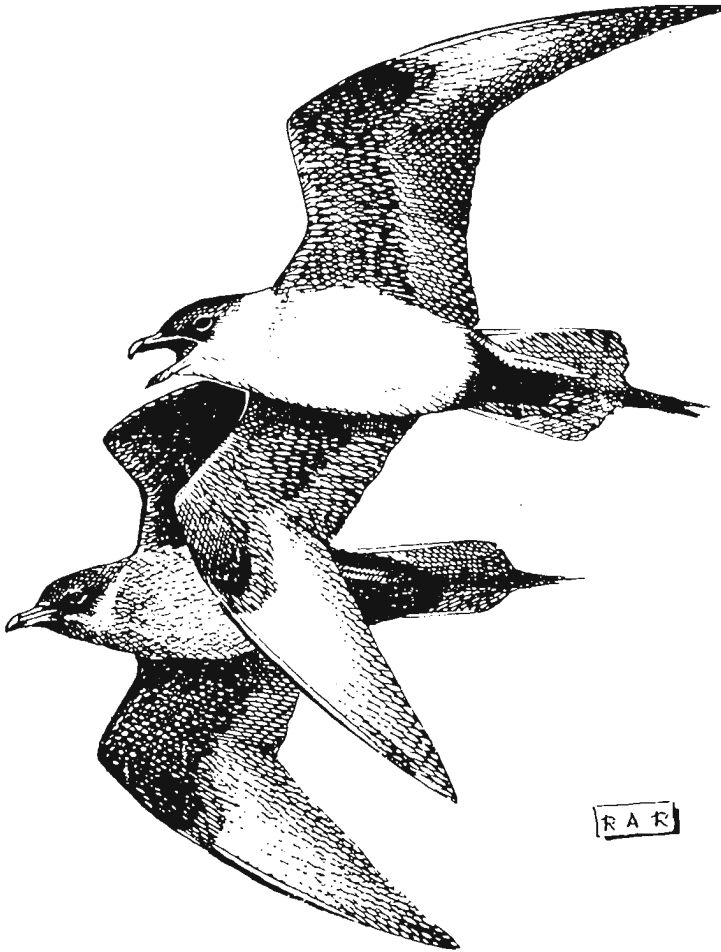


# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

## Report for 1982





Parrot Crossbill, adult female: compare with first-year male Common Crossbill below.  
*Photos-Elizabeth Riddiford.*

# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 35  
1982

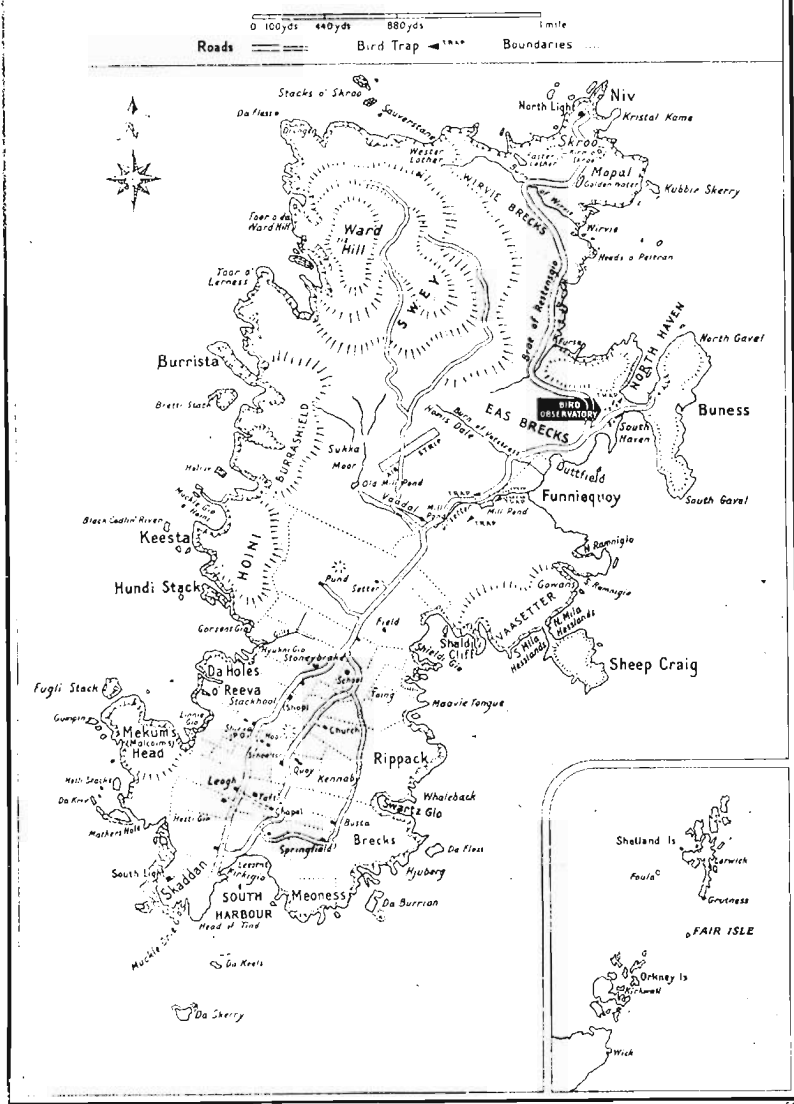
*Edited by NICK RIDDIFORD  
assisted by VALERIE M. THOM*

## CONTENTS

	Page
Foreword	4
Warden's Report for 1982	7
Ornithology	10
Monthly Highlights	11
Systematic List	22
Ringing Details 1982	49
Recoveries in 1982	55
Treasurer's Report	64
Accounts	65
John Harrison Memorial Fund	68
Acknowledgements	69

Published by The Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust  
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT  
for "Friends of Fair Isle"

# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY



# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## Trustees

Mr D. G. Andrew; Mr J. M. S. Arnott; Dr John Berry; Mr A. G. S. Bryson; Sir Charles G. Connell; Sir James C. Stormonth Darling; \*Mr R. H. Dennis; \*Sir Arthur B. Duncan; Dr W. J. Eggeling; \*Mr J. H. Mellalieu; Mr D. W. McAllister; \*Mr A. T. Macmillan; Mr E. M. Nicholson; Mr J. D. Okill; \*Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe; Dr I. D. Pennie; \*Mr Ian R. Pitman; Sir Peter Scott; Mr P. J. Sellar; Dr P. J. B. Slater; Miss V. M. Thom; \*Mrs Irene Waterston; The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Wemyss and March.

**\*Chairman:** Sir Arthur B. Duncan

**\*Hon. Secretary:** Mrs Irene Waterston

**\*Hon. Assistant Secretary:** Major A. D. Peirse-Duncombe

**\*Hon. Treasurer:** Mr Ian R. Pitman

**\*Hon. Assistant Treasurer:** Mr J. H. Mellalieu

**Chairman of Management Committee:** Sir Arthur B. Duncan

**Representatives for the National Trust for Scotland:**

Rev. C. Edie, \*Mr D. S. Erskine

\*Member of the Management Committee

**Office Address:** 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT

Tel. 031-556 6042

**Warden:** Mr Nick J. Riddiford, The Bird Observatory, Fair Isle  
Shetland. Tel. Fair Isle (035 12) 258

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

**Auditors:** Coopers & Lybrand, C.A., George House, 126 George  
Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JZ

**Bankers:** The Bank of Scotland Ltd., 64 George Street, Edinburgh  
EH2 2YS

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — **Friend of Fair Isle** — At least £2.50  
entitles you to a copy of The Annual Report

Please Support by Donation or Legacy:

## THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Capital 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.

**IRENE WATERSTON**, Hon. Secretary.

21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

## FOREWORD

After over 60 years of watching birds 1982 was particularly notable for me personally as, for the first time, I was able to see a bird that was possibly new to the British List. I say possibly new for the certainty of the identification of the Red-necked Stint may well strengthen the case for admission of former maybe less certain records. Whatever the decision of the expert and hardworking ornithological quangos that deal with these matters, nothing can diminish the thrill and excitement of having been lucky enough to watch this bird going about its everyday affairs on the airstrip while my daughter and I were waiting for the plane to take us south again last August. The weather map of Europe had for some days been clearly propitious for a visit of Siberian wanderers and it had been slightly disappointing that there had been nothing on the island from that quarter. But all was now forgiven.

It struck me, in retrospect, that if it had not been for Ken Williamson's promulgation of the importance of migratory 'drift' we would not have been expecting arrivals from Siberia at that time by simply looking at weather maps! Others may have understood the importance of weather at the time of the departure of a migrant from its summering ground but the wide recognition of the importance of the existence of 'drift' is, like the Red-necked Stint, another first, and a more important one, for Fair Isle.

While on Fair Isle I had the chance of attending a meeting of Fair Isle council along with Donald Erskine and David MacLehose of the National Trust and Nick Riddiford—a happy and harmonious occasion; at both that meeting and many informal chats it was heartening to see and hear of the excellence of the relations presently existing with everybody on the island.

During the year John Arnott felt that pressure of other commitments was such that he wished to give up the chairmanship of the executive committee and David MacLehose ceased his representation of the National Trust on his proposed departure from Edinburgh. I am very happy that his knowledge and experience of the Isle will still be available to us while he is still in Edinburgh. Donald Erskine has kindly agreed to come on as a representative from the National Trust, which has delighted us all. We are all very much indebted to John and David for all their work and interest. Temporarily I have taken on the chairman of the executive's job but hope to hand that post on to younger hands during, or at the end of, this season.

After the end of the year, but only just, Jamie Stormonth Darling received a knighthood in the New Year's honours, a splendid tribute to all his work, far beyond the call of duty, in the interests of the National Trust which during his time has become the organisation,

above all others, that holds a unique position in the affection of all Scotsmen.

I understand that the 'in' place for British birdwatchers now is probably Thailand or possibly Nepal; certainly both these destinations offer most exciting experiences, but to any who have not visited Fair Isle may I suggest that the sunset seen from the west cliffs is as fine and emotive an experience as any anywhere—those who have know that this is true.

*Arthur B. Duncan,  
Chairman*



The aerogenerator is now a prominent feature on the Fair Isle landscape and can be seen from all but two of the houses on the island.  
*Photo-National Trust for Scotland.*

## FAIR ISLE 1982

It will probably be considered impertinent of someone who only spent three days on Fair Isle in 1982 to write about what happened during that year on the island, but the fact is that David MacLehose, who has worked so hard for Fair Isle, has sadly given up his duties with the Trust, and Richard Seligman only took over in November, so I have undertaken to write the annual summary as the continuity man, to use the modern jargon. The brevity of my visit would perhaps entitle me to claim I was in a better position than those on the island to see the wood, rather than the trees. However, as all readers of this journal will know, there are practically no trees on Fair Isle, and those that are there are used as an enticement to encourage birds to enter one of the traps.

Traps are easy to fall into, and I do not therefore intend to pretend to describe all the events of 1982 which made up the Fair Isle year. I will restrict myself to a brief description of the changes in the infrastructure (or possibly the 1982 word should be "superstructure") which occurred, and within which the web of social life, hard work and cooperation, which is what Fair Isle means to so many people, evolved.

The main event of course was the installation of the Aerogenerator. Pioneers always take risks, and there is no doubt that this piece of equipment has had more than its fair share of teething troubles and a replacement gearbox has had to be installed. The benefits which it brings are self-evident when the wind blows, and the engineers are confident it will soon be the great asset which the investment demands.

The conversion of the North Light to unmanned operation, with the consequent loss of lighthouse staff and families, is a blow to the island which has always welcomed such people as part of the community.

However, community spirit is as strong as ever, as the current efforts to raise money for the repairs to the Kirk and the Chapel, and the conversion of the Old Hall to the George Waterston Memorial Centre demonstrate.

All ages are being catered for on the island, with the imminent start of the building of the two sheltered houses on Schoolton, and the continuation of the policy of sending work parties to the island, now under the auspices of the Trust's Youth in Trust Scheme. Five parties visited Fair Isle in 1982 and helped bury the electricity cables, amongst other things, and the same number of parties are planned for 1983.

There is a real hope that within the next few years one of the islanders' dreams of having a sheltered harbour at the North Haven, through the construction of a breakwater, will be realised. The



Shetland Islands Council are hoping to carry out some trial borings in 1983. Meanwhile the new slipway has proved invaluable in safeguarding the Good Shepherd against the worst of the winter storms.

George Waterston's book of old photographs of Fair Isle will be an essential part of the library of all Fair Isle lovers, and it is hoped that this will be published in July 1983 by Blackwoods (price: £10.70 hardback, £5.65 paperback). It will be obtainable from the National Trust for Scotland, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

It has thus been a year of considerable activity on the island. Migratory birds are not the only creatures that fall under the spell of Fair Isle. I am sure that those who live on the island will join with me when I say that all of us who have any connection with Fair Isle will do our best to maintain that spell for many years to come.

D. S. Erskine  
*Deputy Director (Estates)*  
*National Trust for Scotland*

## WARDEN'S REPORT 1982

Elizabeth and I returned to the isle on 22nd February, accompanied by two week old daughter, Naomi Grace. Our "team" for the season was Ann Prior and Gina Scanlan (cooks), David Borton and James Dickson (assistants) and Glen Tyler (seabird assistant, then cook). Judith Lugg helped with domestic and field work in a voluntary capacity during the latter part of the season. The standard of work was high, the cooking was first-class, and they all contributed to a lively, friendly ambiance greatly appreciated by our visitors.

We received visitors from countries as far-flung as New Zealand, U.S.A., Spain, Italy and Israel, though the British Isles provided the majority of our guests. We were pleased to welcome Sir Arthur Duncan (chairman, FIBOT) and FIBOT Trustees, Ian Pitman, Irene Waterston and Pat Sellar. Eight young ornithologists benefited from the John Harrison Memorial Fund. Two travel writers and a photographer stayed at the Hostel, resulting in articles appearing in the *National Geographic* and *In Britain* magazines, and photographs in the illustrated edition of *Some Lovely Islands* by Leslie Thomas. The recent downward trend in bookings continued: visitor/weeks were 10% down on 1981. The economic recession and the relatively high cost of reaching Shetland were undoubtedly factors in this decline for accommodation fees at the Hostel are extremely good value. The months of June, July and August were particularly poorly patronised—a great pity, for the isle is at its best with colourful wild flowers, magnificent seabird colonies and, in 1982, a very fine summer. Hopefully, in 1983 some discouraging elements will have

been removed, for Loganair has promised to declare its summer schedule early and accommodation fees at the Observatory are being held at 1982 prices.

No major additions or repairs to the Observatory building were required in 1982. One small improvement was the construction of a cold store outside the link passage which greatly prolongs the life of vegetables and other perishables. The gas store was enlarged. Work on the building was confined to patching and plugging of leaks—an occasional problem to be expected in a sectional building with a flat roof required to withstand Fair Isle weather. One less expected leak occurred early in the season when the domestic hot water cylinder developed a large crack. Frantic telephone calls eventually located a replacement at 5/6 the original capacity. This was plumbed in on arrival. Kettles and saucepans were ferried to visitors' rooms during the two week intervening period. No. 1 generator caused problems all year. A faulty control panel ensured that it refused to work on automatic start. It worked manually for a short period, then broke down completely. A fault developed in the No. 2 generator control panel in July and this plant could only be operated manually until October when the faulty part was replaced. At the end of the year No. 1 was still out of commission (waiting for spare parts) but No. 2 was in full working order. Another major problem was encountered in August when a rare violent electrical storm hit the cable supplying the fire alarm system, putting this out of action. We are indebted to Alan Heath (visitor) and David Borton (assistant) for re-installing the system. Despite these, and other minor interruptions to our routine, inconvenience to visitors was kept to an absolute minimum.

In addition to the usual day to day activities a considerable amount of survey work was done in 1982. In January and February and again in November and December records were collected for the BTO's *Winter Atlas*. The numbers of breeding waders were assessed as part of the SOC's *Waders of Agricultural Land Survey* and a census of Raven sites and breeding success was undertaken for the RSPB. We continued our monitoring of Guillemot and Razorbill census sites for the RSPB and the Burrista Puffin transect for Dr Mike Harris of the ITE. We instituted a complete Tystie census as our contribution to a study of the species started on Shetland by EGI student (and former FIBO assistant) Pete Ewins. I collected a large sample of Guillemot tarsi measurements during the summer in preparation for a 'Guillemot-special' ring whose introduction will alleviate some of the problems of ring number wear and tear.

Dr Peter Evans of the EGI continued his Starling genetics study and I undertook a detailed investigation of Starling moult sequences. Many of our visitors assisted us in these studies. We very much welcomed their help in all aspects of our work. Ringers may note that we could use greater assistance during the summer with our seabird ringing programme.

Intensive monitoring of seabirds was carried out throughout late June, July and early August, much of our work being sponsored by the BTO/NCC and SOTEAG who provided subsidies for rings. An exceptionally fine summer helped us, particularly, in attaining west coast sites by boat. However, boat trips are at present very much dependent on flat calm conditions and a custom-built inflatable craft with powerful outboard motor would in the long run benefit our seabird studies and greatly improve safety. To this end I have started exploring the possibility of obtaining sponsorship from industry to pay for an inflatable and outboard, in recognition of the importance of our work.

### **Publications**

The enjoyment derived from day to day activities by visitors and staff alike often conceals the fact that a great deal of information thus accrues. FIBO data are constantly in demand and the following recent publications result wholly or in part from the Observatory's work:

#### *Seabirds*

Baillie, S. R. and Mead, C. J. 1982. The Effect of Oil Pollution during the winter of 1980-81 on British and Irish Auks. *Ringing and Migration* 4: 33-44.

Everett, M. J. 1982. Breeding Great and Arctic Skuas in Scotland in 1974-75. *Seabird Report* 6: 50-58.

Fowler, J. A., Okill, J. D. and Marshall, B. 1982. A Retrap Analysis of Storm Petrels Tape-lured in Shetland. *Ringing and Migration* 4: 1-7.

Harris, M. P. 1982. The breeding seasons of British Puffins. *Scottish Birds* 12: 11-17.

Stowe, T. J. 1982. Recent population trends in cliff-breeding seabirds in Britain and Ireland. *Ibis* 124: 502-510.

#### *Migration*

Riddiford, N. and Findley, P. 1981. *Seasonal Movements of Summer Migrants*. BTO Guide 18. Tring.

Robertson, I. S. 1982. The origin of migrant Merlins on Fair Isle. *Brit. Birds* 75: 108-111.

#### *Identification*

Robertson, I. S. 1982. Field identification of Long-eared and Short-eared Owls. *Brit. Birds* 75: 227-229.

## ORNITHOLOGY

209 species were recorded in 1982. This total excludes Red-headed Bunting (escape) but is still more than in any previous year. Red-necked Stint and Baird's Sandpiper were recorded for the first time, bringing the island list to 333. The stint was new to Britain and Ireland.

The monthly totals of species recorded were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
44	48	70	90	133	109	81	99	149	155	91	50

The first four months were rather uneventful, with few marked migratory movements occurring until May. May as usual produced a good range of species including a steady flow of rarities. Some of the best birds of the spring appeared in the first half of June. As in 1981 June and July were typified by the occurrence of out-of-season migrants. Early July was quite exceptional: in the space of a few days Arctic and Marsh Warbler, Crossbill, Honey Buzzard, Ring Ousel, Long-tailed Skua and Red-backed Shrike were found.

The early summer greatly suited breeding waders and Common Gulls. An encouraging growth in breeding pairs was noted for Curlew, Lapwing and Snipe in particular. As a counterbalance the exceptionally dry summer reduced fledging success. Seabirds did rather better. Despite competition from an ever increasing number of fishing boats for sand-eels (the main summer food source for several species) seabird breeding success was high. The Gannet population again increased and expanded to new sites including, for the first time, Sheep Rock.

August will be remembered for its rarities. An early spell of easterly winds produced Red-necked Stint and Citrine Wagtail by mid-month as an indication of things to come. September maintained its reputation as a month of variety and quality—being particularly memorable for a run of *Locustella* warblers—but better was to follow. The first half of October was full of interest: most notable were a Parrot Crossbill irruption and an amazing mass arrival of Pallas's Warblers. Later highlights included good arrivals of Blackbirds and a Hoopoe in early November, and a Rough-legged Buzzard remaining well into the winter.

National and/or island rarities in 1982 included Great Crested Grebe, Brent Goose (4), Honey Buzzard (2), Marsh Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard (2), Osprey, Hobby, Gyrfalcon (3), Spotted Crake (2-3), Dotterel, Red-necked Stint, Temminck's Stint (2), Baird's Sandpiper, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua (2), Sabine's Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Bee-eater, Hoopoe (2), Short-toed Lark (2), Richard's Pipit (2), Tawny Pipit, Olive-backed Pipit, Citrine Wagtail, Siberian Stonechat (2), Black-throated Thrush, Lanceolated

Warbler (3), River Warbler (2), Marsh Warbler (3), Arctic Warbler (2), Pallas's Warbler (12 plus), Blue Tit, Great Tit (2), Golden Oriole, Woodchat Shrike, Serin, Arctic Redpoll, Parrot Crossbills, Hawfinch, Rustic Bunting (3), Little Bunting (3) and Yellow-breasted Bunting.

## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

### January—February

The island was held in the grip of a cold snap in the first half of January when snow lay for several days, but no cold weather movements were noted. The remainder of the winter was generally milder.

Glaucous Gulls, mainly first-winter birds, made regular appearances during the two months. A Jackdaw was seen on 5th January and 2 Golden Plovers on 7th. 20 Snow Buntings remained in the Quoy area from 13th to 15th January and a Whooper Swan flew north on 17th. On 19th a flock of 100 Turnstone was in the crofting area. Fair Isle's first 'rarity' of the year appeared on 22nd—a juvenile pale-bellied Brent Goose. 9 Ravens on 24th announced an influx of this species which continued to the end of the month. February began with a Skylark flying north and a Wren was in the Plantation on 4th. A Grebe, either Great Crested or Red-necked, was seen on 11th. On 15th the Guillemot ledges on Sheep Rock were full. A Woodcock was in the Gully on 17th and by the end of the month male Stonechat and Mealy Redpoll had appeared.

### March

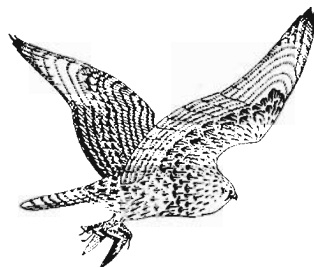
Much of the month was rather cold with winds mainly in the western sector. In these conditions large-scale migratory movements were scarce, and even a short period of easterlies from 17th to 21st failed to bring any major arrivals.

A month of first arrivals began with Mistle Thrush on 1st. 137 Skylarks were new on 7th, as was a Moorhen. There were 11 Pink-footed Geese and 10 Snow Buntings on 8th. A first-winter Iceland Gull on 9th was seen frequently to 3rd April. 170 Lapwings on 9th decreased to 114 the next day. These were joined by 126 Turnstones and the first 6 Meadow Pipits of the year. A Mistle Thrush was resident from 12th to 15th, accompanied by 2 Woodpigeons and 2 Goldcrests on 13th and the first Reed Bunting on 14th. A small influx of thrushes on 16th included 18 Blackbirds and 2 Fieldfares, with 3 Redwings two days later. New on 19th were Dunnock, Yellowhammer and Reed Bunting. The first Lesser Black-backed Gull arrived on 20th along with a male Wigeon and female Stonechat. A reasonable arrival on 24th and 25th comprised 200 Meadow Pipits, 270 Skylarks, 86 Twite and 25 Curlew. The first Bonxie was seen on 25th. The first Puffin was offshore next day. The last few days of the

month produced Black Redstart, a male Long-tailed Duck, Long-eared Owl and 17 Common Gulls.

## April

The pattern of westerly winds, set in March, was maintained throughout April resulting in a generally disappointing month. There were a few exciting birds, however, to relieve the quiet, not least a Gyrfalcon.



2

There were many signs of spring during April, a new bird for the year appearing almost every day. Raptors were much in evidence at the beginning of the month: 2 Peregrines on 1st, 4 Merlins on 4th and a female Sparrowhawk on 5th. This period also saw the first Wheatear, Bar-tailed Godwit, Goldcrests (7) and Stock Dove. The first Puffin ashore was noted on 5th. A Sooty Shearwater, seen from the Good Shepherd on 6th, was most unexpected. 2 Common Scoter and 2 Chiffchaffs were present on 7th and the first Greenfinch the next day. The high point of the month came on 12th, in the form of another raptor—a first-winter grey phase Gyrfalcon. The next few days were marked by the first Arctic Skua (14th), 42 Common Gulls, a male Tufted Duck, 23 Purple Sandpipers, Reed and Lapland Buntings. Common Gulls increased to 56 by 18th, when 4 Chiffchaffs and 75 Wheatears were seen. The first Swallow arrived on 19th, followed in the next two days by the first Whimbrel and Collared Dove. An influx of crows on 22nd included 12 Carrions, 5 Hoodies and 3 Hybrids, and the first Linnet and Siskin were seen. An exciting capture on 27th was a female Merlin which had been ringed as a nestling on Unst in 1979. Severe weather on 28th drove 1600 Great Black-backed Gulls ashore and a Peregrine was seen. 2 Wigeon were noted on 29th and a male Common Scoter joined the Meoness Eider flock. The last bird of note was a Short-eared Owl on 30th.

## May

The weather was at last shaken from westerlies on 9th when the wind swung to SE. It remained in that quarter for the next fortnight. The whole month was full of interest but inevitably the middle fortnight produced the greatest number of unusual records, with a magnificent White-winged Black Tern the highlight. Among the commoner migrants a strong passage of Sedge Warblers is worthy of note.

The first Pintail female arrived on 1st ahead of severe weather. Strong SE gales relented on 3rd and a number of newcomers were noted, including Jack Snipe, Jackdaw, Willow Warblers (10) and the first House Martin, Tree Pipit and Wood Warbler. At least 2 Greenland Wheatears were present. Arrivals continued on 4th with 2 Wood Sandpipers, Redstart, Whinchat, Lesser Whitethroat (2), Pied Flycatcher (2) and Common Sandpiper all putting in their first appearance. Star bird was a Marsh Harrier which remained for four days. 445 Gannets were counted ashore in the North and West on 5th, their numbers probably swollen by non-breeders. On the non-avian front, small colonies of Lesser Twayblade were found at Finniequoy and beside the Wirvie Burn. There was a Common Tern in the North Haven early on 7th, and 17 by nightfall. Other newcomers were Quail, male Lapland Bunting, 70 Fieldfare, 2 Whitethroats, the first Green Sandpiper and a Grey Heron. An influx of hirundines comprised 8 Sand Martins and 24 Swallows. Highlights of 8th were an Osprey and a Hoopoe. There was quality again the next day in the guise of Wryneck, Hen Harrier, 2 Stock Doves, 3 House Martins and Fair Isle's second White-winged Black Tern. The last was a stunning adult in full summer plumage. It spent four days on the isle, giving splendid close views to hostel visitors and islanders alike as it hawked up and down Easter Lother Water. Although the tern stole the limelight, arrivals continued: Bar-tailed Godwit, Turtle Dove, Sparrowhawk and Peregrine on 11th and a number of firsts for the year on 12th—notably Sedge Warbler, female Yellow Wagtail and Arctic Tern. The Tystie survey, which began on 16th April, ended on 13th May, yielding about 180 breeding pairs for the isle. Hirundines, much in evidence after strong SE winds on 14th, totalled 100 Swallows, 20 Sand Martins and 15 House Martins; the first Reed Warbler also appeared. A Cuckoo, male Ortolan Bunting, Red-backed Shrike and Greenshank were new on 15th, with another Ortolan and a male Red-spotted Bluethroat on 16th. A Temminck's Stint posed tamely beside the Walli Burn on 17th and 3 Red-backed Shrikes were found. The first Red-throated Diver of the year flew over on 18th, Dunlin increased to 10 and there were 3 Yellow Wagtails. Ruff, a hybrid House X Tree Sparrow, 10 Tree Pipits and an influx of crows (mainly Hoodies) were noted on 19th. 2 Tree Sparrows were new for the year on 21st. A Tawny Pipit was the highlight of 22nd. Newcomers on 23rd included Red-breasted Flycatcher, Long-eared

Owl and Merlin while 13 Sedge Warblers were present on 24th. A Gannet's nest was discovered on 25th on Sheep Rock—a new site. 70 Common and 2 Arctic Terns were ashore on the Stack O' North Haven and another Arctic was prospecting South Bunes—a new locality for this species. A number of interesting arrivals on 27th were led by Hawfinch, Quail, Scarlet Rosefinch and Grey-headed Wagtail. A female Quail was trapped in the Gully on 29th. A large arrival the following day included 70 House Martins, 60 Swallows, 19 Collared Doves, 12 Greenland Wheatears and 11 Spotted Flycatchers. The month ended on a high note, with the year's first Icterine Warbler, 2 – Scarlet Rosefinches, Red-backed Shrike, Cuckoo and second-year Glaucous Gull.

## June

The greatest rarity during the month was rain—none until 27th! The wind rarely strayed from the east all month and brought a series of exciting birds—and colourful, too eg Bee-eater and Golden Oriole. Quite out of keeping with the weather and southern rarities was a succession of goose records. Among the breeding birds there was a marked increase in pairs of several wader species—most notably Curlew and Lapwing—and Common Gulls.

A Water Rail on 1st was, surprisingly, the first of the year. More firsts on 3rd comprised Sandwich Tern, Grey Wagtail and Marsh Warbler. Surprise June migrants were 8 Greylag and a Pink-footed Goose. An early morning discovery at Furze of a Bee-eater (which began a stay of three days on 4th) was followed by a male Golden Oriole at the same spot two hours later. Other finds included Wryneck and 5 Lesser Whitethroats. Bird of the day on 7th was a Honey Buzzard. Marsh Warbler and Sandwich Tern were also seen. 3 Pintail, a Robin and 20 Lapwing were new on 9th. Linnet and Song Thrush were found on 10th and 2 *flava* Wagtails on 12th. A Cuckoo appeared on 13th and 15th, and Pied Wagtail, Redshank and Whimbrel on 17th. A Barnacle Goose, flying over the airstrip vigorously pursued by skuas on 18th, was another surprise migrant. A Hobby made the isle its home for two days on 20th and 21st, being joined by 2 late Redwings and 2 Garden Warblers. Summer gatherings were initiated on 22nd by 4 Black-headed Gulls and 28 Lapwings. Waders were more in evidence from 24th, with Dunlin, Redshank and Turnstone seen during the last few days of the month. Other birds of note were a first-summer Glaucous Gull on 25th, Turtle Dove, Kestrel, Mallard and 9 Mealy Redpolls on 27th, and Cuckoo on 28th.

## July

Another warm, dry month with mainly east to south-east winds. Some of the arrivals in the first few days of the month were reminiscent of early June, an exciting bonus for visitors here to see



breeding seabirds and waders. The seabirds were enjoying the fine summer but wader chicks probably suffered from the dry conditions. There were non-breeding Redpolls, mainly Mealy, on many dates.

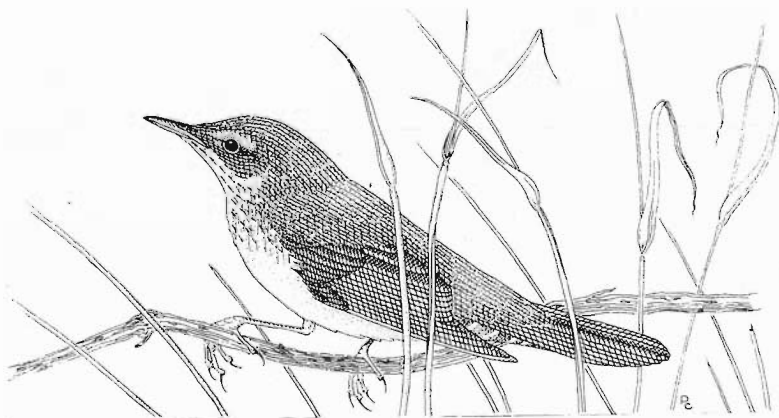
The Wheatear census carried out during spring ended on 1st, resulting in at least 60 breeding pairs. 2 Mallard and 2 Wigeon were recorded on 2nd. Great excitement on 3rd was generated by a *Phylloscopus* warbler at the hostel which proved to be an adult Arctic Warbler, the earliest Fair Isle record. With the wind SE it was more like spring than mid-summer for other arrivals were Crossbill, Marsh Warbler and a mystery raptor. This was tracked down to Swarts Geo the following day where it was identified as a thickly Fulmar-oiled Honey Buzzard. Highlight of 6th was a first-summer Long-tailed Skua. 40 Common Gulls on 8th swelled the island's population as did 21 Curlew, new on 10th. Although not yet mid July these were signs of autumn as were Bar-tailed Godwit, 3 Red-breasted Mergansers and a Turtle Dove. 7 Whimbrel, a Spotted Flycatcher and a Redwing arrived on 11th. A gradual build-up of waders began with 25 Turnstone on 12th. A Long-tailed Skua, again a first-summer bird, and a Sand Martin were present on 14th. A variety of ducks and waders from 15th to 18th included 2 Mallard, 2 Teal, 2 Tufted Duck, 11 Bar-tailed Godwit, 24 Curlew and a Woodcock. There were 6 summer plumage Knot on 20th. The Long-tailed Skua reappeared on 21st and remained until 23rd. The year's first Manx Shearwater was seen from the Good Shepherd on 24th. Bird of the day on 26th was a Scarlet Rosefinch, and the first Golden Plover and Merlin of the autumn were seen. Golden Plover numbers rose to 7 by 29th and 24 Purple Sandpipers were counted. A Leach's Petrel was seen near the hostel late on 30th. July ended with a Green Sandpiper in the Gully and an influx of Teal (11).

## **August**

The glorious 1982 summer ended with thunderstorms and a switch to SW winds. However, there was an easterly airflow in the first half of the month, amply demonstrated by the arrival of a summer plumage Red-necked Stint and a juvenile Citrine Wagtail in the space of a few days. There were good gull and wader movements all month.

The wader build-up continued with 25 Curlew on 1st. A Leach's Petrel was seen at Gunnawark on the night of 2nd. Common Gull numbers rose to 80 on 3rd and 110 on 4th. A female Red-backed Shrike, Reed Warbler and 14 Redpolls were seen on 4th, though prize find was Bog Pimpernel, growing in Homisdale. 4 Whimbrel were new on 7th and the autumn's first Fieldfares (2) arrived on 8th. Another autumn first was Wood Sandpiper on 10th, a day notable for juvenile Crossbill and yet more gull and wader influxes. A Red-throated Diver flew over on 11th and 20 White Wagtails were seen. The next day produced 4 Mallard, a Teal and the first Cormorant and Sanderling (5) of the autumn. Highlight of an interesting month was a

handsome summer plumage Red-necked Stint—a first record for Britain—giving excellent views at the airstrip on 'unlucky' Friday 13th. This rather drew attention away from an Icterine Warbler below Shirva. It was certainly a day of arrivals from the east for the earliest ever Citrine Wagtail was at Golden Water where it remained for three days, allowing observers a fine opportunity to study it closely. Strong arrivals on 14th and 15th included 220 Wheatears, 40 *alba* Wagtails, 265 Oystercatchers and 450 Common Gulls, and the first Black-tailed Godwits (2) and Spotted Redshank of the year. A Long-tailed Skua made a brief appearance on 17th and Whitethroat, Manx Shearwater and 5 Grey Herons were recorded. A Sooty Shearwater circled round the Wick O' South Haven on 18th. Plenty of activity on 19th included Merlin, Chaffinch, Ruff and adult Glaucous Gull. A small patch of Wilson's Filmy Fern was discovered in the Gully. 22 Golden Plover and 75 *alba* Wagtails were the main arrivals on 20th and an evening Storm Petrel mist-netting session on Landberg on 21st produced catches of 17 Stormies and a Leach's Petrel. The first Blackbird of the autumn and a Scarlet Rosefinch appeared on 22nd. Next day brought 20 Ravens, 210 Twite and a Short-eared Owl. 24th was a more typical date for Arctic Warbler, a juvenile being trapped. One lucky voyager saw an albatross from the Good Shepherd, compensation for leaving just before the Arctic Warbler was found. A ring-tail Hen Harrier began a six week stay on 25th. There were also 3 Curlew Sandpipers (first of the year), a *flava* Wagtail and a small influx of terns. The last comprised 14 Commons, 8 Arctics and 17 'comics'. Every day until the end of the month produced a first for the autumn: Turtle Dove on 26th, Barred Warbler and Pied Wagtail on 27th, Sparrowhawk on 30th and Peregrine on 31st. A Corncrake, heard calling on 30th, remained typically hidden from view.



## September

Winds from the Continent, full of eastern promise, were infrequent until the last ten days. However, winds from other quarters were handsome substitutes carrying Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull and 3 pale-bellied Brent Geese to the isle. Those days of easterlies did not fail us, rarities appearing throughout the month. Most noteworthy were River Warbler, the month's second Lanceolated Warbler and a second River Warbler on three consecutive days.

Raptors and waders predominated initially, for 2 Merlins, 2 Kestrels, Ruff, Greenshank, 60 Ringed Plover and 51 Turnstone were present on 1st. Arrivals on 2nd included the first Jack Snipe of the autumn, a male Red-backed Shrike, 65 Rock Doves and a passage of 220 Meadow Pipits. A seawatch produced 2 Sooty and 2 Manx Shearwaters and there was an easterly movement of 180 Gannets. Rain began early on 3rd and continued relentlessly all day. This did not prevent record counts of 13 Pintail, 105 Ringed Plover and 120 Redshank; numerous Teal and Wigeon and the first Redwing of the autumn were also seen. Two firsts for the year on 4th were a fine adult Pomarine Skua and 2 Great Northern Divers. 3 Barred Warblers were found. Meadow Pipits increased to 325 on 5th, though Wheatears were down to 40. More autumn firsts on 6th included Long-tailed Duck, Wryneck and Wood Warblers, brought in by SE winds and drizzle. Barred Warblers increased to 4 and Rock Pipits to 300. The first Little Stint of the year was on Bunes on 7th along with a number of Ringed Plovers. The latter were mainly of the nominate race but one or two small *tundrae* race birds were among them. The autumn's first Snow Buntings (3) appeared on 8th, increasing to 10 by 9th. Also on 9th there were 6 Ruff and a Lapland Bunting, and 100 Bonxies remained on the hill. 2 Arctic and a very late Sandwich Tern were seen on 10th and a male Red-headed Bunting was found at Quoy. This, along with a female Black-headed Bunting on 12th, raised the usual vexed question of vagrant versus escape. Strong SE winds on 11th brought 3 Lapland Buntings and 9 Ruff. A seawatch from South Light produced the bird of the day—Fair Isle's third Sabine's Gull, a first-winter. The first geese of the autumn—7 Pinkfeet—were seen on 13th. Skylark numbers increased to 100 and a Lanceolated Warbler was trapped. On its release the warbler crept, mouse-like, around the observatory garden giving good views to patient observers. Events of 14th included 3 Swifts, 5 Lapland Buntings, Water Rail and raptors in the guise of Peregrine, 4 Kestrels, 2 Merlins and a Hen Harrier. A Sparrowhawk was new on 15th. The main autumn migration began in earnest at this time, with large numbers of birds arriving or passing through on most days. On 16th there were a Temminck's Stint (second this year), 200 Skylarks, 8 Swifts, 2 Crossbills and Short-toed Lark, while the next day Baird's Sandpiper was added to the Fair Isle list. 30 Pinkfeet and a Yellow-breasted Bunting were also seen on 17th. Autumn firsts on 18th comprised 3 Goldcrests, Greylag Goose,

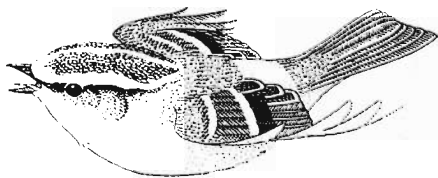
Red-breasted Merganser and Siskin. Skylarks increased to 500, Snipe to 75 and Pinkfeet to 160, and a Corncrake was seen near the Kirk. Three juvenile pale-bellied Brent Geese arrived on 19th, remaining in the Havens for three weeks, and the first Velvet Scoter of the autumn was seen. At last, on 20th the first sizable autumn fall occurred. 102 species were seen during the day. The highlights included 70 Robins, 150 Whinchats, 60 Pied Flycatchers, 5 Wrynecks and a Woodchat Shrike. 120 Lapwing, 125 Turnstone, a male Blue-headed Wagtail, a very late Puffin and a male Pochard (first of the year) followed on 21st. Yet more arrivals on 22nd included 17 Ruff, 48 Snow Buntings and 70 Rock Doves (a record count). Quality was provided by a River Warbler trapped in the Vaadal. There was further excitement on 23rd, with Lanceolated and Grasshopper Warblers, Scarlet Rosefinch, Richard's Pipit and a Fair Isle rarity—juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker. The run of quality birds continued on 24th in the form of another River Warbler, a Bluethroat, the first Linnet of the autumn and a Dunnock. It was quantity on 25th: 275 Common Gulls, 370 Twite, 130 Lapwing and a spectacular start to the Barnacle Goose passage—350 passing south during the day. A further 320 Barnacles were recorded the following day and a Little Bunting at Skerryholm was new for the year. Plenty of variety on 27th included 4 Turtle Doves, 40 Dunlin, Great Grey Shrike and Spotted Crake. Little Bunting and Richard's Pipit were relocated on 28th, while on 29th there were the autumn's first Common Scoter, another Spotted Crake, Grasshopper Warbler, male Pintail and Bluethroat. An influx of passerines, fleeing before approaching storms, occurred on 30th. Leading the way were Blackcap, Whinchat, Robin and Garden Warbler. Siskins increased to 13, Skylarks to 500 and a Serin was seen and heard briefly in the South.

## October

October was arguably the most eventful month of the year. The most exciting birds were in the first half of the month. There were some very heavy goose movements, good arrivals of Blackcaps, several Fair Isle rarities including the first Blue Tit for twenty years, and national rarities daily. The outstanding features were a Parrot Crossbill irruption and a bulk arrival of Pallas's Warblers of which there were only three previous records.

The month began rather quietly with 120 Barnacle Geese and a Grasshopper Warbler on 1st. Not so the next day which saw the first of a number of falls. Leading the way were Redwing, Lapwing, Chaffinch, Brambling, Snow Bunting, Song Thrush and Whinchat; also represented were Pied Flycatcher, Redstart, Kestrel, Shoveler, Long-eared Owl, Bar-tailed Godwit, Blackbird and Water Rail. Several observers had great views of 8 Killer Whales off Buness. New birds for the autumn on 2nd were Bean Goose, Yellow-browed Warbler (2), Slavonian Grebe and Rustic Bunting. The arrivals

continued on 3rd, headed by Chaffinch, Robin and Whinchat. 2 Bluethroats were new. Renewed enthusiasm for seawatching resulted in 2 Great Northern and 3 Red-throated Divers, 80 Gannets, 50 Cormorants and 12 Porpoises. No great numbers of birds arrived on 4th, but there was plenty of variety: a male Pochard, Sooty Shearwater, 4 Long-tailed Ducks, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers and 3 Reed Warblers. On 5th Fair Isle's first Blue Tit for twenty years was on the cliffs at Easter Lothar, an immature Dotterel was on Ward Hill and Twite numbers peaked at 480. The 6th was an eventful day. It began with the capture of a Lanceolated Warbler—the third of the autumn. Main arrivals were Blackcaps and Redwings. 2 Great Tits were trapped within an hour of each other. Other highlights were 3 Red-breasted Flycatchers, Great Crested Grebe, Little Bunting, 10 Lapland Buntings, Siberian Stonechat, juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker and a delightful Pallas's Warbler. Birds poured into the isle during the next few days, beginning with 400 Fieldfares, 100 Snow Buntings, 8 Short-eared Owls and the first Parrot Crossbill on 7th. Greylag passage commenced in style on 8th—450 counted; there were also 12 Long-tailed Ducks, 6 Parrot Crossbills, 3 huge northern type Bullfinches, 2 Peregrines and another Pallas's Warbler. A further 450 Greylags, accompanied by 85 Barnacles passed through on 9th; there were veritable invasions of Short-eared Owls (20), Parrot Crossbills (20), Crows (16) and Ravens (15).



℞

Siberian Stonechat, yet another Pallas's Warbler, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, Richard's Pipit, Mistle Thrush and the first Grey Wagtail of the autumn occurred on 10th. The most thrilling day of the month was undoubtedly the 11th. There was a superb fall comprising mainly Redwing, Brambling, Chaffinch, Goldcrest, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Short-eared Owl, but pride of place goes to an almost unbelievable fall of 10 Pallas's Warblers. A Rough-legged Buzzard

and the first Corn Bunting since 1979 completed the day. Though unable to compete with 11th, the next day produced some interesting records: Rough-legged Buzzards increased to 2, Woodpigeon to 6 and the first Waxwing of the year was heard. The 13th was a day of rarities: Parrot Crossbill, Olive-backed Pipit, a male Black-throated Thrush and Great Spotted Woodpecker. 4 Jackdaws and a Yellowhammer were new for the autumn. 18 Wrens on 14th included a number of migrants. One Arctic and 2 Holboell's Redpolls (the latter from Finland and northern Russia are a large, long-billed version of the Mealy race) were among a flock of 12 Redpolls on 15th. A Great Grey Shrike on 16th competed for attention with a number of seabirds—2 Slavonian Grebes, 6 Long-tailed Ducks, 6 Red-breasted Mergansers and 88 Kittiwakes. Blackcaps, Robins and Common Gulls were the main components of a small arrival on 17th. The next day was marked by an adult female Hen Harrier, adult Glaucous Gull and 10 Woodpigeons. A large fall of thrushes on 19th comprised 3000 Redwing, 1600 Fieldfare, 600 Song Thrushes and 300 Blackbirds. 23 Short-eared Owls and 25 Woodcock were also present, while single Oystercatcher, Swift and Ringed Plover were seen on 20th. At last on 21st the autumn movement of Whooper Swans began: flocks of 12 and 6. Also present were immature Ortolan Bunting, Yellow-browed Warbler, 4 Glaucous Gulls, 2 Red-throated and 2 Great Northern Divers. A further 1010 Fieldfares arrived on 22nd, accompanied by Greenfinch and Grey Wagtail. Whoopers numbered 30 on 23rd and on 24th there were single Ring Ouzel and third-winter Glaucous Gull. Passage of Starlings and Redwings was noted on 25th; many of the Redwings were of the Icelandic race. On 26th strong winds drove 1200 Herring and 650 Great Black-backed Gulls ashore. Their numbers increased to 4830 and 2320 respectively on 27th. The 28th was most notable for its absentees: all the Fulmars had vacated the isle to ride out the storm. However, Great Grey Shrike and Water Rail sought refuge on the island. There were still no Fulmars on 29th but 4 Blackcaps and an Iceland Gull were seen and the 2 Rough-legged Buzzards were on the hill. 50 Rock Doves on 30th represented an increase. 2 Black Redstarts, Garden Warbler, Chiffchaff and Red-throated and Great Northern Divers were new. The month ended on a quiet note with 2 Moorhens, a Water Rail and a very late juvenile Turtle Dove.

### **November/December**

The first ten days of November saw the main autumn passage end with a few sizable falls. The remainder of the month and December were not without interest. Two new species for the year were seen and there was a number of raptors, including 2 Gyrfalcons.

15 Blackcaps, 3 Chiffchaffs, 115 Snow Buntings and 60 Lapwing were the main arrivals on 1st. A Waxwing was seen, and the Turtle Dove was still present. 3 Oystercatchers, the first for a while, were new on 2nd and Turnstone numbered 128. Continuing the Whooper

Swan passage, 10 were seen on 3rd. Other interesting sightings that day were a male Goldeneye and 9 or 10 White-beaked Dolphins. There were 65 Rock Doves on 4th. The following day Blackbirds arrived in force—over 1000 counted; there were also 800 Fieldfare, 50 Woodcock, 15 Teal and 7 Wigeon. Bird of the day was a Hoopoe trapped in the Gully. A further influx on 6th brought Blackbird numbers to 2000 and Woodcock to 250. Other newcomers were 9 Rooks, 3 Grey Herons, 5 Greenfinches and an adult male Sparrowhawk. Blackbirds decreased to 1250 on 7th, but Fieldfares made up the balance at 2200. 10 Short-eared and 5 Long-eared Owls, 2 Shelduck and 175 Turnstone were recorded. A Little Grebe dazzled at Muckle Uri Geo in the evening became the 208th species seen on the isle this year—a new record high. The 8th was a day of raptors: 2 Rough-legged Buzzards, 3 Sparrowhawks, 2 Merlins, Kestrel and Peregrine. There were general decreases from 9th onwards. However, Snow Buntings increased on 10th to 200. This was the last reasonable arrival. To the end of the year variety superseded quantity. There were still 10 Short-eared Owls on 12th. A Greenland Whitefront was found on 15th. 7 Glaucous Gulls, an Iceland Gull and 1120 Eiders were present on 17th and a Pinkfoot was new. The Pinkfoot and 20-30 Greylags remained well into December. In late November there were several different Sparrowhawks, Long-eared Owls and Water Rails. A Great Northern Diver was in North Haven on 23rd and 2 Blackcaps were seen, the first of a series of individuals reaching 4 on 28th and lasting to 7th December. A late Black Redstart was found on 27th November and a ring-tail Hen Harrier was over Gilsetter at dusk on 28th. In December a Great Northern Diver was in South Haven on 6th and a Little Auk greeted the Good Shepherd off North Haven pier at 2 a.m. that night! Another Little Auk flew in and sat on the sea off South Light on 10th. Species of the month was Gyrfalcon: a stunning white phase bird was discovered at Kennaby on 10th and spent the afternoon flying over the Shop. Other raptors present well into December were Merlin, Peregrine, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and one of the Rough-legged Buzzards. 3 Common Scoter were off North Light on 11th and a Little Auk off Bunes on 12th.

Coverage was limited during the next fortnight, the highlights being 12 Fieldfares and 6 Redwings on 16th and Long-eared Owl on 19th. There was far more bird and birding activity during the last week of the year. This period started with another Gyrfalcon, a grey bird, on 24th. 4 Greylags, found on 26th, remained into January. Turnstones, numerous throughout December were estimated at 300 on 27th. Gulls were the highlights of the last few days: 4 Glaucous and 6 Iceland Gulls were noted on 28th. On 29th Iceland numbers had risen to 7 and 10 Common Gulls were counted. There were no further arrivals, but single Sparrowhawk and Merlin ringed earlier in the autumn remained to the end of the year.

## Systematic List

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata* First on 18th, 2 on 25th and 1 on 26th May; 1-2 on four dates 2nd-10th June; singles on 15th July, 3rd and 11th August, and on five dates 3rd-27th September. 19 bird-days October-4th November, maximum 3 south on 3rd October.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer* 2 on 4th September, 3rd and 21st October; 1 on 30th October, 23rd November, 6th and 11th December.

**Diver species** *Gavia* Unidentified divers seen on 1st, 6th and 11th September and 6th October. 1 on 5th October was Great Northern or White-billed.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 1 at Muckle Uri Geo on 7th November was the only record.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* A single on 6th October was the ninth Fair Isle record.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* 1 arrived exhausted in North Haven on 2nd October to be immediately devoured by gulls. 2 seen on 16th October.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* Present all year except during storms on two dates in late October and two dates in early November. Maximum count 30,000 plus on 20th March. Blue-phase birds seen regularly August to October.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus* 1 on the crossing on 6th April was only the second spring record and the earliest ever. Very scarce autumn, with only 12 bird-days 15th August-5th October, maximum 2 on 2nd and 21st September.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus* First sighting on crossing 24th July. 2 seen from isle on 16th and 26th August; singles on 17th August, 1st, 9th and 11th September. 1 late bird on crossing 22nd October.

**Large Shearwater species** *Puffinus/Calonectris* One Great/Cory's was seen off South Light on 14th September.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* First sighted on the isle on 16th May and on crossing on 1st June. Regular activity at usual sites during summer, breeding proved at North Restensgeo. Maximum night estimate 400 (Gunnawark) on 4th August. Latest records were



a juvenile grounded in South Reeva 22nd October and on the crossing 2 on 22nd and 1 on 30th October.

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Singles seen at night on 31st July, 1st, 21st (trapped on Landberg) and 22nd August.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana* First birds ashore on 27th February. Peak count 289 on 19th May. The breeding expansion continued: about 172 nests at 8 sites in late May included 2 at North Felsigeo and one on the south side of Sheep Rock; the Sheep Rock site, the first on the east side, was successful. Present in numbers in autumn to early October, rather fewer thereafter and only occasional from late October. In December 3 noted on 28th.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* 2 on 23rd, 1 on 24th and 26th January. Singles on three dates 1st-13th March. 1-2 on four dates in April. 1 on 4th May. 12 bird-days (max. 2) 21st May-1st June. In autumn: 1 on 12th August; passage most days 24th August-25th October with peaks 50 on 5th, 70 on 13th, 170 on 19th September and 25 on 3rd October. 1 on 19th November and 1st December.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Present all year. Maximum counts were 820 on 27th February, 1460 on 23rd August. An extremely prolonged breeding season with small young noted from early May to the first half of August. There was a marked decrease, particularly of juveniles, from mid September.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Singles on 3rd January, 10th and 24th February and regularly throughout March, April and May. Spring peak 3 on 31st March. June and July produced 6 bird-days, maximum 2 on 28th July. Noted most days August, September and October, with 5 on 17th August, 18th and 25th September. Maximum of 12 on 20th and 22nd September. 1-3 recorded 6th-11th November, and 1 on 25th.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* Singles on 17th January and 7th February. There were 3 on 31st March and singles on 17th and 26th April. Last spring record was 2 on 6th May. 5 present on 15th and 21st September; seen almost daily 21st October-12th November, with peak count 30 on 23rd October.

**Bean Goose** *Anser fabilis* The only record was one on 2nd October, reversing the recent trend of increased numbers.

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* 1 seen on 3rd January and 11 on 8th March. Singles present 3rd-5th and 8th June with 3 on 6th June. In autumn recorded almost daily 13th September-10th

October, peak 160 on 18th and 46 on 28th September, with 55 on 9th October. There were later singles on 21st-22nd October and 17th-19th November, while 1 on 25th November remained into early December.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons* An immature on 9th October, an adult of the Greenland race on 15th-16th November and an adult of the European race on 27th November were the only records.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* 4 on 3rd January were the first of the year. In spring, 1 on 6th and 2 on 13th April, then singles almost daily 20th-28th April. A group of 3 was present 12th-16th May and singles almost daily 21st-29th May. Late birds in early June were 8 on 3rd, 2 on 4th-5th and 5 on 6th. In autumn there were 40 on 18th September-18th November, heaviest passage 8th-12th October (day totals 450, 450, 200, 370, 150). Up to 44 present late November-early December, with 4 remaining to end of year.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis* 1 on 18th June was the first ever for that month. All other sightings were in autumn. Heavy daily passage 25th September-21st October. The passage started abruptly with a record 350 on 25th; other maxima 320 on 26th September, 126 on 5th October and 100 on 11th and 12th October. 10 were seen on 8th November.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla* 1 pale-bellied on 22nd January was the 11th record since 1928. 3 pale-bellied juveniles spent 19th September-5th October in North Haven.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* In spring: 2 (male and female) on 13th April and 1 (female) on 19th April. In autumn there were 1-2 on 6 dates 6th-14th November.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope* 1 on 27th February and 20th March. 2 (female and male) on 29th-30th April and 3rd May, 1 on 11th May. 2 seen on 2nd July with singles on 3rd and 4th. Sporadic records of up to 5 from 17th August, then almost daily from 3rd September-10th November with maxima 35 on 3rd September, 10 on 9th, 19th and 25th September and 20 on five dates during October. 1 late bird on 30th November.

**Teal** *Anas crecca* Singles on 6th and 7th January and 27th March. 2 on 19th-21st April, 4 on 23rd and 1 on 30th April. Fairly regular during May, mainly singles but 2 on 7th, 16th and 18th and 3 on 12th. 1 male 2nd-6th June and 2 on 15th July. A high summer count of 11 on 31st July. 2 present 2nd-6th August. Almost daily 18th August-

23rd October with maxima 40 on 3rd September and 15 on 26th. 24 bird-days 28th October-18th November, peak 15 on 5th.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* Recorded most months, most commonly August-early November with 10 on 26th September the peak count. Monthly bird-day totals as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
6	0	15	13	17	6	4	50	65	69	38	0

**Pintail** *Anas acuta* In spring there were a female on 1st and 3rd May and 3(2 males and a female) on 9th June. A new island record was established on 3rd September when 13 were seen (previous highest count: 7). Singles were present on 29th September and 25th October.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata* The only records were a male on 19th April, singles on 29th July and 27th September and 2 on 2nd October.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina* All records were in autumn: a male on 21st September, 2 males on 3rd and 4th October, one remaining to 5th.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* Single males present 15th and 18th April and 6th-10th May. 3 on 20th-26th May, 2 remaining to 5th June. 2 on 15th July. Sporadic records from 13th September-8th October, mainly singles with 2 on 13th, 18th, 19th and 27th September.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima* Present all year. Highest spring count 450 on 9th April. A rather late, but successful, breeding season. Post-breeding counts included 580 on 20th August, 690 on 11th September, 1092 on 27th October and 1120 on 17th November.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* Singles on 27th February and 27th March. One on 8th and 10th April, with 2 on 9th. One seen on 25th May. In autumn, one noted 6th September, regular sightings from 3rd October, with maxima 12 on 8th and 10 on 21st October and 4th November. Small numbers regularly November-December.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* All records: 2 on 7th, a female on 10th-11th April. One on 7th, 5 on 15th June. One female on 29th September, one on 9th and 10th October. 3 females/immatures on 11th December.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* An immature or female on 19th September was the only record.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* One on 7th and 30th January were the sole records before October. 15 bird-days 9th-24th October, maximum 5 on 9th October. 1-2 most days in November-December.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* Single females on 15th January and 29th March. 3 on 8th-9th April, 1 on 23rd and 25th May. There were summer records of 3 on 10th and one on 17th July. In autumn, early singles on 18th and 24th September. 2 on 4th October, recorded almost daily 11th-21st October with maximum 6 on 16th. 2 on 25th October, 3 on 1st and 1 on 2nd-3rd November.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser* 2 on 7th May, a male on 15th June and 1 on 11th October were the only records.

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* One on 7th June and one 3rd-5th July. The latter suffered severe Fulmar oiling and eventually died.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* A female or immature 4th-7th May was the fifteenth island record.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* There was a leucistic female/immature on 9th May and a male on 20th May. A juvenile female was resident 25th August-8th October. Single 'ringtails' on 18th October and 28th and 30th November were the only other records.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* Spring: females 5th-7th and 9th April. A female on 19th and male on 22nd April. A male 7th-10th May. Female 11th and 21st May. Autumn: female on 30th-31st August. One on 2nd and 15th September, daily 25th September-2nd October, maximum 2. Singles on 4th, 5th and 12th October. Almost daily November from 6th, maximum 3 on 8th; one remained to the end of December.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* One arrived on 11th October to be joined by another the next day. Both seen most days to 11th November, one remaining to at least 26th December.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* One on 8th May was the only record.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* 2 on 4th May, singles on 8th, 21st-22nd, 27th and 31st, 2 on 23rd-25th May. Singles 1st, 27th-28th and 30th June, 8th-9th July. Almost daily 9th August-30th November, maximum 6 on 2nd October.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* Sporadic records of single birds 12th January-end March. 2 on 2nd, 4 on 4th April. Singles regularly 11th April-26th May. Early autumn singles on 26th July and 19th August. 1-2 daily 24th August-14th October and almost daily thereafter to end of year. Probably only a few long-stay individuals involved.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* A first-summer bird at the Kirk on 20th-21st June was the only record.

**Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolus* A first-winter grey phase bird was over North Light and Ward Hill on 12th April: 6th spring sighting. A first-winter white phase individual on 9th December and a grey bird on 24th were the 10th and 11th island records.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* Singles on 26th-31st January, 15th February, and six dates in March. 2 on 1st April, singles on 21st April and seven dates 4th-25th May. Autumn records began with one on 31st August. 1-2 regularly 8th September-22nd October. One noted occasionally in November.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* There was an early record on 7th May. Singles on most days 25th-31st May and 5th June probably involved several birds of both sexes, but none stayed to breed.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* None in spring, except 1 on 1st June. Far more in autumn: early singles 14th, 19th and 30th September, 1-2 on thirteen dates in October and on eleven dates in November. There was a considerable turnover of birds judging from captures and birds found dead—there appeared to be marked mortality this autumn. There was one late bird on 4th-5th December.

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* 1 on 26th-27th (when found dead), 1 on 29th September and 2nd October. 2, possibly 3, birds involved.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex* Recorded only in August (1 on 30th) and September (singles on 18th, 20th, 21st, 28th and 29th).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Only spring record: 1 on 7th March. In autumn, 1 on 21st-22nd, 28th-29th September, 2 on 30th September. 1 on 3rd October. Almost daily 15th October-1st November—singles, apart from 2 on 31st October. 1 on 14th November, 1 on 10th December and 1 found dead on 24th.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* 1 on 3rd and 7th January. Present on ten dates in February, with 41 arriving on 28th. Recorded daily from 1st March-7th October, highest counts 220 on 25th March, and 265 on 16th August. A marked decrease occurred from 28th August with less than 25 on most dates and only 1-4 from 4th October. 1-3 noted on 3 dates 2nd-12th November. Census counts in May established 89 breeding pairs.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* 1-2 on three dates in January. Arrivals of breeders from 24th February. 14 pairs bred. Post breeding maximum 50 on 13th August. Unprecedented influx in early September with peaks 105 on 3rd and 70 on 7th—many of these were

small *tundrae* race birds. A decrease mid-month with less than 10 from 22nd September. Last records 1 on 20th October, 2 on 7th November.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* An immature on 5th October was the only record.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* There were 4 bird-days in January, 1 bird-day in February and 11 bird-days in March. Recorded sixteen days in April, maximum 16 on 18th. Daily 1st May-10th June, highest count 34 on 5th May. Pre-nuptial activity by 2 pairs was noted in June, but they did not breed. Autumn birds appeared irregularly from 26th July and daily 17th August-14th October, with maxima 50 on 3rd and 22nd September. There were 3 on 16th and 14 on 9th October. 1-5 noted most days 20th October-end of year.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* All records were in autumn, all comprising singles: on 21st August, 20th, 21st, 23rd and 27th-29th September and 6th October.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* Sporadic throughout January and February (up to 30 birds). Short passage 7th-31st March with maximum 170 on 9th. 7 pairs bred, a much better showing than in recent years. There was a heavy autumn passage 20th September-16th November with highest counts 130 on 25th and 26th September and 230 on 2nd October; up to 22 still present late November and early December.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus* 6 on 20th and 5 on 23rd July, 1 on 1st August. Seen daily 11th August-6th September, maximum 10 on 12th August. 1-2 occasionally 10th September-10th October.

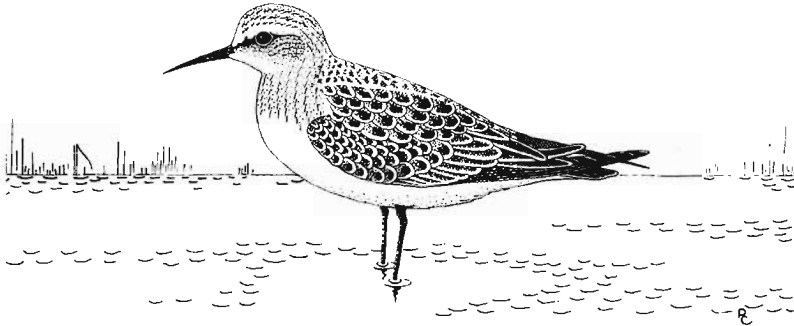
**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* All records in autumn: daily 12th August-18th September, maximum 5 on 12th and 27th August. 2 on 21st and 26th September were the only other records.

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis* An adult in summer plumage was on the airstrip 11th-13th August. Subject to acceptance, this will be the first British record of a species which breeds in north-east Russia and winters in Australia.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Very scarce: the only records were singles on 7th, 20th, 21st and 23rd September.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Singles on 17th June and 16th September; the 10th and 11th island records. The species has now become much more regular, being noted in six years since 1975.

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* 1 at Sprittery Hole 17th-21st September was the first Fair Isle record.



**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* 3 on 25th and 1 on 26th and 28th August were the only records.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima* Sporadic during January, February and early March, maximum 25 on 10th March. Almost daily 24th March-1st June with peaks of 30 on 13th and 21 on 26th April. In autumn 23 on 23rd July and regular thereafter, maxima 24 on 29th July and 29 on 15th August. 1-10 noted regularly November-December.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* 2 on 9th March preceded the spring passage by nearly two months. 1 on 3rd May, then almost daily 9th May-14th June, maximum 10 on 18th May. In summer: 1 on 24th June, 5 on 20th, 2 on 24th and 1 on 25th July. Almost daily from 1st August-22nd September. A late single seen on 30th October and 2 on 13th November.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* In spring there was a male on 19th-21st May. Autumn passage was in two main waves, 19th-26th August and 20th September-5th October; birds were recorded daily throughout these periods and less regularly 26th August-20th September. Peak count 17 on 22nd September. 2 on 7th and 1 on 10th October were the latest records.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus* No spring records. In autumn, 1 on 2nd and 2 on 4th September. Almost daily 13th September-2nd November, peak count 11 on 5th October. 1 on 11th November was the only later record.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* Up to 8 present 5th-15th January, 1 on 15th February. Several records in early March, then almost daily from 19th. The breeding population, based on drumming birds, was 19 pairs. Autumn passage was reflected by an increase from 11th August. Circa 20 birds most days to 10th October. Highest count was 75 on 18th September. Decreasing numbers from mid-October but seen most days to end of year.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* 1 on 9th-12th January, 9th and 17th February. 3 on 20th March. Recorded on seven dates, April, singles except 2 on 22nd. Singles on 21st and 28th May, 20th June, 18th July and 3rd and 26th September. 2 on 3rd October preceded main passage from 7th October. October peak 25 on 19th. Large influx 5th-14th November, peak 250 on 6th. Smaller numbers to end of year but 25 on 23rd November.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* 2 on 16th August was the only record.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* 1 on 2nd April, 11th May and 10th July. 11 on 15th and 1 on 16th-17th July. Probably the same individual 16th September-4th November, but 2 on 2nd October.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* 1 on 20th and 22nd, increasing to 3 on 24th and 30th April. Up to 5 regularly 2nd May-17th June, but 12 on 3rd May. 12 bird-days July, maximum 7 on 11th. Almost daily 1st August-8th October, maximum 8 on 16th August.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata* Recorded throughout the year. There was an early maximum of 30 on 7th January. Noted daily 22nd March-16th October and almost daily to 15th November. Spring maxima 20 on 15th April and 30 on 17th July. A good breeding season, 5 pairs fledging about 7 young. Main autumn passage 16th August-16th September, peak 45 on 24th August. Fewer than 10 birds from 21st September, except 15 on 2nd and 25 on 6th October. 1-4 occasionally in November-December.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* 1 on 16th August was the only record.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus* Up to 12 during January and February with 20 on 17th and 22 on 27th February. Spring passage from 1st March-27th May, maxima 17 on 8th and 23 on 24th April. In June, 1 on 1st, 17th, 26th and 29th. 1 on July 6th, then autumn passage from 10th July. Peaks were 120 on 3rd September, 40 on 20th September and 8th October and 50 on 2nd October. Still 32 on 4th November but rather fewer daily thereafter to end of year.



**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Only singles in spring, on 15th April, 15th, 16th, 19th and 29th May. Almost daily 16th August–20th September, mainly singles, but 2 on three dates.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* In spring, 1 on 8th–9th May and 2nd June. Autumn passage 31st July–29th August, 1–3 except 4 on 4th and 23rd August.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* 2 on 4th May comprised the only spring record. Rather more in autumn: singles on 10th, 14th, 24th, 26th and 29th August and 2 on 25th and 30th August.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* 6 bird-days in early May included 3 on 13th. Daily 17th–29th May, maxima 6 on 26th, 7 on 28th. A late spring bird occurred on 1st–2nd June. Very scarce in autumn, records comprising singles on 13th and 17th August, 20th and 22nd September.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Recorded all year with early peaks of over 100 in January, 123 on 27th February, 126 on 10th March and 85 on 8th April. Decrease from 3rd May when 75 present, to generally fewer than 15 birds. Only 28 bird-days 17th June–20th July, maximum 25 on 12th July. Present daily 20th July–end of year. Peak counts were 100 on 25th August, 125 on 3rd and 21st September, 124 on 14th October and 175 on 7th November—a record count for the island. This, however, was surpassed in December, with 300 present on 27th.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus* A pale phase adult flying over Vaassetter on 4th September was the only record.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* Following the first on 14th April there was a steady increase to 200 by 27th May. About 100 pairs bred, but fledging success was poor. Departures began by early August. Fewer than 10 remained from 8th September to the final one on 25th September.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* First-summer birds comprised one on 6th, 14th, 21st–23rd July and another on 17th August.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* First recorded on 25th March increasing to 100 by end of May. 45 pairs bred. Non-breeders sitting in the Airstrip ‘bachelor club’ peaked at 75 on 16th July. Departures accelerated in September and all were gone by early November.

**Sabine’s Gull** *Larus sabini* A first-winter off South Light on 11th September was the third island record.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus* Recorded in every month. Monthly bird-day totals as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
9	10	61	185	248	35	114	284	173	96	16	1

**Common Gull** *Larus canus* Regular sightings during January of up to 6 birds. Less regularly in February and early March, then daily 22nd March-6th October. At least 6 pairs bred. Post-breeding influxes from August included arrivals of 450 on 16th, 400 on 17th and 260 on 24th August, and 150 on 10th September. Maximum October count 50 on 17th. Smaller numbers noted occasionally in November-December.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* One on 20th, 2 on 28th March and 1 on 3rd April preceded main arrivals. Seen daily 5th April-2nd September, peak count 150 on 16th May. Breeding as normal, with good success rate. Autumn maximum 200 on 20th August. There was a marked decrease by September, and recorded on only six dates in October to the latest, 3 on 18th.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* Present all year. The breeding population enjoyed a successful season. Peak counts were 800 on 3rd May, 900 on 21st August and 4830 on 27th October.

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides* A first-winter bird was seen on 15 dates 23rd February-10th April. There was a second- and a third-summer bird on 15th April. The last spring bird was a second-summer on 8th May. In autumn there were a first-winter individual on 29th October, an adult on 5th November and a first- or second-winter on 17th November. An influx in December started with 6 (2 ad.) on 28th and 7 on 29th.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus* Seen on a number of occasions, January-4th June, with two late records on 25th and 26th June (mostly first-winter birds). One adult on 19th August, a first-winter on 22nd September, then regularly from 11th October. Peak counts 4 on 21st October and 7 on 17th November.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* Recorded throughout the year. Spring peak 1600 on 28th April. Breeding as usual. Highest autumn count was 2320 on 27th October.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* Recorded every month. 1950 were counted on 28th February. A very successful breeding season led to large numbers of recently fledged juveniles, e.g. well over 2000 on 10th August. Generally small numbers were noted from September to the end of the year, but 80 storm-driven on 8th December.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis* Singles on 3rd and 7th June and 10th September were the only records.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* 17 arrived on 7th May, increasing to 70 by 25th. About 50 pairs on Stack O' North Haven fledged about 60 young. Fledging occurred from 10th July. Decrease noted from 21st July and fewer than 10 present after 1st August, except 25th when 14 seen. 2 on 21st September was the last record.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* The first 2 were seen on 12th May. Up to 5 birds present during breeding season but only one pair bred, raising one chick on Bunes. Less frequent records after 4th August, though 8 on 25th August was highest count of the year. The last bird was seen on 11th September.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* A summer plumage adult graced Easter Lother Water from 9th to 12th May. This is the second island record; the previous was in June 1973.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge* Present on ledges on calm days throughout the winter and at least 6000 on 23rd March; then seen daily until 1st August. Census site numbers remained static from 1981 to 1982 ending a period of annual increases. The species enjoyed a very successful breeding season. In autumn, few records early August, then almost daily 18th August-mid October. Birds on ledges on fine mornings from 22nd October, peak count 545 on 23rd October.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda* 28 on 23rd February, then none until 10th March. Gradual increase to 769 on 27th March. No apparent change in breeding numbers, but good fledging success. Post-breeding sightings of up to 5 occasionally September and October. In November 1 on 19th, 2 on 24th and 1 (oiled) on 25th. 1 on 10th December and 3 on 28th.

**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle* Present all year, though fewer in winter. During April an early morning census of birds on the sea produced 333 breeding plumage birds and 9 in partial breeding or winter plumage. 150 'pairs' were accounted for, and the true population level may be at or slightly above 180 breeding pairs.

**Little Auk** *Alle alle* One found dead (oiled) on 12th January. In December 1 on night of 6th/7th, 1 on 10th and 1 on 12th, all close inshore.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica* One on 26th March was the first of the year. 37 offshore on 28th and 40 on 31st March. Regularly ashore 2nd

April-25th August. Maximum count 15000 on 7th May. Rapid decrease from 16th August when only 24 present. There were 2 on 27th August and singles on 1st and 21st September.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia* Present all year. Increase from beginning of April to peak of 50 on 17th April. Over 40 present until early June and smaller numbers throughout the summer. Autumn influx from 26th August. The maximum count of 70 on 22nd September is a highest ever total for the isle. Still 60 present in early November and 30 in December.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas* Singles on 20th, 24th and 25th April and 2 on 9th, 11th and 15th May were the only records.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus* 2 on 23rd, 25th and 26th January, 1 on 4th February. Recorded regularly 13th March-8th June, with a very high count of 35 on 4th May. Singles on 30th June, 2nd and 9th July, 25th and 30th September and 1st-3rd October. Seen regularly 9th-31st October, peak 10 on 18th. Singles on 2nd, 7th and 25th November and 9th December.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* One 21st-24th April. Almost daily 8th May-9th June, peak 19 on 30th May. 1-4 recorded on 28 dates 16th June-13th August. One late bird on 14th October.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* One on 11th May, then almost daily to 15th June, maximum 5 on 4th June. 1-4 occasionally 15th June-30th September, only obvious passage 3-4 on 27th-29th September. One on 30th October-1st November was the latest ever, previous latest date 29th October.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* 1-3 recorded regularly 15th-31st May. There were later singles on 13th, 15th, 17th, 28th and 29th June, but none in autumn for the second successive year.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* Singles in spring on 29th March, 12th April and six dates 18th May-11th June. First autumn bird on 16th September. 1-2 occasionally October-November and 5 on 7th November. 1 on 19th December.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* In spring, one on 30th April, 1-2 regularly 4th-30th May. In early autumn, 2 on 10th and one on 23rd and 25th August. Singles 16th and 18th-20th September. Strong main autumn passage 27th September-late November when almost daily sightings. Frequently at least 10; highest counts were 20 on 9th and 23 on 19th October. 1 on 3rd December.

**Swift** *Apus apus* A single on 18th May preceded main arrivals. 2 on 24th, then daily 27th May-4th June, maximum 10 on 3rd. In summer, commonest 8th-16th July, maximum 35 on 12th. Only occasional late July-September, though 1-9 daily 13th-20th September. 1-4 in early October were followed by a late bird on 20th.

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* One, ranging widely in the crofting area, 4th-6th June was the fifth F.I. record (and seventh individual) and the earliest ever.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* Continuing the recent upsurge of records there were singles on 8th-9th May and on 5th November. The latter, a first-winter trapped in the Gully, was the latest ever by one day.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* In spring there were singles on 9th, 15th, 16th, 18th and 20th May, and 4th-6th June. Autumn records comprised singles on 6th, 9th and 10th September, 5 on 20th, 2 on 21st, 22nd, 25th and 27th and 1 on 26th September. The last one occurred on 3rd October.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major* A juvenile was present on 24th September, and another from 6th-10th October. A juvenile self-trapped on 13th October was in the process of hammering its way out of the catching box when discovered.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* There were only two records: a rufous plumage bird at the Haa/Springfield on 16th-20th September and one of the grey eastern form at Field 25th September-1st October.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* Recorded occasionally January-February. Passage from beginning of March, reaching spring peak of 270 on 25th March. About 50 pairs bred. There was a marked influx from 13th September, maxima 500 on 18th and 30th, followed by a further increase in October to 570 on 5th. Gradual decrease after that date, with around 100 present on 28th October. Still up to 150 present in the first half of November and up to 25 in December.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia* Recorded regularly 7th-31st May, peak 20 on 14th. Singles on 4th, 9th June and 15th July. Only two autumn records: singles on 24th August and 2nd October.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Early records were one on 19th, 23rd and 24th and 2 on 26th April. Main arrivals from 7th May with good spring passage to 5th June, peaks 100 on 14th-15th and 80 on 20th May. Small numbers throughout the summer and one pair bred, fledging first brood young from the Midway area and second brood

young from Springfield. Fledged young were seen from 13th July. No obvious autumn passage, numbers exceeding 6 in September only on 1st (when 12). In October 2 on 4th and singles on 5th-6th and 11th.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica* One on 3rd May preceded the main passage from 14th May-5th June when maxima 70 on 23rd and 30th May. Up to 12 recorded occasionally 8th June-14th July. The only later records were singles on 13th-15th and 31st and 2 on 19th August, with September records one on 20th and 29th.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* Singles on 23rd-24th and 28th September probably refer to the same individual. Another was present 10th-13th October.

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* One at South Light on 22nd May was the only record.

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni* One, trapped on 12th October, gave good views to 15th at the Shop, Shirva and eventually the Hostel.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* Daily spring passage of 1-8 from 3rd-28th May, with 10 on 19th. Main autumn passage preceded by singles on 23rd, 24th and 28th August, 6 on 6th and one on 9th September. Seen daily 14th September-15th October; no more than 25 except 60 on 20th September.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* Up to 6 birds 10th-20th March, then main arrival from 22nd, building to spring peak of 200 on 24th-25th March. About 25 pairs bred. Autumn influx started 1st September with over 120 present most days until 30th September. Peaks were 325 on 5th and 300 on 23rd. Gradual decrease from 110 on 5th October to 20 on 4th November. 1-3 noted only occasionally from 11th November.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta* Present all year. Breeding as usual but rather fewer fledged juveniles than in 1981. Apparent autumn influx in early September with 200 on 2nd and 5th, 300 on 6th. Departures by part of the population were suggested by decrease in October and lower numbers in November-December.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* Blue-headed race *M.f.flava*: singles on 30th and 31st May, 1st June; and 21st-24th, 27th and 28th September. Grey-headed race *M.f. thunbergi*: singles on 18th, 19th, 26th-28th May, 2 on 29th May, one on 11th-12th June. British Yellow Wagtail *M.f. flavissima*: a female on 12th May, singles 16th-20th May, with 2 on 17th- and one on 20th September. Yellow Wagtails not

assigned to race: singles on 18th, 20th, 23rd-24th, 27th-28th and 31st May, 2 on 19th and 22nd May; several 2nd-20th October, maximum 3 on 6th-7th.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* A juvenile at Golden Water, 13th-15th August, was the earliest ever Fair Isle record.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* Only one spring and two autumn records, comprising singles on 3rd June and 10th and 21st October.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* Birds of both races Pied *M.a. yarrelli* and White *M.a. alba* recorded in spring, but Pied occurred earlier (from 10th March). Mostly singles until April, when counts of 7 on 4th and 4 on 5th and 17th. White Wagtails recorded from 4th April (2), then almost daily 16th April-6th October. Spring peak was 17 on 8th May. There was one late Pied on 4th June. 2 pairs of White Wagtails bred (North Haven and Kinn O' Skroo), both successfully—at least 7 young fledged. Autumn passage started by 15th August, peaking at 70 on 20th. Main passage ended in late September but stragglers were noted to 1st November. The vast majority in autumn were Whites but 1-2 Pieds were noted regularly 27th August-15th October.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* Very scarce, comprising one on 12th October and another on 1st November.

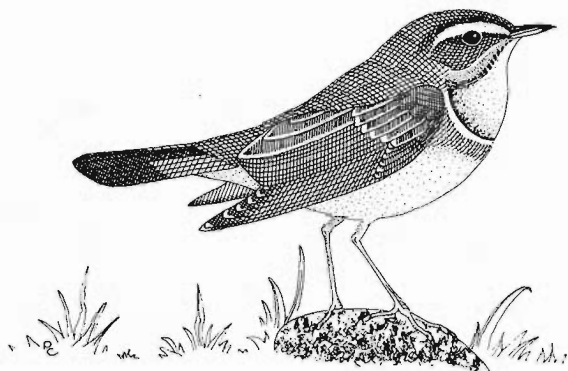
**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes* Present all year. A very few spring passage migrants noted in April. Early morning censusing in April/May produced counts of 16 singing males, a marked improvement on 1981, but breeding success was only moderate. In autumn, there was an influx of nominate race migrants 11th-25th October.

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis* Very scarce in spring: 1-4 on 24 dates 19th March-27th May. Autumn passage, too, was meagre: seen almost daily 24th September-28th October, but highest count 25 on 11th October. One earlier bird on 17th September and later records 2 on 1st and 1 on 2nd November.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* One on 2nd March. Recorded almost daily 9th March-1st June, maximum 14 on 8th May. Two late spring singles on 9th and 11th June. Autumn passage began abruptly with 70 on 20th September and continued to early November. Other peaks were 70 on 3rd and 65 on 12th October. 1-5 birds noted in late November-December were probable overwinterers.

**Nightingale** species *Luscinia* One skulking in the Leogh ditch on 23rd May defied specific identification.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* A very subdued spring passage compared with 1981. A male on 16th May, then daily to 25th (except 22nd). 2 on 17th-19th, 3 on 23rd-24th, otherwise singles. A single on 28th May was the last in spring. In autumn singles were present on 24th, 26th and 29th September and 4th October. There were 2 on 3rd October. All males in spring and the first September individual were of the Red-spotted form.



**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* 1-2 on nine dates 27th March-10th May and daily 17th-26th May when maximum 6 on 23rd. One 31st May-2nd June. A better than average autumn passage with birds on ten dates in October (maximum 4 on 21st) and 1-2 in November to 9th. A late bird was at Busta Geo on 27th November.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* Singles on 4th, 7th and 12th May. 2 on 15th May, then 1-4 daily from 17th-26th May. Single females on 28th and 30th May and 1st June. One late male on 7th June. A single 12th-14th September preceded the main autumn migration by one week. Recorded daily 19th September-20th October, peaks 25 on 20th September and 20 on 13th October.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* Singles on 4th and 11th May. Recorded almost daily 14th May-4th June with 8 on 14th the maximum. One on 7th and 2 late females on 22nd and 24th June. One daily 16th-22nd August with 2 on 17th. Singles on 30th-31st August, 3 on 2nd September. Daily autumn passage 6th September-18th October, maxima 150 on 20th September, 70 on 2nd October. Numbers decreased from 11th October to the last on 23rd.



**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata* In spring, a male on 27th February, a female on 20th, a male on 23rd, 2 females on 27th and 1 on 29th March; singles on 15th April (female) and 8th May (male). In autumn, a male on 6th October showed characteristics of the race *S.t. stejnegeri* and one on 10th-12th October (trapped) characteristics of the race *S.t. maura* (both known colloquially as Eastern or Siberian Stonechats).

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* First one (male) recorded 4th April, then daily to 29th October. Strongest spring passage May, maximum 200 on 8th. Census work put the breeding population at a minimum 60, maximum 71 pairs. Fledged young were seen from 16th June. Autumn passage started early August, and the first Greenland birds were seen from 15th August. Peak count was 200 on 18th September (at least 200 Greenland birds). Marked decline October, to the last on 3rd November.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus* One on 11th April, 2 on 18th. Almost daily 3rd May-1st June, peak 9 on 7th-8th May. A female on 6th June, a male on 17th June and on 4th-8th July. Autumn passage almost daily 20th September-14th October, peak count 20 on 11th October. Later records were 2 on 20th and 22nd, 1 on 24th October.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula* Up to 6 wintered. A very poor spring passage apart from 16th-24th March when maxima 50 on 18th and 45 on 20th. Very low numbers after 24th March but recorded daily to 17th May, then scattered sightings of 1-2 to 1st June. 1-2 on five dates in late August and six dates in September. Main autumn passage began with 6 on 2nd October, building to 300 on 20th. Heaviest passage 5th-13th November, maximum 2000 on 6th. Several small arrivals of up to 40 occurred later in November and early December.

**Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus ruficollis* One at South Light on 13th October was the third Fair Isle record: last recorded in 1978.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* Sporadic records of up to 6 January-February. 2 on 16th-17th, 1 on 22nd March, 1-3 present on seven dates in April. Main passage 3rd-9th May, peaking at 95 on 4th. 1-3 almost daily to end of May. In autumn, scattered singles after 2 on 8th August. Main passage from 19th September. Heaviest movements mid October to mid November; highest counts were 1600 on 20th October and 2200 on 7th November. Small numbers present from mid November to the end of the year.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* 1-2 occasionally January-February and regularly March-April, with 6 on 12th and 18th April. Recorded daily 3rd-30th May, maximum 15 on 7th. In June, 2 on 1st and singles on 4th, 5th and 10th. 2 on 29th and 1 on 30th August



River Warbler, the first of two in September.



Lanceolated Warbler, the second of three during the autumn.  
*Photos-Elizabeth Riddiford*

preceded the main autumn migration which began with 20 on 20th September. Recorded almost daily to 14th November. Heaviest passage was in October when peaks of 400 on 13th and 600 on 19th. 1-7 noted occasionally in late November-December.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* 1-4 January-March. Main passage 1st April-31st May when maxima 20 on 18th April, 12 on 3rd May. Singles on five dates in early September, then daily passage from 20th September. Main influxes in October, peaking at 1200 on 6th, 1500 on 13th and 3000 on 19th. Still up to 350 in the first half of November but no more than 10 thereafter to the end of the year apart from 40 on 25th November.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* In spring there were singles on 1st and 12th-21st March and 5th and 17th April. No autumn records until 10th October, then almost daily to 23rd, maximum 5 on 14th. One on 27th October was the last record. A better than average autumn showing.

**Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata* Three first-years, all trapped: one found in the Gully 13th-15th September, one at the Hostel 23rd-24th September, and one in the Gully on 6th October.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia* Only one spring record, a single on 29th May. In autumn, 2 on 20th and singles on 21st, 23rd and 29th September. One 1st-6th October, with 2 on 5th and singles on 9th and 13th.

**River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis* A first-year was trapped in the Vaadal on 22nd September. An adult, trapped at Midway on 24th, remained until 26th September. The fourth and fifth Fair Isle records.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* Strong passage in spring when seen daily 12th May-9th June. Highest numbers 23rd-30th May, maximum 18 on 25th. In contrast, the only autumn records were 4 on 20th and singles on 22nd, 26th September and 9th October.

**Marsh Warble.** *Acrocephalus palustris* In spring, one on 3rd and another on 7th-8th June. For the second consecutive year there was a mid-summer record, on 3rd July when one secreted itself into the Skerryholm van at the airstrip, leaving the way it entered—through a rust hole!

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* One on 14th May, 2 on 18th, then daily to 28th. One on 6th June. Singles on 4th and 28th August, 8th-11th and 21st September. 2 on 26th-27th, 1 on 28th

September. In October, 2 on 3rd, 3 on 4th and 1 on 5th-6th. (One was found dead on 17th October.)

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* Single records in spring and autumn: one on 31st May and one on 13th August.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria* Recorded daily 27th August-6th September, maximum 4 on 6th. Thereafter, one on 8th, 2 from 16th-19th, 1 on 20th, 24th-25th and 2 on 30th September. In October 1 on 3rd was the only record.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca* 2 arrived early, on 4th May. 1-3 daily 16th-21st, 2 on 27th and 3 on 28th May. Daily 30th May-10th June, peaking at 5 on 4th June. There was a late spring single on 15th June. Very scarce in autumn, recorded on only ten dates 6th September-13th October, with 3 on 6th September the highest count.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* 2 on 8th, then daily 12th May-4th June, peak 8 on 19th May. One on 12th and 14th-17th June. Late spring singles on 25th, 26th and 28th June and 3rd July. In autumn, frequent records of singles in late August, 2 on 26th. One on 6th, 9th, 15th-19th and 3 on 20th September. Daily 23rd-30th September, maximum 8 on 25th. 3 on 2nd, 4 on 3rd and one on 6th, 10th and 13th October.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* Singles on 15th and 17th-19th May. Daily 21st May-2nd June, maximum 4 on 25th. Frequent records in June, mainly 1-2 but 4 on 8th. One on 3rd and 6th, 3 on 10th July. Early autumn records, 2 on 5th and 3 on 7th August. Almost daily passage 15th August-13th October, peak 25 on 25th September. Late singles on 17th, 21st and 30th October and 12th November.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* Single birds 5th-7th (female) and 12th (male) May. Daily 15th May-13th June, maximum 6 on 8th June. Summer records comprised a female on 28th-29th June, 2 females on 3rd and a male on 9th July. A single female 29th-31st August preceded the main passage which encompassed 6th September-12th November. Passage increased to 35 by 30th September and peaked at 150 on 11th October. There was a whole series of late records 23rd November-1st December, maximum 4 on 28th, but involving perhaps as many as 8-10 birds; a female on 7th December was the last.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* An adult trapped at the Observatory on 3rd July is the earliest ever British record (all others having occurred between end of July and early November). A first-year was trapped in the Gully on 24th August.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* An amazing influx in October started on 6th when one was trapped. It was sadly found dead on 7th. There was a new bird on 8th, one on 10th, then a minimum of 10 on 11th (at places as far-flung as the School, Barkland, Gunnawark, Malcolm's Head and South Light). 2 were still present (one at a new locality, Gilsetter) on 12th. There were only 3 Fair Isle records prior to 1982.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Extremely scarce, records comprising 1-2 on 2nd-12th October and 1 on 22nd.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* 1 on 3rd, 20th, 23rd and 27th-30th May and 1st June. Autumn records comprised 4 on 6th, 1 on 7th-8th and 1 on 21st September.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* 1-4 present 7th-29th April. Up to 8 regularly throughout May. In June, 1 on 1st, 6th-8th, 10th and 12th. Autumn: 1 on 18th and 23rd August, 2 on 1st September, then regularly 6th September-25th October. Biggest arrivals 11th-13th October with 80, 45 and 50 respectively. In November, 1-3 on four dates to 7th. Many of the October/November birds were northern type individuals.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Scattered singles from 6th April, with 2 on 19th. Almost daily 3rd May-1st June, peaks 14 on 4th and 15 on 19th May. In June, 1-4 recorded on 13 dates to 25th. An adult on 3rd and a juvenile on 26th July. 2 on 4th and singles on 6th and 8th-10th August preceded main autumn passage. Almost daily 14th August-15th October, maxima 50 on 6th and 20th September. Latest record 1 on 19th October.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* 2 on 13th, 1 on 26th and 29th March. 1-7 most days 31st March-22nd April. Autumn passage 18th September-5th November. Main arrivals 5th-16th October, particularly on 11th (200) and 12th (100).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Recorded daily 15th May-8th June, maximum 11 on 30th May. Sporadic records of 1-5 to end of June. 1 mid-summer record on 11th July. Very poor autumn passage, with singles on 3rd, 5th and 9th-11th October the only records.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva* A female on 23rd May, all other records in the space of a few days in October: 3 on 6th, 1 on 7th-8th, 2 on 9th and 1 on 11th.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* 1-3 birds on eleven dates in May. A female on 8th June. In autumn, singles on 20th, 21st and 23rd

August, 8th and 13th September. Almost daily 18th September-6th October, never more than 15 except 60 on 20th September. 4 on 10th, 3 on 11th and 1 on 12th October were the latest records.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus* 1 on 5th October at Easter Lothar was the first Fair Isle record since 1962.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* 2 trapped, one in the Vaadal the other in the Gully, within an hour of each other on 6th October. The last record was in 1978.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* A fine male at Furze on 4th June was the only record.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* In June, 2 females on 1st, a male on 2nd-3rd, 2 (male and female) on 7th and a female on 10th June. In July, a female on 4th-5th, 1 on 10th. Autumn records comprised a female on 4th-5th, a male on 2nd September, and singles on 9th-10th and 13th-16th September.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor* All records were in autumn, comprising 1 on 27th-28th September, 1 almost daily 16th-30th October, with 3 on 20th-21st, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 7th November.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* There was 1 record, a juvenile in the Quoy area on 20th September.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* 1 very early single on 5th January. In spring there were singles on 3rd, 7th and 20th May. In autumn, there were 4 on 13th and 2 on 14th October then 3 on 27th October-5th November, one remaining to 15th November.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* One recorded regularly January-February. One on 22nd March. In April, 2 on 19th, 22nd and 26th, 6 on 20th-21st. In May, one on 3rd, 2 on 7th, 4 on 8th, 5 on 9th and singles on 10th and 15th. Almost daily 27th October-15th November, maximum 9 on 6th October.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone* Present all year. There was a spring influx late March-mid May. Incomers were mainly Hoodies, though there were 12 Carrions on 22nd April. 1-4 Hybrids were seen 21st April-end of May. Very few records mid June to late July. A mixed Carrion/Hooded pair raised 2 Hybrids, and two other pairs bred. Numbers increased October-early November; most arrivals were Hoodies, maximum 15 on three dates.

**Raven** *Corvus corax* Present all year. A small influx of non-breeders from 10th March (when 18 seen) to mid April. 5 pairs fledged a total of 11 young; fledged young seen from 4th May. Maximum autumn counts were 20 on 23rd August and 11 on 22nd October.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* Present all year. Spring passage from 9th March, peaks of 420 on 24th March and 540 on 7th April. Breeding population estimated at about 160-180 pairs. They enjoyed a very successful season and many were double-brooded, often using the same nest for both clutches. Post-breeding influxes by early August, maximum 615 on 17th, followed by main autumn passage peaking at 740 on 11th September, 650 on 2nd and 5th October and 7th November.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Present all year. Numbers fairly steady apart from post-breeding increases—maximum count 215 on 1st September. A Hybrid House X Tree Sparrow was seen on several occasions during the year.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* 1-2 regularly 21st April-8th June. Very few autumn records, with singles on five dates in September and on 19th October.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* A poor spring passage. Present eight dates 17th-26th March, maximum 6 on 17th, 2 females on 16th and one on 18th April. Singles 13th May, 5th June, 5th July, 19th and 20th August. Recorded daily in autumn, 17th September-late November. Strongest passage 2nd-11th October, maximum 275 on 3rd. 1 on 1st and 20th December.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* Singles on 24th March and 5th April. Daily 17th-25th April, peak 4 on 24th. None till 3rd May, then almost daily to 1st June, maxima 39 on 7th and 38 on 8th May. In autumn recorded almost daily 20th September-13th November. Heavy passage 11th-16th October with 500 on 11th and 350 on 13th October, the majority in a single flock at Kennaby. There was a late single on 23rd November.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus* One over Quoy on 30th September was the fifth Fair Isle record and the first since October 1968.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris* Spring records comprised 1 on 9th April and 2 on 5th, 14th and 15th May. In autumn there were singles on 12th-13th, 18th-19th and 22nd-23rd October. Recorded almost daily 6th-18th November. The biggest count—11 on 7th— was the second highest in the Observatory's history.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus* One on 22nd April was the only spring record. Autumn records 18th September-23rd October; peaks 14 on 2nd and 15 on 6th October. Later records were 2 on 25th, one on 30th-31st October and 2 on 2nd November.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina* 2 on 22nd and 1 on 23rd April. 4 on 7th, 3 on 8th and singles on 10th, 24th and 28th May. 1 on 10th June. In autumn, records of 1-2 on nine dates 24th September-19th October.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris* Up to 30 present in January, increasing to 70 on 17th February and to a spring peak of 113 by 21st May. At least 30 pairs bred. Post-breeding increases began in early August. Largest numbers occurred in late September and early October when peak counts were 370 on 25th-26th September and 480 on 5th October. There was a decrease from 13th October, except for a small arrival of 130 on 30th October, and only small groups of up to 15 were noted in November-December.

**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* 1 Mealy on 27th February, 3 on 10th March. 2 on 5th April and 13th May. 1 Mealy on 21st May. In June, 1 on five dates to 20th, then almost daily 25th June-8th July with all those identified Mealies. The summer influx continued with 2 (Mealy) on 16th, 10 (Lesser) on 20th, 2 (Mealy) and 1 on 23rd July. Almost daily 2nd August-22nd October, maximum 13 on 24th September. Most in autumn were Mealy, but there were five records of up to 6 Lessers in September and seven records of 1-2 Lessers during October. Later records of 1-2 on several dates in October and 8 on 5th November were Mealies when identified.

**Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni* 1 at Busta on 15th-16th October was a large individual, but probably of the north-east Europe race *C.h. exilipes*.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* 1 on 3rd, 2 on 5th and 1 on 6th July. An immature bird at Wirvie on 10th August. Singles on 6th (male) and 19th and 2 (male and female) on 16th and 23rd September. 1 on 13th October.

**Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* There were 1 on 7th October, 6 the following day and 22 which were probably of this species on 8th. A male was seen on 10th, 2 certain females and 3 probable Parrot Crossbills on 12th. An adult female, trapped on 13th, set up residence outside the observatory until 29th October. These are the first definite records since 1963, and twenty years since the previous irruption. Not all were seen well enough to assure certain identification but the number of birds, though not approaching that of



October 1962, was a minimum of 9 and perhaps as many as 40 (see below).

**Crossbill** species *Loxia* 4 birds on 10th and 2 on 1th October were either Crossbill or Parrot Crossbill.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* In spring, there were one on 27th and 28th May, 2 on 30th May-1st June and one on 18th June. A summer adult was seen on 26th July. Autumn records were one 14th-15th August, followed by frequent records of 1-3 birds 22nd August-11th September and 23rd-28th September. A minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 birds involved in August-September.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* 2 males and a female from 8th-12th October, with a pair remaining to 20th. All three were of the large northern (Scandinavian) race.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* One at Pund on 27th May was the only record.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* The spring records were one on 15th April and 7th May, 2 on 8th May, a fine male on 28th May and 1 on 3rd-4th June. Recorded daily in autumn 9th September-16th October, maximum 10 on 19th, 23rd September and 6th October. Later records were 7 on 19th, 1 on 21st and 3 on 22nd October.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* 20 on 13th and 15th January, 1 on 24th February. Recorded on 13 dates 8th-30th March, maximum 17 on 9th. 2 on 1st, singles on 10th and 15th April. In May, a male on 3rd, then daily 5th-11th (maximum 14 on 9th), singles on 18th, 29th and 31st. In June, 1 on 2nd-3rd. Recorded in autumn almost daily 8th September-end of November. Largest numbers were from 10th-15th November, peak 300 on 12th. 2-3 occasionally in December.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* 1-2 recorded on five dates 19th-26th March. In autumn there were singles on seven dates 13th-25th October and 3 on 19th October.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* All spring records were in May: a male on 15th, 2 on 16th-17th and single females on 25th and 28th. In autumn, one juvenile on 13th and 14th September, another 20th-27th September and a late bird on 21st October.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica* In May there was one on Ward Hill on 18th and a male in the Hostel garden on 23rd. The only autumn bird remained at Field from 2nd to 11th October.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* Three individuals, all in autumn: one at the Haa on 26th-28th September; one trapped at Shirva on 6th October, still present there on 9th; and one on 11th-12th October.

**Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola* There was one record, a single giving good views at Kennaby on 17th, 18th and 22nd September.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* Singles on 13th and 19th March, then 1-3 on twelve dates 24th March-19th April. 1-2 during May, with 5 on 17th and 4 on 19th. Late spring singles on 3rd and 7th June. Autumn records 19th September-25th October, maxima 20 on 2nd and 10 on 11th-12th October. Later singles on 27th, 28th and 30th October, 1st, 2nd, 7th-8th and 27th November.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala* An adult female at the Observatory on 12th September showed heavy wear on tail and flight feathers and may have been an escape.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra* One on 11th October was the first since 1979.

*Presumed cage-bird*

**Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps* A fine male at Quoy on 10th-11th September.

*Addition to 1978 Systematic List*

**Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni* One on 26th December 1978 (J. F. Holloway) has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Note:** all records of rare birds submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee in 1981 were accepted.

*Cetacean records in 1982*

**Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena* One south off Buness on 25th August, 3 off South Light on 5th September, 12 off Buness on 3rd October and 3 north off Buness on 8th.

**Killer Whale** *Orcinus orca* 8-9, including large bull, off Buness on 2nd October.

**White-beaked Dolphin** *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* 3 off Buness on 22nd September and 9-10 off Meoness on 3rd November.

## Ringling Details 1982

The 11,442 birds ringed during the year exceeded the previous year's record total by over a thousand. The number of species ringed (128) was as many as in the previous best year.

Reconstruction work on the traps entailed the extension of one wing of the Plantation trap to create a second catching area, and a wire support to the roof of the Gully trap. The Vaadal catching box was replaced. Wire traps, mist-nets, drag and horizontal netting and tape lures increased the variety of species trapped. A new quartz halogen spotlight, operated from a portable 12 volt battery, gave a valuable boost to dazzle-netting success. It contributed to the capture of a series of waterfowl, gulls and waders, including excellent numbers of Ringed Plovers.

More seabirds were ringed than ever before. The summer was ideal—dry and calm—allowing boat access to some rarely visited west coast colonies. Our summer efforts are reflected particularly in the high *pulli* total, exceeding 'full-grown' for the first time in the Observatory's history.

The top eleven species ringed were Guillemot 1871, Fulmar 1845, Starling 1493, Shag 1018, Blackbird 607, Kittiwake 595, Wheatear 393, Blackcap 363, Storm Petrel 267, Razorbill and Puffin 266 each.

There were record totals for five of the top eleven: Guillemot, Fulmar, Starling, Shag and Kittiwake. Record totals were also achieved for Ringed Plover, Curlew, Great Skua, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, Pied Wagtail, Lanceolated Warbler, River Warbler and Sedge Warbler. Rarely trapped species ringed included Little Grebe, Pink-footed Goose 2, White-fronted Goose, Pochard, Long-tailed Duck, Goldeneye 2, Quail, Spotted Crake 2, Glaucous Gull 5, Arctic Tern, Rock Dove 3, Short-eared Owl 4, Hoopoe, Olive-backed Pipit, Parrot Crossbill and Black-headed Bunting. Pallas's Warbler was new to the ringing list. A full table of ringing totals and recoveries follows.

**TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS AND RECOVERIES**

	Ringed		Recovered			
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1982 Total	1948-82 Total	1982	1948-82
Little Grebe	1	—	1	8	—	—
Great Crested Grebe	—	—	—	1	—	—
Red-necked Grebe	—	—	—	1	—	—
Slavonian Grebe	—	—	—	3	—	—
Fulmar	289	1556	1845	10998	6	68
Storm Petrel	267	—	267	8499	17	217
Leach's Petrel	1	—	1	18	—	—

	Juv/ Adult	Ringed		1948-82 Total	Recovered	
		Pull.	1982 Total		1982	1948-82
Gannet	2	10	12	65	—	1
Cormorant	—	—	—	7	—	—
Shag	53	965	1018	13240	25	302
Grey Heron	1	—	1	14	—	2
Whooper Swan	1	—	1	29	—	4
Bean Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pink-footed Goose	2	—	2	8	—	1
White-fronted Goose	1	—	1	3	—	1
Greylag Goose	4	—	4	19	—	4
Barnacle Goose	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shelduck	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wigeon	2	—	2	14	—	—
Teal	—	—	—	36	—	2
Mallard	—	—	—	7	—	1
Pintail	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pochard	1	—	1	2	—	1
Ring-necked Duck	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tufted Duck	—	—	—	9	—	—
Scaup	—	—	—	4	—	—
Eider	1	—	1	84	—	2
Long-tailed Duck	1	—	1	8	—	—
Velvet Scoter	—	—	—	2	—	—
Goldeneye	2	—	2	13	—	1
Red-breasted Merganser	—	—	—	1	—	—
Goosander	—	—	—	3	—	1
Goshawk	—	—	—	1	—	—
Sparrowhawk	9	—	9	144	—	14
Kestrel	3	—	3	36	1	6
Red-footed Falcon	—	—	—	1	—	—
Merlin	1	—	1	162	—	12
Peregrine	—	—	—	6	—	1
Quail	1	—	1	5	—	—
Water Rail	9	—	9	220	—	3
Spotted Crane	2	—	2	12	—	—
Little Crane	—	—	—	1	—	1
Corncrake	—	—	—	34	—	2
Moorhen	6	—	6	75	—	3
Coot	—	—	—	12	—	1
Great Bustard	—	—	—	1	—	—
Oystercatcher	11	34	45	1017	3	53
Little Ringed Plover	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ringed Plover	38	1	39	388	—	3
Golden Plover	—	—	—	17	—	—
Dotterel	—	—	—	3	—	—
Lapwing	1	6	7	227	1	4
Knot	2	—	2	70	—	1
Sanderling	1	—	1	79	—	—

	Juv/ Adult	Ringed		Recovered	
		Pull.	1982 Total	1948-82 Total	1982    1948-82
Western Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—    —
Little Stint	—	—	—	64	—    —
Temminck's Stint	—	—	—	2	—    —
White-rumped Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—    —
Pectoral Sandpiper	—	—	—	5	—    —
Curlew Sandpiper	—	—	—	4	—    —
Purple Sandpiper	3	—	3	141	—    1
Dunlin	4	—	4	420	1    7
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	—	—	1	—    —
Ruff	—	—	—	31	—    1
Jack Snipe	1	—	1	112	—    3
Snipe	7	—	7	277	—    4
Great Snipe	—	—	—	1	—    —
Woodcock	8	—	8	236	2    14
Black-tailed Godwit	—	—	—	1	—    —
Bar-tailed Godwit	—	—	—	8	—    2
Whimbrel	—	—	—	13	—    —
Curlew	8	7	15	61	1    3
Spotted Redshank	—	—	—	3	—    —
Redshank	5	—	5	214	—    2
Greenshank	—	—	—	7	—    —
Green Sandpiper	1	—	1	28	—    1
Wood Sandpiper	—	—	—	15	—    —
Common Sandpiper	2	—	2	41	—    —
Turnstone	1	—	1	64	—    —
Red-necked Phalarope	—	—	—	4	—    —
Grey Phalarope	—	—	—	3	—    —
Pomarine Skua	—	—	—	1	—    —
Arctic Skua	1	23	24	2631	—    56
Great Skua	2	41	43	571	—    11
Black-headed Gull	2	—	2	22	—    3
Common Gull	3	3	6	80	—    6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	—	79	79	1083	4    27
Herring Gull	41	221	261	2993	5    68
Iceland Gull	—	—	—	1	—    —
Glaucous Gull	5	—	5	32	—    1
Great Black-backed Gull	30	11	41	1564	3    73
Kittiwake	46	549	595	3425	2    18
Common Tern	—	58	58	293	1    3
Arctic Tern	—	1	1	8	—    1
Guillemot	439	1432	1871	10037	38    207
Razorbill	70	196	266	3269	3    71
Black Guillemot	1	17	18	1125	1    16
Little Auk	—	—	—	5	—    —
Puffin	75	191	266	8190	—    21
Rock Dove	—	3	3	14	1    2
Woodpigeon	2	—	2	34	—    2

	Juv/ Adult	Ringed		1982 Total	1948-82 Total	Recovered	
		Pull.				1982	1948-82
Collared Dove	8	—	8	128	—	—	
Turtle Dove	3	—	3	55	1	2	
Cuckoo	3	—	3	78	—	1	
Snowy Owl	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Long-eared Owl	7	—	7	132	—	6	
Short-eared Owl	4	—	4	14	—	—	
Nightjar	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Swift	—	—	—	15	—	1	
Hoopoe	1	—	1	3	—	—	
Wryneck	7	—	7	157	—	—	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	—	1	19	—	—	
Short-toed Lark	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Woodlark	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Skylark	1	—	1	695	—	3	
Shore Lark	—	—	—	3	—	—	
Sand Martin	—	—	—	8	—	—	
Swallow	1	—	1	218	—	8	
House Martin	3	—	3	140	—	1	
Richard's Pipit	—	—	—	9	—	—	
Tawny Pipit	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Olive-backed Pipit	1	—	1	5	—	—	
Tree Pipit	10	—	10	485	—	—	
Pechora Pipit	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Meadow Pipit	152	12	164	7141	1	43	
Red-throated Pipit	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Rock Pipit	219	—	219	7005	1	22	
Yellow Wagtail	—	—	—	10	—	—	
Citrine Wagtail	—	—	—	5	—	—	
Grey Wagtail	—	—	—	15	—	—	
Pied Wagtail	31	—	31	460	—	4	
Waxwing	—	—	—	34	—	—	
Dipper	—	—	—	8	—	—	
Wren	20	—	20	585	—	—	
Dunnock	19	—	19	1503	—	5	
Robin	232	—	232	5259	—	29	
Thrush Nightingale	—	—	—	14	—	—	
Nightingale	—	—	—	17	—	—	
Siberian Rubythroat	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Bluethroat	3	—	3	170	—	2	
Red-flanked Bluetail	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Black Redstart	5	—	5	92	—	—	
Redstart	17	—	17	1394	—	1	
Whinchat	26	—	26	482	—	2	
Stonechat	2	—	2	44	—	—	
Wheatear	391	2	393	13129	1	60	
Black-eared Wheatear	—	—	—	3	—	—	

	Ringed		Recovered			
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1982 Total	1948-82 Total	1982	1948-82
Rock Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Grey-cheeked Thrush	—	—	—	2	—	—
White's Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ring Ousel	13	—	13	349	—	6
Blackbird	607	—	607	16143	2	274
Dusky Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Black-throated Thrush	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fieldfare	6	—	6	560	—	—
Song Thrush	71	—	71	1901	—	24
Redwing	116	—	116	5972	1	65
Mistle Thrush	—	—	—	18	—	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	—	—	—	3	—	—
Lanceolated Warbler	3	—	3	15	—	—
Grasshopper Warbler	1	—	1	74	—	—
River Warbler	2	—	2	5	—	—
Savi's Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Aquatic Warbler	—	—	—	20	—	—
Sedge Warbler	32	—	32	312	—	2
Paddyfield Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Marsh Warbler	2	—	2	50	—	—
Reed Warbler	2	—	2	127	—	1
Great Reed Warbler	—	—	—	4	—	—
Thick-billed Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Booted Warbler	—	—	—	5	—	—
Icterine Warbler	—	—	—	60	—	—
Melodious Warbler	—	—	—	9	—	—
Subalpine Warbler	—	—	—	17	—	—
Sardinian Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Barred Warbler	3	—	3	297	—	1
Lesser Whitethroat	8	—	8	430	—	—
Whitethroat	14	—	14	713	—	—
Garden Warbler	93	—	93	2262	—	1
Blackcap	363	—	363	3208	3	12
Greenish Warbler	—	—	—	12	—	—
Arctic Warbler	2	—	2	26	—	—
Pallas's Warbler	1	—	1	1	—	—
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	—	1	70	—	—
Dusky Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bonelli's Warbler	—	—	—	1	—	—
Wood Warbler	3	—	3	71	—	—
Chiffchaff	33	—	33	551	—	—
Willow Warbler	72	—	72	2522	—	3
Goldcrest	51	—	51	1066	—	2
Firecrest	—	—	—	1	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher	18	—	18	444	—	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	—	1	40	—	—

	Juv/ Adult	Ringed		Recovered	
		Pull.	1982 Total	1948-82 Total	1982 1948-82
Pied Flycatcher	19	—	19	701	— 3
Blue Tit	—	—	—	2	— —
Great Tit	2	—	2	7	— —
Treecreeper	—	—	—	1	— —
Golden Oriole	—	—	—	4	— 1
Isabelline Shrike	—	—	—	1	— —
Red-backed Shrike	4	—	4	97	— —
Lesser Grey Shrike	—	—	—	6	— —
Great Grey Shrike	2	—	2	98	— 1
Woodchat Shrike	—	—	—	10	— —
Jackdaw	—	—	—	3	— —
Rook	—	—	—	4	— —
Hooded Crow	—	—	—	40	— —
Raven	—	3	3	20	— —
Starling	1169	324	1493	16248	10 129
Rose-coloured Starling	—	—	—	2	— —
House Sparrow	34	6	40	1180	— 1
Tree Sparrow	—	—	—	92	— 1
Chaffinch	122	—	122	1763	— 8
Brambling	49	—	49	2067	— 9
Greenfinch	2	—	2	86	— —
Goldfinch	—	—	—	4	— —
Siskin	7	—	7	250	— 1
Linnet	1	—	1	103	— 1
Twite	79	—	79	3779	— 3
Redpoll	17	—	17	499	— 1
Arctic Redpoll	—	—	—	6	— —
Crossbill	2	—	2	292	— 2
Parrot Crossbill	1	—	1	36	— —
Scarlet Rosefinch	5	—	5	69	— —
Bullfinch	2	—	2	29	— —
Hawfinch	—	—	—	3	— —
Tennessee Warbler	—	—	—	2	— —
White-crowned Sparrow	—	—	—	1	— —
White-throated Sparrow	—	—	—	2	— —
Song Sparrow	—	—	—	2	— —
Lapland Bunting	—	—	—	37	— —
Snow Bunting	2	—	2	501	— 3
Pine Bunting	—	—	—	1	— —
Yellowhammer	1	—	1	42	— —
Ortolan Bunting	—	—	—	18	— —
Cretzschmar's Bunting	—	—	—	1	— —
Yellow-browed Bunting	—	—	—	1	— —
Rustic Bunting	—	—	—	10	— 1
Little Bunting	1	—	1	19	— —
Yellow-breasted Bunting	—	—	—	6	— —
Reed Bunting	14	—	14	296	— 2



	Ringed				Recovered	
	Juv/ Adult	Pull.	1982 Total	1948-82 Total	1982	1948-82
Pallas's Reed Bunting	—	—	—	2	—	—
Black-headed Bunting	1	—	1	3	—	—
Corn Bunting	—	—	—	3	—	—
Red-headed Bunting	—	—	—	5	—	—
TOTALS	5691	5751	11442	178236	135	2056

## Recoveries in 1982

A total of 135 recoveries were reported during the year; the more interesting ones are given in full below. The others are presented in tabular or summary form. The international code of symbols denoting method of recovery and age of ringing is used:

- v —caught or trapped by man and released with ring
- + —shot or killed by man
- x —found dead or dying

Recovery dates in parentheses denote that date of recovery is only approximate.

Age codes:

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

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

### FULMAR

FS46184	1	19.07.72	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		15.05.82	Camperduin, Noord-Holland
			NETHERLANDS
			52°44'N 4°38'E 848 km SSE.
			oil victim
FS46355	1	26.07.72	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(29.06.82)	Borsmose, Jylland, DENMARK
			55°40'N 8°11'E 724 km SE.
FV73744	1	21.07.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(16.03.82)	Carentan, Manche, FRANCE
			49°21'N 1°15'W 1132 km S.

There were also three recoveries of birds ringed as adults: a 1962 bird in Sweden, a 1969 bird west of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, and a 1974 bird in Shetland.

			Ringed on Fair Isle	Controlled on Fair Isle
STORM PETREL				
Lerwick (Shetland)			2	
North Roe (Shetland)				2
Ramna Stacks (Shetland)				1
Whalsay (Shetland)				2
Yell (Shetland)			8	14
Sule Skerry (Orkney)			2	
Noss Head (Highland)			2	1
Strathy Point (Highland)			1	2
Summer Isles (Highland)			1	
Shiants (Western Isles)			1	
Copeland (Northern Ireland)				1

The usual selection of recoveries and controls reflecting partly the distribution of Storm Petrel ringers, though a pattern of fewer birds visiting from farther afield is apparent

#### SHAG

1162307	1	04.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		05.09.82	Kjul Strand, Jylland, DENMARK
			57°36'N 10°0'E 706 km ESE.

Considerable dispersal occurs during the Shag's first two years. The rapid movement above is much faster than normal. Other recoveries, all of first and second year birds, were more typical: 17 in Shetland, 4 in Orkney, 2 in Grampian (Scotland), and 1 on an oil rig east of Shetland.

#### WHOOPEE SWAN

Z4789	4	07.10.80	<i>Fair Isle</i>
		15.05.82	West Calder, Thurso, Highland, SCOTLAND
			58°32'N 3°34'W 157 km SW
			found with wing injury

#### KESTREL

EJ80205	3 ♂	11.08.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
		(01.09.82)	Avoch, Fortrose, Highland, SCOTLAND
			57°34'N 4°10'W 264 km SW

#### OYSTERCATCHER

FV73452	1	22.06.80	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		15.11.82	Nigg, Cromarty Firth, Highland, SCOTLAND
			57°43'N 4°0'W 244 km SW
FA02000	8	25.08.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		15.11.82	Nigg
Two of our birds controlled together at a migration or wintering site			
FR60482	3	07.09.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		07.11.82	Dumfries & Galloway, SCOTLAND.
			54°48'N 4°58'W 563 km SSW

LAPWING  
 DS07843 1 16.06.79 *Fair Isle*  
 x 12.01.82 Just S of Athlone,  
 Westmeath, EIRE  
 53°23'N 7°55'W 785 km SSW

Evidence of a wintering area for a Fair Isle bred individual

DUNLIN  
 NB70095 3 14.10.79 *Fair Isle*  
 v 26.01.82 Nigg, Cromarty,  
 Highland, SCOTLAND

WOODCOCK  
 EH67622 6 20.05.81 *Fair Isle*  
 + 23.01.82 Bere Regis, Dorchester,  
 Dorset, ENGLAND  
 50°46'N 2°14'W 975 km S  
 EH90061 3 18.10.81 *Fair Isle*  
 + 12.12.82 Culdaff, Donegal, EIRE  
 55°17'N 7°10'W 577 km SW

CURLEW  
 FV73664 1 07.06.81 *Fair Isle*  
 x 19.01.82 North Wootton, Kings Lynn,  
 Norfolk, ENGLAND  
 52°47'N 0°26'E 761 km S

Another winter recovery of a Fair Isle bred wader

#### LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

GJ10305 1 14.07.80 *Fair Isle*  
 (12.01.82) Safi, MOROCCO  
 32°20'N 9°17'W 3076 km S

This is the most spectacular recovery but three other reports, all of birds ringed as *pulli*, were equally interesting. One in its first autumn was found on 1st October in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland; one in its eighth autumn was found in September in Essex, England; and a five year old bird was found on 31st July at Finstown, Orkney.

#### HERRING GULL

GP37775 8 21.11.71 *Fair Isle*  
 06.07.81 Eggum, Vestvagoy, Lofoten  
 Islands, NORWAY  
 68°18'N 13°41'E 1224 km NE

Many of the Herring Gulls wintering on Fair Isle originate from northernmost Europe. The above is a typical example. Another November ringed bird was recovered four winters later in Highland, Scotland. Other reports were all of Fair Isle bred birds the year after ringing: from the Netherlands in April, Highland, Scotland in June, and Tayside, Scotland in July.

## GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

HW26013    8    26.11.73 *Fair Isle*  
    (01.07.81) Froya, Sor-Trondelag,  
    NORWAY  
    63°45'N 8°45'E 719 km NE

Another northern bird wintering on Fair Isle. Fair Isle bred birds were recovered in Grampian, Scotland (April the year after ringing) and Papa Westray, Orkney (in its third summer)

## KITTIWAKE

EH67670    1    24.06.81 *Fair Isle*  
    10.01.82 Easington, Humberside,  
    ENGLAND  
    53°40'N 0°7'E 660 km S  
 EH90007    1    08.07.81 *Fair Isle*  
    17.09.81 Kungmiut, Angmagssalik,  
    GREENLAND  
    65°51'N 37°1'W 1929 km WNW

Kittiwakes are great wanderers and the above recoveries, both of birds in their first year and from the same year group, provide dramatic evidence of this.

## COMMON TERN

CE38738    1    07.07.77 *Fair Isle*  
    15.06.82 Handa Island, Highland,  
    SCOTLAND  
    58°23'N 5°11'W 241 km WSW  
    taken by Peregrine

This June recovery of a five year old may denote that a Fair Isle bred bird had joined another colony.

## GUILLEMOT

Over the years a pattern has emerged suggesting that most of our Guillemots are off Norway during the autumn and early winter with the others widely scattered elsewhere, nearly entirely in the North Sea. This is borne out by 1982 reports: 23 from Norway, 2 in the North Sea off Denmark, 4 on the English east coast, 1 from Shetland (Highland), 1 Faeroes, 1 Sweden, 1 Denmark, 1 West Germany and 1 Netherlands. Some may be getting a little more adventurous: for the second successive year one was found on the French Channel coast while one was recovered on the Atlantic west coast of France.

## RAZORBILL

M34320    1    20.07.79 *Fair Isle*  
    (15.06.81) Banff, Grampian, Scotland  
    57°42'N 2°18'W 207 km S  
    drowned in fishing net

M36622	1	30.06.80	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(16.12.81)	Albufeira, Estremadura, PORTUGAL 38°34'N 9°12'W 2391 km SSW drowned in fishing net
M36761	1	12.07.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		02.01.82	Santa Eugenia de Ribeira, Coruna, SPAIN 42°33'N 8°59'W 1954 km SSW

Razorbills in their immature years winter much further south than Fair Isle Guillemots. Drowning in fishing nets is a form of recovery common to several of our seabird species, and a constant hazard judging from the frequency of reports.

#### BLACK GUILLEMOT

EF85414	1	28.07.73	<i>Fair Isle</i>
vv		06.06.82	Muckle Skerry, Pentland Skerries, ORKNEY 58°41'N 2°55'W 120 km SW

This is the first ever recovery of a Fair Isle Tystie away from the island. It was seen in the field and identified (by a previous FIBO Assistant) from its colour rings. The date and place strongly suggest that the bird was breeding there.

#### TURTLE DOVE

EJ07915	4	15.05.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		01.01.82	Somorrostro, Vizcaya, SPAIN 43°19'N 3°9'W 1805 km S

#### MEADOW PIPIT

B189854	4 ♀	01.05.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		25.09.82	Castricum Dunes, Noord-Holland, NETHERLANDS 52°33'N 4°37'E 866 km SSE

#### ROCK PIPIT

2230597	3	25.08.81	<i>Fair Isle,</i>
x		18.01.82	Dunnet Head, Caithness, Highland, SCOTLAND 58°39'N 3°23'W 141 km SW taken by animal

#### WHEATEAR

NC99622	4 ♂	08.05.80	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		24.03.82	Riche, MOROCCO 32°7'N 4°0'W 3051 km S

This bird was probably already on its northward spring migration when it fell foul of a Moroccan snare.

# BLACKBIRD

XH32872	5♂	27.05.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		13.09.82	Wideford Burn, Kirkwall, Orkney 58°58'N 2°55'W 97 km SW
XH32379	5♂	30.03.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		13.11.82	Fitjar, Stord, Hordaland, NORWAY 59°55'N 5°19'E 391 km E

# REDWING

NX55088	4	04.10.79	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		10.11.81	Bordeaux, Gironde, FRANCE 44°50'N 0°34'W 1635 km S

# BLACKCAP

B189321	3♀	21.09.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		15.07.82	Dusseldorf, F.R. GERMANY 51°13'N 6°47'E 1064 km SSE
B189992	3♀	28.06.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		06.07.82	Helgoland, F.R. GERMANY 54°11'N 7°55'E 829 km SE
B720097	3♀	11.10.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		15.10.82	Wideford Burn, Kirkwall, Orkney 58°58'N 2°55'W 97 km SW

Note rapid mid-summer and autumn movements for B189992 and B720097

# STARLING

XJ61218	5♂	30.03.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		22.05.82	Yetlefjorden, Sogn og Fjordane, NORWAY 61°16'N 6°34'E 489 km ENE taken by cat

Other recoveries were all in the British Isles: 3 Highland, 2 Shetland, 1 Orkney, 1 Humberside, 1 Greater Manchester and 1 Northern Ireland

# CONTROLS

## FULMAR

FV89870	4	04.09.80	<i>North Ronaldsay, Orkney</i>
			59°22'N 2°26'W
v		11.06.82	<i>Fair Isle</i> . 50 km ENE

## CORMORANT

5107047	1	27.06.81	<i>Clett Stack, West Mainland,</i>
			<i>Shetland 60°9'N 1°8'W</i>
x		14.03.82	<i>Fair Isle</i> . 74 km SSW

# MALLARD

Stavanger  
326230

6 ♂ 07.07.74 *Grinstadvatnet, More og Romsdal,  
NORWAY*  
62°22'N 6°0'E

+ 02.09.82 Fair Isle. 517 km SW

This bird was at least ten years old when it was shot on the isle

# MERLIN

EH76641

1 ♀ 06.07.79 *Unst, Shetland*  
60°45'N 0°55'W

v 30.08.79 Fair Isle. 141 km SSW

v 27.04.82 Fair Isle

The only Merlin control in 1982, but an interesting one

# GREAT SKUA

Two immigrants from other Shetland islands were found dead in 1982. One had been ringed in 1974 as a chick on Hermaness, Unst and another chick ringed in 1977 on Foula

# HERRING GULL

GK42547

8 06.12.77 *Scarborough, N. Yorkshire,  
ENGLAND 54°16'N 1°24'W*

x 02.08.82 Fair Isle. 585 km N

Probably one of our breeding birds

# ROBIN

A998229

3 23.09.82 *Whalsay, Shetland*  
60°21'N 0°58'W

v 04.10.82 Fair Isle. 98 km SSW

# WHEATEAR

NJ71122

1 21.06.81 *Esha Ness, Mainland,  
Shetland 60°29'N 1°35'W*

v ♂ 28.04.82 Fair Isle. 106 km S

# BLACKBIRD

Helgoland

7641880

3 ♀ 16.10.81 *Helgoland, F.R. GERMANY*  
54°11'N 7°55'E

v 19.04.82 Fair Isle. 829 km NW





#### OYSTERCATCHER

One found dead in February had been ringed as an adult in 1965 and was at least 19 years old.

#### PURPLE SANDPIPER

One colour ringed bird seen on Bunes in September had been ringed in either 1972 or 1973.

#### KITTIWAKE

The oldest retrap was a breeding adult when first ringed in 1971 at South Gunnawark. It was breeding at the same site in 1982.

#### GUILLEMOT

The oldest retrap was at least 20 years old having been ringed as an adult in 1964.

#### RAZORBILL

Two birds ringed in 1980 were retrapped in different colonies in 1982. A Lericum adult was found in Wester Lothar (on two dates) and an Easter Lothar *pullus* was found in Kuthin. The former may have been a pre-breeder at the time of first capture and the latter will almost certainly have been a pre-breeder.

#### BLACK GUILLEMOT

A colour ring sighting in April related to a bird ringed as a *pullus* in 1965.

#### MEADOW PIPIT

#### ROCK PIPIT

The oldest Meadow Pipit was only two years old but a nine year old Rock Pipit was still alive and well in 1982.

#### WHEATEAR

The oldest retrap was six years old.

#### STARLING

A bird hatched in 1972 was ten years old when retrapped.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I mentioned in my opening statement to last year's Report that, although the Accounts showed a small loss, we were in process of recovering certain monies from a firm with whom we were in dispute. We in fact recovered a sum of £688 which is incorporated in our Board receipts for 1982 whereas, for purposes of comparison, it should strictly have been in the 1981 Board figures. However, even taking this into account, I think that we have every reason to be satisfied with this year's figures. Possibly the best compliment that I can pay to Nick and Elizabeth Riddiford is to point out that in catering for the hungry hoard of bird watchers, such as I met on my recent visit, they still continue to reduce the percentage of provisions versus board, without in any way starving the lions at feeding time.

I will make my usual comments on the 1982 results.

1. *Income*—this year the figure for Board includes £3,382 paid by Contractors, as opposed to £1,462 in last year's Account. But, as I have explained before, this type of income cannot be regarded as permanent, depending, as it does, entirely upon what major projects are contemplated for the future. The financial climate in this connection is reflected in the fact that forfeited deposits on bookings rose from £349 to £670. The income from the Endowment Fund has, as I suggested last year, following the transfer of management to Messrs. J. & F. Anderson, increased to £537.

2. *Expenditure*—I have only three comments. The first I have referred to above; *Provisions* as a percentage of Board have been reduced from 26% to 23.98%, thanks to good management. Secondly, motor and boat expenses include £720 for a new gear box assembly for the Range Rover. And finally there is the figure of £3,400 which we have put in as a provision of extraordinary expenses. This is, in effect, a guess. Some quite serious and essential expenditure will have to be incurred on the electricity generating system. We thought it only prudent to make a provision to cover the possible cost.

*Capital Account*—No material change.

*Balance Sheet*—Having always emphasised the importance of the figure *Net Current Assets*, I would just call your attention to the fact that although they have dropped from £14,500 to £8,000, the reason will be clear if you look at the heading *Investments*. We have bought the Treasury Loan stock which brings the value of our investments up from £3,500 to £11,500.

*Endowment Fund*—No further comment.

# **FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST**

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1982

## **REVENUE ACCOUNT**

	INCOME	
1981		1982
£20,130	Board .....	£22,748
550	Grants N.T.S. ....	600
397	Fair Isle Endowment Trust.....	537
1,594	Subscriptions and Donations.....	1,616
266	Tax Recovered from Deeds of Covenant .....	305
375	Sale of Publications .....	396
1,834	Interest Received .....	2,565
230	Bird Rings Recovered .....	299
<u>£25,376</u>		<u>£29,066</u>

	EXPENDITURE	
£5,203	Provisions .....	£5,000
5,379	Wages and National Insurance .....	5,758
1,542	Insurance and Water Rates .....	1,544
3,221	Heat and Light.....	3,235
2,357	Repairs and Renewals.....	2,157
2,088	Telephone, Postages and Stationery .....	1,573
871	Printing Annual Report .....	827
1,486	Travelling Expenses.....	1,186
896	Motor Boat Expenses.....	1,674
186	Freight Inward.....	125
468	Bird Rings and Nets .....	639
736	Administration Expenses .....	741
112	Audit and Legal Charges .....	100
—	Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure.....	3,400
1,108	Depreciation on Machinery and Equipment .....	1,099
(277)	Suplus/(Loss) for year .....	8
<u>£25,376</u>		<u>£29,066</u>

## **CAPITAL ACCOUNT**

£77,650	Balance at 31st October, 1981.....	£85,785
414	Richard Richardson Executry .....	291
173	Donations .....	163
1,500	Transfer from Provision .....	—
6,325	Grants Received re New Garage.....	—
—	Gain on Redemption of Investment .....	60
(277)	Surplus/(Loss) for year .....	8
<u>£85,785</u>		<u>£86,307</u>

# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1982

FIXED ASSETS				
1981		Cost or Val.	Deprec. to date	Net book Value
£51,548	Hostel Buildings .....	£51,698	£ —	£51,698
10,948	Garage and Tank House.....	10,948	—	10,948
4,196	Machinery and Equipment.....	6,618	3,021	3,597
1,000	Land Rover .....	2,430	1,930	500
£67,692		£71,694	£4,951	66,743
INVESTMENTS				
£2,582	£2,642 8½% Treasury Stock 1980/82 .....		£ —	
—	£11,000 14½% Treasury Loan 1994 (Market Value £13,970) .....		£10,548	
1,000	£1,000 14½% Falkirk D.C. Mortgage 1983 .....		1,000	
£3,582				11,548
CURRENT ASSETS				
£2,409	Stocks .....		£3,054	
548	Sundry Debtors .....		693	
14,480	Temporary Deposits .....		14,145	
1,848	Bank and Cash .....		1,272	
£19,285			£19,164	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
£3,843	Sundry Creditors .....	£3,740		
—	Provision for Future Expenditure .....	3,400		
—	S.I.C. Grant .....	3,000		
931	Special Funds .....	1,008		
£4,774			11,148	
£14,511	NET CURRENT ASSETS			8,016
£85,785				£86,307
represented by				
£85,785	CAPITAL ACCOUNT			£86,307

**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, 8th February 1983.

# **FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST**

## **Summary of Account for the year ended 31st October, 1982**

	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Revenue</i>
Fund at 31st October, 1981.....	£8,303	
Income for year per Schedule .....		£437
Income Tax Refund 1981/82 .....		132
		<hr/>
	£8,303	£569
Management Fees .....		£32
Remittance F.I.B.O.T.....		537
		<hr/>
		569
 Fund at 31st October, 1982.....	 £8,303	
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Revenue</i>
	<i>Market Value</i>	<i>Cost</i>
8¼% Treasury Loan 1987/90		
£2,400 Loan .....	£2,340	£2,114
10% Treasury Stock 1992		
£2,750 Stock .....	2,791	2,500
Henderson Administration		
960 High Income Units .....	725	638
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£5,856	£5,252
 Heritable Property		
21 Regent Terrace .....		3,050
Cash Balance .....		1
		<hr/>
		£8,303
		£437

## **THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND**

### **Year ended 31st October, 1982**

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1981 .....	£5,768
Richard Richardson's Executry—Royalties.....	291
Interest Received .....	691
Donations.....	10
	<hr/>
	£6,760
 Deduct	
Management Charges .....	£45
Grants paid .....	610
	<hr/>
	655
 Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1982.....	 £6,105
 Held as follows	
£6,000, 9% Treasury Loan 1994 .....	£4,987
£900, 13¼% Treasury Stock 1997 .....	870
On Temporary Deposit.....	245
Cash .....	3
	<hr/>
	£6,105

## THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

### Administering Committee:

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

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 twenty one, to help defray the cost of accommodation and travel. In 1982 it gave 8 grants totalling £610, while for 1983 it will be giving a total of £640 to 9 successful applicants. 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 must be received by 31st October.

**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.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The smooth running of the Observatory depends upon the co-operation and help of a great number of people—the island community, our visitors, staff, support committees and many other friends; we are indebted to them all. Maintenance problems were overcome with the help of Barry Sinclair, Stewart Thomson Snr, Neil Thomson, John Best, Brian Wilson, Stewart Thomson Jnr, Malcolm Adamson and Alan Heath. Jim and Jimmy Wilson tended our sheep. Many islanders helped in other ways too numerous to be mentioned.

On the ornithological side John and Sue Holloway gave invaluable assistance, including the provision of bird records during our winter absence. Judith Lugg prepared the Monthly Highlights and Systematic List sections of this report. Peter Cartwright drew the vignettes. David and Gillian Okill provided a vital link with the Shetland Mainland. S.O.T.E.A.G. continued their support of our seabird work by subsidising rings. Our thanks to them all.

Finally I would like to mention John Arnott who retired from Chairman of the Executive Committee and from Editor of the FIBO report in 1982. His wise counselling and influence were greatly appreciated.



## Spend a Holiday on Fair Isle

Reasonably priced accommodation on the fascinating island of Fair Isle is available in the Fair Isle Bird Observatory 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 lodgings): plus V.A.T.:

Single Room	£75 per person per week, £15 per day
Double Room	£62 per person per week, £12 per day
Dormitory	£48 per person per week, £9 per day

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

### Transport to Fair Isle

<b>Monday</b>	Loganair scheduled flights on eight-seater Islander plane from Tingwall Airport, Shetland.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Fair Isle Mail Boat, "Good Shepherd", leaves from Grutness Pier, Shetland, at noon. (Return: leaves 0700, arrives Grutness 10.00).
<b>Wednesday</b>	No transport
<b>Thursday</b>	No transport
<b>Friday</b>	Loganair flight from and to Shetland.
<b>Saturday</b>	Loganair flight from and to Shetland. "Good Shepherd" as on Tuesday, May to September.
<b>Sunday</b>	No transport.

### Transport details from:

Loganair Scheduled Service Bookings, Loganair, Tingwall. Tel. Gott (059 584) 246.

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





**FLY THE DIRECT  
ROUTE TO FAIR ISLE**

Charter our "Islander" Air Taxi  
from Orkney (or Caithness)

**KIRKWALL AIRPORT, ORKNEY, KW15 1TH**  
Tel. KIRKWALL (0856) 4607 and 3084

**AIR ORKNEY**

## Notices

**Deeds of Covenant:** We are dependent on donations and continued support from Friends of Fair Isle to enable us to purchase equipment for the Observatory and undertake projects. While some Friends covenant their annual subscription, there are many who do not and we would urge them to sign a Deed of Covenant in our favour. For each subscription of £2.50 the Trust can claim £1.05 at current income tax rates. Deeds of Covenant in favour of Charities are now allowable deductions from income for the higher tax rate.

Please write to the Hon. Assistant Secretary, FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT for a Covenant form. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**Back numbers of the annual report:** Some of the earlier annual Reports are out of print and we regularly receive requests for them. If anyone has a copy of any of the following numbers which is no longer wanted we would be very pleased to have it back:

1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1962, and in particular 1975 and 1976

Please send the copies to the Hon. Assistant Secretary, FIBOT, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT.

# **The Bird Bookshop**

## **Scottish Ornithologists' Club**

*We are leading specialists in new books covering all aspects of ornithology and all parts of the world; over 600 titles in stock; worldwide mail order service; post free to SOC members (except small orders).*

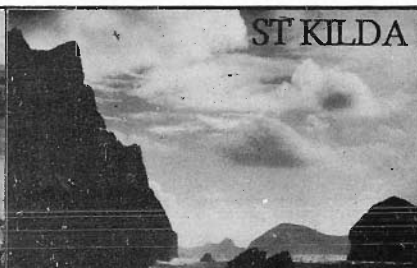
### **FREE 30 page booklist from:**

**The Bird Bookshop, Scottish Ornithologists' Club, Dept. 5,  
21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT**

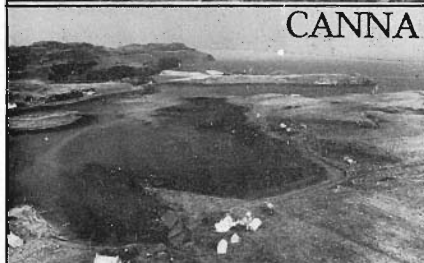
*Phone (031) 556 6042 (office hours only: Monday to Friday, 9-1, 2-5)*



IONA



ST KILDA



CANNA



FAIR ISLE

## A Contrast of Islands

**The National Trust for Scotland** is the guardian "for the benefit of the nation" of the country's architectural, scenic and historic treasures and it encourages public enjoyment of them.

In its care are 90 properties covering 90,000 acres of the best of Scotland's heritage — a rich variety of castles and great houses, countryside, little houses, gardens and historic sites.

**St Kilda**, 115 miles west of the mainland, abandoned by its population over 50 years ago, with its spectacular sea cliffs and stacs and fabulous bird colonies.

**Fair Isle** which faced a similar fate in 1945 when it came to the Trust but which now has a contented and stable population and a world-renowned bird observatory.

**Iona** where all of St Columba's sacred isle, except the religious sites — already in safe hands, was given into the care of the Trust.

And most recently, **Canna**, most westerly of the Small Isles of the Inner Hebrides with its scenic, historical and archeological treasures and interesting bird life.

The Trust is an independent charity depending for its income on legacies, donations and the subscriptions of its 110,000 members. If you become a member of the Trust you will be helping to preserve these islands and many other examples of Scotland's fine heritage.

**Details from:**



**THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**

5 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DU 031-226 5922