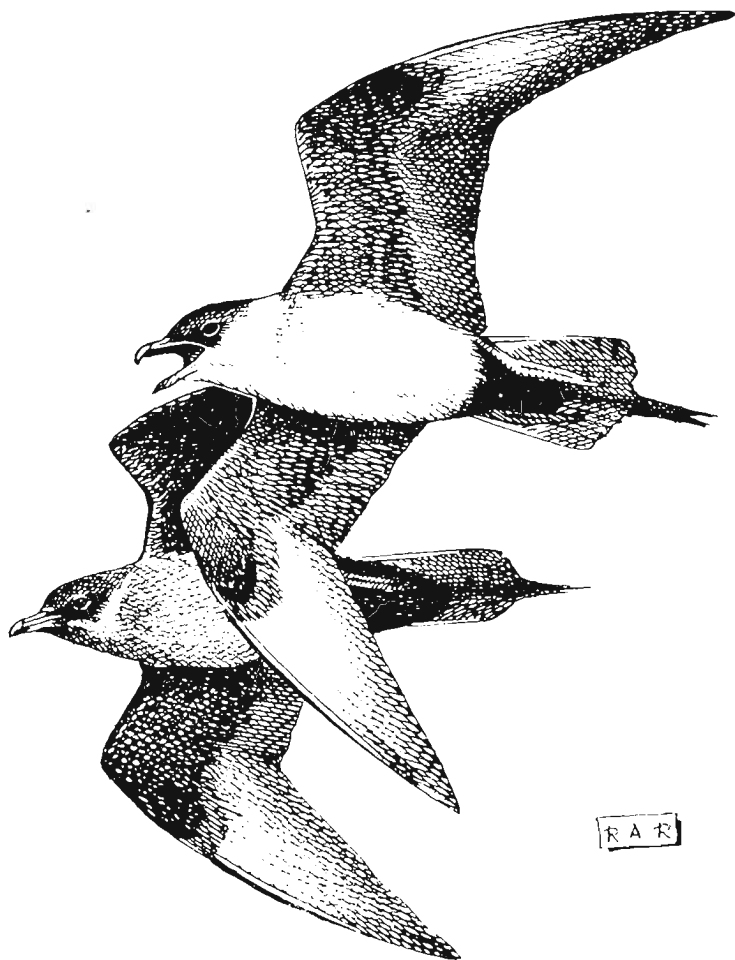


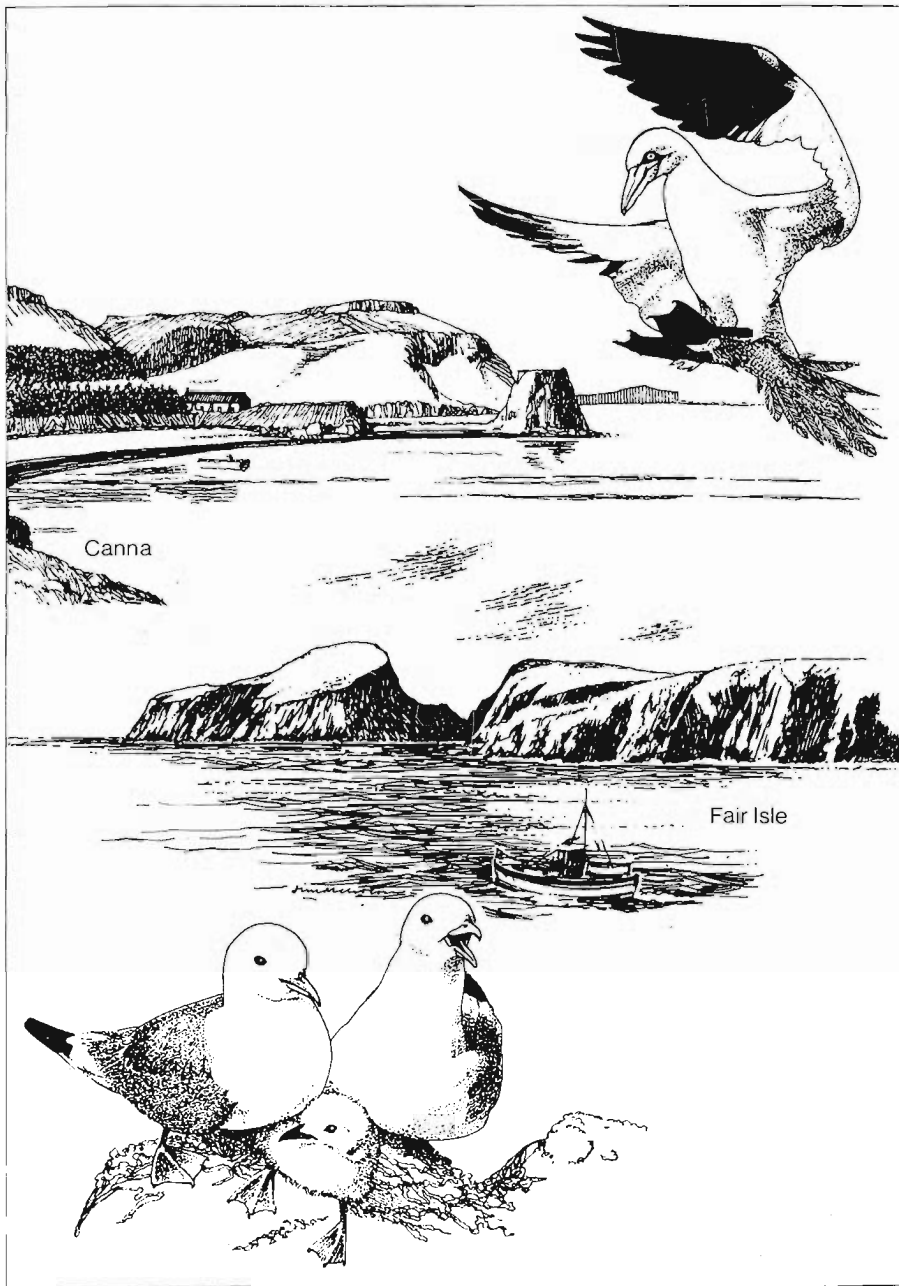
FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

Report for 1984



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

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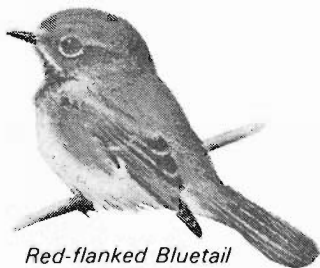
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Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT No. 37
1984

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Compiled by Nick Riddiford

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21 Regent Terrace
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for 'Friends of Fair Isle'

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

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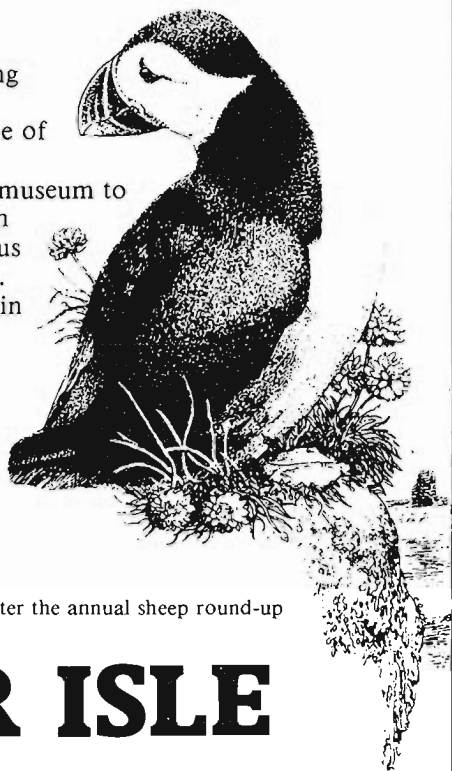
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Foreword

This has been a good year for the Observatory but a very sad year for the Trust. Over the past few months FIBOT has suffered an immense loss through the death of four Trustees: Irene Waterston on 5th August, Sir Arthur Duncan on 2nd November, Ian Pitman on 28th December, and Sir Charles Connell on 26th February 1985. Sir Arthur Duncan and Ian Pitman were instrumental in the founding of the Observatory after the war, providing whole-hearted support for its prime mover and driving force George Waterston. Perhaps the idea of an observatory on the island took root fifty years ago in 1935 when George Waterston paid his first visit to the island, accompanied by Archie Bryson, and were rowed ashore from the Leith to Lerwick steamer. It was a time when a lot of ideas were starting up in field ornithology; the BTO was founded in 1933, the Isle of May Bird Observatory in 1934 and in 1936 The Scottish Ornithologists' Club, the last two by much the same group of people who originated FIBOT.

One of them was Sir Arthur Duncan. His help and encouragement, often behind the scenes, was crucial to the success of the idea. He became Chairman when the Trust was formed in 1948 and guided its work right through to 1984. Ian Pitman wrote an appreciation of him in last year's Report which described the great achievement of his life and the outstanding contribution he made to the success of FIBOT.

Ian Pitman was Honorary Treasurer of the Trust for the same great span, from 1948 to 1984. It was not an easy task. As early as 1949 the minutes note "We will now have to watch our expenditure very carefully". Running a charitable and educational operation of this kind started and continued as an act of faith, and losses were recorded in many of the early years. Thanks to the generosity of donors, and to Ian Pitman's stewardship, the Observatory not only survived but flourished and expanded. The story is well known of how he met George Waterston in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany in the 1940s and in those dark days one solace for both of them was to look back to memories of the Scottish countryside and its wildlife.

As Ian Pitman put it in his book *And Clouds Flying* written in the camp: "To dream, and in dreaming to live once more; to hear the surf boom on Aberlady bay, to feel the shingle flying; to roam the Monich Moor in the hunter's moon; to see Tay and Solway, Holy Island from Ross's Links or Montrose Basin dark and gloomy in the dawn; to lie again on the Green Craig and watch the Pinkfeet come tumbling down from sky to sand against the red and gold of sunset . . . Since my childhood I have loved all wild creatures; plumage and flight are sheer joy to me."

A keen wildfowler in his early years he came to share in the enthusiasm and the dream of starting the enterprise on Fair Isle, and gave it support and guidance for the rest of his life.

Another great and long-standing Friend of Fair Isle was Irene Waterston. She had been Honorary Secretary of the Trust for the previous four years since the death of her husband George, but the work she had given to FIBOT went back for very much longer than that. During the 1960s and 70s she gave unstinted support to George in his love of Fair Isle and its community. The Observatory was growing in reputation and, in 1969, in size. The administrative work increased as time went on and much of it was tackled by Irene, always with her active efficiency and her quiet, perceptive humour. With George she gathered together a great deal of material for a book on the history of Fair Isle, some of which was published as a volume of photographs, and it is to be hoped that this work can be carried through to completion.

Natural history in Scotland owes a great debt to Sir Charles Connell who was one of the first Trustees of FIBOT, and who gave the Trust's meetings the benefit of his wise counsel, as well as his sharp wit, for more than thirty years. The Scottish Wildlife Trust, which he was instrumental in setting up, celebrates its twenty-first anniversary in

1985, and he played an important part in many other areas of wildlife and countryside interest. He, like the others, will be sadly missed.

At its meeting in March 1985 the Trust reviewed all its activities and decided to look into ways in which it might be re-organised in order best to carry forward the work it has done for almost forty years in gathering scientific data, introducing people to the study and pleasures of ornithology and island life, and contributing to the community life of Fair Isle. Coupled with this is the need to support in the most effective way Nick and Elizabeth Riddiford who have done so much to maintain the high reputation of the Observatory. David Macle hose has taken over as Chairman and Roger Broad as Honorary Secretary; both well known on the island. I wish them well.

*John Arnott,
Chairman.*

Warden's Report for 1984

For the second successive year our return was delayed by lecture commitments and we did not arrive back on the isle until 16th March. We were soon followed by cooks, Ruth Legg and Vanessa Hardacre, and assistants, Paul Harvey and Kevin Osborn. Ruth Legg's precipitous departure in July left us short-staffed, but Elizabeth added that of cook to her many roles until valued friends Janet Wilkes (mid August to September) and Ann Prior (October) stepped into the breach. We are very grateful to them for helping us out at short notice, to Vanessa for providing continuity throughout and to Cathy Falkner whose effervescent presence on a voluntary basis from July carried us over a difficult period. We also extend our thanks to our two assistants and to Dave Carter, summer seabird assistant, for their willing hard work and constant good humour.

In keeping with recent trends the accommodation figures were again down — by 9% on 1983 totals. The downward trend would have been even greater had it not been for an upsurge of foreign visitors. We were hosts to 66 people from abroad during the year. My recent trips to the United States and to Scandinavia were largely responsible for visitors from those regions, contributing 60% of that total, but we were also pleased to welcome nationals of New Zealand, Canada, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Spain. FIBOT Trustees visiting us during the year were Irene Waterston, Dave Okill, Roy Dennis, Ian Pennie, David MacLehose and the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Wemyss and March. Lord Wemyss and David MacLehose were members of the *National Trust for Scotland* party which visited in October to celebrate 30 years' custodianship of the isle. Other members of that party were Lester Borley (NTS Director), the Rev Charles Edie and Donald Erskine (NTS representatives of FIBOT) and Alan Whitfield (now a Ranger with the NTS but still warmly remembered as Loganair's pioneer pilot to Fair Isle). No less than three film units stayed with us during the summer. A BBC team spent a week in June making a film with Bill Oddie which is destined to appear on BBC2 in a series entitled *Favourite Walks*. In July STV arrived, with presenter Diana Rigg, to complete a film about the NTS entitled *Held in Trust*, intended for Channel 4. A Norwegian crew came in August to make a film about International Voluntary Service (IVS) workcamps on Fair Isle.

We continued our policy of widening our scope and engendering publicity for Fair Isle and FIBO. A new venture in 1984 was the running of a one-week Natural History Course, led with great enthusiasm by Ian Pennie in June, and a two-week Seabird Ringing Course led by myself in July. There were four participants in each, a rather low number, but it was felt that the aims of the courses had been successfully achieved and the Seabird Ringing Course is to be repeated in July 1985. Whenever possible we encouraged and participated in publicity ventures. We were regular contributors to *Spring over Europe* a six-week series of programmes broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and I reported on the isle's ornithological events in a fortnightly broadcast for BBC Radio Shetland. A number of journalists and travel writers visited us. Some had come as invited guests or as a result of my promotional tours abroad. One article appeared in September in *The Times* weekend section, while an article in *The New York Times* travel supplement gave a most welcome boost to our bookings. It is hoped that a further series of articles will appear at home and abroad in the near future.

There was not a great deal on the domestic front to disrupt the smooth workings of the Observatory. Any problems were minor. The greatest worry was the state of the staff block roof which required a lot of remedial work throughout the year. One leak proved particularly difficult to trace and cure. A particularly virulent gust of wind sucked out and wrenched from its hinges one of the fire doors in the Hostel lounge in late autumn and was boarded up prior to replacement by the *Northmen* during the winter. A stronger latch of a type which cannot be left inadvertently ajar is planned for the

replacement. Another replacement planned for 1985 is a new main gas cooker for the kitchen. The previous cooker, which is long past retirement age, is no longer efficient, badly corroded and not fully operational. The Land Rover had an almost trouble-free year until early October when it developed gasket problems. Stewart Thomson took advantage of this situation to give the vehicle a major overhaul. He found the engine to be very worn and expressed an opinion that it was coming to the end of its days. Nevertheless the undoubted skill and care of Stewart maintains it in working order, at least for the present. No. 2 generator operated all year without undue problems but it had to shoulder all the generating demands as No. 1 engine was out of commission awaiting spare parts and attention from an expert engineer. Both engines are due for major overhaul this winter.

As usual, a variety of special scientific studies were undertaken. Some of these were long term projects, including the annual Auk census work for the RSPB and Dr Mike Harris of the ITE. We also contributed to the national Gannet census organised by Dr Wanless of the ITE, completed year three of the BTO's Winter Atlas and recorded a sample of Kittiwake wing-tip patterns for Dr Bob Furness of Glasgow University. Our seabird investigations were greatly enhanced by the Sillinger inflatable dinghy which was in daily use during the summer. We were also fortunate enough to beg a lift by helicopter to Sheep Rock to install a new 80' chain supplied through the good offices of BP Shetland. Initial access to set it up was kindly arranged by the STV film unit who 'lent' us helicopter and pilot during a break in filming. Later visits (to "test" the chain) were by conventional means, the first time Sheep Rock has been scaled by chain for three years.

Visiting scientists also conducted research on the isle. Dr Peter Evans continued his work on Fair Isle Starlings and Andrew Hindmarsh of the EGI completed his doctoral study of Fair Isle Starling songs. Pete Ewins (EGI) continued his monitoring of Busta Geo Tysties. A new departure in 1984 was the establishment by Dr Tim Birkhead of Sheffield University of a Guillemot study programme. He concentrated on feeding activities at the colony and to this end we assisted him in the collection of fish dropped by Guillemots in the colony and weights and measurements of Guillemot *pulli* in the course of our routine seabird ringing activities. I continued to provide information on the flora of Fair Isle for Shetland botanist, Walter Scott, and it was fitting that the confirmation of Harestail *Eriophorum vaginatum* as a Fair Isle plant fell to members of our Natural History course.

Fair Isle 1984

From the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) viewpoint, this has been another busy year on Fair Isle.

One of the most colourful groups of visitors was the group from the Orden del Mar Oceano, the Spanish military order, who came to the island to commemorate nearly 400 years since the last 'visit' by a Spanish military contingent. These were survivors from El Gran Grifon, one of the Spanish Armada flagships, wrecked on the isle. This year's visitors, headed by Senor Don Pascual Barberan, also came to thank the islanders for the help and friendship shown to their forebears. The islanders provided a magnificent lunch, which was followed by various presentations and a dance, before the visitors marched from the hall to the graveyard, where they dedicated a cross to those who did not survive the wreck. At almost the same time, the island had a visit from Spaelimenninir i Hoydólum, the Faroese folk group. They provided a very high standard of playing and were most interesting people. A reciprocal visit is planned this year by some of the islanders.

A further commemoration took place in October, when members of the NTS and its staff, including its President, Lord Wemyss, and Director, Mr Lester Borley, visited the isle to mark 30 years of Trust ownership. As well as the excellent party organised by the islanders, there was a chance for the visitors to visit at least some of the islanders. One of the party, now a member of Trust staff, was Alan Whitfield, formerly with Loganair, and well known on Fair Isle. Another was the Rev Charles Edie, who was kindly asked to take the Sunday service, which that week was in the Chapel.

By no means least of last year's occasions was the presentation to Stewart Thomson of the BEM. The ceremony took place on Fair Isle with the Lord Lieutenant of Shetland, Mr Magnus Shearer, decorating Stewart on the Queen's behalf. The Trust is justly proud of Stewart.

The Auld Schule has seen a transformation or, better, 'restoration', and is now called the George Waterston Memorial Centre. This is largely thanks to the tireless energy of the Centre's Committee, with welcome funding from the Countryside Commission for Scotland, the Shetland Islands Council and the NTS. There has also been appreciable funding from within the isle, as well as the invaluable donation of historical items, which will help the Committee in setting up displays of the various aspects of Fair Isle life and history.

Part of Fair Isle has been reaffirmed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest by the Nature Conservancy Council. Although this has understandably aggrieved some people, it only took place after discussion and with some amendment to what was originally proposed. The NTS must consider what resulted as a reasonable compromise.

Plans for a replacement for The Good Shepherd have been approved and an order placed. I understand that the boat should be ready for delivery next year. A new passenger ferry service, primarily for tourists, is being tried this year between Orkney and Shetland, with some stops at Fair Isle, weather permitting. It is hoped that this will improve communications somewhat. Cost is still a major problem in getting to Shetland in general and Fair Isle in particular. A recent meeting on the isle with Tourism representatives from the Shetland Islands Council, the Shetland Tourist Organisation and the Highlands and Islands Development Board highlighted this problem and others, and the need for more tourists to visit Fair Isle, both for FIBOT and the islanders' welfare.

I hope it is not tempting fate to say that the fairly serious teething problems for the aerogenerator seem to have been overcome and, thanks to Barry Sinclair's vigilance and expertise, it is operating well.

It was a year of changes amongst the island community. In February Andrew and

Kathleen Stout and family left Setter, followed in autumn by the departure of Jim and Helen Wilson and family from Schoolton. Both families moved to Shetland. Another, shorter move took Jimmy Wilson senior from Schoolton to Easterhoul, the sheltered housing accommodation officially opened on the isle in April. The Setter tenancy was taken up in July by Michael Stout, son of Alec and Margaret of Barkland.

Celebrations on the isle were several. Congratulations are proffered to Alec and Margaret Stout who celebrated their silver wedding in the autumn. In the spring there was a happy addition to the isle's population with the birth of Eileen, a daughter to Neil and Pat Thomson and sister to Inness and Ross. The event could not have been better timed, for Eileen was born on the very day (13th April) that Stewart Thomson was presented with his BEM — a double celebration for Stewart and Annie for whom Eileen was an eighth grandchild. It was a double celebration, too, for Fiona Best whose 21st birthday social was marked by the announcement of her engagement to Robert Mitchell of Inverness.

I am sorry to report that the Halletts, who have done so well in such a short time in the shop, are now giving this up; however, they had the chance of the tenancy of one of the crofts and will therefore be staying on the isle. In mentioning the shop and looking back at last year's report, I can see that my positive comments on Nigel and Cathy Hallett's start in the shop could be read as an implied criticism of John and Sue Holloway. This was in no way my intention, and I must apologise for writing in a way that allowed such an interpretation.

A survey, initiated and carried out by the islanders last autumn, identified the need for the NTS to clarify its aims and objectives as far as Fair Isle is concerned, and the Trust's Executive Committee agreed that a Five Year Management Action Plan be prepared as a guide for the future of the isle.

The above is only a sample of what has been going on over the last year plus, but it is an indication of an active and industrious community, with which I am trying to keep pace!

R. McD. Seligman
8th May, 1985

Fair Isle Natural History Course

16th to 23rd June, 1984

For some years the idea of various "courses" at FIBO has been put forward; in June 1984 a trial run was made with a general natural history course led by myself, incorporating the idea of as much "islander participation" as possible. The advertising was delightfully vague, nevertheless four stalwarts enrolled — a very suitable number for a pilot scheme. This number proved ideal as Catriona and Stewart Thomson had kindly offered to provide transport for the members.

Weather was not helpful — the leader made an abortive attempt at air transport but finally arrived on board the "Good Shepherd" a day late. Nor was it possible to have the circumnavigation of the isle as promised. However, other events went ahead as scheduled. Walter Scott's check-list was used as the basis for a botanical "tick hunt" in which, with Annie Thomson's guidance, as many species as possible were recorded. In spite of prolonged search we failed to find *Silene acaulis* (Moss Campion), but did tick *Trientalis europaea* (Chickweed Wintergreen) in diminutive form and, with Nick's help, found the sole surviving scrap of *Hymenophyllum Wilsonii* (Wilson's Filmy Fern).

A visit to the knitters' weekly show led in nicely to the following day's exercise as we were fascinated to find that Margo Murray is quite experienced in lichen dying. We were delighted then when both she and Nick joined us for the lichen day in which we used Ursula Duncan's list as a guide. Starting at the shore we ticked off some of the more prominent species in rather horrible weather conditions. Like many of the vascular plants the Shetland lichens are diminutive compared with mainland forms. The evening visit to the South Light with Stewart was instructive and revealing: great changes indeed! — but one wonders whether for the good.

At an elementary level vegetation composition in different sites can be compared by counting the number of species in randomly thrown quadrats. This proved to be a fascinating exercise in spite of the weather. Two quadrats of one tenth square metre were thrown ten times on Malcolm's Head and Busta Brecks and the scores recorded. Besides being a basis of comparison this is excellent practice in the identification of vegetative stages of vascular plants and of a few bryophytes and lichens. All agreed that it was good fun.

Our final botanical study was to have a brief look at the state of the Juniper on the Ward Hill and elsewhere. It is obvious that the Juniper is dying out in many places, especially on exposed sites, and many dead specimens were available for study. About a dozen of these of varying girth were sectioned and the annual growth rings counted under a low-power microscope. Participants found this of particular interest: we found that Juniper "trees" of 0.5cm radius may have an age of over 60 years, but our record was one of 2.6cm radius with an age of 172 years. Obviously we did not have time for an exhaustive study but it was felt that this should certainly be followed up with detailed mapping of past and present Juniper distribution and an attempt to assess causes of die-back.

History and archaeology were discussed by Anne Sinclair and Pat Thomson and all were most impressed by the progress of the George Waterston Memorial Centre and look forward to its completion. Finally we were intrigued by Dave Wheeler's work on weather recording, though this was possibly more appreciated by the younger members more familiar with modern computer science.

At the "post mortem" it was unanimously agreed that the "course" had been an excellent idea, enjoyed by all. There were some reservations and criticisms — e.g. that there was not enough emphasis on ornithology, but the leader rather thought that the whole aim was to get away from the idea that Fair Isle was nothing but birds! Another complaint was — not enough gaps, no time to look around and that the ground covered

would really require a fortnight! (OK, but that would cost twice as much!). It was agreed by all that a basic bibliography should be suggested and sent in advance to all participants.

On the question of numbers for future ventures Nick thought this should be built up to a dozen or more, but I thought that a maximum of eight for one tutor was called for as beyond that it is difficult to supervise quadrats and give personal attention to identification, also more than eight to one microscope becomes quite impossible. Finally there would be the question of transport; larger numbers might present difficulties with transport and could not expect the welcome cups of tea and lunch-time shelter in various houses.

Ian Pennie

Fair Isle Seabird Ringing Course, 30th June to 14th July 1984

Two years' discussions with the British Trust for Ornithology culminated in an inaugural two-week specialist seabird course for ringers this summer. It was a 'first' on two counts: the first time a specialist BTO sponsored seabird course had been conducted and the first ringing course to be held on Fair Isle.

Seabird ringing requires a number of skills not, or rarely encountered, in other forms of ringing. Some of the rings used are of a special design quite unlike the normal butted ring; ringing in a seabird colony can only be done by a small team working as an organised and well-disciplined unit; it requires a lot of careful planning and preparation before setting out for a colony; it requires knowledge of cliff procedures, including use of ropes and associated equipment; it requires respect for the ways of the sea and, in many cases, familiarity with boat handling and allied safety techniques.

So the aims of the course were multifold. As with other BTO courses a major aim was to enable ringers to gain experience in the best way possible — by handling and ringing a large sample during the period of the course. However, we gave equal stress to all the other skills which are so vital to the success of a seabird ringing programme. Our overall aim, then, was to turn out a complete seabird ringer who, in addition to displaying competence in the use of the gamut of seabird rings, would know the rudiments of planning a seabird expedition, be coached in the preparation, maintenance and use of equipment and instilled with a strong safety-first attitude towards both birds and fellow humans.



Members and leaders of the BTO Seabird Ringing Course held on Fair Isle in July.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford

The course was declared rather late and thus only attracted four participants. It transpired that this was an ideal number for a first course; with the participation in a supervisory capacity of assistants Kevin Osborn, Paul Harvey and Dave Carter we were able to offer a 1:1 ratio of supervisors to participants. With such a ratio we were in a position to fulfil the aims of the course while gaining the necessary experience to plan for a greater number of course members in the future.

Any apprehension we may have had about the 1984 course was quickly dispelled by the willingness and determination of the members who had travelled from South Wales, Essex, Suffolk and Berkshire to participate in a ringing experience new to all of them. The weather could have been kinder: low cloud, drizzle and enough wind to produce a moderate swell at sea frequently forced us to change the day's plans at short notice, but there was hardly a session when we could not do some seabird work and we kept our participants pretty busy with a great variety of activities ranging from walking



One of our Seabird Course members even showed enthusiasm for ringing Fulmars!

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford

the hill for skua chicks to abseiling for Shags and scaling Sheep Rock for gulls. The ringing total for the two weeks amounted to 2494 — 650 adults and 1844 *pulli*. The total of 17 seabird species bore witness to the great variety breeding on Fair Isle. Although the course concentrated on seabirds we did not ignore other birds and the grand total of 31 species ringed included 3 waders, Rock Dove and 10 passerines. Fair Isle's reputation for producing rare birds did not fail us even in July; a Hawfinch trapped in the Plantation was a fine way to start the month. Course members were also treated to the capture of a Fair Isle Wren which generated a lot of interest.

The numbers ringed tell one part of the story, but the reactions of the participants are perhaps more significant. They were all pleased with the numbers ringed, admitted to being pleasantly surprised by the variety of seabirds available for ringing, and felt that they had greatly benefitted not only from the ringing but from learning about the many additional facets of seabird ringing which only a practical experience could teach them. Above all, they said they enjoyed themselves and this comment was echoed by all of us. It was a most gratifying and enjoyable two weeks for all concerned and a successful venture which we intend to repeat in 1985.



The new FIBOT inflatable dinghy was used extensively during the summer.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford

Scandinavian Lecture Tour, February 1984

Following the success of my lecture tour to the north-east United States in February 1983 it was felt that a similar venture in Scandinavia would also prove worthwhile. It seemed all the more propitious with the announcement that the *Smyril Line* were opening up a new ferry route in 1984 with weekly sailings from both Hanstholm (Denmark) and Bergen (Norway) to the Faroes and Iceland by way of Lerwick. Thus, suddenly, Shetland would become of easy access to all Scandinavians.

I was indeed fortunate to receive the unstinted help of both British and Scandinavian ornithologists in setting up the tour. The ornithological fame of Fair Isle was clearly recognised in Scandinavia to judge from the impressive list of venues arranged for me and the great anticipation of the national and regional societies involved. My tour was certainly hectic. I took the overnight boat from Harwich to Esbjerg (Denmark) on 6th February and was immediately launched into my talk — entitled 'Fair Isle and its Birds' — on the evening of 7th at Aarhus. The following evening I presented my lecture in Copenhagen before speaking to the students and staff of Denmark's only environmental college, on the isle of Møn, the next morning. Two days later I was lecturing at Bergen before heading south into Sweden for venues at Göteborg, Lund, Stockholm and on the island of Öland. The next stage of my journey took me back to Norway to lecture at Sandefjord, Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim. The final leg of my tour saw me arrive in Finland for talks at Turku, Helsinki and finally at Pelkosenniemi in Finnish Lapland. 4 weeks, 15 talks and just over 10,000 kilometres by train later I arrived back in Britain.

I am indeed indebted to the officials of each of the Scandinavian ornithological societies for the efficient and caring manner in which they organised each stage of my tour. This enabled me to speak at all the major towns and to all centres of ornithology in Scandinavia. It was gratifying, too, to see that people were prepared to travel to hear my talks — for instance, because I was unable to fit Malmö into my busy programme that town's ornithological society sent several of its members to hear me at Lund.

The response from the talks was very encouraging. There was a lot of enthusiasm about visiting Shetland and Fair Isle and great interest in the new Scandinavia-Lerwick ferry service.

Two societies asked for information to be sent giving technical details of Fair Isle airstrip so that they could consider the feasibility of chartering a plane direct from Scandinavia, a mode of travel already employed frequently, I was informed, by ornithological societies in Scandinavia. Journalists from local and regional newspapers were present at a number of my talks and assured me that we would get further publicity in their columns. The talks enticed five people to book for 1984 but I found that the majority of Scandinavian birdwatchers plan well in advance and had already arranged 1984 holidays. However, a great number told me immediately after my talks that they would certainly add Fair Isle to their list of places which are a *must* to visit and many of them mentioned that this would be in 1985. The additional lure of Snowy Owl and, in particular, Black-browed Albatross on other Shetland islands clearly made a Fair Isle visit an even more attractive proposition.

Footnote to USA tour

The spin-off from this tour continues in a manner which we could never have anticipated. The leader of an American group which visited in June 1983 did so again this June and is bringing another group in late August/early September 1985; and there were other first-time bookings from people who heard me speak. One unexpected form

of publicity has resulted in an enormous upsurge of bookings. One of the ladies who was a member of the aforementioned group in June 1983 is gardening correspondent to the *New York Times*. Following her visit she decided to 'have a go' at travel writing with the result that a half-page article entitled 'Its a Bonny Place for Birders' appeared in February in the *New York Times'* Travel Section. Directly afterwards we were inundated with enquiries and a number were converted into bookings. Active promotion certainly produces results!

Ornithology

197 species were recorded in 1984, a welcome return to normality following the previous poor year. The total would have been higher but for the absence of several species normally annual, e.g. Tree Sparrow, Pochard and Quail. There were no additions to the list though Red Kite, Red-footed Falcon and Red-flanked Bluetail were all second records and Paddyfield Warbler was the first in spring.

The monthly totals of species recorded were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
19	24	78	106	125	103	58	88	134	136	99	53

The migration seasons were long and varied. In spring, heavy thrush passage was a feature of late March and early April, May — particularly the second half — was well up to standard and the first half of June was outstanding for rarities and unprecedented numbers of Red-backed Shrikes and Marsh Warblers.

The mid summer period was not notable for its migrants but there were some interesting breeding records. The highlight was undoubtedly the first proved breeding of Dunlin (on Vaassetter). Common Tern bred on Bunes among the slowly expanding Arctic Tern colony. Curlew, Lapwing and Snipe continued to prosper but many of the seabirds had a poor season for once. Common Terns and Lesser Black-backed Gulls returned in lower numbers. Other species arrived in force but Guillemot and Razorbill, of all the species largely dependent on sand-eels, were the only ones to escape high chick mortality — because they left the ledges in early July before food shortages applied. Kittiwake, Puffin and the two skuas were particularly affected and even the Fulmars were not immune. All available signs pointed to a severe sand-eel shortage.

In autumn, a rather quiet August preceded three excellent months. September ran true to form with a fine array of rarities including a remarkable series of Little Buntings. It was much the same story in October with the addition of some moderate thrush falls. Rarities included more Little Buntings, bringing the autumn total to 11, and the start of a multiple Arctic Redpoll arrival which continued into November. By mid November the Arctic Redpoll total had reached 25 and Olive-backed Pipit attained a record total of 4. November was dominated by easterly winds which produced a steady stream of sub-rarities and migrants unusual for Fair Isle. Large raptors were a feature of October and November.

National and/or island rarities not mentioned above included Brent Goose, Pintail (2), Honey Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle (2), Buzzard (2), Rough-legged Buzzard, Corncrake (5), Coot (7+), Lesser Golden Plover, Great Snipe, Short-toed Lark (4), Shore Lark, Richard's Pipit (2), Red-throated Pipit, Black-bellied Dipper, Thrush Nightingale, Siberian Stonechat (2), Lanceolated Warbler (2), River Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Arctic Warbler (3), Yellow-browed Warbler (20+), Lesser Grey Shrike, Hawfinch (3), Rustic Bunting, Yellow-breasted Bunting (4) and Black-headed Bunting.

Monthly Highlights

January-February

There was no systematic census work during these months but Jimmy Wilson of Easterhoull made a series of useful observations.

The meagre winter population included 40 Snow Buntings, a Water Rail at the shop and a Shelduck residing in the Reeva area. There were a few goose records: a Barnacle on 30th January, 2 Pinkfeet and a Barnacle on 8th February. 'White-winged' gulls were represented by 2 Glaucous Gulls on 8th January and Iceland Gulls on 17th and 23rd February. The most unusual January sighting was a Hawfinch; found on 25th, the bird was weak and died later despite being taken into care.

Signs of spring were evident in February. The first Lapwing was recorded on 7th, increasing to 37 by 12th. The first Skylarks were seen on 15th. On 23rd a Long-eared Owl and a Dunlin were present. The first Golden and Ringed Plover were both recorded on 25th.

March

The month started slowly but strong E to SE winds in the last week produced the largest and most varied series of March arrivals in recent years.

Small movements early in the month led to 49 Fieldfares, 25 Oystercatchers and the first Twite (9) on 4th. A Peregrine and a Pink-footed Goose were present on 7th. A Reed Bunting on 14th was the year's first, as was a Wood Pigeon on 20th. On 21st there was a male Chaffinch. Single Robin, Yellowhammer and 25 Blackbirds were present next day. A Mistle Thrush was the highlight of 23rd. The following day there were 2, along with 95 Blackbirds, 40 Fieldfares, 30 Snow Buntings, 4 Wood Pigeons, 3 Reed Buntings and single Greylag Goose, Pied Wagtail, Dunnock and Yellowhammer. Both Iceland and Glaucous Gull were seen, but the star bird was the year's second Hawfinch.

These were forerunners of a major influx which started on 25th: 220 Skylarks, 200 Blackbirds and 110 Redwings provided the numbers; 4 Dunlin, 3 Glaucous Gulls and single Great Northern Diver, Great Grey Shrike, Stonechat and Coot the quality. The Coot was the first for three years. The first Brambling of the year was also seen. Further increases occurred next day, with thrushes particularly evident: 650 Redwings, 400 Blackbirds, 380 Fieldfares, 40 Song Thrushes and no less than 10 Mistle Thrushes. Waders were also much in evidence including 116 Lapwings, 20 Woodcocks and 19 Dunlin. Adult male Merlin and adult Lesser Black-backed Gull were both new for the year. Other highlights were a Peregrine, 5 Whooper Swans and a Jackdaw. On 27th Starlings increased to 540 and Skylarks to 375. 5 Rooks, 3 Short-eared Owls, female Gadwall, a 'double dark' Blue Fulmar and the first Puffin were also seen. Next day a male Gadwall was present. There was an influx of 315 Lapwing and 22 Dunlin. Event of the day, however, was the discovery of 4 Coot on the isle, equalling the highest ever count. On 29th the first 2 Bonxies were noted. Oystercatchers increased to 196 and 19 Wood Pigeons were seen. Next day Blackbirds increased to 750. The last day of the month saw an influx of Ravens, boosting numbers to 40, a female Wheatear and a summer plumage Red-throated Diver in North Haven.

April

Winds were largely from the eastern quarter for the first week and this resulted in some exciting thrush falls. Blackbirds predominated, occurring in unprecedented numbers for any spring period. A switch to westerly winds after 7th resulted in far fewer migrants being recorded. Towards the end of the month SE winds and dense fog led to large-scale arrivals of some wader species.

Thrushes were numerous on 1st, including 6 Mistle Thrushes. Robin and Chaffinch

numbers increased to 23 and 34 respectively while 3 Yellowhammers were seen. The isle was bathed in sunshine on 2nd, perfect conditions to enjoy the sight of White-tailed Eagle soaring majestically over the isle for much of the afternoon. The Coot total rose to 5 — a new Fair Isle record. Other birds of interest were 3 Short-eared and one Long-eared Owl. 2 Goldcrests and 3 Jack Snipe were firsts for the year.

Star bird of 3rd was a Woodlark which commenced a five-day stay on Mopul. Blackbirds increased to 800 while 6 Rooks and 3 Jackdaws led an influx of corvids. A female Stonechat, a Grey Wagtail and the first Ring Ouzel and Mealy Redpoll of the year were other highlights. There were yet more arrivals on 4th: Blackbirds increased to 1400, Skylark to 450, Robin to 50 and Woodcock to 25, while 4 Carrion Crows maintained the corvid influx. A small fall of 20 Goldcrests occurred on 5th. A count of 25 Ravens was mainly composed of immigrants; 2 Grey Wagtails and 2 Sparrowhawks were also noted. Bird of the day, however, was a female Goosander off South Light. There was an almighty fall on 6th. 3000 Blackbirds — a record spring total — descended on the isle, accompanied by 1400 Starlings, 115 Woodcock, 510 Skylarks, 180 Fieldfares and 30 Goldcrests, while new for the year were 2 Common Scoter and 2 Knot. The 7th was a day of decreases with the exception of 150 Woodcock and 70 Chaffinches. The Yellowhammer total rose to 5.

Further decreases occurred over the next two days, tempered by the excitement of a Black-bellied Dipper found on 9th. 2 Whooper Swans flew north on 10th, and there was an influx of 29 Black-headed and 68 Common Gulls. 4 Wheatears on 11th ended a ten-day spell of absence. A Glaucous Gull was also seen. There were few new arrivals over the next few days, though Meadow Pipits reached a high of 160 on 13th. 2 Long-tailed Ducks and a Shelduck were seen on 15th. Bonxies arrived in style on 16th when 45 were counted. 2 Greenfinches, firsts for the year, and a Great Northern Diver were also seen. A further influx of Ravens, numbering 25, occurred on 17th, accompanied by a Carrion Crow. 3 Barnacle Geese, 4 Wood Pigeons and the first Greenshank were also seen. The first Arctic Skuas — 8 dark phase birds — arrived on 18th. Next day 5 Whooper Swans flew north and the first Willow Warbler and Collared Dove appeared. 64 Wheatears on 20th was the first large-scale arrival of the spring. Other arrivals were 12 Bramblings, 5 Golden Plovers and 2 White Wagtails. The first Whimbrel and Linnet were noted on 21st while a Ring Ouzel was only the second of the year. There was an arrival of 220 Meadow Pipits increasing to 250, and 110 Wheatears, next day. New species for the year on 23rd were 3 Swallows and a Black Redstart. Collared Dove, Merlin, Teal and Reed Bunting were also recorded.

A minor fall on 24th included 6 Willow Warblers, 9 Robins, 8 Goldcrests, 2 Black Redstarts, 4 Merlins and 2 Short-eared Owls while on 25th Tree Pipit was new for the year. 2 House Martins were new on 26th which was the first day of a large wader movement. 40 Redshank and 20 Golden Plover were followed next day by 250 Redshank — a Fair Isle record — 49 Purple Sandpipers, 20 Snipe, 9 Whimbrel and a Greenshank. 6 Teal and 6 Wigeon were also present. On the passerine front 2 Siskins were seen and Linnets increased to 4. On 28th Golden Plovers numbered 114 and Whimbrel 15. The first Green Sandpiper and a Shelduck were other notables. There were yet more waders next day, including 6 Dunlin, 2 Black-tailed Godwits and the first Common Sandpiper of the year. Not to be outdone passerines present included the first Lesser Whitethroat, 170 Wheatears, 160 Meadow Pipits, 6 Linnets and 4 Reed Buntings. Teal numbered 10 and there were single Peregrine, Merlin and Sparrowhawk.

May

For the first three weeks winds were mainly from the western quarter and migration was generally slow. Brief spells of NE-SE winds on 1st-3rd and 15th-17th led to a few interesting observations. The spring entered a spectacular period from 20th with a few rarities and good numbers of some scarce migrants most days. The climax to the month came at the end when Britain's first ever spring Paddyfield Warbler was trapped.

Wader passage was still in full swing on 1st, comprising 56 Lapwings, 130 Redshanks, 110 Golden Plovers and 7 Dunlin. 4 Common Terns, 2 Sedge Warblers and single Blackcap were new and further additions to the year list next day were Stock Dove, Redstart, Whinchat, Wood Warbler and a handsome singing male Lapland Bunting. 2 Greylags and a female Ring Ouzel were also seen. Highlight of 3rd was the first Sandwich Tern of the year. Short-eared Owl and Long-tailed Duck were also seen, and Reed Buntings increased to 7. 180 Oystercatchers on 4th signified the first major arrival of non-breeders. 86 Twite also denoted an arrival. The first Whitethroat was another newcomer but the star attraction was a male Ortolan Bunting outside the Observatory. Next day numbers were represented by 150 Wheatears. 2 Green Sandpipers, 2 Peregrines and 2 Merlins were noted.

A first-summer Glaucous Gull and a Cormorant were seen on 6th, the start of a quiet period. There were single male Sparrowhawk and Short-eared Owl on 8th and the first 4 Arctic Terns and Turtle Dove on 9th when a small influx of corvids numbered 5 Carrion Crows and 5 Rooks. A Great Northern Diver and a Water Rail were other sightings. A small but varied fall on 11th comprised 14 Willow Warblers, 12 Tree Pipits, 14 Swallows, 5 Reed Buntings, 3 Whinchats and a Pied Flycatcher. There was quality, too, in the guise of a fine male Red-spotted Bluethroat below Shirva and 2 Knot at South Light. On 12th 4 Sanderlings were present in South Harbour, 4 Wigeon and 4 Collared Doves were also recorded. Another male Red-spotted Bluethroat was found on 13th as well as a Red-breasted Merganser and a late Pink-footed Goose. A gull influx produced counts of 100 Common and 55 Black-headed. A Wryneck occurred on 14th. Common Tern numbers rose to 30 and a Glaucous Gull was seen. There were 2 Wryncks on 15th. Male and female Peregrine were seen while 7 Carrion and a Hooded Crow boosted the local corvid population. Other birds included 18 Whimbrel and a Turtle Dove. A variety of interesting observations on 16th included Wood Warbler, 2 Black Redstarts, 6 Whinchats, 4 Spotted Flycatchers, a Greenshank, 5 Common and a Wood Sandpiper.

A new bird for the year on 17th, male Red-backed Shrike, was significant because it was the forerunner of the heaviest spring passage ever for that species. A Cuckoo was also new that day and there were 17 Reed Buntings and a male Bluethroat. Another new Bluethroat was present on 18th and this was matched in quality by a Shorelark in the North. The run of good birds continued on 19th when an Osprey flew north. 2 Pied Flycatchers, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 9 Dunlin and a Ring Ouzel were noted. Further excitement on 20th was provided by 4 male Bluethroats, a male Red-backed Shrike and the first Icterine Warbler of the spring. Also present were male Grey-headed and Blue-headed Wagtail, male Tufted Duck, Long-tailed Duck and Wood Warbler. Hirundines were represented by the first 7 Sand Martins of the year, 8 Swallows and 6 House Martins. A superb male Rustic Bunting on Buness on 21st was the prize find on a day which also boasted Nightingale, Wood Sandpiper, Corncrake, Swift, Wood Warbler, 4 Icterine Warblers, 8 Bluethroats, 2 Red-backed Shrikes and, at last, the first Garden Warbler of the year.

There was a continuous all day arrival on 22nd: final totals included 40 Spotted Flycatchers, 30 Willow Warblers, 20 House Martins, 15 Blackcaps, 10 Red-backed Shrikes, 10 Tree Pipits and 8 each of Lesser and Common Whitethroat. 5 Icterine Warblers was a record count at any season. Other highlights were the earliest ever Marsh Warbler singing in Hjukni Geo, a Sandwich Tern and 2 Scarlet Rosefinches. Further increases next day comprised 14 Whinchats, 5 Redstarts and no less than 12 Bluethroats. The first Reed Warbler of the year, a Stonechat and a Corncrake were other noteworthy sightings. It was a quieter day on 24th as the wind went round to the north-west, but 9 Red-backed Shrikes and 2 Icterine Warblers were still present. It was quality rather than quantity on 25th: a Subalpine Warbler was found at Klingsers Geo, a Red-throated Pipit at Lower Station and a male Scaup off Head o' Tind. Further decreases occurred on 26th but a Stock Dove, a new Scarlet Rosefinch, 3 Jackdaws and

2 late Song Thrushes were of interest. Though rather quiet during the next two days there were nevertheless 27 Spotted Flycatchers and single Red-breasted Merganser and Short-eared Owl on 27th while a female Ring Ouzel, a male Sparrowhawk and a Wood Warbler were seen on 28th. The 29th was a more eventful day: a female Ortolan and a record count of 5 Sandwich Terns were the highlights. 10 Whimbrel, 6 Red-backed Shrikes, a Grey Wagtail and an out-of-season Woodcock were also present. The most unpredictable and thrilling event of the month (and arguably the spring) occurred on 30th in the guise of Britain's first spring Paddyfield Warbler, which was trapped in the Gully. 12 Collared Doves, 2 Wood Pigeons, 6 Blackcaps, 2 Sedge Warblers, a Bluethroat and a late Blackbird were the supporting cast. A male Blue-headed Wagtail and 2 Tufted Ducks were found on 31st.

June

The spell of exciting birds which had been a feature of the latter part of May continued in similar vein throughout the first ten days of June. In the first week the winds remained constantly between NE and SE and produced a host of thrilling rarities. The remainder of the month was quieter with winds from a westerly direction on all but two days. However, it was not without interest.

On 1st highlights were a male Yellow Wagtail, a Black Redstart, 2 Swifts, a Green and 2 Common Sandpipers. Next day a superb male Lesser Grey Shrike was found at North Haven where it spent the next few hours before moving to below Quoy for the remainder of its five-day stay. Aerial migrants were represented by 50 House Martins, 20 Swallows and 7 Swifts. A fall of 21 Garden Warblers occurred and 2 new Scarlet Rosefinches were found. House Martins increased yet further to 75 on 3rd. 4 Scarlet Rosefinches were present and a male Kestrel was seen. The rarest migrant found was a female Red-breasted Flycatcher in the Gully.

It was a late spring day in the full traditions of Fair Isle on 4th. There were 40 Swallows and 8 Lesser Whitethroats. No less than 6 Red-backed Shrikes and 5 Marsh Warblers were counted and a male Bluethroat was seen. But these were easily eclipsed by the discovery of a superb first-year male Red-footed Falcon which eventually settled down to feed north of the Kirk and an equally fine male Black-headed Bunting which put in a lightning appearance in the Vaadal. The Marsh Warbler influx, already under way, reached a new peak of 8 on 5th. Red-backed Shrikes were even more numerous, with at least 20 accounted for. A Hobby was seen and a new Icterine Warbler was found. Numbers of some commoner migrants were high: 200 House Martins, 17 Garden Warblers, 9 Blackcaps, 7 Redstarts, 10 Swifts, 3 Turtle Doves and 3 Tree Pits. 4 Robins and a Dunnock were unseasonal migrants. 2 *flava* Wagtails present were both intermediates between Grey-headed and Blue-headed. It was another memorable day on 6th when record counts were achieved for two species — the Marsh Warbler total reaching 9 and the Red-backed Shrike total an incredible 35. Other increases were Swift to 15, Whinchat to 9 and Whitethroat to 6. 2 Song Thrushes were late migrants. More rarities were found on 7th: a River Warbler was feeding in South Reeve and a rather elusive Thrush Nightingale spent the day in the Shirva area. Despite a decrease in numbers for most species, 25 Red-backed Shrikes, 5 Marsh Warblers and 2 Scarlet Rosefinches remained and a female Ring Ouzel was new. Further decreases occurred next day but 2 Wood Pigeons and a Dunnock were interesting late records. If arrivals were limited on 9th there was still plenty to look at on the isle: the Red-footed Falcon, an Icterine Warbler and 8 Red-backed Shrikes were still in residence while a male Red-breasted Merganser and an hepatic Cuckoo were new. Highlight of 10th was a super male Red-breasted Flycatcher. A Whimbrel and 6 Black-headed Gulls were also present. A Merlin and 7 Collared Doves were seen next day. Several interesting observations were made on 12th. There was a new Icterine Warbler, Scarlet Rosefinch and female Bluethroat while 2 new Marsh Warblers joined two present since the last arrival. The first Manx Shearwater of the year was seen on the Crossing.

Though the main wave of migration was now at an end there was a series of late migrants throughout June. A singing first-year male Scarlet Rosefinch was present outside the Hostel on 13th. On 14th 2 Red-throated Divers were seen. Next day there was an influx of 33 Black-headed Gulls. Highlights of the next few days were 2 Chiffchaffs singing on 16th, the Red-footed Falcon seen daily to 17th, a Sandwich Tern heard flying over the Hostel and a new Scarlet Rosefinch on 18th. A male Tufted Duck and female Red-backed Shrike were seen on 20th and a Marsh Warbler trapped in the Gully on 22nd. On 24th a male Common Scoter, a female Kestrel and 2 Turnstones contributed to an assortment of late records. A male Wigeon maintained the 'late' theme next day and a Cuckoo, Collared Dove and Garden Warbler on 27th. The first fledged Wheatear was seen next day. Finally Cuckoos were seen again on 29th and 30th with the male Common Scoter still present on the last date.

July

As usual July was a month of surprises and the first signs of autumn migration. Winds blew mainly from the eastern quarter in the first ten days while the rest of the month played host to variable westerlies, many days having either rain or fog.

The 'summer special' was trapped on 1st — a female Hawfinch in the Plantation. On 3rd there was a Swift and 3 each of Black-headed Gull and Redshank. A Blackbird on 6th was an unexpected record. Northern Marsh Orchids were well represented at this time with 32 spikes counted south-east of the School. 2 Garden Warblers and a Collared Dove on 8th coincided with the first butterfly of the year, a Red Admiral — with 2 more and a Silver Y moth on 9th. The first Dunlin of the month was noted on 10th, while 6 on 12th were part of a small movement also comprising 4 Whimbrel, 2 Curlew and 3 Redshank. Firsts for the autumn were a Shelduck on 13th and a Sanderling on 14th, while 3 Grey Herons on 16th were also new. Notable migrants were few after this date, the highlights being a male Tufted Duck on 18th, 3 Swallows and 2 Golden Plovers on 21st, Common Sandpiper on 23rd and 12 Redshank on 24th. A brief spell of SE winds and rain in the last few days of July yielded some good wader totals, with 30 Purple Sandpipers, 52 Turnstones and 36 Redshanks at the South Light on 31st. The return boat crossing that day produced 3 Sooty Shearwaters, 12 Storm and the year's only Leach's Petrel.

August

In keeping with recent years August started slowly in the grip of south-west winds, migrants gradually building in numbers towards the middle of the month when the wind turned to the east. Scarce migrants were few but numbers of birds were generally good, especially towards the end of the month when there were some reasonable arrivals, particularly of pipits.

The 1st produced two firsts for the autumn — Kestrel and Greenshank, along with 3 Swifts. A male Common Scoter and 2 Green Sandpipers on 2nd were also new for the autumn. That evening the first ever Common Tern chicks to be hatched on Bunes were ringed. It was another day for the history books on 3rd when a fledgling Dunlin, still unable to fly properly — was trapped in the Vaadal — the first proof of breeding on Fair Isle. Red-breasted Merganser and 4 juvenile Shelducks were seen on 4th and 5th respectively while the year's Gannet census revealed 121 nests with 9 additional sites. On 8th the first two *alba* Wagtails were seen. The autumn's first 'goody', in the guise of Wood Warbler, was trapped on 10th. 3 Willow Warblers on 11th preceded single House Martin and Pied Flycatcher on 13th, the first Ruff on 15th and Garden Warbler on 16th. Migrants continued to trickle in with 4 Willow Warblers, Sand Martin and Whinchat on 18th and Reed Warbler on 19th. *Alba* Wagtails had built up to 30 on 20th, along with 2 Reed Warblers, Wood Warbler and 3 Sanderling. Thick fog on 21st made birdwatching difficult but the accompanying south-east winds brought 14 Willow Warblers. When it lifted the following day there were obvious arrivals with 25 Willow Warblers, 310

Meadow Pipits, 260 Rock Pipits and 4 Whinchats. The year's first Crossbills, 2 flying over Shirva, were noted on 23rd along with 2 Tree Pipits and a very vocal Black-tailed Godwit. The 24th provided the first reasonable fall of the autumn including 400 Wheatears, 72 Ringed Plovers, 55 Redshanks, 15 Garden Warblers and 10 Whinchats. Notable finds were Corncrake, Wryneck, Icterine and Barred Warbler and the highest ever count of Curlew for the isle — 100. Many of the previous day's birds were still present on 25th but new arrivals were Scarlet Rosefinch and 9 Sanderling. Reasonable numbers of Golden Plover arrived on 26th, totalling 48, while a new Barred Warbler was at Setter. It was a day of missed opportunities on 27th when the Barred Warbler bounced from a mist-net at Pund and a Short-eared Owl retraced its flight-path out of the Gully trap. New birds had obviously arrived, however, with Wryneck, Wood Warbler and the autumn's first Lesser Whitethroats — 3. The major feature of 28th was an influx of waders resulting in 15 Knot (7 in summer plumage), 13 Sanderling, 23 Dunlin and 60 Turnstone. 2 Scarlet Rosefinches were keeping company and the first Whitethroat of the autumn was seen. A Spotted Redshank on 29th was the first of the year. Gale force westerlies on 30th turned observers' attentions to the sea, resulting in the sighting of 7 Sooty Shearwaters and 11 Puffins. Further wader arrivals were indicated by 75 Turnstone and 27 Dunlin. Moderating north-west winds on 31st facilitated a downwind arrival of 360 Meadow Pipits; 27 Cormorants undertook a similar movement. A count of 530 Eiders was a marked increase.

September

September was dominated by variable easterly winds and, as might be expected, rarities. There was a whole series of Little Buntings towards the end of the month and 3 Yellow-breasted Buntings put in an appearance. Yellow-browed Warblers staged a return to the numbers of former years and, in company with a wide range of other rarities (not least Fair Isle's second Red-flanked Bluetail), combined to make this a truly memorable month.

The 1st and 2nd were quiet with the only highlights Merlin, Spotted Redshank, 55 Common Gulls and a 'commic' Tern. It was a case of 'after the lull' on 3rd when an Arctic Warbler was found in Hjukni Geo, while other migrants were represented by Grasshopper Warbler (first of the year), Corncrake, 3 Wrynecks and Barred Warbler. 2 Wood Warblers joined most of the previous day's birds on 4th though the Arctic Warbler had gone. Peregrine on 6th was a first for the autumn but the bird of the day was undoubtedly the isle's earliest ever Great Snipe, flushed from an oat crop at Velsbrough. This bird settled in for a stay of nearly four weeks. On 7th the first Ortolan of the autumn was found in the stubble at Quoy, while a school of at least 8 White-beaked Dolphins swam past Meoness. 2 Wood Warblers were also seen. The first Yellow-breasted Bunting of the year was at Schoolton on 8th, remaining to 9th; other notables included Icterine and Barred Warbler and the first Fieldfare of the autumn. A small influx on 9th comprised 50 Redshank, 20 Willow Warblers, 7 Lesser Whitethroats and 2 Redstarts. Strong north-westerly winds on 10th gave little hope of anything, but seawatching produced 3 Sooty Shearwaters and the first Great Shearwater for several years. Continuing strong winds on 11th produced a Manx Shearwater and 5 more Sooty Shearwaters. 2 Scarlet Rosefinches and 3 Merlins were present on 12th. The second Arctic Warbler of the year was found at Leogh on the afternoon of 14th. It was still at Leogh on 15th when another was discovered at Schoolton. Other notables were Scarlet Rosefinch, Yellow-browed Warbler, 3 Little Stints, 280 Meadow Pipits, 25 Willow Warblers and the first of a veritable invasion of Little Buntings — 2 at Springfield. New arrivals on 16th comprised Great Grey Shrike, 3 Red-breasted Flycatchers, Barred Warbler, Icterine Warbler, 3 Rosefinches and at least 45 Siskins. The second Yellow-breasted Bunting on 17th was part of an arrival including Red-backed Shrike, Grasshopper Warbler, Bluethroat, 20 Redstarts, 25 Whinchats, 35 Robins and 6 Red-breasted Mergansers. Numbers of migrants on 18th were generally

fewer but a Hobby, Little Bunting and 80 Siskins were new. Other good sightings were 5 Sedge Warblers, female Ring Ouzel and Long-tailed Duck. A new Red-backed Shrike and 6 Grey Herons were present on 19th. Siskins had increased to 235 on 20th as had Whinchat to 50 and Tree Pipit to 25.

The 21st was to prove a remarkable day. In the morning a Lanceolated Warbler was netted as it crept along Meadow Burn. In the afternoon an even more memorable discovery was made when a Red-flanked Bluetail was found in Hjukni Geo. Other notable sightings included 7 Yellow-browed Warblers, Arctic Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, 3 Wrynecks and an Ortolan Bunting. A Curlew Sandpiper was the first for two years. It was another fascinating day on 22nd when at least 12 Yellow-browed Warblers and 5 Little Buntings were seen; other unusual migrants were Corncrake, 2 Yellow-breasted Buntings, 4 Bluethroats, 11 Ring Ouzels and 20 Lapland Buntings. There were fewer birds on 23rd but a new Lanceolated Warbler at Leigro provided an amazing spectacle as it ran around at people's feet like a mouse (indeed a real mouse present at one stage in the same crop caused some confusion!). Other migrants included Short-toed Lark, 2 Little Buntings, Wood Warbler, *flava* Wagtail and the first 7 Pinkfooted Geese of the autumn. There were increased numbers of Goldcrests (29) and Snow Buntings (400).

On 24th Snow Bunting numbers had grown to 800 and the first Hen Harrier of the year was recorded. Despite overnight departures Little Bunting, 2 Yellow-browed Warblers, Ortolan Bunting and Short-toed Lark remained on 25th and 26th, with 2 of the last on 26th. The first Iceland Gull of the autumn appeared and there had at least been some arrivals contributing to counts of 235 Skylarks, 225 Twite and 100 Turnstone. 4 Whooper Swans and a Whimbrel were also seen. Short-toed Lark, Little Bunting and 3 Yellow-browed Warblers were present on 27th. A Siberian Stonechat was new on 28th and there was an increase of Bluethroats to 3, otherwise species and numbers were much as in previous days. It was a similar story on 29th but strong southeasterly winds with rain on 30th yielded a few extra birds. An Olive-backed Pipit was the major find, but there was also a second Siberian Stonechat, 80 Song Thrushes, 47 Pinkfeet, 40 Blackcaps, 8 Reed Buntings and a Mistle Thrush.

October

The outstanding events of September carried into October with large numbers of migrants arriving, as well as national rarities. Several thrush arrivals occurred but the most interesting influx took place late in the month when a series of redpolls arrived including unprecedented numbers of the white-rumped Arctic species.

Remaining into October were the 2 Siberian Stonechats and the Olive-backed Pipit. Also noted on 1st were the first 3 Barnacle Geese of the autumn, 400 Snow Buntings and 200 Song Thrushes. The 2nd proved another remarkable day with an impressive list of species: 2 Olive-backed Pipits (a new one at Pund, then Wester Lother), Ortolan Bunting, 2 Siberian Stonechats, 3 Little Buntings (two of them new), 4 Bluethroats, 10 Yellow-browed Warblers, 4 Merlins, Reed Warbler and the first Woodcock of the autumn. Fair Isle's latest ever Yellow-breasted Bunting (by two days) was found at Upper Stoneybrake on 3rd bringing the total to 4 for the year. Other species of note were Red-backed Shrike, the elusive Great Snipe, 5 Reed Warblers (an October record total), 500 Song Thrushes and 325 Skylarks. 6 Yellow-browed Warblers and 2 Little Buntings remained from the previous day. The year's first grey seal pup was seen on Easter Lother beach. Star bird of 4th was a Richard's Pipit but there was also a fine influx of commoner species. Redwings increased to 1200, Brambling to 60 and Blackcap to 50. Greenfinch totals rose to 35, an exceptional count. There were late records on 5th of Swift and Whimbrel. A Buzzard seen over Vaasetter on 6th was the first for three years. Also seen were Greenland Redpoll and 'eastern' type *flava* Wagtail. A general exodus of migrants followed but a new Little Bunting was trapped on 7th near the Observatory garage. Other highlights were Long-tailed Duck and Peregrine. 2

Short-toed Larks and a Sanderling were noted on 8th. Strong westerlies from 9th to 11th gave little hope of anything. Nevertheless arrivals on 9th included 46 Black-headed Gulls, while the 10th produced 5 Long-tailed Ducks and 32 Pinkfeet. Remaining throughout were Richard's Pipit, Short-toed Lark and Little Bunting.

A change to light south-east winds on 12th saw the arrival of 3 Whooper Swans, 42 Greylags, 10 Pinkfeet and 5 Barnacle Geese, while an influx of corvids comprised 25 Ravens, 6 Hooded and one Carrion Crow. Strong south-easterly winds on 13th heralded a big fall of 4500 Fieldfares, 4000 Redwings and 600 Blackbirds. Seawatching was profitable with 43 Long-tailed Ducks, 4 Red-throated Divers, a Pintail and 2 Red-breasted Mergansers on the move. Many of the previous day's thrushes were still present on 14th, but a Mistle Thrush was new. An elusive Honey Buzzard at Wirvie on 15th was the latest ever. 2 Turtle Doves and 2 Swallows were the only birds of note on 16th. The only American bird to be recorded in 1984, a first-winter Lesser Golden Plover, joined 11 Golden Plovers at Tarryfield on 17th; other notable species being Red-breasted Flycatcher and Yellow-browed Warbler. The 19th proved an utterly fascinating day. After a mist-netting session at Field a group of 40 redpolls was found to contain at least 10 Arctic Redpolls, 7 of which were trapped. Only six had previously been ringed in the observatory's history. On the same day Bluethroat and Yellow-browed Warbler were present. Event of 20th was the appearance of the isle's second ever Red Kite. 500 Greylags moved south on the same date. 3 more Arctic Redpolls were present on 21st along with a new Short-toed Lark, Yellow-browed Warbler and Great Northern Diver. Easterly winds and rain on 22nd produced the third Olive-backed Pipit of the autumn plus the first Slavonian Grebe of the year. Great Grey Shrike and Dunnock were newcomers on 24th. A late Redstart was present on 25th as was the first Stock Dove of the autumn. Strong west to north-west winds on 26th forced large numbers of gulls ashore including 5 Glaucous and 2 Iceland Gulls. There were also 2 more Arctic Redpolls and the first Goldeneye and Velvet Scoter of the year. 5 Arctic Redpolls were present on 27th in company with a late Lesser Whitethroat and 18 Blackcaps. The first Little Auk of the year was seen on 28th when a late Whinchat was also noted. A late Corncrake was seen on 30th along with 2 Rooks and a Grey Wagtail. A small arrival on 31st included 6 Whooper Swans, 550 Redwings, 400 Fieldfares, 265 Snow Buntings and 2 Bonxies.

November-December

There was daily coverage for the first half of November. Later recording was intermittent but greatly augmented by contributions from islanders. November, in particular, was extremely interesting. There was an abundance of easterly winds and with it Woodcocks, Blackbirds, other thrushes and a number of rarities in a national or Fair Isle context.

November began with an arrival of 1600 Fieldfares and 1550 Redwings. 107 Kittiwakes flew east in half an hour, most of them adults. Hjukni Geo was its usual vibrant self, harbouring 3 Black Redstarts and a late Swallow. A late Whinchat was also seen. Further increases on 2nd resulted in counts of 2000 Fieldfares, 2100 Redwings and 300 Blackbirds. Other species of note were 3 Goldcrests, 2 Siskins, 3 Whooper Swans and single Lapland Bunting. Long stayers included Great Grey Shrike, Grey Wagtail and Lesser Whitethroat. The 3rd was a day of much excitement when a White-tailed Eagle was found soaring over the isle, spending much of its time around Burrashield and Hoini. It was a wing-tagged individual, probably in its second year. There was also a passage of 60 Greylags and a small influx of 12 Ravens. The first Dunnock since 25th October was present on 4th, along with 4 Merlins, 2 Glaucous Gulls and a Bonxie. An influx of 40 Snipe and a Yellowhammer were the highlights of 5th. Only the second Goldeneye record of the year, comprising 4 female plumaged individuals, occurred on 6th. The 7th heralded a small arrival of migrants including 950 Fieldfares, 850 Redwings and 375 Blackbirds. Two second-latest-ever records were a

Bluethroat (trapped) and a Willow Warbler, at Quoy. A Richard's Pipit, only the second of the year, was at North Light. In addition there were 2 late Redstarts, Yellowhammer, Goldcrest, 8 Blackcaps, 2 Chiffchaffs and reasonable numbers of Brambling (25), Woodcock (30) and Robin (15). Steady easterlies with light rain on 8th produced the first Bullfinches of the year — two females of the enormous northern morph. Mealy Redpolls were again much in evidence (21) and with a party at Field were 2 more Arctic Redpolls — the first of the month. 3 Long-eared Owls (two of which narrowly evaded capture) were firsts for the autumn while a Little Auk was in North Haven in the morning. On 9th there were 22 Mealy and 4 Arctic Redpolls, bringing the Arctic Redpoll total to 23 for the year. After the previous day's females, a fine male Bullfinch was at Field; the ringed Bluethroat was seen again. 1900 Herring Gulls were ashore, but only one Glaucous and very few Great Black-backed Gulls. Force 8-9 south-easterlies with heavy rain on 10th made birding virtually impossible, the only birds of note being Short-eared Owl and Purple Sandpiper. 15 Greylags, 4 Barnacle Geese and one Pinkfoot were the highlights of 11th. An arrival on 12th included 900 Fieldfares and 700 Redwings. Star bird, however, was an Olive-backed Pipit at the Plantation which was eventually trapped. 3 Chiffchaffs, 3 Blackcaps and 2 Reed Buntings were also present. 2 new Arctic Redpolls appeared in the Observatory garden on 13th but the most obvious arrival was of Woodcock — 400, mainly on the hill. A Brent Goose flew over — the first of the year; 20+ Cormorants and 4 Whooper Swans were also seen. Woodcock were still much in evidence on 14th with 300 present. New arrivals comprised 6 Short-eared Owls and a Greenfinch. 300 Blackbirds and 10 Mallard were counted on 15th.

More arrivals occurred on 16th, most notably 400 Blackbirds, 80 Woodcock and 5 Short-eared Owls. The year's only Rough-legged Buzzard was in the North on 17th and 150 Woodcock there on 18th. On 20th, another excellent day, there were 500 Blackbirds, 400 Fieldfares, 100 Snow Buntings, 70 Woodcock and 6 Short-eared Owls. A dark phase Buzzard arrived for a prolonged stay and other scarce migrants included 2 Mistle Thrushes, 4 Greenfinches, and single Goldeneye, Goosander, Brent Goose, Slavonian Grebe and Black Redstart. A dying Coot was found on 21st and a male Hen Harrier put in its first appearance on 22nd. Rarest bird of the month (in Fair Isle terms) was a first-winter Little Gull in North Haven on 23rd — the first for five years. A visit to South Light on 24th produced a count of 6 Little Auks, all very close inshore, and a female Pintail. There was a Curlew on 26th and first-winter Glaucous Gull, Jack Snipe and Long-eared Owl on 28th. A storm-blown Razorbill sought shelter at Utra on 29th November.

December commenced with 2 male Blackcaps in the Plantation, the male Hen Harrier still present over Byerwall and 4 Whooper Swans flying about. 33 Lapwings and a Jack Snipe were seen on 3rd. A rich array of species for December was recorded on 10th, including Little Auk, second-winter Glaucous Gull, Teal, Mallard and Merlin. 6 Skylarks remained at Quoy. The Buzzard was still in residence, usually between East Brecks and Vaasetter, and was seen on several days to mid month. The whole of November and early December had been mild and this encouraged a number of species to linger late. Thus a Black Redstart on 11th was the latest ever and there were present on the same day 5 Skylarks, 9 Twite, male Chaffinch, Meadow Pipit and Oystercatcher. In contrast a true winter visitor was represented by 9 Little Auks off South Light. The Black Redstart was still present on 15th. On 17th 2 White-fronted Geese were an addition to the year list. A Mistle Thrush and a Golden Plover were other surprise finds.

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*. A poor year for the species. One on 31st March, 2 on 14th June, singles on 5th July, 11th September, 10th and 14th October, with 5 on 13th October were the only records from the isle. Singles were seen on the *Good Shepherd* crossing on 6th June and 28th August.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. Singles on 16 dates 25th March to 10th May, perhaps involving only one individual. A partial summer plumage bird on 21st and one in winter plumage on 25th October were the only autumn records.

Diver species *Gavia*. Single unidentified divers were seen on 18th May, 19th September and 10th October. One was seen on the crossing on 2nd October.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. An adult in partial summer plumage was in North Haven on 22nd October. One in winter plumage was there on 20th and 23rd November.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Present all year. Relatively poor breeding season with young fledging from less than 50% of sites. 'Blue' Fulmars were seen occasionally in March, May, June and October, maximum 6 on crossing on 16th October. 'Double dark' morphs were seen on 27th March and 24th October.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*. One off North Light on 10th September was the first since 1980.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*. One early bird was seen on the crossing on 10th June. 3 on 31st July and 13 on 28th August, also on the crossing, preceded 7 from the isle on 30th August. In September there were one on 1st, 3 on 10th, 5 on 11th, 15 on 12th and one on 24th from the isle, and 3 on 15th and one on 22nd on the crossing. A final single was noted on crossing on 2nd October.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. One was seen on the crossing on 12th June, and 2 on 28th August. One flew west past South Light on 11th September.



Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. First noted ashore at night on 2nd June. The usual numbers were recorded during night-time netting sessions in July and August. Churring birds were heard amongst rocks on North Bunness. One was seen offshore on 28th and 2 on 30th September. Small numbers on most crossings, 6th June-15th September, maximum 40 on 26th June.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One on the crossing of 31st July was the only record.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. First noted ashore on 23rd March, but already well established. 121 nests were counted including 3 at a new site at the Kame O Guidicum. Peak number ashore was 450 on 11th June. Departures started in September with considerably fewer by late October. The only autumn movement was 100 on 24th September.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Very scarce in spring with singles on 17th and 28th March and 1-2 on eight dates 6th-28th May. In autumn generally small numbers occasionally 15th August-27th October, fewer than 8 except 27 on 31st August and 20 on 23rd September. The only later record was 20 on 13th November.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present all year, markedly fewer from September. Good average breeding season with no signs of young suffering from food shortages.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. 1-2 wintered. Singles most days 26th March-27th June, mostly referring to one long-stay individual. 3 on 16th July, then 1-2 occasionally to mid August and 1-6 almost daily 16th August-25th September, with 11 on 25th August. 1-4 most days October and November.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*. 2 were present 1st-16th January. A small spring passage comprised 5 on 26th March, 4 on 2nd, 2 on 10th and 5 on 19th April. A very meagre autumn passage comprised 4 on 25th September, 3 on 12th and 25th October, 6 on 31st October, 3 on 2nd and 4 on 13th November.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. 2 on 7th February. One on 7th-8th March. One 13th-23rd May. In autumn recorded daily 23rd September-12th October, maxima 47 on 30th September, 30 on 2nd October (when 100 seen on crossing); later singles on 20th, 27th and 30th October and in November to 20th.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. 2 adults on 17th December; one, probably both, were of the nominate European race.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. In spring 1-2 were noted on 27 dates 24th March-23rd May. Autumn passage virtually daily from 9th October, generally small numbers except 42 on 12th and 40 on 13th October. An impressive passage of short duration occurred on 20th October when 500 flew south. 4-20 present daily in November, with 60 on 23rd.

Grey Goose species *Anser*. 3 on 25th May, 5 on 18th September and 4 on 10th November.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*. One on 30th January and 8th February. 3 on 17th-21st April. Scarcer than average in autumn: 3-6 on six dates 1st-19th October, with 35 on 13th. 4 on 11th-20th November.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*. One on 13th and 20th November.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. One present 18th February-7th March. In April one seen on several dates 14th-29th. One was seen on the surprise date of 13th July and a 'family' party of 4 on 5th August.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. In spring, 1-3 26th March-2nd April, 6 on 27th and 2 on 28th April, 6 on 9th May and 2-4 from 12th-19th. In June, one on 23rd-26th. In autumn, 2 on 19th August, 1-3 most days 30th August-11th September. Daily passage 14th September-12th October with highest numbers 15th-25th September, maximum 40 on

16th and 18th. Small numbers occasionally from 15th October, maximum 4 on 23rd October. 2 on 2nd November.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. The only records were a female on 27th and 29th March, male on 28th March and another on 25th April.

Teal *Anas crecca*. In spring, three periods of almost daily passage: 26th March-4th April, maximum 11 on 26th; 23rd-30th April, maximum 10 on 29th; and 16th-25th May, maximum 3. Male on 4th June. Female on 19th July. Scattered singles from 2nd August then steady passage 22nd August-27th October. Small numbers except 22nd-24th August when peak 15 and 15th-22nd September when peak 20 on 16th. Later records one on 7th, 2 on 8th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. 2 on 9th March. 1-4 on 34 dates, 19th March-16th May, with 6 on 7th April. Male present 3rd-21st June. First autumn bird on 15th August. 1-3 noted regularly 24th-31st August and from 9th September with maxima 7 on 15th and 26th October. 1-6 most days in November, and 10 on 15th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*. One flying past at sea on 13th October and a female off South Light on 24th November were the only records.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. A surprise flock of 6 on 17th September and a male on 29th September were the only records.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. One on 13th April preceded a tiny passage 20th-25th May (2 males), 31st May-3rd June (male + female) and 20th-23rd June (male). A summer male occurred on 18th July. The only subsequent record was a male on 2nd October.

Scaup *Aythya marila*. A male off Head O Tind on 25th May constituted the only record.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*. Present all year. Breeding as usual. Rather smaller flocks present early and late than in recent years with spring peak 400 on 6th April and, in autumn, 635 on 10th September.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*. In spring, male on 28th March, 1-2 daily 15th-27th April and later singles on 3rd-4th, 20th and 22nd May. One on 18th September preceded main autumn arrival from 7th October. For second successive year passage at sea noted in mid October including 51 on 12th. Otherwise maximum count 7 on 25th October and 6th November.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*. Scarce: the only sightings were 2 on 6th April with one remaining to 8th, female on 4th and 6th June, male on 24th-30th June, male on 2nd August and a pair on 19th October.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*. The only record comprised a female or immature in Funniquoy Bay on 26th October.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. Extremely scarce, records comprising a male on 26th October, 4 on 6th and one on 17th, 20th and 24th November.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. 2 on 13th, 19th and 21st, female on 27th May and a male on 9th June were followed by one on 4th-5th August. Main autumn arrivals started with 6 on 17th September, then 1-2 occasionally to 2nd November. 8 were noted on 14th October.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*. Single female-plumaged birds on 5th April and 20th-25th November were the sole records.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. A dark first-year was seen on 15th and 19th October on the Hill.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*. One quartering North Haven on 20th October was still present the following day. 2nd Fair Isle record.

***White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*. An immature (possibly two-year-old) soared majestically over the centre of the isle for over an hour on 2nd April. A wing-tagged immature (second winter?) on 3rd November will have stemmed from the release programme on Rhum. The second and third recent records, the previous in April 1981.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Another scarce species: a 'ring-tail' was present on 24th September and a second-winter male from 22nd November into December.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. A thin prolonged spring passage started with 2 on 5th April and 3 on 6th and 7th. There were singles on 16th and 29th April, 8th, 10th-13th, 28th and 29th May. In autumn, 1-2 were recorded most days 11th-24th September, 4th-12th and 17th-21st October. Later singles occurred on 27th and 30th October, 9th-10th November.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. Two records: one spent 6th-14th October mainly on Hoini and a very dark individual haunted the North from 20th November to at least 4th December.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*. One on 17th November. Recorded for the third successive year.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. One passed rapidly over the isle on 19th May.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Very scarce in spring: singles on 30th April, 1st, 6th and 12th May, 3rd-4th and 24th June. Early autumn singles on 1st and 31st August and 8th September preceded 1-3 daily 16th September-16th October.

***Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*. Fair Isle's second record, a first-summer male, turned up on 4th June, 29 years to the day after the first. This individual stayed even longer than the 1955 bird, being last seen on 17th June.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. An adult male on 26th-27th March was followed by 1-2 on 18 dates 4th April-26th May. Later singles were seen on 5th, 11th and 24th June. A female on 26th August heralded almost daily occurrence 30th August-24th November with up to 4 birds in October and 5 on 21st.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. There were two records, one at Linni Geo on 5th June and a first-year in the North on 18th-22nd September.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. One on 7th March preceded daily sightings of 1-2 26th March-29th May. More than 2 individuals were involved but one or two were present for much of that time and were seen displaying. Despite a female being seen on 20th June any hopes of a breeding attempt did not materialise and none was seen until 6th September. 1-2 were seen occasionally in September from 18th and more frequently from 2nd to 25th October. One on 16th November.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. One bird overwintered in the shop garden and was last seen on 28th March. Later singles were noted on 7th and 14th April and 9th May. In autumn there was one on 17th September, one daily 20th-27th, with 2 on 21st September, 1-2 on eight scattered dates in October and six scattered dates in November.

Corncrake *Crex crex*. There was a good showing for recent years. One was seen on 21st and the same or another on 23rd May. In August there was one on 24th, trapped next day in the Plantation. One was present on 3rd-4th September, another on 22nd September and a late one in Gilsetter on 30th October.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. One found dead on 26th March preceded 1-2 on six dates 28th March-9th April. Scarce in autumn: a juvenile was in Gilsetter on 4th-10th October and another was seen on 19th-21st October.

Coot *Fulica atra* An unprecedented influx started on 25th March with one. There were 4 on 28th March, then fewer until 5 on 2nd April (2 North Haven, 3 Hesti Geo) — a record count for the isle. 4 remained to 9th and one thereafter to 15th April. Recorded in autumn, too: one was picked up dying on 21st November.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. First 4 noted on 20th February. There were 25 by 4th March, 80 by 25th and 195 by 29th March. Census work put the breeding population at 85 pairs. Largest post-breeding numbers were 125 on 6th and 24th August. There were rapid decreases from late August to 33 by 8th and 11 by 30th September. 3-9 were present throughout October and to 20th November.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. The first one returned to the isle on 25th February. 8 were present by 24th March and 13 on 3rd April. The breeding population was censused at ten pairs. Up to 10 were present in August till the autumn influx which started with 32 on 25th August. There were 72, the autumn peak, on 24th August and 35-50 to 31st. 31 remained on 3rd and 22 on 9th September decreasing rapidly thereafter to 1-7 in late September and to 11th October. One late bird was seen on 19th October.

***Lesser Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*. A juvenile of the American race *P. d. dominica* was accompanying 11 Golden Plovers at Tarryfield on 17th October. It constituted the third Fair Isle record, and second in consecutive years.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. One was seen on 25th February. 1-9 were seen occasionally 25th March-20th April. There was exceptionally heavy daily passage from 22nd April with peak counts 114 on 28th, 145 on 29th, 110 on 30th April and 110 on 1st May. There were still 55 on 9th May but rapid departures thereafter. 3-12 were noted daily to 5th June, with later records 2 on 9th, one on 11th and one on 21st June. Some displaying near Lower Station led to hopes of a breeding attempt but no evidence was forthcoming. There was an early post-breeding arrival of 2 on 21st and one on 22nd-23rd July. More regular occurrence 1-7 from 1st August preceded main arrivals from 20th August when 34. Thereafter daily to 24th October with the only good numbers 71 on 19th, 63 on 20th and 100 on 21st September. The only later records were one on 20th November and 17th December.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. 1-2 were noted daily 15th-25th September, with 3 on 18th and 20th. One on 2nd October was the only other record.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Good numbers present in February from 7th with maximum 37 on 12th. 70 were present by 17th March and strong passage then until 10th April — regularly over 100 with 315 on 28th and 204 on 29th March, 155 on 5th

April. Up to 26 present daily thereafter (and 56 on 1st May). 11 pairs bred, with good success. They moved away after breeding and only 1-3 recorded on four dates in July after 3rd. 1-3 occasionally in August until daily 18th August-December. No great numbers in autumn, with highest totals 13th-24th September, maximum 48 on 18th. November maximum 25 on 20th.

Knot *Calidris canutus*. The sole spring records comprised 2 on 6th April and 2 on 11th May. The first autumn bird was an adult on 1st August. 1-2 were noted on six dates 10th-23rd August (including one on the crossing). 15 were present on 28th and 10 on 29th August with 4 on 30th and one on 31st. In September 1-4 noted most days 5th-20th with 7 on 14th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. 4 on 12th and one on 14th-16th May were the only spring records. One on 14th-15th July preceded daily occurrence 20th August-14th September, 1-9 except 28th-31st August when 13, 14, 15 and 13. Late migrants were one on 22nd September and one on 8th-10th October.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. 3 on 15th September marked a period of daily records. Up to 5 to 25th with 9 on 23rd September, only one from 26th September to 5th October. One late bird on 13th October.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. One on 21st-22nd September was the only record.

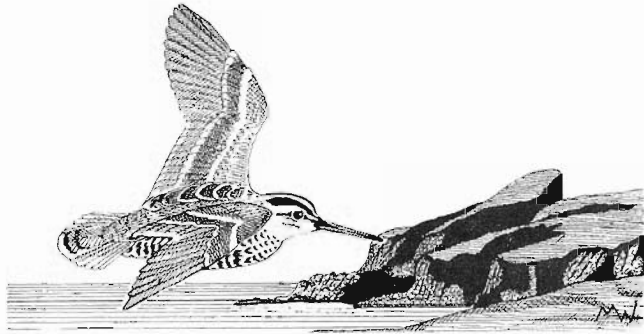
Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. Present in winter and well into spring. The only signs of passage were 50 on 6th and 49 on 27th April. Last 3 departed after 25th May with the exception of one on 2nd June. Very irregular in early autumn. 11-30 seen 31st July-3rd August, but only 1-14 on five dates 10th-21st August and 1-4 on nine dates 11th-29th September. Small numbers recorded most days from October, maximum 10 on 23rd October.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. One on 23rd February. Good daily passage 25th March-5th April, especially 26th-29th March when 19, 17, 22 and 11. Another period of virtually daily occurrence spanned 26th April-19th June, low numbers with a maximum of 11 on 4th May. Displaying has led us to suspect breeding in the last three summers and this was confirmed with the capture of a fledgling juvenile on 3rd August — a new breeding species for Fair Isle. Recorded virtually daily 13th August-19th October. Peak counts were 23 on 28th, 27 on 30th August and 20 on 23rd September. After main passage one remained to 30th October, and one on 6th-7th November.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. One on 15th-18th August was the year's first. 1-5 were noted 24th-29th August preceding stronger arrival of 10 on 15th September. 10 still present on 17th but rapidly decreasing to 2 on 29th September, and one to 13th October.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*. A small spring passage comprised 3 on 2nd, 4 on 3rd, 3 on 5th and singles on 7th, 11th, 14th and 26th-27th April. Autumn passage spanned 13th September-December. Largest numbers were 10-15 from 17th to 24th September and 10 on 3rd October. November maximum only 2.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Up to 6 wintered. There were arrivals or passage in late March and early April, then generally stable numbers. The breeding population continued to prosper: 20 drumming birds were located and the breeding season prolonged, with nests or young found from late April to late September. Autumn arrivals started in the last ten days of August, peak 50 on 28th. There was a major influx in mid September with 85 on 14th, 100 on 15th and 75 on 16th. Up to 50 birds were recorded daily in October and up to 40 in November.



***Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*. For the third year in the last four a Great Snipe took up residence in September. This, the earliest ever, appeared on 6th September and stayed to 3rd October.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Recorded occasionally in January and February, including 9 on 25th January. In spring, daily 22nd March-9th April with a series of influxes: 20 on 26th March, 23 on 4th, 115 on 6th and 150 on 7th April. One on 17th April and a late bird on 29th-30th May were the only other records before 2nd October. Singles on three dates in early October were followed by 6 on 13th, then regular occurrence 17th October-December: early maxima 20 on 22nd-23rd and 25 on 25th October but largest influxes 7th-20th November; highest counts 400 on 13th, 300 on 14th, 80 on 16th, 150 on 18th and 70 on 20th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. The only records were 2 on 29th April and one on 23rd-24th August.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. There was none until 16 arrived on 23rd August. 5 remained on 24th and one from 25th to 2nd September. Later singles were noted on 6th, 9th, 15th, 18th, 20th and 22nd September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. The main spring passage spanned 21st April-6th June, generally less than 10 but 15 on 28th April and 18 on 15th May. 1-4 were recorded irregularly throughout June and July. They were equally irregular later with 1-3 on seven dates in August, one on 2nd and 26th September, 7 on 30th September and one on 2nd and 5th October.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Up to 4 occasionally in winter. Daily from mid March with only obvious passage 25 on 23rd and 25th April. The breeding population of six pairs did well. 11 flying south on 20th July were early signs of autumn movement but heaviest passage was in late August, including an unprecedented 100 on 24th August. Up to 13 noted daily in September and up to 9 in October. In November, singles on 4th-9th and 26th.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*. One which appeared on 29th August stayed to 21st September.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. Small numbers wintered. There was no obvious sign of passage until 40 appeared on 26th April. An amazing 250 arrived next day and 120 were present on 28th, declining to 50 on 30th April. Another influx on 1st May produced a count of 130 with 65 remaining on 2nd, declining rapidly to 8 on 16th. 1-4 noted regularly thereafter to 28th May. There was one on 7th June, then post-breeding arrivals irregularly from 25th June, reaching 36 on 31st July. Recorded daily from 11th

July with autumn peaks 55 on 24th August, 65 on 9th September and 60 on 11th October.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. Very scarce in spring: singles on 17th, 27th-28th April, 1st, 16th and 23rd-24th May. Commoner in autumn: 1-3 almost daily 1st-24th August with later singles on 29th August, 8th-9th and 23rd September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. Spring passage from 28th April-20th May, with 1-2 on 14 dates. One late bird on 1st June. Almost daily in autumn 2nd-24th August, maximum 3 on 8th-9th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*. A very poor year, the only records comprising singles on 16th and 21st May.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. Singles on 29th April, 1st and 4th May preceded small numbers 8th May-14th June, maximum 5 on 16th May. An early juvenile trapped on 23rd July was a precursor of a poor autumn passage incorporated in two waves: one on 17th-24th August; 1-3 on 3rd-24th September, with 5 on 10th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. Present all year and into spring. Spring passage in April denoted by 60 on 11th and 80 on 12th with none the next day. Low numbers remaining in slowly decreasing totals to 9th June. 1-2 occasionally in late June and 12 on 1st July then none until 52 on 31st July. Main arrivals from August, giving peaks of 75 on 30th August, 100 on 25th September, 110 on 9th and 30th October and 100 on 1st November.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. 8 dark phase birds appeared together on 18th April and the species was present on all days thereafter to September. Most were in by 15th May. The breeding population is in decline and census work revealed 74 pairs. There was considerable chick mortality in July, apparently due to food shortages. There was no non-breeding flock. Departures were steady in August with only 16 remaining on 1st September and one on 10th. Late singles were seen on 15th and 18th September.

Great Skua (Bonxie) *Stercorarius skua*. First 2 on 29th March then daily with most of the breeding population present by early May, though steady arrivals of non-breeders later. Breeding numbers increased to 72 pairs but fledgling success was poor. Departures in August accelerated in September to only 5 on 30th. Up to 16 in October to 23rd. Later records were 8 flying south on 26th and singles on 31st October & 4th November.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*. A first-winter in North Haven on 23rd November was only the sixth in recent years and the first since 1979.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Winter records were 3 on 6th and one on 13th February. Recorded daily 19th March-25th May; up to 20, and 60 on 13th May. Present regularly in small numbers June, and an influx of 39 on 15th June. 1-4 occasionally in July and to mid August. Up to 9 daily 16th August-21st September. Small numbers were noted most days 30th September-17th November, with the only sizeable arrival 46 on 9th and 40 on 10th October.

Common Gull *Larus canus*. 6 on 29th January. Spring arrivals from 17th March building steadily to 70 on 6th April. 20-50 most days in April and May, with another wave of passage on 12th-13th May — 85 and 100 present. 8 pairs bred with only modest success. One unsuccessful nest with 5 eggs probably denoted two females sharing. Moderate to small numbers throughout August, September and October with peaks 50 on 18th August, 55 on 2nd September and 46 on 19th October. A few birds remained through November and into December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. First one seen on 26th March. Further arrivals in April but fewer returned to breed than normal and the population was down by perhaps 50%. Post-breeding birds noted daily to 31st August. In September singles were present on 7th & 17th-21st, with 16 together on 20th. 2 late birds, probably of the British race, were seen on 19th October.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Present all year. Highest count in spring was 1000 on 25th March. The local population had a very poor breeding season, probably due to July food shortages. Only small numbers recorded in autumn until 25th October when 1500 ashore and 2000 ashore next day. 1900 recorded on 9th November.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*. Singles were noted on 17th-18th, 23rd February, 24th-25th & 29th March. None then until a first-winter appeared on 25th September remaining to 1st October. 2, a first-winter and a second-winter, on 26th October.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. 2 on 8th January. In March, one on 24th, 3 on 25th, 2 on 26th and one on 27th. First-summer birds were seen on 11th and 25th April, 6th & 14th-15th May. In autumn, first-winter singles seen on 4th & 12th October followed by small numbers regularly 25th October-10th November, including 5 on 26th October. Later records were a first-winter on 28th November & 4th December and a second-winter on 10th December.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Present all year. Highest spring count 500 on 11th-12th April. Breeding season as usual. Generally only moderate numbers in autumn, maximum 550 on 24th September.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Present on ledges from March or before. The breeding season started well but food shortages in the second half of July led to large-scale starvation of juveniles at fledging stage. In late July every beach was littered with hundreds of dead and dying fledglings. In autumn a few noted offshore most days, with maxima 222 on 13th October and 107 on 1st November.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. There were singles on 3rd & 22nd May, 5 together in South Harbour on 29th May and one on 18th June.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. The first 4 of the year appeared in North Haven at the relatively early date of 1st May after which the species was present daily to 22nd August. Considerably fewer returned than in recent years and the number breeding on the Stack O North Haven totalled only 25 pairs. For the first time, however, two pairs settled down to breed alongside the Arctic Terns on Buness. A pair held territory in the South, too, at Head O Tind. Breeding success was marred by wet, cold spells and food shortages and many failed at egg stage. After local departures the only records were an adult on 17th and a juvenile on 20th September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. First 4 on 9th May, then daily to 22nd August. Three pairs bred on North Gavel (though only one past egg stage) and one pair raised one young on South Gavel.

Common/Arctic Tern *Sterna*. Unidentified late singles were seen on 19th & 20th September.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. On ledges on suitable mornings throughout the winter. Census sites suggested that the population has reached stability though some evidence elsewhere of continued expansion. Another very successful breeding season with most young departed before mid July. Only two records in August and early September but small numbers irregularly later in September and more regularly in October, maximum 45 on 10th October. Very small numbers occasionally in November-December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. Present from at least March. Census counts up since last year but still slightly below 1982 level. A very good breeding season with virtually all chicks fledging in the first half of July. Only August records, one on 2nd & 3 on 14th. In September, 1-14 on seven dates 19th-30th. 2 on 10th October and one on 29th-30th November.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*. Present all year. Another species presumably affected by food shortages: some traditional sites empty or with added eggs and few young on the sea in August were indicators of poor breeding success.

Little Auk *Alle alle*. One flew west off South Light on 28th October. One was sheltering from a gale in South Haven the next day. In November there were singles on 6th, 8th & 9th and 6 off South Light on 24th. One was seen on 10th December and 9 the next day.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. 4 on 28th March were first of the year. 35 were present on 1st and 1000 on 7th April, but a pre-breeding exodus occurred from 10th to 13th April. For the second successive year there was a slight decrease in occupied burrows at Burrista. A drastic sand-eel shortage was evident in the second half of July resulting in adults returning with loads of one or two fish rather than the usual complement. This delayed departures: 100 were still present on 19th August and seen daily till 11 on 30th August. 2 on 10th and one on crossing of 22nd September were later records.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*. Present all year. The spring maximum was 30 on 21st-22nd May. Rather fewer of the known breeding sites were occupied than in recent years and poor breeding success may be reflected in generally low autumn numbers, the exception being 69 on 23rd September.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. The few records comprised singles on 2nd, 4th & 26th May and 25th October.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. Spring passage prolonged, spanning 20th March-10th June. Maximum numbers 25th March-9th April, peak 19 on 29th March. 1-6 occasionally later in April and 1-8 most days May and early June. Scarce in autumn: early singles on 17th & 22nd August, then 1-2 most days 13th-26th September. One from 2nd to 13th October and one from 8th to 12th November were the only later records.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. Recorded regularly 19th April-20th June. Only singles in April but up to 6 in May and 12 on 30th May. 1-7 in June. Singles on 9th-10th, 24th & 27th August were the only later records.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. Small numbers, spring and autumn. Singles on five dates 9th-22nd May. In June, 2 on 4th, 3 on 5th-8th, one on 18th-21st and 24th-26th. 1-2 present daily 10th-23rd September, one daily 6th-15th October with 2 on 16th-17th.

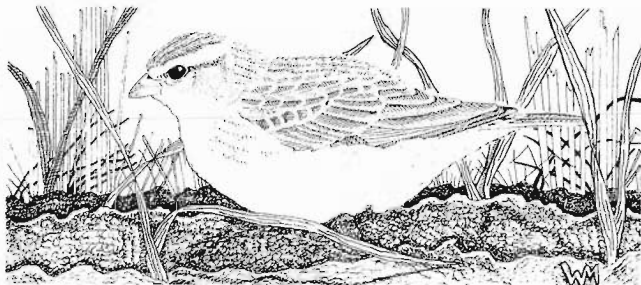
Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. Male on 17th May, one on 21st increasing to 3 on 23rd, 1-2 on 27th-30th May. 1-2 on 2nd-12th & one on 27th-30th June. One on 9th June was an hepatic female.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*. A very lean year. One on 23rd February and one 2nd, 4th & 7th April were the only spring records. Autumn arrivals were delayed until 3 appeared on 8th November; singles followed on 9th, 13th, 20th & 28th November.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. Spring birds most concentrated 26th March-7th April, maximum 3. 1-2 on 24th-26th April. 1-2 on seven scattered dates in May. One on 1st June. In autumn, one from 24th August-1st September. 1-3 most days 9th-24th September. One on 2nd increased to 4 on 4th and 6 on 5th October. 1-2 irregularly later in October. In November one on 10th, 6 on 14th, 2 on 15th, 5 on 16th, 6 on 20th and one on 25th.

Swift *Apus apus*. One on 21st May preceded virtually daily records 1st-28th June, maximum 15 on 6th. One on 3rd & 5th July, 2 on 7th and 3 flying south on 8th. 3 occurred on 1st August, one on 9th-13th September and 2 next day. The only later record was one on 5th October.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. After years of abundance this species has become scarcer, and no more so than 1984: one on 14th-17th May, with 2 on 15th were the only spring records. In autumn there were singles on 24th, 27th-29th August, 7th, 17th and 22nd-23rd September and 3 on 3rd & 21st September.



***Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*. 4 individuals present as follows: 23rd September-8th October; 26th-27th September; 6th-19th October when taken into care with a broken wing; 21st-25th October, at Taing. All were eastern grey morph individuals. The third bird responded to care and, wing mended, gained its release at Schoolton on 6th November, where it remained until 8th.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*. One spent 3rd-7th April on Mopul. Recorded for the second successive year after a period of great scarcity.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. First 4 returned on 15th February. Heavy passage by late March, maximum 376 on 31st, and early April when peak 510 on 6th. Breeding population censused at 81 pairs. Autumn numbers building slowly from 55 on 31st August to September peak of 235 on 25th. Generally elevated numbers in late September and to 12th October with autumn maximum 325 on 3rd October. Another smaller arrival in late October and 90 present 1st November. 50-60 most days to 8th decreasing to 25 on 14th and single numbers from 16th November. Recorded irregularly into early December.

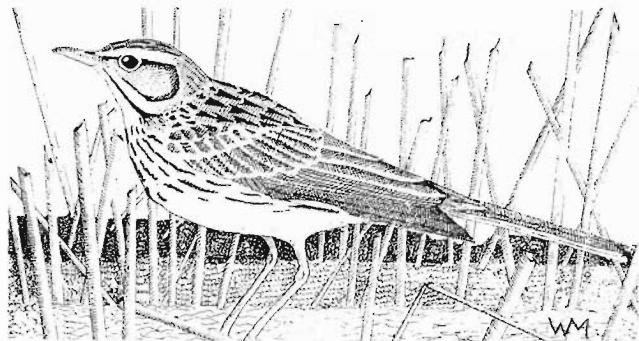
Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*. One at Sauversteen on 18th May was the only record.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. Never an abundant migrant on Fair Isle, this species was even scarcer in 1984. There were 7 on 20th and one on 24th May, 2 on 4th and one on 5th-6th June, one on 18th August and one on 17th-18th September.

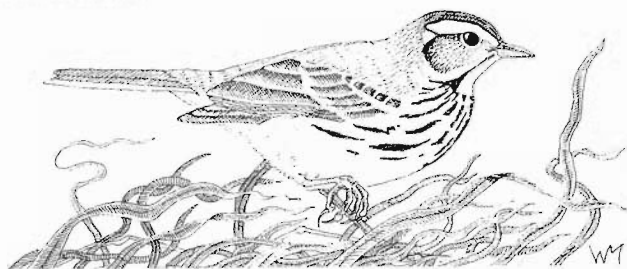
Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. 1-3 daily 23rd April-2nd May. Daily passage 9th May-29th June. May maximum was 15 on 29th. Largest numbers in first week of June, peak 40 on 4th-6th. 1-3 recorded occasionally in July. In August, 2 on 6th, one on 10th & 15th, 4 on 25th & 30th and 5 on 31st. September records were 4 on 10th and one on 14th & 22nd. 1-4 were noted on eleven dates 3rd-22nd October. One late bird on 1st-2nd November.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. 1-5 on eight dates 26th April-15th May preceded daily occurrence 20th May-23rd June. Small numbers in May, maximum 20 on 22nd; larger numbers in June to 9th, including 200 on 5th and 120 on 6th. Late spring records were 2

on 26th & 30th June. One mid summer bird appeared on 11th July. In autumn, singles were seen on 13th August and 22nd-23rd September. One occurred on 19th, 2 on 21st and one on 22nd October.



Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Only two: one on 4th-11th October; one at Mopul on 7th November.



***Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*. The best ever showing for this species. There was one on 30th September-5th October, a second brighter bird on 2nd October (and possibly a third — bright birds were seen at Pund and in the North in the same morning), one at Quoy on 22nd-23rd October, and one trapped in the Plantation on 12th November — making the 1984 total at least 4.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Early singles on 25th-27th, 29th April and 1st May preceded a small passage 11th-29th May, maxima 12 on 11th & 10 on 22nd. 3 late birds on 5th and one on 6th & 8th June. Autumn passage virtually daily 23rd August-8th October, with highest numbers 16th September-6th October, peak 25 on 20th September.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. First one noted on 24th March, then daily. First major arrival 45 on 2nd April increasing to spring maximum of 250 on 22nd April. Breeding population censused at 48 pairs. Autumn passage starting in earnest in the last ten days of August leading to early peak of 360 on 31st. 100+ daily in September and early October, maximum 280 on 15th & 23rd September. Gradually decreasing numbers in October to 45 by 21st and 6 by 31st. Noted regularly in November to 13th. Later singles noted on 16th & 20th November.

***Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*. A very handsomely marked individual graced Lower Station on 25th May.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. Present all year. Highest spring count was 120 on 2nd April. No census of the breeding population. In autumn strong passage in late August,

maximum 260 on 22nd. Good numbers in September but gradual decrease to winter average of 30 by 9th October.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. In spring a single on 11th-12th preceded 1-2 on 20th-24th May and 1-2 on most days 31st May-9th June. Subspecifically identified individuals were: single Blue-headed *M.f.flava* on 20th, 22nd-23rd & 31st May, 2nd & 6th June; Yellow *M.f.flavissima*, male on 22nd, female on 23rd May, male on 1st June; Grey-headed *M.f.thunbergi*, one on 20th-21st May, female on 6th June. There were 2 individuals in autumn, both a very grey and white morph — presumably juveniles of some eastern race: one on 23rd-24th September and one on 4th-14th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. In spring one on 3rd April was joined by a second from 5th-11th. One on 13th-15th April. One on 29th May. Autumn records comprised singles on 2nd-3rd October and 30th October-2nd November.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. Thin, prolonged spring passage spanned 24th March-25th May. 1-2 Pied *M.a.yarrelli* were recorded daily 24th March-9th April, on five later dates in April, and on 15th May. 1-4 White *M.a.alba* noted 2nd April-25th May — most regularly from 20th April. Late Whites were noted on 8th, 10th & 16th June and one not subspecifically identified on 23rd June. Autumn passage daily 7th August-13th October. The vast majority were White, but 1-2 Pied were present on 18th & 23rd September and 1st-12th October. Heaviest White passage was 16th August-11th September, with maxima 60 on 23rd & 25th August. A late White was present 8th-14th November and a Pied on 9th.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*. A bird of the Black-bellied race, trapped in the Gully on 9th April, remained to 15th. Recorded for the second successive year after an absence of twelve.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Present all year. 16 singing males held territory during the summer, and the species had moderate breeding success. The only apparent passage involved 14 on 12th September.

Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*. Daily spring passage 24th March-15th April, particularly 5th-7th April when 18, 25 & 15 counted. Later singles were noted on 20th, 24th April, 2nd-3rd, 13th-14th May, 5th, 8th & 10th June. Autumn passage from 15th September to 14th October was weighted towards the early part of that period when 40 on 15th-16th, 60 on 17th, 40 on 18th & 50 on 21st September. Late singles were recorded on 24th-25th October, 4th-8th and 23rd-26th November.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Daily spring passage in two waves, 22nd March-25th April and 10th May-11th June, with 2 on 4th May sandwiched between. In second wave maximum 8, but heavier movements in late March and the first week of April — maximum 50 on 4th, 40 on 5th & 6th April. In autumn, 1-2 on four dates 6th-12th September preceded daily passage 15th September-December — maxima 35 on 17th September, 20 on 22nd September & 3rd October.

***Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*. One at Shirva on 7th June led observers a merry dance before settling in the North Shirva lupins.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One on 21st May was the only record.

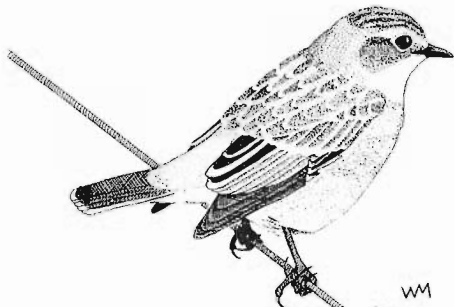
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. Single males on 11th, 13th and 17th-19th May, with 4 on 20th, 8 on 21st, 6 on 22nd and 12 on 23rd. 5 next day, then 2-3 to 28th. Later singles on 30th-31st May, 4th & 12th June. All males were the northern Red-spotted form. A moderate autumn passage comprised 1-2 virtually daily 17th September-6th October, with 4 on 22nd September, 3 on 28th September, 4 on 2nd and 3 on 3rd October. One was at Field on 19th October. A first-year female on 7th-9th November was the second latest ever, mirroring the latest ever occurrence in 1983.

***Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*. One female or immature at Hjukni Geo on 21st September gave excellent views for the next two hours as it moved along fences to Pund. Second Fair Isle record, only three years after the first.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Scattered spring records: one on 23rd, 2 on 24th and one on 29th April; one on 1st-2nd, 2 on 16th, one on 17th & 19th, 3 on 23rd and 2 on 24th May; one on 1st-3rd, 5th & 7th June. In autumn, 1-2 most days 19th October-7th November, and 3 on 1st November. A late single was seen on 20th-21st & 24th November. One on 11th December was the latest ever, by seven days. It stayed to at least 15th December.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. There were singles on seven dates 2nd-18th May, then virtually daily 21st May-8th June. Two waves in this period leading to maxima 8 on 23rd-24th May and 7 on 5th June. In autumn, 2 on 9th & one on 10th, main daily passage 15th September-6th October. 1-2 regularly 8th-17th and one on 22nd & 25th October. Main passage peaks comprised 20 on 17th, 25 on 18th and 40 on 22nd September. 2 late females were found on 7th November.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. Recorded on most days 2nd May-8th June, 1-6 except 14 on 23rd, 10 on 24th May and 9 on 6th June. Autumn passage spanned 18th August-21st October with later singles on 24th, 28th October and 1st November. Highest numbers 16th-24th September peaking at 50 on 20th, 55 on 21st-22nd.



Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. A female on 25th March-3rd April and another on 23rd-24th May were the only spring records. There were 3 in autumn: one on 21st September, one from 28th September to 3rd October and one from 30th September-5th October. The last two both showed characteristics of one of the eastern races, *steynegeri/maura*.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. There was a very slow start to spring passage: a female on 31st March and a male on 1st April were followed by none until 4 on 11th April. The species was then seen daily to 24th October. Spring peaks were 170 on 29th April and 150 on 5th May. On the latter date Greenland birds were involved. The breeding population was censused at 73 pairs. Autumn passage was heaviest in the last ten days of August, peak 400 on 24th, with rapid decreases in September when larger Greenland race birds proportionately more numerous. October maximum 40 on 2nd declining steadily to less than 10 from 13th.

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*. Early males on 3rd & 21st April preceded irregular singles on nine dates in May, and 3 on 30th. Later records, one on 7th & 9th June. In autumn, singles on 16th & 18th-19th September, main passage 22nd September-5th October — peaks 11 on 22nd September, 10 on 1st-3rd October and 15 on 4th. Later records, 5 on 13th, one on 14th & 16th October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Up to 4 wintered. A better than average spring passage started in late March. There were 95 on 24th March, 200 on 25th, 400 the next day and 750 on 30th. Further influxes continued virtually daily in early April, including 800 on 3rd, 1400 on 4th, a record spring total of 3000 on 6th, 1950 on 7th and 720 on 10th. Main

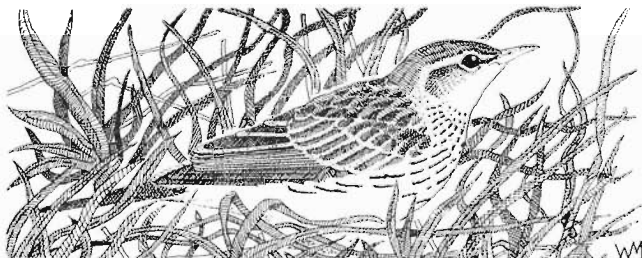
passage tailed off in mid April to 13 on 21st. Small numbers were recorded almost daily thereafter to 30th May, with never more than 4 after 29th April. There was one isolated record, a male, on 6th July. 1-2 on five dates 18th-29th September were followed by daily autumn records from 1st October. In October less than 18 daily until a fall of 600 on 13th. Several moderate arrivals thereafter, particularly 1st-21st November when 100+ most days and maxima 400 on 16th and 500 on 20th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. 2-22 noted occasionally in January-February. 49 appeared on 4th March. Daily spring passage 16th March-9th April, heaviest in late March when 140-380 (on 26th) and to 7th April when 40-200 (on 7th). 11th April-5th June 1-10 noted regularly, with 19 on 3rd May. The first autumn migrant appeared on 8th September. Daily passage started with 5 on 15th September. September maximum 45 on 22nd. First reasonable arrival 150 on 4th October. Thereafter a series of good falls including 4500 on 13th, 3800 on 14th & 2000 on 22nd October, 1600 on 1st & 2000 on 2nd November.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. The first 2 were noted on 17th March. The main spring passage spanned 23rd March-9th April when 10+ on most dates and 40 on 26th March. 1-3 on 14th-23rd April, 1-4 on 15 dates in May. 1-2 on four dates 2nd-11th June. Daily autumn passage 15th September-December. The first reasonable arrival was 80 on 30th September. There were 160+ on first six days of October, maxima 500 on 3rd-4th. The only other major arrival was 200 on 13th and 100 on 14th October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. 1-2 present in January-February. 2 on 23rd March leading rapidly to 120 on 25th, 650 on 26th and strong passage (190-500) to 7th April. 1-11 daily 10th-29th April, 1-9 most days May and singles on six dates June, to 9th. In autumn, 1-3 most days from 6th September before arrival of 30 on 15th and daily records thereafter. An early major arrival of 1000 on 22nd September was the first of several, including 1200 on 4th October, 4000 on 13th, 1200 on 22nd October, 1550 on 1st & 2100 on 2nd November.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. All spring records were concentrated into the period 23rd March-7th April when a steady little passage contributed 1-4 daily, 10 on 26th, 6 on 28th, 7 on 30th March & 6 on 1st April. Very scarce in autumn, records comprising one on 30th September, 2 on 1st & one on 14th October, 2 on 20th November. A winter bird was seen on 17th December.



***Lanceolated Warbler** *Locustella lanceolata*. There were two records: one, trapped, in Meadow Burn on 21st September and an unringed individual at Leirgro on 23rd September.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. There were no spring records. Diligent ditch-searching for rarer *Locustella* warblers in September may have contributed to single Grasshopper Warblers seen on 3rd, 9th-10th, 17th & 20th-21st and 2 on 22nd.

***River Warbler** *Locustella fluviatilis*. One in South Reeva on 7th June was the sixth Fair Isle record and second in spring. It has now occurred four times in the last four years.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. In spring, one on 30th April and 1-2 on four dates to 7th May preceded regular records 17th May-10th June. The May maximum was 3 on 23rd May, but in early June there were two records of 4, and 5 on 6th. Autumn records were few, comprising 2 on 17th, 5 on 18th, 3 on 22nd and one on 24th September, plus one on 3rd October.

***Paddyfield Warbler** *Acrocephalus agricola*. One trapped in the Gully on 30th May was the third Fair Isle record and the first for Britain in spring.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*. Apart from an early single on 22nd May all records were confined to June. For the second successive year there were record numbers. The influx started with 5 on 4th. There were 8 next day and 9 on 6th, decreasing to 5 on 7th-8th, 4 on 9th, 3 on 10th and 2 on 11th. Further arrivals boosted the total on 12th to 4, with 2 next day and one on 14th-15th. A late single was recorded on 22nd. A minimum of 15 individuals was involved.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. There were just two singles in spring, on 23rd May and 4th June. Autumn birds appeared irregularly. There was one on 19th & 2 on 20th August, one from 30th August to 11th September with a second bird on 8th-9th, 1-2 most days 16th-27th September and one on 2nd October. A small late influx of 5 on 3rd October and one on 5th were the last records.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. One on 20th May was followed by 4 next day and 5 on 22nd. There were 4 on 23rd, 2 on 24th-26th and one remaining to 30th. In June there were singles on 6th-10th & 12th-13th. The only autumn records were singles on 24th August, 9th and 16th-18th September.

***Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*. A probable female, found in Klingers Geo on 25th May, remained there to 1st June.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*. Very scarce this autumn: singles on 24th, 26th-29th August, 3rd & 8th September were followed by 2 on 16th, 3 on 17th and one on 22nd September.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. There were early singles on 29th April, 1st, 5th & 14th May. Recorded daily 21st-30th May, maximum 8 on 24th. In June one on 3rd, 8 on 4th, 5 on 5th and singles on seven dates to 18th. Autumn passage started with 3 on 27th & one on 30th August. 1-7 recorded virtually daily 4th September-3rd October. Late singles were seen on 27th October and 2nd November.

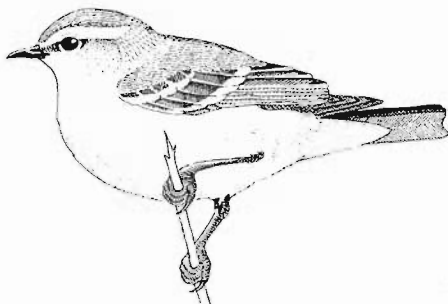
Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. Singles on 4th and 16th May preceded almost daily records 20th May-21st June. Maxima were 8 on 22nd May and 6 on 6th June. Autumn numbers were small and scattered: one on 28th August and four dates 1st to 8th September, 1-5 daily 15th-24th September and 1-2 most days 29th September-5th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. Spring passage started on 21st May with the May peak of 7 on 22nd. Numbers were highest in June to 11th, including 21 on 2nd, 17 on 5th, 20

on 6th & 18 on 7th. 1-3 to 18th and singles on 24th & 27th June. 2 were found on 8th with one on 9th July. One on 16th and one on the crossing of 21st August were forerunners of main autumn passage 24th August-8th October. Arrivals were in two waves: late August — with up to 21, on 25th; and mid September when peak 16 on 16th. October maximum 12 on 4th. Late stragglers were 2 on 15th-16th, one remaining to 21st October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. Forerunners of the spring passage were females on 1st & 12th and 3 on 17th May. Recorded almost daily 20th May-12th June with largest numbers 10 on 21st, 15 on 22nd May. One late spring bird on 18th June. Daily autumn passage started with 9 on 15th September. September peaks were 20 on 24th and 40 on 30th. Numbers in October were generally low except 1st-6th when 10-50 recorded (50 on 4th). Daily in November to 14th (maximum 11 on 2nd) with later records: a female on 24th November and 2 males on 1st December.

***Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*. Three records, all in September were: one at Hjukni Geo on 3rd, one at Leogh 14th-17th, one at Schoolton 15th-22nd.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*. After a series of lean years this species returned to its former abundance. The first, a single, present 15th-18th September, was followed by 7 on 21st and 12 on 22nd. There were 5 next day, 4 on 24th and 1-3 to 1st October. Another influx, of 10, occurred on 2nd October, reduced to 6 next day. 2-3 remained to 8th, with later singles appearing on 10th, 14th, 17th, 19th & 21st-22nd October.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Singles occurred in spring on 2nd, 16th, 20th-25th, 28th May and 4th June. There were a whole series of individuals during the autumn. In August there were singles on 10th, 20th, 27th & 29th-30th. September records comprised 1-2 on 4th-7th, one on 16th & 23rd-24th and 1-2 on 27th-30th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. One on 5th & 7th-8th April preceded a thin passage 18th April-25th May, maximum 6 on 22nd April. Another wave of arrivals from 3rd June provided almost daily records of 1-3. 2 remained to 2nd July and one throughout July and to about 22nd August, moulting during that time. Very irregular in early autumn with 1-4 on five dates 6th-19th September. Daily passage 28th September-7th October, maximum 15 on 3rd October. One on 11th October, then 1-3 almost daily 19th October-14th November, and 8 on 8th November.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring passage spanned 19th April-22nd June. Passage was strongest from 11th-25th May when maxima 25 on 21st, 30 on 22nd

and 25 on 23rd. 10 on 6th was June peak. Virtually daily autumn passage started with 3 on 11th August and ended abruptly with 6 on 6th October. Heaviest passage was 22nd-28th August when 15+ daily, including 70 on 24th, 55 on 25th & 60 on 26th. There was another flurry of passage on 15th-17th September when 25, 25 & 30 counted. A late bird at Quoy on 7th November was the second latest ever.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. There were two waves of spring passage. The strongest spanned 2nd-10th April, maxima 20 on 5th & 30 on 6th-7th. A smaller wave 16th April-4th May peaked at 8 on 24th & 29th April. The final spring record was one on 11th May. Daily autumn passage occurred 15th September-6th October and irregularly thereafter. During the main period maxima were 29 on 23rd September, 20 on 2nd & 18 on 3rd October. 1-4 on eight dates 10th-22nd October. In November, 3 on 2nd, one on 7th & 9th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Spring records encompassed 16th May-14th June. Largest numbers were in May — 40 on 22nd-23rd, 28 on 25th & 27 on 27th. The June peak was 11 on 5th. In autumn there were 1-3 on 24th-29th August, singles on 3rd, 9th-10th & 12th September and 1-12 daily 15th-30th September. In October there were 3 on 4th and one on 5th & 9th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*. A female occurred on 3rd and a male on 10th June. A good run in autumn comprised 3 on 16th September and singles on 17th-18th, 21st-22nd, 24th, 27th September and 17th-19th October.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Scattered spring records were one on 11th May, 1-2 on six dates 19th-27th May — with 6 on 22nd — and singles on 2nd & 5th-6th June. One on 13th-14th August preceded more regular occurrences 23rd August-4th October. Numbers were highest from 15th to 24th September, maxima 10 on 17th and 20 on 22nd.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. A male on 4th May was the precursor of the most spectacular spring passage recorded. A male on 17th-18th and 20th May was followed by 2 next day, 10 on 22nd-23rd, 9 on 24th and 8 on 25th. 1-6 were present daily to 4th June. There were 20 on 5th, a record 35 on 6th and 25 the next day. There were still 9 on 10th, decreasing to 2 on 15th. A female on 20th June was the only later record. During the period of plenty there was a constant change-over of individuals typified by a preponderance of males to 6th June and proportionately more females thereafter. Probably as many as 60 individuals were involved during the spring. Autumn was more typical with one on 17th, 2 on 19th-20th, one on 21st-22nd & 2 on 23rd September followed by one on 3rd-4th October — all were first-years.

***Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*. A fine male at North Haven on 2nd June moved to the vicinity of the Chapel from 4th to 6th. First record for ten years.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. There was one in spring, on 25th March-1st April. Autumn records comprised singles on 16th-21st September and 24th October-3rd November.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. A very poor year. One on 26th March was followed by 1-3 occasionally 31st March-30th April. The only other record was 3 on 26th-27th May.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. 3 wintered. Recorded most days 25th March-23rd April, maximum 7 on 5th & 7th April. In May there were singles on 1st & 10th and 5 on 9th. There was none in autumn until 2 appeared on 30th October, one staying to 2nd and the other to 5th November.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*. Hooded race *C.c.cornix* present all year. The only obvious spring passage was 10 Hooded and 4 Carrion *C.c.corone* on 4th April. An influx of Carrion 9th May-7th June peaked at 7 on 14th-15th May. There was no Carrion in the breeding population which numbered one, possible two, pairs of Hoodies. They were unsuccessful and sightings during July and August were infrequent. A Carrion and 6 Hoodies on 12th October was the only sign of autumn movement.

Raven *Corvus corax*. Present all year. Non-breeding flocks were frequent in spring with peak counts 40 on 31st March, 35 on 5th and 25 on 17th April. None stayed long as they were driven away by territory holders. 6 pairs bred. As usual fledging success was good but post-fledging mortality was high as encounters with oil-spitting Fulmars took their toll. The only autumn influx occurred on 12th October when 25 present.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Present all year. Passage migrants were reflected by high counts in late March and early April, peaking at 800 on 31st March and 1st April. Breeding season rather poor with few second broods. Only moderate autumn influxes, peak count being 450 on 17th September.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Present all year. The spring peak was 140 on 7th April. No breeding census was done. Early autumn numbers were generally about 200, peak 225 on 18th September.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. In spring recorded virtually daily 21st March-4th May. Strongest passage encompassed 25th March-16th April, maxima 46 on 28th March, 50 on 5th & 70 on 7th April. 1-2 stragglers were present most days 11th-25th May. An early autumn single on 4th-10th September preceded daily occurrence 16th September-14th November. Numbers were generally small, highest counts 20 on 27th September & 25 on 3rd October.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. A poor spring passage: records were widely scattered. One was noted on 25th & 27th-29th March, 1-6 on 20 dates in April — with 12 on 20th — and 1-5 on 17 dates 4th-29th May. Autumn influxes were only moderate but there were records most days 17th September-19th November. A series of small influxes was demonstrated by counts of 30 on 22nd-23rd September, 31 on 30th September, 50 on 3rd October, 60 on 4th & 15 on 23rd October, 25 on 2nd & 7th November.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Spring records were all in April: there were 2 on 2nd, 5 on 3rd, 2 on 4th, one on 5th & 12th, 2 on 16th and one on 20th-21st. For the second successive year there was a marked autumn influx. Though not approaching the 1983 numbers, 21 on 3rd October was well above normal figures for Fair Isle. There were 35 on 4th, dropping to 18 on 6th. New arrivals on 7th brought the total up to 31. 12 on 12th ended the first wave but another arrival started with 5 on 18th October. There were 10 next day and 20 on 20th, declining to 6 on 26th. Further arrivals were indicated by 18 on 27th, this wave ending with one on 1st November. A few continued to appear into November. 1-2 were noted occasionally 8th-24th November, with 4 on 20th.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. The few spring occurrences comprised 2 on 28th March, one on 2nd, 3 on 4th, 5 on 5th, 6 on 6th, one on 7th & 9th and 2 on 27th-28th April. One on 15th September was the start of a fine autumn influx. There were 45 on 16th, 80 on 18th and 235 on 20th September. 90 on 21st increased to 135 on 23rd before decreasing to 45 on 30th September. 20-45 daily 1st-6th October marked the end of the main movement. Later records comprised one on 9th-10th, 19th & 30th October, and 1-5 on ten dates 2nd-23rd November.

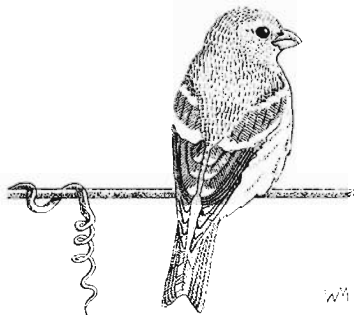
Linnnet *Carduelis cannabina*. There were two spring arrivals: 21st April-2nd May, peak 6 on 29th April; 10th-16th May, maxima 6 on 14th-15th. One on 2nd October was the only autumn record.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*. First back was a flock of 9 on 4th March. 22 present by 27th March, reaching 40 on 14th April and spring peak of 90 on 14th-15th May. No breeding census done but good numbers of young suggested excellent breeding success in Fair Isle and other local islands. There were 400 present as early as 13th August and numbers were high throughout August and, at a slightly lower level, September — where maximum 250 on 2nd (highest numbers in recent years have tended to be later in September). There were high totals in early October, peak 250 on 3rd & 5th, gradually decreasing — though still 75 present on 2nd November. 5 still present on 30th November.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*. Very scarce in spring: there was a Mealy *C.f.flammea* on 3rd, 3 (2 Mealy) on 6th and 2 (one Mealy) on 8th April. One flew over on 1st May. 2 Mealy appeared on 21st September, announcing an interesting influx largely contained in two or more waves. The first wave spanned 26th September-14th October. The maximum count was 30 on 4th October. There were a few Icelandic types *C.f.islandica* but the vast majority were Mealy. The second wave started with 30 on 19th October and continued to 23rd November, although small extra arrivals occurred throughout that period. All individuals involved were Mealy although they were accompanied by Arctic Redpolls (see that species) and two or three showed characters of both 'forms'. November maximum was 26 on 8th (24 Mealy).

***Arctic Redpoll** *Carduelis hornemanni*. An unprecedented influx started on 19th October when 10 were present, 7 of which were trapped. This same flock was present at Field next day. There were 3 on 21st, including a new one at Leogh. 3 on 22nd included a new one at Schoolton. On 23rd one remained at Leogh. 2 new birds arrived on 26th, and there were 5 on 27th — including 4 new ones. A second wave of arrivals commenced on 8th November when 2 were found at Field. 4 on 9th included 3 new birds. On 13th November 2 appeared in the Observatory garden, one remaining to 17th and the other to 19th. At least 25 individuals were involved. 2 or more intermediates (2 trapped) were not assignable to either species.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. 2 on 23rd August and one on 21st September were the only records.



Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. There were about 13 individuals in spring and 8 in autumn. May records comprised 2 on 22nd-23rd with one remaining to 24th, one on 26th and 2 on 27th-28th. 2 arrived on 2nd June with 4 on 3rd, 2 on 4th and one on 5th. 2 were present on 7th, one on 8th and 3 on 9th. A singing 'green' male was present on 12th-14th June and one on 18th-21st June. In autumn there was one on 26th-27th, increasing to 2 on 28th August and one on 31st August. Another series of arrivals in September provided daily records of 1-3 from 12th September to 3rd October.

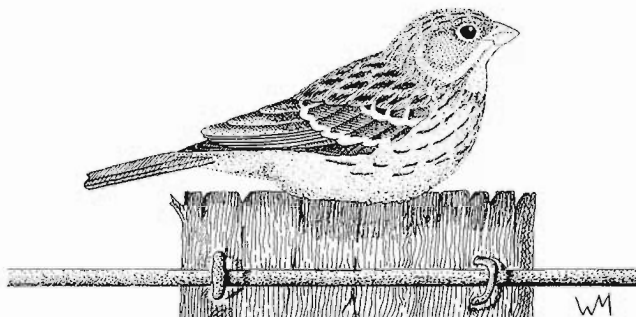
Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. An influx of large Northern birds in November comprised 2 females on 8th and single males on 9th-10th, 16th & 17th. 5 individuals in all.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. One sick bird on 25th January succumbed despite care. There was one at Quoy on 24th March. A female trapped at the Plantation on the strange date of 1st July completed a good showing for this species.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*. Splendid males on 2nd and 5th May were the only spring records. In autumn one on 4th-5th September preceded moderate records daily 16th September-13th October. 8+ present 21st September-6th October, maximum counts 20 on 22nd September & 5th October. Late singles were noted on 20th-21st October & 2nd-3rd November. 2 were present on 8th November.

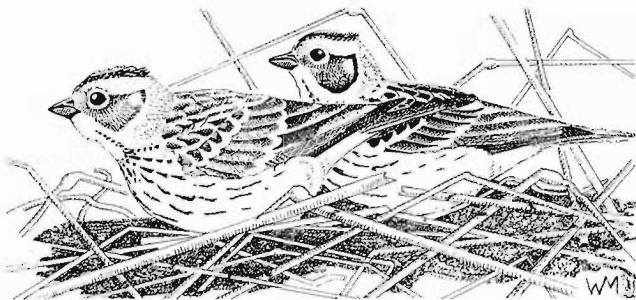
Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. 40 wintered. Up to 32 present in March, declining to 4 on 15th April. 1-3 on eight dates 17th-29th April ended the spring records. In autumn there were 1-2 occasionally 6th-15th September and 11 on 12th September. Daily occurrence commenced on 18th September. There were 12 on 21st September but 200 next day, increasing to 800 on 24th. 140-400 present daily to end of September. A further arrival contributed to 650 on 1st and 500 on 2nd October. Numbers 100+ until 14th October then decreasing until new influxes of 200 on 21st, 265 on 31st October, 360 on 2nd November. Totals 135-360 virtually daily 2nd-13th November and still 50 on 26th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. Frequent records in spring contrasted with one in autumn. In March there were singles on 22nd, 24th & 29th, with 2 on 25th. Small numbers occurred daily 1st-9th April, maximum 5 on 2nd & 7th. One on 11th, 2 on 14th-15th and one on 18th April completed the spring observations. One on 5th-13th November was the only other record.



Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Scant spring records comprised a male on 4th and a female on 29th & 31st May. In autumn there was one on 7th September and one from 21st September-5th October.

***Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*. A superb male on Bunes on 21st May was the only record.



***Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. An amazing influx started on 15th September. In the next three weeks at least 11 individuals appeared on the isle. They occurred as follows: 15th-20th September, 15th-16th September, 18th-23rd September (trapped), 21st-22nd September, 22nd September, 22nd September-2nd October, 22nd September-1st October (trapped), 23rd-24th September, 2nd-7th October, 2nd-5th October, 7th-14th October (trapped).



***Yellow-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza aureola*. There were 4 individuals: on 8th-9th September, 17th-22nd September, 22nd-23rd September and 3rd-4th October. The last is the latest ever Fair Isle record.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Recorded over a long period in spring. There was one on 14th March. Daily passage 24th March-9th April peaked at 12 on 7th April. 2 on 14th and 3 on 15th April preceded a period of virtually daily records 23rd April-9th June. Generally low numbers were involved except 17 on 17th, 14 on 20th & 15 on 23rd May. In autumn, 1-3 on five dates 18th-24th September were followed by daily occurrence 28th September-27th October. Largest numbers were in early October — 12 on 2nd & 3rd, 20 on 4th and 15 on 5th. In November, 2 on 2nd, 1-2 from 11th to 14th.

***Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*. A fine male was in the Vaadal on 4th June.



A Hawfinch was a surprise capture on 1st July.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford



A Paddyfield Warbler trapped in the Gully on 30th May constituted the first British spring record.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford

Ringing Details 1984

8456 birds of 108 species were ringed in 1984. The *pullus* total exceeded that for full-grown by nearly a thousand. There were no additions to the list.

The monthly ringing totals were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
—	—	80	631	326	2742	3118	615	363	428	148	5

The traps overwintered relatively well but all required some remedial work in early spring, quite extensively in the case of the Observatory, Double Dyke, Single Dyke and Plantation traps. These permanent structures accounted for a wide variety of captures but the species' total was further increased by a range of other methods. Dazzle netting was again productive — particularly from below the pier where Red-breasted Merganser and 2 Long-tailed Ducks were tempted within reach of the net. Single-shelf nets were successfully employed on a number of occasions. A tailor-made 12' single-shelf was donated in September and immediately proved its worth by catching a Lanceolated Warbler lurking in a corner too narrow for our normal length nets. We are extremely grateful to the net-maker, Peter G. Davis, for his valued gift.

The summer seabird season started well, but in July we ran first into poor weather, restricting our ringing activities, then into a sand-eel shortage which reduced the number of *pulli* available for ringing. Nevertheless the first ever BTO Seabird Ringing Course, held in the first two weeks of July, was not unduly hampered and we were able to proceed at a suitable pace throughout.

The top ten species ringed were Guillemot 2012, Shag 971, Fulmar 802, Blackbird 670, Starling 525, Kittiwake 343, Razorbill 329, Puffin 301, Storm Petrel 298 and Herring Gull 223.

The level of ringing for the majority in the top ten was similar to the last few years, but the contrasting fortunes of Blackbird and Starling are depicted by their respective totals. There were some heavy movements, spring and autumn, for Blackbird but Starling suffered a poor breeding season and was notably reduced in numbers during the migration periods in comparison with other years.

There were record totals for Great Black-backed Gull (helped by a series of captures in the crow trap during the misty days of summer), and Little Bunting. The 1984 Arctic Redpoll total was not only a record but exceeded the previous grand total, spanning 35 years. Eider, Marsh Warbler and Long-tailed Duck captures equalled the previous highest. Rarely trapped species included Short-toed Lark, Olive-backed Pipit, Black-bellied Dipper, Paddyfield Warbler and Hawfinch. Corncrake and Lapland Bunting were trapped for the first time in several years.

The elevated ringing totals of recent years would not have been possible without the assistance and encouragement of the BTO, NCC and SOTEAG whose ring refunds considerably reduce our annual ringing costs, particularly for seabirds. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution to our work.

A full table of ringing totals and recoveries follows.

TABLE OF RINGING TOTALS & RECOVERIES

	Ringed		1984	1948-84	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1984	1948-84
Little Grebe	-	-	-	8	-	-
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Fulmar	150	652	802	12850	10	86
Storm Petrel	298	-	298	9099	3	224
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	18	-	-
Gannet	1	13	14	86	1	2
Cormorant	-	-	-	7	-	-
Shag	58	913	971	15011	28	350
Grey Heron	-	-	-	15	-	2
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	29	-	4
Bean Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	9	-	1
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	3	-	1
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	19	1	6
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	2	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	14	-	-
Teal	1	-	1	37	-	2
Mallard	-	-	-	7	-	1
Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pochard	-	-	-	2	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	9	-	-
Scaup	-	-	-	4	-	-
Eider	9	-	9	96	-	2
Long-tailed Duck	2	-	2	11	-	-
Velvet Scoter	-	-	-	2	-	-
Goldeneye	-	-	-	13	-	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1	-	1	3	-	-
Goosander	-	-	-	3	-	1
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	1	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sparrowhawk	11	-	11	167	1	15
Kestrel	-	-	-	37	1	7
Red-footed Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-
Merlin	-	-	-	166	-	13
Peregrine	-	-	-	6	-	1
Quail	-	-	-	5	-	-
Water Rail	6	-	6	232	-	3
Spotted Crake	-	-	-	12	-	-
Little Crake	-	-	-	1	-	1
Corncrake	1	-	1	35	-	2

	Ringed		1984	1948-84	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1984	1948-84
Moorhen	-	-	-	77	-	3
Coot	-	-	-	12	-	1
Great Bustard	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oystercatcher	4	33	37	1101	3	58
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ringed Plover	19	4	23	439	1	4
Golden Plover	-	-	-	17	-	-
Dotterel	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lapwing	-	17	17	254	-	4
Knot	-	-	-	73	1	2
Sanderling	4	-	4	83	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Stint	-	-	-	68	-	-
Temminck's Stint	-	-	-	2	-	-
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	4	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	2	-	2	144	-	1
Dunlin	1	-	1	430	-	7
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ruff	-	-	-	31	-	1
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	113	-	3
Snipe	10	1	11	297	-	4
Great Snipe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Woodcock	18	-	18	264	-	14
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	8	-	2
Whimbrel	-	-	-	14	-	-
Curlew	2	5	7	79	-	3
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	3	-	-
Redshank	2	-	2	219	-	2
Greenshank	-	-	-	7	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	-	-	29	-	1
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	15	-	-
Common Sandpiper	3	-	3	44	-	-
Turnstone	-	-	-	64	-	-
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	4	-	-
Grey Phalarope	-	-	-	3	-	-
Pomarine Skua	-	-	-	1	-	-
Arctic Skua	-	54	54	2750	-	56
Great Skua	1	42	43	678	-	11
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	24	-	3
Common Gull	2	9	11	96	-	6
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	29	30	1166	2	31
Herring Gull	28	195	223	3441	9	79
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-

	Ringed		1984	1948-84	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1984	1948-84
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	32	-	1
Great Black-backed Gull	46	101	147	1734	2	76
Kittiwake	66	277	343	4165	2	19
Common Tern	-	15	15	348	-	3
Arctic Tern	-	3	3	16	-	-
Guillemot	326	1686	2012	14706	92	380
Razorbill	120	209	329	3949	9	125
Black Guillemot	1	11	12	1203	1	17
Little Auk	-	-	-	5	-	-
Puffin	163	138	301	9156	2	24
Rock Dove	-	1	1	17	-	2
Woodpigeon	1	-	1	37	-	2
Collared Dove	9	-	9	154	-	-
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	55	-	2
Cuckoo	1	-	1	81	-	1
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	133	-	6
Short-eared Owl	1	-	1	15	-	-
Nightjar	-	-	-	3	-	-
Swift	1	-	1	16	-	1
Hoopoe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wryneck	1	-	1	164	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	19	-	-
Short-toed Lark	1	-	1	6	-	-
Woodlark	-	-	-	2	-	-
Skylark	3	4	7	704	-	3
Shore Lark	-	-	-	3	-	-
Sand Martin	-	-	-	8	-	-
Swallow	1	-	1	226	-	8
House Martin	1	-	1	141	-	1
Richard's Pipit	-	-	-	9	-	-
Tawny Pipit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Olive-backed Pipit	1	-	1	6	-	-
Tree Pipit	10	-	10	505	-	-
Pechora Pipit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Meadow Pipit	168	18	186	7569	-	43
Red-throated Pipit	-	-	-	5	-	-
Rock Pipit	119	-	119	7387	1	23
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	10	-	-
Citrine Wagtail	-	-	-	5	-	-
Grey Wagtail	2	-	2	17	-	-
Pied Wagtail	6	-	6	487	-	4
Waxwing	-	-	-	34	-	-
Dipper	1	-	1	10	-	-
Wren	12	-	12	608	-	-

	Ringed		1984	1948-84	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1984	1948-84
Dunnock	58	-	58	1603	-	5
Robin	96	-	96	5460	-	29
Thrush Nightingale	-	-	-	16	-	-
Nightingale	1	-	1	19	-	-
Siberian Rubythroat	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bluethroat	4	-	4	177	-	2
Red-flanked Bluetail	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black Redstart	2	-	2	100	-	-
Redstart	16	-	16	1422	-	1
Whinchat	11	-	11	498	-	2
Stonechat	1	-	1	45	-	-
Wheatear	168	-	168	13568	1	65
Black-eared Wheatear	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rock Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	2	-	-
White's Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ring Ouzel	9	-	9	363	-	6
Blackbird	670	-	670	17041	7	284
Dusky Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black-throated Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fieldfare	7	-	7	570	-	-
Song Thrush	41	-	41	1975	1	25
Redwing	136	-	136	6295	2	66
Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	18	-	1
Pallas's Grasshopper						
Warbler	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lanceolated Warbler	1	-	1	16	-	-
Grasshopper Warbler	1	-	1	76	-	-
River Warbler	-	-	-	5	-	-
Savi's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Aquatic Warbler	-	-	-	20	-	-
Sedge Warbler	6	-	6	328	-	2
Paddyfield Warbler	1	-	1	2	-	-
Marsh Warbler	5	-	5	60	-	-
Reed Warbler	1	-	1	131	-	1
Great Reed Warbler	-	-	-	4	-	-
Thick-billed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Booted Warbler	-	-	-	5	-	-
Icterine Warbler	1	-	1	63	-	-
Melodious Warbler	-	-	-	9	-	-
Subalpine Warbler	-	-	-	17	-	-
Sardinian Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barred Warbler	2	-	2	306	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	12	-	12	445	-	-
Whitethroat	3	-	3	723	-	-
Garden Warbler	50	-	50	2359	-	1

	Ringed Juv/Adult	Pullus	1984 Total	1948-84 Total	Recovered 1984 1948-84	
Blackcap	84	-	84	3362	-	12
Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	12	-	-
Arctic Warbler	-	-	-	26	-	-
Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler	4	-	4	74	-	-
Dusky Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bonelli's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood Warbler	2	-	2	77	-	-
Chiffchaff	15	-	15	606	-	-
Willow Warbler	43	-	43	2634	-	3
Goldcrest	21	-	21	1087	-	2
Firecrest	-	-	-	1	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	12	-	12	469	1	3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	3	-	3	43	-	-
Pied Flycatcher	13	-	13	721	1	4
Blue Tit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Great Tit	-	-	-	7	-	-
Treecreeper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Golden Oriole	-	-	-	4	-	1
Isabelline Shrike	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-backed Shrike	10	-	10	107	-	-
Lesser Grey Shrike	-	-	-	6	-	-
Great Grey Shrike	3	-	3	101	-	1
Woodchat Shrike	-	-	-	10	-	-
Jackdaw	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rook	-	-	-	4	-	-
Hooded Crow	1	-	1	43	-	-
Raven	-	4	4	26	-	-
Starling	284	241	525	18050	10	146
Rose-coloured Starling	-	-	-	2	-	-
House Sparrow	11	-	11	1213	-	1
Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	94	-	1
Chaffinch	79	-	79	1879	1	10
Brambling	24	-	24	2160	-	10
Greenfinch	8	-	8	118	-	-
Goldfinch	-	-	-	5	-	-
Siskin	6	-	6	260	-	1
Linnet	-	-	-	116	-	1
Twite	107	-	107	4007	-	3
Redpoll	16	-	16	519	-	1
Arctic Redpoll	9	-	9	15	-	-
Crossbill	-	-	-	293	-	2
Parrot Crossbill	-	-	-	36	-	-
Scarlet Rosefinch	7	-	7	83	-	-
Bullfinch	1	-	1	30	-	-
Hawfinch	1	-	1	4	-	-

	Ringed		1984	1948-84	Recovered	
	Juv/Adult	Pullus	Total	Total	1984	1948-84
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	-
Lapland Bunting	1	-	1	38	-	-
Snow Bunting	3	-	3	506	-	3
Pine Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellowhammer	-	-	-	44	-	-
Ortolan Bunting	-	-	-	18	-	-
Cretzschmar's Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rustic Bunting	-	-	-	10	-	1
Little Bunting	3	-	3	22	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting	-	-	-	6	-	-
Reed Bunting	11	-	11	312	-	2
Pallas's Reed Bunting	-	-	-	2	-	-
Black-headed Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Corn Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTALS	3781	4675	8456	197086	194	2434

RECOVERIES IN 1984

194 recoveries were reported during the year. The more interesting ones are given in full below. The others are presented in tabular or summary form. The international code of symbols denoting method of recovery and age 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

Older birds were recovered in Highland (aged 10 years), Tayside (aged 19 years), Isle of May (aged 13 years) and Tyne & Wear (aged at least 10 years). The Isle of May bird, found in a colony there, was hatched on Fair Isle and was thus an example of immigration to a new breeding area.

Younger birds, all ringed as nestlings, were more adventurous: one had reached West Germany only three months after ringing; birds aged between 9 months and three years were recovered in Humberside (England), Netherlands (2), Denmark and the Faeroes.

Storm Petrel

	Ringed on Fair Isle	Controlled on Fair Isle
More og Romsdal (Norway)		1
Yell (Shetland)		7
Lerwick (Shetland)		1
Holm of Papay (Orkney)	1	
Burray Ness (Orkney)	1	
Strathy Point (Highland)		1
Noss Head (Highland)	1	
Summer Isles (Highland)		1
North Rona (Western Isles)		1

The details of the Norwegian control are as follows:

Stavanger

8370003	6	19.09.82	Runde, Herøy, Møre og Romsdal, NORWAY 62°25' N 5°38' E
v		24.08.83	<i>Fair Isle</i> 505 km SW

This is our first capture of a Norwegian-ringed Storm Petrel. Storm Petrel trapping is a recent phenomenon in Norway so, given the immense wanderings of this species, we may perhaps expect further exchanges in the future.

The speediest recovery during the year involved the Summer Isles bird, ringed on 12th August and trapped on Fair Isle four days and 285 km later.

Gannet

1163106	1	31.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		04.01.84	Amrum, Nordfriesche Inseln, WEST GERMANY 54° 37' N 8°23' E 813 km NE

The first ever recovery of a Gannet hatched on Fair Isle.

Shag

1177149	1	05.07.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		29.03.84	Flesa Lykt, Froya, Sor-Trondelag, NORWAY 63°41'N 8°49'E 718 km NE

Dispersal by young Shags is generally short distance in nature, but occasionally one adventures further, as demonstrated by this recovery a considerable way up the Norwegian west coast.

One bird reported from Highland had been ringed 10 years previously and another found on Out Skerries (Shetland) was in its fourth winter. All other recoveries away from the isle were of birds less than three years of age. These comprised single recoveries at sea (Forties, North Sea), Northumberland and Fife, two in Grampian, two in Highland, eight in Orkney and ten in Shetland.

Greylag Goose

5028392	4 ♀	13.10.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		06.01.84	Isle of Bute, Strathclyde, SCOTLAND 55°50'N 5°5'W 460 km SSW

Sparrowhawk

DR81674	6 ♂	19.03.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		31.03.84	near Flekkefjord, Flikkabbakene, Vest-Agder, NORWAY 58°17'N 6°40'E 495 km ESE

Kestrel

EJ80297	3 ♀	19.10.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		23.10.83	Anneland, Sandoy, Sogn og Fjordane, NORWAY 60°53' N 4°58' E 393 km ENE

A rapid movement eastwards across the North Sea at a time when most migrants are heading in the reverse direction!

Oystercatcher

FR06823	3	03.09.81	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		08.09.84	St Andrews Golfcourse, Fife Region, SCOTLAND, 56°20'N 2°48'W 362 km S
FS46694	1	29.06.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		05.03.84	Sanday, Orkney 59°16'N 2°30'W 58 km WSW

Also one local recovery involving a bird ringed as an adult on the isle in 1964 and found dead 20 years later, making it at least 21 years of age.

Ringed Plover

BV47778	3	02.09.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		05.10.83	Charron, Charente-Maritime, FRANCE 46°17' N 1°6' W 1472 km S

This individual was already on passage (probably from regions far to the north) when trapped on Fair Isle and may have penetrated much farther south but for its untimely end, victim of the shooting passion which afflicts south-west France.

Knot

CK97557	3	03.08.71	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		14.02.84	Coatham Sands, Teesmouth, Cleveland, ENGLAND 54°38' N 1°7' W 545 km S

13 years old and still alive and flying. We can be sure that the distance this bird has travelled is far in excess of the 545 km straight line distance twixt Fair Isle and Teesmouth.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

GJ59272	1	11.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		04.07.83	Algeciras, Cadiz, SPAIN 36°7' N 5°29' W 2617 km S
GJ95739	1	08.07.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		22.11.83	Porto de Leixoes, Douro Litoral, PORTUGAL 41°11' N 8°42' W 2098 km SSW

Two fairly typical recoveries. Note that GJ59272 had remained well to the south in its first summer — the normal procedure for birds of that age and species.

Herring Gull

GP79575	1	07.07.73	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		11.09.84	Warrenby, Marske, Cleveland, ENGLAND 54°37'N 1°6'E 547 km S
GH08152	1	06.07.84	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		15.09.84	Alturie, Inverness, Highland, SCOTLAND 57°31' N 4°8' W 267 km SSW
GJ95949	1	04.07.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		03.05.84	Vissershaven, IJmuiden, Noord-Holland, NETHERLANDS 52°28' N 4°35' E 874 km SSE

GJ59208	1	05.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		09.12.83	Gammel Aalbo, Kolding, Jylland, DENMARK
			55°28' N 9° 40' E 810 km SE

Three examples of young birds moving away from the isle and one adult well to the south as early as September. The vast majority of Herring Gulls on the isle in winter are large northern birds and GH08152, and perhaps GP79575, demonstrate rapid departures by Fair Isle stock after the breeding season.

Other Fair Isle hatched birds were recovered, all aged under 2 years, in Fife and Grampian (3). An adult ringed off Fair Isle in July 1974 was recovered in Kent in November 1983.

Great Black-backed Gull

HW68940	1	18.06.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		20.10.83	Dunkerque, Nord, FRANCE
			51°3' N 2° 22' E 975 km SSE
HW91095	1	11.07.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(07.01.84)	Dunbeath Harbour, Highland, SCOTLAND
			58°14' N 3°26' W 178 km SW

Kittiwake

EH26986	1	06.07.77	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		(15.04.83)	Mayenne, FRANCE
			48°18' N 0°37' W 1250 km S
EH90493	1	08.07.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
+		29.08.84	Kangeq, Huuk/Godthab, GREENLAND
			64°10' N 52°0' W 2685 km W

Two classic far-flung recoveries from this wide ranging seabird.

Guillemot

GJ78479	1	20.06.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		25.10.83	Innisnkillen, Glew Bay, Mayo, EIRE
			53°51' N 9°32' W 794 km SW
GJ83339	1	24.06.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		06.04.84	Kincaslough Pier, Donegal, EIRE
			55°3' N 8°25' W 644 km SW

Others recovered in their first two years of life were reported from the following areas: Norway 46, Sweden 9, Denmark 3, West Germany 1, French Channel Coast 2, English Channel Coast 3, Cumbria (English West Coast) 1, Lothian 1, Highland 2, Orkney 1, Shetland 1, Faroes 6. Older birds were reported as follows: Norway 1, Denmark 1, West Germany 1, Netherlands 3, French Channel Coast 1, English Channel Coast (Dorset) 1, North Sea 1, Orkney 2, Shetland 3.

As usual our younger birds were concentrated around the south-west tip of Scandinavia and the vast majority were within the compass of the North Sea. However, the recent trend of penetration into the English Channel continued and there was a marked upsurge in reports from the Faeroes. Some of this pattern can be attributed to the recent increase in birds ringed and thus available for recovery, but movements into new wintering areas by members of an expanding population may also be taking place. This certainly appears to be the case for the sudden series of records from the west side

of the British Isles. The two Eire recoveries, given in full above, were the first from that country — and both were on the west coast. These, plus the Cumbria bird follow closely after the find of Fair Isle's first west side Guillemot in Clwyd, Wales, in February 1983.

Razorbill

The recoveries demonstrate the tendency for younger birds to winter farther south. Birds in their first winter were reported from the English Channel Coast, southernmost Spain (2), and the Mediterranean Coast of France. Older birds (3 years and above) were reported from Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, English Channel Coast (Cornwall) and English East Coast (Durham).

Black Guillemot

EH26747	6	08.08.77	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		18.12.83	Papa Westray, Orkney
			59°20' N 2°54' W

Was this bird wintering away from the isle as an adult, or had it joined an Orkney breeding population? (dispersal by Tysties may well be restricted normally to pre-breeders).

Puffin

EH44559	6	02.07.79	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		10.05.84	Dunnet Head, Caithness, Highland, SCOTLAND
			58°39' N 3°23' W 141 km SW
EJ86545	6	10.07.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		29.01.84	Messanges, Landes, FRANCE
			43°49' N 1°23' W 1746 km S

EH44559's recovery circumstances were rather unusual — the ring was found in a pellet so it was either taken or scavenged by a predatory bird, not necessarily at Dunnet Head of course.

Rock Pipit

2280491	3	03.09.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		29.03.84	Oil Rig 'Maureen', At Sea, NORTH SEA
			58°0' N 1°20' E 241 km SE

Wheatear

B347025	4 ♂	29.08.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		03.05.84	Brae, Mainland, Shetland
			60°24' N 1°21' W 97 km N

Blackbird

XC90338	3 ♀	14.10.78	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		06.04.84	North Ronaldsay, Orkney
			59°22' N 2°26' W 50 km WSW

XC90338 was taking a similar route on two widely separated migrations. There were winter recoveries from Greater Manchester and Eire, and a spring bird from Grampian. Two birds had already reached Norway and Sweden by April (the Norwegian bird falling to a cat only 15 days after ringing). There was a further summer report from Norway.

Song Thrush

NX55914	5	21.04.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		21.03.84	Stromness, Orkney
			58° 57' N 3° 16' W

Redwing

NX55946	3	10.10.83	<i>Fair Isle</i>
x		19.05.84	Marton, Blackpool, Lancashire, ENGLAND
			53°48' N 3°1' W 643 km S

NX95181	5	02.05.84	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		31.05.84	Helgoland, WEST GERMANY
			54°11' N 7°55' E 829 km SE

Spotted Flycatcher

B721857	4	13.06.84	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		16.06.84	Helgoland, WEST GERMANY
			54°11' N 7°55' E 829 km SE

A diagonal movement across the North Sea between two of Europe's most famous bird observatories, recaptured only three days after ringing. Like the May Redwing (NX95181, see above) it still had some way to go at a late date to reach a breeding area.

Pied Flycatcher

B347585	4 ♀	20.09.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
()		22.06.84	Furnes, Sordfold, Nordland, NORWAY
			67°18' N 15°11' E 1197 km NE

The recovery location is just within the Arctic Circle.

Starling

The work of Peter Evans ensures that the majority of Fair Isle Starlings are ringed as nestlings. Nevertheless, large numbers of unringed birds appear in July and August and are clearly undertaking a post-fledging dispersal, even before post-juvenile moult. Subsequent movements may perhaps involve a return to areas of origin. If this is the case recoveries of birds in Orkney (4), Shetland (2) and Fife of juveniles ringed in summer may be an indication to the source of this summer influx.

Migrants ringed on the isle were reported from Grampian (2) and Orkney.

Chaffinch

B347973	3 ♂	03.10.82	<i>Fair Isle</i>
v		20.10.83	Kroonospolders, Vlieland, NETHERLANDS
			53°15' N 4°57' E 806 km SSE

A very different manner of negotiating the North Sea in consecutive autumns.

CONTROLS

Merlin

EB73842	1 ♀	26.06.83	West Mainland, Shetland
			60°15' N 1°30' W
v		18.09.83	<i>Fair Isle</i> 80 km S
EK10267	1 ♀	26.06.84	NW Mainland, Shetland
			60°35' N 1°30' W
v		04.09.84	<i>Fair Isle</i> 117 km S

EK10286	1 ♀	26.06.84	West Mainland, Shetland 60°20' N 1°35' W
v		01.09.84	Fair Isle 89 km S

The Shetland Ringing Group are becoming so efficient that my assistants are never going to get a Merlin to ring! Yet more evidence to the regularity of passage through Fair Isle by some Shetland-bred juveniles.

Oystercatcher

FV50011	8	27.08.80	Friskney, Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, ENGLAND 53°3' N 0°15' E
x		15.10.83	Fair Isle 729 km N

Redshank

Arnhem

1202551	4	10.01.84	Normerven, Noord-Holland, NETHERLANDS 52°54' N 4°57' E
v		28.04.84	Fair Isle 841 km NNW

This bird, noted to be a member of the large Icelandic race *T.t.robusta* at the time of ringing, was fortunate to be released undamaged when found caught on a wire fence by wool tangled round its legs.

Great Skua

Two ringed as nestlings on Foula were found dead on Fair Isle in June. One had been ringed in 1971 and the other in 1979.

Arctic Skua

One found dead in June had been ringed as a nestling on Foula in 1977.

Great Black-backed Gull

HT07866	1	03.07.84	Calf of Eday, Orkney 59°14' N 2°43' W
x		03.09.84	Fair Isle 71 km ENE

Dispersal in a northerly quadrant.

Guillemot

GJ21647	4	12.07.82	Out Skerries, Shetland 60°25' N 0°46' W
v		14.06.84	Fair Isle 109 km SSW

An exciting capture. Work with dyed individuals by the *Seabirds at Sea Team* in 1980 had led to the discovery that presumed non-breeders may visit other Shetland colonies before settling down to breed. The question is, was this an Out Skerries bird visiting Fair Isle or a Fair Isle bird returning to its natal colony after a pre-breeding visit to Out Skerries?

Blackbird

Stavanger

7170992	6 ♂	14.10.81	Store Faerder, Vestfold, NORWAY 59°4' N 10°32' E
v		06.04.82	Fair Isle 691 km W
XH02847	5 ♀	23.01.83	Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, WALES 53°19' N 3°45' W
v		06.04.84	Fair Isle 703 km N

XJ23960	5 ♂	29.03.84	North Ronaldsay, Orkney 59°22' N 2°26' W
v		13.04.84	<i>Fair Isle</i> 50 km ENE
XJ23984	6 ♀	02.04.84	North Ronaldsay, Orkney
v		21.04.84	<i>Fair Isle</i>

A varied selection of controls during the big spring rush of April 1984.

Chaffinch

CO78069	5 ♀	07.04.84	North Ronaldsay, Orkney
v		19.04.84	<i>Fair Isle</i>

The existence of ringer Dr Kevin Woodbridge on the nearest Orkney island has revealed a pattern of inter-island movements for members of a number of species.

Brambling

CO90578	4 ♀	15.02.84	Adel, Leeds, West Yorkshire, ENGLAND 53°52' N 1°35' W
v		06.04.84	<i>Fair Isle</i> 630 km N

RETRAPS

The following selection of more interesting retraps was obtained in 1984:

Fulmar

Adults tend to be faithful to their breeding sites from one year to the next and this is clearly demonstrated by one trapped in Blue Geo in 1965 and one trapped in South Gunnawark in 1968 which were retrapped there this summer. On the other hand an adult which had been ringed at Geo o Sheep Rock in 1982 when brooding a *pullus* was retrapped brooding a *pullus* at Face o Hessin Gully this year. Retraps of individuals ringed as *pulli* comprised a 1968 bird retrapped on an egg at South Ramnigeo beach, having moved from its natal site of Dutfield; and one ringed in 1979 which was caught at Setter in April — the latter being a non-breeder. The prize for most stupid Fulmar of the year went to a bird rescued from Rocket House which had been originally trapped there in 1976. Rocket House has no roof and, but for our intervention, the bird would have remained a prisoner within its walls.

Storm Petrel

The oldest recapture concerned one ringed as an adult in 1981 at Kirn o Skroo. It was retrapped at the same site and may possibly have been a breeding adult there.

Shag

The oldest retrap was 18 years old and was breeding at the colony in which it had been hatched. Rather more surprising was a 1983 *pullus* retrapped in its natal colony, undoubtedly as a visiting non-breeder.

Great Black-backed Gull

One trapped in the crow trap had been ringed as a *pullus* on Sheep Rock in 1972.

Kittiwake

One ringed as a *pullus* in 1975 was retrapped breeding in the same colony.

Guillemot

The oldest retrap was one ringed in 1966 as a *pullus* which had moved from Sauversteen Cave to Lericum.

Razorbill

Following my suggestion that Razorbills had bred at an earlier age taking advantage of sites made vacant by high mortality in the 1982/83 winter (see 1983 Report), we were able to prove this in 1984. The youngest breeder was one ringed as a *pullus* in 1981 which was retrapped on a *pullus*, having moved from its natal site, South Naaversgill, to Lericum cave. Another ringed as a *pullus* at South Gunnawark in 1980 was retrapped on an egg at Lericum. It is possible, too, that opportunistic early breeding is a factor in change of site as both had moved a considerable distance from their natal colony while previous retraps indicate a tendency for Razorbills to return to their natal colony to breed, or to move to a nearby colony. Another 4 year old bird was trapped in South Gunnawark. Its natal colony was Lericum, another long move. However, it was not proved to be breeding. The oldest retrap was one ringed as a *pullus* in 1967 which was retrapped at its natal colony.

Black Guillemot

The oldest 'retrap' (in fact a colour-ring sighting) was the same as last year, the 1965 Busta Geo bird, now in its 19th year. One ringed as a *pullus* at Kirn o Skroo in 1975 was found on two eggs at South Haven.

Puffin

The oldest bird, ringed as an adult on Tor o' Ward Hill in 1961, will have been at least 25 years old.

Chiffchaff

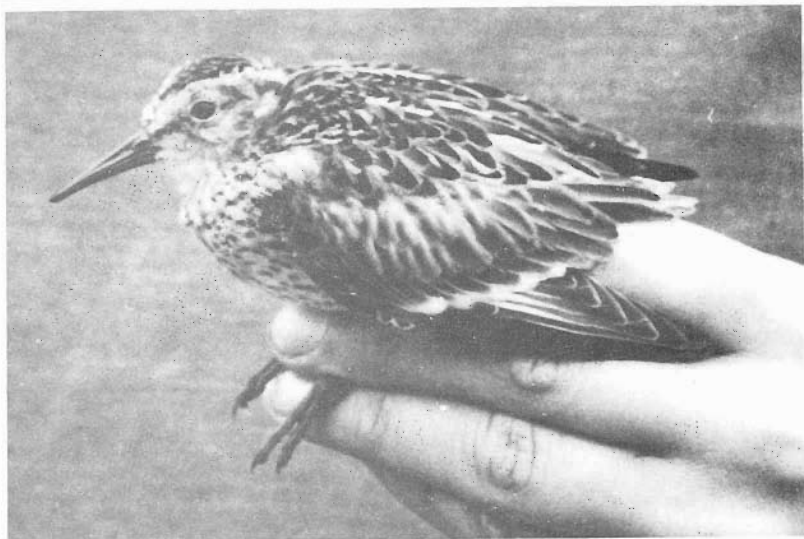
One trapped on 29th June 1983 was retrapped on 1st July 1984. This is a most remarkable retrap. It has clearly adopted Fair Isle as its summer home, despite lack of suitable habitat. This year it was accompanied by another and a bout of singing in the Plantation led us to hope for a breeding attempt. This did not materialise but one, perhaps this bird, remained throughout the summer.

Starling

The oldest bird, an adult male at the time of ringing in 1974, was identified from its colour rings. It was at least 11 years old and breeding in the Old Mill.

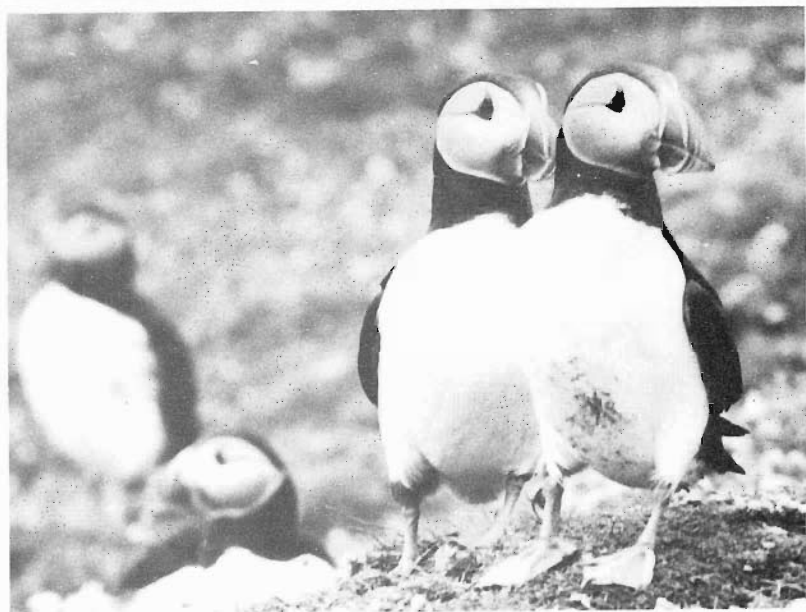
Chaffinch

A first-winter male ringed on 6th April discovered our free hand-outs in the form of the baited crow trap and in three days increased from a lowly 18.6g to a portly 25.2g, a gain of over a third its body weight.



Breeding by Dunlins was proved in early August when this fledgling was trapped.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford



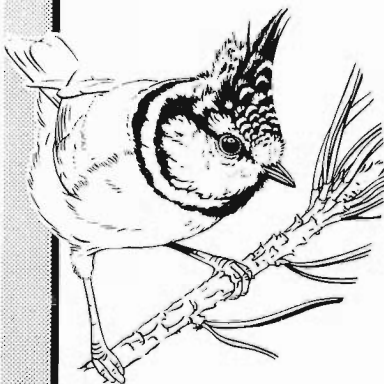
Puffins — perennial favourites with birdwatching and non-birdwatching visitors alike.

Photo: Elizabeth Riddiford

Acknowledgements

As usual we received valued assistance from countless friends and helpers during the year for which we are extremely grateful. Many individual efforts are acknowledged elsewhere in this report. I must, however, thank everyone on the isle for their contributions to our work either active, or passive in allowing us access to their holdings. An especial thank you is due to Stewart Thomson for his constant willingness to keep the Land Rover on the road, Neil Thomson for caretaking hostel and generators and Jim, Jimmy and Brian Wilson for the many years in which they cared for our Skadan flock. Malcolm Adamson again provided expert attention to the generators. A special mention, too, must be made of Jimmy Wilson and Stewart Thomson Jnr. for providing bird records, particularly useful during our winter absence, Ian Pennie for running the natural history course with such expertise and enthusiasm, the several islanders who gave of their time, knowledge and equipment for that course, and the STV film crew and helicopter pilot for providing the means to establish a new chain on Sheep Rock; BP Shetland very kindly donated the chain. Our seabird work was enhanced by the addition of the Sillinger inflatable dinghy to our equipment and we thank all the organisations involved in its purchase. SOTEAG were again supportive with a grant towards seabird rings. We acknowledge, too, the support of the BTO in inaugurating a seabird ringing course on Fair Isle and I convey my special thanks to the many people, in Britain and Scandinavia, who assisted me in arranging that tour. The attractive vignettes were very kindly provided by W. S. Morton.

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Publications

The following were published in 1984 by or with the assistance of FIBO staff and facilities.

Seabirds:

- Birkhead, T. R. Distribution of the bridled form of the Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* in the North Atlantic *J. Zool. Lond.* 202: 165-176.
- Blake, B. F., Tasker, M. L., Hope Jones, P., Dixon, T. J., Mitchell, R. & Langslow, D. R. *Seabird distribution in the North Sea*. Huntingdon, Nature Conservancy Council.
- Fowler, J. A. & Swinfen, R. Scottish Storm Petrels in Iceland. *Scottish Birds* 13: 52.
- Harris, M. P. Movements and mortality patterns of North Atlantic Puffins as shown by ringing. *Bird Study* 31: 131-140.
- Hudson, R. & Mead, C. J. Origins and ages of auks wrecked in eastern Britain in February-March 1983. *Bird Study* 31: 89-94.
- Riddiford, N. One Fulmar killing another. *Brit. Birds* 77: 566-567.
- Stowe, T. J. & Harris, M. P. Status of Guillemots and Razorbills in Britain and Ireland. *Seabird* 7: 5-18.

Migration:

- Baker, K. Observatory News. *BTO News* 133: 10.
- Bloch, D. & Sorensen, S. The autumn migration at Akraberg, Faroe Islands, 1982. *Fróskaparrit* 31 bók (1983): 75-93.
- Ellis, P. The phenomenal migrant fall of October 1982. *Scottish Birds* 12: 246-251.
- Taylor, M. The patterns of migration and partial migration of a north Norfolk bird-ringing site. *Ringing & Migration* 5: 65-78.

Populations & Distribution

- Gardarsson, A. & Skarphedinsson, K. H. A census of the Icelandic Whooper Swan population. *Wildfowl* 35: 37-47.
- Ratcliffe, D. A. The Peregrine breeding population of the United Kingdom in 1981. *Bird Study* 31: 1-18.
- Van der Have, T. & Moerbeek, D. J. Occurrence of Harlequin Duck in Europe. *Dutch Birding* 6: 40-44.

Identification:

- Del-Nevo, A. Non-buff Buff-breasted Sandpipers. *Brit. Birds* 77: 358.
- Riddiford, N. Plumage variations and age characteristics of River Warblers. *Brit. Birds* 77: 214.

General

- Riddiford, N. The Life of a Bird Observatory Warden. *The Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary* (ed. J. E. Pemberton) 1985: 13-17.
- Riddiford, N. Fair Isle. *Aberdeen University Bird Club Bulletin* 108.

The John Harrison Memorial Fund

Administering Committee:

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

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

The Fund gives financial assistance to young birdwatchers aged between fifteen and 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. Secretary, J.H.M.F., 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. Secretary, John Harrison Memorial Fund,
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.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

Treasurer's Report

1. Income & Expenditure Account

A very small deficiency was recorded. The figure for "purchases" (or "provisions") as a percentage of "Hostel income" is up from 24% in the previous year to 28%. This is the inevitable result of a drop in bookings in 1984. "Printing & stationery" is up from £886 to £1955 — entirely due to the net cost (after a generous grant from the Shetland Islands Council) of printing the new Fair Isle brochure. No provision for "extraordinary expenditure" was made in 1984 (previous year £1200).

2. Balance Sheet including Capital Account

The position is very largely unchanged from the previous year. For the coming year however, we are planning to spend cash on making long overdue fixed asset replacements (e.g. new cooker, washing machine, freezer, typewriters) and doing a major repair to the Hostel's roof. Without outside assistance we will be forced to spend capital — capital which is vital in producing very necessary income to make up the annual shortfall on trading.

3. Endowment Fund

No material change in 1984 from the previous year. However there are plans to wind up the Trust and make over the Fund's building at 21 Regent Terrace to the S.O.C.

4. John Harrison Fund.

The fund provided eight grants ranging from £70 to £90.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

Balance Sheet at

31/10/84

	£	1983 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	65,523	66,378
Investments	10,548	10,548
	<u>76,071</u>	<u>76,926</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock & work in progress	3,745	2,800
Debtors	2,887	1,750
Prepayments	17	0
Value added tax	0	0
Deposit accounts	13,400	17,200
Girobank	3,990	139
Cash in hand	150	398
	<u>24,189</u>	<u>22,287</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deposit in advance	1,605	0
Typewriter fund	0	0
Value added tax	1,257	0
Sundry funds	1,210	1,028
Bank overdraft	0	0
Creditors	1,754	11,261
Provision for future expenditure	7,541	0
	<u>13,367</u>	<u>12,289</u>
Net current assets	10,822	9,998
NET ASSETS	<u>£86,893</u>	<u>£86,924</u>
	£	£
Capital account b/fwd	86,924	86,880
Net Surplus/(Loss)	(31)	44
	<u>86,893</u>	<u>86,924</u>
CAPITAL BALANCE C/FWD	<u>86,893</u>	<u>86,924</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 1984 and have found them to be in accordance with the books and records of the Trust.

COOPERS & LYBRAND
Chartered Accountants

Edinburgh. 18th February 1985

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

Profit & Loss for the year ending

31/10/84

	£	1983 £
INCOME		
Hostel income	22,758	21,571
Royalties, grants, subs, donations	3,922	3,199
Sale of report & int. recd.	3,494	3,256
Bird rings recovered	249	269
	<u>30,423</u>	<u>28,295</u>
 COSTS		
Purchases	6,302	5,103
Direct wages	6,596	6,309
	<u>12,898</u>	<u>11,412</u>
	12,898	11,412
 GROSS PROFIT	<u>17,525</u>	<u>16,883</u>
 OVERHEADS		
Administration	5,193	3,502
Establishment	11,065	10,725
Finance & Legal	1,298	2,612
	<u>17,556</u>	<u>16,839</u>
 Surplus/(Deficiency)	<u>£(31)</u>	<u>£44</u>

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

Expense schedule for the year ending

31/10/84

	£	1983 £
ADMINISTRATION		
Motor & boat expenses	1,094	626
Travelling, subsistence	2,080	1,493
Freight inward	270	186
Bird rings & nets	549	496
Admin & accountancy	1,200	701
	<u>£5,193</u>	<u>£3,502</u>
ESTABLISHMENT		
Lighting & heating	3,919	4,257
Repairs & renewals	1,900	1,894
Insurances	1,910	1,801
Report & publication expenses	1,955	886
Cleaning, hygiene & sundry	339	0
Telephone & postages	1,042	1,887
	<u>£11,065</u>	<u>£10,725</u>
FINANCE & LEGAL		
Legal & professional	443	150
Provn for extraordinary expenditure	0	1200
Depreciation	855	1,262
	<u>£1,298</u>	<u>£2,612</u>

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Summary of Account for the year ended 31st October, 1984

	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Fund at 31st October, 1983.....	£8,303.41	
Income for year per Schedule.....		£ 440.44
Income Tax Refund 1983/84.....		<u>102.51</u>
		£ 542.95
Management Fees.....	£ 33.00	
Remittances to F.I.B.O.T.....	<u>509.95</u>	
		<u>542.95</u>
Fund at 31st October, 1984.....	<u>£8,303.41</u>	

SCHEDULE

	<u>Market</u> <u>Value</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Cost</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
8¼% Treasury Loan 1987/90, £2,400 Loan.....	£2,208	£2,113.93	£ 198.00
10% Treasury Stock 1992, £2,750 Stock.....	2,626	2,500.15	192.50
Henderson Administration, 960 High Income Units.....	1052	637.74	49.94
	<u>£5,886</u>	<u>£5,251.82</u>	
Heritable Property 21 Regent Terrace.....		3,050.00	
Cash Balance.....		1.59	—
		<u>£8,303.41</u>	<u>£ 440.44</u>

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Year ended 31st October, 1984

Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1983.....	£6,278.57
Richard Richardson's Exy — Royalties.....	179.55
Interest Received.....	718.05
Donations.....	10.20
	<u>£7,186.37</u>
Deduct:	
Management Charges.....	£ 25.00
Grants paid.....	<u>590.00</u>
	<u>615.00</u>
Balance of Funds at 31st October, 1984	£6,571.37
Held as follows:	
£6,400, 9% Treasury Loan 1994.....	£5,361.99
£900, 13¼% Treasury Stock 1997.....	870.28
Cash.....	<u>339.10</u>
	<u>6,571.37</u>

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