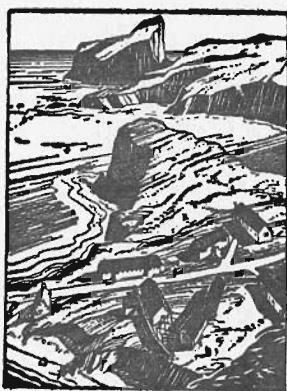


Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT

1965



ROY H. DENNIS

Warden

PRICE 5/-

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

Trustees

*Mr D. G. Andrew; Dr John Berry; *Mr A. G. S. Bryson; Dr James W. Campbell; *Sir Charles G. Connell; Dr F. Fraser Darling; *Dr W. J. Eggeling; Mr James Fisher; Cmdr. Sir G. Hughes-Onslow, R.N.; Mr G. T. Kay; *Professor M. F. M. Meiklejohn; Col. R. Meinertzhagen; Mr E. M. Nicholson; Dr Ian D. Pennie; Mr Peter Scott; Mr P. J. Sellar; *Mr Peter Slater; Sir A. Landsborough Thomson; *Mrs Irene Waterston; *Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards.

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.

Foreword

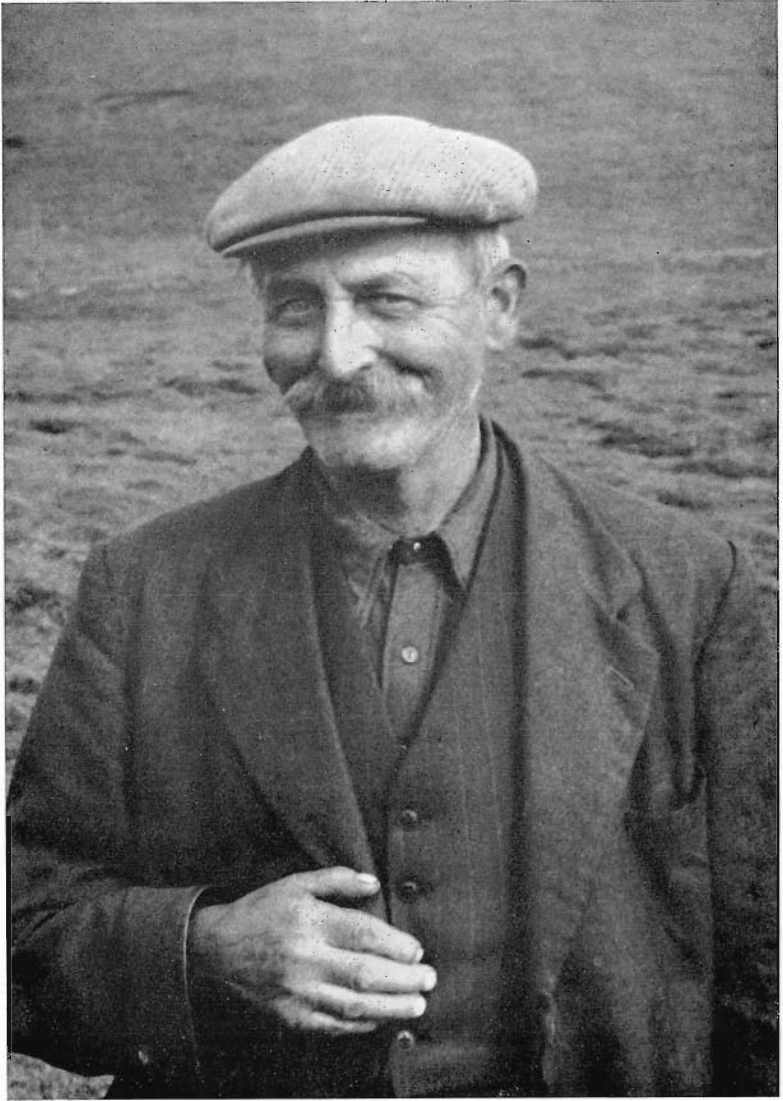
BOTH climatically and ornithologically Fair Isle enjoyed a remarkably fine year. It is really staggering that four new species of birds for the island's list should turn up in one year on an island that has been so well worked for so long.

Although the number of human visitors did not match the season, there is one aspect about their activities to which I would like to draw attention and that is the instruction they receive on identification and ringing techniques. (See p. 10 "Fieldwork").

In past years these Forewords have stressed the considerable contribution that successive wardens have made to the better understanding of migration and other facets of ornithological knowledge. We have stressed too the contribution that has been made to the economy of the isle. Perhaps we have not drawn adequate attention to the really important, if specialised, educational contribution that has been made by teaching and demonstrating modern field techniques to visiting naturalists both young and old. There can be few, if any, places indeed in Britain where this better done, and certainly none in such exciting and attractive surroundings.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,

Chairman.



GEORGE STOUT OF FIELD

Angela Davis

In Memoriam

GEORGE STOUT OF FIELD

PERHAPS the great achievement of Fieldy (George Stout) was his realisation of the interest of Fair Isle Ornithology and, almost in isolation, to keep this interest alive in ornithologists on the mainland over a period of many years, both with sight records of rare species and specimens of them.

It was the late Admiral Stenhouse who first stimulated Fieldy's work by giving him a bird book (Wardlaw Ramsay's "Birds of Europe and N. Africa"), and teaching him how to skin. It was in the autumn of 1926 that Fieldy, having procured a Short-toed Lark, first entered the annals of ornithology, and from then on he regularly contributed notes to Baxter and Rintoul's *Annual Reports on Scottish Ornithology* and sent specimens to the Royal Scottish Museum. In 1930 he kept a regular log of migration and notes were published by Stenhouse in the *Scottish Naturalist* of 1931. In the same year Stenhouse died: his last visit was in 1928 and Fair Isle then saw no ornithologists from outside until the visit of Waterston and Bryson in 1935.

Notable among the rarities recorded by George Stout was the first Pallid Harrier for Britain, obtained in May 1931. It would be superfluous to repeat here his numerous and interesting records, for they are in the literature; but it is true to say that he laid some of the most important foundations not only on local ornithology but on migration study in general.

He died at Fair Isle on 5th April 1966 among his own people. He was in his eightieth year. He was the most gifted and entertaining talker, and one of the most generous of men: he would spend hours catching fish, and then give them all away.

On my inkstand, as I write, is a stone—a curious lump of quartz—presented to me by Fieldy. But one does not need a souvenir, or even a photograph, to remember such a fine and friendly personality with that wonderful smile underneath the ragged moustache.

Those who knew him well always spoke of his as "dear old Fieldy": what better epitaph could a man wish?

M. F. M. MEIKLEJOHN.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Trust accounts for the year to 31st October, 1965, show little major variation from those of the previous year, and, as in 1964, it is the profit from the Hostel, albeit a somewhat smaller profit this year, which has kept the Revenue account out of the red. I need hardly say how indebted we are to Marina and Roy Dennis for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

I. Hostel Account. Shows a profit of £138, as against £209 yast year. You will see from the Warden's Report that the drop was due to a shortage of summer visitors. Wages and N.H.I. are down, Pat Adams having been away. Foodstuffs are down but then so are takings on the other side of the sheet. Otherwise I have no comment.

II. Trust Revenue Account. Again there is little difference except the rises in printing and travelling expenses which reflect the general rise in the cost of doing things in these expensive days. On the other side of the account, Subscriptions, tax recovery on Covenants, and Endowment Fund income are all slightly up. It is satisfactory to see Subscriptions swinging upward after recent declines. But an overall profit for the year on the two accounts of £77, 15s 6d does not leave much margin to work on, and as I have pointed out in the past the only real solution is to push up the Endowment Fund.

III. Balance Sheet. Little comment except to point out the legacy from the late Mr William Crawford of £250, and to say that, as last year, the balance of £204 shown as owing to Messrs J. & F. Anderson is more than covered by the £560 cash on the other side, and, as before, a transfer was made after the date of the Audit.

IV. Endowment Fund. Remains to all intents the same, with the Regent Terrace property in at cost. As I said above, it is on the income from the Endowment Fund that we must rely for the future, so please help if you possibly can by way of Legacy or Bequest remembering that the Endowment Fund is a permanent fund and that the Trustees can only hand over income and must hold the capital in perpetuity for Ornithological purposes, not necessarily for Fair Isle alone.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust Year to 31st October 1965

I.—HOSTEL REVENUE ACCOUNT

1964			
£122	0 0	To Stores at 1st November 1964	£155 0 0
728	13 5	To Foodstuffs, Supplies, etc. ...	644 0 1
34	2 11	To Telephone	38 6 11
373	11 9	To Wages and National Insurance	270 12 11
35	17 3	To Sundry Payments	20 7 4
62	15 0	To Insurance of Huts	62 15 0
154	19 6	To Fuel	160 16 5
59	16 0	To Repairs and Renewals ...	60 8 10
8	6 11	To Postages	7 11 0
209	11 11	To Profit for year	138 1 6
<hr/>			
£1789	14 8		£1558 0 0
<hr/>			
£1629	9 0	By Board and Booking Fees ...	£1404 1 0
5	5 8	By Miscellaneous	1 19 0
155	0 0	By Stores at 31st October, 1965 ...	152 0 0
<hr/>			
£1789	14 8		£1558 0 0
<hr/>			

II.—TRUST REVENUE ACCOUNT

£581	5 4	To Wages and National Insurance	£541 17 7
8	19 1	To Rent and Insurance	4 9 9
32	14 8	To Interest paid	31 12 6
121	18 3	To Travelling Expenses	167 13 3
37	13 0	To Bird Ringing Nets, etc. ...	39 3 3
125	18 1	To Printing, Stationery, etc. ...	158 0 7
24	8 6	To Freight	23 4 9
1	0 0	Subscription paid	3 13 0
84	1 8	To Expenses of Administration ...	82 16 6
118	10 3	To Profit for year	77 15 6
<hr/>			
£1136	8 10		£1130 6 8
<hr/>			
£461	16 2	By Subscriptions, etc.	£488 19 6
310	8 11	By Income Tax recovered	340 0 0
11	16 0	By Interest on Savings Bonds ...	11 11 2
142	15 10	By Income from Endowment Fund	151 14 6
209	11 11	By Profit on Hostel Account ...	138 1 6
<hr/>			
£1136	8 10		£1130 6 8
<hr/>			

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1965

1964			<i>Liabilities</i>		
			Capital Account:		
£1581	10	10	Balance per last Balance Sheet	£1700	1 1
0	0	0	Add Legacy	£250	0 0
118	10	3	Profit for year	77	15 6
<hr/>				<hr/>	
				327	15 6
£1700	1	1	...	£2027	16 7
775	17	5	Balance Due to Messrs J. & F. Anderson, W.S.	204	5 8
<hr/>				<hr/>	
£2475	18	6		£2232	2 3
<hr/>				<hr/>	
			<i>Assets</i>		
1964					
£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
<hr/>			Scientific Equipment as written down	£150	0 0
			Add Photographic Equipment	63	19 0
150	0	0		<hr/>	
				213	19 0
			Investment—£642 3% Savings Bonds 1960-70 (Market Value as at 31st October 1965—£550, 10/-)	619	1 3
619	1	3	Consumable Stores:		
			Foodstuffs	£47	0 0
			Livestock	40	0 0
			Fuel	65	0 0
155	0	0		<hr/>	
				152	0 0
			Cash in Bank:		
			Trust Account	£59	7 10
			Hostel Account	478	4 6
				<hr/>	
				£537	12 4
			Cash on hand	22	8 5
864	16	0		<hr/>	
				560	0 9
£2475	18	6		<hr/>	
				£2232	2 3
<hr/>				<hr/>	

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

FUNDS as at 30th June, 1965

	Book Value		Value as at 31st Oct. 1965	
£4,300 3% Savings Bonds 1960-70	£3659	9 0	£3687	5 0
£140 Whitbread & Co. Ltd.				
"A" Ordinary Stock	313	11 0	399	0 0
	£3973	0 0	£4086	5 0
Heritable Property—21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh	3050	0 0	3050	0 0
Balance on Savings Account	54	9 2	54	9 2
Consisting of—				
Balance due to Revenue	£51	16 0		
Balance of Capital on hand	2	13 2		
	£54	9 2		
			£7077	9 2
			£7190	14 2

HELENA HOWDEN ENDOWMENT TRUST

FUNDS as at 25th September, 1965

	Book Value		Value as at 31st Oct. 1965	
£650 Fife County Council 5½% Redeemable Stock 1974-76	£649	12 4	£598	0 0
£286 Bank of Scotland Stock	564	7 3	993	17 0
£2200 Barclays Bank Ltd. Ordinary Stock	2350	6 6	6655	0 0
£325 Royal Exchange Assurance Stock	1335	1 10	1194	7 6
£110 Scottish American Investment Co. Ltd. 3½% Cons. Deb. Stock 1902	81	19 0	56	13 0
£428 F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd. Ordinary Stock	1227	19 0	1754	16 0
2,000 Bass Mitchells & Butlers Ltd. Ordinary Shares of 5/-	1679	17 9	1550	0 0
£500 Ranks Hovis McDougall Ltd. Ordinary Stock Units of 10/-	1660	16 10	1500	0 0
	£9550	0 6	14302	13 6

Balance of Capital on hand	...	94	15	4	94	15	4
Balance of Revenue on hand	...	194	2	10	194	2	10
		<hr/>			<hr/>		
		£9838	18	8	14591	11	8
Add Balance Due by Messrs J. & F. Anderson, W.S.	557	14	9	557	14	9
		<hr/>			<hr/>		
		£10396	13	5	15149	6	5
		<hr/> <hr/>			<hr/> <hr/>		

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1965

ROY H. DENNIS

When Marina, Rona and I sailed into Fair Isle on 10th March, 1965, after spending a day in Shetland on business, we found the Observatory in good order. Gordon Barnes of Setter had the water supply and fires working for us on arrival.

The Observatory was open from this date until the 7th December; and between 22nd March and 1st December, 138 visitors stayed at the hostel for a total of 173 visitor weeks. As can be seen from the following table the number of visitors was disappointing and represents a decrease of 16 visitors and 10 visitor weeks on 1964.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Visitors	150	189	150	162	154	138
Visitor Weeks	180	254	189	241	183	173

In August and September the hostel was completely full and the decrease was due to the lack of "tourist type" visitors in the summer months.

During the summer we supplied lunches to a gang of Shetland County workmen who were improving the slipway at North Haven.

Visitors from overseas included three from Sweden, three from Switzerland, two from France and one from Norway.

Staff. We suffered a great setback to the Hostel in 1965 when Miss Pat Adams, our cook since 1957, was unable to return to the isle because of ill-health. She has made a good recovery but does not feel strong enough to deal with the rigours of island life. We wish her well in Pembroke where she has settled. In consequence, my wife, Marina, found herself burdened with cooking for visitors as well as the running of the hostel, bookings, etc. We were fortunate to obtain the services of Miss Wendy Dickson who was cook during May,

June and August to mid-October. Miss Diane Bancroft from the Haa helped my wife on many occasions, for which we are grateful. Eddie Wiseman, who was our assistant in 1964, returned in 1965 and worked well throughout the year. Tony Furness assisted, especially with sea-bird ringing, in July.

Island Events. It was a successful year on the island; although there were changes, the crofting population remained at 48 for the third year running. It was encouraging that Stewart Thomson, jun., from Shirva returned to the isle after completing his schooling at Lerwick. He is now crofting the Quoy land and has a share in the common grazing. We wish him every success. Mrs Babs Stout returned to the isle after two years at Arbroath and is now living at Lower Stonybreck with Mr and Mrs William Stout. Teddy Stout of Midway joined his ship in the Merchant Navy after being at a training school. The number of children receiving full time education away from the isle increased, by two, to nine. Andrew Stout and Leonard Bancroft went to the Lerwick school in September. Two little boys started their primary education at the school making the roll up to five.

Other island changes included the vacation of the Field and Croft by George Stout who moved to Midway after a period in hospital at Lerwick; and the transfer of the haulage business on the isle from Jerry Stout of Leogh to Ted Bancroft. Jerome Stout of Utra was taken ill in January and has been detained in hospital in Lerwick; we hope that he will soon be well enough to return to the isle.

Very good news during the year were the engagements of George Stout of Upper Stonybreck, James Stout of Midway and Gordon Barnes of Setter.

Mr and Mrs Leslie Patterson and their son, Charles, left the Nurse's house in July after 18 months on the isle. Nurses MacDuffie and Smith worked for spells on the isle throughout the rest of the year. A change also occurred at the Schoolhouse, when Mr and Mrs Girvan MacKay and their two children left in July; they had served the community for two years and their place was taken by Mr and Mrs Brown.

The islanders had a very busy year—work for the National Trust for Scotland was completed at Quoy and the Haa croft, so that these two cottages could be rented to visitors. Building work was also in progress at the shop and Setter, where the roof was finished in October. The fish store at Skadan was also roofed.

Two boats fished lobsters, but once again they were rather thwarted by competition from larger boats from Shetland and Orkney. The islanders had very good catches of fish in

the late summer and a good supply of dried fish was laid in for the winter.

Several areas of land were reclaimed and seeded with success. In the summer the work was examined by a Crofters Commission official who arrived by Naval helicopter, which landed on the Rippack.

The islanders were also employed at North Haven where they occasionally helped the County Council workmen who were re-enforcing the slipway. They worked, too, unloading several hundred tons of metal for road building on the island.

No National Trust for Scotland cruises landed on the island, but the Orcadia did land several hundred visitors from Orkney for a day in July. This year, for the first time, we put on an exhibition at the Observatory and over a hundred and fifty people came in to see a display of our work and to buy maps and postcards.

Workers from the International Voluntary Service returned to the island and lived at North Busta. They worked at various projects during the summer, including building work at Setter and Barkland, hill drainage and the completion of an improved sheep dipper at Vaadel. Once again their presence on the island resulted in several very good dances and football matches, which the islanders and visitors greatly enjoyed.

A party from the British Girls Exploring Society visited the isle for three weeks in August; they camped at Pund and the girls studied many aspects of the island and its wildlife. A Stromness troop of the Boys Brigade camped at Quoy and enjoyed two weeks on the isle. Two F.I.B.O. trustees visited the Observatory in 1965—Mr Pat Sellar and Mr Peter Slater.

Acknowledgments. We are extremely grateful to all the islanders for practical help, co-operation, and advice; we are indebted to them for allowing us to examine their crops for migrants. We are very grateful to young Jimmy Wilson of Schoolton who trapped several unusual birds for us. We are very grateful to the Royal Scottish Museum for the loan of a collection of bird skins, which were again most useful in our bird room. Mr Pat Sellar very kindly donated two bicycles to the Observatory's fleet.

Last, but not least, we are extremely grateful to Gordon Barnes of Setter for many kindnesses throughout the year, especially looking after the Observatory and the traps during the winter and for keeping a daily record of birds in my absence.

Fieldwork. As in previous years our main studies were the counting and trapping of bird migrants and the study and ringing of the breeding birds of the island. Many visitors were

instructed in the field identification of our rarer birds, and others were trained as ringers or instructed in the use of the new rings. In summer, a dawn census of Wrens was completed for the second year running; the census of common breeding birds was continued in the crofting area for the third summer in succession (a similar survey was carried out in other areas of the island). A count of Fulmars on the cliffs was made in some areas and the sea bird colonies in the northern half of the island were counted from the boat. The study of Storm Petrels on the cliffs was continued and some Oystercatchers were again colour-ringed. I continued my study of Black Guillemots, obtaining series of weights and measurements of eggs, breeding numbers, sites and successes, and started a colour marking scheme with the aid of fluorescent wing-tags. We again ringed large numbers of sea birds, including record totals of Fulmars, Shags and Guillemots.

In June I visited Shetland for a week to train a new ringer and to examine some of the islands and their breeding birds; 143 birds were ringed and I am very grateful to Mr and Mrs Bobby Tulloch of Mid-Yell, who made my trip a great success.

Ornithology. 190 species were recorded on the isle in 1965. This is the record number seen on the isle in one year, the previous best being 187 in 1961. New species for Fair Isle were Cory's Shearwater, Purple Heron, Harlequin Duck and Little Ringed Plover.

From 11th January to 2nd February, a pair of Harlequin Ducks frequented Maver's Geo and South Haven; they were found by Gordon Barnes and seen by many of the islanders. The Purple Heron was seen in a ditch at Lower Leogh on 17th June and stayed until 22nd June; the Little Ringed Plover was seen at the gully on 4th September and caught that evening on the airstrip; it was a young bird and stayed until 7th September. Over 80 Cory's Shearwaters were seen off the island in late September.

Other rarities included: a large passage of Great Shearwaters past the isle in late September, Goosander, Honey Buzzard, Ospreys (4), Hobby, Great Snipe (2), Long-tailed Skua, Snowy Owl, Coal Tit, Siberian Stonechat, Nightingales (2), Thrush Nightingales (2), Aquatic Warblers (2), Icterine Warblers (3), Indian Tree Pipit, Red-throated Pipit (2), Woodchat Shrikes (2), Hornemann's Redpoll, Black-headed and 2 Red-headed Buntings, Yellow-breasted Bunting, Rustic Buntings (2) and Little Bunting.

1965 was an excellent year for birds at Fair Isle and we were fortunate to see many rare and exciting species.

March was a very quiet month and most of the early

spring migrants were in small numbers; Blackbirds and Robins were scarce. April started off well with an early Swallow on the 5th and an early Sandwich Tern on the 9th; Fieldfares were moving and peaked at 250 on 9th. The first arrivals of some species were rather early, but a cold spell in April held up most migration until 28th, when summer visitors and departing winter visitors passed through the isle in numbers. Ring Ouzels, Song Thrushes, Robins, Hedge Sparrows and Bramblings were the main migrants, but chats and warblers were also moving in good numbers. May and the first two weeks of June were very interesting with strong arrivals of summer migrants and several exciting rarities.

The summer was rather quiet, with just small numbers of waders passing through until 12th August, when we received our first falls of autumn chats and warblers, which lasted about a week, and included a strong passage of Common Gulls. The following two weeks were quiet, but on 2nd September a good fall of continental birds occurred on the isle; Willow Warblers and Pied Flycatchers were the commonest migrants. The following five days were very good, with lots of Garden Warblers, Whinchats, Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers. There were several rare birds in this period and no less than 8 Wrynecks on the 4th. The middle two weeks of September were rather quiet for passerines, but fortunately there was an unprecedented passage of shearwaters past the isle between 17th and 24th September. On 25th, we saw the forerunners of a movement, which peaked on 27th, when we recorded 70 Ring Ouzels, 150 Song Thrushes, 600 plus Redwings, 40 Garden Warblers and 60 Bramblings, as well as numbers of Redstarts, chats and warblers. October was an interesting month, with winter visitors moving through earlier than usual, but in rather small daily numbers. A large scale Waxwing invasion started on 16th October and reached a peak of 200 on 1st November; the last were seen on 15th November. The other interesting invasion of the autumn was of very pale Mealy/Arctic Redpolls, which lasted from 20th October to 24th November, and peaked at 90 plus on 23rd October.

We enjoyed a very fine summer on Fair Isle in 1965 and most birds had a good breeding season. Most of the sea birds reared good numbers of young, but Fulmars and Kittiwakes did not do so well. Great Skua numbers were rather on the low side, but Arctic Skuas were as usual. Corncrakes did not nest for the second year running, and Quail did not appear to breed. Two pairs of Peregrines were found, but only one pair were known to lay eggs and rear young. Passerines all did well although they were rather late and were slightly down on last year.

Systematic List for 1965

- GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. In spring, 4 on 6th April. One on 6th, 2 on 18th and 2 on 22nd September; one on 10th October.
- RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. Singles on 4 days in May, 5 days in June, one day in July and 4 days in August.
- LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. One seen on the crossing on 29th June.
- STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. First noted ashore at night on 6th June; birds netted at night, between 22nd May and 1st September, at Millens Houllan, Buness, Malcolm's Head and South Gunnawark. 165 adults were caught and ringed but only three controls were made. Two of these were from 12 birds ringed at the same place (Malcolm's Head) in August 1957. As last year, this suggests a large population, but no nests were found.
- MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus*. One on 27th April. One heard on the cliffs at Malcolm's Head on the night of 9th/10th August. In autumn, one on 18th, 2 on 19th, 6 on 20th and one on 21st September. Seen on crossing; 2 on 21st April, 3 on 26th May and singles on 17th August, 21st September and 5th October.
- GREAT SHEARWATER *Procellaria gravis*. A most remarkable influx occurred in September; the only previous records were singles on 3 days in September and October 1936. Between 19th and 24th September, 98 flew past the island; 61 flew west and 37 flew east. On the crossing, at least 30 were seen on 17th September, and there were 11 on 21st, 13 on 22nd, 25 on 24th and 8 on 28th September, 6 on 5th October, 2 on 9th and 1 on 16th November.
- CORY'S SHEARWATER *Procellaria diomedea*. This species, like the last, was recorded at Fair Isle in most unusual numbers in September 1965. Between 18th and 23rd September, 88 flew past the island; 65 flew west and 23 flew east and the daily totals were 66 on 18th, 7 on 19th, 13 on 20th and 2 on 23rd. A bird probably of this species was seen on the crossing on 5th October. This is the first time this species has been recorded at Fair Isle and there are only 4 previous records for Scotland.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. Between 9th and 23rd September, a total of 42 were seen flying past the island, the main movements were from 17th to 23rd and the maxima were 9 on 19th and 13 on 20th. Small numbers were seen on the crossing between 24th August and 28th September.

- FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. Ashore most days in winter, but increasing from 13th March. Pre-egg laying dispersal from 3rd to 20th May. Breeding population still increasing, and another good breeding season. Young on the wing from 25th August, and numbers decreasing from 10th September. Numbers on cliffs all autumn except during gales, 28th-31st October. Blue Fulmars seen on 4 occasions in summer and autumn, around Mopal.
- GANNET *Sula bassana*. Small numbers offshore all year; maximum in spring, 30 on 17th May, rather more in autumn, peaks of 43 on 17th and 70 on 18th September. On 30th September, 122 flew east past the isle in one hour.
- CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 2 on 20th March. 1-2 some days between 2nd April and 14th May, but 6 on 22nd and 3 on 23rd April. Autumn movements from 13th August to 17th October, mainly 25th August to 19th September, with peaks of 28 on 25th, 18 on 27th August, 18 on 7th, 29 on 11th and 24 on 19th September. 1 or 2 occasionally in October and November.
- SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Nest building from early March; first egg noted on 2nd April. Enjoyed a good breeding season and a record number of young were ringed.
- HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Spring passage 30th March to 21st May, mainly singles, but 4 on 8th April and 3 on 18th May. Singles on 2nd and 10th June. Autumn passage 4th July to 9th November, peaks 5 on 25th July, 6 on 1st and 20th September and 2nd October.
- PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*. One flushed from the Meadow Burn on 17th June, stayed in that area until 22nd June. A new record for Fair Isle and only the 5th for Scotland, the last being in 1907.
- MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. Small numbers 13th March to 13th April. A ♂ present throughout summer, another ♂ on 14th May, 5 on 13th June and ♀ in late July. Autumn passage from 12th August, peaks of 7 on 19th September, 6 on 13th October, 7 on 19th and 24th November.
- TEAL *Anas crecca*. Spring passage on 24 days between 1st April and 6th June; max. 4. ♀ on 1st July. Autumn passage from 12th August to 7th November, with peaks of 8 on 16th August, 15 on 9th, 8 on 10th, 9 on 19th September and 8 on 1st October.
- WIGEON *Anas penelope*. 3 on 6th, singles on 21st and 23rd, and 2 on 23rd April. Singles on 9th and 15th June. Autumn passage from 27th August to 6th November, peaks 7 on 9th and 11th, 12 on 20th and 24th September.
- PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. An adult drake from 13th to 16th June.

- SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*. A ♀ in South Harbour 29th July to 7th August.
- SCAUP *Aythya marila*. A pair in South Haven 4th to 16th May and another pair 27th to 31st May. One 25th, 26th and another 28th September to 3rd October.
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Spring passage from 25th April to 30th May, peaks of 2 pairs on 25th April and 4 or 5 on 15th and 16th May. ♂ on 16th August. 7 on 24th September and 1-2 between 25th September and 17th October.
- GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. A pair on 6th May. 5 on 9th and 10th October. 1-2 between 1st November and 5th December, 4 on 8th November.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. One on 30th March, 2 on 17th-19th and 27th-29th April. 1 found dead on 16th May. 7 seen on crossing on 5th October. Autumn passage from 11th October (14) to 30th November; 5-8 from 14th to 18th October and 5 on 2nd November.
- VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. 2 on 5th, ♂ on 20th and 8 on 23rd September, one on 4th November.
- SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. One on 6th April and 2 females on 24th November.
- HARLEQUIN *Histrionicus histrionicus*. A pair in Maver's Geo on 11th January, found by Gordon Barnes, stayed in that area until 2nd February. A new record for Fair Isle.
- EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Breeding population as 1964; the first pairs prospecting ashore on 14th May resulted in an early hatch by 16th June, but many pairs were late and clutches only completed by third week June. High mortality of juveniles.
- RED-BREADED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*. 1-2 from 11th to 27th January; 2 between 22nd and 27th March; a ♀ on 11th April and pairs on 8th and 16th May. One on 10th July. Autumn passage from 2nd September to 5th December, small numbers but 6 on 19th September and 5 on 3 days in October.
- GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. A drake from 22nd November to 6th December.
- SMEW *Mergus albellus*. Jimmy Wilson saw a drake on 10th February. (Later a ♂ was found on Loch Clickimin, Lerwick).
- SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. One on 25th February, 2 on 21st, 1 on 22nd and 2 on 26th April.
- GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. Small numbers 6th April to 19th May; max. 4. Singles on 7th June, and 23rd July to 2nd August. Autumn passage from 13th October (30), 7 on 28th, 4 on 29th, 26 on 30th and 5 on 31st October, 15 on 1st, 7 on

- 2nd, 8 on 4th, 3 present from 6th, 2 from 21st November, and one stayed until 31st December.
- WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. 9 from 28th to 31st October (6 1st W), 2 from 3rd to 6th, 7 from 6th to 10th, 8-9 on 11th-12th, 8 on 13th and 2 from 17th to 24th November. All referable to the Greenland race *flavirostris*.
- PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. A family party of 5 on 2nd October and singles on 29th and 30th October.
- BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. 10 on 5th, 2 on 15th, 1 on 28th-29th and 8 on 30th October, 5 on 1st and 2, 14th-21st November.
- WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. One from 30th March to 5th April, passage of 19 on 6th, 26 on 7th, 12 on 8th and 3 on 10th April. Autumn passage on 10 days from 15th October to 20th November, with peaks of 39 on 28th October and 13 on 1st November. One adult present from 7th November, found dead at Pund on 13th November, had a severely damaged bill; probably a shot wound, received on migration.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. One 19th-21st June.
- SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. Singles on 3rd-5th, 10th and 17th May. Small passage, 1-2 daily, from 20th to 30th October. Singles 8th and 21st November.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One on 27th-29th May, one on crossing, flying towards Sumburgh Head, on 2nd June and a probable on 21st June, with a Buzzard.
- HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. A ♀ on 10th and 11th May and a 'ring-tail' flew south over isle on 5th December.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One flew north over Ward Hill on 2nd May; one over isle at dusk on 11th May; one over Malcolm's Head on 27th May and one flying south over isle on 3rd October. These are the 5th to 8th records for Fair Isle.
- HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. One on 19th to 21st June.
- PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Recorded throughout winter, max. 2♂♂ and ♀ on 21st January and 3 on 30th April. One pair nested for the second year running at Lerness and reared at least one, probably 2, young. Another pair frequented the Shaldi Cliff area; in June they were very very noisy at intruders, but no nest was found and no young were seen. Frequently seen all autumn, including two pairs displaying together on 24th October.
- MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. A ♂ on 7 days in January. Singles on 7 days in March (2 on 24th), 3 days in April and 4 days in May. Autumn passage from 21st August to 4th December; daily max. being 3 in August, 4 in September, 4 in October and 5 in November.

- KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*. 1-2 recorded on 22 days between 5th April and 2nd June, but 3 on 27th May. A ♀ 16th-18th July. Autumn passage from 8th August to 30th November, mainly September and peaks of 5 on 28th August and 6 on 4th and 27th September.
- QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*. Singles in Gilsetter on 27th and 28th May. One in song at Busta on 21st and 2 on 22nd June.
- WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*. Singles on 25th February, 23rd-24th March, 13th and 22nd April. 2 on 5th September, singles on 4th and 25th September, on 5 days in October and six days in November, but 3 on 22nd October and 2 on 17th and 26th November.
- CORNCRAKE** *Crex crex*. Very rare this year; singles on 2nd May, 3rd-4th and 27th September.
- MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*. Singles on 11 days between 8th April and 4th May, and 2 on 17th April. Autumn singles on 25th September, 2nd-4th and 9th October and 19th November.
- OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*. One on 18th, 7 on 19th, increasing to 29 by 24th February, 35 on 10th, 50 on 12th and full breeding strength by 20th March. First scrapes noted on 1st April and first eggs on 2nd May. First young seen on 21st May. Breeding numbers as last year. Flocking in July; 30 on 21st July, 30 on 7th and 45 on 12th August. Decreasing in August and September, down to 5 by 18th September and 3 until 2nd October and one on 3rd October. One from 1st to 4th and 4 on 5th November were migrants.
- LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*. One on 10th January, one on 18th and 2 on 19th February. 21 on 1st, 20 on 11th, 50 on 16th March, smaller numbers thereafter. 21 on 1st and 17 on 9th April. Two pairs nested; at Tarryfield and Airstrip. Small passage in August and from 7th September to 20th November, mainly 23rd September to 18th October; maxima 52 on 27th, 19 on 28th September and 26 on 3rd October.
- RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*. Breeding birds present from 19th February. 3 or 4 pairs nested; one of the breeding birds was bearing a red colour ring, which was put on an adult on 20th March 1964. Autumn passage from 21st July to 18th September; peaks of 14 on 9th, 25 on 13th, 36 on 15th, 42 on 18th, 25 on 20th and 16 on 25th August, and 11 on 6th September. Singles on 7 days to 10th October.
- LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*. A first winter bird arrived on 4th September, when it was netted and ringed; present until 7th September. A new bird for Fair Isle.
- GREY PLOVER** *Charadrius squatarola*. Singles on 26th-27th September and 13th-14th October.

- GOLDEN PLOVER** *Charadrius apricarius*. Spring passage from 2nd March to 22nd May, peaks of 23 on 23rd and 6 on 28th April, and 14 on 3rd May. Singles on 3 days in June and 5 days in July, but 5 on 26th July. Autumn passage from 6th August to 1st December, mainly 19th August to 7th October, peaks 41 on 19th, 40 on 21st, 36 on 28th August, 30 on 10th, 45 on 22nd and 60 on 23rd September.
- DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*. 2 mist-netted on Swey on 10th September (new ringing record for Fair Isle) and one on braes of Restensgeo, 13th September.
- TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*. Small numbers 1st January to 30th May; winter flock up to 23. Spring peaks of 30 on 10th April and 20 on 14th May. Singles on 4th, 15th June and 9th July. Autumn passage from 21st July (5), peaks of 28 on 23rd July, 35 on 8th, 30 on 15th August, 43 on 20th, 36 on 26th September, 25 on 15th, 65 on 28th, 50 on 29th October and 45 on 29th November.
- SNIPE** *Capella gallinago*. Small numbers in winter and spring. Song from 22nd April and 3 in song flight on 28th April. Up to 3 pairs probably nested. Passage from 24th August, peaks of 8 on 4th, 12 on 9th, 16 on 29th September, 15 on 2nd and 4th October. Small numbers in November, but large influx during snow at end of month; 35 on 26th and 40 on 29th November.
- GREAT SNIPE** *Capella media*. One in the marsh, behind Quoy, on 1st May and one at Busta on 27th September.
- JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyptes minimus*. 3 plus on 10th April and 2 on 5th May. Singles on 6 days in September from 11th, 6 on 27th and 3 on 30th September. 3 on 1st, 2nd, 4 on 3rd, 1-2 until 27th October, but 3 on 26th. Singles on 29th November and 2nd December.
- WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*. 1-5 on 1st-4th and 1 on 18th January. 1 on 1st and 19th, 3 on 2nd February. 1-3 on 7 days between 28th March and 21st June. Autumn passage from 27th September to 4th December, mainly 20th October to 16th November, peaks of 10 on 21st October, 30 plus on 8th, 200 plus on 11th, 40 on 12th and 20 on 13th Nov.
- CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*. One on 18th February. Spring passage from 1st March, mainly from 1st April; 20 on 5th, 13 on 8th April and 30 on 19th May. Up to 8 in June and 16 in July. Main autumn passage from 10th August (10) to 14th September, peaks of 20 on 11th, 50 on 13th and 60 on 15th August. Singles on 11 days in October, 1-3 on most days in November and up to 5 in December.
- WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*. Singles on 22nd and 23rd April. Spring passage from 30th April, peaks of 10 on 10th, 15 on 14th, 25 on 15th, 20 on 16th, 12 on 18th and 10 on 30th

- May; up to 5 in June and 4 in July. Passage until 8th September, max. 11 on 15th and 12 on 30th August. Late singles on 22nd and 26th September.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. Singles on 24th April and 14th May. Autumn passage from 22nd August to 22nd September, max. 5 from 6th-14th.
- GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. At least one on 6 days between 29th April and 7th May. Passage from 23rd July (1 plus) to 28th September, 1-2 on 10 days in August and singles on 3 days in September.
- WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. Singles on 7th July, on 6 days in August and on 5th September.
- COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Spring passage from 3rd to 31st May, peaks of 5 on 7th and 4 on 27th. Singles on 11th and 19th June. Autumn passage from 22nd July (2) to 27th September, peaks of 5 on 24th July, 6 on 16th and 23rd August, and 5 on 4th-5th September. Late bird on 2nd October.
- REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Small numbers, up to 7, wintered and small numbers, up to 10, from March to 25th June. Autumn passage from 3rd July, monthly peaks of 35 on 22nd July, 35 on 6th, 87 on 19th, 36 on 20th August, 40 on 4th, 45 on 20th September, 35 on 15th, 50 on 28th October, 20 on 1st and 23rd November.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Singles on 8 days between 21st April and 14th May. One on 8th June. Autumn passage from 26th to 27th September, mainly in August, when max. of 5 on 14th.
- KNOT *Calidris canutus*. 3 on 18th and 1 on 27th May. 1 on 23rd-28th July. Passage from 3rd to 28th August, peaks of 20 on 6th, 15 on 12th-13th and 25th. Late singles on 4 days in September.
- PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. A few records in winter, up to 7 in March, up to 9 in April except 25 on 10th April, and up to 11 in May. Autumn passage from 22nd July, monthly maxima, 10 on 25th July, 20 on 11th August, 12 on 16th September, 20 on 31st October and 14 in November.
- LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. 1 on 7th, 8 on 9th, 2 on 11th, singles on 12th, 14th, 17th, 26th, 27th September and 2nd October.
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Singles on 27th March and 19th April. Small numbers from 2nd May to 15th June, max. 10 on 13th-14th and 27 on 16th May. Autumn passage from 16th July to 15th October, mainly 9th-29th August (max. 19), 5th-9th September (max. 14), and 25th September-15th Oc-

- tober (max. 11). Singles on 29th, 30th and 31st October and 2 on 18th and 24th November.
- SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. 3 on 5th June. 4 on 22nd, 14 on 23rd, 2 on 24th and 1 on 26th July; small numbers, up to 8, on half the days between 5th and 25th August; one 9th-11th September.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Singles on 13th and 14th May, and 26th July. Passage from 6th August (3) to 29th September (2), peaks of 3-5 between 13th and 20th August and 5-9 between 3rd and 7th September, but an amazing influx of 40 plus on 9th September. Late birds on 2nd and 5th October.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. First seen on 31st March, 3 plus on 4th, 6 on 10th April, main arrivals from 13th April. Display in full swing 28th April. Breeding population decreased, ca. 12 pairs. Not very successful. A large gathering of 70 plus on airstrip at dusk, 21st July. Numbers decreasing from 24th and 29th August, down to 20 by 31st, 10 by 9th, 5 by 25th September and 2 by 14th October. Last one on 26th October.
- ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. First seen on 4th, next ones on 8th and 15th April, 12 on 24th, 26 on 25th and 40 plus on 26th April. Display in full swing by 28th. Numbers much the same as last year, ca. 70 pairs. Breeding success average. Dispersal from 24th and 28th August, only a few left by first week September. Passage noted in 3rd week of September and last one seen on 29th September, but one seen on crossing on 5th October.
- POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. One on crossing on 11th May and one over North Haven on 9th July.
- LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*. A beautiful pale-phase adult on the airstrip, with the non-breeding Arctic Skuas, on 13th July, and over the Tarryfield on 15th July. The 2nd record for Fair Isle.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. 100 plus on 10th and 150 plus on 11th January were the only large winter flocks. Breeding population as 1964, good fledging success. 200 in flock on 3rd May and 21st June. 300 plus on 4th July.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. First arrival (3) on 4th April and main arrival (33) on 17th April. Breeding numbers as 1964. Good breeding success, but very late at South Gavel, where half grown chicks ringed on 29th August and 2nd September. Numbers decreasing late August and September, 5 on 13th, 3 on 22nd and last on 25th September.
- HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Winter flock maximum of 200 on 10th-11th January. One with yellow legs was noted

at Taing on 14th April. Breeding numbers slightly down on 1964. Success average. Mid-summer flock max. 150. Rather scarce in autumn, max. 120.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. 1, 20th-22nd January. Small numbers in March; main spring passage from 6th April (45), peaks of 500 on 17th, 70 on 30th April, 40 on 8th, 11th, 70 on 25th May, 30 on 20th June. Small numbers in July, autumn passage, including juveniles, from 18th July, peaks of 60 on 23rd and 46 on 31st July, 200 plus on 5th-6th, 400 on 12th, 800 on 13th, 1200 on 14th, 800 on 15th, 350 on 16th, 100 on 22nd August, 130 on 3rd, 120 on 20th September, 83 on 1st and 9th October. Small numbers in November.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. One from 1st Jan, found dead on 4th March. Singles 18th and 22nd March, and 16th May. A 1st winter bird on 2nd September, 1 on 16th, 2 on 29th, 1 on 30th, 2 on 31st October, 4 on 1st, 1 on 2nd, 4 on 3rd, 3 on 4th, 2 on 6th, and singles on 7th, 11th, 22nd-23rd, 27th and 29th November.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*. An adult arrived in gale on 4th November, caught and ringed but found dead on 6th November.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. 1, 21st-23rd January. Spring passage from 16th March to 30th June; small numbers most days, but 19 on 24th April and 16 on 11th May. Autumn passage from 1st July to 29th October, first juveniles on 8th July, max. 24 on 28th October. Late singles on 1st and 18th November.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. First ashore on 2nd March; in numbers from 1st April. Usual numbers bred, but success poor. Last ashore in numbers at end of July, few still on 19th August. Small numbers offshore in autumn, but strong passages on 22nd and 29th September, and 17th November.

COMMON and ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo* and *macrura*. Spring passage from 4th May, first Commons identified on 6th May and first Arctics on 2nd June. A flock of 70 terns, (the majority Arctic), arrived on 14th July and took up residence on the Tail of Uren, they indulged in fish-carrying and display, many stayed for a week and some until end of month, but none nested. Small numbers of both species present until 8th October, large arrival of 40 on 8th August.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. One in North Haven 9th-11th April, over 6 weeks earlier than the previous records. Up to 3 present 14th-19th July and 1 on 3rd August.

LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. 100 plus seen on crossing on 20th January. Singles on 25th and 28th January. 2 on crossing

- on 4th and 3 on 9th November, and 5 flew east past Skadan on 17th November.
- RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*. Ashore from 2nd March, larger numbers from 2nd April. Usual numbers bred, with good success. Dispersal from 21st July, last one ashore on 4th August. 2 offshore on 19th and 4 on 20th September. One washed up dead on 29th November.
- GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*. Ashore from 22nd January, but actually they were ashore from 17th to 23rd December 1964. Less frequently in March until 30th, larger numbers ashore from 2nd April. Large increase of non-breeding birds from 2nd June, resulted in the greatest number of Guillemots recorded ashore at Fair Isle. Dispersal from 20th July, few left ashore by 4th August and last on 10th. Smaller numbers offshore all autumn and some ashore at Sheep Rock on 15th November.
- BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cephus grylle*. Present all winter, song from 12th March. A good breeding season
- PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*. One on 20th January and 4th February. A few on crossing on 10th March. First ashore on 30th March, much earlier than usual; full strength ashore from 19th April. Breeding numbers still very high, but some movement of population to more inaccessible areas. A partial albino, seen on 20th July, was pure white except for black rectrices and some flight feathers. Still ashore in numbers on 4th August and last one seen on 18th August. One seen offshore on 19th September.
- ROCK DOVE** *Columba livia*. Up to 11 wintered, increased to 18 on 13th March. Up to 20 seen in spring and probably 10-12 pairs nested. Autumn flock peaked at 22 on 13th August and 23 on 20th November.
- WOOD PIGEON** *Columba palumbus*. Spring passage from 1st April to 28th May, peaks of 10 on 3rd, 17 on 10th, 12 on 18th May. 1-2 on eight days in June and singles on 1st July, 11th and 19th August. Small autumn passage from 26th September to 5th November, maximum 3 on 2nd October.
- TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*. 1-2 most days from 13th to 29th May, one on 18th June. 1-2 from 30th August to 27th September, with a late juvenile from 1st to 16th October.
- COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*. 1-2 most days from 3rd June to 17th August, with 3 on 21st June, 3 plus on 10th July and 3 on 15th August.
- CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*. Singles on 11 days between 7th May and 19th June; but 4 on 26th May. In autumn, one 25th /26th August. 1 on 3rd, 2 on 4th, 3 on 5th, 4 on 6th and 2 on 7th September.

- SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. One flew north over isle on May 17th.
- LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Singles on 26th and 30th March, 3rd, 13th and 17th May. In autumn one on 13th November and another on 14th. One on 5th December.
- SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. One on 12th, 3 on 23rd and 2 on 30th April. Singles 4 times in May, twice in June and 4 times in July; eight times in August but 2 on 22nd August, twice in September, once in October and once in November.
- NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*. One in Gully on 27th May and the remains of one (long-dead) were found near the Gully on 20th July.
- SWIFT *Apus apus*. 2 on 3rd May; 1-3 between 7th and 10th and 17th and 21st June. Small numbers, max. 6 from 3rd to 31st July. Singles on 11 days between 15th August and 18th September, but 3 on 18th and 12 on 23rd August.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. 2 on 3rd May and singles on 4th, 5th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 16th-20th and 25th May. In autumn, one on 3rd, at least 8 on 4th, 3 on 5th and singles on 6th, 7th, 10th and 12th September.
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. An adult, of one of the reddish southern races, at the Haa, from 27th to 29th May.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Small numbers, up to 6, between 3rd and 22nd January; 14 from 13th and 21 from 26th February. Arrivals 10th-13th March, when 120 on island. Passage on several days at end of March and early April. Bred in usual numbers, with average success. Some days of passage between 18th and 25th September; numbers decreased in October and only a few remained by 23rd November.
- SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. Singles at Easter Lothar on 29th October and 21st November.
- SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. At least one on 5th April is earliest record for Fair Isle. 2 plus on 24th April. Spring passage from 1st May, main arrivals from 13th, with peaks of 35 on 15th and 45 on 20th May. Small numbers throughout June and 1-2 on 11 days in July. Scarce in autumn, 2 on 25th, 4 on 27th and 2 on 29th August; 3-8 between 4th and 11th and up to 30 between 27th September and 11th October.
- HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage from 11th May to 22nd June, peaks of 90 on 27th, 30 on 28th May and 40 on 18th June. Small numbers on a few days in late June and July. Autumn passage of up to 15 between 3rd and 9th

- September and up to 5 between 27th September and 3rd October.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Singles on 7 days between 5th May and 18th June, but 3 on 12th May. Singles on 12th and 19th August. 1-4 between 4th-9th and 1-3 between 28th September and 3rd October.
- RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Usual numbers wintered, 7 seen in January. Display from 20th March. 4 pairs nested, but rather unsuccessfully. Max. autumn flock 13 on 11th Sept.
- CARRION CROW *Corvus coronae*. The 1964 bird present until joined by a second on 2nd April. One until 9th, up to 5 between 12th April and 2nd May and 2-8 between 11th and 15th May, last one on 21st May. One on 29th November.
- HOODED CROW *Corvus vornix*. Up to 14 in winter flock. Usual breeding numbers. Fewer in autumn than usual.
- ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One 28th January to 4th February. One 9th-15th, 15 on 16th, 14 on 17th and 3 on 18th-23rd March. Singles on 7 days in April, but 6 on 25th and 2 on 30th. One 25th October to 8th November (3), 5 on 11th and 1-2 until 18th November.
- JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. One 22nd-24th January. Arrival of 27 on 25th October, at least 20 until 8th November.
- COAL TIT *Parus ater*. One, on 28th October, was found sheltering in the stack-yard at Setter by Gordon Barnes. It fluttered into a stone dyke and was not seen again. The race was not determined. Second record for Fair Isle.
- WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. A dawn census was repeated in June and the breeding population continues at last year's high number. A pair again nested in the Gully.
- DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. One from 19th November until end of year, caught and ringed on 5th December. It was referable to the Black-bellied race, *C. c. cinclus*.
- MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. Singles on 9 days between 15th March and 11th May; 2 on 22nd March and 29th April.
- FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. Small numbers up to 13 January-March, but 17 on 13th March and spring passage until 19th May. Main movements from 8th to 14th April (peak of 250 on 9th) and 3rd to 10th May (peaks of 500 on 3rd-4th and 400 on 5th are largest recorded spring falls). One on 28th-30th May. An early bird on 15th August and early passage from 2nd September, with an early peak of 500 on 27th September. Passage throughout October and November; peaks of 600 on 1st, 500 on 3rd, 400 on 9th, 17th, 500 on 26th and 29th October and 200 on 11th November. Small numbers until 23rd November.
- SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. One on 16th February.

Singles from 17th March, small numbers in April, until late passage of 86 on 29th and 80 on 30th April, which continued to 14th May, max. 35 on 3rd. 3 on 27th and 1 on 28th May, singles on 4 days in June until 21st, but 2 on 10th June. Autumn passage from 2nd September to 4th December, mainly from 26th September to 29th October, with peaks of 150 on 27th September and 1st, 200 on 3rd and 350 on 5th October.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. 1 on 7th and 1-2 from 21st to 27th January. Spring passage from 19th March to 18th May, mainly 29th March to 10th April, with peaks of 64 on 30th and 90 on 31st March, and 60 on 1st April. Singles in song on 17th April and 10th May. One on 2nd June. Autumn passage from 4th September to 24th November, mainly 26th September to 31st October, with peaks of 700 on 27th September, 800 plus on 1st, 500 on 2nd, 450 on 3rd and 5th, 200 on 25th and 26th and 250 on 29th October. Icelandic birds predominated from 28th October to 4th November.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. 2 on 13th April, spring passage 28th April to 21st May; peaks of 36 on 29th, 15 on 30th April and 25 on 3rd May. Song on 10th May. One on 2nd June. Autumn passage 4th September-21st October, mainly 26th September-8th October; peaks of 70 on 27th (record total for Fair Isle), 25 on 28th September, 20 on 1st and 5th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Under 10 wintered, but 20 on 22nd January. Small passage from 22nd March to 27th May, mainly 2nd-12th April, max. 35 on 26th March and 25 on 10th-11th April. Singles on 5 days in June and on 1st July. Autumn passage from 27th September was rather earlier than usual and continued to 22nd November, with peaks of 300 on 21st, 450 on 22nd, 500 on 23rd-24th and 26th-28th October, and 140 on 8th November. About 12 wintered.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. ♂ on 30th, 4 on 31st March, increasing in first week of April (1st ♀ on 2nd), 20 on 6th, 40 on 7th and 60 on 8th. Passage noted in first fortnight of May included birds of the Greenland race. Breeding numbers as last year. Passage from 21st to 25th August and a decrease of local birds in last week of August and after 12th-13th September; 3 on 15th October and singles on 21st and 23rd October.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Spring passage 3rd-28th May, peaks of 6 on 7th, 7 on 19th and 8 on 27th. Strong autumn passage from 14th August to 10th October, with peaks of 12 on 25th August, 110 on 4th, 85 on 6th, 80 on 7th and 30 on 27th September.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. A ♂ on 12th March. A juvenile

- from 15th to 24th July, was trapped in Gully, on 15th. A young bird of the Siberian race *maura* in the Middle Leys area on 5th and 6th October.
- REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Spring passage from 29th April to 8th June, small numbers, max. 12 on 19th May. One on 16th-18th August. Passage from 3rd to 17th September and 24th September to 15th October; peaks of 57 on 4th, 23 on 6th, 33 on 27th September and 18 on 2nd October. One on 24th October.
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Singles on 6th and 29th April; in contrast to the number of records in 1964.
- NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One caught in Gully on 7th May and another caught at the North Grind on 30th, present on 31st May. 2nd and 3rd records for Fair Isle.
- THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*. One trapped in Vaadel on 24th May, present until 26th May; another netted on Ward Hill on 26th May, present until 29th May. 4th and 5th records for Fair Isle and Britain.
- BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. Females on 18th, 19th and 27th May. Males of the nominate race on 26th, 29th and 31st May. One on 1st July. In autumn, 1 on 3rd, 2 on 4th, 3 on 5th and singles on 6th, 25th and 27th September; up to 3 from 1st to 16th October.
- ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. 1-2 on 12 days, 17th March to 26th April, then a rather late spring passage until 27th May; peaks of 54 on 29th, 40 on 30th April and 7th May. Singles on 1st and 11th June. 2 on 4th, 1 on 5th-6th September. Autumn passage from 24th September to 16th October; peaks of 30 on 27th September, 90 on 3rd, 40 on 4th, 30 on 5th and 10th October. Stragglers until 24th November.
- GRASSHOPPER WALBLER *Locustella naevia*. Singles on 8 days between 3rd and 27th May, but 2 on 7th and 15th May. One on 16th August.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. 1-2 daily 8th-17th June. Singles on 17th-18th August, 7th and 25th September.
- MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. Singles trapped on 6th June and 29th September. Single reed warblers spp., on 14th August, 4th, 6th, 14th September and 1st October.
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Singles on 7 days between 7th and 30th May, 2 on 13th and 27th. One on 3rd June. One found freshly dead on 12th September.
- AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola*. One netted at Setter on 5th September and another netted at Springfield on 10th September (present on 9th). 8th and 9th records for Fair Isle.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. Singles trapped on 8th June, 14th August (present until 25th) and 11th September.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. ♂ on 4th May and 1-2 from 20th May to 9th June. ♀ on 25th June and 2 ♂♂s on 10th July. Autumn passage from 2nd September to 20th October, with peaks of 21 on 27th, 10 on 29th September, 18 on 1st, 20 on 3rd and 15 on 9th October. 1 on 27th October, 2 on 1st and ♀ on 14th November.

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. 4 on 16th, 1 on 20th and 1 on 27th August. In September, 3 on 2nd, 5 on 3rd, 1 on 4th, 2 on 5th and 16th and 1 plus on 24th. One on 3rd and 4th October.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Spring passage from 17th May to 14th June, small numbers on half the days; max. 4 on 3rd and 7 on 9th. Autumn passage from 5th August to 12th October; main arrivals in three peaks, 11 on 13th and 18 on 14th August, 70 on 3rd, 60 on 4th and 40 on 27th September. One on 19th October.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Spring passage from 3rd May to 18th June, max. 8 on 18th and 27th May. 1 from 26th to 30th July. Return passage from 7th August to 7th October, small numbers except 3rd-12th September, when peaks of 23 on 4th and 15 on 5th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. Passage from 4th May to 4th June, 1-2 on half the days, max. 3 on 3rd and 4th June. Singles on 12th, 16th and 17th August. Autumn passage from 3rd September to 10th October, max. 4 on 5th and 3 on 3rd and 11th September. One bird of the Siberian race *blythi* trapped on 26th September.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring passage from 5th May to 2nd June, peaks of 8 on 7th, 9 on 16th, and 7 on 23rd May. Autumn passage from 12th August to 8th October, peaks of 40 on 2nd, 48 on 4th, 40 on 5th and 6th September.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Extended spring passage from 5th April to 18th June; sporadic except 1st-8th May, when max. of 8 on 3rd and 10 on 6th. One in song on 7th. Singles on 14th July, 2nd and 30th September. Passage from 1st to 20th October, small numbers except 15 on 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 16 on 10th.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. At least one on 16th August, and 2 on 4th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Singles on 25th and 29th September, 2nd, 10th and 12th October.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. One on 15th-19th March. Small passage on 1st-30th April, max. 10 on 10th. One on 20th

- May. Autumn passage from 3rd September to 1st November; arrivals in 3 peaks, 10 on 3rd, 14 on 27th and 26 on 29th September, 110 on 1st, 70 on 2nd and 30 on 3rd October. 2 late ones on 11th November.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. Spring passage from 15th May to 20th June, small numbers except 4 on 25th and 7 on 27th. Return passage 16th August-5th October, mainly 3rd-13th September, max. 11 on 4th.
- PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. 1-2 on 8 days between 29th April and 23rd May, but 3 on 18th. Autumn passage 15th August-5th October, with peaks of 24 on 3rd, 53 on 4th, 20 on 6th and 15 on 9th September.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. One on 9th October.
- HEDGE SPARROW *Prunella modularis*. Passage from 17th April to 17th May, maxima 25 on 29th April and 3rd May. Singles on 22nd and 28th May, and 8th June. Autumn passage from 26th September to 27th October, with peaks of 20 on 3rd-4th and 15 on 5th-6th October, stragglers on 1st and 23rd November.
- MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Small numbers from 9th March, but 100 plus on 5th and 150 on 7th April, passage late April and early May. Breeding population slightly down on 1964. Passage from 17th August, especially 26th August-24th September decrease late October and last seen 23rd November (6).
- RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One on 2nd and 2 on 26th October.
- TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Small numbers 29th April-8th June; max. 6 on 25th and 31st May. Autumn passage from 3rd September to 10th October, peaks of 17 on 3rd, 35 on 5th and 28 on 27th September.
- INDIAN TREE PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*. It was established in 1965 that a 'tree pipit' trapped on 17th October 1964 was an Indian Tree Pipit, the first record for Fair Isle and Britain and the second for Europe. A second bird of this species was trapped on 29th September 1965, present on 30th.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. Singles at Vaadel on 26th May and at Taing on 13th October.
- ROCK PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*. Breeding population slightly down on 1964, passage noted in late August.
- WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*. Spring passage from 9th April to 22nd May, maximum 5 on 13th August. One on 1st June. Autumn passage 7th August-9th October, with peaks of 28 on 27th, 30 on 28th August and 15 on 2nd September. 1 on 26th October.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. 2 on 12th-13th March, 1 until 16th and singles on 26th, 27th and 29th March.

YELLOW WAGTAILS *Motacilla flava*. Spring passage 3rd-28th May, mainly Blue-headed Wagtails, *M. f. flava*, but a pair of Grey-headed Wagtails, *M. f. thunbergi*, 14th-20th May. One Blue-headed Wagtail 18th-20th June. Autumn passage of *flavas*, 3rd-11th September, max. 4, and singles 27th-30th September and 4th-5th October.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Very strong invasion in autumn; one (possibly 2) on 16th October, 30 on 17th, 8 on 19th, 20 on 20th, 2-18 daily until 31st October, when 25 plus. A large arrival of ca. 200 on 1st November, 2 only on 2nd, 1-7 plus most days until 15th November.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. One on 27th-28th June, only record for the year.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator*. An adult ♂ (trapped) on 23rd May-7th June, singing on last date. Another ♂ trapped on 12th August.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. Single males on 4 days and single females on 6 days between 22nd May and 14th June, but 2 ♀s on 1st June. In autumn, 4 on 4th, 3 on 5th, 2 on 6th and 1 on 11th September.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Small passage in late March and early April. Breeding numbers as 1964, good success. First flock, 120 on 25th July. Passage from 27th September, throughout October and early November. A pale off-white bird from 14th to 19th November.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. 1, 17th-19th October, 2-8 from 24th October to 1st November. One from 4th (2 on 9th) November until 31st December.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. ♂ on 30th April and ♀ on 21st-28th July. Autumn passage from 4th September to 16th October, with peaks of 9 on 14th, 27 on 25th, increasing to 36 on 28th September, most of flock present until 7th October (24), then decreasing. One on 5th November.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. One on 2nd-4th March. Spring passage, 9th April-29th May, maximum 9 on 5th May. Singles on 3rd, 11th, 22nd September, 2 on 10th and 1 on 28th October.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. 11 on 19th January. Arrivals from 10th February, mainly from 1st April. Breeding numbers low, and autumn flocks usually 70-90, only reaching three figures in late September and October, maximum 140 on 3rd October. A migrant flock of 22 flew south on 25th November.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. One Mealy Redpoll, *flammea*

on 7th January. Small numbers 16th April to 4th May, included Mealy Redpolls on 16th and 22nd; Greenland Redpoll, *rostrata*, on 27th and 28th, and Lesser Redpolls, *cabaret*, 2 on 28th-29th and 1 on 3rd-4th. 2 Mealy Redpolls on 15th July, and 1-3 on 27th-30th July. 1 Lesser Redpoll on 22nd July. In autumn, 1 on 14th-15th August, 1-2, 17th September-13th October. An invasion of mainly Mealy Redpolls occurred from 20th October to 24th November. The peaks were 90 plus on 23rd October and 75 on 10th November. Most of the birds were rather pale Mealy Redpolls, but some obviously belonged to a hybrid swarm and could only be classed as *C. f. flammea/C. hornemanni exilpes*, and some (up to 10) had the plumage of Coue's (Arctic) Redpoll *C. hornemanni exilpes*.

ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni*. As well as the Coue's Redpolls mentioned under the last species, we trapped one Hornemann's Redpoll *C. h. hornemanni*, 4th-7th November, which arrived in a westerly gale.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A ♀ of the nominate race trapped on 4th December, present until 6th.

SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. An adult ♀ from 9th to 13th June; 3rd spring record for Fair Isle. None in autumn 1965.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. Small numbers 22nd March-30th May; maximum 5 on 4th May. In autumn, 1 on 3rd and 3 on 4th September. Passage from 23rd September to 10th November, mainly 26th September-5th October, with peaks of 140 on 29th and 180 on 30th September, 120 on 2nd and 100 on 3rd October. One on 20th November.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. A ♂ on 12th January. Spring passage from 4th April to 20th May, mainly 28th April-6th May, with peaks of 150 on 29th and 30th April (record spring total), 54 on 3rd and 72 on 4th May. Autumn passage from 26th September to 4th November, peaks of 60 on 27th September, 110 on 5th and 150 on 20th October. Late bird 11th-18th November.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. Singles on 24th January, 31st March, 14th-15th and 20th-21st April, 2nd and 12th May. 2 on 7th May and 1 on 21st June.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 3rd-17th March (trapped), 7th and 19th November.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*. A first summer male at the Houll, 29th-30th June.

RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A ♂ at Quoy on 17th June and a ♀ at North Haven on 20th June.

YELLOW-BREADED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. One ♀ (or 1st

- winter) at Busta on 9th September.
- ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. A ♂ on 6th May. 1-5 from 4th to 11th September, 2 on 13th, 1 on 26th, 4 on 27th and 1 on 29th September. Singles on 6th and 10th October.
- RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. A ♂ at Kennaby on 30th April and 1st May; one at North Light on 5th October.
- LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. One trapped 16th-21st September at Taft.
- REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Spring passage, 2nd April-28th May; small numbers but 12 on 6th and 10 on 8th May. Singles on 19th July and 1st August. Autumn passage from 27th September to 3rd November, with peaks of 12 on 3rd and 8 on 6th October. Late singles on 15th, 18th and 20th November.
- LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Singles on 4th March and 6th April. Autumn passage from 29th August to 15th October, with peaks of 7 on 10th, 15 on 11th and 9 plus on 12th September. Late singles on 22nd and 26th October, 10th and 20th November.
- SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Up to 30 wintered; arrivals of 41 on 2nd and 70 plus on 9th March, passage until 7th May. Autumn passage from 6th September, but not very numerous, peaks of 100 on 3rd and 16th October, and 150 on 1st and 2nd November.
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Numbers still low and probably declining.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. 1 on 19th February. 1-2 from 10th April, 3 from 6th and 14 from 12th May, increasing to 32 on 22nd and 40 on 27th May. High numbers until 8th June, then decreased. 1 or 2 pairs nested in South Reeve. 1-6 present in August and September, 1-2 in October and singles on 4 days in November.

Traps

The Observatory and Double Dyke traps were rather storm-damaged in the winter and both required attention. The rest were in good order. We built a small duck trap on Byerwell pool, which caught Hooded Crow and Rock Pipits as well as ducks. We sited a small wader trap on the new pool in Gilsetter. Mist nets again accounted for many of the rare species; by night we dazzled and trapped many unusual species, such as Pinkfoot, Barnacle Goose and Long-tailed Duck, and this method also accounted for large numbers of turdidae caught below the lighthouses. In the autumn we moved the obsolete Bluethroat trap, in one piece, to the Vaadel, where we intend

to erect it in the plantation. We must mention Richard Lorand who worked wonders with the Fleyg in the autumn and added a hundred Fulmars to our ringing totals.

Ringing

In 1965, 5017 birds of 123 species were ringed with Fair Isle Bird Observatory rings, which is an increase of 1224 birds and eighteen species over the 1964 totals. One hundred and forty-three birds were ringed in Shetland during my visit, and Magnus Sinclair ringed eighteen birds in Unst, including a Whimbrel; my total included a pullus Red-necked Phalarope. The leading monthly scores were 1095 in August and 897 in July. The leading species scores were Shag 754; Fulmar 455; Wheatear 450; Starling 428; Blackbird 384; Rock Pipit 270; Robin 212; Redwing 184; Meadow Pipit 167; Guillemot 154 and Storm Petrel 165. The totals for Fulmar (270), Shag (548) and Guillemot (73) are records for Fair Isle; the numbers in brackets being previous best. Species ringed for the first time by the Observatory were Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Dotterel (2), Little Ringed Plover and Iceland Gull. Other unusual species ringed were Long-tailed Duck, Grey-lag, Whooper Swan (3), Quail, Ruff (4), Common Gull (6 on F.I.), Black-bellied Dipper, Stonechat (in July), Nightingale (2), Thrush Nightingale (2), Bluethroat (3), Marsh Warbler (2), Aquatic Warbler (2), Icterine Warbler (3), Yellow-browed Warbler, Indian Tree Pipit, Waxwing (4), Woodchat Shrike (2), Hornemann's Redpoll, Ortolan (2) and Little Bunting.

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

TABLE I

<i>Year</i>	<i>No of Birds</i>	<i>No. of Species</i>
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	106
1965	5017	123
Grand Total	62419	199

Table 2 gives the ringing total 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		
	1948-64	1965	Total	1948-64	1965	Total
Slavonian Grebe	1		1			
Little Grebe	1		1			
Storm Petrel	243	165	408	1		1
Fulmar	1647	455	2002	9	1	10
Gannet	9	1	10			
Cormorant	4		4			
Shag	3551	754	4305	96	10	106
Heron	7	1	8			
Mallard	4	2	6			
Teal	7	5	12	2		2
Wigeon	5	1	6			
Scaup	1	1	2			
Tufted Duck	1	4	5			
Goldeneye	2		2			
Long-tailed Duck	2	1	3			
Velvet Scoter	1		1			
Eider	29	1	30			
Red-br. Merganser	1		1			
Greylag Goose	2	1	3			
White-front	1		1			
Pink-footed Goose		1	1			
Barnacle Goose		1	1			
Whooper	6	3	9			
Sparrowhawk	49	2	51	8		8
Peregrine	5		5			
Merlin	99	4	103	11		11
Kestrel	17	1	18	3		3
Red-footed Falcon	1		1			
Quail	1	1	2			
Water Rail	114	4	118	2		2
Spotted Crake	2		2			
Corncrake	22		22	2		2
Moorhen	31	2	33			

Coot	6		6			
Oystercatcher	447	27	474	18	1	19
Lapwing	208		208	3		3
Ringed Plover	156	9	165	2	1	3
Little Ringed Plover		1	1			
Golden Plover	3		3			
Dotterel		2	2			
Turnstone	19	13	32			
Snipe	76	16	92	3		3
Jack Snipe	15	5	20			
Woodcock	88	9	97	4		4
Curlew	8	1	9			
Whimbrel	6	1	7			
Bar-tailed Godwit	4	1	5	1	1	2
Green Sandpiper	11	1	12			
Wood Sandpiper	5		5			
Common Sandpiper	15	5	20			
Redshank	40	8	48	1		1
Spotted Redshank	1		1			
Greenshank	3		3			
Knot	24		24			
Purple Sandpiper	51	6	57			
Little Stint	10		10			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Am. Pectoral Sandpiper	2		2			
Dunlin	121	4	125	2		2
Sanderling	42	1	43			
Ruff	5	4	9	1		1
Red-necked Phalarope	2	1	3			
Arctic Skua	1067	9	1076	21	3	24
Bonxie	368	20	388	3	2	5
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Great Blackback	220	29	249	12	3	15
Lesser Blackback	249	34	283	4		4
Herring Gull	410	21	431	10	5	15
Common Gull	39	15	54			
Glaucous Gull	5		5	1		1
Iceland Gull		1	1			
Black-headed Gull	34		34	2		2
Kittiwake	117	26	143	1		1
Common Tern	11		11			
Arctic Tern	95		95			
Razorbill	366	36	402	18	1	19
Little Auk	4		4			
Guillemot	294	154	448	11	3	14
Black Guillemot	250	68	318	2		2
Puffin	3494	32	3526	4	2	6
Wood Pigeon	16	2	18	1	1	2

Turtle Dove	12		12			
Collared Dove	2	1	3			
Cuckoo	30	1	31	1		1
Long-eared Owl	32	3	35	2		2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Swift	7		7	1		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	7		7			
Wryneck	33	5	38			
Short-toed Lark	2		2			
Woodlark	1		1			
Skylark	311	15	326	2		2
Swallow	78	15	93	1		1
House Martin	33	2	35			
Raven	1		1			
Hooded Crow	11	8	19			
Rook	4		4			
Great Tit	1		1			
Blue Tit	2		2			
Treecreeper	1		1			
Wren	326	20	346			
Dipper	4	1	5			
Mistle Thrush	8		8			
Fieldfare	170	63	233			
Song Thrush	478	84	562	13		13
Redwing	2423	184	2607	23	3	26
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	59	22	81	1		1
Blackbird	8033	384	8417	145	13	158
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Wheatear	7707	450	8157	38	2	40
Black-eared Wheatear	2		2			
Stonechat	12	1	13			
Whinchat	217	23	240	1		1
Redstart	561	42	603			
Black Redstart	35		35			
Nightingale	1	2	3			
Thrush Nightingale	2	2	4			
Bluethroat	80	3	83	1		1
Robin	1806	212	2018	11	2	13
Grasshopper Warbler	16	4	20			
Lanceolated Warbler	3		3			
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1		1			
River Warbler	1		1			
Great Reed Warbler	1		1			
Reed Warbler	33	4	37	1		1

Marsh Warbler	17	2	19			
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1			
Thick-billed Warbler	1		1			
Sedge Warbler	116	2	118			
Aquatic Warbler	4	2	6			
Melodious Warbler	2		2			
Icterine Warbler	19	3	22			
Booted Warbler	1		1			
Blackcap	404	49	453	2		2
Barred Warbler	89	10	99			
Garden Warbler	568	129	697			
Whitethroat	341	15	356			
Lesser Whitethroat	136	11	147			
Subalpine Warbler	5		5			
Willow Warbler	807	45	852			
Greenish Warbler	5		5			
Chiffchaff	133	22	155			
Wood Warbler	15	2	17			
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1			
Arctic Warbler	10		10			
Yellow-browed Warbler	18	1	19			
Dusky Warbler	1		1			
Goldcrest	313	54	367			
Spotted Flycatcher	163	15	178	1		1
Pied Flycatcher	295	37	332	2		2
Red-breasted Fly.	29		29			
Hedge Sparrow	398	50	448	3		3
Meadow Pipit	3921	167	4088	32		32
Tree Pipit	157	13	170			
Indian Tree Pipit	1	1	2			
Petchora Pipit	1		1			
Red-throated Pipit	1		1			
Rock Pipit	3168	270	3438	6	2	8
Richard's Pipit	3		3			
Tawny Pipit	1		1			
Pied/White Wagtail	250	11	261	3		3
Grey Wagtail	4		4	1		1
Yellow Wagtail spp.	6	1	7			
Citrine Wagtail	3		3			
Waxwing	7	4	11			
Great Grey Shrike	22		22			
Lesser Grey Shrike	3		3			
Woodchat Shrike	3	2	5			
Red-backed Shrike	35	3	38			
Starling	5153	428	5581	36	7	43
Rose-coloured Starling	1		1			
Greenfinch	10	1	11			

Goldfinch	2		2			
Siskin	102	8	110			
Linnet	10	5	15			
Twite	1702	39	1741	2		2
Redpoll	94	29	123			
Arctic Redpoll	2	1	3			
Bullfinch	6	1	7			
Scarlet Grosbeak	17		17			
Crossbill	255		255	1		1
Parrot Crossbill	35		35			
Chaffinch	440	20	460			
Brambling	210	14	224	1		1
Yellowhammer	16		16			
Corn Bunting	1	1	2			
Red-headed Bunting	3		3			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	2		2			
Ortolan	6	2	8			
Rustic Bunting	4		4	1		1
Little Bunting	9	1	10			
Reed Bunting	65	3	68	1		1
Lapland Bunting	29	1	30			
Snow Bunting	157	6	163	2		2
House Sparrow	758	9	767			
Tree Sparrow	9	3	12			
GRAND TOTAL	57402	5017	62419	593	63	656

Recoveries 1965

Recoveries of sixty-three birds ringed by the Observatory were reported during the year. Only one bird ringed elsewhere was controlled at Fair Isle during 1965. The most exciting recovery was an Arctic Skua ringed as a chick on 9th July 1963 and found exhausted in Brazil on 17th May 1965; our first recovery of this species on the other side of the Atlantic.

One Fulmar recovery was reported, and that was a young bird from August 1964, found off Tromsø in May. Ten Shags were reported; 3 in Shetland, 1 in Orkney, 2 in Caithness and singles in Kincardine, Ross, Fife and Northumberland. One 1958 Oystercatcher chick was shot in March at Heysham (Lancashire). Our other two wader recoveries were interesting—a first winter Ringed Plover ringed on 24th August and recovered 14 days later near Cabourg (France) and a Bar-tailed Godwit ringed on 29th August and shot in Jutland 12 days later. This Godwit provides our second long-distance recovery for this species from only 5 birds ringed.

Arctic Skua chicks ringed in 1959 and 1960 were found in Yorkshire and Shetland in the autumn. A Great Skua chick ringed by Magnus Sinclair in Unst was in Spain in late December; another of his birds was found in Whalsay, Shetland. Two winter-ringed Great Black-backed Gulls were found in Denmark and Norway, and a local juvenile was found a year later in Yorkshire. 5 Herring Gull recoveries were reported; local birds in the Netherlands, Durham and Aberdeen (2), and a winter-ringed bird in north Norway.

A Razorbill in March in Northumberland; 3 Guillemots in Norway and a 1958 adult Puffin in Barra on 24th January and a 1961 chick in Spain on 7th March. The last two provide only our 5th and 6th recoveries. An April 1964 Wood Pigeon was shot in Caithness on 8th September. Two Redwings were found in Portugal in the winter months, and a September bird was controlled two days later on Foula. 13 Blackbirds were reported; 5 in Norway and one in Sweden in the summer, and winter recoveries in Sligo (Ireland), Aberdeen (2), Angus, Sutherland and Buckinghamshire. The most interesting Blackbird was a 1st winter female ringed on 26th March and recovered in Spain on 12th December.

One Wheatear was found a year later in Unst in May and a juvenile ringed on 2nd August was controlled at Heligoland on 4th September. A March 1964 Robin was found in Denmark in February and one ringed on 5th May was controlled at Falsterbo (Sweden) on 18th May. A Rock Pipit was in Orkney, but another had gone 310 miles south to Tynemouth in 4 months by 15th December. 7 Starlings were reported; locals in Shetland and Orkney, and migrants found in summer in Norway (2), Denmark, Sweden and the last from 27° 33'E in Finland. Full details to appear in Bulletin.

Ringed Stranger. An adult male Blackbird which we netted in October was ringed as a chick in Vestfold, Norway, on 5th June 1964.

Publications

Kenneth Williamson's book, *Fair Isle and its Birds*, was published by Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh in October, 1965. The checklist of the birds of Fair Isle published by Peter Davis in F.I.B.O. Bulletins, Vol. Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 was included at the end of the book.

The annual report for 1964 was circulated to members in September.



“Fair Isle and its Birds”

by

KENNETH WILLIAMSON, F.R.S.E.

with

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF FAIR ISLE,
with notes on status,

by PETER DAVIS, B.A.

Price 30s

Send your remittance now for a copy to


THE BIRD BOOKSHOP

(Managed by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club)

The Scottish Centre for Ornithology and Bird Protection

21 REGENT TERRACE, EDINBURGH, 7

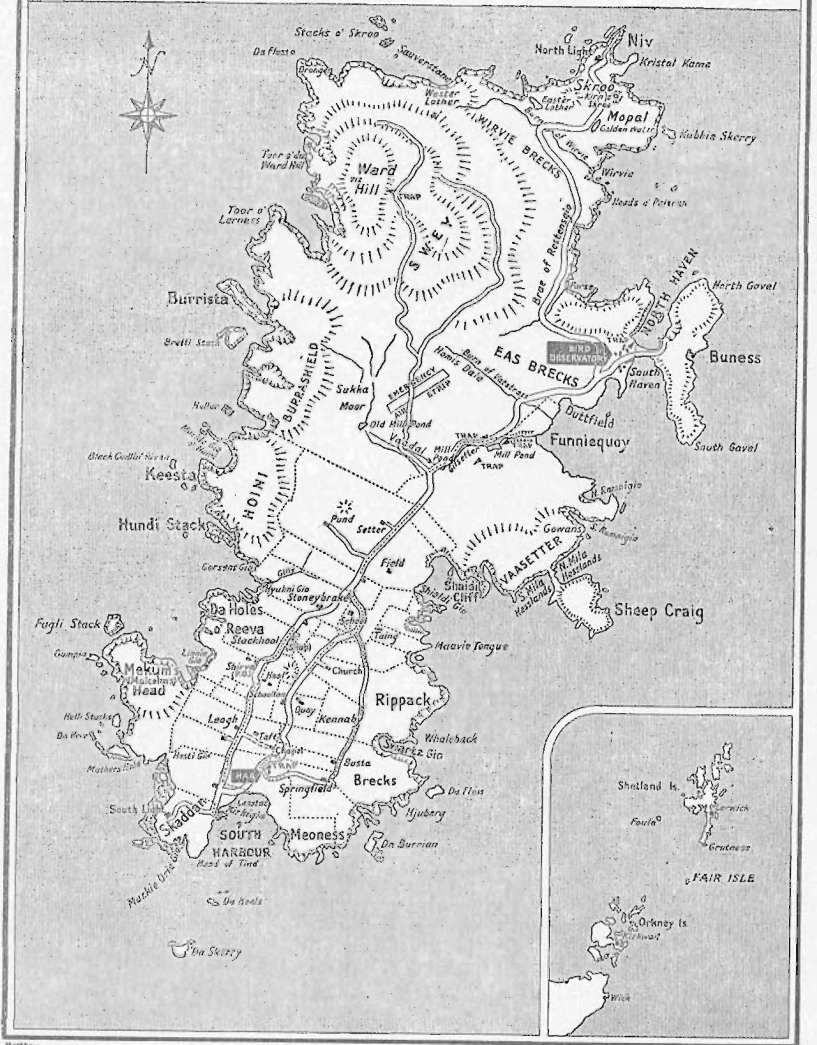
All orders delivered post free. Terms: Strictly cash with
order. Ask for latest Catalogue.



FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

0 100yds. 400yds. 800yds. 1 mile

Roads Bird Trap Boundaries



PRINTED
WALTER THOMSON
SELKIRK