticolus*. A grey bird, seen by many observers, on 16th September. It was watched at several places on the Island including Dumlin's Sink, just north of the Observatory, where it was flushed from a freshly killed Wigeon.

The records of Siberian Stonechat, Lanceolated Warbler (6th October), Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler, Pechora Pipit, Red-throated Pipit (17-23rd September) and 2 Yellow-breasted Buntings have all been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee. The record of the American Kestrel has now been accepted by the BOU Records Committee.



DA HELLERS SHEEP ROCK.

Ringling Details 1977

Introduction

For the second year in succession Storm Petrel heads our ringing totals and reflects the time and effort put into catching the species during the late summer nights. Tape lures were again employed and, surprisingly, considering the time put in and the number of Stormies trapped, no Leach's Petrels appear in our totals this year. As will be seen from the following table a very wide variety of species was handled in 1977. Mention must be made of the numbers and variety of waders trapped which are the result of exploiting the new moon periods in the autumn and winter for dazzling and the use of wire wader traps when opportunities presented themselves. A wader trap accounted for one addition to the Island's ringing list—a Temminck's Stint. A few waders are annually caught in the heligolands: this year was no exception, but never before have they included Whimbrel (in the Observatory trap) or Red-necked Phalarope (in the Gully trap).

All the heligolands were maintained in good order through the year. The Plantation trap catching end was modified to facilitate the easier handling of the finch roosts which have been an increasing feature of the last year or two as the trees have increased in size. The success of the alterations are indicated by the record Brambling total (350). A new section was added to the mouth of the Single Dyke trap and the first bird to christen it, the day after the work was completed, was a Hoopoe (also an addition to our ringing list). The White-crowned Sparrow caught in the Double Dyke trap was the third new species for the year.

The number of recoveries reported during the year was also at a very high level and the details which follow the 1977 ringing and recovery totals tell us a great deal about our own breeding species and the movements of those species visiting the Island as migrants.

TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS AND RECOVERIES

	Ringed		Recovered		
	1948-76	1977	1948-76	1977	
		Pull	FG		
Fulmar	6748	262	70	45	7
Storm Petrel	4347		1267	34	31
Gannet	22		3	1	
Shag	9852	134	14	223	4
Heron	10		1		
Wigeon	9		1		
Goldeneye	9		1		1

	Ringed		Recovered	
	1948-76	1977	1948-76	1977
		Pull	FG	
Whooper Swan	16		1	1
Sparrowhawk	96		7	11
Merlin	131		3	11
Kestrel	27			4
Water Rail	187		10	2
Corncrake	28		2	2
Moorhen	51		9	2
Oystercatcher	749	58	9	36
Ringed Plover	291	14	12	3
Golden Plover	15		2	
Turnstone	54		8	
Snipe	210		35	4
Jack Snipe	98		10	1
Woodcock	187		10	8
Curlew	32	2	1	1
Whimbrel	12		1	
Green Sandpiper	22		1	1
Wood Sandpiper	11		3	
Common Sandpiper	34		2	
Redshank	168		32	2
Greenshank	5		1	
Knot	54		6	1
Purple Sandpiper	124		12	1
Little Stint	28		1	
Temminck's Stint			1	
Dunlin	360		22	5
Sanderling	70		4	
Grey Phalarope	1		2	
Red-necked Phalarope	3		1	
Great Skua	378	30	2	5
Arctic Skua	2021	170	46	33
Great Blackback	1130	93	15	42
Lesser Blackback	721	56	1	15
Herring Gull	1930	96	6	44
Common Gull	45	6		5
Black-headed Gull	19			2
Kittiwake	1740	242	3	12
Common Tern	59	23	4	1
Razorbill	1753	113	67	44
Guillemot	3305	335	194	67
Black Guillemot	987	67	18	10
Puffin	6387	252	245	12
Rock Dove	9	3		
Turtle Dove	37		3	
Collared Dove	77		19	

	Ringed		Recovered	
	1948-76	1977	1948-76	1977
		Pull	FG	
Cuckoo	66		1	1
Long-eared Owl	104		2	4
Hoopoe			1	1
Wryneck	125		10	
Skylark	592	33	21	2
Swallow	179		4	2
House Martin	128		2	
Hooded Crow	39		1	
Great Tit	4		1	
Wren	532		18	
Mistle Thrush	16		1	1
Fieldfare	492		28	
Song Thrush	1389		116	20
Redwing	4678		270	53
Ring Ousel	269		18	5
Blackbird	13567		558	244
Wheatear	11324	32	277	53
Stonechat	32		6	
Whinchat	384		6	2
Redstart	1199		48	
Black Redstart	76		3	
Nightingale	12		1	
Thrush Nightingale	11		3	
Bluethroat	145		5	2
Robin	3867		110	22
Grasshopper Warbler	55		5	
Lanceolated Warbler	9		1	
Reed Warbler	88		2	1
Marsh Warbler	38		3	
Sedge Warbler	238		5	1
Melodious Warbler	6		1	
Icterine Warbler	52		1	
Booted Warbler	4		1	
Blackcap	1899		267	6
Barred Warbler	264		4	
Garden Warbler	1642		54	
Whitethroat	638		14	
Lesser Whitethroat	354		12	
Subalpine Warbler	14		1	
Willow Warbler	1973		101	1
Chiffchaff	402		19	
Wood Warbler	48		5	
Arctic Warbler	22		1	
Yellow-browed Warbler	63		2	
Goldcrest	875		51	2

	Ringed		Recovered	
	1948-76	1977	1948-76	1977
		Pull	FG	
Spotted Flycatcher	352		21	1
Pied Flycatcher	579		20	3
Duncock	1032		102	4
Meadow Pipit	6126	27	188	37
Tree Pipit	391		26	1
Pechora Pipit	4		1	
Rock Pipit	5754	10	215	18
Pied/White Wagtail	391		12	4
Yellow Wagtail	9		1	
Great Grey Shrike	79		6	1
Red-backed Shrike	146		17	
Starling	10932	62	509	87
Greenfinch	60		7	3
Siskin	183		15	
Linnet	85		11	1
Twite	3181		174	3
Redpoll	464		3	1
Scarlet Rosefinch	49		2	
Crossbill	287		3	2
Chaffinch	979		110	2
Brambling	1213		350	2
Yellow-breasted Bunting	5		1	
Little Bunting	15		1	
Reed Bunting	236		9	2
Snow Bunting	484		7	3
White-crowned Sparrow			1	
House Sparrow	1004		1	1
Tree Sparrow	79		9	1
Totals for 1977	2120	6070		99

Number of species ringed in 1977	122
Grand total of birds ringed 1948-77	135862
Grand total of species ringed 1948-77	233
Grand total of birds recovered 1948-77	1404

Recoveries in 1977

A total of 99 recoveries had been reported by the end of the year (there were an additional 2 recoveries of birds ringed with FIBO rings in Shetland). The details of the most interesting are given in full, but in the case of repetitive sequences of similar recoveries, they have been summarised for conven-

ience. The International code of symbols for the method of recovery is employed:

- v—caught or trapped and released with ring.
- +—short or killed by man.
- x—found dead or dying.
- xA—found long dead.
- ()—caught or trapped alive and not released, or released without ring.
- /?/—method of recovery not known.

Where the exact date of the 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 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' at the time of ringing. The age code will be found immediately after the ring number and the interpretation is as follows:

- 1 or 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 previous calendar year.
- 6 hatched before previous calendar year.
- 7 hatched two years ago.
- 8 hatched three or more years ago.

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

FULMAR

SS84256 pull 08.08.68 Fair Isle.

() 04.01.77 Mulegga Bank, NW of Troms, Norway.
70°30'N 17°30'E.

FS46523 pull 29.07.72 Fair Isle.

x 10.07.77 Near Findochty, Banff. 215 km SSW.

SS84569 4 31.08.69 Fair Isle.

/?/ (04.01.77) North Sea. 56°30'N 5°40'E.

SS39195 pull 04.08.65 Fair Isle.

x 01.07.77 Graerup Strand, Jutland, Denmark. 55°39'N
8°8'E.

FS14953 pull 16.08.71 Fair Isle.

v 07.06.77 South Shields, Durham. 500 km S.

SS84841 4 02.09.69 Fair Isle.

xA 12.06.77 Filey Brigg, Yorks. 590 km S.

AT82431 pull 10.08.61 Fair Isle.

x 22.04.77 Helmsand, off Meldorf, Schleswig Holstein,
West Germany. 54°4'N 8°58'E.

STORM PETREL

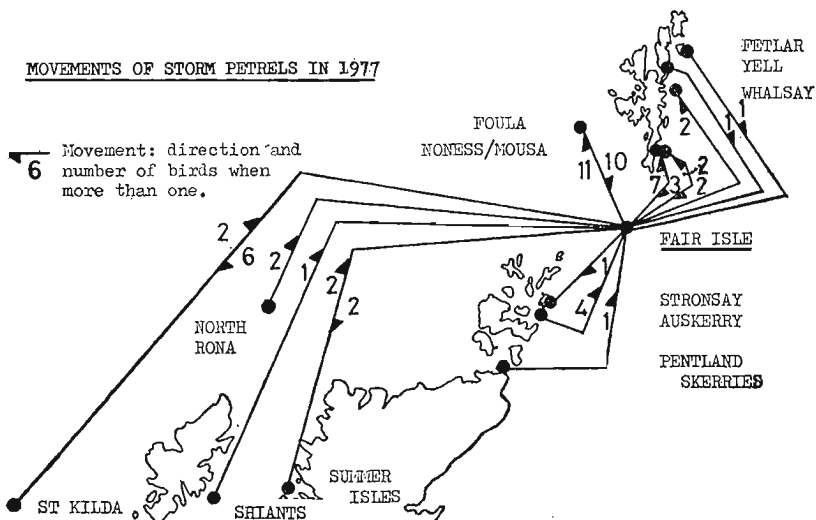
217136 4 14.08.76 Fair Isle.

v 22.07.77 Foula, Shetland. 72 km NNW.

v 29.07.77 Fair Isle.

The 31 recoveries including the double movement shown in full above are shown on the map below. The year of ringing for all recoveries and controls reported in 1977 are as follows:

Year of ringing	1974	75	76	77
No of birds	1	3	26	31



SHAG

1013336 8 09.07.60 Fair Isle.

v 28.06.68 Fair Isle (reringed 1068108).

x 15.10.77 Newark, Sanday, Orkney. 55 km SW.

This bird is one of the few adults ringed on Fair Isle to have been recovered away from the Island. It was also re-trapped on Fair Isle in '68, '73 and '75. Three birds ringed as pulli were recovered: 2 in Orkney (one in its first year, the other in its 5th year) and a third was found in its first year in Fife.

GOLDENEYE

GK06894 3 02.12.75 Fair Isle.

+ 28.10.77 Grue, Hedmark, Norway. 60°27'N 12°3'E.

This is our first Goldeneye recovery. Although the recovery comes from inland within the southern limit of the species

breeding range in Scandinavia the date does not rule out the possibility of it already being a migrant from further N or E.

WHOOPE SWAN

Z4771 4 17.11.75 Fair Isle.

x 28.01.77 Kelso, Roxburgh. 440 km S.

KESTREL

EB47056 4 10.08.75 Fair Isle.

x 14.04.77 Neigarth, Sanday, Orkney. 58 km SW.

JACK SNIBE

BV47311 2 30.09.76 Fair Isle.

+ (00.12.76) Monties-Aussos, Gers, France. 43°23'N 0°40'E.

BV47314 2 30.09.76 Fair Isle.

+ 08.11.76 Swan Island, Strangford Lough, Co. Down. 610 km SW.

Note the widely separated wintering areas of these two birds ringed on the same day.

WOODCOCK

EB47888 2 27.10.76 Fair Isle.

+ early 11.76 Sandwick, Stromness, Orkney. 110 km WSW.

CURLEW

SS36003 4 09.04.65 Fair Isle.

+ late 11.69 North Butt of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, 285 km. WSW.

DUNLIN

NB14418 3 28.08.77 Fair Isle.

v 31.08.77 Outer Skerries, Shetland. 110 km NNE.

GREAT SKUA

HW26235 pull 23.07.75 Fair Isle.

+ 01.10.77 Derravaragh Lough, Westmeath, Eire. 735 km SW.

The recovery was well inland.

ARCTIC SKUA

EF84727 pull 08.07.73 Fair Isle.

+ 04.07.77 Foula, Shetland. 70 km NNW.

YD0044 pull 08.07.57 Fair Isle.

x 24.01.66 Palos de la Frontera, Huelva, Spain. 37°14'N 6°53'W.

EF84789 pull 18.07.73 Fair Isle.

x (22.06.77) Takoradi Harbour, Ghana. 4°53'N 1°45'W.

EF84789 is our 5th recovery off the African coast but the first from Ghana. The previous recoveries were reported from Algeria, Morocco and Angola (2).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Two pulli ringed in 1974 were recovered, one at Sumburgh, Shetland (July '77) and the other in Northumberland (March '77). A third pullus ringed in 1976 was found in Orkney in September 1977. The details of two adults ringed at winter gull roosts are given in full below.

HW08211 8 15.11.69 Fair Isle.

x 08.07.77 Lunna Ness, Mainland, Shetland. 105 km NNE.

HW26128 8 05.01.75 Fair Isle.

x 12.04.76 Isle of May, Fife. 375 km SSW.

LESSER BLACK-RINGED GULL

A pullus ringed in July 1975 was found dead in August '75 in Fife and an adult clap-netted in August 1976 was found dead in Yorkshire '77.

HERRING GULL

GP97592 8 26.11.73 Fair Isle.

v 24.05.77 Troms, Norway, 69°40'N 18°57'E.

AJ37267 8 13.12.61 Fair Isle.

x 20.07.77 Bleik, Andenes, Nordland, Norway. 69°17'N 15°58'E.

Both birds had been dazzled at winter gull roosts on Fair Isle.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

EB47643 6 25.07.76 Fair Isle.

x 23.05.77 Sola, Stavanger, Norway. 58°53'N 5°36'E.

This is our first foreign Black-headed Gull recovery although a Danish ringed bird was controlled on Fair Isle in 1963.

KITTIWAKE

EH26919 pull 06.07.77 Fair Isle.

x 25.08.77 St Cyrus, Kincardineshire. 310 km S.

RAZORBILL

M26067 pull 29.06.76 Fair Isle.

x 12.06.77 Off Aran Island, Donegal, Eire. 645 km SW.

M26011 pull 24.06.76 Fair Isle.

xA (27.07.77) Koster Islands, off Stromstad, Sweden. 58°54'N 11°2'E.

M19220 8 23.05.75 Fair Isle.

x 10.01.77 Playa de Aro, Gerona, Spain. 41°49'N 3°4'E.

There are three previous recoveries of Fair Isle Razorbills in Spain (all on the North Coast) and one that reached Morocco, but M19220 is the first to penetrate into the Mediterranean.

GUILLEMOT

GM79790 6 18.07.68 Fair Isle.

v 25.06.73 Fair Isle (reringed GP79378).

+ 10.08.76 Skagerrak, 20 nautical miles S. of Larvik, Norway.

GK29058 pull 21.06.76 Fair Isle.

+ 10.08.76 Skagerrak, 20 nautical miles S. of Larvik, Norway.

GK29070 pull 21.06.76 Fair Isle.

+ 10.08.76 Skagerrak, 20 nautical miles S. of Larvik, Norway.

All three birds had been ringed at Kuthin and were shot at the same place ($58^{\circ}40'N$ $10^{\circ}0'E$). The finder reported that the adult was with one of the young birds. It is usual for the parents to accompany their chicks across the North Sea but the evidence is rarely so concrete. 8 other pulli recoveries were reported: 5 in their first year (3 from Norway, one from W. of Jutland, Denmark and one from Yorkshire), 2 in their 2nd winter off Norway and one in February of its 3rd year from Banff.

BLACK GUILLEMOT

EB47300 6 02.07.76 Fair Isle.

x 09.10.77 Oxna Isle, off Scalloway, Shetland. 65 km NNE.

This is the first recovery of a known breeding adult Tystie away from the Island.

PUFFIN

EF17921 pull 19.07.72 Fair Isle.

v 09.06.77 Isle of May, Fife. 375 km S.

TURTLE DOVE

EB13652 4 06.06.74 Fair Isle.

+ 04.09.77 St Orens, Pouy-Petit, Condom, Gers, France.
 $43^{\circ}55'N$ $0^{\circ}26'E$.

This is our first Turtle Dove recovery.

LONG-EARED OWL

GK29550 2 16.11.76 Fair Isle.

x 21.04.77 Stobswood, Widdrington, Northumberland.
470 km S.

SONG THRUSH

XB65411 3 14.10.76 Fair Isle.

+ 28.11.76 Estella, Navarra, Spain. $42^{\circ}21'N$ $2^{\circ}2'W$.

REDWING

BV47153 3 21.10.76 Fair Isle.

x ca06.03.77 Troon, Ayr. 475 km SSW.

BV47097 4 17.10.76 Fair Isle.

x 25.17.76 Near Gijon, Oviedo, Spain. $43^{\circ}32'N$ $5^{\circ}40'W$.

RING OUSEL

XB65550 4♂ 26.10.76 Fair Isle.

/?/ 21.01.77 Fuente Encarroz, Valencia, Spain. 38°55'N
0°10'W.

The Song Thrush, Redwing (BV47097) and the Ring Ousel were all trapped during last autumn's falls on Fair Isle.

BLACKBIRD

There were 4 recoveries, 2 ringed on migration during October 1976 were found further south in Orkney and Inverness, later in the same autumn/winter. The other 2 ringed in autumn 1975 were reported back in Norway in March and April 1977.

WHEATEAR

NA75356 5♂ 01.05.77 Fair Isle.

x (21.05.77) Hartlepool, Durham. 535 km S.

This bird was found dead on a moored barge. The movement is contrary to the expected.

ROBIN

KH42879 3 28.09.76 Fair Isle.

x 08.12.76 Sutton, Dublin, Eire. 715 km SSW.

MEADOW PIPIT

KR25376 3 03.09.77 Fair Isle.

v 05.09.77 Fair Isle.

x 14.09.77 Indies Gas Field, Dogger Bank, North Sea.
54°30'N 1°30'E.

ROCK PIPIT

BS23879 3 10.07.76 Fair Isle.

x 02.06.77 Dunbeath, Caithness. 175 km SW.

STARLING

XB65047 3 17.07.76 Fair Isle.

xA 09.04.77 Sumburgh, Shetland. 40 km NNE.

XV66178 5♀ 09.04.75 Fair Isle.

x 15.06.77 Esbjerg, Jylland, Denmark. 55°28'N 8°27'E.

XB01980 3♀ 04.07.76 Fair Isle.

x 08.06.77 Morecambe, Lancs. 610 km SSW.

CHAFFINCH

KP51893 4♀ 23.10.76 Fair Isle.

x 23.12.76 Ballina, Mayo, Eire. 745 km SW.

Recaptures in 1977

During the year 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 stored in the Observatory retrap files. All recaptures

of birds ringed in previous years and those found dead on the Island are summarised in the following table.

Birds ringed in previous years and recaptured or found dead in 1977

Species	1960	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
Fulmar (full grown)						1					1	4	3	2		3	7
(pull)												1					
Storm Petrel (full grown)						1	1					1	1	1		6	60
Shag (full grown)																1	1
(pull)					1		1		1				1	3	1	1	
Eider (adult ♀)						1											
Oystercatcher (pull)			1		1			1									
Purple Sandpiper (full grown)																	1
Arctic Skua (adult)														99	39	28	22
(pull)		2		1	1			1	2		4	3	8	12	8		
Herring Gull (pull)							1				1	1					
Razorbill (full grown)								1	1				1	1	2	1	2
(pull)							1						1				
Guillemot (full grown)	1				1	2			3	4	5	3	6	8	10	19	15
(pull)									1				5	1	1		
Puffin (full grown)							1							1	7	11	5
(pull)			1														
Tystie (full grown)						1				1			3		1	5	7
(pull)				1	1	1		1			2				1		
Skylark (full grown)																1	
Wheatear (full grown)																1	6
(pull)																	1
Meadow Pipit (full grown)										1			2	1	3		
Rock Pipit (full grown)																	3
Starling (full grown)											1			4	4	4	4
(pull)													1	2			2
Twite (full grown)																	1

Two additional, particularly long-lived birds still alive in 1977 were an Arctic Skua ringed as an adult in 1956 and a Guillemot originally ringed in 1959. Several more recent re-traps are also of particular interest and they include 5 Fulmars (presumably pre-breeding individuals) found caught in the roofless Rocket House on the Hill Dyke and ringed before release in 1976 and re-trapped in the same place in 1977 (see also Ringed Strangers). These are included in the table above. Two Dunnocks ringed in November 1976 were recaptured in March 1977 and along with several unringed birds they are

the first to have overwintered on the Island. A Jack Snipe trapped at Chatham's Land in February 1977 was recaptured at the same place in December indicating the regular use of the same migration route or wintering area in successive years (cf. one previous Fair Isle ringed bird was found in the following winter in Orkney).

Ringed Strangers in 1977

FULMAR

SS52858 pull 20.08.67 Foula, Shetland.

v 06.02.77 Fair Isle. 70 km SSE.

FS05368 pull 05.08.70 Eday, Orkney.

v 06.02.77 Fair Isle. 80 km NE.

Both birds were released, with others, from the roofless Rocket House on the Hill Dyke.

STORM PETREL

The 29 controls are dealt with under Recoveries in 1977.

SHAG

1023309 pull 09.08.61 Foula, Shetland.

xA 15.05.77 Fair Isle. 70 km SSE.

Only the ring was found.

BARNACLE GOOSE

An adult colour ringed in SW Spitzbergen while flightless during this summer was seen on Fair Isle on 28th and 30th September. A number of other colour ringed birds were present at the same time but it was not possible to read their individual lettering. There has been one previous Spitzbergen ringed Barnacle Goose found on Fair Isle—in 1962.

MERLIN

EH25873 pull 05.07.77 Central Mainland, Shetland.

v 19.10.77 Fair Isle. ca 90 km SSW.

ARCTIC SKUA

4 birds ringed as pulli in Shetland were controlled breeding on Fair Isle. One had been ringed in 1971 on Foula and the other three had been ringed in 1972 on Foula, Mousa and Hermaness.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

HW48832 pull 04.07.75 Copinsay, Orkney.

x 29.07.77 Fair Isle. 90 km NE.

HERRING GULL

GK40749 pull 08.07.76 Dales Voe, Lerwick, Shetland.

x 14.07.77 Fair Isle. 75 km SSW.

COMMON GULL

EH20876 pull 29.06.77 Whalsay, Shetland.
x 12.09.77 Fair Isle. 100 km SSW.

WOODCOCK

Kalo 602953 4 24.10.76 Bordrup Plantage, Vejers, Jutland,
Denmark. 55°35'N 8°13'E.
+ 26.10.76 Fair Isle.

This rapid movement indicates the origin of some of last October's exceptional falls.

BLACKBIRD

XC20686 3♂ 20.11.76 West Burton, Retford, Notts.
v 22.03.77 Fair Isle. 680 km N.

DUNNOCK

Brussels A858787 2 01.11.73 Lede, East Flanders, Belgium.
50°58'N 3°59'E.

y 03.11.76 Fair Isle.

Heligoland 9R57816 4 27.03.76 Heist, Pinneberg, Schleswig
Holstein, West Germany. 53°39'N 9°39'E.

y 15.03.77 Fair Isle.

KK 37415 2 27.09.77 Whalsay, Shetland.

v 13.10.77 Fair Isle. 100 km. SSW.

The ringing details of A858787 and 9R57816 suggest that they may have been already on migration when originally captured. The displacement of A858787 across the North Sea and its arrival at Fair Isle was associated with last year's exceptional late autumn falls (see also Woodcock above). KK37415 has obviously reorientated from an earlier landfall in Shetland (it was referable to the typical form *J. m. modularis*).

BRAMBLING

KK69563 3 ♀ 09.12.76 Seaton Park, Aberdeen.

v 18.04.77 Fair Isle. 270 km N.

Errata - 1976 Report

Page 6 Table 3, Number for same year, 1968, should read '25'.

Page 45 WILLOW/CHIFFS, 3rd line, final date should read '6th October'.

Page 54 The Ringing Table should be titled as follows:

Numbers ringed		Numbers recovered	
1948-75	1976	1948-75	1976
10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20
30	30	30	30
40	40	40	40
50	50	50	50
60	60	60	60
70	70	70	70
80	80	80	80
90	90	90	90
100	100	100	100

Page 54 Entry for Woodcock : delete; insert 7.
under 1976, final column : insert 1.

Page 54 Entry for Great Skua : delete 335; insert 355.

Page 55 Entry for Redwing : delete 55; insert 53.

Page 55 After Grasshopper Warbler insert the following line:
Lanceolated Warbler 7 — 2 — —.

- Page 57 Storm Petrel, line 2 : delete 'later'; insert 'earlier'.
 Page 58 OYSTERCATCHER, second recovery : delete line 2; insert—
 +23.08.76 Baie du Mont St Michele, France. 48°38'N 1°30'W.
 Immediately after the above correction insert—
 WOODCOCK
 EB47880 2 20.10.76 Fair
 + 13.11.76 Bergen, Norway. 60°23'N 5°20'E.
 Page 62 STORM PETREL, delete 'later'; insert 'earlier'.
 Page 63 STARLING, line 4, after 'very' insert 'few'.

Movements of Ringed Birds in October 1976

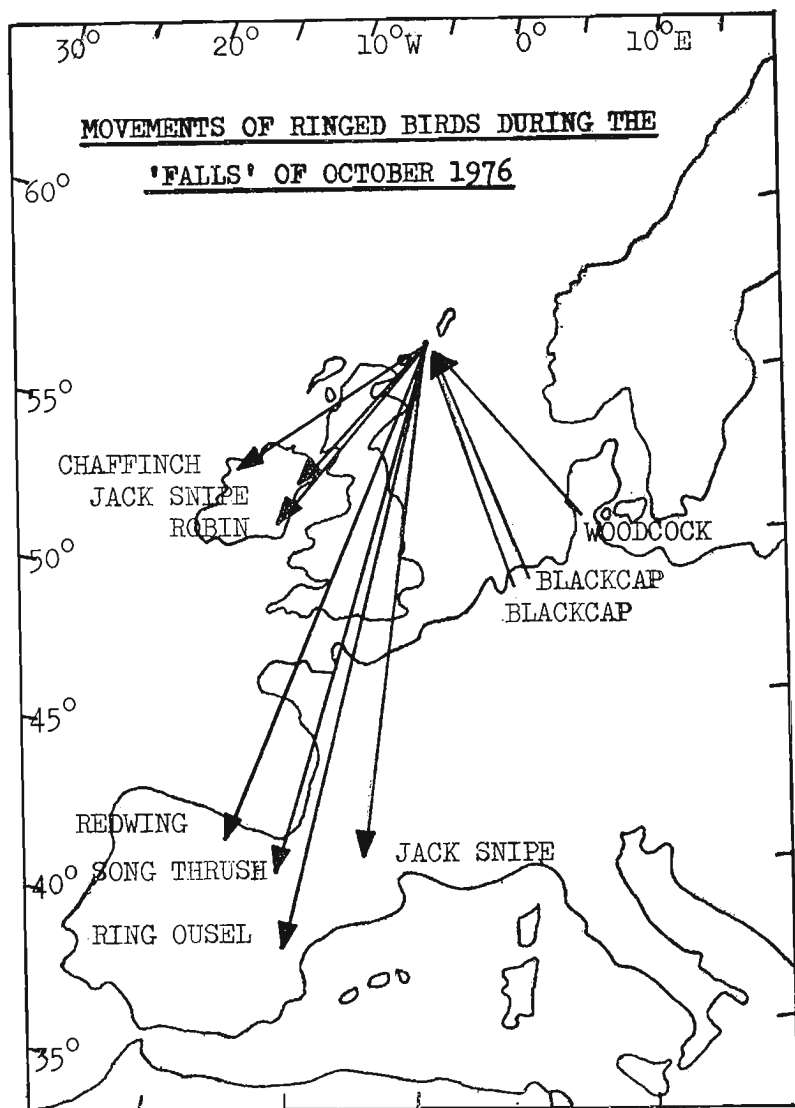
The main recoveries and controls associated with the 'falls' of October 1976 are brought together in the accompanying map. Rarely does a specific spring or autumn movement through Fair Isle produce such an informative batch of movements. The number, variety and sequence of the October 1976 arrivals have already been summarised (FIBO Annual Report 1976) and it suffices here to outline the main details to give the background to the associated recoveries.

A persistent SE airstream dominated the whole of October 1976—it extended across and beyond the North Sea and, with classic weather conditions for the arrival of drifted Continental migrants prevailing, a series of large 'falls' occurred which culminated in the largest autumn movement in the history of the Observatory. The species involved were typical for the season: Robins, thrushes, Blackcaps, Dunnocks and winter finches predominated and an exceptional passage of Woodcock occurred late in the month.

The general stream of migration in the autumn is out of N. Europe in a SW direction towards each species' respective wintering areas. The displacement and grounding of many thousands of birds from this general stream across the North Sea by the prevailing weather conditions was evident by the size of the arrivals at Fair Isle. More than 2,000 birds were trapped and examined in October and among these were 3 controls all of which very strongly indicated the direction of the displacement. Two Blackcaps ringed in late September in the Netherlands were controlled in early October (full details were received early enough to be included in the 1976 Annual Report) and a Woodcock found in late October (one of more than 1,000 present) had been ringed two days previously in Denmark.

By early November, the majority of these migrants had departed but a series of winter recoveries indicate their movements after leaving Fair Isle. A cluster of recoveries in Ireland

suggest a continued journey along a SW course whereas a second cluster in S. France and Spain indicate redirection in a more southerly direction



Obituaries

Richard Alan Richardson (1922 - 1977)

"Norfolk Week" was an enjoyable event in the Bird Observatory's calendar; head of the happy group was Richard and it was with real pleasure that we welcomed them to Fair Isle each year. He introduced many, young and old, to the joys of the Isle.

Richard's home was in Cley on the north Norfolk coast; an area rich in bird-life, where many bird-watchers enjoyed his company and great skill in the field. A bird artist of great ability, his book illustrations included Collins 'Pocket Guide to British Birds' and 'Pocket Guide to Nests and Eggs'; his vignettes enhanced FIBO reports and he designed the FIBO Arctic Skua motif. He founded Cley Bird Observatory which operated in the heyday of the observatory movement and many of us first met him at the early observatory conferences.

He visited Fair Isle in 1948, returned in 1965 and the island became his second home as he made one or two visits a year. His last stay in May 1977 was his 23rd visit. He encouraged youngsters to visit Fair Isle; young John Harrison was one of his party in 1965 and when John tragically died in 1967, Richard and his friends set up the John Harrison Memorial Fund to help young ornithologists to visit Fair Isle; 42 have benefited to date.

Shetland and its music became one of Richard's loves, and he was a keen reader and collector of Shetland books. In 1965 he arrived with an Instamatic camera, and said, as a novice, he was just clicking away at anything. It was soon apparent that with his artist's eye he had a flair for photography and he delighted many with his impromptu slideshows; later with a telephoto Pentax he captured beautiful photographs of birds. Another interest was recording bird song but his recording encompassed a broad spectrum of ornithological and human interests. He sent his friends copies of his best tapes; it is with great pleasure that I listen to Richard's "Fair Isle Travels" and "Wildest Norfolk". A great friend of FIBO, he helped us in many ways; his gifts of rare and valuable Shetland books are especially remembered. A valued member of the FIBOT executive, he used to travel all the way up from Cley at his own expense to attend our meetings in Edinburgh.

Richard was a very cheerful person and made friends easily. While ill in hospital his room was sometimes as full of bird-watchers as the East Bank at Cley. He knew everyone on Fair

Isle and visited them all during his visits. He was very much a member of our family on Fair Isle; our children loved him and told him long stories or took him on walks to see 'their' tame eider duck. Through the year we corresponded and it is very sad to think he will no longer jump ashore on Fair Isle to start another "Norfolk Week". We all lament his passing but the memory of "RAR" will always evoke many happy thoughts and occasions.

ROY and MARINA DENNIS

Kenneth Williamson (1914 - 1977)

Fair Isle Warden (1948 - 1956)

There have been numerous and full notices of Ken Williamson's career written in tribute after his sudden, early and untimely death at home on 13th June 1977. Perhaps therefore, in this notice, I may confine myself to his time on Fair Isle and what it and he meant to FIBOT.

I first heard of Ken towards the end of the war of 1939-1945 from my old friend the gifted entomologist Eric Brown, who paid a visit to the Faroes primarily to inspect ammunition, though doubtless the inevitable hours of leisure that seem an inescapable part of service life were filled by pond dipping for his beloved corixids. On his first visit after returning he told me that natural history in the Faroes was in good hands through the presence of Ken Williamson. Imagine my delight when, after deciding to help launch a Bird Observatory at Fair Isle, and knowing that the success of this wild and almost foolhardy venture would rely on two foundations—the energy and enthusiasm of George Waterston, which was assured, and the possibility of securing a warden who would fit the job, I learned that Ken was available and willing to take on this daunting assignment.

There were three main aims in our minds at that time. These were to set up an observatory permanently manned by a professional ornithologist, where bird migration might be studied; to provide accommodation and the basic services to enable visiting naturalists to help in the work of the Observatory and especially to enable the young and the inexperienced to widen their knowledge of, and therefore pleasure in, birds; by providing a further interest for the inhabitants of the isle to try and make some small contribution to ensuring the continuance of the permanent occupation of the island. It was a daunting remit. FIBO owes an enormous debt of gratitude to all its wardens but if Ken had not been successful in all three

regards and the foundations had not been so firmly laid under his guidance, FIBOT would almost certainly have foundered.

Ken came to Fair Isle with a sound background in the field and a good training and experience in the discipline of museum work. It is now perhaps a little old-fashioned, or perhaps merely unfashionable, to speak of the importance of a thorough grounding in museum work but I know that Ken rightly felt the value of the discipline to him and it was on this that he was able to build the invaluable notes on identification, sexing and ageing of birds in the hand that have been such a major contribution to the accuracy among fieldworkers over recent decades. The standards of accuracy and care with which the routine work at Fair Isle was marked from the beginning have been a major contribution to the general excellence of the basic data coming from this country's observatories. For this Ken was responsible.

Perhaps the contribution for which Ken is best remembered is his clear enunciation of the importance of weather conditions on the course and destination of migrants, a concept summed up under the general term Drift Migration. The late J. M. McWilliam used to say that when some new theological idea was put forward criticism followed three predictable courses; firstly that the idea was manifestly absurd, if one persisted then it was dubbed as clearly contrary to the teaching of Scripture and finally, if one still persisted, one's fellow theologians were wont to say 'What is new in all this? We have long held the same opinion!' It is pleasant that theologians like ornithologists are human.

Apart from his work on migration one recalls, especially, his studies on the Arctic Skuas and their colour phases and on the Wrens of Fair Isle and the islands fringing the north and west coasts of Scotland.

The second objective contained two elements. Ken was largely responsible for the plans and detail of turning the old naval hutments into an observatory with adequate ringing and study room, accommodation for the warden and his family, the visitors' accommodation. He laid out the trapping sites and supervised the construction of the traps. Time has proved how well all this work was done. The siting and construction of the traps was well ahead of anything elsewhere at that time. The second element is harder to judge as it is impossible to quantify. But this is sure, that many many people visited the Island and benefited greatly in the widening of their horizons and many returned again and again.

On the third front Ken achieved a clear and outstanding

success. Any closed community such as a country parish and even more an isolated island must regard innovation and change with a certain caution and reserve. This, to me at least, seems both entirely natural and supremely sensible. Ken quickly formed the closest links with the island community, developing a respect for them and their life-style, which was fully reciprocated. As the years went on this association strengthened and deepened and has proved a sure foundation for the happy relations that exist between the islanders and the observatory.

Ken was a man of strong character and ambition—I recall he earned the money to further his education by playing professional football—so he must also have been strong in physique, but he could not possibly have succeeded so well at Fair Isle had he not had a happy and secure home life. To Esther who shared the joys and triumphs, the depressions and frustrations that equally form the lot of the warden at Fair Isle, we extend both our sympathy and our thanks.

A.B.D.

Storm Petrel Movements between Foula and Fair Isle

By A. R. MAINWOOD

Up to the end of 1977 there had been a total of 89 movements of Storm Petrels between Foula and Fair Isle. There were 62 from Foula to Fair Isle but only 27 from Fair Isle to Foula. This bias in the direction of movement has been noted previously (Dennis 1969, Scott 1970, Broad 1977).

When the figures are grouped into calendar years after ringing (Table 1) it can be seen that most of the movements (75 or 80%) were in the same or following year.

TABLE 1. Numbers of controls grouped by calendar years recaptured after ringing

Calendar years after ringing	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	13
Foula to Fair Isle	28	22	7	1	1	0	1	1	1
Fair Isle to Foula	9	16	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

It has already been shown that most inter-island movements refer to birds ringed as non-breeders probably in their first year ashore at two or three years of age. At this stage they wander about the colony, do not land on the ground and may

visit other colonies (Scott 1970, Mainwood 1976). In the second year ashore Scott found that most birds occupied burrows as non-breeders but some more recent controls indicate that some at least may spend two years as wanderers (eg 691917 and 2171736 in Table 4). The number of controls in the year following ringing and the general lack of controls in later years also indicate this.

Non-breeders in occupation of a burrow as well as established breeders are rarely trapped very far from the vicinity of the burrow. Neither Foula nor Fair Isle have the concentrated colonies found on some islands and consequently a high proportion of the birds caught are likely to be wandering non-breeders. The use of tape lures will increase the proportion still further (personal obs).

In assessing the inter-island movements it is clearly necessary to examine not only the details of each movement but also the total numbers ringed.

For birds controlled in the year after ringing the unevenness in the numbers caught from year to year has been eliminated by calculating the number of controls expected if 1000 birds had been caught on each island in each year (Table 2).

TABLE 2. Number of one year controls each year together with standardised number to be expected if 1000 birds handled on each island each year

Year of control		1964	66	67	68	69	70	72	74	75	76	77	Weighted mean
Foula to Fair Isle	No. of controls	1	5	2	6	1	1	2	1	1	2		
	Standardised no. controls	9	13	41	14	8	20	36	9	2	5		16.4
Fair Isle to Foula	No. of controls		2			1			3			10	
	Standardised no. controls		15			5			18			18	16.6

The weighted means are in very good agreement showing that for this group of controls the bias is only apparent. If attention is focussed only on those years producing at least 5 controls—which may give a more accurate picture—the bias, if any, is in the opposite direction. If Foula does in fact have a larger breeding population this is what one would expect with a higher proportion of the wanderers returning to Foula to occupy a burrow. The difference however may not be significant.

A similar exercise could be carried out with the two year controls if the numbers involved were higher.

The numbers of controls in the same year as ringing cannot be standardised in such a simple way but some at least of the bias can be accounted for. Ringing on Foula is usually confined to the short time that the Brathay Exploration Group visit the island each year. The numbers ringed depend on good weather at that time and the presence of an enthusiastic petrel ringer in the party. If the bulk of the season's petrel ringing on Fair Isle takes place after Brathay have left Foula there will have been very few Fair Isle ringed birds available for capture on Foula. Conversely the Foula ringed birds are exposed to a much greater 'risk' of being caught on Fair Isle later that year. Table 3 shows the figures for 1977 in summary form.

TABLE 3. Numbers handled on Foula and Fair Isle and controlled in the same year in 1977

Date	Total catch Foula	Controls from Fair Isle	Total catch Fair Isle	Controls from Foula
2-25/7/77	530	0	199	2
26/7-31/8/77	0	—	1166	8

Table 4 gives details of all multiple captures involving birds that have moved between Foula and Fair Isle. All fit the pattern described above except 653899 which would have been of breeding age when caught on Fair Isle in 1968. It either changed colony on return to Foula in 1969 (which is rare though has been known) or was a failed breeder in one of these years visiting another colony.

TABLE 4. Multiple captures involving birds caught on both Foula and Fair Isle

Ring no.	Ringed		First recapture		Second recapture	
	Place	Date	Place	Date	Place	Date
653899	Foula	15. 8.65	Fair Isle	31. 7.68	Foula	5. 8.69
666571	Foula	3. 8.67	Fair Isle	14. 7.68	Fair Isle	3. 8.68
691917	Foula	28 7.75	Mousa	23. 7.76	Fair Isle	28. 7.76
2171736	Fair Isle	14. 8.76	Foula	29. 7.71	Fair Isle	12. 8.71
2171736	Fair Isle	14. 8.76 (+17.8.76)	Foula	22. 7.77	Fair Isle	29. 7.77
2171797	Fair Isle	14. 8.76	Foula	2. 7.77	Foula	14. 7.77

Summary

An investigation of the total numbers ringed each year indicates that any bias in the direction of movement of Storm Petrels between Foula and Fair Isle is only apparent.

Acknowledgments

I should like to thank Roger Broad and Bob Furness (Brathay) for providing ringing and retrap data.

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- DENNIS, R. H. 1969. FIBO report for 1968
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 MAINWOOD, A. R. 1976. The movements of Storm Petrels as shown by ringing.
Ring and Migration 1: 98-104
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Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

TREASURER'S REPORT

A better year than last, for which I would like, once again, to thank Roger and Judy Broad. To show a profit of £73 and at the same time to tuck away £1,700 towards the inevitable costs of maintaining our property was a great feat. In regard to the Fire Precautions, to which I referred last year as an "unknown liability", I am glad to say that thanks to the generosity of private donors and a grant from the Highlands and Islands Development Board, we should be able to comply with the Fire Inspector's requirements without having to go broke or borrow. The final cost will appear in next year's accounts. Before dealing with the various accounts, I would like to explain that in order to simplify them for the future, we have this year transferred the former Appeal Fund figures to Capital Account and not, as in previous years, direct to the Balance Sheet. This will enable us in future years to combine the two. It must always be remembered that most of the comparatively large figures in Capital Account were spent on creating the Hostel and all that goes with it in the Island. The crucial figures in any year are the Revenue Account and the figure for Net Current Assets in the Balance Sheet.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Cabourn Smith for his welcome gift of £1,000 for the specific purposes of providing a slide projector for use in the Observatory and for the provision of rings and ringing facilities and the upkeep of traps. A generous, thoughtful and much appreciated action.

I. Revenue Account

Board takings were well up, as a result of our necessary increase in charges and an increase in the number of visitors from last year, otherwise little change on the income side. On the expenditure side, practically everything was up, except of course the loan interest which decreases annually as we repay

the H.I.D.B. loan. Provisions was the main increase, but I hope that our present charges should be able to cover further inflation for the time being. The figure of £1,700 to cover Extraordinary Expenditure is a provision against an unknown liability toward renewing plumbing and electrical installations and other improvements which may require to be carried out at the Hostel. We also, as normal, wrote down depreciation on various items of equipment.

II. Appeal Fund

As explained in my foreword, now carried to Capital Account, instead of to Balance Sheet.

III. Capital Account

As explained, this figure of £60,311 represents mainly the grants from the H.I.D.B. and the balance of the Appeal Fund which were spent in providing the Hostel and the Bird Observatory facilities. The total is carried to the Balance Sheet.

IV. Balance Sheet

The only really important figure is that for Net Current Assets which stands at £7,088. You will also see that the figure for Extraordinary Expenditure stands at £2,500, being the £1,700 we put aside this year plus the £800 we managed to set aside two years ago.

V. Endowment Account

Little change. The property is as usual in at cost. The income is payable to the Fair Isle Observatory Trustees and the capital can not be encroached upon.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1977

REVENUE ACCOUNT

1976	INCOME				
£9373	Board	...	...	...	£13808
	Grant—National Trust for Scotland—	...	...	...
250	Wildlife Fund	...	...	...	250
302	Fair Isle Endowment Trust	...	...	...	267
1043	Subscriptions and Donations	...	...	...	1363
125	Tax recovered from Deeds of Covenant	...	...	...	282
363	Sale of Publications	...	...	...	346
225	Interest received on Government Stock	...	...	...	225
178	Deficit for year	...	...	...	—
£11859					£16541

1976

EXPENDITURE

£3646	Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	£4936
2704	Wages and National Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	3271
591	Insurances	...	...	...	...	...	646
1173	Heat and Light	...	...	...	...	...	1480
418	Repairs and Renewals	...	...	...	...	...	734
804	Telephone, Postages and Stationery	...	...	...	...	...	861
433	Printing Annual Report	...	...	...	...	...	375
542	Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	602
204	Motor Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	235
134	Freight Inward	...	...	...	...	...	157
136	Bird Rings and Nets	...	...	...	...	...	142
456	Administration Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	743
248	Loan Interest	...	...	...	...	...	206
	Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	1700
	Depreciation						
180	Furnishings and Equipment	...	...	...	...	£180	
90	Generator	...	...	...	...	100	
100	Land Rover	...	...	...	...	100	
							380
—	Surplus for year	...	...	...	...	...	73
£11859							£16541

APPEAL FUND

£25420	Balance at 31st October 1976	...	...	...	...	£26325
117	Donations received during year	...	...	...	...	57
97	Tax recovered from Covenants	...	...	...	...	12
691	Interest from Temporary Deposits	...	...	...	...	665
£26325						£27059
£26325	Balance at 31st October, 1977 transferred to Capital Account	...	...	...	...	£27059

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£6781	Balance at 31st October 1976	...	...	...	...	£7904
1301	Donations received during year	...	...	...	...	275
	Grants received from H.I.D.B. in 1969/70	...	...	...	...	25000
	Balance of Appeal Fund 1969/77	...	...	...	...	27059
	Surplus for year to date	...	...	...	...	73
£8082						£60311
£178	Loss for year	...	...	...	...	£—
7904	Balance carried to Balance Sheet	...	...	...	...	60311
£8082						£60311

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st OCTOBER 1977

Fixed Assets	Cost or Val.	Deprec. to date	1976	
Hostel	£51548	£—	£51548	£51548
Sheds and Traps	150	—	150	150
Furnishings and Equipment	1816	1388	428	608
Generator	942	542	400	500
Scientific and Photographic Equipment	160	—	160	601
Land Rover	427	327	100	200
Boat	107	107	—	—
	<u>£55150</u>	<u>£2364</u>	<u>£52786</u>	<u>£53166</u>
Investment				
£2642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 (M.V. £2583)	£2582			
£1000 8½% Falkirk D.C. Mortgage 1980 ...	1000			
			3582	3582
Current Assets				
Stocks	£1161			945
Sundry Debtors	993			874
Cost of Alterations to date	1787			—
Special Funds held in Bank	1064			112
Temporary Deposits	7500			6200
Bank and Cash	295			184
	<u>£12800</u>			<u>£8315</u>
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Debtors	£2148			1302
Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure	2500			800
Special Funds	1064			112
		<u>5712</u>		
Net Current Assets			7088	6101
			<u>£63456</u>	<u>£62849</u>
Capital Account				
Appeal Fund			—	26325
Grants Received from Highlands & Islands Development Board			—	25000
Secured Loan—Highlands & Islands Board			3145	3620
			<u>£63456</u>	<u>£62849</u>

NOTES :

1. No Depreciation has been provided on the Hostel.
2. **Highlands and Islands Development Board £9500 loan at 5½%**
The balance of the loan (£3145) secured over specified Trust Properties is repayable by 6 annual instalments of £475 and a final instalment of £295.

In our opinion the above accounts are correctly stated in accordance with the books and records submitted to us.

COOPERS & LYBRAND

Chartered Accountants.

Edinburgh 21st April, 1978.

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Summary of Account for the Year ended 31st October, 1978

	CAPITAL			REVENUE	
Fund at 31st October, 1976	£7987	£12
Gain on Realisation	47	
Income for year per Schedule		194
Income Tax Refund 1976/77		103
					<u>£309</u>
Trustees Fees and Outlays	£42	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T.	267	309
Fund at 31st October, 1977	<u>£8034</u>	<u> </u>

SCHEDULE

	CAPITAL		REVENUE	
	Market Value	Cost		
Lanarkshire Sub-Region £1,000 5½% Stock 1977/79 (Sold)	£—	£—		£36
Treasury Loan £1,000 8½% Loan 1987/90	915	996		54
£1,170 do. (Purchased)	1071	935		
British Investment Trust				
£1,530 7½% Conv. Deb. Stock 1996	2410	2728		74
Whitbread Co. Ltd. 840 "A" ord. 25p shares	735	314		30
	<u>£5131</u>	<u>£4973</u>		
Heritable Property				
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh		3050		
Cash Balance		11		
		<u>£8034</u>		<u>£194</u>

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Year ended 31st October, 1977

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1976	...	...	...	£623.04
Donations received during year	...	...	...	205.50
Proceeds of Vignettes	...	...	...	111.75
Interest received on temporary loan	...	...	...	43.99
				£984.28
Deduct :				
Seven grants paid for Accommodation at Hostel	...	...	...	87.50
Balance of Funds held at 31st October, 1977	...	...	...	£896.78

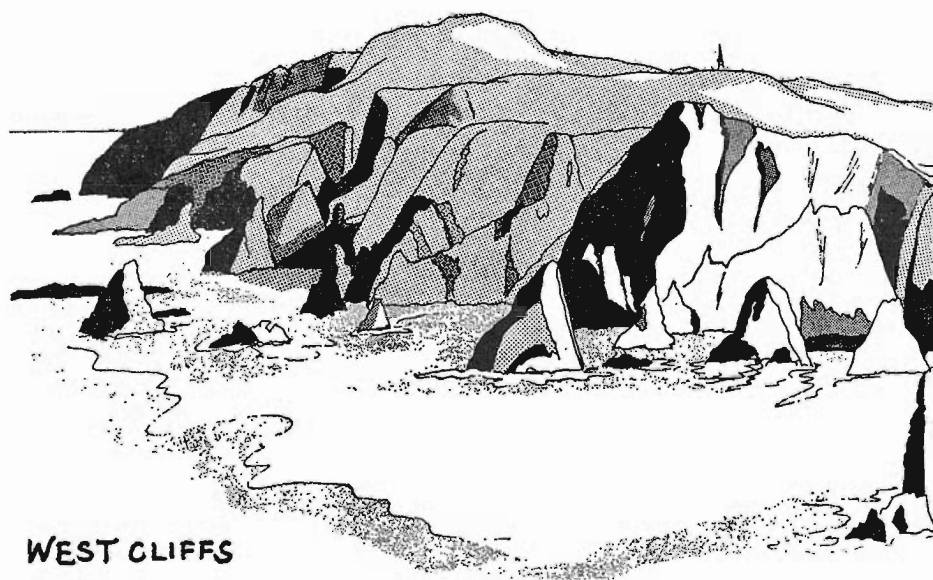
This special Fund was instituted in 1968 by the late Richard Richardson in memory of a keen young birdwatcher—John Harrison of Hunstanton, Norfolk who died at the early age of 19. John spent three happy visits to Fair Isle.

The Fund was set up to help adventurous teenagers of slender means with their Hostel expenses should they choose to visit Fair Isle; and as the Fund builds up, more and more youngsters are helped in this way.

Eligible applicants for financial assistance must be between the ages of 15 and 21, and should write to the Warden enclosing letters of recommendation from two referees such as a school-teacher and a senior naturalist of their acquaintance.

The Trustees warmly commend this scheme to all readers of the *Annual Report*, and ask that all donations for this most worthy object be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

With the ever rising costs of travel to Fair Isle, it is all the more important that this Fund should be increased.



WEST CLIFFS

J.C.B.



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.

In addition to the charter flight, Loganair are now operating scheduled flights in and out of Fair Isle on Mondays and Fridays. Particulars from Loganair Ltd, Sumburgh Airport, Shetland.

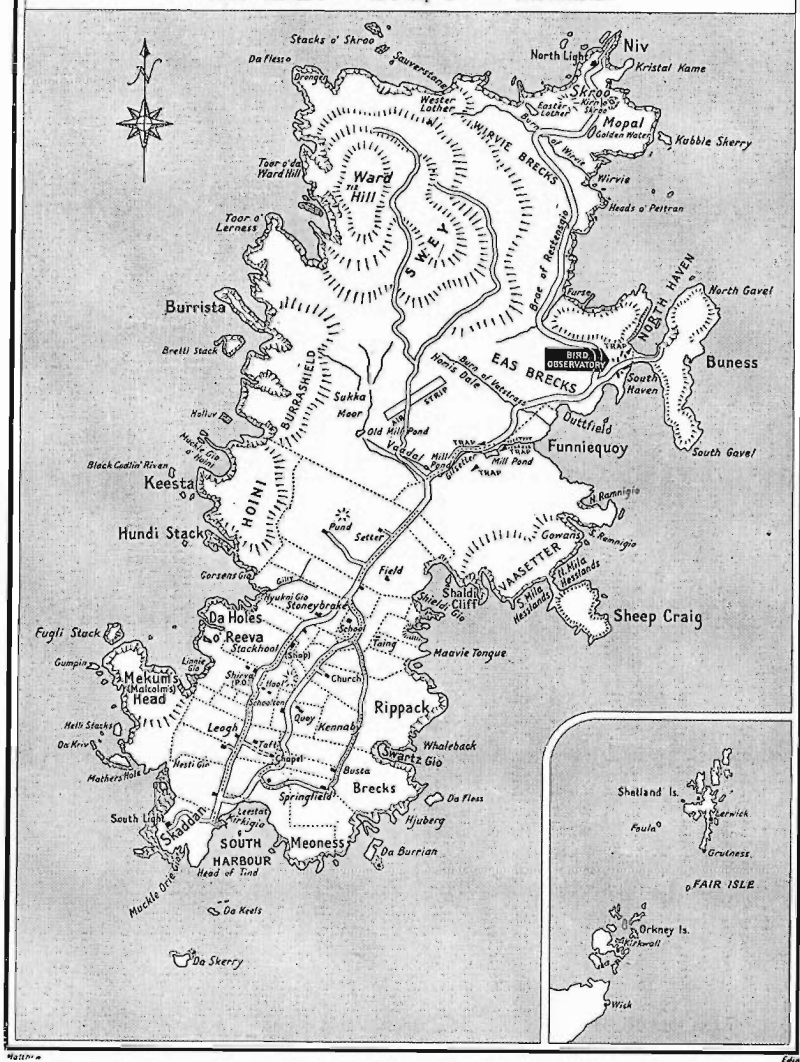
You can phone the Warden Fair Isle (035 12) 258 at the cheap rate after 6 p.m. or at week-ends to discuss all booking arrangements.

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 ——— Boundaries ———



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