

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY.

BULLETIN No. 8. 1950.

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1. October Migrants.

The wind was SE. on September 30-October 1st and brought in a few interesting birds. This was succeeded on 2-3rd by a westerly gale, shifting to light SE. on the afternoon of the 3rd. The wind continued easterly until 5th, when it veered SW. late in the day and increased. It blew a strong gale from SW. on 7th. There was slight moderation, then a gale from NW. on 11th. A sudden shift to SE. occurred on 13-14th, bringing in migrants, and the wind then became moderate SW., increasing to a westerly gale on 17th and veering NW., with only little moderation until it fell away to force 2 on the 20th and veered still more to reach NE. On the 21st - the day of the first big "rush" - the direction was SE., and SSE. next day. A light northerly wind was blowing on the 23rd, and from the 24th down to the end of the month there was a moderate SE. or SSE. wind bringing large numbers of Blackbirds, Fieldfares, Woodcocks and other birds.

The systematic list deals only with the more important birds and is not a complete list of the species recorded.

REDPOLLS. A *Carduelis F. flammea* on October 3rd and one or two between 18-20th. Two *Carduelis f. rostrata* in the Springfield cabbage-garden on 5-6th. Two *Carduelis hornemanni* were reported by James A. Stout on 26th.

NORTHERN BULLFINCH. *Pyrrhula p. pyrrhula*. James A. Stout saw one on the hill on 26th, and Pat Robertson took a female in the Gully Trap on November 4th.

CHAFFINCH. *Fringilla coelebs*. First, October 3rd. There was a small mixed flock next day, and varying numbers in the stubbles afterwards. Marked increases were noted on 13th and 14th, 16th (sexes about equal in a flock of 50) and 22nd-23rd. A number were trapped and re-trapped in seed-baited Potters, showing interesting increases in weight during their stay.

CHAFFINCHES/

CHAFFINCHES.

Ring No.	Sex	Initial Trapping.		Gain in Weight after n days.																	
		Date	Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
L. 1093.	o	13.x.	17.7		0						2.8		3.3	5.2	5.9						
L. 1103.	o	15.x.	20.7					5.2				7.6									
L. 1120.	o	13.x.	19.35												1.7						1.6
L. 1128.	o	22.x.	19.98		0	0.6											4.8				
L. 1129.	o	23.x.	20.57	1.6																	
L. 1130.	o	23.x.	20.99	2.	2.7	3.4			2.1		5.9		3.9								
L. 1131.	o	23.x.	19.2						1.2												
L. 1135.	o	24.x.	19.95					2.		2.4				3.5							
L. 1136.	o	24.x.	19.38				0	0				0.5									

BRAMBLING. *Fringilla montifringilla*. Rather few this year. Four on 19th, and about 20 with the Chaffinches from 23rd. Some were caught in seed-baited Potters in early November: one, transported two miles for ringing, was retrapped in the original haunt two days later.

LAPLAND BUNTING. *Calcarius Lapponicus*. One or two at the beginning of the month, on the moor; at least three among Skylarks in the stubbles from 23-25th.

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Nothing like last year's numbers, - fifty fairly regularly in the fields, with increases on 21-22nd. Two males trapped were compared with skins of the typical and Iceland races and were found to be the nominate form.

WOODLARK. *Lullula arborea*. A single very delightful and confiding bird caught itself in the Gully Trap after I had gone to some trouble to set a battery of Potters on its favourite feeding ground 100 yards away! It was here 29-31st.

SKYLARK. *Alauda arvensis*. Those in the stubbles received increases on 19th and 21-22nd.

SHORE LARK. *Emmophila alpestris*. One on 27th.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. *Lanius excubitor*. A single-speculum bird at Vaadal on 26th.

FLYCATCHERS. We trapped our one *Muscicapa striata* of the year on October 1st. A first-winter male *M. parva* was got in the Gully on 13th and a single *M. hypoleuca* was seen next day.

GOLDCREST/

GOLDCREST. *Regulus regulus*. Six were feeding on a lichen-encrusted cliff at Duttfield on 23rd, and about this time large numbers were said to be on the west-side cliffs.

LEAF-WARBLERS. The last *Phylloscopus trochilus* was recorded on 3-4th. Close views of very probable *Ph. collybita tristis* were had at Duttfield on 23rd, showing a grey-brown mantle contrasting with the warmer brown head in the strong sunlight (so that sometimes the bird seemed to have a "cap"), no yellow beneath, very whitish superciliary stripe, and black legs. Another *Phylloscopus*, undetermined, was at North Haven the same morning.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER. *Ph. inornatus*. Two on October 1st, one of which had been ringed a week before and had remained in and about the Gully. Another on 6th: like others watched this Autumn, this bird had a double call-note "wees-weest" as well as the usual monosyllabic one.

BARBED WARBLER and GARDEN WARBLER. A first-Winter *Sylvia nisoria* arrived on October 1st, and a late *S. borin* was trapped on 15th.

BLACKCAP. *Sylvia atricapilla*. Three on 2nd, two on 6th and singly on 15th and 23rd. Adult males were trapped on 25th and 31st.

FIELDFARE. *Turdus pilaris*. Unusually large flocks came in this year. The species was first seen on 15th, but apart from an odd bird with the Redwings there was no real influx until 21st, and this was followed by a mass arrival on 22nd. Birds were down to 500 or so from 25-27th and were rather fewer afterwards.

RING OUSEL. *Turdus torquatus*. Three on 27th and one on 30th were the last.

BLACKBIRD. *Turdus merula*. There were very few until 21st, when over a hundred came in, followed by quite 500 next day and at least a thousand on 23rd. Numbers fell to 200 or so on 24th, but more arrived on 27th, after which they gradually decreased. The early, almost exclusively first-Winter passage failed to materialise this year owing to the westerly weather, and ages and sexes were very mixed when the "rush" came.

BLACKBIRDS/

BLACKBIRDS.

Date.	No. Trapped.	Ad. male.	Ad. female.	1st W. male.	1st W. female.
12-20.x.	10.		? 1	3	6
21.x.	7		1	2	4
22.x.	43	5	8	17	13
23.x.	33	7	7	12	7
24.x.	11	1	1	3	6
25.x.	16	2	1	3	10
26.x.	17	4	6	3	4
27.x.	32	5	8	12	7
28-29.x.	19	6	3	6	4
Totals.	188	30	35	61	61

WHEATEAR. An *Oenanthe* *oe. oenanthe* was trapped on 17th and a solitary Wheatear was on the hill on 24th.

WHINCHAT. *Pratincola rubetra*. Last on the 5th. For a note on a STONECHAT see para. 3.

REDSTART. *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Very scarce this Autumn. A female on 6th was the last.

BLACK REDSTART. *Ph. Ochrorus*. A flycatching female was urged into the Gully Trap on the afternoon of 31st.

ROBIN. *Erithacus rubecula*. See para. 3. Two on 23rd really began the Autumn movement; there were twenty on 25th and well over fifty in the main trapping-areas on each of the next two days, decreasing afterwards.

WREN. Fair Isle birds were singing up to 23rd. A migrant *Troglodytes t. troglodytes*, recognised by its very pale underparts and low weight (8.33 g. compared with 12.21 g. average for local birds) was trapped on 25th.

HIRUNDINES. One *Hirundo rustica*, October 8th; one *Delichon urbica* on 10th.

OTIS. A number of *Asio flammeus* and *A. otus* came in with the Blackbirds, Woodcocks, etc. from 23rd, for the most part remaining on the hill. A Short-ear was discovered sitting inside the Dyke Trap early on 23rd, but managed to get away as we closed in: two Long-ears, which sought a resting-place in the Gully Trap on October 30th and November 6th, were less fortunate.

MERLIN. *Falco columbarius*. Two or three on most days, and six or more on 14th, 18th and 20-21st.

KESTREL. *Falco tinnunculus*. One or two daily from 4-14th, and one 17-18th, carrying what looked like a Starling.

HARRIER. *Circus* sp. A Hen-harrier was seen on 14th and a brown harrier of sorts on 31st.

SPARROW-HAWK. *Accipiter nisus*. Female, 22-23rd, and males 25th and 27th, were trapped.

WHOOPEE SWAN. *Cygnus cygnus*. A few daily from 8-12th, ten on 10th. Parties of three and five were observed flying north on 18th.

GREY GEESE. *Anser* sp. Skeins of 25 birds on 8th; 5 and 11 on 18th; also 28, 12 and 10 on 21st. Six Branta geese were flying a little apart from the first flock.

DUCKS. *Anas platyrhynchos* and *A. penelope* were fairly regular passage-migrants. There was a drake *Aythya fuligula* on 3rd, three *Bucephala clangula* (common at this period in Shetland) on 21st, and a female *Clangula hyemalis* on 12th. Eiders, *Somateria mollissima*, were displaying vigorously on the sea off Funniquoy on October 16th.

FULMAR. *Fulmarus glacialis*. Gannets, *Sula bassana*, and Fulmars were moving south in numbers east of the island on 16th. Two Fulmars were at the cliffs on 24th and others were back on their ledges on 31st.

SLAVONIAN GREBE. *Podiceps auritus*. One of three on North Haven from 10-12th was showing remains of Summer plumage. Singly, 17th and 21st.

DOVES. A *Columba palumbus* on 13th, and *C. oenas* on 15th and 20-21st. Twenty *C. livia* - an unusually high number for Fair Isle - were seen on 9th and 14th.

WOODCOCK. *Scolopax rusticola*. A few, 21-22nd, some 30 birds 23-24th, and over 300 next day. There were few on 26th, and again over 300 on 27-28th. One ringed and released on the evening of 25th was shot on the west side of the island in the late afternoon of 27th.

SNIPES. *Capella gallinago*. Regular, and especially numerous during the Woodcock rushes. One with the characteristics of/

of the bird described as "*laeroensis*" was trapped in Vaadal on 17th. Two *Limnocyptes minimus* were reported 18th and two on 22nd.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. *Calidris maritima*. Strangely rare. One on the 3rd, three on 19th. There was a KNOT, *C. canutus*, on 5th.

REDSHANKS. *Tringa totanus*. About 40-50 birds until mid-month, rather fewer afterwards.

GLAUCOUS GULL. *Larus hyperboreus*. Adults on 16th and 22nd, immatures on 17-18th and 25th. Two "oatmeal" birds among the Herring-gulls at North Haven on 31st were no bigger than their companions and perhaps *Larus glaucoideus*. A TERN sp. was seen on 6th.

WATER RAIL. *Rallus aquaticus*. First seen on 12th. There was an immigration on 15th when three were trapped and others seen, especially along the Gilsetter Burn at dusk. Four were seen each day 16-17th and three on 24th.

MOORHEN. *Gallinula chloropus*. Adults on 6th and 16th, a young bird 19-20th.

2. November Migrants, - South Shetland.

L. S. V. Venables visited Kergord Plantation and vicinity from November 1-4th, and found a Yellow-browed Warbler feeding in the Larch and Spruce Trees. There were a few Goldcrests, Robins, Redwings, Fieldfares and Bramblings, about a hundred Chaffinches, and other species as follows:

Carriion Crow, *Corvus corone*, 1st; 27 Jackdaws (the species breeds in this area); female or juvenile Rustic Bunting, *Emberiza rustica*, 1st; Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*, 1st and 3rd; male Blackcap, 1st; Sparrow-hawks, one on 1st and two on 3rd; flock of 13 Herons, 1st; flocks of Curlew, *Numenius arquata*, Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*, and Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*.

At Dunrossness on November 5th a male Rustic Bunting was waiting in the Venables' garden to welcome them home. The bird was also there on 6th. "One call is a tswick note much like a Corn or Yellow Bunting but considerably quieter. The other call doubles it into tswillick, and, in my experience of buntings, is characteristic".

A Hen-harrier was around Spiggie from November 2-7th.

3. Birds from north-west Scotland.

"Its an ill wind that blows no good!" Even the south-westerly gales of late September and early October brought some interesting visitors to Fair Isle. Ian Walker of the South Light-house, when bird-watching on Ward Hill on September 30th, saw a Stonechat which he described as very reddish beneath. There had been a S.W. gale on 27-28th veering west and moderating slowly on 29th. A female Stonechat, in all probability the same bird, was seen in the village the following morning and later in the day was trapped at the Haa. It was compared in the lab. with skins of Saxicola torquata rubicola, in fresh plumage, and S. t. hibernans. It was nothing like the former and had darker brown fringes above and more richly reddish underparts than the British birds. No skins of S. t. theresae were available, but the trapped bird's affinities would seem to be with that form rather than with the British race. Colorimeter readings were taken, and may assist later in confirming this view.

There was a westerly gale all day on October 2nd. A Song Thrush, trapped early on the 3rd, was compared in the lab. with skins of Turdus ericetorum philomelos (Fair Isle, Oct. 1948), Turdus e. hebridensis (Barra, April 1912), and Turdus e. ericetorum. The last were badly foxed and valueless from a taxonomic point of view: the upper-parts of the trapped bird, however, were not at all a match with the greyish-olive of the Continental bird, but much more nearly approached those of the hebridensis specimen in depth of colour, though this again was slightly redder, due to cabinet change. The underparts were heavily spotted and the breast strongly suffused with buff, but matched most nearly the underparts of the ericetorum material. Again, although the comparative material was quite inadequate for a conclusive opinion as to race, there is good evidence that the bird originated in the north-west British area and not the Continent.

A Robin, the first of the Autumn, caught in the Yeoman net on October 6th, was compared with skins of Erithacus rubecula melophilus and E. r. rubecula in the lab., and was undoubtedly of the British race, - the second record only of this form at Fair Isle. (One was captured on April 17th, 1950). There had been a southerly gale the previous day. The bird was caught in the sheltered cabbage garden at Springfield, which it was sharing with a Song-Thrush, a Fair Isle Wren, a Yellow-browed Warbler, and two Greenland Redpolls, - a cosmopolitan array!

4. Bird-ringing Summary.

We/

We ringed a total of 2,390 birds of 78 different species; this figure includes 23 birds of 5 species not obtained at Fair Isle which I ringed when on a week's holiday in Unst. For Fair Isle we have, therefore, 2,367 birds of 73 species, representing an increase of 574 birds and 10 species over 1949. The main individual totals were:

Starling	404	Redwing	93
Blackbird	321	Chaffinch	56
Wheatear	321	Robin	56
Twite	190	Willow-warbler	53
Rock Pipit	170	Garden Warbler	46
Meadow Pipit	124	Skylark	45
House Sparrow	118	Arctic Skua	36.

Pied Flycatcher and Wren (34 each), Herring Gull (26), Common Redstart and Water Rail (15 each), Blackcap, Whinchat and Shag (14 each), White Wagtail and Fulmar (13 each).

Some of the rare or unusual species ringed include:

Siskin (3), Scarlet Grosbeak, Red-breasted Flycatcher (2), Grey Wagtail (3), Greenish Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler (2), Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler (2), Grasshopper Warbler (2), Black Redstart (2), Bluethroat (3), Wryneck, Long-eared Owl, Teal and Little Auk.

Birds of prey captured when themselves driving small birds into our traps were, - 5 Merlins 3 Sparrow-hawks and a Kestrel.

5. Recoveries of Ringed Birds.

STARLING. A female trapped in a Potter at North Haven on October 25th, 1948, was found dead about March 20th, 1950, near Tromsø, Norway. (Of 7 birds caught in the same Potter on the same day, two were again trapped at North Haven in October and December a year later; and a third was retrapped there in mid-July 1949. Another caught in the same Potter October 24th, 1948, was found dead near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, on March 24th, 1949. An astonishing mixture of returns from two days' trapping of the one flock!)

STARLING. One of a brood of four nestlings ringed on June 7th, 1949, was found dead on board a Grimsby trawler in the North Sea (Lat. 54 N., Long. 4 E.) on October 31st, 1950.

SKYLARK/

SKYLARK. One caught in a corn-baited Potter Trap at Upper Stoneybrake croft on March 17th, 1950, was caught (and subsequently released) by Keeper Stewart at the Bell Rock Lighthouse, Angus, on the night of October 10-11th, 1950.

MEADOW PIPIT. One taken in the Dyke Trap on September 9th, 1950, was killed by a boy at Punta Galea, Bilbao, North Spain, on October 8th. When trapped its weight was 16.7 g., so it was almost certainly a migrant at Fair Isle.

BLACKCAP. An adult male, caught in the Mill Trap on October 25th, was found dead at the Police Station, St. Margaret's Hope, South Ronaldshay, Orkney, on November 6th.

6. Notes from a Redwing Diary.

October 6th. Three muscous Redwings trapped to-day, and at the low average of 59 g. they must be migrants from overseas. Wind SSE. yesterday veering SW. at night, strong. There were 80 Redwings yesterday but only 20 or so to-day.

October 8th. Only one Redwing seen and trapped, and at 58.66 g. almost certainly a migrant from overseas. But where from? The wind has been SW. for the past three days.

October 11th. The first coburni have come down from Iceland. "Breast, eyestripe and sides of head strongly suffused with buff; under tail-coverts dark brown suffused buffish; legs dark". Wing 120, weight 70.2 g. A bird at the Haa was probably coburni but no description of plumage is available: wing 121, weight 69.98 g. Only a dozen birds were seen to-day. Wind SW. yesterday, veering NW. and increasing to 5.

October 13th. Three from Scandinavia this morning, averaging 63.14 g. About 50 birds "in". Wind southerly yesterday but SE. from 3 a.m.

October 14th. Took three Redwings in the Dyke Trap at 0700 when a Merlin passed over. They and four others trapped before breakfast were all muscous and fresh arrivals from across the sea, judging by their average weight of 57.57 g. One was the lightest of the Autumn at 48.82 g. Later in the morning one was trapped at 67.81 g., the heaviest of the day and perhaps not a newcomer, the nearest approach being 63.67 g. Wind SE. all yesterday and over a thousand birds here this morning.

October/

October 15th. Seven again to-day, apparently from overseas: all musicus, wings 112.5 to 117.5 (but one 122). Average weight 60.18 g. Heaviest 68.56 g. - may not be a new arrival, the nearest approach being 63.7 g. The heavy bird had the under tail-coverts almost immaculate, like yesterday's stock, and not heavily marked as in this-morning's arrivals. The long-winged bird, musicus on plumage characters, was trapped at 73.48 g. and must have been on the isle some time. Wind SW. all yesterday and to-day: Redwings still abundant, but many have gone out.

October 16th. Wind continues SW. Three Redwings taken to-day were musicus and averaged only 54.54 g., which suggests a long, hard struggle to get here against a contrary wind.

October 17th. Quite a mixture to-day! A musicus at 56.89 g. suggests a new arrival from overseas despite a strong SW. wind. Another musicus at 72.75 g. has doubtless been here some time and a third weighed 63.61 g. Two coburni were taken at 63.78 g. (low for coburni, wing 121.5) and 70.02 g. (wing 123) out of a small flock which spent most of the day at the head of the Gully. Both had much buffish suffusion on the breast and lighter portions of the head, the buff extending as a faint wash down the centre of the belly. Only a hundred or more birds to-day.

October 18th. Only coburni, five in all. Four were between 71-74 g. and one at 80.25 g. Wings 117.5 to 124. There was a westerly gale yesterday, veering NW. early to-day: perhaps fifty birds were on the isle.

October 19th. Five musicus averaged 69.41 g., which strongly suggests an influx from Shetland of birds which have been there some days. One had wing 108.5 (carefully checked!) - right outside the Handbook range and the shortest I have seen - and another 112; three were big birds with wings 119, 120, 121 (but no suggestion of coburni in the plumage). Wind NW. all yesterday, SW. veering NW. to-day, strong. The movement from Shetland theory is supported by the fact that when The Good Shepherd returned from Grutness last night, between 2300 and 0200 hrs., she had birds with her all the way across, and Redwings were heard passing.

October 21st. Apart from a typical coburni with wing 120, weight 70.53 g., the nineteen Redwings trapped to-day were all musicus. They were of high weights, average 69.52 g. and one wonders if they are again here mainly ex Shetland. But there has been a good deal of movement overnight, - numbers of Blackbirds, Fieldfares, Woodcocks and Skylarks have come in, and skeins of geese passed by this morning. So the Redwings may well have come direct from Scandinavia, in which case I can only suppose that their/

their high average weight is due to the fact that the night was calm and that such wind as there was would assist them. The wind yesterday veered from NW. to NE. (2) and was from the east at force 1 all night. An injured (? wired) coburni was brought in, a splendid example with a strong buffish suffusion over the clouded breast and very dark, buff-washed under tail coverts, but the wing only 118.5. Redwings entered the Schedule at a thousand or so to-day.

October 22nd. Six musicus, average 68.74, - again high, if the birds have come from overseas. One bird was as much as 74. g. Wind SE. all yesterday and SSE. force 3 at night. An incredible number of Redwings here to-day, - perhaps five thousand.

October 23rd. A coburni, wing 122, at 88.23 g. has obviously been on the isle some time, and is our heaviest Autumn Redwing yet. One of the Icelanders trapped on 17th was taken again to-day, showing a weight increase of 9.67 g. in the week. About a thousand of yesterday's birds remain.

October 31st. Two new musicus at 63.72 g. and 61.06 g. with wings 124 and 112 respectively. I looked long enough at the 124 bird but there was nothing in the plumage to suggest Icelandic origin. It is the biggest "common" Redwing yet.

This season's measurements put the wing-length range at 108.5 to 124 for musicus, and 117.5 to 124 for coburni.

The average weight of 67 musicus during October is 68.93 g and of 15 coburni 74.02 g., a difference of about 5 g.

7. Great Saltee Island.

The results obtained from the Autumn visit of Major R. F. Ruttledge and John Weaving to Great Saltee Island (see Bulletin No. 4, para. 1 B), appear as an Appendix to this Bulletin.

This visit took place between September 27th and October 11th, and Ruttledge writes "we were unfortunate in having strong westerly winds most of the time: we suspected that winds from this quarter would be bad from a migration point of view and our suspicions were more or less borne out by the records".

Earlier, from August 19-21st, the same party, with the addition of John Barlee, had visited the island, and had found very little of interest in the way of migration.

Autumn Migration, Great Saltee Island.

Contributed by

R. F. Ruttledge and John Weaving.1. Visits.

Visits were made from August 19-21st (R. F. R., J. W. and John Barlee) and from September 27th-October 11th (R. F. R. and J. W.).

2. Weather.

August 19-21st. Wind S. or SSW. force 2-4. Blue sky and cloud, good visibility.

September 27-30th. Wind between W. and S., force 5 on 27th moderating later. Some fog 27-28th and early 30th, otherwise fair to good visibility. Overcast.

October 1-2nd. Wind W. or NW. force 4-5. Blue sky and cloud, good visibility.

October 3-5th. Wind S. or SW., gale on 4th, moderate visibility.

October 6-11th. Wind W. or SW. generally (NW. gale on afternoon of 8th; SW. gale afternoon of 10th). Visibility good; blue sky and cloud mostly.

3. Schedule of Species.

September.

October.

	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
LINNET <i>Carduelis</i>																
cannabina.	4		15		35		3		19	53	35	13	15	20	25	N.
SKYLARK <i>Alauda</i>																
arvensis.	4	20	100		6	2	13	3	100	30	25	40	6	2	200	N.
MEADOW PIPIT <i>Anthus</i>																
pratensis.	30	100	300	70	100	50	50	30	100	100	50	30	25	10	50	N.
WAGTAILS <i>Motacilla</i>																
alba subsp.		1	5	1			1			1	5	7			1	
GOLDCREST <i>Regulus</i>																
regulus.			1	1				1			1	2				
WILLOW-WARBLER <i>Ph.</i>																
trochilus.	2		2	2	2	1			1							

3. Schedule of Species (Contd.).

	September.					October.										
	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
SONG-THRUSH <i>Turdus</i>																
ericetorum.	1		2				1		1				2	1	20	
BLACKBIRD <i>Turdus</i>																
merula.	12	12	20	10	10	12	4	3	5	6	11	10	6	7	10	
WHEATEAR <i>Oenanthe</i>																
oenanthe.	7	4	2	2	8	7	4	3	11	5	4	4	2	1		
STONECHAT <i>Saxicola</i>																
torquatus.	2	2	5	2	3	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	2	3	
SWALLOW <i>Hirundo</i>																
rustica.		9	100	20	50	9		10	25	50	4					N.
HOUSE MARTIN <i>Delichon</i>																
urbica.			5	2	6											
SAND MARTIN <i>Riparia</i>																
riparia.	1	3			1											N.
MERLIN <i>Falco</i>																
columbarius.				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1			
KESTREL <i>Falco</i>																
tinnunculus.	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
HERON <i>Ardea</i>																
cinerea.	1	1	1													
MALLARD <i>Anas</i>																
platyrhyncha.	12	2	7	5	40	4		1			3	1				
GANNET <i>Sula</i>																
bassana.	1	15	3	1	3	22	10	10	8	5	17	16	2	10		N.
CURLEW <i>Numenius</i>																
arquata.	10	15	10	15	20	30	25	25	20	20	10	10	15	15	?	N.
WHIMBREL <i>N.</i>																
phaeopus.	1	1	1		1		2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	?	N.
SNIFE <i>Capella</i>																
gallinago.	1			1	1		1						1			
TURNSTONE <i>Arenaria</i>																
interpres.	15			2		2	6	15	6	8			3	3	?	N.
GOLDEN PLOVER <i>Pluvialis</i>																
apricaria.			3	18	5				1							
TERN <i>Sterna macrura/</i>																
hirundo.	1	1						1		1						
LESSER BLACKBACK <i>Larus</i>																
fuscus.	5	3	1	1		2	1						1			N.

N. - see "Notes on Species".

4. Notes on Species.

JACKDAW. *Corvus monedula*. Cliff-breeders are not resident on the isle in Autumn. Occasional parties spent the early morning/

morning there, returning to the mainland before noon.

LINNET. Those visiting the island did so in the early morning and numbers became negligible before noon; undoubtedly migrants.

LAPLAND BUNTING. *Calcarius lapponicus*. One, October 1st, fifth record for Ireland.

SKYLARK. Small parties of up to 20 arrived from 8 a.m. until noon, after which very few were seen. They arrived from N., NE., ENE., and two birds came in from S. Parties left the island flying S., SSE., W. by S., SW., E. and NE. These birds set a nice problem as to whether they are immigrants, emigrants, passage-migrants, or perhaps all three. On October 11th, when we left the island, there was considerable movement; numbers had passed over the island by 9.30 a.m., and very many small parties were seen flying in a westerly direction parallel to the South Wexford coast from one to two miles offshore. (See "Skylark Migration in SE. Ireland", Brit. Birds, 43: 265).

MEADOW PIPIT. Arrived in small parties from NE. and E., leaving to S. and SW. Movement was in the early morning, except on October 6th (when the early morning was wet), when it continued throughout the day.

GREY WAGTAIL. *Motacilla cinerea*. Singly on September 27th and 29th.

CHIFFCHAFF. *Phylloscopus collybita*. One, October 8th. A *Phylloscopus* warbler was also seen on 6th.

SEDGE WARBLER. *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Four on August 20th and eleven on 21st.

WHITETHROAT. *Sylvia communis*. Two, August 20th, and five on 21st. Singly, October 5-6th.

ROBIN. *Erithacus rubecula*. There were three in song each day during the August visit (the species does not breed), and up to fifteen on most days in September-October. We are not certain whether all or a proportion of those seen are Winter visitors to the island or passage migrants. Some appeared to be occupying territory, as the same ringed Robins were to be found in the same places daily.

HEDGE SPARROW. *Prunella modularis*. Sometimes up to 15 in September-October: the same remarks as given under ROBIN apply to this species.

SWALLOW/

SWALLOW. One of the few species obviously migrating August 20-21st. On 20th a party of five left the island (wind S.4) and flew N. until lost to view, 11 a.m. On 21st only a few were seen until towards evening, when ten arrived from SW. Earlier, a few had passed the island flying S. During the later visit birds arrived from N. and NE. and left flying S. and SW. One came in from S., crossed the island, and flew on northwards.

SAND MARTIN. On August 21st a single bird flew S. Later in the day four were seen flying N.

SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio flammeus*. One, September 30th.

SPARROW HAWK. *Accipiter nisus*. One, September 30th and October 1st.

GANNET. Two young were reared this year. First Winter birds were seen accompanying adults on September 28th, October 2nd and 5th. One first-Winter bird was seen alone September 28th and October 8th. All birds were proceeding westwards.

FULMAR. *Fulmarus glacialis*. Seven of the birds noted in Spring had fledglings in August. The decrease which has taken place since 1947 may well be due to predation by Gulls, which have been observed taking eggs.

TURTLE DOVE. *Streptopelia turtur*. One, October 7th.

Curlew. The most seen was 40 on August 21st.

WHIMBREL. Three each day, August visit.

TURNSTONE. Nineteen, August 20th, and 25 next day.

COMMON SANDPIPER. *Actitis hypoleucos*. Five on August 19th, three on 20th and two next day.

RINGED PLOVER. *Charadrius hiaticula*. Two each day, August 20-21st; one on September 27th.

LAPWING. *Venellus venellus*. Seven on August 20th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. *Larus ridibundus*. Singly, August 21st and September 29th.

LESSER BLACKBACK. Single birds were seen from time to time flying SW. About a dozen were present in August.

RAZORBILL/

RAZORBILL. *Alca torda*. Once as many as four were seen offshore.

GUILLEMOT. *Uria aalge*. Singly, September 28th and October 3rd.

CORNCRAKE. *Crex crex*. One, October 6th.

WATER RAIL. *Rallus aquaticus*. One, September 29th.

4. Ringings.

A small trap was erected over the central hedge in the middle of the island, and was in operation from October 1st. The trap is about 12 ft. long and 6 ft. high on the lower side of the bank. The mouth is 10 ft. wide. It has no door or baffle, as these would have been impossible to make without disturbing the blackberry cover in the mouth. In spite of the scarcity of birds, we managed to ring:- Robin, 3; Stonechat, 3; Hedge Sparrow, 4; Meadow Pipit, 5; Whitethroat, 1 and Wren, 2. We hope to enlarge the mouth of this trap in the Spring, and to erect a large Heligo Island Trap at the garden if we can raise the necessary funds.