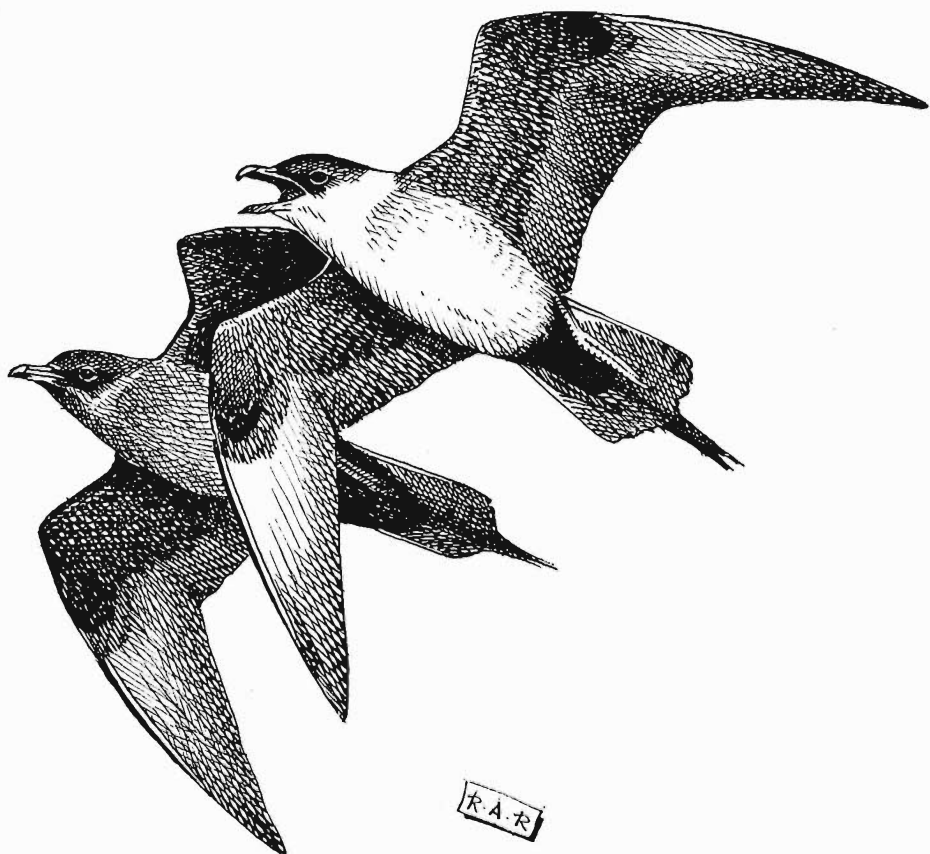


# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## REPORT FOR 1978



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

# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

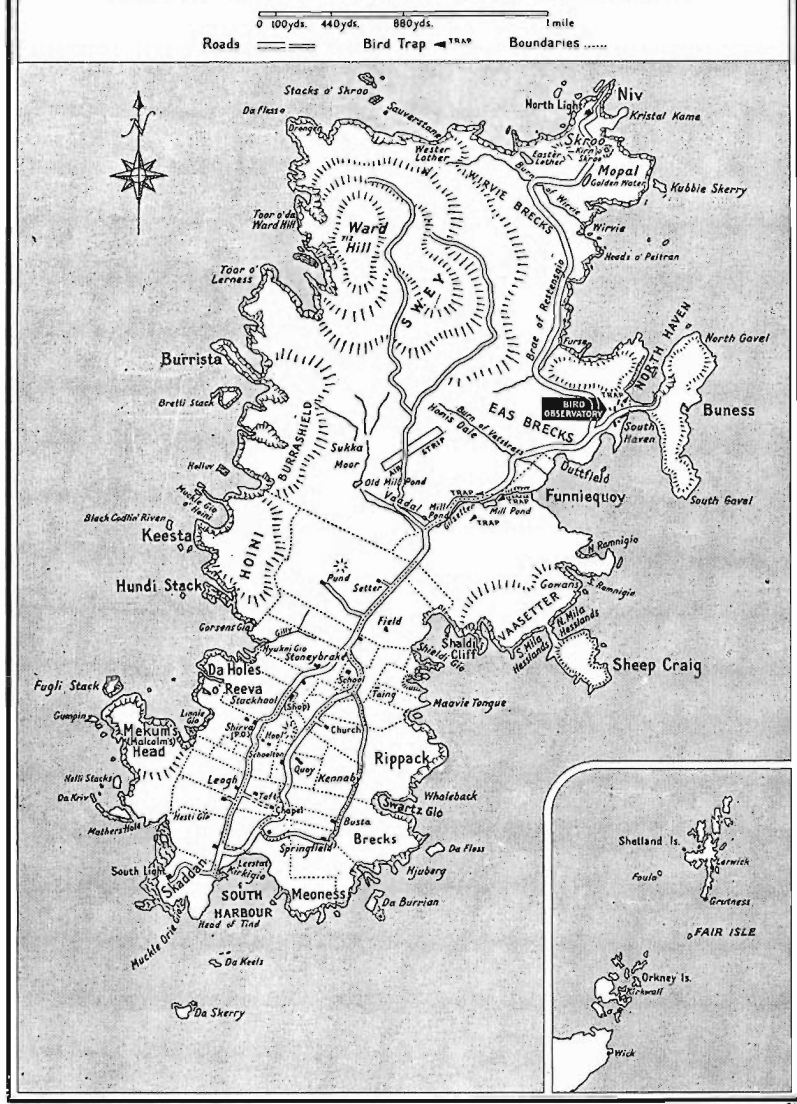
REPORT No. 31  
1978

*Edited by GEORGE WATERSTON  
with JOHN ARNOTT*

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# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY



# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

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## THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Capital subscription 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 a custom, hallowed by long usage, that in speaking or writing one keeps one's thanks and acknowledgements to the end. It would be interesting to speculate how this custom has arisen though here I am merely interested in breaking with it. All the activities of F.I.B.O.T. rely in the final analysis on the help that has been and is being provided by our 'Friends.'

To all we are truly grateful.

There are some special reasons for thankfulness on which I would like to dwell particularly. The Dulverton Trust, whose generosity to the National Trust for Scotland in providing that body with the money to purchase the island from George Waterston in 1954, was this year commemorated by the unveiling of a plaque on the island by Lady Dulverton. The Dulverton Trust also gave F.I.B.O.T. a donation of £2500 to reduce our indebtedness to our friends of the H.I.D.B. We received a magnificent gift from Mr M.H. Cabourn Smith which enabled us to buy a boat, largely for use in the very important sea-bird ringing scheme, and to erect a ringing hut near the Vaadal trap, this saving both time and transportation of birds and people.

People have been most kind and generous this year. As you will see from the Report, George and Irene Waterson were both on the island for a fortnight in June: they were able to be there thanks to the British Petroleum Company who flew them plus George's portable kidney machine between Edinburgh and Fair Isle and back at the Company's expense. This most heart-warming undertaking by B.P. was prompted by Jo Grimond, M.P. for the Northern Isles, whose interest in the affairs of Fair Isle have been so long sustained and so benign.

We have now had time more fully to examine the bequest by the late Richard A. Richardson. His fine collection of historical and antique maps of Shetland, some dating back to the 17th century, has been hung in the entrance hall where it can be admired by visitors. His collection of old Shetland books are to be housed in a special lockable bookcase in the Library annexe.

At the beginning of the season we bade farewell to Roger and Judy Broad and welcomed in their stead Iain and Sally Robertson from Portland Bird Observatory. We are grateful to Portland for allowing them to leave at very short notice, and indeed they were 'flung in at the deep end' on Fair Isle but soon picked up the threads and supervised a very capable and friendly staff. Perhaps few visitors to Fair Isle fully appreciate the difficulties and frustrations of running a guest house on such a remote island. Their first season on Fair Isle was an arduous one with an increase in the number of short-stay visitors taking advantage of the more frequent planes in and out of Shetland.

The main body of the report this year is divided into two halves — the ornithological one written by the Warden, and that dealing with more general island affairs and contributed by David MacLehose who factors the island for the National Trust for Scotland.

Like the rest of Britain, Fair Isle had a very poor summer — a prelude to an exceptionally long and hard winter and, while the volume of migrants in both Spring and Fall was smaller than usual, the quality was high even by Fair Isle standards.

Reading recently Horace Alexander's — that doyen of bird-watchers — "Seventy years of Birdwatching" I was carried back fifty years to Cambridge and a small flock of wintering pipits by a sluggish ditch upstream from Trinity Hall, which I thought, and still think, were probably Scandinavian Rock Pipits, and recall the many hours spent in watching them and puzzling over their identity. In those days virtually all available aids to identification dealt with dead birds! What a contrast to today when, as recorded in the March number of *British Birds*, a totally unfamiliar bird can be clearly and correctly identified as a Siberian Rubythroat "after several moments"! Although I've never seen *caliope* I recall vividly my first encounter with its near relative *pectoralis* skulking among a tangle of boulders and small rhododendrons above the Himalayan tree line and the long time it took to get a good view.

Among happenings on the island one of the most exciting is the proposal to build a hall for the Fair Isle community near the school, which will be a focus for many activities. The islanders have raised the very substantial sum of £5,000 among themselves towards this project which will be a worthwhile addition to the amenities of the island.

The newish system of the work of F.I.B.O.T. being done through an executive committee under the general direction of the Trustees is working extremely well and the enthusiasm and hard work of the executive ensures continuation of the happy and harmonious relations with the Warden and the islanders on which the success of F.I.B.O.T. has always rested.

In brief this has been another highly successful year.

**Arthur B. Duncan,**  
Chairman.

## THE SCOTTISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club was formed in 1936 and membership is open to all interested in Scottish Ornithology. Meetings are held during the winter months in Aberdeen, Ayr, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, New Galloway, St Andrews, Stirling, Thurso and the Wigtown District at which lectures by prominent ornithologists are given and films exhibited. Expeditions are organised in the summer to places of ornithological interest.

The aims of the Club are to (a) encourage the study of Scottish ornithology and to promote an interest in wild birds; (b) co-ordinate the activities of Scottish ornithologists; (c) encourage ornithological work in Scotland; (d) encourage conservation of Scottish birds and protection of threatened and rare species; (e) hold meetings for discussion and to arrange ornithological field meetings, and (f) appoint local recorders and publish material relating to Scottish ornithology, including *Scottish Birds*, the club journal.

There are no entry fees for Membership. The Annual subscription is £5, or £2 in the case of Members under twenty one years of age or Students under 25, who satisfy Council of their status as such at the times at which their subscriptions fall due. The Life subscription is £100. Family Membership is available to married couples and their nominated children under 18 at an Annual subscription of £7.50, or a Life subscription of £150. *Scottish Birds* is issued free to Members but Family Members will receive only one copy between them. Subscriptions are payable on 1st October annually.

*Scottish Birds*, which is published quarterly, includes papers, articles and short notes on all aspects of ornithology in Scotland. The Scottish Bird Report is published in the Journal.

Application for Membership form, copy of the Club Constitution, and other literature are obtainable from the Club Secretary, Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe, Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5BT. (Telephone: 031-556-6042).

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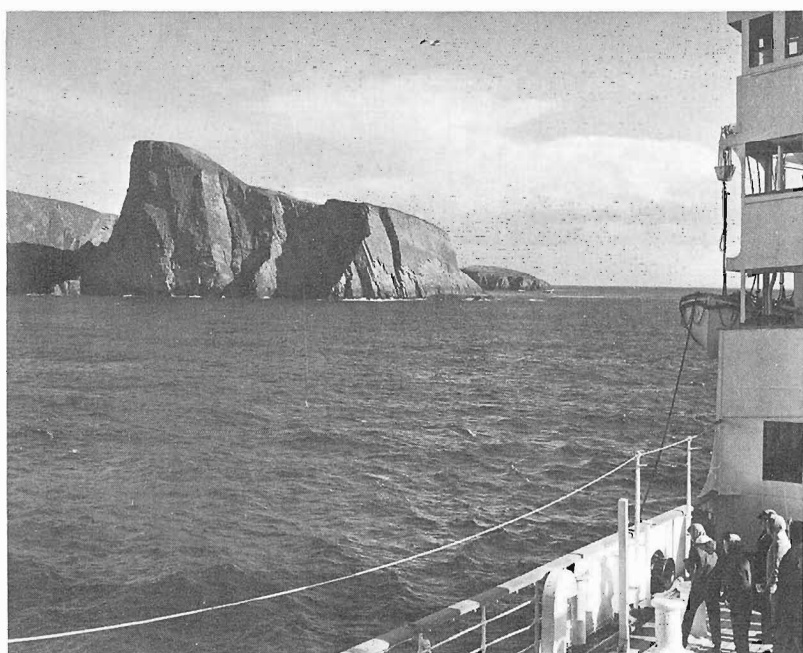
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## ISLAND EVENTS — 30 YEARS ON

By DAVID MACLEHOSE,  
The National Trust for Scotland Factor for Fair Isle.

I sometimes wish I had visited Fair Isle in 1948, and could now reflect, as many Friends of Fair Isle will be able to do, on the changes on the island during the past 30 years. From accounts that I have read George's inspired determination to set up the Observatory on Fair Isle proved to be the catalyst required in rekindling the future prosperity of Fair Isle.

Visitors to Fair Isle today generate extra employment and income for some islanders. Vegetables and milk consumed at the Observatory are produced on the island, and a large proportion of the Observatory's food is now purchased through the shop. However every visit to Fair Isle is made the more enjoyable for all visitors, human or feathered, by the welcome offered by all the islanders. The close link between the islanders, F.I.B.O.T., and the National Trust for Scotland was emphasised on May 29th when Lord and Lady Dulverton, with fellow Dulverton Trustees Brigadier Sir John Nelson and the Hon. Miss Catherine Wills, visited Fair Isle. Lady Dulverton unveiled a plaque on the west gable of Stackhoul Stores recording the National Trust for Scotland's gratitude to the Dulverton Trust for enabling the Trust to acquire the island from Dr Waterston in 1954.



**The National Trust for Scotland  
were able to acquire the ownership of  
this island from Dr George Waterston OBE  
in 1954 with the aid of a grant  
from the Dulverton Trust**

Fair Isle has benefited from improvements during the last three years — but none can be more important for the island than the building of the new Community Hall to the north of the school. Brought about by the consistent enthusiasm of the Hall Committee who themselves raised £5,000, the Hall is now going up fast. The H.I.D.B., the Shetland Islands Council and Scottish Education

Department have all provided substantial grants. F.I.B.O.T. has promised £500 and the Pilgrim Trust has donated £5,500. All visitors can look forward to dances, films, plays, table tennis or badminton in this new facility.

The uncertainty about the future of the scheduled airservice between Sumburgh and Fair Isle has now been resolved. Again the H.I.D.B. and S.I.C. are funding the purchase of a fire-fighting appliance — possibly a Green Goddess for airstrip fire-fighting duties. This vehicle will be on call for general fire duty purposes throughout the island. It is hoped to instal a coin-operated telephone in the airstrip shelter.

For the more intrepid visitor who prefers to test his stomach's agility by travelling to Fair Isle on the "Good Shepherd", there is welcome news. The long dreamt of breakwater reaching out from Bunness across the mouth of the North haven is closer than ever to becoming a reality. The Shetland Islands Council have commissioned Peter Fraenkeld and Partners of Glasgow to construct a working model of the breakwater, and advise on the best position and construction. A new slipway is to be built alongside the pier this summer. Inevitably some inconvenience may be caused to sea-borne visitors, but the advantages of having the breakwater and the new slipway will permit the "Good Shepherd" to ply more frequently to Grutness — especially during the winter when launching is always a problem.

At last the mains water supply is flowing to all the croft houses which have been connected to the scheme. The supply which has so far proved reliable will be a welcome relief on many crofts, especially in times of drought. The recently reinforced electricity supply, now provided with a new stand-by generator, is proving more expensive to operate than originally anticipated. It is however an efficient and generally welcomed improvement.

Busta, now the home of Barry and Anne Sinclair, was completed last year. It is hoped that Springfield will be the next house to be modernised, but not until 1980. Plans are also in train to provide two sheltered houses on Fair Isle early in the 1980's.

Last year alterations to enlarge the Puffinn were started. It is hoped to instal washing facilities in the existing dormitories, and build two new dormitories on the south side. Electricity and water will be connected into the building. The volunteer parties will continue to visit the island, and the Trust plans to encourage school groups to travel to Fair Isle for two week study periods. The Puffinn will not be available for individuals or parties not organised by or through the Trust. It is not intended to set up a rival hostel with the Observatory. Funds have been raised from generous benefactors including Carol Alvin who cycled round Britain raising £475 for the project.



Carol Alvin receiving Life Membership of the National Trust for Scotland from its Chairman, Lord Bute (right), with the Director, Jamie Stormonth Darling, who is also a Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trustee, looking on.

Further south on the Skaddan is a small fibre glass receiving aerial. It is a radio beacon which aids survey ships to plot their exact position to the south of Fair Isle. A short lease has been granted to Gardline Surveys to erect this mast and construct a small base on Ward Hill as a further navigational aid.

Jim Wilson has bought his bride of September 1978, Helen, back to a permanent home on Fair Isle. They are living temporarily in Springfield, but hope to build their own house at Kennaby. Neil and Pat Thomson (Lower Stoneybreak) had a second son, Ross, and Rod and Sylvia Thorne (the School) had a son, Tristan; Sue and John Holloway (the shop) have provided Hazel and Haydn with a brother, Kevin. Dave and Jane Wheeler (Field) adopted their second daughter, Lucy, at the end of 1978.

As we wind ever closer to 1980 it is particularly encouraging to receive the substantial financial support from the Shetland Islands Council, the H.I.D.B. and the Central Government for capital development on Fair Isle. These agencies do not support disinterested or lethargic applicants but are ready to capitalise on a successful venture — Fair Isle is justifying that support.

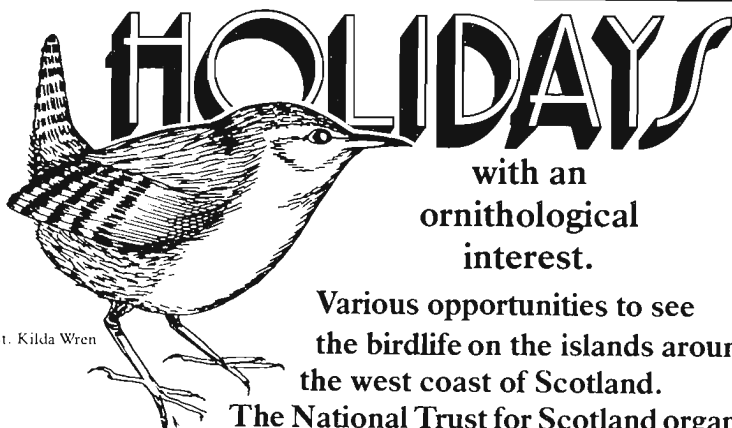
In 1978 the school celebrated its centenary. The school teacher, Rod Thorne, marked the occasion with interesting and successful projects. The 'bottle project' will continue to be appreciated by many children for months to come. Large quantities of bottles containing messages written by the children of the Fair Isle school were dropped into the sea by the "Good Shepherd" en route to

Caithness. The messages produced replies from many parts of Europe. Special anniversary T-shirts were sold and a booklet recording a brief history of the school during the past century was produced by Rod Thorne.

As the Report goes to print Fair Isle like the rest of Britain is plunged in a deep cold winter but work on the Hall continues, and the "Good Shepherd" plies as often as weather allows to Grutness. Fair Isle and her visitors look forward to the summer months.



'Good Shepherd III' leaving the pier en route to Grutness.



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# WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1978

by IAIN S. ROBERTSON

Sally and I arrived on the Island on 15th April to take over from Roger and Judy Broad who left to take up a post with the RSPB in Scotland.

Peter Ewins and Tony Williams were assistant wardens for the season with Dan Law as seabird-assistant in summer. Ingrid Clouston was our cook for the season with Moira Hirst as assistant from May to September and Klarisa Vos from March to May and September-October. Liz Watt (South Light) assisted the domestic staff throughout the season. We were very fortunate to have such helpful and willing staff who helped to make such a friendly and cheerful atmosphere at the Hostel.

Visitor-weeks, at 394, were down 14% on last year's total; this was due to a lack of workmen staying during the winter months and to an unfortunate number of cancellations, often at the last minute. It is hoped that the introduction of a booking fee will reduce cancellations to a minimum. Once again, we were very busy in late May and early June and in September, but despite being peak months for migration, early May, August and October saw plenty of vacancies. We were pleased to welcome 59 foreign visitors during the year, from countries as far apart as Australia, Czechoslovakia and the United States. Ex-warden Roy Dennis brought a party of extra-mural students associated with Aberdeen University for a very successful week in July and it is hoped that this will be repeated in 1979. The John Harrison Memorial Fund continued to assist young ornithologists to visit the Isle.

Work on improving the fire precautions to bring them up to the required standard was completed by Northmen and David and Linda Haines.

The varied ornithological programme continued and included monitoring of certain seabird colonies, beached birds survey and the regular daily-census of migrants. Training and advice on techniques was given to visiting ringers. Moults and Nest Record cards were completed for the British Trust for Ornithology. Biometrics on House Sparrows were supplied to Dr. David Parkin and on Wrens to Ike Hawthorn. Dr. Mike Harris visited the isle to study Puffins on the transect area of Burrista. Dr. Peter O'Donald continued his research on the genetics of the Arctic Skua population. Two French ornithologists, Dr. J. L. Mougin and Dr. P. Jouventin, accompanied us on seabird-ringing trips to obtain data for their researches.

## Acknowledgments

Once again we are indebted to many people, both islanders and visitors, for assistance during the year — in particular to Jimmy Watt and John Holloway for providing regular bird records especially in

the winter months when there is little coverage. David Okill was our constant ally on the Shetland Mainland, helping us with many problems. We were especially grateful to receive a substantial grant towards seabird rings from SOTEAG, through Professor George Dunnet of Aberdeen University. The large-scale ringing of seabirds is a costly business, but of increasing importance with oil now flowing into Sullom Voe Terminal in Shetland. John Holloway kindly supplied the vignettes which illustrate this report.

## ORNITHOLOGY

204 Species were recorded on the island during the year, three of them, Ring-necked Duck, Caspian Tern and Calandra Lark were new to the island list which now stands at 322 species.

The monthly totals of species recorded on the isle were:

<i>No. of species</i>											
<i>J</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>D</i>
57	51	72	104	143	122	74	91	145	137	75	53

The year was not particularly outstanding for large falls of migrants and the autumn thrush passage was particularly poor, however it was a very good year for rare birds and among the more interesting species recorded were White-billed Diver, Great Shearwater (5), Ring-necked Duck, Smew, Honey Buzzard, Osprey (5), Spotted Crane, Dotterel (5), Caspian Tern, Calandra Lark, Short-toed Lark (3), Black-throated Thrush, eastern Stonechat, Nightingale, Thrush Nightingale, Lanceolated Warbler (2), Great Reed Warbler, Aquatic Warbler (2), Greenish Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Richard's Pipit (13), Tawny Pipit, Pechora Pipit, Red-throated Pipit (2), Citrine Wagtail, Black-headed Bunting, Yellow-breasted Bunting (4), Rustic Bunting (3), Little Bunting and White-throated Sparrow.

The more interesting features of the migration were:

- A remarkable series of Hawfinch records in Spring.
- Unprecedented numbers of Little Stints in September.
- Record totals of Reed Warbler in autumn.
- Exceptional numbers of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls in autumn.

The summer was notable for rather poor weather which resulted in the loss of many seabird chicks. Lapwing bred for the first time since 1968, a pair of Swallows bred successfully in the Gully. Four pairs of Common Gull and two pairs of Curlew bred and Dunlin showed signs of prospecting with a singing male in summer. The Gannet colony increased to 37 pairs and bred on Inner Stack of Skroo for the first time.

## Monthly Summary

### January-February

As usual the first two months of the year were rather quiet for birds, though a number of species over-wintered including Tree Sparrow, Water Rail, Heron, Merlin and Curlew. A Brent Goose of the light-bellied race arrived on 14th January and remained in the isle all month. A Jack Snipe and Robin were seen on 13th and on 15th an influx of thrushes occurred with 60 Fieldfare, 30 Redwing and 25 Blackbirds. A Ringed Plover was seen on 19th and it too remained all month. A Short-eared Owl on 23rd stayed for about a week and on 25th a "ringtail" Hen Harrier and a Shelduck arrived, both staying into early February. A few Glaucous Gulls were present all month and occasional Little Auks were recorded.

The first signs of return passage were noted in mid-February with Jack Snipe, Lapwing and Oystercatchers coming through. 23 Curlew were seen on 19th and on 24th Lapwing increased to 70, a Reed Bunting and a very early White Wagtail were also seen. The following day Skylark increased to 25 and 70 Twite were noted. Single Rook and Jackdaw were seen on 26th and 14 Hooded Crows next day were passing through. The first Stonechat of year was noted on 27th.

### March

The month got off to a good start with 300 Skylark, 2 Woodpigeon, Jackdaw and Shelduck on 1st. 40 Oystercatchers were seen next day and on 3rd the first Meadow Pipit occurred. A Dunlin and Stonechat were new on 6th and a Kestrel on 9th was the first of the year. On 10th Skylark increased to 500, 150 Fieldfare, 12 Golden Plover and 5 Meadow Pipit were also seen. The next day produced Collared Dove and another Stonechat. There was a lull till 16th when a small movement occurred bringing 150 Blackbird, 25 Redwing, 2 Robin, a Woodcock and a Pied Wagtail. The first Gannets were noted ashore at Dronger on 18th. On 22nd the first Lesser Black-backed Gull of the year was seen and the following day 8 Puffin were seen offshore. The first Bonxie was noted on 26th. The last few days of the month were good for migrants with 90 Lapwing, 115 Meadow Pipits, 6 Reed Bunting and the first Wheatear on 29th. On 30th there were 150 Oystercatchers, a Stock Dove, Jackdaw and Pied Wagtail, whilst 50 Puffin were seen ashore. The wind veered South-east on 31st and the month ended with a ♂ Goosander, an island rarity, Mistle Thrush, Stonechat, Dunnock, and 6 Goldcrests promising well for April.

### April

The first few days of the month saw the wind in the east with rain or drizzle. This brought in the first Chiffchaff on 1st, together with 12 Goldcrest, a Wheatear and 3 Whooper Swans. There was a good arrival next day with 100 Robin, 13 Wheatear, 12 Dunnock, 120 Meadow Pipit, 55 Chaffinch, 8 Reed Bunting and single Great Grey Shrike, Black Redstart and Grey Wagtail. On 3rd 120 Song Thrushes were seen and 9 Mistle Thrushes were the second highest total for



the isle, Robins had increased to 160, 3 Bullfinches, 3 Great Grey Shrikes and a Hawfinch were also seen, the latter being the forerunner of a good run of this species.

The wind moved round to light south-westerly on 6th but it brought some new arrivals including a "red-head" Smew on Golden Water, the first record for 13 years. A Buzzard and a Short-eared Owl were seen, Blackbirds increased to 80 and 8 White Wagtails arrived. An Iceland Gull was seen next day, when Redwing increased to 350 and a Stock Dove was recorded. An unexpected arrival on 11th was a Great Tit which spent a few days around Shirva.

A spell of north-westerlies held up migrants for the next few days but Green Sandpiper, 10 Rooks, Great Grey Shrike and 3 Tree Sparrows were noted. The wind backed easterly again on 19th to bring Lapland Bunting, Long-eared Owl and 2 Linnets. The wind remained east to south-east till the end of the month bringing a varied assortment of birds; Chiffchaffs and Brambling on 21st were followed by 300 Fieldfare, 100 Wheatear, 450 Meadow Pipits, the first Whimbrel and Red-throated Diver on 22nd. Fieldfare increased to 1000 on 23rd and on 24th the first Arctic Skuas, Swallow and 3 Whimbrel were seen. More spring migrants arrived on 27th with Pied Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Willow Warbler, a Stock Dove and a Buzzard. The 28th saw more Swallows, a Redstart and Green Sandpiper, but all interest was centred on Field where a Calandra Lark was found feeding with Skylarks on the ploughed land. Only the second record for Britain, it gave good views to the few observers present throughout the day. Things looked good for the following day, and a good selection of birds were found including 130 Wheatear, 100 Song Thrush, Tree Pipits, Whinchat and Pied Flycatcher, but Wryneck and Ortolan provided the excitement till another rare lark was found, this time a Short-toed Lark, at Busta. The month ended with the start of a large influx of Brambling, 20 Dunnock, 16 Ring Ousel, 2 Wryneck, 3 Green Sandpipers and another Hawfinch.

## May

May was a glorious month, apart from a few light showers no rain was recorded from 4th May to 7th June, and most days were warm and sunny, though some fog occurred during the middle and end of the month. The winds were light east to north-east for the first week bringing an interesting variety of migrants, but conditions were too fine for large "falls". Wheatears, Robins and Song Thrushes were much in evidence with 40 Tree Pipits, 15 Pied Flycatchers a White-throat and 4 Wryneck also noted. The first Spotted Flycatcher was seen on 2nd, another Ortolan, 3 Lapland Buntings and a third Hawfinch also came in that day. Wrynecks increased to 6 on 3rd and 40 Ring Ousels, a pair of Gadwall and the first Corncrake were seen. The 5th brought a diverse selection of birds with 5 Greylag and 5 Barnacle Geese, Brambling reached a peak of 200 and 4 Siskin, a Red-backed Shrike and Blackcap were seen.

An arrival of thrushes occurred on 6th with good numbers of Ring Ousel, Fieldfare and Redwing; Wheatear reached 350 and 35 Whinchats were seen; 2 Blue-headed Wagtails, a Stonechat and 2 Pintail were also new. The 7th was particularly warm and sunny and saw an increase in hirundines with 35 Swallows and 2 Sand Martins, the first Wood Sandpiper and Grasshopper Warbler were noted and Song Thrushes increased to 120. On the 8th the wind backed to north-east bringing good numbers of Redstart, Spotted and Pied Flycatchers, and Reed Bunting, 3 Corncrakes and a Spotted Crake were found but pride of place went to three superb Dotterels found near the Kirk. For the next few days the weather was a bit too fine and clear to bring in many birds, a Common Tern was seen on 9th and an Arctic Tern next day, when another Ortolan was seen and the second Short-toed Lark of the year was found near Pund. A local rarity, a Sandwich Tern was seen on 12th, and 13th brought a Marsh Harrier and a fourth Hawfinch. 270 Fieldfares arrived on 14th, but despite a mainly south-east wind few new arrivals were noted. The first Swifts were seen on 17th, Collared Doves increased to 12 and single Yellowhammers and Wood Sandpipers were seen. A Bluethroat arrived on 20th, along with 17 House Martins and 6 Whitethroats. Things began to pick up again on 24th when the wind backed rapidly from east-north-east to westerly; 3 Bluethroats were seen, a Long-eared Owl, 18 Red-backed Shrikes and best of all a Thrush Nightingale which gave good views as it hopped around in North Reeva. The following day saw 2 more Dotterels and an Osprey. On 26th Swallows increased to 120, 3 Cuckoos and a Crossbill were seen. The 27th brought some quality birds with Great Northern Diver, Grey-headed Wagtail, Dotterel and a summer plumage Red-throated Pipit which was found near Leogh. It was still present next day when 2 Ospreys, Dotterel, Wood Warbler and 2 Wood Sandpipers were noted. The 28th began very well for Peter Ewins, one of my assistants who had the good fortune to see a Caspian Tern flying over the Observatory as he prepared to start the morning trap round. Despite frantic searching it was not seen again and other observers had to be content with Osprey, Red-throated Pipit and a ♂ Velvet Scoter in South Harbour. The 30th was another frustrating day trying to get views of a large, bright, Crossbill thought to be a Parrot Crossbill. A ♂ Pintail and ♂ Scaup were found and the day saved by the discovery of two Golden Orioles on Ward Hill. They were still present next day when the Scaup and a late Whooper Swan were seen.

## June

The 1st was a beautiful warm, sunny day with a really good variety of birds to be seen; 2 Ospreys, 9 Red-backed Shrikes, a late Stonechat, Wood Sandpiper, Long-tailed Duck, Lapland Bunting and Blue-headed Wagtail came in but rarities were the main attraction with a new Red-throated Pipit at Wirvie, the two Golden Orioles still on the Hill, an elusive Tawny Pipit on Hoini and a superb adult ♂ Rustic Bunting on the Hill Dyke below Gunnawark. The orioles, Red-throated Pipit and Osprey were all still present next morning when a Marsh Warbler and ♂ Hen Harrier were seen, observers quickly centred on the Reedy Ditch after the discovery of

a Great Reed Warbler there, a Marsh Warbler was found at Busta and the day ended with a Honey Buzzard flying over the south end. A different Marsh Warbler was found next day when both the Honey Buzzard and the Hen Harrier were seen, a Wood Warbler and a late Ring Ousel were found and the elusive Tawny Pipit put in a brief appearance. The 4th produced a Grey Plover and a Scarlet Rosefinch was trapped in the Plantation. Those visitors who left by boat on 5th had the unexpected pleasure of watching an adult White-billed Diver a few miles north of the isle, they also saw hundreds of Storm Petrels on the crossing. An Icterine Warbler was found on 7th and on 8th a second Scarlet Rosefinch and an adult Glaucous Gull were seen. The next few days were cold and wet with north-west winds, weather that was to become typical of this summer! Few new birds arrived but the fifth Hawfinch of the year was seen on 13th, a late Short-eared Owl and Black Redstart on 14th and 3 Tree Sparrows on 15th. However, the westerly winds did some good and on 17th a White-throated Sparrow was found and swiftly trapped at the Plantation. It remained feeding by the Observatory for the rest of the day taking little notice of observers as it hopped about in the Observatory Trap. The winds remained mainly north-west for the rest of the month and highlights were Manx Shearwater on 23rd, a Nightingale on 24th, late Purple Sandpipers on 29th and Wigeon and Bar-tailed Godwit on 30th.

## July

The weather was rather cold, wet and windy for most of the month hampering our seabird work considerably. It also affected the breeding birds with a number of Common Tern chicks dying of exposure on the Stack O' North Haven. Terns also had a very poor season in Shetland and this was reflected by the first terns moving south quite early with 32 on 11th. The first of the returning waders began to appear with Golden Plover, Turnstone, Whimbrel, Purple Sandpiper and Dunlin on 12th. A few unexpected birds occurred mid-month with Redpoll, Blackbird, Woodpigeon, and a moulting Willow Warbler in the Restensgeo bracken. The first Sanderling appeared on 22nd with Knot arriving next day, also Fieldfare and Song Thrush. 2 Sooty Shearwaters were seen on 27th, the first of a good passage. Waders continued to trickle through, and some "falls" of Common Gulls occurred. Swifts increased towards the end of the month and on 31st 2 Cuckoos and a Sand Martin heralded the autumn passage.

## August

The month began with north-east winds coupled with fog and rain, small numbers of waders came through and Common Gulls reached a peak of 450. The first warbler of the autumn was found on 4th - an adult Greenish Warbler which was trapped in the Plantation. The winds remained north-east for the next few days bringing in Garden and Willow Warblers, Whinchat, Turtle Dove and Sand Martin. On 11th a ♂ Black-headed Bunting was found at Taing, though it stayed for a few days it was difficult to observe and seemed very wild. The wind veered south-easterly on 12th and a Wood Warbler arrived, with two the following day. Seawatching on

18th produced 16 Sooties and a Manx Shearwater. On 19th strong south-south east winds brought in Wryneck, Turtle Dove, and another Wood Warbler. The following day saw the wind round to light southerly and the first good numbers of migrants arrived, Willow and Garden Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Pied Flycatcher were all in evidence and 3 Wrynecks the first Barred Warbler and 3 Fieldfare were seen. On 21st Fieldfare increased to 5 and single Reed and Barred Warblers were seen. The wind veered south-westerly on 22nd, three Merlin, probably of Shetland origin were seen and "alba" Wagtails peaked at 55. More waders came in on 23rd with 17 Knot and 33 Golden Plover, that night a Leach's Petrel was seen at Restensgeo but avoided capture. A new Barred Warbler came in on 24th but the wind remained in the north-west for the rest of the month causing a lull in passage. Single Wigeon and Pintail were seen on 27th, Knot increased to 28 on 29th and on 30th sea-watching was the order of the day with 70 Sooty Shearwaters seen and for a few lucky observers, 5 Great Shearwaters off the South Light.

### September

The first few days saw a cold north-north-west airstream over Shetland; Wryneck and Bluethroat were seen on 1st and a Barred Warbler on 4th. The wind veered to east on 5th and brought in 2 Little Stints, the forerunners of an unprecedented passage of this species. 2 Scarlet Rosefinches were seen and a Yellow-breasted Bunting was found at North Shirva. There was heavy overnight rain and next day saw the wind veer from east-south-east to south east. Little Stints had increased to 24 at Easter Lothar, an Icterine Warbler was found near the North Light and a good selection of migrants were seen including 40 Pied Flycatchers, 27 Whinchat, 12 Redstart, 6 Wryneck, 3 Wood Warblers, 2 Wood Sandpipers, a Gadwall and single Linnet and Redpoll. The wind remained south-east on 7th with rain most of the day, Little Stints had increased again to 30, 2 Red-backed Shrikes and a Scarlet Rosefinch were new and the first Redwing of the autumn were recorded. The 8th was an excellent day, even by Fair Isle standards; the day started with a moderate southerly wind with showers, it was soon apparent that birds had arrived with good numbers of Willow and Garden Warblers, with smaller numbers of Tree Pipits, Reed and Sedge Warblers, and 6 Barred Warblers. Rarities became order of the day when a Pechora Pipit, the earliest ever by 10 days, was found in the Quoys tattie, this was shortly followed by the discovery of two Ortolan Buntings and two new Yellow-breasted Buntings. Then attention centred on a skulking *locustella* warbler which had been found in Boini Mire, it proved very difficult to observe, but eventually it gave brief views in the roadside ditch at North Shirva and its identity was confirmed as a Lanceolated Warbler.

Many birds left overnight and next morning the wind blew from the west, the start of a spell of south-west to north-west winds that were to last till 28th. However, new arrivals that day included 80 Whinchat, 7 Fieldfare, the first Black Redstart and Snow Bunting of the autumn. Sea-watchers counted 70 Sooty Shearwaters on 10th, Whinchats had increased to 90 and a new Yellow-breasted

Bunting was found. Marsh Harrier was bird of the day on 11th and a further influx of Little Stints occurred. The harrier was still present on 12th, Little Stints increased to 21 and a Short-eared Owl was seen. On 14th Sooty Shearwaters reached a peak of 85, two Ortolan Buntings were new and the first Whooper Swan and Water Rail of the autumn came in. The wind increased rapidly through the day on 16th as a depression moved past Shetland, heavy rain made birding difficult but sea-watching produced a Leach's Petrel off Bunness, as well as the usual Sooty Shearwaters. Overnight the wind gusted at hurricane force 12 with a wind speed of 120m.p.h. recorded at Field, the strongest wind on the isle since 1952. The following day, in the aftermath of the storm 10 Whooper Swans were seen, Scaup and seven Teal and 5 Lapland Buntings indicated an arrival from the north-west. On 18th 3 Great Northern Divers and the first Ring Ousel of the autumn were seen. A Velvet Scoter appeared with the Eider flock on 20th and Turnstone increased to 120. Two Jack Snipe occurred on 23rd and one observer had the good fortune to find a Short-toed Lark near the airstrip. More arrivals from the north-west occurred on 24th with 26 Barnacle Geese and 7 Lapland Buntings. A Corncrake was new on 25th, but there was little of interest for the next two days. Then, on 28th the wind blew from the south-east, a Bean Goose was seen and an arrival of Redwings with Robins, Willow Warblers and Pied Flycatchers indicated an easterly origin, 4 Yellow-browed Warblers were found but bird of the day was an Arctic Warbler discovered in Quoy ditch. The wind reached gale force overnight with heavy rain which produced an excellent selection of birds. 225 Barnacle Geese were counted, a record total for the isle. There were good numbers of Song Thrush, Redwing, Robin and Brambling, a Bluethroat was seen, two Red-breasted Flycatchers, Wryneck, Ortolan and Black Redstart. Reed Warblers peaked at 17, an unprecedented number for Fair Isle, a Scarlet Rosefinch appeared and two Richard's Pipits provided excitement, but bird of the day was undoubtedly a Lanceolated Warbler found in stooked oats at Setter and later mist-netted. It remained in the Observatory garden and gave excellent views from the window as it fed amongst the rose bushes. The weather cleared a little on 30th with a light south-east wind. A fresh arrival had taken place with good numbers of Redwing, Song Thrush, Chaffinch and Brambling, Robins increased to 160, Blackcap to 30, Lapwing reached 150 and Golden Plover 120, a few Jack Snipe, Ruff, Tree Pipits, Woodcock, and Goldcrests made up numbers. A Slavonian Grebe was found in North Haven, the Lanceolated Warbler was seen near the Observatory, Richard's Pipits had increased to 5 and a Little Bunting was found at Springfield.

## October

The wind veered to south-west on 1st but another good arrival of migrants was noted. Goldcrests had increased to 130, Song Thrush to 300 and Redstart to 65. Reed Warblers were still much in evidence. The Little Bunting gave excellent views at Springfield, two new Yellow-browed Warblers were found and Grey Plover, Stock Dove and 4 Water Rails were also new. There were few new

arrivals on 2nd, but 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, Slavonian Grebe, Grey Plover and Stock Dove were still present. There was heavy overnight rain, and on 3rd, despite the westerly wind 2 Richard's Pipits had come in. Also new were 11 Barnacle Geese, Moorhen, and Common Scoter. The 4th-5th were days of torrential rain and there was much flooding. Birding was difficult, but a group of visitors found a Rustic Bunting and quickly ushered it into the Roadside trap. Sea-watching on 6th produced 16 Sooty Shearwaters and 23 Long-tailed Ducks. Weather conditions improved on 7th with light variable winds and warm sunny weather. Two more Richard's Pipits were found 115 Pink-footed Geese came over and an arrival of 50 Wheatears included many Greenland birds. The dry, bright conditions continued till 9th, when wildfowl were the order of the day, 167 Greylag, 120 Pink-foot and 17 Barnacle Geese came over, 40 Whooper Swans, 15 Red-breasted Mergansers, a Scaup, Red-throated Diver and a Slavonian Grebe were seen, but most interest centred on Golden Water where an immature Ring-necked Duck had been found in the morning. Other new birds included 900 Redwing, 3 Turtle Doves and a Hen Harrier. Later that night we successfully dazzled the Ring-necked Duck, only the second to be ringed in Britain. On 10th light winds and sunny weather saw 100 Cormorants heading south, a Buzzard was seen and the Ring-necked Duck settled down at Field pool for a stay of several days. The 11th brought a change in the wind to south-east, but thick mist made it difficult to count the new arrivals, at least 5000 Redwing had come in, together with 100 Blackbird and 90 Brambling. 5 Great Grey Shrikes were found, a Corncrake, a Red-breasted Flycatcher, single Waxwing and Crossbill, 2 Richard's Pipits and a new Rustic Bunting had arrived and 14 Short-eared Owls were the first indication of the very strong passage to come. On 13th 3 Black Redstarts and a Red-breasted Flycatcher were found, and the wind continued to blow from the south-east with clear dry conditions. Next morning saw an interesting variety of new arrivals including a Dabchick on Golden Water, 2 Grey Wagtails, a Mistle Thrush, and two Stonechats, one of which showed characters of one of the eastern races. The main event of the day was the finding of a Citrine Wagtail at Pylie, which later gave very good views as it fed near Utra. On 15th 580 Snow Buntings had come in, also 80 Fieldfare, 18 Siskin, 9 Woodpigeon and a late Sand Martin, but more outstanding were at least 3 Long-eared Owls and 30 Short-eared Owls. On 16th Long-eared Owls had increased to 10 and there were still 25 Short-eared Owls present. The 17th proved to be a frustrating day for most observers. The wind was from the north-west and few new birds had arrived, but a Buzzard was seen and two lucky observers watched a ♂ Black-throated Thrush near Leogh, before it wheeled away with a group of mixed thrushes defying all efforts to relocate it. The rest of the month was disappointing with winds mainly from north-west to south-west and no arrivals of note took place. 10 Long-tailed Ducks and a Hen Harrier were seen on 19th, a Buzzard on 20th and the month ended with a few Woodcock and Blackcap arriving.

## November

On the 1st the wind veered from strong south-east to south-west, and the following day saw an arrival of Woodcock, Whooper Swans, 3 Rooks, 26 Jackdaws, 2 Greenfinches and a Black Redstart, quite remarkable was a flock of 100 Rock Pipits on Ward Hill. Heavy overnight rain brought in 2200 Fieldfare on 3rd together with 750 Redwing, Dunnock, Tree Sparrow and a late Wheatear. A Yellowhammer was seen on 4th. Another thrush movement occurred on 8th with 2500 Fieldfare, 800 Redwing, 22 Woodcock, another late Wheatear and 3 Short-eared Owls. The last Oystercatcher of the year was seen on 10th and a Pochard was found that day. A buzzard came in on 11th and on 12th southerly winds increased to storm force bringing in Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, 1400 Blackbirds, a Blackcap, Rook and Long-eared Owl, and amongst the large numbers of storm-bound gulls 5 Glaucous were found. The winds were still gale-force on 13th when 3 Long-eared Owls, 5 Greenfinches, a Ruff and Moorhen were seen. On 16th the last Bonxie of the year was seen, 4 Long-eared Owls, a Black Redstart and a Little Auk were also found. The crew of the Good Shepherd reported hundreds of Little Auks on the crossing on 18th. On 19th an arrival of 400 Blackbirds occurred and on 20th a late Ring Ousel was seen. The last week was interesting with up to 3 Long-eared Owls, Robin, Greenfinch, Hen Harrier, a new Pochard and 11 Long-tailed Ducks.

## December

December was a rather wet and windy month with fairly mild conditions enabling good numbers of thrushes and other birds to remain on the Isle for longer than usual. On 1st 4 Mallard and 7 Wigeon were seen. 3 Long-eared Owls were still present on 3rd and up to 2 remained all month. On 4th Glaucous Gulls reached a peak of 6. Easterly winds brought an arrival of Woodcock on 5th and next day 130 Fieldfare, 100 Blackbird, 28 Lapwing and a Barnacle Goose came in, the latter remaining into the new year. Another Pochard was seen on 7th, remaining till 9th when an Iceland Gull was seen over South Haven. 2 Lapland Buntings were seen on 10th and 10 Snow Buntings were still present. On 11th Water Rail, Golden Plover, Goldeneye, a late Reed Bunting and a Kestrel were seen, the Kestrel being noted on several days to the end of the year. On 15th single Chaffinch and Brambling arrived, also 4 Teal and 41 Lapwing, and there were still 60 Fieldfare, 40 Blackbirds, 15 Skylarks and about 20 Twite. 4 Greylag Geese came into North Haven on 16th. Yet another Pochard was seen at Field Pool on 22nd. On 26th a ♂ Goosander was found in Hyukni Geo. The weather changed dramatically on 30th with a heavy snowfall and more snow with biting easterly winds on 31st. A good selection of birds came in, with another Pochard, 3 Curlew and a Coot - the only record of the year on 30th, and on 31st, Jack Snipe, Knot, and several Mallard and Teal.

## Systematic List

The list follows the sequence and nomenclature of Prof. K. H. Voous (1977, *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species*) as published in The "British Birds" List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.

The symbol Ø is used to indicate birds in immature or female plumage, ie. not adult males.

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata*. Recorded on 23 dates between 22nd April and 9th October, mainly single birds but 3 on 27th May, 10th July and 18th September, and two on several dates particularly in early September.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*. A good series of records with singles on 27th May, 12 July (Imm.) 7th August (Imm.) 20th September, and 6th October with 2 on 12th and 15th October and 3 on 18th September. An above average showing.

**WHITE-BILLED DIVER** *Gavia adamsii*. An adult in summer plumage seen on the the crossing, about 5 miles north of the isle on 6th May. Third Fair Isle record.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Podilymbus podiceps*. One at Golden Water on 14th-16th October.

**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*. Single birds on 30th September-2nd October, and 8-9th October.

**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*. Recorded ashore in all months of the year, except during severe winter weather. Blue phase birds were seen regularly throughout the year with birds ashore at North Mila Hesslands, Furse and Restensgeo. The species had a good breeding season despite the poor summer and again showed signs of moving further inland.

**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gravis*. 5 were seen from the South Light on 30th August, they were moving south and landed on the sea briefly. (Last recorded 1974).



**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*. A good series of records between 27th July and 6th October with 140 bird-days in August and 280 bird-days in September. Peak counts were 70 on 30th August and 10th September and 85 on 14th September. A few were seen from the crossing between 15th August and 19th September.



MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*. One seen on the crossing on 23rd June. Six seen from the isle between 15th-22nd August, one on 7th September and 3 on 17th September.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. First seen from the crossing on 30th May (4). Seen ashore at night from 1 June to mid-September. Nests were found at Restensgeo and Furse with egg on 29th July. More than usual seen offshore with 5 on 26th June, 12 on 20th July, and 6 on 12 September. Latest record on 6th October seen from crossing.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One seen at night at Restensgeo on 23rd August. One seen offshore on 16th September.

GANNET *Sula bassana*. Recorded offshore in all months but very small numbers only from January - March and October - December. Noted ashore at Dronger from 18th March - 24th October with maximum of 208 ashore on 11th June. 37 sites were occupied and about 29 chicks fledged. Inner Stack of Skroo was occupied for the first time (one nest). The last young left on 26th September. Non-breeding birds were ashore on Cathedral Rock, Wester Lother Stack, Inner Stack and Dronger.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Bird-days per month shown below. Peak counts were 100 (south) on 10th October, 21 on 18th September and 12 on 30th August.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	-	2	11	3	3	12	33	99	188	3	1

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Recorded in all months. First egg recorded on 7th April (C/1), but breeding was generally late with no fledged young by end June.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Bird-days per month shown below. Peak counts were 4 on 21st March, and 9 on 13th September. Gap in summer between 30th May and 18th July with no sightings.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	5	18	22	2	-	4	26	81	56	14	5

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. One on 16th February, 3 on 1st April with 2 then 1 remaining till 10th April. One from 31st May - 4th June. In autumn, seen from 14th September with 22 bird-days in September, 190 in October and 39 in November. Peak counts were 40 on 9th October, 17 on 9th November and 15 on 15th October.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis*. One from 28th September to 4th October, possibly 2 on 1st October. 12th record for the Isle.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. Singles seen on 3rd March and 8th - 15th March. In autumn recorded from 28th September till 19th October with a straggler from 4th November

to 6th December. Large skeins were recorded on 9th October (120) 7th October (115) and 1st October (32). Numbers much higher than usual.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. Recorded on 29-31st January, 17th April, 23-29th April and 5 on 5th May. In autumn, recorded from 1st October to 10th November, mostly less than 20 but 167 on 9th October, 70 on 10th October, and 30 on 11th October and 9th November.

GREY GOOSE SP. *Anser sp.* One on 17th January, 20 on 26th January, 2 on 24th February, one on 3rd March and 8-15th March. In autumn, from 24th September to 4th November, with some large skeins of 40 on 22nd October 36, on 14th October and 27 on 2nd November.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. 5 on 5th May. In autumn very good numbers recorded with a record total of 225 on 29th September. All records between 24th September and 15th October except for one on 6th December, with 26 on 24th September, 27 on 27-28th September, 160 on 30th September, 11 on 3rd October, 17 on 9th October and 8 on 15th October. One bird was seen to be colour-ringed with a yellow darvic ring indicating origin from Spitzbergen. (See Controls in the Ringing Section). The bird which arrived on 6th December was still present into the new year.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*. One of the light-bellied race *hrota* from 4-28th January.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. One from 25th January to 9th February. Singles on 1st March, 7th March, 6th April, 24th April and 2-22nd May.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. 2 on 19th March, one on 29-30th March, 5 on 7th May, 2 on 18th May, 2 on 30th June and a ♂ on 28th-29th July. In autumn, one on 27th-28th August with main passage throughout September to mid October. 1-9 birds daily with 11 on 15th September. A few records of single birds till mid-November with a pair on 16th.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*. ♂ ♀ on 3rd May and a single on 6th September, 14th & 15th records for the isle.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. Two on 20th March, then 1-4 on several dates from 4th April - 7th June. One on 24-27th July with 2 on 28th. Recorded regularly from 9th August to late November, mostly 1-4 birds daily but 12 on 7th September and 8 on 30th September. A few records in December with 4 on 15th and 2 on 31st.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. ♂ ♀ on 3rd January, ♂ ♀ on 19-24th March. 1-2 on 5 dates in April and 4 dates in May to 29th. A ♂ on 14th June, and ♀ on 21st June. ♀ on 12-13th July and

29th July. Recorded regularly in autumn from 12th August to mid-November with a few records in December. Main passage in September with maximum of 5 on 28th. 4 present at the end of the year.

**PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*. An above average showing. ♂ ♀ on 6th May, ♂ 30th May, 1 on 27-28th August, 1 on 13th September and 2 on 15th September. 1 on 17th and 21-22nd September.

**SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*. ♂ ♀ on 5th June was the only record.

**POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*. An immature on 10-12th November, ♂ on 30th November - 7th December when found dead, and an immature on 7th - 9th December. A young ♂ on 22nd December and an Adult ♂ on 30-31st December.



Ring-necked Duck

**RING-NECKED DUCK** *Aythya collaris*. An immature ♂ from 9-16th October was the first record for Fair Isle of this North American species. Trapped on 9th.

**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*. ♂ ♀ on 18-24th May. In autumn, 4 on 17th September with one till 20th. One found dead on 24th September. 2 on 30th September - 2nd October with one till 5th October. 2 on 20-21st October with one on 22nd.

**SCAUP** *Aythya marila*. ♂ at Golden Water from 30th May - 12th June. One on 17th September, and another from 9th - 11th October.

**EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*. Recorded throughout the year as usual. First young on sea noted 5th June. A count on 19th October revealed c.1000 along east and south coasts with a ratio of 2:1 in favour of ♂ ♂

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis*. ♂ on 16th March, 4 on 2nd May, ♂ 5-9th May, 2 on 12th May, ♂ 18-26th May and ♀ 1st June. In autumn recorded from 27 September 1-8 on many days to end of year with 23 on 6th October and 11 on 26th November.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. 2♂♂13-17th May, 7 on 25th May, 2♂♂29th May - 8th June, possibly 2 more on 5th June. In autumn, one on 3rd October.



VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. ♂ 29th May, ♂ 20-22nd September, ♂ on 23rd September and 15th October. Last recorded in 1975.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. 2♀♀15th January with one to 8th February. ♂ on 16th March, ♂13-14th May. In autumn, recorded from 11th October - late December, no more than two on any day.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*. A ♀ on Golden Water on 6th April. 6th record for Fair Isle and first since 1965.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. ♂ on 1-26th January, then 1-2 on 14 dates from 30 March - 7th June. Singles on 13th and 25th June with 4 on 26th and 2 remaining till 9th July with one to 12th July. In autumn, a ♂ on 27th July to 10th August, another from 17th - 23rd August and 1-2 on many dates throughout September. Strong passage in October with 15 on 9th and 6 on 15th, stragglers to end of October.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. A ♂ from 31 March to 6th April, and another on 26th-30th December.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One on 2-3rd June was the only record.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*. Three records of birds in ♂ plumage; on 13th May, 11th August, and 11-12th September. The 11th-13th records for the isle and only the second and third in autumn.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. Above average showing with ♂♂ on 25th January - 3rd February, 9th October, 19-20th October and 12th-13th November, and an adult ♂ on 2-3rd June.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. Spring passage from 3rd April to 7th June with 1-2 on many dates. One on 17th June. In autumn, from 10th September to 17th October, about half as many records as in Spring with no more than 2 on any date. Single birds were seen on 12th and 19th November.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. More records than usual with single birds on 6th April, 10th October, 17th October and possibly the same bird on 20th October, and on 11th November.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. Above average numbers in late May-early June with one on 25th May, and 27th May, 2 on 28th, one on 29th, 2 on 1st June and one on 2nd; probably five individuals involved.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. Bird days per month shown below. One on three dates in January, spring passage from 9th March to 17th June, with maximum of 2 in a day. In autumn, from 21st August to 30th October with one on 12th November. Peak counts were 6 on 30th September, 5 on 1-2nd October and 4 on 7th October. One overwintered from 11th December.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	-	3	20	22	4	-	9	29	38	1	10

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. Recorded in each month except July. Bird days per month shown below. Spring passage mainly 25th March - 3rd May with maximum of 3 in a day. Autumn passage from 18th August to mid-November with up to 5 seen regularly. Many were of Shetland origin, see Controls in Ringing Section.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	5	15	34	13	2	-	27	72	100	24	-

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Recorded irregularly in all months except June and December. Autumn passage indicated by 60 bird-days as against 12 bird-days in Spring. Mainly single birds but 2 recorded on several dates in autumn. No sightings between 24th May and 8th July.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One was heard calling at Kennaby on 27th May.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. Singles on 6th and 12th January. Spring passage from 23rd March to 9th May with single birds on 8 dates and 2 on 9th May. In autumn, recorded from 14th September with singles on many dates to mid-December and maximum of 4 on 1st October.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*. One on 8th May was the first recorded since 1975.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. Single birds on 3rd, 5th and 7th May with 3 on 8th and 2 on 9th May. One 6-7th June. Autumn singles on 25th September and 12th October, the latter bird found hiding under the Good Shepherd on the slip.

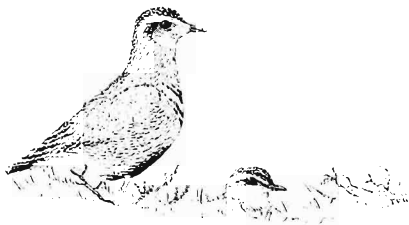
MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Single birds seen on 3-10th April, 20th April - 9th May, 30th August, 15th September, 3rd October (found dead) and 13th November.

COOT *Fulica atra*. One on 30th - 31st December was the only record.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. Single birds on 30th January and 1st February, increase from mid-February with 7 on 19th and 14 on 27th. Main passage in March with 40 on 2nd,

90 on 16th and 150 on 30th. Summer flocks reached peaks of 72 on 4th June and 67 on 17th July. Autumn passage from mid-July with peak of 120 on 28th, numbers decreasing through August with only 11 on 26th. Few in October and latest birds seen on 23rd October and 1st November.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. One from 19th January - 8th February. Main arrivals from 4th-23rd March with peaks of 15 on 4th, and 18 on 15th. Poor autumn passage with peaks of 10 on 31st August, 26 on 1st September, and 45 on 6th September. 2-3 in early October with odd singles till 22nd. About 12 pairs bred with first eggs on 9th May.



DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. Three on 8th May, 2 on 25th May and single birds heard on 27th-28th May.

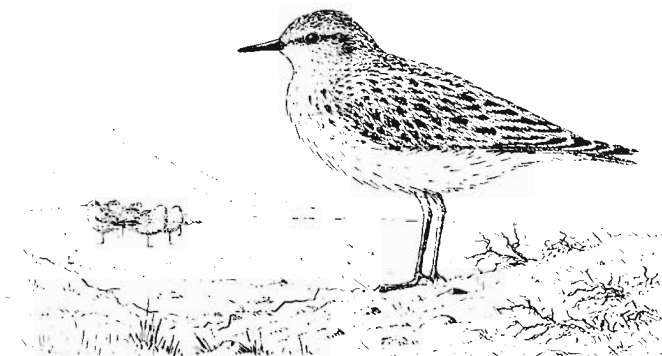
GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*. One on 15th February, influx of 7 on 18th February and singles recorded on many dates to 29th March, with 12 on 9th March. Main passage in April - May with peak counts of 18 on 23rd April and 22 on 11th May. 1-2 birds recorded on several dates to 27th June. Autumn arrivals from 12th July (4), with main passage from 22 August - 12th October. Peak numbers were 45 on 28th August, 75 on 17th September and 120 on 30th September. 1-4 birds recorded on several dates to 10th November with one on 12th December.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. One on 4th June, and one from 30th September to 4th October.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Up to 3 seen on several dates in January. An arrival in February with 18 on 16th, 70 on 25th and 75 on 26th. Main passage in March with up to 90 on several dates, lesser numbers in April and May with up to 40 on 4th April and 20 on 7th May. Some passage in June with 15 on 19th with very few in July till autumn passage started with 9 on 30th. Maximum of 6 in August and only 1-5 in September till 23rd when good numbers arrived, 12 on 23rd, 70 on 29th, 150 on 30th, numbers remained high in early October with maximum of 110 on 15th. Very few (1-5) in late October-November but 18 on 16th November and 28 on 6th December with up to 20 remaining for about a week with 1-2 till end of year. Two pairs bred, one successfully, the first recorded breeding since 1968.

**KNOT** *Calidris canutus*. No spring records. Autumn passage from 23rd July to 15th September. 8 on 27th July then 1-3 till 21st August when 8 arrived, 26 on 26th August and peak of 28 on 29th August. 17 on 1st September with numbers slowly decreasing with singles to 7th October and one on 15-17th October. One on 31st December.

**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*. More than usual in spring with singles on 9-13th May, 28th-30th May, 3 on 31st May, one 4th June and 2 on 8th June. Autumn passage from 22nd July to 1st October. 12 on 25th July, only 1-2 in August. Numbers increased slightly in September with 5 on 6th and peak of 7 on 8th and 14th. 1-2 till 30th September and 2 on 1st October.



**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*. The strongest passage ever recorded, with 161 bird-days in September and 14 in October. First arrival was of 2 on 5th September, increasing to 24 on 6th and 30 on 7th, numbers decreased slightly till new arrival of 21 on 12th, single birds only from 15th-23rd September, 5 on 30th and 4 on 2nd October with one till 7th October and 2 on 16th. Previous highest day-total, 17.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*. One at Easter Lothar on 6th September.

**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*. Maximum day-totals per month shown below. Spring peak of 80 on 8th May, odd birds present through summer with passage from mid-July when moulting flock built up at Skadan. After completing moult these birds decreased with only 2-10 seen in September, fresh arrival in October with 80 on 15th.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
30	30	30	15	80	4	60	26	10	80	45	35

**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*. One on 6-8th March. Light passage in May with 3 on 7th, 4 on 11th and 7 on 20th with 2-5 till end of May, 3-4 in early June and 1-2 till 30th June. A ♂ was heard song-flying on several occasions in May and June and one bird remained on suitable breeding habitat for some weeks but no proof of breeding. In autumn, passage from 12th July with 9 on that date and 2-6 throughout most of July-September, with 13 on 15th August. Main passage from end of September with 17 on 29th, 30 on 30th and up to 25 in early October. Visible passage noted on 12th October when 50 seen passing the isle. 3 on 17th October were the last of the year.

**RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*. ♂ on 9-15th May. ♀ on 28-29th July then regularly in August with 4-5 most days and 9 on 4th. Fresh arrival in September with 5 on 7th and 10 on 30th. One till 5th October and a late bird on 13-16th November.

**JACK SNIBE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*. One on 13th January and 15th February. In autumn from 23rd September, to 8th November. Rather smaller numbers than in recent years with 2 on 23rd September, 10 on 30th September, 2-4 till 18th October, 1-3 till 8th November, and one on 31st December.

**SNIBE** *Gallinago gallinago*. Recorded in every month as usual. Up to 10 in January, and 8 in February - March. At least 5 pairs bred. Autumn passage from early September with 30 on 21st September, 50 on 9th October, 35 on 15th October and 20 on 10th November.

**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*. One on 30th January, 3 on 7th February and singles on 14th and 16-17th March. Regular from 3rd April with 6 on 19th, 3 on 22nd, 3 on 2nd May, and single birds on seven dates to 10th June. Autumn passage from 30th September, rather small numbers with up to 3 on several dates in October, 22 on 2nd November, 10-20 on several dates till mid-November. Another influx in December with c.20 on 5th and up to 5 on many dates to end of year.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa*. One on 2nd August was the only record.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*. One on 30th June. 4 on 28th July with 3 next day. One on 7th August and 2 on 31st August.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*. First recorded on 22nd April, main spring passage in May with 5 on 6th, 9 on 8th, 7 on 17th and 4 on 30th. 1-2 till 19th June and singles on 23rd and 29th June. 3 on 12th July, with 1-2 on many dates throughout July, August and September with one on 26th September the last record. A poor autumn passage.

**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*. Recorded in every month. 1-5 in January and 1-8 most days in February but an arrival of 23 on 19th February with number high to 25th. 1-6 most days in March with



12 on 13th. Similar numbers in April though 15 on 7th, and 34 heading north on 22nd. Two pairs bred, one successfully. Autumn passage from mid-July with 32 on 10th July, and 19 on 17th. 3-10 most days in August with 22 on 21st. Maximum of 11 in September (on 17th) with overnight-passage recorded on 6th. 2-4 all October and 1-2 till mid-December, with 3 on 31st.

**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*. One on 10th September was the only record.

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*. Recorded in every month. Numbers higher than normal in winter with up to 30 in Jan.-March. Numbers decreased in April with a maximum of 15 on 2nd. 2-4 throughout May and single birds on several dates in June to 30th, with 3 on 18th-19th June. 4 on 2nd July and numbers increasing from 8th when passage started, peak numbers were 30 on 15th July, 50 on 11th August, 59 on 2nd September, 50 on 19th October with up to 30 remaining in November and 25 in December.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*. Very good numbers in both Spring and Autumn. First recorded on 17th April with single birds on 3 dates in May and 3 on 1st June. Autumn passage from 6th August to 1st October with 25 birds-days in August and 38 in September. 1-2 birds seen on many dates throughout this period with a gap from 18th - 28th September. Peak counts were 4 on 29th August, 3 on 31st August and 10th September.

**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*. A good series of records, first seen in Spring on 14th April with singles on three dates to 28th and 3 on 30th April. In May 2-3 daily from 1st - 8th and single birds on 1st, 10th and 23rd June. Autumn passage from 26th July with 2-3 on several dates till 31st July, maximum of 5 on 3rd August with several records to 25th August. Single birds on 24th and 29th September.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*. Single birds recorded on 7th, 17th, 27th and 29th-31st May with 2 on 28th May and one on 1st June. In autumn, singles on 5th September and 7-8th September with 2 on 6th September.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*. Spring passage from 1st May to 1st June with 1-3 birds most days, 4 on 6th, 8th and 27th May and 6 on 17th May, also 2 on 6th June. Autumn passage from 26th July to 10th September with 1-2 on many dates and 4 on 28th July, 8th and 28th August.

**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*. Recorded in every month. Up to 50 in January - February, some passage in March with 80 on 16th and 70 on 25th. Up to 35 in April - May and good numbers in June with 24 on 20th. Small numbers in late June - early July with 15 on 2nd July. Main passage from mid-July with 87 on 25th July, and 60-70 in August - September. Numbers increasing in late autumn with 94 on 19th October, 80 on 6th November, 100 on 16th November and numbers remaining high till mid December.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. A ♂ on Easter Lothar on 13th July.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. An immature off Bunes on 30th August.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. First recorded on 24th April (5), numbers built up slowly with 20 on 5th May and 40 on 6th May. Autumn departures from August, with most gone by 17th September and stragglers on 27th and 29th September. 114 pairs attempted to breed with first eggs noted on 18th May.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*. Recorded regularly from 26th March to 4th November. Spring arrival mainly late April with 10 on 15th April, 20 on 17th April and 30 on 5th May. Numbers remaining high in late autumn with 25 on 28th September. 1-4 daily in late October to 4th November with stragglers to 16th November. About 20 pairs attempted to breed with eggs noted from 14th May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One on 29th January, then singles on 3rd and 5th March, 2 on 10th March then main passage from 23rd March, with peak numbers of 50 on 6th May and 30 on 29th May, a few birds seen regularly in June and July with return passage from 20th July. Autumn peaks were 136 on 26th July, and 150 on 29th July. Up to 18 daily in August - September and up to 11 in October with few from 16th October, though 13 moving south on 28th October. 1-2 on several dates in November and December.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Recorded in every month. 2-3 in January and an influx of 10 on 7-8th February. Small numbers in March but increase from early April with 25 on 4th April, 40 on 30th, 70 on 1st May, 80 on 5th May and 50 on 16-17th May with obvious northward movement. In autumn return passage from 23rd July with good numbers recorded daily and peak counts of 300 on 28th July, 400 on 3rd August, 216 on 21st August, and 208 on 29th September. Up to 70 in October but only 2-3 by end of the month, 1-5 recorded on many days in November and December. 4 Pairs bred, 3 of them successfully.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. Recorded from 23rd March to 19th October. Very few in late March but numbers building up in April and May with 12 on 7th April and 40 on 25th April. An influx of immature birds in early June with 20+ on 6th. Decrease in August with only 5 on 1st September and 1-2 regularly till 26th September. Stragglers on 6th, 16th and 19th October. Breeding season as usual.

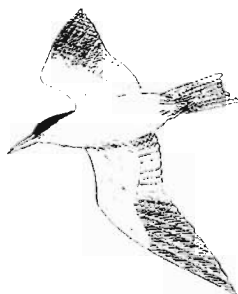
HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Recorded throughout the year. Large influxes during rough weather with 3000 on 24th January, 4000 on 12th November and 5000 on 20th November. Very large numbers in early December with 5000 on several dates and 7000 on 6th. Breeding data: season as usual with first eggs on 8th May.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*. A 3rd winter bird on 7th April, found dead on 10th. A second year bird on 9th December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. 1-2 recorded most days in January with 5 on 20th; 3 on 13th February 1-2 in March and 1-2 from 1st - 19th April. Single birds on 14th May, 27th May, 8th June, 18th and 24th June and 8th July. One on 23rd September and singles on 4 dates in October, becoming regular in November with 1-2 daily and 5 on 12th November, 4 on 20th November and 6 on 6th December. 1-2 birds most days till end of year.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Recorded throughout the year. Large numbers in summer, probably roosting on the isle by day and feeding at night around fishing boats, peaks of 300 on 12th July, 460 on 25th August and 660 on 30th August. Storm driven birds recorded on many dates in late autumn and winter with 1200 on 26th September and 1st November, and up to 1000 on several dates in November - December. Breeding data as usual.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Recorded throughout the year. Ashore in good weather from 8th February. After the breeding season good numbers offshore on several dates with 100's on 18th September, 220+ on 26th September and 250 on 3rd October. Breeding season good though high post-fledging mortality of young.



CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*. One flying south over the Observatory on 29th May, the first record for Fair Isle. (P. J. Ewins).

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. One off the South Light on 12th May.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. One on 9th May, then slow build-up with 16 on 17th May, 25 on 30th May and 40 on 11th June. An early return passage with 25 on 11th July indicated a poor season in Shetland. Small numbers recorded regularly till mid-September and one on 9th October. (see Common/Arctic Tern). Breeding data: 17 pairs bred on the Stack O' North Haven, at least 5 chicks killed by cold wet weather in early July and fledging success poor.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. One on 10th May and single birds noted on many dates to 13th June. In Autumn, recorded from 7th July with small numbers on many dates to 22nd September and peak of 10 on 28th July. (see Common/Arctic Tern).

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*. "Comic" Terns recorded on many dates with 2 on 8th May, 7 on 20th May and smaller numbers daily in May-June. Autumn passage from 11th July with 32 on that date. Peak of 70 on 29th July with daily sightings of smaller numbers to 17th September.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Ashore in fine weather in January and regularly except on wild days from 8th February. An albino off Hesswalls on 27th - 30th May. Eggs recorded from 28th April, breeding season generally good but some mortality of chicks due to cold wet weather in late June. Last seen ashore on 4th August, with a few birds offshore in late August-September with 200 on 21st September. Returning to ledges in fine weather from 26th October, but prolonged rough weather in November - December kept birds off-shore. Large numbers seen from Good Shepherd on 18th November, "as many as on a summers day".

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. Small numbers offshore in January, first recorded ashore on 8th February and ashore on fine days from that date, and regularly from mid February. Very few ashore after 4th August and small numbers noted offshore in September and October with 15 on 12th October. No sighting after 21st October. Breeding season poor, with many dead chicks as a result of poor weather in summer.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*. Recorded throughout the year. An albino seen off South Harbour on 28th May. Breeding season very poor, many pairs not laying and fledging rate very low. First chicks seen on sea 12th August. Counts in autumn revealed 86 on east side on 13th September and 77 on 19th September.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*. 5 seen on crossing 4th January, single birds found dead on 21st and 27th February. One off North Light on 16th November, 100's on crossing 15th November but none on crossing on 28th. One found dead on 30th November.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. First recorded offshore on 24th March (8), ashore on 29th March and c50 ashore next day. Large numbers offshore on 4th April. Very few ashore after 19th August and last seen ashore on 27th August. Up to 45 offshore on 11th September and a few seen offshore on many dates to 10th October. Breeding data: season as usual, with better breeding success than other auks.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Recorded throughout the year. Very few in January and maximum of 8 in February, numbers increasing in March with 45 on 29th. Up to 35 seen throughout summer then an increase in late autumn with 40 on 29th October and 60 on 6th November, up to 10 till end of year.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*. A good series of records. Single birds on 30th March, 7th April, and 27th April. 30th September, 1st October and 4th October.

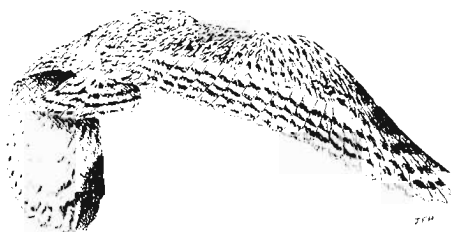
WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*. 2 on 1st March, 2 on 6th March with 1-2 till 9th. 2 on 30th-31st March. Recorded most days in April and May with peak counts of 9 on 5th April, 13 on 23rd April, 17 on 24th April and 15 on 3rd May. 1-5 till end of May, 3 on 1st June and singles to 23rd June. 1 on 12th July, 23rd-26th July, 10th and 20th August and 2 on 30th September. Then 1-2 most days from 1st-22nd October with 9 on 15th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. 2 on 10th March and 2 on 16th-17th April. Recorded daily from 1st May - 19th June with 12 on 17th May, 16 on 29th May and 14 on 4th June, otherwise 1-5 most days. One on 29th-30th July, and single birds on 11th and 16th August, 3-4th September and 25-26th September.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. Recorded in Spring from 8th May to 16th June. Mostly 1-2 daily, but 4 on 27th May, 5 on 29th May and 6 on 1st June. Unusually common in autumn with single birds recorded on 24-25th July, 4 dates in August, 2 on 19th September and singles from 23rd - 29th September. One on 1-2nd October, and 6th October, 2 on 7th, 3 on 8th and 1-2 till 16th October.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Single birds recorded on 8-9th May, 11th May and 23-25th May. 3 on 26th May and *hepatic* birds on 27th May and 29-31st May. In autumn, two immature birds seen on 31st July.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Single birds on 18th April, 9th and 24th May. Very good autumn passage; one on 30th September, one on 2nd October, 2 on 12th October, 3 on 15th, 10 on 16th (a record day's total), and 2-7 on 17th - 19th October. Single birds recorded on several dates in late October and early November, then 3 on 13th November and 4 on 16th, 3 still present on 22nd November, trapping indicating a constant change-over of birds. 1-3 on several dates in December with 2 still present at end of year.



SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. Single birds on 23-30th January, 25th March and on several dates from 6th April - end May with 2 on 25th April and 7th May. Late singles on 5th June, 14th and 19th June. Exceptional autumn passage with record numbers.

One on 12-15th September, 2 on 28th, 3 on 30th and 15 on 1st October, then 3-6 daily till 11th October. Fresh influx on 12th October with 14, 30 on 15th (unprecedented number) 20-25 on 16-17th, dropping to 11 on 18th. Then 1-2 daily to end of October. 1-3 daily in November till 16th, some birds very weak and 4 found dead from starvation/exhaustion.

A number of Long-eared/Short-eared Owls were recorded during autumn passage and totals given for these species are an absolute minimum.

**SWIFT** *Apus apus*. Two on 17th May were the first, then none till 26th May when regular till 9th June with 9 on 30th May and 12 on 2nd June. None between 9th-18th June when further influx peaking at 19 on 21st June. Up to 4 between 10-14th July with more from 22nd July, 12 on 28th and 16 on 29th July. 1-5 on several dates in August to 23rd and one on 7-8th September.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*. One found dead on 29th April. 2 on 30th, 4 on 1st May, 6 on 3rd May and 7 on 8th May with up to 3 on many days till 28th May. In autumn, one on 19th August, 2 on 20th and 1-2 till 5th September. 6 on 6th September slowly decreasing to one on 17th, and last recorded on 29th September.



**CALANDRA LARK** *Melanocorypha calandra*. One at Field and Pund on 28th April, the first acceptable record for the island and the 2nd British record. (One was reported in spring about 1925 but no details were available).

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cinerea*. One at Kennaby on 29th April, another at Pund from 9th-13th May (both of the reddish, southern races). One on 23rd September near the airstrip (A. Graham).

**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*. Small numbers overwintered with up to 6 in January and 4 in February. Increase from 25th February with strong passage in early March, 300 on 1st and 400 on 7th March, peaking at 500 on 9th-10th March. Passage still strong in late March - early April with 450 on 2nd April and 350 on 10th. In autumn large influxes noted on 20th September (800), otherwise small numbers. Up to 20 in November and 12-15 till mid December with a few at end of year. Breeding data: season as usual.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. 2 on 7th May were the first recorded, 6 on 9th May and 1-3 most days till 3rd June. Singles on 4 dates from 16th - 30th June. One on 31st July, 2 on 1st August and 3 on 8th August. Then 3-4 daily from 8th - 11th September, a single on 18th September and one on 15th - 19th October (latest autumn record).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. First recorded on 24th April, one on 27th April, 3 on 29th when main passage began. Recorded daily till end June with peaks of 35 on 7th May, 60 on 25th May with 170 on 26th. 90 on 29th May and 30 on 2nd June. 1-12 seen daily till 30th June. In autumn 2-6 seen daily in August - September with 11 on 23rd August and 20 on 1st September. Recorded regularly till 12th October and the last seen on 15th October. Breeding data: A pair began to frequent the Gully at Funniquoy from 8th July, a nest with c/4 on 27th July was situated in a hole near the top of the cliff, there were 4 young raised fledging on 29th August. The family party remained on the isle for a week or two. (Probably the third record of breeding for the isle, the last being in 1962).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. First recorded (2) on 8th May, then 2 on 14th May and recorded daily till 22nd June. Main passage in late May with 20 on 26th and 30 on 29th, 50 on 1st June with 1-5 most days till 22nd. Single birds were seen on 28th and 30th June, 13th July and 2 on 15th July. One on 11th August and latest seen on 8th September.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. A good showing, recorded on 23 bird-days between 29th September and 15th October with 2 on 29th September, 5 on 30th, 1 on 1st October, 4 on 3rd, singles on 4th and 6th October with 2 on 7th and one till 9th. 2 on 12th October, one remaining till 15th, at least 13 individuals involved.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*. One in the Hoini area on 1st and 3rd June. (12th record for the island) and recorded for third successive year.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. One on 27th April, increasing to 12 on 29th April and 40 on 1st May, then up to 33 till 8th May with smaller numbers daily to end of May with the last on 1st June. In autumn, 5 on 5th September, 10 on 8th decreasing to 2 on 11th September. One on 29th, 10 on 30th September and 1-5 from 1-8th October.

PECHORA PIPIT *Anthus gustavi*. One at Quoy on 8th September, the earliest ever, by 10 days.

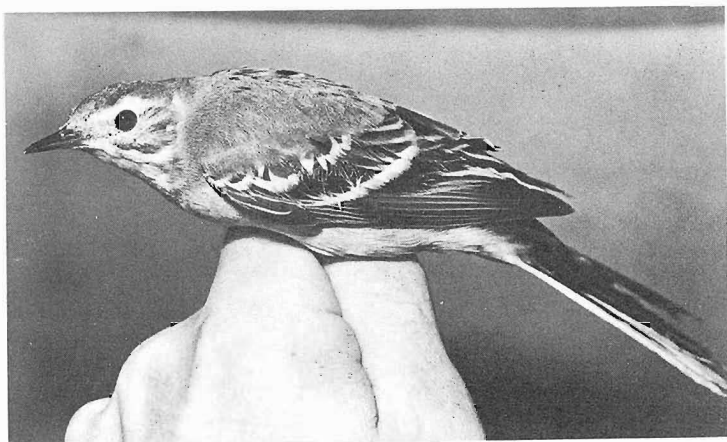
MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Single birds recorded on 19th and 24th January. Spring arrivals from 3rd March with 5 on 9th March, 37 on 29th and 115 on 30th March. Strong passage in April with 150 on 2nd, 200 on 17th and 450 on 22nd. Numbers

remaining high till mid-May. In autumn, first arrivals on 18th August (100), strong passage to late September with 500 on 23rd August, 600 on 11th September and 2000 on 19th September. Local birds departing from mid September with small numbers only in October, decreasing to 12 on 4th November and last seen on 12th November.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. Birds in summer plumage seen on 27-29th May (trapped), on 1st June, and possibly different bird on 2nd June.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. Recorded throughout the year. Some indication of spring passage with a flock of 20 on 27th March. A remarkable flock of c100 on Ward Hill on 2nd November. Breeding data as usual.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. Blue-headed race *f.flava*, 2 on 6th May and 1-2 on 9 days till 30th May. Pair on 1st June, one 24-29th September and a different bird on 29th September. Yellow Wagtail *f.flavissima* 2 on 17th May one remaining till 20th. Single birds on 8th September, 30th September and 2nd October. Grey headed race *f.thunbergi* one on 27-28th May. *Flava* wagtails not specifically identified; 6 singles between 5-29th May, one 5-6th September, 1st October and 9th October.



Citrine Wagtail

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. An immature found at Pylie on 14th October, it roosted in the Plantation where it was trapped on 16th, and remained on the island till 20th being seen in a number of locations.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. Single birds seen on 21 days between 2nd-25th April. 2♂ on 10th May. In autumn, 3 on 1st October and 2 on 14th October.



PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. Single birds on 16th, 24th and 29-30th March. 1-2 seen on 13 days from 1st-23rd April. 3 on 1st May and one on 15th May. In autumn, from 15th August to 15th October with single birds on 2 days in August, 6 days in September and 5 in October, 2 on 18th September and 3 on 13th October. White Wagtail *M.a.alba* First recorded on 24th April, 1-3 seen on 18 days in April, with 6 on 6th. Small numbers seen on most days in May with maximum of 11 on 6th May. *Alba* wagtails not specifically identified recorded from 31st March, throughout April in small numbers and into June. Most autumn records refer to *alba*'s, main passage from 1st August to 15th October with peaks of 55 on 22nd August and 20 on 1st September.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. One on 12th October.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident population of *T.t. fridariensis*, census of singing ♂♂ revealed population of c.30 pairs. Song heard from 9th March. Newly fledged young on 29th August, perhaps replacement clutch or second brood. Little evidence of passage this year.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. First recorded on 31st March (song), recorded daily in April and May with peaks of 15 on 4th April, 52 on 1st May, 45 on 6th May, numbers decreasing to 3 on 12th May with single birds to end of month. One from 2-11th June. In autumn from 29th September, recorded daily till 23rd October, 25 on 30th September increasing to peak of 34 on 5th October. One from 3rd - 13th November.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. One on 13th and 16th-21st January. Spring passage from 16th March, recorded daily from 1st April-6th June. Two main influxes, one in early April with 100 on 2nd, 160 on 3rd decreasing to 30 by 21st. The other in May with 120 on 1st, 75 on 7th decreasing to one on 6th June. One on 24th June. Autumn movement from 28th September with 80 on 29th September, 160 on 30th, 110 on 1st October and 20 on 5th October, small numbers daily to 2nd November, with one on 22-25th November.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*. One in North Reeva for most of the day on 24th May, 20th record for Fair Isle.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One on 24th June, 18th record for Fair Isle.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*. One on 20th May, another found dead on 21st. 2 on 23rd and 3 on 24th May. One on 28th and a different individual on 29th May. In autumn, one on 1-4th September, one on 29-30th September, 2 on 1-2nd October with one remaining to 7th.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A good series of records. One on 2nd April, 2 on 3rd with one remaining to 6th April. Single birds on ten days till 14th June with 2 on 29th April.

One on 9th September then 2 on 29th September and recorded most days to 5th October. 3 on 13th October slowly decreasing to one on 19th October. 2 on 22nd October and singles on 2nd and 16th November.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Recorded from 28th April to 5th June, mostly 1-5 but 12 on 6th May and 23 on 8th May. In autumn recorded from 6th September to 22nd October. 12 on 6th September, 18 on 8th then few till 30th September when 55 arrived, and 65 on 1st October slowly decreasing till 22nd.

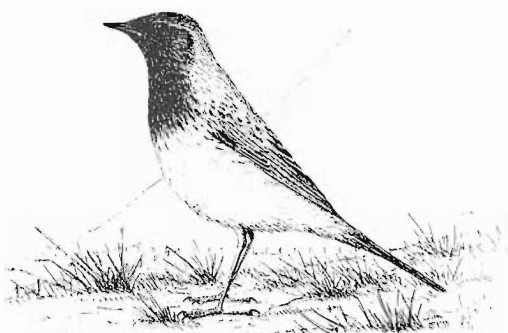
WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. First recorded on 29th April, increasing to 4 on 30th, 15 on 2nd May and peak of 35 on 6th May, then 1-6 till end of May with 2 on 2nd June and one on 3rd. Autumn records from 10th August, 1-2 on many days till 6th September when 27, 70 on 8th September and 90 on 10th with 12-15 till end of month. 14 on 3rd October then 2-6 till 14th October with single birds till 20th October.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. A ♀ on 27th February, single birds on 4 days in March with 2 on 27th March. One on 2nd April and late birds on 6th May and 7th June. One on 14th October and another, showing characters of one of the eastern races *marua/stejnegeri* the same day. (P. J. Ewins).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. One on 29th March then daily till 19th October. Spring passage of 13 on 2nd April, 44 on 19th April, 130 on 29th April and 450 on 2nd May with strong passage till 15th May. An increase in autumn on 17-20th August, local birds departing in first week September. Large, Greenland-type birds noted on 18th-19th September with further influxes on 30th September (33), 70 on 3rd October (with many Greenland birds), and 50 on 7th October. Late birds on 23-24th October, 3rd, 6th and 8th November.

RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus*. Spring passage from 2nd April to 5th June. First arrival of 7 on 2nd April with 11 on 4th, then a decrease till 16 on 30th April. Numbers higher in early May with 40 on 3rd and 45 on 6th May. 6 on 10th May then 1-3 most days till 5th June. Autumn passage from 18th September with peak of 4 on 30th September, 8 records of single birds in October and 2 on 14th October and a late bird on 20th November.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. 10-12 most days in January with an influx of c.25 on 15-16th. 12-15 throughout February and early March. Spring passage from mid March with 150 on 16th, 50 on 23rd, 80 on 6th April and 15-20 most days in April. 65 on 3rd May and 40 on 7th May with 1-9 till end of May and 1-2 till 8th June. Single birds on 3rd, 17th and 29th July. One on 6th September, but no further sighting till 30th September. Arrivals in October with 100 on 12th and 40 on 19th, main arrivals in November with 140 on 8th, 1400 on 12th and 1500 on 19th, then 20-40 most days in late November - December but an influx of 100 on 6th December and up to 15 at end of year.



**BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** *Turdus ruficollis*. A ♂ seen near Leogh on 17th October (R. A. Williams, N. Jones). The second Fair Isle record, the last being in 1958.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*. 10-12 in early January increasing to 60 on 15th-16th, with 40-50 till end of the month. Up to 50 most days in February. Arrivals in early March with 150 on 9th, up to 50 till 20th April. Then, influx of 300 on 22nd April and 1000 on 23rd, further arrivals of 280 on 6th May and 270 on 14th May decreasing to 1-2 daily at end of May with 2 remaining till 22nd June. One arrived on 22nd July and stayed on the isle till at least 21st September. An early arrival of a family party of 3 on 20th August with 5 on 21st, but no further arrivals till 5 on 8th September and 1-5 most days to end of month. Maximum of 80 on 15th October and only 1-20 most days. Main passage in November with 250 on 2nd, 2200 on 3rd dropping to 300 on 5th, but further arrival of 2500 on 7th, numbers high till mid month with 250 on 16th and 80 on 20th. 20-50 till end of the year with influx on 6th December of 100.

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*. 1-9 most days from January-March. Arrival of 60 on 2nd April with 160 on 4th April then decrease to 2-3 by mid-month. Further arrivals of 22 on 19th April and 100 on 29th April with 140 on 1st May and 120 on 7th May, numbers then dropping rapidly to 1-2 till 23rd May. Single birds on 31st May and 1st June and one, probably of the British race *clarkei* on 16-17 June. One on 23rd July and first autumn bird on 8th September. Arrivals of 40 on 29th September increasing to 300 on 1st October with up to 40 daily till 15th October when rapid decrease to 1-2 by end of the month. Fresh arrivals in November with 30 on 12th most leaving by 20th. 1-2 on many dates in December to end of year.

**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*. Up to 5 in early January increasing to 30 on 15-16th. 10-20 throughout February and up to 10 in early March. First Spring arrivals in mid-March with 25 on 16th. Main passage in April; 200 on 7th, 600 on 8th and 200 on 18th and

20-30 till early May. Influx of 40 on 6th May and 2-3 till end of month with stragglers to 7th June. First autumn record on 1st September with 1-5 till 28th September when 220, increasing to 500 on 1st October, 1350 on 8th October and 5000 on 12th October. About 150 still present at end October, then new arrivals with 750 on 3rd November and 800 on 8th November. Up to 50 in mid-November and 20-40 till mid-December, numbers augmented by arrivals on 6th December. Up to 10 at end of year.

**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*. One on 31st March, 5 on 2nd April increasing to 9 on 3rd and 5th April (very high totals for Fair Isle), one on 9th April, 2 on 22nd, one on 24th and one from 2-8th May. In autumn, one on 14-16th October.

**LANCEOLATED WARBLER** *Locustella lanceolata*. One at Boini Mire and North Shirva on 8th September (earliest Fair Isle record) and another at Setter on 29th September (trapped) to 1st October.

**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*. Very few sightings. Single birds on 7th and 11th May and one 29th September - 2nd October.



**AQUATIC WARBLER** *Acrocephalus paludicola*. One at Quoy on 14th August (trapped) and another at Setter on 16-17th August.

**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Singles on 8th May, 15-16th May and 21-22nd May, 2 on 26th May, 3 on 28th and one on 31st May-6th June. In autumn, singles on 17th August and 6th September, 2 on 7th September, 4 on 8th. Further arrival with one on 29th September, 2 on 30th, 4 on 1st October, 2 on 2nd and singles on 5th and 7th October.

**MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*. One on 2nd June and a different bird on 3rd-5th June.

**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Singles on 7th May and 9th June. Very good autumn passage with one on 21-24th August, 6 on 8th September, 2 on 9th with one till 15th September. 17 on 29th September (a record total, previous highest count 6) decreasing to 14 on 1st October and 4 on 3rd October with one remaining to 9th.

**GREAT REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One at Reedy Ditch on 2nd June (trapped) later at Wirvie till 6th June. (5th Fair Isle record, last recorded 1971).

**ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina*. One on 7th-12th June and another 17th June. One on 6th September.

**BARRED WARBLER** *Sylvia nisoria*. Single birds on 20-21st August, 24th August, and 4th September. 2 on 5-6th September, 5 on 7th and 6 on 8th with 2-3 daily till 13th September. One on 16th September and 24th, with 2 on 28th and 30th September and one on 1st October.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*. Two on 6th May with 1-2 till 9th May. One on 14th May then 4 on 19th and 5 on 24th May, 29th May, 1st and 2nd June, one remaining till 5th June. Then single birds on 10-11th, 16-18th and 21st June. In autumn, 2 on 20th August one on 7th September with 5 on 8th and 1-3 daily till 19th September. Fresh arrival at end of September with 6 on 30th, 2-3 birds remaining till 10th October and one on 14-16th October.

**WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*. One on 5th May, 3 on 7th May with 1-2 daily till 19th May. 6 on 20th with 1-4 daily till 4th June. One on 15th June, 2 on 16-17th and one on 22nd June. Autumn records from 18th August (1) with a single on 5th September, 2 on 6th and 5 on 7th September with 1-3 till 18th. 2 on 29th September and singles on 3-4th October, 8th October and 19-21st October.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*. First seen on 24th May with 3 on 25th and 12 on 29th May and 1st June, 1-3 daily till 8th June and a single on 13th with 2 on 14th and 17th June. Autumn passage from 5th August with 1-3 birds daily in mid-August then 19 on 20th August decreasing to 2 by end of month. 25 on 6th September, 30 on 8th then dropping to 1-2 till 28th when 5, 16 on 29th September and 8 on 1st October, 1-4 daily till 13th and one on 15-16th October.

**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*. First recorded on 5th May with singles most days till 27th May, 3 on 28th May, 5 on 29th and on 2-3rd June one remaining till 7th, a single on 11th and 2 on 16th June. In autumn, 2 on 7th September with singles most days to 27th September. Arrival on 29th (10) increasing to 30 on 30th September, 12 on 1st October but 21 on 9th and 22 on 12th with autumn peak of 35 on 15th October a few remaining till the end of the month. 6 on 31st October and 2nd November with 1-3 till 10th November and one on 12th.

**GREENISH WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. An adult trapped in the Plantation on 4th August. (12th Fair Isle record, last recorded 1974).

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. One at Quoy on 28th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. 4 on 28th September, with one on 29th, 3 on 30th - 1st October. 2 on 2nd October and one on 11-12th October.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Single birds on 8th May, 28-29th May and 3-4th June. In autumn, nine individuals between 8th August and 9th September with peak of 3 on 6th September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. First recorded on 28th March with 1-3 on several dates in April. 25 on 1st May with 2-5 daily till 8th May then singles on 14th, 21st and 24th May, 2 on 28th, 4 on 29th-30th, 2 on 2nd June and one on 5-6th June. Recorded in autumn from 1st September with up to 6 on many days in September. 10 on 1st October, 12 on 14th and 2-6 daily till 20th October. 2 on 28th and one on 31st October.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. One on 27th May, main arrivals; 35 on 1st May and 25 on 7th May with up to 10 till end of May. 4 on 1st June, one on 15th, 2 on 17th and one on 23rd June. One moulting in Restensgeo bracken from 20-30th July. Autumn passage from 9th August with peaks of 25 on 20th August, 75 on 8th September, 12 on 28th September and 14 on 1st October, 1-4 till 15th October and a late bird on 28th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. 6 on 31st March, 1-3 on most days in April, but 15 on 2nd and 6 on 6th. Odd singles to 17th May. In autumn, passage from 7th September with main arrivals in late September with 50 on 30th and 130 on 1st October. Numbers dropping rapidly to 1 on 4th October, but fresh arrival of 40 on 12th with numbers slowly dwindling till last seen on 19th October.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. 2 on 5th May increasing to 7 on 7th and 37 on 8th, then 1-4 most days till 24th when 12, 25 on 29th and 12 on 1st June decreasing to 1 on 8th June and a late bird on 29th June. Few in autumn with one on 6th September, 4 on 7th and 7 on 8th slowly decreasing to 1 on 16th. Single birds on 1-3rd October and 12th October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*. Two on 29th September and singles on 12th and (different bird) 13th October.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*. First recorded on 27th April, arrivals of 3 on 28th April, 15 on 1st May, and 23 on 8th May, none between 10-19th May and 1-3 till the end of the month. In autumn, recorded from 13th August with 1-2 on several dates to 5th September. 40 on 6th and 36 on 8th September decreasing to 1-2 till 28th when 5 seen. 5 on 1st October, one on 7-9th and 2 on 14th October.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*. One, mostly at Shirva, on 11-14th April.



GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*. Two ♂♂ on Ward Hill from 30th May-3rd June. (20-21st Records for Fair Isle).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*. One on 5th May, then recorded daily from 19th May to 15th June with peaks of 16 on 23rd May, 18 on 24th May and 15 on 29th May, with 9 on 1st June and numbers slowly decreasing till 15th June. Only two in autumn, on 7-8th September.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. 2 on 2nd April (one found dead), 3 on 3rd, 2 on 4th, 1 on 5-6th and 3 on 7th April. In autumn, 5 on 12th October dropping to 3 on 13th and one on 14th.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. One on 26th February - 1st March. One 30th March - 6th April and 2 on several dates in April till 28th with one on 29th. A flock of 26 on 2nd November.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One on several dates between 26th February and 12th March. 1-2 on many dates from 19th March - 9th April, 8 on 16th and 10 on 17th April with 1-2 on several dates to 21st May and 4 on 1st May. In autumn, 3 on 2nd November with singles on 12th and 15-16th.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. One on 30th March - 2nd April and 20-21st April, 4 on 26th April with 1-3 on many dates to 17th May. 3 on 18th May one remaining to 19th June. One on 1st July and 12 July-1st August.

Hooded Crow *C.c. cornix* resident, some passage indicated by flock of 14 on 27th February. Breeding season as usual.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Recorded in all months. Passage indicated by 50 north on 9th April and 27 on 15th April. In autumn large flocks of 30 on 27th September and 27 on 18th October. Breeding data: 4 pairs nested, three successfully raising 12 young. First young in nest noted on 14th May.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Recorded in all months of the year. Passage in late March and April, with peaks of 300 on 25th and 30th March, 500 on 2nd April and up to 450 on several dates in April. In autumn, flocks of 500 on 25th August and 700 on 4th September. Passage noted in September with 400 on 8th. 150

in off the sea on 19th August shows that passage of presumed Shetland birds begins quite early. Breeding data: season as usual with first eggs noted 8th May.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Present in usual numbers throughout the year.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. One overwintered to 16th January. In Spring, recorded from 7th April with 1-3 on many dates till 18th June. Recorded in autumn from 11th September with one on most days 24th September - 17th October and on 22nd October and 3rd November.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. One on 6th January, about 5 sightings in February - March with an arrival of 55 on 2nd April. Seen daily in small numbers to end of month. Up to 30 in early May with 1-2 till 3rd June. One on 7th, and another 14-15th June. First recorded in Autumn on 28th September, rapid increase to 40 on 30th September with 20-30 in early October with 1-2 on several dates to 13th November. One on 27-29th November and another 15-24th December.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. 4 on 2nd April then 1-6 daily till 20th, numbers increasing to 26 on 21st and 130 on 30th April. Further arrivals in early May with 200 on 5th up to 65 till 11th then 1-2 daily till 1st June. Autumn records from 28th September with 90 on 29th, numbers slowly decreasing till 12th October when up to 90 and visible passage noted. 50-70 till 16th October then up to 10 till 19th. No further sightings till 2 on 6th November with 13 on 8th, 10 on 12th and 1-2 daily till 19th November. One from 15-17th December.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*. Two on 18th April with 3 on 19th and 4 on 22nd and 1-3 daily till 8th May. One on 13th May. In autumn, 2 on 2nd November increasing to 5 on 13th with one to 19th November.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. One on 4th May, 4 on 5th and 1-2 daily till 8th. One on 29th May. 4 on the unusual date of 12th July. Autumn records from 1st October increasing to 5 on 12th and 18 on 15th, slowly decreasing to 6 on 18th and the last one seen on 19th October.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. 2 on 18th April with one to 22nd. ♀ on 4th May, ♂ on 5th and 2-3 till 9th May. 2 ♂♂ on 13th May with 1-2 till end of May and 1 to 12th June. A ♀ on 18th June. In autumn one on 7-9th September and another on 7-8th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. Recorded in all months. 20-30 in January and early February. Arrival of 70 on 25th February, then 20-30 in March increasing in April with 80 on 20th. Autumn flocks of 110 on 6th August, 200 on 9th September and 350 on 20th September. Decrease in October with 20-30 in November and up to 20 in mid December. Breeding data: season as usual, nest found with young just behind Observatory on 9th July.



**REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*. One on 3rd April. Mealy Redpolls *C.f. flammea* on 20-21st April, another 29-30th April and a ♂ from 1st-5th May with 2♂ on 6th May, 3 on 9-10th May with 1-2 till 17th and one on 19th May. A Lesser Redpoll *C.f. caberet/disruptis* on 14-16th July and probably the same bird on 19th July. Very few in autumn, a Mealy on 10th-19th October and a Greenland Redpoll *C.f. rostrata* from 11th-22nd October.

**CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostris*. A ♀ on 26th May, one on 28th and a ♂ on 30th May which may have been a Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*. An immature on 1st July and one either this species or Parrot Crossbill on 12th October.

**SCARLET ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One on 4th June and another on 8th June. In autumn 2 on 5th September, another 7-8th September and one on 29th September-1st October, all ♂.

**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. Three on 3rd April with 3 including different individuals on 4th, one remaining to 6th April. 2 on 7th and one till 14th with 2 on 15th.



**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. A remarkable series of records: ♀ found dead on 3rd April, one on 30th April - 7th May, a ♂ on 13-14th May and a ♀ on 13-17th May. (17-20th records for Fair Isle, last recorded 1975).



White-throated Sparrow

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*. A first-year ♂ at the Plantation on 17th June (trapped), 2nd Fair Isle record, the first being in 1966.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. A ♂ on 18th April, a different ♂ on 19th and 1-2 most days till 1st May. 3 on 2nd May with 2-3 till 10th, 1-2 till 20th May and ♀♀ on 21-22nd May and 1st June. Autumn records from 5th September with singles most days till 15th September, 4 on 16th increasing to 6 on 19th and 7 on 24-25th with 1-4 daily till end of the month. 12 on 1st October with 1-5 till 18th, one on 31st October and one on 15th November. 2 on the late date of 10th December.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Up to 9 in early January with 60 on 16th, numbers dwindling to 2-3 in February. 18 on 9th March and 40 on 17th with 1-3 till the end of March. 34 on 3rd April 1-2 till early May when 35 on 5th. 1-2 till 14th May and a ♂ on 3rd June. Autumn records from 8th September, with 50 on 23rd and 120 on 30th. 200 on 4th October increasing to 250 on 10th and 580 on 15th, up to 60 till end of October. 300 on 4th November and 480 on 10th with up to 30 till early December and small numbers till end of year.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. A ♂ on 1-2nd April and 6th April. Singles on 14th, 22nd April and on 17th May. In autumn, one on 4th November.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. Single ♂♂ on 29-30th April, 2-5th May and 10-11th May. In autumn, 2 on 8th September with 1 till 13th, 2 on 14th and singles on 15th and 29th September.



RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. An adult ♂ at the Hill Dyke on 1st June. Immature ♂♂ on 5th October (trapped) and 12-16th October.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. A poor showing compared with recent years. One at Springfield and Kennaby from 30th September-2nd October.

YELLOW-BREADED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. 4 ♂♂ in autumn; one on 5th-7th September, 2 on 8th, a new bird on 9th and 2 on 10th September.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Single birds on 24-25th February and 26th March. 6 on 29th March and 8 on 1st April with 1-5 most days to 29th April when 17 arrived. 12 on 2nd May, 40 on 8th May and 30 on 11th with 1-7 till end of May. Few in autumn, first recorded on 28th September with 10 on 29th, 15 on 30th September and 18 on 5th October with 2-5 till 18th October. One on 11th December.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*. An adult ♂ at Taing on 11-15th August showed every indication of being a genuine vagrant.

## Ringling Details 1978

### Introduction

In 1978, 7599 birds of 111 species were ringed on the Island, three of these, Ring-necked Duck, Pochard and Shelduck were additions to the Island ringling list and all were caught by dazzling. The monthly totals of birds ringed were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5	5	33	699	677	731	2337	1264	631	776	438	4

The heligolands were maintained throughout the year, large numbers of Storm Petrels were caught using mist-nets in conjunction with tape lures, mist netting also accounted for some of the rarer species handled. Dazzling and Wader Traps produced many interesting species, the latter accounting for most of the record total of Little Stints. Dazzling for Short-eared Owls was a great success with 5 out of the 6 caught in this manner. The seabird ringling concentrated on auks with a record total of Guillemots ringed, and despite the poor breeding season for seabirds good numbers of most species, with the notable exception of Black Guillemot, were ringed. The new Observatory boat proved invaluable in getting to some of the more inaccessible colonies though poor weather prevented us landing on the Holms for Puffins.

The top ten species ringed were: Storm Petrel 999, Starling 914, Guillemot 703, Robin 448, Blackbird 433, Redwing 391, Fulmar 336, Wheatear 280, Kittiwake 245 and Brambling 219.

Record totals were achieved for Sparrowhawk (12), Little Stint (32), Reed Warbler (13), Raven (7) and Short-eared Owl (6), Merlin (8) was the highest total since 1957 and Corncrake (3) equalled the record. Among the more unusual species handled were Little Grebe, Heron, Whooper Swan, Lanceolated Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Red-throated Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Hawfinch, Scarlet Rosefinch (2), Rustic Bunting and White-throated Sparrow.

A large number of recoveries were reported during the year and details of the more interesting ones follow the Ringling Tables.



Ringing hut, near plantation.

# TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS AND RECOVERIES

	Ringed		Recovered		
	1948-77	1978	1948-77	1978	
		Pull	FG		
Little Grebe	4		1		
Fulmar	7080	305	31	52	4
Storm Petrel	5614		999	65	21
Shag	10000	141	34	227	6
Grey Heron	11		1		
Whooper Swan	16		1	2	
Shelduck			1		
Teal	32		1	2	
Pochard			1		
Ring-necked Duck			1		
Eider	74		3		
Sparrowhawk	103		12	11	2
Kestrel	27		2	5	
Merlin	134		8	11	
Water Rail	197		5	2	1
Corncrake	30		3	2	
Moorhen	60		2	2	1
Oystercatcher	816	37	2	36	1
Ringed Plover	317	3	1	3	
Knot	60		5	1	
Sanderling	74		3		
Little Stint	29		32		
Purple Sandpiper	136		2	1	
Dunlin	328		5	5	
Jack Snipe	108		1	3	

	<b>Ringed</b>		<b>Recovered</b>	
	<b>1948-77</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1948-77</b>	<b>1978</b>

Pull

FG

Snipe	245		8	4	
Woodcock	197		7	9	
Curlew	35	2		2	
Turnstone	62		1		
Arctic Skua	2237	82	2	36	2
Great Skua	410	20		6	
Common Gull	51	4		5	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	778	43		17	1
Herring Gull	2032	192	7	46	2
Great Black-backed Gull	1238	68	2	47	4
Kittiwake	1985	236	9	13	1
Common Tern	86	14		1	
Guillemot	3834	507	196	78	11
Razorbill	1933	100	39	47	3
Black Guillemot	1072	4		11	1
Puffin	6884	94	122	13	4
Collared Dove	96		5		
Turtle Dove	40		4	1	
Cuckoo	67		1	1	
Long-eared Owl	106		11	5	
Short-eared Owl	1		6		
Wryneck	135		4		
Skylark	646	18	6	2	1
Swallow	183		6	2	
House Martin	130		3		
Tree Pipit	417		13		
Meadow Pipit	6341	22	123	38	2
Red-throated Pipit	4		1		
Rock Pipit	5979	12	204	19	2
Citrine Wagtail	4		1		
Grey Wagtail	9		1		
Pied Wagtail	403		5	4	
Wren	550		4		
Dunnock	1134		101	4	1
Robin	3977		448	23	2
Bluethroat	150		3	2	
Black Redstart	79		2		
Redstart	1247		39		
Whinchat	390		12	2	
Wheatear	11633	24	256	54	3
Ring Ousel	287		16	6	
Blackbird	14125		433	248	8
Fieldfare	520		9		
Song Thrush	1505		97	21	
Redwing	4948		391	55	1
Mistle Thrush	17		1	1	
Lanceolated Warbler	10		1		
Grasshopper Warbler	60		2		
Aquatic Warbler	18		1		
Sedge Warbler	243		3	1	
Marsh Warbler	41		1		
Reed Warbler	90		13	1	
Great Reed Warbler	3		1		
Icterine Warbler	53		1		

	53				
	<b>Ringed</b>		<b>Recovered</b>		
	<b>1948-77</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1948-77</b>	<b>1978</b>	
		Pull	FG		
Barred Warbler	268		3		
Lesser Whitethroat	366		18		
Whitethroat	652		6		
Garden Warbler	1696		69		
Blackcap	2166		103	6	
Greenish Warbler	9		1		
Wood Warbler	53		4		
Chiffchaff	421		25		
Willow Warbler	2074		66	1	
Goldcrest	926		34	2	
Spotted Flycatcher	373		20	1	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	34		1		
Pied Flycatcher	599		22	3	
Red-backed Shrike	163		16		
Great Grey Shrike	85		7	1	
Raven	6	5	2		
Starling	11503	48	866	90	5
House Sparrow	1005		37	1	
Chaffinch	1089		102	3	2
Brambling	1563		219	2	2
Greenfinch	67		5		
Linnet	96		5	1	
Twite	3355	3	184	3	
Redpoll	467		4	1	
Scarlet Rosefinch	51		2		
Bullfinch	24		2		
Hawfinch	2		1		
White-throated Sparrow	1		1		
Snow Bunting	491		2	3	
Yellowhammer	34		1		
Rustic Bunting	8		1	1	
Reed Bunting	245		7	2	

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Totals for 1978	1984	5615	105
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Number of species ringed in 1978	111
Grand Total of birds ringed 1948-78	143462
Grand Total of species ringed 1948-78	236
Grand Total of birds recovered 1948-78	1509

## Recoveries in 1978

A total of 105 recoveries were reported during the year. Details of the more interesting ones are given below, the ever increasing number of Storm Petrel recoveries and controls are shown on a separate map. The International code of symbols for the method of recovery and the age of ringing are used:

- v - caught or trapped and released with ring.
- + - shot 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 date of recovery is given in brackets it signifies date of recovery unknown, date of finder's report given.

Age codes:

- 1 pullus or nestling.
- 2 fully grown, age unknown.
- 3 hatched in current year of ringing.
- 4 hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact age unknown.
- 5 hatched in previous calendar year.
- 6 hatched before previous calendar year.
- 7 hatched 2 years before ringing.
- 8 hatched 3 or more years before ringing.

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

### FULMAR

SS39,044	1	09.08.65	Fair Isle
xA		23.05.77	Flateyjarhr, ICELAND. 65°22'N 22°55'W.
SS39,354	2	09.09.65	Fair Isle
x (oiled)		22.07.78	Schiermonnikoog, NETHERLANDS 53°29'N 6°12'E.
FV06,460	1	11.08.77	Fair Isle
x (oiled)		12.08.78	Frisian Islands, NETHERLANDS 53°15'N 4°55'E.

Our first recovery of this species from Iceland, and two as a result of oiling in the North Sea.

### SHAG

1013,294	1	09.07.60	Fair Isle.
x		30.11.77	Suderbrarup, (Schleswig-Holstein), W. GERMANY 54°38'N 9°47'E.

Only the second recovery of this species from W. Germany, it is unusual for adult birds to stray so far.

PINTAIL  
 FV06,209 2♀ 17.09.76 Fair Isle.  
 + 19.10.77 Ylistaro (Vaasa) FINLAND  
 62°54'N 22°48'E.

This is the only Pintail to have been ringed on Fair Isle.

SPARROWHAWK  
 DS07,823 5♂ 15.05.78 Fair Isle.  
 v (in fog) 18.05.78 Oil Rig, North Sea, 61°03'N 1°43'E.  
 DS75,900 3♂ 15.10.77 Fair Isle.  
 x (23.04.78) Inverness. 268 km SW.

PEREGRINE  
 HW08,009 1 23.06.68 Fair Isle.  
 v 07.02.78 Spiggie, Shetland 45 km NNE.

This is the first recovery of a Fair Isle Peregrine, it was found injured, cared for and released again.

WATER RAIL  
 EH40,823 3♂ 12.11.77 Fair Isle.  
 x 19.08.78 Ulriceham (Alvsborg) SWEDEN  
 57°50'N 13°09'E.

The third recovery of this species and the first from Sweden.

MOORHEN  
 FV06,242 4 09.05.77 Fair Isle.  
 x  
 x (fishing line) 25.04.78 Koge, (Sjaelland) DENMARK  
 55°27'N 12°13'E.

ARCTIC SKUA  
 EF85,746 1 17.07.75 Fair Isle.  
 + 02.01.78 off Nouakchott, MAURITANIA  
 18°06'N 15°57'W.  
 EH26,530 1 03.07.77 Fair Isle.  
 /?/ 25.11.77 St. Pee sur Nivelle, (Pyrenees-  
 Atlantiques) FRANCE 43°21'N  
 1°33'W.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL  
 HW26,011 8 25.11.73 Fair Isle.  
 + 24.09.77 Andoy, (Nordland) NORWAY  
 68°54'N 15°37'E.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL  
 GP37,569 1 12.07.71 Fair Isle.  
 /?/ (26.04.78) Lagoa, (Algarve) PORTUGAL  
 37°07'N 8°27'W.



## KITTIWAKE

EB47,992	6	23.06.77	Fair Isle.
+		09.10.77	Frederikshab, GREENLAND, 62°05'N 49°30'W.

The 9th recovery of this species from Greenland.

## RAZORBILL

M19,331	1	24.06.75	Fair Isle.
x		06.02.78	St. Gildas-de-Rhuys, (Morbihan) FRANCE 47°30'N 2°50'W.
M19,462	1	18.06.76	Fair Isle.
+		09.11.77	Ribe, (Jylland) DENMARK 55°20'N 8°35'E.
M26,059	1	28.06.76	Fair Isle.
x (oiled)		10.04.78	Ploubazlanec (Cotes-du-Nord) FRANCE 48°48'N 3°02'W.

M26,059 probably died as a result of the Amoco Cadiz incident.

## GUILLEMOT

GP97,747	1	19.06.74	Fair Isle.
()		21.01.75	Seydisfjörður (N-Mul) ICELAND. 65°15'N 14°01'W.

The first recovery of this species from Iceland, and unusually far north in winter.

## BLACK GUILLEMOT

ED57,643	1	28.07.69	Fair Isle.
x		05.02.78	Nr. Filey, Yorks. 590 km S.

The second recovery from England.

## PUFFIN

EB47,451	6	10.07.76	Fair Isle.
x		27.03.78	Vendee, FRANCE. 46°38'N 1°51'W.
EB47,564	1	14.07.76	Fair Isle.
xA		25.03.78	Mimizan Plage (Landes) FRANCE. 44°13'N 1°18'W.

The first French recoveries of this species from Fair Isle.

## REDWING

CN47,988	3	12.10.71	Fair Isle Coburni.
/?/		(31.01.78)	Tullamore (Offaly) EIRE. 600kmSW

Our 'oldest' Redwing recovery to date.

## BLACKBIRD

XB01,297	4♀	08.11.75	Fair Isle.
/?/		06.10.77	Vilitasaari (Vaasa) FINLAND. 63°12'N 25°36'E.

## WHEATEAR

BS23,465 3 22.08.75 *Fair Isle.*  
 /?/ (21.12.77) Kenitra, MOROCCO. 34°16'N  
 6°36'W.

NA75,988 5♂ 24.04.78 *Fair Isle.*  
 () 22.09.78 Ben Meloudi, MOROCCO.  
 33°26'N 6°52'W.

## ROBIN

A188,114 3 01.10.78 *Fair Isle.*  
 v 08.10.78 Revtingen (Rogaland) NORWAY  
 58°45'N 5°30'E.

A rapid "wrong-way" movement in autumn.

KX03,283 4 03.04.78 *Fair Isle.*  
 v 13.04.78 Hull Docks, Yorks. 650 km S.

This bird was probably ship-assisted to Hull having landed on a vessel in the North Sea.

## DUNNOCK

KX03,377 4 07.04.78 *Fair Isle.*  
 v 28.04.78 North Ronaldsay, Orkney.  
 45 km WSW.

## MEADOW PIPIT

KR25,465 3 12.09.77 *Fair Isle.*  
 x (hit window) 22.04.78 Isafjordur, (N-Isf) ICELAND.  
 66°05'N 23°09'W.

Long suspected as the origin of many of our migrant Meadow Pipits, this is the first Fair Isle recovery from Iceland.

## ROCK PIPIT

NA75,452 1 13.06.77 *Fair Isle.*  
 /?/ 16.01.78 Nr. Stromness, Orkney.  
 115 km WSW.  
 NA75,810 3 20.08.77 *Fair Isle.*  
 xA —.03.78 Thurso, Caithness. 150 km. SW.

Further indication that our Rock Pipits are not entirely resident.

## SISKIN

KR25,622 3♀ 28.09.77 *Fair Isle.*  
 + (05.06.78) Fomos de Algodres, (Beira Alta)  
 PORTUGAL 40°38'N 7°32'W.

The first recovery of a Fair Isle ringed Siskin.

## CHAFFINCH

KX03,392 5♂ 12.04.78 *Fair Isle.*  
 v 18.04.78 North Ronaldsay, Orkney.  
 45 km. WSW.

KX03,490	5♂	29.04.78	<i>Fair Isle.</i>
v		04.05.78	North Ronaldsay, Orkney. 45 km WSW.

These two rapid recoveries in Spring, (KX03,392 was retrapped on Fair Isle on 15.04.78) may indicate re-orientation of overshooting birds.

#### BRAMBLING

KX25,900	2♀	12.10.77	<i>Fair Isle.</i>
v	5♀	15.01.78	Rendall, Orkney. 100 km SW.
KX03,028	3♂	14.10.77	<i>Fair Isle.</i>
v	3♂	22.10.77	North Ronaldsay, Orkney. 45 km WSW.

## CONTROLS

### Birds ringed elsewhere and recovered on Fair Isle.

#### BARNACLE GOOSE

DUK (yellow darvic)	5♀	23.07.77	<i>Nordenskioldkysten, SVALBARD.</i>
winter 1977		21.04.78	Caerlaverock, Solway.
		24.09.78	Fair Isle (sight record).

#### SPARROWHAWK

Stavanger			
659,800	3♂	24.09.76	<i>Tjome, (Vestfold) NORWAY.</i>
			59°04'N 10°32'E.
v	5♂	30.04.77	Fair Isle.

#### MERLIN

Four Merlins controlled on Fair Isle in August and September had been ringed as pullus in Unst, Yell and Mainland Shetland.

#### REDWING

BV80,775	4	20.10.77	<i>North Ronaldsay, Orkney.</i>
v	4	28.10.77	Fair Isle. 45 km ENE.

#### BLACKBIRD

XC19,257	3♀	14.11.76	<i>Titchwell, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.</i>
v	4♀	06.11.77	Fair Isle. 740 km NNW.
XC94,581	6♀	04.05.78	<i>North Ronaldsay, Orkney.</i>
v	6♀	07.05.78	Fair Isle. 45 km ENE.

#### ROBIN

Arnhem			
A211,954	2	19.09.77	<i>Texel, NETHERLANDS. 53°07'N</i>
			4°47'E.
v	5	15.05.78	Fair Isle.
KX39,722	4	01.05.78	<i>North Ronaldsay, Orkney.</i>
v	4	10.05.78	Fair Isle. 45 km ENE.

BLACKCAP  
 2182,069 2♀ 09.10.77 *North Ronaldsay, Orkney.*  
 v 2♀ 10.10.77 Fair Isle. 45 km ENE.

A very rapid 'wrong-way' movement in autumn.

STARLING  
 XC41,477 1 13.05.78 *Headington Hill, Oxford.*  
 v 3♀ 19.08.78 Fair Isle. 860 km N.

BRAMBLING  
 KV66,183 4♂ 26.11.77 *Hinstock, Market Drayton. Salop.*  
 v 4♂ 22.04.78 Fair Isle. 735 km. N.

REED BUNTING  
 KJ37,468 4♂ 18.09.76 *Scousburgh, Shetland.*  
 v 4♂ 30.03.78 Fair Isle.

A Great Skua, ringed with FIBO rings on Hascosay, Shetland on 24.07.66 as a pullus was recovered as a breeding adult on Fetlar, 5 km E on 23.07.78.

## Retraps in 1978

A large number (over 550) of birds were recaptured during the year, many of these are short-term retraps of migrant species which yield information on weight gains or losses and length of stay on the island. Others are our breeding birds and a considerable amount of information has been gathered on inter-colony movement of seabirds, age of first breeding, and longevity. Some of the more interesting retraps are detailed below.

### SHAG

The two eldest retraps were of birds ringed in 1963 as pullus, one was found dead at Slogar, the other controlled as a breeding adult at Lericum, where it had been originally ringed.

### OYSTERCATCHER

A bird ringed as a chick at South Park in June 1960 was found dead at Wirvie on 11th June, a lifespan of 18 years.

### HERRING GULL

A bird ringed as a chick at Mavers Geo in June 1966 was found dead on South Haven beach in May.

### GUILLEMOT

A large number of Guillemots were retrapped this year as a result of special effort on this species. Two birds had particularly interesting histories, one ringed as an adult at Guillemot Cave in 1966 was retrapped at Lericum in July and required re-ringing (due to ring-wear) for the 7th time, it is at least 17 years old. Another trapped at Sauversteen was also re-ringed for the 7th time, it had been caught at Guillemot Cave in 1956 when it was already wearing an illegible ring and must now be approaching its 20th year.

## PUFFIN

Three Puffins ringed at Burrista in 1962, two as pullus the other as a breeding adult were retrapped in June.

## ROCK DOVE

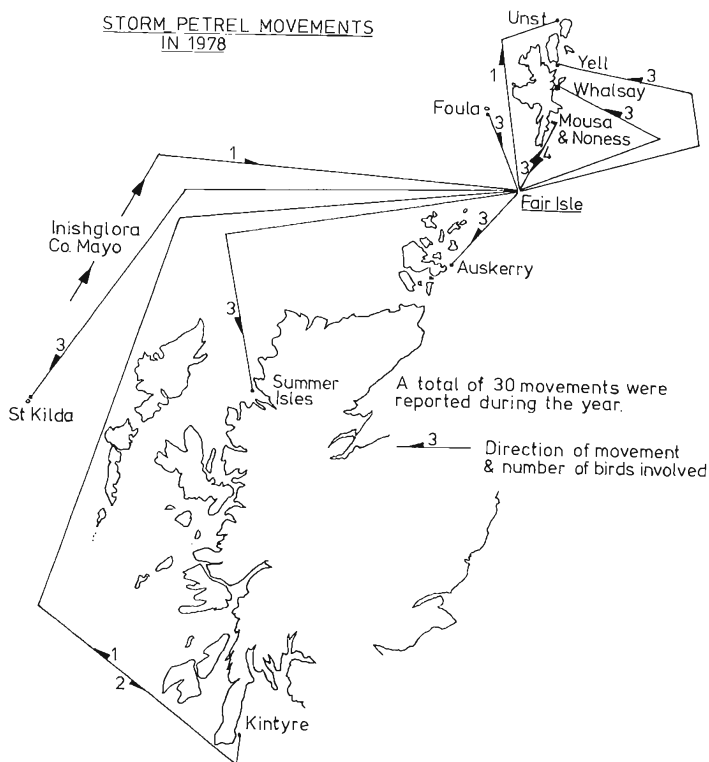
A Rock Dove ringed as an adult in a cave on Goorn in June 1974 was found shot near Pund on 14th May. It is the first recovery of a Fair Isle ringed Rock Dove, though the species is partially migratory on the Isle.

## BLACKBIRD

One ringed on 23rd October 1977 was found dead near the Plantation on 8th March, it had probably over-wintered on the Isle.

## MEADOW PIPIT

A Meadow Pipit, ringed in its first year on 3rd August 1972, was retrapped on 9th April and 20th September. It had also been retrapped in four previous years. This species departs the Isle in winter and may move as far south as Spain.





## Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

### TREASURER'S REPORT

As you know, Iain and Sally Robertson took over from Roger and Judy Broad when the latter took up a post with the R.S.P.B. They have shown that they are more than equal to the task, requiring as it does exceptional resources of tact, improvisation and catering ability. We owe them our thanks.

The full Accounts will be shown, as usual in the Report. I propose here, again as usual, to give you my comments on individual items in the various Accounts.

The crucial figures for any year are the Revenue Account and the figure in the Balance Sheet for **net current Assets**.

#### 1. **Revenue Account.**

Income from Board takings was up by over £100, and the income was further helped by an increase of £150 in the grant from the National Trust for Scotland Wild Life Fund and in the items for subscriptions and donations, which is an important, but variable, figure. I was also glad to see the increase in tax recovered from Deeds of Covenant. **We depend for our annual existence on this support from the public, and anyone who can covenant their subscription is giving us a free bonus from the taxman.**

On the expenditure side we have had to face the inevitable rise in the cost of living, and it says much for the Warden or, more possibly, his wife, that we were able to put aside a further sum of £1,000 toward extra-ordinary expenditure and still show a small surplus, in spite of the fact that the cost of every single item was up on the previous year, except provisions, and loan interest. The latter declines annually as the result of repayment of capital under our agreement with the H.I.D.B.

The extraordinary expenditure that we are guarding against consists of future payments in respect of the fire precautions, modifications to the central heating unit, repairs to the Hostel roof and plumbing and improvements to the garage and workshop.

#### 2. **Appeal Fund.**

The re-opening of this fund was necessitated by the legislation which required us to take action in order to comply with fire regulations, an extremely costly performance. It was, as you will see, supported magnificently, and our very warm thanks are due, and given with gratitude, to all those who came to our aid. We have already had to spend some £8,500 plus. There will no doubt be further alterations, and payments to be made, which we hope will be covered by the balance of £1,228 carried from this fund to the Balance Sheet and the provisions for extra-ordinary expenditure also carried to the Balance Sheet from Revenue. The H.I.D.B. made us a most welcome Grant, and the rest was raised by individual appeal, through the B.B.C., and by letter, and by a coffee morning.

#### 3. **Capital Account.**

This figure has risen by some £3,000, thanks to capital donations received during the year, and a further generous gift from the

Dulverton Trust of £2,500 to be used in further reduction of the original loan from the H.I.D.B. which we have been repaying annually, the final payment being due in 1979.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the Dulverton Trust, both for this present donation, and for all their support and help in the past.

#### 4. **Balance Sheet.**

Finally we come to the Balance Sheet, in which you will see that the Net Current Assets stand at £8,739 as against £7,088. Expenditure on fire precautions was dealt with in the Appeal Fund, before remitting the balance, hence the (nil) figure for cost of alterations, so that we are left with the Appeal Fund balance and the net Current Assets to cover future liabilities as from 31st October 1978. It will be seen that the secured loan from the H.I.D.B. can be finally repaid as and when due.

I have no comment on fixed assets or the investments other than the usual caution that although we write down machinery and equipment every year, we have never written down the original cost of the Hostel itself.



The new Fair Isle Bird Observatory boat, with Assistants T. Williams and P. J. Ewins.



**FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST**

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1978

**REVENUE ACCOUNT****INCOME**

1977		
£13,808	Board .....	£13,925
	Grant - National Trust for Scotland -	
250	Wildlife Fund .....	400
267	Fair Isle Endowment Trust .....	278
1,363	Subscriptions & Donations .....	1,613
282	Tax recovered from Deeds of Covenants .....	323
346	Sale of Publications .....	279
225	Interest Received on Government Stock .....	225
<hr/> £16,541		<hr/> £17,043

**EXPENDITURE**

£ 4,936	Provisions .....	£ 4,130
3,271	Wages & National Insurance .....	3,903
646	Insurances .....	798
1,480	Heat & Light .....	1,683
734	Repairs & Renewals .....	776
861	Telephone, Postages & Stationery .....	942
375	Printing Annual Report .....	478
602	Travelling Expenses .....	973
235	Motor Expenses .....	466
157	Freight Inward .....	229
142	Bird rings and nets .....	214
743	Administration Expenses .....	745
-	Audit & Legal Charges .....	90
206	Loan Interest .....	165
1,700	Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure .....	1,000
380	Depreciation on Machinery & Equipment .....	380
73	Surplus for year .....	71
<hr/> £16,541		<hr/> £17,043

**APPEAL FUND**

Donations Received .....	
B.B.C. Appeal .....	£ 183
Appeal by Letter .....	4,705
Proceeds of Coffee Morning .....	214
Other Receipts .....	107
	<hr/> £ 5,209
Interest on Temporary Deposits .....	451
Grant from H.I.D.B. ....	4,144
	<hr/> £ 9,804
Postages on Appeal Letters .....	£ 30
Cost of Alterations to Hostel to comply with fire regulations .....	8,546
Balance carried to Balance Sheet .....	1,228
	<hr/> £ 9,804

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

Balance at 31st October, 1977 .....	£60,311
Donation from Dulverton Trust (to reduce H.I.D.B. Loan) .....	2,500
Other Donations received during year .....	447
Surplus for year to date .....	71
	<u>£63,329</u>
Balance carried to Balance Sheet .....	<u>£63,329</u>

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31st October, 1978****Fixed Assets**

	Cost or Val.	Deprec. to date		1977
Hostel Building .....	£51,548	£ -	£51,548	£51,548
Machinery & Equipment .....	3,495	2,637	858	1,238
	<u>£55,043</u>	<u>£ 2,637</u>	<u>£52,406</u>	<u>£52,786</u>

**INVESTMENT**

£2,642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 (Market Value £2,391) .....	£ 2,582		
£1,000 8¼% Falkirk D.C. Mortgage 1980 .....	1,000	3,582	3,582

**Current Assets**

Stocks .....	£ 1,120	£ 1,161
Sundry Debtors .....	64	993
Cost of Alterations to date .....	-	1,787
Appeal & Special Funds held in Bank .....	1,840	1,064
Temporary Deposits .....	11,600	7,500
Bank & Cash .....	37	295
	<u>£14,661</u>	<u>£12,800</u>

**Current Liabilities**

Sundry Creditors .....	£ 1,810	£ 2,148
Provision for Extra- ordinary Expenditure .....	3,500	2,500
Special Funds .....	612	1,064
	<u>5,922</u>	<u>£ 5,712</u>

**Net Current Assets**

8,739	7,088
<u>£64,727</u>	<u>£63,456</u>

**Capital Account**

£63,329	£60,311
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**Appeal Fund**

1,228	-
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**Secured Loan - Highlands & Islands Board**

170	3,145
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<u>£64,727</u>	<u>£63,456</u>
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**NOTES/**

**NOTES:**

1. No Depreciation has been provided on the Hostel.
2. Highlands and Islands Development Board £9,500 Loan at 5½%.  
The balance of the loan (£170.00) secured over specified Trust Properties is repayable in July, 1979.

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

COOPERS & LYBRAND  
Chartered Accountants

Edinburgh, 23rd February, 1979.

## FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

### Summary of Account for the year ended 31st October, 1978

	Capital	Revenue
Fund at 31st October, 1977 .....	£ 8,034	
Net gain on realisation .....	272	
Income for year per Schedule ....		£ 248
Income Tax Refund 1977/78 .....		89
		<hr/> £ 337
Trustees Fees and Outlays .....	£ 59	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T. ....	278	337
		<hr/>
Fund at 31st October, 1978	<hr/> £ 8,306	

Schedule	Capital Market Value	Cost	Revenue
Treasury Loan £2,170 8¼% Loan 1987/90 .....	£ 1,752	£ 1,932	£ 118
Treasury Stock £2,750 10% Stock 1992 (purchased) .....	2,338	2,500	92
Henderson Administration 960 High Income Units (purchased)	607	638	-
British Investment Trust £1,530 7½% Conv. Deb. Stock 1996 (Sold) .....			
Whitbread Co. Ltd., 840 'A' ord. 25p shares (Sold) .....			34
	<hr/> £ 4,697	<hr/> £ 5,070	
Heritable Property			
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh ...		3,050	
Cash Balance .....		186	4
		<hr/> £ 8,306	<hr/> £ 248

## THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

### Administering Committee:

Mr J.M.S. Arnott; Mr B. Grewcock (Organiser); Mr A.T. Macmillan;  
Mr J.H. Mellalieu; Major A.D. Peirse-Duncombe.

### Year ended 31st October, 1978

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1977 .....	£ 896.78
Donations received during year .....	467.98
Proceeds of Vignettes .....	82.75
Interest received on temporary loan .....	62.25
	<hr/>
	£1,509.76

### Deduct:

Two grants paid for Accommodation at Hostel .....	29.00
Balance of Funds held at 31st October, 1978 .....	<hr/> £1,480.76

This special fund was set up to help young people to visit Fair Isle. It was instituted in 1968 by the late Richard Richardson in memory of John Harrison of Hunstanton in Norfolk. John, a very keen birdwatcher, had visited Fair Isle three times before he died at the early age of nineteen.

The Fund gives financial assistance to young birdwatchers aged between fifteen and twentyone. Grants are awarded to successful applicants to help defray the cost of accommodation and travel. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE to use the Fund to visit Fair Isle — all applications should be sent to the Hon. Assistant Secretary, F.I.B.O.T., 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

It is essential that the Fund be continually increased so that more people can be offered financial help to visit Fair Isle. Please send your contribution to:

**The Hon. Treasurer**  
**Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust**  
**48 Castle Street**  
**Edinburgh EH2 3LX**

Application for assistance from the John Harison Memorial Fund, to visit Fair Isle to be received by 30 November.

**To: The Hon. Assistant Secretary, F.I.B.O.T., 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.**

Name .....

Age .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Interests: .....

.....

.....

.....

Why do you want to visit Fair Isle? .....

.....

.....

.....

Estimate of travel costs .....

Please enclose letters supporting your application from two referees, such as a school teacher and a senior naturalist, with whom you are well acquainted.



**Charles  
Frank**

**£89.95\***

Used by leading ornithologists  
world-wide:  
**Frank-Nipole binoculars**

**8x56  
ROOF-PRISM  
MODEL**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Ex. Govt. 6x30 Wray  
Crystar Binoculars light  
in weight (18oz) individual eye  
focussing gives excellent weather  
proofing qualities. Robustly made  
and ideal for birdwatching. Brand  
new condition with leather case.

**8x30 illustrated.**

These top-quality  
8x30 Frank-Nipole  
Binoculars have  
a 7° field of view and represent  
outstanding value at £33.95\*  
(including case and V.A.T.).

**PRICE\***  
**£29.95**

**Frank Nipole  
Models**

**Field of  
view**

**Weight**

**Price\***  
(including V.A.T.)

10x50  
7x35 'K' series  
9x35 'K' series  
8x40 'K' series  
10x40 'K' series  
9x63  
12x65  
20x70  
12x50 micro  
8x22 miniature

5.5°  
10°  
8.2°  
8.9°  
0.5°  
5.5°  
4°  
2.5°  
6°  
6.5°

36 oz  
24 oz  
24½ oz  
24½ oz  
25¼ oz  
48 oz  
48 oz  
56 oz  
21¾ oz  
12 oz

**£42.95**  
**£52.25**  
**£52.25**  
**£53.85**  
**£53.85**  
**£68.50**  
**£69.50**  
**£82.50**  
**£57.15**  
**£65.00**

Prices  
correct  
at time  
of going  
to press.

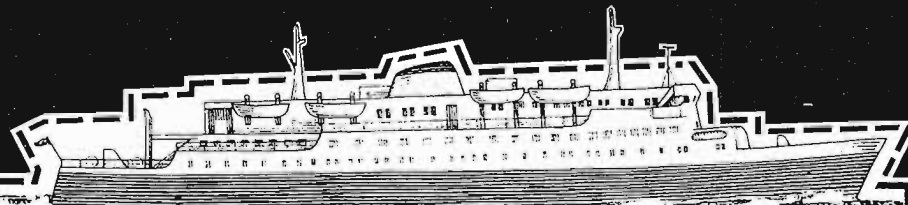
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DISCOUNT PRICES:**

10x50 Zeiss Jenoptem ..... **£66.95**  
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8.5x44 Swift Audubon..... **£99.75**  
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\*Post Packing & Insurance **£1.20 extra**

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**Phone 041-552 7779**

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To P&O Ferries, Orkney and Shetland Services, 22 Jamieson's Quay, Aberdeen AB9 8DL.

I'd like to know all about the restaurant, bar, lounges and cabins that make the St. Clair the best accommodation between Aberdeen and Lerwick. Please send me a colour brochure and a list of fares, including drive-on, drive-off car service.

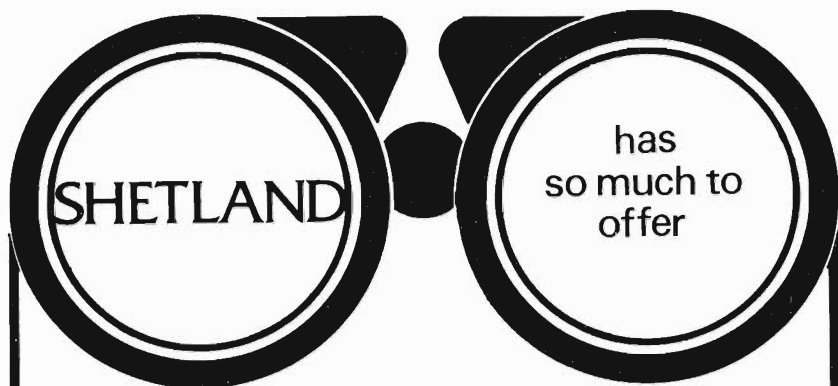
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Exciting migrants including many uncommon species during April - June and September - October.

★ In recent years, for instance, Rüppells Warbler, Black-Browed Albatross, Black Stork, Purple Heron, Booted Warbler and Stilt Sandpiper were just some of the more unusual sightings.

★ Winter visitors such as Great Northern Divers, Long-Tailed Ducks and Iceland Gulls.

So, whether your aim is Hermaness, Noss, Foula or Fetlar, for full information on holiday facilities, transport arrangements and accommodation, contact:

**SHETLAND TOURIST ORGANISATION,  
Information Centre O,  
Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0LU.**

**Tel. Lerwick (0595) 3434.**



## Spend a Holiday on Fair Isle

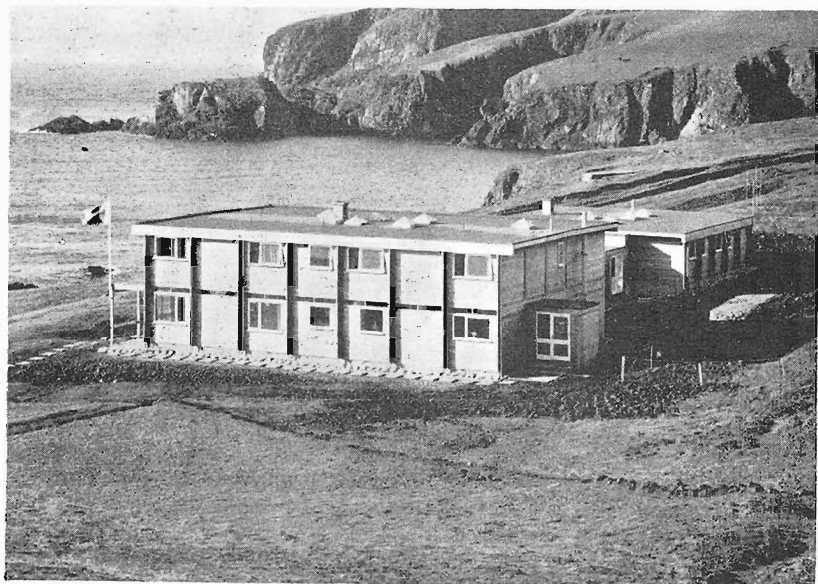
Reasonably priced accommodation on the fascinating island of Fair Isle is available in the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Hostel to ornithologists and general visitors alike, from March to October.

During the peak bird migration periods the island is of course an irresistible destination for keen ornithologists, but at other times — June, July and August — Fair Isle has much to offer those who enjoy quiet, away-from-it-all holidays in an incomparable island setting. Towering cliffs, gently-rounded hills and the friendliness of the islanders combine to provide an unforgettable holiday for the artist, walker, naturalist or out-of-season bird watcher — or for those with a less energetic holiday in mind.

**Accommodation rates in the Hostel** (including board and lodging):

Single room	£45 per person per week
Double room	£36 per person per week
Dormitory	£30 per person per week

Further details from, and bookings to, Iain Robertson, F.I.B.O.T. Warden, Fair Isle, Shetland. Telephone Fair Isle (035-12) 258.



## **Transport to Fair Isle**

<b>Monday</b>	Loganair scheduled flights on eight-seater Islander plane from Sumburgh Airport, Shetland.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Fair Isle Mail Boat, "Good Shepherd", from Grutness Pier, Shetland, at noon. (Return: leaves 07.00, arrives Grutness noon.)
<b>Wednesday</b>	No transport.
<b>Thursday</b>	No transport.
<b>Friday</b>	"Good Shepherd" from Grutness at noon. (Return: leaves 07.00, arrives Grutness noon.)
	Loganair scheduled flights.
<b>Saturday</b>	Loganair flight (F.I.B.O.T. charter).
<b>Sunday</b>	No transport

Transport details from:

Loganair Scheduled Service Bookings, Loganair, Sumburgh. Tel. Sumburgh (095-06) 359.

J. W. Stout: Tel Fair Isle (035-12) 222 (for "Good Shepherd" bookings).

Iain Robertson, F.I.B.O.T. Warden, Fair Isle, Shetland. Tel. Fair Isle (035-12) 258 (for F.I.B.O.T. charter flight on Saturdays).

## **Friends of Fair Isle**

We urgently need more 'Friends of Fair Isle'. The minimum annual subscription is £2.50 and can be paid by Banker's Order or Deed of Covenant.

Full details from:

**The Hon. Secretary**  
**21 Regent Terrace**  
**Edinburgh EH7 5BT**

## **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgement is made to the following for photographs and illustrations used in this report:

White-throated Sparrow, Dr M.P. Harris; Citrine Wagtail, Ringing hut, new F.I.B.O. boat, Ring-necked Duck, Mr I.S. Robertson; all other photographs are from the National Trust for Scotland Photo Library.

The vignettes were drawn and donated by Mr J. Holloway, who runs the shop on Fair Isle. Copies of these and other vignettes are available from him direct.

# the lesser spotted islander



This bird is easily recognised by its distinctive red and black markings. It lands and takes off from almost anywhere migrating regularly between the islands of Shetland.

Other members of the species fly over 500 flights throughout Scotland and the surrounding islands. Fair Isle and Fetlar are frequented by our "Lesser Spotted" and the ornithologists we fly there, are as impressed by our service as by the island's birdlife.

For further information write to: Loganair, Glasgow Airport, Paisley PA3 2TG, Scotland or telephone us at 041-889 3181 and we'll send you our timetable.



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