

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

REPORT

1966



Edited by

ROY H. DENNIS

Vol. 5 No. 6 (New Series)

PRICE 5/-

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

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(Tel. Fair Isle 8).

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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

THE Trustees share the sorrow of all naturalists in Scotland at the death during the year of Dr A. C. Stephen, late Curator of Natural History at the Royal Scottish Museum. We remember with gratitude his unfailing helpfulness and sustained interest in the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, and his regular and genial presence at our meetings. And now, as we go to press, we have learned of the sad death of yet another Trustee and keen supporter—Col. Richard Meinertzhagen. We shall miss them very much.

At Fair Isle, despite the shipping strike which disrupted communications badly during the summer, the number of human visitors in 1966 was greater than in the previous year; and the list of bird species recorded was only slightly lower than in 1965 and included three new species. One would have thought that the possibility of getting new birds on so small and so intensively worked an island was becoming more remote each year, but each year one is proved wrong!

Looking back over the years since the foundation of the Trust in 1948, there are two particular facts that stand out in my memory. Firstly, how fortunate we have been in our Wardens; each has made outstanding, if different, contributions to the work of the Trust. Secondly, I am always amazed how the Trust has kept going so successfully for so long on so small a budget.

During the course of the years we have faced and overcome many problems. But now, in the coming year, we are faced with one of the biggest ever. The time has come when we must consider the replacement of the old naval huts comprising the Observatory with something more permanent and lasting. The huts, built in 1940 by the Royal Navy in the early years of the War, have stood up well to the rigours of the Fair Isle climate. But maintenance costs continue to rise every year. Apart from this, the arrangement of the huts makes the Observatory very uneconomic and inefficient to run.

Your Trustees therefore have prepared plans and estimates for the construction of an entirely new Observatory and Hostel to be built on the same site at North Haven. Preliminary notice of our intentions was given during the famous Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise in July 1966 when many donations were received to establish a special fund for the project.

When full details of plans and costs have been approved, the Trust will issue a special appeal to meet the considerable cost of the new buildings. Your Trustees are determined to maintain the high prestige enjoyed by Fair Isle in possessing the best-equipped Bird Observatory in Britain. Its importance as a station for studying bird movements is well known; but it is also of great value in the facilities it gives for the training of young naturalists in both laboratory and field studies. In addition, one must not forget the important role played by the Observatory in the economic and social life of the islanders in this remote place.

We hope that when you receive full details of our scheme, you will all rally round and give us what support you can.

ARTHUR B. DUNCAN,
Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The year to October, 1966, shows much the same picture as the previous year, although a slightly more profitable one. Strict economies have resulted in the Revenue Account, apart from the profit on the Hostel, showing a favourable balance, albeit a small one of around £40. The Hostel Account continues to flourish. The hard work put in by Roy and Marina Dennis has once again paid off, this year to the tune of over £200. I cannot thank them enough for all that they do.

I. Hostel Account. This shows a profit for the year of £209:8:2 as against £138:1:6 last year. There was a slight increase in Board and Booking Fees which was offset by a similar increase in foodstuffs and wages. Miscellaneous includes the sale of a camera which is not strictly profit, but was put into the Hostel Account for convenience. There was a slight drop in fuel and repairs, otherwise I have no comment.

II. Trust Revenue Account. Again there is very little change. Wages and travelling expenses are up, printing and stationery a little down, and on the plus side there is an increase in subscriptions and in Income Tax recovered of approximately £87.

III. Balance Sheet. I have no comment here. We have not written down Buildings, Equipment, etc., any further and you will see that cash in the Bank on Trust Account covers the balance which was due at 31st October to Messrs J. & F. Anderson.

IV. Endowment Fund. The only comment I have here is that since last year there has been a switch from £4,300, 3% Savings Bonds 1960/70 into £4,325 Grimsby Corporation 3½% Stock 1962/72 as a result of which we have a balance of capital on hand of £149:3:1.

V. Helena Howden Trust. The income and capital of the Helena Howden Trust continues to be held in Trust by the Bank of Scotland to the order of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trustees for the purpose of establishing or helping to establish bird or wild life sanctuaries in Scotland. I have not detailed the securities this year, as I feel that to include them in the Fair Isle Report is confusing. The Helena Howden Trust monies do not belong to The Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, but are merely available for use at the discretion of the Fair Isle Trustees for the establishment of sanctuaries.

Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

YEAR TO 31st OCTOBER 1966

I.—HOSTEL REVENUE ACCOUNT

1965			
£155	0 0	To Stores at 1st November 1965	£152 0 0
644	0 1	To Foodstuffs, Supplies etc. ...	685 11 1
38	6 11	To Telephone	43 2 8
270	12 11	To Wages and National Insurance	281 17 10
20	7 4	To Sundry Payments	5 6 6
62	15 0	To Insurance of Huts	62 15 0
160	16 5	To Fuel	141 14 0
60	8 10	To Repairs and Renewals ...	58 1 6
7	11 0	To Postages	10 11 9
138	1 6	To Profit for year	209 8 2
<hr/>			
£1558	0 0		£1650 8 6
<hr/>			
£1404	1 0	By Board and Booking Fees ...	£1479 0 6
1	19 0	By Miscellaneous (including sale of Camera—£25)	27 8 0
152	0 0	By Stores at 31st October 1966	144 0 0
<hr/>			
£1558	0 0		£1650 8 6
<hr/>			

II.—TRUST REVENUE ACCOUNT

£541	17 7	To Wages and National Insurance	£574 12 8
4	9 9	To Rent and Insurance	1 0 0
31	12 6	To Interest paid	7 17 8
167	13 3	To Travelling	193 1 11
39	3 3	To Bird Ringing Nets etc. ...	62 8 8
158	0 7	To Printing, Stationery etc. ...	145 7 5
23	4 9	To Freight	24 0 7
3	13 0	To Subscription paid	3 13 0
82	16 6	To Expenses of Administration	75 17 4
77	15 6	To Profit for year	249 2 2
<hr/>			
£1130	6 8		£1337 1 5
<hr/>			
£488	19 6	By Subscriptions etc.	£552 7 10
340	0 0	By Income Tax recovered ...	367 14 8
11	11 2	By Interest on Savings Bonds ...	11 6 4
151	14 6	By Income from Endowment Fund	196 4 5
138	1 6	By Profit on Hostel Account ...	209 8 2
<hr/>			
£1130	6 8		£1337 1 5
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1966

Liabilities

1965					
			Capital Account:		
£1700	1	1	Balance per last Balance Sheet	£2027	16 7
250	0	0	Add Legacy ...	£0	0 0
77	15	6	Profit for year ...	249	2 2
				<u>249</u>	<u>2 2</u>
£2027	16	7		£2276	18 9
204	5	8	Balance due to Messrs J. & F. Anderson, W.S.	266	18 3
£2232	2	3		<u>£2543</u>	<u>17 0</u>

Assets

1965					
£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
213	19	0	Scientific and Photographic etc. Equipment as written down ...	213	19 0
619	1	3	Investment—£642 3% Savings Bonds 1960-70 (Market Value as at 31st October 1966 £555, 6/-)	619	1 3
			Consumable Stores:		
			Foodstuffs ...	£39	0 0
			Livestock ...	40	0 0
			Fuel	65	0 0
152	0	0		<u>144</u>	<u>0 0</u>
			Cash in Bank:		
			Trust Account	£306	4 5
			Hostel Account	569	1 0
				<u>£875</u>	<u>5 5</u>
			Cash on hand	4	10 1
560	0	0		<u>879</u>	<u>15 6</u>
£2232	2	3		<u>£2543</u>	<u>17 0</u>

FAIR ISLE ENDOWMENT TRUST

Funds as at 30th June, 1966

	<i>Book Value</i>	<i>Value as at 31st Oct. 1966</i>
£4326 Grimsby Corporation 3½% Stock 1962-72	£3523 16 2	£3546 10 0
£140 Whitbread & Co. Ltd. "A" Ordinary Stock	313 11 0	357 0 0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£3837 7 2	£3903 10 0
Heritable Property—21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh	3050 0 0	3050 0 0
Balance on Savings Account ...	148 8 7	148 8 7
<i>Consisting of—</i>		
Balance due to Revenue £0 14 6		
Balance of Capital on hand	149 3 1	
	<hr/>	
	£148 8 7	
	<hr/>	
	£7035 15 9	£7101 18 7
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 1966

ROY H. DENNIS

Marina, Rona and I spent the winter at Inverness, and, during this time, one of my tasks was to give a series of talks, about Fair Isle and its Bird Observatory, which included illustrated lectures to seven of the main branches of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.

We returned to the island on 15th March and the Observatory was in operation until 10th December. Between 22nd March and 15th November, a total of 154 visitors stayed at the hostel for a total of 190 visitor-weeks. This was an improvement on 1965, but unfortunately the shipping strike in late-May and June lost us twelve visitors and almost certainly deprived us of the usual "tourist-type" visitors who turn up in mid-summer. It also raised the price of supplies, especially vegetables, considerably and made catering a nightmare.

Visitors from overseas included two from Sweden, two from France, two from Germany and one from Belgium. Mr George Waterston, our Hon. Secretary, and his wife, Irene, one of the F.I.B.O. trustees spent a week at the Observatory

in September, Mr Douglas Hamilton, the architect, spent several days on the island and examined the site and the buildings in conjunction with his plans for the proposed new Observatory.

Staff. My wife, Marina, continued to be responsible for the running of the hostel, bookings, etc. We were fortunate to have as our cook, Mrs J. Creamer, who was with us from 5th April until 11th October; she was assisted in August and September by Miss Jennifer Coldrey. Nicholas Dymond most ably carried out the duties of Assistant Warden and I was fortunate to have the additional help of Anders Tegelin and John Davies to help with the sea-birds. We should like to congratulate Nicholas on his appointment with the British Trust for Ornithology at Tring.

Island Events. It was another encouraging year at Fair Isle. There were no changes in the tenancies of the island's crofts and, although there were changes the number of the crofting population remained as in 1965. Unfortunately we lost two of our oldest islanders; Mrs Jean Stout of Lower Stoneybreck died on 29th March and Mr George Stout of Field died on 5th April. Mrs Sheila Wilson of Stackhoull gave birth to a son, Steven at Stromness in March and in August, Gordon Barnes of Setter married Miss Perry Sutcliffe. Jim Wilson of Schoolton completed his time at the Fair Isle school and went away in August to the senior school in Lerwick. Nurses Smith, Walton and Oakley looked after the islanders' health during the year.

The main building work for the National Trust for Scotland was at Setter. The International Voluntary Service workers returned to the island and were engaged in hill drainage and building work at the fish store. The islanders had a busy year and projects on the island included the fencing, ploughing and re-seeding of Johnny Arcus's Park as part of the Grazing Committee's re-seeding plan. The weather was ideal for crops and there was an exceedingly good growth of grass. Several new areas of land were cultivated, at North Busta, Quoy, Utra and Barkland. Three boats fished for lobsters, but they had to put up with considerable competition from larger outside boats. They had very good catches of fish, and large quantities were salted away for the winter.

The Shetland County Council sent in a gang of workmen for several weeks and they completed the slipway repairs at North Haven. The Fair Isle Committee, formed by the islanders, was active throughout the year and pursued several projects of value to the island: the main one being the provision of an air ambulance service for the island.

It is hoped that the Shetland County Council will construct a suitable airstrip in 1967.

No National Trust for Scotland cruises managed to land on the island. The "Meteor" on the "Islands Cruise" tried to get to the island on 23rd and 25th May, but had to steam past us in very heavy seas. The Scottish Ornithologists' Club's "Scottish Bird-Islands Study Cruise" on the "Devonia" circumnavigated Fair Isle at dusk on 20th July and we lit a beacon fire on the North Gavel of Bunes to welcome them. Vocal greetings were exchanged between ship and shore! On 6th August, the "Orcadia" arrived on her annual visit from Orkney and about 150 visitors enjoyed a fine day ashore; at the Bird Observatory we, again, staged an exhibition of our work. The "Devonia" returned on 6th September and circumnavigated the island in rough seas with a National Trust for Scotland Cruise aboard.

Acknowledgements. Once again the islanders reported many interesting birds and allowed us to examine their crops for migrants; we are very grateful to them. We are indebted to Katie and Tommy Russell, the Principal Keeper at the North Lighthouse and his sister; especially for looking after our wader traps on East Lothar Water and Golden Water and catching some very interesting species. The Royal Scottish Museum very kindly continued to loan us a collection of useful bird skins, which we used in the bird-room. Mr Pat Sellar and Miss Rosemary Moore very kindly donated us bicycles. Gordon Barnes of Setter was again a great friend to the Observatory and looked after our interests and the birds on the island in the winter; we are extremely grateful to him for many kindnesses.

Fieldwork. Routine work at the Observatory included the daily census of bird migrants, the trapping and ringing of migrant and resident birds and the study of the breeding birds. We continued to instruct visitors in the field identification of rare and common birds and we gave training to bird-ringers.

I continued my studies of the Black Guillemot and had about fifty nests under observation and ringed record numbers of adults and young. In the summer, we completed a census of the breeding birds on the island, which included the Common Bird Census, started in 1963. The sea-birds were counted from the land and from boats, and we obtained good results for all species, except Storm Petrels and our counts for Fulmar and Puffin were not as accurate as for the other species. It is most encouraging that most of our sea-birds are increasing, especially Kittiwake and Guillemot. A dawn census of Wrens was made. Large numbers of sea-birds,

especially Kittiwakes, were ringed and the Storm Petrel netting programme was expanded.

Dr R. J. Berry studied both species of mice on the island, and we trapped specimens for him later in the year. Mr C. Moreby spent a fortnight on the island studying small insects. Mr G. B. Thomson examined parasites collected by the Observatory staff.

Ornithology. 187 species were recorded on the island in 1966, three less than the record set in 1965. New species for the island were Bee-eater, Pallas's Leaf Warbler and White-throated Sparrow.

The White-throated Sparrow was caught in the Double Dyke trap on 13th May and spent that day around the Observatory. Exactly a month later on 13th June, we saw a Bee-eater in the south-eastern part of the island. Our final new species was a superb little Pallas's Leaf Warbler which Marina and I found at North Haven on 11th October. This was also a new species for Scotland.

Other rarities included ; Rough-legged Buzzard (2), Honey Buzzard, Osprey (2), Dotterel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Alpine Swift, Short-toed Lark, Great Reed Warbler, Booted Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Petchora Pipit, Red-throated Pipit (2), Lesser Grey Shrike (3), Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting.

1966 was a very interesting year for birds at Fair Isle, being rather like 1965, with many rare birds, including three new ones, but rather a dearth of some of our commoner migrants. The spring migration has been reviewed in the Bull. Vol. 5 No. 6 and the autumn passage will be reviewed in detail in the next bulletin, No. 7. Briefly, March was a very quiet month, with no large movements and April started off similarly and migrants were rather late because of cold weather. Wheatears arrived from 6th and there was a steady trickle of continental migrants until 15th. This passage was halted until 18th, by snow showers, and then on 23rd we had our first fine day and we saw Yellow Wagtails and Sand Martin. The weather was fine in May with southeast winds, which produced something of interest nearly every day; either common migrants such as Whimbrels, Wood Pigeons, Willow Warblers, etc., or rarities such as Honey Buzzard, Great Reed and Subalpine Warblers. This trend continued throughout June and we saw lots of hirundines and unusual birds of southeastern origin such as Bee-eater, Lesser Grey Shrike and Ortolans. Our first Crossbill on 12th June, was a forerunner of a strong invasion which peaked in June-July and early September. Wader movements increased from 11th July, mainly Curlews, and peaked in July and August with

numbers of Redshanks, Wood and Green Sandpipers. Our first flock of Common Gulls arrived on 3rd August and there was a tremendous arrival of 3500 plus during a north-east gale on 10th August. Continental passerines arrived from 5th August. A feature of the month was the early arrival of winter visitors, Fieldfares up to 20 from 4th and Bramblings from 7th. Southerly winds on 17th-18th produced a good selection of migrants of mixed origins; Whooper Swan, Meadow Pipits, White Wagtails, Wheatears and Garden Warblers. The first Barred Warbler arrived on 23rd and there was a young Great Spotted Woodpecker on 25th.

After fog on 26th August, and with light south-east winds, we had a good fall of continental migrants, which included 9 Barred Warblers, 3 Wrynecks, Icterine Warbler and Scarlet Grosbeak. Many of these had left by 27th, but on 28th I found a Booted Warbler, the third ever recorded in Britain. Many continental migrants arrived between 30th August and 5th September, with Willow Warblers peaking at 260 on 3rd, Whinchats at 100 on 2nd and Wrynecks at 12 on 3rd. The rest of the month was not so exciting; westerly winds produced quite a few Lapland Buntings from 5th, which resulted in the largest invasion of this species for several years. A young Lesser Grey Shrike was trapped on 21st. A return to south-east winds on 27th-28th and we caught no less than four Yellow-browed Warblers on 28th.

Redwings, Fieldfares, Song Thrushes, Ring Ouzels, Goldcrests and Robins were very much in evidence from this date until 22nd October. The passage of Bramblings was very spectacular and reached the all time daily record of 1500 plus on 7th October. Great Grey Shrikes and Richard's Pipits were commoner than usual in October, and unusual birds included Little Grebe and Petchora Pipit on 2nd, Great Tit on 10th, Pallas's Leaf Warbler on 11th, no less than 5 Black Redstarts on 15th, two Rough-legged Buzards on 18th and 21st and Red-throated Pipit on 25th.

November was very quiet and the main feature of late autumn was the complete lack of Woodcock and Blackbird rushes. Snow Buntings were rather scarcer than usual whereas Glaucous Gulls were plentiful, with a peak of 10 on 21st November.

The breeding birds had a good year, and the weather was fine, although rather foggy in June. For full details see Bull. Vol. 5 No. 6. Of particular interest was the successful nesting of Corncrakes at Busta, and the attempted breeding of a pair of Common Gulls at Hjon. They laid two eggs but failed to hatch them. It was disappointing that both pairs of Peregrines failed to rear young.

Systematic List for 1966

- GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*. Singles on 15th April, 21st and 27th May, 11th and 27th June, and 9th September.
- RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*. Singles on 3 days and 2 on 2 days in May; singles on 4 days and 2 on 2 days in June; 2 on 20th and singles on 7 days in July, including a summer plumage adult in South Haven on 29th. Singles on 9th, 26th September and 24th October.
- RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps griseigena*. One arrived in North Haven on 18th April; regularly seen until 21st June, by which time it was in full summer plumage.
- LITTLE GREBE *Podiceps ruficollis*. One on Golden Water, 2nd October.
- LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Seen on crossing 8th July (2) and 11th October.
- STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*. First noted ashore at night on 7th June, large numbers from 30th June. 344 birds were ringed on the cliffs at night, mainly at Millens Houllan, Malcolm's Head and Bunes. Only a few retraps were netted, but 8 birds were controlled which had been ringed at Foula. No nests or eggs were found, but two juveniles were caught at South Lighthouse on 1st October.
- MANX SHEARWATER *Procellaria puffinus*. Singles seen from island on 19th, 26th May, 10th, 31st July and 14th August. 1-2 seen on 4 days in September. Seen from Good Shepherd on 6 days between 26th March and 7th June, with 2 on 28th June and 4 on 15th July.
- SOOTY SHEARWATER *Procellaria grisea*. 2 seen from Good Shepherd, 15th July—earliest record; 7 on 20th, 1 on 23rd, 3 on 30th September and 4 on 11th October. From the island, birds were seen on 9 days between 3rd September and 12th October, max. 4 on 4th and 24th September.
- FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*. Ashore January to March, and build-up from 9th April. Pre-egg-laying dispersal from 6th to 16th May, with first eggs noted on 17th. Breeding numbers still increasing, especially on more recently colonised areas of cliff. Fledging success poor and several cases of *puffinosis* noted on chicks and full-grown birds. First young flying on 22nd August. Numbers decreasing from 6th September, but birds on cliffs through out rest of year, and large numbers in November. Blue Fulmars noted on 10th July, 6th September, 1st October and 4th November; unusual numbers noted from Good Shepherd in October, from 12th.
- GANNET *Sula bassana*. Small numbers offshore, mainly April to October, peaks of 40 on 7th May and 36 on 30th July.

- CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 19 on 12th January; 1-2 on 9 days in January and February. Small passage from 8th March to 31st May, maximum 9 on 28th May. One on 20th June and 2 on 17th July. Autumn passage 6th August to 21st October, mainly September, peaks of 80 on 9th, 72 on 10th, 25 on 21st September and 25 on 4th October. Stragglers until 13th November and a few in December.
- SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. First egg noted on 1st April. A count in the breeding season gave a total of 1100 pairs. Had a good breeding year and first free-flying young on 7th June.
- HERON *Ardea cinerea*. One 3rd and 4th January, 2 on 15th and 22nd February. Singles on 5 days in March, 12 days in April and 6 days in May, but 2 on 5th and 3 on 6th May. One on 9th and 11th June. Return passage from 15th July to 30 October, peaks of 6 on 12th August, 6 on 27th and 8 on 28th September. Late singles on 21st November and 3rd December.
- MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*. A ♀ between 20th January and 1st February. 5 on 25th February. Small numbers on 18 days between 2nd March and 26th May 1 or 2 drakes present in June, 1 on 4th and 2 on 25th July. Small passage from 5th August, peaks of 8 on 28th, 9 on 29th September, 6 on 11th October and 10 on 20th-22nd November. Singles on 4 days in December.
- TEAL *Anas crecca*. Small passage from 20th April to 26th June, maximum 6 on 25th May. One 24th-27th July. Autumn movements from 21st August to 21st November, mainly September, peaks of 5 on 4th, 11 on 26th September, and 11 on 3rd October.
- WIGEON *Anas penelope*. A ♂ on 5th and a pair on 24th May. 2 on 2nd, ♀ on 6th-7th and ♂ 21st-27th June. Passage from 30th August to 29th October, mainly 22nd September to 6th October, peaks of 30 on 28th, 20 on 30th September and 12 on 6th October.
- PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. Single ducks on 19th June and 6th October.
- SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*. A pair on 19th June and another pair on 22nd September.
- SCAUP *Aythya marila*. A ♂ on 5th June and a ♀ on 18th August.
- TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. A ♂ on 24th April, a pair on 4th, single ♀ on 5th-6th, single males on 16th-17th, 24th-26th and 31st May, and 6th-15th June. One 1st September.
- GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*. 2-5 from 20th to 23rd January. 1-2 on 8 days between 5th and 20th March. Singles 21st and 23rd April. Scarce in autumn, only one recorded; ♂ 10th

November.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. Small numbers 18th March to 2nd May, maximum 6 on 16th April. A ♀ seen at Easter Lother 11th June, South Harbour 24th-25th June and North Haven 7th-25th July. Autumn passage from 3rd October (4) to 8th December, peaks of 11 on 9th, 12 on 15th, 14 on 22nd October and 11 on 7th December.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*. A pair 26th September. 1-2 on 7 days between 5th and 22nd October.

SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*. One 16th-17th March. A ♂ 9th-13th June. A ♂ on 26th, ♀ on 27th September, singles 22nd and 27th October and 2 ♀ ♀ on 9th November.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*. Maxima were 150 on 23rd March, 219 on 18th August, 282 on 18th September, 360 on 4th and 450 on 21st November. A bigger breeding population than usual. First clutch seen on 21st May and first duckling on sea on 15th June. Poor chick survival.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*, A ♂ on 9th January, ♀ on 5th-6th March and ♂ 12th-13th April. Singles on 4 days in May, 3 days in June and twice in July, but 8 on 6th June. Autumn passage from 14th September to 16th November, maximum 8 on 3rd October. 1-2 on 4 days in December.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*. A drake on 26th April.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*. Singles 9th and 14th May. 6 on 21st and 30th August.

GREY-LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. An autumn 1965 bird present until 2nd January, 8 on 3rd and 27 on 4th January. 3-4 on 13th-15th and 24th April. Large autumn passage from 4th October to 19th December, mainly 17th to 31st October, peaks of 50 on 19th, 106 on 21st, 116 on 23rd and 60 plus on 25th October.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. 8 on 25th, 7 on 28th October, decreased to 6 on 1st November. One adult on 10th November. All referable to the Greenland race, *flavirostris*.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*. 24 on 7th and 8th February. 3 on 21st September, 3 on 16th, 1 on 17th, 9 on 22nd and 8 on 24th October. 10 on 14th December.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One on 9th May. 10 on 22nd, 3 on 23rd and 2 on 24th October.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. 4 on 20th-21st and 2 on 31st March, 4 on 7th and 17th April. An early adult on 18th August. 5 on 21st September. Small passage 3rd to 31st October, maxima of 22 on 16th and 7 on 23rd. Rather few

- juveniles, 3 on 17th November and 2-6 on 4 days in December.
- BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. Singles on 14th-15th April, 24th May and 8th October.
- ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*. One 18th to 22nd and another 21st-22nd October.
- SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. 1-2 seen on 8 days between 15th April and 21st May. One on 16th September, 1-3 on 9 days between 6th and 21st October.
- HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One on 21st May; third consecutive spring record.
- OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. Singles on 25th-26th April and 28th May.
- PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. Singles twice in January, 4 times in February, and March, up to 3 regularly from 23rd April. Pairs resident at Lerness and Sheep Rock in summer, but no young were reared. Adult ♀ found dying on Vaasetter on 23rd July, died 24th, contained negligible amount of toxic chemicals and cause of death was heavy round-worm infestation. 4 seen together on 21st and 29th October.
- MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. A male wintered. Small spring passage from 4th April to 24th May. A ♀ summered, mainly on face of Ulieshield; recorded between 12th June and 1st August and moult was completed in this period. Autumn passage from 8th September, main movements until late October. Maxima of 7 on 21st, 22nd and 30th; September and 6 on several dates. Singles in December.
- KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. One wintered in crofting area. Spring passage from 2nd April to 29th May, maximum 2. Singles on 13th-18th June, 23rd and 28th July. Autumn passage from 17th August to 22nd October, mainly 3rd September to 21st October, maximum of 4 on 7th October. Late singles on 27th October, 2nd and 12th November.
- QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. One in song near Kirk on 11th June.
- WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. Singles 3 times in January and twice in February. Spring singles on 22nd-24th (dead) and 26th-27th April, and 6th May. Autumn singles on 4 days in October (one dead) and wintering birds from 22nd November (maximum 2).
- CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. One on 10th April. Small numbers from 2nd May, maximum 4 on 9th. Song from 2nd June, 2 heard on 14th, but only one pair nested; at Busta. Occasional sightings until 12th August, including at least two chicks on 13th July. Two on 28th August, singles 4

days between 1st and 6th September and a late one on 6th October.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Singles on 7 days between 17th April and 4th May. 2 on 7th October and singles on 8th and 19th October.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. Arrivals from 11th February and increases from 21st February and mid-March. The breeding population was 88 pairs. Dispersal noted 28th July-8th August and 22nd-25th August. September numbers decreasing from 30 to 8, stragglers in October and 2 until 29th November.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Spring arrivals from 10th February and small passage until 28th June, flocks of 30 on 17th March, 35 on 9th April and 25 on 20th June. Four pairs nested ; breeding birds departed by 30th July. 2 on 8th and autumn passage from 29th August to 26th October ; maxima 40 on 1st, 150 on 10th and 30 on 15th October. Singles on 20th-21st and 28th November.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. Arrivals from 24th February. 3 pairs nested on Bunes. Autumn passage from 21st July to 3rd October, peaks of 20 on 30th August, 26 on 3rd, 40 on 5th and 17 on 30th September, A very late bird on 1st December.

GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola*. Two on 5th and one on 13th September.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apricarius*. Small spring passage from 4th February to 13th June, mainly 2nd April to 24th May, peaks of 9 on 14th April and 23 on 3rd May. Autumn passage from 5th July, peaks of 27 on 28th July, 30 on 18th-19th August, 43 on 7th-8th September, and 23 on 18th October. Last seen on 3rd November.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. One at summit of Ward Hill on 11th September.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Small numbers wintered. Passage from 23rd March to 2nd June, peaks of 21 on 31st March and 14 on 8th April. One on 26th June. Autumn passage from 7th July, mainly from 2nd August, peaks of 31 on 20th August, 40 on 6th September, 34 on 16th October and 45 on 29th November.

SNIFE *Capella gallinago*. Small numbers in winter. Song from 31st March ; one pair nested and another one or two birds were heard singing. Autumn passage from 24th August, mainly September and October, peaks of 12 on 1st, 15 on 21st and 35 on 22nd September, 30 on 6th and 15th October. Up to 6 until end of year.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. 3 on 5th May. Small autumn passage from 6th September to 29th October,

maxima of 3 on 2nd and 20th October and 6 on 15th October.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*. 2 on 4th and 1 on 5th January. Singles on 1st, 26th February and 16th March. 1-2 on 16 days between 2nd April and 29th May, but 25+ on 6th April. A returning adult trapped on 12th July. Surprisingly scarce in autumn, recorded between 4th October and 25th November, with maxima of only 5 on 15th November and 8 on 5th November. One on 19th December.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Recorded on 8 days in January, maximum 10 on 13th, and 5 days in February, maximum 7 on 4th. Passage from 2nd March to 28th May, peaks of 25 on 25th April and 8 on 3rd and 28th May. Small numbers in June. Heard migrating on night of 25th/26th June and 12 on 26th were first migrants. Movements increasing in July, maximum 45 on 12th, and peaks of 26 on 3rd August, 30 on 12th September and 11 on 1st October. Small numbers until end of year.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Strong spring passage from 29th April (2) to 13th June, peaks of 25 on 3rd, 5th and 9th-10th May. Small numbers from 18th June, with 8 on 26th June being south-bound migrants. Small movements, maximum 8, until 12th September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. A summer-plumaged bird on 25th May and one on 9th September.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. One 9th-12th May. Two on 3rd August and singles on 12 days between 25th August and 26th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. Singles on 7th, 9th-10th and 23rd May, and 9th June. 1-3 on most days from 4th August to 13th September. One on 6th October.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. Singles on 7 days between 23rd May and 18th June, but 2 on 25th and 3 on 26th May. Singles on 12 days between 31st July and 7th September, but 2 on 9th August and 5th September.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Spring passage from 2nd to 28th May, peaks of 6 on 23rd-24th and 4 on 25th. One on 13th June. Autumn passage from 5th to 15th August (maximum 3) and 28th August to 8th September (maximum 5), with stragglers until 9th October.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Maximum of 5 wintered. Spring passage until 30th May, peaks of 18 on 19th, 15 on 23rd April and 14 on 5th May. Stragglers in June, but 8 on 26th were migrants; passage increased during July, peaks of 15 on 13th, 17 on 23rd and 26th. Autumn maxima were 39 on 7th, 60 on 24th, 100+ on 28th August, 35 on 7th and 13th September, 30 on 6th and 13th October, and 20 on

- 30th November. Small numbers at end of year.
- SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One in summer plumage on 19th June; only second ever spring record. Commoner than usual in autumn; 3 on 27th, 4 on 28th, 3 on 29th-30th August and 2nd September, singles on 1st, 4th, 6th and 13th September.
- GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Singles on 16th, 18th and 24th April. Autumn passage from 2nd August to 7th September, maximum 5 on 11th August. Late singles on 17th, September, 7th and 20th October.
- KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Small numbers from 26th July, maximum 3 in August, but rather late movements in September and October, peaks of 9 on 6th, 8 on 18th September and 13 on 5th and 7th October; stragglers until 5th November (latest ever record).
- PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Only singles recorded on 25th January and 3rd February. Small passage from 20th March to 2nd June, peaks of 21 on 15th, 25 on 27th April and 20 on 24th May. Singles on 7th and 21st July. Autumn passage from 30th July (15), with monthly maxima of 13 on 15th August, 16 on 9th September, 4 in October and 10 in November and December.
- LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. Singles on 30th August and 6th-11th September.
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. One trapped at Head of Tind on 15th September, present on Bunes to 18th. Fourth record for the island.
- DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. One on 8th March. Spring passage from 2nd May to 9th June, peaks of 10 on 20th, 14 on 23rd, 10 on 24th May and 14 on 1st June. 1-2 from 17th to 23rd June. 4 on 28th June. Other singles in late June and July. Passage from 29th July to 24th October, peaks of 10 on 30th, 30 on 31st August, 19 on 4th September, 16 on 4th and 6th-7th October.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea*. One trapped at Easter Lothar on 4th September.
- SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. Singles on 31st March, 29th May and 1st-6th June. Singles on 6 days in August from 5th. Passage from 4th to 24th September, maxima of 7 on 6th and 5 on 7th. Singles on 4th and 8th-9th October.
- RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Small autumn passage from 5th August to 14th September, peaks of 4 on 5th and 10th August, 14 on 2nd and 7 on 5th September. 2 on 3rd October and singles on 4 days to 15th.
- GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*. First seen on 2nd April and main arrivals from 21st to 25th April. Breeding population

about 18 pairs. Largest summer gathering was 60 on 6th June. Emigration from 13th-15th August, most gone by 11th September. Migrants on passage until 30th October, with maximum of 8 on 8th October.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One on 24th April and main arrival from 28th April. Summer census gave about 120 breeding pairs. Average success. Emigration from 13th August, most gone by end of month, last seen on 30th September.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*. Flocks of 100+ on 1st and 21st January and 21st February. Breeding population about 55 pairs. Increases noted several times in May, June and July, probably due to resting flocks from Herring fleet. Decrease in late August; noticeable passage several times in October. Large flocks commoner than usual at back end; maxima of 400 on 6th October, 900 on 21st and 300+ on 27th November.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*. Two on 11th and regularly from 16th April. 37 pairs nested. Emigration from 24th August, stragglers until 12th and last one on 25th September. Singles referable to the Scandinavian race, *fuscus*, on 20th April, 23rd May, 2nd and 6th June.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*. Winter flocks of 400+ on 1st and 300 on 26th and 28th January. A good breeding season and census gave about 315 breeding pairs. Late autumn flocks commoner than usual, maxima of 3000 on 21st, 800 on 27th November and 1000+ on 17th December.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*. A few singles in January and February, but 8 on 25th February. Passage from 23rd March to 27th June, peaks of 28 on 29th April and 60 on 26th May. A pair laid 2 eggs at Hjon, but failed to hatch them, (see Bull. 5:6, 202-203); first breeding record. Autumn passage from 23rd July to 31st October, first juveniles arrived on 26th July. 140 on 5th August, but small numbers until the greatest ever recorded arrival at Fair Isle of 3500+ on 10th in north-east wind and rain. Other peaks were 110 on 28th August, 240 on 2nd September, 200+ on 12th and 300 on 13th October. A few stragglers from 13th November (10) until 6th December.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. One 16th March. One 17th March to 4th April, 2 from 5th to 14th, but 3 on 9th and 12th, single 15th to 27th and 2 on 23rd April. A 1st year bird on 1st June, and 2nd/3rd year bird 21st June to 7th July. A juvenile on 19th September. Commoner than usual in autumn, with singles on 28th September and 4 times in October; 1-3 seen on 11 days in November, but 4 on 1st and 11th and 10 on 21st. 1-3 seen on 11 days in

December.

- ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. 1st year bird on 9th November and single adults on 21st November and 8th December.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. One on 3rd and 4th January. Passage from 17th March to 26th June, peaks of 26 on 28th April and 20 on 5th May. Return passage from 2nd July to 22nd October, first juveniles on 11th July and peaks of 12 on 10th August, 7 on 21st September and 8 on 1st October. 1-3 on 5 days in November and one 20th December.
- KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*. First ashore on 8th February, regularly ashore from 1st March and continuously from 4th April. A good breeding season; summer census indicated a rapidly expanding population and number of colonies. Last seen ashore on 27th August. Commoner than usual in autumn offshore and flocks noted ashore on 11th September to 19th October, maxima of 1500 on 1st and 2000 on 12th-13th October. Strong westerly movements on 27th October and scarce from that date.
- COMMON and ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo and macrura*. Spring passage from 18th May; first identified Arctics on 26th May (13) and Commons on 31st May. Small numbers all summer, but no breeding. Strong passage on 6th September during northwest storm, when at least 80 Commons and 25 Arctics. Small numbers until 26th September.
- SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*. 3 on 15th June, 2 on 3rd July and 1 on 14th August.
- RAZORBILL *Alca torda*. Ashore from 14th March and continuously from 8th April. A good breeding season. Decrease from 16th July and last ashore on 8th August. Small numbers offshore in October (maximum 6). An oiled bird on 29th December.
- LITTLE AUK *Plautus alle*. Small numbers offshore in early January, 100+ on crossings of 23rd January and 9th February. 20 seen on crossing of 18th November and noted on most crossings until end of year. An oiled one wandering through the midden at Setter on 3rd December.
- GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*. Regularly ashore from 12th January and continuously from 2nd April. A good breeding season; census showed a rapid increase in population, both breeding and summering birds. Emigration mainly from 20th July and last ashore on 8th August. Small numbers offshore in September (more than usual) and October. Ashore in numbers on 7th November; earliest ever.
- BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle*. First ashore at colonies on 15th April; a good breeding season and population

steady. Decrease noted in late August.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*. Seen a few times on crossings in January and February, and an oiled bird on 6th February. First ashore from 3rd April, but rather loathe to land in large numbers on cliffs until 25th April. The breeding population was about 15000-16000 pairs. Last seen on 17th August. A few seen on crossings in September.

STOCK DOVE *Columba cenas*. One 25th-27th April, 3 on 30th April and one on 1st May. One 6th-22nd October.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*. Wintering flock up to 18. Spring numbers similar and probably 6-8 pairs nested. Autumn flock peaked at 20 on 28th September, 21 in October and 25 in November.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*. One 6th-8th February, 2 9th-11th February and one on 17th March. Spring passage from 8th April to 19th June, mainly late April and early June, peaks of 23 on 6th-7th and 14 on 16th May. 2 on 10th and 1 on 11th-13th July. One on 4th August. Small autumn passage from 5th to 22nd October, maximum 4 on 16th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. Passage from 3rd to 27th May, all singles except 2 on 14th. One on 21st June. Small numbers 22nd August-21st September maximum 3 on 18th. Late birds were 2 on 12th and single immature 19th-22nd October.

Table 1. Latest dates of Turtle Dove at Fair Isle

Up to 1963	1964	1965	1966
10th October	15th October	16th October	22nd October

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*. Very numerous in spring; one on 26th April increasing to 2 on 28th and 3 on 30th, daily increase to 6 on 4th May. Some of them sang, mainly at Quoy, but no nesting proved. Increased to 8 on 13th, down to 2-3 19th-27th, but up to 9 on 29th May. 1-2 present throughout June to 24th July, but 2-5 from 19th to 23rd June.

Table 2. Number of bird/days for Collared Dove at Fair Isle

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
2	2	3	ca23	7	86	200

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Singles on 5 days 14th to 23rd May, and singles from 7th to 11th June, but 3 on 8th. A juvenile 30th July-1st August and small numbers, 1-2, from 11th August to 2nd September.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*. Singles on 23rd April, 7th and 17th October.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*. Small numbers, maximum 3, 12th April-23rd May. One on 18th August. Autumn pass-

- age from 28th September to 7th November, peaks of 5 on 3rd, 4 on 5th and 20th October.
- SWIFT *Apus apus*. One on 1st May, 4 on 18th and 1-2 on 27th-28th May. Small numbers from 10th June to 20th July, peaks of 6 on 20th and 23rd June, and 27 flying north on 6th July. Small numbers 3rd August to 5th September, with very late singles 15th-19th and 2+ on 21st October; latest ever record.
- ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*. One on 25th April; second record for island.
- BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*. One at Springfield 13th June, see Bull. 5: 6, 194. First record for island.
- GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*. A juvenile of the northern race, *major*, caught in Double Dyke on 25th August. Another similar bird on 26th, and one on 18th-22nd September.
- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. One on 15th May. In autumn, 3+ on 26th, 1 on 28th, 3 on 30th and 4 on 31st August, 1 on 2nd, record total of 12 on 3rd, 1 on 13th and 2 on 14th September.
- SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*. Single bird of the race (*brachydactyla*) on 14th and 15th May.
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. Singles on 15th April and 24th October.
- SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Small numbers in January, increasing to 36 on 30th. Song from 4th February and large increase from 26th February, with 200+ on 27th. Breeding numbers high. Autumn passage from 17th September; much activity until 4th October, and noticeable decrease from late October. Last flock (25) on 21st November, 1 on 3rd and 2 on 10th December.
- SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*. Spring passage from 23rd April, mainly May, peaks of 25 on 16th and 40 on 18th and 21st. High numbers up to 25 rest of month; 30 on 6th and 15 on 10th June, lesser numbers until 29th. Very small numbers in July; and small passage from 12th August to 12th October, recorded on only 19 days and maxima of 6 on 18th and 10 on 20th August.
- HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Spring passage from 6th May to 28th June, peaks of 25 on 27th and 30 on 30th May, 50 on 5th-6th and 60 on 7th June. One on 4th July. Autumn singles on 31st August, 4th and 22nd September, and 1st October.
- SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*. Passage from 23rd April to 13th June, maximum of 5 on 1st May. Autumn singles on 2nd, 5th September and 8th October.
- RAVEN *Corvus corax*. Maximum of 10 wintered. An amazing

- flock of 32 on Hoini on 18th March, may have included some locals. Flock stayed until 21st, quite a few destroyed. Four pairs in summer, three nests were successful. Autumn flock of up to 15.
- CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*. Spring passage from 18th April (6) to 26th May, mainly 1-2 but peaks of 6 on 1st and 15th, 13 on 16th and 12 on 17th May. One on 11th June. In autumn, 2 on 12th-17th and 23rd October, singles on 17th and 30th November, 10th and 24th December.
- HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix*. Winter flock rather small, but at least 12 pairs nested. Autumn flock up to 15, and maximum of 23 on 3rd October.
- ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*. One from 22nd February to 9th March. Small numbers 17th-30th April, maximum 6. One on 15th and 2 on 16th May. 1-2 from 19th to 26th October and one 19th-27th November.
- JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*. 7 on 15th, 4 on 21st and 1 on 23rd April. 2 on 2nd and 1 on 21st May; 2 on 29th June and 1 on 1st July. In autumn, one 22nd-23rd August, singles 3rd September-1st October, but 2 on 30th September.
- GREAT TIT *Parus major*. A first year bird of northern race, *major*, caught on 10th October.
- WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*. About 49 singing males located; a good breeding year.
- DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*. Singles recorded on 4 days in January, once in February and on 8th March. It was thought that it was the bird ringed in December 1965, but on 13th March a new bird was caught and ringed. Later in the month, the original 1965 one was retrapped and was present until 15th April.
- MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*. A strong passage from 8th April to 5th May, peaks of 10 on 18th (record total) and 6 on 4 days in April. Autumn passage from 7th to 21st October, maximum 3 on 7th.
- FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. 20 on 2nd and 3rd January; small numbers, up to 8, until beginning of passage on 6th April. Peaks of 40 on 23rd, 100 on 25th, 50 on 26th April, 100 on 6th and 50 on 7th May, stragglers until 24th May. Late singles 8th-9th and 26th-28th June. Very early return passage of one on 30th-31st July, 5 on 4th, 6 on 5th, 14 on 6th and 20 on 7th August. About 20 present until 2nd September, when 28. Another increase to 90 on 28th, 250 on 29th and 400 on 30th September. Strong and rather early passage from 1st to 23rd October; small movements until 10th November and stragglers until end of year. October peaks of 400+ on 6th, 800 on 7th, 700 on 8th, 500 on 9th,

800 on 10th, 700 on 11th, up to 500 on 12th-18th, 750 on 19th and 600 on 20th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*. 3 on 8th and 1 on 27th February. Spring passage from 9th March to 24th May, mainly 7th to 26th April, peaks of 120 on 10th-13th and 130 on 14th April. 5 records in June and 2 in July, including a bird of one of the British races 21st-24th June. Early singles on 8th, 14th and 17th September, but main movements from 27th September to 29th October, peaks of 150 on 6th, 800 on 7th-8th, 600 on 9th-10th, 400 on 11th, 300 on 19th-20th October. A strong movement at the South Light-house on night of 18th/19th October was composed of large and small birds of the continental race. Stragglers until 2nd December.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*. Small numbers in January and February, and only 2 in March, on 31st. Small spring passage from 5th April to 31st May, peaks of 30 on 24th and 25 on 26th April. Autumn passage from 13th September, mainly 27th September to 22nd October, peaks of 500 on 29th-30th, 600+ on 1st, 1200 on 2nd, 500 on 3rd, 400 on 4th, 250 on 5th, 2500+ on 6th, 2000 on 7th-8th, 1000 on 10th and 600 on 19th-20th October. Small numbers, mainly Icelandic birds, at end of month. Stragglers until end of year.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*. Passage from 7th April to 13th June, peaks of 30 on 13th and 22nd April. Several males in song. Autumn passage from 27th September to 9th November, peaks of 40 on 2nd, 30 on 3rd and 40 on 7th October.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Small numbers, maximum 21, in January and February, but influx to 30+ on 24th February. Sparse movements until 17th May, peaks of only 35 on 2nd and 13th April. Singles on 4 days in June. One on 14th September; autumn passage from 27th September, numbers small and maxima only 250 on 8th, 11th, 12th and 13th, 300 on 17th-18th, 450 on 19th and 400 on 20th October. Small numbers until end of year, maxima 25 in November and 15 in December.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. 9(1♀) arrived on 6th April and heralded a steady buildup to 25 on 13th and 45 on 22nd; more arrivals on 24th-25th and 30th April. Passage noted in May, with Greenland birds in evidence on 1st-3rd, 16th and 17th. A good breeding season. Autumn passage from 7th August, with Greenland birds from 16th. Large movements of both races 1st-5th September. Numbers decreasing in September and in October from 18 on 1st to 5 on 6th; last one on 25th October.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. A ♀ 23rd-25th February, a ♂ 1st-2nd, 2♀ on 7th-8th, and 1♂ on 11th and singles on 26th March and 27th April.

- WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*. Spring passage from 27th April to 13th June, peaks of 4 on 12th, 6 on 14th and 4 on 28th May. Autumn passage from 12th August to 9th October, maxima of 40 on 1st, 100 on 2nd-3rd, 80 on 4th and 50 on 5th September, singles on 3 days to 25th October.
- REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. Spring passage from 27th April to 11th June, maximum of 3 on 26th-28th May. Autumn passage from 26th August to 18th September, 26th September to 25th October and a late bird on 5th November. Peaks of 54 on 3rd, 20 on 4th September, 30 on 7th and 25 on 8th October.
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. A ♀ on 30th April, single ♂♂ on 3rd-6th, 13th and 27th May, single ♀♀ on 19th-24th and 26th May and a ♂ from 13th to 21st June. In autumn, a ♀ on 13th October, 5 (record daily total) on 15th, 3 on 16th, 2 on 17th, singles on 18th and 20th, and 2 on 22nd October.
- BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. A ♂ on 9th, ♀ on 19th, pair on 20th, ♀ on 24th and ♂ on 27th May; ♀ on 5th, ♂ on 9th and 12th June. Singles on 15 days between 1st September and 13th October, but 2 on 4th and 23rd, and 3 on 28th September.
- ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*. One on 24th January. Passage from 7th March to 30th May, mainly 7th to 25th April, peaks of 30 on 8th-11th and 35 on 22nd. One on 16th September; passage from 28th September, main movements from 6th to 23rd October, peaks of 105 on 7th, 200 on 10th-12th, 250 on 13th and 200 on 14th. Small numbers until 18th December, maxima of 8 in November and 2 in December.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. Singles on 5 days between 25th April and 19th May, but 2 on 27th April and 12th May. Autumn singles on 29th July and 3rd September.
- GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*. One trapped in Gully on 26th May; in song at Quoy on 27th.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. Small passage from 31st August to 12th September, maximum of 5 on 2nd September. Late singles on 3rd and 22nd October; reed warblers spp., on 28th May and 7th September (2).
- SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Spring passage from 29th April to 23rd June, mainly 23rd-29th May with peaks of 25 on 23rd and 20 on 24th.
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. Singles on 29th May, 13th June, 26th and 30th August, and 3rd September.
- BOOTED WARBLER *Hippolais caligata*. One found at Haa on 28th August (trapped an hour later) and present until 17th September. Third Fair Isle and British record.

- BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. Spring passage from 27th April to 28th June, maximum of 3 on 9th May. Autumn passage from 31st August to 8th November, peaks of 10 on 1st-2nd, 14 on 3rd September, 25 on 7th and 15 on 8th October. A ♂ found freshly dead on 2nd December.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. Singles on 20 days between 23rd August and 1st October, and 3 on 24th, 2 on 25th, 9 on 26th and 6 on 27th August, 2 on 1st-3rd, 22nd and 24th September.
- GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. Small passage from 14th May to 30th June, maximum of 5 on 26th May. Autumn passage from 11th August to 26th October, mainly 26th August to 6th September, peaks of 50 on 26th, 30 on 30th and 60 on 31st August, 60 on 1st, 80 on 2nd, 70 on 3rd and 30 on 4th September.
- WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. Spring passage from 27th April to 23rd June, mainly May, with peaks of 25 on 23rd, 12 on 24th and 10 on 26th. Autumn passage from 5th August to 8th October, small numbers except 15 on 3rd and 10 on 4th September.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. Small numbers, up to 3, from 1st to 30th May and one on 9th June. Autumn passage from 25th August to 13th October, maxima 3 on 3rd and 5 on 28th September.
- SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans*. A ♂ of the nominate race caught at Springfield on 19th May.
- WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring passage from 25th April to 13th June, maximum 4 on 23rd May. A northern bird on 6th-7th June. Autumn passage from 5th August to 7th October, mainly 25th August-7th September, peaks of 60 on 26th and 31st August, 1st and 2nd, 260 on 3rd, 140 on 4th and 60 on 5th September.
- CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*. Extended passage from 4th April to 24th June, peaks of 5 on 13th, 24th and 28th April, and 6th May. Autumn passage from 5th September, mainly 28th September-22nd October, peaks of 13 on 7th, 30 on 12th and 35 on 13th October; stragglers until 20th November. Birds of the northern races on 3rd, 7th-8th (3) and 9th November.
- WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. One on 19th May. Singles on 9 days between 22nd August and 10th September.
- YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. 4 trapped and ringed on 28th September and 2 (one new bird) on 29th.
- PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*. One at

- North Haven beach on 11th October ; new bird for Fair Isle and Scotland.
- GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*. An arrival of 20+ on 6th April and passage until 7th May. Singles on 11th and 16th September and strong movements after arrival of 68 on 27th September until 25th October, peaks of 45 on 7th, 200 on 10th, 140 on 11th, 300 on 13th and 200 on 14th October. One on 25th November.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*. Spring passage from 18th May to 20th June, peaks of 20 on 23rd-24th, 12 on 25th and 10 on 26th May. One on 2nd July. Autumn passage from 28th August to 13th September, peaks of 10 on 2nd, 15 on 3rd and 12 on 4th. Late singles on 27th-28th September and 12 October.
- PIED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. One on 25th and 26th, 2 on 28th, 30th and 31st May. Autumn passage from 18th August to 15th October, peaks of 20 on 26th August, 19 on 3rd and 14 on 4th September.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa parva*. One at Busta on 13th October.
- DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*. Spring movements from 7th April to 30th May, maximum of 15 on 9th-11th and 22nd April. One on 13th June. Singles 16th and 18th September. Autumn passage from 4th October to 5th November, maximum 15 on 10th-12th October.
- MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*. First on 23rd February, small numbers from 1st March and main arrivals from first week of April, and noticeable increases on 17th-18th, 24th and 25th. A good breeding season. Passage noted from 7th August, especially late August and September, when Icelandic birds present. Decrease from end October and last one on 3rd December.
- RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. Singles on 3rd to 6th, 3+ on 7th, 1 on 9th, another on 10th, 2 on 11th and singles on 15th-19th, 21st and 22nd October.
- TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*. Spring passage from 26th April to 10th June, peaks of 8 on 19th and 20th, and 6 on 24th May. Autumn passage from 27th August to 21st September, peaks of 35 on 2nd, 80 on 3rd and 50 on 4th and 5th September.
- PETCHORA PIPIT** *Anthus gustavi*. One at Busta on 2nd October (trapped at dusk) and 3rd.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT** *Anthus cervinus*. Singles on 13th May and 25th October.
- ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*. Increase in early April. A good breeding season. Passage noted in late August.

- WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*. One on 21st-25th February and 1st-2nd March. Spring passage from 6th April to 31st May, maximum 18 on 1st May, and singles on 5 days in June. Autumn passage from 11th August to 6th October, peaks of 30 on 17th-18th and 20th August, and 30 on 9th September.
- PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. A ♂ on 24th April.
- GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*. One 9th-17th and 2 18th-19th April. Singles 19th and 24th May, and 6th-7th June.
- YELLOW WAGTAILS *Motacilla flava*. Spring passage from 23rd April to 24th June. A pair of Yellow Wagtails (flavissima) on 23rd April and up to 3 ♂♂ of this race on 28th, mainly flavissima until mid May. 5 on 24th May, included a ♂ Blue-headed Wagtail (flava) and a ♂ Grey-headed Wagtail (thunbergi). 2 ♂♂ Blue-headed Wagtails by 26th. Small passage, mainly flavas, 31st August-17th September.
- WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. Singles on 27th March, 3rd and 5th May. In autumn, singles on 7 days between 10th October and 20th November, but 2 on 17th, 19th and 28th October, and 6 on 23rd November.
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. Very common in 1966. In spring, 1+ on 10th, 2+ on 11th, 3 on 12th, singles on 13th and 15th, 2 on 18th, singles on 21st-23rd and 25th-26th April. Autumn passage from 5th to 21st October, peaks of 3 on 7th and 15th.
- LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. A ♂ trapped on 29th May, another seen on 19th June and a juvenile trapped on 21st September.
- RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius cristatus*. A ♂ on 17th-18th May and single ♀♀ on 10th and 13th June. Autumn passage from 23rd August to 12th September, maxima of 5 on 2nd and 6 on 3rd September. Late juveniles on 23rd September and 1st October.
- STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*. Passage from 24th March to 14th May. A rather late breeding season and numbers low. Autumn passage from 28th September, and noticeable influxes from 13th to 19th October.
- GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. One wintered and probably same bird until 20th February, but 2 on 11th January. 2 on 2nd April; small numbers, maximum 4, from 24th April to 8th May. Singles on 6 days from 11th to 18th October, but 2 on 15th.
- SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. 2 on 6th May and 1 from 23rd May to 5th June. Singles on 12th and 23rd July, 8th August and 17th September. Autumn passage from 28th September to 28th October, peaks of 58 on 7th, 50 on 8th and 45 on 13th October.

- LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*. Passage from 11th April to 1st June, peaks of 6 on 28th April, 6th and 16th May. In autumn, one on 29th September and 1-5 on 8 days between 12th and 26th October.
- TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*. Small number wintered; increase from 26th February. Spring maxima of 40 on 29th April and 38 on 9th May. Small numbers nested. Autumn flocks of 120 on 10th, 150+ on 16th September and 150 on 3rd October. Small numbers later and last seen on 8th December.
- REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*. 1-3 Mealy Redpolls (*flammea*) from 19th April to 6th May and 1 (possibly 2) Greenland Redpolls (*rostrata*) from 13th to 25th May. In autumn, small numbers from 16th September (2 *rostrata*) to 29th December (*rostrata*). Mealy Redpolls from 2nd to 22nd October, maximum 3 and one on 4th November. Single Greenland birds on 4th-5th, 28th-29th and 4 on 30th October. Single Lesser Redpoll (*cabaret*) from 30th November to 4th December.
- BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A ♀ on 13th April. At least one ♂ from 22nd to 24th October and a ♀ on 6th to 9th November.
- SCARLET ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*. An adult ♀ on 22nd-26th May. Autumn passage from 26th August to 23rd October, maximum 3 on 4th October. Recorded on 19 days for total of 25 bird/days. A ♀ rosefinch spp., present (and trapped) from 27th to 30th April was an escaped cage-bird.
- CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. Strong invasion from 12th June to 5th August, peaks of 14 on 23rd, 37 on 24th and 30+ on 30th June, 20 on 7th, 36 on 9th and 47 on 16th July. A second wave from 1st to 12th September, maximum 16 on 2nd; and late singles on 13th and 15th October.
- CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. Spring passage from 7th March to 7th June, peaks of 20 on 4th and 6th April. Autumn passage from 28th September to 20th December, mainly 7th to 23rd October, peaks of 150 on 7th, 12th-13th and 140 on 14th-15th.
- BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. 1-3 from 9th to 12th and 1 on 27th March. Spring passage from 5th April to 7th May, peaks of 100 on 11th and 15th April. A late ♂ on 23rd May. A very early ♀ on 7th and 9th August, 1-5 from 27th August to 5th September and a ♀ on 22nd September. Very large movements from 28th September to 29th October, peaks of 250 on 29th September, 400 on 6th, 1500+ on 7th, 1000+ on 8th, 300 on 9th, 300-500 on 10th-17th October. One on 8th November.
- YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. A ♀ on 2nd to 9th Jan-

- uary. Singles on 22nd and 26th April, 2nd and 5th May, 8th-9th and 15th June. In autumn, 1-2 on 6 days between 5th and 16th October, and 1 on 5th November.
- CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*. Singles on 28th March and 21st May. In autumn, singles on 15th October, 6th and 9th November, 3 on 11th and 2 on 12th November.
- RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A ♂ from 18th to 27th May was trapped and found to be an escaped cage-bird bearing a small ring. Another ♂ on 18th May. A ♂ from 23rd July to 14th August and a fourth ♂ (trapped) from 19th to 31st August.
- ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. Single males on 16th May, 13th and 21st-24th June. In autumn, 1 on 2nd, 3 on 3rd, 2 on 5th and 1 on 6th and 8th September.
- RUSTIC BUNTING *Emberiza rustica*. One at Upper Stoneybrake on 20th October.
- LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla*. One at Wester Lothar on 13th October.
- REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*. One on 28th February and 2 on 1st March. Small spring passage from 5th April to 25th May, maximum 4 on 14th April. Autumn passage from 23rd September to 30th October, mainly 2nd to 23rd October, surprisingly high peaks of 20 on 7th, 18 on 16th and 20 on 21st.
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis*. One trapped in Double Dyke on 13th May; new bird for Fair Isle. See Bull. 5: 6, 193
- LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Singles on 8 days between 5th April and 16th May. A strong invasion from 5th September (9), peaks of 25+ on 8th, 41 on 11th, 40 on 12th, 15 on 17th, 35 on 21st September and 21 on 4th October. Smaller numbers until 29th October and last one on 13th November.
- SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Small numbers wintered, maximum 26. Passage in March and April, peaks of 45 on 30th-31st March and 50 on 16th April; stragglers until 3rd June (3). Autumn passage from 11th September, fewer than usual, peaks of 45 on 19th September, 100 on 5th and 29th October, 100-120 between 16th and 20th November, and 100+ on 10th December.
- HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*. Winter flock at Setter up to 21 in January, 41 on 24th February and 33 in March. Breeding numbers as 1965. Occasional visits to Observatory in October.
- TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*. One on 25th April. 3 on 1st May, increasing to 4 on 9th, 9 on 13th, 10 on 14th, 14 on 15th, 16+ on 16th, 20+ on 23rd, and maximum of 27 on

28th May; decreasing to 20 on 1st, 13 on 6th, 2 on 9th and last one on 15th June. One at Shirva between 30th October and 9th November.

Traps

All the main traps were used regularly during the year, and major repairs were carried out on the Double Dyke, Gully and Observatory traps, which were storm damaged. A new Heligoland trap was built at the west end of the spruce plantation; it was completed in August and named the Plantation Trap. This trap, which is intended mainly for skulking and roosting birds, will be enlarged in 1967. Three wader traps were in permanent use, mainly at Easter Lother Water and accounted for a good catch of waders, the best being two Spotted Redshanks and a Curlew Sandpiper. Mist nests and elastic-powered clapnets caught many birds, especially some of the rarer ones. We had great success dazle-netting and caught many interesting species, including Grey-lag, Golden Plovers and Bar-tailed Godwit, and also lots of turdidæ under the lighthouses.

Ringing

In 1966, 6311 birds of 130 species were ringed with Fair Isle Bird Observatory rings; this is an increase of 449 birds and 5 species on the previous records. 536 birds were ringed by Bobby Tulloch and 32 by Magnus Sinclair in the northern isles and 196 birds were ringed by Mike Carins at Sumburgh.

The leading monthly scores were 1492 in July and 1125 in October. The leading species scores were Shag 860, Fulmar 547, Storm Petrel 534, Blackbird 375, Starling 324, Wheatear 301, Robin 242, Redwing 217, Song Thrush 186 and Puffin 176.

Species ringed for the first time, at the island, were Curlew Sandpiper, Sand Martin, White-throated Sparrow and, surprisingly, Rock Dove. Other unusual species ringed were Grey-lag, Whimbrel (5), Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover (6), Spotted Redshank (2), Pectoral Sandpiper, Glaucous Gull (2), Collared Dove (6), Great-spotted Woodpecker, Raven (2), Great Tit, Black-bellied Dipper, Mistle Thrush, Great Reed Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Icterine Warbler (2), Booted Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler (4), Petchora Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Lesser Grey Shrike (2), northern Bullfinch, Scarlet Rosefinch (3) and Reed-headed Bunting.

The annual and cumulative totals (in a summarised form) are brought up to date in Table 1.

TABLE 1

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Birds</i>	<i>No. of Species</i>
1948-60	36334	166
1961	5656	111
1962	5754	125
1963	5863	120
1964	3795	106
1965	5017	123
1966	6311	130
Grand Total	68730	203

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		
	1948-65	1966	Total	1948-65	1966	Total
Slavonian Grebe	1		1			
Little Grebe	1		1			
Storm Petrel	408	534	942	1	1	2
Fulmar	2002	547	2549	10	1	11
Gannet	10	115	125		1	1
Cormorant	4	1	5			
Shag	4305	860	5165	106	18	124
Heron	8		8			
Mallard	6		6		1	1
Teal	12	2	14	2		2
Wigeon	6		6			
Scaup	2		2			
Tufted Duck	5		5			
Goldeneye	2		2			
Long-tailed Duck	3		3			
Velvet Scoter	1		1			
Eider	30	9	39			
Red-br. Merganser	1		1			
Greylag Goose	3	1	4		1	1
White-front	1		1			
Pink-foot	1		1			
Barnacle Goose	1		1			
Whooper	9		9			
Sparrowhawk	51	4	55	8	1	9
Peregrine	5		5			
Merlin	103	6	109	11	1	12
Kestrel	18	2	20	3		3

Red-footed Falcon	11		1			
Quail	2		2			
Water Rail	118	2	120	2		2
Spotted Crane	2		2			
Corncrake	22	2	24	2		2
Moorhen	33	3	36			
Coot	6		6			
Oystercatcher	474	38	512	19	2	21
Lapwing	208	1	209	3		3
Ringed Plover	165	16	181	3		3
Little Ringed Plover	1		1			
Golden Plover	3	6	9			
Dotterel	2		2			
Turnstone	32	1	33			
Snipe	92	7	99	3		3
Jack Snipe	20	2	22			
Woodcock	97	9	106	4	1	5
Curlew	9	8	17			
Whimbrel	7	5	12			
Bar-tailed Godwit	5	1	6	2		2
Green Sandpiper	12	2	14			
Wood Sandpiper	5	2	7			
Common Sandpiper	20	2	22			
Redshank	48	20	68	1		1
Spotted Redshank	1	2	3			
Greenshank	3		3			
Knot	24	6	30			
Purple Sandpiper	57	4	61			
Little Stint	10		10			
Western Sandpiper	1		1			
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	1	3			
Dunlin	125	18	143	2		2
Curlew Sandpiper		1	1			
Sanderling	43	4	47			
Ruff	9	1	10			
Red-necked Phalarope	3		3			
Bonxie	388	146	534	5	1	6
Arctic Skua	1076	21	1097	24	3	27
Pomarine Skua	1		1			
Great Black-back	249	120	369	15	1	16
Lesser Black-back	283	20	303	4	1	5
Herring Gull	431	155	586	15		15
Common Gull	54	9	63			
Glaucous Gull	5	2	7	1		1
Iceland Gull	1		1			
Black-headed Gull	34	4	38	2		2
Kittiwake	143	140	283	1		1
Common Tern	11	1	12			
Arctic Tern	95	3	98			

Razorbill	402	100	502	19	2	21
Little Auk	4		4			
Guillemot	448	134	582	14	4	18
Black Guillemot	318	71	389	2	2	4
Puffin	3526	176	3702	6		6
Wood Pigeon	18	2	20	2		2
Rock Dove		1	1			
Turtle Dove	12		12			
Collared Dove	3	6	9			
Cuckoo	31	3	34	1		1
Long-eared Owl	35		35	2		2
Short-eared Owl	1		1			
Swift	7		7	1		1
Great						
Spotted Woodpecker	7	1	8			
Wryneck	38	4	42			
Short-toed Lark	2		2			
Woodlark	1		1			
Skylark	326	37	363	2		2
Swallow	93	8	101	1		1
House Martin	35	1	36			
Sand Martin		1	1			
Raven	1	2	3			
Hooded Crow	19	4	23			
Rook	4		4			
Great Tit	1	1	2			
Blue Tit	2		2			
Treecreeper	1	1	2			
Wren	346	13	359			
Dipper	5	1	6			
Mistle Thrush	8	2	10			
Fieldfare	233	41	274			
Song Thrush	562	186	748	13	1	14
Redwing	2607	217	2824	26	10	36
Dusky Thrush	1		1			
Black-throated Thrush	1		1			
Ring Ouzel	81	32	113	1		1
Blackbird	8417	375	8792	158	6	164
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2		2			
Wheatear	8157	301	8458	40	3	43
Black-eared Wheatear	2		2			
Stonechat	13		13			
Whinchat	240	22	262	1	1	2
Redstart	603	44	647			
Black Redstart	35	2	37			
Nightingale	3		3			
Thrush Nightingale	4		4			
Bluethroat	83	3	86	1		1
Robin	2018	242	2260	13	1	14

Grasshopper Warbler	20	3	23		
Lanceolated Warbler	3		3		
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	1		1		
River Warbler	1		1		
Great Reed Warbler	1	1	2		
Reed Warbler	37	3	40	1	1
Marsh Warbler	19		19		
Paddyfield Warbler	1		1		
Thick-billed Warbler	1		1		
Sedge Warbler	118	13	131		
Aquatic Warbler	6		6		
Melodious Warbler	2		2		
Icterine Warbler	22	2	24		
Booted Warbler	1	1	2		
Blackcap	453	51	504	2	2
Barred Warbler	99	7	106		
Garden Warbler	697	71	768		
Whitethroat	356	28	384		
Lesser Whitethroat	147	10	157		
Subalpine Warbler	5	1	6		
Willow Warbler	852	65	917		
Greenish Warbler	5		5		
Chiffchaff	155	18	173		
Wood Warbler	17	1	18		
Bonelli's Warbler	1		1		
Arctic Warbler	10		10		
Yellow-browed Warbler	19	4	23		
Dusky Warbler	1		1		
Goldcrest	367	78	445		
Spotted Flycatcher	178	15	193	1	1
Pied Flycatcher	332	19	351	2	2
Red-breasted Fly.	29		29		
Dunnock	448	53	501	3	3
Meadow Pipit	4088	185	4273	32	1
Tree Pipit	170	21	191		33
Indian Tree Pipit	2		2		
Petchora Pipit	1	1	2		
Red-throated Pipit	1		1		
Rock Pipit	3438	139	3577	8	8
Richard's Pipit	3		3		
Tawny Pipit	1		1		
Pied/White Wagtail	261	22	283	3	3
Grey Wagtail	4	1	5	1	1
Yellow Wagtail spp.	7	1	8		
Citrine Wagtail	3		3		
Waxwing	11	2	13		
Great Grey Shrike	22	7	29		

Lesser Grey Shrike	3	2	5			
Woodchat Shrike	5		5			
Red-backed Shrike	38	4	42			
Starling	5581	324	5905	43	3	46
Rose-coloured Starling	1		1			
Greenfinch	11	3	14			
Goldfinch	2		2			
Siskin	110	9	119			
Linnet	15	5	20			
Twite	1741	55	1796	2		2
Redpoll	123	4	127			
Arctic Redpoll	3		3			
Bullfinch	7	1	8			
Scarlet Rosefinch	17	3	20			
Crossbill	255	8	263	1	1	2
Parrot Crossbill	35		35			
Chaffinch	460	47	507			
Brambling	224	83	307	1		1
Yellowhammer	16	2	18			
Corn Bunting	2		2			
Red-headed Bunting	3	1	4			
Yellow-breasted Bunting	2		2			
Ortolan	8		8			
Rustic Bunting	4		4	1		1
Little Bunting	10		10			
Reed Bunting	68	6	74	1		1
Song Sparrow	1		1			
White-throated Sparrow		1	1			
Lapland Bunting	30	5	35			
Snow Bunting	163	3	166	2		2
House Sparrow	767	20	787			
Tree Sparrow	12	2	14			
GRAND TOTAL	62419	6311	68730	656	69	725

Recoveries 1966

Sixty-nine recoveries of birds ringed with Fair Isle Bird Observatory rings were reported during the year. They included our first recoveries of Gannet, Mallard and Grey-lag. A Wheatear from the Sahara, a Whinchat in Spain, a Crossbill in Norway, and no less than ten Redwings are the most interesting reports. Full details will appear in the Bulletin.

A Fulmar chick of 1959 was controlled in Orkney in March, and one of our Storm Petrels was controlled in Fetlar in August, a few weeks after ringing. 18 Shags were reported;

10 in Shetland, 5 in Orkney and singles from Caithness, Durham and off the Friesian Islands. One of the Hermaness Gannets was caught in France three months after fledging. Greylag and Mallard ringed in November and December 1965, were shot at Tain in January and Thurso in December 1966 respectively. A chick Merlin of 1965 from Yell was found dead near Kirkcaldy in March, and an October Sparrowhawk of 1965 was caught in an empty house at Scalloway in April. A 1962 Oystercatcher chick was found freshly dead on St Ninian's Isle on 29th April and a chick ringed on 28th June 1966 was killed in France on 4th September. A Woodcock ringed on 23rd October 1965 was shot in Jutland in April.

A chick Bonxie of July 1966 was in Portugal in November, and there were three Arctic Skuas; one 1960 chick at Mousa in August, and 1962 chicks in Dunrossness in June and at Grangemouth in September. A Great Black-back of 1965 was found dead at Forvie, Aberdeenshire, in October, and a chick Lesser Black-back of 1966 was in Spain in December. A 1964 Razorbill chick was shot in Spain in November and a 1966 chick was shot in Norway in October. Four Guillemots, ringed as pulli, were reported from Norway; two had been ringed at Sumburgh and one of the Fair Isle birds was five years old. Two chick Black Guillemots were found in Orkney, one only about a week after fledging.

A Song Thrush ringed on 29th September 1965 was found in Portugal on 28th February. Ten Redwings were reported; a bird ringed on 13th October 1963 was shot in Turkey on 7th January 1966, an October 1964 bird was in Portugal in January, an April 1965 bird was killed near Crieff in February. Of five birds ringed between 27th September and 9th October 1965, a period of strong Redwing migration, when good numbers were caught at the Lighthouses, one was in Greece in January, two were in Portugal in January and November, one in Spain in November and one in Finland in July. Birds ringed in October 1966 were in France 27 days later, and in Skye 19 days later. Six Blackbirds were reported; three from Norway, 2 from Sweden (5 and 6 years old) and one from Inverness.

An August 1964 Wheatear was killed in a Saharan oasis in Algeria in March 1966, an adult male ringed on 24th April was killed at Vidlin, Shetland, on 14th May, and an August juvenile was found a month later in Spain. A Whinchat ringed on 9th September 1966 was shot in Spain on 30th October. A Robin ringed on 14th April 1966 was in Spain in November. An August Meadow Pipit of 1965 was controlled by Spurn Bird Observatory in September. Only three Starling recoveries; 7 year old bird from Lancashire and singles from

Shapinsay, Orkney and Foula. Finally, the Crossbill, which was ringed on 6th September 1966 and had returned to Rogaland, Norway, by 21st September.

Ringed Strangers

Eight Storm Petrels were controlled and all had been ringed at Foula in 1964, 1965 (5) and 1966 (2), and a Foula bird was controlled in Yell. A Robin wearing a Danish ring was caught on 9th October; it had been ringed on 7th October 1965 in Jylland, Denmark.

Publications

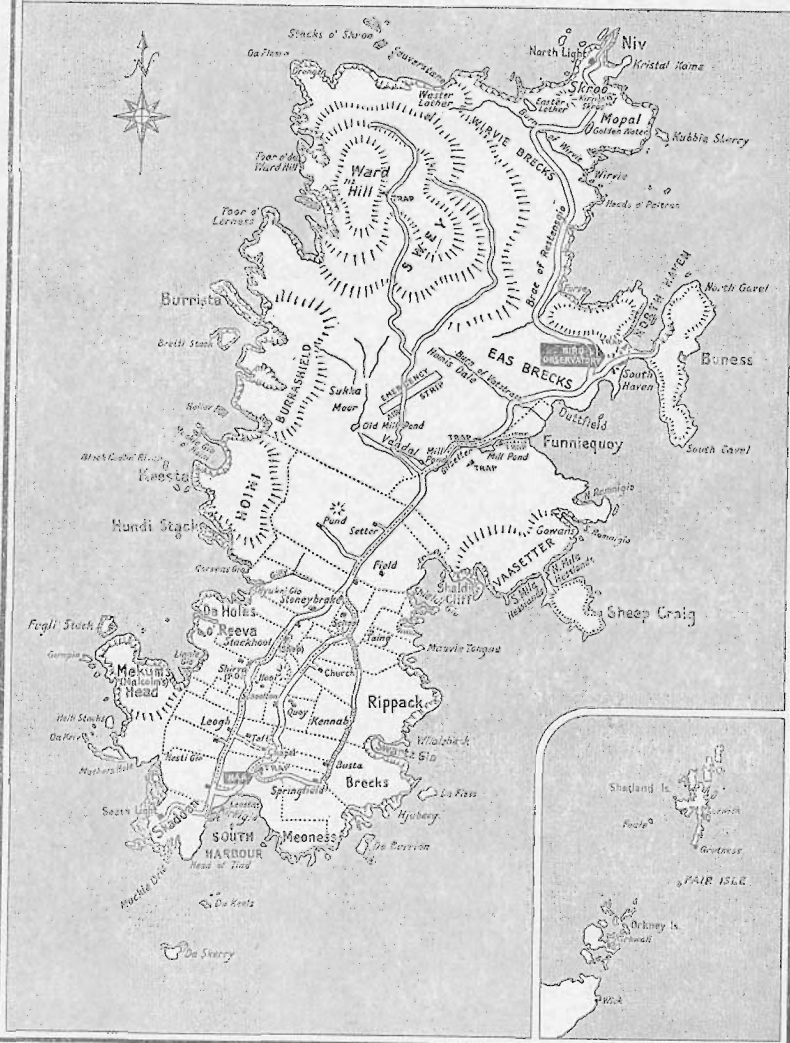
The Bulletin Vol. 5, No. 5 was published in April and No. 6 in December 1966. The Annual Report for 1965 was circulated to members in July. References to birds recorded at Fair Isle appeared in various scientific journals, the main ones being:

- BARNES, G. J. Harlequin Ducks at Fair Isle. *Scot. Birds* 4: 83-85.
- DENNIS, R. H. Purple Heron at Fair Isle. *Scot. Birds* 4: 81.
- DENNIS, R. H. Great and Cory's Shearwaters at Fair Isle. *Scot. Birds* 4: 218-222.
- DENNIS, R. H. Little Ringed Plovers in Scotland in autumn. *Scot. Birds* 4: 224-225.
- DENNIS, R. H. Green-winged Teal and American Wigeon in Inverness-shire. *Scot. Birds* 4: 294.
- DENNIS, R. H. Catching Wildfowl by artificial light. *Wildfowl Trust 17th Ann. Rep.* 98-100.
- DENNIS, R. H. & WISEMAN, E. J. Great Snipe at Fair Isle. *Scot. Birds* 4: 227-228.
- EGGELING, W. J. The Scottish Bird Observatories. *Scot. Birds* 4: 142-151.
- SELLAR, P. J. & SLATER, P. J. B. Abnormally plumaged Willow Warbler at Fair Isle. *Scot. Birds* 4: 98.

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

0 100yds. 440yds. 880yds. 1 mile

Roads Bird Trap TRAP Boundaries



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