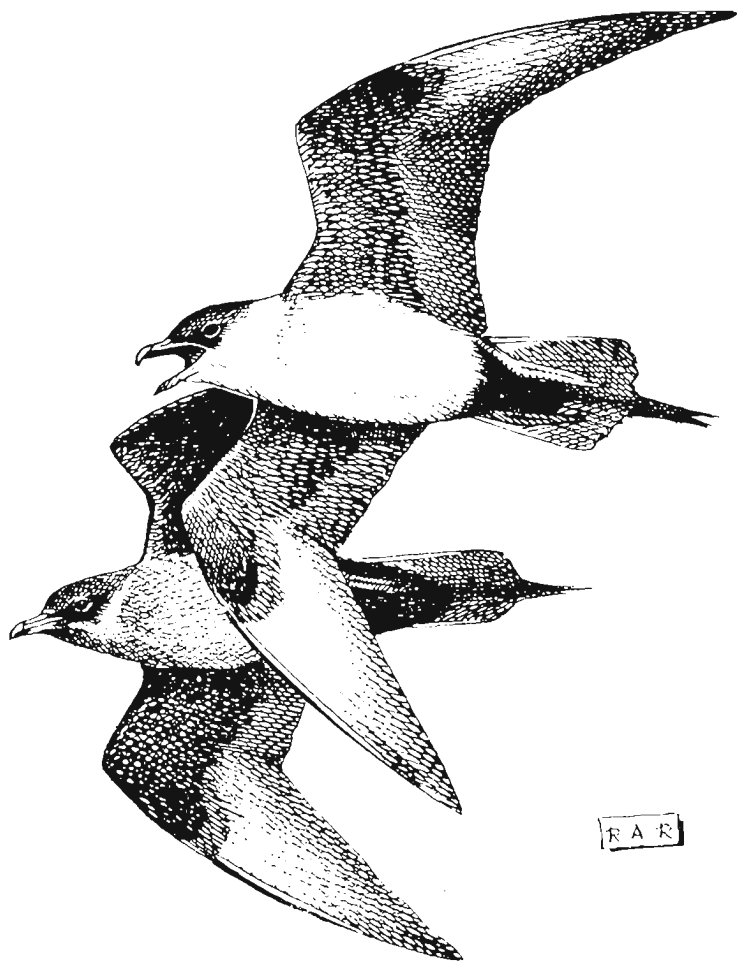


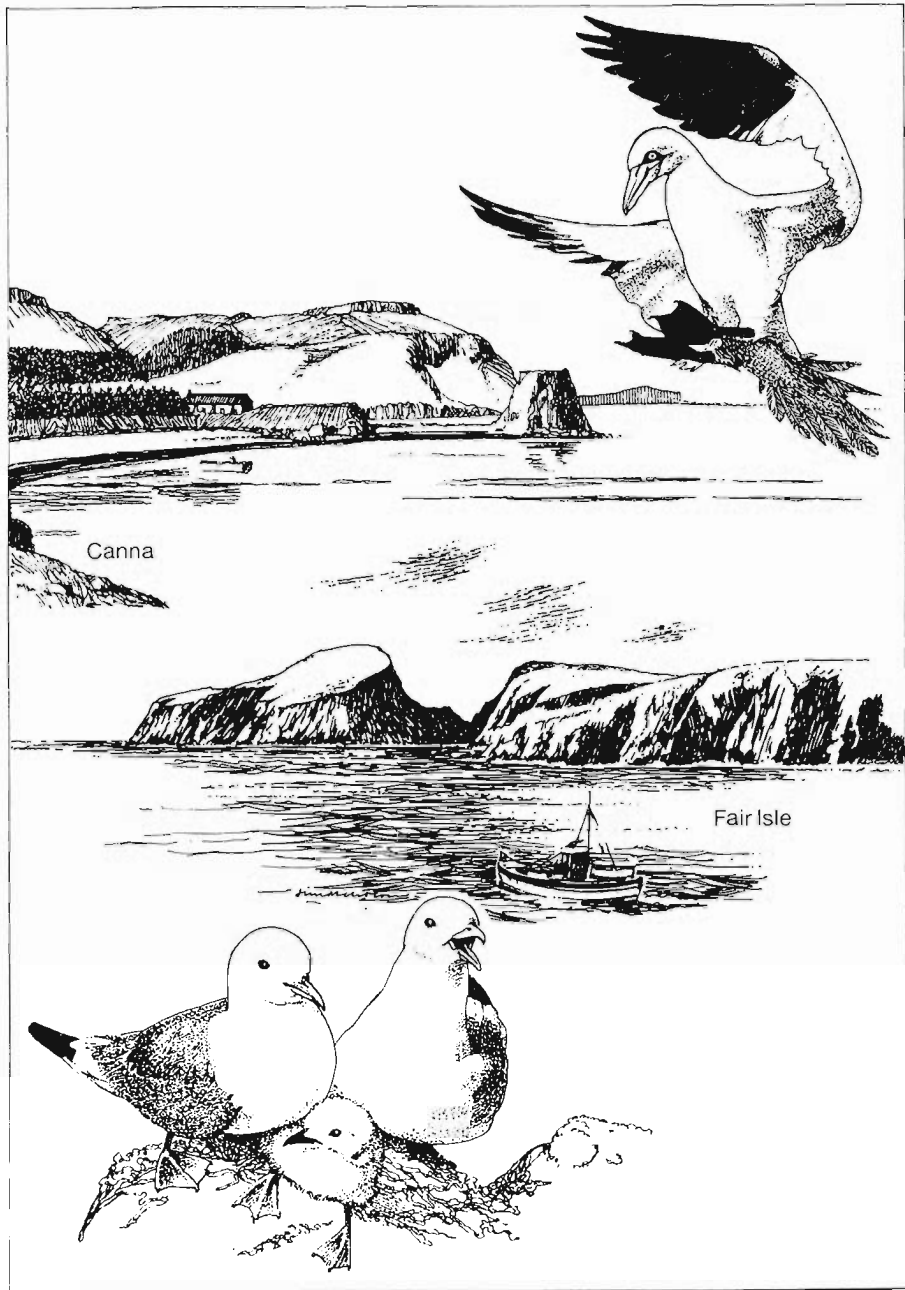
FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Report for 1983



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

ISSN 0427-9190



August 1984

'Friends of Fair Isle' will be saddened to hear of the death of Irene Waterston on Sunday 5th August, in Edinburgh. She had been in hospital for some weeks, but until the end welcomed her many friends who visited her, with stories of Fair Isle, the Arctic, and much more. She was buried in Humble.

A full appreciation of all she did for F.I.B.O.T. will appear in the 1984 Report.

J.M.S. Arnott
Chairman

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John Holloway

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John Holloway's diary and contributions from the islanders add further interest. This book, is a must for all who have visited Fair Isle. It contains much useful information and many illustrations of species not depicted in the field guides.



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Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 36
1983

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Compiled by Nick Riddiford

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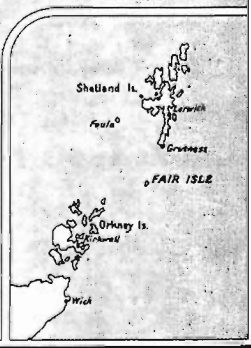
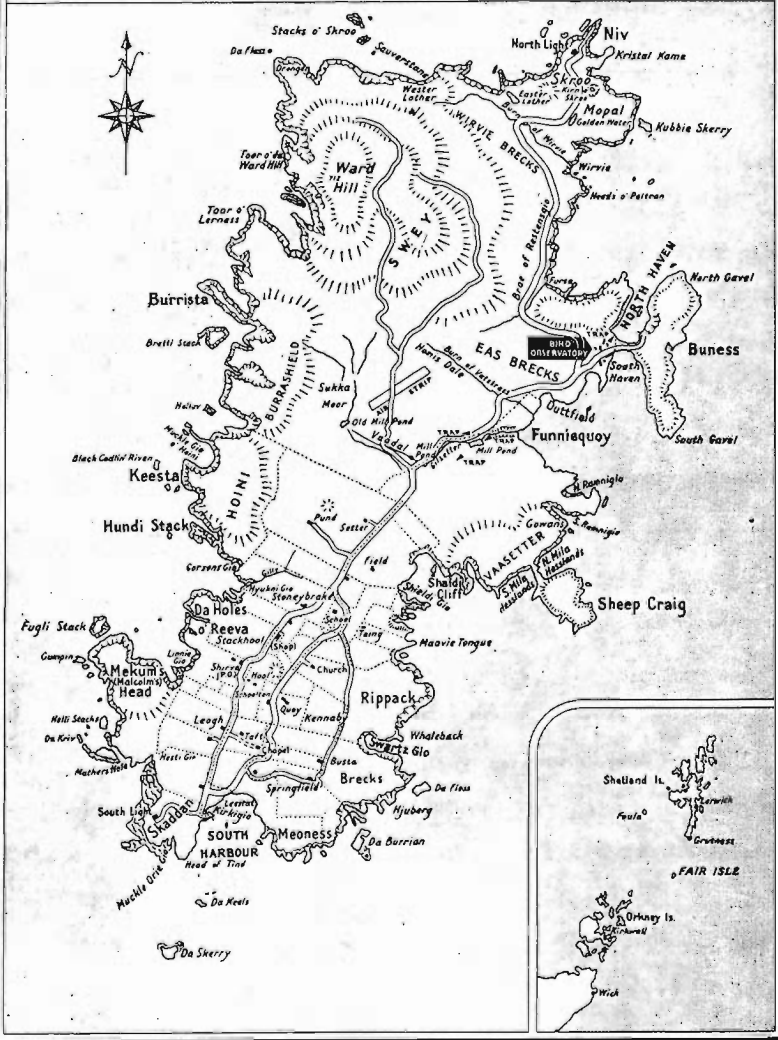
Photographs by Nick and Elizabeth Riddiford

Vignettes by John Holloway

Published by the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust
21 Regent Terrace
Edinburgh EH7 5BT
for 'Friends of Fair Isle'

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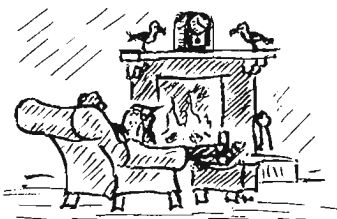
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The Way Forward

As this is the last foreword that I will write for the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust report the bad old tradition of the foreword being the last bit of the report to reach the printers will, hopefully, be broken. I would like to take the chance of writing a paragraph about an important function that the trust performs, largely unnoticed, that has arisen more or less fortuitously.

Today, there is great and widespread interest in what used to be called natural history and particularly in birds. With this interest there has arisen wider opportunities for careers, at various levels, in this field. Certainly in my parents' generation, and to a lesser extent in mine, such a career would have prompted the question 'but when are you going to get a proper job?'. There were in those days very few of the openings that exist today — a few jobs in the Museums' service; a handful of RSPB 'watchers' (mainly seasonal and part time); a hazardous livelihood as 'collector', so vividly portrayed in 'Dear Lord Rothschild' a book that all naturalists will find compulsive reading, and that was about all.

Today with vastly wider opportunities, there seems to be a bit of a shortage where work experience can be gained so that would-be careerists in this field can find out what the life is really like before committing themselves. One of the positions where people can gain such experience is as an assistant warden at Fair Isle and we are very keen that as many people as possible should have this chance of working in this 'training post' which is the reason that we feel that these posts should normally be filled on an annual basis.

Often in these forewords in the past, I have referred to some particular happenings on the island but this year I'd like to refer to a happening off the island. As many of you will know, George at the time of his death was occupied in bringing together a collection of pictures illustrating the life of the islanders of Fair Isle from the earliest days of photography up to present times. This task was completed by Jean Jones, and the book published in the autumn of 1983. This book should be in the library of anyone interested, not only in Fair Isle but in Scottish islands generally.

Finally, I would like to thank all my friends and colleagues for the help and support that they have given me over the years as chairman of FIBOT.

It was a real pleasure that I proposed, at the AGM in March, John Arnott as chairman of FIBOT, knowing that under his guidance the way forward for this remarkable organisation will be secure.

Arthur B. Duncan

A Note from the Secretary

In common with many bird clubs, FIBOT is fortunate in the support it enjoys from many individuals, companies, government agencies and charitable trusts. In 1983, a new inflatable boat and outboard engine were purchased with donations from the Dulverton Trust, Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Limited and British Petroleum. A new camera and replacement projection equipment were sent to the observatory thanks to the generous support of the Countryside Commission for Scotland, donations from Miss Davies of Cardiff and Charles Frank Limited. We will generally be required to improve the buildings and equipment, and raise funds in addition to the reserves we have created. None of this extra support is assumed as of right, and as with the annual donations from our many Friends, and the National Trust for Scotland, the financial help is very much appreciated. Thank you one and all.

The Management Committee, ever aware of the twin dangers of complacency in resting on one's laurels in expecting a steady flow of visitors, and the high cost of travelling to Fair Isle, has been actively promoting FIBO in the UK and internationally. The Shetland Islands Council, the Highlands and Islands Development Board, and the Scottish American Heritage Incorporation, jointly sponsored the costs of Nick Riddiford's trip to America in 1983. In February 1984, Nick has been in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, enticing visitors to Fair Isle. These tours are attracting widespread enquires from individuals and groups, many of which are firm bookings. In collaboration with the National Trust for Scotland, we have just published the enclosed new full colour leaflet promoting Fair Isle. We are grateful to the Shetland Islands Council for their support in all of these projects, and joining with us to help promote Fair Isle to ensure the efficient use of our resources on the island.

For 1984, we have introduced short courses at FIBO. Run in conjunction with the George Waterston Memorial Committee, the Fair Isle Crafts, and individual islanders, it is hoped these will induce visitors to come and learn more about the many and varied attractions of the island. Please encourage others to visit Fair Isle by passing the leaflet to a friend who in turn may take friends to Fair Isle.

This year three of our office bearers are retiring. Sir Arthur Duncan, first elected chairman thirty-six years ago, has decided to step down. Major Alistair Peirse-Duncombe, who retired as secretary of the SOC in December and now lives out of Edinburgh, has resigned as assistant secretary — a post he had held since 1978. John Mellalieu, whose diligence has seen us through many financial minefields, has reluctantly handed over duties as assistant treasurer. Ruby Smillie, who from the depths of 21 Regent Terrace has ensured the smooth running of our 'Friends of Fair Isle' in her inimitable friendly and cheerful manner, retired last year. Our thanks to each one of them cannot be excessive.

This year's report takes a broader view of Fair Isle and its environment. We have tried to include articles of general interest, to compliment rather than detract from the ornithological record. I hope that this report appeals to our Friends and readers. The report has been compiled by Nick Riddiford, and other contributors put together by David MacLehose, with editorial help from Andrew T. Macmillan. The support of advertisers is very welcome.

I am delighted to report that there is now a steady flow of applications to the John Harrison Memorial Fund, but we are always keen for young people to apply. The application form is on page 75 of this report.

In closing, thank you for your support and interest. Please direct others to visit Fair Isle to savour the delights of the island — birds and all — and become a 'Friend of Fair Isle'.

*Irene Waterston
21 Regent Terrace
Edinburgh*



Arthur Duncan

Arthur Duncan, our retiring chairman, first became involved in the Fair Isle observatory saga in 1945/46, soon after the war. George Waterson, whose interest in Fair Isle and the welfare of the islanders dated back to pre-war years, had contrived, with financial help from Lord Bruntisfield, to buy the island from the Bruce family and hoped to be able to set up a bird observatory, in the knowledge that Fair Isle had already been recognised by Dr Eagle Clarke and others as a unique spot for the study of bird migration and in the hope that such a venture, if successful, might be of enormous help to his friends in the local community. It was George that sought, and obtained, the backing of Arthur Duncan. He could not have found anyone better.

Arthur was, and is, not only an ornithologist with a wide circle of friends throughout the ornithological world, but also biologist, ecologist, entomologist and possibly lepidopterist, a breeder of Galloways and interested in hotel management. With such a wide range of interests and connections, he was the ideal man to help us to organize a campaign. I do not think that it would have been possible without him.

Our first task was to visit Fair Isle, to assess the possibilities. Both army and navy had been stationed there during hostilities and our main objective was not only to obtain the reaction of the Fair Islanders, but to see whether the naval huts at the north harbour could be adapted to form the basis of a laboratory and hostel, assuming that we could buy them. We spent a week at the Pund croft, extremely well nourished by Jimmy and Hannah Stout Midway, and by the end of our visit George had, in Arthur's own words, "convinced us both of the feasibility of the undertaking or, perhaps more truthfully, of its desirability". Obviously, the next step was to raise cash. We formed Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust and had it accepted as a registered charity, with Arthur as chairman and a list of trustees as long as your arm, all recognised experts in their own right. It took a lot of hard graft! We formed the 'Friends of Fair Isle' and managed to get the support of the Pilgrim Trust in financing the laboratory. George's dedicated enthusiasm was the yeast and the fact that we got Kenneth Williamson and Esther, his wife, to start the ball rolling in 1948 made the pot boil, but I still think that without Arthur Duncan and his wide knowledge the brew might have failed. He is a man whose friendship I value and whose shrewd commonsense has been of inestimable value in keeping FIBOT going. We owe him a very large debt of thanks.

Ian Pitman



This *Sillinger* inflatable boat, a welcome addition to FIBOT equipment, arrived on the isle in September.

Warden's Report 1983

Elizabeth returned to the isle on 18th February. Delayed by lecture commitments in America, I joined her a month later. We were very pleased to welcome back Ann Prior as cook, and further familiar faces were David Borton and Glen Tyler — assistant and seabird assistant respectively. Gina Scanlan returned to help during the midsummer period. Newcomers Janet Wilkes (assistant cook) and Dave Suddaby (assistant) quickly integrated into the team, to maintain a good balance of cheerfulness and willing hard work. We are indebted to them all.

As usual it was pleasing to receive guests from Britain and abroad, foreign visitors being particularly well represented. The furthest travellers hailed from Australia, and it was encouraging to receive birdwatchers from Italy and France, while both Luxembourg and Lichtenstein produced visitors. Irene Waterson, David McAllister and Dave Okill provided FIBOT trustee representation at the hostel. Eight young ornithologists were helped by the John Harrison Memorial Fund. Among our visitors were Lester Borley, the new Director of the National Trust for Scotland, two Council of Europe Commissioners, Bill Prior, secretary of the Countryside Commission for Scotland, and Peter Johnson, British Petroleum's Shetland representative. Dr Mike Richardson of the Nature Conservancy Council came to re-notify Fair Isle as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), as required by new legislation; and Stewart Moore of the Department of Agriculture investigated interactions between Arctic Skuas and sheep. Roger Broad, FIBO warden 1971-78, spent a week in July updating his Tystie study.

It was a good year for ex-staff, with nine others visiting us during the season. Despite these, and 20 visitors from America as a direct result of my American lecture tour (see later), the accommodation figures fell yet again in 1983 — by some 4%. The cost of getting to Shetland remains the major stumbling block. Plans are in hand to increase the scope of advertising for 1984, and the announcement of a new passenger ship service Bergen-Faeroes-Lerwick, coupled with my February 1984 lecture tour to Scandinavia, should open a new market for us.

On the domestic side of the observatory's work, a new electric refrigerator was obtained in the spring. There were no major structural problems with the observatory building, though the roof of the staff block deteriorated considerably over the year and needed frequent attention. For the first time we had full use of both No. 1 and No. 2 generators and there were no major breakdowns during the year. The same may be said of the Land Rover which, with the new gearbox installed, continues to run well, thanks to the meticulous maintenance of Stewart Thomson of Shirva. We continue to make additions to equipment intended to further our work, especially with our visitors. A much-needed slide projector arrived late in the year and will considerably improve our evening entertainments for, in addition to observatory and staff slide presentations, we frequently have offers from guests to bring some of their slides of far-flung places and birds. Other photographic equipment was added at the same time. Another item of equipment which will be of immense benefit in 1984 is the Sillinger inflatable boat and accompanying 25 hp Mariner outboard motor which arrived in September. It will greatly enhance our seabird census and ringing work and substantially increase the safety of activities.

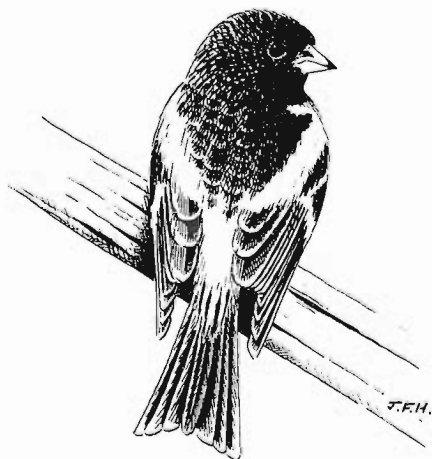
Scientific work continued in the usual pattern in 1983. Additional to our daily work with birds and visitors we undertook a variety of extra investigations: early and late in the year fieldwork was done for the BTO's *Winter Atlas*; in spring we carried out a second season of censusing for the SOC's *Waders of Agricultural Land Survey*; and the usual auk censuses were performed for the RSPB and Mike Harris of the ITE. Visiting researchers continued their work on the ecology, genetics and song cycles of Fair Isle

Starlings, and on the population size, survival and general ecology of Tysties. Birds were not the only subjects of our attention: other work included a count of Grey Seal pups on the beaches in October, collection of Hemp-nettle *Galeopsis* material for botanist Walter Scott, and weekly testing of water levels in a Bunness bore-hole, preliminary to the possible construction of a breakwater in North Haven. Among miscellaneous other items I even managed to find a centipede new to Fair Isle.

In the summer we were able to see the results of work spent preparing a Guillemot-special ring. We put on 650 in July and were very satisfied both with the fit and the speed of placement, with a consequent big reduction in time in the colony. There is every prospect too, that the problems of wear will be much alleviated, prolonging the life of the ring. As a result of these experiences I started work on redesigning the Razorbill-special ring to improve ease of fitment. This has now been taken up by Lambourne's and the BTO.

We are indebted to a great number of persons and organisations for their assistance in 1983. As usual it is a pleasure to acknowledge the help and support of every Fair Islander, staff, FIBO trustees and numerous other friends. Particular thanks are due to Stewart Thomson of Shirva, Neil Thomson, Barry Sinclair, Brian Wilson, John Best and Jim Wilson for tackling or advising on maintenance problems.

On the ornithological side I would like to thank Gina Scanlan, who prepared the monthly highlights section of this report, John and Sue Holloway for ornithological records, and David and Gillian Okill for continued practical help with matters on Shetland mainland. The Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group made a generous donation towards the cost of seabird rings.



Fair Isle 1983

Until the summer of 1982, the nearest I had been to Fair Isle was a circumnavigation in SS *Uganda* some years earlier, and I came to the island for the first time with few preconceived ideas except of its remoteness. My first visit was for the opening of the aerogenerator and in the succeeding visits it has been borne in upon me that my initial impression of 'the mill' as a symbol of restrained energy epitomises the heart of the Fair Isle community.

The aerogenerator has not been without its problems in this first full year of operation, but the results are most encouraging. In spite of the loss of 136 days, mainly because of the break-up of the gearbox and failure of the alternator, the unit managed to produce about 50% more electricity than estimated. The cost of electricity, which is 13p per unit from the diesel generators, is being kept down to between 4p and 6p per unit, thanks to the low-cost input from the aerogenerator. Barry Sinclair, the islander responsible for maintenance of the electricity system, presented a very interesting and encouraging paper to the energy conference in Inverness in September, and we have managed to arrange good insurance cover. Regular inspection of the wind generator has been arranged with the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board. The smooth and efficient operation of the system is largely due to Barry's skill and dedication.

At the instigation of the Countryside Commission for Scotland, the government applied for a European Diploma for Fair Isle. Two Council of Europe assessors visited the island in July to make a thorough inspection, and were most impressed with all aspects of Fair Isle, particularly the islanders. As a result of this they have made a favourable report. However, we will not have an indication of whether Fair Isle is likely to be awarded a diploma until after the expert committee meets in April 1984, and the final decision will not be taken until May 1985. There is no direct financial benefit from this award, but it will give strength to future applications for assistance. It is worth noting that, of more than 60 applications for diplomas, only 20 have been granted, and only three of these in Britain.

The sheltered houses have progressed more slowly than had been hoped, but they should be ready for occupation during April 1984. The contractor is Northmen, the Fair Isle building firm, and the Shetland Islands Council are very happy with the standard of workmanship. This says a lot for the contractor, in a situation where little supervision can be given. Jimmy Wilson, Schoolton, is likely to be the first occupant, and it is hoped that others of the older generation will be encouraged to follow his example and so make croft houses available for the younger people.

The estimated cost of the breakwater is now £2.25 million. The Shetland Islands Council has however put this item into its 1987/88 programme. Efforts are being made by the National Trust for Scotland to advance this date as it is such an important project for the island. Coupled with the breakwater is the consideration of the provision of a new mailboat, which would be specifically designed for the purpose and would, in particular, make better provision for passengers. It would be a somewhat larger vessel and would give more scope for sailing to places other than Sumburgh. This could improve the tourist potential of the island, give the islanders more flexibility in buying and selling goods, and increase freight charter work. The present mailboat, the *Good Shepherd*, is jointly owned by a number of islanders.

The last tenants of Stackhoul Stores, John and Sue Holloway, have given up the tenancy after seven years. They hope to stay on Fair Isle, where John hopes to concentrate on his bird painting. The new tenants are Nigel and Cathy Hallett, who took over at the end of September. Nigel comes from the south of England, but Cathy is from Shetland. They arrived with the equinoctial gales but have settled in well, and many good and unsolicited reports have been coming out of Fair Isle about them. They have considerably improved the shop service and are in the process of improving the

shop itself. Further improvements will include a tearoom with help from the National Trust for Scotland and the Highlands and Islands Development Board.

Work on the George Waterston Memorial Centre, the Auld Schule, is proceeding. A financial boost was given by the Countryside Commission for Scotland as a result of a visit last summer by its secretary. Many interesting articles have been collected on the island, and the trust has offered expert advice on the proposed display. The Leisure and Recreation Department of the Shetland Islands Council has offered to co-ordinate the scheme. The aim of the centre will be to have a 'living' interpretation of life on Fair Isle from prehistoric times to the present day. Dr Fojut of the Ancient Monuments Branch of the Scottish Development Department has made several visits to Fair Isle, principally as a result of Pat Thomson's amateur investigation, which has resulted in the discovery of a considerable amount of evidence of prehistoric life on Fair Isle. As a result of this initial investigation work, Dr Hunter and his colleagues from Bradford University have proposed a study programme, lasting several years, which will look at Fair Isle from prehistoric times to the present day. This work is due to start in April 1984.

The Northern Lighthouse Board has now obtained planning permission to demolish the houses at North Light, and is in the process of letting the contract. It is hoped that a substantial element of the work will go to Fair Islanders, together with the salvage from the houses.

The knitting co-operative continues to thrive with most households participating in one way or another. At present the co-operative is having difficulty keeping pace with orders.

This year saw the introduction of a more co-operative approach to the management of the hill sheep stock. In the past the crofters have had to spend a considerable amount of time at lambing, chasing their own ewes and lambs over the hill in order to mark the lambs. This year no lambs were marked, but instead they were divided between the crofters at the autumn gathering by drawing lots. This has certainly saved time and no little argument.

1983 saw the long-awaited beginning of improvements to some of the hill grazings. The lime has now been spread over the relevant area and reseedling will take place this spring.

Lester Borley took over from Sir Jamie Stormonth-Darling as Director of the National Trust for Scotland in July of last year. In June, he made his first visit to Fair Isle and was impressed by the energy and enterprise so evident all over the island.

*Richard McD Seligman
Factor (Highlands)
National Trust for Scotland*



Easterhoull, a 'Sheltered Housing' project built by the island building firm *Northmen Ltd.*, photographed in November when nearing completion.

Whales and Dolphins in Fair Isle waters

The waters north-east and north of Scotland, encompassing the Shetland and Orkney Isles, Outer Hebrides and coasts of Sutherland and Caithness, are probably the richest of all sea areas in Britain for whales and dolphins. This is partly due to the high concentrations of fish and plankton in the regions, resulting from upwellings where the warm Gulf Stream meets the colder coastal waters of Scotland and causes the cooler waters along with nutrients from the sea bottom to rise to the surface and become available to photosynthetic phytoplankton (microscopic algae, diatoms, and desmids). It is partly due to the proximity of the continental shelf edge north and west of Shetland, along which many of the great whales travel during their long migrations from tropical or sub-tropical seas to arctic and sub-arctic waters to take advantage of the productivity in the seas during the summer months.

The main Shetland isles are rather more favourable than Fair Isle for whales and dolphins, probably because of their many sheltered coasts with upwelling areas rich in plankton close by. They are also closer to the edge of the continental shelf for the great whales. The Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*, which favours shallow calm waters, is the commonest cetacean in Shetland. Small groups may be seen throughout the year, feeding on sand eels, sprats, and other small fish. Around Fair Isle it is far less common, doubtless because of the exposed nature of isolated Fair Isle and its coasts. However, the more ocean-going dolphins are more frequently seen. From spring through to autumn, schools of White-beaked *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* and White-sided Dolphins *L. acutus* frequent these waters, feeding on mackerel, herring and the like, and one or other of these is the most likely species to be encountered by a traveller on the *Good Shepherd*. Many visitors to Fair Isle, on seeing a dolphin with white markings on its sides, think it must be a White-sided Dolphin, but more often than not they will have seen White-beaked Dolphins instead. Both species have white areas on the flanks but on the White-beaked Dolphin the white area is much larger and extends over the back behind the dorsal fin, whereas the White-sided Dolphin has a narrow white blaze along the side with a yellow ochre blaze above and behind it. White-beaked Dolphins are usually less shy of boats and will often accompany a vessel for a short period before moving away again. It is the commonest larger dolphin in north Scottish waters, and large herds of this species and its relative have been seen migrating northwards east of Fair Isle in autumn. The Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*, on the other hand, is a species of warmer seas, mainly off south-west Britain and Ireland, and further south. It is only occasionally seen around north Scotland. Another species, once one of the commonest dolphins in British waters, is the Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*. It prefers coastal areas, sheltered bays and estuaries where it feeds mainly on bottom-living fish such as sole and flounder. It appears to have suffered from pollution and disturbance and is less common than it was a few decades ago. It may be seen in small numbers in some of the Shetland coasts, but windswept Fair Isle is not suitable habitat for it and it is only rarely seen here. When travelling in the open sea away from land, it often swims with Pilot Whales *Globicephala melaena*, and herds of the latter are frequently seen around Shetland, particularly in the northern North Sea. It is rare for a year to go by without some individuals stranding on the shores of Shetland, often in quite large herds of up to fifty or so individuals. The Pilot Whales in Shetland waters probably breed to the north of here between Shetland and the Faeroes in early spring. Mixed herds of a few adult males, many adult females, sub-adults and some young then range probably over great areas, concentrating around Shetland particularly in late autumn. Occasionally they are seen off Fair Isle or during the boat crossing from Grutness.

Although much less common around Shetland than Pilot Whales, the Killer Whale *Orcinus orca* is probably the most frequently observed whale in Fair Isle waters. Small herds are seen every spring (particularly in April, May and June) usually from the *Good Shepherd*. Although they have a reputation for eating other marine animals such as porpoises and seals, and marine birds, their main diet is fish and squid. Their herds may be of an adult male with a harem of females and possibly some young animals, or separate groups of bachelor males. The traveller to Fair Isle should beware confusion between Killer Whales and Risso's Dolphins *Grampus griseus*. Although the male Killer Whale at about thirty feet long, with its six-feet-tall triangular dorsal fin, is unmistakable, females and young are much smaller (15-20 feet long) and they have a strongly recurved dorsal fin not unlike that of Risso's Dolphin. Many observers are misled into thinking that a male Risso's Dolphin, with its relatively large bulk (up to 13 feet long) and tall recurved dorsal fin, is a Killer Whale. The best way to distinguish the two species is to look at the markings on the flanks. Risso's Dolphins, particularly older animals, are flecked with white and pencil-thin scratches on the sides. As they become older they often become paler, with larger areas of white on the sides, back and dorsal fin. The Killer Whale is a much darker animal, and its white oval patch behind the eye and white and yellow on the flanks are much more distinct and discrete areas than any on Risso's Dolphin. It is important that one knows how to distinguish the two species, since Risso's Dolphin is not uncommon in Shetland waters in herds of up to ten animals. It is primarily a squid-feeder and often feeds close to rocky coasts.

A number of larger whale species may be seen in Shetland waters, though more rarely off Fair Isle. The commonest of these is the Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* which feeds on small fish such as young herring, sand eels and sprats, and upon plankton. Minke Whales, either singly or in pairs, may often be seen during summer just offshore from headlands, particularly along the east coast of Unst and Yell. These whales are about thirty feet long. Their relative, the Fin Whale *B. physalus*, is twice the size and tends to occur in areas where deep waters are close by, for example off the north coast of Unst and north and east of here, particularly in the deep Faeroese channel which runs diagonally between the Faeroes and Shetland. Although a member of the rorqual family of plankton-feeding baleen whales, in the North Atlantic this species feeds also on a wide range of fish species, such as herring and whiting.

In the early part of the present century when there was a whale fishery in Shetland waters (mainly operating along the continental shelf edge north and west of Shetland), the commonest whales taken were Fin and Sei Whales *B. borealis* (the latter, a slightly smaller relative of the Fin Whale, now quite rare in Scottish waters), but Blue Whales *B. musculus*, Right Whales *Eubalaena glacialis*, and Humpbacks *Megaptera novaeangliae* were also taken in small numbers. Nowadays all these species are much rarer than fifty years ago, and the latter three are only very occasionally recorded in these waters. However, two other whale species which were hunted may still be seen in small numbers in Shetland/Orkney waters. These are the Northern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus*, a pelagic squid-feeding species about thirty feet in length, and the Sperm Whale *Physeter catodon*, a deep-water species of fifty foot length which also feeds on squid. Lone male Sperm Whales often migrate into arctic and sub-arctic waters, and occasional individuals may strand or are seen around Orkney or Shetland, mainly in late autumn or winter. Very rarely a small herd of females (rather smaller, about thirty-five feet long) with their calves has been observed in this region. Though not recorded recently from Fair Isle, these species all potentially may be sighted, particularly between the months of September and December.

Our knowledge of the status, distribution and movements of whales and dolphins in British waters has in recent years benefitted greatly from observations and records submitted by many observers to the Cetacean Group of the Mammal Society as part of its national sightings scheme. Visitors to Fair Isle and Shetland could contribute greatly

to this scheme by reporting their own sightings to the bird observatory, which keeps a log of all records made in the area and forwards them to the Cetacean Group. These waters are not only amongst the richest in the British Isles, they also face potentially some of the greatest threats, through the recent accelerated exploitation of fish (notably sand eels, sprats and Norway pout) for fish meal. Any information that visitors to Fair Isle can provide will go some way to safeguarding populations of these magnificent and interesting creatures.

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Fair Isle Tysties

— A Progress Report

ROGER BROAD and PETER EWINS

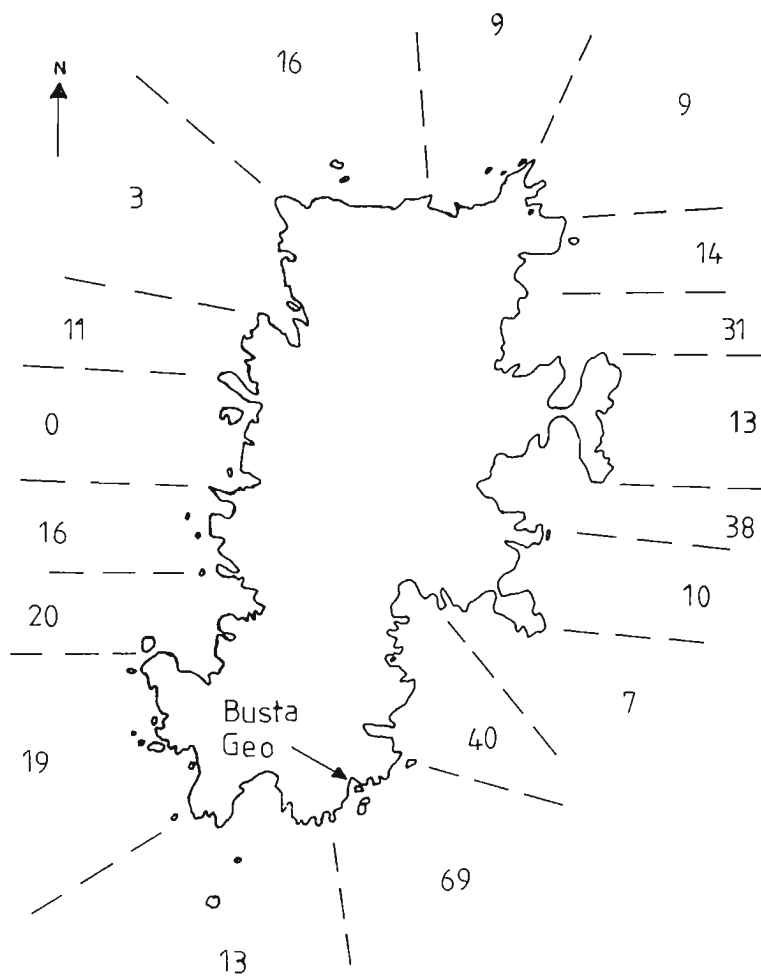
The Tystie (Black Guillemot) population on Fair Isle has received more attention than that at any other British breeding locality, and much of our knowledge of the breeding biology and ecology in Britain comes from studies here. Roy Dennis (1966) began with some detailed measurements of eggs and nests; then between 1974 and 1977 Roger Broad colour-ringed many of the breeding adults in the Busta Geo boulder beach colony, which facilitated individual recognition and more detailed studies from a cliff-top hide. Slater and Slater (1972 a, b) have published the results of their August studies at Busta Geo, dealing mainly with food brought in for the young, colony attendance patterns, and some detailed descriptions of colony activities during the later stages of the breeding cycle. Their work raised some interesting questions about individual prey preferences and the importance of tidal cycles, and has stimulated research into these aspects in other areas.

In 1982 the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group initiated a three year baseline study of Tysties in relation to North Sea oil developments in the Shetland area, and this work is being carried out by Peter Ewins through the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, Oxford. At the beginning of this project Busta Geo was unique in Shetland, in having a detailed colony history from observatory records as well as individually marked adults. Continuation of the marking programme on Fair Isle will enable further valuable information to be gathered on such aspects as nest site retention, adult survival, and mate retention, as well as providing an opportunity for other studies in the future. Also it is hoped that Busta Geo can be used as a longterm monitoring site, at which regular counts can be made; and these, combined with results from other sites in Shetland, may enable detection and quantification of population changes.

As part of a complete Shetland survey of Tystie distribution in the pre-breeding period (March-May), the whole Fair Isle coastline was surveyed in the early mornings, mostly before 8 am, during spring 1982. At this time most of the potential breeding birds are present at the breeding areas or just offshore. The results of the survey, which was carried out largely by Nick Riddiford, are shown on the map. The total of 338 adults associated with likely breeding areas was similar to the estimate of 150-160 pairs for Fair Isle in 1969, when the whole island was surveyed during the Operation Seafarer survey. However, care should be taken when comparing these surveys, which employed very different census techniques. In the present census 72.2% of the population was found on the east side, between the North Light and the South Light, very close to the corresponding figure of 73.3% in 1969. This emphasises, as Dennis (1966) pointed out, the importance of the larger areas of shallower waters off the east side of the island for foraging Tysties, which usually feed on the bottom in water up to 30 metres deep.

Between 1974 and 1977 some initial steps were taken to monitor the annual breeding success of Fair Isle Tysties. The majority of accessible nests on the east coast from the Kìrn o' Skroo to Busta Geo (approximately 40% of the total breeding population) were visited and checked for occupancy and breeding performance. While many sites have been used regularly over many years, every effort was made to search adjacent areas for more transitory sites. These areas were thoroughly searched again in

Pre-breeding distribution of adult Tysties, spring 1982



1 km.

Adults in summer plumage	338
Adults not in summer plumage	2
Immature birds	8

1983, and a comparison of the figures for the different years is given below. The data for Busta Geo is both included in the total and shown separately.

Table 1

	1970*	1972*	1974	1975	1976	1977	1983
East coast breeding attempts	-	-	56	58	61	49	42
Busta Geo breeding attempts	13	14	12	9	12	6	8

**Data from Slater and Slater (1972)*

The number of breeding attempts recorded suggests a relatively stable situation in 1974-76, but the 1977 and 1983 figures indicate a decline in breeding numbers. This situation is further corroborated in 1978 when the FIBO report comments that "many pairs failed to lay eggs". The figures show an overall drop of 31% from the peak in 1976 to 1983. In addition, over the main study period the recorded breeding success was very low, and only 28% of the eggs laid produced fledged young. This poor breeding success was mainly due to failure at the egg stage (hatching success was only 39.2%) but the underlying reasons for it remain obscure. Colonies studied elsewhere appear to fare rather better, and, in particular, colonies in Shetland show overall breeding success of over 60% (Ewins & Perrins 1982). Continued monitoring and further investigations are clearly needed to understand the seemingly atypical events on Fair Isle.

Other studies, based on the recognition of marked individual adults at Busta Geo, shed some light on other aspects of Tystie life. In 1974-77, 27 adults were individually colour-ringed; 8 of these remained identifiable in 1983, when another ten were marked. Observations showed that a further seven adults carrying only a BTO ring were in the colony in 1983. At Busta Geo the general trend in the number of pairs attempting to breed was broadly similar to that recorded for the larger sample from the rest of the Island (table 1). Attendance figures at the colony indicate that variable numbers of non-breeding birds (both adult and immature) come ashore at times. The relationship between the number of breeding birds in any year and the total population remains imperfectly understood, but a change in the ratio of breeders to non-breeders may in part account for the apparent downward trend.

To date no colour-ringed adult from Busta Geo has been recorded breeding away from the immediate vicinity of the geo. Certain nesting crevices may be occupied by the same individuals in successive years, and out of 24 colour-marked breeding birds 18 (75%) used the same site in at least one successive year. One distinctive bird, originally identified breeding in 1974, was still faithful to the same crevice in 1983 after 10 years.

During the study period a number of pairs have remained faithful to each other over several consecutive seasons until, usually following the disappearance of one of the pair, there has been a re-pairing. One pair is known to have remained together for at least seven years. There is some tentative evidence to suggest that, following the break-up of an established pair, a surviving male is more likely to remain at the original site, while a surviving female is more likely to move to a new site in the same colony (table 2).

Table 2

	Total moves	With same mate	With different mate	Mate unknown
Males	1	1	0	0
Females	6	1	3	2

Only one male is known to have moved sites, and in this case it moved a very short distance together with its original mate. Six moves have been recorded for females, including two which moved twice.

The average annual survival of Tysties based on observations of the colour-ringed birds is 86%, which compares well with the figures of 87% in Iceland (Peterson 1981) and 85% in Denmark (Asbirk 1979). First breeding is probably during the third or fourth year, so that the average life expectancy is about ten years. One of the oldest Tysties on record is EH26743 which was ringed as a chick at Busta Geo in 1965 and was still breeding there 18 years later in 1983.

In its stronghold in the Northern Isles the breeding distribution of the Tystie is rather evenly spread around the coastline. Here it is a familiar species and many are present throughout the year, yet the Tystie remains our least known auk. Its habits make it vulnerable to coastal oil pollution and it is important that systematic monitoring is continued and refined in an effort to detect and quantify population changes. It is hoped that future monitoring on Fair Isle will complement work at other sites in Shetland. Similarly much remains to be learned on many aspects of Tystie life history from the continued study of the colour-marked population at Busta Geo.

Acknowledgements

This work would not have been possible without the effort of many observatory staff and visitors over the years, as well as the continued co-operation of island residents in the Busta Geo area. We also thank the Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group for current funding of the studies on Tysties in Shetland.

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The 1983 Razorbill Wreck

In March 1983 reports started to reach me that thousands of seabirds, particularly Guillemots and Razorbills, had been washed up on the east coast of Britain over the previous month or so. I was not surprised to receive recoveries of Fair Isle birds among these, but I began to be concerned as Razorbill after Fair Isle Razorbill recovery arrived, until the number had greatly surpassed that for any previous year.

Early reports indicated that 65% of the larger auks found dead were Razorbills and only 35% were Guillemots; that the auk kill was over 18,000; and that the birds were coming ashore over a wide area, stretching from the Firth of Forth to East Anglia. The vast majority were unholed, and it seemed probable that the wreck was a natural disaster caused by a combination of food shortage and bad weather. There was a dearth of sprats, and prolonged periods of north-easterly gales may have prevented birds from obtaining the sparse food supplies, as well as driving them onto the east coast. Recoveries suggested that Scottish Razorbills were heavily involved in the wreck (the above information from *BTO News* March 1983).

We did not have long to wait to learn the extent of Fair Isle Razorbill involvement. The recoveries flooded in; 45 Razorbills were reported in 1983 compared with only three in 1982, despite no marked fluctuations in Razorbill numbers ringed in the past few years. It immediately became clear that adult birds were proportionately more involved in the wreck than younger ones. Birds in their first two years of life were not totally excluded, however. Of 12 recoveries in this age group, one in Spain and one on the Atlantic coast were almost certainly not casualties of the wreck. Another three, including one in Norway, could be rejected for reasons of date or type of mortality. The mortality of the others could certainly be attributed to the wreck: five on the English east coast, one as far north as Burghead Bay in the Grampian Region of Scotland, and one in the Netherlands at the beginning of the period. Three were in their second winter and four in their first winter.

However it was the adults which dominated: 33 adults were recovered during 1983 and every one of them was probably part of the wreck; 26 were found in February. The main concentration was between Humberside and Norfolk: four Humberside, five Lincolnshire, four Norfolk. Others (from the south northwards) were: Kent three, Suffolk one, North Yorkshire two, Cleveland one, Durham one, Lothian two, Highland one. Abroad there were singles in Denmark and West Germany. In early March there were further finds in Norfolk and Lincolnshire, but recoveries, perhaps of birds from farther out in the North Sea or driven by later storms, came also from West Germany and Denmark. It was a similar pattern in April: single finds in Denmark and Sweden, and the farthest west recovery in Britain, on the Sussex/Kent border. The English one was found on 3rd and the other two on 4th April, marking the end of the reports.

Adults of all ages were affected by the wreck (see table 1). Birds of known age included virtually every year group to tenth winter and one in its fifteenth winter. Birds originally ringed as adults showed the same scatter, and included one 1967 and two 1966 ringed birds. Most Fair Isle Razorbills probably enter the breeding population at between four and six years of age so it was clear that the effects of the wreck on the breeding population would be felt immediately. Not only was a decrease in our annual Razorbill counts to be expected but it was likely that they would contrast with Guillemot levels, for only small numbers of Fair Isle Guillemots were reported from the wreck.

Our annual auk counts are made in the first ten days of June. As expected, Razorbills were down — a catastrophic 42.2% on 1982 counts. Guillemots were down too — but by an insignificant 3.7%. Mike Harris of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology very kindly ran our 1982 and 1983 Razorbill figures for the main sites, at Lericum, through his computer. He found that all sites were down and the largest site

significantly so. Lumped together the three Lericum sections were significantly down ($P < 0.001$).

Census work is the first phase of our seabird activities. From late June we moved to our second phase — ringing in the colonies. To our surprise we found rather more Razorbills than we had anticipated. In fact we ringed more birds in 1983 (89 full-grown, 262 *pulli*) than we did in 1982 (70 full-grown, 196 *pulli*).

	Ringed as Pulli	Ringed as Adults
1982	4	2
1981	3	1
1980	3	3
1979	3	1
1978	1	1
1977	-	-
1976	4	2
1975	1	3
1974	1	-
1973	1	-
1972	-	-
1971	-	2
1970	-	-
1969	-	-
1968	1	-
1967	-	1
1966	-	2

Table 1. Year of ringing of Razorbills known or thought to be involved in the 1983 wreck.

There was no difference in times, sites or techniques for the census counts, and no difference in the number of colonies visited or the amount of time spent in them. So how did this apparent anomaly arise? There were two undoubted biases in the ringing programme: as a direct result of the Razorbill wreck more attention was inevitably given to finding Razorbills, particularly 'retrap' and 'new' adults; secondly, three of us had had one or more previous seasons' experience in the colonies, which undoubtedly increased our ability to locate crevice nesters. Nevertheless, even allowing for these biases, the increase in numbers of *pulli* ringed at a time when the population had apparently decreased dramatically is difficult to explain.

Unfortunately we have little hard evidence to support a number of observed factors which, I believe, can explain the anomaly. Let us take the Lericum census sites first. Lericum is a heavily fissured cliff, with barely-attached boulders a feature, particularly of the middle section, which always supports the largest number of Razorbills during the counts. Razorbills on Fair Isle are predominantly crevice nesters — in fissures, under boulders, in scree holes etc. Most Fair Isle Razorbills are breeding by six years of age but, for one or more years before, pre-breeders are in attendance at the periphery of colonies. Captures of birds of known age suggest that colony attendance starts at three to four years. Thus in normal years census counts at Lericum may well include some pre-breeders sitting at the colony's periphery, which at Lericum will be the outermost boulders and ledges. Some breeding adults, however, will be excluded from the counts, being in crevices not visible to the census counter. The cliff is inaccessible, so we are unable to put a figure on those hidden.

If, however, the observed decrease at Lericum was due purely or mainly to pre-breeder mortality in the wreck why should numbers of breeders on the isle be unaffected, for recoveries indicated that birds of all ages were involved (table 1)? There are two possible explanations: firstly the surviving pre-breeders may have suffered from food deprivation during February to April and not built up sufficient reserves to make the spring journey to Fair Isle; the second possibility is that, as the population had received a set-back affecting all age groups, a good number of crevice sites normally occupied by experienced adults would be vacant to be taken over by birds whose pre-breeding status is determined more by nest-site availability than immaturity.

I prefer the second possibility but, as I have stated, evidence for this is somewhat tenuous. It would explain the apparent sharp decrease in counts at Lericum. Surviving pre-breeders may not have appeared on 1983 counts because they had installed themselves out of sight in vacant crevice sites. Thus the actual adult population loss, though somewhat less than 40%, may still have been substantial, but the breeding population may have been at a level not dissimilar to that of 1982 due to infilling from a reservoir of pre-breeders. The only firm evidence I can offer in support of this hypothesis is that we trapped two third-summer birds, which were probably breeding, in the heart of a Razorbill colony.

There were two other factors which suggest the involvement of younger breeders. One of the reasons that we ringed so many Razorbill *pulli* was because they were far easier to find than in the last two years. Many chicks were raised within long-standing colonies but in more exposed sites than usual. We had to spend far less time hunting in obscure crevices because of this. It is probable that inexperienced first-time breeders were responsible for choosing such atypical sites, particularly if both birds of the pair were breeding for the first time. The other factor which may suggest breeding attempts by first-time breeders was the late presence of chicks. Normally the breeding season is relatively synchronised, so that virtually all chicks are away by mid July. However, in 1983 numbers were present throughout July and a few did not leave until August.

The Razorbill wreck of 1983 was unfortunate for those auks involved, but it does allow us to reflect on a number of aspects, which may be summarised as follows: not all wrecks are the direct result of man's pollution of the sea; one winter's check on our Razorbill population may be counterbalanced through topping-up from the pre-breeding reservoir; we would have learnt little from this wreck without the ringing and census efforts of Fair Isle workers dating back to the 1960s; and, finally, it makes ecological good sense for Fair Isle Razorbills of different ages to choose discrete wintering areas. We know from previous recoveries that a significant proportion of young Razorbills winter farther south — particularly from the Bay of Biscay to southern Spain — and that adults outnumber young birds in the North Sea in winter. This wreck both confirms these points and demonstrates how differential wintering areas not only reduce winter competition for food but provide a reserve stock if catastrophe strikes one area.

Lecture Tour of the north-east United States, February 1983

On Thursday, 3rd February 1983 I landed at JFK Airport, New York, for a twenty-day tour of the north-east United States. My task was to present Fair Isle, in words and photos, to eleven audiences in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York State, New York City and Maryland; my aim was to promote Fair Isle as a place to visit and Fair Isle Bird Observatory as the ideal base from which to enjoy and participate in the natural wonders of the isle. I placed particular emphasis on the summer months, a time when Fair Isle's spectacular scenery, thronging with seabirds and carpeted with flowers, coupled with long hours of daylight, would appeal to an American market, and when the FIBOT hostel tends to be patronised by fewer visitors than we would like.

This, then, is the background to my tour. My lecturing took me as far north as Rochester, New York, and as far south as the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. I also spoke at Southbury, Connecticut, Boston and Manomet in Massachusetts, Concord in New Hampshire and at two venues in New York City. I was fortunate to be guest speaker to the two oldest and most prestigious ornithological societies in America — the Nuttall Society in Boston and the Linnaean Society of New York. My contact with ornithological institutions led me to talk to the National Audubon Society, Laboratory of Ornithology at Ithaca, the New York Museum of Natural History, the Fish and Wildlife Service research headquarters at Patuxent and Manomet B.O. where I was able to see an American bird observatory at work.

The reception I received everywhere, and the interest in Fair Isle which the lectures stimulated, was tremendous. Not even the 2500 miles travelled and the five-hour drive in Maryland's second-worst blizzard on record (23" fell in twelve hours) could deter me from pronouncing the tour a success. On my return I found that my wife, Elizabeth, had already received enquiries and bookings prompted by the lectures. The success of the tour, however, can best be judged by the results: 20 American friends contributed 11 visitor/weeks and £1089 accommodation income to the Observatory in 1983. We have at least as many again booked for 1984, including a group of 19 who vow to make the trip an annual event after a first visit by the leader and a smaller group in June 1983. The seeds have been sown and FIBOT is likely to enjoy the benefits in visitors from the United States for a number of years to come.

It would be remiss of me to end this article without thanking the many people and organisations without whose help the tour would have been a miserable failure. Funds were sought to finance the trip and the lion's share was provided by Scottish American Heritage Inc. The Highlands and Islands Development Board and Shetland Islands Council were also forthcoming with grants. David MacLehose was the prime mover in securing these funds. On the other side of the Atlantic I was assisted by people too numerous to be named individually. I must, however, express my profound gratitude to Susan Roney Drennan, Assistant Editor of *American Birds*, who planned virtually the entire tour for me, going far beyond the call of duty to do so. To organisers and contributors at home and abroad; to those who gave me overnight accommodation, organised Fair Isle publicity, took me out birding on the few occasions my hectic tour allowed; to all those who helped and to all those who responded — many thanks. . . . and welcome to Fair Isle.

Ornithology

186 species were recorded in 1983, a lower total than in any recent year. Nevertheless a new species, Long-billed Dowitcher, was added to the island list, bringing it to 334.

The monthly totals of species recorded were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
41	37	68	117	131	104	76	97	134	120	82	34

April, June and August were above or as good as average but the main periods in May, the second half of September, and October were extremely disappointing; rarities were few and far between, and there were no large arrivals. Even many of the commoner species were scarce or absent.

It was another successful season for many of our breeding birds; Lapwing, Curlew and Snipe continued to prosper, the Arctic Tern population grew to five pairs, and two pairs of Common Terns tried to start a new colony in the south of the isle. Guillemots made an early start, with many young departing before July, though some young still remained in August; and other seabirds had an equally protracted season. Razorbill breeding numbers were not greatly down despite a large-scale winter mortality of adults.

The second half of August and first half of September was the most eventful part of autumn, when star birds included Lesser Golden Plover and Great Snipe. The Long-billed Dowitcher in October was the highlight of a disappointing month. November was better, with some good arrivals as well as several extra-late records.

National and/or island rarities in 1983 included Black-throated Diver, Red-necked Grebe, Bean Goose, Gadwall, Shoveler, Honey Buzzard, Rough-legged Buzzard, Osprey, Corncrake (4), Crane, Dotterel, Snowy Owl, Hoopoe, Short-toed Lark, Richard's Pipit (2), Black-bellied Dipper, Thrush Nightingale (2), Nightingale, Eastern Stonechat, Marsh Warbler (9), Subalpine Warbler, Arctic Warbler, Golden Oriole (2), Goldfinch (4), Little Bunting and Yellow-breasted Bunting (c4).

Monthly Highlights

January-February

The early months were noteworthy for large numbers of overwintering Turnstones and an exceptional influx of Iceland Gulls.

The Iceland Gull peak was reached on 22nd January when 12 present included three adults. Glaucous Gulls were also seen on several dates, and four wintering Greylag Geese were joined by another on 19th February. A surprise migrant on 12th January was a Barnacle Goose. Ducks included one Tufted on 29th January, three Long-tailed on 6th January and a male on 5th February, a Goldeneye on 23rd January, a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on 31st January and one on 11th February.

There were large numbers of Turnstones, reaching a maximum of 150 on several occasions, but low numbers of Purple Sandpipers. Oystercatchers were seen in small numbers, building up from mid February. A Little Auk was noted in North Haven on 8th February. Seven Snow Buntings were found on 5th January, and a female Reed Bunting on 11th February. Signs of spring came on 14th February in the guise of a Golden Plover, the first two Skylarks, and an immature Cormorant flying south. On 19th February a Water Rail was reported and a Great Northern Diver was in South Haven. Three species of raptor were noted in January and February — a Merlin which overwintered, a Sparrowhawk on four dates and a fine Peregrine on 11th February. Highlight of this period, however, was non-avian. On 7th January a pod of over 200 Pilot Whales was seen off South Harbour and Meoness.

March

Iceland Gulls were still much in evidence as migrant birds began to appear. There were a number of good movements by late March, and some interesting birds on the last few days.

The month started slowly, but on 3rd there was an influx of 30 Oystercatchers, 45 Lapwings and 40 Skylarks. A male Snow Bunting was found on 5th. More arrived later in the month, reaching 38 on 30th. A male Merlin was seen on 8th and there were further sightings of this and other Merlins during March. The first *alba* Wagtail was found on 13th, the first definite Pied Wagtail on 16th and a definite White the next day. A Grey Wagtail appeared on 25th.

New birds on 16th were Chaffinch and Woodpigeon. The next day brought a female Long-tailed Duck and a Goldeneye, plus an influx of 23 Snipe. Birds of interest on 18th were four Goldcrests, single female Common and Velvet Scoters, and 100 Gannets ashore. Corvid increases mid month included 20 Ravens on 19th and two Rooks on 18th. Oystercatcher numbers continued to rise, reaching 123 on 20th and 145 on 30th. There was an early Dunlin on 20th, and also a Woodcock and a Mealy Redpoll. The next day a male Stonechat appeared, followed on 22nd by a Black Redstart. A trickle of thrushes included seven Blackbirds on 16th, three Fieldfares on 20th, and eleven Blackbirds, a Redwing and a Song Thrush on 23rd.

Two Whooper Swans flew over on 28th, a day when 205 Skylarks and 75 Rock Pipits were present. It was a good day for raptors on 29th, Peregrine and two Sparrowhawks being seen. On 30th the first Dipper for twelve years was found in the Gully. It was trapped next day and proved to be a Black-bellied individual. March ended well with a sizeable arrival of 60 Goldcrests on 31st. New for the year were Brambling, Pinkfoot, Bonxie on the hill, and two Puffins flying over Landberg. A Shore Lark was in the south.

April

A month of good variety, particularly in the latter half. A strong Goldcrest passage was

a feature of the first two weeks. The last week was full of interest and included a large and varied fall on 25th. There were several early records.

New arrivals on 1st were Wheatear, two Dunnocks and 76 Puffins. On 2nd Red-breasted Merganser, five Mallard, Grey Wagtail and 72 Twite were seen. Goosander, Tufted Duck and Moorhen were recorded on 3rd. On 5th the earliest ever Common Sandpiper was noted; and other birds new for the year were Mistle Thrush and Chiffchaff. An influx of 170 Goldcrests on 6th was easily the highest ever spring day total for that species. Also seen that day were Grey Heron, two Whooper Swans, Common Scoter and the first Lesser Celandine in flower. Over the next few days influxes included 70 Robins, 66 Lapwings, three Woodcock, nine Snow Buntings, 500 Starlings and 80 Blackbirds. A Wigeon was new on 7th, Cormorant and Brambling on 8th and Greenfinch on 9th. Arrivals on 11th comprised two Jackdaws, Water Rail and Reed Bunting. A Yellowhammer and six Black Redstarts appeared on 12th. Over the next few days ducks dominated with male Goldeneye, four Teal, two Mallard, two Red-breasted Mergansers and two Common Scoters. The first Arctic Skua, a dark-phase bird, was heading towards Shetland on 14th and the first Ring Ouzel was seen. More firsts for the year followed: Whimbrel and three Swallows on 16th, Shelduck, Collared Dove and Willow Warbler on 17th, and Sand Martin on 19th. On 20th the first Rough-legged Buzzard of the year shared the isle with male Sparrowhawk, male Peregrine and female Merlin.

Clement weather on 21st brought an interesting selection of birds. A Pied Flycatcher was the earliest ever by one day, and there were also Stock Dove, Greenshank, 45 Snipe, four Ring Ouzels, 23 Fieldfares, 20 Redwings and eight Song Thrushes. New on 22nd were a Linnet, Redstart, Tree Pipit, Hoopoe and the earliest record of Honey Buzzard. The first Short-eared Owl appeared on 23rd. A number of birds made landfall in miserable weather on 24th: Green Sandpiper, two Wrynecks, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Siskin, 150 Common Gulls, 46 Bramblings, 60 Redwings and 35 Fieldfares. On 25th an amazing 86 species were recorded; new for the year included Common Tern (another earliest ever), male Northern Bullfinch, Great Grey Shrike, Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Osprey, Nightingale, Long-eared Owl and two Lapland Buntings. On 26th arrivals were dominated by 157 Bramblings; there were also single House Martin and Blackcap. Brambling numbers increased to 296 on 27th. 70 Fieldfares were counted on 28th. New birds on 29th were Jack Snipe and Sedge Warbler, and 20 Ring Ouzels and 96 Fieldfares were seen. The Hoopoe was last seen on 30th, when four Long-tailed Ducks, Rough-legged Buzzard and eight Swallows were also present.

May

Some of the best migration — numbers and specialities — occurred early in the month. The rest of the month was typified by a trickle of migrants, never a flood.

There were three Sand Martins, a Wryneck, Collared Dove, Yellowhammer and Great Grey Shrike on 1st; two Shelducks were in South Harbour, and 25 Dunnocks and 25 Chiffchaffs were counted. New birds on 2nd were Spotted Flycatcher and Hen Harrier; a Nightingale was trapped in the Gully. 46 Barnacle Geese flew north on 3rd; an Arctic Tern in North Haven was first of the year. A Garden Warbler was new on 5th. South-easterly winds on 6th brought a Woodlark (first for three years), 10 Tree Pipits, Kestrel, Sedge Warbler and Redpoll. Turtle Dove and Grasshopper Warbler were found on 7th. Cuckoo and Greenshank were new for the year on 10th. Surprise of the day was the capture of a first-summer female Hen Harrier in the Plantation. Highlights of 11th were 180 Fieldfares, 60 Common Gulls and a Dotterel. The capture of a Thrush Nightingale on 12th ended a five-year famine for this Fair Isle regular. Other birds arriving that day included Bar-tailed Godwit, Tree Sparrow, 15 Willow Warblers, 12 Reed Buntings, six Sedge Warblers and three Whitethroats.

The next day a Quail was flushed from Leogh ditch and a summer-plumage Great Northern Diver was off Yessness. We did not have to wait so long for our next occurrence of Thrush Nightingale — one was trapped in the Vaadal on 15th. Immediately after, an even rarer bird (for Fair Isle) was discovered — a Goldfinch. For one Shetland visitor both species were new. Another Quail was seen that day and the first Swift was recorded. New arrivals on 16th comprised a pair of Pintail, a Jack Snipe, Sparrowhawk and Tree Pipit. The year's first Wood Warbler was found on 18th. A Red-throated Diver flying over on 20th was nowhere near as rare as the Black-throated Diver which paused all too briefly in Finniequoy the day before. A week without national rarities is unusual in May and it was with some relief that visitors greeted a Snowy Owl on 22nd. While they were watching it they were also treated to a fly-past by the first European Crane for twenty years. A lovely sunny day on 23rd brought Woodcock, three Common Sandpipers, five Purple Sandpipers, Wood Warbler and 25 Swallows. South-easterly winds on 24th created a flurry of arrivals, including Scarlet Rosefinch, two Cuckoos, female Lapland Bunting, four Black-tailed Godwits, a Reeve and four Bluethroats. Hirundines were much in evidence, with 70 Swallows, 35 House Martins and eight Sand Martins. A Quail was seen at Wirvie and a Hen Harrier was at Stoneybrake. 18 Spotted Flycatchers appeared on 25th. On 26th the first Sandwich Tern of the year was seen crossing the isle, and Quail, Scarlet Rosefinch and Bluethroat were recorded. Highlights of 30th — the end of a quiet period — were a first-summer Glaucous Gull, Cuckoo, Sparrowhawk, two Snow Buntings and the discovery on Bunness of an Arctic Tern nest with two eggs. A small fall ended the month: on 31st there were 70 Swallows, three Bluethroats, 10 Garden Warblers, eight Spotted Flycatchers, Scarlet Rosefinch, eight Black-headed and 50 Common Gulls. A second Arctic Tern nest was established on Bunness.

June

Early June produced some of the arrivals more typical of late May. Late migrants continued to appear all month, including a steady flow of Marsh Warblers and some colourful rarities.

There was a bright start to the month. In sunny weather an Icterine Warbler was trapped, a female Bluethroat seen and the first Red-backed Shrike of the year, a male, appeared at Midway. In the afternoon three female Red-backed Shrikes were located, as well as two further Bluethroats, two Grey-headed Wagtails and a Reed Warbler. There was also a moderate influx of 20 Spotted Flycatchers and 12 Garden Warblers. Three Turtle Doves and a Short-eared Owl appeared on 2nd, when a Storm Petrel was heard churring from a hole in Swarts Geo. A Marsh Warbler at the Haa was the star find of 3rd. On 4th a pair of Common Scoter was noted and a Wood Warbler was the highlight of 5th. There was an interesting arrival on 6th. Most in evidence were 60 Swallows and 30 House Martins. Other counts included eight Collared Doves, 15 Spotted Flycatchers and three Red-backed Shrikes, while single Sedge Warbler, Ring Ouzel and Iceland Gull were seen. Late migrants on 7th comprised a Fieldfare and a Chaffinch; a Quail was present at Kennaby. On 8th a Linnet and a Merlin appeared. Late records continued on 9th in the guise of Long-eared Owl, Woodcock and Yellowhammer; Corncrake and Quail were also seen. A new Marsh Warbler occurred on 10th as did single Tree Pipit, Black Redstart and Glaucous Gull.

Throughout June the seabird breeding season was in full swing and attracting our attention. However, migrants continued to appear almost daily. On 12th there were 35 House Martins, a Reed Bunting and a Glaucous Gull. A remarkable influx of Marsh Warblers occurred on 13th; two were trapped in the Gully, there was another at Charlie's Trees, and yet another was singing in the shop garden. The Haa bird of 3rd June was still present, making a total of five on the isle. There were other arrivals too: a female Golden Oriole at the Peat Banks, Scarlet Rosefinch, Sandwich Tern and, best of

all, a superb male Subalpine Warbler at Shirva. Both the Subalpine Warbler and the Golden Oriole remained to 15th, when two Marsh Warblers were at the Haa. Quail, Woodcock and Song Thrush made a strange mix of species on 16th. On 18th the highlights were an Icterine Warbler, a Cuckoo, a Siskin and a Sand Martin. A Robin at Shirva on 20th was most unseasonal. A Marsh Warbler was trapped on 21st and 14 Collared Doves were present. The seemingly endless supply of Marsh Warblers continued on 23rd when one was trapped in the Vaadal. A male Blackbird appeared on 24th.

Our seabird observations in late June indicated that it was another bumper season for most species, even Razorbill whose population had suffered during the winter. Guillemots were having an early season, while Shags were generally late and not at all synchronised — everything from large young to newly laid clutches. It was clear that extra Arctic Tern pairs were breeding. On 25th a White Wagtail's nest containing six young was located in our coal store. There was a surprising number of migrants that day: male Mallard, six Collared Doves, Chiffchaff and Scarlet Rosefinch — the last a retrap from 31st May which was set to summer with us. Further visitors in the next few days were two Sandwich Terns on 26th, 10 Turnstones on 27th and four Curlews flying south on 29th.

July

July migrants were a mixture of out-of-season passerines and the first waves of autumn gull and wader passage.

Migrants on 3rd included a Garden Warbler, two Swallows and a Redshank. An unexpected record on 4th was two Greylag Geese. On 5th there were three Swallows, a Swift, a Spotted Flycatcher and a late Turtle Dove; 600 Starlings, mainly juveniles, probably included a good proportion of immigrants. A heavily Fulmar-oiled Short-eared Owl was near the Burn of Vatstrass. The first Whimbrel of the month arrived on 6th, and Adderstongue was found on Burrista. Three Turnstones near the South Light on 7th were followed by regular arrivals leading to 76 on 30th. Other migrants included a Red-throated Diver, first-summer Glaucous Gull and eight Purple Sandpipers. A Leach's Petrel was seen on night of 10th, and on 13th a Quail was calling near Lower Stoneybrae. Frog Orchid was found flowering on Burrista and Sea Rocket was in flower on Mavers Geo beach on 14th, only to be eaten by sheep a day later. Waders began to appear over the next few days, including five Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Sanderling and Knot. Other birds of interest were a Teal, a Grey Wagtail and a late Sand Martin on 18th. A Manx Shearwater on 19th was the year's first. A Painted Lady flying over Brae o' Restensgeo on 22nd was the first butterfly sighting of the year. The next day a new Scarlet Rosefinch was trapped. The last few days of July brought a few surprises: a Woodcock in Troila Geo and two Blackbirds on 26th and a Spotted Redshank on 31st.

August

After a slow start August blossomed into a period of daily arrivals in the latter part of the month. Star bird was a Lesser Golden Plover, but there were also above average numbers of Barred Warblers and other scarce migrants.

There were few signs of migrants on 1st, but rather more on 2nd, when 56 Turnstones, 16 Golden Plovers, 22 Curlews, 15 Arctic Terns and a Grey Heron were seen. A Knot, flying south, and 10 Storm Petrels were seen on the *Good Shepherd* crossing. Seawatching on 3rd produced two Manx Shearwaters off South Light, and a Greenshank was heard. Another Greenshank on 5th was accompanied by 35 Curlews. The most exciting find on 6th was a Puffin wearing a Norwegian ring, found dead on the rocks at South Light. There were 46 Lapwings and four Swifts on 7th; and the earliest-ever autumn Black Redstart was at the Old Mill. An adult female Crossbill was trapped on 8th, and a Wood Warbler, two Whinchats, a Swallow, a Kestrel and 40

Snipe were seen. The first Barred Warbler of the year appeared in the hostel garden early on 9th; three Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the crossing. A Red-throated Diver flew over on 10th. A Barred Warbler was new on 11th.

A lull in the next few days preceded a period of great interest for the rest of the month. Two Barred Warblers were seen on 15th and a Storm Petrel was off South Light; 60 Snipe were present. The first Peregrine of the autumn, an immature male, and 27 Golden Plovers occurred next day. There was a remarkable movement of Redshanks on 17th; flocks of 12, 36, 46, 52 and 43 flew steadily north in the afternoon. At the same time an influx of 210 Wheatears included a number of largish individuals, probably of Faeroese or Icelandic origin. Nine Whimbrel flew north on 18th. Snipe numbers had been consistently high, and on 19th a count of 85 was made — the highest count in the observatory's history. There was a major influx, too, of 350 Common Gulls, while four very early Fieldfares, a Reed Warbler and two Ruffs were new. On 20th the Fieldfare total had increased to 12, there was an influx of 280 Wheatears, and four Barred Warblers were present; four Sooty Shearwaters were seen on the crossing. Three Barred Warblers were joined on 22nd by a Wood Warbler. There was another count of 85 Snipe and an intriguing gull, possibly a Herring x Iceland hybrid, was seen. With the wind in the east and drizzle on 23rd birds made landfall throughout the day. Firsts for the autumn were three Tree Pipits, Whitethroat, three Pied Flycatchers, two Snow Buntings, four Common Sandpipers, three Woodpigeons and Wood Sandpiper. Numbers were provided by new record levels of 120 Snipe, plus 250 Oystercatchers, 50 Golden Plovers, 40 Ringed Plovers, 500 Wheatears, 230 Meadow Pipits, 80 *alba* Wagtails and 24 Fieldfares. There were 20 Whinchats, 20 Willow, seven Garden and four Barred Warblers. The exciting influx continued on 24th; there were no less than 10 Barred Warblers, as well as 60 Willow Warblers, 18 Garden Warblers, seven Knot, four Redstarts, two Wood Warblers, a Scarlet Rosefinch and the first Water Rail of the autumn. On 25th the first three Wrynecks of the autumn appeared, along with seven Pied Flycatchers, five Grey Herons and 90 Snipe. Five Barred Warblers the next day shared the highlights with a Water Rail (trapped) and an early Woodcock. Attention to the sea proved worthwhile on 27th; one Sooty Shearwater and two Pomarine Skuas flew past Bunness, and a male Long-tailed Duck in full summer plumage was in North Haven, where it remained into October. There was no respite on 28th, for the bird of the month, an adult Lesser Golden Plover, was in a flock of Golden Plovers on the Rippack. It was still present next day, when new arrivals included Ruff, Lesser Whitethroat and Whitethroat. Two Scarlet Rosefinches were the highlight of 30th. Further arrivals on 31st included an Icterine Warbler, nine Whimbrel, two Peregrines, a male Merlin and two Blackcaps.

September

Early September was full of excitement and seemed to bode well for another spectacular autumn. There was a whole series of Yellow-breasted Buntings and a variety of other migrants, including rarities. Unfortunately, a pattern of westerly winds was established by mid month, effectively putting a damper on migration.

September started in the same exciting vein as that of late August. Waders were much in evidence on 1st, in particular 45 Ringed Plovers, 42 Dunlins and a Green Sandpiper; a Goldcrest was new. Amazingly, an unfledged Guillemot chick was calling from ledges near Goorn. Bird of the day was a Yellow-breasted Bunting, which proved elusive. Highlights of 2nd were 60 Snipe, a Woodcock, a Peregrine and three Tree Pipits. For those who missed the Yellow-breasted Bunting two days before, one in Schoolton oats on 3rd was greeted with something akin to relief. Other unusual birds that day comprised Corncrake, five Wrynecks and an Icterine Warbler. There were two Icterine Warblers on 4th and a Scarlet Rosefinch was trapped; an influx of 350 Meadow Pipits and 210 Twite occurred. White Wagtails (70) provided the bulk of arrivals on 5th,

and 18 Teal were also counted. Seawatching produced records of Pomarine Skua and Sooty Shearwater. From late August Fieldfares had been present daily; on 6th their total reached 60. Also well represented were 90 Turnstones and seven Grey Herons. A Spotted Redshank was seen. New arrivals on 7th included 15 Snow Buntings, a Mealy Redpoll, 70 Oystercatchers and 10 Cormorants. Common Gull numbers increased to 220 and on 8th, when two Icterine Warblers and a Reed Warbler were noted. An Ortolan Bunting at Setter was the year's first.

The Schoolton Yellow-breasted Bunting was still there on 9th and a different individual appeared in Gilsetter. Other finds included six Wrynecks, three Scarlet Rosefinches, Lapland Bunting and five Ruff. A Gauwall was in South Harbour on 10th and the first Brambling and Chaffinch of the autumn were recorded. With the wind strong from the north, attention turned to the sea. The results were 15 Cormorants, six Sooty and one Manx Shearwater, a Red-throated Diver and Velvet Scoter; 2964 Fulmars flew north in one hour, including two dark morph and an almost pure white individual. A Little Stint was in North Haven. The wind was still northerly on 12th but it was an excellent day. Bird of the day was an Arctic Warbler, but the role of honour also included Red-necked Grebe, Spotted Redshank, Red-backed Shrike, Short-eared Owl, three Scarlet Rosefinches, two Ortolans, four Lapland Buntings, two Barred Warblers, Hen Harrier, seven Little Stints and 130 Snow Buntings; a phenomenal 709 Gannets moved north in 1½ hours. More excitement followed on 13th. The major find was a Great Snipe at Stoneybrake. Most of the previous day's arrivals were still present, but there was a new Yellow-breasted Bunting at Quooy, a Yellow-browed Warbler at Shirva, Scarlet Rosefinches numbered four, and 90 Snipe were present. Newcomers on 14th included Wood Warbler, Reed Warbler, two Redstarts, two Lesser Whitethroats and two Red-breasted Mergansers. The two best birds of 15th were Grey Plover and Bluethroat; there were increased numbers of Tree Pipits (18). A moderate fall of mainly common species on 16th was dominated by 50 Willow Warblers, 25 Garden Warblers, 25 Redstarts, 25 Lapland Buntings, 26 Tree Pipits and 16 Pied Flycatchers. Among the good variety of other species were 16 Little Stints, four Wrynecks, Wood Warbler, Merlin and Grasshopper Warbler; two Yellow-breasted Buntings included a probable newcomer. There were rather fewer migrants on 17th, but three Wood Warblers and the first Greylag Goose of the autumn were seen. Those braving a choppy *Good Shepherd* crossing were rewarded with 25 Sooty Shearwaters, a late Puffin and a Pomarine Skua. The main influx of 18th was 40 Goldcrests; 16 Redstarts, four Jack Snipe, Icterine and Reed Warbler were also noted. 26 Sooty Shearwaters were seen from the isle on 19th. Shelduck, male Pintail and Grey Wagtail were new on 20th. Highlights of 21st were Ortolan, adult Iceland Gull, 106 Lapwings and 10 Pinkfeet. The only Bean Goose of the year was present on 22nd, along with four Common Scoters, 14 Ruff and Wood Warbler. Skylarks, steadily increasing in number all month, reached 210 on 23rd and 270 on 24th. On the latter date a most obliging Corncrake was near Upper Stoneybrake, and other new birds were Icterine and Reed Warbler, Wood Sandpiper, six Pinkfeet, Swallow and Scarlet Rosefinch. 90 Golden Plovers were counted on 25th.

The last few days of September were below par for recent years. On 27th a Bluethroat was at Pund and there were counts of 380 Skylarks, 25 Pinkfeet, 15 Greylags and 40 Barnacle Geese. Twite numbers reached 350 on 28th. To everyone's great frustration a bright *Phylloscopus* with a wing-bar on 29th was too restless to allow close approach and defied identification. There was a moderate arrival that day of 100 Redwings, 50 Song Thrushes, 30 Siskins, 30 Bramblings, 22 Goldcrests and 14 Ring Ouzels. The first two Slavonian Grebes of the autumn were in North Haven. Richard's Pipit, Sparrowhawk and Reed Bunting were new on 30th.

October

Most of the month was spent waiting for migrants which never arrived. However, more

attention was paid to the sea, with interesting results, particularly in establishing a steady southerly passage of Long-tailed Ducks mid month. In addition, the continued westerly winds brought the only new bird for Fair Isle in 1983 — a Long-billed Dowitcher.

Rain made birdwatching difficult on 1st, but 30 Goldcrests, 10 Mallard and a female Tufted Duck were seen, while Sparrowhawk and Merlin were trapped. The Richard's Pipit reappeared on 2nd and new arrivals were 170 Song Thrushes, 45 Siskins, 12 Reed Buntings and a Mistle Thrush. Rarities were Short-toed Lark, Eastern Stonechat and Pomarine Skua. The lark and the pipit remained the next two days but proved rather elusive. Two Whooper Swans were seen on 5th. The Richard's Pipit was eventually tracked down on 6th, only to be taken and eaten by a Merlin. There was a notable fall of 250 Greenland Wheatears on 7th, the vast majority arriving in mid afternoon. One of this autumn's rarities, a Dunnock, was present on 8th. The bird of the month was found on 9th — a Long-billed Dowitcher allowing very close approach at Easter Loch Water. It remained for the next few days, changing its feeding site each night. On 10th Single Bluethroat, Barred Warbler and Stock Dove were found. Two Dunnocks included an aberrant individual with an amazing broad and long silvery-white supercilium, russet ear-coverts and very pale underparts — but still a Dunnock. Seawatching on 11th produced a first-winter Glaucous Gull and four Long-tailed Ducks flying south. Another two hours' watching on 12th revealed a southerly movement of 26 Long-tailed Ducks, and 16 flew south in 1½ hours on 13th. Other highlights of 13th were 135 Turnstones, three Barnacle Geese and 2 Bluethroats. 17 Long-Tailed Ducks flew south in 30 minutes on 14th, as did five Whooper Swans. A Richard's Pipit and the first four Greenfinches of the autumn occurred on 15th. The Greenfinches were the prelude to an unprecedented arrival of unusual finches on 16th. It soon became apparent that 100 Greenfinches were present, as well as 42 Linnets and three Goldfinches. Other birds that day included 19 Whooper Swans and a male Pochard. There were six Whooper Swans on 17th and 60 Greylags on 18th, when a Yellowhammer was found. A quiet two days were followed on 21st by a flurry of excitement, virtually confined to North Haven; a Slavonian Grebe was on the sea before breakfast, and later that morning first a Lapland then a Little Bunting were found among the huts there. At the same time a Golden Oriole sat briefly on the hostel roof. In addition, a Bluethroat was seen in the crofting area. The next influx, on 23rd, was dominated by a massive 300 Turnstones; 26 Purple Sandpipers, four Jack Snipe, a Jackdaw, a Rook, a Grey Wagtail and four Lesser Redpolls were also noted. The first White-fronted Goose of the year was recorded on 25th. Rock Doves numbered 70 on 26th and remained at high levels over the next two weeks. A Rough-legged Buzzard, using Fair Isle to get some thermal uplift, passed through on 28th, and a Corncrake was in Schoolton cabbage patch. A Scarlet Rosefinch was trapped in the Gully on 29th. Corvids were on the move, including 20 Ravens and a Carrion Crow. 10 Long-tailed Ducks on 31st included some fine winter males.

November

Some of those missing migrants appeared at last in November. There were some good falls, including one big one in the first half of the month, and a series of late or unusual records throughout.

There was a mid morning arrival of 120 Redwings on 1st; two Whooper Swans flew south. A Great Northern Diver was off Furse on 7th and a further seven Whoopers flew south. The first reasonable arrival for some considerable time occurred on 3rd. It was composed of 1200 Fieldfares, 700 Redwings, 300 Snow Buntings, 30 Blackbirds, five Woodcocks and a Water Rail. An amazing 85 Rock Doves were present. 75 Blackbirds arrived on 6th. 12 Golden Plovers were the highlight of 8th, and nine Goldcrests and a Scarlet Rosefinch the highlights of 9th. There was an exciting fall on

10th; 300 Woodcock were on the hill, and 700 Blackbirds included many on the west cliffs. Other totals were 24 Goldcrests, 10 Blackcaps, 900 Redwings and 400 Fieldfares. Virtually all surviving Woodcock left overnight, and 11th was a day for ducks: on Golden Water there were two Wigeon, a Teal, a Mallard and a pair of Gadwall; a male Red-breasted Merganser was in Furse Bay, a female Shoveler in Kirki Geo and six Long-tailed Ducks off Da Nizz. There were some interesting species on the first few days of the third season of the BTO's *Winter Atlas*. On 12th the Gadwall and Shoveler were still present, and two Lapland Buntings, two Yellowhammers, a Stock Dove and a Siskin were found. A Bluethroat trapped in the Gully on 13th was most unexpected. Less surprising was a Rough-legged Buzzard which took up residence on 14th. 12 Dunlin were also new. Knot and female Pochard were recorded on 15th, 23 Purple Sandpipers on 16th, and five Whooper Swans on 17th. There was limited coverage after this date but occasional observations produced records of two Gadwall on 23rd, 2200 Herring Gulls ashore on 27th, and 10 Glaucous Gulls in a flock of 140 large gulls at Easter Lothar on 29th. Grey Heron, Jack Snipe and Siskin were noted on 30th.

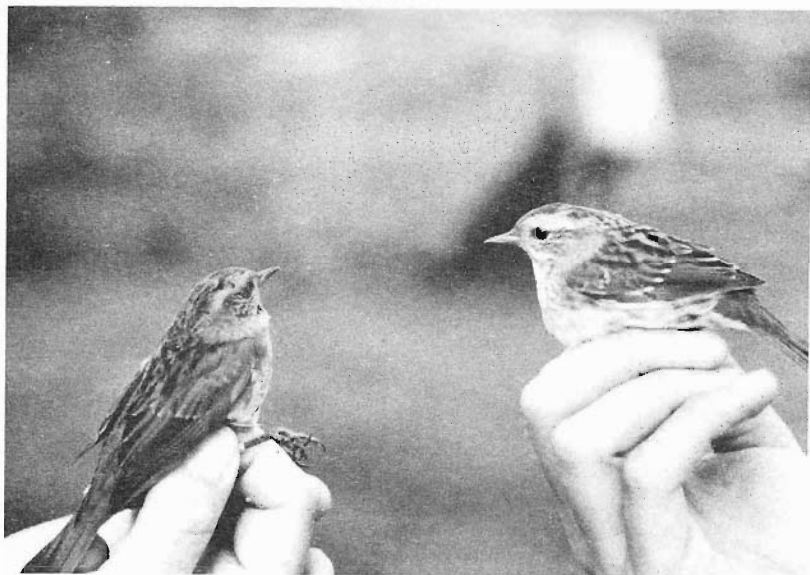
Marsh Warbler: record numbers were seen in June.





Bluethroat: a regular Fair Isle migrant, spring and autumn.

A typical Dunnock (left) and an atypical one with pale underparts and broad silvery-white supercilium, trapped in early October.



Systematic List

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

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*. Singles on six dates 20th May-14th June, and one on 10th July. In autumn, early singles on 10th and 13th August, then singles on five dates 28th August-24th September and two on 12th September. The only later record is one on 15th October.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. One approaching full breeding plumage in Finniequoy on 19th May was the third Fair Isle record, and only the second in the observatory period, the last being in November 1963.



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. The only records were one on 19th February, a summer plumage bird 13th-17th May and one on 2nd November.

Diver species *Gavia*. Unidentified divers were seen on five dates 23rd August-2nd October, maximum three on 27th August. One was seen on the *Good Shepherd* crossing on 13th September. Most were probably Red-throated.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*. A juvenile/first-winter bird in South Harbour 12th-17th September, the 18th Fair Isle record.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. Two in North Haven 29th September-3rd October, and one there on 21st October.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Present all year. Even during winter storms, when absent from ledges, small numbers could be noted offshore. The only movement of any note occurred on 17th October when 2000 flew north past Bunness in 125 minutes — including three dark morph. Other 'Blue' Fulmars were seen throughout the year. White or almost white birds (described as a 'triple light morph' by one observer) were seen on 11th and 27th September — see 1981 report for one previous record.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*. Another relatively poor year. The first were seen on the crossing on 9th August (three), and from the isle on 27th August (one); one to two seen from the isle on four dates 4th-20th September, with six on 11th, 26 on 19th September and four on 5th October. Seen on the crossing regularly 20th August-21st September, maximum 25 on 17th September.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. From the isle four on 21st July, two on 4th August and singles on 23rd August and 11th September; five were seen on the crossing on 19th July and one on 23rd August.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. First noted on 2nd June when one was heard churring from a hole in Swarts Geo. Churring birds were also noted in July on Bunness and North Restensgeo. Present in numbers as usual during summer nights, and seen on crossings 18th June-17th September. Last recorded on 6th October, when a grounded juvenile was found in South Reeva.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One flying around Wester Lothar in the early hours of 10th July was the only record.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. Adult noted on 22nd January. By March over 100 ashore regularly. By early June there were over 450 ashore and counts of occupied nests indicated at least 200 breeding pairs; colonisation of the outer face of Kirki Stack made precise counts from land or sea impossible. In autumn, good numbers present well into October, but none after 1st November. 709 in 1½ hours on 12th September, moving mainly north, is a record count for the isle.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Singles on 13th January and 14th February. In April three flew north on 16th and singles were seen on 8th, 18th and 25th. Other spring records were singles on 12th, 18th and 22nd May and 3rd June. An adult on 15th August preceded almost daily passage 26th August-2nd October, maxima 15 on 11th, 16th and 22nd September. Recorded occasionally in October and November to 7th, maximum six on 9th October.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present all year, though markedly fewer from September. Protracted breeding season, and rather low numbers of young fledged, as ringing figures compared with last two years demonstrate.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. In spring, one on 6th April and on six dates 26th April-6th May. One flew south on 17th July. In autumn, early singles on 2nd and 6th August, then virtually daily 17th August-14th November — peak count seven on 6th September. One on 30th November.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. The only spring birds were two on 28th March, 6th and 21st April and one on 25th April. In autumn there were two on 5th October; small flocks on eight dates 14th-24th October, maximum 19 on 16th; and in November two on 1st, seven on 2nd, four on 7th and five on 17th.

Bean Goose *Anser fabialis*. There was only one, on 22nd September — the earliest-ever autumn record.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The only spring record was one 31st March-26th April. Autumn passage, encompassing the period 21st September-27th October, was light, with no numbers above 20, except 25 on 27th September.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. One on 25th October was the only record.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Four wintered, being joined by a fifth from 19th February and a sixth from 25th March. The same group was probably involved in daily records to 14th May, though joined by an additional six on 16th April and seven on 23rd April. Two made a surprise appearance on 4th and 5th July. In autumn a single on 17th-22nd September preceded a short movement on four dates 27th September-4th October, maximum 73 on 29th September; a second wave was concentrated between 12th and 19th October — peaking at 60 on 18th — with up to nine present thereafter until 22nd November.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. One appeared on 12th January. The species is rare in spring and 46 on 3rd May was nearly twice the previous highest spring count. The only autumn records were 40 on 27th September, three to six 13th to 19th October and one on 27th October.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. A male on 17th April and two on 1st May were the only spring records. In autumn there was one on 20th September, one 30th September-22nd October and one on 7th November.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. In spring there was a male on 7th April and one to three almost daily 3rd-17th May. Seen most days in autumn from 22nd August to 21st October, with maximum 10 on 19th September. One to three occasionally in November and early December.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. Recorded in spring and autumn: there was a male on 26th-27th April, one on 10th September, and a pair on 11th and 12th November, the female staying until 15th; two on 23rd November was the latest-ever record.



Teal *Anas crecca*. Recorded on 19 dates 13th April-31st May, peaking at five on 8th-9th May. One midsummer bird on 15th July preceded autumn arrivals from 11th August. Present daily 21st August-1st October, but maximum only 18 on 5th September. One to two recorded occasionally in October and November, with five on 10th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. One to five recorded on 26 dates 18th March-1st June. Mid season singles were seen on 25th June and 31st July. In autumn, small numbers most days 19th August-18th November, maximum 11 on 22nd October. Twelve on 28th November.

Pintail *Anas acuta*. Two present 16th-19th May. A male on 20th-21st September was the only other record.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. The only records, all in autumn, were four on 26th August and a female 11th-15th November.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*. There were two records, a male on 16th-17th October and a female on 15th-25th November.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. One appeared on 29th January and a male on 3rd April. One to two males were present from 4th May to 17th June. One male clearly had a damaged wing and remained in South Harbour to 31st July. In autumn, an immature male stayed from 4th to 16th September, a female occurred on 1st October and two males on 2nd.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Present all year. Highest spring count was 400 on 24th March and 1st April. The highest autumn count was 900 on 22nd October. Breeding data: a very protracted season, with first duckling on the sea noted on 9th June.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. One to three were noted on two dates in January and one in February. A small spring passage of up to five birds on most days 17th March-2nd May, with one late bird 20th-22nd May. An adult male in full summer plumage appeared in North Haven on 27th August and remained in that plumage until its departure in early October, latterly often in company with an adult male in full winter plumage. Main arrivals were from 1st October. There was a marked through-movement 12th-14th October when 59 (26, 16, 17) flew south during four hours' watching. Smaller numbers were present thereafter and well into December.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*. In spring there were one to two on three dates 18th-24th March and on five dates 6th-20th April; seven appeared on 9th-10th May and a pair on 4th June. The only autumn records were four on 22nd September and a female on 6th October.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*. Spring records comprised a female on 18th and an immature male on 22nd and 24th March. All autumn records were in September: a male 11th-24th, three on 12th and two on 29th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. There was one on 23rd January, a female 17th March-8th April, a male on 12th April joined on 13th May by a female, and a male on 15th May. Autumn records were few, comprising singles on 2nd, 5th-6th and 12th-13th October, two on 28th October and one on 17th November.

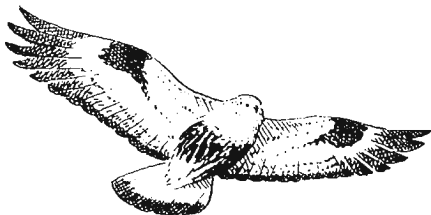
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. A pair was noted on 31st January and a female on 11th February. Spring birds were seen on nine dates 2nd-28th April — maximum five on 9th — and a female on 16th-17th May. A single summer female was recorded on 15th June, 15th and 19th July. A meagre autumn passage spanned the period 11th September-31st October with maximum six on 19th October. A male was noted occasionally in November.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*. In January there was a female on 7th and 23rd. One on 3rd April and a female on 13th May were the only spring records. Even scarcer in autumn, with the only record on 29th September.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. One on 22nd-25th April was the earliest ever and the first in April.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Spring occurrences were all in May: a ring-tail on 2nd, a first-summer female trapped in the Plantation on 10th, and a ring-tail on 24th. Autumn records were confined to September: a male on 11th, a ring-tail on 12th, and one on 22nd.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. Singles were noted on 6th, 8th and 23rd January and 5th February. A steady turnover of migrants occurred, with virtually daily records 15th March-2nd June, though day-maximum was only two. Much scarcer in autumn: one to two daily 30th September-7th October and four singles later in October. Single female on 15th and 21st November.



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*. Following arrivals in autumn 1982, single returning migrants passed through on 20th and 30th April. There were autumn records for the second successive year: one transit individual flew south on 28th October; a first-winter bird arrived on 14th November and stayed until 22nd.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. A female on 25th April equalled the earliest-ever occurrence.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. There was an early single on 18th March and singles on five dates 7th-30th April. One to three noted almost daily 6th May-5th June, with late migrants a male on 12th and two on 13th June. In autumn early singles on six dates 8th-22nd August, then one to three most days 13th-29th September and on nine dates 2nd-24th October.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. A female overwintered. The first spring migrant was a male on 8th March. Occasional records in April and to 17th May perhaps referred in the main to the winter resident, but three were noted on 12th and two on 13th April, and a male on 29th April. There were late singles on 8th and 12th June. The first autumn bird, a male, remained for five days from 31st August. Main passage spanned 16th September-4th November, with some turnover of birds, maximum four on 16th October. Late singles seen on 23rd and 28th November.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. One on 11th February preceded a very small spring passage 29th March-17th May, with singles recorded on nine dates and two on 17th May. The first autumn bird, an immature male, appeared on 16th-17th August; one to two were seen almost daily 23rd August-18th November, and three on 18th September.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*. Records, all of singles and several involving singing males, were well scattered, occurring on 13th, 15th, 24th and 26th May, 7th, 9th and 16th June and 9th and 13th July. None of this activity, however, resulted in breeding.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. In the first half of the year this species was amazingly scarce, singles on 19th February and 11th April being the only records. It was not particularly common in autumn either. Singles were noted on 24th, 26th-27th August, 2nd and 21st-22nd September. One to two were recorded on 11 dates in October and eight dates in November.

Corncrake *Crex crex*. The only spring bird was at Pund on 9th June. In autumn there was one on Eas Brecks on 3rd September, one giving excellent close views near Upper Stoneybrake on 24th September, and a late one in Schoolton cabbage patch on 28th October.

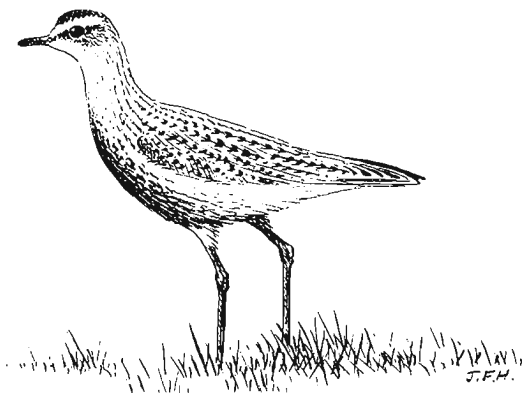
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. Singles on 3rd and 30th April were the only spring records. Almost as scarce in autumn when singles on 2nd-5th, 15th and 24th October, 2nd and 12th November.

***Crane** *Grus grus*. One which slowly made its way north up the isle on 22nd May was the third Fair Isle record, the two previous records being in 1962.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. One on 22nd January, 5th and 10th February. Spring arrivals from 17th February, and recorded daily 15th March-20th November. Signs of spring passage in late March, maximum 145 on 30th, and early April, maximum 180 on 7th. Census work in May and early June revealed a breeding population of 88 pairs. Largest post-breeding numbers on 31st July when 204 counted. Still 70 present on 9th September but rapid departures thereafter and only single figures after 17th September.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. First noted on 3rd March, and daily 17th March-17th October. Most spring arrivals probably involved summer residents, but 16 on 2nd April probably included through migrants. There was a 50% decrease in the breeding population, to seven pairs. Happily, fledging success was good. Autumn migrants arrived in August and were particularly obvious from 23rd August to 21st September, peak 45 (including *tundae* race individuals) on 1st September. Departures were rapid in late September and only one to two lingered into October.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*. One in the North on 11th May was the only record.



***Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*. An adult of the American race *dominica*, still showing considerable remnants of breeding plumage, was on the Rippack with Golden Plovers on 28th-29th August. Second Fair Isle record.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. An early single was seen on 14th February. One to three were recorded occasionally 14th March-19th April. Strongest passage occurred 24th April-11th May, particularly 14 on 24th and 40 on 25th April. One to eight were present throughout May and one to 15th June but there was hardly any pre-nuptial display or song-fighting, unlike recent years. In July three were seen on 6th and one on 9th. Main autumn passage started on 20th July, continuing on a virtually daily basis to 24th October. The first sizeable arrival (50) occurred on 23rd August, but most concentrated passage spanned 12th September-6th October, when frequently 30+, and maximum 90 on 25th September. Late autumn records comprised 12 on 8th and one on 12th November.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. One which arrived on 15th September was joined by a second on 20th and a third on 28th September. There was only one on 29th and none thereafter.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Seven on 20th February were precursors of regular passage from late February onwards. Main spring passage was in two waves: 14th-22nd March, maximum 80 on 14th, and 30th March-8th April, peaks 60 on 5th and 66 on 7th April. The local population maintained its recent good showing, with seven pairs breeding. The breeders attracted non-breeders in early June — maximum 23 on 6th. Post-breeding movements started about 10th July and 50 were present by 27th. There was good daily passage 13th August-7th October with 50+ generally present and peaking at 106 on 21st September. There was daily presence of smaller numbers throughout October and up to seven in November from 6th, with 26 on 14th. Last one on 23rd November.

Knot *Calidris canutus*. None until July, when two to six present 19th-24th and one on 30th-31st. One to two on three dates 5th-9th August. One on 18th August, then small numbers daily into October, maximum 10 on 20th September. Three present in October to 11th, then two till 26th, one probably unfit individual remaining until last seen on 15th November.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. One on 17th July was first of the year. One on 24th and two on 27th July. One to four present daily 23rd August-20th September.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. The only occurrences were in September. One on 10th-11th announced the arrival of a good little passage; seven were present on 12th, 12 on 13th and 16 by 16th-17th. Departures then ensued and two on 24th were the last apart from two on 28th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. About 10 wintered. There were clear signs of passage 31st March-2nd April when counts of 60, 42 and 25 were registered. Rather fewer were present to 30th May (though 27 on 18th April). No summering individuals were found in June; thus two on 9th July were probably returning migrants. Generally small numbers were then recorded regularly to December. Early maximum 18 on 31st July. Most numerous 17th October-16th November when frequently 10 +, maximum 30 on 24th October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. In spring an early migrant on 19th-21st March and another on 16th April preceded almost daily occurrences 25th April-19th June. Largest numbers were between 7th and 17th May but highest count only 15 on 10th. Daily autumn passage started with three on 24th July, continuing to 13th October. Numbers were few apart from 1st-3rd September when 42, 14 and 15 counted. After 13th October there was none until 14th November when 12 arrived and one remained the following day.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. A Reeve on 24th May was the only spring record. In autumn, a Reeve on 28th and 30th July was followed by two males on 19th August; five occurred on 22nd, then virtually daily occurrences 28th August-9th October. Five to 10 were present daily 9th-30th September, with 14 on 22nd.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*. In spring singles were noted on 29th April, 1st, 10th, 12th, 16th-17th May and two on 9th May. Autumn passage spanned the period 13th September-1st November with six on 28th-30th September the maximum count. Late singles were found on 27th and 30th November.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Two on 20th January were the only occurrence before spring arrivals from 15th March. Twenty-three on 17th and 12 on 18th March may have denoted passage, but main passage occurred 21st-25th April with maximum 45 on 21st. Census work, based on drumming birds, indicated a breeding population of 17 pairs. Good fledging success plus early immigration of passage birds probably contributed to high numbers throughout August; 60+ was the norm from 15th, peaking in a record count of 120 on 23rd. Numbers remained high in September, particularly in mid month, with a maximum 90 counted on 13th. In early October up to 33 were recorded, but steady departures occurred until only four noted on 31st. November numbers remained low apart from influx of 17 on 12th.



***Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*. One at Upper Stoneybrake on 13th September was seen again on 15th and 19th September, proving very elusive after the first day.

***Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*. A very confident juvenile/first-winter on 9th-14th October was the first definite occurrence on Fair Isle.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Spring passage was meagre and scattered. In March one occurred on 20th and two on 21st; in April singles occurred on 6th, 9th, 11th, 15th and 30th with three on 7th; May records comprised singles on five dates and two on four dates between 5th and 25th. The recent tendency for midsummer records continued, with singles on 9th and 16th June and 17th and 25th July. There were singles in early autumn too, on 26th August, 2nd and 7th September. More characteristically one to two were recorded on nine dates in October and rather more in November, when noted frequently. The only big arrivals were in that month, with 300 on 10th and 60 on 14th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. Four on 24th May and one on 17th July were the only records.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. In spring the only records were singles on 12th and 14th-15th May. There was a summer sighting of one on 4th July. One occurred on 23rd-24th August and one to three were present from 4th to 21st September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. The first was recorded on 16th April. From 21st April to 5th June there were daily records, with passage most obvious in late April and the first half of May, maxima 14 on 28th April and 15 on 10th May. A single bird was faithful to a 'territory' at Lower Station 11th-19th June. Return passage started on 6th July, birds being noted almost daily to 3rd September. July maximum was five on 16th; in August it was nine on 18th and 31st. One late bird was present 24th-27th September and another on 3rd October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Up to five present in January and February. Daily records 15th March onwards. Only obvious spring passage was 36 on 30th April and 17 on 1st May. It was another record breeding season; seven pairs nested and at least four pairs fledged young. There was no notable July influx until end of month, when 20 on 31st. Numbers in August and September were generally 10+ daily, with peaks 35 on 5th, 30 on 12th August, and 30 on 13th September. There were fewer in October, maximum nine on 6th-7th and 26th. Apart from eight on 13th, only two to three remained throughout November.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*. The only records were singles on 31st July and 6th and 12th-14th September.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. About 25 wintered. Numbers remained fairly static throughout March and much of April, gradually dwindling to two on 23rd May. One to three noted on six dates 3rd-20th June. Return passage from 2nd July and thence present to end of year. July maximum 12 on 30th. There were generally 10-30 in August but an exceptional northerly movement of 150 occurred on 17th. 10-30 throughout September, and slightly more numerous in October, peaking at 60 on 17th. Smaller numbers were in residence November-December.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Very scarce in spring, comprising one on 10th, two on 11th and one on 20th May. Not particularly common in autumn either: one to two recorded on 14 dates 3rd August-5th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. In spring singles noted on eight dates 24th April-19th May, with three on 25th April and two on 1st and 9th May. Very poor autumn passage: one 25th-27th July and two on 23rd August were the only records.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. Another bird very scarce in 1983. The only occurrences were singles on 23rd August and 24th September.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. One in South Harbour on 5th April was the earliest ever by 15 days. Main spring passage was more typical: one to three most days 24th April-29th May, with five on 10th May. In June, singles on 2nd and 9th. Sparse autumn passage 23rd August-23rd September: singles on ten dates, two on two dates, four on 23rd August and six on 5th September.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Following the November-December 1982 influx about 150 remained well into March. There were still 110 on 26th March, but the April peak was only 50 on 1st. Numbers in May not exceeding 16, except passage 9th-11th when 66, 29 and 20 counted. In June one to 12 noted most days to 15th, then gap until 10 on 27th. Thereafter small numbers most days, building to 76 on 30th July. August maximum 67 on 11th. September influxes were 90 on 6th, 76 on 19th and 92 on 26th. The main influx occurred on 13th October when 135 present (only 10 the day before). Numbers remained at about this level to end of the month, apart from a one-day arrival of 300 on 23rd. 100 were still present on 6th November but thereafter numbers dropped to below 50.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*. A good year for this species. Two (an adult and an immature) were seen on 27th August, and a second-summer on 5th September. One was seen on the crossing on 17th September, and an adult from the isle on 2nd October.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. First arrival was a dark phase on 14th April; three arrived on 17th and daily increases noted from 22nd April. Most of the breeding population was in territory from 10th May. 95 pairs held territory, but certain favoured areas such as Brae o' Restensgeo were inexplicably shunned. Fledging success was poor, particularly on Eas Brecks where improvement to pasture was being undertaken. In some areas predation of fledglings by Bonxies occurred. There were no non-breeding flocks in excess of 10 during June and July. There were steady departures throughout August to only 10 on 31st. Up to five remained in September to 7th and one to two occasionally until 25th. In October one was noted on 3rd and four offshore on 13th.

Great Skua (Bonxie) *Stercorarius skua*. One on 31st March was followed by daily arrivals leading to 45 on 16th and 75 on 22nd April. The breeding population had probably all arrived by the first half of May but there were further arrivals from 28th May and a 'bachelor club' of non-breeders established on Mire o' Vatnagaard which numbered 80 by July. Forty pairs bred, with good fledging success. August departures were small but totals decreased steadily in September to 20 on 30th. By 14th October only six were left and the final two were noted on 23rd, apart from one on 29th October.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. In January, one on 5th, three on 8th and two on 10th. One occurred on 14th February and one on 8th March. Virtually daily spring passage started on 16th March. There were one to six in March and similar numbers in April until 27th when 40 were seen. The May peak was 30 on 14th. In June and July non-breeders were attracted to the tiny Common Gull colony on Tarryfield, maximum 40 on 13th June. By late July return migrants were arriving, including 40 on 31st. There was no heavy passage in August and September but up to 30 were noted daily to 16th September. One to seven were noted occasionally thereafter to 6th October, then more regular occurrence of up to 14 from 13th to 31st October. In November one to two were seen on seven dates to 16th.

Common Gull *Larus canus*. Up to six wintered. First signs of migrants were 39 on 30th March. There were occasional waves of passage in April — including 71 on 7th, 150 on 24th, 100 on 27th and 144 on 30th — and in May, maximum 112 on 21st. In June there were up to 30 attending breeding areas but only six pairs nested, with very limited success — a maximum of five fledged. There were substantial post-breeding

movements in late July, commencing with 225 on 25th; 50-180 were noted daily to 31st, but rather fewer in August until renewed passage 19th-25th, maximum 330 on 19th, 250 on 20th, 230 on 23rd and 170 on 24th. The only other major arrival was 220 on 8th September. Smaller numbers were noted daily later in September and in October, maximum 60 on 10th October. One to eight occasionally in November and December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. First arrival noted on 21st March but majority not until late April. Breeding as usual, but rather fewer young fledged than in 1982. Rapid departures in August, noted on only four dates after 24th August, maximum five on the last date — 8th September. An adult on 27th October was the latest ever of the British race *L. f. graellsii*.

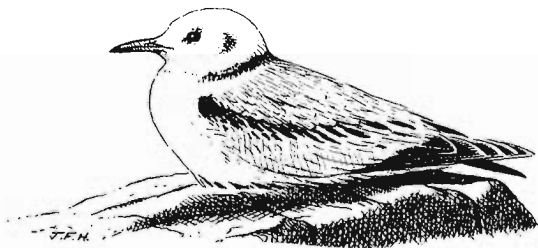
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Recorded all year. Breeding season as usual, with a small new colony on Lerness perhaps indicative of a slight increase. Peak counts were 800 on 3rd May and 2200 on 27th November.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*. The December 1982 influx (see 1982 report) continued into January; seven on 5th increased to nine on 12th, 11 on 15th and 12 on 22nd. The maximum count of adults was three on the last date. There were eight birds on 5th February. After that five individuals set up residence at Kennaby, Skerryholm and Shirva until 23rd April. They came and went, presumably on fishing excursions to sea, and only on 13th April were all five present at once; three were first-winter and two were second-winter. A third-summer bird on 6th June and an adult on 21st September were the only other records.

Iceland/Herring Gull *Larus*. A sub-adult individual seen on 22nd August, 7th and 11th September had plumage characteristics intermediate between the two species and may have been a hybrid of Iceland and Herring Gull parentage.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. Up to four present in January and February. One to two present daily 16th-30th March. One first-winter on 10th-12th and 17th April. A first-summer occurred on 30th May and a third-summer on 10th and 12th June. A first-summer stayed from 11th to 15th July and an adult was seen on 28th August. Between 11th October and 10th November singles were noted on 11 dates and two on two. At least three individuals were involved. One to two were noted occasionally in late November and December, with 10 on 29th November.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Present all year. Breeding season as usual. Peak counts were 375 on 28th April, 650 on 31st July, and 600 on 14th-15th and 25th-26th October.



Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Noted occasionally in winter, including 40 on 5th January. Present in big numbers from March onwards. A great number of young fledged but post-fledging mortality was quite high. Most of the breeding population had gone by late August but there were daily sightings offshore well into November, with peaks 105 on 20th September, 107 on 5th and 250 on 13th October.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. The only records were singles on 26th May, 13th and 25th June and two on 26th June.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. One on 25th and two on 27th April were the earliest ever by ten days. The first local breeders, too, were in North Haven by 1st May, increasing to 50 on 18th. About 40 pairs bred on the Stack o' North Haven, fledging about one young per pair following some losses during a heavy rainstorm. For the first time nesting was attempted elsewhere. Two pairs laid on Meoness but quickly failed. Departures started in late July and only five remained to 4th September. There were only three later records, the last being two on 19th September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. One on 3rd May was the earliest ever by two days; four were seen on 5th and three on 6th, then none until daily occurrences from 13th May. Breeding colonisation continued apace; one pair raised two young on North Gavel, another pair raised one young on South Gavel, and three pairs laid on the Stack o' North Haven, though two pairs failed and the other probably only raised one young to fledging. In late July and the first half of August immigrants from elsewhere were in North Haven, maximum 15 on 2nd August, and an unringed juvenile was dazzled on the beach. Records petered out by 25th August, apart from one on 29th August, three on 19th and one on 20th September.

Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna*. Most records referred to local Common and Arctic residents, but 20 on 30th July may have included migrants. Late 'Commic' Tern records were one on 21st September and two on 11th October.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. Breeding birds on ledges on fine days throughout the early months. Census sites indicated no change in numbers from 1982, but increases were apparent in a number of other colonies and some small groups of late breeders raised young on apparently most unsuitable ledges just above high tide mark. Departures were mainly complete by 5th August but late breeders were present until the last chick left its ledge on 1st September. By 11th November 110 birds were back on the ledges at Kristal Kame.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. Noted occasionally in January and more regularly from March. There was a 40% decrease in numbers at the Lericum census site in early June but ringing visits to colonies suggested that this figure was somewhat erroneous (see above). The season was quite protracted with a few chicks still ashore on 2nd August. Small numbers were noted offshore occasionally in August and September, and one to two on four dates 6th-17th October.

Black Guillemot (Tystie) *Cephus grylle*. Present all year, fewest in winter. Census sites showed no change in population from 1982 but no complete census carried out.

Little Auk *Alle alle*. One was alive in North Haven and one found dead on 8th February. There was one sitting on the sea off Bunness on 5th December. 47 flew east off South Light in half an hour on 17th December.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. The first of two of the year flying over Landberg on 31st March were followed by 76 next day and 200 by 5th April. There was a small decrease in the number of occupied burrows in the Burrista census transect, reversing a trend of steady increase in recent years. At the end of the season there were still good numbers in the first half of August, and one carrying fish and another entering a burrow on 22nd indicated late breeding. None after 27th August apart from one offshore on 4th September. Late singles were seen on the crossing on 17th and 21st September. Amazingly, a winter plumage adult occurred on 17th December, part of an easterly auk movement off South Light.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*. Present all year. Up to 35 noted in January and February. The spring maximum was 68 on 31st March. 40-50 were present regularly in May. No breeding census but well distributed in caves all round the isle. Post-breeding numbers built slowly in the second half of August to September peak of 62 on 16th. 35-40 daily thereafter until increase late October-early November; maximum 70 on 26th October, a record 85 on 3rd November, and 82 still present next day. 76 were counted on 9th, but thence never more than 25 to end of year.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. One on 21st April was the only spring record. In autumn there were singles on 29th-30th September, 10th October and 12th November.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. One on 6th March, then almost daily 6th April-18th June, maximum eight on 18th, 28th and 30th April and 2nd May. Three appeared on 18th July, with one on 22nd-24th. The only later records were three on 23rd and one on 27th August.

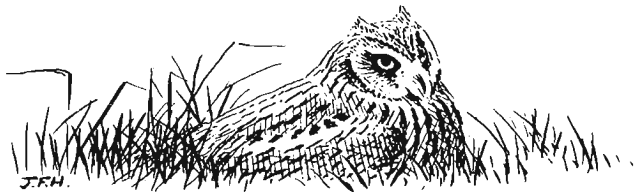
Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. Singles on 17th and 21st April, 1st, 6th-8th and 10th May, then daily 14th-31st May, peak 13 on 24th. A new arrival on 5th June, after which birds present most days to 5th August; maxima 14 on 21st June, 11 on 6th July. One to two were present 13th-16th and 26th-28th August. One on 18th-19th September and one on 1st October were the only later records.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. In May one on 7th, two on 11th-12th, three on 14th-18th, four on 19th and two on 25th. One to three present almost daily 1st-20th June. One on 5th July. In autumn one on 7th and 18th-19th August, one to two most days 5th September-2nd October, with four on 9th September. One on 9th October was the last record.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. In May, male on 10th-11th, two on 12th, four on 13th, two on 14th-15th, 24th and 26th, one on 30th-31st. In June, one to two on 1st-5th and singles on 8th-9th and 18th. The only later record was one on 26th and 27th July.

***Snowy Owl** *Nyctea scandiaca*. One spent the day of 22nd May in various localities between Tarryfield and Meoness. It was thought to be an adult female, probably one of the Fetlar residents on an excursion.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*. Rather scarce in spring and even more so in autumn. There was one on 25th and 27th April, two on 30th April, and singles on 1st, 9th-12th, 16th-17th and 31st May. One late bird appeared on 9th June. In autumn one was seen on 14th September, then none until one on 10th-13th November and two next day.



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. One to three almost daily 23rd April-25th May, with five on 28th April. One to two were seen regularly at East Water 2nd-27th June and three on 12th. One was still there on 4th-5th July. Hopes that a breeding attempt might be made proved fruitless. The species was very scarce thereafter. There were singles on 5th-6th August, 12th, 14th, 28th and 30th September and three on 29th September. One to two were noted daily 11th-16th October and singles on 20th October, 10th, 13th and 15th November.

Swift *Apus apus*. There were scattered records throughout the summer. The first appeared on 15th May, then two to four on three dates later in the month. In June one to four were noted on four dates and 18 on 19th. In July birds appeared on eight dates, maximum nine on 10th. There were four on 7th August and one to two on five dates 24th August-4th September, with eight on 26th August.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. One on Vaasetter 22nd-30th April was the only record.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. In spring there were two on 24th and one on 25th April, one on 1st-4th, and two on 5th-6th and 24th May. Autumn records comprised three on 25th August, and in September one to four on six dates 4th-18th, with five on 3rd and six on 9th.

***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*. One at Shirva 2nd-5th October was a rufous morph.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*. One resident at Quoy 6th-13th May. It was only the third occurrence in the last ten years.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Two on 14th February were the first of the year. By 3rd March 40 were present and strong passage was under way mid March-late April. Peak counts were 205 on 28th March, 175 on 13th, 210 on 16th and 170 on 25th April. A census of territories put the breeding population at 70 pairs. There were some signs of migratory activity by August but main passage started with 120 on 16th September. There were 300 by 25th and 390 by 28th September. High numbers (100+) were maintained to 14th October, maximum 265 on 8th. Rapid decreases ensued to 12 by 31st October. Only small numbers present in November and December.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. One on 31st March was only the second March record.

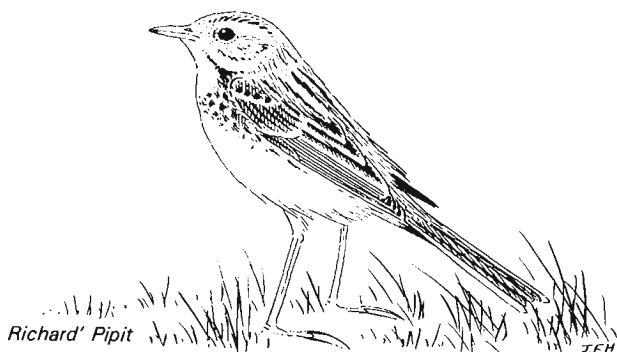
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Records were scattered in spring: one on 19th April, three on 1st May, one to three on 10th-16th, one on 22nd-23rd, eight on 24th and five on 31st May, one to three most days 2nd-10th June and one on 18th June. There were no autumn records, but one on 18th July.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. Three on 16th April, then daily passage 24th April-20th June. Strongest passage occurred between mid May and mid June, with peak counts 70 on 24th May and 60 on 6th June. Late spring or summer records were one to three on 24th-28th June and one to four on 1st-10th July. Autumn passage was negligible, comprising one on 8th August, one on 24th and 27th September, three the next day and one on 3rd and two on 6th October.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. One on 26th-27th April and four on 1st May preceded early occurrence 10th May-19th June. Apart from 35 on 24th May there were rather fewer that month than in June, when 20-35 daily 6th-13th. Three on 19th June provided the last record of the year.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One 30th September-6th October proved very elusive, and for some observers the first sighting was in the talons of a Merlin, which predated it on the last date. One on 15th-16th October was the only other record.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Spring passage spanned 22nd April-10th June. The majority occurred between 6th and 21st May, when maximum 20 on 10th. In autumn one to five on 23rd-27th August preceded a small daily passage 2nd September-9th October. The only reasonable arrival was on 15th-18th September, with counts of 18, 26, 20 and 20.



Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. First one noted on 14th March. Steady arrivals from 17th March. Strongest passage 11th April-10th May, peak counts being 250 on 16th, 165 on 25th April and 160 on 2nd May. The breeding population was censused as a minimum of 40 pairs. Autumn passage started in August and was relatively heavy by 17th, maximum 230 on 23rd. Numbers were consistently above 100 in September, with highest counts 350 on 4th and 13th. There were still 220 on 2nd October but steadily decreasing totals thereafter to seven by 31st, and one by 14th November. The only later record was one on 24th November.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. The British race *A.s.petrosus* present all year, but much fewer in winter — early and late. Main arrivals of migrants occurred in the second half of March. The isle's breeding population was censused at a minimum 54 pairs. There was some evidence of influxes in late August and September, peak count 155 on 23rd August and 7th September. Substantial decreases during October to counts of about 20 in mid November. A summer plumage Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.s.littoralis* was at Kennaby on 10th-11th May.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. Almost daily spring records encompassed the period 25th April-21st May. The most concentrated arrival was on 13th-14th May when seven were present; five of these were British Yellow *M.f.flavissima*, and over 90% of all spring occurrences were of that race. In May a Blue-headed *M.f.flava* on 13th-14th was the only definite record of another race. In June there were two Grey-headed *M.f.thunbergi* on 1st, one on 2nd-3rd and one on 7th. The race of one on 13th and 15th June was not determined. There were no further records.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. The few records comprised singles on 25th-26th March, 2nd and 25th-26th April, the surprising date of 16th-17th July, 20th September, 9th and 23rd-24th October.

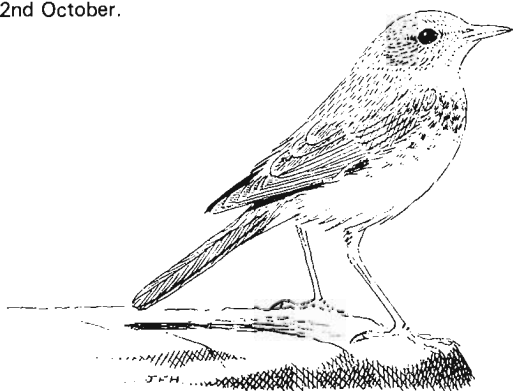
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. First noted on 13th March and more regularly 2nd April onwards. One Pied *M.a.yarrelli* was present on 16th-17th March, and one to four between 4th and 17th April. Two were noted on 14th May. The first definite White *M.a.alba* was noted on 17th March. Only one to two White were present until 17th April but comprised virtually all sightings thereafter, maximum 12 on 1st May. A pair of White raised six young to fledging in the observatory coal shed. Return passage started in the second half of August, peaking at 80 on 23rd August and 70 on 5th September, when main passage abruptly ended. In this period all individuals seen well were White, apart from one Pied on 2nd September. Small numbers were recorded daily 6th September-15th October of which the majority were White, though one to two Pied were seen on 11 dates 20th September-15th October.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*. A bird of the nominate Black-bellied race was present in the Gully from 30th March to 5th April (trapped on 31st March). There are about ten previous spring records, but this was the first at any season for twelve years.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Present all year. 15 singing males held territory during the summer, but breeding success was poor. Nominate race migrants were noted on a few dates in October and early November.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. In spring noted daily 1st April-14th May, in single figures except 22nd April-2nd May when up to 30 (on 25th April). Late singles occurred on 22nd and 24th-25th May and two on 1st June. Autumn passage virtually non-existent, comprising two on 9th October and singles on 2nd, 8th, 11th October and 11th, 13th-14th and 16th November.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Singles on 15th and 17th March preceded daily occurrences 21st March-21st May. Numbers generally low except 70 on 7th, 30 on 8th and 27 on 9th April. One late wanderer appeared on 20th June. One on 3rd September announced a meagre autumn passage 8th September-15th November, with highest count a mere 20 on 2nd October.



***Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*. One trapped on 12th May, and another trapped on 15th and remaining to 17th, were the 21st and 22nd Fair Isle records, and the first since 1978.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. There were two records: one at the shop on 25th April and one trapped in the Gully on 2nd May.

Nightingale species *Luscinia*. One at Schoolton on 14th May gave insufficient views for full identification.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. Four appeared on 24th May. There was a male the next day, a female on 26th-29th, a male and two females on 31st May, three females on 1st and a female on 2nd June. All males were of the Red-spotted form. In autumn there were singles on 15th-16th and 27th-29th September and 10th, 12th, 15th-16th, 21st and 26th October, and two on 13th October. A first-winter female, trapped in the Gully on 13th November, was the latest-ever Fair Isle record by two days.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. An early bird was seen on 22nd March. A good run of migrants occurred almost daily 6th April-23rd May, including several fine males. Peak counts were six on 12th and 25th and five on 26th-27th April. A late bird appeared on 10th June. The only autumn record came at a surprisingly early date, on 7th August.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Spring migrants were present almost daily 22nd April-1st June though, except for eight on 5th May, never exceeding five in a day. In autumn four on 24th August and two on 25th-26th preceded main period of passage 3rd September-16th October. Totals were small apart from 25 on 16th and 16 on 18th September.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. A generally meagre spring passage spanned 28th April-6th June, maximum 10 on 13th-14th and 12 on 15th May. Two appeared on 8th August, then daily occurrence 22nd August-21st October, with highest counts 20 on 23rd and 26th August and 18th September. Last one seen on 24th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. Spring records, all singles, were a male on 21st March, female on 23rd March, male on 5th, 20th and 21st April. *One on 2nd and 3rd October was of the Eastern race *S.t.maura*.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Spring arrivals were slow. There was a male on 1st April, then intermittent records from 6th before daily occurrence 13th April-23rd October. Largest spring influxes were 500 on 25th April and 300 on 1st May. On both occasions nominate and Greenland race individuals were involved. Detailed census work in June produced figures of 96 breeding pairs. Autumn passage was well under way in August, peak 500 on 23rd. There were 110 on 1st September but steadily decreasing numbers thereafter, with few of the big Greenland birds arriving. The decrease continued in October, with the notable exception of 7th when 250 made landfall — most if not all Greenland race individuals. Late singles occurred on 27th-29th October and 2nd and 8th November.

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*. A male on 14th and a female on 17th April, then almost daily 21st April-29th May. Strongest passage in last ten days of April, maximum 20 on 29th and 17 on 30th. In June a male was present 6th-12th. A very poor autumn passage started with 14 on 29th September, one the next day, then petering out, with one on 2nd, two on 6th and one on 8th October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. About 12 wintered. Spring passage started in mid March but numbers were negligible until 20 on 6th April. Sixty on 8th April was the spring peak, but small numbers recorded through to 8th June. A male stayed from 24th to 27th June. Two occurred on 26th July, one remaining to 29th. Singles were noted on five dates 1st-17th August. One to two were seen 13th-16th September. Main autumn passage started on 28th September and recorded daily thereafter. October peak was only 25, on 2nd, and no major arrivals until 75 on 6th November. A good fall of 700 followed on 10th, many remaining for the next four to five days.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. Singles noted on 23rd January and 8th February. Three occurred on 20th-21st March. Main passage 15th April-20th May with largest numbers 29th April-14th May, peaks 200 on 1st, 180 on 11th-12th and 140 on 13th May. In June, one on 6th-7th. There was an early autumn influx starting with four on 19th August and 12 next day, reaching 24 on 23rd and 60 on 6th September. Numbers then declined to one to two in late September and early October. Another wave occurred with 50 on 16th October but it was not until November that the species arrived in force, with peaks of 1200 on 2nd, 400 on 10th and 570 on 13th. Small numbers present thereafter.

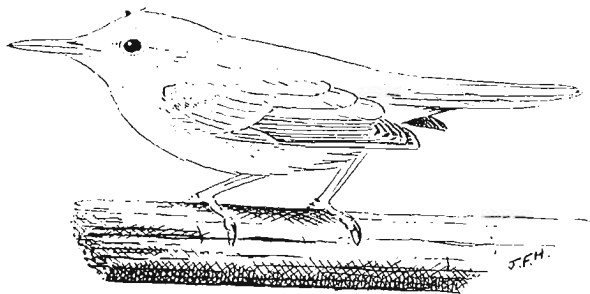
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. One wintered. One to two noted on several dates in March and early April but daily passage only between 21st April and 16th May, maximum 16 on 24th April. Late migrants were one on 23rd, two on 25th and one on 26th May. Midsummer singles appeared on 16th June, 24th July and 14th August. One on 5th-6th and 16th-17th September before arrival of 50 on 29th September announcing daily passage to 17th November. Largest numbers 29th September-8th October, maxima 175 on 2nd and 100 on 5th October, otherwise totals very low. One to two seen occasionally late November and December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. The only records early in the year were singles on 23rd January, 5th February and 23rd March. The species was noted daily 6th April-23rd May with passage most concentrated between 19th and 30th April, though the maximum was only 60 on 24th. In autumn, four arrived on 1st September and one to three on seven dates 6th-18th. Daily occurrences started on 27th September, including an early influx of 100 on 29th of that month. Moderate arrivals continued in October, the highest being 450 on 12th and 500 on 16th, but largest numbers were delayed until November, when 700 arrived on 3rd and 900 on 10th. There were still 80 on 16th but considerably fewer thereafter.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. Scattered spring records were one on 5th, three on 8th and one on 13th and 27th April, two on 14th and one on 17th-18th May. One on 2nd October was the only autumn record.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. One on 25th April, singles on 7th and 12th-13th and two on 16th May were the only spring records. Even scarcer in autumn, comprising one on 16th and one on 26th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. The main spring passage was from 6th to 27th May, particularly 12th-17th, when 6, 10, 7, 10, 10 and 8 counted. Late singles occurred almost daily 31st May-19th June, and three on 13th June. One on 18th and one on 21st September were the only autumn records.



Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*. All records were confined to June, when there was a splendid influx. Singles on 3rd-4th and 10th-12th were followed by five on 13th, one on 14th, two on 15th-16th, and singles on 17th, 21st and 23rd-27th. Five were trapped during the month and the influx involved at least nine individuals.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Spring records were one on 20th May and one on 1st-3rd June. In autumn there were singles on 19th August, 8th, 14th-16th, 18th-19th, 24th and 29th September.

Unstreaked **Acrocephalus** species *Acrocephalus*. Singles on 5th June and 6th July were either Marsh or Reed Warbler.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. One trapped on 1st June stayed to 9th; another occurred on 18th. In autumn one was trapped on 31st August and one to two were seen regularly 1st-12th September, with later singles on 18th and 24th September.

Icterine/Melodious Warbler species *Hippolais*. One on 7th-8th August, too elusive to identify, was either an Icterine or a Melodious Warbler.

***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*. A splendid male graced Shirva on 13th-15th June.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*. Singles on 9th, 11th-12th, 14th and 17th and two on 15th August preceded good daily numbers 20th August-2nd September, including 10 on 24th and five on 26th. Later, in September, one on 8th, 10th and 13th, two on 12th, 14th and 15th. In October there was one on 3rd-5th, 8th and 10th-11th.

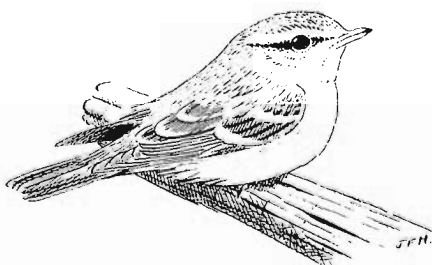
Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. One on 24th April, then almost daily 7th May-1st June; commonest 10th-19th May when maximum six on 14th-15th. Late spring singles occurred on 6th and 12th. In autumn there was one on 29th August and one to three most days 12th September-16th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. One on 25th April and two on 6th May were followed by daily passage 12th-28th May, peak nine on 14th and 15 on 15th. One to three almost daily 1st-16th June. A stray migrant occurred on 8th July. Autumn records mainly spanned 23rd August-22nd September: one to three except 10 on 16th, seven on 17th and five on 18th September. Late singles were noted on 2nd, 5th and 9th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Main spring passage was late: one occurred on 5th May, one to three noted 11th-19th May, then another wave 24th May-19th June, leading to maximum totals of 10 on 31st May, 12 on 1st and seven on 6th June. There were summer occurrences of two on 2nd and one on 3rd July. One on 15th August preceded virtually daily records 20th August-22nd September. Peak arrivals were 18 on 24th August and 25 on 16th September. Late September singles occurred on 25th, 27th and 30th. In October there were three on 2nd, seven on 3rd, two on 4th, one on 8th and 14th and four on 16th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. A very thin and prolonged spring passage 24th April-24th June; one to five were recorded most days, and eight on 1st May. There were no large numbers in autumn either. Birds were seen almost daily from 31st August to 14th November, but maxima only 20 on 16th September and 25 on 2nd October. The November peak was 10 on 10th. After the main period there were singles on 23rd and 25th November.

***Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*. One spent 12th-15th September in Upper Stoneybrake tatties.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Gone are the days when this migrant was commonplace; one at Shirva on 13th-14th September was the only record.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. In spring there were singles on 18th and 23rd May and 5th-6th June. Autumn records were one on 8th, one on 22nd-23rd and two on 24th August, one on 14th and 16th, three on 17th and one on 22nd September.

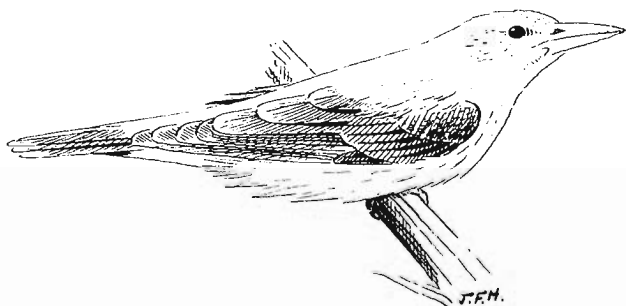
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. One to two on six dates 5th-12th April, then daily records 21st April-20th June. The only major passage was 24th April-1st May, maxima 21 on 24th, 28 on 25th April and 25 on 1st May. There were late June records of two on 25th and one on 26th, and one in July from 20th to 27th. One to four were present throughout August and one to three during September. In October one to three were noted on four dates 2nd-12th and in November one to two from 8th to 13th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. One on 17th April preceded daily occurrence 21st April-8th June, maxima 17 on 25th April and 20 on 14th May. One to two were noted on five dates 12th-24th June. In July one noted on 19th and 22nd-23rd. Daily autumn passage 7th August-8th October. The first wave of major arrival was 23rd-27th August, peak 60 on 24th. Another followed 13th-20th September, maximum 55 on 17th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Spring passage started with four on 18th March, thence almost daily to 30th May. In keeping with the record October 1982 influx an unprecedented return passage took place 31st March-11th April. Sixty arrived on 31st March, another 45 on 5th April and a record spring total of 170 next day. Another 30 appeared on 25th April. The May maximum was only five. A late female occurred on 6th June. In autumn one on 1st September was followed by a moderate daily passage 8th September-19th October, peaks 40 on 18th September and 30 on 1st October. There was none in late October but a late wave occurred 9th-15th November, maximum 24 on 10th. A late single was seen on 21st November.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. There were virtually daily records 10th May-16th June, maxima 18 on 25th May, 20 on 1st June. Midsummer singles appeared on 5th, 10th and 14th July. There was a sparse autumn passage, with one to two on 17 dates 22nd August-30th September and five on 16th September.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. One to two noted most days 21st April-15th May, with four on 2nd and 16th May. One late spring female on 5th June. Almost daily records in autumn 23rd August-22nd September, maximum 16 on 16th September. One late bird on 6th October.



Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. A 'green' type at Lower Station on 13th-15th June and another 'green' individual on the hostel roof on 21st October were the only records.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. In spring, four arrived on 1st June; three remained on 2nd-3rd, and one on 4th-5th. There were three again on 6th and a female on 7th-9th June. The two autumn records were a male on 12th-13th and an immature on 29th September.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. One on 25th-26th April and one on 1st May were the only records.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. Very few were noted, spring and autumn. Records comprised two on 11th, one on 12th and 17th and two on 30th April, and in autumn one daily 23rd October-9th November, with two on 27th and five on 29th October.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. Spring records were two on 18th March, one to two on four dates 4th-15th April and one to two almost daily 12th-25th May. In autumn one appeared on 17th October, one arrived on 23rd October, increasing to five next day and six by 9th November; two to three remained to 1st December.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*. Present all year. There was no apparent spring influx. The breeding population comprised a pair of Hoodies which raised one young and a Carrion paired to a Hoodie which failed. The Carrion later disappeared. An influx in late August included four Carrions on 24th and 28th but the majority of records involved Hoodies.

Raven *Corvus corax*. Present all year. There were some marked influxes in spring, presumably of wandering non-breeders, including 23 on 17th March, 35 on 6th and 32 on 9th April. Six pairs raised about 12 young (including one successful brood of six). In autumn there was a late October influx, peaking at 24 on 31st.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Present all year. Some passage evident in April, maximum 700 on 16th April. Breeding population about same as 1982, very successfully double-brooded this summer. Post-breeding influxes already under way in July, including 700 on 20th. Numbers generally high in August-November but difficult to assess any major waves of passage, though ringing established a considerable steady turnover.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Present all year. No migratory movements noted. No breeding census attempted but at least 50 pairs bred, and post-breeding numbers reached 200 in August-early October, and still 120 present in November. At least two different hybrid House x Tree Sparrows were noted occasionally in May, June, July and October.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Very scarce: the only records were one to three on 12th-16th May and one on 23rd May.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. In spring, one on 16th, 18th and 22nd March, then small numbers daily 30th March-19th April, maximum 11 on 31st March. A stronger passage followed 23rd April-14th May with one to two staying until 1st June; peak was 30 on 25th, 27 on 26th and 35 on 27th April. A late male was recorded on 7th June. In autumn one to two 10th-16th September preceded one to four daily 2nd-24th October. Singles on 31st October and 5th November, and one to two 8th-16th November, completed an exceptionally poor autumn for this species.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. One on 31st March, one to two on 8th-12th and three on 16th April preceded a period of heavy passage 21st April-14th May. Over 100 were recorded on five dates 25th April-1st May, maxima 200 on 25th and 296 on 27th April. After the main passage one to three noted almost daily to 31st May. Autumn passage was much poorer. There were one to three on 10th-20th September, one on 26th, then 30 on 29th and 20 on 30th September. Small numbers noted daily in October to 21st, maximum 30 on 2nd. In November, one to two on seven dates and eight on 14th.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Singles on 9th, 13th and 19th and two on 16th April were the only spring records. An unprecedented influx occurred in autumn, starting with four on 15th October. These were followed on 16th by a record 100 — over eight times the previous highest day total. Over 40 remained during the next few days and three to 27th. Five occurred on 2nd November.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. An excellent year for this species. A first-summer male on 15th-21st May was the fourth Fair Isle spring record. Three on 16th-18th October (with two staying to 19th) were the sixth Fair Isle autumn record.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. In spring, one to two on four dates 24th-29th April, and one to three most days 14th-28th May, with six on 19th. A late female was present on 18th-19th June. Autumn passage started with 30 on 29th and 25 on 30th September. Almost daily records in October to 24th involved few birds apart from 45 on 2nd October. In November one to five on seven dates 11th-23rd November.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. Small numbers were noted most days 22nd April-1st June, maximum 11 on 12th May. One late migrant on 8th June. In autumn, 42 arrived on 16th October, rising to 43 (a record count) on 18th; 14 remained on 20th, and three on the last date, 24th October.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*. Up to eight wintered. Returning birds started to appear from mid March, reaching a spring peak of 110 on 11th May. A minimum of 25 pairs bred, probably considerably more, as census work will have overlooked an unknown number breeding on inaccessible cliffs. Immigration undoubtedly augmented autumn numbers from late August, reaching a September peak of 350 on 28th, and remaining at a similar level in early October before slowly declining to 45 by 31st. Departures continued in November down to about 10 by mid month.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. A male Mealy on 20th March, and a Mealy on 7th April were followed by one to two most days 26th April-8th June — all Mealies. In autumn, almost daily 7th September-10th November. Very small numbers, but a slight influx 27th September-3rd October when 12 present. The majority of birds in this influx and throughout the autumn were Mealies, but one to four from 21st to 28th September were large ones, probably of the Icelandic race; the only Lessers were in October — three on 14th, two on 15th and four on 23rd.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. A female trapped on 8th August was the only record.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. All records were of 'non-scarlet' individuals, but included at least two males. The first on 24th May was singing at Midway. Further singles were recorded on 26th and 31st May (trapped). Another occurred on 13th June, then the bird of 31st May reappeared on 25th June. It was moderately Fulmar-oiled but this did not prevent it from setting up territory in rocks above the observatory garage, singing strongly to 21st July. On 23rd July a new adult was trapped in the Gully. The first autumn bird occurred on 24th-25th August. Recorded almost daily 29th August-25th September, one to three except four on 13th September; at least 10 individuals were involved. A very late one was trapped on 29th October, and an even later unringed bird was seen on 9th November.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A large Northern male on 25th April was the only record.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*. Two fine males were at Quoy on 25th-27th April and a female occurred on 24th-29th May and 3rd June. Daily occurrence 8th September-21st October, with later records two on 12th and one on 13th November. Generally small numbers apart from 11 on 14th, 25 on 16th and 10 on 18th September.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Seven were seen on 5th January and a male on 5th March. Spring migrants were noted almost daily 20th March-6th May. No more than 12 were counted apart from late March when 35 on 26th and 28th and 38 on 30th. Stragglers in late spring comprised a female on 21st, two males on 25th and 29th-30th May and a female on 3rd June. Two early autumn migrants on 23rd August were followed by daily records from 4th September to the end of the year. The first major arrival was 130 on 12th September. Good numbers were then maintained well into November, maxima 175 on 16th September, 200 on 31st October and 300 on 3rd and 5th November.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. In spring there were singles on 12th-13th and 24th-27th April and 1st May, two on 7th and one on 11th May. One on 9th June was unusually late. Autumn records comprised one on 18th October and two on 12th November, with one still present on 14th.

Oortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. There was none in spring, but one to two from 8th to 21st September involved at least three individuals.

***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. A very smart individual, probably a male, spent 21st-22nd October around the observatory garage and North Haven.



***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*. All records were in September. A well marked possibly male individual was at Kennaby on 1st. The same or another well marked bird was found at South Harbour on 3rd, moving erratically from croft to croft until settling at Schoolton until 12th. There was a poorly marked possibly female individual in Gilsetter on 9th and a different poorly marked bird at Quoy from 13th to 16th. On the last date a new brightly marked bird was at Leogh.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. An early female was noted on 11th February. One to two were present 4th-16th April, then daily passage 24th April-12th June, maxima 15 on 25th April, 12 on 12th and 11 on 16th May. In autumn one on 30th September, then daily 2nd-16th October, with 7-12 between 2nd and 8th. Late singles occurred on 19th and 23rd-24th October, 6th and 10th-11th November.

CETACEAN RECORDS IN 1983

Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*. Six passed north on 22nd August, six on 12th September, and one on 5th December — all off Buness.

Pilot Whale *Globicephala melaena*. 200+ off the south of the isle on 7th January.

White-beaked Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*. Two near Kubbi Skerry on 1st July. About six off Skadan on 9th July.

Unidentified Dolphins were seen as follows: four on 14th July, two on 12th September, three on 26th September and one on 5th October — all off Buness.

The 10,394 birds ringed in 1983 again included almost equal numbers of *pullus* and full-grown birds. 106 species were trapped, a marked decrease on the last two years, reflecting the rather limited variety of migrants in spring and autumn. Hen Harrier was the only addition to the ringing list. The monthly ringing totals were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
—	—	25	322	354	3316	4501	814	363	435	258	6

Most of the traps required maintenance after the winter. Roof sections were replaced on the Gully, Hjon Dyke and Double Dyke, and side sections on the Single Dyke, Hjon Dyke, Double Dyke, Plantation, Vaadal and Observatory traps. As usual a variety of catching methods were used in addition to the permanent traps. The Quartz Halogen lamp was again a great asset; its captures included Shelduck, Whimbrel and Arctic Tern and another useful series of Ringed Plovers.

The summer was not ideal for seabird ringing, particularly in July. Fortunately the Guillemots were early and the majority were ringed in the space of a few days in late June. Special efforts were made to ring a good sample of Razorbills and *pulli* Puffins, and Roger Broad's experience with breeding Black Guillemots enabled us to ring a worthwhile number of that species.

The top ten species ringed were Guillemot 2657, Starling 1277, Fulmar 1050, Shag 800, Puffin 665, Kittwake 397, Razorbill 351, Storm Petrel 302, Wheatear 271 and Rock Pipit 263.

The Guillemot and Puffin totals were the highest ever and there were record totals too for Great Skua, Arctic Tern and Greenfinch; Sparrowhawk and Marsh Warbler captures equalled the previous highest. Rarely trapped species included Grey Heron, Pink-footed Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Black-bellied Dipper, Thrush Nightingale (2), Nightingale and Goldfinch. A full table of ringing totals and recoveries follows.

TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS & RECOVERIES

	Ringed		1983		Recovered	
	Juv/ Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1983	1948-83
Little Grebe	-	-	-	8	-	-
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Fulmar	208	842	1050	12048	6	76
Storm Petrel	302	-	302	8801	4	221
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	18	-	-
Gannet	2	5	7	72	-	1
Cormorant	-	-	-	7	-	-
Shag	52	748	800	14040	20	322
Grey Heron	1	-	1	15	-	2
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	29	-	4
Bean Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	1	-	1	9	-	1
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	3	-	1
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	19	1	5
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-

	Ringed		1983	1948-83	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1983	1948-83
Shelduck	1	-	1	2	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	14	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	36	-	2
Mallard	-	-	-	7	-	1
Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pochard	-	-	-	2	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	9	-	-
Scaup	-	-	-	4	-	-
Eider	3	-	3	87	-	2
Long-tailed Duck	1	-	1	9	-	-
Velvet Scoter	-	-	-	2	-	-
Goldeneye	-	-	-	13	-	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1	-	1	2	-	-
Goosander	-	-	-	3	-	1
Hen Harrier	1	-	1	1	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sparrowhawk	12	-	12	156	-	14
Kestrel	1	-	1	37	-	6
Red-footed Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-
Merlin	4	-	4	166	1	13
Peregrine	-	-	-	6	-	1
Quail	-	-	-	5	-	-
Water Rail	6	-	6	226	-	3
Spotted Crake	-	-	-	12	-	-
Little Crake	-	-	-	1	-	1
Corncrake	-	-	-	34	-	2
Moorhen	2	-	2	77	-	3
Coot	-	-	-	12	-	1
Great Bustard	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oystercatcher	9	38	47	1064	2	55
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ringed Plover	24	4	28	416	-	3
Golden Plover	-	-	-	17	-	-
Dotterel	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lapwing	-	10	10	237	-	4
Knot	3	-	3	73	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	79	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Stint	4	-	4	68	-	-
Temminck's Stint	-	-	-	2	-	-
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	1	-	1	142	-	1
Dunlin	9	-	9	429	-	7

	Ringed Juv/Adult	Pullus	1983 Total	1948-83 Total	Recovered 1983 1948-83	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ruff	-	-	-	31	-	1
Jack Snipe	1	-	1	113	-	3
Snipe	5	4	9	286	-	4
Great Snipe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Woodcock	10	-	10	246	-	14
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	8	-	2
Whimbrel	1	-	1	14	-	-
Curlew	4	7	11	72	-	3
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	3	-	-
Redshank	3	-	3	217	-	2
Greenshank	-	-	-	7	-	-
Green Sandpiper	1	-	1	29	-	1
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	15	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	41	-	-
Turnstone	-	-	-	64	-	-
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	4	-	-
Grey Phalarope	-	-	-	3	-	-
Pomarine Skua	-	-	-	1	-	-
Arctic Skua	3	62	65	2696	-	56
Great Skua	-	64	64	635	-	11
Black-headed Gull	1	-	1	24	-	3
Common Gull	-	5	5	85	-	6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	-	53	53	1136	2	29
Herring Gull	1	224	225	3218	2	70
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	32	-	1
Great Black-backed Gull	-	23	23	1587	1	74
Kittiwake	129	268	397	3822	1	19
Common Tern	-	40	40	333	-	3
Arctic Tern	1	4	5	13	-	1
Guillemot	570	2087	2657	12694	81	288
Razorbill	89	262	351	3620	45	116
Black Guillemot	14	52	66	1191	-	16
Little Auk	-	-	-	5	-	-
Puffin	420	245	665	8855	1	22
Rock Dove	-	2	2	16	-	2
Woodpigeon	2	-	2	36	-	2
Collared Dove	17	-	17	145	-	-
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	55	-	2
Cuckoo	2	-	2	80	-	1
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-
Long-eared Owl	1	-	1	133	-	6
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	14	-	-
Nightjar	-	-	-	3	-	-

	Ringed		1983	1948-83	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1983	1948-83
Swift	-	-	-	15	-	1
Hoopoe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wryneck	6	-	6	163	-	-
Great Spotted						
Woodpecker	-	-	-	19	-	-
Short-toed Lark	-	-	-	5	-	-
Woodlark	-	-	-	2	-	-
Skylark	2	-	2	697	-	3
Shore Lark	-	-	-	3	-	-
Sand Martin	-	-	-	8	-	-
Swallow	7	-	7	225	-	8
House Martin	-	-	-	140	-	1
Richard's Pipit	-	-	-	9	-	-
Tawny Pipit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Olive-backed Pipit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Tree Pipit	10	-	10	495	-	-
Pechora Pipit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Meadow Pipit	223	19	242	7383	-	43
Red-throated Pipit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rock Pipit	246	17	263	7268	-	22
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	10	-	-
Citrine Wagtail	-	-	-	5	-	-
Grey Wagtail	-	-	-	15	-	-
Pied Wagtail	15	6	21	481	-	4
Waxwing	-	-	-	34	-	-
Dipper	1	-	1	9	-	-
Wren	11	-	11	596	-	-
Dunnock	42	-	42	1545	-	5
Robin	105	-	105	5364	-	29
Thrush Nightingale	2	-	2	16	-	-
Nightingale	1	-	1	18	-	-
Siberian Rubythroat	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bluethroat	3	-	3	173	-	2
Red-flanked Bluetail	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black Redstart	6	-	6	98	-	-
Redstart	12	-	12	1406	-	1
Whinchat	5	-	5	487	-	2
Stonechat	-	-	-	44	-	-
Wheatear	271	-	271	13400	4	64
Black-eared Wheatear	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rock Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	2	-	-
White's Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ring Ouzel	5	-	5	354	-	6
Blackbird	228	-	228	16371	3	277
Dusky Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-

	Ringed		1983	1948-83	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1983	1948-83
Black-throated Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fieldfare	3	-	3	563	-	-
Song Thrush	33	-	33	1934	-	24
Redwing	187	-	187	6159	1	66
Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	18	-	1
Pallas's Grasshopper W.	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lanceolated Warbler	-	-	-	15	-	-
Grasshopper Warbler	1	-	1	75	-	-
River Warbler	-	-	-	5	-	-
Savi's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Aquatic Warbler	-	-	-	20	-	-
Sedge Warbler	10	-	10	322	-	2
Paddyfield Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Marsh Warbler	5	-	5	55	-	-
Reed Warbler	3	-	3	130	-	1
Great Reed Warbler	-	-	-	4	-	-
Thick-billed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Booted Warbler	-	-	-	5	-	-
Icterine Warbler	2	-	2	62	-	-
Melodious Warbler	-	-	-	9	-	-
Subalpine Warbler	-	-	-	17	-	-
Sardinian Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barred Warbler	7	-	7	304	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	3	-	3	433	-	-
Whitethroat	7	-	7	720	-	-
Garden Warbler	47	-	47	2309	-	1
Blackcap	70	-	70	3278	-	12
Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	12	-	-
Arctic Warbler	-	-	-	26	-	-
Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler	-	-	-	70	-	-
Dusky Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bonelli's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood Warbler	4	-	4	75	-	-
Chiffchaff	40	-	40	591	-	-
Willow Warbler	69	-	69	2591	-	3
Goldcrest	73	-	73	1066	-	2
Firecrest	-	-	-	1	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	13	-	13	457	-	2
Red-breasted Flycatcher	-	-	-	40	-	-
Pied Flycatcher	7	-	7	708	-	3
Blue Tit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Great Tit	-	-	-	7	-	-
Treecreeper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Golden Oriole	-	-	-	4	-	1
Isabelline Shrike	-	-	-	1	-	-

	Ringed		1983	1948-83	Recovered	
	Juv/ Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1983	1948-83
Red-backed Shrike	-	-	-	97	-	-
Lesser Grey Shrike	-	-	-	6	-	-
Great Grey Shrike	-	-	-	98	-	1
Woodchat Shrike	-	-	-	10	-	-
Jackdaw	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rook	-	-	-	4	-	-
Hooded Crow	2	-	2	42	-	-
Raven	-	2	2	22	-	-
Starling	953	324	1277	17525	7	136
Rose-coloured Starling	-	-	-	2	-	-
House Sparrow	6	16	22	1202	-	1
Tree Sparrow	2	-	2	94	-	1
Chaffinch	37	-	37	1800	1	9
Brambling	69	-	69	2136	1	10
Greenfinch	24	-	24	110	-	-
Goldfinch	1	-	1	5	-	-
Siskin	4	-	4	254	-	1
Linnet	13	-	13	116	-	1
Twite	121	-	121	3900	-	3
Redpoll	4	-	4	503	-	1
Arctic Redpoll	-	-	-	6	-	-
Crossbill	1	-	1	293	-	2
Parrot Crossbill	-	-	-	36	-	-
Scarlet Rosefinch	7	-	7	76	-	-
Bullfinch	-	-	-	29	-	-
Hawfinch	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Lapland Bunting	-	-	-	37	-	-
Snow Bunting	2	-	2	503	-	3
Pine Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellowhammer	2	-	2	44	-	-
Ortolan Bunting	-	-	-	18	-	-
Cretzschmar's Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rustic Bunting	-	-	-	10	-	1
Little Bunting	-	-	-	19	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting	-	-	-	6	-	-
Reed Bunting	5	-	5	301	-	2
Pallas's Reed Bunting	-	-	-	2	-	-
Black-headed Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Corn Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTALS	4961	5433	10394	188630	184	2240

RECOVERIES IN 1983

184 recoveries were reported during the year, the more interesting ones being 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
- () — exact finding details unknown

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 (the suffix j denotes still in juvenile plumage)
- 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

SS68458	1	12.08.67	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		(01.01.78)	Nolsoy FAEROES
			61°59'N 6°38'W 385 km NW
FS70458	1	05.08.74	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		24.06.83	Inver Hill, Berriedale, Highland
			58°11'N 3°31'W 185 km SW

SS68458 is our fourth recovery from the Faeroe Islands. FS70458 was controlled breeding at Inver Hill. A bird ringed as an adult in 1969 was reported from Orkney and three *pulli* ringed in 1982 were recovered in January on the Sussex coast, June in Highland, and July in Cornwall, respectively.

Storm Petrel

	Ringed on Fair Isle	Controlled on Fair Isle
Ingolfshofdi (Iceland)	1	
Yell (Shetland)		7
Gruney (Shetland)		1
Noness (Shetland)		1
Lerwick (Shetland)		5
Foula (Shetland)		2
North Ronaldsay (Orkney)		1
Sule Skerry (Orkney)	1	
Noss Head (Highland)	2	
Shiantes (Western Isles)		1
Isle of May (Fife)		1

The details of the Icelandic recovery are as follows:

2230214	4	19.07.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		01.08.83	Ingolfshofdi, Oraefa, ICELAND
			63°48'N 16°38'W 922 km WNW

This was the first-ever capture of a British-ringed Storm Petrel in Iceland. Three other British birds were caught later on the same expedition, including two Shetland Stormies.

Shag

1026673	1	06.07.62	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		10.01.83	Lyness, Hoy, ORKNEY
			58°50'N 3°13'W 120 km SW

This recovery of a 20-year-old bird probably indicates that it settled to breed in Orkney as Fair Isle adults tend to remain sedentary. All other 1983 recoveries involved immatures: first-years comprised 11 in Orkney, five in Shetland and two in Highland. A bird in its second year was reported from Orkney.

Greylag Goose

5028391	4	13.10.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		08.11.82	Near New Pitsligo, Fraserburgh, Grampian
			57°35'N 2°12'W 219 km S

Merlin

DS75880	3♂	24.08.77	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		18.05.83	Bressay, Shetland
			60°8'N 1°5'W 73 km NNE

Oystercatcher

FV73227	1	22.06.79	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		13.03.83	Wig, Bangor, Gwynedd, WALES
			53°14'N 4°3'W 716 km SSW
FRO6744	1	29.06.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		12.12.82	Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd, WALES
			53°19'N 3°44'W 703 km SSW

Two Fair Isle born birds controlled by the Scan Ringing Group in Wales during the 1982-83 winter.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

One was reported from Orkney during its first autumn.

Herring Gull

GJ59424	3	21.11.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(15.12.82)	Linderum, Jylland, DENMARK
			55°17'N 9°43'E 826 km SE

An interesting quick crossing of the North Sea late in the year. There was also a bird ringed as a nestling in 1978 trapped and released off the Out Skerries, Shetland, in June 1983.

Great Black-backed Gull

A nestling ringed in 1979 was found dead in Shetland in May.

Kittiwake

ED28734	1	13.07.67	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		30.01.83	Lake Aspen, Lerum, Goteborg Och Bonus, SWEDEN 57°46'N 12°12'E 822 km ESE

Aged 15 at its death.

Guillemot

Birds recovered in their first two years of life were reported from the following areas: Norway 27, Sweden 10, English East Coast eight, Scottish East Coast four, Denmark four, French Channel Coast three, West Germany two, Netherlands one, Faeroes one, Shetland one, Orkney one and North Wales one. Older birds were reported as follows: English East Coast four, Norway three, Sweden three, Denmark three, Netherlands two, Skagerak one, French Channel Coast one and Orkney one.

The concentration of younger individuals in Scandinavia is typical. However, one report was totally unexpected:

GJ79677	1	30.06.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		12.02.83	Gronant, Clwyd, WALES 53°21'N 3°22'W 695 km S

This is the first Fair Isle Guillemot to be found anywhere on the west side of Britain. It was all the more remarkable as it was found by an ex FIBO assistant warden, Chester Rowley.

Razorbill

Birds in their first two years of life were reported from English East Coast six, Scottish East Coast two, Norway one, Netherlands one, French Atlantic Coast one and Spain one. Older birds were reported from English East Coast 21, English Channel Coast three (all from Dungeness, Kent), Scottish East Coast three, Denmark three, West Germany two and Sweden one.

Far more Razorbill recoveries were reported than we normally expect in a year. Many of them were part of a North Sea 'wreck' in early 1983. A special paper elsewhere in this report looks at these recoveries in greater depth.

Puffin

EH88945	6	12.07.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		02.07.83	Near John o' Groats, Highland 58°39'N 3°0'W 126 km SW

Wheatear

NH17630	3j	14.07.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		15.10.81	Near Irun, Guipuzcoa, SPAIN 43°20'N 1°48'W 1800 km S
B347138	3j	06.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(22.04.83)	Between Newcastle-on-Tyne and Rosyth, Border 55°30'N 2°30'W 451 km S

Found in car radiator; impact point unknown.

B347436	4 ♂	14.09.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
(1)		(12.04.83)	Zaouiati Sidi Boukil, Rich, MOROCCO 32°14'N 4°40'W 3042 km S

NH17549	4 ♂	15.09.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
()		21.03.83	Tan-Tan, MOROCCO
			28°26'N 11°6'W 3532 km SSW

The two Moroccan recoveries were ringed on consecutive days.

Blackbird

Two ringed in October 1982 were reported from Cheshire and Orkney in March. A more amazing recovery was an adult male ringed on passage on 1st December 1982 which apparently summered in Britain for it was found dead on 2nd July 1983 near Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, ENGLAND.

Redwing

NX55746	3	06.11.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		10.02.83	Near Mey, Highland
			58°38'N 3°15'W 137 km SW

Starling

There were recoveries from Humberside, Central, Grampian and Highland Regions and three from Orkney. The Humberside bird was in October and probably on another autumn migration; the others were in winter, except one on Orkney on 1st August.

Chaffinch

A753318	3 ♂	29.09.80	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		04.01.83	Garscube, Bearsden, Strathclyde
			55°55'N 4°20'W 433 km SSW

Brambling

B720608	5 ♀	01.05.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		10.05.83	Out Skerries, Shetland
			60°25'N 0°46'W 109 km NNE

Continued spring overshooting.

CONTROLS

Fulmar

A female hatched on Foula in 1969 and trapped on Fair Isle in 1981 was trapped again on 24th May 1983, incubating an egg.

Barnacle Goose

Two colour-ringed birds, a second-year male and a second-year female at the time of ringing — 23rd July 1977, at Baatodden, Spitsbergen, SVALBARD — were seen in the field on Fair Isle on 26th September 1982. Both were later seen at Caerlaverock on 22nd January 1983.

Kestrel

EB63425	1 ♂	29.06.83	<i>Hoy, Orkney</i>
			58°50'N 3°20'W
v		18.08.83	Fair Isle 12 km NE

A case of post-breeding dispersal in a north-easterly direction.

Great Skua

Two ringed as nestlings on Foula were found dead on Fair Isle in 1983. One had been ringed in 1964 and the other in 1980.

Black-headed Gull

EK51437	1	21.06.83	<i>Tingwall, Mainland, Shetland</i> 60°10'N 1°15'W
v		04.08.83	Fair Isle 73 km SSW

It was dazzled at night when controlled.

Herring Gull

GK72935	1	23.07.79	<i>Craigleith, North Berwick, Lothian</i> 56°5'N 2°43'W
x		26.06.83	Fair Isle 389 km N
GK76520	5	08.01.80	<i>Prudhoe, Northumberland</i> 54°58'N 1°50'W
v		21.11.82	Fair Isle 508 km N

GK72935 may have been investigating breeding possibilities on Fair Isle.

Duncock

Stavanger

9740019	3	12.09.82	<i>Froyland, Sokndal, Rogaland, NORWAY</i> 58°21'N 6°18'E
v		02.10.82	Fair Isle 472 km WNW

The second Norwegian Duncock control, quickly following the first in 1981.

Robin

B327560	3 ♂	11.10.82	<i>Sheringham, Norfolk</i> 52°57'N 1°12'E
v		16.04.83	Fair Isle 752 km NNW

Blackbird

Stavanger

7166134	3 ♀	09.10.80	<i>Grimstadvatnet, Hareid, More og Romsdal, NORWAY</i> 62°22'N 6°0'E
v		08.11.82	Fair Isle 517 km SW

Reed Warbler

JK44657	4	12.05.83	<i>Burn of Geosetter, Bigton, Shetland</i> 59°58'N 1°19'W
v		20.05.83	Fair Isle 51 km SSW

A Reed Warbler reaching Shetland in May is already beyond its range and the short movement south suggests that this individual was still rather lost at a time when most of its species would be establishing themselves in a breeding colony.

Brambling

B190465	3 ♀	13.12.82	<i>Drumnadrochit, Highland</i> 57°20'N 4°29'W
v		01.05.83	Fair Isle 296 km NNE

RETRAPS

The following selection of more interesting retraps was obtained in 1983:

Fulmar

The oldest retrap was of one ringed as a *pullus* at Wirvie in 1965, found breeding at Da Koosies in July; but probably considerably older was a breeding adult from South Gunnawark which had been ringed there as an adult in 1965. There were various records of breeding adults which had been ringed on the isle as *pulli*. Most of these involved birds which were breeding at or near their natal site (e.g. Da Burrian-Da Burrian; Furse-Peiron); but one hatched on the South Gavel of Bunes in 1971 was found on an egg on Green Holm in July, a move virtually the length of the isle. The youngest breeders found were two ringed as *pulli* in 1972. Fulmars undergo a long pre-breeding period and, with breeding space at a premium on Fair Isle's crowded cliffs, it is conceivable that 11 years is about the age of first breeding on the isle.

Storm Petrel

There were several captures of birds up to five years after ringing, and one had been ringed as an adult as long ago as 1973.

Shag

The oldest bird of known age was a male breeding in Lericum which had been ringed there as a *pullus* in 1968.

Common Gull

One ringed as a *pullus* in June was dazzled on the airstrip on 11th August, indicating that local-bred Common Gulls do not necessarily emigrate immediately after fledging.

Kittiwake

Three individuals ringed as *pulli* (in 1975, 1977 and 1978) were trapped as breeding adults, all at or immediately adjacent to their natal colony.

Guillemot

An adult ringed at Wester Lothar in 1960 and retrapped at Sauversteen in June 1983 must have been at least 25 years old. Its first capture was its only one at Wester Lothar and it may have been a visiting pre-breeder to that colony. All other captures have been at Sauversteen, its breeding site. It was the only one of that vintage trapped but birds of this age are probably not unusual. Our biggest problem is that rings wear out before the bird does, with the result that we lose trace of older individuals. This particular bird is now wearing its fifth ring (the others having been removed). The introduction of a Guillemot-special ring in 1983 will go a long way to alleviating this problem of wear.

Razorbill

The oldest capture was of one ringed as an adult in Lericum in 1964, trapped there again this June, and now on its third ring. The youngest breeders of known age were two four-year-old birds.

Puffin

Ring wear is not so great a problem with Puffins; thus captures of older birds occur every year. The oldest retrap in 1983 was on Tor o' Ward Hill, one ringed as an adult in 1960; its minimum age would be 25. There were some rewarding captures of breeding adults initially ringed as *pulli*, the oldest being a 1961 bird from Tor o' Ward Hill and a 1963 bird from Burrista; both were breeding in their natal locality.

Black Guillemot

Colour-ringed individuals allowed a series of 'retraps' to be collected without interfering with the birds' activities. The oldest had been ringed as a *pullus* at Busta Geo in 1965 and was seen there in April 1983, aged nearly 18 years.

Thrush Nightingale

The bird trapped on 15th May found our baited Axell trap the next day and took advantage of the free hand-out to put on two grammes by 1700 hrs (24.0g on 15th, 26.0g on 16th).

Starling

An adult ringed in July 1977 was retrapped on the nest in May 1983; it was an incubating female.

Chaffinch

An April male was another bird which took advantage of our baited trap. On 16th it weighed 21.8g, and the same time next day it weighed 24.4g, an increase of 2.6g.

ERRATA — RECOVERIES 1982 REPORT

There were three unfortunate errors in the *Recoveries* section of the 1982 Report:

Shag

1162307. The second sentence should have read:

The rapid movement above is much farther than normal.

Black Guillemot

EF85414. The comment relating to this bird should have read:

This is the first ever recovery of a Fair Isle Tystie of breeding age away from the island in summer.

Turtle Dove

EJ07915. The recovery date was 01.09.82.



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ROUTE TO FAIR ISLE**

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AIR ORKNEY

Reviews

**Fair Isle: a Photographic History by George Waterson and Jean Jones;
William Blackwood & National Trust for Scotland, 1983;
128 b&w plates; £10 hardback, £4.95 softback**

The photographs brought together in this book span more than 100 years and represent a fascinating record of social history. "Progress" came late to Fair Isle, and was consequently well-documented photographically. When it did arrive things changed very rapidly, a point often well brought out by the juxtaposition of particular pictures. For those who know Fair Isle the book also inevitably revives memories — of people, places and events. For me it is the photos of the 1950s that mean most, reminding me of many happy times on the isle: the excitement of climbing Sheep Craig and catching halibut, visits to Babs at Houll and Dodie at Upper Stoneybrake, and of course the energetic dances in the old hall. Ornithological matters are relegated to the end of the book and treated only briefly — but this is as it should be, for George's aim was to produce a record of Fair Isle's human life. In this he and Jean Jones have succeeded admirably — it is sad that George himself was unable to see and enjoy the results of his efforts.

Valerie M. Thom

**Fair Isle's 'Garden' Birds by John Holloway.
Published by The Shetland Times, £18.00**

This book of garden birds starts reasonably enough with the House Sparrow. Then it really takes off. Black-headed Bunting shares a page with Richard's Pipit and Icterine Warbler with Scarlet Rosefinch, for this is no ordinary garden. John Holloway came to live with his family at Stackhoull on Fair Isle in 1978. The garden did not look particularly promising for birds but in it or from it he saw a total of 177 species by the time he left the island five years later.

Part of the book is a diary with short entries about first sightings of birds. On the opposite page two or three of them are illustrated in fine water-colour drawings. They come in higgledy-piggledy order, rather as they are seen in the field, and not at all like the systematic predictability of most books of bird illustrations. It is a personal selection, sharing the excitement of an enthusiast. Some of the commoner island birds are pictured first, as they were the first he saw, but it is not long before he is amongst the varieties in which he revels: Subalpine Warbler, Pallas's Reed Bunting, Isabelline Shrike, Olive-backed Pipit.

There are even more vagrants amongst the birds seen elsewhere on the island. A dozen warblers are shown including Fair Isles's speciality the Lanceolated; there are buntings galore, starring Britain's first Yellow-browed, and other glamorous visitors like the Red-flanked Bluetail. In the final section of the book, a member of each of the households on the island contributes some experiences or observations of the bird life around them: a Great Bustard looming through the fog, a Pechora Pipit among the cabbages, even a real, and rare, garden bird, the Great Tit.

John Holloway's drawings are well known to readers of earlier editions of this report which they ornamented so well. Here they have the advantages of colour and a larger and more detailed format. For clarity he portrays most of the birds in a stylised position side-on to the viewer, and his eye for fine points of plumage does not obscure the fact that his subjects are living things, though it is a pity that not every plate has quite the sharpness one expects from a book of this price. Altogether it adds up to a most attractive volume which will make an excellent souvenir of a trip to Fair Isle and give a lot of pleasure to anyone who dips into what must be the most extraordinary garden bird-list in Britain.

J. M. S. Arnott

Bird Migration by Chris Mead. 1983.

224 pages; colour and black-and-white photographs;

many text figures and maps.

Country Life Books, Newnes Books, Feltham, Middlesex. £9.95

Bird Migration encompasses all aspects of the subject. Chris Mead takes the reader smoothly from the historical beginnings of migratory study to the often involved and complex navigational experiments of the present day. Other aspects he considers include the patterns of migration, the physical and navigational dynamics of making the journey, the way migration fits into the annual pattern of a bird's life, and the evolution of migratory movements. A useful final chapter gives hints to readers who wish to study migration for themselves.

The book certainly provides an excellent introduction to the subject. The opening chapters particularly are written in a fluent, easy-to-read style. Inevitably the sections dealing with physiology and navigation do not make for such light reading but Mead's step by step explanations ensure that even the most complex of navigational investigations can be followed and understood. There is hardly a page without some illustration and the liberal use of diagrams and maps throughout the book contributes enormously to this understanding. The majority of illustrations are masterly in their conciseness and simplicity, fulfilling the maxim that one good diagram is worth a thousand words. The only fault I found was that a few of the diagrams (e.g. those depicting annual activity patterns) were so loaded with information that they were difficult to follow.

There are one or two irritating inconsistencies in the book. Chapters are not numbered, yet they are cross-referenced by number in the text. In several instances page references are wrong or missing. Wonderfully clear maps are not aided by mislabelling Whistling Swan for Bewick's Swan and vice versa; and misplacement of artwork on pages 213 and 215 leads to confusion over soaring bird and seabird watching. It is a shame that such niggling little errors should have been overlooked in an otherwise attractive and informative book. Despite this, *Bird Migration* is a splendid treatise on 'the art as it stands' and deserves a place on the bookshelf of beginner and expert alike.

Nick Riddiford

Publications

The following book, articles and papers published during the year demonstrate the wide range of material issuing from FIBO sources or where FIBO data or facilities have been used:

Identification:

- Broyd, S. J., 1983. Supercilium of Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler. *British Birds* 76: 89-90.
- Editors, British Birds, 1983. Red-backed Shrike with white primary patch. *British Birds* 76: 457-458.
- Kitson, A. R. & Robertson, I. S., 1983. Yellow-browed Bunting: new to Britain and Ireland. *British Birds* 76: 217-225.
- Page, D. & Greaves, P. K., 1983. Identification of Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler. *British Birds* 76: 88.
- Riddiford, N., 1983. Sandhill Crane: new to Britain. *British Birds* 76: 105-109.
- Riddiford, N., 1983. Hen Harrier with rufous-orange underparts. *British Birds* 76: 406.
- Riddiford, N. & Broome, T., 1983. Identification of first-winter Pallas's Reed Bunting. *British Birds* 76: 174-182.
- Sharrock, J. T. R. & Grant, P. J., 1982. *Birds New to Britain and Ireland*. Poyser, Calton.

Seabirds:

- Harris, M. P., 1983. Biology and survival of the immature Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. *Ibis* 125: 56-73.
- Mead, C. & Cawthorne, A., 1983. Massive auk wreck. *BTO News* 125 (March 1983).
- Tasker, M., 1983. Seabirds at sea in the North Sea. *BTO News* 127 (July 1983).

Migration:

- Riddiford, N., 1983. Recent declines of Grasshopper Warblers *Locustella naevia* at British bird observatories. *Bird Study* 30: 143-148.

Morphology:

- Picozzi, N., 1983. Growth and sex of nestling Merlins in Orkney. *Ibis* 125: 377-382.

Parasites:

- Fowler, J. A., Cohen, S. & Greenwood, M. T., 1983. Seasonal variation in the infestation of Blackbirds by fleas. *Bird Study* 30: 240-242.

Faunal:

- McMillan, N., 1983. The slugs and snails of Fair Isle. *The Conchologists' Newsletter* No. 85: 80-81.

General:

- Johnson, P., 1983. Links with Fair Isle. *Sullom Voe Scene* Vol. 2 No. 16 (October 1983): 6.
- Riddiford, N., 1983. Birdwatching in the eighties — Fair Isle. *Scottish Birds* 12: 186-190.

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. 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.

Treasurer's Report

1. Income

The receipts for Board are approximately £1,000 down on last year. This drop is offset by slight increases in subscriptions and donations, tax recovered, sale of publications and interest received. And it should be noted that the 1982 figure was boosted by the recovery, as I mentioned last year, of £688 due to us which should strictly have appeared in the Board figures for 1981.

2. Expenditure

Cost of provisions is a few pounds up at £5,102, but the figure for *Provisions* as a percentage of Board has only risen from 24% to 24.8% still well below the 1981 figure of 26% which reflects well on the competence of Nick and Elizabeth as managers. Of the remaining items there is the inevitable rise in wages, insurance, heat and light and travelling expenses. Small savings elsewhere and an increase in the figure for depreciation. So that in showing a small surplus for the year, we have achieved it by cutting our provision for extra ordinary expenses from £3,400 to £1,200, which sum we now consider to be adequate to cover possible alterations to the hostel.

3. Capital Account

No material change, barring a small but welcome increase in donations from the previous year.

4. Balance Sheet

The figure for net current assets is up by around £2,000, which is satisfactory. We have £17,200 on temporary deposit, the increase from last year reflecting the payment of the Falkirk D.C. Mortgage, interest on the S.I.C. Grant and a lesser sum under Bank and cash. We have been writing off the cost of the Land Rover at £500 pa, and the depreciation is now completed. Sooner or later it will have to be replaced, and we have raised the provision for future expenditure from £3,400 to £4,600. Finally you will see that, as in past years, no depreciation has been provided on the Hostel buildings.

5. Endowment Fund.

No material change for comment.

6. John Harrison Fund.

The fund provided nine grants during 1983 ranging from £40 to £90.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1983

REVENUE ACCOUNT

INCOME

1982		
£22,748	Board	£21,571
600	Grant — N.T.S.....	650
537	Fair Isle Endowment Trust.....	508
1,616	Subscriptions and Donations.....	1,696
305	Tax Recovered from Deeds of Covenant.....	345
396	Sale of Publications.....	540
2,565	Interest Received.....	2,716
299	Bird Rings Recovered.....	269
<u>£29,066</u>		<u>£28,295</u>

EXPENDITURE

£5,000	Provisions.....	£5,103
5,758	Wages and National Insurance.....	6,309
1,544	Insurances and Water Rates.....	1,801
3,235	Heat and Light.....	4,257
2,157	Repairs and Renewals.....	1,894
1,573	Telephone, Postages and Stationery.....	1,887
827	Printing Annual Report.....	886
1,186	Travelling Expenses.....	1,493
1,674	Motor and Boat Expenses.....	626
125	Freight Inward.....	186
639	Bird Rings and Nets.....	496
741	Administration Expenses.....	701
100	Audit and Legal Charges.....	150
1	Loan Interest.....	—
3,400	Provision for Extraordinary Expenditure.....	1,200
1,099	Depreciation on Machinery and Equipment.....	1,262
8	Surplus for year.....	44
<u>£29,066</u>		<u>£28,295</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

£85,785	Balance at 31st October, 1982.....	£86,308
291	Richard Richardson's Executry.....	106
163	Donations.....	465
60	Gain in Redemption of Investment.....	—
8	Surplus for year.....	44
<u>£86,307</u>	Balance transferred to Balance Sheet.....	<u>£86,923</u>

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Summary of Account for the year ended 31st October, 1983

	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Fund at 31st October, 1982.....	£8,309.41	
Income for year per Schedule.....		£ 434.54
Income Tax Refund 1982/83.....		<u>102.59</u>
		£ 541.13
Management Fees.....	£ 33.00	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T.....	<u>508.13</u>	
		<u>541.13</u>
Fund at 31st October, 1983.....	<u>£8,309.41</u>	

SCHEDULE	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Capital Cost</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
8¼% Treasury Loan 1987/90, £2,400 Loan.....	£2,214	£2,113.93	£ 198.00
10% Treasury Stock 1992, £2,750 Stock. Henderson Administration, 960 High Income Units.....	2,681	2,500.15	192.50
	<u>854</u>	<u>637.74</u>	48.04
	<u>£5,749</u>	£5,251.82	
Heritable Property 21 Regent Terrace.....		3,050.00	
Cash Balance.....		<u>1.59</u>	
		<u>£8,303.41</u>	£ 438.54

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Year ended 31st October, 1983

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1982.....	£6,105.44
Richard Richardson's Exy — Royalties.....	106.41
Interest Received.....	690.72
Donations.....	<u>46.00</u>
	£6,948.57
Deduct:	
Management Charges.....	£ 30.00
Grants paid.....	<u>640.00</u>
	<u>670.00</u>
Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1983	£6,278.57
Held as follows:	
£6,400, 9% Treasury Loan 1994.....	£5,361.99
£900, 13¼% Treasury Stock 1997.....	870.28
Cash.....	<u>46.30</u>
	<u>6,278.57</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st October, 1983

FIXED ASSETS		Cost or Val	Deprec to date	Net Book Value
1982				
£51,698	Hostel Buildings	£51,698	£ —	£51,698
10,948	Garage and Tank House	10,948	—	10,948
3,597	Machinery and Equipment	7,515	3,783	3,732
500	Land Rover	2,430	2,430	—
<u>£66,743</u>		<u>£72,591</u>	<u>£ 6,213</u>	<u>£66,378</u>
INVESTMENTS				
£10,548	£11,000 14 ½ % Treasury Loan 1994 (Market Value £13,420) . . .			10,548
1,000	£1,000 14 ½ % Falkirk D.C. Mortgage 1983			
<u>£11,548</u>				
CURRENT ASSETS				
£ 3,054	Stocks		£ 2,800	
693	Sundry Debtors		1,750	
14,145	Temporary Deposits		17,200	
1,272	Bank and Cash		538	
			<u>£22,288</u>	
<u>£19,164</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
£ 3,740	Sundry Creditors	£ 3,292		
3,400	Provision for Future	£4,600		
	Expenditure			
3,000	S.I.C. Grant and Interest	3,371		
1,008	Special Funds	1,028		
		<u>£12,291</u>		
<u>£11,148</u>				
8,016	NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>9,997</u>
<u>£86,307</u>				<u>£86,923</u>
£86,307	represented by CAPITAL ACCOUNT			<u>£86,923</u>

Note: No depreciation has been provided on the Hostel.

We have examined the above accounts of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust for the year ended 31st October 1983 and have found them to be in accordance with the books and records of the Trust.

COOPERS & LYBRAND,
Chartered Accountants

Edinburgh, 1st March, 1984.

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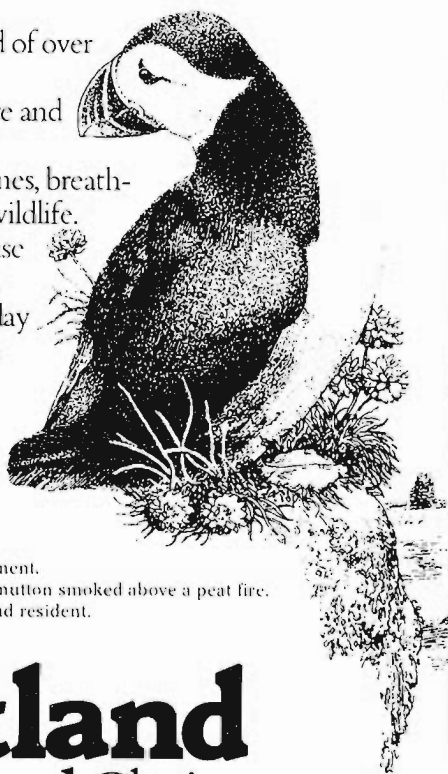
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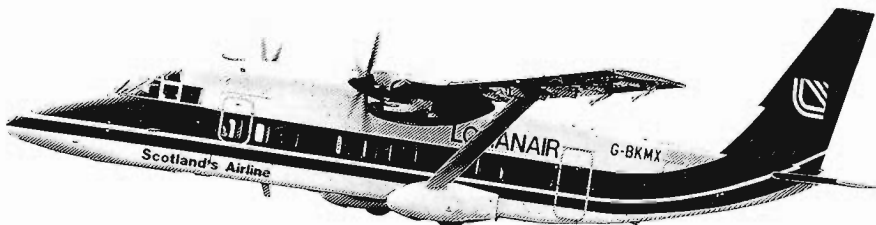
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