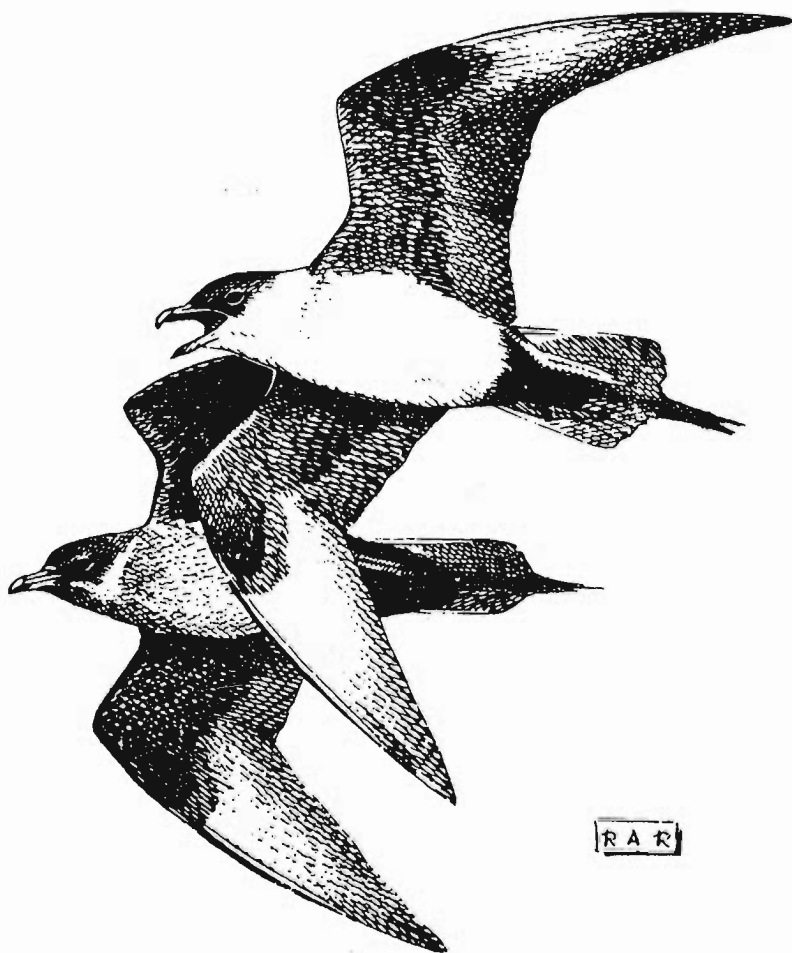


FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

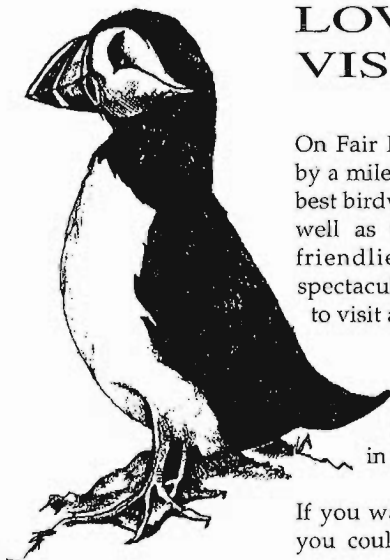
Report for 1993



£3.50

FAIR ISLE

THE ISLAND THAT LOVES VISITORS



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**Shetland
Islands
Tourism**



Shetland Islands Tourism
Market Cross, Lerwick,
Shetland ZE1 0LU
Tel: 0595 3434 Fax: 0595 5807

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

Report No. 46

1993

Edited by Alan Leitch & Peter Slater

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

By Pat Sellar

Before putting pen to paper, and I can assure you that in my case it really is old-fashioned pen to paper, I generally take the precaution of casting my eye over the "Warden's Report" so far as possible to avoid repetition or contradiction. To my delight, I find that this year it encompasses almost everything I had intended to say, thus, on the face of it, allowing me to be refreshingly brief.

But you will have noticed that it is not entitled "Warden's Report" this year and therein lies the clue to the unfortunate sequence of events that made the 1993 season a difficult one for the Trust and staff. No sooner had our newly appointed Warden and Administrator, Paddy and Megan Jenks, settled in than their marriage broke down. Megan subsequently left the island taking their three children with her.

Understandably, Paddy, new to Fair Isle and facing up to a job very different from wardening Bardsay, found the going tough. Fortunately, he had sympathetic and hard working assistants in Alan Leitch and Ben Stammers. However, there were also problems in the kitchen, and we lost both the cook and his assistant early on in the season. As an emergency measure the Directors decided to put in place a "Lodge Manager" to try to bring about some stability. This proved an expensive disaster and the said "manager" pulled out of his own accord after only three and a half weeks. These unpleasantnesses should not be glossed over. It is my function in writing this column to ensure that the bad times are recorded for posterity as diligently as the good. There are always lessons to be learnt from these upsets and hopefully it means that the Trust will have gained yet one more facet of management experience that will help engender a less troubled and more rewarding future.

Following a selection board in Edinburgh, we have just appointed a new Warden and Administrator. Dr. Roger Riddington and Wendy Christie are not newcomers to the Lodge. Both participated in the highly successful 1992 season, Roger as seabird monitoring assistant and Wendy on the domestic front. Roger is a first-class honours graduate from Hertford College, Oxford and went on to gain his D.Phil. in ornithology at the Edward Grey Institute. Last season he worked as a senior research associate for the University of East Anglia studying the winter ecology of Brent Geese in Norfolk. Wendy is Australian, a cartographer and dress-maker, and she also plays the flute. She gained useful management and marketing skills with the Queensland Flute Guild, first as Secretary and finally as President. We extend a very hearty welcome to them both and wish them a happy and successful tenure of office at the Lodge. They will have, I know, the very fullest possible support from the Trust and, even more important, from the Island.

As Cook-Caterer we are very fortunate in retaining the services of Joyce Hales who arrived just in time to cope with the September rush. By that time things had settled down to the extent that most visitors were quite unaware that there had been anything amiss earlier in the season. This, together with a remarkable fall of interesting birds, made it one of the most successful autumns for some time.

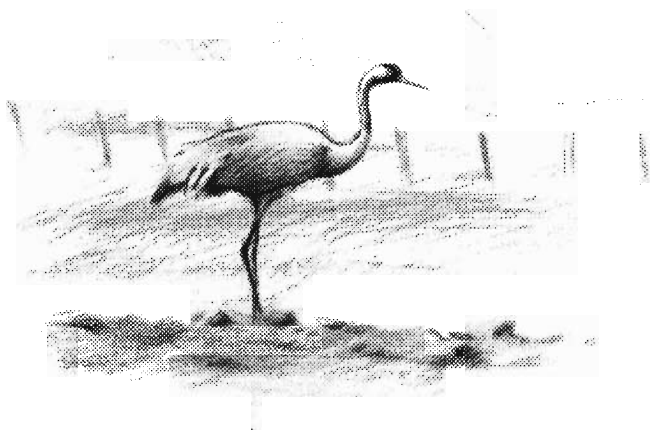
Visitor numbers were again disappointing but this was the case for Shetland as a whole and can probably be put down to the combined effect of the Braer oil spill and the recession. However, a good flow of enquiries holds promise for a better season in 1994. Many of these have arisen from the superb article on Fair Isle in the RSPB "Birds" magazine by ex-warden Paul Harvey and director David Parkin.

This is the kind of pro-active marketing that is needed in to-day's highly competitive holiday travel world. Fair Isle is hardly cost effective in terms of travel compared with the Everglades in Florida. To compensate for this, the island must be projected as a uniquely attractive experience capitalising on its remoteness, its scenic beauty, its vibrant and friendly community and the intimacy with which magnificent seabirds can be studied. Our new brochure highlights all these attributes and we have Alastair Cunningham to thank for this initiative. "Friends" will have already received a copy with their winter newsletter but there are plenty more at the Lodge. So please spread them around and encourage more people to book up. We still have little trouble filling the Lodge at peak autumn migration periods but if only the same could be said of our research wing! In an effort to spread the word more effectively to universities and research institutes, Peter Slater had produced a new prospectus setting out some of the many possibilities an island such as Fair Isle has to offer. One of the merits of a small island is the potential for all individuals and pairs of a bird population to be monitored. Again, copies of this prospectus are available at the Lodge.

We have Peter Slater to thank, too, for taking over the editing of this Report from David Parkin. David has, with regret, tendered his resignation from our Board following his appointment as Chairman of the BOU Records Committee. At the 1993 AGM in February we welcomed Dr. Ian Grier. As a regular visitor to Fair Isle and a keen bird man, we look forward to his contribution to our work. Early on in the season Michael Murphy and Sylvia Laing at Regent Terrace intimated that their work for the SOC had developed to the extent that they could no longer give FIBOT the attention it deserved. Alastair Cunningham was swiftly instrumental in setting us up with a new secretary (Mrs "Peachy" Legg), a new computer and a dedicated telephone line. All of this signalled a rapid improvement in servicing our "Friends" organisation. Unfortunately Mrs. Legg has had to give up the job at the end of the season as she is moving out of Edinburgh. We are re-examining the secretarial position and considering the possible benefits of moving that part of our operation up to Fair Isle.

My own position down here in remote Surrey would be quite untenable as Chairman were it not for all the help I receive from directors. In Shetland David Okill has again ironed out innumerable difficulties for us, especially during our troubled spell in the summer. At that time, too, John Wood shouldered a great deal of extra work and worry and had to travel up to the Lodge unexpectedly to install the "Lodge Manager". John, as you know, looks after our finances and much credit is due to him for our somehow coming through the difficult season with a small surplus. In no small way this had been due to generous help from our benefactors at the National Trust for Scotland and Shell (UK). NTS were particularly concerned that we should put their contribution toward improving facilities at the Lodge having in mind the expected increase in patronage following completion of the new breakwater. So I am pleased to report that we have at last replaced the gentlemen's showers, completely overhauled the heating system and put in a new access road which avoids the steep hill at the back of the Lodge. Shetland Library, under the enthusiastic initiative of John Hunter, obtained a special grant from the Scottish Library and Information Council to refurbish our little library in the common room. The result is most pleasing to behold with nearly all the books rebound and all of them neatly set out on new shelves. This is an on-going grant which will enable us to purchase new books every year and keep pace with repairs.

I believe that the new team at the Lodge has the commitment and ability to maintain and even build further on the very high standards that we enjoyed under the stewardship of Paul Harvey and Elizabeth. With the full support of the Trust and the islanders I am sure that this will come about and we can look forward to a new and highly promising era ahead. A steady and copious supply of visitors is central to this success and for this I look to you. Please make a point of visiting the Lodge this year and encourage your friends to do likewise.



CRANE

A SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES AT THE OBSERVATORY

By A. J. Leitch and C. Waters

1993 was in general a good year on the ornithological front. Seabirds, apart from Arctic Terns and Kittiwakes, enjoyed reasonable breeding success, and the spring and autumn migration periods were good for both common and unusual species. These topics are, of course, covered in detail in the following ornithological reports.

The number of visitor weeks for the May-October season was disappointingly low, at 331. This can probably be attributed to the overall poor economic climate, combined with the high cost of travel to Fair Isle; it is possible that the publicity about the "Braer" oil spill also had a negative effect. On the plus side (for the Lodge, if not for them!) the Kier construction workers remained in residence throughout the winter and even into the beginning of the summer season, as their work on the new breakwater and quay took longer than expected.

The official opening of the pier on August 6th was the major public event on the Fair Isle calendar this year. Throughout the summer there were generally several yachts tied up at the quay, and the Lodge provided meals and (perhaps more important!) showers for many yachters. One of the most interesting arrivals was the yacht "Elsi Arrub" (try reading it backwards!) crewed by two brothers from Burra, making their last landfall before returning home to Shetland at the end of a five-year round-the-world voyage.

Bigger ships, too, called at the Isle: the cruise ships "Polaris" on May 21st and June 4th, and "Hebridean Princess" on June 20th. Observatory staff helped to transport their passengers and to show them some of the island's bird life. On board the "Hebridean Princess" was a group led by Tony Soper. As they arrived on a Sunday, the islanders decided not to put on the display of knitwear and other crafts in the Community Hall. It was transferred to the Lodge, where the catering staff also served the visitors with coffee and home-baked scones, which they all seemed to enjoy.

The members of the Community Council from Dunrossness made an official visit to Fair Isle in July. They stayed at the Lodge and hosted a party here for all the islanders, with a buffet catered by our cooks. This enjoyable evening ended, as so often in Fair Isle, on a memorable musical note, as the room hushed to listen to Councillor Anne Sinclair and her brother Neil singing "Rowin' Foula Down".

This was not the only party for the islanders held at the Lodge: at the beginning of the season, the staff invited everyone to come along and get to know us; a similar function at the end of October was intended to express our thanks and farewells to those we had, after six months, come to think of as friends.

Other groups who stayed here included an "Island Holidays" group, led by Bobby Tulloch; an RSPB group from Edinburgh, who gamely donned hard hats and ventured into the Arctic Tern colony to help locate chicks for ringing; and a YOC group bringing young birders from all over Britain. They had a most successful visit, participating in all kinds of activities, from ringing Storm Petrels to producing a display of art work. Several members of this group were recipients of grants from the John Harrison Memorial Fund, which exists to help promising young birders visit the Observatory. The four beneficiaries this year were: Lucy Barron, Colin Beale, Ben Mines, and Vickie Solliss.

Besides birders, holidaymakers, and the Kier workers, a variety of other people were accommodated at the Lodge: Ian Ferguson and his team of builders were here throughout the season, and came to feel like old friends, as did Nurse Liz Sears, who stayed here while covering for Mahairi Campbell's holiday period; later Mahairi herself took refuge here while the heating system at the Nurse's house was being worked on. Then there were the visiting doctor, the Health Board workers, BBC men, Lighthouse men... All this underlines the important function of the Lodge as the island's hotel.

Nor were we neglected by FIBOT Directors: this year we welcomed Ian Grier, Maurice Mulla, Dave Okill, Pat Sellar, Ken Shaw and John Wood, as well as former director Valerie Thom. Valerie's cine film of Fair Isle in the 1950s was enjoyed by many islanders, staff, and visitors.

On the research side, Dr. Peter Evans returned for his usual spring study of the breeding Starling population, and Caroline Askew made a brief visit to continue her Kittiwake colour-ringing project.

Visiting journalists included one from Japan and two from Italy; the latter kindly sent us a copy of their article on Fair Isle, which appeared in an Italian magazine. Merete Hall of the BBC German service made a return visit. Genevieve Leiper, a freelance writer from Scotland, will be publishing an article. Meanwhile, the article by Paul Harvey and Dave Parkin that appeared in the RSPB magazine is already attracting interest and requests for the 1994 brochure. Our thanks to Maurice Mulla of Shetland Islands Tourism for his continued promotional efforts, and to Alastair Cunningham and others who contributed to producing such a colourful and attractive new brochure!

The Observatory's library has benefited tremendously from the efforts of John Hunter and his team from the Shetland Library. They have bound a great many books and journals, purchased new books, catalogued the library, and totally refurbished the physical space, putting up and labelling new shelves. We understand their work is to continue, and we are most grateful to them.

As regards the maintenance of the building and equipment this season, Paddy's skills proved invaluable. Whenever there was a problem with the generator, boiler, vehicle, or other equipment, we relied on Paddy to sort things out and keep

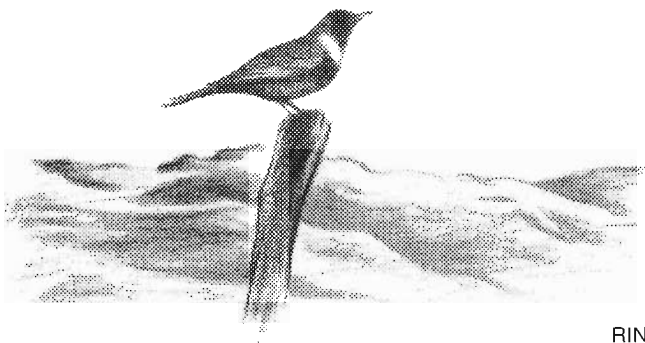
things running. At the end of the season, Ian Ferguson was able to work on our long-standing plumbing problems and some other minor repairs, so we hope that next year will be more trouble free in this respect. Unfortunately the minibus, which we were so pleased to receive last year, has suffered badly from the wear and tear and especially the rust that affect all vehicles on the island, and it will be necessary to look for a replacement.

Although there were some changes of staff, a successful season was completed by Paddy Jenks as Warden, Alan Leitch as Assistant Warden, Ben Stammers as Seabird Monitoring Officer, and Lesley Jameson and Christine Waters, who came initially as Domestics but later took on cooking and other duties. Thanks are also due to Joyce Hales, who stepped in as Cook/Caterer for the busy autumn season, and to Lorna Brown and Gordon Anderson, who took over Domestic duties for the same period.

We are very grateful to a number of volunteers, especially Tim Lewis, who put in several months of hard work on everything from trap repair to data input on the computer. Others who helped for shorter periods on the ornithological side include Nick Dymond, Dave Kelly, Ben Mines, and Nick Ward; we are especially grateful to Paul Harvey and Kevin Osborn, who helped to ensure that continuity in the seabird work was maintained. For help on the catering side, we would like to thank Nicole Schneider, Daniela Martens, and Matthew and Alison Rawlinson.

As usual, we end the season with a debt of gratitude to many islanders for their help: to Kenny Stout, for once again bailing us out in various crises; to Brian Wilson, for advising us on sea conditions when boat work was needed; to Barry Sinclair and Neil Thomson, for ensuring that our 24-hour electricity supply was maintained; and to Iain Stout, for tending our flock of sheep. We would also like to thank Malcolm Adamson, from Shetland, for advice on the generators, and Malakoff's, for maintaining our fire safety equipment.

As all the Observator/ staff were new this year, we have been particularly grateful for the welcome and hospitality extended to us by everyone on the island.



RING OUZEL

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

– FAIR ISLE 1993

By Alexander Bennett

Oil disasters are bad enough wherever they may happen, but when they happen in your own doorstep there are few adjectives that adequately reflect the feelings people experience. By the end of January 1993 Fair Isle, the Trust, and Shetland as a whole were breathing a collective sigh of relief when the Braer disaster was mopped up very admirably by mother nature. I don't think I can ever remember when I last was so grateful for continuous gale force winds from the south-west, and for Fair Isle to come off totally scot-free is nothing short of a miracle. We must all count our blessings that this did not prove to be the major ecological disaster that some predicted in the early days. We must never be complacent but must learn from the lessons of this event to ensure that it does not happen again.

The National Trust for Scotland gave evidence to the Donaldson Enquiry and sought to endorse the views of the Shetland Islands Council and of other conservation bodies that tankers should be directed to the mid channels between Fair Isle and Shetland and Fair Isle and Orkney, and that radar surveillance of all tanker movements should be put in place to monitor traffic at all times. We await the outcome of the Donaldson Enquiry with interest.

From one disaster to a milestone in Fair Isle's history, the Breakwater and Quay have at long last become a reality. The facility, already well used by islanders and visitors alike, was absolutely essential to secure a safe haven for the various vessels plying the Fair Isle waters. The added security this brings will help alleviate the concerns and anxieties for those who used the haven in marginal conditions. I fear it will not be the panacea that some predict but it will give lots of opportunities to undertake water-borne leisure pursuits and may even encourage some degree of enterprise in providing facilities for visitors to the isle.

The Trust and Fair Isle would like to express their deep appreciation for the initiative by Shetland Islands Council in providing this facility, and also to thank Keir Construction and Peter Fraenkel Consulting Engineers who took every condition the weather could throw at them and still manage to keep good relations with the island and the Trust in producing a very satisfactory result.

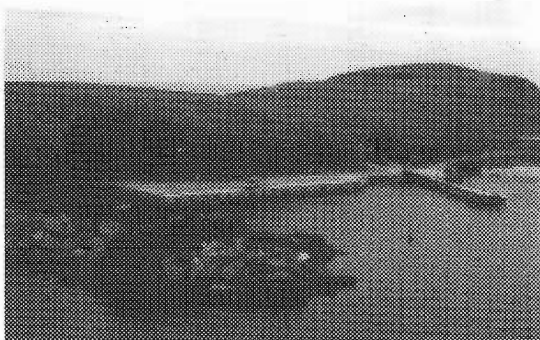
A community like Fair Isle, will from time to time suffer the loss of a loved one or of a few families which leave to seek opportunities elsewhere. In recording the death of Aggie Stout in February 1993 with deep sadness, I will however remember the many visits to Lower Leogh and the warmth of the welcome will always be one of my memories of Fair Isle.

Sadly Cathy and Michael Stout and their two children left Fair Isle and moved south. Derek Grieve also moved south and Paddy and Megan Jenks and their children left their work at the Observatory and moved south also. I would like to

wish them all well in their future lives and hope that they will be able to reflect on their time on Fair Isle as a time of happiness.

The New Jetty
and Breakwater

*Photograph:
A. Bennett*



However, Fair Isle moves on, and we would like to welcome Patrick and Clare Ross-Smith and their three children Lewis, Rachel and Vivien, who have now moved into their new house on Burkle and are I am sure looking forward to a successful future in stained glass restoration and manufacture. Robert and Fiona Mitchell (née Best) and their daughter Cara have come to run the Shop and Post Office at Stackhoull. It is particularly nice to see an islander returning home. We would like also to welcome Hannah Best to Kennaby, a daughter for Ian and Lise, and Daniel William to the School House, a son for Iain and Ruth Stout.

With the tenancy of Vaasetter Croft now vacant I can report that the reletting is well in hand and I would hope that a family will be residence in the not too distant future.

Above all else life carries on on Fair Isle. The Management Plan has been reviewed and focusses on the housing requirement for the future and the conservation of the island's natural heritage as its main aims and objectives. The house renovation programme continued, with Barkland and Taft both fully renovated during the year; Field is underway and work is about to start on Stackhoull House for the Mitchells. We have welcomed Nick Riddiford as Chairman of the Fair Isle Committee, succeeding Stewart Thomson after many years of devoted leadership. It is also nice to see that revival in the traditional crafts is still to the fore with Ian Best's traditional yoals, Ewen Thomson's fiddles, Stewart and Lise's spinning wheels, the various visual and musical arts and, last but not least, the Fair Isle knitting and weaving of course!

As we all look forward to 1994 and various families settle into the Fair Isle way of life, I would like to reaffirm the Trust's long term commitment to Fair Isle. We are determined to learn from our past experiences and build upon all that is positive about life on the isle.

THE CLIMATE OF FAIR ISLE

By D. Wheeler

INTRODUCTION

Fair Isle is the most southerly island of the Shetland group (the northernmost islands of the British Isles) and lies approximately 25 kilometres south-south-west of Sumburgh Head at the southern end of the Shetland mainland, and approximately the same distance north-east of North Ronaldsay (the most northerly of the Orkney islands). Perhaps Britain's most isolated inhabited island, Fair Isle is only some 5 kilometres by 3 kilometres in extent, roughly rectangular in shape, with a heavily indented west coast. The landscape has been moulded by the effects of ice during the Ice Ages, with large areas of glacial till covering the southern third, which is lower, more fertile, and mostly taken up with the cultivated crofting area. The remainder is largely rough grazing and rocky moorland, rising to the 217 metre Ward Hill. Though the area around the impressive landmark of Sheep Rock on the east coast has cliffs of over 100 metres, the west coast, with its deep slash-like geos, offers some of the island's most impressive scenery, with cliffs rising to almost 200 metres along the north-west coast.

THE WEATHER STATION AT FIELD

Sea and weather conditions have been recorded in daily logs at both the North Lighthouse (until it became automatic in 1981) and the South Lighthouse, since they were commissioned in the late nineteenth century, and weather was recorded at Shirva until January 1974, when a full Auxiliary Synoptic Station began providing data at Field. Observations are made to Meteorological Office standard and are nowadays transmitted by computer to the Meteorological Office at Bracknell.

The Meteorological Station at Field is situated on well drained, gently sloping agricultural land some 61 metres above sea level. The land to the east is bounded by steep cliffs, rising to a maximum height of 132 metres at the very prominent Sheep Rock, 1 kilometre distant from the station. Northwards the land rises gently across open moorland to Ward Hill. To the west the land is more or less level for a distance of some 800 metres before rising sharply to the cliffs of Hoini at 110 metres. To the south-west another prominent landmark is the 107 metre high headland of Malcolm's Head. Southwards from Field the land slopes gently down to the lower, more fertile crofting area. Here, along the south coast, about 2 kilometres from Field, the cliffs are - at around 10 metres - the lowest anywhere on the island.

From Monday to Saturday observations are made hourly from 06-18 UTC (Universal Time Coordinate = GMT), and also at 21 UTC and 00 UTC. On Sunday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day observations are only made three hourly from 06-00 UTC. The National Climatological Message (NCM) is completed and sent at 09 and 21 UTC each day.

CLIMATE

Though the island lies in the north temperate zone, its climate is greatly influenced by its relatively small size and location. The climate of Fair Isle is truly oceanic in nature - and is often described as hyperoceanic. Due to the rain-shadow effect of the Scottish mountains, rainfall is not excessive, but precipitation is frequent with measurable rainfall on 216 to 266 days each year. The relative humidity is the highest in Britain and, except in late spring and early summer, cloudy conditions prevail. Winters are generally mild, but frequently stormy. Summers are cool and often windy, with a high frequency of fog. During spring and summer Fair Isle often reports the lowest daytime maximum temperature in the British Isles - even though (in May and early June) it may at the same time also be the sunniest place in the country. At almost 60° north, the climate is far from typical of what might be expected at this latitude, due to the ameliorating effect of the North Atlantic Drift. The mean annual temperature is 7.5° C, with little variation between summer and winter. As sea temperatures do not reach their highest values until late summer, it is at this time when the maximum temperatures on Fair Isle often occur - mostly of the order of 16° or 17° C. In August 1975 20.2° C - the highest temperature ever recorded on Fair Isle - was reported. This was almost equalled in July 1991 when 20.1° C was recorded. During winter, temperatures can fall to as low as -2° or -3° C, but are generally around 4° C. The lowest temperature recorded was -5.1° C in February 1978, though -5.0° C was also recorded in March 1992. Ground frosts are not a frequent phenomenon - even in winter - but they are not unknown in summer, having been reported in every month of the year. Air frosts are reported much less frequently and, due to a katabatic (flowing down hill off the island) effect, virtually never under calm conditions. The lowest temperatures are always experienced with an outbreak of cold northerly, Arctic air, when strong winds prevent the sea from exerting the usual ameliorating effect. Under such conditions, temperatures may fall to between -4° and -5° C, with the wind gusting in excess of 30 ms⁻¹, and frequent snow showers often reducing visibility to less than 1000 metres. Because of its position close to one of the major depression tracks, the weather on Fair Isle is very unsettled. Snow, which can be frequent - falling on as many as 70 days in a winter - does not lie long, as a change of wind direction to the south always brings milder temperatures. Overall the prevailing wind direction is generally between south and west, but there is often much variation from day to day. During spring south-easterly winds are common, gradually tending towards a northerly direction by early summer. Westerly winds are frequent in summer and autumn, and in winter the prevailing wind direction is southerly. Fair Isle is

probably one of the windiest lowland sites in the British Isles, experiencing gales (10 minute mean speed of 34 kt, 17.5 ms⁻¹, or more) on an average of 58.4 days each year - with 112 gale days reported in 1979 but only 16 gale days in 1985. While periods of calm, or very light, wind conditions are very rare, they can occur even in winter, but seldom last for more than an hour or two.

TRENDS

The long term means mask a considerable variation in the year to year data and, while 19 years is not a long enough period to evaluate trends, there does appear to be a suggestion of a cycle in the weather of Fair Isle (possibly connected with the 10 to 11 year solar cycle?). A mild and windy period in the mid to late seventies was followed by a cooler, less windy period for much of the eighties. Recent years have seen a return to milder and much windier conditions: three of the last four years were the warmest ever recorded on Fair Isle, and January 1993 had a three week period of storms possibly unparalleled in the past four hundred years. On a much shorter time-scale it is also possible to see cyclical variations in the yearly weather of the island, with periods of warmth, of windy, unsettled weather or of cold and snow occurring on more or less the same days each year.

In earlier centuries the weather ruled the life of the island. A change in climate meant the difference between an acceptable harvest and a failed harvest, or between a successful fishing trip and a disaster. In more recent years it meant either a full larder or struggling to make supplies last until the weather relented enough to allow the island's mailboat the *Good Shepherd* to risk a trip across to Shetland for supplies and mail. Even today, with a three or four days a week air link to Shetland, a new *Good Shepherd IV* and a new breakwater, the weather continues to dominate the life of the island. In January 1993 the *Good Shepherd* was stormbound for three weeks and even aircraft were unable to reach the island for ten days due to the high winds. While agriculture and fishing may perhaps no longer be as all important as they once were, by its very nature crofting will continue to depend upon the land - and sea - for its very existence. In the light of this, it is therefore worth noting that the Isle is still dependent on the whims of sea and air in order that the needs of its population can be satisfied. Any adverse change in climate could well make this requirement increasingly difficult to meet.

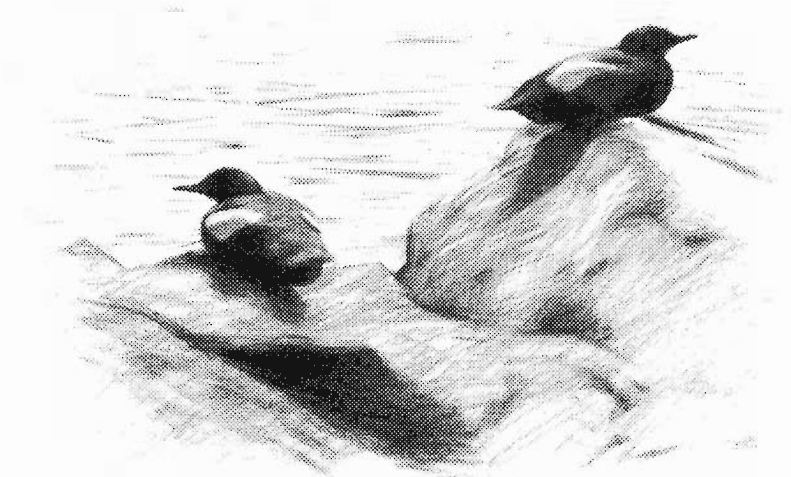
STATION DETAILS:

Name: FAIR ISLE
County: SHETLAND
Post Code: ZE2 9JU
Telephone: 035-12-224/252
Fax: 035-12-224
e-mail:
Compuserve: 70374,225
Internet: 70374,225@compuserve.com

International Station No.: 03 008
Rainfall Station No.: 93-764671
Latitude: 59 deg 32 min North
Longitude: 01 deg 38 min West
Nat. Grid Ref.: HZ 210712
Height Above Sea Level: 61.0m
(Barometer)

Observations began:

January 1974
Sunshine from June 1976
Anemograph from January 1983



TYSTIE

THE CLIMATE OF FAIR ISLE – SELECTED DATA (1974-1993)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Temperature °C													
Mean Daily	4.4	4.2	4.6	5.6	7.6	9.7	11.4	11.8	10.4	8.8	6.6	5.3	7.5
Mean Sea	7.0	6.6	6.9	7.5	8.7	10.2	11.1	11.8	11.6	10.7	9.2	8.0	9.1
<i>Extreme Temperatures</i>													
Highest Maximum	10.7	10.5	10.9	12.2	17.7	18.0	20.1	20.2	15.9	14.4	13.1	11.5	20.2
Lowest Minimum	-4.5	-5.1	-5.0	-4.0	-1.6	1.5	5.0	4.4	1.4	-0.9	-3.0	-4.3	-5.1
Lowest Grass Min	-10.2	-12.3	-6.0	-8.9	-7.6	-4.6	-1.4	-3.7	-2.6	-4.2	-9.0	-11.5	-12.3
Rainfall mm													
Monthly Total	100.6	63.0	81.5	48.0	39.9	40.9	52.6	65.0	93.0	108.4	116.0	105.4	914.4
Rain Days	25.8	19.8	21.5	17.1	13.4	13.7	17.5	17.8	22.6	23.5	23.7	26.1	242.3
Pressure mbs	1005.6	1011.1	1007.4	1013.8	1015.8	1014.6	1013.3	1012.5	1009.7	1008.1	1006.9	1005.6	1010.4
Wind													
Speed kts													
Mean Daily	21.4	18.7	18.8	14.7	13.2	11.7	11.7	11.8	15.7	17.8	18.7	20.0	16.2
Max Recorded Gust	109	100	81	66	59	54	56	71	74	83	73	82	109
Direction													
No. of days at 09UTC													
340-020° North	3.5	2.6	2.7	4.3	3.7	5.3	2.9	3.6	3.3	2.7	4.1	3.6	42.2
030-060° North East	1.7	1.3	1.4	2.7	3.8	2.6	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	21.7
070-110° East	2.5	2.4	2.7	3.7	4.4	3.9	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.8	1.7	2.7	35.8
120-150° South East	2.9	4.3	4.7	3.8	4.6	3.6	4.6	3.8	3.8	4.8	2.5	3.9	47.3
160-200° South	5.8	6.8	6.1	3.9	4.3	2.7	3.6	5.6	4.6	5.6	6.4	6.0	61.3
210-240° South West	5.3	4.3	5.1	3.3	2.9	3.2	4.0	4.1	4.7	4.3	4.9	4.8	50.7
250-290° West	6.2	3.9	5.0	4.5	3.4	4.9	5.5	5.8	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.8	62.6
300-330° North West	3.1	2.2	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.6	4.8	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.2	2.8	37.8
CALM	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.7	6.4
Sunshine hrs													
Monthly Total	26.0	57.7	96.1	149.4	189.5	169.8	136.1	144.3	116.9	71.0	36.6	15.5	1205.0
Days With													
Gale	12.1	6.8	7.6	2.6	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.8	3.7	6.3	7.7	9.5	58.5
Snow/sleet falling	14.2	10.5	11.5	6.1	2.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	1.5	6.2	10.4	62.7
Snow cover 09UTC	5.0	3.3	2.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	3.1	15.5
Air Frost	5.3	3.8	3.3	1.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	3.0	18.7
Ground Frost	11.6	10.4	9.7	7.7	2.9	0.8	0.3	0.6	1.2	2.7	5.8	8.8	62.0

SYSTEMATIC LIST

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

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. A poor spring, with only three records involving 1-2 birds in June. Scarce in autumn, with only four definite records of singles between 12th September and 12th October.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. In spring, an individual present in South Harbour on 4th June. Three autumn records of solitary birds on 24th September, 17th October, and 3rd November.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. One present on 18th January remained until 21st. Second year in succession.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. A singleton present off South Light on 6th September.

FULMAR *Fulmaris glacialis*. Present all year, with occasional sightings of 'blue' phase individuals throughout the year. Breeding productivity at monitored plots averaged 0.57 chicks fledged per Apparently Occupied Site.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*. The first sighting was on 12th July, the next not until singles on 26th & 28th August, becoming regular in September, with a total of 29 individuals on twelve dates. No records in October.



SOOTY
SHEARWATER

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Regularly recorded in small numbers on boat crossings from 10th June until 28th September, max. 20 on 26th August. Tape-luring was carried out on suitable nights from 11th July until 27th August, producing a total of 988 birds ringed and also several controls, including 3 Portuguese, 7 Norwegian, and one from Denmark. A juvenile found in Gilsetter on 19th September was later released to sea.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Three individuals were attracted to Storm Petrel tape lures on 16th July and 12th and 16th August. Unfortunately none of these birds was trapped.

GANNET *Sula bassana*. Present in small numbers offshore throughout, with breeding birds back at colonies from late February. The breeding population was down on last year, with 764 occupied nests counted. Productivity at monitored nests was 0.78 chicks fledged per nest.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. A lone bird on 22nd February; possibly the same individual seen again on 2nd March. Singles recorded on 2nd April and 24th May. In June, 1-5 daily from 6th to 13th. Irregular in autumn: 18 sightings between 17th August and 23rd October, with a max. 10 on 5th September.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present all year. A total island census revealed 946 Apparently Occupied Nests, 12% lower than the last census in 1990. Breeding success was good, with productivity at monitored sites averaging 1.87 chicks fledged per A.O.N.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*. A bird present in February probably remained until 26th April; recorded on 10 dates in April, with a max. 5 on 2nd. The only sighting in June was on 15th. Autumn passage commenced on 13th July and continued to November, with the highest counts being 13 on 23rd August, 8 on two dates in September, and 9 on 9th October. An average year.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. Two on 22nd January. In spring, one on 10th April, with the only other record being a dead individual in South Harbour on 16th May. Autumn passage involved 18 birds on six dates, max. 7 on 13th October.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. A couple of late spring birds present from 13th to 17th June. Poor autumn passage, with 3 on 25th September, then daily from 3rd until 9th with up to 20 birds; the last record was of a lone bird on 22nd.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. Single of the Greenland race on 27th April at Splitterly Hole.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. Thirteen on 1st February, with another three on 19th, and seven present from 28th February until 22nd March. Spring passage almost daily from 13th April-17th June, with a maximum count of 5 on 9th May. Autumn passage spanned 19th September to 23rd October, with peak numbers of 40 on 19th September, 250 on 7th, 80 on 11th, and 53 on 21st October. A flock of 24 remained into November.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. Two on 22nd January, four on 1st-4th February. No spring records. In autumn, flocks of 150 on 19th, 120 on 20th, and 95 on 24th September preceded the main passage of birds during the first week in October, when up to 170 were recorded on 7th. Three birds remained from 11th October to early November.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. Two from 6th-15th February. In spring, recorded from 19th March almost daily until 11th June; a maximum of 4 on 11th May. Autumn migration started on 25th August with two males; daily passage from 7th September until 4th November, with peaks of 60 on 30th September, 64 on 4th October, 60 on 7th October, and finally 11 on 4th November.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. Light spring passage, with 1-4 recorded irregularly from 14th March to 14th June. Regular in autumn from 5th August to early November, with main movements being 21 on 12th September and 22 on 4th October.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. Six on 2nd January. In spring, 1-6 almost daily from 5th March into May. One definite breeding attempt, with 7 ducklings reaching fledging age; possibly another pair bred near the Plantation, as a newly hatched duckling was found in the Heligoland. The presence of locally bred birds complicated the autumn passage picture, but a max. of 16 was recorded on 16th October.

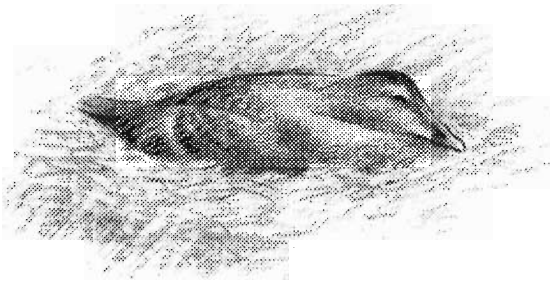
PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. No spring records. Singles on 22nd, 27th and 30th September, with 5 records involving 8 birds in October. Two present on Golden Water on 2nd November.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*. Two on 16th May, and a lone bird present from 21st to 26th September. These represent the only records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A drake remained from December 1992 until 4th January. Spring sightings comprised a male on 24th-27th April, 1-2 frequently seen from 12th to 28th May. No autumn records.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*. A male present in South Harbour from 29th May until 10th June was the sole record.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Resident all year. A late-April census produced 254 birds; the maximum count was 475 on 5th November. Good numbers of ducklings seen in late June and early July.



EIDER

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. Singles on 13th and 24th February. In spring, a lone bird on 13th April. In autumn, 36 in the south on 8th October; thereafter regular, with 1-6 around the South Harbour area until early November.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. The only spring record was of a drake on 17th June. Sporadic in autumn, with 1 on 22nd September, 2 on 4th, 1 on 7th-9th, and 4 on 16th October.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. Singles on 9th September and 6th October. The first records since 1989.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. An individual on 21st April was the only record in spring. Two long-staying autumn birds, the first on 30th September until 4th October, and the other on 12th October to 4th November. A very poor showing.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. A male seen on 22nd January, then a female on 5th March. 1-4 on 17 scattered dates from 5th April to 17th June. Recorded on ten dates in autumn between 18th July and 21st September, a max. of 4 on 20th July.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. Four on 5th October, with further singles on 7th and 18th October. Recorded for the third year in succession.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*. An immature bird present from 4th until 14th April. During its stay it frequented Ward Hill and the Vaasetter area. The fifth island record, previous birds having occurred in 1979, 1984, 1988, and 1991.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus pygargus*. A female seen on 21st and 22nd April. This is the earliest spring record, and only the nineteenth ever on the Isle, the last being in 1988 when two were present.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. During May a ringtail was present from 7th until 19th. In autumn two ringtails, one on 2nd-4th October and another 2nd-3rd November.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. One on 13th March. Spring passage involved at least 7 individuals between 7th April and 27th May. Minimum autumn passage, with 1-2 daily between 10th and 23rd September.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. Light spring passage; singles on 16 dates, with two on four dates. An individual present on 31st July. Almost daily from 9th September until 17th October, involving 1-3 birds.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. Sporadic spring passage, with singles present on 13 dates between 16th March and 24th May. Autumn passage from 3rd September to 3rd November, with a maximum of 4 on 13th.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Singles on 13th April and 1st May were the only spring records. In autumn 24 bird days, involving four or possibly five birds.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One trapped on the track up Ward Hill on 23rd May, unfortunately found dead on 7th June, predated by skuas.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. Irregular spring passage, with singles on 28th March and on 2nd and 7th April, and two on 11th and 14th April. Recorded regularly from 13th September to 5th November, with 1-3 daily in October.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. One bird trapped on 27th May, still present on 30th.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Daily from 4th April until 5th May, involving 1-2 birds. One record in autumn, from 4th-7th October.

COOT *Fulica atra*. An individual trapped at Pund on 14th April was unfortunately picked up dead at Homisdale on 18th, predated by skuas.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*. An immature present around Skerryholm from 13th to 19th May. Probably the same bird reported on Foula 12th May. This is the sixth record for Fair Isle.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. Spring arrivals from 9th February, becoming daily around mid-March. Number of breeding birds was estimated at 75-85 pairs. A flock of non-breeders or failed breeders reached a maximum of 90 on 25th May. In autumn there were daily records until 8th October, with a single remaining throughout October.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Singleton on 22nd January, with a trickle during February, involving up to 5 birds on five dates. Regular in spring, with peaks of 10 on 6th, 16 on 14th, and 15 on 30th March. An island census revealed 18 pairs, a slight increase over last year. Autumn passage was noted from 23rd August to 9th October, with peak counts of 28 on 26th August, 30 on 10th September, and 36 on 22nd September. A lone bird remained until 30th October.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. Two on 23rd May and a single on 27th May. A juvenile trapped on the Busta Brecks remained there until the next day.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*. One on 6th February. Six sightings of up to 11 birds in March, then daily counts in April, with a max. of 82 on 28th. Regular passage continued throughout May, with 34 on 13th. A male displaying over Pund until mid-June had several individuals interested. Autumn passage lasted from 12th July until 15th October, the highest count being 71 on 21st September. A flock of 20 remained to late October.

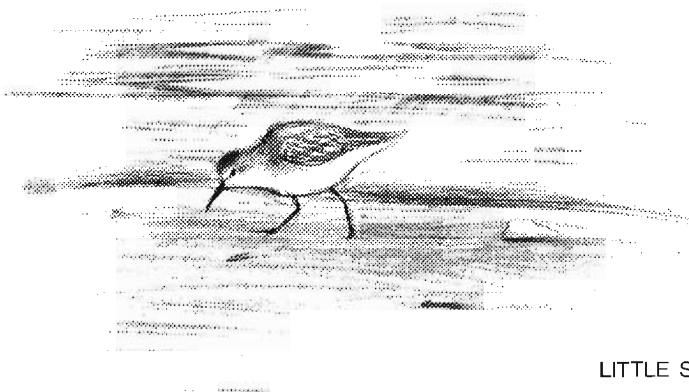
GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*. Three autumn records, involving four birds. One present from 14th September to 5th October, two on 7th-8th October, and a long- staying first- year bird from 12th to 31st October.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Twelve pairs attempted to breed. Small numbers seen January/February, with 40 on 11th February. Highest count in spring was 91 seen on 5th April. Heaviest autumn passage occurred between 9th September and 20th October, with a maximum of 62 on 4th October.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Two in spring on 22nd March. Single on 19th-23rd July. Daily from 14th August until 24th September, with a max. of 25 on 1st September. Three at the South Light on 7th October was the last record.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*. A single on 18th July was joined by another on 20th-21st. Irregular in August, with nine records of 12 birds. Daily in September, with 7 on 16th. One on 1st-2nd October.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. Daily from 9th to 22nd September, with 7 on 12th being the peak count. A late individual on 2nd October.



LITTLE STINT

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Recorded throughout the year, with monthly peaks of:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
2	6	30	44	62	1	13	7	12	8	14

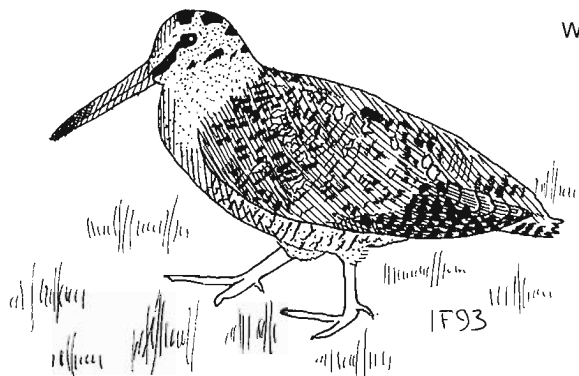
DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Twelve singles between 4th January and 29th April, with light spring passage from 1st May until 17th June; a maximum of 21 on 24th May. Infrequent sightings prior to autumn migration. Main passage occurred between 5th August and 21st October, highest count was of 65 on 13th and 24th September. A juvenile remained until at least 4th November.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Five on 12th July, the first autumn record, was followed by daily passage from 22nd August to 26th September; maximum count of 24 on 13th September. A lone bird remained until 5th October.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*. Only two spring records, involving single birds on 12th and 15th April; the latter was found dead at the South Lighthouse. In autumn, 3 on 9th September, then almost daily sightings from 13th September to 19th October. Main movements were between 29th September and 10th October, when up to 25 were logged.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*. Present all year. Spring max. of 35 on 4th April. Twenty two drumming birds were recorded during the spring census. Autumn migration reached a peak of 65 on 2nd October.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticolla*. A single on 4th January was followed by 3 on 6th. In spring, recorded from 3rd to 16th April, with a maximum of 12 on 5th. An individual was seen on 1st May. Autumn passage started 30th September and continued well into November, the largest arrivals being 80 on 23rd October and 45 on 6th November.



WOODCOCK

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. The one record in spring was of a bird in full summer plumage, from 24th to 30th April.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. Recorded only in autumn, with singles on 9th, 18th, and 30th July, and also one on 17th August.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Daily spring passage from 21st April to 17th June, with a maximum of 12 on 12th May. In autumn, irregular from 12th July to 26th September, with only 1-4 birds being recorded.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Six on 22nd January. Sporadic until 25th March, when they became daily, the highest spring count being 16 on 2nd April. Five pairs attempted to breed. Light autumn movements involving 1-12 birds between 16th August and 8th October. Between 1-4 remained into November.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Sixty on 12th February. Peak spring count, 75 on 14th March. By May only 1-3 birds present. A pair nested between Pund and Hoini, chicks present early June, outcome unknown. This represents the first confirmed breeding attempt on the Isle. Counts of 25-35 were recorded from 8th August to 30th October, with a maximum of 48 on 24th September.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. In spring, singles on 7 dates, 28th April to 3rd June. Autumn produced another three individuals on 13th and 30th July and 15th August.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. Five spring birds on 23rd and 26th April, 9th and 23rd May, and 8th June. In autumn 1-2 birds frequently between 18th July and 4th October.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. A sole spring record on 24th May. Two autumn records of singles on 6th-8th August and 9th-15th September.

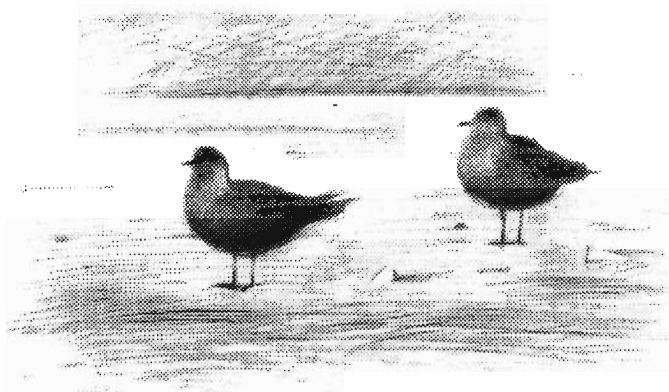
COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*. The first spring record on 28th April was followed by a further 19 records involving 1-3 birds. Poor autumn showing, with 1-4 on 9 dates. The last sighting was on 2nd October.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Recorded throughout the year, with monthly peaks of:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
100	150	181	157	72	10	30	95	107	180	120

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. Four spring records, all in May: 1 on 5th, 1 on 23rd, 1 on 26th and 2 on 27th. The only autumn record was an adult seen during a crossing on 28th September.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One on 13th April, followed by daily records from 16th. The breeding census revealed 107 Apparently Occupied Territories and breeding success 0.84 chicks fledged per A.O.T. Minimal autumn passage was noted; most birds had left the island by 20th August. Three records in September, the last bird being seen on 25th.



ARCTIC
SKUA

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicauda*. An individual seen from the P&O ferry on 15th August was the only record.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*. Three on 25th March, followed by daily records from 27th. The breeding census revealed 101 Apparently Occupied Territories and breeding success 1.09 chicks fledged per A.O.T. Most adults had departed by 20th September. Juveniles remained until mid-October, with a late individual on 30th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. Recorded regularly from 5th April to 19th June, max. 32 on 23rd May. Fewer sightings between 28th June and 4th August, but thereafter almost daily until 19th October, max. 35 on 3rd October. Singles regular in November.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. Sporadic records during January through to early March. Resident from 16th March to 15th August, with 10 pairs breeding. The number of chicks fledging was recorded at 0.4. Highest count in autumn was 200 on 3rd October.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. The first spring record was on 18th March, with numbers building slowly thereafter. Not censused. Few breeding birds remained after 23rd August. Twelve on 28th October. Last seen on 3rd October.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Present all the year. Not censused.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. Excellent late-winter / spring records. Monthly totals were as follows:

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct
5	7	10	6	1	2

This represents the best year since 1983, with a total of 85 bird days.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. An average year. Monthly totals were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct
2	1	1	1	1	1	2

It is unusual for Iceland to outnumber Glaucous, as they did this year. The singles represent five different individuals. A total of 13 bird days.

GREAT BLACK- BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Present all year. Not censused. The highest count of birds ashore was 800 on 21st October.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. Birds back at their breeding colonies from early March. No island census this year, but breeding success at monitored plots averaged 1.08 chicks fledged per A.O.N. - a slight decrease on last year. There were regular sightings offshore until the end of season, with 40 on 22nd October.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. Singles on 16th and 29th May, and 3 on 7th June. A further three records in autumn, involving 2 on 21st, 1 on 22nd September and 1 on 1st October. A good year.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*. One seen well in South Harbour on 10th June. This represents the second island record, the first being in 1988.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*. The first arrived back on 5th May. Only 9 pairs attempted to breed, 3 at South Light and 6 on Bunness. Number of chicks fledged per pair was 0.11. Regularly recorded until 17th August, with late birds on 12th September and 2nd October.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*. Four in South Harbour on 2nd May preceded the main influx on 4th-5th, when the colonies were alive with hundreds of birds 'screaming' their arrival. A census at the four breeding sites revealed 808 pairs, a decrease of about 27% compared to last year. Breeding success was low, with only 45 chicks reaching fledging age. Although the exact reason is not known, a lack of 0 group Sandeels and weather may be contributing factors. Last seen on 7th September.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Present from late February. Numbers attending monitored plots were down by 3.5% on last year. Breeding success was good, with 0.85 chicks fledged per apparently incubating adult at monitored plots. After the birds had departed in late July, there were usually scattered sightings on calm days until the end of the season.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. Noted infrequently January/February. Present at colonies early March onwards. A total island census produced 3205 plus 925 loafers, a slight increase on the 1988 June count. Breeding success at Easter Lothar was estimated at 0.77 chicks fledged per breeding pair. Most birds had departed by late July, but birds were seen infrequently offshore until the end of the season.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*. Present throughout the season. An island census produced 280 adults in breeding plumage. This represents a 25% decline on the 1989 total. Breeding productivity at monitored nests was 1.23 chicks fledged per nest.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*. Four on 21st October and 10 on 2nd November.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. Twenty on 25th March, with the first onshore on 2nd April. Not censused. Breeding productivity at monitored sites was 0.69 chicks fledged per occupied burrow. Breeders had departed by 25th August; late birds recorded on 3rd and 10th September, and 12th and 21st October.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Present all year. Maximum of 51 on 10th October.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*. Six singles between 29th March and 19th May. Two autumn records involved 1 on 23rd-25th September and 2 on 1st October.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*. Almost daily sightings in spring, from 31st March to 11th June, mainly involving 1-2 birds. A max. of 5 on 21st April. One on 18th July. Single on 14th September; daily passage from 28th September to 1st November. Seven on 9th October was the highest count.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. One or two regular in spring, with 4 on 19th and 21st May. Sporadic sightings of singles throughout the summer. Only two autumn records, the last being 1 on 17th September.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. In spring, 18 records of singles between 11th May and 25th June. Autumn produced 13 sightings of lone birds between 4th July and 20th September.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. The first birds seen were 2 on 19th May; there were 1-3 regularly until 5th June. The only autumn record was an individual on 12th September.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. A poor spring showing, a single on 6th April being the sole record. No autumn birds until November, when 1 on 2nd, 2 on 4th, 1 on 5th, and 1 on 6th. Three *Asio* sp. seen in spring on 2nd, 7th & 8th May probably relate to this species.

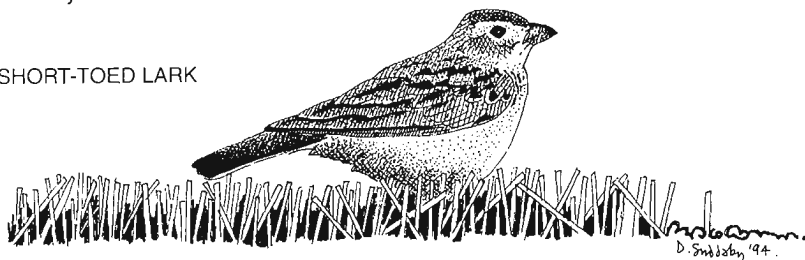
SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. In spring, there were 1-2 on 13 dates between 6th April and 16th June. In autumn, recorded on 7 dates between 9th September and 28th October. A maxima of 6 on 7th October.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. Irregular sightings from 23rd May to 22nd August, with three late individuals on 4th-5th October. Counts were normally of 1-3 birds.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. One on 26th April and 8 lone birds in May. Few autumn sightings, with singles on 31st August and 10th and 13th September.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla*. An individual from 3rd to 7th May at Setter; the same bird was relocated at Springfield on 10th. This represents the only record.

SHORT-TOED LARK



WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. There was one at North Light 1st-4th October, another briefly at South Light on 9th, then possibly the same bird appeared again from 22nd-25th at South Light. In November a bird flushed from the Quoy crop on 2nd. A remarkable showing for this species.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Small numbers over-wintered. Spring passage noted from late February until 20th April, the highest counts being 350 on 31st March, 350 on 4th and 400 on 6th April. Breeding population estimated at 55 pairs holding territory. Autumn movements started mid-September and continued into early November, peak counts being 460 on 18th September, 400 on 9th October, and 300 on 10th October.

SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. The only record involved a male at Upper Stoneybrake on 26th April.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Frequent in spring, with birds seen on 13 dates; a maximum of 20 on 23rd May. Four autumn records of singles, on 3rd and 15th August, and 10th and 16th September.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. Two pairs bred, fledging at least one brood each. Sites were at North Haven and the Kirk. Four exhausted migrants appeared at Finniquoy on 21st April, after which sightings became daily. Spring passage reached a peak of 70 on 19th May. Migrants were much less numerous on autumn passage, with a max. of 30 on 1st September. A late individual was seen at South Harbour on 30th October.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. One on 8th May was followed by almost daily sightings of 1-25 birds until 15th June, and a single on 28th June. Erratic in autumn, with birds present on only 8 dates, the last on 2nd October.

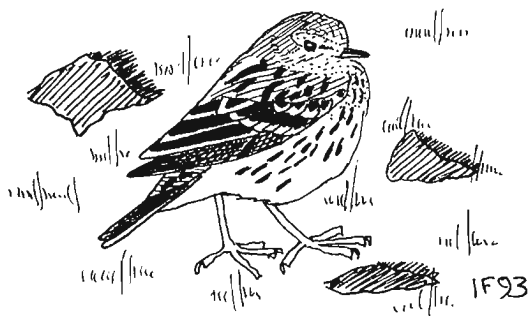
RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeselandiae*. Two individuals were recorded, one on 28th-30th September and the other on 5th-11th October.

TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*. A single seen briefly at South Lighthouse and later at South Reeva on 22nd October.

***BLYTH'S PIPIT** *Anthus godlewskii*. One from 31st October until 10th November; the bird was trapped on 1st November. This is the second island record, the previous one being in 1988 (still to be accepted by BBRC). Only the fifth British record.

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. Five individuals noted. The first appeared at Shirva on 29th September, remaining until 4th October. The same day, 3 were seen together near the shop; 2 remained the next day, with a single on 6th. The last individual was present 10th-11th October at Skerryholm and Midway.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Spring passage spanned 30th April to 30th May, with a peak of 9 on 18th May. Regular in autumn from 19th August until 12th October, with a max. of 20 on 13th September. A late bird present on 22nd October.



PECHORA
PIPIT

***PECHORA PIPIT** *Anthus gustavi*. A bird present in the Gully from 27th September until 5th October. This individual was eventually trapped on 29th September.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Breeding population estimated at 45-50 pairs. Recorded regularly from 14th March to late April, with daily counts of 50-130. Autumn passage from late August through to late October, with peak counts of 300 on 29th August, 500 on 7th and 400 on 11th September. Highest count in October was 220 on 5th.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. Two records involving singles, one on 17th-18th September, and the other elusive bird from 28th September until 3rd October.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*. Present all year. The breeding population was not censused.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*. Ten singles between 18th May and 9th June, and two on 26th May. In autumn, one to six seen on 19 dates from 4th September to 10th October. An individual present from 19th to 23rd September was of the grey 'eastern type' morph.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. Two singles, on 27th-31st August, and 18th-26th September. Ninth year in succession.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. In autumn, recorded between 22nd September and 29th October, with a maximum of 4 on 3rd and 9th October.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*. Pied *M.a.yarrelli* were recorded throughout the season 20th April until 18th October, with a peak of 17 on 27th April. Three pairs attempted to breed, fledging at least two broods between them. White *M. a. alba* were seen in spring from late March until early June, with 1-5 birds daily. During autumn, main passage late August / early September, the highest daily total being 50 on 28th August.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Individuals recorded on four dates between 22nd October and 4th November; all involved birds flying over.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. One trapped in the Vaadal on 7th April was of the race *C. c. cinclus*. The first record since 1986.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Present all year. The breeding population was estimated at 30-40 singing males. No large numbers of migrants of the nominate race in autumn.

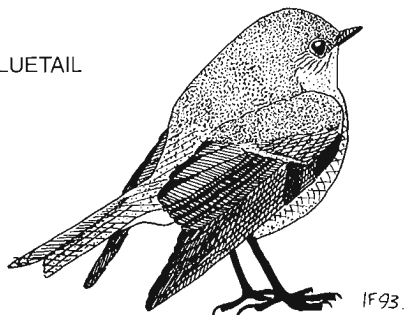
DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*. A pair bred successfully in the Gully, fledging at least five. This represents only the second breeding attempt, the first failing at the egg stage in 1973. Spring passage from end March until early May, with a max. of 25 on 6th April. In autumn, a few in August / September with a marked increase during October, the highest day total being 20 on 5th.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. Good spring migration, being recorded daily from 12th March to 2nd May and 16th May until 14th June. Counts of 100 were noted on 12 dates, with a maximum of 350 on 8th April. A sole sighting in July, no August records. Daily observations from 7th September until early November; 4 dates when over 100 seen, 150 on 3rd October.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*. A male that appeared at Setter on 2nd May preceded the main arrival, from 13th May until 3rd June, with normally 1-5 birds being seen, although 8 on 22nd. Autumn passage spanned 8th September to 9th October, with 1-2 birds daily, 4 on 27th September.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus*. An immature bird was found on 16th September at Easterhoull and was trapped in the Stackhoull Stores garden later the same day. The third island record.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL



BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. In spring, daily counts involved 1-2 birds from 1st until 21st April, with 5 on 6th. The individual on 1st was of the 'Paradox morph'. Three May records and one June. Only four autumn records: 1 on 30th September and 2 on 9th, 1 on 10th, and 1 on 13th October.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. First seen on 15th May, then almost daily until 5th June in small numbers. Excellent autumn movements, from 8th September until 18th October, the highest counts being 60 on 13th September, 45 on 14th, and 35 on 3rd October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Up to five birds regularly from 8th to 30th May. Four August sightings involved 1-2 birds. These preceded the main passage, which was from 8th September to 15th October, the highest count being 30 on 13th September. A late single on 24th-28th October.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. In spring, two birds present on 8th March, with a female remaining until 3rd April, and a male present on 10th April. During the autumn, a male from 29th September to 9th October, and three new individuals on 10th October, with a single remaining until the 11th. All autumn records were of the eastern races *S.t. maura/stejnegeri*.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. First seen on the 30th March, followed by daily records up to mid-May; the maximum daily total was 110 on 30th April. Forty- five to fifty pairs holding territory, with breeding success high. Regular in autumn until 21st October, with 70 on 13th September. The last individual was recorded on 26th October.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. Almost daily in spring, from 4th April until 7th June, with peaks of 11 on 13th April and 6 on 16th May. A single on 17th September, then daily sightings from 28th September until 16th October, with the last on 29th October. The peak count was 75 on 4th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Recorded in small numbers during the winter. Spring passage started in early March, but numbers were low, peaking at 20 on 16th. The April peak was 130 on 8th, rapidly decreasing thereafter, though a few remained until 14th April. The first major autumn arrival was 120 birds on 10th October. This was followed by further relatively small influxes. The autumn peaks were 1200 on 23rd October and 900 on 6th November.

BLACK-THROATED THRUSH *Turdus ruficollis*. A first year seen briefly near Springfield was eventually relocated at Midway on 11th October.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Wintered with a count of 150 on 8th February. In spring, almost daily from 8th March to 1st June, with 1000 on 11th and 750 on 26th April the only significant arrivals. A late single on 23rd June. In autumn not recorded until 8th September, when they became daily well into November, with 2000 on 29th October being the highest count.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. Eight singles during March were followed by daily records until 24th May, with peak count of 100 on 13th April. One on 4th June. Daily from 12th September to early November, the highest counts being 200 on 29th September, 600 on 3rd October. and 400 on 10th October.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Recorded sporadically during January and February. Seen daily from 10th March until 3rd May, then 1-2 regularly until 12th June. There were almost daily autumn records from 13th September to early November, with peaks of 2500 on 4th, 4000 on 10th, and 5000 on 11th October. It is worth noting that 800 were still present on 1st November.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. An individual on 11th March preceded a further four sightings in April, with 3 on 10th. In autumn, 1-3 on 12 dates between 28th September and 15th October; a remarkable 8 were recorded on 10th October. A good showing by this irregular visitor.

***LANCEOLATED WARBLER** *Locustella lanceolata*. Two individuals present on 17th September were located at Lower Leogh and the Double Dyke; the latter bird was trapped. Tenth year in succession that they have been recorded.



LANCEOLATED
WARBLER

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. In spring, singles recorded on 26th, 27th, 29th April and 1st May. In autumn, seen on 11 dates between 8th September and 10th October, with 3 being recorded on 3rd and 10th October.

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis*. Two records, one present from 25th to 28th May, and another on 26th and 27th September. Both birds were trapped, and represent the seventh / eighth records on the island.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides*. One present on 4th-6th May was successfully caught at Field ditch. Only the fourth record.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. The first arrival came on 7th May, soon followed by daily passage until 7th June, max. of 9 on 19th May. Light autumn movements, with 1-2 seen on 20 dates from 20th August to 3rd October.

PADDYFIELD WARBLER *Acrocephalus agricola*. On May 31st a bird was seen briefly (flight views mainly) near Schoolton. Amazingly, another bird was found in the Meadow Burn on 8th September and was successfully trapped; after release it stayed until 13th. These represent the sixth / seventh recorded on the Isle.

***BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*. A single trapped in the Gully on 22nd October was controlled and later found dead at Sumburgh. Only the ninth island record, the last being in 1987.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. Only one record in autumn, from 27th to 29th August, frequenting the Meadow Burn, where it was caught on 27th. An unidentified Acro sp. on 14th probably relates to this species.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Six sightings in spring, from 18th May to 3rd June, with 2 on 3rd. Ten records of singles from 12th September to 11th October; also 2 on 3rd and 10th October, 3 on 30th September and 2nd October, and a peak of 7 on 1st October.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. Surprisingly, the sole record was of a bird near Pund on 31st May and 1st June.

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. A male on 24th April and a female on 24th May. Both individuals were trapped.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. In autumn, the first arrival on 15th August was surprisingly the only record until two small arrivals during 8th to 15th September, and 25th September to 2nd October, with 1-2 daily for each period.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. Irregular in spring, with 1-3 birds occasionally present between 29th April and 15th June, the exception being 8 on 19th May. Daily in autumn from 4th September to 10th October, with 5 on 25th September and also a late single on 24th October.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. A sprinkling of records from 15th May until 15th June, with no more than 8 on any particular date. An equally poor autumn, with records spanning 13th September to 11th October; 6 on 10th October was the peak.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Regular from 18th May until 9th June, with 10 on 22nd and 24th May. During autumn passage, numbers reached a peak of 20 on 13th September, gradually dropping to 1 on 14th October, followed by one late bird on 26th October.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. In spring, 1-4 occurred frequently between 26th April and 14th June. In autumn, 1-20 daily in September, prior to heavier passage in October, with 120 on 3rd and 65 on 10th being the main falls.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. Two autumn records: the first found at the Plantation on 1st September was trapped, and stayed until 6th at Lower Stoneybrake. Another individual spent the day on 23rd September around Busta, and was also caught.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One to four daily from 14th September to 10th October, with the exception of 7 on 17th September.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. A single spent two days around the Haa and Skerryholm from 10th October. This represents the eighth island record, the last being in 1990.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. Sole spring record was seen in South Harbour between 16th and 23rd May. In August, 1 at North Light on 12th, then 2 on 26th and 1 on 27th. Four September sightings, with 5 present on 15th; finally a single on 4th October.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. A lone bird appeared on 14th March. April counts were 1-12 almost daily, with May totals similar; the last spring record was a single on 9th June. One on 11th July was out of season. Irregular in September, with a max. of 6 on 17th and 30th. Daily in October, with peak counts of 50 on 10th, 30 on 11th, and 20 on 18th. A few birds remained into November.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring records occurred from 25th April to 15th June, the largest arrival being 11 on 20th May. Recorded daily in autumn from 12th August until 11th October, the heaviest passage occurring between 7th and 20th September, with counts of 200 on 13th, 150 on 14th, 250 on 16th, 150 on 17th, and 80 on 18th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. Small numbers during March, the main spring arrival being 25 on 7th April, with birds seen until 28th. Three records in May involved singles on 21st, 23rd and 26th. Autumn migration daily from 14th September to early November, with a maximum of 300 on 3rd October.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. Recorded regularly from 10th May to 15th June, with 16 on 1st June. Autumn passage started on 6th September and lasted only until 5th October, with a max. of 12 on 13th September.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*. Three September records involving singles on 14th, 19th and 29th. In October, one present on 2nd-3rd and another on 9th.

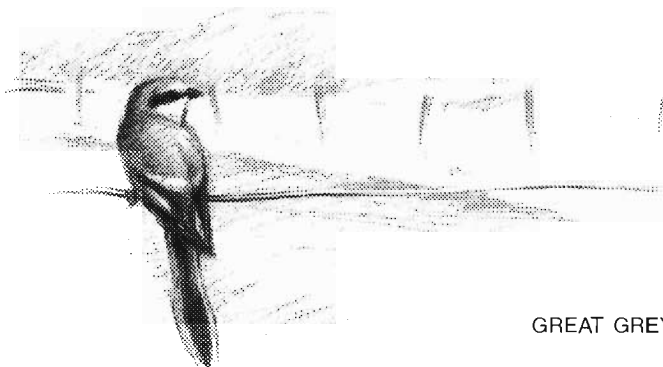
PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*. One to three regularly in spring, from 10th to 28th May. Two on 26th August, followed by a single on 29th. Almost daily from 8th September to 8th October, the peak being 12 on 13th September.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*. One near the Double Dyke on 30th September was seen by only a lucky few. Only the sixth Fair Isle record.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*. A female on 7th May, then 1-5 daily until 10th June. The only autumn record was of an immature bird on 8th November, the latest ever recorded on the island by 4 days.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. In spring an adult spent three days on the island, found on 12th May. The 12th spring record.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. Single on 5th April, followed by a long-staying bird from 11th to 20th April; two were present on 13th.



GREAT GREY SHRIKE

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. 1-2 sporadically between 22nd March and 5th June, with higher counts of 5 on 21st April and 4 on 18th-19th May. In autumn, one was present 16th-23rd October, then 3 on 23rd, and two remained until 27th October.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. Occasional in spring, with 1-3 on 14 dates during April / May, and 8 on 22nd April and 20th May. The only autumn sighting involved a lone bird on 13th September.

HOODED/CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. Two pairs attempted to breed but both were unsuccessful. Present all season. No spring or autumn influxes recorded.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Three pairs attempted to breed, with at least two broods fledging. Although they were seen being 'Fulmared' regularly, the outcome is unknown. No movements were noted.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Present all season. Spring passage peaked at 350 on 9th April. Regular passage during October, with 400 on 10th the highest recorded count.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Resident all year. The highest count was 120 on 30th September.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. In May, 2 on 21st, 5 on 22nd, 1 on 13th, and 3 on 29th, with the last sighting being the same 3 on 31st May. No autumn records.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. Light spring passage occurred from 29th March to 27th April, max. of 30 on 7th and 13th April. There were occasional singles in May. In autumn, daily from 8th September to 22nd October, with a peak of 50 on 9th October, and a male staying into November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. In spring, daily from 2nd to 30th April, with 90 on 14th being the highest count. Occasional May records usually involved 1-7 birds, a male on 8th June. Daily in autumn from 13th September to early November; peak counts were: 120 on 4th, 160 on 9th, and 60 on 30th October.



BRAMBLING

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*. An April record involved a singleton on 15th at the Plantation. In autumn, a single female present 9th-25th October, and an arrival of 7 birds on 8th November.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. One to three birds present from 15th to 23rd May were the only spring records. Again in October, 1-3 birds were present between 9th and 19th. A typical year.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. Scattered spring records, with 1-3 birds between 3rd April and 23rd May. Good autumn movement from 13th September to 3rd November; over 100 birds were recorded on 8 dates, with 300 on 5th and 7th October.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. Twelve records in April, with a max. of 7 on 12th. A single on 19th-24th May, and another on 9th June. The only autumn sighting was of 6 on 7th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. Present all year. 50 on 25th April and 3rd May were the highest spring counts. The autumn peak was 300 on 26th September. Numbers gradually decreased to around 80, seen at Quoy in early November.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. In spring the only two records were 1 on 6th April and 1 from 19th to 23rd May. In autumn, daily from 25th September to 17th October, with 1-4 present. Two on 27th October and a single on 3rd November. Most were thought to be the nominate subspecies.

***ARCTIC REDPOLL** *Carduelis hornemanni*. Three records: one on 31st January; another on 20th-23rd May, which was trapped on 21st; and the last on 31st May - 1st June. All 3 records were of the race *C. h. exilipes*. The first and third records have now been accepted.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. A male present on 15th-21st August, a single on 25th September, and 2 on 28th September were the only records.

SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Almost daily from 19th May to 12th June, with 1-2 seen regularly. The only red male appeared on 12th June. Autumn passage was good; birds were present from 24th August to 11th October, with counts of 5 on 28th August, 7 on 6th and 5 on 18th September. Probably involved at least 15 individuals.

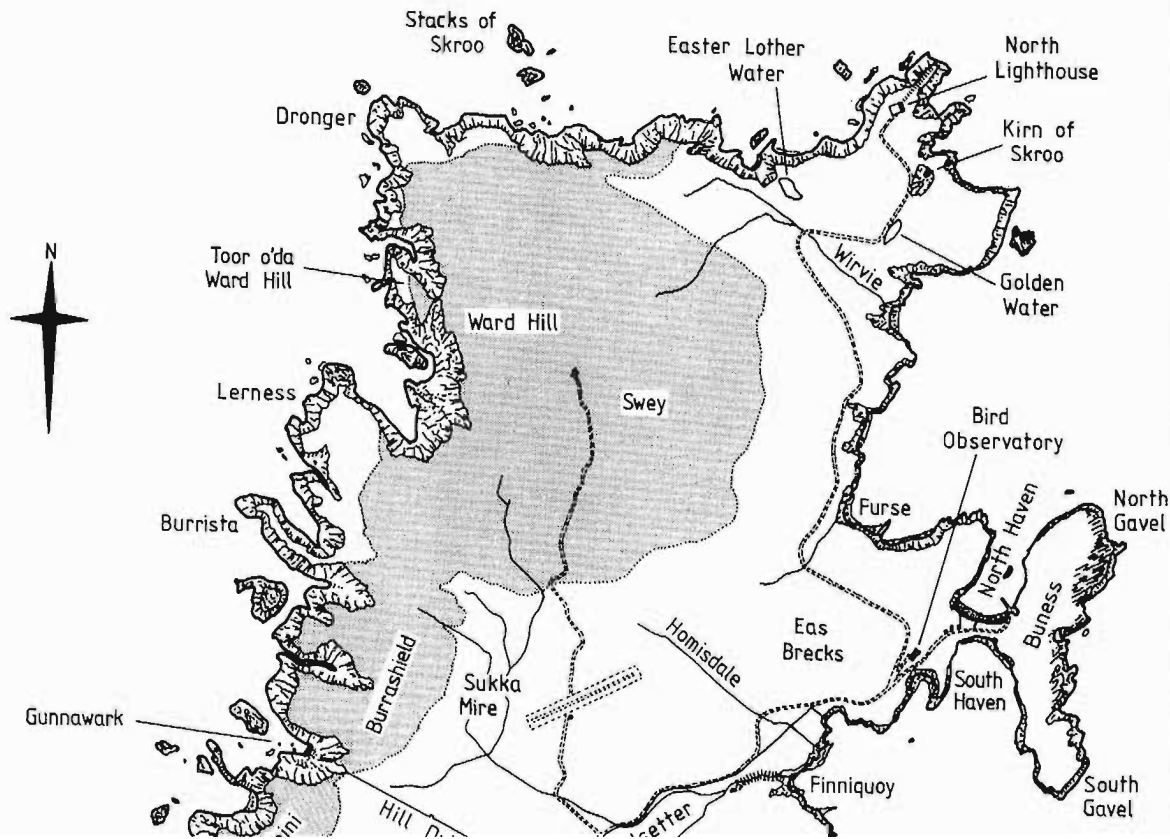
HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. An adult female trapped at the Plantation on 22nd May; unfortunately this bird died later.

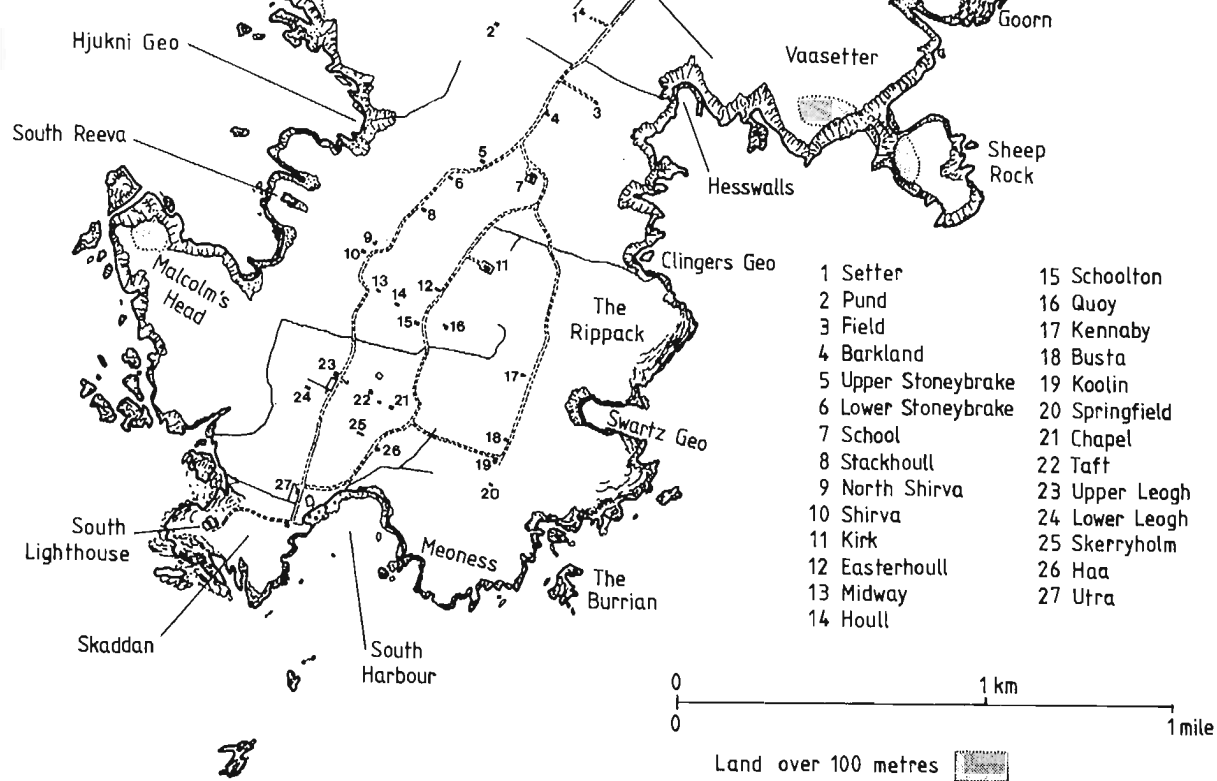
LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. An adult male at Quoy on 7th-9th April is the only spring record. Excellent daily autumn passage from 9th September until 29th October, with peaks of 22 on 4th and 25 on 8th October.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Over-wintered in small numbers. Peak counts 14 on 22nd January, 40 on 17th February, and 28 on 3rd March. Last seen on 9th May. In autumn, seen from 11th September until at least early November, 131 on Ward Hill on 5th October being the highest count.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. Seven spring sightings, all in April: 2 on 3rd, 1 on 4th, 3 on 6th, 1 on 7th, and 1 on 27th which remained until 30th. Two on 30th October, with one staying until at least 5th November.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. During September 1-2 birds recorded between 10th and 20th, with possibly 3 on 15th, though not confirmed.

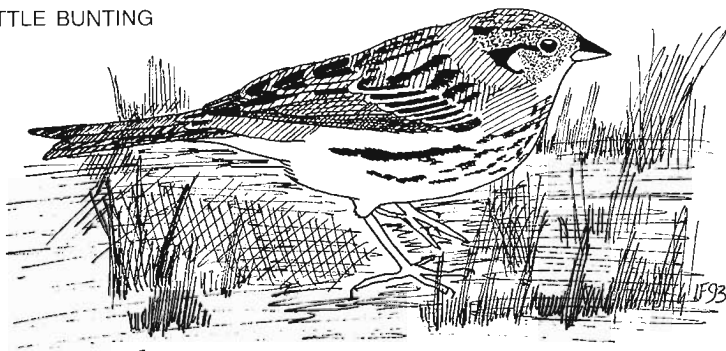




RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. No spring records, but an incredible six autumn sightings: 1 on 13th-15th September at Shirva; 1 on 20th-24th September at Homisdale; 1 on 29th September-1st October at Da Water; and 3 on 3rd-4th October at the Observatory, Easter Lothar, and Shirva, with 1-2 of the latter birds seen until 7th October. This represents the best showing for this species in a single year since 1980.

***LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla*. Good autumn showing, with 6 definite individuals, although probably at least 10 birds in total between 24th September and 10th October. They were: 3 on 24th, 2 on 25th, 4 on 26th and 27th, 5 on 28th, and 4 on 29th and 30th September; and 2 on 1st, 1 on 2nd and 3rd, 3 on 4th, 4 on 5th, 2 on 9th and finally 1 on 10th October. Five of these records have so far been accepted.

LITTLE BUNTING



REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Spring records spread from 5th April to 28th May, with a maximum of 7 on 11th May. Autumn passage 25th September until 22nd October, with 40 noted on 4th October.

Records of Species in Category 'D'

RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. One spring record of a male at Midway from 23rd-24th May. An autumn record was of a bird which was probably an immature male present from 13th until 17th September.

CHINESE or YELLOW-BILLED GROSBEAK *Eophona migratoria*. One was at Barkland from 18th to 26th November.

UPDATE ON BRITISH BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE DECISIONS 1982-1992

1992

All records published in the 1992 report have now been accepted except:

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*. 4th June, not accepted.

1989

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. 27th August, not yet submitted.

1988

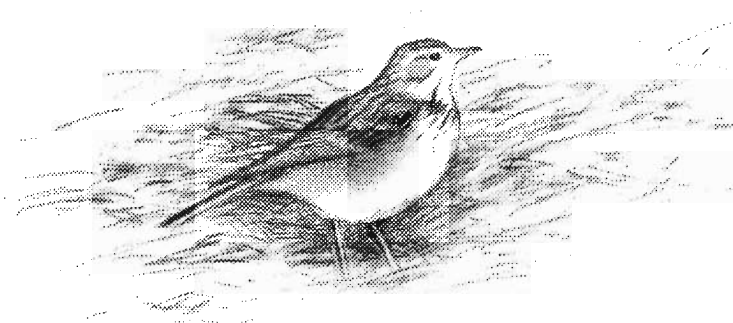
BLYTH'S PIPIT *Anthus godlewski*. 13th-22nd October, decision awaited.

1987

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*. 28th August, now accepted.

1982

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. 13th-15th August, decision awaited.



BLYTH'S PIPIT

RINGING REPORT 1993

By A J Leitch

During 1993 a total of 6338 birds of 116 species were ringed. This total is about average for recent years, with maximum effort during the migration period maintained and seabird ringing activities once again determined by the J.N.C.C. Seabird Monitoring project.

Heligoland traps were used to catch the majority of migrants, with Mist Nets, Tape-luring and Dazzling equipment used to a lesser extent. All the traps received attention in the spring, mainly replacing ripped or rusty wire mesh, and putting new glass at certain catching boxes. The Double Dyke received the most attention, with the middle section being totally rebuilt, also the Axel was almost totally rewired; sadly at the end of the 1993 season a few holes have started to appear for the staff of 1994.

Seabirds – with the exception of Arctic Tern, Kittiwake, and Puffin – enjoyed reasonable breeding success. I would like to thank all ringers who helped with seabirds. Good numbers of Gannet, Arctic Skua, Great Black-back Gull, Arctic Tern, Guillemot, Razorbill, and Black Guillemot were ringed, with the Great Skua total of 126 the highest ever recorded. A large effort was made to maintain high ringing totals for Storm Petrel, although our attempts are mainly governed by the weather; a respectable 988 were trapped; controls included (3) Portuguese, (7) Norwegian and (1) Danish.

As one might expect in an average year, the ringing totals for most species of common migrants were neither high nor low. The only species ringed in above average numbers was Robin (359). There were two additions to the ringing list: a Grey Plover was dazzled in October, and a Blyth's Pipit trapped in November; this bird is also an addition to the British list. The total number of species ringed on Fair Isle now stands at 261. Other rare or unusual birds handled during the 1993 season were: Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Quail, Corncrake, Coot, Dotterel, Little Stint (2), Wood Sandpiper, Wryneck, Pechora Pipit, Dipper, Red-flanked Bluetail, Lanceolated Warbler, River Warbler (2), Savi's Warbler, Paddyfield Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Subalpine Warbler (2), Arctic Warbler (2), Jackdaw, Arctic Redpoll, Hawfinch, Rustic Bunting, Little Bunting (3) and a record total of Scarlet Rosefinches (12).

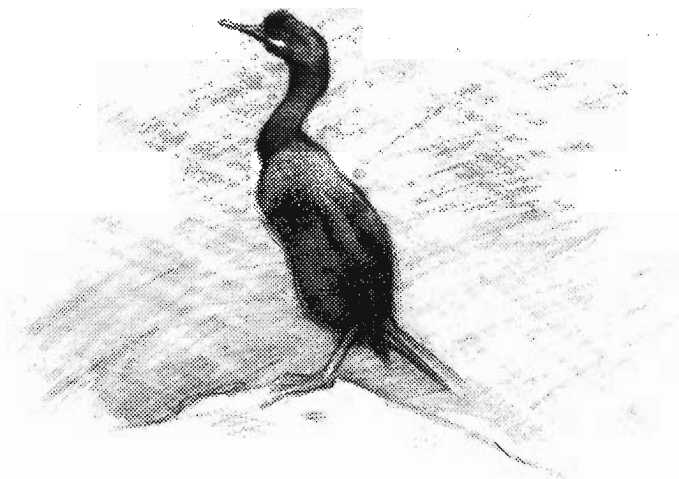
Table 1 shows the top ten species ringed, for full-grown and nestling birds.

Top ten, full-grown		Top ten, pullus	
Storm Petrel	(988)	Guillemot	(799)
Blackbird	(405)	Arctic Tern	(757)
Robin	(359)	Razorbill	(371)
Brambling	(115)	Shag	(247)
Blackcap	(108)	Starling	(212)
Rock Pipit	(105)	Great Skua	(126)
Twite	(98)	Great B-B Gull	(109)
Meadow Pipit	(98)	Arctic Skua	(104)
Wheatear	(90)	Puffin	(78)
Starling	(83)	Kittiwake	(69)

Table 2 shows the monthly ringing totals.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	0	29	586	208	2490	1365	637	398	582	42	0

Finally, I would like to express our thanks to all visitors who participated in ringing activities, and to SOTEAG, JNCC, and BTO for financial assistance with aspects of the ringing and seabird work.



SHAG

Birds ringed/recovered at Fair Isle Bird Observatory 1948-1993

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Little Grebe	-	-	-	10	-	-
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Slavonian Grebe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Fulmar	5	32	37	15146	4	135
Storm Petrel	988	-	988	18539	77	584
Leach's Petrel	-	-	-	34	-	-
Gannet	4	16	20	213	-	4
Cormorant	-	-	-	7	-	-
Shag	18	247	265	18799	11	475
Grey Heron	-	-	-	20	-	-
Whooper Swan	-	-	-	33	-	6
Bean Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	11	-	1
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	3	-	1
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	20	-	7
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	3	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	4	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	15	1	-
Teal	2	-	2	44	-	2
Mallard	-	-	-	12	-	1
Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	1
Shoveler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pochard	-	-	-	2	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tufted Duck	1	-	1	15	-	-
Scaup	-	-	-	4	-	-
Eider	-	-	-	137	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	15	-	1
Velvet Scoter	-	-	-	2	-	-
Goldeneye	1	-	1	17	-	1
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	3	-	-
Goosander	-	-	-	3	-	1
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	2	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sparrowhawk	9	-	9	253	1	18
Red-footed Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-
Kestrel	1	-	1	45	-	8
Merlin	1	-	1	174	-	11
Peregrine	-	-	-	6	-	1
Quail	1	-	1	6	-	-

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Water Rail	6	-	6	271	-	3
Spotted Crake	-	-	-	17	-	-
Little Crake	-	-	-	1	-	-
Baillon's Crake	-	-	-	1	-	-
Corncrake	1	-	1	38	-	2
Moorhen	1	-	1	90	-	3
Coot	1	-	1	14	-	1
Great Bustard	-	-	-	1	-	-
Oystercatcher	3	9	12	1299	-	63
Little Ringed Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ringed Plover	12	6	18	545	-	6
Dotterel	1	-	1	4	-	-
Golden Plover	-	-	-	20	-	-
Grey Plover	1	-	1	1	-	-
Lapwing	-	5	5	286	1	6
Knot	6	-	6	89	-	2
Sanderling	1	-	1	90	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Stint	2	-	2	73	-	-
Temminck's Stint	-	-	-	2	-	-
White-rumped Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	-	-
Curlew Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	151	-	1
Dunlin	16	-	16	494	-	7
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ruff	-	-	-	33	-	1
Jack Snipe	1	-	1	122	-	3
Snipe	9	-	9	361	-	4
Great Snipe	-	-	-	1	-	-
Woodcock	14	-	14	350	-	4
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bar-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	9	-	2
Whimbrel	-	-	-	15	-	-
Curlew	-	4	4	110	-	5
Spotted Redshank	-	-	-	3	-	-
Redshank	1	-	1	244	-	2
Greenshank	-	-	-	9	-	-
Green Sandpiper	4	-	4	52	-	1
Wood Sandpiper	1	-	1	17	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	47	-	1
Turnstone	-	-	-	72	-	-
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	6	-	-
Grey Phalarope	-	-	-	3	-	-

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Pomarine Skua	-	-	-	1	-	-
Arctic Skua	-	104	104	3359	3	47
Great Skua	-	126	126	1309	-	25
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	8	-	-
Common Gull	-	2	2	178	1	3
Lesser Black-back Gull	-	11	11	1336	-	30
Herring Gull	-	12	12	3988	-	88
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	35	-	1
Great Black-back Gull	-	109	109	2241	-	85
Kittiwake	57	69	126	5937	3	31
Common Tern	-	1	1	456	-	3
Arctic Tern	-	757	757	3940	4	16
Guillemot	34	799	833	22259	27	728
Razorbill	25	371	396	6253	5	165
Black Guillemot	1	39	40	1522	1	18
Little Auk	-	-	-	9	-	-
Puffin	24	78	102	11199	-	29
Rock Dove	-	-	-	25	-	-
Wood Pigeon	3	-	3	55	-	2
Collared Dove	8	-	8	222	-	3
Turtle Dove	-	-	-	67	-	2
Cuckoo	4	-	4	97	-	1
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Long-eared Owl	5	-	5	206	-	12
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	17	-	-
Nightjar	-	-	-	4	-	-
Swift	-	-	-	17	-	1
Hoopoe	-	-	-	3	-	-
Wryneck	1	-	1	191	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	-	-	24	-	-
Short-toed Lark	-	-	-	7	-	-
Woodlark	-	-	-	2	-	-
Skylark	3	-	3	790	-	-
Shorelark	-	-	-	5	-	-
Sand Martin	-	-	-	8	-	-
Swallow	3	-	3	239	-	2
House Martin	-	-	-	148	-	1
Richard's Pipit	-	-	-	10	-	-
Blyth's Pipit	1	-	1	1	-	-
Tawny Pipit	-	-	-	3	-	-
Olive-backed Pipit	-	-	-	8	-	-
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	588	-	-
Pechora Pipit	1	-	1	8	-	-
Meadow Pipit	98	-	98	8719	-	44

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Red-throated Pipit	-	-	-	7	-	-
Rock Pipit	105	-	105	8580	-	28
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	10	-	-
Citrine Wagtail	-	-	-	5	-	-
Grey Wagtail	-	-	-	26	-	1
Pied/White Wagtail	7	-	7	568	-	4
Waxwing	-	-	-	36	-	-
Dipper	1	-	1	13	-	-
Wren	11	-	11	699	-	-
Dunnock	58	-	58	2105	-	6
Robin	359	-	359	7257	1	34
Thrush Nightingale	-	-	-	24	-	-
Nightingale	-	-	-	26	-	-
Siberian Rubythroat	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bluethroat	4	-	4	229	-	2
Red-flanked Bluetail	1	-	1	2	-	-
Black Redstart	5	-	5	134	-	-
Redstart	37	-	37	1578	-	1
Whinchat	2	-	2	557	-	2
Stonechat	-	-	-	53	-	-
Wheatear	90	20	110	15098	-	71
Pied Wheatear	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black-eared Wheatear	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rock Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
White's Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Grey-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	2	-	-
Ring Ouzel	10	-	10	4 57	-	8
Blackbird	405	-	405	19863	2	310
Eye-browed Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dusky Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Black-throated Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-
Fieldfare	1	-	1	607	-	1
Song Thrush	54	-	54	2384	-	1
Redwing	55	-	55	7588	-	69
Mistle Thrush	-	-	-	22	-	1
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	-	6	-	-
Lanceolated Warbler	1	-	1	25	-	-
Grasshopper Warbler	3	-	3	97	-	-
River Warbler	2	-	2	7	-	-
Savi's Warbler	1	-	1	3	-	-
Aquatic Warbler	-	-	-	22	-	-
Sedge Warbler	6	-	6	385	-	2
Paddyfield Warbler	1	-	1	5	-	-
Blyth's Reed Warbler	1	-	1	2	-	-
Marsh Warbler	1	-	1	88	-	-

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Reed Warbler	6	-	6	176	-	-
Great Reed Warbler	-	-	-	6	-	-
Thick-billed Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	1
Booted Warbler	-	-	-	7	-	-
Icterine Warbler	-	-	-	89	-	-
Melodious Warbler	-	-	-	11	-	-
Subalpine Warbler	2	-	2	24	-	-
Sardinian Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Barred Warbler	2	-	2	346	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	11	-	11	568	-	1
Whitethroat	5	-	5	815	-	-
Garden Warbler	26	-	26	2905	-	3
Blackcap	108	-	108	4199	1	19
Greenish Warbler	-	-	-	19	-	-
Arctic Warbler	2	-	2	29	-	-
Pallas's Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	-	1	95	-	-
Radde's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dusky Warbler	-	-	-	4	-	-
Bonelli's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wood Warbler	2	-	2	93	-	-
Chiffchaff	33	-	33	915	-	2
Willow Warbler	62	-	62	3072	1	6
Goldcrest	49	-	49	1337	-	2
Firecrest	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brown Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-
Spotted Flycatcher	11	-	11	679	-	3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	1	-	1	50	-	-
Collared Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-
Pied Flycatcher	8	-	8	818	-	5
Coal Tit	-	-	-	1	-	-
Blue Tit	-	-	-	2	-	-
Great Tit	-	-	-	7	-	-
Treecreeper	-	-	-	1	-	-
Golden Oriole	-	-	-	7	-	-
Isabelline Shrike	-	-	-	1	-	-
Red-backed Shrike	1	-	1	175	-	-
Lesser Grey Shrike	-	-	-	6	-	-
Great Grey Shrike	1	-	1	110	-	-
Woodchat Shrike	-	-	-	13	-	-
Jackdaw	1	-	1	4	-	-
Rook	-	-	-	5	-	-
Hooded/Carrion Crow	-	-	-	44	-	-
Raven	-	-	-	26	-	-

Species	Ringed as		Totals		Recovered	
	Juv/Ad	Pullus	1993	1948-93	1993	1948-93
Starling	83	212	295	22194	4	181
Daurian Starling	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rose-coloured Starling	-	-	-	2	-	-
House Sparrow	8	-8	1344	-	3	-
Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	97	-	1
Chaffinch	21	-	21	2301	-	11
Brambling	115	-	115	2842	-	12
Greenfinch	2	-	2	161	-	-
Goldfinch	-	-	-	6	-	-
Siskin	21	-	21	307	-	1
Linnet	1	-	1	137	-	1
Twite	98	-	98	4908	-	4
Redpoll	1	-	1	581	-	1
Arctic Redpoll	1	-	1	18	-	-
Two-barred Crossbill	-	-	-	1	-	-
Crossbill	-	-	-	455	-	2
Parrot Crossbill	-	-	-	37	-	-
Scarlet Rosefinch	12	-	12	133	-	-
Bullfinch	-	-	-	41	-	-
Hawfinch	1	-	1	11	-	-
Tennessee Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-
Lapland Bunting	1	-	1	45	-	-
Snow Bunting	1	-	1	519	-	3
Pine Bunting	-	-	-	2	-	-
Yellowhammer	1	-	1	54	-	-
Ortolan Bunting	-	-	-	18	-	-
Cretzschmar's Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Yellow-browed Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rustic Bunting	1	-	1	13	-	1
Little Bunting	3	-	3	28	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting	-	-	-	6	-	-
Reed Bunting	5	-	5	374	-	2
Pallas's Reed Bunting	-	-	-	2	-	-
Black-headed Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Corn Bunting	-	-	-	3	-	-
Red-headed Bunting	-	-	-	5	-	-
Chestnut Bunting	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS (All species)	3309	3029	6338	256019	143	3559

RINGING RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1993

By A.J. Leitch.

We have received notice of 143 recoveries and 90 controls involving 23 species since the publication of the last report. Information on these is presented below.

For those movements which are shown in full, the details are spread over two lines. The first line contains the ring number, age/sex code, followed by the date and place of ringing. The second line shows a code representing manner of recovery, followed by the date and place of recovery and also the displacement.

Age/sex codes are as follows:

- 1 = pullus/nestling
- 2 = fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 = hatched during calendar year of ringing
- 4 = hatched before calendar year, exact year unknown
- 5 = hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 = hatched before previous calendar year, but exact year unknown
- J = denotes bird still showing signs of juvenile plumage

Sex: m = male f = female

'Manner of recovery' codes:

- v = caught or trapped by man and released with ring
- vv = ring number read in the field/sight record of identifiable colour ring
- vB = breeding where recaptured
- +
- x = shot or killed by man
- x = found dead or dying
- xF = found freshly dead
- xL = found dead (not recent)
- () = caught or trapped alive and not released, or released without ring
- /?/ = manner of recovery unknown

The co-ordinates of Fair Isle are 59 32'N 01 37'W

Recoveries

FULMAR

There were four recoveries away from the Isle. A pullus ringed in June 1989 was controlled locally on North Ronaldsay in February 1993. Another pullus that was ringed in July 1990 was found dead on the Faeroe Islands in July 1993. The details of the other two reported recoveries are given below.

FC13457	8	26.05.89	Fair Isle
	/?/	15.07.93	Agger, Jylland, DENMARK 56 47'N 08 15'E 654km ESE 1511 days
FR78657	1	18.07.92	Fair Isle
	x	27.06.93	Klubbholmen, Vrangø, Göteborg, SWEDEN 57 35'N 11 46'E 806km ESE 344 days

STORM PETREL

Seventy-seven individuals ringed on the Island were controlled elsewhere. The number controlled at each site is given below.

Nolsoy, Faeroe Islands	1	Foula, Shetland	10
Kyle of Tongue, Highland	3	Yell, Shetland	31
Auskerry, Orkney	1	Noness, Shetland	1
Burray, Orkney	1	Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire	1
North Ronaldsay, Orkney	9	South Ronaldsay, Orkney	9

Three foreign recoveries were also reported.

2385843	2	28.07.90	Fair Isle
	v	08.06.93	Ponta de Almadena, Budens, Algarve, PORTUGAL 37 03'N 08 47'W 2551km SSW 1046 days
2409993	2	07.08.91	Fair Isle
	v	08.06.93	Ponta de Almadena, Budens, Algarve, PORTUGAL 37 03'N 08 47'W 2551km SSW 671 days
2401222	2	20.07.91	Fair Isle
	v	22.07.92	Lista Fyr, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY 58 06'N 06 34'E 497km ESE 368 days

2385843 and 2409993 are our first recoveries from Portugal.

SHAG

There were eleven individuals found dead away from the Island: six in Orkney (two in their first year, four in their second year), four in Shetland (one in its first year, two in their second and one in its third year); and one ringed in July 1991 was found long dead at Rattray Head, Grampian August 1993.

WIGEON

FC00490	3m	15.09.91	Fair Isle
	+	04.01.93	Kirkwall Airport, Orkney
			58 57'N 02 53'W 96km WSW 477 days

This is our first Wigeon recovery.

SPARROWHAWK

DN55854	3m	30.10.91	Fair Isle
	x	18.01.93	Skovsted Thy, Jylland, DENMARK
			57 00'N 08 47'E 669km ESE 1541 days

Our second Sparrowhawk to be recovered in Denmark.

LAPWING

DK46823	1	07.06.91	Fair Isle
	x	11.08.93	Kirbist, North Ronaldsay, Orkney
			59 21'N 02 26'W 50km WSW 796 days

Surprisingly, only our first reported recovery from Orkney.

ARCTIC SKUA

Two individuals ringed as pullus on the Island were controlled as breeding adults on Foula (eleven and seven years later). One other recovery is shown below.

ER36365	1	22.06.91	Fair Isle
	()	27.11.92	Nova Viscosa, Bahia, BRAZIL
			18 20'S 39 39'W 9343km WSW 158 days

This is our second recovery in Brazil, the last one being in 1965.

COMMON GULL

EP88641	8m	21.08.89	Fair Isle
	x	20.06.93	Gladstad, Vega Island, Nordland, NORWAY
			65 41'N 11 58'E 972km NE 1399 days

The second Common Gull to be found in Norway, the last was in 1971.

KITTIWAKE

EJ80171	1	11.07.82	Fair Isle
	xL	12.06.93	Mull Head, Papa Westray, Orkney
			59 23'N 02 53'W 73km WSW 3989 days
EN55262	1	12.07.82	Fair Isle
	xF	09.12.92	Flemish Cap, off Newfoundland
			(at sea N. Atlantic)
			46 42'N 45 00'W 3200km WSW 2038 days
EP88909	1	28.06.91	Fair Isle
	+	15.10.92	Saqqarlilt, Aasiaat, GREENLAND
			68 35'N 53 00'W 2669km WNW 475 days

Kittiwake EP88909 represents the eleventh recorded in Greenland and EN55262 is the fourth to be found around Newfoundland.

ARCTIC TERN

Two nestlings ringed on 28.06.91 were found dead on North Ronaldsay and Burray, Orkney. Full detail given for the other two recoveries.

SX32032	1	22.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	29.12.92	Lome, Togo, WEST AFRICA
			06 10'N 01 21'E 5935km S 190 days
SX33232	1	30.06.92	Fair Isle
	xL	12.12.92	Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, WEST AFRICA
			03 45'N 08 48'E 6265km S 165 days

This is our first reported recovery of a Fair Isle bird in Equatorial Guinea.

GUILLEMOT

Twenty-seven reported recoveries of nestlings. The circumstances of recovery were: 16 found dead on beach, 7 drowned in fishing nets, 2 were oiled, 2 unknown circumstances and 1 was shot. The longest movements are listed below.

GH00192	1	22.06.83	Fair Isle
	x	01.03.93	Traslovsloge, Varberg, Halland, SWEDEN 57 04'N 12 16'E 855km ESE 3540 days
T44686	1	19.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	03.02.93	Off Arild, Skalderviken, Malmohus, SWEDEN 56 17'N 12 35'E 913km ESE 229 days
T44827	1	19.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	15.02.93	V Morups Tange, Glommen, Halland, SWEDEN 56 55'N 12 21'E 868km ESE 241 days
T72040	1	19.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	29.01.93	Sondervig, Jylland, DENMARK 56 07'N 08 07'E 690km SE 224 days
T72384	1	21.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	25.02.93	Southwold, Suffolk 52 19'N 01 40'E 827km S 249 days
T72469	1	22.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	07.02.93	Uggclarp, Halland, SWEDEN 56 49'N 12 37'E 887km ESE 230 days
T72693	1	06.07.92	Fair Isle
	x	17.01.93	Smedsgard, Nr Varberg, Halland, SWEDEN 57 01'N 12 21'E 863km ESE 195 days
X05342	1	28.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	16.03.93	Sizewell Hall, Suffolk 52 11'N 01 36'E 841km SSE 261 days
X05498	1	06.07.92	Fair Isle
	x	24.02.93	Isselmere Dyke, Kornwerdersand, NETHERLANDS 53 05'N 05 22'E 836km SE 233 days



GUILLEMOT

RAZORBILL

Two birds ringed in 1992 were found dead in Northumberland in March this year. Full details of the other three recoveries are listed.

M75310	1	19.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	01.03.93	Middelkerke, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM 51 11'N 02 49'E 969km SSE 255 days
M75357	1	20.06.92	Fair Isle
	x	24.12.92	Beer, Devon 50 42'N 03 05'W 986km S 187 days
M77538	1	26.06.91	Fair Isle
	x	03.08.92	Rugholmen, Flatanger, Nord-Trondelag, NORWAY 64 26'N 10 31'E 834km ENE 404 days

BLACK GUILLEMOT

A single recovery of an adult ringed in July 1986, found dead on Orkney in June 1993, a distance of 105km.

ROBIN

An adult ringed on 25.05.93 was unfortunately killed by a cat in Tolob, Shetland 01.06.93, a distance of 43km.

BLACKBIRD

Two reported recoveries are given below.

RJ90096	3f	30.10.92	Fair Isle
	x	13.03.93	Monkstown, Dublin, EIRE
			53 16'N 06 09'W 749km SSW 134 days
XP08917	6f	21.04.86	Fair Isle
	x	22.10.91	Horve, Sandness, Rogaland, NORWAY
			58 54'N 05 58'E 437km E 2010 days

BLACKCAP

A first year male ringed on 19.10.92 was found dead in Rendall, Orkney on 25.12.92, a distance of 75km.

WILLOW WARBLER

An individual ringed on 20.05.93 was controlled on North Ronaldsay on 22.05.93. Only the sixth recovery of a Fair Isle ringed Willow Warbler.

STARLING

Four birds were recovered away from the Island. Two on North Ronaldsay, one on South Ronaldsay and also an interesting report of an adult female ringed on 30.10.92, picked up freshly dead six days later on an oil platform 303km SSE.

Controls

FULMAR

A first year ringed on North Ronaldsay in December 1991 was found dead on the Hill Dyke in April 1992.

STORM PETREL

Seventy-six birds were controlled on Fair Isle. These were ringed at:

Yell, Shetland	20	Eyemouth, Borders	2
Ness of Gossaborough, Shetland	13	South Ronaldsay, Orkney	7
Noss, Shetland	3	North Ronaldsay, Orkney	3
Foula, Shetland	2	Whitburn, Tyne & Wear	5
Lerwick, Shetland	2	John O Groats, Highland	1
Uista, Shetland	2	Nolsoy, Faeroe Islands	1
St Kilda, Western Isles	1	Aberdeen, Grampian	1
North Rona, Western Isles	1	Sanda Island, Strathclyde	1
Ailsa Craig, Strathclyde	1	Eilean nan ron, Highland	2

Full details of the more interesting movements are given below.

2314951	4	27.06.92	Loop Head, Clare, EIRE 52 34'N 09 55'W
	v	18.07.92	Fair Isle 929km NNE 21 days
E202597	6	02.09.91	Hernyken, Rost, Nordland NORWAY 67 26'N 11 52'E
	v	25.07.92	Fair Isle 1101km SSW 327 days
E144916	6	20.08.91	Flo, Ulstein, More Og Romsdal, NORWAY 62 25'N 05 53'E
	v	23.07.92	Fair Isle 516km SW 338 days
E144080	6	12.08.90	Flo, Ulstein, More Og Romsdal, NORWAY 62 25'N 05 53'E
	v	22.07.92	Fair Isle 516km SW 710 days
E143404	6	23.08.91	Male, Fraena, More Og Romsdal, NORWAY 62 58'N 07 03'E
	v	23.07.92	Fair Isle 600km SW 335 days

9991237	6	07.08.91	Reve, Klepp, Rogaland, NORWAY 58 46'N 05 32'E
	v	19.08.91	Fair Isle
	v	07.08.92	Sanda Island, Strathclyde 55 16'N 05 35'W 776km WSW 366 days
9976434	6	27.08.89	Runde, Heroy, More Og Romsdal, NORWAY 62 25'N 05 38'E
	v	17.07.92	Fair Isle 505km SW 1055 days

Note with 9991237 that the distance travelled and time elapsed is from the date and place of ringing, not from Fair Isle.

RINGED PLOVER

A local movement of a first year bird.

NV37705	1	26.06.92	Uyeasound, Unst, Shetland 60 1'N 00 55'W
	v	23.08.92	Fair Isle 134km SSW 58 days

ARCTIC TERN

An individual ringed as a nestling in Boddam, Shetland in June 1981 was picked up dead in August 1992.

GUILLEMOT

Two controls from Shetland of nestlings were eleven and three years old.

GREY WAGTAIL

A local movement of a first year bird. Only our second Grey Wagtail control.

E909362	1	20.05.92	Voxter, Shetland 60 24'N 01 20'W
	v	11.10.92	Fair Isle 98km SSW 144 days

WHEATEAR

A local movement of a first year bird.

NN36199	1	16.06.93	Whalsay, Shetland 60 21'N 00 59'W
	v	29.08.93	Fair Isle 98km SSW 74 days

BLACKBIRD

A single control of a Norwegian ringed bird.

JB42207	3f	28.07.90	Ronekilen, Mondal, Vest-Agder, NORWAY 58 02'N 07 22'E
	v	23.04.92	Fair Isle 543km W 635 days

GARDEN WARBLER

A local movement from Shetland.

JK44902	3	23.08.92	Virkie, Shetland 59 53'N 01 18'W
	v	26.08.92	Fair Isle 43km SW 3 days

BLACKCAP

9897179	3m	23.08.88	Gronda, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY 58 07'N 06 36'E
	v	11.05.92	Fair Isle 498km NNW 1357 days
B374073	3m	17.10.89	Vinkenbaan, Kroons Polders, Vlieland, NETHERLANDS 53 15'N 04 57'E
	v	24.10.89	Fair Isle 806km WNW 7 days

CHIFFCHAFF

This is our fifth controlled Chiffchaff and the first from Norway.

A75931	6	14.05.92	Akeroya, Ostfold, NORWAY 59 02'N 10 53'E
	v	25.05.92	Fair Isle 712km W 11 days

GOLDCREST

This individual represents only our fourth control of this species; two of these have come from North Ronaldsay.

2F9452	3f	26.09.92	Theddlethorpe Dunes, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire 53 22'N 22 00 13'E
	v	08.04.93	Fair Isle 694km NW 194 days

INVERTEBRATE STUDIES ON FAIR ISLE, 1993

By Nick Riddiford

Moths

The main focus of invertebrate study was again moths. Light traps were operated at the Observatory in April-June and August-September and at Schoolton on all suitable nights between 10th February and 5th October. February-March trapping extended the season but bore little dividend. A White-shouldered Moth *Endrosis sarcitrella* on 10th February was the only capture until a Silver Y *Autographa gamma* on 19th May. In contrast to the previous two years, migrants were singularly lacking. The only addition to the Fair Isle list was a Skin Moth *Monopis laevigella* at Schoolton on 29th July, and this insignificant little micro may have been a previously overlooked resident rather than a migrant. A Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis* at the Observatory on 6th August and another at Schoolton on 27th August provided the first confirmed record for the Isle.

Summer 1993 was the coldest, and driest, for at least twenty years (D Wheeler pers. comm.) and this was reflected by low capture rates of common Fair Isle species. There was some evidence that this effected emergence periods with for example Map-winged Swift *Hepialis fusconebulosa*, an early summer moth, occurring as late as 16th July. Despite depressed numbers of some species, Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha* and Dusky Brocade *Apamea remissa* were more abundant. The commoner moths did eventually appear in numbers, but later than normal with species such as Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica* and Square-spot Rustic *Xestia xanthographa*, normally at their most abundant in mid and late August respectively, occurring in highest numbers in early September; and both species plus Rosy Rustic *Hydraecia micacea* and Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba* trapped most nights to the end of September. The only October capture was a Red-green Carpet *Chloroclysta siterata* on 5th, the third Fair Isle record.

While regular trapping continues to extend our knowledge of distribution and occurrence in northern parts, the change in patterns in 1993 suggested that the cold weather did have a depressive effect on some invertebrate populations (perhaps related to slower vegetation growth rates), and this may prove an area of further study. An opportunity to extend our moth research in another direction was also taken, the Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica* becoming the object of study for its interesting genetic variation by Dr Ian Wynne of Rothamsted Experimental Station, Hertfordshire (in collaboration with myself).

Other studies

Surprisingly little is known of many Fair Isle invertebrate groups. There are no records at all for some, while for others such as beetles the Fair Isle records stem almost entirely from brief studies at the beginning of this century! Moves are at hand to put this right, stimulated in part at least by the establishment this year of a Shetland Entomological Group, and aided by a number of specialists who have offered their help and expertise. This has already allowed us to extend our knowledge of Fair Isle's hoverflies and, this year, bugs (Heteroptera), froghoppers (Auchenorhyncha), beetles and land molluscs became the focus of attention. Irrespective of specialist interest, it was the sharp eyes of islander Neil Thomson which provided the most spectacular finds in 1993: a Moss Snail *Pupilla muscorum* colony at the base of a Lower Stoneybreck wall on 20th July - the first to be recorded on Fair Isle, and the first Shetland record this century; and Fair Isle's (and possibly Shetland's) first Two-spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata* which he rescued from the side of the Good Shepherd IV in North Haven on 10th June.

The impetus given to invertebrate recording recently at Fair Isle and in Shetland is set to continue, opening up a new frontier of exploration on our own doorstep. There are many discoveries to be made and a need to improve our knowledge of how isolated faunal communities cope in a climatically difficult, northern environment. The observatory maintains a card index of all non-avian fauna (and flora), which is currently being computerised. There is a tremendous opportunity for those interested in other faunal groups to add to this and to make further exciting discoveries for themselves. I would be pleased to hear from or meet those interested in invertebrates (and floral groups) and hope that this article will tempt you to the isle, particularly as the bird observatory offers such an excellent base.

Acknowledgements

My excursion into the invertebrates of Fair Isle would have been in vain without the help of Ian Lorimer (moths), Neil Marks (beetles), Dr Peter Kirby (bugs and froghoppers), Mrs Nora McMillan (molluscs), Dr I. D. Wallace (caddis flies), Simon McKelvey (hoverflies), Colin Plant (lacewings) and Roger Tallack (molluscs). I thank them for their encouragement and for confirming and/or correcting my novice identifications. We now have the beginnings of a specialist panel offering advice but any further offers of assistance, particularly with confirmation of records, would be most welcome. Finally, I congratulate the Shetland Entomological Group on its establishment and pay particular tribute to the energy of its main instigators, Mike Pennington and Chris Donald, who have close Fair Isle associations, both being ex FIBO staff.

CETACEAN RECORDS 1993

By C. Waters

MINKE WHALE *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*. There were a record thirteen reported sightings, about half of these being from the "Good Shepherd": singles on June 15th and 28th, August 4th, 12th, 23rd and 30th, and September 23rd and 25th; two were seen on June 17th and 30th, September 22nd, and October 17th; the highest count was 7, seen from the boat on July 1st.

KILLER WHALE *Orcinus orca*. Two were seen from the "Good Shepherd" on March 9th, and another one on June 17th. A pod of 6 was seen from the North Light on September 22nd.

WHITE-BEAKED DOLPHIN *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*. These were recorded seven times during the summer, usually from the boat: 1 on June 29th, 3 riding the bow wave of the "Good Shepherd" on July 24th, at least 6 on August 11th, 3 on August 26th, 12 on August 27th, 3 on September 28th, and 5 again bow riding the boat on October 20th.

ATLANTIC WHITE-SIDED DOLPHIN *Lagenorhynchus acutus*. Only one report: 2 seen from the crossing on August 31st.

RISSO'S DOLPHIN *Grampus griseus*. Two were reported on August 11th and 12th.

HARBOUR PORPOISE *Phocoena phocoena*. There were altogether 40 sightings from mid-May to late October. The highest counts were: 24 seen from the boat on June 17th, 41 on August 11th, at least 26 during August 12th-15th, 23 on August 27th, and 35 on September 22nd. A dead porpoise found washed up on the beach at South Haven on 16th May was sent for autopsy. It was found to be a pregnant female which had apparently died due to difficulties in giving birth.

UNIDENTIFIED DOLPHIN SP. Between June and October, there were seven further sightings of dolphins which could not be identified. Among these, the highest count was 15 on June 28th.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again we are extremely grateful to the crew of the "Good Shepherd", especially Neil Thomson, for their observations. We would also like to thank the many visitors who contributed to the records.

THE FAIR ISLE WEATHER IN 1993

By D. Wheeler

JANUARY On Fair Isle, as in the rest of Shetland, the 1st to the 22nd was extremely wild, with a succession of storms, gales and strong SW winds. Except for the 19th, and including the last day of December, gales were recorded on 22 consecutive days on the island. Though the wind and sea conditions contributed to the wrecking of the tanker *Braer* on the southern tip of Shetland, they also rapidly dispersed the 85,000 tonnes of spilt oil. Winds gusted to storm F10 (>47 kt) on 24 days and to hurricane F12 (>63 kt) on 17 days! The *Good Shepherd IV* was stormbound on the slipway between 29th December and 19th January. The month was also the wettest January on record and, never before - in any month - have so many thunderstorms been reported, this month's total of 8 easily beating the 5 reported in January 1983 (another windy month). Though winds were from between south and west in direction on 25 days, the frequency of snow and sleet was also the highest recorded.

FEBRUARY The month was dull, with only 46% of the normal hours of sunshine. It was also mild, with temperatures around 1° C above average, and only two days with snow cover. Winds were mainly from between south and west in direction and much lighter in strength - though outbreaks of cold northerly winds did bring some snow at times.

Winter (Dec-Feb)

Fair Isle: Rain 130.2%, sun 60.0%, mean temperature +0.4° C.

UK: Mild – other than a cold December - and snow free.

MARCH Another mild month with the mean temperature 0.8° C above average, and winds again mainly south to west in direction.

APRIL Continuing mild with mainly SE winds and temperatures 0.6° C above average. The maximum temperature of 12.2° C recorded on the 29th was the highest April temperature recorded on Fair Isle. Rainfall was a little below average, although it was also a slightly duller month than usual.

MAY Wet – with rainfall 50% above the 59.1 mm average - and dull. Despite frequent north-east winds, temperatures remained about average.

Spring (Mar-May)

Fair Isle: Rain 110.1%, sun 84.7%, mean temperature +0.5° C.

UK: Mild/warm and wet.

JUNE Though the month's highest temperature of 15.9° C (60.6° F), recorded on the 8th, proved to be the warmest day of the year, June was cool with an average temperature 0.6° C below normal! Both sunshine and rainfall were also slightly below average. Wind directions were very changeable during the month.

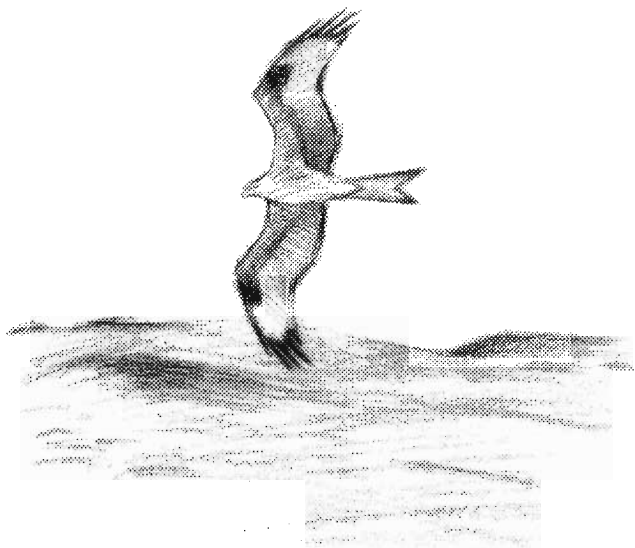
JULY With just over half the normal rainfall, July was dry, though not particularly sunny. Despite frequent south-west to westerly winds, mean temperatures were 1.0° C below normal.

AUGUST Continuing dry and cloudy, with temperatures again 1.0° C below normal. Winds were mostly westerly in direction. Though August is usually Fair Isle's warmest month, the highest temperature was a mere 14.0° C! This summer was the coldest recorded on Fair Isle. It was colder even than the very bad summer of 1979 but, unlike that year when the summer was very wet, rainfall was well below average.

Summer (Jun-Aug)

Fair Isle: Rain 67.9%, sun 94.0%, mean temperature -0.9° C.

UK: Jun – warm and wet; July – cool and v wet; Aug – cool, dry and sunny.



RED KITE

SEPTEMBER Autumn began well with a pleasant sunny month, with near average temperatures and only 25% of normal rainfall - making this the driest September ever on Fair Isle. Winds were often from an easterly direction and gales occurred on eight days but, with a maximum gust for the month of only 50 kt, it was not too windy.

OCTOBER It was a cold, dry and dull month. Mean temperatures were 1.1° C below average and, with a maximum temperature of only 4.4° C (and a mean daily temperature almost 10° C below normal!), the 15th was the coldest October day ever recorded on Fair Isle. The mean sea temperature, at 9.9° C (about 1° C below average), was also a new October low. Snow and sleet fell on a record number of days. Though snow covered the ground briefly on several occasions, there were no days with "official" snow cover (ie snow cover at 09h UTC). Wind directions were quite varied, with no particular direction predominant, and gales were recorded on only 5 days.

NOVEMBER The month was sunny, with near average temperatures. It was the driest on Fair Isle since records began in 1974. The persistent blocking high over western Russia resulted in a mean pressure + 11.3 mb above average – the highest November figure recorded. Wind direction was between SE and SW on 24 days. The 29th was a very windy day, with the SE wind averaging 43.9 kt for the twenty-four hours. The highest hourly mean (2100-2200 UTC) was 51 kt, and the highest ten minute mean 53 kt. The maximum gust of 73 kt equalled the previous November highest. Gales occurred on 8 days.

Autumn (Sep, Oct, Nov)

Fair Isle: Rain 55.0%, sun 103.5%, mean temperature -0.4° C.

UK: Cold and wet.

DECEMBER A cold month with the mean temperature 1.2° C below normal, frequent north to north-east winds brought a higher than average incidence of snow and hail. Less windy than usual, with the maximum gust of 58 kt falling well short of the normally expected 70 kt. The mean pressure of 993.1 mb is the lowest December value ever recorded on Fair Isle, and the second lowest ever recorded (985.8 mb February 1990).

YEAR Taking the twelve months as a whole the statistics show an 'average' year, but the preceding account describes a different picture – revealing a year of wide climatic fluctuations.

Meteorological data for Fair Isle 1992

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Temperature (°C)													
Mean	6.3	5.7	4.9	6.1	8.7	11.4	11.7	11.8	10.9	7.5	6.5	5.4	8.1
Maximum	10.3	9.3	10.6	10.2	17.7	17.9	16.4	16.0	14.0	12.9	12.0	9.4	(7.5)
Minimum	-0.1	0.7	-5.0	0.8	1.0	6.4	7.3	6.7	4.8	2.2	0.7	0.1	
Rainfall (millimetres)													
Monthly	71.9	90.8	98.6	64.7	49.8	40.4	66.6	127.2	92.4	88.8	156.4	101.7	1049.1
Maximum Daily Fall	19.4	9.8	12.8	8.4	8.2	17.0	20.5	18.7	13.3	13.6	25.5	21.3	(913.6)
Sunshine (hours)													
Total	15.5	60.7	82.0	133.3	255.9	232.8	158.4	152.9	76.3	96.4	35.5	21.4	1321.1
Maximum Daily	2.5	6.7	7.2	11.3	15.2	15.7	12.7	12.6	8.7	9.4	3.9	3.2	(1205.0)
Wind speed (knots)													
Mean	18.6	20.3	17.0	15.6	13.4	11.9	11.3	12.1	15.9	14.4	19.6	17.9	15.7
Maximum Gust	94	65	81	65	51	44	36	71	57	77	57	69	(16.2)
Number of days													
Hail	7	14	12	12	4	0	0	0	0	13	15	12	89
Snow/sleet	6	10	17	9	4	0	0	0	0	5	9	12	72
Rain, > .1mm	22	27	25	23	11	14	20	24	25	23	27	23	264
Wet, > .9mm	13	18	21	17	9	6	10	21	19	18	23	20	195
Ground frost	5	3	8	4	4	0	0	0	1	7	3	7	42
Wind (direction at 09hr)													
North	2	1	5	7	3	3	4	2	3	6	1	1	38
North East	0	0	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	12
East	0	1	2	1	3	5	1	4	1	6	1	0	25
South East	1	2	1	5	7	1	5	5	9	2	4	2	44
South	7	6	1	7	3	0	4	7	3	2	4	9	53
South West	5	11	8	1	3	6	7	8	8	2	7	11	77
West	14	6	8	5	7	9	7	2	4	4	10	5	81
North West	2	2	5	3	2	3	1	2	1	6	3	2	32
Calm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	4

(Figures in brackets are the average for the period 1974-1991)

Meteorological data for Fair Isle 1993

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Temperature (°C)													
Mean	4.5	5.1	5.3	6.1	7.8	9.0	10.4	10.9	10.2	7.8	6.7	4.1	7.3
Maximum	9.3	9.2	9.4	12.2	14.3	15.9	15.9	14.0	14.0	11.6	10.7	9.3	(7.5)
Minimum	-4.2	-3.1	-0.4	2.3	2.8	3.8	6.6	7.0	4.4	0.0	0.3	-1.3	
Rainfall (millimetres)													
Monthly	180.1	66.6	87.3	40.1	59.1	34.1	31.5	42.0	24.7	95.3	54.7	129.3	844.7
Maximum Daily Fall	16.0	8.9	14.2	5.6	9.9	12.9	4.2	6.7	5.1	12.9	8.6	13.6	(913.6)
Sunshine (hours)													
Total	10.1	27.7	89.0	124.6	155.1	149.2	142.3	129.4	129.7	56.5	44.7	17.2	1075.5
Maximum Daily	2.5	6.3	10.3	13.7	14.0	14.6	15.2	11.7	11.5	8.1	5.9	3.0	(1205.0)
Wind speed (knots)													
Mean	27.1	19.7	19.2	15.9	12.7	11.1	10.5	11.6	12.6	16.2	19.3	17.0	16.1
Maximum Gust	91	80	65	63	45	39	43	39	49	59	73	58	(16.2)
Number of days													
Hail	23	9	10	2	4	0	0	0	0	5	8	21	82
Snow/sleet	23	10	12	3	2	0	0	0	0	6	5	18	79
Rain, > .1mm	29	23	18	17	16	13	21	21	13	26	16	27	240
Wet, > .9mm	25	16	13	12	11	8	12	14	7	16	12	24	170
Ground frost	8	7	9	4	1	3	0	0	1	4	7	17	61
Wind (direction at 09hr)													
North	3	6	1	1	3	4	1	3	5	3	1	4	35
North East	0	1	0	3	9	4	0	0	3	5	0	3	28
East	1	1	2	6	5	4	3	0	7	4	2	1	36
South East	0	1	4	10	2	4	4	3	7	3	7	6	51
South	9	7	10	4	3	4	2	7	3	1	12	5	67
South West	10	3	6	2	0	1	7	4	1	4	5	4	47
West	6	8	7	1	4	6	12	8	1	5	2	7	67
North West	2	1	1	3	4	3	2	6	2	5	0	1	30
Calm	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4

(Figures in brackets are the average for the period 1974-1992)

PUBLICATIONS

The following articles were published in 1993 by, or with the assistance of, FIBO staff and facilities:

Avery, M.I., Burges, D., Dymond, J.N., Mellor, M. & Ellis, P.M. 1993. The status of Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea* in Orkney and Shetland in 1989. *Seabird* 15, 17-23.

Harrop, H. 1993. Identification of female and juvenile Yellow-breasted Bunting. *Birding World* 6, 317-319.

Harvey, P. & Parkin, D. 1993. Fair Isle. *Birds* 14 (8), 25-29.

Harvey, P.V., Riddington, R., Votier, S.C. & Taylor, R. 1993. Fair Isle Seabird Monitoring Scheme. Report to JNCC of 7th Season's Work. *JNCC Report* 129, 1-55.

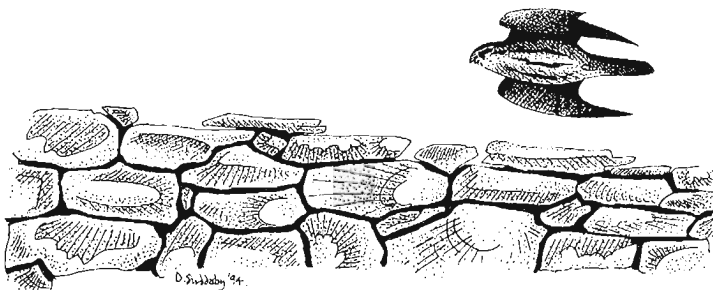
Pennington, R. & Riddiford, N. 1993. A preliminary list of Shetland hoverflies. *Shetland Entomological Group Newsletter* 1, 9.

Riddiford, N. 1993. Recent changes in Fair Isle seabird populations. *Seabird* 15, 60-67.

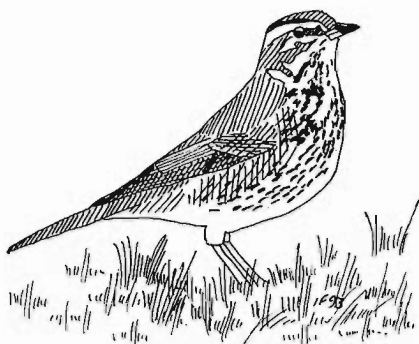
Riddiford, N. & Potts, P. 1993. Exceptional claw wear of Great Reed Warbler. *Brit. Birds* 86, 572.

Riddington, R. 1993. Solitary Sandpiper on Fair Isle: a third Scottish record. *Scott. Birds*. 17, 62-63.

Walsh, P.M., Sim, I. & Heubeck, M. 1993. Seabird Numbers and Breeding Success in Britain and Ireland, 1992. *UK Nature Conservation* 10, 1-87 (JNCC Peterborough).

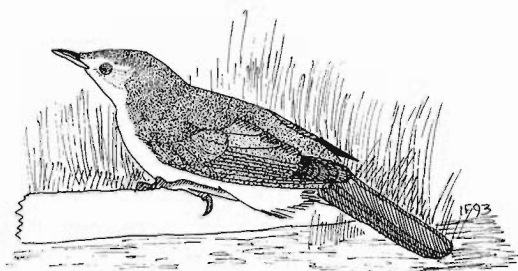


MERLIN



REDWING

BLYTH'S RED
WARBLER



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are very grateful to those who have contributed articles to this report and to the following for their vignettes:

Ian Fisher (Woodcock, Pechora Pipit, Red-flanked Bluetail, Redwing, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Little Bunting).

Ben Stammers (Shag, Crane, Eider, Red Kite, Dotterel, Little Stint, Arctic Skua, Guillemot, Tystie, Blyth's Pipit, Bluethroat, Ring Ouzel, Treecreeper, Great Grey Shrike, Brambling).

Dave Suddaby (Sooty Shearwater, Merlin, Short-toed Lark, Lanceolated Warbler).

The map reproduced in the middle of the report is from "The Birds of Fair Isle" by J.N.Dymond, published in 1991.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

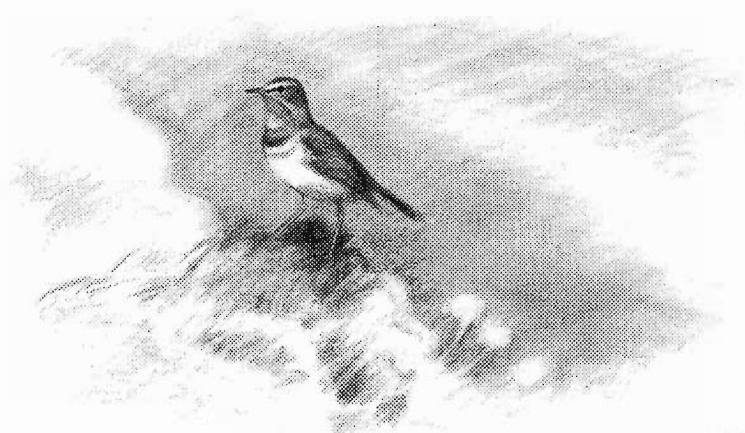
FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

A summary of the Trust's accounts for the year ended 31st October 1993 appears on the following pages. The full statutory accounts and auditors' report by Coopers & Lybrand can be inspected at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh.

In common with the rest of Shetland, some prospective visitors to the isle were discouraged by the Braer oil-spill incident so that numbers fell for the third successive year. There were also heavy increases in administrative and establishment expenses arising from the unfortunate instability experienced at the Lodge for most of the season. Had it not been for the unexpected presence of contractors for the new breakwater and jetty, to whom a lease of the Lodge premises was arranged for the winter period, the financial results for the year would have been disastrous.

The Directors have every confidence that the recently appointed new management team of Roger, Wendy and Joyce, all with previous experience at the Lodge and many friends on the island, will oversee a swift return to a stable, happy and successful season. We hope that a speedy end to the recession will help us in these efforts.

The Directors wish to express their gratitude to the National Trust for Scotland and Shell (UK) for further generous support for our work.



BLUETHROAT

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st October 1993

	1993		1992	
	£	£	£	£
Lodge Income		77,410		63,355
Less: Lodge supplies	23,698		22,937	
Staff costs	<u>22,429</u>		<u>21,378</u>	
		<u>46,127</u>		<u>44,315</u>
Gross Profit		31,283		19,040
Less: Overhead Expenses				
Administration	11,064		6,770	
Establishment	23,186		15,603	
Promotion	3,212		2,486	
Financial & Legal	<u>6,032</u>		<u>4,892</u>	
		<u>43,494</u>		<u>29,751</u>
Operating Deficit		(12,211)		(10,711)
Other Income				
Subscriptions	4,292		5,303	
Donations	6,864		2,780	
Interest receivable	3,789		1,921	
Grants receivable	2,835		3,173	
Deferred grant income release	<u>2,916</u>		<u>2,916</u>	
		<u>20,696</u>		<u>16,093</u>
Surplus before depreciation		8,485		5,382
Depreciation charge		<u>(13,830)</u>		<u>(13,441)</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus for year		(5,345)		(8,059)

Statement of Accumulated Surplus

	£	£	£	£
Accumulated Surplus at beginning of the year		95,519		94,535
Deficit for the year	(5,345)		(8,059)	
Release from appeal reserve	<u>9,077</u>		<u>9,043</u>	
		3,732		984
		<u>99,251</u>		<u>95,519</u>



TREECREEPER

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

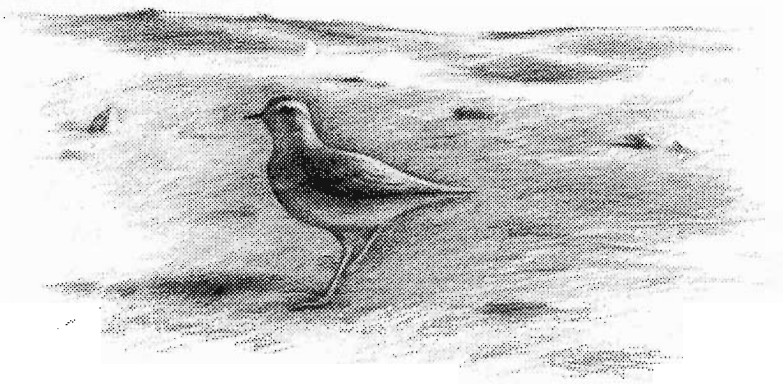
Balance Sheet as at 31st October 1993

	1993		1992	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		186,483		195,379
Investments		10,548		10,548
		<u>197,031</u>		<u>205,927</u>
Current Assets				
Stocks	7,688		3,531	
Debtors	5,103		5,781	
Cash at Bank & in hand	13,779		1,955	
	<u>26,570</u>		<u>11,267</u>	
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	<u>(30,190)</u>		<u>(25,383)</u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets		<u>(3,620)</u>		<u>(14,116)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		193,411	191,811	
Non-current liabilities				
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year		(14,313)		(7,368)
Representing				
Accumulated surplus		99,251		95,519
Reserve funds		79,847		88,924
		<u>179,098</u>		<u>184,443</u>

THE JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

This fund is administered by the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust. John Harrison was a young bird-watcher who visited Fair Isle three times, but whose life was tragically cut short. The fund was set up in his memory on the instigation of the late Richard Richardson. Grants are given each year to help young people with the cost of travel and their stay at the Observatory; they must be between the ages of 15 and 21 when they go to Fair Isle.

Successful applicants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and booking at the Observatory, where they must stay for a minimum of one week. They are encouraged to visit outside the main migration periods, and to help with the ornithological work of the observatory. Application forms are available from the Honorary Secretary, John Harrison Memorial Fund, 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BT. They must be returned no later than 31st October, for consideration in mid-December.



DOTTEREL

JOHN HARRISON MEMORIAL FUND

Accounts for Year to 31st October 1993

	1993 £	1992 £
REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Interest received	785	858
Tax refund 1992/93	144	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grants paid	610	790
Transfer to Capital	276	30
Management Expenses	43	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	929	858
	<hr/>	<hr/>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Investments @ cost		
£900 13 1/4 % Treasury Stock 1997	870	870
£1400 9 1/2 % Treasury Stock 1999	1435	1435
£6400 9 % Treasury Conv. Stock 2000	6411	6411
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8716	8716
Cash	803	508
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9519	9224

represented by:

Balance per last Account	9224	8210
Donations	19	-
Gain on realisation of investment	-	1059
Transfer from Revenue	276	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9519	9299
less Management Charges	-	75
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9519	9224

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Hugh Miller's Cottage, in Cromarty



Castles

Brodie Castle, 4m W of Forres on A96

Gardens

Inverewe, 8m NE of Gairloch on A832

Lochalsh Woodland Garden, near

Kyle of Lochalsh on A87



Mountains & Wild Land

Glencoe, 17m S of Fort William on A82

Kintail Glomach 16m E of Kyle of Lochalsh on A87

West Affric Torridon, 9m W of Kinlochewe on A896

For further details contact

Peggie Gordon, Abertarff House, Church St, Inverness, IV1 1EU

Tel No Inverness 0463 232034

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