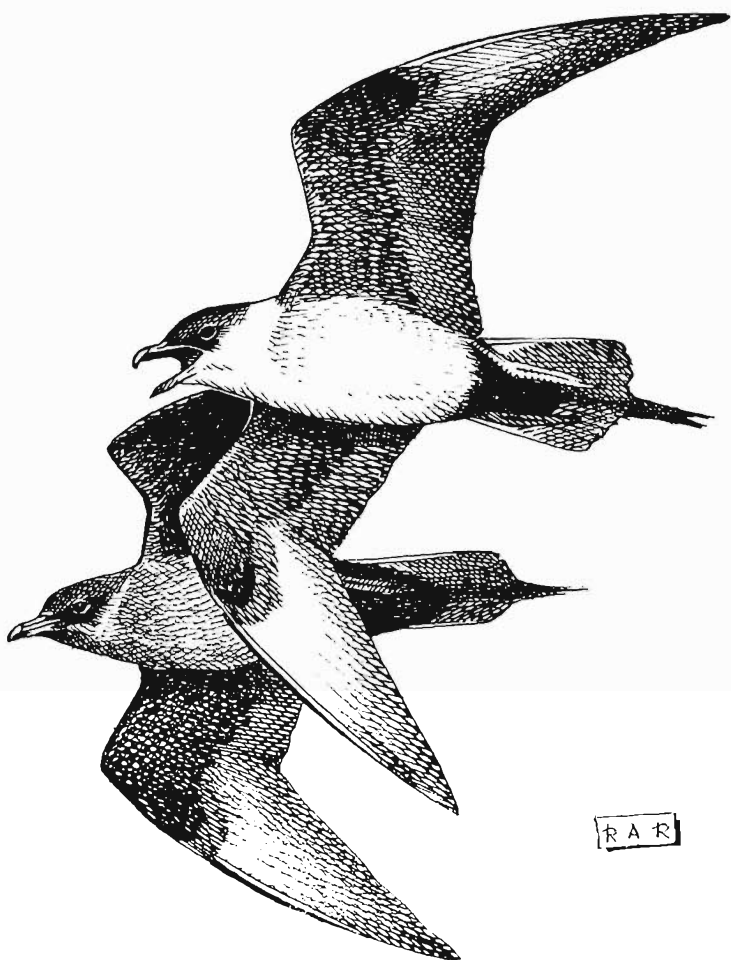


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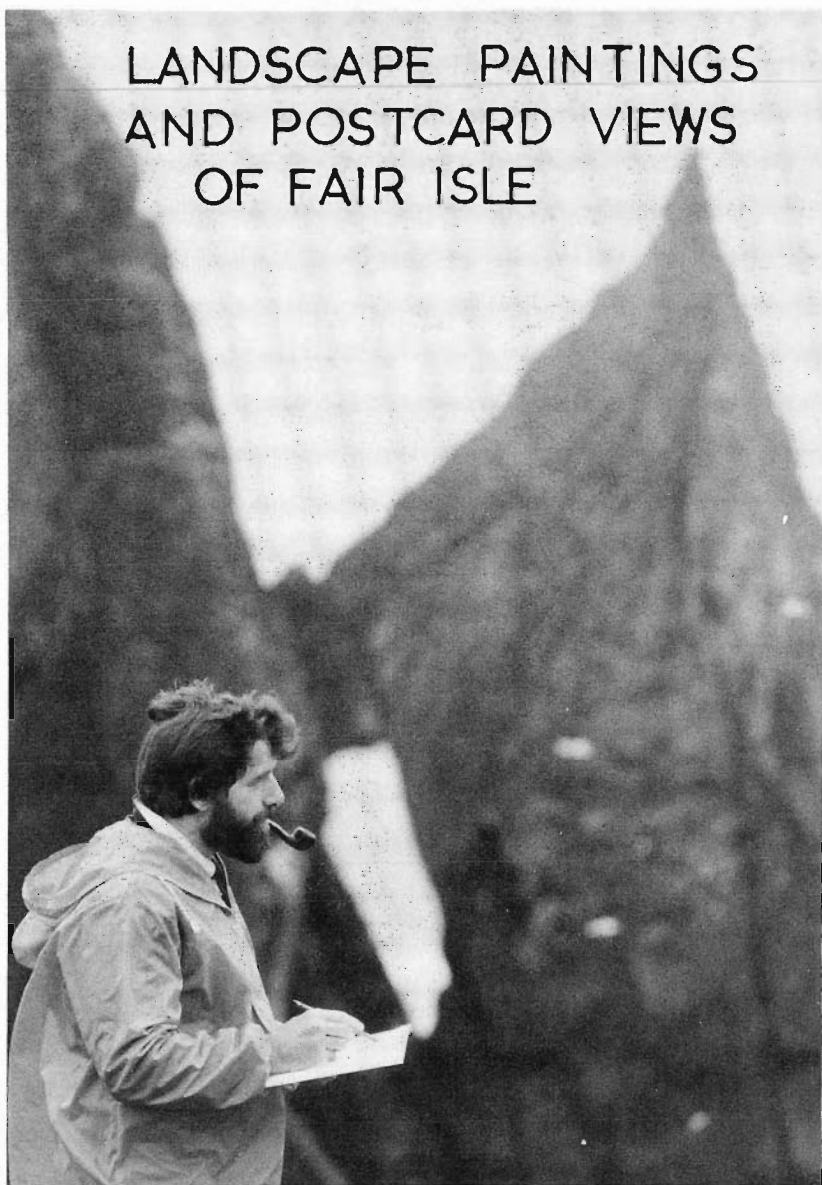
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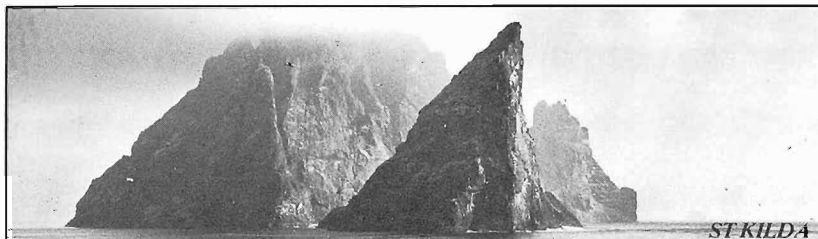


PUBLISHED BY THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST
21 REGENT TERRACE, EDINBURGH, EH7 5BT.
for "Friends of Fair Isle"

JOHN C BEST

LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS
AND POSTCARD VIEWS
OF FAIR ISLE





ST KILDA

A Contrast of Islands



FAIR ISLE



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Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 32
1979

*Edited by GEORGE WATERSTON
and JOHN ARNOTT*

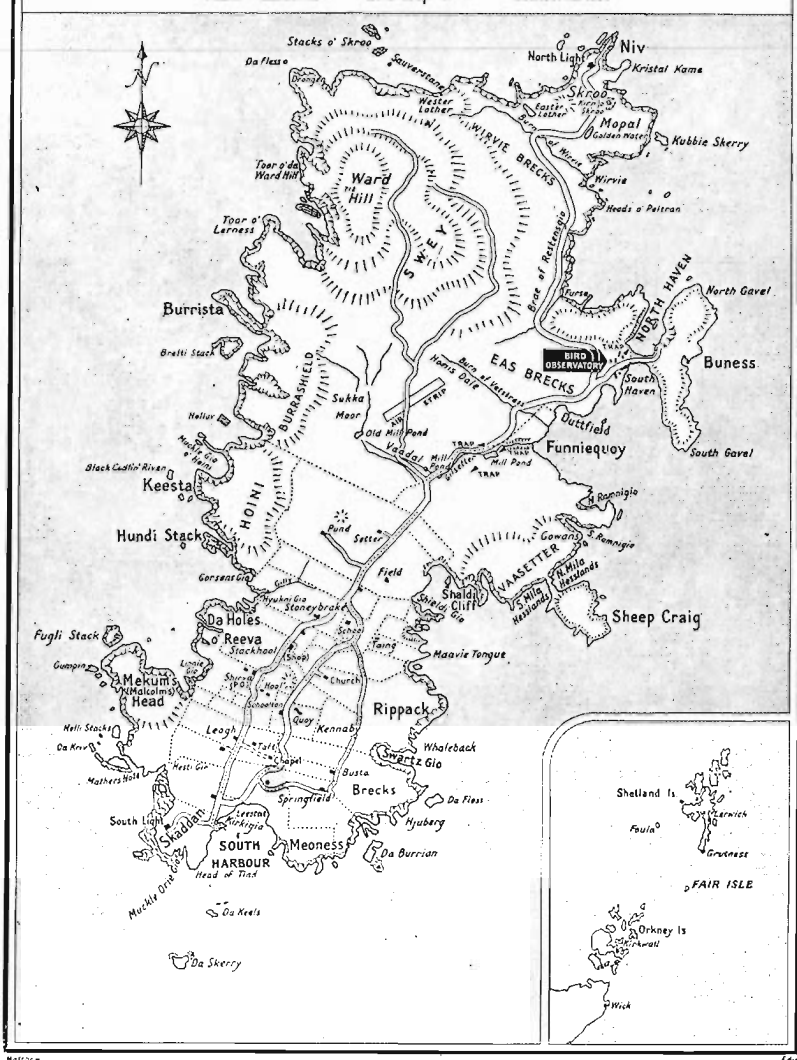
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0 100yds 440yds 880yds 1 mile

Roads == Bird Trap \blacktriangle Boundaries



Fair Isle Bird Observatory

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

Capital 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

Every movement needs both prophets and philosophers as well as those who undertake the ordinary day to day work of the enterprise: the argument over the importance of these two roles is far older than the best known example of Martha and Mary and like many other pointless and insoluble arguments is likely to continue as long as mankind exists.

The death of Frank Darling, one of F.I.B.O.T.'s original Trustees, robs the whole conservation movement of one of its most distinguished philosophers. While many of us like to think of him as a distinguished Scot he was in fact an Englishman and a Geordie at that. His career conveniently divides into three main periods as a Research Worker under the guidance of the brilliant scientist Dr. F.A.E. Crewe, as the West Highland Naturalist and the final phase as a conservationist of world wide renown and influence. Most of us knew him during the second phase when his studies of seals on North Rona and the Treshnish Isles and of deer and sea birds in Wester Ross were the basis for books and essays that, written in glorious English, stimulated, charmed and instructed. There followed later the monumental and possibly most important work West Highland Survey and the volume on the Scottish Highlands in the New Naturalist series. Up till the end of the war Frank had not ventured furth of this country, but very shortly after the war he was present at a meeting at Fontainebleau which started him on journeys to Africa and North America and to world wide fame. He was a staunch, interested and generous friend of Fair Isle whom we all greatly miss.

This Report deals with the work of the 31st year of F.I.B.O.T. and perhaps a glance backwards as well as forwards might not be inappropriate. There are so many fascinating aspects to Fair Isle and its way of life that we may sometimes be tempted to forget that the letters F.I.B.O.T. stand for Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and that the actual object is to observe and study birds. In saying this I hope that I will not be misunderstood. There are many other contributions that we can make, and indeed have made, to help the island's human inhabitants and human visitors: nature conservation and nature study without proper consideration of people would be a barren and futile pursuit. Particularly valuable is the accumulation of facts over a long period which provide a mine of information which will be worked over long after those who have recorded the facts are forgotten. At Fair Isle I like to think that we have been particularly fortunate not only in the remarkable variety of birds that visit the island, often in error, but that the care and accuracy with which their comings and goings have been daily recorded. Each year varies and from time to time fresh aspects of the work are rightly given a different emphasis but the gathering of fundamental data remains constant.

Annually on behalf of the Trustees I thank the Warden and his wife, this year Iain and Sally Robertson, and the staff, the executive which

deals so effectively with the problems as they arise—and are bound to arise, and you the Friends of Fair Isle without whose continued help and support the enterprise would flounder.

I hope this annual expression of my thanks in no way lessens the sincerity with which it is made.

Arthur Duncan
Chairman



Assistant Wardens D. Buffery and N.R. Jones ringing Kittiwake chicks

AN ENCOURAGING START TO THE 80s

by **DAVID MACLEHOSE**
(NTS Factor for Fair Isle)

On his return from captivity in Germany via Sweden during the Second World War, George Waterston's first sight of his homeland was the inimitable shape of Fair Isle's Sheep Rock. At that moment he determined to buy the island from Robert Bruce of Sumburgh. He did so, established the Observatory in the redundant Naval Base at the Haven and created the embryo of Europe's leading Bird Observatory. Six years later in 1954, he reported to the Executive of the National Trust for Scotland: "The islanders are not badly off and it is no economic cause that drives the youth away, but rather that the young folk have become dissatisfied with loneliness of isolation and with the lack of amenities and outside interest. This is a cause that can be remedied, and indeed must be remedied, if the islanders are to continue to prosper."

In accepting ownership of Fair Isle, the National Trust for Scotland recognised the importance of the island as a base for studying the annual migration habits of transient birds. In 1954 the island's seabird colonies had not attained the national importance they hold today. As a member of a larger Europe we must all appreciate and strive to preserve this heritage of natural life that is very special in a narrow national sense but outstanding even in a broad European context. But if Fair Isle is important as an Ornithological station, it is equally vital to encourage by responsible and imaginative co-operation between landlord and crofters, a viable infra-structure that permits the determined community, not merely to exist, but to flourish. Through the close links with FIBOT and by an active and frequent representation on the island by members of the Executive and staff, the National Trust for Scotland hope to maintain that delicate balance.

The rewards of prudent and constructive stewardship are not measured in stark financial terms but rather in a less tangible manner. Many visitors to Fair Isle are encouraged by the appearance and spirit of the island and her folk today. In contrast to many islands, they are thriving. If a visible barometer is required, the construction of the New Hall provides it. Built entirely by islanders with funds raised by a determined Hall Committee, the Hall will be officially opened in June. Standing proudly to the north of the school, it will be used frequently for dances, plays, badminton, table tennis, evening classes and meetings. Plans are afoot to set up Gordon and Perry Barnes' Island Museum in the old hall when it has been made watertight and redecorated.

As mentioned elsewhere in the report, an enthusiastic Fair Isle Knitting Co-operative has been established with the aid of the Highlands and Islands Development Board. At last the supply of "Fair Isle knitwear made on Fair Isle" may nearly meet demand.

A replacement fire tender will be taking up station shortly, located in a garage tacked on to a small shelter on the south side of the island's airstrip. Loganair have restructured their summer timetable



The new hall under construction beside the school.



Work in progress on the Puffinn beside the south harbour.

to allow easier and cheaper access to the island through Kirkwall in addition to the Shetland service.

In 1979 the volunteer parties organised once again by the Scottish Community Education Centre returned to the island to continue work on the Puffinn. It is hoped that this improved volunteer party accommodation will be completed by the end of this year. In addition to this summer use, the building will be used as a packing station for the Knitting Co-operative during the winter and also act as a base for the island laundry service.

Plans to construct a breakwater to protect the pier in the North Haven are progressing well. The force of the water swept around Bunes cliffs is a winter storm is so ferocious that the design of the breakwater is posing a challenge to both the designers and the financiers. One day soon the breakwater will be in place to provide the Good Shepherd and her crew a better harbour after their wave tossed trip from Grutness.

All these projects are assisted by the HIDB or the Shetland Islands Council, often both and sometimes with other sponsors as well. It is fitting that with the island's Grazing Committee and the NTS, they should be trying to improve the island's Scattald.

At the request of the Grazing Committee, the National Trust for Scotland, as owners of Fair Isle, has considered ways to offset the alleged loss of hill grazing caused by the territorial advances of the Arctic Skua on the Fair Isle Scattald. Still in the very early days of research and analysis, different plans are being considered for improving the grazing potential of the hill land. Past neglect by the shareholders in maintaining ditches and fences is being rectified. As the price for ewes and lambs rises each year, as does the cost of maintaining a small agricultural holding on the island, sheep losses on the hill must be minimised. It is hoped that by fencing and top dressing areas of the hill, the grass can be improved and in turn the annual financial returns from the hill be raised through more vigilant management. Advice is being sought from FIBOT on the line of the fence to avoid particular areas that are important for Ornithological research. Guidance is also being requested from the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee for the Protection of Birds. It is a continuing and challenging management problem to reach and operate a workable compromise acceptable to all parties within the constraints of both legislation and financial strictures. I am confident that with mutual respect and a common desire to see Fair Isle continue as the country's most isolated inhabited island and host to Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust Hostel and Observatory, progress will be made on all fronts and especially this exciting project.

The 1980s will be challenging years in Shetland but the future is bright on Fair Isle. Would that be the same prediction if the Red Cross ship 'Drottingholm', en route from Gottenberg, had not sailed past Sheep Rock on that clear October morning in 1943, had George not purchased the island and had not the NTS Executive accepted responsibility for the future of the island in perpetuity? Would George ever have guessed that the New Hall would be built on Fair Isle with cash raised entirely by the efforts of the local committee to help provide the amenities and interest he suggested were lacking in 1954?

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1979

by IAIN S. ROBERTSON

Sally and I returned from our winter break on 9th February to find the Isle snowbound, much as we had left it a month previously. My assistants for the season were Dorian Buffery and Nigel Jones. Peter Ewins and Frances White assisted us with the seabird work during the summer. We had the good fortune to have two excellent cooks, Ann Prior and Clare Wetherill. Liz Watt and Helen Wilson assisted with the domestic work. Our thanks are due to all our staff for their hard work during the year.

Visitor weeks, at 383 were 3% down on last year. While we were fully booked, as usual for late May—early June and September it was disappointing to have so few visitors in October, perhaps the best month for migration. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Sweden, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, and USA during the year. A number of FIBOT Trustees stayed with us including John Arnott, Roy Dennis, John Mellalieu, Pat Sellar, George and Irene Waterston, and the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Wemyss and March. The John Harrison Memorial Fund assisted four young ornithologists to visit the Isle.

The ornithological work continued as usual with particular emphasis on seabirds with a monitoring programme, beached birds survey and intensive ringing effort. The daily census and ringing of migrants continues and we worked closely with the British Trust for Ornithology and the Bird Observatories Council in supplying data. Dr David Parkin visited the Isle in the course of his work on House Sparrows. Dr. Peter O'Donald completed his work on Arctic Skuas and Jane French commenced a new research project based on electrophoresis. We continued to study Puffins on Burrista for Dr. Mike Harris and some preliminary work was done for Dr Peter Evans who intends to study the Starling population. Information on Cetaceans was sent to Peter Evans. It is perhaps worth mentioning that a Bearded Seal *Erignathus barbatus* was seen at Stacks O' Skroo on 13th May, only the third record for Britain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once more we are indebted to many people, both islanders and visitors for their help during the year. Jimmy Watt (till he left the Isle in mid summer) and John Holloway continued to supply valuable bird records which were particularly useful during my absence from the Isle. David Okill again provided us with great assistance from the Shetland Mainland. S.O.T.E.A.G. gave us a generous grant towards the cost of seabird rings for which we are particularly grateful.

Three visitors, Hans Sandberg, Jordi and Francesc Giro deserve mention for their assistance with ornithological work. John Holloway has again kindly provided the vignettes for this report.



Double Dykes trap, January 1979



Arrival of the Land-Rover, June 1979.

ORNITHOLOGY

207 species were recorded on the Island during the year. Two of these, Red Kite and Spectacled Warbler, were new to the Island list which now stands at 325 species. In addition one species, Wood Duck, was also admitted to the list but it is presently in Category 'D' as not fully admitted to the British list.

The monthly totals of species recorded on the isle were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
61	62	78	102	138	120	72	106	134	139	48	41

With the exception of thrush passage in October which produced the highest ever totals for the isle, the spring and autumn migrations were not outstanding for volume of passage nor for large falls.

One of the features of the year was the arrival of grebes and diving ducks in January-February, this was part of a large movement which affected most of the country at that time.

The summer, though wet and lacking in sunshine did not seem to affect the breeding birds to any degree; seabirds had a good breeding season, particularly the auks. The Gannet colony continues to increase slightly and birds were ashore at several 'new' sites during the summer.

As usual a good number of the more unusual species were recorded during the year, the more outstanding being White-billed Diver, Great Shearwater, Red Kite, Honey Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard (3), Hobby (4), Little-Ringed Plover, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Little Gull, Sabine's Gull, Snowy Owl (3), Short-toed Lark (4), Woodlark, Richard's Pipit (13), Red-throated Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Black-eared Wheatear, Lanceolated Warbler, Aquatic Warbler (3), Spectacled Warbler, Subalpine Warbler (2), Greenish Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Isabelline Shrike, Song Sparrow, Cretzschmar's Bunting, Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting (2). It is remarkable how, even when common migrants are scarce, the rare birds keep on coming, always bringing a few surprises even after 31 years of continuous observations.

Monthly Highlights

January—February

The year began with a heavy snowfall on the evening of 31st December. Coupled with strong winds the snow soon drifted, blocking the roads and effectively cutting North Haven off from the rest of the Isle. A Great Crested Grebe on 23rd January was the forerunner of an influx which brought in 5 Red-necked Grebes, a Slavonian and two more Great Crested Grebes as well as several Goosanders, Velvet Scoters and Bean Geese. The most serious effect of the severe weather was not apparent until the spring when it was found that the local Wren population had been halved. The most unexpected bird of the period was a Red Kite which flew north over the Isle on 15th January.

As usual the first sign of spring was returning Oystercatchers, Lapwings and Ringed Plovers in late February.

March

Despite mainly westerly winds, often up to gale force, a trickle of migrants appeared in early March, including 3 Bean Geese, Long-eared Owls, a Buzzard and further arrivals of Oystercatchers, Skylarks, and small numbers of thrushes. A change of wind to SE on 24th brought the first fall of the year next day, with Wheatear, Stonechat, Goldcrests, Black Redstart and the first Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Northerlies predominated for the rest of the month and reduced migration to very few birds including thrushes, Goldcrests, and the first Chiffchaff and Bonxie. On 31st the first Puffins arrived.

April

The weather was unsettled in April with very variable winds and many "April showers". SE winds on 1—2nd, 11—14th and 17—19th brought in migrants with Robins, Dunnocks, Meadow Pipits, Wheatears and thrushes making up the bulk. Three Buzzards were noted during the month but more surprising were two ♀♀ Snowy owls on 16th and a fine ♂ on 19th—22nd. A Rough-legged Buzzard was seen on 28th but bird of the month was undoubtedly the Island's second Song Sparrow which was found at Setter on 17th and remained into May. The first Arctic Skuas appeared on 18th and there were up to 30 by 28th. Very few Stonechats and no Lapland Buntings were seen.

May

A month dominated by westerly and northerly airstreams with low temperatures, wintry showers, rain and fog! No large falls were experienced but most of the usual spring migrants arrived in small numbers. South-easterlies on 21st brought in a nice selection of birds with 7 Bluethroats, 6 Red-backed Shrikes, 2 Grey-headed Wagtails and 10—20's of Willow Warbler, Whinchat, Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat. Apart from the Song Sparrow the first rarity of the month was a summer plumage White-billed Diver seen off the North Light on 5th. Mid-month was quiet but a whole selection of good birds were noted from 20th with Little Ringed Plover on that

date, Short-toed Lark and Scarlet Rosefinch the next day, along with the first of several Hobbies. A Red-throated Pipit was found on 23rd and a Red-breasted Flycatcher on 31st.

June

Mainly light SE—E winds for the first 5 days produced an outstanding selection of birds. A Subalpine Warbler just outside the Observatory on the 1st was the start of this arrival of southern species. The first Spectacled Warbler for Scotland arrived on 4th and Rough-legged Buzzard and Scarlet Rosefinch were also found that day. On 9th the main attraction was a superb Cretzschmar's Bunting, the second for Fair Isle and Britain! Small arrivals of common migrants came in during the first week or so with a nice selection of birds on 2nd including Ortolan Bunting, and Icterine and Marsh Warblers. On 6th there were no less than 4 Marsh and 4 Icterines, a Bluethroat and 6 Red-backed Shrikes. The rest of the month was fairly quiet though a + Rustic Bunting on 11th, Hobby on 12th and a Black-eared Wheatear on 18th provided excitement. More exotic was the Painted Bunting trapped in the Axell Trap on 19th but it showed signs of being an escaped cage-bird.

July

The month was rather unseasonable with rain recorded on 16 days and temperatures below average. Few migrants appeared though there were a handful of Crossbills from 19th—26th, and the first of the returning waders appeared with Black-tailed Godwits on 13th and Sanderlings on 29th. More unusual was a Pomarine Skua on 30th. This was the peak month for ringing and we concentrated on the seabird programme throughout the month.

August

Another variable month, but periods of easterly winds on 16—18th and 23rd brought in arrivals of migrants. A Short-toed lark on 9th was rather unseasonal. It gave excellent views sitting in the road near the Kirk, but soon moved to the Busta—Kennaby areas where it remained into September. A fall on 18th brought in 50 Garden and 40 Willow Warblers, an Icterine and 4 Barred Warblers and 3 Aquatic Warblers. Next day a Greenish Warbler was found in an outhouse at the North Light and was caught by hand. Sea watching produced many Sooty Shearwaters and a Great Shearwater was seen from the South Light on 22nd. An arrival took place on 24th with 7 Barred Warblers, 15 Pied Flycatchers, 30 Willow Warblers, a Reed Warbler and a Red-backed Shrike. Several Velvet Scoters were seen by sea-watchers on 26th—27th and a Pomarine Skua on 30th.

September

Westerly winds with rain predominated during the month, and although brief spells of south-easterlies on 5—6th and 20th produced a few birds there was a dearth of migrants in general. Surprisingly a selection of rarities was found including a Yellow-breasted Bunting on 9th, Pectoral Sandpiper on 11th, Temminck's Stint on 14th, Red-necked Phalarope on 16th and a Lanceolated Warbler on 20th. Sea-watching produced large numbers of Sooty

Shearwaters with 350 seen on 8th. A Sabine's Gull was seen off the South Light on 16th and a Little Gull in the Havens next day. Things began to improve on 29th when the wind moved to SE. Almost at once a Barred Warbler, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers and 2 Yellow-breasted Buntings were discovered. The next day saw a varied selection of birds ranging from 31 Barnacle Geese to 30 Redpolls with a good selection of night-migrants. Yellow-browed Warblers increased to 3 and an Arctic Warbler was seen at Wester Lothar. Throughout the month there was a strong passage of Merlins with 4—6 most days and up to 4 Peregrines were seen.

October

A complete reversal of the rest of the year with SE winds almost continuously from 1st—13th and again from 21st to 31st. The winds often reached gale force and made birding very difficult at times. The month started well with 10 Little Stints, 65 Barnacle Geese, Wryneck, Yellow-browed Warbler and Yellow-breasted Bunting, and the first of a good passage of Richard's Pipits. On 2nd a Citrine Wagtail was discovered. A Short-toed Lark was found next day and a Subalpine Warbler was seen briefly at Easter Lothar on 4th. The 6th was an outstanding day with good numbers of common migrants including 1200 Redwings, 5 short-eared Owls, 50 Robins, 25 Redstarts and 180 Bramblings. The quality was provided by 5 Richard's Pipits, a Scarlet Rosefinch, a Little Bunting and best of all a Pallas's Warbler. Another Little Bunting was seen on 13th. On 14th the whole island was seething with birds; the largest thrush movements ever recorded on the island. They included 65,000 Redwings, 2,000 Fieldfares, 300 Blackbirds and 12 Ring Ousels. The previous day the Isle of May had also recorded its highest ever number of Redwings at over 10,000. A Short-toed Lark was found on 15th and migrants continued to arrive with 5 Short-eared Owls and a Shore Lark on 18th, 270 Jackdaws on 22nd and 50 Woodcock on 26th, when an Isabelline Shrike was observed with difficulty in a howling SE gale. A good fall on 29th brought 110 Woodcocks, 11 Short-eared Owls, 8,000 Fieldfares, 60 Blackcaps and 8 Lapland Buntings. The month closed with 33 Whooper Swans on 31st. Surprisingly no Great-Grey Shrikes or Black Redstarts were seen in October.

November-December

Observations were curtailed when I left the Isle on 5th November, and John Holloway also went on holiday that month. The main highlight of November was a ♂ Wood Duck which was accidentally shot on 27th. Two northern Bullfinches were seen on 21st, 80 Snow Buntings on 27th, and the only Great Grey Shrike of the autumn on 3rd. In December 2 Goosanders were seen on 18th. The 20th produced Great Northern Diver and a Water Rail. 3 Rooks were seen the next day. A number of Thrushes, 1—2 Robins, up to 7 Skylarks and 10 Twites wintered. A Little Auk was seen inshore on 24th and the year closed with a Short-eared Owl and a Kestrel on 30th.

Spectacled Warbler—a new bird for Fair Isle

At about 15.00hrs on 4th June, a fine sunny day with light easterly winds, I received a 'phone call from the Shop. It was Bill Oddie asking me to come at once to North Reeva where he had found a small *Sylvia* warbler which he suspected was a Spectacled Warbler.

I soon met Bill at the top of the cliffs at Reeva and we watched the Geo carefully. First a Lesser Whitethroat appeared, then another, flitting about on the cliff face catching insects. Then suddenly, a much brighter bird flicked into view and almost at once we were able to confirm Bill's initial identification. Bill had not seen the species before but my assistant Nigel Jones had worked in the Camargue for a season and knew it well. I had seen a few in Israel the previous January and we were in no doubt.

The bird was about the same size as a Lesser Whitethroat but was extremely bright with a dark grey head, brown mantle and wings with a conspicuous rufous wing panel and very dark tertials. The throat was clean white and this was accentuated by the pinkish grey underparts. The legs were pale yellowish flesh and there was a white 'spectacle' round the dark eye. It was so distinctive that Nigel and I considered that it had to be a male, being the brightest example either of us had seen. It was extremely active, constantly flicking about on the cliffs. I went down to the bottom of the cliff to set up a mist net but though the two Lesser Whitethroats remained in the geo the Spectacled Warbler flew off to Hjukni Geo. By this time most of the visitors had arrived and it was watched till the evening by which time it had returned to Reeva. Next morning Bill re-located the bird at Easter Lothar at about 0700. Though many observers scoured that area later in the day the bird was not seen again though some confusion occurred over a rather bright common Whitethroat which frequented the cliffs there.

This was the first spring record of the species for Britain and its arrival was associated with a period of South-east winds that brought a number of Mediterranean birds to the Isle including Subalpine Warbler and Cretzschmar's Bunting.

Citrine Wagtail on Fair Isle

On the morning of 2nd October Hans Sandberg and I were trying to obtain views of two rather flighty Richard's Pipits near Hjukni Geo. There was a moderate East-south-east wind blowing and the two pipits went down on the sheltered cliff face of Hunds Heelor. As we approached the edge of the cliff the two pipits flew off calling loudly but I spotted a third bird giving a "swee-ip" call as it flew behind a ridge. I was fairly sure from the call that the bird was a Citrine Wagtail but I had not been able to see much detail on it as it flew away. We called to other observers and began to look for the bird but after about five minutes we hadn't re-located it and thought that it must have flown some distance. Then as we approached Round Reeva I heard the call again and this time we got a brief view of the bird on the short grass before once again it took off and was lost to view.

We saw some more birders near Steensi Geo and attracted their attention and by good fortune the bird chose to reappear quite close to us on the edge of Linni Geo. I was able to get a good look at it and

confirm that it was indeed a Citrine Wagtail. It bore a superficial resemblance to a White Wagtail with a pale grey mantle, crown and rump. But it lacked the black marks found on the breast of the White Wagtail; instead the breast was washed with a buffish tinge. The two white wing bars and especially the white edges to the tertials were much more conspicuous than in the White Wagtail, and of course the call was quite distinct.

By now most of the birders on the isle had gathered and Will Russell, an American visitor, was able to show them the bird through his Questar x80 telescope. The bird was seen at a number of different localities on the isle over the next two days.

This was the 17th record of Citrine Wagtail for Fair Isle, and about the 25th for Britain of this Siberian vagrant.

Black-eared Wheatear on Fair Isle

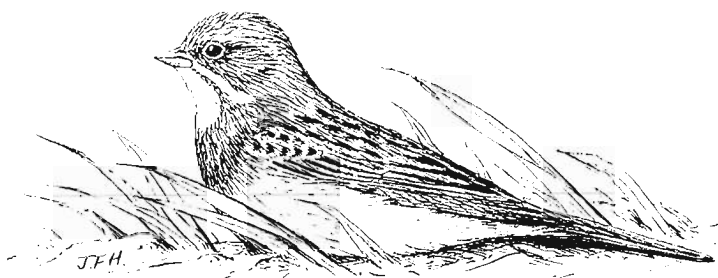
At about 1800 on 18th June Dorian Buffery found a strange female wheatear in the catching box of the Double Dyke trap. I examined the bird in the Observatory and was unable to put a name to it though it appeared to be either a Black-eared, Pied or perhaps an Eastern Pied Wheatear. I took a full description, measurements and photographed the bird but from the information available to us we were still unable to identify it. I decided to release the bird and hoped that we would obtain views of it in the field which might help with the problem. However the bird flew off over the Brae O' Roskilie and was not seen again.

The next move was to contact the Royal Scottish Museum to see if we could obtain a series of skins of these difficult wheatears. Had the bird been a male, or even a female in fresh plumage or a juvenile we might have been able to identify it, but an adult female in worn plumage proved to be a very difficult case indeed.

A week or two later a cigar box containing skins of Black-eared, Pied and Eastern Pied Wheatears arrived from Robert McGowan at the R.S.M. We carefully unwrapped each skin and laid them out in the bird room. We were immediately able to rule out the Eastern Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe picata* which was a much darker, greyer bird than we had imagined. The choice was now between the eastern race of Black-eared and Pied Wheatear. The differences between these two species in worn female plumage were slight but the Pied Wheatear seemed to be too 'cold' on the upperparts and too white below. The specimens of Black-eared were much closer to our bird with more buffy mantles, and a peachy coloured wash on the breast. We decided that our bird was a female of the eastern race of Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca* which breeds in South-east Europe across to Iran. This is the fifth record of the species for Fair Isle, the others being a male of the western form on 25 September 1907, one seen on 8—13th November 1951, a female trapped on 19th May 1964 and a first-year bird trapped on 27th September 1964.



Female Black-eared Wheatear, 18th June 1979.



Cretzschmar's Bunting on Fair Isle

At about 0800 on 9th June Nigel Jones was returning from the morning trap round when he heard a strange bird singing from the top of the dyke near the Gully trap. The bird flew past him and landed by the front cross-beam of the Gully trap. With his telescope he quickly saw that it had a greyish hood, reddish underparts and a general similarity to an Ortolan Bunting. It then flew off towards Vaasetter. Almost at once he thought of Cretzschmar's Bunting and returned to the Observatory to inform me.

After breakfast everyone combed the isle looking for the bird. It was a most frustrating morning as by lunch-time there was no sign of it and some heart-broken observers had to leave on the Observatory charter-flight. After lunch the search was re-instigated and I chose to cover the Field area. As I came up to the fence near the Bull's Park I scanned through a group of House Sparrows and there, on the end of the row was the elusive bunting. I was able to confirm Nigel's identification before the bird flew off with the sparrows in the direction of Field. I signalled to the other Observers and we waited till he had a small group to look for it again. This time we carefully checked every small bird between Field and the Bull's Park when we heard a shout to say that it had re-appeared in a field of growing oats in the Bull's Park.

We all sat down on the bank overlooking the field and with the aid of telescopes were able to observe the bird for the rest of the afternoon. It was very similar in jizz to an Ortolan but the grey hood, reddish-orange underparts, and buff throat and moustachial stripe were sufficient to prove its identity.

At times the bird was very hard to see amongst the green oat blades but it flew up onto a nearby fence where good, if distant, views were obtained. The bird was seen briefly next day on the wall of the Bull's Park.

This is the second record of Cretzschmar's Bunting for Fair Isle and Britain. The first was on 10th June 1967 almost 12 years to the day earlier. The species breeds in South east Europe, Asia Minor and the Near East and winters in Africa, chiefly in the Sudan.

Systematic List

The list follows the sequence and nomenclature of *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1978). The symbol 'ϕ' is used to indicate birds in what might be either female or immature plumage.

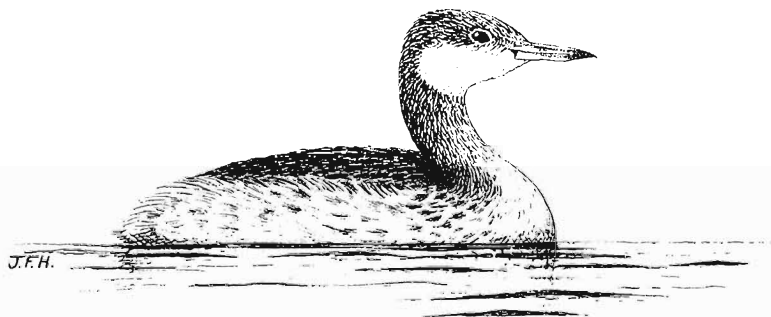
RED THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* One found dead on 23rd February was the earliest ever record for the Island. 8 records of single birds between 19th April and 16th July. One on 1st August, main autumn passage between 27th August and 23rd September with 17 individuals, maximum 4 on 8th September. 4 on 13th October and single birds on 17th and 21st October.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* No spring or summer records. Autumn passage, 2 on 24th September and 1 on 29th September, 8 between 16th and 27th October with maximum 2 on 16th October. One on 20th December.

WHITE BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii* An adult off the North Light on 5th May. The 4th Island record and seen for the second year in succession.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Single birds on 21—22nd April, 6th October and 29th October. Three records in a year is exceptional.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* One from 22nd January to 6th February (when found dead), one 19th—20th February and one 5th March. The 6—8th Island records, last recorded in 1970.



RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* One 1st to 5th February (when found dead), one 19—21st February, 3 on 22—23rd February (one found dead). Three records, of five individuals, is exceptional.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* Single birds on 14—17th February and 18th May.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* Resident and recorded ashore in all months of the year except in severe weather. One Blue phase bird was again resident though not thought to have nested. Other Blue phase birds were recorded offshore throughout the year with a notable increase in May with 14 sightings including 3 on 6th, and in September when there were 19 sightings including 5 on 16th. Birds had a poor breeding season with high chick mortality and many empty nest sites in late summer.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* One off South Light on 22nd August, recorded for 2nd year in succession.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* 2 on crossing 10th July and one on 17th July. Recorded from the Isle from 1st August to 5th November. Number higher than usual with 82 bird days in August, 1100 in September and 45 in October. Main passage was from 7th to 11th September with a peak of 350 on 8th and 300 on 10th. "Hundreds" were reported on the crossing on 7th. Smaller numbers in October though 14 on 15th was high for that time of year.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* One on crossing on 17 July. 4 seen from the Isle on 6 August and singles on 27th August and 16th September.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* Recorded on crossings from 5th June and from the Isle from 21st June to 12 October. Large numbers trapped at night at the usual sites. No nest found this year but a newly fledged juvenile was found near the Observatory on 12th October. The species is not seen regularly from the Isle in daylight so 80 west in an hour on 2 July is noteworthy. 30 were seen on the crossing on 4th September.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* One seen at night at North Restensgeo on 30th July, one trapped at the same site on 20th August and one seen from the crossing on 26th September.



Main Gannet colony at Dronger, 1979.

GANNET *Sula bassana* Birds were ashore regularly from 7th March to 12th October when the last young left. Up to 190 were seen ashore in summer with birds frequenting Lerness, Toor O' Ward Hill and other sites along the West Cliffs as well as the usual sites on Dronger and Stacks O' Skroo. The breeding colony increased slightly with 38 pairs nesting on Dronger and 2 pairs on the Inner Stack at Wester Lothar. Eggs were seen from 8th May and the birds had a good season with most pairs bringing off young.

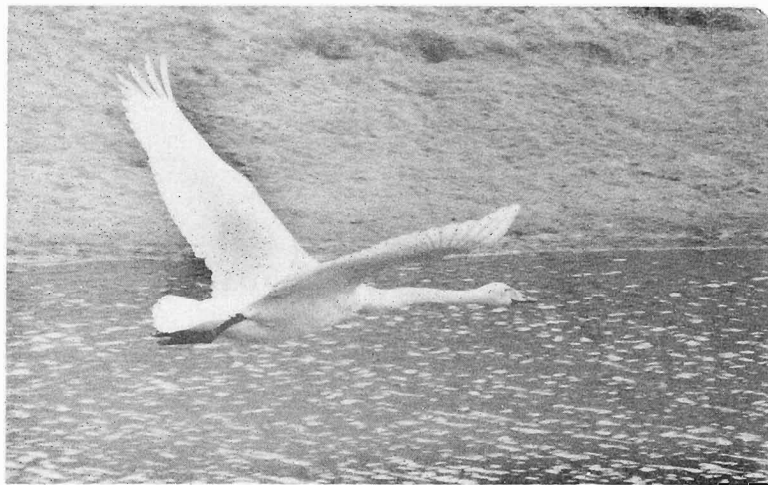
CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* Bird-days per month shown below. Peak counts were 14 on 23rd January, 84 on 8th September and 95 on 22nd September. Some passage noted between 13th—17th April with 7 on 14th.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
15	2	5	22	8	3	1	17	300	25	—	5

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Resident and recorded throughout the year. A family party with young still being fed were seen on 4th October at Easter Lothar.

HERON *Ardea cinerea* Bird-days per month shown below. Peak counts were 4 on 31st August and 5 on 6th and 27th October.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	1	4	6	—	2	6	11	15	26	—	—



Whooper Swan at Golden Water.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* 2 on 21st January, 7 from 19—28th February, 4—5 in early March decreasing to one which remained into April. 3 on 14th April and 5 on 2nd May. Autumn passage from 22nd September (7) with peak counts of 18 on 28th September, 33 on 31st October and 10 on 4th November. One bird lingered till 14th December and a party of 5 were seen on 2nd December.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabialis* 4 from 22—25th January, one remaining till 18th March. 3 from 19th March—10th April. Two records of 7 birds is above average but continues the pattern of increase in recent years.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* 3 on 12th May. Recorded in autumn from 8th September (7) to 16th October (5). Peak counts were 34 on 28th September, 11 on 12th October and 15 on 14th October.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* 2 on 12th March and singles on 16th and 28th March. One on 8th April and 2 on 12th April. A late bird on 26th June. Autumn records from 13th October with 100 on that date, 140 on 14th and 4—9 daily till 31st.

GREY GOOSE *Sp. Anser sp.* 10 on 15th September and 13 on 8th October.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* One bird wintered till 22nd February. Autumn records from 30th September (31) to 16th October. Peak counts were 65 on 1st October, 23 on 5th, 33 on 6th, 14 on 14th and 16 on 16th.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* An above average showing this year. 2 from 20th February to 3rd March, 3 on 5th March with 1—2 till 13th. One 10—22nd April, 3 on 5th May with one till 8th and 5 on 21st May. In autumn, singles recorded on 14—22nd August and 25th—30th August and on 15—20th September.

WIGEON *Anas penelope* Two on 11th March. 7 records between 21st April and 5th June mostly 1—2 but 6 on 9th May. First autumn bird seen 14th August, another 19th and 4 on 28th August. Seen almost daily from 4th September—31st October mostly up to 6 birds but 15 on 16th September, 30 on 5th October, 20 on 6th October and 10 on 14th and 20th October.

TEAL *Anas crecca* Two on 15th January. 1 on 7th and 2 on 12th April. 2—3 most days from 6—15th May. 1—2 from 26th May—1st June, 4 on 9—10th June and 2 on 26th June. In autumn, 1 on 7th August and 11 on 18th August. 1—6 most days in September and October, no obvious peak but 8 on 8th September and 14th October.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* 1—5 throughout January, 4 on 19th February, 2 on 25th March and 1—3 from 4—26th April. 2 on 7th May, 4 on 24th May and a single from 27th—30th May. One 2—7th June and 2—4 from 22nd—26th June. One 12th July, 8 on 13th and 3 on 30th July. 1—2 on several dates in August, 1—3 most days from 4th—23rd September. Recorded daily in October with peak of 19 on 22nd. 4 on 27th November.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* Single males on 18—21st May, 25th July and 25th August. One on 13th September and a male on 16th September.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata* A pair on 11—13th May was the only record.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* A ♂ on 5—10th March was the 3rd Spring record for the isle, and a pair on 6th June were the only records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* A ♀ on 19th and a ♂ on 21st January were the third & fourth winter records for the isle. A pair on 14th April and 6 on 12th May with 2—3 daily till 10th June. A ♀ on 26th July with a pair next day which remained to 1 August. ♀ on 12—15th August, one 25th September, 1—2 on many dates from 3—24th October and 4 on 15th October.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* A ♂ on 18th May, 2♂♂ next day one remaining till 21st. Another ♂ on 30th May—15th June with a ♀ on 7—8th June. Two autumn records, 2 on 21st September and 2 from 12—13th October with one remaining till 20th.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* Recorded throughout the year. 260 flying south on 18th March may indicate local movements. Birds seen prospecting on land from 14th May with first eggs noted 19th May and chicks on the sea on 13th June.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* Very few in spring; one on 19th May, a pair on 2nd June and one on 25th June. Recorded in autumn from 5th October with counts of 10 on 12th October, 45 on 13th, 16 on 20th and 18 on 24th October. 2—3 remained till at least 5th November and one on 28th December.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* 2 on 27—29th May, a ♂ on 2nd September and 2 on 13th October were the only records.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* A ♀ found dead on 1st February, a ♂ in North Haven from 19th February—3rd March. 2 on 26th and 3 on 27th August and 2 on 17th October. 9 individuals is well above average for this species.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* 3 from 15—30th January. One most days from 13th February to 3rd March with 2 on 15th February and 3rd March. 4 on 7th March and 5 on 10th with 1—3 birds seen daily till 29th March. Autumn records from 2nd October with 1—2 seen on many dates till end December.

RED BREASTED MERGANSER *mergus serrator* A ♂ on 15th January, 1—2 most days 11th—23rd May, 3 on 7th June with 1—2 till 12th. Single ♂♂ on 28th June and 21st August. More regular from September with 1 on 4th, 3 on 14th and 1—3 daily from 27th September—30th October and 8 on 14th October. One on 5th November, and 2 from 18th—28th December.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* A good showing of this species in both spring and autumn. A ♂ on 4th January, 2♂♂ from 17—22nd February, a single ♂ on 25th February, 3♂♂ from 10—17th March with one remaining till 30th. One on 12th April and a ♂ on 13th

April. In autumn a ϕ on 24th October joined by a σ next day, 3 on 26—27th decreasing to 2 on 28th and 1 on 30—31st October, and one from 18th to 22nd December.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* One on 1st June was the only record.



RED KITE *Milvus milvus* One which flew over the isle on 15th January was a new bird for Fair Isle. (J. Holloway *et al.*)

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* Single $\phi\phi$ on 14th January, 18th April and 9th May. An adult σ on 1st October was joined by a sub-adult bird on 4—6th October. A ϕ on 7th October and a σ from 8th—18th October.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* Very few in spring, single birds on 13—18th April, 9th May and 2 on 14th May. Autumn passage more normal with singles on 9th and 23rd September, 3 on 1—2nd October and 1—2 daily till 11th October. One on 22nd October, 2 on 23rd and 4 on 24th, increasing to 5 on 27th with 1—2 most days till 4th November.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* An exceptional number of records. One on 4—5th January, another 22nd January, together with another on 23rd. one 31st January and yet another individual on 6th February. Single birds on 7th March, 5th April, 13—14th April, 21st April, and 4—6th May. One on 1st October. There is only one previous winter record for the Isle (Dec. 1969) A Buzzard Sp. on 4th April was not the individual seen on 5th.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* Single birds on 28th April, 18th May and 4th June. An above average showing, last recorded 1976.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* Bird-days per month shown below. One bird wintered. Spring passage from 16th April—24th June, all single birds except 2 on 16th April. One from 20—26th July. Autumn records from 19th August but main passage not till October though only 1—2 birds per day except 3 on 29th September

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
16	2	—	4	7	10	3	2	26	14	—	1

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* Bird-days per month shown below. Spring passage mainly from 9th March—end May, 1—2 most days and 4 on 13th April. Autumn passage from 10th August, mainly September and October with up to 5 on many dates and 6 on 8th September. Several were of Shetland origin, see Ringing Section.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5	11	23	39	16	2	—	30	107	85	—	4

HOBBY *Falco Subbuteo* One on 21st May, a ♂ 1—2nd June ♀ 5—8th June and one 12th June. 4 in one year is exceptional; only 11 previous records, last in 1975.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* Recorded in all months except November. Up to 4 individuals in May and display seen on several occasions at traditional sites but birds did not remain to breed. Autumn passage in September—October with up to 3 individuals a day.

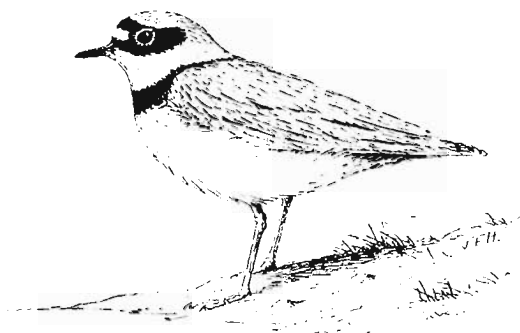
WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* Singles on 26th March and 6th April (found dead) were the only spring records. In autumn recorded from 8—28th October with 1—2 on several dates and 3 on 15th, one on 20th December.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* Few sightings this year. Singles on 23 and 31st May and 1st and 11—13th September.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* Single birds on 16th and 18th April and on 20th April. In October single birds on 5 dates between 7 and 31st.

COOT *Fulica atra* Single birds on 1st and 22nd January, 23—24th February and 14th April were the only records.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* Single birds on 29th and 31st January, and 1st—8th February. 2 on 16th February, 6 on 19th and 28 on 27th. Main arrivals March with 50 on 3rd, 90 on 14th and 170 on 26th. First eggs were noted on 30th April with most pairs with eggs on 4th May. A partial albino was present from 18—24th May. Summer flocks began with 48 on 1st June increasing to 100+ by 29th, and 180 on 26th July. Passage birds swelled numbers to 300 on 18th August, numbers decreasing to about 35 on 11th September, 9 on 19th and just one by 30th September. Singles were seen on several dates to 29th October.



LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* One near South Harbour on 20th May. (D. Buffery) The third Fair Isle record and first in Spring.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* 3 on 11th February, 2 on 25—27th February and 6 on 1st March. Steady increase to 11 on 9th March and 16 by 25th March. About 10 pairs bred with first eggs noted on 10th May and chicks on 17th May. A small arrival of 14 migrants on 20th May, presumably arctic-bound birds. Autumn migrants from 30th July with peak of 65 on 22nd August. 25 on 2nd September dropping to 4 by 20th September. 1—4 till 14th October and 5 on 13th October.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* An immature on 5th September and an adult on 20th September were the only records.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apritaria* One on 2nd December, 3 on 10th December and 2 on 28th February. Spring passage from 13th March with 1—4 on several dates to 4th April, 7 on 24th April, peak in May with 12 on 12th, 20 on 19th. 5—6 in early June and one on 11th June. Autumn records from 6th August, main arrivals September—October with peaks of 15 on 18th September and 30 on 3rd October. Small numbers seen most days to 1st November. Singles on 9th and 16th December.

GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola* Single birds on 18th August, 13—16th October and 20th October.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* 14 on 11th January and 8—9 most of the month. 40 on 22nd February and 100 on 27th. In March up to 30 on many dates and 58 on 28th. Main passage 25th March—14th April with 20—40 most days. In May 2—7 daily, 10 on 25th. One pair bred successfully with eggs on 18th May and chicks on 16th June. Autumn passage mainly October, maximum of 10 in August/September. 54 on 1st October, 103 on 6th and up to 60 on several dates. 50 on 31st October, down to 6 by 5th November. 6 on 14th December and 1—8 till end of month with 21 on 28th December.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* One from 5th January—1st March was the first winter record for the Isle. Singles on 15th and 30th May. Autumn passage from 25th July—13th October with peaks of 19 on 5th August, 22 on 6th and 18 on 8th then 2—6 daily till 21st September. singles on 3—4 October, 8th October and 7 on 13th October.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* Two spring records, 2 on 19th May and 7 on 6th June. Autumn records from 19th July (2) till 18th September. Peak numbers of 9 on 29th July, 6 on 22nd August and 9 on 27th August. 1—3 on several dates to 18th September.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minutus* Recorded in autumn from 3rd September to 18th October. Two distinct movements: firstly 1 on 3rd September, 2 on 4—5th and 1 on 7th September: Secondly 10 on 1st October decreasing to 2 by 4th but 5 on 5th and 8 on 9—10th October. 5—6 daily till 13th and singles on 15th and 18th October.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* One from 14—15th and 18—19th September. Only 5th record in Observatory period.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* One seen near Setter on 11th September (K. Godfrey) 9th Island record, last recorded 1975.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* A good showing. 3 on 6th September, one next day and 2 on 8th. 2 more on 11th September, with one on 12th, 3 on 13th and one on 14th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* Maximum day-totals per month shown below. Spring peak low with only 24 on 22nd May. None between 26th June and 12th July. Autumn numbers unusually low with no sign of moulting flock at South Light.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	20	20	12	24	15	8	16	8	13	4	8

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* One on 5th January. 2 on 21st and 28th February and single on 5th, 19th and 25th March. 3 on 26th March and singles on several dates in April. Main passage May with 14 on 13th maximum. 14 birds most days from 1—12th June. Autumn records from 12th July with 5 on 31st July. Recorded almost daily 1st August—26th September with peaks of 11 on 18th August and 10 on 22nd August. In October 6 on 2nd, 13 on 5th and 21 on 6th decreasing to 10 on 15th with singles on 24th and 27th October.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax* ♀ on 21st May, spring ♂♂ on 3rd and 28th June. Autumn records from 25th July (2) with 1—3 on several dates in August and 8 on 12th August, none from 20th August to 2nd September. 2 on 3rd September and 4 on 7th. Singles on 9th October and 29—30th October.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtes minimus* No spring records. In autumn from 1st September with peaks of 3 on 22nd September, 10 on 3rd October and 15 on 14th October. Recorded on 10 bird-days in September and 85 in October. One on 10th December and 1—2 till 24th December.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* Recorded throughout the year. Up to 6 present in January, 2 in March increasing to 15 by 3rd April. 4—5 pairs bred with eggs noted on 3rd May. Influx from 17—25th August with 35 on 18th. Further arrivals in September with peaks of 25 on 16th and 30 on 21st and in October with 35 on 1st and 70 on 13th. Small numbers in November and up to 6 in December.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* Recorded in small numbers 1—3 on several dates in January, February and March. Slightly more records in April with 19 bird-days and maximum of 5 on 16th. 4 singles in May to 31st. Autumn records from 1st October with up to three on several dates to 15th. Main passage from 22nd when 12, 50 on 26th and 110 on 29th. Smaller numbers remaining into November and odd birds in December to 16th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* One on 9th May and 5 on 13th July were the only records.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* One on 12th May and another from 27th May—8th June. Autumn records of single birds on 13th and 16th July, 17th August and 2nd September. 7 on 8th September, and single on 18—20th September and 2nd October. 15 Godwit sp. on 8th September were most likely this species.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* First spring birds were 9 on 28th April. Recorded almost daily from 2nd May—20th June, with main passage between 16—23rd May peaking at 9 on 17th May. One bird on 29th June. Autumn records from 5th July with 2 on that date, 2 on 8th, and 10 on 19th July. Single birds on 10 dates in August with 5 on 23rd, and on 11 dates in September. One on 3rd October. A bird present from 18—20th September had a dark rump and a white upper back, possibly of the Siberian race *N.p. variegata*.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* 1—5 in early January, influx of 14 on 11th and up to 19 on 22nd January. Sporadic in February with 29 on 12th decreasing to 10 on 16th with 1—3 till end of March. Spring passage from mid-April with 30 on 14th, 45 on 23rd and 42 on 27th with 1—10 most other days. 14 on 16th May and a flock of 40 on 26th June. 4 pairs bred, eggs noted on 17th May and chicks from 16th June. Maximum count in July was 20 but included local birds. Main autumn passage from 8th August with 28 on 8th and 36 on 10th with 20—30 most days to 23rd. 2—12 most days in September with 19 on 8th. 1—5 throughout October, last seen on 31st.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* One on 19th May was only 5th Spring record. Two on 21—22nd August, one remaining to 25th. Another on 30th August.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* Up to 13 present in January–February, increasing to 20 in March but maximum of 10 in April. Main spring passage in May with 36 on 4th and a passing flock of 86 on that date. Single birds recorded on several dates in late May, June and July. Main autumn passage from 19th August to mid October with no obvious peak. Maxima of 30 on 30th August, 35 on 11th September and 20 on 11th October. 5–6 present through November–December.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* One spring record on 8th April. Few in autumn, singles on 30–31st July, 2 on 12th and 20th August with 1–2 till 26th August. 2 from 1st–2nd September, 4 on 7th and singles on 8th and 10th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* Single birds recorded on 8th and 14th April and on 9 dates between 7th and 28th May. Autumn records from 31st July with 2 on 12th August, 5 on 17th and 9 on 18th with 1–2 till 24th. Singles on 30th August and 8th September.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* Single birds in Spring on 17–21st May and 30th May. In autumn, one on 17th August and 2 on 20th August only.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* Spring passage from 10th May to 10th June with up to 3 on several dates. In autumn recorded from 17th August (10) with 6 on 18th and 4 on 19th August. Singles on several dates from 23–27th August, 1–2nd and 7th September, 20–23rd and 26–28th September and last seen on 19th October.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* Recorded throughout the year. Maximum day-totals per month shown below. Spring passage mainly late March–early April. No records between 27th June and 24th July. Influx in autumn from 16th September.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
30	45	45	53	24	8	30	30	65	45	50	65

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* one on 16th September was the only record and the latest record for the island by 23 days.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* One on the crossing on 26th September and a phalarope sp. off the isle on 19th September was probably this species.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* A sub-adult bird on 30th July and an immature on 30th August.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* First seen on 17th April (3), increasing to 21 on 23rd April and 50 by 15th May. 114 pairs nested, first eggs on 19th May, chicks from 15th June and fledged young from 14th July. Main departures took place from 26th August with only 8 present on 7th September and last seen on 24th September.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* Single birds seen on 29th March and on 4th April. 4 on 14th April increasing to 25 on 20th April and up to 50 by 29th May. About 22 pairs nested with first eggs noted on 18th May. Decrease noted from mid September with only 5 present by 24th September. A few increases due to passage birds with 13 on 10th October. Late singles seen 22nd, 24th and 29th October.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* An adult seen in the Havens on 17th September (M. C-Smith) The 8th dated record for the Isle.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabinii* A juvenile seen off the South Light on 16th September (R.J. Johns) Only the second record for the Isle, last recorded 1977.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* Recorded in every month. 1—2 on several dates in January—February, up to 4 in March. Spring passage from 14th April with maximum of 20 on 20th April. Further influx in May with 20—30 most days between 13th and 22nd. A few most days in June with 10 on 10th. None recorded between 29th June and 12th July. Autumn birds from 12th July with small numbers, maximum 20, from 1st—13th August, no more than 10 in a day through September and October. Up to 7 in December to 16th.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* 1—2 most days in February, 7 on 23rd March, numbers increasing in April with main passage from 8—23rd, peak of 220 on 13th April. Influx in May with 50 on 14th and 80 on 21st. 5 pairs bred on the isle, eggs noted from 20th May and chicks from 18th June. 35 juveniles arrived on 25th June, probably from Shetland. Autumn passage from 1st August with 120 that date, 200 on 19th and up to 100 on several dates in late August—early September. Arrival of 180 on 16th September and further influxes of 550 on 1st October, 250 on 5th and 60 on 23rd October. 10—20 through November and 1—5 in December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* First recorded on 25th March (4), increasing to 16 on 13th April. A small arrival of 11 on 15th April included one *L.f. fuscus*. Breeding season as usual with chicks noted from 20th June. In autumn arrivals of 60 on 22nd August and 40 on 19th September. Local birds departed mid-September with only 4 on 30th September and last seen on 6th October.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* Resident and recorded throughout the year. No particularly large numbers recorded, maximum of 2,300 on 18th September (storm driven). A hybrid Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull was present on 16—17th October. Breeding season as normal.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* A second-year bird seen on 19th January and a first-summer bird on 14th May were the only records.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* Unusually few sightings this year. First winter birds and an Adult on several dates in January, and a first-year on a number of dates in February. Second year birds on 25th March and 9th April, a first summer on 22nd April. Second year on 7th May, 3rd year on 11th May and 2nd year on 19th June. In autumn first-year birds on 21–26th September, 17–18th October and an adult on 31st October–1st November. In December a first year bird on 24th and 2 first year's on 29th.

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* Recorded throughout the year. No particularly large flocks noted, maxima 2500 on 19th September and 1900 on 30th September (storm driven). Eggs noted from 8th May and chicks from 16th June. An influx of 100+ on the unusual date of 17th May. Breeding season as normal.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* Recorded throughout the year. Breeding season quite good though high proportion of single chicks: 41.5% of broods ringed were singles as against 28.2% in 1978. The post fledging mortality of young was not as noticeable as usual, presumably correlated with the percentage of single chicks.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* An unusually high showing of this species. One on 25th May, 3 on 1st June, singles on 7th and 10th June and 2 on 27th June. One 4th July, 2 on 12th July and 2+ on 8th September.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* First recorded on 9th May (1), 12 on 13th May and 40+ on 28th May. 25 pairs nested on the Stack O' North Haven. Eggs noted from 24th May and chicks fledged from 12th July. Mortality of chicks low. Local birds departed from mid August with only 3 left by 28th August. In September one seen on 8th, 5 on 16th, and 3 on 18th were the last recorded.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* First recorded on 13th May (1). 1–3 seen on several dates to end of May, 4 on 1st June and 1–2 on several dates in June–July. 4 on 1st August, one on 23rd August, and 1–2 on several dates in September to 27th.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea* Unusually slight passage of terns this year resulted in higher proportion being specifically identified. A party of 16 "Comics" on 11th September and a late bird on 5th October.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* Ashore on breeding ledges in fine weather in January–February, regularly in March except in rough weather. Eggs recorded from late April, good breeding season, little chick mortality and very high numbers on most breeding ledges. Dispersal from early July with last seen ashore in first week of August. Small numbers, up to 20 seen offshore regularly in September and early October. Back on ledges in fine weather from 21st October.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* First seen ashore on 7th March. Good breeding season with very low chick mortality. Last seen ashore first week August, none seen offshore 14th August—4th September then small numbers regularly in mid-September onwards.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle* Recorded throughout the year as usual. Breeding season better than in 1978, counts of east side birds in September revealed 155 birds as against maximum of 86 in 1978.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* Only three records from the isle, one swimming under the pier in North Haven on 4th January and one off North Light on 23rd October. Very few seen from Good Shepherd in December, one inshore on 24th December.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* First recorded offshore on 31st March (12) and 5 ashore next day. Increase to 65 ashore on 14th April and 100s from 18th April. Breeding season average, birds seen carrying fish ashore from 12th June. Main departures in August with last seen ashore on 29th. A few offshore and from crossing in September and October.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia* Recorded throughout the year. Maximum of 3 in January, 18 in February and no more than 19 altogether in April—May. Autumn flocks low with maximum of 35 in October.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* One from 18th—31st May with another on 28th May. One on 2—3rd June were the only records.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* One on 25th March and 2 on 28th March. Main passage from 8th April to 3rd June with 1—3 on most days and maxima of 6 on 13th April, and 5 on 16th May and 3rd June. Stragglers to 21st June. In autumn, one on 20—21st September. 1—4 daily from 2nd—15th October with 5 on 2nd and 6 on 6th. 3 on 24th October and a single on 29—30th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* One on 11th April, 2 on 15—16th April and one on 20th April. 1—4 most days from 9th—31st May with 7 on 16th. More numerous in June with up to 11 on several dates and 20 on 23rd. 7—11 most days 1st—15th July. Only two singles in autumn on 8th August and 3—4th September.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* Recorded regularly from 14th May to 2nd July with 1—5 most days and 8 on 26th and 30th May and 9 on 2nd June. Autumn records from 16th August (1), with singles on 25—26th and 29—30th August, 3 on 31st August. Single on 1—4th September, 2 on 5th September and singles on 8th, 17th and 29th September.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* Spring records were singles on 12th, 14th and 17th May, 3 on 18th and 4 on 22nd May. 2 on 28th May, 3 on 1st June and singles on 15th and 19th June. Only one autumn record, a single on 18—20th August.



Attempt to catch Snowy Owl—unsuccessful!

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca* 2♀♀ on 16th April and fine adult ♂ from 19—22nd April. Last recorded in 1974, no ♂♂ birds have been recorded in Shetland since 1976 but this one did not reappear in Shetland after leaving the isle.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* Two birds overwintered until at least 21st February, 4 were seen on 22nd February with 2—3 most days until 8th March. Spring passage from 2nd April with single birds on 5 dates to 13th April. One on 16—21st May and a summer record of one on 13th July. In autumn a poor showing with single birds recorded on 7—8th October, 24th, 26th and 29th October and 14th December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* Singles on 22nd and 26th January, and 26th March. 1—2 on many dates from 2nd April—7th June with 4 on 9th May. One bird lingered to 4th July, and perhaps the same bird was present on 18th July. In autumn single birds were seen on 9th and 11th August, none in September, but 1—2 on many dates from 2—30th October, with 5 on 6th and 18th and 11 on 29th October. One on 14th, and 30th December.

SWIFT *Apus apus* Recorded from 21st May—6th September. 15 on 21st May, up to 6 daily 29th May—15th June with 10 on 30th May. Sporadic in late June—July with 30 on 3rd July and 25 on 12th being the highest counts. Recorded daily from August—6th September, up to 6 most days and 26 on 18th August.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* Well below the recent average, single birds recorded on 1st September and 1st and 7th October only. The poorest showing since 1971.



SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea* One from 21—24th May. One on the unusual date of 9th August was seen intermittently until 8th September in the Kennaby/Busta areas. One on 3rd October and another 15—21st October. All appeared to be of the southern group of races.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* One on 27th May (D. Buffery) The first record since 1973 and the latest ever in spring.

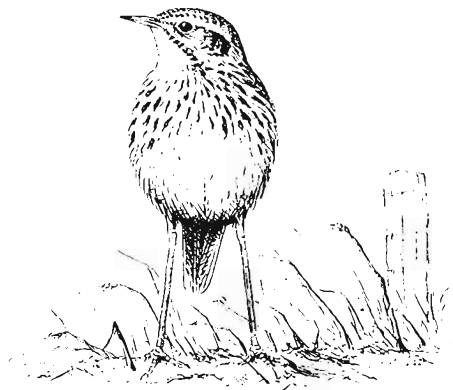
SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* Single birds on 5 dates in January and once in February. None from 2—22 February then an influx of 15 on 24th increasing to 85 on 28th February. Further arrivals of 300 on 11th March and 200 on 2nd April. Breeding season as usual with fledged young seen from 13th June. No large flocks in autumn, maximum of 150 on 22nd September. 40 still present on 3rd November and 1—2 throughout December with 7 on 30th.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* One on 24—25th May and one on 11th June. In autumn, singles on 15th September and 18th October.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* First seen 10th May (1). 2—4 on most days from 12th May—2nd June with maxima of 5 on 13th May and 20 on 1st June. In autumn 3 on 29th July, one next day and one on the late dates of 4—5th October.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* Single birds seen on 20th and 27th April. Regular between 10th May and 7th July, mostly from 21st May with peaks of 30 on 22nd, 55 on 25th, 50 on 30th, 120 on 1st June, 40 on 6th, and 20 on 22nd June. One seen on 25th July. Autumn birds on 10th August (1), 2 on 16th and 30—31st August, 1 on 3rd September and 1—2 daily from 2—15th October with 4 on 12th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica* Recorded in spring from 13th May to 8th July, peak counts were 13 on 13th May, 50 on 21—23rd May and 60 on 1st June. First autumn birds were 5 on 8th August, with sporadic records throughout the month, peaks were 13 on 18th and 9 on 21st August. Single birds recorded on 3rd September and 15—16th October.



RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Another good autumn for this species. Recorded on 53 bird-days between 1st and 26th October. Seen daily between 1st and 15th with 1 on 1st, 4 on 2nd, 8th and 10th with 5 on 6th. 1—2 daily from 18th—20th, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 26th. A minimum of 13 individuals involved.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* Spring records from 13th May to 14th June. 1 on 13th May 12 on 15th, peak of 35 on 22nd, 26 on 27th and 9 on 2nd June. In autumn one on 23rd August, 2 on 25th, 1 on 2—3 September, 3 on 10th and singles on 5 dates to 29th September. 4 on 2nd October, peak of 10 on 6th and 1—4 most days to 14th with a single on 18th October.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* first seen 3rd March (1), 2 on 9th March and 1—4 on several dates to end March. Influx from 1st April with 13 that date, 40 on 5th, 120 on 11th, 200 on 13th and 300 on 16th. Breeding season normal with fledged young seen from 11th June. In Autumn an increase in late September with 200 on 1st October. Small numbers remained until at least 5th November.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* A summer plumage bird at Golden Water on 22—23rd May.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* Recorded throughout the year as usual. No direct evidence of passage this year. Breeding season normal with fledged young seen from 19th June.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava* Blue-headed race *M.f. flava*, single birds on 14—15th May, 21st and 23rd May and 2 on 16th May. Two records of single birds in autumn, on 26th September and 16th October. Yellow Wagtail *M.f. flavissima*, ♂ on 25th April, 2 on 13th, 25th and 27th May and singles on 5 dates from 15th May—4th June. Grey-headed race *M.f. thunbergi*, A single on 16th May, 2 on 21st—25th May, singles on 27th, and 29th May and 2nd June. 2 on 3rd June and 2 others on 4th—5th June. Two on 9th June and one 10th June. *flava* wagtails not specifically identified

on 27th April, 1—2 on 17 dates from 10—29th May and 1 11—12th June. In autumn 1 on 2—6th September and 1 on 12th October.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* One at several localities from 2—4th October. 17th Island record.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* 1 on 15—16th April, 2 on 17th, singles on 20th and 25th April, 2nd and 16th May. One autumn on 8th October.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba* First recorded on 31st March (1), main passage from 16th April—9th May with 1—3 most days, 5 on 17th April and 4 on 4th May. One on 19—20th May. White Wagtail *M.a. alba* One on 26th and 3 on 27th & 31st March. Singles on 11th and 17th April, up to 5 in last week April and recorded daily from 2nd May—13th July. Main passage in May with peaks of 7 on 9th and 6 on 14th May. Two birds frequented the Kirn O' Skroo area and one was seen carrying nest materials on 6th June, but only one bird appeared to linger until 12th July and no young were seen. In autumn passage from 12th August, seen daily from 15th August—12th October, often up to 10, 26 on 31st August, c.20 on 7th September. Only 1—2 after 23rd September and last seen 20—23 October. *Alba* wagtails not specifically identified were seen on several dates from 26th March—1st May and on many dates in autumn.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* The local race *T.t. fridariensis* was badly hit by the unusually severe winter. A census revealed only 13 singing ♂♂, less than half the number recorded in recent years. Very few juveniles were seen in autumn and it was thought that the birds had had a poor breeding season. The future of this endemic island race does not look very promising at the moment.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* One on 5—7th January. Spring passage from 26th March (2) recorded daily till 17th May. Main arrivals were 40 on 8th April with 10—20 daily to 15th. Smaller influx of 11 on 25th April and 10 on 8th May. 2 on 1st June and singles on 3rd and 6th June. First autumn sighting on 30th September (1), recorded most days from 1st October—5th November with 10 on 7th and 12 on 8th October, 10 on 13th and 1—3 most days. Late birds on 12th and 14th December.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* One on 10th February. Main passage from 25th March—4th June with peaks of 17 on 26th March, 60 on 8th April, 20—24 most days 9—16th April, 19 on 28th April, 12—14 on 5—9th May and 1—6 daily till 4th June. In autumn, singles on 5 dates from 7th—29th September, 9 on 30th September then recorded daily till 5th November. Peaks of 22 on 1st October, 50 on 6th October with 20—40 most days till 14th with 1—10 until end of October and a single to 5th November. 1—2 in December to end of month.

NIGHTINGALE SP *Luscinia luscinia/megarhynchos* One seen briefly at the Haa on 21st May.



BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* Two on 17th May, 3 on 18th and single on 19—20th May. 7 on 21—22 May (with new birds on 22nd), 1—4 till 1st June and one on 6th June. None in autumn, all were of the Red-spotted race.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* One on 25th March, 4 on 26th and 1—2 daily till 1st April. 1 on 11—15th April, 3 on 16th and 1—2 till 24th April. Singles on 13th and 18th May, 2 on 19th, 24th and 27th May and singles on 28th May, 8th and 19th June. None in autumn.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Two on 25th—28th April and one on 29th. Singles on 9—14th May, 2 on 16th, 8 on 21st and peak of 10 on 22nd. 2—7 daily to 1st June and singles on 4th and 6—9th June. In autumn, 3 on 18th August, 1 on 20th September, 4 on 30th September, then daily to 18th October with peaks of 25 on 6th, 15 on 10th and 21 on 11th October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* Singles on 8th, 10th and 12—15th May. 2 on 16th May, 10 on 21st and peak of 13 on 22nd May with 2—6 daily till 8th June and one on 9th June. In autumn recorded daily from 17th August—26th September with 3 on 17th August, 15 on 23rd, 14 on 2nd September and 11 on 8th September. Fresh arrivals on 30th September (4) and 9 on 2nd October with up to 6 daily till 13th October.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* Single birds recorded on 27th February, 25th March, another 26—27th March, 31st March and 2nd, 4th and 20th April. No autumn records.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* First seen on 25th March (1), 4 next day and 12 on 31st March. None till 7th April (4) then 23 on 11th, 75 on 16th and 100 on 17th April. A further influx which included Greenland birds occurred from 17—23rd May with peak of 160 on 21st May. Breeding season normal with fledged young seen from 27th June. In autumn passage of Faeroe/Iceland birds from 17—22nd August, an influx of 200 on 8th September with some Greenland birds till 13th September. Arrival of 70 on 20th

September with up to 30 daily till end September. 5—12 most days in October to 18th and singles on 19th, 22nd and 26th October.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica* An adult ♀ in worn plumage found in the Double Dyke trap on 18th June. It proved difficult to identify but was thought to be of the eastern race *O.h. melanoleuca*. 5th record for Fair Isle, last in 1964.

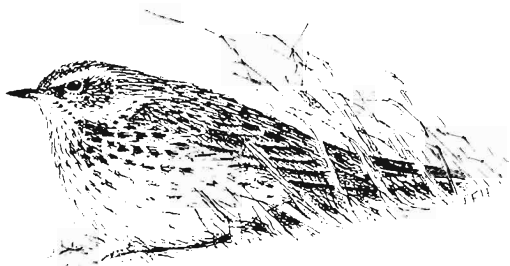
RING OUSEL *Turdus torquatus* Spring records from 11—18th April with maximum of 3 on 11—12th, from 23—28th April with 5 on 28th, 2 on 2nd May, 1—3 most days from 7—20th May and one on 10th June. Recorded most days in autumn from 1—19th October with 2 on 1st, 13 on 6th, 15 on 15th and 1—3 till 19th. 2 on 27th and one on 29th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* 10—12 in January—February decreasing to 1 by 11th March. First arrivals were 25 on 25th March with 43 on 27th March and 110 on 3rd April. Up to 80 on several dates from 8th—16th April, 1—6 daily in May and 20 on 7th May. One injured bird remained through the summer to at least October, and singles were seen on 22nd June and 4th July. Autumn passage; singles on 9th and 11th September, 4 on 1st October increasing to 25 in first week, 45 on 10th then main passage from 13th with peaks of 300 on 14th and 500 on 28th October. Up to 50 in early November and arrival of c.100 on 10th December with c.20 remaining to end of year.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* Up to 15 throughout January and 1—2 during February. Single on 25th March and 2 on 26th. Seen regularly from 1st April with 12 on 2nd, 70 on 13th and 34 on 28th April. Just odd birds in early May but 40 on 8th with 1—2 till end of May and one 19—22 June. In autumn, single on 4th September, 2 on 7th and 1 on 30th September. Regular from 1st October (9) with main passage from 13th—31st October. Peaks were 1600 on 13th, 2000 on 14th and 27th, 8000 on 29th (the largest number ever recorded on the Isle), 300 on 5th November, 40 on 23rd November and 10 on 10th December. 1—2 on several dates to end of year.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* One on 2nd January. Singles on 8 dates 3—23rd March with 4 on 25th and 20 on 26th March. 1—3 in early April then arrivals of 25 on 12th and 21 on 25th April. Up to 8 in early May with singles on many dates to 29th and one on 6th June. In autumn, singles on 20th and 25th September, 3 on 30th September, then main passage from 1st—23rd October with 40 on 1st, 200 on 6th, 280 on 8th, 1400 on 13th and 300 on 17th October. 50—100 daily to end of the month. A single on 29—30th December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* One throughout January and singles on 26th and 31st March. 6 on 2nd April with 2—8 daily till 13th when 18 seen. Next small arrival on 27th when 20 came in, 3—7 daily to 12th May and singles on several dates to 22nd May with one on



2nd June. Autumn passage slow to start with 1 on 20th September, 1—2 daily till 30th when 50 arrived. Very strong passage in October, building up from 750 on 1st to 6200 on 6th, 7500 on 13th and an astonishing 65,000 on 14th,—more than three times the previous record. Numbers were down to 1200 on 20th then up to 1400 on 21st and 1300 on 29th. Up to 150 still present in early November, and an arrival of c.30 on 10th December. All birds handled in the main passage were continental *iliacus* birds.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* A strong spring passage with 2 on 7th March, one on 8th, 2 on 9—11th and 1 on 23rd March. 6 arrived on 26th with 1—3 till 2nd April. 3 on 7th and 4 on 11th April with 1—2 till 16th April. In autumn 6 on 6th October, 3 on 7—8th and single birds on 11th, 16th and 29th October, the highest numbers ever recorded in autumn.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata* One seen at Dutfield and swiftly trapped on the morning trap round of 20th September. It gave excellent views in the Observatory garden later that day.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* Two on 8—9th May, one on 10th and 4 on 11th May. One 20—21st, 2 on 22nd and singles on 24—26th May and 2—4th June. One autumn record on 11th September.

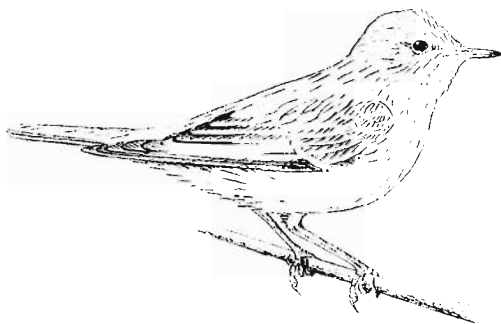
AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* Three, one trapped, on 18th August with one remaining till 20th August.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* One on 16th May then seen daily till 11th June with 11 on 22nd May, 12 on 25th May and 9 on 6th June. Singles on 16th and 18th June. In autumn, one on 19th August, 2 on 20th, one next day and one on 9th September.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* Unusually high numbers. One on 1st June, another 4—5th June, 4 on 6th (record day-total), 1 on 7th, 2 on 8th one on 9th and 2 on 11th June. In autumn singles on 7th and 17th August, both trapped.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* One on 3rd June, 2 on 5th and 1 on 6th June. In autumn, 1 on 17—18th August, 1 on 24th August, 1 on 1st September, 2 on 8th September and 2 on 3rd

October. Reed/Marsh warblers not specifically identified were seen on 4th June, 4 on 18th August, 2 on 20—22nd August and 1st and 21st September. One on the late date of 26th October was probably a Reed Warbler.



ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* One on 30th May, 2 on 2nd June, 1 on 4th and 2 on 5th. Increase to 4 on 6th with 2 on 7th and one remaining till 11th June. In autumn singles on 18—22nd August and 8—11th September.

SPECTACLED WARBLER *Sylvia conspicillata* A superb ♂ found in North Reeva on 4th June and seen briefly next day at Easter Lother. A new bird for Fair Isle bringing the Island's warbler list to 33 species!

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* A ♀ found by the Observatory and swiftly trapped in the Obs. Trap on 1st June remained on the isle till 10th June. One seen at Easter Lother on 4th October (W. Russell) 19th and 20th records for the Island.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* Four on 18th August were the first, 1—2 seen most days till 23rd August. 7 on 24th and 2—3 daily till 31st. 1—2 each day from 1st—7th September, 5 on 8th, and singles on 15th September and 29th September—1st October.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* Two on 11th May, 6 on 12th and 1—3 daily till 20th May. 7 on 21st with 2—5 daily till 30th, 1 on 31st May, none till 4th June when 10 arrived, decreasing to 2 by 9th and one on 11th June. In autumn, singles on 24th August, 7th and 22—27th September. 2 on 30th September—1st October and singles on 4th, 6th and 29th October.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* Single birds seen on 14th, 17—18th and 20th May. 3 on 21st and 5 on 22nd May with 1—5 daily till 31st May. 8 on 1st June, 10 on 5th and 4—5 daily till 10th June. 1—2 remaining till 18th June. In autumn, single birds on 8 dates between 10th August and 8th October with 2 on 1st September and 15th September.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* One on 18—20th May, 3 on 21st and 7 on 22nd with 2—6 till 31st May. 12 on 1st June increasing to 17 on 5th, down to 3 by 11th June and single birds on 16th, 19th and 29th June. First autumn birds were 25 on 17th August, 50 next day decreasing to 8 on 22nd but up to 26 on 24th with small numbers till 6th September. An arrival of 22 on 7th September decreasing to 1 by 14th, but 8 on 15th and 1—5 till end of month. 10 on 1st and 3rd October with 1—4 till 14th and a late bird on 29th October.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* A ♂ on 12th April was the only one seen until 1 on 12th and 13th May and 3 on 20th May. 2—3 remained until 29th and 5 were seen on 30th May. 8 on 5th June and 6 on 9th were the highest totals. One seen on 12—13th June. In autumn singles on 17—18th August, 1st and 6th September with 2 on 7th. Singles on 12th and 15—16th September and 12 on 30th. Increase to 30 on 1st October, 40 on 3rd decreasing to 7 by 5th. 20 on 6th and 46 on 10th with 10—25 daily till 15th. Further arrivals of 14 on 17th and 60 on 29th rapidly decreasing to 5 on 30th and 1 on 31st.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* One on 19th August caught by hand in North Light outbuilding. Recorded for the 2nd year in succession, 13th Island record.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis* One at Wester Lothar on 30th September. (D. Buffery)



PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* One seen by a few lucky observers at the Kirn O' Skroo on 6th October. The 3rd Island record, last recorded 1975.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* Two on 29th September, 3 on 30th, 1 on 1—2nd October and 2 on 8th October were the only records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* Two spring records; single birds on 17—22nd May and 29th May. In autumn, singles on 18—20th August, 23rd August, 2 on 24th August with one till 27th. One on 30th August and a different individual on 31st—1st September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* Singles on 26th and 28th March, 1—2 daily from 2nd—21st April with 7 on 22nd and 1—6 till 30th May. 8 on 5th June, 1—3 daily till 27th June and one on 5th July. First autumn record, one on 8—9th August, 2 on 10th and 1—2 daily till 29th August. 7 on 30th September, 14 on 1st October dropping to 1 on 4th, then 12 on 6th with up to 8 daily till 23rd. Two on 25—26th and 3 on 29th October.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* Single birds on 12—13th, 21st, and 25th April. Two on 27th April, one on 5th May. Main arrivals from 13th May (12) with 20 on 21st and 50 on 22nd May with 10—12 on several dates to early June. Down to 2 on 8th June and singles on 10th and 14th June. First autumn record on 9th August. 3 on 17th and 40 on 18th August. with 5—15 till 23rd August. 20 on 24th and 20—30 till 30th August. 4 on 31st August and arrival of 28 on 1st September decreasing to 2 by 9th, then 2 on 12th and none till 9 arrived on 20th. 1—2 most days to 29th, 8 on 30th and 3—4 on 1st—2nd October. 6 on 10th October, 1—2 most days till 13th and one on 15th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* 5 on 25th March were the first of the year followed by 6 on 27th, then none till 2 on 11th April, 3 on 14th and singles on 18th and 20—22nd April, 6—9th, 11th and 21st May. In autumn 9 arrived on 30th September, 15 on 1st October, 20 next day and peak of 30 on 6th October. Down to 2 by 14th, one on 18—19th 3 on 22nd and 1 on 23rd October was the last.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* First recorded on 17th May (1), with 2 on 19th, 4 on 21st, 8 on 22nd and 2—7 till 1st June. 12 arrived on 2nd June decreasing to 4 by 10th. One on 19th June. Very few in autumn, 2 on 21st August with one next day, 1 on 30th September—1st October and singles on 10th and 12th October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* A ϕ at Hultry Geo on 31st May (trapped) was the only record.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* Single $\sigma\sigma$ on 8th, 12—13th and 17th May, a ϕ on 18th May, 5 on 22nd and 1—2 till 31st May. 3 on 2nd June, one on 3rd, 2 on 9th and one on 10th June. In autumn, 6 on 17th August with 2—4 till 22nd August. 15 on 24th August with further arrivals of 7 on 1st September, 16 on 7th, 6 on 20th and 30th September, 2 on 1st October and singles on 4th and 6th October.

ISABELLINE SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus* An immature at Dutfield on 24th October. The second Island record, the previous one being 12—13th May 1960.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* Lower totals than usual for recent years. 1 on 18—20th May, 6 on 21st with 3—5 till 25th. 7 on 26th May, 1—5 till 31st, 6 on 1st June and 3—4 till 11th June. Two autumn records, single birds on 23—24th August and 8—11th September.



GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* One on 8—10th April, 2 on 11—12th, and singles on 16—17th, 18th and 20th April. Only one in autumn, on 3rd November.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* One on 4th May was the only spring record. Unprecedented numbers on autumn passage with one on 7—8th October, 90 on 22nd, 175 on 23rd and 270 on 25th October, (previous highest autumn count only 27). Up to 200 remained till 31st October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* Single birds seen on 23rd March, 16th April, 2 on 23rd April and singles on 9th May and 1—2 June. One on 23rd October with 2 from 24th—31st October. One on 18th December, and up to 3 from 21st—28th December.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* Singles on 8 dates between 21st February and 26th April. 6 on 27th April, 1—2 on several dates in May with 16 on 9th May along with 2 hybrid Carrion/Hooded Crows. Decreased to 1 by 13th May but 9 on 16th and 1—4 till 27th May. 4 seen on the crossing on 1st June. One on 8—9th September and one on 9th December. Hooded Crow *C.c. cornix* Resident throughout the year, probably 2 pairs bred, fledged young seen from 20th June.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* Resident and recorded throughout the year as usual. Flocks of migrants recorded in spring with 18 on 15th March, 16 on 18th and 20 on 21st March with 16 on 3rd April. Some of these flocks remaining on the isle for some days. Three pairs nested.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* Recorded throughout the year. Some passage noted in mid-April with peak of 1000 on 16th. Breeding season good with first young fledged on 15th June. Little autumn passage, small arrivals in October mostly less than 200, and few noted at the Lighthouses.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* Resident, present in usual numbers, first young fledged 20th June.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* One bird seen at Busta on many dates from 27th March—8th June. No further sightings till 8th August when one again resident at Busta till at least 24th October, joined by another on 20th and 24th October.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* Two on 26—28th March with one till 31st, 6 on 1st April increasing to 26 on 6th, 40 on 7th and 55 on 8th, with up to 40 till further arrival on 13th when 60 present. 80 seen on 24th April decreasing to 6 by 29th, then up to 30 on 5th May 1—10 on most days till 11th May and 1—4 till 7th June. In autumn, a single on 25—26th September, 2 on 28—29th and 9 on 30th September. 30 on 1st October and up to 25 daily till 15th October when decrease to 1—6 till 29th when 30 arrived. Down to 6 on 30th October, the last record.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* 2 on 27th March, 1—5 between 3rd and 12th April, 14 on 14th, and 85 on 16th April, down to 1 by 20th but 60 on 24th and fresh arrival of 62 on 28th April. Up to 10 in early May with 22 on 7th decreasing to 4 by 14th, 2 on 23rd 1 on 24th May and 1 on 5—9th June. In autumn, arrival of 15 on 30th September were the first, increasing to 45 on 1st October and 180 on 6th, down to 40 on 12th October but 150 on 14th and 20—50 till 24th. Only 1 on 28th October, then 28 on 29th and 3 on 31st October.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* One on 26th March, 2 on 7—8th April, one on 9th and 4 on 11th April with 1—2 till 17th. In autumn, 2 on 27th October and 4 on 29th October.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* Three on 16th May was the only spring record. In autumn 3 on 30th September were the first, then recorded daily to 19th October with 7 on 2nd and 15 on 6th October slowly decreasing to on 1 on 19th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* single $\sigma\sigma$ on 26th March and 6th April 2 on 11—12th April with one on 13th. 8 on 25th April and 1—2 on several dates between 9th and 31st May. 4 on 1st June, 1—2 till 10th June. 2 recorded on 20th July. In autumn, 2 on 13th September, 1 on 30th September and 2 from 7th—11th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* None in January, 5 from 16—28th February, with no increase till 20 on 26th March. Up to 105 on 1st April. Breeding season good with fledged young from 7th July. No large autumn flocks, 150 on 2nd October was the highest number recorded. A few in December with flock of 10 on 29th.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* One on 5th May, 2 on 6th and 1 on 7th, and a single on 21—22nd June were the only spring records. One on 7th August then small invasion from 20th September (1) increasing to 7 on 22nd and 9 on 23rd September, 5—6 till 29th,



Mealy Redpoll

20 on 30th and 30 on 1—2nd October. Decrease to 1 by 11th October, then 4 on 14th, 3 till 17th and singles on 22—25th and 28—29th October. 4 on 8th and one on 29—30th December. All those subspecifically identified were Mealy types, *C.f. flammea*.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostris* One on 19—20th July, a ϕ on 25th and a σ on 26th July. One Crossbill sp. on 27th October.

SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* A good series of records. Single birds on 21—23rd May, 26th May and 3rd June with a different individual on 4—8th June. In autumn, one on 17—22nd August, one 26th August—2nd September, one 7th September, one 21—23rd September and 2 on 26th. One on 30th September and one on 6th October. All were $\phi\phi$, about 12 individuals involved.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* 3 $\sigma\sigma$ on 15th October, one till 17th. 2 $\sigma\sigma$ on 18th with one till 21st and another σ on 29th October. 2 on 21st November and 1 on 25th.



SONG SPARROW *Zonotrichia melodia* One at Setter from 17th April—7th May (trapped). The second record for Fair Isle, last recorded 1959.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* A ♂ on 4th May, ♀ on 5th—10th when joined by another. Singles on 21st and 26th May, 2 on 27th, one on 28th and on 19th June. In autumn singles on 3 dates from 12—18th September, 2 on 19th, 3 on 20th and 6 on 21st September. 1—5 daily till 5th October, 12 on 6th with 1—8 daily till 31st October.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* 1—12 on several dates in January and an arrival of 60 on 23rd January. Sporadic in February with 20 on 1st and 50 on 11th. 5—20 on several dates in early March, then regularly from 17th March—5th April with up to 20 most days. Scattered singles between 5th and 30th April. 2 on 2nd May, 10 on 3rd and 20 on 5th and 9th May, decreasing to 6 by 15th and singles on 17—19th and 27th May. In autumn 1 on 8th September, 4 on 10th and daily to 29th October with up to 20 most days and peak counts of 50 on 15th September, 110 on 21st October, 55 on 29th October. 80 on 1st November, 80 on 27th November and 30 on 8th December.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* One on several dates between 18th January and 8th February. 2 on 2—3rd April, 1 on 6th increasing to 3 on 8th and 7 on 11th April. 2 on 14th, but 5 on 15th and singles on 18th and 25th April and 28th May. Three autumn records, one on 8th October, 2 on 23—24th October and 2 on 29th with one remaining till 31st October.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* Two spring records of single birds on 2nd June and 4—7th June and one in autumn on 7—8th October were the only sightings.

CRETZSCHMAR'S BUNTING *Emberiza caesia* A fine ♂ at Bull's Park on 9—10th June. the second Island record, the first being 10—20th June 1967.

RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica* An adult ♂ on 11th June was the only record.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* One from 6—8th October at Field and Setter and another on 13th October (D. Buffery).

YELLOW-BREADED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola* One at Field on 9th September and 2 at Setter on 29—30th September with one on 1st October, all ♂♂ plumage.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* Singles on 25th and 31st January and 4th February. 2 on 25—26th March with 3 on 27th and 1 lingering till 5th April. 2 on 11th April, 7 on 12th and 1—4 on many dates till 24th May. Singles on 5 dates between 1st and 23rd June with 2 on 5th. The first autumn birds were 2 on 30th September, then recorded daily till 30th October. Peak counts were 45 on 6th October, 50 on 7th and 20 on 12th.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra* Single birds on 23rd April and 22nd May were the only records.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* A ♂ of this species which is presently in category 'D' of the British and Irish List was shot on 27th November. It is hoped that analysis of gut contents will reveal its origin.

PAINTED BUNTING *Passerina ciris* A ♀ of this species, also in category 'D' was trapped on 19th June, remaining till 1st July. An examination in the hand showed many broken or missing feathers and it was judged to have been an escape from captivity.

All records of rare birds submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee in 1978 were accepted.

Corrections to 1978 Systematic List.

White-Billed Diver—date should be 6th June.

Ringling Details 1979

6472 birds of 113 species were ringed on the Island during the year. None was new to the Observatory's ringing list, which still stands at 237 species (one more than last year as Isabelline Shrike is now treated as a full species).

The monthly totals of birds ringed are as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
—	4	42	493	231	1108	2788	688	329	807	1	1

Some of the Heligoland traps suffered as a result of the heavy snowfalls in January and much repair work was carried out before the spring migration. As usual mist-nets were used to catch some of the more unusual species and nets were used in conjunction with tape-lures to catch Storm and Leach's Petrels. The wader traps produced few birds this year due to the pools at Easter Loth and Golden Water being too full of water at the crucial times. Dazzling produced a number of more unusual birds including Whooper Swans and Greylag Geese. Despite a rather poor summer the seabird season was excellent producing very good numbers, particularly for Guillemot and Razorbill. The new boat was used extensively in the seabird programme.

The top ten species ringed were Guillemot 1147, Storm Petrel 785, Starling 555, Shag 344, Razorbill 337, Blackbird 300, Redwing 276, Wheatear 258, Kittiwake 249 and Herring Gull 191. Guillemot is in top position for the first time.

Record totals were achieved for Guillemot and Razorbill as well as Whooper Swan 7, and Greylag Goose 4. On the debit side only 3 Wrens were ringed, the lowest number ever and that distinction was also held by Twite with only 32 ringed.

Among the more unusual species handled were Little Grebe (2), Leach's Petrel, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Short-eared Owl (2), Richard's Pipit, Black-eared Wheatear, Lanceolated Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler (4), Subalpine Warbler, Greenish Warbler and Song Sparrow.

A full table of ringing totals and recoveries is printed below. A number of arithmetical errors in previous tables which came to light in an analysis of ringing totals from 1948 have been corrected. the format has also been changed so that it is compatible with the National Ringing Totals published by the British Trust for Ornithology.

A number of interesting recoveries were reported during the year, notably Barred Warbler, and these are detailed in the recoveries section.

TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS AND RECOVERIES

	Juv/ Adult	Ringed Pull.	1979		Recovered	
			1979 Total	1948-79 Total	1979	1948-79
Little Grebe	2	—	2	7	—	—
Great Crested Grebe	—	—	—	1	—	—
Red-necked Grebe	—	—	—	1	—	—
Slavonian Grebe	—	—	—	2	—	—
Fulmar	11	105	116	7631	3	55
Storm Petrel	785	—	785	7398	59	145
Leach's Petrel	1	—	1	15	—	—
Gannet	3	—	3	28	—	1
Cormorant	—	—	—	7	—	—
Shag	32	312	344	10519	12	245
Grey Heron	—	—	—	12	1	1
Whooper Swan	7	—	7	24	2	4
Bean Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pink-footed Goose	—	—	—	2	—	—
White-fronted Goose	—	—	—	2	—	1
Greylag Goose	4	—	4	11	1	2
Barnacle Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shelduck	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wigeon	—	—	—	10	—	—
Teal	—	—	—	33	—	2
Mallard	—	—	—	7	—	1
Pintail	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pochard	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tufted Duck	1	—	1	8	—	—
Scaup	1	—	1	3	—	—
Eider	3	1	4	81	2	2
Long-tailed Duck	1	—	1	7	—	—
Velvet Scoter	—	—	—	2	—	—
Goldeneye	1	—	1	11	—	1
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	1	—	—
Goosander	—	—	—	3	—	1
Goshawk	—	—	—	1	—	—
Sparrowhawk	9	—	9	124	—	13
Kestrel	—	—	—	29	—	5
Red-footed Falcon	—	—	—	1	—	—
Merlin	2	—	2	146	—	11

	Ringed		Recovered			
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1979 Total	1948-79 Total	1979	1948-79
Peregrine	—	—	—	6	—	1
Quail	—	—	—	4	—	—
Water Rail	2	—	2	203	—	3
Spotted Crane	—	—	—	10	—	—
Little Crane	—	—	—	1	—	1
Corncrake	1	—	1	34	—	2
Moorhen	3	—	3	65	—	3
Coot	—	—	—	11	—	1
Great Bustard	—	—	—	1	—	—
Oystercatcher	2	29	31	887	6	43
Little Ringed Plover	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ringed Plover	12	—	12	331	—	3
Golden Plover	—	—	—	17	—	—
Dotterel	—	—	—	3	—	—
Lapwing	—	3	3	218	1	3
Knot	1	—	1	66	—	1
Sanderling	1	—	1	78	—	—
Western Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—	—
Little Stint	2	—	2	63	—	—
Temminck's Stint	—	—	—	1	—	—
White-rumped Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pectoral Sandpiper	—	—	—	5	—	—
Curlew Sandpiper	—	—	—	4	—	—
Purple Sandpiper	—	—	—	138	—	1
Dunlin	8	—	8	395	—	6
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ruff	1	—	1	31	—	1
Jack Snipe	—	—	—	109	—	3
Snipe	—	—	—	253	—	4
Woodcock	7	—	7	211	1	10
Black-tailed Godwit	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bar-tailed Godwit	—	—	—	7	—	2
Whimbrel	—	—	—	13	—	—
Curlew	—	1	1	38	—	2
Spotted Redshank	—	—	—	3	—	—
Redshank	1	—	1	7	—	2
Greenshank	1	—	1	201	—	—
Green Sandpiper	1	—	1	24	—	1
Wood Sandpiper	1	—	1	15	—	—
Common Sandpiper	1	—	1	37	—	—
Turnstone	—	—	—	63	—	—
Red-necked Phalarope	—	—	—	4	—	—
Grey Phalarope	—	—	—	3	—	—
Pomarine Skua	—	—	—	1	—	—
Arctic Skua	13	94	107	2428	17	55
Great Skua	—	19	19	449	4	10
Black-headed Gull	—	—	—	19	—	3
Common Gull	—	9	9	64	—	5
Lesser Black-backed Gull	—	51	51	869	3	21
Herring Gull	—	191	191	2422	10	58

	Ringed		Recovered			
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1979 Total	1948-79 Total	1979	1948-79
Iceland Gull	—	—	—	1	—	—
Glaucous Gull	—	—	—	27	—	1
Great Black-backed Gull	—	99	99	1402	11	62
Kittiwake	3	246	249	2470	1	15
Common Tern	—	41	41	141	1	2
Arctic Tern	—	—	—	5	—	1
Guillemot	275	872	1147	5585	13	102
Razorbill	74	263	337	2406	2	52
Black Guillemot	—	12	12	1088	2	14
Little Auk	—	—	—	5	—	—
Puffin	83	87	170	7280	4	21
Rock Dove	—	1	1	11	—	1
Woodpigeon	1	—	1	28	—	2
Collared Dove	15	—	15	116	—	—
Turtle Dove	6	—	6	50	—	1
Cuckoo	1	—	1	69	—	1
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	1	—	1
Long-eared Owl	4	—	4	121	1	6
Short-eared Owl	2	—	2	9	—	—
Nightjar	—	—	—	3	—	—
Swift	—	—	—	15	—	1
Hoopoe	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wryneck	—	—	—	139	—	—
Great Spotted Woodpecker	—	—	—	18	—	—
Short-toed Lark	—	—	—	5	—	—
Woodlark	—	—	—	2	—	—
Skylark	3	5	8	678	—	3
Shore Lark	—	—	—	3	—	—
Sand Martin	—	—	—	7	—	—
Swallow	19	—	19	208	6	8
House Martin	2	—	2	135	1	1
Richard's Pipit	1	—	1	8	—	—
Tawny Pipit	—	—	—	2	—	—
Olive-backed Pipit	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tree Pipit	14	—	14	445	—	—
Pechora Pipit	—	—	—	5	—	—
Meadow Pipit	113	11	124	6611	—	40
Red-throated Pipit	—	—	—	5	—	—
Rock Pipit	116	3	119	6314	—	21
Yellow Wagtail	—	—	—	10	—	—
Citrine Wagtail	—	—	—	5	1	—
Grey Wagtail	1	—	1	11	—	—
Pied Wagtail	6	—	6	414	—	4
Waxwing	—	—	—	33	—	—
Dipper	—	—	—	8	—	—
Wren	3	—	3	557	—	—
Dunnock	59	—	59	1294	—	5
Robin	177	—	177	4642	1	26
Thrush Nightingale	—	—	—	14	—	—
Nightingale	—	—	—	13	—	—
Siberian Rubythroat	—	—	—	1	—	—

	Ringed				Recovered	
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1979 Total	1948-79 Total	1979	1948-79
Bluethroat	1	—	1	154	—	2
Black Redstart	4	—	4	85	—	—
Restart	18	—	18	1304	1	1
Whinchat	7	—	7	409	—	2
Stonechat	—	—	—	38	—	—
Wheatear	196	62	258	12171	—	57
Black-eared Wheatear	1	—	1	3	—	—
Rock Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Grey-cheeked Thrush	—	—	—	2	—	—
White's Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ring Ousel	6	—	6	309	—	6
Blackbird	300	—	300	14858	3	259
Dusky Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Black-throated Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fieldfare	11	—	11	540	2	2
Song Thrush	93	—	93	1695	—	21
Redwing	276	—	276	5615	5	61
Mistle Thrush	—	—	—	18	—	1
Pallas's Grasshopper W.	—	—	—	2	—	—
Lanceolated Warbler	1	—	1	12	—	—
Grasshopper Warbler	6	—	6	68	—	—
River Warbler	—	—	—	2	—	—
Aquatic Warbler	1	—	1	20	—	—
Sedge Warbler	7	—	7	253	—	1
Paddyfield Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Marsh Warbler	4	—	4	46	—	—
Reed Warbler	5	—	5	108	—	1
Great Reed Warbler	—	—	—	4	—	—
Thick-billed Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Booted Warbler	—	—	—	5	—	—
Icterine Warbler	2	—	2	56	—	—
Melodious Warbler	—	—	—	7	—	—
Subalpine Warbler	1	—	1	16	—	—
Sardinian Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Barred Warbler	8	—	8	279	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	12	—	12	396	—	—
Whitethroat	9	—	9	667	—	—
Garden Warbler	76	—	76	1841	1	1
Blackcap	86	—	86	2355	1	7
Greenish Warbler	1	—	1	11	—	—
Arctic Warbler	—	—	—	23	—	—
Yellow-browed Warbler	2	—	2	67	—	—
Dusky Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bonelli's Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wood Warbler	1	—	1	58	—	—
Chiffchaff	17	—	17	463	—	—
Willow Warbler	63	—	63	2203	1	2
Goldcrest	8	—	8	968	—	2
Spotted Flycatcher	5	—	5	398	—	1
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	—	1	36	—	—
Pied Flycatcher	22	—	22	643	—	3

	Ringed		Recovered			
	Adult	Pull.	1979 Total	1948-79 Total	1979	1948-79
Blue Tit	—	—	—	2	—	—
Great Tit	—	—	—	5	—	—
Treecreeper	—	—	—	1	—	—
Golden Oriole	—	—	—	3	—	1
Isabelline Shrike	—	—	—	1	—	—
Red-backed Shrike	3	—	3	182	—	—
Lesser Grey Shrike	—	—	—	6	—	—
Great Grey Shrike	2	—	2	94	—	1
Woodchat Shrike	—	—	—	9	—	—
Jackdaw	—	—	—	2	—	—
Rook	—	—	—	4	—	—
Hooded Crow	—	—	—	40	—	—
Raven	—	4	4	17	—	—
Starling	514	41	555	12967	9	104
Rose-coloured Starling	—	—	—	2	—	—
House Sparrow	23	—	23	1065	—	1
Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	88	—	1
Chaffinch	92	—	92	1283	1	6
Brambling	65	—	65	1847	2	6
Greenfinch	1	—	1	73	—	—
Goldfinch	—	—	—	4	—	—
Siskin	5	—	5	203	—	1
Linnet	—	—	—	101	—	1
Twite	32	—	32	3571	—	3
Redpoll	7	—	7	478	—	1
Arctic Redpoll	—	—	—	6	—	—
Crossbill	—	—	—	290	—	2
Parrot Crossbill	—	—	—	35	—	—
Scarlet Rosefinch	3	—	3	56	—	—
Bullfinch	—	—	—	26	—	—
Hawfinch	—	—	—	3	—	—
Tennessee Warbler	—	—	—	2	—	—
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	1	—	—
White-throated Sparrow	—	—	—	2	—	—
Song Sparrow	1	—	1	2	—	—
Lapland Bunting	—	—	—	37	—	—
Snow Bunting	3	—	3	496	—	3
Yellowhammer	3	—	3	38	—	—
Ortolan Bunting	—	—	—	17	—	—
Cretzschmar's Bunting	—	—	—	1	—	—
Rustic Bunting	—	—	—	9	—	1
Little Bunting	—	—	—	16	—	—
Yellow-breasted Bunting	—	—	—	6	—	—
Reed Bunting	6	—	6	258	—	2
Pallas's Reed Bunting	—	—	—	1	—	—
Black-headed Bunting	—	—	—	2	—	—
Corn Bunting	—	—	—	3	—	—
[Red-headed Bunting]	—	—	—	5	—	—
TOTALS	3910	2562	6472	149953	193	1691

Recoveries in 1979

An outstanding total of 193 recoveries were reported in 1979, no less than 59 of these were Storm Petrels. The details of the more interesting recoveries are given below. The international code of symbols for the method of recovery and the age of ringing are used:

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

Where date of recovery is given in brackets it signifies date of recovery unknown, date of finders report given.

Age codes:

- 1 pullus or nestling
- 2 fully grown, exact 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, exact age unknown
- 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

SS39,457	4	20.04.66	Fair Isle
xA		11.08.78	Kinnum (Terschelling)
			NETHERLANDS 53°24'N 5°16'E
FS70,219	4	29.07.74	at sea ¼ mile S.E. of Fair Isle
v		.06.79	32km NNE Macduff (Grampian)
			caught on fishing boat. 180km SSW

STORM PETREL

2192,562	4	11.08.77	Gunnawark, Fair Isle
xA		22.06.79	N. Restensgeo, Fair Isle. (ring found in pellet from Short-eared Owl)
2207,455	4	15.08.78	Fair Isle
v		08.07.79	Burravoe (Yell) Shetland 110km NNE
v		24.08.79	Lerwick, Shetland 75 km 20°

All other Storm Petrel recoveries and controls are tabulated below, figures in brackets refer to birds recovered/controlled in 1978 which were reported too late for inclusion in last year's report.

	Ringed on Fair Isle	Controlled on Fair Isle
Foula (Shetland)	13 (9)	2
Noness (Shetland)	7 (2)	7
Yell (Shetland)	6 (1)	4 (1)
Harmaness (Shetland)	2	
Lerwick (Shetland)	8	
Whalsay (Shetland)	4	1 (1)
Bressay (Shetland)	1	
Auskerry (Orkney)	1	1
Sule Skerry (Orkney)	1	1
Summer Isles (Highland)	1	
Shiant Islands (Western Isles)	1	
St Kilda (Western Isles)	2	1
Sanda Is. Kintyre (Strathclyde)		1
Calf of Man (I.O.M.)	1	1
Copeland Is. Down (N. Ireland)		1

SHAG

112,3006	1 (3/3)	27.07.78	Fair Isle
x		24.09.78	Frigg Oil Field, North Sea c60°00'N 1°30'E

Two Fair Isle Shags were found dead due to oil pollution in Shetland in January/February 1979.

WHOOPER SWAN

Z.4777 8 08.03.79 Fair Isle
x c.20.03.79 Sanday (Orkney) 60km SW

GREYLAG GOOSE

505,2424 3 10.11.74 Fair Isle
+ c.28.1.79 near Aberdeen (Grampian)
260km S

OYSTERCATCHER

AT67,618	1	27.06.61	Buness, Fair Isle
x		29.06.79	Buness, Fair Isle, 18 years later
SS61,857	4	05.04.67	Fair Isle
v		16.01.79	Bennington, Boston, (Lincs.) 635km S
SS39,488	1 (2/2)	09.07.66	Fair Isle
x		23.09.79	Montrose Basin (Tayside) 319km 189°

WOODCOCK

EB47,092 2 09.11.75 Fair Isle
+ 10.07.79 Fjallsjo, (Vasternorrland) SWEDEN
63°49'N 16°24'E

GREAT SKUA

HW68,535	1 (1/?)	07.07.78	Fair Isle
x		10.01.79	Cherchell (Alger) ALGERIA
			36°36'N 02°12'E

Our first recovery of this species from the Mediterranean.

ARCTIC SKUA

EF84,708	1 (2/2)	05.07.73	Fair Isle
/?/		24.11.78	Essaouira, MOROCCO
			31°31'N 9°46'W. Our second recovery from Morocco.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GP79,039	1	15.07.72	Fair Isle
v		15.07.77	FAEROE ISLANDS
			62°03'N 6°15'W

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

HW07,799	3	07.11.67	Dazzled, Buness, Fair Isle
+		23.04.79	Vogar, Gullbingn Sylu, ICELAND
			63°58'N 22°22'W
HW07,824	8	30.10.72	Dazzled, Buness, Fair Isle
x		10.03.79	Tophill Low Res. Beverley (Yorks)
			630km S
HW31,275	8	24.11.73	Dazzled, Buness, Fair Isle
x		19.09.79	Kjollefjord (Finnmark) NORWAY
			70°55'N 27°21'E
HW68,540	1	09.07.78	Burrian, Fair Isle
x		12.01.79	Rotterdam (Zund Holland)
			NETHERLANDS. 51°57'N 4°03'E

KITTIWAKE

EH44,590	1 (2/2)	03.07.79	Johnies Peats, Fair Isle
+		11.10.79	Angmagssalik GREENLAND
			65°51'N 37°1'W

GUILLEMOT

GK29,802	1	28.06.77	Wester Lothar, Fair Isle
x (oiled)		11.11.78	Tornby (Jylland) DENMARK
			57°34'N 9°54'E
GK47,439	1	29.06.78	S. Ramnigeo, Fair Isle
x		17.06.79	Skagen (Jylland) DENMARK
			58°00'N 10°10'E
GP94,148	1	30.06.78	Guillemot Cave, Fair Isle
+		06.12.78	Lillebult (Fyn) DENMARK
			55°20'N 9°45'E

These are only the 2nd—4th recoveries from Denmark, the recovery date of GK47,439 is interesting though it would not be nesting in its first year.

RAZORBILL

M26,351	1	08.07.77	Easter Lothar, Fair Isle
/?/		01.03.79	Larache, MOROCCO
			35°12'N 6°09'W, our 2nd recovery from Morocco

BLACK GUILLEMOT

EH26,750	6	13.08.77	Buness, Fair Isle
x (oiled)		25.10.78	Sanday (Orkney) 66km SW
			only the 13th recovery away from Fair Isle

PUFFIN			
AT90,-61	4	--.07.62	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		21.12.78	between Centis and Vielle St Giron (Landes) FRANCE 44°00'N 1°19'W
EB07,518	1	28.06.75	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x (oiled)		10.02.79	Vielle St Giron (Landes) FRANCE 43°57'N 1°18'W
EB07,550	8	30.06.75	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(15.01.79)	Santander SPAIN 43°28'N 3°48'W
EB47,445	1	13.07.76	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		06.03.77	Piriac (Loire Atlantique) FRANCE 47°23'N 2°32'W

LONG-EARED OWL

GK84,685	2	12.11.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		19.02.79	Waygaard (Schleswig Holstein) W. GERMANY 54°44'N 08°42'E

Our first recovery from W Germany of this species

BLACKBIRD

XE08,863	4♀	12.11.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v (roost)	4♀	03.11.79	St. Andrews (Fife) 362km 191°
XH31,094	3♂	14.10.79	<i>Fair Isle</i> (10.00 hrs)
v	3♂	19.10.79	Heligoland W. GERMANY (08.40 hrs) 54°11'N 7°55'E

ROBIN

KP95,313	4	07.05.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x (cat)		05.05.79	Kyrhsaeteroer (S. Tronderlag) NORWAY 63°24'N 8°59'E Our first Robin from Norway

BARRED WARBLER

NC55,950	3	08.09.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		20.02.79	Ohrd, (Makedonia) JUGOSLAVIA 41°6'N 20°49'E

At last a Barred Warbler recovery! This is the first recovery of a British ringed Barred Warbler. The species is not known to winter in Yugoslavia and February is too early for it to have been migrating normally. It is thought that the bird was able to re-orientate successfully but not in time to reach its normal winter quarters in Arabia and North East Africa.

GARDEN WARBLER

KP95,776	2	20.08.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		25.09.78	Heligoland W. GERMANY 54°11'N 7°55'E

Another example of a migrant re-orientating successfully.

LACKCAP

A394,070 3♂ 08.10.79 *Fair Isle*
 v 3♂ 13.10.79 Strand (Shetland) 76km 17°

This bird NOT successful in re-orientation.

WILLOW WARBLER

036,400 4 13.05.79 *Fair Isle*
 x 24.05.79 Oksby (Jylland) DENMARK
 55°33'N 8°08'E

CITRINE WAGTAIL

A188,308 3 16.10.78 *Fair Isle*
 x (22.05.79) *Fair Isle*

Ring only found in catching box of Double Dyke trap, presumably from Merlin pellet (Merlin caught D.D. 24.10.78)

STARLING

XE08,625 3♀ 24.10.78 *Fair Isle*
 x 03.05.79 Phillips Platform, NORTH SEA
 55°17'N 00°12'E

CHAFFINCH

KP51,770 3♂ 20.10.76 *Fair Isle*
 v 4♂ 28.10.78 Grimston Woods, Withernsea
 (Yorks) 645km S

BRAMBLING

A188,122 3♂ 01.10.78 *Fair Isle*
 v 30.10.78 Brecht (Antwerpen) BELGIUM
 51°21'N 4°38'E

Controls

Birds ringed elsewhere and recovered on Fair Isle

MERLIN

Six Merlins caught in August and September had been ringed as pullus in Fetlar, Mainland, Yell and Unst in 1979.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

HW07,075 1 16.07.70 *Birsay, (Mainland) Orkney*
 x 16.05.79 *Fair Isle* 105km ENE

WHEATEAR

A282,727 5♂ 19.04.79 *North Ronaldsay, Orkney*
 v 5♂ 05.05.79 *Fair Isle* 45km ENE

BLACKBIRD

Hel.A488,234 4♀ 11.04.76 *Lagstar (Aland) FINLAND*
 59°50'N 19°56'E
 v 4♀ 14.11.78 *Fair Isle*
 XA72,800 3♂ 04.11.75 *Kirk Ella, Hull, Yorks.*
 v 4♂ 13.11.78 *Fair Isle* 655km N

XC49,271	3♂	11.11.78	Widewall, S. Ronaldsay, Orkney
v	5♂	17.04.79	Fair Isle 110 km NE
XC65,249	6♀	26.04.78	Isle of May, Fife
v	6♀	07.05.78	Fair Isle 375km N

STARLING

CN99,355	1 (4/4)	27.05.78	Eday, Orkney
v		04.10.78	
		25.10.78	Fair Isle 75km NE

BRAMBLING

A282,715	5♂	18.04.79	North Ronaldsay, Orkney
v		20.04.79	Fair Isle 45km ENE

Retraps in 1979

As usual a large number of birds were recaptured during the year. Storm Petrels, Guillemots and Razorbills provided the most and an analysis of this data is tabulated below. The more interesting retraps are mentioned separately.

FULMAR

A bird ringed as a breeding adult at Gunnawark in 1966 was retrapped there in 1979, 13 years after ringing. As a breeding adult it was at least six years old when ringed.

STORM PETREL

Year of ringing:	79	78	77	76	75	7468
No. retraps 1979:	15	22	6	3	2	1	1

SHAG

Amongst a large number of retraps, a bird ringed as a pullus at Lericum in 1962 and retrapped there in 1979 stands out, 17 years old.

EIDER

A female ringed as an adult in 1968 was retrapped in 1979, at least 11 years old.

RAZORBILL

Year of ringing:	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	7063
Ringed as pull.	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
Ringed as Adult	4	5	1	7	3	2	—	2	1	1

GUILLEMOT

Year of ringing:	78	77	76	75	74	73	72	71	70	69	68	66	65	63	60
Ringed as pull.	—	—	—	3	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Ringed as Adult.	15	13	8	10	4	2	5	1	3	2	1	—	1	—	1

CHIFFCHAFF

A bird ringed on 20.05.79 was retrapped on 19.06 and 10.08.79 and another individual trapped on 26.04.79 was retrapped 5 occasions to 10.08.79. Both summered in the Plantation trap.

STARLING

The oldest ringed bird retrapped during the year was a bird ringed as a 3♀ in November 1971 and retrapped in April of 1979.

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 £55 per person per week

Double Room £44 per person per week

Dormitory £33 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

Monday	Loganair scheduled flights on eight-seater Islander plane from Tingwall Airport, Shetland.
Tuesday	Fair Isle Mail Boat, "Good Shepherd", from Grutness Pier, Shetland, at noon. (Return: leaves 07.00, arrives Grutness noon.)
Wednesday	No Transport.
Thursday	No transport.
Friday	"Good Shepherd" from Grutness at noon. (Return: leaves 07.00, arrives Grutness noon.) This may change to Saturday during 1980.
	Loganair scheduled flights from and to Shetland.
Saturday	Loganair flight from and to Orkney.
Sunday	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).

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 for photographs used in this report: Mr Iain Robertson on pages 7, 12, 19, 22, 23, 35, 47, Mr Dave Wheeler on pages 9 and 65, and Mr John Arnott on page 63 (knitwear photo).

The vignettes were drawn by Mr John Holloway who runs the shop on Fair Isle, and from whom drawings are available direct.

Fair Isle Knitwear

Anyone who has visited Fair Isle and bought hosiery has a very exclusive possession. The uniqueness of Fair Isle knitting stems from the vegetable dyes, the types of pattern and the way the colours and patterns are combined. Sadly, vegetable dying ceased a number of years ago, but the art of hand knitting the all-over patterned garments is still alive although the demand for these authentic products can never be fully met.

A knitting co-operative is being established within the Isle to boost production of these exclusive garments. Machines will be used to speed up the knitting process but the garments will be individually made and hand finished in the islanders' homes using traditional designs. The introduction of "FAIR ISLE CRAFTS LTD." will assist to keep the name of the world's most exclusive woollies alive in their place of origin and provide extra employment on the Isle.

I am making a collection of patterns and photographing authentic Fair Isle knitwear and would be extremely pleased to receive any garments, the older the better, bought on the Isle or known to be of Fair Isle origin. Information regarding the year of purchase and the name of the knitter if known would be helpful. Return postage will be paid for any garments sent to me.

Sally Robertson
 F.I.B.O.T.
 Fair Isle.



Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

TREASURER'S REPORT

As usual I would remind you that the important figures in these accounts are the Revenue Account itself and the figure for Net Current Assets shown in the Balance Sheet. This year we have repaid the final instalment of our loan of £9,500 from the H.I.D.B. You will remember that last year I reported a most generous donation of £2,500 from the Dulverton Trust to reduce the amount outstanding. This loan was secured over the Observatory which is thus now disburdened. It should never be forgotten, however, that without the additional outright grant of £25,000 from the H.I.D.B. in 1970 the Observatory building could not have been built. We are very grateful. I should also like to thank the Shetland Islands Council and, in the current financial year, The Dulverton Trust for their generous contributions towards the cost of the new Land Rover. One further comment before dealing with the various accounts. The full cost of the fire precautions had not been ascertained by the close of the account. These will be met this year out of monies remaining in the appeal fund and any possible surplus thereafter transferred to Capital Account.

I Revenue Account

Although the number of visitor weeks was down for the second year running, our present charges enabled us to show slightly increased takings. There was an income increase on publications, otherwise little change except for the addition of two items, interest on temporary deposits, which will decrease as the Appeal Funds and special monies are spent, and bird ringing monies recovered for a three year period. The annual figures not being available for the previous year. On the expenditure side Provisions were slightly less and the H.I.D.B. loan interest about to vanish. Everything else was, as to be expected in these days, up in cost. We have managed to show a small surplus of £40 as a result of the two extra income payments mentioned above and by cutting our figure for extra-ordinary expenditure from £1,000 to £600. This may or may not be realistic, it depends on how much we have to spend on repairs, renewals and replacements, and it shows how vulnerable we are to a fall in bookings, provisions only amounting to 30% of our board fees.

II Appeal Fund

No comment except as referred to above.

III Capital Account

Increased by the bequest from Richard Richardson's Exy. £3,200, the Shetland Islands grant, and the revenue surplus.

IV Balance Sheet

The Land Rover appears under Fixed Assets at written down value. Investments: no comment. Current Assets: the item for Appeal and Special Funds will, as I have said be non-recurring when spent.

The important figure is that for Net Current Assets which has risen to £10,416. I regard it as essential that we have a figure like this as a buffer against a fall in revenue or unforeseen repair expenditure. We make provisions but who is to say nowadays that they are sufficient. We have had to make do in the past without many items that we would have liked and we may have to in the future, but certain things like generators and structural repairs are essential, and I want to be able to meet an emergency if it occurs.

I would like to close with a vote of thanks to Sally and Iain Robertson for all the work that they have put in.

I.R. Pitman



Cattle and lambs for market. Good Shepherd III, North Haven 1978.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1979

REVENUE ACCOUNT

INCOME

1978		
£13,925	Board	£13,996
	Grant—National Trust for Scotland—	
400	Wildlife Fund	400
278	Fair Isle Endowment Trust	484
1,613	Subscriptions and Donations	1,563
323	Tax Recovered from Deeds of Covenant	304
279	Sale of Publications	381
225	Interest on Government Stock	225
—	Interest on Temporary Deposits	849
—	Bird Rings Recovered (3 years)	275
<u>£17,043</u>		<u>£18,477</u>

EXPENDITURE

£ 4,130	Provisions	£ 4,064
3,903	Wages and National Insurance	4,492
798	Insurances	982
1,683	Heat and Light	1,863
776	Repairs and Renewals	1,022
942	Telephone Postages and Stationery	1,179
478	Printing Annual Report	841
973	Travelling Expenses	853
466	Motor Expenses	603
229	Freight Inward	250
214	Bird Rings and Nets	267
745	Administration Expenses	702
90	Audit and Legal Charges	152
165	Loan Interest	1
1,000	Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure	600
380	Depreciation on Machinery and Equipment...	566
71	Surplus for year	40
<u>£17,043</u>		<u>£18,477</u>

APPEAL FUND

Balance at 31st October, 1978	£1,228
Alterations carried out during year	202
	<u>£ 1,026</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance at 31st October, 1978	£63,329
Richard Richardson's Exy.	3,197
Shetland Islands Council—Grant	575
Donations received during year	270
Surplus for year	40
	<u>£67,411</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st October, 1979**FIXED ASSETS**

	Cost or Val.	Deprec. to date		1978
Hostel Building	£51,548	£ —	£51,548	£51,548
Machinery and Equipment	3,664	2,874	790	858
Land Rover	2,430	330	2,100	—
	<u>£57,642</u>	<u>£ 3,204</u>	<u>£54,438</u>	<u>£52,406</u>

INVESTMENT

£2,642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 (Market Value £2,417)	£ 2,582		2,582
£1,000 8¾% Falkirk D.C. Mortgage 1980 ...	1,000	3,582	1,000

CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks	£ 1,283		£ 1,120
Sundry Debtors	175		64
Appeal and Special Funds held on Deposit	1,668		1,840
Temporary Deposits	12,833		11,600
Bank and Cash	1,538		37
	<u>£17,497</u>		<u>£14,661</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sundry Creditors	£ 3,195		£ 1,810
Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure	3,243		3,500
Special Funds	<u>642</u>		<u>612</u>
		<u>7,080</u>	<u>£ 5,922</u>

NET CURRENT ASSETS

10,417 8,739

£68,437 £64,727

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£67,411 £63,329

APPEAL FUND

1,026 1,228

SECURED LOAN—Highlands and Islands Board

— 170

£68,437 £64,727

Note: No depreciation has been provided on the Hostel

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

COOPERS & LYBRAND
Chartered Accountants

Edinburgh, 13th February 1980.

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Summary of Account for the year ended 31st October, 1979

	Capital	Revenue
Fund at 31st October, 1978	£ 8,306	
Donation Received	3	
Income for year per Schedule		£ 365
Income Tax Refund 1978/79		<u>173</u>
		£ 538
Trustees Fees and Outlays	£ 54	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T.	<u>484</u>	
		<u>538</u>
Fund at 31st October, 1979	<u>£ 8,309</u>	

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE	Capital		Revenue
	Market Value	Cost	
Treasury Loan £2,400 8¼% Loan 1987/90	£1,902	£2,114	£126
Treasury Stock £2,750 10% Stock 1992	2,269	2,500	188
Henderson Administration 960 High Income Units	597	638	46
	<u>£4,768</u>	<u>£5,252</u>	
Heritable Property			
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.		3,050	
Cash Balance.		7	5
		<u>£8,309</u>	<u>£365</u>

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Year Ended 31st October, 1979

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1978		£1,480.76
Richard Richardson's Exy.—one half share of residue		2,700.95
Royalties for half year to 30/6/79		285.28
Donations:		
Kilwarlin Trust		150.00
Norfolk Ornithologists Association—Appeal		53.54
Sundry		19.58
Interest on Temporary Deposits		<u>71.58</u>
		£4,761.69
Deduct :		
Legal Charges	£ 75.60	
Four grants paid of £50 each	<u>200.00</u>	
		<u>275.60</u>
Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1979		<u>£4,486.09</u>
Held as follows:—		
Investment		
£4,500 9% Treasury Loan 1994	£3,841.29	
On Temporary Deposit	640.00	
Cash	<u>4.80</u>	
		<u>£4,486.09</u>

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.

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 Harrison 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:

.....

.....

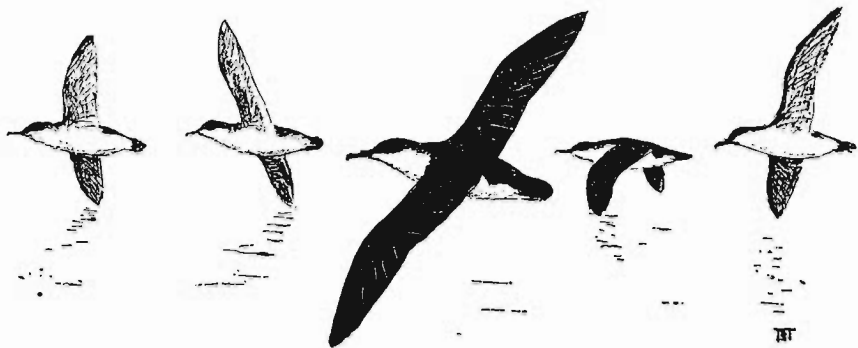
Why do you want to visit Fair Isle?

.....

.....

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.



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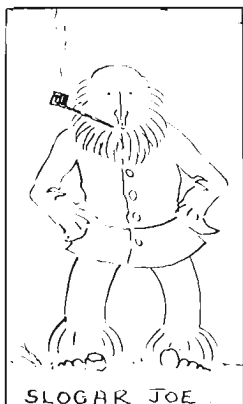


Booking Essential

Phone:

J W Stout Esq Fair Isle 222

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Fair Isle 258



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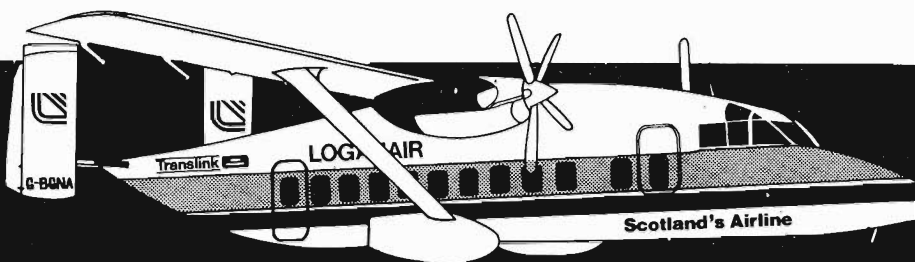
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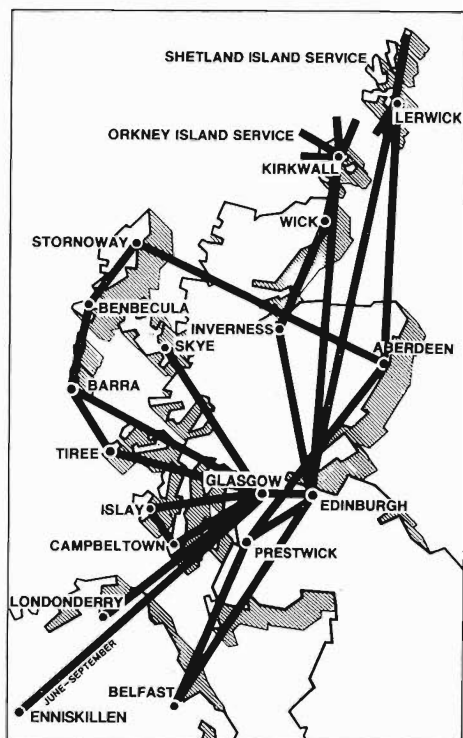
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