

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

BULLETIN



Edited by
PETER E. DAVIS

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FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY BULLETIN

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88. Autumn Rarities in 1961

The autumn of 1961 was a vintage season for rare birds, with a more impressive list of eastern vagrants than ever before. They included one new to Britain, two others new to Scotland, and no less than six additions to the Fair Isle list.

SMEW *Mergus albicellus*. A "red-head" on 26th September.

There are only three previous records, all in December-January.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. A buzzard very probably this species was seen and described by E. J. Wiseman and S. L. White on the evening of 20th September. The species has never been satisfactorily recorded.

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. A juvenile present 16th to 29th September, trapped on the 17th. A first record for Fair Isle.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. An adult trapped at Golden Water on 3rd August, and a juvenile caught there on 16th August. The latter stayed in South Haven until the 24th. Three seen off Skadan on 26th October. There are only three previous records, all in June.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*. One 26th October, in South Haven. Three other phalaropes seen on the same day (in addition to the Red-neckeds mentioned above) were too far off for identification. There are five previous records of this species, all between October and January.

SNOWY OWL *Nyctea scandiaca*. One seen 23rd and 30th December. The first since April 1956.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*. One seen 24th September. The only previous satisfactory autumn records were two (perhaps of the same bird) in September 1956.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. One 4th September was the only autumn record this year.

SHORELARK *Eremophila alpestris*. Two 9th, one 10th, 17th, and 18th October.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*. One in the cliffs at South Naavergill, 3rd October. The third record for Fair Isle; the previous birds were also in October.

DUSKY THRUSH *Turdus naumanni eunomus*. A first winter female, seen near the Haa on 18th October, and in the north-east of the island 19th to 21st; trapped in Vaadal on the 19th. First accepted record for Scotland, and third for Britain. Full details are being published in *British Birds*.

SIBERIAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata maura*. A first winter

female showing characters found in this pale, sandy-coloured race was present in the Stonybreck-Stackhool area from 13th to 21st October; it was trapped on the 17th. There are two previous British records of this form, both of males, at Cley, Norfolk in September 1904 and at the Isle of May in October 1913. Details are appearing in *British Birds*.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*. Although Stonechats are regular at Fair Isle in early spring, the species is extremely rare in autumn, and until 1961 had been noted on only eight occasions, mostly single birds; and not at all since 1953. In 1961 at least seven birds occurred as follows: a juvenile 24th to 28th August, a female 19th September, a female 1st October, three males and a female 2nd, a male and two females 3rd, and up to three birds daily until the 11th.

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis*. A first winter bird caught in the "warbler ditch" at Leogh on 24th September, seen again on 25th. A first record for Britain. The species breeds from N.E. Germany to W. Siberia, and migrates to E. Africa. A full note is appearing in *British Birds*.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *L. lanceolata*. One seen 2nd and 4th October, probably seen 6th and 9th, trapped (first-winter) on the 13th, and seen on 14th. Probably all these observations referred to the same individual. The record is the 10th for Fair Isle and the twelfth for Britain.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. Only one autumn record, one seen 4th September.

BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli*. A first-winter bird trapped in a potato-patch at Brows on 22nd September. The first record for Scotland, and the tenth in Britain. This is one of the most extraordinary of the autumn records, for the bird was some 700 miles north of its breeding-range. Full particulars have been submitted for publication in *British Birds*.

GREENISH WARBLER *Ph. trochiloides*. A first-winter bird caught in the cliffs at Gunglesund on 19th August; and a bird almost certainly this species seen in the South Reeva on 4th September.

ARCTIC WARBLER *Ph. borealis*. A first-winter bird trapped near the Haa on 26th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Ph. inornatus*. Two (one trapped) on 1st October, another 3rd, and one 9th and 10th.

DUSKY WARBLER *Ph. fuscatus*. One seen and trapped in Vaadaal on 14th October. A first record for Fair Isle, and the second in Britain; the first was at Auskerry, Orkney, on

3rd October 1913. This tiny leaf-warbler breeds in Central Asia from about 83°E. to the Pacific, and winters from N.E. India to S. China. A full account is being published in *British Birds*.

RED-BREADED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. One 19th September, one (probably different) 20th, and one 30th; two 1st October, one 2nd, two 4th, and one 5th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One seen 8th October; a first-winter bird caught in the Haa trap on the 18th.

YELLOW-HEADED or CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. A first-winter bird present 4th to 13th September. The fourth record of this Siberian bird at Fair Isle and in Britain. A note on the occurrence has been submitted to *British Birds*.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus*. A juvenile present 1st to 14th September, trapped on the 1st.

COUE'S REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni* (or *flammea*) *exilpes*. An adult and three juveniles (two juveniles trapped) on 19th October. There are four or five previous records of this form at Fair Isle, the last being in 1923. Details have been submitted to *British Birds*.

SCARLET GROSBEEK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Three 4th September, in the cliffs at the Reeves; two still present 5th, one 6th. One present in a large patch of oats at Busta, 9th to 12th September. A late bird at Taft, 6th to 8th October.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*. One immature, 4th to 6th September, was the only autumn record.

LITTLE BUNTING *E. pusilla*. One 4th-5th September, another 13th-14th (trapped 13th); one 21st, 24th, 25th, and 27th September. Two 1st October, one until 7th; one 13th October; one 27th-28th October, and (probably same) 1st and 9th November.

89. Early October Passage in 1961

PETER DAVIS

The heaviest movement of the autumn of 1961 at Fair Isle came during the first ten days of October. Nearly a hundred species were moving during this time, and there were new falls almost every day. Fortunately there were fifteen or more bird-watchers on the island to reap the harvest, though admittedly the presence of most of them was involuntary, the "Good Shepherd" being delayed for ten days by the strong S.E. wind.

The weather-pattern hardly changed from the 1st to the

8th. A large anticyclone was centred over the Baltic area, and successive depressions approaching Britain from the Atlantic were halted before they could cross the country. Not until the night of the 8th/9th did a frontal system succeed in crossing the northern North Sea to end the fair weather in Scandinavia and bring S.W. winds to our area. Several slow-moving fronts penetrated as far east as Fair Isle, however, and the weather throughout the ten days was mainly overcast with periods of rain or fog.

The 30th September had been a quiet day, but the morning of 1st October saw birds in profusion. Not only had there been a considerable overnight fall, but a big diurnal passage occurred in the early hours of the day. The night-migrants were chiefly 250 Redwings and 50 Song Thrushes, but there were also some 25 Hedge Sparrows, 12 or 15 Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers, and smaller numbers of Ring Ouzels, a Stonechat, Robins, three late Reed Warblers, Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs, two Yellow-browed Warblers, Goldcrests, two Red-breasted Flycatchers, White and Grey Wagtails, two Mealy and a Lesser Redpoll, and two Little Buntings. Six Herons and a Sand Martin had also arrived. Siskins and Chaffinches increased considerably, to 120 and 150 respectively. The diurnal passage was mainly of Skylarks and Meadow Pipits, with a few other species; a count of birds departing from the south end between 0800 and 0900 GMT alone yielded 385 Skylarks, 236 Meadow Pipits, 60 Starlings, 50 Twites, 30 Chaffinches, 3 Hedge Sparrows, 2 Siskins, and a Tree Pipit. Various waterfowl were passing offshore, including Cormorants, Velvet Scoters, Red-breasted Merganser, and five grey geese, whilst waders and gulls also increased. Common Gulls scored over 220, Lapwings doubled their previous numbers to 100, and there were Curlews, and Dunlins, a Green Sandpiper, several Black-headed Gulls and Comic Terns.

The wind was more southerly, fresh breeze, overnight on the 1st/2nd. The majority of the previous day's migrants left during the night, and among the commoner night-migrants only the Song Thrush maintained its numbers. A few species increased, however, or appeared for the first time. Dunlins (c. 25) and Chaffinches (c. 300) were twice as numerous, rather more Twites were present, and two Little Stints, a Short-eared Owl, several Fieldfares, four Stonechats, a Lanceolated Warbler, and a Spotted Flycatcher occurred. Another rare visitor was a Crimson-speckled Footman moth *Utetheisa pulchella*, a species which breeds in southern Europe.

The wind backed S.E. again by the evening of the 2nd,

and next morning another wave of night-migrants had reached the isle. This time there were over 300 Redwings, over 250 Song Thrushes, over 75 Goldcrests, with some 25 Robins, 15 Redstarts, and 10 Pied Flycatchers. Other newcomers included Corncrake, Common Sandpiper, two Short-eared Owls, at least six Ring Ouzels, several Blackbirds, Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Warblers, Chiffchaffs, a new Yellow-browed, odd Tree Pipits, and a Blue Tit—only the third recorded in the island. There seemed also to be more small Wheatears about. Chaffinches and Meadow Pipits had noticeably decreased. Three Red Admiral butterflies, and another, probably a Painted Lady, were seen.

On the 4th the Redwings totalled over 400, and though Song Thrushes were fewer, and Robins and Goldcrests in similar numbers to the previous day, it is likely that there had been a change of population; for an ample supply of new birds was in the trapping-area until most had moved to the shelter of the west cliffs by noon. Blackbirds increased to about 15, and other new arrivals were Goldeneye, Water Rail, Greenshank, more Dunlins (c. 35), Mistle Thrush, two Bluethroats, about ten Blackcaps, four Garden Warblers, two Spotted and two Red-breasted Flycatchers, at least seven Tree Pipits, four Bramblings, and five Reed Buntings. Other species were unchanged.

A remarkable Robin arrival was the feature of the 5th, when it rained steadily from 0800 to 1600 hours. A few more were in at dawn, but the fall continued all day, seeming most intense in the last two or three hours of daylight. At least 500 were judged to be present, and there could have been many more. A few new Song Thrushes and Blackbirds, and probably some Redwings, as well as a dozen Chiffchaffs, two Whitethroats, and several Lesser Whitethroats, a Great Grey Shrike, some 15 Bramblings and 13 Reed Buntings also appeared. Another Red-breasted Flycatcher was trapped, and a Swallow and a House Martin seen.

The 6th was another day of strong wind and almost continuous rain. Apparently few notable changes had occurred overnight, and any decreases in our census were probably due to the birds taking refuge in the west cliffs. At least five Great Northern Divers were seen passing south, a Barnacle Goose occurred, Dunlins increased to 50 (which would be a big score for Fair Isle even in the normal peak-period in August or early September), two Wood Pigeons were seen, over 25 Blackbirds, a Black Redstart, two new Reed Warblers, a few more Chiffchaffs, two Grey Wagtails, and a late Scarlet Grosbeak. Conditions seemed very unfavourable for some of the soft-billed species; some Robins and Chiffchaffs were at very low weights, and several were found dead or dying.

The foul weather continued until noon on the 7th and by this time nearly all the passerines had taken to the cliffs. A few species, particularly Redwing (c. 500) and Blackbird (c. 100) had arrived, while Lapwings (over 90) and Common Gulls (c. 100) were also moving again. Rather appropriately most other new birds were waterfowl—several Teal, Tufted Duck, Velvet Scoter, three Water Rails, more Snipe (c. 30 seen), three Woodcocks, and two Ruffs were observed. At least three Continental Wrens, a new Black Redstart, a few White Wagtails, and an additional Great Grey Shrike were also seen.

On the night of the 7th/8th the rain had ceased and there were some breaks in the cloud, though the wind continued strong from the S.E. Redwing and Blackbird numbers doubled overnight, and there was certainly a change in the Song Thrush and Robin population, although the recorded totals were much the same. Chaffinches increased again to over 200 and Bramblings to eighty; over 120 Siskins were seen. Again, most arrivals soon crossed the isle and went into the lee. Other newcomers or increased scores on the 8th were seven Herons, 12 Teals, 5 Long-tailed Ducks, about 15 Jack Snipe, a Spotted Redshank, over 60 Dunlins, a Turtle Dove, more Wheatears, over 20 Redstarts, three Bluethroats, a Richard's Pipit, and small parties of Starlings.

By the morning of 9th October the wind was veering S. to S.W., still strong, but the day was clear and sunny. It was a real pleasure to be out over the isle, and coverage was excellent. There were masses of birds to be seen. Redwings were everywhere, over 2000 were present, and Song Thrushes (over 200) and Blackbirds (over 250) were more abundant. Common Gulls came ashore during the day; over 300 were gathered by nightfall. Other species had decreased noticeably, including most of the smaller night-migrants except the Robin (which showed a small increase or perhaps another change of individuals) and the Fieldfare (c. 20). Most of the finches, and especially the Twites, were in reduced numbers. New birds were a Sparrowhawk, several Black-headed Gulls, two Shorelarks, at least six Swallows, several more Blackcaps, another Yellow-browed Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher.

This was the culmination of the splendid series of falls. In a moderate S.W. breeze and clear sky on the night of the 9th/10th at least two-thirds of the migrants departed. The remaining finches delayed another day, and then they and the remaining night-migrants passed on. The long-delayed human visitors finally got away on the 10th, having helped to give the season's ringing an unforeseen boost of some 600 birds; and those who remained turned, a little downcast, to face

the birdless island. For once the feeling of anti-climax after a big passage was shortlived, for though birds were scarce in the next ten days, almost every day brought some stupendous rarity, as a glance at the list in para. 88 will show. October 1961 was a most remarkable month, and we may never see its rival.

90. **Irruptive Species in Autumn 1961**

PETER DAVIS

One of the features of the splendid autumn passage in 1961 was the number of arrivals of the irruptive species; birds which reach us, not as part of an annual migratory pattern, but as a result of an extension of their normal wanderings, in years of high population and inadequate food-supply. Typical species in this category are the Waxwing, Siskin, Redpoll, and Crossbill. No Crossbills occurred at Fair Isle in 1961, and few Waxwings, but Siskins and to a lesser extent the European Redpolls were abnormally numerous, and there can be no doubt that several species we do not usually regard as irruptive, such as the Chaffinch and the Hedge Sparrow, made such incursions at Fair Isle in the past season.

The first and most notable of these falls occurred on the 19th/20th September. On the 19th, the wind at Fair Isle was S.E., force 6 to 7; there was increasing cloud late in the day, and rain after nightfall. A slight but steady trickle of continental birds, chiefly of the chats, and *Sylvia* warblers, was coming into the isle from midmorning onwards. The first four Siskins were noted, early in the afternoon, and towards nightfall Chaffinches began to arrive, though only some 20 or 25 were logged before observations ceased. Several people visited the South Lighthouse from midnight to three a.m., but although conditions seemed ideal for bringing migrants to the lantern, nothing arrived. It is therefore probable that the birds seen on the 20th had actually arrived during the previous evening.

The wind had veered S.W. late in the night and fallen light; the rain ceased before dawn, and the clouds cleared during the early hours of daylight, on the 20th. The morning's observations showed that whereas the other continental birds had increased little compared with the previous afternoon, there were now over 40 Siskins, and the astonishing total (by Fair Isle standards) of over 300 Chaffinches; besides seven Hedge Sparrows, a Mealy Redpoll, two Bramblings and two Reed Buntings. This Chaffinch total is not only unusually

large for Fair Isle, but fully two weeks earlier than any sizeable movement in earlier years.

On the 21st, when the wind continued light, south of west, over 500 Chaffinches and 50 Siskins were seen. It is quite likely that numbers had been underestimated on the 20th, but some new birds may have arrived, perhaps moving on from Shetland. Most of the other continental birds had by now passed on. The Chaffinches, though not the Siskins, had decreased by the 22nd, but on the 23rd, in a moderate southerly breeze, Siskins increased to over 70 and Hedge Sparrows to 15, though few other migrants were seen. The numbers of all the irruptive species then decreased fairly steadily during the following week.

The coincidence of arrival between the Siskins and Chaffinches, and the quite abnormal occurrence of the latter, strongly suggest that both were irrupting; and it seems probable that the movement was oriented S.W. out of S. Norway and then drifted to Fair Isle with the S.E. airstream of the 19th. This S.E. wind extended over most of the North Sea, ahead of a northward-swinging warm front of a Low centred north-west of Scotland. The arrivals of the 23rd, however, must have been across the light southerly airstream, and there is no likelihood of their having been drifted west. This is of particular interest in respect of the Hedge Sparrows which came on that day, for we had always regarded them as drift-migrants to Fair Isle. During both these arrivals the weather was fine and the wind light in Scandinavia.

The next arrival of these irruptive birds came at the end of September and beginning of October. There were one or two Reed Buntings between 28th and 30th September; Siskins increased from 15 on the 28th to 40 on 29th, 65 on 30th, and over 120 on 1st October; Hedge Sparrows increased suddenly from only two on 30th to 25 on the 1st, and Chaffinches from 80 on 30th to 150 1st, and 300 on 2nd October. There were two Mealy and a Lesser Redpoll (the last being a major rarity here) by the 1st October.

The wind was strong S.E. on 29th and 30th September, but produced few continental birds apart from the Siskins; on the 1st October, in a moderate S.E. airflow, the irruptive species came as part of a considerable fall of other continentals, chiefly Redwings and Song Thrushes but including many chats, warblers, fly-catchers, and other small birds. On the 2nd, however, in a fresh S.E. breeze, the Chaffinch was virtually the only species to increase. It is of course possible that the newcomers had come out of Shetland and not across the North Sea.

The later arrivals of irruptive species nearly all coincided

with arrivals of other continental species, usually in easterly weather, and with fair conditions in Scandinavia. Thus Siskins increased again from 70 on 6th October to over 120 on the 8th, and Chaffinches also increased slightly on the 8th, whilst Reed Buntings peaked at about fifteen, all at the time of a major thrush-Robin arrival. After this the Chaffinch and Reed Bunting pass out of the picture, but small waves of Siskins recurred all through the late autumn, with 15 to 25 arriving on 20th October, 6th and 13th November, and odd birds passing frequently until early December, two as late as the 24th. The Mealy Redpolls, which unlike their Greenland cousins, seldom move in quantity until late in the autumn, peaked at five on 27th October, six 7th November, and four 26th November; and about four arrived between 9th and 11th December, at least one of which stayed until January. Most of these were in easterly weather, though those in late October were in light south-westerlies. Four Coues's Redpolls occurred on 19th October, in a cold N.E. wind. Northern Bullfinches, which were more frequent than in most years, showed the same correlation with thrush arrivals and occurred generally in easterly winds. The first was seen on 20th October, another from the 26th, two on 7th November and one 13th, and a last one on 14th December. Finally there were the Waxwings, of which four were seen on 5th November, three (not necessarily the same) on the 6th, and odd birds on the 9th and 14th. The wind was light S.W. on the 5th but there was a moderate fall of Redwings and Blackbirds making an upwind passage to winter-quarters in Britain, on the 6th the wind was S.E. and we had a large Blackbird fall.

All the significant falls of these irruptive birds came with fair or fine weather in Scandinavia, and most of them with easterly winds in the North Sea; and most were coincident with falls of "normal" migrants. The correlation would suggest that the dispersal of many of the irruptives is definitely oriented towards the south-west or south, and that, like the commoner migrants, few would reach Fair Isle were they not deflected to the west by crosswinds.

91. Goose Passage, Autumn 1961

PETER DAVIS

Fair Isle lies well to the east of the main flight-lines for geese which breed in Iceland and Greenland and winter in the British Isles, and the numbers recorded in most autumns

are low compared with those seen, for example, in the Hebrides. In an average autumn there would probably be less than fifty individuals passing through, and fewer than ten would be shot by the islanders. In 1961, however, the total seen must have been well over 400, mainly Grey Lags, and some 25 were shot; several senior members of the community said they could not recall so strong a passage.

The first geese recorded were five grey geese on 1st October, and a single Barnacle (the only one certainly identified this autumn) on the 6th. On 10th October, eight more grey geese were reported, and the 11th was a good day. A White-front was shot from a party of about eighteen similar birds, which departed S.W. about 0700 GMT. Parties of eight and six larger geese were reported to have passed over early in the morning; sixteen Grey Lags passed south-west mid-morning, and two others later. At least one Pinkfoot was also seen, and a flock of about 25 unidentified geese passed south, well offshore, before noon. At this time, an almost stationary, very shallow, depression was over Iceland, and it was almost calm there, with broken cloud. A light or gentle S.W. airstream covered the area between Iceland and Shetland.

About fifteen more grey geese were seen early next day; these coincided with a sizeable fall of Iceland Redwings, and a passage of about 30 Whooper Swans and some 50 Golden Plovers, all moving south. By now there were col conditions across the north-east Atlantic, between anticyclones in S. Britain and in Greenland; the weather was fair, with light or moderate N.W. to W. winds between Iceland and Shetland. Forty more swans, but no geese, were observed passing south on the morning of the 13th.

The movements resumed on the 17th, in a strong north-westerly airflow behind a depression centred north of Shetland. The skies over south Iceland were almost cloudless at this time. Parties of six Grey Lags, and at least six other grey geese, as well as fourteen Whoopers, and several Mallard, Teal, and Wigeon, moved south during the morning. Early on the 18th, in similar weather, we had a much larger movement of geese, with parties of 28, 11, and two grey geese, six Pinkfeet, and at least one single Grey Lag moving south, whilst four Whoopers settled in South Haven. At least fifteen Long-tailed Ducks, a Pintail, and a Glaucous Gull also arrived. On the 19th five large grey geese passed early in the morning, and later a Pinkfoot was shot from a party of nine similar birds. On the 20th parties of five Grey Lags and seven other grey geese (probably Grey Lags) were present.

No geese were seen during the next five days, but five Grey Lag "probables" flew by on the 26th, and then on the 28th came the biggest passage of all. The weather-situation was essentially the same as that on the 17th-18th, with a Low centred west of Norway, and a north to west airstream between Iceland and Shetland. The conditions were again fine in S.E. Iceland, and the winds generally were light. Over 80 grey geese moved south, well offshore, at about 1030 hours; parties of six and 24 Grey Lags were seen over the island, and in the afternoon over 60 Grey Lags were gathered on the ground, which may or may not have included the smaller parties seen earlier. It was altogether a notable day for movements from the north-west; the other arrivals included at least eighteen Cormorants, seventeen Goldeneyes, a Long-tail, parties of five and eight Whoopers (passing north, having presumably overshot a wintering-ground in Shetland), one or two Merlins, some 300 Iceland Redwings, and about 350 Snow Buntings. Rather curiously, there were no corresponding increases in the north-western waders.

At least 50 Grey Lags were still present on the 29th, and a few remained on the 30th and 31st, twelve Pinkfeet being also present by then. These were probably seen again on the 1st November.

On 2nd November, coinciding with a small arrival of Iceland Redwings, at least thirty Grey Lags arrived on the island. In the evening there was a gathering of over 80 geese at Meoness; some of these were said to be smaller than Grey Lags, though the majority were evidently of that species. About forty Grey Lags were still present on the 3rd, but only eight were seen on the 4th, and most if not all of these remained to be shot, the last on the 12th. The weather on the 2nd was again very similar to that on the 17th and 28th October, with a Low crossing Shetland late on the 1st, and leaving a north to west airstream behind it; with fair weather in Iceland.

Eleven more Grey Lags moved south on 20th November. On 3rd December, at the beginning of a period of severe weather, thirteen more flew out S.W. and two other grey geese were seen. Next day there were four Grey Lags and nine Pinkfeet on the island. A single Pinkfoot was shot on 22nd December, and on the 29th two geese probably of this species flew over to the south. Probably all or most of these late geese had been resting in Shetland, where over 100 Grey Lags were still in the Spiggie-Fitful area in late November, and doubtless many other parties were elsewhere in the islands.

92. Auk Recoveries in S. Scandinavia

We started to ring Razorbills and Guillemots in some numbers at Fair Isle in 1959, and it has since become apparent that a considerable toll of them is taken by the inhabitants of the coasts of south Norway and Denmark, during the autumn and winter. Up to the end of 1961, there have been ten Razorbill and seven Guillemot recoveries from the Fair Isle ringing, and all but one (a Razorbill in Spain) have been in Scandinavia. The recoveries have come from seven of the eight coastal counties of Norway between Trondheim and Oslo (with a preponderance in the most south-westerly county, Rogaland), and from Jutland in Denmark. Thirteen of these birds were reported as shot, one as killed, one "caught in fishing-net" and one "presumed dead."

Most of the small number of foreign Guillemot recoveries from ringing in other parts of Scotland (including the Isle of May, Handa, and the Flannans) have come from the same area, as has a substantial part of the Guillemot returns, and also some Puffins, from the Farne Islands in Northumberland. A very small proportion of the auks of all three species, ringed as far away as Lundy and Skokholm, has also reached Scandinavia. As yet, no Fair Isle Puffins have been reported there.

It was thus already known that there is a big wintering-ground for auks in the area, and that many of these were of British (particularly north-British) origin. The cropping of these birds by the Scandinavians must therefore be of some concern to us, for we wish to conserve our breeding-population. I know of no evidence that there has been any marked change in the population of these auks in Scotland, but there has apparently been no long-term census work at any of the major colonies. In other parts of Britain, especially in the south-west, the auks have decreased alarmingly in recent years. This has been ascribed to oil-pollution, which has certainly destroyed great numbers; but it may also be a consequence of climatic change affecting the supply of food.

The overwhelming majority of the British-ringed auks reported from Scandinavia have been young birds in their first winter, so the adults must winter beyond the reach of the hunters. This is encouraging from the conservation aspect, because the killing of adults would have far more impact on the size of the breeding-colonies. However, there is evidence that many young auks return eventually to the area of their birth, and some ringed birds have been recovered in the natal colony; so that sustained overcropping of the immatures might eventually affect the population.

In 1959-60 our recovery-data from Fair Isle suggested that the annual kill of young auks might be excessive; four out of twenty-four young Razorbills, and four out of nineteen young Guillemots marked in 1959 were reported killed in Scandinavia. It is most unlikely that all those ringed had fledged, and perhaps equally unlikely that all those killed had been reported. In 1960 and 1961, however, a further 52 young Razorbills and 42 young Guillemots were marked, and only four Razorbills and three Guillemots have so far been reported; less than a tenth of the total ringed, compared with almost a fifth in 1959.

I understand that some seven out of about forty of these auks, ringed by Clive Minton in the north of Scotland in 1961, had been recovered in Scandinavia before the close of the year, so a high recovery-rate is not confined to Fair Isle birds. The Bird Ringing Committee's offer to supply free rings to those who will ring Razorbills and Guillemots in Scotland should find more response among ringers than it has so far, for such ringing would be certain to provide the recoveries that all ringers crave, and would be useful in helping to assess the proportion taken annually by the Scandinavian alcivores.

Meanwhile, we may take pleasure in the low returns from adult birds; the casualties comprise only one of the 62 adult Razorbills, and none of the 106 adult Guillemots, ringed at Fair Isle between 1959 and 1961.

P. D.

93. Bird Notes from Shetland, Autumn 1961

C. J. BOOTH

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. Birds present throughout Autumn.

RED-THROATED DIVER. Last recorded—2 on 5th November, Sullom Voe.

SLAVONIAN GREBE. Maximum 5 on 25th September, Sullom Voe.

MANX SHEARWATER. One heard calling over Mousa on 12th August.

SOOTY SHEARWATER. One seen on crossing between Foula and Scalloway, 14th September.

HERON. Present throughout Autumn, maximum 5 on 25th September, Sullom.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. Maximum 50 at Bay of Quendale. 12th November.

- GOOSANDER. One male on 17th December, Sullom Voe.
- GREYLAG GOOSE. Maximum 30 on 31st October.
- WHOOPEE SWAN. First recorded 7 on 13th October, Loch Clickhimin. Maximum, Loch Spiggie, 85 (65 ad. 20 1st w.) on 20th October.
- SPARROW HAWK. 2 on 8th October, 1 on 11th October at Kergord.
- KESTREL. Foula—one or two seen every day between 6th and 12th September. One Delting, 8th October, two Quarff on 20th October.
- WATER RAIL. One on 12th November, Lerwick, another 26th November, Quendale.
- OYSTERCATCHER. Majority of birds had left by end of September. Small numbers remained in suitable localities throughout the Autumn.
- RINGED PLOVER. Maximum 100, Virkie on 31st August.
- GREY PLOVER. One St Ninians, 1st October, two Virkie on 3rd October.
- GOLDEN PLOVER. Main passage at end of September and beginning of October.
- JACK SNIFE. Foula, one on 1st September. One Quendale on 14th October.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT. Maximum, Virkie, 25 on 31st August. Small numbers present throughout Autumn.
- REDSHANK. Increase in number at the end of July, maintained throughout August and early part of September.
- GREENSHANK. One at Graven on 25th September. One Loch Spiggie 1st October.
- KNOT. Birds present during July, August and September, maximum 10 at Graven on 25th September.
- DUNLIN. Flocks of up to 100 birds at Pool of Virkie on 26th August and 17th September.
- SANDERLING. Maximum 20, West Voe Sumburgh on 31st August. Last recorded 11th October.
- RUFF. One on 15th and 30th September, Virkie.
- BONXIE. Last recorded on 7th October.
- WOOD PIGEON. Birds present throughout Autumn at Kergord. Passage noted in Dunrossness on 12th November.
- TURTLE DOVE. Foula—birds recorded nearly every day between 2nd and 12th September. Maximum 3 on 8th and 11th.
- LONG-EARED OWL. Last seen Kergord, 2 on 22nd October.
- SKYLARK. Increase in numbers noted on 30th September.
- SWALLOW. One 31st August, Mainland. Two 2nd September,

- Foula. One 30th September, 8th October and 15th October, Mainland.
- ROOK. Flocks of up to 40 seen feeding throughout the Autumn in Kergord area.
- JACKDAW. Maximum at Kergord, 14 on 17th July.
- FIELDFARE. Foula—one on 11th September. Mainland—one on 8th and 14th October. Arrivals noted on 22nd October and 12th November.
- SONG THRUSH. Small numbers present on 7th October, with an increase on 8th October.
- REDWING. First heard calling at night on 1st October. A few seen on 3rd and 4th October. Increase on 7th continuing with large flocks on 8th and 9th October. Birds present in smaller numbers until the end of November.
- RING OUZEL. One on 8th October.
- BLACKBIRD. Large arrival on 7th October, reaching a peak on 8th October. A further arrival noted on 12th November.
- WHEATEAR. Last recorded on 22nd October.
- WHINCHAT. One 5th October and one 8th October.
- REDSTART. Birds first seen on 7th October, increasing to a peak on 9th October. A few left on 11th October.
- ROBIN. First arrival noted on 7th October, with numbers increasing on 8th and 9th, when it was common throughout the Mainland.
- REED WARBLER. Foula—one on 2nd September.
- BLACKCAP. Foula, one 10th September. Mainland—two on 8th October and one 15th October.
- GARDEN WARBLER. Foula—one 5th, 11th and 12th, two on 9th and 10th September. Mainland—one 1st October.
- WHITETHROAT. Foula—one 10th September.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT. Foula—one 10th September.
- WILLOW WARBLER. Foula—recorded every day between 2nd and 10th September. Maximum 4 on 9th September.
- CHIFFCHAFF. Two at Kergord on 8th October, one on 11th.
- GOLDCREST. Arrival on the 8th October, maximum number seen—10 at Kergord. Last seen on 21st October.
- PIED FLYCATCHER. Foula—two on most days between 2nd and 12th September, maximum 4 on 6th September. One, Mainland, 1st October.
- WHITE WAGTAIL. First record 23rd July, last 13th October.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One at Wadbister 8th October, another (possibly the same bird) at Voe on 9th October.

GREENFINCH. One male Dunrossness on 12th November.

SISKIN. First recorded on 29th September. Flocks of up to 40 birds seen during the period 7th-11th October.

REDPOLL. Foula—4 Mealy Redpolls on 3rd September, one on 10th September.

CHAFFINCH. A small arrival on 1st October, further increase on 8th October. A few birds present during November and December.

BRAMBLING. A few birds with Chaffinches on 11th and 12th October.

CORN BUNTING. Birds present in Tingwall area throughout the Autumn.

SNOW BUNTING. Maximum 100 on 12th November at Bay of Quendale.

TREE SPARROW. At least 10 pairs breeding at Kergord during July. One Tingwall on 22nd October.

94. Various Records from Shetland

GREY PHALAROPE. One was found dead at Ireland, Dunrossness, on 2nd September 1961, and sent to Fair Isle by T. Henderson. The species is rarely recorded in the county, and this appears to be the earliest record.

TREE CREEPER. One was caught in a weaving-shed at Voe on 6th October 1961 (Mrs W. Adie). This bird would almost certainly be of the Northern form *Certhia f. familiaris*, the only form so far identified in Shetland. There are less than half-a-dozen published records of the species in the county, outside Fair Isle.

RICHARD'S PIPIT. One seen and heard by R. H. Dennis at Sumburgh on 8th September 1961. The observer became familiar with the species at Fair Isle. The only previous record in Shetland (other than Fair Isle, where the species is annual) is of one shot at Whalsay on 7th September 1928. The bird must often have been overlooked.

WAXWING. Two birds were seen at Voe by Mrs E. B. I. Bennett, on 10th and 14th November 1961. A small irruption reached Fair Isle a few days earlier.

95. **Bird Notes from Haroldswick, Unst,
Autumn 1961**

MAGNUS SINCLAIR

RED-THROATED DIVER. Breeding birds had left by first week of September. Two appeared on 16th October, and were last seen flying west.

WIGEON. Heard at least two whistling after dark on 11th November.

GREY GEESE. One on 12th October, and at least 36 arrived on 29th. Smaller flocks in the first week of November.

WHOOPEER SWAN. Six at Norwick on 11th October, and more later in the month.

CORNCRAKE. A marked decrease in the local population this year; very few calling birds. One heard at Baltasound on 17th August.

WHIMBREL. Heard moving south on 19th, 21st and 22nd August.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. Five seen in Unst on 8th July.

ARCTIC TERN. Breeding stock had left by first week of September. Six birds arrived on 18th, and two 20th. In October, two on 5th and four from 8th to 13th. Three on 16th were the last.

SWALLOW. Five reported on 9th October, and one at Haroldswick on the 17th.

FIELDFARE. First seen were f. 20 on 9th October, and again on 17th with the arrival of other thrushes.

REDWING. Three on 3rd October were the first arrivals, and on the 7th large numbers appeared in flocks on the hills. A lot passed over, moving south, on the 11th, with Blackbirds. Heard at dusk on 13th and very numerous on hills on 14th. Another increase in N.W. winds on the 17th. By 23rd large numbers all over the island, but decreased towards the end of the month. A small flock passed through on 11th November.

SONG THRUSH. Seen in the last week of October, but probably came in earlier.

BLACKBIRD. Increase on 17th September, and more at the end of the month. Another increase 9th October, and seen passing over on 11th. Influxes again on 17th and 29th, and numerous on 1st November.

RING OUZEL. Observed in the north cliffs of Unst in mid-October and on 7th November.

- WHEATEAR. Two on 8th September, none till one 20th; four 24th, and three 28th. Seen till 10th October, and an odd straggler 14th.
- REDSTART. One seen 10th October by Mr D. Mouat.
- ROBIN. Two on 1st October. More on the 7th, and by 9th large numbers all over the island. By the end of November odd birds could still be found most crofts.
- WILLOW WARBLER. One seen on 19th August.
- CHIFFCHAFF. Two on 18th November. (There was an arrival of Siberian-type birds at Fair Isle at this period—P.D.).
- GOLDCREST. Reported from Norwick on 8th to 11th October, and again 17th. Seen till the 20th.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. One on 4th September.
- PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL. At least two pairs nested in Unst again. Migrants were seen on 2nd and 7th September, and an increase on 17th. In October, singles on 2nd and 11th.
- WAXWING. Two seen on 13th November.
- SISKIN. Flocks seen from 10th October to end of month. More numerous again in second week of November.
- REDPOLL. One 12th October, and five 14th.
- CHAFFINCH. Two on 28th September. Increased on 9th and 29th October.
- BRAMBLING. Numerous about 9th October.
- YELLOWHAMMER. Two on Saxa Vord hill on 27th and 28th October.
- SNOW BUNTING. A single on 5th October, and some passing through on 7th; a flock of 20 on 9th, and fifty 28th.

96. Autumn Migration in Orkney, 1961

EDWARD BALFOUR

It is hoped that this brief report will give a general picture of bird movements in Orkney and tie up with reports from other places.

From the end of July until the end of September very little bird movements were noted. It was mainly waders that did appear and then only a trickle compared with 1960. The occurrence of a Little Egret at Isbister Oyce from 30th July to at least 3rd August caused considerable interest. Very few Greenshank and one Black-tailed Godwit were reported through August. In early September there were a few Ruffs, and John Baird reported seeing a Wood Sandpiper at Voy

and a Sooty Shearwater off North Ronaldshay. A Turtle Dove was seen in Holm on 7th September.

The best period for migration was from late September to mid-October, and was notable for unprecedented numbers of Siskins. With dull south-easterly weather many birds came. Goldcrests began to arrive in considerable numbers about 5th October and from then on to about the 9th was the peak period for several species; Thrushes—Song Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird and at least two Ring Ouzels; Redstarts, Robins, Blackcaps, Goldcrests, Meadow and Rock Pipits, Siskins, Chaffinches and Bramblings.

Great numbers of Song Thrushes, Redwings, and Chaffinches were about on 8th October. By the middle of the month numbers had very much diminished but many Redwings (now joined by some Fieldfares) and Chaffinches lingered on into November. During October also a few Little Terns, one Green Woodpecker, a few Waxwings and a Red-breasted Flycatcher as well as a few Pied and Spotted Flycatchers occurred.

November brought a few more Fieldfares and a few Tree Creepers, and more Snow Buntings, and a few more Waxwings.

To sum up, perhaps the most outstanding things were the big influx of Siskins which are in normal times few and far between. This autumn flocks of from 30 to over 200 were often seen. Greater than usual numbers of Song Thrushes and Chaffinches. And with the exception of Blackcap the scarcity of warblers. Very few Willow Warblers and Chaffchaffs were seen.

AUSKERRY

As the island of Auskerry has been neglected since Dr Eagle Clarke's time before the first world war I decided to pay it a visit and spent $4\frac{1}{2}$ days on it alone from the 10th to the 15th October. I arrived there rather too late for the best migration weather; the wind had changed to between South and West and I only caught the tail-end or aftermath of the movement. Nevertheless the island appears definitely to have possibilities as a place to watch migration.

Sixty-seven species were recorded on, around or flying past the island. Some of the small birds were having a hard time finding (or not finding) food and Goldcrests and Siskins were dying off daily.

The migrants recorded included a Great Northern Diver, three Herons, a few Mallard, Teal, and Long-tailed Ducks, about 30 Wigeon; a total of about 300 Grey Lag Geese and 80 to 100 Pink-footed Geese, seven Whooper Swans (flying

N.); Merlin and Kestrel, various waders—a few Lapwings, Ringed and Golden Plovers, Turnstone, Snipe, a Woodcock, several Curlews, Redshank, Knots, Purple Sandpipers, and Dunlin; one Little Gull; a Swallow (passing S. on 14th October); odd Mistle Thrush and Fieldfare, and many Redwings and Song Thrushes, several Blackbirds; a few Wheatears and Robins, four Blackcaps, a Garden Warbler, a Chiffchaff, a few Goldcrests, a Pied Flycatcher, several Hedge Sparrows, Meadow and Rock Pipits (some of the latter seemed pale-coloured, probably Scandinavian); small parties of Starlings, many Siskins, a small party of Linnets and a few Twites; many Chaffinches, a few Bramblings and Reed Buntings, and one small flock of Snow Buntings.

97. Barred Warbler Records

In the August 1961 issue of *Bird Migration* (2:49-51) Dr D. Lack criticized Kenneth Williamson's theory, that Barred Warblers reach Fair Isle as the result of random dispersal of juveniles, followed by downwind drift across the North Sea, and suggested that this dispersal was oriented N.W., in the direction of spring migration, and at 180° to that of the autumn migration. Even more recently, in the February 1962 number of *British Birds* (55:74-86), Dr I. C. T. Nisbet has shown that there is a clear correlation between Barred Warbler arrivals at Fair Isle and fine, warm weather in the nearest well-populated breeding-areas in E. Germany, as well as with S.E. winds over the N. Sea, and has advanced a "new hypothesis" that the birds are in these conditions induced to make a reversed migration which may be extended across the N. Sea. Confessing that his data do not establish whether this early autumn dispersal is oriented or at random, Nisbet suggests that radar or the moon-watching technique might be used to look for direct evidence of oriented movement. It seems to me that both techniques would have great limitations in this respect, both because of the small number of birds involved, and because it would be hard to tell whether the birds flying downwind were behaving Williamsonwise or Nisbetwise, or were adherents of some gospel as yet unrevealed to man. It would be even more difficult to prove that they were Barred Warblers.

It may seem curious that none of the authorities who have discussed the problem has looked closely at what is surely the best available evidence of a tendency to orient N.W.; that is, the distribution of the records in the British Isles. During a correspondence with Dr Lack in the summer of 1960, I suggested that this distribution pointed to a N.W. orientation

rather than to random dispersal, for the bird is annual and in some years quite numerous at Fair Isle, and becomes progressively scarcer at the other east-coast stations to the south; until in the extreme S.E. it is a great rarity.

Naturally I do not have at Fair Isle the detailed records of all the east-coast stations, but the annual reports of Spurn Bird Observatory, and most of those of Dungeness Observatory, are in the library, and these are detailed enough to illustrate the argument. Both stations have had excellent coverage both of observers and of traps. During the ten years 1951-60, Barred Warblers were recorded on 231 "bird-days" at Fair Isle, but on only about 50 "bird-days" at Spurn; and in 1952-60 only three individuals were taken at Dungeness. The species was therefore nearly five times as abundant at Fair Isle as at Spurn, and perhaps ten times more common at Spurn than at Dungeness. Yet Spurn is over 100 miles nearer to the breeding-range than Fair Isle, and Dungeness hardly more distant, and without so great an area of intervening sea. They are however to the west, not to the North-west, of the breeding range.

Two other interesting points emerge from the comparison of the Spurn and the Fair Isle records. One is, that there is a strong correlation of abundance and scarcity at the two stations; at both places, 1959 was the best, and 1960 the second-best year for Barred Warblers, and in two of Fair Isle's poorest seasons, 1951 and 1956, there were no records at Spurn. The exception is 1953, when there were 34 "bird-days" at Fair Isle (the third-best year of the ten), but none at Spurn. The second point, which is more relevant to the present discussion, is that the earliest records of each year are nearly always later (often ten days or more later) at Spurn than at Fair Isle. In only one of the seven years when the species occurred at both stations did Spurn have the earliest record, and then by only one day. In the same seven years, there were three October records at Spurn, but only one at Fair Isle. I would suggest that many of the Spurn arrivals were on re-determined passage after an earlier landfall in the north of Britain, and perhaps drifted west while on a south-east directed return crossing of the North Sea.

P. D.

98.

Recoveries 1961

Sixty-nine birds ringed at Fair Isle were reported elsewhere during 1961. Full details of all these are given in the list below. The following symbols are used: v—caught or trapped and released with ring; †—shot or killed by man; x—found dead or dying; xA—found long-dead; ()—caught alive and not re-

leased, or released without rings; /?/—manner of recovery unknown. Where the exact date of recovery is unknown, the date of the finder's report is given in brackets. Ringing details of each bird are given on the first line, and recovery details on the second.

FULMAR.

AT 64608 pull. 7.8.59.

() 23.9.60 off Murmansk coast, c.69°26'N. 38°02'E., U.S.S.R.

SHAG.

1008111 pull. 13.6.59.

x c.15.8.61 Whalsay (Shetland) 66 m. N.E.

1008263 pull. 18.6.59.

x 29.4.61 Arbroath, Angus 205 m. S.

1008343 pull. 18.6.59.

xA c.6.8.61 Downies (Aberdeenshire) 170 m. S.

1008349 pull. 19.6.59.

x 28.5.61 Island of Bigga, Yell Sound (Shetland) 75 m. NNE.

1009586 pull. 16.6.60.

x (2.4.61) Kingston, near Fochabers (Morayshire) 140 m. SSW.

1013052 pull. 21.6.60.

† 0.10.60 Solund island c.61°10'N. 4°43'E. (Sogn og Fjordane) Norway.

1013043 pull. 21.6.60.

xA c.20.8.61 Auskerry (Orkney) 50 m. SW.

1013035 pull. 21.6.60.

x4.3.61 near Tain (Ross-shire) 145 m. SW.

1013046 pull. 21.6.60.

x (9.5.61) East Isle, Out Skerries (Shetland) 74 m. NNE.

1013089 pull. 21.6.60.

x 11.6.61 Gairsay (Orkney) 60 m. WSW.

1013131 pull. 25.6.60.

x 12.3.61 Holm, near Kirkwall (Orkney) 66 m. SW.

1013127 pull. 26.6.60.

x 11.6.61 Ness, Shapinsay (Orkney) 60 m. SW.

1013161 pull. 26.6.60.

x 14.4.61 Brora (Sutherland) 130 m. SW.

1013175 pull. 30.6.60.

x 3.3.61 Lerwick (Shetland) 50 m. NNE.

1013191 pull. 30.6.60.

† 10.7.61 off Dornoch Point (Sutherland) 140 m. SW.

1013236 pull. 8.7.60.

x 8.6.61 off Tarbatness (Ross-shire) 135 m. SW.

- 1013268 pull. 8.7.60.
 x 20.1.61 Ulsta, Yell (Shetland) 70 m. NNE.
 1013312 pull. 9.7.61.
 x (4.4.61) Orphir, Mainland (Orkney) 72 m. SW.
 1013360 pull. 10.7.61.
 /?/ 10.4.61 Invergordon (Ross-shire) 155 m. SW.
 1013382 pull. 14.7.60.
 () 6.3.61 Aberdeen 165 m. S.
 1013420 pull. 16.7.60.
 xA (24.6.61) Bay of Brough, Sanday (Orkney) 42 m. SW.
 1022133 pull. 1.7.61.
 () 31.8.61 35 m. WSW of Utsira c.59°05'N 4°00'E (Rogaland)
 Norway.

MERLIN.

- 382074 Juv. ♂ 4.9.54.
 () 20.11.61 Soustons 43°45'N 1°19'W (Landes) France.

This bird, which was assigned to the Icelandic form *sub-aesalon*, is the most southerly and also the longest-lived bird among the Fair Isle recoveries.

OYSTERCATCHER.

- AT 67609 pull. 18.6.61.
 † c. 19.8.61 Morecambe Bay (Lancashire) 380 m. S.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT.

- 281716 1st W. 7.9.56.
 † 2.6.60 Noril'sk 69°20' N. 88°10' E. (Krasnoyarsk) U.S.S.R.

This is the first bird ringed at Fair Isle to be recovered in Asia. Only three Bar-tailed Godwits have been ringed on the island.

BONXIE.

- 414530 pull. 23.7.61 Unst (Shetland), by M. Sinclair.
 x 4.11.61 14 m. W. of Cabo Espichel 38°24' N. 9° 13' W. (Estremadura) Portugal.

ARCTIC SKUA.

- AT 22600 pull. 18.7.56.
 xA 16.7.61 Foula (Shetland) 45 m. NNW.
 AT 77258 pull. 17.7.61.
 x 2.9.61 Aukra, Gossen island 62°48' N. 6°58' E. (Møre og Romsdal) Norway.
 AT 77260 pull. 18.7.61.
 x 24.8.61 Johannstorf, near Dassow 53°55'N. 10°59'E. (Mecklenburg) Germany.

The last two birds both fledged about 30.7.61. It seems likely that both were "wrecked" on the continent in westerly winds. Dassow is close to the Baltic coast of N. Germany.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

AJ 16212 pull. 2.7.60.

() 18.7.61 Lerwick (Shetland) 50 m. NNE.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.

AJ 23923 pull. 27.7.60.

† 18.9.60 Lough Beg (Londonderry) Ireland 365 m. SW.

HERRING GULL.

AH 1215 pull. 12.7.58.

x spring/summer 1960 Humbie (East Lothian) 255 m. S.

AJ 16206 pull. 26.6.60.

x 2.8.61 Fraserburgh (Aberdeenshire) 125 m. S.

RAZORBILL.

AT 67651 pull. 1.7.61.

† 29.9.61 Boknfjorden c.59°10'N. 5°30'E. (Rogaland) Norway.

AT 67631 pull. 30.6.61.

† 2.10.61 Boknfjorden.

GUILLEMOT.

AT 67135 pull. 7.7.60.

† 7.1.61 between Haastein and Kvitsøy Is. c.58°58'N. 5°24'E. (Rogaland) Norway.

AT 77206 pull. 12.7.61.

† 29.9.61 Boknfjorden.

TYSTIE.

AT 67441 pull. 26.7.50.

x 6.7.61 North Ronaldshay (Orkney) 30 m. WSW.

SONG THRUSH.

706786 f.g. 6.4.60.

v. 28.6.61 Kippenross, Dunblane (Perthshire) 240 m. SSW.

This is an intriguing recovery, for although the bird was caught on spring passage, and was thought to be of continental stock, it was recovered in the breeding-season in central Scotland.

REDWING.

CK 00170 1st. W. 12.10.61.

() 2.11.61 Rekefjord, near Sogndal 58°20'N. 6°17'E. (Rogaland) Norway.

This bird was of the Icelandic form *coburni*.

BLACKBIRD.

S 87627 Ad. ♂ 1.11.57.

x 1.6.61 Nesjestrände, near Molde 62°43'N. 7°25'E. (More og Romsdal) Norway.

S 87673 Ad. ♂ 3.11.57.

† c.8.4.61 near Kinsarvik, Hardanger 60°22'N. 6°44'E. (Hordaland) Norway.

V 76025 Ad. ♀ 31.3.58.

† 5.6.61 near Friedrichsort 54°25'N. 10°11'E. (Schleswig-Holstein) Germany.

V 76227 Ad. ♀ 2.4.58.

x (21.12.61) Stowupland, near Stowmarket (Suffolk) 510 m. SSE.

V 76342 Ad. ♂ 11.4.58.

† 12.11.61 Dombesteini, near Davik 61°53'N. 5°33'E. (Sogn og Fjordane) Norway.

R 20093 1st W. ♀ 5.11.58.

x 6.11.61 Outer Dowsing Light-vessel, North Sea c.425 m. SSE.

R 20380 Ad. ♂ 5.11.58.

xA (8.4.61) Killygordon (Donegal) Ireland 390 m. SW.

R 49306 1st. W. ♂ 8.11.58.

x early 4.61 Lastad, near Timmersdale 58°32'N. 13°46'E. (Västergötland) Sweden.

R 78326 Ad. ♂ 14.10.59.

† 1.7.61 Stryn 61°55'N. 6°47'E. (Sogn og Fjordane) Norway.

R 78965 Ad. ♂ 23.3.60.

x (3.7.61) Oreberg, near Vanersnäs 58°24'N. 12°34'E. (Västergötland) Sweden.

The Blackbird recoveries include two more from the great arrival of late March 1958, and like most of the others from this fall, they are outside the normal recovery-areas for Fair Isle captures.

WHEATEAR.

K 81891 pull. 25.6.59.

x 4.9.61 Contis, near St Julien-en-Born 44°03'N. 1°14'W (Landes) France.

618228 juv. 7.8.60.

† 2.10.60 Herrera 37°22'N. 4°50'W. (Sevilla) Spain.

600574 juv. 10.7.59.

() 0.10.59 Villagarcia de la Torre 38°18'N. 6°05'W. (Badajoz) Spain.

618110 juv. 25.7.60.

() c.22.2.61 Martos 37°44'N. 3°58'W. (Jaen) Spain.

BA 03225 juv. 11.8.61.

† 1.11.61 Sidi Slimane 34°38'N. 5°58'W. Morocco.

BA 10105 Ad. ♀ 29.9.61.

x 20.10.61 Castets-en-Dorthe 44°33'N. 0°08'W. (Gironde) France.

BA 03225 was our first Wheatear recovery from Africa. BA 10105 was assigned to the Greenland form *leucorrhoea*.

ROBIN.

53842 1st W. 4.4.60.

x 13.3.61 Gorleston-on-Sea (Norfolk) 490 m. SSE.

H 37294 f.g. 13.4.61.

x 25.11.61 Staithes, near Saltburn (Yorkshire) 340 m. S.

H 47935 f.g. 12.10.61.

x 16.11.61 Jaulgonne, near Chateau-Thierry 49°05'N. 3°32'E. Aisne) France.

These are our first Robin recoveries in England and France.

HEDGE SPARROW.

H37418 f.g. 29.4.61.

v 18.5.61 Heligoland 54°11'N. 7°55'E. Germany.

This is our first recovery of a Hedge Sparrow.

MEADOW PIPT.

53031 1st W. 5.9.59.

() 18.12.60 Livramento, near Mafra 38°57'N. 9°19'W. (Estremadura) Portugal.

89311 juv. 27.6.60.

x 1.1.61 Chaica Nova, Aljustrel 37°52'N 8°10'W (Baixo Alentejo) Portugal.

89340 juv. 7.7.60.

v 25.10.60 La Teste-de-Buch 44°34'N. 1°09'W. (Gironde) France.

89218 1st W. 23.8.60.

x c.1.1.61 near Beja 38°01'N. 7°52'W. (Baixo Alentejo) Portugal.

H47126 juv. 20.8.61.

† c.8.11.61 Albergaria-dos-Doze 39°48'N 8°35'W (Beira Litoral) Portugal.

STARLING.

S 87165 juv. 8.9.57.

x 12.12.61 Dennis Head, North Ronaldshay (Orkney) 30 m. WSW.

V 76670 juv. 16.9.58.

x 21.5.61 Westray (Orkney) 55 m. WSW.

725817 1st W. ♂ 2.12.60.

x 3.4.61 Risør 58°44'N. 9°15'E. (Aust Agder) Norway.

99. Ringed Immigrants to Fair Isle

Four birds which had been marked elsewhere were recovered in Fair Isle during 1961. We are still awaiting ringing details of a Herring Gull ringed Moscow D 492577, which was caught at a roost on Bunes on the night of 14th December.

The others were a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull with Moscow ring C 94997, ringed as young on the Great Ainov Islands in the Barents Sea (69°50'N. 31°35'E.) on 15th June 1960, and found dead by Pat Adams on Skadan on 21st February 1961; a Robin with the Leiden ring N 34620, marked on 23rd October 1960 near Amsterdam, and retrapped at the Haa on 6th April; and a Lesser Black-back ringed AJ 37007 as a chick at Aith in the northern part of the Shetland Mainland on 22nd June 1961, and found dead on the shore at North Haven on 23rd August.

P. D.

100. Tagged Seals at Fair Isle

Three Grey Seals *Halichoerus grypus* with coloured plastic tags attached to their tails were killed or found dead in the second half of November 1961, at Fair Isle. I understand that one of these has not yet been reported to the London Zoo, but the other two had both been marked during the Nature Conservancy's expedition to North Rona in October 1961. One was about two weeks, and the other about four weeks old when marked, and both were recovered about four weeks later. North Rona is some 150 miles WSW of Fair Isle.

P. D.

Corrigenda

The following lines were omitted by error from the *Bulletin*. Vol. 4, No. 7:

Page 183: the following words should follow on from line 26: "female Stonechats, three Chaffinches, seven Bramblings,".

Page 191: the following line was omitted after the fourth line of the Ringed Plover paragraph: "and a second laying of three eggs was located nearby,".

Page 196: seven species which should have been listed between Redwing and Red-backed Shrike were left out. These were as follows:

WHINCHAT. One on 3rd May.

REDSTART. Several seen at Mousa, 5th May (J. Fisher).

ROBIN. One 15th April, Laxo Voe.

WHITETHROAT. One at Kergord, 3rd June (L.A.U.).

WILLOW WARBLER. Several at Mousa, 5th May (J. Fisher). One singing at Muckle Roe, 7th May (C.J.B.).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Two near the Pool of Virkie, 1st June (L.A.U.).

PIED FLYCATCHER. One at Kergord, 3rd June (L.A.U.).

Appendix of Scientific Names

(excluding those given in the text)

- Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.
 Red-throated Diver *G. stellata*.
 Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.
 Manx Shearwater *Procellaria puffinus*.
 Sooty Shearwater *P. grisea*.
 Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.
 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.
 Shag *Ph. aristotelis*.
 Heron *Ardea cinerea*.
 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.
 Teal *A. crecca*.
 Wigeon *A. penelope*.
 Pintail *A. acuta*.
 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*.
 Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*.
 Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*.
 Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*.
 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*.
 Goosander *M. merganser*.
 Grey-lag Goose *Anser anser*.
 White-fronted Goose *A. albifrons*.
 Pink-footed Goose *A. brachyrhynchus*.
 Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.
 Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*.
 Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.
 Merlin *Falco columbarius*.
 Kestrel *F. tinnunculus*.
 Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.
 Corncrake *Crex crex*.
 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.
 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.
 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.
 Golden Plover *Ch. apricarius*.
 Grey Plover *Ch. squatarola*.
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.
 Snipe *Capella gallinago*.
 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*.
 Woodcock *Scotopax rusticola*.
 Curlew *Numenius arquata*.
 Whimbrel *N. phaeopus*.
 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*.
 Bar-tailed Godwit *L. lapponica*.
 Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.
 Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*.
 Common Sandpiper *T. hypoleucos*.
 Redshank *T. totanus*.
 Spotted Redshank *T. erythropus*.
 Greenshank *T. nebularia*.
 Knot *Calidris canutus*.
 Purple Sandpiper *C. maritima*.
 Little Stint *C. minuta*.
 Dunlin *C. alpina*.
 Sanderling *Crocethia alba*.
 Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*.
 Bonxie *Stercorarius skua*.
 Arctic Skua *S. parasiticus*.
 Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.
 Lesser Black-back *L. fuscus*.
 Herring Gull *L. argentatus*.
 Common Gull *L. canus*.
 Glaucous Gull *L. hyperboreus*.
 Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*.
 Little Gull *L. minutus*.
 Arctic Tern *Sterna macrura*.
 Little Tern *S. albifrons*.
 Razorbill *Alca torda*.
 Guillemot *Uria aalge*.
 Tystie *Uria grylle*.
 Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.
 Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbarius*.
 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.
 Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*.
 Short-eared Owl *A. flammeus*.
 Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*.
 Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.
 Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.
 House Martin *Delichon urbica*.
 Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.
 Rook *Corvus frugilegus*.
 Jackdaw *C. monedula*.
 Tree Creeper *Certhia familiaris*.
 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.
 Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.
 Fieldfare *T. pilaris*.
 Song Thrush *T. philomelus*.
 Redwing *T. iliacus*.
 Ring Ouzel *T. torquatus*.
 Blackbird *T. merula*.
 Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.
 Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.
 Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.
 Black Redstart *Ph. ochorus*.
 Bluethroat *Cyanosylvia suecica*.
 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.
 Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.
 Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.
 Barred Warbler *S. borin*.
 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*.
 Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.
 Tree Pipit *A. trivialis*.
 Rock Pipit *A. spinoletta*.
 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.
 Grey Wagtail *M. cinerea*.
 Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*.
 Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*.
 Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.
 Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*.
 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.
 Twite *C. flavrostris*.
 Linnet *C. cannabina*.
 Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea*.
 Lesser Redpoll *C. f. cabaret*.
 Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.
 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.
 Brambling *F. montifringilla*.
 Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*.
 Yellowhammer *E. citrinella*.
 Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus*.
 Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.
 Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

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