

# Fair Isle Bird Observatory

## BULLETIN



*Edited by*  
**PETER E. DAVIS**

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# Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

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*FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY BULLETIN*

VOL. 4 No. 6

JUNE 1961

*C O N T E N T S*

	PAGE
Editorial ... ..	158
63. The Rarer Birds of Spring, 1960 ... ..	158
64. The Great Migration of Mid-May, 1960 ... ..	159
65. The Arctic Skua Colony, 1960 ... ..	162
66. The Bonxies in 1960 ... ..	165
67. Some Other Breeding Birds, 1960 ... ..	166
68. The Dispersal of Young Shags from Fair Isle	167
69. The Lapland Bunting Invasion of 1960 ... ..	169
70. The Autumn Rarities of 1960 at Fair Isle ... ..	171
71. Tree Sparrows in 1960 ... ..	173
72. The Autumn Exit of the Fulmar ... ..	174
73. Bird Notes from Haroldswick, Unst, in 1960	176
74. Black-headed Wagtail in Shetland ... ..	179
Appendix ... ..	180

## Editorial

**R**EADERS may notice a paucity of "systematic lists" of Fair Isle migrants in this issue of the *Bulletin*. Now that the Daily Census records are available to students on microfilm at Oxford, and each year's migration is summarised, in some detail, both in the Annual Report and in *Bird Migration*, there seems very little point in publishing lists that few will read with any great attention. The *Bulletin* will, in the future, consist largely of short notes and papers.

The present issue covers some of the more interesting features of the whole of 1960; but in the next number we will revert to the practice of reviewing the events of one half of the year. From that time, the December issue will describe the main features of the previous spring and summer, and the June one, those of the previous autumn. This means that our results will appear six months earlier than in recent years.

P. D.

### 63. The Rarer Birds of Spring 1960

**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*. Fair Isle's first Collared Dove was seen near the South Light on the morning of 18th April, and near Vaadal the same evening. On 2nd June a dove probably this species (but possibly an escaped Barbary Dove *S. risoria*) was glimpsed briefly near the Haa; and on 18th June a Collared was in the cultivation at Busta.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*. One 10th May, and at least four others between 12th and 14th, one remaining to the 20th.

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cinerea*. A bird of the southern form *brachydactyla* in sprouting oats at Kennaby, 14th and 15th May.

**BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER** *Cinclus c. cinclus*. One in the Gilsetter Burn from 7th to 10th April, caught in a mist net on the 7th. The 7th record for the island, and the 5th in spring.

**RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT** *Cyanosylvia s. svecica*. Three 12th May, and up to five (14th) daily until the 16th; one 22nd. At least 8 or 9 individuals were involved; all were males, and one was singing on the 12th.

**MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris*. One caught in Vaadal on 8th June.

**GREY-HEADED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava thunbergi*. Four males 12th and 13th May, one to the 15th.

**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*. One found freshly dead 22nd April, in very emaciated condition. There are very few

spring records, and this is the latest by almost three weeks.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*. One at Setter on 5th June.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *L. senator*. A male 12th to 15th May. The 4th record for Fair Isle.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *L. cristatus collurio*. A female 10th May, two males 15th, one 22nd-23rd, 3rd and 10th June.

RED-TAILED SHRIKE *L. cristatus phoenicuroides*. A male 12th and 13th May, trapped on the second day. Red-tailed or Isabelline Shrikes have been recorded twice previously in Britain (Isle of May, Sept. 1950, and Portland Bill, Sept. 1959) but their racial affinities were uncertain. *L.c. phoenicuroides* breeds in the Transcaspien region and winters in East Africa. The occurrence is being described more fully in *British Birds*.

ORTOLAN *Emberiza hortulana*. Two different birds between 12th and 16th May, another 21st.

LITTLE BUNTING *E. pusilla*. One at Kennaby, 13th May.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. Unusually numerous this spring. Two males at Schooltown 19th April, one at Busta 23rd, another Upper Stonybreck 25th-26th, and yet another male at Gaila 27th and at Leogh on 28th. (These were separable on plumage). A male and a female at Springfield 1st May, two females 3rd, with a male on the 4th; one until the 6th.

## 64. The Great Migration of mid-May 1960

PETER DAVIS

The outstanding movement during the spring of 1960 at Fair Isle was a phenomenal "rush" of Continental passerines between 11th and 15th May. This was the largest spring arrival of warblers and other summer visitors that the Observatory has known, and in fact second only to the "avalanche" of 30th March-1st April 1958, among all the spring movements we have recorded during the past twelve years.

There had been a small accumulation of European night-migrants in the easterly weather of the days preceding the rush, and by the afternoon of the 11th a fair variety of species was represented; notably some 15 Whitethroats, between 5 and 10 Ring Ouzels, Whinchats, Robins, and Willow Warblers, a few Fieldfares, Redstarts, Sedge Warblers, Tree Pipits, and Reed Buntings, and single Song Thrush, Stonechat (a rarity in May), Grasshopper Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Hedge Sparrow, Blue-headed Wagtail, Siskin, and Brambling. Some

of these had certainly arrived during the morning, and three Robins, in particular, were trapped at very low weights. Only ten birds were caught before the evening, and when Gordon Barnes and our two visitors, Bill Crawford and Alex. Pringle, went out to do the final round of the day at 1900 GMT, they had little prospect of substantially increasing the score. Instead, they soon returned in high excitement, laden with Willow Warblers, Redstarts, Robins, and Pied Flycatchers, and reported that the trapping-area was "hopping" with Willows and other small birds. Leaving me to cope with the laboratory work, they dashed off again into the dusk, and increased the day's catch by seventeen.

We were out early on the 12th, a bright sunny day with a light N.E. breeze, and passed a memorable day listing the bewildering variety of migrants in this splendid windfall. We trapped 45 birds—a total that would have been much higher had more observers been present. Redstarts and Willow Warblers were well into three figures; we counted over 100 Redstarts and over 200 Willow Warblers, without having had time to look at the west cliffs, which must have held many more. The day's list also included three Common Sandpipers, a Wood Sandpiper, two Wrynecks, eight Fieldfares, 2 Song Thrushes, 7 Ring Ouzels, more Wheatears than before, over 30 Whinchats, three Black Redstarts (including one beautiful male of the black-bibbed, grey-backed variety), three cock Bluethroats, over 20 Robins, a Blackcap, at least 20 White-throats, 5 Lesser Whitethroats, two Chiffchaffs, at least 15 Pied Flycatchers, over 20 Tree Pipits, 5 White Wagtails, 6 *flava* wagtails, of which four were male Grey-headed, a fine male Woodchat Shrike, an Ortolan, more than 12 Reed Buntings, and, last but not least, a lovely addition to the Fair Isle list, a male Red-tailed Shrike.

The 13th was just as invigorating. Nothing had departed, and several species had increased overnight: Whinchats, Redstarts, Whitethroats, and Willow Warblers moderately, Tree Pipits spectacularly (over 100 seen), while Ring Ouzels, Robins, Pied Flycatchers, and Reed Buntings had more than doubled their numbers of the previous day. A Green Sandpiper was added to the Wood, two Spotted Flycatchers were new, and a Little Bunting was in the cultivation at Kennaby. Several Swallows and House Martins enlivened the scene. The Red-tailed Shrike was caught, and assigned to the western form *L.c. phoenicuroides*, a race which rejoices (according to Dresser's *Manual*, 1902) in the name of "Severtzoff's Rufous Shrike." Fifty-five other birds were also taken.

On the 14th the wind had backed S.E. and freshened, and the sky was overcast. The commoner species had decreased a good deal overnight, especially the Willow Warblers, and some

of the rarities had gone; but there were additions, including a late Grey Lag Goose, 19 Common Gulls, a Short-toed Lark, several Bluethroats (five seen), two new Wrynecks, and 7 Tree Sparrows. The catch was reduced to thirty-six.

We had feared that this was the close of the movement, but by the morning of the 15th fresh recruits had arrived, and the Willow Warblers now reached their highest total (over 300 seen), and Whitethroats and Lesser Whitethroats also increased. The new birds were two Herons, about ten Common Sandpipers, twenty Black-headed Gulls, several Wood Pigeons, a Turtle Dove, two Swifts, over 20 Swallows, 35 House Martins, and a Sand Martin; about 25 Fieldfares, 4 Redwings, some 30 Ring Ouzels, another male Blue-headed Wagtail, two male Red-backed Shrikes, and a late cock Snow Bunting. Forty-seven captures were made. The east wind decreased to gentle by evening, with clearing skies, and in these conditions about half the migrants departed overnight. On the 16th only one common species, the Whitethroat, had maintained or even increased its numbers—some 60 were seen. By the 17th, almost everything had gone.

Kenneth Williamson has discussed the movements of 11th-15th May in *Bird Migration* 1:161-2, and suggested that they came as a result of "overshooting" by birds oriented north-west through Europe, and following a "corridor" of calm and clear weather from the Balkans to Denmark and N.W. Germany (and thence to N. Britain). He points to the occurrence of a number of south-eastern rarities, and of birds such as the Grey-headed Wagtail which migrate N.W. in spring, as supporting evidence, and adds that in view of the cloudy and disturbed weather in France and Spain the movement is unlikely to have oriented there, and to have reached Fair Isle as a lateral drift of north-east oriented migrants. The only recovery of a bird ringed on Fair Isle at this time, a Robin which was one of the stragglers left on 18th May, tends to confirm Williamson's view. This bird was recovered on 30th May on the island of Trischen, in the Heligoland Bight, and had probably returned the way it had come.

It should be noted, however, that conditions in Iberia had improved before the last big influx of the 15th, and that this arrival came in south-east winds in the cloudy area of an occlusion extending from Shetland to the Low Countries, and that it did not bring any south-eastern vagrants. Moreover, a Ring Ouzel that almost certainly arrived among the 30 seen on the 15th, though it was not trapped until the 22nd, was recovered in October in S.W. France. This suggests that the late movement was of the lateral-drift type, and that the "rush" was renewed, from a different source, after the initial fall had lost its momentum.

## 65. The Arctic Skua Colony, 1960

PETER DAVIS

The study of the Arctic Skua population at Fair Isle proceeded in 1960, and once again Peter O'Donald returned, for five weeks, to his work on skua genetics. The weather during the June netting of the adults was considerably better than in 1959, and never seriously impeded our efforts.

The colony's increase was temporarily halted in 1960: the population remained at 65 pairs, though the number of breeding birds, 130, was one more than in 1959, when one bird was part of two pairs. The failure to increase was due to a rather high mortality during the winter half of the year, combined with a rather smaller increment of new birds in 1960, than during the past few seasons. Only 103, of the 121 colour-ringed breeders that survived at the end of the 1959 summer, came back in 1960, and two of these did not breed, so that the effective loss to the breeding-strength was 16.5%, compared with an average of about 12% in earlier years. Four of the 130 breeders in 1960 died during the summer, and five remained unringed, so that we again have 121 potentially available in 1961. The P.V.C. colour-rings continued to give very satisfactory service; none were lost between 1958 and 1960.

As might be expected, the area occupied by the skuas was little changed. The outlying territory established in 1959 on the Rippack, near the crofting district in the south of the isle, was not reoccupied (both birds reappeared in the main colony), and the northern outlier at Auld Jeams's Hill, though it persisted, shifted to lower ground a hundred yards nearer the colony. In the Hjon parks, on the northern slopes of Vaasetter, there were now two isolated pairs instead of one.

### *Age-Groups of the Breeders*

Only 18 (13.8%) of the 130 breeding birds in 1960 had been nesting since 1954 or earlier; 21 (16.2%) first bred in 1955, 20 (15.4%) in 1956, 13 (10%) in 1957, 13 in 1958, 22 (16.9%) in 1959, and 23 (17.7%) were breeding for the first time. The proportion of newcomers was to 3 to 8% lower than in 1956, 1957, or 1959, and much the same as in 1958.

Only two matings survived from the years before colour-marking commenced, in 1954. These were the still-vigorous Homisdale Springs pair, together since at least 1948, and the Tarryfield partnership, unbroken since 1950. Both pairs are identifiable by plumage, and have had consistently early laying-dates. The age of the rest of the 1960 matings is shown in Table I.



TABLE I

Continuance of Matings established in									
1948 or before	1950	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 (New)	
1	1	1	2	9	5	8	14	24	
1.5	1.5	1.5	3.1	13.9	7.7	12.3	21.6	36.9%	of total

### *Changes in the Matings*

As in other years, the changes in matings between 1959 and 1960 involved a disproportionate number of young breeders. Only 41 of the 62 matings still intact in August 1959 were maintained in 1960; two were broken by divorce, eighteen by the disappearance of one partner, and one by the disappearance of both birds. Twelve of these 21 broken partnerships had been formed only in 1959. Both of the divorces, at Rip-pack and Homisdale North, involved birds which had bred only once.

Six out of the 28 birds that nested for the first time in 1959 failed to reappear, compared with 14 out of 98 more experienced breeders. Since 1956-57, nineteen (20.9%) of 91 first-time breeders have not come back in the following year, against 43 (11.7%) of 366 birds which have bred in two or more seasons. As stated in the report on the 1959 work (*antea*, para. 44, p. 107) there seems no obvious reason why mortality should be higher in birds that have bred only once (3-5 year-olds) than it is in birds which have nested twice, or more often (4 years old and upwards); and I regard these data as further evidence that there is "migration" to other colonies by the less-experienced birds. Such a movement might well be connected with total failure of the single attempt to breed, since there is some evidence that this weakens the attachment to the territory; and the less-experienced birds are normally the least successful. A future investigation of this aspect may give us an acceptable explanation of the discrepancy.

### *Intermittent Breeding*

All three of the birds with previous breeding-experience, that were identified as non-breeders in 1959 (*antea* p. 108) returned to the strength in 1960. One bred on its 1958 ground at Brae East, another shifted from Swey North to a new territory, Brae Roadside, and the third, formerly at Vatstrass, found a niche at Eas Brecks North-West. No other absentees reappeared, so we had evidently seen all the intermittent breeders of 1959, during their ineffective year.

In 1960, two intermittent breeders were identified; an Intermediate from the Homisdale North pair of 1959 (one of the season's divorcees), which apparently did not reoccupy a reg-

ular territory this year; and the Pale partner of the old Brae Middle pair of 1950-59, which took a new (probably immature) Pale mate, and reoccupied its usual ground. This bird "incubated" an empty Eider's nest for a week or two in June, but no eggs were laid.

#### *Return of Young Birds*

Nine birds originally ringed as chicks were among the first-time breeders of 1960. Four were four years old, four five, and one six. The latter is our first six year old recruit. These additions bring the number of chicks recaptured as breeders to 38, of which 28 were still nesting in 1960. Table II details these recaptures.

TABLE II  
*Return as Breeders of Local-born Young*

	AGE AT FIRST BREEDING			
	3	4	5	6 years
1955	2	2	1	
1956	3	2		
1957		1	2	
1958	1	3		
1959	1	9	2	
1960		4	4	1
Total	7	21	9	1

The return of a six year old presumably completes our intake of the 1954 generation, the first group of chicks to be marked with durable rings. Only six of the 43 chicks ringed in that year have reappeared as breeders, Three were recovered elsewhere.

The record of the 1955 group is more encouraging. We have now welcomed back 14 of the 53 young reared in that year; one other was caught as a non-breeder in 1957 but has not been identified since then. This total should have included well over half of the survivors of the 1955 output of young, assuming the mortality in young birds to be rather higher than we know it to be in adults.

The 1956 generation seems unlikely to match this record. Fifty-eight of the 69 young reared in that year were ringed, but only five have so far returned to breed, one at three years and four at four. Four others were recovered overseas, all in their first autumn.

#### *Breeding-success in 1960*

The 65 pairs produced 126 eggs, hatched 102, and reared 72

young. Breeding-success was therefore 57.1%, slightly higher than in 1959, but still a poor year; only four of the previous eleven years have had lower success.

The majority of the failures in 1960 were in the chick stage, and since, despite the fine summer, most other seabirds also had a poor year, it seems probable that there was a general food-shortage. This may be connected with the abnormally stormy autumn and winter of 1959-60, and perhaps also with the rather inclement summer of 1959; resulting in a low density of animal prey in the neighbouring areas.

#### *Abnormal Clutches*

During the years 1956 to 1959 an Intermediate female at the Brunt Brae Upper territory annually produced a clutch of three eggs, which is extremely rare in this species. Invariably, two eggs were similar, and the other paler and considerably less blotched. None of the twelve eggs she laid in these four seasons hatched, and it was thought that the birds were unable to cover them adequately; often two would be warm, and one cool, and all of them were chilled at some stage. This female failed to return in 1960, but she was succeeded by another with the same unusual propensity.

The newcomer, a Pale morph, occupied a vacancy at Brae North-East. Her clutch also consisted of two similar and one paler egg, and the outcome of her efforts was the same. As had sometimes happened at Brunt Brae Upper, one egg was totally rejected after two weeks or so, but neither of the others hatched.

## 66. The Bonxies in 1960

The Fair Isle Bonxies increased by only one pair to twenty pairs in 1960. This increase was considerably smaller than anticipated, in view of the large settlement of non-breeders in 1959. It was thought that an unusually high proportion of the experienced breeders had failed to come back—this was indicated by late laying-dates and territorial changes—and that a good many of the newly-mature individuals were absorbed by the vacancies.

There was apparently some continuity from 1959 in sixteen of the nineteen pairs that bred in that year, but two of the four Vaasetter territories were shifted a considerable distance from the 1959 sites, and the Breed Piece pair (or its survivor) of that year apparently joined the three pairs already established on the Sukka Mire. The pairs at Eas Brecks and Burra-shield South were definitely changed, only one egg being produced at each. Three 1959 territories, at Dronger, Brae of Restensgeo, and Wirvie Brecks, were not used for breeding in

1960. Four new pairs were established, at Vaasetter, Swey, and the Mire of Vatnagard (2). Two of these were occupying ground as non-breeders in 1959. The non-breeders of 1960 were much less numerous than in 1959, and were mostly distributed in non-breeding territories, and not aggregated at the airstrip as they were in 1959. This allowed the Arctic Skuas in that area to breed with less disturbance than in 1959, and to regain a part of the ground they had lost to the Bonxies. The bathing-pool near the airstrip was dry for much of the summer, and this may have lessened the area's attraction for the Bonxies.

Breeding-success, at 35.1%, was lower in 1960 than in any previous year. The 20 pairs laid 37 eggs hatched 31, but reared only 13 young. The islanders did not interfere with the eggs this year (apart from a couple lost during the "sheep hill"), but several chicks were destroyed, particularly at the Sukka Mire, Vatnagard, and Lerness, where the nine pairs fledged only three young. Six chicks were reared from ten eggs on Vaasetter, where there was no disturbance.

So far as we could see, no ringed birds joined the colony in 1960.

P. D.

## 67. Some other Breeding Birds in 1960

Without exception, the seabirds at Fair Isle had a poor or indifferent season, apparently because of a lack of marine food; whereas nearly all the waders and passerines did well, owing to the exceptionally fine spring and summer from mid-May onwards. Early April was mild, and the first breeders, such as Lapwing, Ringed Plover, and Skylark, made a prompt start to their nesting, but a spell of cold north-westerlies from mid-April into early May seemed to retard such early-May breeders as the Oystercatcher and the Bonxie, and neither produced eggs until the middle of the month. Most other species kept to a fairly normal time-table, and among the cliff-nesting species only the Shag was noticeably later than usual.

**PEREGRINE.** One pair again bred at Gunnawark, rearing one, probably two, young.

**CORNCRAKE.** Four or five birds were calling in the crofts by late May. A nest found in the rotation-grass at Taft had four eggs on 17th June, eight on 20th, but these disappeared soon afterwards. A second pair probably bred at Kennaby where a fledged juvenile was caught on 6th September.

**LAPWING.** At least ten pairs bred. Eleven nests or broods were found: nine in the Hjon-Gilsetter area, and three at Tarry-

field—Sukka Mire. The first nest, with four eggs, was found on 17th April, an early date, and six pairs had eggs before the end of the month. The latest chick (probably from a replacement nest) did not fledge until the beginning of August.

**RINGED PLOVER.** The usual pair bred on Bunes. The first nest, with four eggs, was found as early as 3rd May (our earliest record) and the hatch was on 22nd May. A second-brood nest, again with four eggs, was located about twenty yards from the first, on 28th June, and three eggs hatched on 14th July. At least two chicks were reared from each brood.

**SNIPE.** Again, only a single pair was proved to breed, though a second pair may have tried, at the Sukka Mire. A nest with "clifted" eggs was found in Gilsetter 8th May; its replacement resulted in three half-grown chicks being found with their parent (which had been ringed in May 1959) in one of the roadside traps on 1st July. One of these was killed by a dog next day, when a fourth was also located nearby. On 14th July, two could just fly, and one still crouched.

**RAVEN.** Three pairs again nested, at S. Ramnigeo, Gunnawark, and above the Sauverstein. The last two reared young.

**BLACKBIRD.** No evidence of breeding this year, though at least two birds summered, in widely-separated localities. One of these was a 1959 chick from Ward Hill, which sang daily above the Hostel from March to May.

P. D.

## 68. The Dispersal of young Shags from Fair Isle

PETER DAVIS

Since 1957 we have paid particular attention to the ringing of the local seabirds at Fair Isle, with the hope of learning more about their dispersal outside the breeding season. Previously there had been no consistent or large-scale marking of most marine species anywhere in the northern half of Scotland, so that the Fair Isle programme is helping to fill a considerable gap in our knowledge of seabird movements.

The results, for several species, have been most encouraging; but so far only the Shag has yielded enough recoveries for a preliminary analysis to be made.

The Shag is a very abundant breeder at Fair Isle (some 1200 nest-sites were located in 1959) but the great majority of old and young depart by late September, and the winter population is small. Between 1948 and 1960, 1399 birds were ringed, 1330 of them since 1957. Some 1330 of the total were chicks or juveniles, and these have provided all the 35 recoveries

reported up to the end of 1960. The recovery-rate, of about 2½%, is little more than a quarter of the rate for southern colonies; this is probably due to Fair Isle's remoteness from other land, the sparseness of the population on the coasts in the recovery-areas, and the fact that Shags are much more widely shot in England than they are in the north. The great majority of our reports concerned birds found dying or dead. Three of the 35 recoveries are unsuitable for discussion; in two cases only the ring or leg were found, and in the third the recovery-area ("North Sea") was too vague.

Twenty-eight of the remaining reports came within the first year after ringing; three others within two years; and only one, just over five years old, can be presumed to have attained maturity. (Shags studied by Barbara Whittaker at Lundy bred at three or four years old, see *Ibis* 102:555).

Dispersal of the young begins in late August, when the juveniles concerned will be about ten weeks out of the nest. We have three August recoveries, from Eday, Orkney, 50 miles WSW of Fair Isle) on the 27th, from Muckle Roe, Shetland (60 m. NNE) on 30th, and from Hoy, Orkney (70 m. SW) on 31st. Of the six September returns, one was caught by a German trawler on the Fladen Grounds (c. 30-40 m. S of the isle) on the 4th, another found at Burra Isle, W. Shetland (40 m. N) also on the 4th, one at Bressay, East Shetland (45 m. NNE) on the 6th, one at the Holmengra lighthouse north of Bergen, Norway (c. 240 m. ENE) as early as the 7th, one at Nesting, E. Shetland (50 m. NNE) on the 8th, and the last at Otterswick, Yell, (70 m. N) on the 28th. The three October recoveries are from Rekefjord, Norway (c. 250 m. E) on the 10th, from the Kyle lighthouse, west coast of Inverness (210 m. SW) on the 14th, and from Golspie, Sutherland (135 m. SW) on the 25th. In November we have one at Berwick-on-Tweed (260 m. S) on the 7th, and one at Helmsdale, Sutherland (120 m. SW) on the 19th. The only December return comes from Hoy, on the 12th; in January there is one from Whalefirth, Yell (80 m. N) on the 14th, and in February one at Burra Isle on the 6th. The three March recoveries include our two most distant foreign returns, at Vlissingen, Holland (c. 570 m. SSE) on the 12th, and at Maasholm, Keppeln, on the Baltic coast of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, (c. 540 m. SE) on the 23rd; there is also one from Scalloway (40 m. NE) on the 5th. All the April recoveries are in Shetland: one at Hillswick (70 m. N) on the 12th, one at Skellister (42 m. NE) on the 16th, and two in Whalsay (60 m. NNE) on the 17th and the 21st. One bird was found at Helmsdale on 12th May, one still at Fair Isle on 26th June (almost exactly a year after ringing), and one near Walls, Shetland (50 m. N) on 26th July.

It seems from these returns that the great majority of

Shags in their first year remain within 80 miles of Fair Isle, in Shetland or Orkney waters (19 out of 28), but that a substantial minority travel further, and that the more distant recoveries tend to occur later in the winter. This suggests a continuing tendency to disperse, at least until late winter, and it will be interesting to see if this is confirmed by later results. Only eleven of the 28 birds had moved in a southerly direction, though the more distant returns (excluding those in Norway) came from this quarter. Only one had reached the west coast of Scotland, whereas six had moved south into the North Sea.

Two returns of Shags in their second autumn come from "Orkney" about 6th October, and from Whitehills, Banffshire (130 m. SW) on 1st November. The only second-spring return is from Walls on 6th May. Finally there is the bird in its sixth autumn, much the oldest and also the most distant of our recoveries, found at Porthtowan on the NW coast of Cornwall (c. 650 m. SW) on 23rd September. This had probably bred at least once or twice, and may have become a member of some west-coast colony, when it matured.

## 69. The Lapland Bunting Invasion of 1960

PETER DAVIS

Only seven years after the large invasion of Lapland Buntings in September 1953, and immediately preceded by the smaller irruption of September-October 1959, the autumn of 1960 brought the greatest fall of this species in the recorded history of Fair Isle.

Unlike the previous irruptions, which came in several successive "waves," the 1960 arrival was confined (so far as Fair Isle was concerned) to one major rush. The first bird appeared on 6th September and remained during the next two days. On the 9th, eighteen birds were seen, and by the afternoon of the 11th, when the hill ground was more fully examined, over fifty were located. Much the same area was covered on the 12th, and the score increased to over seventy birds. This was probably the culmination, though an even more complete search of suitable areas (those parts of the moor with tracts of seeding grasses) brought the grand total to over ninety buntings on the 13th; rather more than the previous record of 12th September 1953. After this, up to sixty birds could still be found until the 18th, at least forty until the 25th, but there was no evidence of further falls, and indeed these were

not to be expected in the prevailing easterly weather. A maximum of about ten birds was present throughout October, mainly in the stubbles of the crofts, though a few birds in the northern parts of the isle on 26th-27th October were thought to be newcomers, though they came in east winds and may have merely moved in from Shetland, or recrossed the North Sea after an earlier drift to the east. Continuous records ended on 5th November, and odd stragglers were seen until the 19th.

The first small arrival on 9th September, and the major one on the 11th, reached us in essentially similar weather-conditions. In each case, a Low was moving NE over Iceland, and winds were NW to W, averaging about 25 knots, between Greenland and Britain. On the 8th, conditions were calm and overcast in Greenland, but on the 10th calm and clear. Both movements came after the passing of the frontal disturbances in these depressions. It is interesting to note that at Tory Island, Co. Donegal, which would be nearer to Greenland if the birds followed a downwind track, the main arrival occurred in the early hours of the 11th (Tory I. Bird Obs. Rep., 1960), whereas the fall at Fair Isle apparently came later in the day. (Greenland Wheatears also increased considerably on that afternoon). Arrivals on the 12th, when a considerable number of big Wheatears came in (though there is little evidence that the buntings increased significantly, and few remained at Tory), would have moved in the NW-WSW air-flow behind the next of the string of depressions, and would have been obliged to pass through the frontal zone, though this was in process of occluding and probably gave little precipitation.

From mid-September Fair Isle was in an easterly airstream and did not share in a second large arrival that reached Ireland in early October. This is a further instance of the importance of specific weather-conditions in bringing these invasions to Britain.

The Lapland Bunting population of Greenland, like those of many other northern species, had probably benefitted from the exceptionally fine summer of 1960 in the north, caused by the dominance of the polar high, which kept the storm-track well to the south (and gave southern Britain its wettest summer for decades!). It is interesting, in view of these circumstances, to note that there was no recurrence of the unparalleled developments of autumn 1959, when Lapland Buntings and Greenland Redpolls reached Fair Isle simultaneously in comparable numbers (*antea*, para. 54, p. 128). Only one Greenland Redpoll was identified in the autumn of 1960 at Fair Isle, on 12th-13th September.



## 70. The Autumn Rarities of 1960 at Fair Isle

The movements during the extraordinarily long spell of easterly winds between mid-September and late November 1960 are being summarised in our annual report. There were few large falls of common birds, but a wealth of the "old-fashioned" Fair Isle rarities, as will be seen from the following list.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Podiceps ruficollis*. This may seem an odd species for inclusion in a list of rarities, but an adult in North Haven on 16th to 24th September was the first recorded by the Observatory. There have been winter records from the islanders in the past. This bird was caught on the 16th with a long-handled net, operated from a dinghy.

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicula*. One flew across the island on 3rd October; it was seen mainly in plan, and the race not clearly distinguished. This is only the fourth record in the Observatory's time, and the last was in September 1955.

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** *Buteo lagopus*. A fine creamy-breasted adult was found injured at Wester Lother on 21st October, and died soon afterwards. A juvenile was watched at Sukka Mire on the next day.

**DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*. An extremely late individual was flushed by islanders on Swey on 14th November, and later seen by me at close quarters on Burrashield. The *Handbook* mentions only two later records in Britain.

**GREAT SNIPE** *Capella media*. Single adults closely seen at Upper Stonybreck and Barkland on 4th October, and at Pund (possibly same bird) on the 19th.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*. Unusually numerous this autumn, as in many other parts of Britain. The first two, both trapped, appeared on 24th August, and one or two seen most days until 14th September; then seven 15th increasing to at least seventeen 17th (three caught), and smaller numbers to October 5th.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris testacea*. One at Easter Lother Water on 17th September. There are only five previous records, four of them in autumn.

**PIED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopus major*. One flying over the Holms on 17th September, and one (perhaps the same) reported on Malcolm's Head on 28th.

**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*. One 26th August, three 27th and one or two until 31st. One 18th and 19th September, and a very late example 8th October.

**SHORT-TOED LARK** *Calandrella cinerea*. One of the southern form *brachydactyla* 1st to 10th October; single birds with

- the characteristics of the eastern form *longipennis* 9th to 11th, 15th, and 22nd October, and 28th November to at least 4th December.
- WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*. One 25th to 30th November.
- SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. One on the beach at Whilligert, 23rd October.
- BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. First seen 15th September; six by the 17th and ten by 19th, fewer until the 23rd. One late record 4th November.
- LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata*. One, probably first seen 30th September, trapped 4th October. Another seen 1st November. Full details of these occurrences are being published in *British Birds*.
- REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. One almost certainly this species closely seen on 28th August. One or two daily from 16th to 25th September, five individuals being trapped in this period. Two unusually late records, on 4th and 24th October, both birds caught. We have not previously had more than two captures in any year since the Observatory was established.
- AQUATIC WARBLER *A. paludicola*. A young bird trapped at Leogh on 14th September, and released at the Observatory, had returned to Leogh (2 miles away) by the 18th. Sixth record for the isle.
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. Single birds mist-netted on 25th August and 1st September.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. Uncommonly numerous, as in 1959. Eight 25th August and eight or nine 28th were the largest numbers ever recorded; and up to four were seen on many days in September until the 27th. Fifteen were trapped during this period.
- GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides*. One caught at Kennaby 7th September; released at the Observatory and seen again until the 9th. Fourth record for Fair Isle.
- ARCTIC WARBLER *Ph. borealis*. One closely seen at Muckle Jarm's Geo on 21st September.
- YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Ph. inornatus*. More numerous than in any previous year. One 22nd-23rd September, six 27th and at least as many 28th, one or two until 30th. One 2nd October, one 6th and 7th, two 15th, one to the 18th. Four were caught.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. Single different birds on 17th and 23rd September, 5th, 7th, and 18th October.
- RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*. One, probably two, 16th

September; one 2nd to 10th October (trapped 6th); and one 22nd to 27th October.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *A. novaeseelandiae*. One in Gilsetter 21st to 23rd October.

YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. A first-winter bird 17th to 22nd October. The third record for Fair Isle and Britain. This occurrence is being described in *Brit. Birds*.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. An adult trapped 2nd October, present until 6th; another bird 4th to 6th; a first-winter bird caught 22nd October; one seen 9th November.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *L. senator*. A juvenile 29th August to 1st September, trapped on the final day. First autumn record for Fair Isle.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *L. cristatus collurio*. Two 9th September, one 10th; one 18th, two 19th, one of these remaining until 6th October.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*. An adult 12th and 13th August.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. One 22nd July. The seventh record for the island, and much the latest, the previous ones having fallen between 27th April and 19th June.

SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. An immature 4th September, with another next day, both remaining until 10th and one until 12th. A new bird 12th, and one 15th to 18th, 22nd, and 25th to 28th.

RED-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza bruniceps*. A male 8th to 13th August.

ORTOLAN *E. hortulana*. One 25th to 27th August, three 28th; one 31st and 1st September. Two different birds (one adult male) between 17th and 21st September, a different male 23rd.

RUSTIC BUNTING *E. rustica*. One 22nd September, probably two next day; another 27th.

LITTLE BUNTING *E. pusilla*. One 7th to 10th September (trapped 8th); one 14th to 15th (trapped 14th); two 27th, one till 2nd October; one 14th to 16th October (trapped 14th).

## 71. Tree Sparrows in 1960

In an earlier issue of the *Bulletin* (Vol. 4 No 3) I traced the history of the Tree Sparrow at Fair Isle, the reduction of the former breeding-colony until its extinction in 1924, and the increase in occurrences during the years 1955 to 1958. It was suggested that we were "witnessing... the same sort of out-surge... as led to the island colonies of the past."

In 1959 there was a lull, with only one or two records, of single birds, in the spring and autumn; but in 1960 the species came in greater numbers than ever before. The first were two on 27th March, and later in the spring we had one on 4th May, seven on 14th, up to four until late May, and five on 2nd June. In the autumn one was seen on 23rd August; there was another 2nd September and then three for most of that month. In October, sixteen on the 4th increased to twenty-seven by the 8th, and up to seven were frequently seen later in the month. By 4th November there were again twelve, and eleven or twelve lived in the area of Upper Leogh and the Haa throughout the winter. There were still eleven in late February 1961, and at the time of going to press (late March) at least eight survive, and we are hoping that they will stay to breed.

P. D.

## 72. The Autumn Exit of the Fulmar

PETER DAVIS

Since 1957 the Fair Isle Bird Observatory's season has been extended to cover all the autumn months, and it has become apparent that the behaviour of the local Fulmars at this season has been at variance with the account given by James Fisher in his monumental book *The Fulmar* (London, 1952) pp. 345-348. In his summary of events at the larger British colonies (Fisher's Order 3, with 1000 to 10000 eggs laid each year, would include the Fair Isle station), he states that most of the birds have departed by mid-September, and his latest dates for activity at such colonies are 24th September (Bressay, 1944) and 1st October (Fitful Head, 1949). His last recorded date for a chick on the ledges is given as 22nd September 1945, at Rosemarkie in the Black Isle. Fisher mentions three early dates for return to the colonies after the autumn exit: 21st October (one flying about the cliffs at Westray), 28th October (twenty-five present at Pentland Skerries), and 29th October (sixteen ashore at Fitful); and he summarizes the normal course of events by saying "In general, the first substantial arrivals at large British colonies are in good weather in November, and in fine spells between mid-December and early February it may be the case that more birds are flying about and in occupation of sites than at any other time of the year."

Much of Fisher's summary is based on counts made between 1947 and 1950 by L. S. V. and U. M. Venables, at the large colony near Fitful Head; and in the *F.I.B.O. Bulletin* Vol. 3, para. 35 (1957) the same workers returned to this subject of the autumn exit, and showed that in the years up to 1955 it

had become progressively shorter, until in 1955 the Fulmars "did not really leave at all, except for three short periods, (13th, 15th-17th, and 25th October) during strong offshore gales." Kenneth Williamson appended to their note his own recent observations at Fair Isle. He says that in 1955 the birds were virtually absent until the beginning of October, when the return began, increasing on the 3rd-4th; many were present on 10th-11th, there was a large-scale return on the 12th, and another, after a decrease, on the 31st. In 1956, he adds, the Fulmars were away as usual throughout October, returning at the customary time, 30th-31st.

In 1957, my first season at Fair Isle, the last Fulmars were seen on the ledges on 27th September, and the first return to the cliffs came on 16th October. Birds could be seen offshore daily during this "exit," and for the rest of the autumn (observations ceased on 20th December) the cliffs were frequently visited except during gales. Throughout this time, the numbers on the cliffs often seemed just as large as they were in the spring.

In 1958 birds were seen daily throughout the autumn, until observations ceased on 15th December. Their numbers were low in late September, but recovered considerably on 2nd October, and only from 7th to 11th October were none seen ashore. On 12th large numbers had returned to land, and the numbers remained consistently high until the first real gale of a very quiet autumn, on 5th December. They returned soon after the passing of this great storm. It was in this year that an extremely late chick was recorded, a dejected-looking individual last seen on its ledges on 27th September.

In 1959 the situation was very similar. Again the numbers landing were quite small in the second half of September, but there was a recovery at the beginning of October, followed by a decrease again on the 5th, though birds were seen ashore on some part of the cliffs on almost every day of October, with a sharp increase on the 10th and a brief absence during a hurricane in the last week of the month. Great numbers returned on the 31st; they were ashore on most days in November, but there was a marked absence during inclement weather in the second and third weeks of December, and no mass return until the 27th.

In 1960, late September was again very quiet, though Fulmars never entirely deserted the ledges. By 1st October, the numbers were almost back to full strength, and they maintained a very high level throughout October, being absent from the breeding-sites only on 3rd-4th and 10th-13th (a northerly gale), and in reduced numbers on the 21st. Only on 11th-12th could few be seen offshore. In November, large numbers

landed on twenty days, and there were no days when large gatherings could not be seen offshore.

It will be seen from this summary that the "autumn exit" at Fair Isle is now virtually confined to a diminution of numbers in the second half of September. The length of the exit seems to be related to the size of the colony (it is much longer in the small pion er colonies in the south, where it may last until February) and the Fair Isle colony has increased from an estimated 3000 sites in 1949 to probably over 5000 in 1959, when the last census was attempted. The Venables' study-colony was also increasing markedly during their observations. Given a relationship between colony-size and the contraction of the autumn exit, the cause of this phenomenon remains obscure. There may be a sort of "Fraser-Darling Effect" by which the increasing population gives each bird an external stimulus leading to advancement of the year's physiological cycle (but there is no evidence that the timing of the breeding season has significantly advanced in recent years), or, as I am inclined to think, the new behaviour may be simply a result of increasing competition for nest-sites, with the mature birds asserting their ownership throughout the period.

### 73. Bird Notes from Haroldswick, Unst, in 1960

MAGNUS SINCLAIR

**RED-THROATED DIVER.** The first to arrive was one 29th February, and the last to leave were two 19th and one 21st September.

**HERON.** Present from 26th August, with main movements 12 to 20 on 27th September, and 6 29th.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK.** The first of autumn were four 6th October.

**SHELDUCK.** A pair inshore on 27th April.

**GEESE.** Eleven passed on 27th October, and twelve reported 8th November.

**KESTREL.** In spring, single birds 6th and 27th April, 15th May. One or two again present 17th to 28th September, and from 6th October onwards.

**WATER RAIL.** One 2nd November and 19th December.

**CORNCRAKE.** First heard on 6th May; three calling by the 15th. One calling at Baltasound in June.

**OYSTERCATCHER.** One arrived on 24th February, and a dozen present by end of month. Most of breeding stock left by mid-August, but two seen 4th September and seven passed 27th October.

LAPWING. Twenty returned by 15th March, and about 100 by 22nd.

GOLDEN PLOVER. Five passed over on 20th April. In autumn 300 were seen 5th August, 100 14th September, and smaller numbers from 28th September onwards.

WHIMBREL. First seen 27th April, and more arrived between 3rd and 6th May. Birds moving out on 7th, 11th, and 21st August.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. One calling on 20th April.

COMMON SANDPIPER. One 5th May and two 15th; one 23rd and 27th August.

DUNLIN. One 1st and 8th October.

BONXIE. First seen 8th April, and eight by 22nd. The breeding area continues to expand: a pair reared young on Clibberswick Hill (after an unsuccessful attempt in 1959) and another pair nested on the Hill of Colvadale. The departure was late; singles were seen on 5th, 10th, 11th, and 27th October.

ARCTIC SKUA. First recorded 16th April, and more arrivals 27th and 29th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. First appeared on 8th April.

ICELAND GULL. A fourth-winter and a younger immature were following the plough in the second half of March, and the latter remained into early April.

BLACK-HEADED GULL. Six arrived on 29th February; a dozen 16th March, forty by the 22nd.

ARCTIC TERN. One arrived back on 10th April, six by the 12th, and over twenty by the 15th. The breeders all left by the end of August, but three seen 15th September, ten 16th, two 29th, and the last one was seen 4th October.

WOOD PIGEON. Up to three seen between 4th and 8th April.

TURTLE DOVE. A very late bird on 26th October.

SWALLOW. The first arrival was one 30th April. Singles again on 6th and 10th May; four 15th and about thirty next evening, fewer until the 19th. Ten at Skaw on 26th May; two present 11th and 12th June. The only autumn records were single late birds on 4th, 6th, and 31st October.

HOUSE MARTIN. Six at Skaw on 26th May.

ROOK. One on 21st February. Ten arrived on 6th April, and up to a dozen present until 18th; six 23rd and one 12th May.

JACKDAW. In March, one from 4th to 6th and on 12th. Exceptional numbers on early April (as at Fair Isle, where 56 on 5th was the largest total ever recorded): 14 were seen 5th April, over thirty next day, and sixty on 7th and 8th, with smaller numbers until the last six left on 27th. One 10th May, two 12th, one 13th.

**GREAT TIT.** Wintered in small numbers throughout the island. One at our house stayed till 27th March, and one at Skaw till 9th April.

**FIELDFARE.** Twenty-four 8th April, six 14th, and two 18th. One 19th May. In autumn, ten 17th October, fifty on Saxa Vord 22nd, seventy at Skaw 29th. Three 4th November, and noted at Saxa Vord 5th; a single on the 17th.

**REDWING.** Flocks seen until 10th February. Only odd records in March, but 150 on 6th April, 40 7th and 20 on 10th. Smaller numbers occasionally until 5th May. The first of autumn was one 29th September, and three 5th October. Heard passing on the evenings of 6th, 7th, and 9th October; two on 17th; fifty on Saxa Vord 22nd; heard again early on 27th, and ten left SSW in the evening. Fifty seen at Skaw on 29th, and five here on 31st. A single on 10th November.

**SONG THRUSH.** One 14th to 16th February.

**BLACKBIRD.** Increased towards the end of March, and fairly numerous during the first part of April. No big autumn movements, but a few seen on 21st to 23rd and 29th September, in the first week of October, and 17th to 19th. Five 7th November and again on 19th.

**WHEATEAR.** First seen on 10th April; two 14th, and the others trickled in during the second half of April. In autumn, increases noted on 22nd August and 1st September. Continuous records ended 24th September, but one 29th, 7th and 8th October.

**WHINCHAT.** Two on 13th May.

**REDSTART.** Two on 12th and 13th May, one 15th. One on 16th September and 4th to 7th October.

**ROBIN.** One seen on 1st, 2nd, and 17th to 20th January. One on 7th and 11th April, two at Skaw on the 9th. One which arrived 10th May took up a territory and sang each morning for a week. In autumn, one 26th October and 6th November, three 7th and one 8th; two 19th, one of which was still present at the end of the year. One noted at Skaw on 5th December.

**BLACKCAP.** One on 12th May. One 17th and 19th September; and five reported from other parts of Unst on 4th October.

**WILLOW WARBLER/CHIFFCHAFF.** Two on 12th and 13th May, four 15th, and singles 16th and 19th, two 20th. One 12th June. One Willow on 19th September.

**GOLDCREST.** Two on 4th April, and two at Skaw on 9th. One at Baltasound 14th October, and two 22nd. One 2nd November.

**HEDGE SPARROW.** One 11th and 12th April, two 13th, one 16th and 26th.

**WHITE and PIED WAGTAIL.** One White on 18th and 19th January



seems to be the first winter record from Shetland. In March an *alba* on 6th, a White 7th, and a Pied 7th and 8th; two *alba* 10th and 11th, a White 26th. In April a Pied on 7th, a White 26th and 27th, five 28th and three to the 30th. Up to three of both races seen in the first week of May, two Pies and an *alba* on 12th and 13th. At least one pair of wagtails nested in Unst, following the successful breeding in 1959. Mr R. Thomson showed me the nest in a serpentine quarry, the eggs of which had hatched about 26th May, and on 5th June I ringed the six nestlings. The parents, one White and one Pied, were nearby. The young fledged on 11th-12th June. One bird was seen 6th July, and a White on the 11th, and wagtails were noted frequently in August, with maxima four 14th, three 17th and 25th. Seen until the end of the second week of September; and four on the 19th.

CHAFFINCH. One noted 1st April, and about fifty 6th, present until 11th; one 23rd, and 11th May.

BRAMBLING. Three 12th April. One 27th October.

YELLOWHAMMER. One during the blizzard of 17th February.

REED BUNTING. A female from 28th March to 1st April.

SNOW BUNTING. Eighty passed through on 21st March. Five seen on 6th April, and one 22nd and 23rd. The first autumn flock was reported on 25th September. A hundred at Skaw on 29th October. In November, six on 3rd and twenty-six next day; thirty 15th; a dozen 28th.

## 74. Black-headed Wagtail in Shetland

Mr Adam Johnson, formerly of Fair Isle, and now of Vaila, near Walls, Shetland, tells me that in mid-May 1960 he saw a yellow wagtail with an entirely jet-black head on that island. Mr Johnson took a considerable interest in birds during his stay in Fair Isle, and had obtained a copy of the *Field Guide*, with the aid of which he identified his wagtail as a Black-headed *Motacilla flava feldegg*. He states that the black was uniform, with no eye-stripes or other markings, and that he was near enough to be sure that the crown was not dark-grey. The yellow of the under parts was very rich and the upper parts were brownish. The bird was feeding on open grassland. There seems no doubt that Mr Johnson had correctly identified this bird, and this adds another south-eastern vagrant to the already long list of such occurrences in eastern Britain at this time.

P. D.

## Appendix

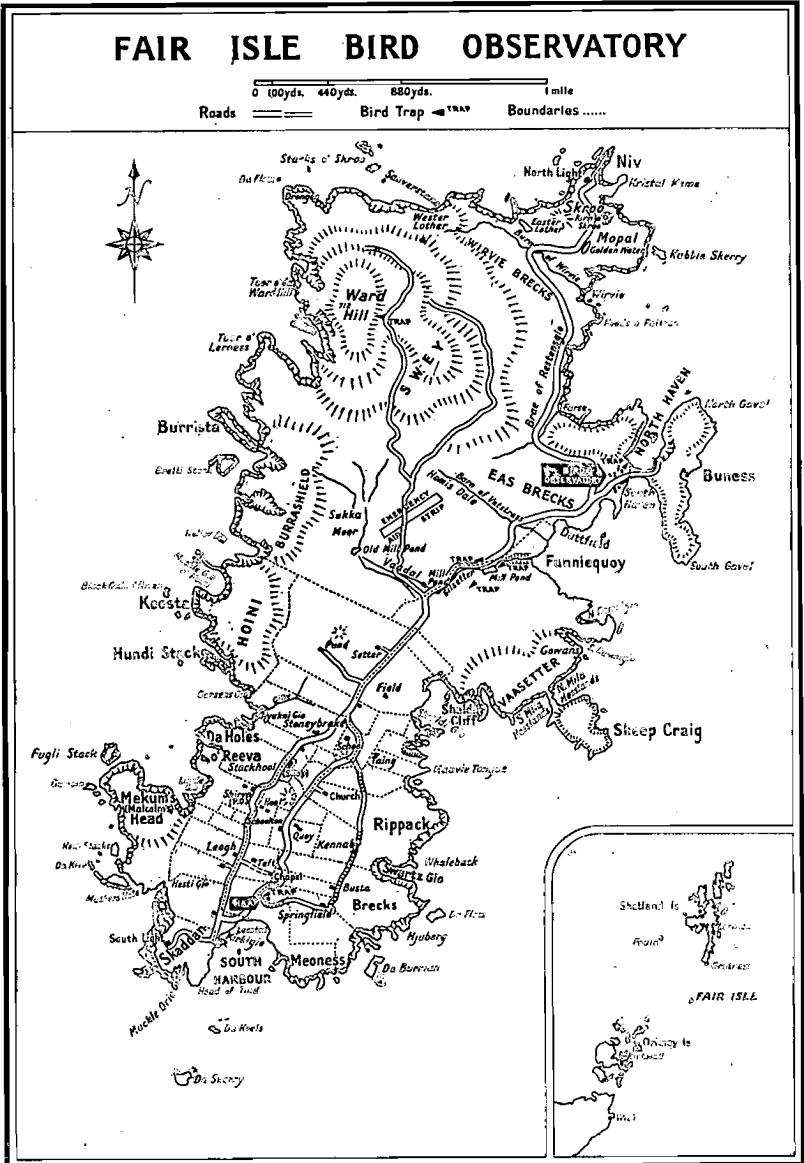
SCIENTIFIC NAMES OF BIRDS MENTIONED IN THE TEXT.  
(excluding the Rarities already named)

- Red-throated Diver *Colymbus stellatus*.  
 Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.  
 Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.  
 Heron *Ardea cinerea*.  
 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*.  
 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.  
 Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser*.  
 Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.  
 Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*.  
 Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.  
 Corncrake *Crex crex*.  
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.  
 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.  
 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.  
 Golden Plover *Ch. apricartus*.  
 Snipe *Capella gallinago*.  
 Whimbrel *Numentus phaeopus*.  
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*.  
 Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.  
 Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*.  
 Common Sandpiper *T. hypoleucos*.  
 Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.  
 Bonxie *Catharacta skua*.  
 Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.  
 Lesser Black-back *Larus fuscus*.  
 Common Gull *L. canus*.  
 Iceland Gull *L. glaucoides*.  
 Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*.  
 Arctic Tern *Sterna macrura*.  
 Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*.  
 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.  
 Swift *Apus apus*.  
 Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.  
 Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.  
 House Martin *Delichon urbica*.  
 Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.  
 Raven *Corvus corax*.  
 Rook *C. frugilegus*.  
 Jackdaw *C. monedula*.  
 Great Tit *Parus major*.  
 Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.  
 Song Thrush *T. philomelus*.  
 Redwing *T. iliacus*.  
 Blackbird *T. merula*.  
 Ring Ouzel *T. torquatus*.  
 Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.  
 Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.  
 Stonechat *S. torquata*.  
 Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.  
 Black Redstart *Ph. ochruros*.  
 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.  
 Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.  
 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.  
 Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.  
 Whitethroat *S. communis*.  
 Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca*.  
 Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.  
 Chiffchaff *Ph. collybita*.  
 Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.  
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.  
 Pied Flycatcher *M. hypoleuca*.  
 Hedge Sparrow *Prunella modularis*.  
 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.  
 Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*.  
 White Wagtail *M. alba alba*.  
 Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarrelli*.  
 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.  
 Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*.  
 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.  
 Brambling *F. montifringilla*.  
 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.  
 Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus*.  
 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.  
 Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

# FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY

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

Roads  Bird Trap  Boundaries .....



Matthew

Edin