

FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY.

BULLETIN No. 4, 1950.

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1. Visits to potential Bird Observatory Sites.

A. The Isle of Man.

Bruce Campbell writes that in April he and W. B. Alexander visited the Isle of Man, landed on the Calf Island, and saw Langness and the Point of Ayre, - all excellent points for the observation of Spring and Autumn passage of passerines and waders. "We felt that there were distinct possibilities about all of them, if the necessary local support was forthcoming, and a very well-attended meeting in Douglas heard W. B. A. speak on the observatories. Owing to the kindness of the various observatories, he now has an excellent series of slides with which to illustrate his lectures."

There is no doubt that the Calf of Man, which I was able to visit a number of times in migration seasons before the war, would make an invaluable Bird Observatory, situated as it is in the middle of the Irish Sea. It is no more difficult of access than Skokholm, the Isle of May and other islands, and has a bigger concentration of migrant birds, and much better trapping sites, than either Langness or the Point of Ayre. The potential value of a station on the Calf, collaborating with those at Lundy and Skokholm, and the projected Irish Bird Observatory on the Great Saltee (see below), is too obvious to require further comment. It is perhaps a hopeful sign of increasing interest in the idea that I have been invited to lecture at the Manx Museum, during the coming winter, on the Fair Isle Bird Observatory.

B. The Great Saltee.

Major R. F. Rutledge and a companion spent May 11th-22nd on the Great Saltee, with a view to examining its potentialities as the site for Ireland's first Bird Observatory. Major Rutledge spent a month on Fair Isle in September-October last year, studying Bird Observatory methods and techniques, and went away fully determined to establish a similar station in Ireland, if at all possible.

Of this visit to the Saltee he writes: "I will only say that it was far above my highest hopes, and if Autumn proves as good (though/

(though I fear the cover will be dense) then it is well worth every effort to develop it as a first-class Bird Observatory. We hope to have a small Heligoland in Autumn: as it was, we used most Heath Robinson apparatus in the way of nets, and, after many failures in experiments, we trapped in a flue-net the size of a bath-towel 3 Sedge and 2 Garden Warblers and 9 Whitethroats. The netting was of too large a mesh, and we lost through that nearly 40 birds! There was a very good variety and good numbers of birds each day. Two English ornithologists followed us, and, though most migrants had gone . . . they added a new bird to the Irish list - a male Black-headed Bunting - and the third Irish record of the Woodchat Shrike. Garden Warblers, Blackcaps, Redstarts and Turtle Doves were some of our most interesting migrants."

I have asked Major Rutledge to contribute a fuller account of his Saltee observations to the next issue of this Bulletin. All Bird Observatory workers will join in wishing him every possible success in his efforts to establish an active Bird Observatory on this splendid island.

C. Utsira, Norway.

Dr. Holger Holgersen, Konservator of Stavanger Museum, writes that he hopes to visit the island of Utsira - where Dr. Schaanning has already done much useful preliminary work (see Stavanger Museum ARBOK, 1935-36 and 1936-37) - in September-October, in order to explore the island's possibilities as an observation-point for Autumn migrants. He hopes to be accompanied by Mr. John Hyatt, of Cambridge, who has had experience at the Isle of May. The erection of a permanent station there is probably out of the question, however, as the Stavanger Museum is already committed to the upkeep of a trapping and ringing station - dealing mainly with migrant waders - at Revtangen.

D. Nolsoy, Faeroe Islands.

At the end of June I was able, through the kindness of Lieut.-Comdr. G. G. Leslie (who visited Fair Isle during the Spring migration of 1949), to visit my friend, Niels Petersen a Botani, on the island of Nolsoy in the Faeroes. We discussed with Petersen the possibility of his establishing Bird Observatory methods of study, and found him most enthusiastic. His own garden, which is rich in cover, is admirably situated on the eastern side of the village, and seems to be the Mecca of all the small migrants drifted to this island on east and south-east winds. We were able to advise him on sites for two Heligoland-type traps adjacent to his house/

house, and I hope that some progress will be made along these lines in the near future.

It is Petersen's wish to maintain the closest contact with British Bird Observatories. His detailed account of bird-migration as observed on Nolsoy in 1949, and which appears as an Appendix to this report, is evidence of this; and I would like to ask that British Bird Observatories return the compliment by sending him a copy of their Annual Reports. The gesture will be greatly appreciated. His address is - Niels Fr. Petersen & Betni, Eilsey, Faeroe Islands.

Whilst in Faeroe I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. A. V. Tasing and members of his scientific staff on board the Danish research vessel "DANA". Dr. Tasing told me that when cruising nearly 100 miles north of the Faeroes, in the first week of June, a number of House Martins came on board the ship.

2. Weather Ships.

Bruce Campbell writes that, as a result of the notice concerning Weather Ships in B. T. O. Bulletin No. 37, there have been four firm applications for voyages from Trust members, who have been put in touch with the Marine Superintendent at the Meteorological Office. "We have also got a member of one of the crews making regular reports, and he has been put in touch with E. A. Duffey of Leicester, since most of his observations concern sea-birds".

3. Gibraltar Point Bird Observatory.

Lenten Ottaway has sent the following notes of Spring movements at Gibraltar Point. "Except where otherwise stated our passage is all to SW. both in Spring and Autumn".

- HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*. A late bird moving, June 4th.
 CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. Heavy passage, March 9th - 19th, with ca. 350 on 9th, 320 on 11th and 1200 on 19th. (See Bulletin No. 1 for similar report from Spurn Point and Fair Isle).
 CORN Bunting *Emberiza calandra*. 76 moving in three parties, June 4th.
 WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. Singly, May 7th and 29th.
 TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*. Four on May 6th; five on May 7th.
 YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima*. First on April 13th; peak on April 30th of 12, and up to four most days to May 29th.
 SPOTTED/

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*. From May 20th to June 3rd, with 12 on May 21st (12 ringed).

WILLOW WARBLER *phylloscopus trochilus*. Eight on April 7th, 50 on May 1st, odd birds to May 26th (25 ringed).

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. First on April 22nd, odd birds throughout May (15 ringed).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. (3 ringed).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Six on April 13th and others daily; eight on April 30th, twenty on May 1st, from two to six on most days to end of May.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. Ad. male, April 9th.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. From May 6th - 27th, up to four birds most days (8 ringed).

HIRUNDINIDAE. Heavy passage May 1st and again with Swifts, May 27th - 30th.

SWIFT *Apus apus*. Over 600 on June 18th (? early return passage).

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*. Ad. male caught and ringed, May 21st.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. Peak passage May 27th - June 4th with up to fifteen daily (2 ringed, 1 juv.).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtue*. Peak passage May 27th - 30th, with ca. 100 on 27th, ca. 50 on 28th, ca. 120 on 29th, and ca. 80 on 30th. (See para 4 below).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Steady passage to north, April 15th - May 29th, with 14 on May 10th and 12 on May 18th.

4. Spurn Bird Observatory.

G. H. Ainsworth writes that the week-end May 20th-21st was the best time during the Spring migration, Redstarts, Willow Warblers, Whitethroats, Whinchats and Wheatears being numerous. Forty-one birds were ringed on the Sunday, and, if there had been sufficient personnel to work both traps, the total would certainly have been much higher.

TURTLE DOVES were passing through during the week previous to June 4th.

5. Ringed Bird Recoveries.

Some very interesting recoveries are reported by L. Ottaway, Hon. Warden at Gibraltar Point:

SONG/

SONG THRUSH *Turdus oricetorum*. Ringed October 12th, 1949, recovered Santander, North Spain, on February 5th, 1950.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. Ringed October 12th, 1949, and recovered at Rendsburg, Denmark, on April 23rd, 1950.

Both birds were ringed on a day of big BLUE TIT *Parus coeruleus* passage, when 184 were ringed.

Two COMMON WHITETHROATS *Sylvia communis* ringed in 1949 at Gibraltar Point were recovered in the trap this year, one within three days of the date originally ringed.

APPENDIX/

A P P E N D I X.Bird-Migration at NOLSOY, FAEROE ISLANDS, during 1949.Contributed by Niels Fr. Petersen.

In addition to their value as a record for comparison with observations at the British Bird Observatories over the same period, the following data from Niels Petersen are of importance from a regional standpoint, since they add several new birds to the Faeroe List which I drew up for my book "The Atlantic Islands" in 1948. These include the Greater Redpoll, Wood and Yellow-browed Warblers. A number of other observations refer to species which are very rarely noted in Faeroe.

In several places I have added, in parentheses, a note on occurrences at Fair Isle, and it is interesting to find that in many cases there is close agreement between movements here and at Nolsoy 200 miles to the north. It is suggested that the list below should be read in conjunction with the recent article, "The Autumn Migration of 1949: Reports from Bird Observatories", in British Birds July (1950) 43: 205-217.

I am grateful to my wife for affording a translation of Petersen's original notes.

K.W.

Systematic List.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*. One in the garden for a few hours, September 13th. A male in the same place, October 8th.

GREATER REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea rostrata*. Three birds, April 21st. A flock of 12, of which two males were collected, visited the village on April 23rd: seen singly or in small groups of from two to five from then till 27th. (The specimens, which I have examined on June 26th, 1950, have the thick bills, dark mantles and heavy flank streaks characteristic of *rostrata*, and provide a first record of this race from the Faeroes. One was reported at Fair Isle on April 21st.)

CHAFFINCH/

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*. A flock of 15, which fed daily in the fields from October 7th, came nightly to the village to roost. (The first arrival in any strength took place at Fair Isle on October 7th - wind SE. force 5 - when 10 were counted). There were a few on Nolsoy October 25th and 29th, and one on November 12th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*. Eight birds roosted in the garden from October 11th-21st. (The first batch, 11 birds, came into Fair Isle October 6th, and 120 were counted on 8th following a night of SSE. wind at force 4).

YELLOW-HAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*. One in the garden, May 3rd - 5th. (Also a scarce passage-migrant at Fair Isle, where one was present at the same time, May 2nd - 8th).

SNOW BUNTING. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Fluctuating numbers on Nolsoy throughout April; especially common, 1st - 7th, 14th and 24th-29th. Also seen May 5th, 8th and 20th. (There was some passage at Fair Isle April 25th - 26th. The tremendous Autumn influx of September 15th - 16th, when over a thousand were present at Fair Isle, appears to have had no parallel on Nolsoy, where Autumn birds were not seen until October 14th).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*. Two, April 12th; five, April 18th. Two sang over the infield during May, and one in the village area from June 18th - 21st. Two pairs were apparently breeding at the end of July. (Nolsoy and Torshavn mark the limit of its breeding range in the north-west).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*. Large flock in the infield, April 21st, and smaller flocks throughout the month. Flocks of varying size passed during May. (Big movement at Fair Isle, April 25th). A large flock of returning migrants stayed from September 14th - 22nd. (Peak trapping period at Fair Isle from September 30th - October 5th).

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*. Seen daily at Nolsoy between May 3rd - 29th. (Main passage at Fair Isle, May 3rd - 22nd). Two young birds, probably bred in the islands, were in Nolsoy village August 18th. A large number stayed from September 3rd - 8th, and there were two on the shore on 28th. (Autumn migrants most numerous at Fair Isle from September 8th, - 50 recorded, with increases on 9th and again on 10th, - the wind being mainly southerly, moderate to strong, at this period; the species had been on passage, however, since mid-August, with ca. 50 on September 4th). There was a late bird in Nolsoy village October 29th.

GREAT/

GREAT GREY SHRIKES *Lanius excubitor*. One on the bird-fowling cliffs on October 4th. (The only one noted at Fair Isle was October 9th; also recorded Isle of May (9th-10th) and Spurn (6th-10th)).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. A bird was found dead at Frodbour in Suduroy on November 1st; single birds were seen at Nolsoy on 7th, 8th and 12th; at Torshavn on 12th and 21st, and specimens were found dead on the islands of Kallsoy, Kunoy and Sandoy on or about 11th-12th. (This seems to have been the peak of the "invasion" in Faeroe and corresponds well with the visitation to Fair Isle of a flock of 20 and one or two smaller parties from November 10th-12th).

PIED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. A single bird in the garden, September 15th-18th. (Ten was the most on any one day at Fair Isle, September 12th, and the next record is three for the 16th).

(RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. The movement noted by the British east-coast Observatories (Brit. Birds, 43: 217) does not appear to have reached Nolsoy. NFP. writes that he feels confident that a bird he had under close observation in his garden all day on September 25th was a specimen of the Brown Flycatcher, *Muscicapa latirostris*, not previously recorded for Faeroe. It might be added that the second Faeroe record for the Spotted Flycatcher, *Muscicapa striata*, is represented by a skin of a 1st Winter bird in his possession, killed by a cat in the Autumn of 1948).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*. Appeared in the village, April 2nd - 4th; exceptional numbers arrived on 6th and 25th. (One was trapped at Fair Isle March 29th and there was a fresh movement on April 2nd, with a few also on 6th and 7th). There were three in the garden, September 26th-30th. (A few at Fair Isle, 26th-29th). An unusually heavy migration took place in Faeroe at the beginning of October. Birds were seen singly or in small parties all over Nolsoy between 1st - 8th: "A few died shortly after their arrival, or were taken by cats or crows. Migration, I am sure, has been all over the islands, as I got birds to mount from Bordoy, Suduroy, Streymoy, Eysturoy and Sandoy". (About 30 were counted on Fair Isle on October 7th, and again from 9 - 12th). There was a single bird at Nolsoy from November 9th - 12th.

WILLOW-WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*. A single very yellowish bird in the garden from August 18th - 20th, and a greyer specimen with it on 18th. Another yellowish bird appeared on September 2nd; there were two on 3rd and four from 4th - 9th. An unusually large arrival of *Phylloscopus trochilus acredula* took place on September 8th/

8th, several remaining until 10th. Two were seen on September 18th - 19th. (The mid-August birds have no parallel on Fair Isle: there were three or four daily from August 29th to September 6th, and only odd birds until a small influx took place on 12th).

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. There were two in the garden on September 14th and again two on October 1st. (One collected September 1st, 1948, provides the first record for the Faeroes. Single specimens of this rare migrant appeared at Fair Isle on September 6th and 19th).

(? EVERSMAAN'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus borealis*. Two birds, in the garden from September 10th - 12th, were possibly this species).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Two in the garden, September 26th - 29th; also on October 1st, one still being present on 3rd. (These are the first records for the Faeroe Islands, but NFP. believes he has previously seen the species, at long intervals, on Autumn migration at Nolsoy. The first of the Autumn immigrants to Britain was observed at Fair Isle, August 28th; There was one here September 19th and two or three between 21st - 25th. Birds were seen singly on September 28th and October 12th and 15th - 16th. Isle of May occurrences were September 21st, October 6th - 7th and 24th, whilst the Bird Observatories at Spurn, Gibraltar Point and Lundy also recorded the species on October 6th - 7th: see Brit. Birds 43: 217).

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. A bird of the year was taken on September 18th. (One at Fair Isle, September 20th).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*. One sang in the garden, June 1st - 3rd. There were two from September 21st - 23rd, three on 24th and two until 27th. (At Fair Isle there were one or two in mid-September, but the peak passage was from 23rd - 26th).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*. Two in the garden, September 27th, one on 28th, and again two on 30th. A male in the same haunt, October 21st, and two birds between November 3rd - 6th. (The protracted passage at Fair Isle peaked September 23rd - 29th, and there were others in October, notably 7th and 9th. The November movement was also experienced at Fair Isle, males being seen from 6th - 9th and also 13th and 18th).

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*. A female which arrived at Nolsoy on May 14th was killed by a cat on 16th. (May 14th was the arrival date at Fair Isle). A bird visited the garden, June 2nd, and there was another on September 20th.

LESSER/

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*. There were birds in the garden September 6th-9th. (There was one at Fair Isle on 6th and one or two from 9th).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*. A flock arrived October 13th, and subsequently birds were seen almost daily. (Arrivals at Fair Isle October 9th - 12th).

REDWING. *Turdus musicus*. A single bird, probably musicus, April 2nd - 4th. On 5th a flock arrived which appeared to comprise both races: the musicus type disappeared after two days, but the others remained until 14th. One, April 21st. A flock of 5, thought to be musicus, visited the garden September 30th. Single birds in the fields, October 8th - 11th, looked like coburni. (Over a thousand came into Fair Isle, October 7th, and there was as big an influx on 9th. No coburni were trapped until 21st).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*. There were a good many in the village from April 2nd - 5th, increasing 6th. Some haunted the fields from 8th - 21st, and there were a few to the end of the month. (Passage at Fair Isle was from March 26th - April 2nd, with a few also on 9th). Autumn birds visited Nolsoy from September 23rd. (Autumn migration at Fair Isle began with a few on 24th, and the peak was October 9th - 21st. Gibraltar Point reported an influx on September 23rd with marked passage movement from October 7th, - Brit. Birds, 43: 212).

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*. First males, April 22nd. (Passing at Fair Isle throughout the month).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*. Five hawking over the village, May 26th. (Spring passage at Fair Isle from May 19th).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*. An adult male, May 17th - 18th. (Odd birds at Fair Isle, May 14th - 24th and early June).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates major*. One in Nolsoy village, September 26th - 29th. (The first arrived at Fair Isle, September 12th, others on 21st, 24th and October 6th; the Isle of May had immigrants from September 12th and between 22nd - 30th, - Brit. Birds, 43: 217).

SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio flammeus*. One on the eastern cliffs, June 3rd.

GREENLAND FALCON *Falco rusticolus candicans*. One hunting Rock Doves over the fields, September 29th.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. A young male during September.

MERLIN/

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. Singly, August 5th (hunting Starlings) and 29th and September 2nd. Three young birds, September 9th; singly on 10th, 13th, 19th, 28th and two on 30th. Two on October 3rd and again on 7th, one on 17th and three on 25th. (Daily at Fair Isle from August 27th to October 22nd).

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. A male was shot in Hoydalur, near Torshavn, on May 16th, and was sent to be mounted; it was a very pale bird. (One previous record, from Nolsoy).

HERON *Ardea cinerea*. Four, over the sea east of Nolsoy, September 18th.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*. A small flock in early April. Six on the west side, April 20th, and four in the bay on 22nd. There were 37 birds on a small lochan on April 25th. (No Spring records for Fair Isle). An unusually large flock of 80 flew over going NE. on May 10th, and another large flock of 87 was seen flying along the west coast on September 30th. (Three passed Fair Isle, September 30th).

GREY LAG GOOSE *Anser anser*. Flock of 15 in the fields, early April. "Grey Geese" were noted on April 22nd and 26th-27th. A flock of 7 near the village, May 10th. (No Spring records of grey geese at Fair Isle).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*. Three in the infield, April 24th. (There are about six previous records for Faeroe).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser arvensis brachyrhynchus*. A young male shot on May 18th out of a gaggle of 8 birds is in NFP.'s collection. Five in the infield, May 20th, had decreased to 3 on 21st and one only on 23rd.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*. One, during May.

DARK-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla bernicla*. One in the fields, November 5th-7th. (One previous record, also from Nolsoy).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*. Pair on a lochan, July 28th, where a female and young were seen in 1926. (There are one or two breeding records only).

TEAL *Anas crecca*. Three in the village bay, May 13th.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Two drakes and three ducks in the village bay May 14th-16th. (Two drakes and a duck on May 14th-15th are the only Spring records for Fair Isle).

SCAUP/

SCAFF *Aythya marila*. A female, April 4th. Pair in the bay, May 16th, also May 26th.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE *Bucephala islandica*. A young female was shot in the village bay in April. (Third record of this non-British species in Faeroe since it was first recognised by NFP. in 1944).

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*. Three in the bay, April 16th.

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis*. An old drake kept company with the resident *Somateria mollissima faeroensis* at the south of the island, September 16th-18th. There was one at the north end, October 3rd.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*. One flying east over the village April 14th. (Now believed to be extinct as a breeding-species).

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*. A few at sea on the east side of Holsøy on most days during September.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. *Colymbus immer*. Single bird, May 22nd-25th.

WOOD PIGEON *Columbus palumbus*. One in fields, April 20th; one feeding with Starlings, 24th. One in the infield, October 24th. (Two or three at Fair Isle from April 25th and a few second week of October).

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*. Bird of the year, September 13th (One at Fair Isle September 11th and two or three 20th-21st. Why this bird, which does not breed in Norway, should be so regular in Autumn in Faeroes and Fair Isle is something of a mystery).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. *Limosa limosa*. Three in the infield, June 3rd-4th; same birds at the south end, 7th. A female, June 9th. Two young birds in the infield, October 3rd.

GURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Single birds and small flock on the moors and infield throughout April. Flocks of varying size on moors at the south end, September 28th and throughout October.

WOODCOCK *Scelopax rusticola*. Single bird, April 6th, and one in May. (Passage at Fair Isle at beginning of April).

TURNSTONE *Arrenaria interpres*. Common in fluctuating numbers throughout April. Two adults in worn plumage and three young together on the west side, August 12th. Several in the fields and on the shore, usually with Starlings, throughout September and October. "Are wintering here in small and large flocks on the shore/

shore and in the infield". (Over 50 arrived at Fair Isle on August 13th).

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Seven on the shore, August 30th, and 5 on September 4th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. A few flocks on the shore during April. Small flocks on the shore throughout October and into the Winter. This species has decreased during the past few years.

REDSHANK *Tinga totanus*. Three in the infield, April 16th; two in the village area, May 21st and 29th. Twelve on the shore, August 22nd. Singly or in flocks of from three to seven birds throughout September. A few wintered.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*. Large Flock on the moors at the south end, April 8th; otherwise a few on most dates in April. A large flock arrived October 28th and stayed till 30th.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. A flock of seven on the moors, October 4th-7th; singly in the fields, October 22nd and November 6th. (Small number at Fair Isle, October 4th-6th, and again 19th-20th).

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*. One on April 4th in the village bay, in a strong wind. It dived from considerable heights and seemed to go far deeper than does *Sterna macrura*. (There is one previous record for Faeroe).

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*. A male was collected at Nolsoy on February 22nd. (Seven previous records in Faeroe).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*. Small flocks or single birds in the village bay on odd days in November.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*. Daily in October, unusually many on 23rd, and a small number throughout November. (A few at Fair Isle, October 26th).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*. Singly throughout October and November. (There was no unusual abundance of Iceland Gulls at Nolsoy, as there was in Shetland, during the Winter 1949-50, - see Bulletin No. 1, para2).

GREAT SKUA *Catharactes skua*. Seen daily up to September 28th. (Three at Fair Isle on 29th and last seen October 6th).

POMARINE/

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*. A large flock at sea south of Nolsoy, September 17th - 20th.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*. One, September 17th.

BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOE *Uria lomvia*. A male was collected on February 3rd and two females on March 21st. (only three previous records, all from Nolsoy, the last being December 15th, 1948).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. One in the infield, November 8th.