

NEWS

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Edited by
KENNETH WILLIAMSON
Director

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EDITORIAL

APART from an important report from an area not previously studied during the spring migration, - the north end of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, - the articles in this Bulletin concern the autumn migration of 1954. A few of the items deal with the work of established Bird Observatories such as our own and GREAT SALTEE, while others describe new ventures in quest of knowledge in this popular field. The spring expedition to LEWIS, sponsored by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, explored the potentialities of this neglected island as a study-area for the return passage of winter visitors which come to us from Greenland and Iceland. Though too late to get the best results, what they did learn is encouraging and should prove of value in making future plans.

THE primary aims of Mr. Redman's return to TORY ISLAND were to do further research on sea-bird movements and gain more knowledge of the status of the Lapland Bunting in this part of Ireland. His visit achieved both ends. Study of sea-birds has also loomed large in the work of the temporary Bird Observatory at PORTLAND BILL, Dorset, but the notes in this Bulletin are concerned mainly with passerine migration. Mr. Mylne's season at FOULA, off the west side of Shetland, has revealed points of close agreement with the work at Fair Isle, as was to be expected in view of the nature of the "drift" migration which is a marked feature of the northern isles.

80. Migration at Northern Lewis in
Spring 1954.

R.W.J. SMITH and C. WALKER

At a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology in 1953 Mr. Kenneth Williamson suggested that, as very little is known about the spring emigration of winter visitors from the Iceland and Greenland regions, a migration watch in the northern part of Lewis (which would seem a logical "stepping-off" place for such a return movement) would be worth undertaking. We spent the fortnight April 26th to May 7th, 1954, in this area making a preliminary survey. We are much indebted to the British Trust for Ornithology and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club for grants to assist the expedition.

The north of Lewis is mainly blanket peat with narrow fertile coastal strips, and some beautiful sandy bays on the east side. On the west coast the most promising areas are the Butt, with its adjoining Loch Stiapavat; and some 15 miles to south-west Loch More Barvas, with the adjacent Lochs Ereray and Arnol, all in machair. We arrived in Lewis on April 24th, had a day at Holm Farm to the east of Stornoway, and moved to Barvas on the 26th. By May 3rd a retreat to Stornoway seemed expedient. We stayed at the Butt from May 5th-7th and short visits were also made to the Butt on 27th and 4th, and to Barvas on 5th and 7th.

For a week before our arrival an anticyclone to the north of Scotland had been bringing light SE. wind which lasted until 26th. After a few days of changeable winds whilst this high moved south-west, a series of depressions gave us strong to gale northerly wind, often with rain or sleet, for the rest of our stay. As this part of the Outer Hebrides has been little visited in spring our records are given in full under species.

Systematic List.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. Two pairs on east coast on April 25th.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. 3 + on east coast; one regularly at Barvas.

RED-THROATED DIVER. 3 + on east coast.

LITTLE GREBE. 2 pairs at Loch Stiapavat; one sitting on a nest on May 7th.

FULMAR. Numerous and apparently the commonest breeding bird on cliffs from Barvas to Port of Ness. Not seen along the east coast.

GANNET. On the west coast, and particularly at the Butt, one could always see spectacular processions going both SW. and round the Butt to the eastward.

CORMORANT. One imm., Barvas Loch, April 27th.

SHAG. Fairly common on both coasts. Several birds were sitting at the Butt, where numbers appear to nest, and an egg was seen on May 5th.

HERON. One was seen from the boat on 24th, flying steadily NE. on a line roughly from the Shiants. One at Barvas on 26th-27th.

MALLARD. 4 at Holm Farm; from 2 to 4 seen on several dates at Barvas; 20 at Loch Stiapavat.

TEAL. 2 at Barvas on 27th; 17 at L. Stiapavat from 4th to 7th.

WIGEON. At Barvas, 2 on 29th, 5 on 5th and 6 on 7th. At L. Stiapavat, 15-19 from 4th to 7th.

PINTAIL. At L. Stiapavat, 2 pairs on 4th, 3 pairs on 6th-7th.

SCAUP. Pair at Broad Bay on 25th; ♀ at Barvas Loch on 7th.

TUFTED DUCK. At Loch Stiapavat a pair on 4th and an extra ♂ on 6th-7th.

GOLDENEYE. At Barvas, 3 on 29th, one on 2nd, 2 on 7th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. Well out in Broad Bay, and scattered as far as could be seen in the haze on 25th, was a minimum of 400-500 duck 60% of them Long-tails.

VELVET SCOTER. Apparently most of the other duck in this flock were Velvet Scoter: certainly nearly all of the nearer ones were Velvet, showing the white wing-patch clearly. The species is said to be rather uncommon in the Outer Hebrides.

COMMON SCOTER. Several, at least, among the Velvet in Broad Bay, perhaps more farther out.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. Fairly common (one flock of 10) on the east coast; ♀ at Barvas Loch, 27th.

GREY-LAG GOOSE. At Holm Farm, 2 on 25th; at Loch Arnol, 4 on 28th.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE. Over Holm Farm on the evening of 25th 17 went due north. Next day at Barvas 4 skeins of 90, 80, 36 and 35 went out to sea to the NW. between 1620 and 1820 hrs. Of these, 2 parties hesitated and lost formation when they reached the coast, but both re-formed and went on. At the Butt at 1635 hrs. on 27th 110 came up the east coast low over the water and landed in a close pack about half-a-mile to NE. of the Lighthouse. At 1245 hrs. on 28th a flock of 24 planed down to land in the sea off Barvas. There was a bird at Loch Stiapavat on 6th-7th.

WHOOOPER SWAN. 7 at L. Stiapavat had been there for "a few weeks" and were still present on 7th.

GOLDEN EAGLE. One over the moor east of Barvas on April 26th.

BUZZARD. One going north at Barvas on 30th.

PEREGRINE. A falcon killed an immature Herring Gull at Holm Farm on 25th; one going north along Barvas shore on 30th.

MERLIN. A ♀ appeared at Barvas on 28th and was present at least until 2nd. One on 7th. At the Butt, a ♀ on 4th-5th.

MOORHEN. At least 6 pairs at Loch Stiapavat.

OYSTER CATCHER. Well distributed in pairs on both coasts. Flock of 40 at Broad Bay on 25th. The numbers at Barvas were difficult to check but apparently fluctuated with a peak of 16 (+ local birds) on 29th. At the Butt on the afternoon of 5th 15 came in from the E.S.E., and after darkness on 6th four were calling excitedly with Turnstones at the pools.

LAPWING. Common on both coastal strips and breeding at Barvas. On short machair complex (and occasionally in rough grass) six clutches were found and there were many scrapes in scattered heaps of horse-dung. These heaps are apparently an essential for the nest-site, probably to provide "camouflage" on the bare machair. At Barvas there were flocks of 25 on 28th and 50 on 30th.

RINGED PLOVER. In territory on suitable ground on both coasts. At Barvas flocks of ca. 50 were seen from 29th to 2nd, with about 20 before and after these dates. Both they and Dunlin sometimes fed with Golden Plovers, sometimes on the old lazy-beds, and it was very difficult to keep a check on numbers. At the Butt we had flocks of 12 on 27th, 6 on 4th, 20 on 5th and 6 on 6th.

GOLDEN PLOVER. 150 at Holm Farm on 25th, 80 at Loch Ereray on 27th, 60 at Loch Arnol on 28th. Near Barvas there were 80 from 26th to 28th rising to 260 on 2nd; they were still present on 5th but only 12 were seen on 7th. There were from 9 to 20 at the Butt. All the birds were apparently of the Northern race Ch. apricaria altifrons.

DOTTEREL. One was seen on all visits to the Butt and the Lightkeeper told us that the species is present during the summer.

TURNSTONE. At Barvas numbers seen varied from 12 on 27th to 3 on other dates but were not a reliable check. On 6th there was one at the Butt and 10 after dark were very noisy at the pools.

SNIFE. Several drumming at Holm Farm. Single birds at Barvas on 28th-29th and 3 on 2nd were all flushed from near the cliffs. Singly at the Butt, but 7 on 5th. Possibly breeding at Loch Stiapavat.

CURLEW. One at Holm Farm, 24th-26th. At Barvas 4 on 27th rising to 12 on 29th, then falling to 8. At the Butt 10 on 27th but none 4th-5th. On the 7th four came up the east coast and three of them set out due east at 1230 hrs.

WHIMBREL. One on 27th increasing to 9 on May 2nd at Barvas; 4-5 seen on later visits. At the Butt there was one on 6th and 9 on 7th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. One in almost full dress at Barvas on 7th is apparently the second record for Lewis.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. 7 at Holm Farm on 24th, 5 at Broad Bay on 25th, all in winter plumage.

COMMON SANDPIPER. Calling at Barvas during the night 26th/27th. One at Loch Ereray on 27th and 2 in Barvas Burn on 29th and after.

REDSHANK. At Holm Farm 2 on 24th and 1 on 25th. At Barvas, 1 on 28th increasing to 7 on 2nd; these were still present on 7th. At L. Stiapavat 6 on 4th and 14 on 6th, at least 10 on 7th. Possibly some of them were local birds as the terrain seems suitable.

KNOT. 9 in "red" plumage at Barvas, May 5th.

DUNLIN. At Barvas, 2 on 26th rising to a peak of 20 on 29th, then falling to 10 on 2nd. 24 on 27th. At Butt, one or two on all visits.

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL. Common and on their territories where suitable on both coasts. Always a few on Lochs Barvas and Stiapavat. Some may have been moving with other gulls on 29th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. In the afternoon of April 29th there was a noticeable coasting movement of gulls N.E. along the cliffs at Barvas, including quite a number of this species (18 in one scattered group). Unfortunately, there was such a mix-up with the local birds that we did not appreciate the full extent of the movement until the following day, when the scarcity of gulls was very apparent. Though not seen on the east coast Lesser Blackbacks were plentiful on the west. Numbers on Loch Barvas rose from 8 on 29th to 28 on 1st. At the Butt on 4th there were 30-40 in a flock of 100 gulls. Dozens were seen between Barvas and the Butt on 27th, resting on lochans and feeding in the fields.

HERRING GULL. A few breeding on both coasts, and hundreds at the Butt, many with full clutches on 5th. This species may possibly have participated in the movement at Barvas on 29th. There were 40 in a flock of gulls at the Butt on 4th.

COMMON GULL. 4 at Holm Farm on 25th and always several dozens at Barvas. Probably hundreds of this species were coasting north on 29th but there was some confusion with the Kittiwakes. There were always a few at the Butt and Loch Stiapavat.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. 2 on 25th at Holm Farm and 20-30 at Barvas. At least 120 pairs at Loch Stiapavat where there is a nesting colony.

KITTIWAKE. Several dozens entering a cave at the Butt. Often seen offshore on the west coast with many going north on 29th. These may have been migrating, but it is possible they were emulating the Gannets who were apparently taking advantage of the lee shore and could be seen going south far out to sea.

AUKS. Several Razorbills on the east coast and 2 at Barvas on 29th. A few Guillemots off the east coast. Tysties were well distributed round the coast.

ROCK DOVE. Fairly common where there were cliffs.
 WOOD PIGEONS were common in Castle Grounds, Stornoway.
 CUCKOO. Heard calling in Castle Grounds, 3rd-4th.
 SKYLARK. Common and singing along coastal strips.
 Flock of 12 at Barvas on 30th.

RAVEN. Pair at Holm Island, several pairs Castle Grounds, 2-4 at Barvas and a pair with 5 young at Butt.

CARRION CROW. One at Barvas on 30th and 2nd.

HOODED CROW. Common on east coast. When a Peregrine killed a gull at Holm Farm it was almost immediately surrounded by 14 Hoodies. Pairs at Barvas and Butt.

ROOK. 19 or 20 nests, Castle Grounds.

SONG THRUSH, HEDGE-SPARROW and WREN. A few in Castle Grounds.

REDWING. One at Butt from 4th-7th was very dark.

RING OUSEL. One at Butt on 5th.

BLACKBIRD. Common in Castle Grounds.

WHEATEAR. Rather scattered breeding pairs along shores and roadsides. Possible Greenland birds were one at Barvas on 5th, 4 at Butt on 4th and 2 on 7th.

ROBIN. Several seen in Castle Grounds, Stornoway. One at the Butt on 4th and seen by the Lightkeeper on 5th, - the first he had seen there although he has been at the Lighthouse for several years. There was a big influx of Robins to Fair Isle at this time (p. 160 seq.).

WILLOW WARBLER. Several singing in Castle Grounds.

GOLDCREST. Fairly common in the Castle Grounds.

MEADOW PIPIT. A well distributed breeding bird. At Barvas, a flock of 35 on 1st, 10 on 2nd, 20 on 5th. The only other flocks seen were at the Butt on 27th when the north wind dropped and a SW. breeze sprang up, and immediately 9 pipits started to fly round excitedly, - whilst a mile to the south another 9 were seen moving north. ROCK PIPITS were common on all coasts.

WHITE WAGTAIL. The first record was of one at Barvas on 28th but thereafter 2 or 3 were seen on most days. There were 2 at Stornoway on 4th and 6 or 8 at the Butt on 7th. Apparently the movement through the area was just beginning.

STARLING. The most obvious passerine about the crofting area and the cliffs.

GREENFINCH. One or two singing, Castle Grounds.

TWITE. A flock of 15 at Holm Farm on 25th and a pair on 26th; 2 parties along the Barvas cliffs on 28th.

CHAFFINCH. Common and singing, Castle Grounds.

CORN BUNTING. Quite a few singing on cultivated land on both coasts. Flock of 18 at L. Stiapavat on 4th.

SNOW BUNTING. A single bird at Barvas on 2nd; 1 on 6th and 2 on 7th at the Butt.

HOUSE SPARROW. Common in Stornoway and at some of the crofting communities.

Conclusions.

The primary objects of the trip were to learn if northern Lewis is used as a "stepping-stone" by birds on their journey to the north-west, and to discover which would be the best places to observe such movement. Though we were at Barvas on ten days and at the Butt on only five this was mainly because, with our limited transport and camping facilities, we were immobilised for several days by bad weather. Barvas is a fairly good area but we consider the Butt offers much greater potentialities for observing birds which are actually setting out on their sea-crossing. The only two records of waders moving, - Curlews and Oyster-catchers to and from the mainland, - may be an indication of what one may hope to see going in this direction, and setting out to the north-west, in suitable weather.

There is no doubt that Lewis is an important link between the mainland of Britain and the Greenland and Iceland region, though conditions during much of our stay were apparently not conducive to this migration. We had many reports of "geese" going north during the week before we arrived, and the wintering Barnacles on the east coast had gone out about the beginning of the period. During the whole of this week there had been an outbreak of polar anticyclonic air into sea-area Forties from northern Scandinavia, bringing steady SE. wind at light-moderate strength to the Outer Hebrides, i.e. a following airstream all the way to Iceland and/or Greenland for these migrants. With the cessation of this favourable wind when low pressure conditions influenced the area the goose passage quickly dwindled out, and late flocks arriving, and finding the weather unfavourable, settled on the water. An interesting fact is that all the big flocks of geese arrived at or passed late in the day, suggesting that they had already travelled a considerable distance; and one is tempted to consider this in relation to the early morning movements recorded by John King and the Edinburgh Academy Expedition through the Kyle of Sutherland in 1953 (see Bull. no. 11, para 136).

During the period of our stay waders increased, perhaps due to a piling-up of north-bound birds, since for much of the time there was good coasting weather farther south. Observations on the gull migration of 29th were unsatisfactory, and the full extent of this and of the small-passerine migration remains to be realised by future workers. Generally speaking, we were rather disappointed at the outcome of the trip, but this was due largely to the weather; had our visit been made a week earlier, we should probably have seen the migration proceeding under ideal conditions. No doubt the more ambitious projects which it is hoped can be launched at a future date will yield much invaluable information.

81. Bird Migration at Foula in 1954.

C. K. MYLNE.

These notes summarise my observations on spring and autumn migration at Foula, which lies 16 miles off the west-side parish of Walls, Shetland Mainland. My reason for coming to Foula at the end of April was to take over the duties of Missionary and Schoolmaster, and I must emphasise that the observations are the fruits of a very limited amount of spare time. They contain notes on many species hitherto unrecorded on this remote island, and my personal list since arriving stands at 119 species.

Generally speaking, the observations reinforce a number of Mr. Williamson's conclusions regarding the pattern of migration at Fair Isle and confirm that most of our migrants at the northern isles come to us from the south-east. Fair Isle numbers are consistently higher, and although the observational factor must be great with my time so limited and Fair Isle so well covered, it seems clear that some species do not reach Foula at all whilst others only filter through the 47-mile gap between the two Observatories by chance, and are much more poorly represented here. The lack of a lighthouse may also be an important factor so far as night migrants are concerned.

Construction of a Heligoland Trap was begun on August 12th but it was not possible to complete it before early October, when most of the migration was over. A total of 551 birds (mainly nestlings) was ringed during the season.

Systematic List.

RED-THROATED DIVER. First seen April 23rd-24th. Had eggs, June 2nd. One youngster reared at Crougar. Last seen on September 6th.

HERON. First seen August 7th; 4 on 10th came in over the sea from Mainland at 1600 hrs. There were one or two throughout September with 5 on 21st.

TEAL. A few in spring, especially between May 7th-12th, May 24th-26th, and the first days of June. Young were seen on June 26th. In September there were 3 between 7th-10th and two on 21st.

WIGEON. Pairs on May 3rd and June 3rd. A ♀ PINTAIL was seen on May 6th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. Two on September 20th, singly on 29th and October 1st, 3 on 14th and 5 on 23rd.

GOLDENEYE. One or two on October 17th-18th and a ♀ on 30th.

WHOOPEE SWAN. A party of 7 was seen flying east towards Mainland on September 30th. In the next month there were 4 on 21st and two on 25th-26th, besides single birds on 14th, 23rd and 27th. There were 5 on November 7th-8th. See p. 257.

MERLIN. A ♀ on April 22nd was the only spring record. Autumn passage was first noticed on September 15th with 3 birds, of which one remained for some days. Two were seen on 23rd and from October 8th-11th and also on 18th. Otherwise, single birds on a number of days. One brought to me on October 18th proved to be a ♀ Falco c. subaesalon. See pp. 265-268.

KESTREL. Singly on May 4th and 10th, September 7th-8th and most days between 15th-21st. There was one at the turn of the month and on October 11th and 18th-19th. See p. 258.

WATER RAIL. One was seen as late as May 10th.

CORNCRAKE. Two on May 4th and 4 on 10th. One was recorded between June 23rd-25th.

LAPWING. Flock of 20 on May 10th and a few all summer. Three on September 7th.

RINGED PLOVER. Autumn passage parties were 5 on August 31st, over 10 on September 2nd, about 20-25 from 8th-10th, and one or 2 on 25th. Four nestlings ringed.

GOLDEN PLOVER. Flock of 80 on April 25th and a dozen on May 3rd-4th. Autumn numbers were not up to this, there being 5 on August 17th and during the first few days of September, and a score or so from 7th-10th. There were small numbers in the first week of October.

TURNSTONE. There were 25 on May 7th, otherwise a small number on several spring days even into late June. There were 20 or so on August 7th and 10th and again on September 1st-2nd, numbers being present daily afterwards.

SNIFE. Probable influxes on September 2nd and in the first week of October. An adult netted on May 19th weighed 121 gm. Single JACK SNIPE were seen on May 10th and November 5th.

WOODCOCK. Two on October 29th, and single birds on November 4th and 5th.

CURLEW. Rather scarce in spring. The biggest autumn passages were September 3rd (40), 8th (20), 21st (40), October 11th (20), 21st (20), November 5th (10) and 13th (17).

WHIMBREL. Ten on May 10th, 4 on 20th, 6 on 25th and 7 on June 5th.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. Two on September 8th (with 1 on 10th) and again on 20th-21st.

SANDPIPERS. A GREEN on August 9th-10th; WOOD on May 25th; COMMON on June 14th.

REDSHANK. Very scarce in spring. Autumn passage in numbers at the beginning of September (20+ on 2nd).

GREENSHANK. Two on August 6th, perhaps present to 10th, after which a single bird till about 20th, and finally 2 on 28th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. Present down to May 15th (2). In autumn 3 on September 7th, more later on.

TEMMINCK'S STINT. One on June 10th-11th.

DUNLIN. A few in early June and one on 19th. A bird with Sanderlings on September 8th.

SANDERLING. In September 3 on 2nd, 8 on 7th and 20 next day, some remaining till 10th.

RUFF. One or more on August 13th.

ARCTIC SKUA. First arrival April 23rd, but not seen again until 4 came in on 29th, building up to 40+ by May 8th. Young on June 19th. Decrease observed in third week of August and the last seen were 2 on September 18th. 15 nestlings were ringed.

BONXIE. Over 300 present by May 2nd. Young on June 24th. Decrease at beginning of September. Last seen on October 9th. There is clearly a large non-breeding population, defending territories and behaving in every way like breeding adults except that they do not produce eggs. 106 nestlings ringed.

GLAUCOUS GULL. One from May 8th-14th. Single birds on October 29th, November 7th and 15th.

COMMON GULL. Increases representing passage were noted on Aug. 8th (26), 12th (20), Sept. 10th (20+).

KITTIWAKE. Big flocks at end of May (250 on 6th and 200 on June 1st) and numbering over 1,000 at the end of June. There was an unusually big non-breeding population at Sumburgh and Fair Isle during the summer.

ARCTIC TERN. Last seen September 3rd. (98 ringed).

ROCK DOVE. Flocks of 65 on May 8th, 50 on Sept. 7th and 20 on 15th.

WOOD PIGEON. One from May 15th-17th; two on May 31st and again on November 8th.

TURTLE DOVE. One on May 27th. Singly on September 9th and 12th and 2 on 14th-15th.

OWLS. A LONG-EARED, possibly present on May 9th, was seen on 11th. There was a SHORT-EARED from May 31st to June 2nd and again on August 9th. Single "owls" were reported on October 27th and November 12th-13th.

SWIFT. Four on May 11th, one on 9th and 12th.

WRYNECK. Singly May 10th, Aug. 24th and Sept. 9th.

WOODLARK. One was seen on November 4th.

SWALLOW. Passage on May 11th-12th (15), slight on 14th and 18th, and again from 27th-29th with 6 on the last day. Occasional in June with 3 on 15th, but very few in autumn, the most being 3 on October 6th.

HOUSE MARTIN. Slight passage May 3rd-4th and 11th-12th, and again with the Swallows from 27th-29th and on June 9th-10th. SAND MARTINS were seen singly on May 10th, 20th, June 9th-10th and 29th.

RAVEN. Up to 4 on most days in spring and 5 or 6 in autumn. Flock of 30 on September 17th.

CARRION CROW. One on May 15th-17th. Up to six HOODIES seen usually, but 13 on September 14th.

FIELDFARE. Spring: a score on May 3rd, 35 on 6th and 50 next day. A few between 10th-12th include 5 seen flying east on 11th. Autumn: appeared October 8th, but no big inrush until 17th-19th, reaching 300 on the last day, then declining. Some 200 arrived on 27th, reached 1,000 by 29th and increased again on 30th.

REDWING. The last were 2 flying east on May 11th. Well over 300 arrived on October 8th, but they quickly passed on. Some 500 were seen flying south on 16th and there were 250 or so on 18th-19th, a decrease following. There were again 200 by 27th-29th but small numbers after.

BLACKBIRD. Movements took place in October on 8th-9th, 11th, 16th, 18th-19th, 23rd, 29th-30th (a big influx); and in November on 1st (100) and 4th (50). Of 44 ringed, 17 were adults.

WHEATEAR. The few present at the end of April received increases on May 2nd and especially 6th. The last seen were single birds on September 29th and October 4th. 41 nestlings were ringed.

WHINCHAT. Singly on May 8th, 10th and 30th; 4 on September 2nd and singly on 7th, 11th and 18th.

REDSTART. Singly on May 5th and 7th, August 29th, September 13th, 21st-24th, 30th, October 2nd, 8th, 12th.

BLACK REDSTART. A ♀ was caught roosting in the Manse porch on the night of April 26th, and a bird was seen on October 29th.

ROBIN. Singly on April 22nd and May 4th, Sept. 22nd and 27th, and October 8th-20th, with 3 on 19th. One or two were present from 25th-29th and two on Nov. 13th. One trapped on October 8th weighed 18.5 gm.

BLACKCAP. ♀, May 28th-30th, and ♂, June 7th-8th. ♀ September 8th-9th and 22nd-23rd (but 5 birds on 21st) and ♂ on 29th and 2 on October 5th. An ad. ♂ was trapped on June 2nd.

BARRED WARBLER. A young bird from Sept. 18th-21st.

GARDEN WARBLER. Two on May 18th and from June 1st-3rd; singly May 19th-21st, 24th-26th and June 7th-12th. There was one on September 8th and 4 on 21st (one staying till 24th), and one on October 15th-16th. Four were ringed, the one taken on October 15th weighing 19.78 gm. as against 14.45 gm. for a bird on September 21st which was found dead on October 10th.

WHITETHROAT. A few passed between May 9th-13th, and one was seen on 6th. One on 30th was followed by 3 next day. There were 2 on September 7th. (2 ringed).

LESSER WHITETHROAT. Singly from May 10th-13th, and on 30th, September 20th and October 1st. (1 ringed).

WILLOW WARBLER. One on May 4th and one or 2 from 13th-15th, and single birds near the end of the month. First of autumn was on August 12th, and there was slight passage between 24th-29th. In September there were 3 on 7th-8th, 2 on 14th, 4 on 17th, and odd birds later.

CHIFFCHAFF. Singly, September 8th-9th, 23rd and October 9th, when one was trapped at 7.8 gm.

GOLDCREST. Singly, September 16th and 20th and October 12th and 16th-17th.

FLYCATCHERS. Single SPOTTED on May 27th and 31st. Single PIED on August 24th and from September 7th-10th.

TREE PIPIT. One or more on September 22nd.

FLAVA WAGTAIL. One from September 23rd-30th.

ALBA WAGTAILS. Scattered records in May. Singly August 12th and 16th, and passage continuous from 26th, rising to a peak between 31st and September 3rd (see pp. 222, 259). Ceased about September 24th. Singly on October 6th, 12th and from 14th to 22nd.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE. A ♂ from May 25th to 28th.

REDPOLL. Two on September 18th and 8 on 27th.

SCARLET GROSBEAK. One from September 16th-21st.

BRAMBLING. A few between May 4th-10th. First in autumn October 14th, and influxes of 100 on 16th and 50 on 28th.

CHAFFINCH. ♀ on October 16th and 2 on 20th-21st and again a ♀ on November 4th-5th.

CORN BUNTING. Singly, May 4th and 9th-10th.

ORTOLAN BUNTING. One on May 12th.

REED BUNTING. One on April 23rd, 2 on 29th and a ♀ on May 4th.

LAPLAND BUNTING. One, May 6th, and 5 on 10th.

SNOW BUNTING. Three on May 1st and from 10-15 between 8th-11th, with one or two till 18th. Two on September 15th were followed by 4 on 19th and they were regular from 21st. The chief arrival dates (probably) were September 25th (10), October 6th (30), 24th (30), 30th (30), November 1st-3rd (150 increasing to 350), 9th (300) and 11th (1,000).

(These records are worth examining in conjunction with those given for Fair Isle in Bulletin 2: 160-184, 215-229 and in para 82 of the present issue. - Ed.)

82. The Autumn Migration at Fair Isle in 1954.

KENNETH WILLIAMSON.

Articles on the passerine migration through Fair Isle in the autumn of 1954 have already appeared on pp. 191-199 and 215-226. The analysis is continued below for Anseriformes and Falconiformes. Other groups will be dealt with in the next Bulletin.

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos. Apart from odd birds at various times there were 3 on September 7th, with a SE. wind from the Skagerrak ahead of an eastwards-moving occlusion in Forties; and 4 or 5 on 9th-10th after calm weather in Shetland and Faeroe conducive to onward passage. Three arrived on 18th in NW. weather, perhaps from Iceland where calm weather is indicated late on 17th, and 3 from 22nd-25th also seem likely to have come from that region. There was a big party of 20 on October 4th with Continental coastal winds backing from the south as a cold front pushed out into the North Sea from the British Isles.

TEAL Anas crecca. The first party of 4 on Sept. 2nd seem likely to have come from Iceland in the moderate NW. airstream of a weak low centred to west of Shetland, but 16 on 6th were almost certainly Continental immigrants from an anticyclonic region in southern Scandinavia. Numbers during the rest of the month and in early October varied from one to 4 birds. A note on the occurrence of a ♀ **BAIKAL TEAL** Anas formosa has already appeared.

WIGEON Anas penelope. A single ♀ on August 26th and 29th and one with the Teal on September 2nd. On Sept. 20th 5 arrived, perhaps from Faeroe or Shetland, which were near enough to the centre of a vast low to enjoy calm clear weather; 3 or 4 on the last days of the month also seem likely to have been birds of onward passage. An increase to 8 took place on October 4th under conditions of S.S.E. wind in the North Sea which also brought our biggest

number of Mallard. Seven on October 8th seem likely to have drifted from the Skagerrak in easterly winds below the Scandinavian high which was responsible for an immense Redwing immigration.

PINTAIL Anas acuta. There was a pair of this scarce duck from September 18th-20th, perhaps borne on NW. winds from Iceland, and again a pair (but possibly the same, since they were much on the sea) on 24th. A ♂ was recorded on September 30th and one was seen on October 5th.

POCHARD Aythya ferina. A drake not yet out of eclipse visited South Haven on September 20th. This is a very rare species at Fair Isle.

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula. ♀ on Golden Water on July 23rd, a period when calm weather extended from Shetland north to Iceland in an anticyclonic ridge; and another ♀ on September 30th after col weather in the same region.

SCAUP Aythya marila. A ♂ stayed from July 28th till August 9th. There were 2 on September 17th with a NW. airstream between Iceland and Shetland in the western half of a depression centred on Bergen, and a ♀ after SE. weather on October 2nd. Another ♀ stayed in South Haven from October 16th to the end of the month.

GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula. One was in the S. Haven from October 24th to the end of the month and during a howling gale on October 27th one walked into the hostel kitchen! It was thin, weighing only 490 gm. compared with the 600 gm. of a ♀ caught in Vaadal about the same time in 1953, but it was able to fly and swim well enough when set free in the lee Haven.

COMMON SCOTER Melanitta nigra. There was one on September 4th.

VELVET SCOTER Melanitta fusca. An imm. ♂ was in North Haven on November 9th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK Clangula hyemalis. A drake on September 29th still showed a good deal of summer dress. Ducks were seen on October 6th-7th and later in the month.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator. The only movements were between September 27th and 29th with 3 birds on the first day and 6 on the next, when conditions favoured migration to our area from Iceland and Faeroe in the NW. airstream of a filling depression between Jan Mayen and Norway; and on October 5th-6th with 3 and 5 birds respectively, with a westerly airstream in Faeroes and Fair Isle sea-areas.

SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna. Single birds were seen on August 13th and 27th.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE Anser arvensis brachyrhynchus. The first were seen on September 26th, with a small low SE. of Iceland and a northerly wind backing to west in the approach to northern Scotland. There were 5 geese on October 19th; otherwise, they were very scarce.

WHOOPEE SWAN Cygnus cygnus. A few reached us on September 28th in westerly weather with a low to east of Iceland strongly suggesting an origin in that country. Odd parties were seen in October on a number of dates, particularly on 21st (parties of 6, 9 and 4 and a single juv.), when the prevailing weather again pointed to a cyclonic approach from western Iceland. The party of 4 remained for a fortnight at the shallow pools on the Mire of Vatnagard. A young bird which flew into the Gully from the sea on the afternoon of 22nd was ill-advised enough to alight beside the stream, and found there was insufficient breeze to enable him to rise when I went after him! The head and neck were still downy and the wing was much shorter than the adult measurement.

BUZZARD Buteo buteo. This species, exceedingly rare in the days of Eagle Clarke and Stenhouse, is now becoming regular in its visits to Fair Isle and is tending to make prolonged stays; but the bird which we saw almost daily from August 28th to mid-October easily holds the record. Although usually hunting along the west and north cliffs it made excursions over the hill ground and the Sukka Moor.

HEN-HARRIER Circus cyaneus. A "ringtail" with a very prominent white rump was watched on October 3rd-5th. The only SPARROW-HAWK Accipiter nisus recorded during the autumn was seen at the same period, following easterly weather in the North Sea.

MERLIN. A detailed account of the migration of this species appears on pp. 264-268.

KESTREL Falco tinnunculus. There was one from July 23rd-26th, one on August 10th-11th, two on 18th and also on 25th, after which one was with us to the end of the month. August arrivals were all in anticyclonic weather with ridges extending northwards from the British mainland and easterly winds in SW. Norway. The best day was September 7th when 6 were counted, the weather indicating arrival from the Skagerrak (see MALLARD), and apart from 3 on 20th and 2 on 22nd following calm conditions in Faeroe and Shetland, a Kestrel was always present to mid-October. At the beginning of the month one in the south of the island appeared to be specialising on Snow Buntings, taking an occasional bird from the flocks then in the stubbles, whilst on 20th a handsome adult ♂ was surprised when feeding on a freshly-killed Blackbird in the funnel of the Vaadal Trap.

(To be concluded)

83. Reflections on Some Ringing Recoveries.

KENNETH WILLIAMSON.

It is interesting, - perhaps even profitable, - to speculate about one's bird-ringing recoveries. Take the case of WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla a. alba B 88428, a 1st-winter ♂ taken at the Haa at 1630 hrs. on September 4th, 1954. This was during the peak passage period of White Wagtails, and it was one of four birds marked that day. The bird flew aboard "Girl Helen" when she was fishing the Smith Bank, 30 miles north-east of Lossiemouth, in the Moray Firth, some time on September 6th. The ring was (unfortunately) removed, and the bird released.

As White Wagtails appear to be entirely diurnal migrants in our part of the world it is unlikely that this one left Fair Isle until the morning of 5th, in which case it may have spent the later part of that day somewhere in Orkney. September 5th was a splendid day for migration, with an anticyclone covering the North Sea, and calm in Shetland early followed by a light southerly breeze. Our schedule entry for White Wagtails was down by one-third on 5th, so emigration certainly took place. It is unlikely that the bird could have delayed its leave-taking from Fair Isle until early on 6th (the schedule figure remained steady that day) and reached "Girl Helen" in one long hop, for the distance to Smith Bank is 110 miles, the wind was moderate SE. (say 15 m.p.h.), and a White Wagtail's air-speed can hardly exceed 25 m.p.h.

Thus the recovery fits the general picture of an "island-hopping" migration, first suggested by the fact that the Venables' peak-dates for the south of Shetland were generally a day earlier than our own. Apparently the bird was travelling southwards over the sea into a SE. wind, - with a calm disdain for the "drift theory"! - but on a clear day such as this a diurnal migrant should have experienced no difficulty in orienting its flight by observation of the sun.

Consider the case of GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea JC 507, an adult ♂ caught in the Gully Trap on June 1st 1954. This bird was on the island, though not always in the Gully (a most attractive Grey Wagtail habitat) from May 26th to June 6th. It was found dead on July 18th at Rousay, in Orkney. The Grey Wagtail breeds sparingly in Orkney, but not in Shetland, and this is perhaps a case of a bird "overshoorting" its breeding-area on spring migration. It may be remembered that in 1950 a similar event occurred, although in this case a pair was concerned, and they stayed to nest in the Gully and reared two young. To our regret, they did not come back in 1951. When some hostel visitors made a trip to Foula in "The Good Shepherd" in late May of 1951 a Grey Wagtail was recorded there.

About the time that these wagtails appeared in 1950 a pair of TEAL Anas crecca frequented the stream and on June 4th the duck was trapped. Later in the year she was reported, having perhaps bred, at Stronsay in Orkney. What may be yet another case of a bird "over-shooting" its native area on return migration came to light in the past summer when James Gunn, a Friend of Fair Isle resident at Reay in Caithness (100 miles to the south) captured a nesting SWALLOW Hirundo rustica on July 1st, and found it had one of our rings. The nest was at a farm near Reay and the bird was mated with one he himself had ringed in 1953. The stranger was a ♂ which we had taken at its roost in the garage at North Haven on the night of July 6th 1953.

In the Report he has issued recently Dr. E.A.R. Ennion reports an interesting recovery of a juv. ♂ RED BACKED SHRIKE Lanius collurio which almost certainly indicates a re-orientation of autumn migration after sustaining an east-wind drift. It was ringed at his Observatory at Monkshouse, Northumberland, on August 28th and was killed at Marsala, SICILY (about 1,400 miles SE.), a little over three weeks later.

84. Migration at Tory Island in Autumn 1954.

P. S. REDMAN.

Tory Island, off the north-west coast of Donegal, was visited from August 14th to November 17th, following a month's visit during the late spring (pp. 184-186). It is considered to be ideally suited for research into both marine and passerine migration in this little-known region of the British Isles.

A temporary observatory was established and two portable Heligoland traps maintained, as well as one or two smaller traps. The ringing total was rather small, due to the fact that no large falls occurred and - apart from one night at the beginning of September - the Lighthouse produced only a handful of birds.

The overall picture from field observations is interesting, and a preliminary examination shows a close similarity between this year's results and last autumn's work at Inishtrahull and Malin Head (p. 68), an account of which was given in Brit. Birds, 47: 217-228.

Weather conditions can only be described as appalling, and field-work was impossible on some days. The log records 41 consecutive days of wind between S.S.W. and NW. from September 4th to October 14th. It is not surprising therefore that hardly any passerine migrants of an eastern origin were recorded in this period.

The marine passage this year was of longer duration than in 1953 (probably because the island has a more westerly situation than Inishtrahull) and commenced during the last few days of August and continued until the end of October. The species taking part in this SW.- West migration were Manx, Sooty and Great Shearwaters, Fulmars, Gannets, auks (mostly Razorbills), Arctic and Great Skuas, Kittiwakes and Common and/or Arctic Terns. It seems likely that Tory

Island is the most important observation point so far discovered in the Hebridean Sea, perhaps in the British Isles, so far as marine migration is concerned.

As last year, the numbers of ducks recorded were very few, but BARNACLE GOOSE Branta leucopsis migration occurred in the second half of October. A single PINK-FOOTED and four WHITE-FRONTED GEESE were also observed. The WHOOPER SWAN passage was in two phases, at the end of September and in mid-October. Several MERLINS were seen on passage but never more than two on any one day. The numbers of waders were disappointing, although 21 species were recorded: those of particular interest were BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa (August 30th and September 3rd), GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochropus (August 19th), RUFF Philomachus pugnax (August 18th-20th and 25th), and phalaropes, - probably GREY, - in the Sound on September 22nd.

The volume of passerine migration was small, and its relationship to weather conditions was apparent. Northern migrants were already passing through when I arrived, as is shown by the presence of "big" WHEATEARS and WHITE WAGTAILS, the latter reaching a peak on 23rd. The first major influx occurred on September 2nd (see pp. 207, 222), when the numbers of MEADOW PIPITS, White Wagtails and Wheatears increased considerably. The first LAPLAND BUNTING Calcarius lapponicus was recorded. This arrival continued on 3rd when more pipits, wagtails and Wheatears arrived, and another Lapland Bunting appeared.

From September 3rd to October 14th no influxes of eastern birds occurred, though the arrival of odd birds of eastern origin - e.g. SCARLET GROSBELLY Carpodacus erythrinus on September 8th (the first for Ireland) - suggests that movements were taking place farther to the east. There was a small passage of birds of north-west origin during the remainder of September, but no large

movements. Birds taking part were Wheatears, White Wag-tails, Lapland and Snow Buntings and GREATER REDPOLLS Carduelis flammea rostrata.

October 14th saw the arrival of the first REDWINGS, believed to be Turdus musicus coburni, the Iceland race. It was also the first of four days of easterly wind which brought birds of both Greenland-Iceland and Scandinavian origin. Species involved were Skylark, Wren, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Ring Ousel, Blackbird, Wheatear, Goldcrest, Pied Flycatcher, Meadow Pipit, Starling, Redpoll, Brambling and Snow Bunting. Non-passerine species associated with this movement were Scaup, Whooper Swan and Redshank.

A further influx of Iceland Redwings occurred on October 25th and there were smaller arrivals on 31st and November 1st. Other Turdidae arrived at this period, namely Fieldfare, Song Thrush and Blackbird, and there were also Chaffinches and Bramblings. A further small influx of Blackbirds occurred on November 14th. Dark-coloured Song Thrushes were seen regularly after November 6th, and on 14th a bird was watched under good light conditions which I considered to be the Hebridean race Turdus ericetorum hebridensis. The majority of those seen were certainly darker than birds of the nominate form I am used to seeing, but they do not appear to be related to the "small, dark Song Thrushes" reported from elsewhere.

This year, over 50 different Lapland Buntings were seen at Tory Isle. The Principal Keeper at Inishtrahull Lighthouse observed them too, though "not so many as last year," and Mr. J.N. Hollyer saw birds at Inishowan Head at the mouth of Lough Foyle. There is certainly no evidence of wintering in the area, and I would suggest that the main winter quarters lie further south, possibly on the Landes and Breton coasts of France.

Table.

MERLINS trapped at FAIR ISLE
AUTUMN 1954.

Date.	Sex.	Race.	Wing.	Bill.	Tarsus.	Tail.	Weight.
July 29th	♀	Icel.	223	14	38	132	198
Aug. 16th	♂	Icel.	207	12	37	129	170
18th	♀	Cont.	220	14	40	132	232
19th		(Roosted overnight, 9 hrs.)					210
22nd	♂	Icel.	206	12	39	132	190
Sept. 4th	♂	Cont.	201	12	39	140	167
	♂	Icel.	204	12	-	121	183
7th	♂	Cont.	200	12	38	115	194
8th	♀	Cont.	220	13½	38	130	204
		(Retrapped Gully 1900 hrs.)					217
9th	♂	Icel.	205	13	38	120	197
10th		(Roosted overnight, 10 hrs.)					180
15th	♂	Cont.	202	12	37	115	175
	♂	Icel.	206	13	39	120	203
16th		(Roosted overnight, 11 hrs.)					195
20th	♀	Icel.	229	14	37	140	265
23rd	♂	Icel.	205	12	37½	120	-
Oct. 13th	♂	Icel.	207	12½	39	128	174
14th		(Roosted overnight, 14 hrs.)					170
	♂	Icel.	212	13	38	130	177
15th		(Roosted overnight, 15 hrs.)					166
26th	♂	Icel.	205	12	37	134	180
	♀	Icel.	230	14	38	138	233

(Measurements in mm., weights in gm.)

85. Merlin Migration at Fair Isle in 1954.

KENNETH WILLIAMSON
and ALEC BUTTERFIELD.

This analysis of the autumn 1954 Merlin migration at Fair Isle is presented as a "follow-up" to the papers on this subject which appeared in British Birds 47: 342-347 (Butterfield) and 434-441 (Williamson), reprints of which are distributed with this Bulletin.

A table of measurements and weights of 29 Merlins trapped at Fair Isle between 1949-1953 appeared on p.32 of the present volume of the Bulletin. During the past season 17 birds were examined, and the table on p. 264 gives weights and measurements of these. It will be seen that five of them - a bigger proportion than in any previous year - have wing-lengths which fall within the range of the Scandinavian race Falco columbarius aesalon Tunstall. The remainder have long wings, and if we use the criteria given by Butterfield these can be accepted as Icelandic, Falco c. subaesalon Brehm.

The data obtained during 1954, therefore, suggest that there are times when Merlins of both populations are present on the isle, and that although the bulk of our passage is drawn from the north-west, at least a small part originates in Scandinavia in some years.

The first bird of autumn was an exceptionally early ♀ of the Icelandic race trapped in Vaadal late on July 29th. With a low centred off western Norway this bird appears to have had a downwind passage from Iceland (where winds were light in the west late on 28th) round the western side of the depression. It was possibly this same bird which was seen on August 2nd.

The usual time of appearance is August 17th-19th but in 1954 one appeared on 14th, there were two on the

following days, and three on 19th. A young ♂ caught on 16th had a wing-length well within Icelandic range, but a ♀ captured late on 18th was too small to be this race. At this period a ridge of the Azores high extended north-eastwards towards the Faeroes and Iceland and there were frequent calms in that country. Such conditions provide the ideal travelling weather for birds leaving that area for the British Isles, and the situation was similar to the one depicted in fig. 5 of Williamson's article in British Birds. However, at this same period there was easterly or NE. wind on the west coast of Norway, more especially after the anticyclonic development became centred to the north of Faeroe on 17th, and the small ♀ Merlin may well have arrived from the Continent on 18th together with the two Kestrels Falco tinnunculus (not an Icelandic species) recorded on that day.

The only Merlin seen on August 22nd was the young ♂ trapped, and on 24th none was seen. The species re-appeared with two birds on 25th, and three next day, with exceedingly calm conditions in a col to north-west (for a similar example, see fig. 3 in the British Birds paper). This col was soon invaded by a ridge of high pressure, again from the Azores system, and an almost identical situation to that of the mid-August period then developed. These Merlins passed on very quickly and the species was scarce until the end of the month, and there were no trappings to give a clue to their origin.

A new arrival, with three recorded, was apparent on September 2nd, when the peak of White Wagtail passage began (see pp. 222, 259). There was only one next day, but on 4th a ♂ of each race was trapped. The weather-maps for the beginning of the month show a weak low to the north-west of Fair Isle, with a light NW. airstream between Iceland and Scotland. This airstream persisted on 4th but a drift of Continental birds was also possible on the northern flank of a small eastwards-moving low in sea-area Forties.

The trapping of two other Continental birds on 7th and 8th was preceded by similar conditions of light to moderate easterly wind along the Norwegian coast as far south as the Skagerrak, with a SE. cyclonic airflow at Fair Isle on the eastern flank of a low centred at about 60 N. 20 W. In addition to four Merlins on 7th, 6 Kestrels were present, and it was a day rich in small migrants of Continental origin (see p.217). By 9th two and subsequently only one Merlin, remained: it is possible that the Icelandic bird trapped on 9th had arrived some days earlier.

September 14th-15th was another period of movement, and again a young ♂ of each race was trapped. At this time there was a complex low pressure area to the north of Britain which could have favoured a cyclonic immigration of Iceland birds (there were calms in the Faeroes and Iceland late on 14th), but would certainly not have assisted migration from the Continent, the wind in sea-area Forties being west to SW. Six birds were entered in the schedule for 17th, and with a low with strong winds centred on west Norway this again looks promising for cyclonic drift south-eastwards from Iceland (see fig. 6 in the British Birds paper).

An Icelandic ♀ was trapped on 20th and similar conditions obtained on 22nd, when four birds were seen. A badly-injured ♂, apparently "wired", was found and destroyed on 23rd, and this was of Icelandic stock. A further increase to six took place on 28th, again with westerly cyclonic weather hinting at downwind drift from Iceland, but no birds were trapped to test this view.

In October we had influxes on 3rd and 4th, - apparently a further case of cyclonic migration from Iceland, round a depression centred immediately to the south of that country. There were probably others on 12th, and certainly more on 13th-14th, when five birds were seen and two ♂♂ subaesalon were trapped. There was

a weak trough of low pressure south of Iceland (where skies were clear and the wind light to moderate and rather variable) with westerly wind at Fair Isle on 13th veering somewhat on the following day. As happened with the mid-October movement of 1953 these birds arrived in company with Iceland Redwings Turdus musicus coburni.

Our last birds were captured on October 26th, a young ♂ killing one of our favourite "retrap" Rock Pipits in the Observatory Trap. This bird and the ♀ taken the same morning had wing-measurements well within subaeson range. At this time there was a ridge of high pressure to the west, bringing fine and mainly calm weather to the Faeroes and Iceland, and the weather-map bears a fair resemblance to the one reproduced as fig. 5 in the study of the 1953 movements in British Birds.

The only adult ♂ seen during the season (there was one only in 1953) was watched on the Sukka Moor on October 31st.

86. Merlin Recoveries from 1954 Captures.

Two recoveries from the 16 Merlins ringed in 1954 have been reported to date. A ♀ with wing 220 mm., and therefore almost certainly Falco columbarius aesalon, caught in the Double Dyke Trap late on August 18th and released next morning, was shot at Muchalls, KINCARDINE-SHIRE, on October 9th.

A ♂ with wing 202 mm., also Falco c. aesalon, taken in Vaadal Trap on September 15th, was found alive on sand-dunes at Cap Breton, Landes, FRANCE (Lat. 43 38 N. Long. 1 20 W), on October 8th. Its release was requested. This is the usual wintering quarters of the Scandinavian populations and, so far as we know at present, is beyond the wintering-area of the Icelandic race.

87. Autumn Migration (1954) at Great Saltee.

R.F. RUTTLEDGE and JOHN WEAVING.

The Bird Observatory at Great Saltee, SE. Ireland, was manned from August 21st to October 9th and from Oct. 30th to November 21st. No observers were available for the period October 10th-30th, and this regrettable gap should be borne in mind when studying the records.

Weather

August. During the latter half of August winds were light to moderate northerly or NW., 21st to 25th, except on 23rd. On that day, and from 26th to 31st SW. and west winds prevailed. There was fog on 30th, but otherwise visibility was good. Heavy rain fell on 27th.

September. Throughout the month winds were generally west and SW., occasionally veering to NW. There were southerly winds from part of 1st, 5th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd. Heavy rain fell on 7th, 10th, 23rd and 25th. A gale sprang up on 3rd and a severe gale on 23rd. We had slight fog on 2nd, otherwise visibility was good.

October. Southerly winds 2nd and 7th, otherwise SW. to NW. The wind freshened on 3rd and was strong from then until 5th, after which it moderated and became light. Heavy rain on 4th, mist on 5th, otherwise good visibility.

November. NE., occasionally NW., winds from 1st to 6th; NW. to SW. winds from 7th to 15th. During this period winds averaged force 3, seldom reached force 5, and were recorded as 6 on 8th and 13th only. On 16th-17th a light easterly wind blew, but by noon on 17th it was again SW. and remained between west and south until the night of 20th. During this day it blew strongly. There was fog on 2nd and heavy rain on 5th, 8th, 10th.

Migration.

The following notes are selected from those made on migrants seen. Notable occurrences include HOPOE, BLUETHROAT - the first recorded in Ireland - SHORT-TOED LARK, WOODLARK, BARRED WARBLER, SIBERIAN LESSER WHITETHROAT, SUBALPINE WARBLER and ROSE-COLOURED STARLING. Some "Northern" Chiffchaffs were again recorded.

The most spectacular rush of any particular bird was that of BLACKBIRDS on November 15th. There had been a smaller rush of the same species on the 8th.

GANNET Sula bassana. Movements were rather difficult to disentangle. There is always a possibility that they are feeding movements rather than migration, but there was suspected migration about September 16th. Numbers rose from 50 on 26th to the unusual total of 160 next day. There was a noticeable peak on Nov. 9th (50) in a period when up to 5 were being recorded daily.

HARRIER Circus sp. ♀ or imm. bird on November 15th. SPARROW HAWKS Accipiter nisus and KESTRELS Falco tinnunculus were recorded on many days in numbers rarely reaching 3.

MERLIN Falco columbarius. Seldom seen until end of September; from then until November 21st 2, sometimes 3, on most days. A young ♂ trapped on September 28th had a wing-measurement of 198 mm. and is therefore referable to the Scandinavian race F. c. aesalon.

WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus. As usual in autumn but on November 16th at least 6 and on 19th 8. One with wing-measurement 114 mm. was trapped on November 16th and weighed only 97.48 gm. Unfortunately no skins were at hand for comparison.

CORNCRAKE Crex crex. Singly, September 23rd and October 3rd.

OYSTER-CATCHER Haematopus ostralegus. Peaks on August 24th (16), September 7th (14) and 22nd (15) and October 8th (18). Otherwise daily, usually less than 6.

LAPWING Vanellus vanellus. Very small numbers except on November 1st and 8th (20 per day) and 17th (17).

TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres. Over 30 on many days. Peaks on August 24th (64), 29th (79), September 2nd (70), 13th, 19th-20th (about 50 each day), and on November 1st (60).

SNIPES Capella gallinago. One or two irregularly in September/October. An increase from November 7th (3) to a peak on 12th (37) and 13th (34). Two only next day, but 20 on 15th-16th. Numbers fell gradually to one on 20th. 4 on November 21st.

WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola. Singly on November 8th, 14th, 17th and 18th.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus. One to 5 almost daily from August 21st to September 17th; 15 on August 31st, singly October 1st and 6th and November 20th.

COMMON SANDPIPER Tringa hypoleucos. Usually 1 on many days up to September 17th.

REDSHANK Tringa totanus. A sudden increase on November 9th (18) followed by a slow decrease.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia. One, November 14th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER Calidris maritima. Two on Sept. 23rd; 2 on November 2nd, 3 on 7th, one on 13th and 4 on 21st. Far fewer than in November 1953.

GREAT SKUA Catharacta skua. Two on September 29th and 30th.

POMARINE SKUA Stercorarius pomarinus. One on September 30th and two immature birds on August 31st. Also a skua of uncertain species on October 6th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus. Passage of L.f.graellsii was noted from the last week of August with a peak on September 3rd (23) when adults were seen flying purposefully SW. during the forenoon. No movement between Sept. 9th-23rd; last bird seen on Oct. 6th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus. The normal irregular appearance in very small numbers was exceeded on September 29th (20) and October 6th (12).

TERNS Sterna sp. Large-scale movement towards the south on August 26th when a succession of flocks went past from 1030 to 1330 hrs. and again from 1445 to 1500 hrs. The majority were COMMON / ARCTIC but SANDWICH S. sandvicensis and ROSEATE S. dougallii were identified.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur. Singly, August 27th, September 4th-5th and from 23rd to 26th.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus. One on August 23rd and one on September 24th.

HOOPOE Upupa epops. One on September 23rd.

WOODLARK Lullula arborea. One satisfactorily identified on November 4th by J.W.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis. First evidence of any migration was on September 22nd (8) and there was a peak on 27th (50). Numbers were negligible until October 5th (25) and 6th (150), and on 7th-8th there were 25 each day. The main movement would normally have taken place during the period when the Observatory was closed. After Nov. 1st (24) numbers were insignificant except on 15th (20).

HIRUNDINES. The pattern was similar to that of other autumn seasons, though numbers were smaller.

CARRION CROW Corvus c. corone. Two on September 12th, 13th and 16th.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus. Two on Sept. 18th and one on 22nd.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris. On most November days in numbers up to 10.

SONG THRUSH Turdus ericetorum. One or two irregularly in September; 5 on October 5th and 7th. In November daily except on 5th-6th, usually less than 10 but so many on 1st, 3rd, 18th and 21st (11). All those trapped were compared with skins: one on November 1st and one on 16th were intermediate between T.e. ericetorum and

T.e. philomelos, whilst one examined on 1st and single birds on 14th and 18th were clearly the nominate race.

REDWING Turdus musicus. Small numbers irregularly in November: peak dates were 2nd (45), 8th (50), 18th (20). Four trapped were the nominate race.

RING OUSEL Turdus torquatus. A ♂ and 2 ♀♀ on September 6th and a ♀ on November 3rd.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula. Numbers fluctuated from the end of August but only exceeded 20 on any one day on September 14th (25). On September 28th 30 were recorded and there were 30 on October 5th. In November a peak on 8th (100) was surpassed by an all-time "high" on November 15th (300), after which numbers dwindled.

WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe. On all but 3 days from August 21st to September 27th, in numbers from 1 to 10. Peak on September 4th (16); last seen Oct. 3rd.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra. Singly, August 22nd and September 18th. Passage of one to 3 on several days from Sept. 23rd-28th. Two on October 8th.

REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus. Singly, Aug. 28th and 31st. Nine birds on September 24th is the most so far recorded on the isle. Two daily, September 25th-26th and on October 8th.

BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochrurus. One only, on November 15th.

BLUETHROAT Luscinia svecica. One was identified on September 27th by G.W. Rayner, who knows the species well; it was also seen by B.G. Tummore. A view was had of the upper parts only, but the distinctive red basal patches on the tail were seen and size, colour and its skulking habits were also noted.

ROBIN Erithacus rubecula. Almost daily up to September 28th in numbers under 10. Ten were noted on November 2nd-3rd and 18th. On other days the 2 or 3 seen were probably wintering birds.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaemus. Up to 6 almost daily between August 21st and September 4th. Singly on September 18th and 24th.

BARRED WARBLER Sylvia nisoria. One was trapped on August 31st.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin. Singly, September 1st and October 3rd.

WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis. 12 on September 21st, otherwise a thin passage from August 21st to early October.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca. The second primary of one trapped on November 15th was 1 mm. less than the 6th primary, so that the bird was referable to the Siberian race S. c. blythi. It is the first of this form to be recorded in Ireland.

SUBALPINE WARBLER Sylvia cantillans. One was trapped on September 10th. The 1st primary was slightly shorter than the longest primary covert. A full laboratory description is recorded. The bird was a 1st-winter ♀. The weight, 9.45 gm. is interesting to compare with that of a 1st-winter ♀ trapped at Skokholm on October 1st 1953, which weighed 9.7 gm. Fair Isle weights of ad. ♂♂ trapped in spring 1951 are given as 9.28 and 10.11 gm.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus. A trickle of from one to 3 birds daily from August 21st to September 10th. None until 23rd, then 8 on 24th and one to 4 daily until October 3rd.

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita. In strong contrast to last autumn numbers were small and irregular, mostly single birds, from end of August to September 22nd (3). There were stragglers on November 1st, 8th and 19th. Single birds of the "Northern" type were trapped or satisfactorily identified on November 7th, 14th and 16th, with a different bird on 17th; they were all silent and no call-note was heard.

GOLDCREST Regulus regulus. Thin and irregular passage from late August to early October and in November. Maximum on November 14th (6).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata. Very thin passage August 21st to September 12th and September 23rd to 26th. One on October 3rd.

PIED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa hypoleuca. Between September 23rd and 27th, with maximum on 24th (5).

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis. The first indication of migration was on September 1st. On 6th, 10th, 17th and 22nd there was some movement and thereafter it became regular. There was a peak on 27th (300) and 80 on October 5th increased to well over 1,000 next day, but fell to 150 on 7th. There was a small movement on November 2nd and a still smaller one on 15th.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis. Singly on August 22nd and 26th, September 4th and 13th.

ROCK PIPIT Anthus spinoletta. It is still too early to draw conclusions from the results of special study by means of colour-rings.

ALBA WAGTAILS. Passage on many days in September and October; maxima, September 1st (20), 18th (22). The majority were probably WHITE WAGTAILS M.a. alba as such were identified on many days. PIED WAGTAILS yarrellii were satisfactorily identified on September 1st, 11th (3), 15th and October 6th (3).

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea. One or two in September and early October, but 5 on September 4th.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava. Passage from September 3rd to 28th (1 to 3 daily), but 20 on 24th. Single bird on October 2nd. Flava wagtails were also noted singly on August 23rd, September 29th, October 3rd, and 2 on September 1st.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. The November pattern was much as in former years except that daily numbers were smaller. Maximum, Nov. 15th (4,500) and a lesser peak on 6th (1,500). This year numbers roosting did not exceed 200 whereas last year the maximum was ca. 2,000.

ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR *Sturnus roseus*. An adult bird from September 25th to 28th.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. Six on November 8th and 15th; 4 on 7th; otherwise one or two on seven days from November 1st to 21st.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. Irregularly from November 3rd (1) to 19th (3), with a peak on 16th-17th (16) dropping to 4 on 18th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. Movement at the end of September, maximum 29th (30) followed by October 6th (80) and 8th (40). The picture is distorted by lack of further October records. There were 50 on November 1st and 10 on 2nd, single birds 7th and 14th and 18 on 15th.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. A ♀ on October 8th. November peaks were on 2nd (50), 6th-7th (150 each day), 13th (80) and 15th (100). On November 6th a very heavy south to north movement, involving several hundreds, was in evidence from mid-day at Kilmore Quay, most being ♂♂.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. Passage on 7 days between November 10th (12) and 21st (7). Maximum on 15th (20) and from one to 3 on other days.

Trapping and Ringing.

The total trapped and ringed in the year was 1,003 (47 species), a marked increase on the 1953 figure. The best were 359 WILLOW WARBLERS and 159 BLACKBIRDS.

Acknowledgements.

Our deepest thanks are again due to Dr. James M. Harrison for the loan of Chaffinch skins, invaluable in our study of the birds migrating through Great Saltee.

88. Autumn Migration (1954) at Portland Bill.

JOHN S. ASH.

The temporary Bird Observatory at Portland Bill, Dorset, was manned continuously from September 6th to November 7th by a series of observers. A preliminary survey was made on August 28th; traps were erected on September 4th and 5th, and dismantled on November 7th. A few notes from outside this period are included in the report.

Relatively fewer birds were trapped than in past years, - 233 birds of 30 species. The notes in the classified list below are presented in an abbreviated form, as it is hoped to publish them separately in a more detailed report, where full acknowledgement will be made to the many observers concerned. Notes on a few of the more unusual species will appear in British Birds in due course. Records from the observatory for the past three years will be found in the Dorset Ornithological Reports.

Plans to form a permanent Bird Observatory are going ahead, and enquiries about this and the proposed Report should be made to John S. Ash, Game Research Station, Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hants.

In the following list the phrase "left Bill" refers to birds seen flying out over the sea from the southernmost point of Portland Bill.

Systematic List.

MANX SHEARWATER. Seen on two days, September 17th (one) and October 5th (3).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER. Seen on 4 days only in 1954 (see Brit. Birds, 47: 285-296 for 1953 records) these being October 9th (3), 10th (1), 16th (5), and

18th (4), all later than the latest date last year.

GANNET. Largest numbers occurred October 4th (14), 5th (120) and 24th (101).

COMMON SCOTER. Most flew west. Peaks on Sept. 19th (40), October 10th (49) and 27th (42).

EIDER. Two immature drakes on September 23rd.

SPARROW HAWK. Recorded singly on 14 days during the period, except 2 on October 8th. One arrived from SE. on October 25th and continued to west over the sea.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER. One was seen several times during August.

MERLIN. One or two on 30 days from September 16th. Three on October 21st, 23rd and 26th. A dozen birds left the Bill between October 2nd and 26th.

KESTREL. Single birds left the Bill on September 12th and October 19th.

CORNCRAKE. Singly on September 5th, 12th, 18th and October 18th.

GOLDEN PLOVER. Singly on 7 days, and leaving the Bill on October 6th and 7th.

SNIPE. One on September 27th.

WHIMBREL. Singly on September 21st and 22nd.

GREENSHANK. Three on September 24th, of which two apparently left the Bill.

ARCTIC SKUA. Probably all skuas seen, except a probable Great, were this species. One to 3 on 15 days to October 9th; then 2 to 8 on 13 days to October 25th, except on 16th (16) and 18th (15). Until October 14th pale to dark birds occurred in the ratio of 5: 26, and afterwards 20: 55. Most flew west.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. Recorded on 13 days until October 19th, maximum 7 on September 8th. Larus f. fuscus, all flying west, were recorded on 8 days in the period October 4th-30th, with a peak of 8 on 10th.

COMMON GULL. On 10 days only, maximum 4 on September 15th, 16th and October 10th.

LITTLE GULL. 17 immature birds (14 flying W.) on 8 days between October 21st-31st. An adult was at the Bill in spring on May 27th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. Mostly after October 7th, flying west, with a peak of 70 on 9th.

KITTIWAKE. Large westerly movements on some days, with peaks on October 9th (512) and 18th (318).

COMMON / ARCTIC TERNS. Largest numbers Sept. 16th (90), October 1st (48), 19th (38), 21st (40), 30th (30), November 1st (5) and as late as 6th (3).

LITTLE TERN. Seen on 3 days, September 12th (one), 16th (3) and October 5th (one).

SANDWICH TERN. Maximum 17 on October 21st; the last were 4 on 24th.

AUKS. Most flew west. Over a hundred on 3 days, - October 18th (121), 23rd (202) and 24th (160). Of those identified the majority of Guillemots occurred between Oct. 4th-18th and Razorbills between 21st-31st.

TURTLE DOVE. Very few compared with last year. Single birds, September 5th to October 9th, with 4 on September 5th and 19th.

SHORT-EARED OWL. Singly on 8 days between September 30th and October 14th, except 6th (2). Two on November 7th.

NIGHTJAR. A ♀ on September 29th.

SWIFT. One on September 14th.

HOOPOE. One on October 10th.

WRYNECK. One on August 28th.

WOODLARK. Two on October 7th.

SKYLARK. Definite migration occurred from Oct. 3rd onwards. Peak numbers November 6th (100+). The largest number left the Bill on October 30th.

SWALLOW. Peaks on September 19th (1,000+) and October 7th (about 1,000).

HOUSE MARTIN. Peak on September 19th (250).

SAND MARTIN. On 14 days to September 27th, with a maximum of 6 on 19th. Then on October 8th (41).

GOLDEN ORIOLE. An adult ♂, which had been dead about a week, was found on May 5th.

ROOK. Few definite migrants, all on or after October 3rd, when a flock of 80 occurred.

JACKDAW. 31 from a flock of 73 which arrived at the Bill, rose to a great height and left due south on October 7th.

GREAT TIT. Recorded on 24 days. First, 3 on October 2nd, flying off high to north at 0900 hrs; then 2 on 16th, and daily until November 7th, with peaks on 17th and 18th (15) and 23rd (17). Influxes of this and the next species occurred on October 17th, 23rd, 28th, November 1st and 6th. Those trapped, and one other found dead at the Lighthouse, agreed with The Handbook of Brit. Birds description of the Continental race Parus m. major. On October 17th the first birds, a party of 25 Blue Tits, were seen just outside the Bird Observatory area, flying north low over the fields at 1200 hrs. At the Observatory at 1220 hrs. a party of 35 Blue and 15 Great Tits suddenly appeared in the bramble bushes, where none had been seen earlier in the day. The influx on 23rd also occurred at mid-day, and other records at the Lighthouse or on the rocks are suggestive of new arrivals. The first arrivals spent their time almost exclusively in root fields.

Bill at nostrils in mm.

Date.	Wing.	Sex.	Weight.	Time.	Width.	Depth.	Length.
Oct. 19	78	-	17.70	0830	4.25	4.50	11.0
20	75	♀			4.25	4.50	-
22	73	♂	16.05	1645	4.50	4.50	-
23	74	-	17.00	1410	4.50	-	11.5

Average weight of 236 birds weighed inland is 18.87 gm.

BLUE TIT. Recorded on 47 days. First, one on September 12th; maximum, prior to the "invasion", six. In October there were 15 each day 17th-18th and ten on 19th, with another wave of 17 on 23rd followed by 13 on 24th and 7 next day; there were 7 again on 28th. Only one of 14 examined, a bird on September 27th, could be definitely ascribed to the Continental race Parus c. caeruleus. Occasional birds were noted at the Light-house. The average weight of the birds trapped was 10.40 gm., compared with 11.02 gm. average of 320 weighed at an inland locality.

COAL TIT. Single birds on five days. All, with exception of the first, occurred with influxes of Great and Blue Tits, - October 11th, 17th and 23rd, November 1st and 2nd, - and all, except the first, were remarkably fearless of man.

WREN. First on September 12th (one); peaks on October 7th (28), 25th (18) and November 6th (18).

SONG THRUSH. Minor influxes only on October 8th, 10th and November 2nd. A bird ringed as Turdus ericetorum philomelos on October 6th 1953 was retrapped in the same trap on October 3rd 1954.

REDWING. One or two only on 8 days from October 8th. Single ~~FIELDFARES~~ on November 2nd and 5th, ~~MISTLE THRUSHES~~ on September 17th and October 13th, RING OUSELS on October 10th, 20th and 23rd.

BLACKBIRD. No measurable influx until October 8th, and peak of 150 on 10th. Most birds apparently arrive from the east, often until mid-day.

WHEATEAR. 30 or more on 8 days until September 19th (50 on 7th); up to 6, Sept. 26th to October 14th; then occasional till 30th. Greenland Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa were handled September 18th (4), 19th (one), and 25th (one).

PIED WHEATEAR Oenanthe leucomela. A ♀, almost certainly 1st-winter, discovered at 1700 hrs on October 17th, was trapped and ringed on the following day.

STONECHAT. Fewer than in 1953. Largest numbers were 8 on September 18th and 20th and October 8th, and there were 14 on September 19th.

WHINCHAT. Maximum of 8 on August 28th; thereafter from one to 3 until October 6th.

REDSTART. Singly, September 14th, 15th and 19th.

BLACK REDSTART. Few. Two on October 18th and singly next day and on November 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th.

BLUETHROAT. One in roots on October 6th.

ROBIN. There was one probable Continental bird Erithacus r. rubecula on October 9th.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER. Singly, September 5th, 8th and 14th and 2 on 18th.

SEDGE WARBLER. Singly on September 5th, 7th, 14th, 18th, 19th and 20th.

MELODIOUS WARBLER. Hippolais polyglotta. One was trapped on September 4th and a "possible" seen on 19th.

BLACKCAP. ♂ and ♀ on October 7th, and a ♂ at the Lighthouse on October 20th/21st.

GARDEN WARBLER. Singly, August 28th, September 14th, October 2nd, 4th and 8th.

COMMON WHITETHROAT. Maxima in September on 4th and 5th (20) and 19th (14). Singly on October 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 9th. One LESSER WHITETHROAT on August 28th.

WILLOW WARBLER and CHIFFCHAFF. Maxima September 4th (10), 19th (6), October 7th (5) and 8th (7). Willow Warbler only once identified, on September 8th. Several of the Chiffchaffs seen in the first ten days of October were probably "Northern" birds.

GOLDCREST. Singly on October 3rd, 4th, 17th and 30th, and November 2nd, with 2 the previous day. Three on October 9th, 6 on 7th and 8th and 7 on 10th. Those handled agreed with descriptions of the British race Regulus r. anglorum, although birds were seen arriving from the sea on some days.

FLYCATCHERS. Spotted on September 9th. Pied were seen on four days, August 28th (6), September 4th and 25th and October 2nd (single birds). There was a single **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** Muscicapa parva on October 13th and 14th.

MEADOW PIPIT. Peaks on September 19th (1,500) and October 3rd (1,300). On the latter date 1,203 left the Bill in 105 minutes.

TREE PIPIT. Seen on 8 days until September 23rd. 76 left the Bill in 70 minutes on September 7th.

ALBA WAGTAILS. Peak on October 7th (331) when 235 left the Bill in 150 minutes. White Wagtails M.a. alba occurred on 11 days between September 18th and October 7th with peaks on Sept. 18th (10) and Oct. 4th.

GREY WAGTAIL. On 16 days until October 11th. Peak on September 18th (12) when 10 left the Bill in 125 minutes.

FLAVA WAGTAILS. At least 100 on September 4th, 7th, 12th and 13th. Peak numbers (63 in 70 minutes) left the Bill on September 7th.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE. An adult ♂ was in roots on September 19th.

STARLING. Definite migration on and after Oct. 3rd. The peak occurred on 25th when 104 left the Bill in 95 minutes.

HAWFINCH. Adult ♀ at Lighthouse, November 3rd/4th, weighing 59.4 gm.

GREENFINCH. Definite migrants occurred from October 7th to November 6th with a peak on Nov. 1st.

GOLDFINCH. Up to 10 until Sept. 27th, when there were 25. Then over 100 on 10 days with a peak on Oct. 20th (491). Peaks of birds leaving the Bill occurred on Oct. 8th (48 in 45 minutes) and 20th (118 in 120 minutes). On Nov. 4th 87 left in 105 minutes.

LINNET. Peaks on Oct. 8th (1,100) and 20th (2,000). 954 left the Bill in 120 minutes on 20th.

REDPOLL. One on October 6th and 3 on 11th, all in flight.

CHAFFINCH. None until October 3rd. Peak on November 7th (60), when most birds were arriving from the sea and passing on northwards. 22 birds left the Bill in 95 minutes on October 26th.

BRAMBLING. One or 2 on 10 days between Oct. 10th and November 7th, with 4 on 2nd.

YELLOW-HAMMER. Recorded on 5 days, September 4th and October 3rd (singly), 7th (4 left the Bill), 9th (one left the Bill), and 11th (2).

GIRL BUNTING. A ♀ on November 6th which flew off to the north.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Work of the Observatory.—The purpose of the Bird Observatory is to provide facilities for visitors to carry out scientific research on the island, not only in the sphere of ornithology, but in every aspect of Natural History. Work will be mainly concentrated however on ornithology under the supervision of the Director.

The Hostel.—The Hostel has accommodation for ten observers. It is sited at the North Haven, the main landing-place, and consists of a group of well-constructed timber buildings formerly occupied by the Royal Navy.

Terms.—Full board, including service, is SEVEN GUINEAS PER HEAD PER WEEK. Reduced terms are available for parties of students from schools and universities. These terms include use of bicycles, bird-rings, and other Bird Observatory equipment, but do not include hire of motor transport or small boats whilst staying on the island.

Catering.—Breakfast is served at 9 a.m., lunch at 1 p.m., and supper at 6.30 p.m. Facilities for early morning and late evening refreshments are provided in the hostel sitting-room.

Applications.—Priority in bookings will be given to "Friends of Fair Isle," and to *bona fide* naturalists prepared to take part in the scientific investigations of the station under the leadership of the Director, and to help with such other duties as may be necessary from time to time in connection with the station or hostel. Anyone else wishing to visit the island will be made welcome, provided room is available. Those who are not keen ornithologists are asked to book for the summer months—June, July, and August—so that more accommodation will be available in the Spring and Autumn for students of bird migration. Application should be made as follows :—

(1) If made between 1st April and 31st October.

To the Director, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, by Lerwick, Shetland. Telegraphic address: "Migrant, Fairisle."
Telephone: Fair Isle 8.

(2) If made between 1st November and 31st March.

To the Director, Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, 17 India Street, Edinburgh. Telephone: Edinburgh CENTral 4532.

Prospectus.—Giving details of transport to and from Fair Isle, and other information, will be sent on application.

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FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

