

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT

1964



ROY H. DENNIS

Warden

PRICE 5/-

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

Trustees

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Chairman—*Sir Arthur B. Duncan.

Hon. Secretary—*Mr George Waterston, 21 Regent Terr., Edinburgh, 7.

Hon. Treasurer—*Mr Ian R. Pitman, 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2.

*denotes Member of Executive Committee.

Warden—Mr Roy H. Dennis, The Bird Observatory, Fair Isle, Shetland.
(Tel. Fair Isle 8).

Solicitors—J. & F. Anderson, W.S., 48 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Auditors Lindsay, Jamieson and Haldane, C.A., 24 St Andrew Square,
Edinburgh.

Bankers—The Bank of Scotland, 64 George Street, Edinburgh, 2.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — *Friend of Fair Isle* — ONE GUINEA.

Please support by Donation or Legacy—

THE FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY ENDOWMENT FUND.

With the generous help of the Pilgrim Trust, the Observatory Trustees have established an Endowment Fund for Ornithology and Bird Preservation in Scotland. The objects are—To establish the Fair Isle Bird Observatory on a permanent financial basis; to extend Fair Isle research methods to other stations in Scotland; and finally to develop Bird Sanctuaries and Bird Protection in general.

Capital subscribed to the Fund will be held as a permanent Endowment by the Trustees and cannot be spent. Income from the Fund will be carefully used by the Bird Observatory Executive Committee in keeping with the above objects.

Please write to the Hon. Secretary for particulars.

GEORGE WATERSTON,
Hon. Secretary.

21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, 7.

*FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST***Annual Report for 1964****FOREWORD**

EVERY year Fair Isle, as elsewhere, has its own distinctive flavour differing from its predecessors and its successors both in its successes and failures, its joys and its sorrows.

The saddest blow that has befallen us this year is that next season we will be without Miss Pat Adams, who has been for a long while now such a tower of strength at the hostel. We all wish her a speedy and complete recovery and hope that she will soon be able to return to the Observatory.

Ornithologically what strikes me as the most remarkable accomplishment is the nesting of so many Storm Petrels, a bird that was not believed till very recently to inhabit Fair Isle in any considerable numbers. This highlights once again how much is still to be learned in the most assiduously studied areas.

The running of the Trust's affairs has never been easy and although we have over the years succeeded in keeping going, the measure of support has never been really commensurate with the Observatory's remarkable position and I would once more appeal to all who read this report to continue their support, and try to gain at least one new supporter this year.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,

Chairman.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST TREASURER'S REPORT

There is very little to comment on in the Trust Accounts this year but I would point out that the comparative figures shown are not for a full year, but for the ten months to October, 1963. You will remember that we altered the Trust accounting year at that time so as to enable us to get the accounts prepared in time for the usual January meeting of the Trustees.

I. Hostel Account. Shows a profit for the year of £209 against £250 the previous year. This is extremely satisfactory when you look at the considerable, but very necessary, rise in the wages figure. Roy and Marina Dennis have done a first class job and you will see from the Revenue account that without their help in the hostel we would have shown a loss this year.

II. Trust Revenue Account. We have tried to keep expenses down to a minimum, but you will see that even so the small profit of £118 would have been a loss without the Hostel. This is for one reason and one reason only, that subscriptions are gradually falling away. I would, therefore, like to endorse fully the remarks of the Chairman in the last paragraph of his foreword.

III. Balance Sheet. No appreciable change and little to comment on except to point out that the balance of £775 shown as due to Messrs J. & F. Anderson at the date of the audit was in fact more than covered by the figures of cash in Bank and in hand, of £864, on the assets side of the Balance Sheet. A proportion of the cash in bank was transferred shortly after the audit.

The holding of 3% Savings Bonds remains as a buffer against a possible disastrous season.

IV. Endowment Fund. Remains the same, with the property in at cost. At the risk of becoming a bore I must continue to point out the importance of the Endowment Fund if our work, which I consider of importance, is to carry on. There will always, I hope, be a number of individual subscribers, but the downward drift in subscriptions has continued and probably will continue. We have cut expenditure to the limit and the only answer would appear to be legacies or donations to the Endowment Fund which would increase sufficiently for investment income to cover expenses. Please do anything that you can to help. And remember that the Endowment Fund is a permanent fund held by Trustees, the income of which could be used for other ornithological purposes, in the event of Fair Isle Observatory having to shut down.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST

1.—Hostel Revenue Account

10 months to 1st Oct., 1963

£110	0	0	To Stores at 1st November, 1963	£122	0	0
725	12	0	To Foodstuffs, Supplies, etc. ...	728	13	5
19	6	0	To Telephone	34	2	11
185	18	0	To Wages and National Insurance	373	11	9
8	12	6	To Sundry Payments	35	17	3
62	15	0	To Insurance of Huts	62	15	0
169	10	4	To Fuel	154	19	6
87	2	0	To Repairs and Renewals	59	16	0
3	17	7	To Postages	8	6	11
250	6	8	To Profit for year	209	11	11
<hr/>				<hr/>		
£1623	0	1		£1789	14	8
<hr/>				<hr/>		

£1492	15	0	By Board and Booking Fees ...	£1629	9	0
8	5	1	By Miscellaneous	5	5	8
122	0	0	By Stores at 31st October 1964	155	0	0
<hr/>				<hr/>		
£1623	0	1		£1789	14	8
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2.—Trust Revenue Account

10 months to 1st Oct., 1963

£516	5	9	To Wages and National Insurance	£581	5	4
4	12	5	To Rent and Insurance	8	19	1
14	6	2	To Interest Paid	32	14	8
320	2	0	To Travelling Expenses	121	18	3
40	6	0	To Bird Ringing Nets, etc. ...	37	13	0
134	8	6	To Printing, Stationery, etc. ...	125	18	1
25	19	11	To Freight	24	8	6
57	7	0	To Removal Expenses	0	0	0
1	0	0	To Subscriptions Paid	1	0	0
83	6	6	To Expenses of Administration	84	1	8
55	19	7	To Profit for Year	118	10	3
<hr/>				<hr/>		
£1253	13	10		£1136	8	10
<hr/>				<hr/>		

£539	12	6	By Subscriptions etc.	£461	16	2
310	0	0	By Income Tax Recovered ...	310	8	11
11	16	0	By Interest on Savings Bonds ...	11	16	0
141	18	8	By Income from Endowment Fund	142	15	10
250	6	8	By Profit on Hostel Account ...	209	11	11
<hr/>				<hr/>		
£1253	13	10		£1136	8	10
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Balance Sheet as at 31st October, 1964

LIABILITIES

	1963			
		Capital Account:		
£1525	11 3	Balance per last Balance Sheet	£1581	10 10
55	19 7	Add: Profit for year	118	10 3
£1581	10 10		£1700	1 1
341	14 4	Balance Due to		
			Messrs J. F. Anderson, W.S.	775 17 5
£1923	5 2		£2475	18 6

ASSETS

£371	1 3	Buildings, Traps etc. written down	£371	1 3
316	0 0	Furniture, Furnishings etc. at Fair		
		Isle as written down ...	316	0 0
150	0 0	Scientific Equipment as written down	150	0 0
619	1 3	Investment—£642 3% Savings		
		Bonds 1960-70 (Market Value as		
		at 31st October, 1964 £541)	619	1 3
		Consumable Stores:		
		Foodstuffs	£50	0 0
		Livestock	40	0 0
122	0 0	Fuel	65	0 0
			155 0 0	
		Cash in Bank:		
		Trust Account ...	£414	11 10
		Hostel Account ...	447	14 3
			£862 6 1	
345	2 8	Cash on hand ...	2	9 11
			864 16 0	
£1923	5 2		£2475	18 6

EDINBURGH, 13th January, 1965: Audited and found correct.

LINDSAY, JAMIESON & HALDANE, C.A.

Fair Isle Endowment Trust—Funds at 30th June, 1964

	Book Value	Value as at 31st Oct., 1964
£4300 3% Savings Bonds 1960-70	£3659 9 0	£3762 10 0
£140 Whitbread & Co. Ltd. "A"		
Ordinary Stock	313 11 0	476 0 0
	£3973 0 0	£4238 10 0

Heritable Property—21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh ...	3050 0 0	3050 0 0
Balance on Savings Account	48 8 0	48 8 0
Consisting of:		
Balance due to Revenue £50 19 10		
Less: Balance of Capital overpaid	2 11 10	
	<u>£48 8 0</u>	
		<u>£7071 8 0</u>
		<u>£7336 18 0</u>

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1964

ROY H. DENNIS

In 1964 the observatory was in operation from 11th March until 4th December. Between 1st April and mid-November 154 visitors stayed at the hostel for a total of 183 visitor weeks. We expected more visitors in the summer, but the Typhoid epidemic in Aberdeen and the poor weather in the north upset our calculations. We had very few foreign visitors in 1964.

Staff. My wife, Marina, was responsible for the running of the hostel, bookings, etc. Miss Pat Adams continued her excellent service in the hostel kitchen, assisted for a couple of months in the summer by Miss Urda Stelltner. Eddie Wiseman was my assistant for most of the year, proving himself a very good assistant, and it is good news to hear that he will be returning in 1965. I was fortunate to receive the help of temporary assistants in the early part of the year, Cliff Waller and Brian Edginton; Cliff helped me especially with the sea birds, common bird census and Storm Petrel ringing.

Island Events. At the beginning of January the new nurse and her husband, Mr & Mrs Leslie Patterson and their young son, Charles took up residence at the nurse's house. Mrs Angela Fergusson of Quoy gave birth to a daughter, Fiona at Lerwick in February, and a week later our daughter, Rona was born on the first of March. Mr Alex Stout of Taft, the skipper of the "Good Shepherd", was taken ill with meningitis in the early summer and spent several months in Aberdeen hospital; we were all very pleased to see him return fit and well in the autumn. Miss Maggie Wilson of the Haa Cottage was taken ill and died in Lerwick in July. On the 17th July we received three new islanders, Mrs Jackie Wilson took up residence at the Houll croft and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr & Mrs Stewart Wilson, took over the shop from Alec and Margaret Stout, who moved to the re-built Barkland croft.

Mrs Wilson and her son are of island stock. In the autumn, the Fergussons at Quoy decided to leave Fair Isle and their departure reduced the crofting population to 48 (including 7 young people engaged in full time education away from the island), which is the same as 1963.

The islanders were very busy rebuilding the Barkland croft in the early part of the year and a start was made on modernising Setter in the autumn. Two boats fished for lobsters but had rather a lean time, because the Fair Isle waters had been heavily fished by large Orkney and Shetland lobster boats in the spring.

The National Trust cruise ship Meteor visited Fair Isle on the 29th May and her passengers had a fine day on the isle. In the morning, one party was shown over the observatory and given a demonstration of the observatory's work, while the others explored the cliffs. A sale of knitwear was held in the village hall and proved very popular. Our second cruise of the summer was on the 17th July, when the Orkney boat, Orcadia, arrived with several hundred visitors, who enjoyed a fine sunny day on the isle.

Workers from the International Voluntary Services returned to the isle and worked on the extensions to Barkland and Setter; during the latter part of the summer they completed the stockpile of concrete blocks and started to drain wet areas at Wirvie and Furse. They were again a great boon to the island's social life, and there were some very enjoyable football matches and dances.

The new alcathe water main was laid from the Gilsetter dam to North Haven and a new filter and reservoir was constructed above Maver's Geo. A B.B.C. Television team from the To-night programme visited the island in April and produced two films, one on the work of the Observatory and the other on the life of the isle. Several groups of news reporters visited us and a full scale two-week article on the Bancrofts appeared in the Woman's Mirror.

Acknowledgements. As in all previous years we are greatly indebted to the islanders for practical help, co-operation and tolerance, and this is gratefully acknowledged. We are especially indebted to Gordon Barnes for looking after the Observatory traps and keeping a full record of birds during our absence. We are very grateful to the Royal Scottish Museum for the loan of a collection of bird skins, and we are particularly grateful to Mr Ian Lyster for helping us with several problems of identification during the year. Dr Ian Pennie very kindly gave us a collection of useful bird skins.

Fieldwork. We continued the daily census of migrants, the trapping and ringing, the laboratory examinations, the training of bird watchers and ringers. In the summer we com-

pleted the dawn census of Wrens, the first time since 1959, finding that the population was the highest ever recorded. The census of common birds, an enquiry conducted by the B.T.O., was carried out in the crofting area for the second year. Special attention was paid to the Oystercatcher population, and both adults and young were ringed and colour banded in conjunction with the programme run by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. We started an investigation into the Storm Petrel on Fair Isle; during the summer we trapped and ringed 173 of them on the cliffs, which is nearly three times the grand total ringed in the last 16 years. We ringed, examined and weighed all of them. A preliminary study was also started on the Black Guillemot. Monthly reports on migration were submitted to Peter Davis for publication in the bi-annual review of migration in Bird Study. Michael Bacchus of the British Museum, who is working on the coleoptera of Shetland spent 10 days on the isle and collected many beetles.

Ornithology

184 species were recorded on the isle in 1964. New species for Fair Isle were Great Reed Warbler and Indigo Bunting; the Great Reed Warbler was found and netted at Sompal on the 8th June, there is only one previous record for Scotland. The Indigo Bunting was found on the 3rd August and was again seen on the 5th and 7th of August. Other rarities included; Leach's Petrel on the cliffs, a pair of Garganey, Canada Goose, Honey Buzzard, Temminck's Stint, Stone Curlew, 3 Short-toed Larks, 2 Black-eared Wheatears, Melodious Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, 4 Arctic Warblers, Yellow-headed Wagtail, Steppe Shrike, Siberian Stonechat, Goldfinch, Serin and 2 Rustic Buntings.

As can be seen, 1964 was a very good year for quality but poor for quantity; a complete contrast to 1963. In the Spring, we received very few of the common migrants, such as Blackbirds and Robins. Late May and June were very interesting and we received quite good arrivals of continental migrants. The wader and gull passage was quite strong in August, but the end of the month and the beginning of September were very dull, because of the fine weather. All the migrants were obviously flying direct to southern wintering areas without being upset by bad weather. We had several small falls of continental migrants in late September and early October, producing three Arctic Warblers and several other rarities. Mid-October was a very good period for birds of easterly origin, the best being a fine Steppe Shrike. The Blackbird passage at the end of the month was good and there were 2000

plus on the isle on the 30th October, of which we caught 145. November was very quiet and this autumn we saw none of the usual continental irruptive species such as Waxwing, Great-spotted Woodpecker and Bullfinch.

The summer was changeable, and generally wet and windy. Gales in late July and August affected the late sea birds, especially the Black Guillemots, quite severely. The most exciting aspect of the breeding season was the influx of Quail, between 12 and 15 birds were singing on one evening in June and several pairs probably attempted to breed. In September an old nest containing two eggs was found by Gordon Barnes as he was scything his corn at Taing. The Peregrines reared two young at Guidicum. Fuller details of the breeding season will appear in the next bulletin, No. 5.

Systematic List for 1964

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. One on 6th June, 3 on 15th September, singles on 7th, 9th and 24th October and 4th, 5th and 20th November, and 2 on 13th October.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. 3 on 16th May and singles on seven other May dates. One on 8th and 14th June, and 2 on 10th and 13th June. Singles on 27th July, 5th August and 9th September, and 2 on 27th August.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*. One in North Haven, 20th and 24th October.

LITTLE GREBE *Podiceps ruficollis*. One on Byerwell pool, 26th August; killed by Great Skuas in the afternoon.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One flying with Storm Petrels at Malcolm's Head on the night of 17th July. First record for Fair Isle cliffs.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. Seen at night on isle from 1st May; birds netted at night, during summer, at Millens Houllan, Wester Lother, Kirn of Skroo, Bunes and Malcolm's Head, the ley of Millens Houllan and Malcolm's Head being the most populated areas. 173 adults were ringed between June and September, and we controlled two birds ringed previously at Foula.

MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus*. Singles seen off Skadan on 13th April, 3rd and 30th August and 15th September. Very small numbers on crossing.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. 2 on the crossing on 11th August. One off isle on 19th, 3 on 23rd, at least one on 24th and 25th, one on 26th, 3 on 29th and one on 30th August. One on 2nd, 15th, 16th, 3 on 17th September, on on 18th October and one on 8th November; most of them seen off Skadan.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. Ashore in small numbers most

of January, February and March, large build-up on cliffs after 22nd March. Pre-egg-laying dispersal between 29th April and 16th May. A good breeding season. Numbers decreasing from 7th September, but more on cliffs after 16th October.

GANNET *Sula bassana*. Small numbers offshore throughout year, rather more in summer, with peaks of 100 on 3rd July and 26th August and 75 on 15th September.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Small passage in March, April and May, majority 9th to 21st April, daily maximum 4. Return passage from 6th August, main movements 25th to 30th August, maximum 32 on 25th. Small numbers in October and November.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. No change noted in breeding population, good breeding season, except for late young, many of which were drowned by July gales.

HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Singles on 11 days, January to March, but 4 on 25th March. 2 on 3rd and 4 on 17th April, singles on 5 days, April to June. Autumn passage from 15th July, main movements from 2nd August (5+) to 31st October, maxima 8 on 11th and 5 on 12th September, 6th and 18th October. Singles seven times in November.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. ♂ on 3 dates in January. Recorded on 32 days between March to June, never more than 3 birds per day. A ♂ summered. Autumn passage from 8th August, with main movements in October; maxima, 8 on 22nd August, and 23rd October and 9 on 17th November.

TEAL *Anas crecca*. Spring passage on 14 days in March, April and May, maximum 3 on 7th May. ♂ on 19th and ♀ on 29th-30th July. Autumn passage from 1st August to 20th October, mainly 29th August (6) to 27th September (5), with maximum of 8 on 19th September.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*. A pair on Gilsetter Marsh on 24th May; 3rd and 4th record for Fair Isle.

WIGEON *Anas penelope*. Only spring records; 4 on 16th, 3 on 25th and 27th, and a pair on 31st March, and 2 on 18th April. Autumn passage from 24th August to 7th November, mainly 8th to 29th September, peaks of 22 on 25th and 7 on 26th.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*. A ♀ from 9th to 12th August.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Single ducks on 8th-9th August and 16th September.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. Singles on 7 days in January 6 days in February, ♂ on 25th March and 8th-21st April. In autumn, 1 or 2 between 6th and 24th October, 3 on 17th and one from 18th to 22nd November.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. ♂ on 17th and another

- ♂ from 21st to 26th March. 2 to 3 on 5 days between 7th and 21st April. Autumn passage from 9th October to 27th November, mainly 13th to 31st October, peaks of 7 on 21st and 12 on 28th October.
- VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. ♂ on 22nd May. ♂ on 15th 1 on 17th September and a ♂ from 8th to 14th October.
- SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. A ♂ on 26th March, 2 on 3rd April and 6 on 1st June. In autumn, ♂ on 3rd October and ♀ on 30th November.
- EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Breeding population as 1963; first duck seen incubating on 25th May and first chicks seen on sea on 22nd June. High mortality of juveniles.
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. Very small numbers, maximum 4, between 27th February and 16th June. 2 on 11th and one on 31st August. Autumn passage from 19th September to 22nd November, maxima 3 on 29th September, 8th and 21st October.
- SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. 2 on 15th February, up to 4 from 3rd March to 10th April. Singles on 10th May and 10th July.
- GREYLAG *Anser anser*. Seen singly on 5 days between 6th and 29th May. Autumn passage from 10th October, peaks of 50 on 10th, 10 on 18th, ca 30 from 24th. This flock stayed on isle in decreasing numbers, ca 20 by 16th and 3 until 30th November.
- PINKFOOT *Anser arvensis*. One on 25th and 26th March. A young bird on 21st September, 3, with the Greylag flock from 10th to 16th and one on 27th November.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. Singles on 24th and 27th October.
- CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*. One from 3rd to 10th June.
- WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. Small passage from 13th March to 3rd May; maximum 14 on 19th and 20th April. In autumn, 5 on 29th September, 12 on 9th October, passage from 17th to 24th October, with maximum of 30 on 22nd.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. At least one from 20th to 30th May. A *buteo* spp. on 7th November.
- SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. One on 6th March, singles on 5 days in April and twice in May. In autumn, 2 on 4th and singles on 5th, 6th and 9th October.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One on the hill 1st and 2nd June.
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. ♀ on 3rd June at Wirvie.
- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. One at the Double Dyke and later at Restensgeo on 1st May.
- PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. A pair nested at Guidicum, where two young were ringed, and a lone ♀ spent the

summer on the Sheep Craig.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. A ♀ on 14th January. Singles on 6 days in February, 5 days in March, 5 days in April and twice in May, but 2 on 13th May and singly on 3 days in June. Autumn passage from 25th August to 27th November, with peaks of 5+ on 14th, 4+ on 21st and 8 on 30th September and 4 on 8th and 24th October.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. One on 24th and 25th March and 2 on 25th April. Small numbers, maximum 3, between 4th and 29th May. Singles on 15th and 29th June, and 21st and 22nd July. 2 on 5th August, singles from 6th to 12th August, passage of singles from 4th September to 13th October, but 2 on 2nd September and 10th October.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One on the 6th June, at North Haven heralded the largest arrival at Fair Isle since 1943. There was one on the 9th, 2 singing on the 10th, 4 on 11th, and probably between 12 and 15 singing on the 12th June. 5 was the maximum heard on one day after the 12th and the last one was seen on the 6th August. Birds were most often heard at Brows, Boini Mire, Stoneybreck and Taing. The only definite evidence of breeding was a deserted nest containing two eggs at Taing, found by Gordon Barnes when he was cutting his corn in September.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. Singles nine times between 12th January and 16th May. Singles on 30th September, eight times in October and three times in November, and 3 on 30th October.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. One from 21st April, and another from 26th April were both rather early. Singles on 7 days between 1st May and 8th June, and 3 on 4th and 2 on 11th May. None heard calling and did not nest. In autumn singles on 2nd and 5th August and 29th-30th October.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Singles on 3rd February, 20th and 26th March. 2 on 31st March and 4 on 1st April. Singles on 14 days between 2nd April and 13th May. Only autumn records, singles on 5th, 6th and 12th October.

COOT *Fulica atra*. Singles ringed on 14th and 22nd March, present until 1st April.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. One on 20th January. Spring arrival from 22nd February (1), 3 on 24th, 9 on 29th. February, increasing to 25 on 12th, 50 on 16th. 80+ on 23rd and up to breeding strength by 28th March. A good breeding season. Flocking in July, ca 30 on 12th. Numbers declining during July and August, 14 on 29th August, 8 on 15th and 2 on 23rd September, and one until 9th October.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Six singles records in January

and February. Passage and arrivals from 24th February, with peaks of 140+ on 4th, 100 on 20th, and 500+ on 25th March. Only two pairs nested in Gilsetter, rearing broods of three and two. Summer birds present until 15th August. Autumn passage from 1st September to 29th October, peaks of 25 on 11th September and 10 on 14th October. Singles on 12th, 20th and 21st November.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Arrival from 27th February. Two pairs nested on Bunes and pairs were observed at Vaasetter, probably nested, and Skadan/Meoness. Passage from 3rd July to 29th September, peaks 40+ on 27th, 29 on 29th August and 18 on 13th September. Singles on 2nd, 6th October and 4th and 30th November.

GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola*. One from 13th to 17th September and another, 12th to 15th October.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apricarius*. Small spring passage from 6th February to 26th May, peaks of 9 on 18th April and 6 on 9th May. Autumn passage from 4th July to 25th October, mainly 9th August to 6th October, peaks 33 on 17th August, 35 on 9th and 11th, 43 on 27th and 48 on 29th September.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. One on summit of Ward Hill, 9th to 15th September.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Small numbers, up to 10, wintered. Spring passage from 14th March to 6th June, maximum 25 on 14th March. Autumn passage from 16th July, peaks of 45 on 28th July, 39 on 29th August, 27 on 7th September, 80 on 22nd October, 50 on 14th, 60 on 20th and 73 on 28th November.

SNIFE *Capella gallinago*. Small numbers wintered, maximum 5. One or two pairs probably nested. Autumn passage from 29th August (8), peaks of 7 on 7th, 10 on 14th and 14 on 27th September, 20 on 14th October. Small numbers in late autumn.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. Singles on 20th March, 13th September and on 11 days between 2nd October and 24th November, but 2 on 9th November.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. One on 5th January. Small passage between 1st February and 13th May. Maximum 4+ on 25th March. Autumn passage from 14th October to 29th November; main movements, 50+ on 29th, ca 300 on 30th and 100 on 31st October, 25 on 4th, ca 200 on 19th, 140 on 20th and 35 on 21st November.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Spring passage from 22nd March, with peaks of 15 on 9th, 25 on 16th, 28 on 18th and 16 on 23rd April. Small numbers in May and June. Return passage from 23rd June, with peaks of 18 on 1st, 28 on 9th,

30 on 19th July, 26 on 8th and 12 on 31st August ; small numbers in September, October and November.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. One on 18th April. Main passage from 28th April to 12th June, peaks of 10 on 11th and 9 on 24th May. Autumn passage from 6th July, maximum 3 in July, singles on six days in August, 2 on 26th and 3 on 27th August and one on 14th September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. Singles in full breeding plumage on 18th, 21st and 23rd May.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. One on 18th April. Singles on 17th, 20th and 31st July. 25 flew south over the isle on 27th August. 1-2 from 4th to 14th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. Singles on 19th April, 21st May, 21st July and 9th August.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One on 20th-22nd May, one on 14th June and 1-2 from 9th to 15th August.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. 2 on 27th April. Spring passage from 4th to 30th May, peaks of 3 on 4th, 3+ on 14th and 4 on 20th. 3 on 19th July, small passage from 9th August to 11th September, peaks of 5 on 19th, 4 on 20th-21st and 24th August.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Small numbers wintered and up to 8 daily in Spring, smaller numbers in May and June. Autumn passage from 2nd July, first big arrival was 59 on 16th July ; peaks of 30 on 19th, 35 on 29th July, 26 on 9th and 22nd, and 33 on 29th August, 40 on 6th, 38 on 7th and 25 on 23rd September, and 35 on 14th October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. 2 on 8th, 10th and 11th August and singles on 9th, 15th, 16th, 26th, 27th and 31st August.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Singles on 16th April, 14th and 30th May, and 18th June. 1-2 from 7th to 25th August.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Small numbers from 16th July to 19th September ; peaks of 30 on 27th, 20 on 28th July and 7 on 9th August.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. A small flock, maximum 9, present January to 25th May. 2 on 28th July, were still in partial summer plumage. Small numbers from August to December, maximum 12.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One at Easter Lothar, 20th-23rd May. Singles on 26th August, 18th September, 3rd October and 6th-7th October.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. One at Easter Lothar, with a Little Stint, 21st-23rd May ; first record during Observatory's existence.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. One on 2nd January and 1-2 from

- 23rd to 28th March. Small passage from 2nd May to 4th June ; maximum, 9 on 14th and 16th May. Autumn passage from 10th July to 4th November, main movements, 19th July to 21st September ; peaks of 16 on 19th July, 22 on 9th and 21 on 10th August, and 10 on 16th September.
- SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. 2 on 21st May, singles on 19th, 20th, 26th May and 13th June. Small autumn passage from 18th July to 16th September, maxima 4 on 4 days in August.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. 2-3 from 9th to 11th, one on 18th and 10 on 26th August. Singles on eight days in September until 16th.
- STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*. One at Taft on 18th May, and at North Grind and Bull's Park on 19th May.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. First seen on 3rd April ; main arrivals on 10th and 17th April. About twenty pairs nested. Dispersal in mid and late August ; small numbers in September and last seen on 25th October.
- ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Two at sea on 6th April. First ashore on 16th and main arrival on 26th April. About 70 pairs nested, with good success. Dispersal during mid-August, last seen on 17th September ; but 2 offshore on 18th October.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One flew east over Skadan on 10th June.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. No change noted in breeding population ; had good fledging success, especially on Sheep Craig, where 27 young were ringed.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. One on 25th March, of the Scandinavian race. Arrival of local birds from 7th, mainly 18th and 29th April. Population decreased to the old total of ca 30 pairs. Last seen on 19th September.
- HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. No really large rough weather flocks this year, maximum ca 200. Breeding population high and probably still increasing.
- COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. 1-4 in January and February. Spring passage from 23rd March, peaks of 60 on 20th, 250 on 23rd and 120 on 24th April. Small numbers in May and June. Autumn passage in July, first big movement, 196 on 19th July. 600 on 9th and 450 on 26th August. Lesser numbers in September and October ; 200 on 11th September, 170 on 3rd, 150 on 12th October and up to 15 in November.
- GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. At least one on 13th and 14th April. Singles on 14th October, 20th, 26th and 28th November.
- ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. One following the plough at Taing on 14th April.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. Spring passage from 14th March to 18th June; peaks of 42 on 26th and 55 on 29th April. Small numbers during summer. Autumn passage from 15th July to 11th September; peaks of 25 on 19th July, 12 on 29th August and 11 on 8th September. 1-2 in October and November.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. First birds at cliffs on 4th March; ashore in numbers from 2nd April. Had very good breeding season, but numbers of immatures died in July and August. Small numbers offshore in autumn, but a strong passage of 100 per 15 minutes going east past Skadan on 23rd November.

COMMON AND ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo and macrura*. One on 26th May, small passage in June and return passage in July and August. 4 on 22nd and 1 on 28th September. Arctic Terns identified on seven occasions and Common Terns on three.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. Singles on 16th and 17th March. Singles on 26th and 30th November and 2nd December. Three dead on North Haven beach in this period, all oiled.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. Ashore from 1st March, main arrival from 7th April. A good breeding season. Last seen ashore on 4th August. Rather more than usual offshore in autumn.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Ashore from 1st March, main arrival from 10th April. A good breeding season. Last seen ashore on 3rd August. More than usual offshore in autumn, especially numerous in October and November, and many oiled at end of November.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*. No change noted in population, but many nests flooded by gales and high seas in July.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. First ashore on 10th April, main arrivals from 11th April. Numbers declined on Burrista and Tour o'da Ward Hill, but increased at other sites. Last seen ashore on 20th August.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*. One on 23rd March.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Wintering flock up to 11, maximum 13 in Spring. Maximum number after breeding season 24.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*. Small passage from 24th February to 1st July; maxima 13+ on 19th May and 9 on 11th June. Singles on 7 days in August, 4 in October and 1st November.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. Spring passage from 5th May to 24th June, mainly in May, maximum 7 on 25th. Small passage of 1-3 between 22nd August and 20th September. One on 15th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Singles on 9th, 19th,

- 22nd May, 1st, 11th, 16th June and 30th July.
- CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Spring passage from 4th to 26th May, 6 on 19th May. One on 12th June and a young bird on 9th July.
- LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Singles on 20th, 27th and 29th April. In autumn, singles on 19th, 20th, 26th October, 1st-4th November and 2 on 5th November.
- SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. Singles on eight days between 9th April and 22nd June. Small passage 1st October to 6th November, maxima 2 on 29th and 3 on 31st October.
- SWIFT *Apus apus*. First one on 19th May. Small numbers in May and June. Autumn movements, 10th-26th July, peaks of 30 on 17th and 21st; and 9th-16th August, maximum 16. 2+ on 6th and 1 on 9th, only September records.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. Singles on 25th May and 6th September.
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. Adult on 15th May at Taing; another adult at Springfield and Leogh, 18th-20th May, and a bird of the year at Taing, 9th-11th July. The last one was trapped and ringed; all were referable to one of the reddish southern races.
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. One on 20th and 21st April.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. ca 5 wintered. Arrivals from 27th February, heavy passage from 25th-27th March, with 300+ on first date. Successful breeding season. Small movements late September and October.
- SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. Spring passage from 15th April, main movements from 6th May to 19th June. Peaks of 20 on 11th and 13th May, and 6th and 10th June, but 80 on 19th May. Small numbers June to August. Autumn passage, 6th-30th September, maximum 8+ on 6th September. Singles on 4 days in October, last on 16th.
- HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage from 7th May to 27th June, peaks of 80 on 20th and 40 on 22nd-24th May, 50 on 6th and 75 on 8th June. 1-2 on 6 days in July and twice in August.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. One on 20th April, small passage from 6th to 29th May, maximum 3. Singles on 6th June and 18th August.
- RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Up to 8 noted in winter and 12 in March. A flock of 11 flew very high over the isle in a northerly direction on the 26th March, they appeared to be a migratory flock. Four pairs bred. Autumn flock up to 13.
- CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. One from 8th January to 8th March. 2 from 10th April to 30th April. Small movements up to 15 between 1st and 19th May and then, probably

original, 2 recorded during rest of year, but 3 in June and July. Did not nest.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*. Spring flock up to 13 and autumn flock up to 15. Usual breeding population; three chicks ringed at Duttfield.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. Small numbers between 26th February and 20th May, peak of 9 on 15th May.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. Small numbers, maximum 5, from 23rd March to 6th May. One from 2nd December.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Wren census completed this summer, and the population was the highest ever recorded at 51 or 52 singing males. One pair nested inside the Gully trap and reared young.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. 1-2 from 16th to 29th March. Singles on 22nd and 29th April. 2 on 30th and 1 on 31st October.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Unusually strong movements in January and February; 50+ to 150+ on most days, January and 1st-2nd February. Spring passage from 25th March (120) to 18th May, only other peak was 120 on 22nd April. Early migrant on 7th-10th August. Early passage from 2nd September, but small numbers until 16th October. Peaks of 400 on 17th, 26th, 800 on 29th, 2000 on 30th and 1000 on 31st October, 800 on 1st and 250 on 2nd November. Movements until 21st November. Few wintering.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. 2 on 27th February and 1st March. Passage from 12th March to 4th June, main movements 23rd-31st March. 1-2 from 11th to 24th June. Singles on 7th and 27th August and 14th September. Autumn passage from 23rd September to 6th November, peaks 20 on 16th and 30th October.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. 75 on 1st, 20+ on 2nd and 10+ on 3rd January. Singles on days in January and February. Spring passage from 21st March to 27th April; peaks of 30 on 30th March, 35+ on 18th and 19th April. Singles on 10th May and 14th September. Autumn passage from 29th September to 28th November; peaks of 400 on 6th, 500 on 11th and 14th, 600 on 16th, 750 on 30th and 500 on 31st October.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. Small numbers, maximum 5, 11th to 24th April. ♂ on 9th-10th May. Singles on 3 days, 10th-28th September and 6 on 11th September. 1-2 between 29th and 31st October and one on 9th November.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Small numbers, up to 7, wintered. Spring passage from 27th February, mainly from 21st March to 10th May; peaks of 300 on 25th and 350 on 27th March. Singles on three days until 10th June and one on 3rd August and 2nd September. Autumn passage from 26th September,

- mainly from 29th October to 6th November. Peaks of 1000+ on 29th, 2000+ on 30th, 1000 on 31st October, 800 on 1st and 300 on 2nd November.
- WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Early arrivals on 27th and 31st March, and 4th April. Passage from 9th April, main arrival on 19th-20th April. Breeding population slightly up on 1963. Passage in August and September, last recorded on 22nd October. Greenland birds were noted in late April, May and September, and a late one on 3rd October.
- BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR *Oenanthe hispanica*. An adult ♀ trapped at Huns Heilor on 19th May and a 1st winter ♀ found at North Grind, caught in Joint Schools trap, on 27th September. Both were referable to the western race, *hispanica*. 3rd and 4th record for Fair Isle.
- WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Small passage from 24th April to 27th May, maximum 4. Small autumn passage from 23rd August to 30th September, maxima 12 on 11th and 10 on 14th September. Singles on 10th and 13th October.
- STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. ♂♂ on 30th March, 22nd April and 19th May. An immature of the siberian race, *maura*, at South Harbour and Utra on 1st November.
- REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Small passage from 18th April to 30th May, maximum 3. One on 21st June. Very small autumn passage, only 2-3 between 9th and 11th August, and only 1-7 on half the days between 10th September and 5th November, except 12 on 3rd October.
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Surprising passage between 25th March and 21st May, maximum of 4 on 20th April and 7 trapped and ringed during Spring. One on 20th and 21st October.
- BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. A ♀ on 21st, 2 on 22nd and a ♂ on 30th May. One on 4th June. Only autumn records; ♂ from 3rd to 11th and a ♀ on 13th October.
- ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. 1-2 wintered. Passage from 11th March to 21st May, mainly from 26th to 31st March, only peak was 100 on 27th March. Singles on 15th and 19th September. Small autumn passage from 3rd October to 25th November, maxima 12 on 29th and 20 on 30th October. A very poor year for this species.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. Singles on 20th, 27th and 28th April and 2 on 21st April.
- GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One trapped at Sompal on 8th June, seen at Hjukni Geo on 9th and 11th June. First record for Fair Isle and second for Scotland.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Singles trapped on 18th June, 1st and 4th September.

- MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. 2 on 15th and 19th June, and singles on 16th and 17th June.
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Small passage from 7th to 25th May, peaks of 7 on 20th and 5 on 21st May. Singles on 5 days in June. One on 4th September.
- MELODIUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*. One trapped on 12th June, 2nd record for Fair Isle.
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. One trapped on 28th May.
- BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. Small passage 18th April to 22nd June. Return passage from 11th September to 18th November, peaks of 16 on 16th, 12 on 17th and 10 on 31st Oct.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. Singles on 12 days between 10th August and 10th October, and 2 on 3rd October.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Spring passage from 2nd May to 16th June, maximum 5 on 9th June. Scarce autumn movements from 5th August to 16th October; only recorded on half the days and maximum was 7 on 14th September.
- WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Spring passage from 22nd April to 18th June; maxima of 8 on 19th and 6 on 21st May. Singles on 19th and 21st July, 29th August, 5 days between 4th and 19th September and 8th-9th October.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. One on 21st April; small passage from 6th May to 24th June, maxima 4 on 19th and 29th May. Autumn passage from 5th September to 21st October, maximum 4+ on 1st October. Birds of the Siberian race *blythi* on 5th and 27th September.
- SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. Adult ♂ at the Haas on the 23rd April and trapped there on the 24th. This bird was referable to the eastern race, *albistriata*.
- WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. One on 25th April. Spring passage from 7th to 28th May; peaks of 5 on 20th and 8 on 21st May. One on 13th June. Autumn passage from 8th August to 3rd October; peaks of 10 on 11th and 4 on 12th September.
- CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Spring passage from 19th April to 21st May; peaks of 6 on 20th and 24th, and 7 on 25th April. Autumn passage from 12th September to 12th November, peaks of 4 on 17th and 5 on 31st October. Northern birds on late dates.
- ARCTIC WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. Adult from 14th to 19th August and 1st winter birds on 9th and 2 on 12th September. All four were trapped and ringed.
- YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. 3 at Easter Lothar on 3rd, one there on 4th and one trapped at Lower Leogh on 10th October.

- GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*. A rare migrant this year. Singles on 9th, 14th and 16th April. One on 15th and 16th September. Small numbers from 3rd October to 4th November; peaks of 40 on 3rd-4th, 12 on 8th and 16 on 13th October.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*. Spring passage from 18th May to 23rd June; peaks of 10 on 24th and 15 on 25th May. One on 23rd July. 1-3 on 7 days between 27th August and 22nd September.
- PIED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. 1-3 on 6 days between 19th May and 1st June. Autumn passage from 28th August to 17th October; peaks of 24 on 11th and 10 on 13th September.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa parva*. Singles on 28th September, 3rd and 17th October.
- HEDGE SPARROW** *Prunella modularis*. Spring passage from 22nd March to 8th May; maxima 20 on 26th and 15 on 27th March. Some, which lingered, were heard singing at the Gully and Setter but they did not stay to breed. Singles on 4 days in May, 3 days in June and twice in July and one on 14th August. Autumn passage of 2 on 18th, 3 on 19th-20th, and singles on 25th-26th October and 1st November.
- MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*. One on 26th January and twice in early February. Present in small numbers from 26th February, passage from 12th March with peak of 60+ on 30th March. Breeding population higher than 1963. Small passage August to November, last one on 26th November.
- RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One at Field and Taing on 21st May. Singles on 12th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 24th and 30th September, 3rd, 17th, 18th, 24th and 30th October, 2 together on 19th and 20th October.
- TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*. Passage from 3rd to 30th May, 1-5 daily except 20 on 19th. 4 on 11th and 2 on 12th singles on 13th and 26th September, 3rd and 17th-19th October.
- ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*. No change in breeding population.
- WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*. Spring passage from 26th March to 29th June, mainly from 19th April to 21st May; peaks of 13 on 15th and 12 on 19th May. One or two present in July, but none bred. Autumn passage from 14th August to 29th September; peaks of 13 on 14th, 20-40 on 22nd-30th, and 50 on 27th August and 17 on 6th September.
- PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. Small spring passage from 18th March to 3rd April, maximum 4 on 28th March. ♂ present from April to August, usually near Wirvie, pos-

- sibly same bird, end August and September. One on 8th October.
- GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. Singles on 10th-11th April and 8th June.
- YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. One at Skadan on 19th September.
- YELLOW WAGTAILS *Motacilla flava*. ♂♂ of the British race, *flavissima*, on 20th-26th April, 17th, 19th and 30th May. Singles "flavas" on 20th, 26th and 27th May. 3 Blue-headed Wagtails, *M.f. flava*, on 16th and 17th September and the ♂ present until 15th September.
- WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. One on 12th and 13th January.
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. One on 26th April, 2 on 3rd, singles on 4th, 5th, 10th, 29th, 30th and 31st October.
- STEPPE SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor pallidirostris*. One trapped at Taing on 18th October; the second record for Britain and Fair Isle. This bird was probably present on the 17th.
- RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. Small passage between 25th May and 12th June; singles recorded on half these days, 2 on 26th and 4 on 30th May.
- STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Passage at end of February and March and 20th-23rd April. Good breeding season, population as 1963. Autumn passage from 13th October, with peaks of 300, 200 and 600 on 29th, 30th and 31st October.
- HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. One on 22nd March and another on 25th May.
- GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. A pair in Vaadel on 30th April and 1 on 21st June.
- GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*. One feeding on the thistles at North Haven from 21st to 25th November; netted at Observatory on 21st. Second record for Fair Isle.
- SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. 1 on 18th and 2 on 19th April; singles on 7th and 25th and 2 on 27th May. Small autumn passage from 26th September to 29th October, maxima 5 on 3 days and 4 on 2 days.
- LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. Small spring passage from 9th April to 11th May, maximum 6 on 1st May. 5 on 29th September and 7th October, and a ♂ from 4th to 25th October.
- TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. Very few wintered. Arrivals from 13th April. Becoming scarce as breeding bird. Some noted suffering from seed dressing effects. September flock usually ca.80, but 100 on 4th September and 150 on 10th October.
- REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. Mealy Redpoll *flammea*; one on 16th May and 1-3 from 14th to 19th October. Single Lesser Redpolls *cabaret* on 16th and 31st October and 1st Novem-

- ber. A redpoll spp. on 4th and 6th November.
- SERIN *Serinus canarius*. A ♂ at the South Reeva on 29th May; 3rd record for Fair Isle.
- SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. In September, 3+ on 19th, 2 on 23rd and 24th, singles on 1st, 18th, 21st and 26th. One on 4th October.
- CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. One on 7th January and another on 21st and 22nd June.
- CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. One wintered. Passage from 25th March to 25th April; peaks of 14 on 28th, 25 on 29th and 20 on 31st March. 2 on 5th May. Autumn passage from 26th September to 7th November, maximum 8 on 5th and 7th October.
- BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. Passage from 25th March to 25th May, mainly 19th to 25th April when peaks of 45 on 22nd-23rd and 70 on 24th. Autumn passage from 26th September to 7th November, mainly 14th October to 3rd November. Peaks of 175 on 17th, 80-100 on 18th-20th and 60-70 on 29th-31st October.
- YELLOW HAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. Singles on 20th May, 11th June and 17th-20th October, and 2 on 28th-31st October.
- CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 3rd, 9th-10th April, 29th May, 9th November and 2 on 10th November.
- RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A ♂ on most days from 18th July to 11th August and 2 on 12th August.
- ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. Singles on 26th April, 3rd, 19th and 26th-30th September, and 4th October.
- RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. One trapped at Setter on 26th September, present until 28th, and another, at Wirvie, on 4th October.
- LITTLE BUNTING. *Emberiza pusilla*. One netted at North Haven beach on 7th October.
- REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Sparse movements from 25th March to 19th May, maximum 3 on 26th and 30th March. Autumn passage from 3rd October to 8th November; 3 on 3rd, 6th and 30th October.
- LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. One on 30th March and 3 on 22nd April. Recorded in autumn on half the days from 18th September to 20th October, mainly singles, but 2 on 4 days and 3 on 18th October. One on 31st October.
- SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Small flock wintered, but 35 on 23rd, 50+ on 26th and 30+ on 31st January. Passage in March, maximum 150+, up to 30 in April, 2 on 9th and 10th and a ♂ on 30th May. Autumn passage from 8th September, 80 on 20th October; large arrivals in November, increasing daily from 500+ on 1st to 800+ on 4th, decreasing

to ca.100 by 8th. 500 on 16th and 200 on 17th, then decreasing to wintering flock of ca.20.

INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*. A ♂ arrived on 3rd August, seen on 5th and 7th. New bird for Fair Isle and Britain.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Population appears to be decreasing.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. One on 5th February, small numbers in April and May, building up to 18 on 25th and 29 on 26th May, decreased after 17th June. Two pairs nested in the South Reeva. Autumn flock up to 22, but less in October and not seen after 7th November.

Ringing

The year's ringing totalled 3795 birds of 105 species. The leading scores were Shag 548; Blackbird 527; Wheatear 337; Starling 304; Fulmar 230; Meadow Pipit 191; and Storm Petrel 173. Species ringed for the first time on Fair Isle were Quail, Golden Plover, Black-eared Wheatear (2), and Great Reed Warbler. Other unusual birds ringed were Peregrine (2), Wood and Green Sandpiper, Ruff, Hooded Crow (3), Short-toed Lark, Steppe Shrike, Subalpine Warbler, Arctic Warbler (4), Melodious and Yellow-browed Warblers, Scarlet Grosbeak (2), Rustic and Little Buntings.

The annual and cumulative totals are brought up to date in Table I.

TABLE I

Year	No. of Birds	No. of Species
1948	288	38
1949	1505	63
1950	2394	74
1951	2234	77
1952	1932	74
1953	2550	80
1954	2317	75
1955	2457	82
1956	3290	81
1957	2924	87
1958	4572	101
1959	4761	116
1960	5110	112
1961	5656	111
1962	5754	125
1963	5863	120
1964	3795	105
Grand Total	57402	193

Table 2 gives the ringing totals for the individual species, together with the number of recoveries of each species away from Fair Isle (or, in a few instances away from the ringing locality in Shetland).

TABLE 2

	Numbers Ringed			Numbers Recovered		
	1948-63	1964	Total	1948-63	1964	Total
Slavonian Grebe	1		1			
Little Grebe	1		1			
Storm Petrel	70	173	243	1		1
Fulmar	1417	230	1647	7	2	9
Gannet	9		9			
Cormorant	4		4			
Shag	3003	548	3551	85	11	96
Heron	7		7			
Mallard	3	1	4			
Teal	7		7	1	1	2
Wigeon	5		5			
Scaup	1		1			
Tufted Duck	1		1			
Goldeneye	2		2			
Long-tailed Duck	2		2			
Velvet Scoter	1		1			
Eider	23	6	29			
Red.-br. Merganser	1		1			
Greylag Goose	2		2			
White-front	1		1			
Whooper	6		6			
Sparrowhawk	46	3	49	8		8
Peregrine	3	2	5			
Merlin	96	3	99	10	1	11
Kestrel	15	2	17	3		3
Red-footed Falcon	1		1			
Quail		1	1			
Water Rail	107	7	114	2		2
Spotted Crake	2		2			
Corncrake	21	1	22	2		2
Moorhen	26	5	31			
Coot	4	2	6			
Oystercatcher	403	44	447	16	2	18
Lapwing	203	5	208	2	1	3
Ringed Plover	149	7	156	1	1	2
Golden Plover	2	1	3			
Turnstone	19		19			
Snipe	75	1	76	2	1	3
Jack Snipe	15		15			
Woodcock	83	5	88	3	1	4

Curlew	8		8			
Whimbrel	6		6			
Bar-tailed Godwit	4		4	1		1
Green Sandpiper	10	1	11			
Wood Sandpiper	4	1	5			
Common Sandpiper	13	2	15			
Redshank	39	1	40	1		1
Spotted Redshank	1		1			
Greenshank	3		3			
Knot	23	1	24			
Purple Sandpiper	47	4	51			
Little Stint	8	2	10			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Am. Pectoral Sandpiper	2		2			
Dunlin	111	10	121	2		2
Sanderling	39	3	42			
Ruff	4	1	5	1		1
Red-necked Phalarope	2		2			
Arctic Skua	1063	4	1067	18	3	21
Bonxie	322	46	368	3		3
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Great Blackback	189	31	220	10	2	12
Lesser Blackback	235	14	249	3	1	4
Herring Gull	330	80	410	8	2	10
Common Gull	38	1	39			
Glaucous Gull	5		5	1		1
Black-headed Gull	34		34	2		2
Kittiwake	69	48	117		1	1
Common Tern	11		11			
Arctic Tern	95		95			
Razorbill	294	72	366	15	3	18
Little Auk	4		4			
Guillemot	231	63	294	9	2	11
Black Guillemot	223	27	250	2		2
Puffin	3375	119	3494	4		4
Wood Pigeon	14	2	16		1	1
Turtle Dove	12		12			
Collared Dove	1	1	2			
Cuckoo	26	4	30	1		1
Long-eared Owl	30	2	32	1	1	2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Swift	5	2	7	1		1
Great Spotted Wood.	7		7			
Wryneck	33		33			
Short-toed Lark	1	1	2			
Woodlark	1		1			
Skylark	305	6	311	2		2
Swallow	71	7	78	1		1
House Martin	20	13	33			

Raven	1		1			
Hooded Crow	8	3	11			
Rook	4		4			
Great Tit	1		1			
Blue Tit	2		2			
Treecreeper	1		1			
Wren	318	8	326			
Dipper	4		4			
Mistle Thrush	8		8			
Fieldfare	152	18	170			
Song Thrush	457	21	478	13		13
Redwing	2257	166	2423	20	3	23
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	58	1	59	1		1
Blackbird	7506	527	8033	137	8	145
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Wheatear	7370	337	7707	35	3	38
Black-eared Wheatear		2	2			
Stonechat	12		12			
Whinchat	205	12	217	1		1
Redstart	547	14	561			
Black Redstart	27	8	35			
Nightingale	1		1			
Thrush Nightingale	2		2			
Bluethroat	77	3	80	1		1
Robin	1739	67	1806	10	1	11
Grasshopper Warbler	13	3	16			
Lanceolated Warbler	3		3			
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1		1			
River Warbler	1		1			
Great Reed Warbler		1	1			
Reed Warbler	30	3	33			
Marsh Warbler	15	2	17			
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1			
Thick-billed Warbler	1		1			
Sedge Warbler	107	9	116			
Aquatic Warbler	4		4			
Melodious Warbler	1	1	2			
Icterine Warbler	18	1	19			
Booted Warbler	1		1			
Blackcap	382	22	404	2		2
Barred Warbler	84	5	89			
Garden Warbler	540	28	568			
Whitethroat	324	17	341			
Lesser Whitethroat	126	10	136			
Subalpine Warbler	4	1	5			
Willow Warbler	794	13	807			

Greenish Warbler	5		5			
Chiffchaff	128	5	133			
Wood Warbler	15		15			
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1			
Arctic Warbler	6	4	10			
Yellow-browed Warbler	17	1	18			
Dusky Warbler	1		1			
Goldcrest	311	2	313			
Spotted Flycatcher	144	19	163	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	281	14	295	2		2
Red-breasted Fly.	27	2	29			
Hedge Sparrow	362	36	398	3		3
Meadow Pipit	3730	191	3921	32		32
Tree Pipit	152	6	158			
Petchora Pipit	1		1			
Red-throated Pipit	1		1			
Rock Pipit	2987	181	3168	6		6
Richard's Pipit	3		3			
Tawny Pipit	1		1			
Pied/White Wagtail	231	19	250	3		3
Grey Wagtail	4		4	1		1
Yellow Wagtail spp.	6		6			
Yellow-headed Wagtail	3		3			
Waxwing	7		7			
Great Grey Shrike	17	5	22			
Lesser Grey Shrike	3		3			
Woodchat Shrike	3		3			
Red-backed Shrike	33	2	35			
Starling	4849	304	5153	32	4	36
Rose-coloured Starling	1		1			
Greenfinch	10		10			
Goldfinch	1	1	2			
Siskin	97	5	102			
Linnet	9	1	10			
Twite	1661	41	1702	2		2
Redpoll	94		94			
Arctic Redpoll	2		2			
Bullfinch	6		6			
Scarlet Grosbeak	15	2	17			
Crossbill	255		255	1		1
Parrot Crossbill	35		35			
Chaffinch	436	4	440			
Brambling	198	12	210		1	1
Yellow Hammer	15	1	16			
Corn Bunting	1		1			
Red-headed Bunting	3		3			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	2		2			

Ortolan	5	1	6			
Rustic Bunting	3	1	4	1		1
Little Bunting	8	1	9			
Reed Bunting	63	2	65	1		1
Lapland Bunting	29		29			
Snow Bunting	153	4	157	2		2
Song Sparrow	1		1			
House Sparrow	749	9	758			
Tree Sparrow	9		9			
GRAND TOTAL	53607	3795	57402	535	58	593

Recoveries 1964

Recoveries of 58 birds ringed by the Observatory were reported during the year. Three birds ringed elsewhere were controlled on Fair Isle during 1964.

As complete details of all these recoveries will be published in the next bulletin, as per usual, only the cream of recoveries are mentioned below. Fulmar chicks of 1961 and 1962 were found dead at Easington (Durham) in August and at Winterton-on-sea (Norfolk) in March respectively. On 30th August, young Shags were found dead at Shapinsay (Orkney) and Portmahomack (Ross-shire), they had been ringed two months earlier at Fair Isle. A juvenile ♂ Teal ringed on 3rd September 1962 was shot in Jutland on 17th September 1964. This is our second Teal recovery from only seven ringed on the isle. One of 1964's pullus Oystercatchers was killed at Morlaix (Finisterre) France only two months later. One of last year's Lapwings reported in Spain in the winter. A juvenile Ringed Plover ringed on 31st August 1961 was reported from Oued Bou Regreg, Rabat, Morocco, on 31st December 1964; only our second recovery of this species.

A pullus Snipe of 1959 shot near Kilkenny, Ireland in December and a May, 1964 Woodcock shot in Cork on 20th December. A pullus Lesser Black-backed Gull of 1960 reported from Portugal on 22nd September. We made a special effort on pulli Kittiwakes this summer, and one ringed on 1st July was killed on Horse Island, White Bay, Newfoundland on 20th October. Three Razorbills and two Guillemots were reported from the south west Norway area. A Wood-pigeon ringed on 13th July 1963 was found dead at Insel Sylt, Germany on 12th May. A Long-eared Owl ringed on 1st November 1964 was found dead seven days later at Zandvoort, Netherlands. A four year old Wheatear was caught alive in Morocco and one of this year's juveniles was shot in Portugal. A Reed Warbler ringed on 4th September, 1964 was found at Hillswick, 75 miles north, on the 7th September. A Starling ringed on 16th March 1964 was found dead at Liperi

in Finland on 4th May; 30 degrees east and three degrees north of Fair Isle. A Brambling ringed on 11th October 1962 was controlled on 18th October 1964 in Belgium.

Several of our colour banded Oystercatchers have been reported this winter from the North Wales and Lancashire area; and a colour banded bird nesting this summer at Easter Lothar had been ringed in the Cheshire Dee.

Ringed Strangers: Adult Storm Petrels controlled at Fair Isle on 22nd June and 5th August 1964 had been ringed at Foula on 18th August 1962 and 15th August 1963 respectively. Our third control, a Wheatear, also came from Foula; ringed there on 25th August 1963, and caught at Fair Isle on 21st April 1964.

Publications

Bulletin Vol. 5, No. 4 was sent out in October and the annual report for 1963 was circulated in September. The next bulletin covering most aspects of 1964 will be published in April.

Request

The Bird Observatory has just purchased a slide projector for lecture purposes at the Observatory and we would be extremely pleased to receive copies or spares of photographs taken at Fair Isle, especially of rare birds. Please send them to the Warden at Fair Isle.

To be published in October 1965

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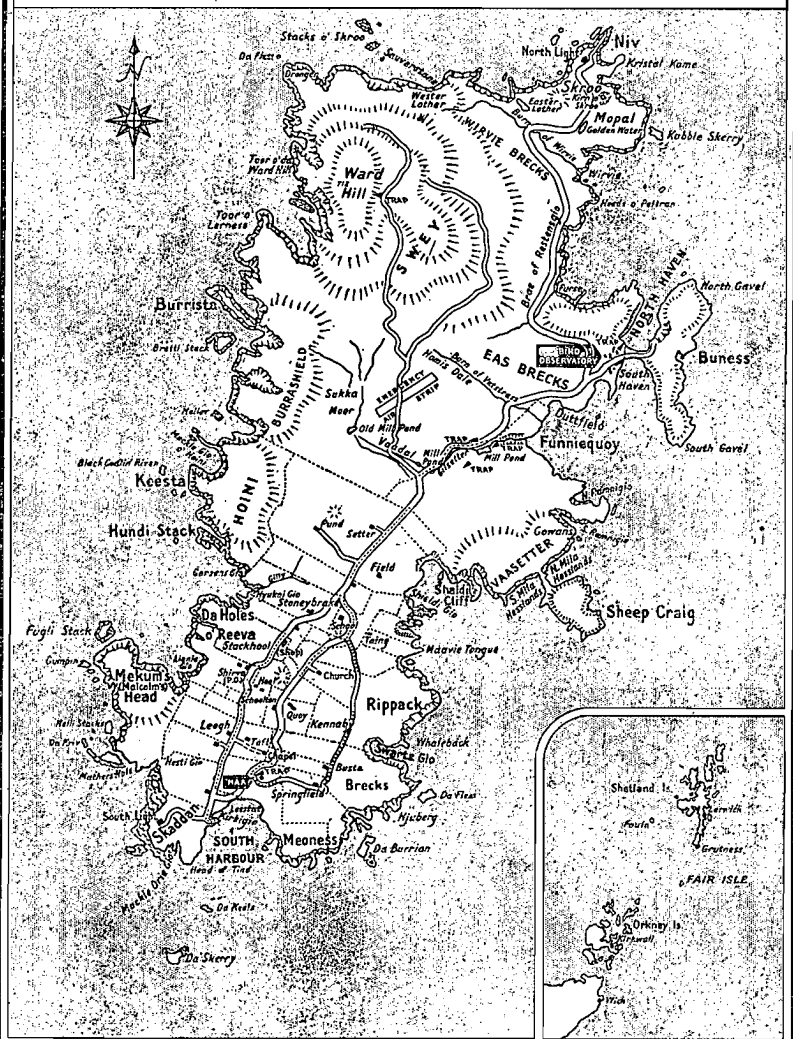
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