

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

BULLETIN



Edited by
PETER E. DAVIS

Vol. 5 No. 2 (New Series)

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Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust

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Hon. Secretary.

21 Regent Terrace, EDINBURGH 7.

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JUNE, 1963

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10. The Birds of Fair Isle—Part II

PETER DAVIS

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*. An immature bird 7th-8th April 1961.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*. Not recorded before 1949, but at least one in each year (except 1950 and 1956) since then. Recorded once in April (15th-17th, 1961), five times in late May (from 19th), seven times in June, twice in July, three times in August (one of which stayed until October), six times in September, twice in October, and once November (7th, 1959).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus*. Two spring records, 18th April 1956 and 26th-27th May 1952. Occasional autumn records, the only dated ones being in 1925, 1926 (three or four birds), 1936, 1959 (two), and 1960 (two). Apart from one on 29th August (1936) and one 12th-14th September (1925), all are between 13th October and 10th November.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*. Apparently rare in the early years of this century, and not recorded at all until 1913, and subsequently only in 1921 and 1927. In the Bird Observatory's time it has proved to be regular on both passages, though in very small numbers (no more than three recorded on one day). The spring records fall between 3rd April and 27th May, mostly late April and early May; the autumn birds between 2nd August and 3rd December, mainly mid-September to mid-October. There were winter records on 18th January and 8th to 17th February 1952, 7th March 1963. Birds ringed on autumn passage have been recovered in the same autumn and winter in N.E. Scotland (three, December-January), in Holland (November), and in western France (two, October and December); in the next April on Heligoland, and in the next August in Lincolnshire. One ringed on the Isle of May, September 1957, was caught at Fair Isle in the following May.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. A bird very probably of this species was seen by James Wilson and James A. Stout on 16th November 1953 and in early January 1954. One was present 16th to 24th November 1962.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Bred on the island until sometime between 1825 and 1840; the eyrie being on the Sheep Craig, with perhaps an alternative site in the high N.W. cliffs (a prominent knoll south of Ward Hill is called "Erne's Brae"). Only two dated records are recorded for this century, adults on 18th September 1935 and 19th

June 1949, but birds are said to have been seen on a number of other occasions. Unidentified "eagles" were reported on 8th-9th April 1927, 7th April 1944, and first week August 1944.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*. One seen 20th September 1961. (Originally recorded as a "probable," but the description was later examined and approved by the Rarity Records Committee).

[**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*. An undocumented sight-record for "spring," 1932.]

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. No definite records before 1950, though "ring-tails" probably of this species (which breeds, now commonly, in Orkney) occurred in November 1931, autumn 1932, and in May 1936. Since 1950 the species has been identified on twelve occasions in nine different years, and there have been "ring-tails" on ten other occasions since 1948. Four of the definite records were in spring, between 6th April and 5th June; the six spring "ring-tails" were all in May. Of eight identified in autumn, one was on 24th-25th August 1956, six between 20th September and 24th October, and one 21st December 1962; the autumn "ring-tails" occurred between 20th September and 31st October.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*. An immature male obtained by G. Stout on 8th May 1931, after being present for some days (first British record). An adult male said to have been seen for a week from 6th May 1942. A female either of this species or Montagu's seen 20th October 1949.

[**MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus*. A male reported to have been seen in May 1937.]

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*. One reported seen 4th November 1935, an exceptionally late date. Single birds present 16th-17th September 1957 and 25th April 1962.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*. Single males obtained on 7th May 1913 and 9th June 1914. One reported seen on 21st November 1914, 27th October 1919 (both extremely late dates), and 24th April 1933. One present 1st to 4th September 1957.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*. One pair normally breeds, but there were two in 1957. They are mentioned in the literature as far back as 1633, and there are said to have been two or three pairs in some years in the 19th century. The adult birds are apparently often resident throughout the year, though in some recent years there were no records in February and March. The young fledge in the last days of June, so the eggs must be laid in mid-April. The juveniles depart between August and October. There is no direct evidence of passage (all records of more than two birds are in the summer), but obviously a few migrants will occur.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus*. One 13th April 1921, either Iceland *F. r. islandus* or Greenland *F. r. candicans*; two reported seen for about a fortnight at the end of April 1943, thought to be Iceland birds; one of the Greenland form seen 9th February 1952.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*. Regular passage-migrant in variable numbers, and occasionally recorded outside the migration-seasons. Spring passage 22nd March (once 12th) to 3rd June, mainly late April and May, rarely more than one or two present. Four midsummer records between 18th June and 7th July. Autumn passage recorded 28th July to early December, mainly end August to mid-October; up to seven recorded on best days, but seldom more than four or five. Odd birds sometimes stay through December and January, but few February records. A majority of the trapped birds have been referred to the Iceland form *F. c. subaeson* and a small minority to the Continental form *F. c. aesalon*; however it seems certain that some (and perhaps many) must really be from Shetland, where the species is widespread and most of the population emigrates. C. J. Booth reports that he has twice seen ringed birds at nests in Unst and Mainland while engaged in photography, and these are more likely to have been ringed at Fair Isle than anywhere else. Birds ringed on autumn passage have been recovered during the same autumn and winter in N. and E. Scotland (four, two October, one January, one ober), and in S.W. France (October); and one was found in S.W. France in November over seven years later.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*. A first-summer male 4th-11th June 1955, trapped on the 8th.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*. Regular on both passages, mid-March to mid-June (mostly May) and late July to late November (mostly late September and early October). Occasional visitor late June and July, and December to early March, odd birds have overwintered. Seldom more than two or three present, but twice as many as fifteen in autumn (17th-18th September 1953, and 18th September 1960). Three recoveries within four months of ringing in autumn, one in N.W. Germany in November, one Holland in December, and one W. France in December.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*. Irregular visitor, recorded in nine of the fifteen years 1948-62. Known to have bred in 1905 (one nest), 1936 (one), 1943 (estimated 8 or 9 pairs, at least three nests found); and 1958 (one), and may have done so in 1926. Bird or birds present for some weeks in spring and summer of 1948, 1949, 1952 and 1961; in other recent years only one or two isolated records between May and early July, but few species are more difficult to detect unless cal-

ling. The extreme dates recorded are 30th April and 12th October.

CRANE *Grus grus*. Two 29th May, and one 19th July to 28th August 1962.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*. Recorded most years on spring passage, and regular in autumn; a few winter or attempt to winter in most years. Wintering birds normally leave by mid-March. Spring passage mostly end March and early April but stragglers recorded to 11th May; most records are of single birds, rarely two or three present. Autumn migrants occasionally August (from 8th), more usually early September onwards, main passage mid-October to late November; more numerous than in spring but seldom more than five or six seen on best day. Two autumn migrants were recovered in Orkney and in Northern Ireland in the following January.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*. One caught on 9th August 1949. (Another was released on the island after capture in Shetland, 13th August 1952).

BAILLON'S CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*. A female obtained on 11th May 1929.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex*. Breeds; also passage-migrant in very small numbers, mostly May and September. Formerly a common breeder in the crofts, up to 10-12 pairs recorded, even as late as 1948. Not more than 4 or 5 pairs 1949 to 1953, no direct evidence of breeding 1954 or 1955, no birds present 1956, only one calling 1957, none 1958, but one to three nests found each year 1959-62. A limited amount of breeding-season data shows earliest egg laid about 12th June, most laid last week of June or early July, some late eggs late July or even August (one record of bird incubating 31st August, but perhaps infertile clutch). Birds normally arrive first half of May, but sometimes late April (from 21st); depart by mid-September but in a few years not until end September or early October, once recorded on 18th. Two ringed in spring were recovered in Orkney next July and in Aberdeenshire next August.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*. Regular on spring passage, and occurs most years in autumn, in very small numbers. One pair bred 1933 and 1943, and said to have nested on several other occasions. Occasional visitor December to February; odd birds have probably overwintered successfully. Spring passage end March to late April, stragglers or off-passage birds to late May (1st June 1952); no more than four recorded on one day. One recent midsummer record, 27th June 1957. Autumn records rarely late August (from 28th), occasionally September, more usually October-November; no record of more than two birds.

COOT *Fulica atra*. Up to three irregular on spring or autumn passage; about twice as many recorded in spring as in autumn. Noted once in late December, twice in January (one staying some days), and once February. Spring records are between 20th March and 20th May, mostly end March and early April. One or two are said to have stayed "all summer" in 1933. Autumn records are between 9th October and 23rd November.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*. About 40-50 pairs breed; said to have increased and spread inland onto the hill ground in this century. Breeders are summer visitors, first arriving early or mid-February, main body normally late February or early March; departure August and early September, stragglers to October. Some passage seen August and September, but difficult to detect in spring. One or two occasionally overwinter. First eggs are laid first week May, most in second and third weeks. Birds ringed as young on Fair Isle have been recovered in the first autumn and winter in Morecambe Bay (August and November), Cheshire (February), Anglesey (January), and western France (August and September); in the following spring in Dumfries (May) and Glamorgan (April); the next summer in Fife (July); in their second autumn and winter in Dumfries (October), Fife (January) and Donegal (January); and when almost two years old in Meath (May). An adult was wintering in Orkney in January. Two birds ringed as young have been recovered on the island six and ten years later.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*. Breeds; regular and often numerous on passage. The breeders are summer visitors, arriving from early February, mostly end February or early March, and departing late July and early August. Other birds visit the isle in all months of the year, though rather scarce December to February except with hard weather. The largest numbers are normally in March-April (up to 1000 recorded), with lesser peaks late September to November (up to 150). First eggs are laid from mid-April (early date, 11th). The species bred "in fair numbers" during the nineteenth century, though only one pair by 1898; no further records until the 1930s ("a few pairs now breeding regularly" in 1936); one pair recorded 1943 and 1944; none 1948-49, two pairs 1950-55, three 1956, three or four 1957, eight or nine 1958, ten or eleven 1959 and 1960, about sixteen 1961, and about twelve 1962.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*. A few breed; regular on spring and autumn passage. "One or two pairs" bred in the early years of this century, but the islanders speak

of larger numbers both in the late 19th century and in the second and third decades of this century. There was apparently no breeding for "many years" before 1952, but one or two pairs each year since then. The breeders arrive early February to early March, depart in August. Eggs are laid end April or early May; one pair has been double-brooded (rearing young from both layings) in recent years. Passage-migrants occur in very small numbers (rarely reaching double figures) from February to late May, with no marked peak; and second half July (occasionally early July) to early October, peaking late August and early September, often 30-40 and rarely 60-70 on best days. One or two occur infrequently October to January. Birds of the High-Arctic form *Ch. h. tundrae* have been identified on several occasions in September and probably occur in May also. A migrant ringed late August 1954 was recovered in N. Spain in late May 1956.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*. One seen on 14th May 1949.

GREY PLOVER *Charadrius squatarola*. Two spring records, 2nd April 1958 and 3rd June 1954. Irregular visitor in autumn (though each year 1959-62), usually single birds but up to four recorded; extreme dates 26th August and 4th November, mostly late September and early October.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius apricarius*. Regular passage-migrant in spring and autumn; occasional visitor in winter, sometimes fairly large parties with hard weather, and may stay for some weeks. Two pairs probably bred in 1924, one pair did so in 1925-26. Spring passage mostly end March to early May, stragglers to early June; autumn movements from late June or early July to November, mostly late August to late October. Daily totals rarely reach fifty in spring, and seldom exceed that figure in autumn, but up to 60-80 recorded. Birds in summer dress nearly all show the characteristics of the Northern form *Ch. a. altifrons*.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER *Charadrius dominicus*. One seen 14th-15th September 1956.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*. Eight or nine records, all since 1949. Three were in spring, 10th and 24th May, 23rd June; and the rest in autumn, 3rd to 29th September and one 14th November. No more than three birds at one time.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*. Regular passage-migrant and winter visitor. Spring passage mainly April-early May, often difficult to detect but sometimes marked increases of 20-30 birds; usually departs by end May, but stragglers in early June. No records between 16th June and 10th July. Autumn passage in very small numbers mid or late July on, larger numbers late August or early September to mid-

November (usually 60-80 on best days, never reached 100). Winter population usually less than thirty, but liable to fluctuations in cold weather, and as many as ninety seen January.

SNIFE *Capella gallinago*. A few breed; regular on spring and autumn passage; small numbers winter, and may be considerably reinforced with hard weather between November and April. Nesting was first suspected in 1923, and a few nested annually 1924-26; no further breeding-records until 1948 when one pair summered and may have bred. After a series of inconclusive records in 1949 to 1953, breeding by one pair proved in 1954, and one or two pairs have bred annually since then, with temporary increase to probably eight pairs in 1961. Apart from weather-movements, passage usually involves increases of no more than twenty on daily-census samples, and occurs March to May (mostly April) and late July to late November (mainly late September to mid-November). Arrivals involving "hundreds" or "innumerable" numbers were recorded in the earlier years of this century but there has been nothing comparable since 1948. The breeding birds resemble the Faeroe race *C. g. faeroensis*, and birds of this type have been collected or trapped on both passages and in winter, but the typical form and many indeterminable birds are also recorded on passage. One ringed in October was found in Cornwall exactly two years later; another, ringed August, was in Cork in January two and a half years later.

GREAT SNIFE *Capella media*. Occurred fairly frequently in the first three decades of this century; two spring records (5th and 15th May) and eight or nine in autumn (5th September to 4th October) up to 1927, and said to have been seen in winter but no dated records. There are two or three observatory records, 7th November 1951 and 4th and 19th October 1960; and also recent unconfirmed reports in February, May, and September.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*. Regular on autumn passage, in small numbers; occasional visitor during winter, especially with hard weather, and individuals may overwinter at times; irregular, and rarely more than odd birds, on spring passage. The species was described as "abundant" by Clarke (1912), and such terms as "great numbers" and "many" are used to describe autumn movements during the first quarter of this century; spring birds were also more regular and numerous. The bird has been much less common in recent years; there is no record of more than twenty (5th October 1961) since 1948, and numbers rarely exceeded five. Spring passage occurs late March to May (late date,

20th), mainly April; and autumn passage early September (early date, 29th August) to early December, mainly late September and October.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Regular and often numerous on passage; falls of several hundreds occasionally in spring and most years in autumn. A few usually winter, and falls of some size may occur in hard weather, especially in January. Spring passage mainly last week March and first week April, stragglers into May, and one or two recorded June to August in some years. Autumn passage: odd birds occasionally in September, usually from early October onwards, peaking in second half October and first half November, smaller arrivals into December. One ringed in April was found in the following January in Harris; one ringed late October was in Aberdeenshire a fortnight later.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*. Regular on passage; odd birds often winter or visit the isle at that season, sometimes more with cold weather. Numbers seldom exceed fifty at any time, but over 100 occasionally. Spring passage late February or March to early June, mostly April and early May but seldom any marked peak. Midsummer and autumn movements from late June or early July (sometimes large arrivals at this time) continuing until November or December, with main passage normally mid-August to early October.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*. Regular on passage, usually rather more numerous in spring than in autumn. Rarely exceeds fifteen on peak days, and highest numbers recorded are only thirty in spring and twenty-three in autumn. Spring arrivals normally end April (early date, 15th) or early May to early June; frequently one or two at midsummer. Southward passage begins early or late July, in some years completed by early September but in others continues to late September with stragglers in October. In 1907 several present through November, one to 12th December, and in 1911 one stayed to 23rd December; otherwise no records later than 18th October. A bird of the American form *N. p. hudsonicus* (Hudsonian Curlew) was seen 27th-31st May 1955.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*. Three spring records, 4th May 1958 (two), 18th-25th May 1943 (up to four), and 26th May 1914 (two); three in autumn, 9th August 1950, 26th-30th August 1962, and 31st August 1960, all single birds; and one in winter, a male obtained 8th January 1908. Most will presumably be of the Iceland form, *L. l. islandica*.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*. A few annually in autumn since 1948, though only one record before then; two in spring, 27th-29th March 1962 and 20th May 1913.

Autumn records 16th July to 30th October, mostly late August and September; usually single birds and no more than four on one day. One ringed in September 1956 was shot near Noril'sk in N. Siberia in June 1960.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*. Recorded most years in spring (annually 1958-62) and regular in autumn. Spring dates 16th April to 13th June, mostly May, no more than two present. Two midsummer records, 24th June and 27th June to 5th July. Autumn dates 16th July to 3rd October, and once 28th October, mostly in August; no more than four recorded on one day except in 1912, when over twenty on some days in early August.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*. One or two irregularly in spring (seen in five of past fifteen years) between 8th May and 12th June. Almost annual in autumn (recorded all but three years since 1948), between 8th July and 30th September, mostly August; no more than three on one day.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*. Regular in spring and autumn in small numbers. Spring movements 23rd April to 24th June, mostly May; autumn records 7th July to 2nd November, mostly August and seldom after mid-September. Numbers recorded are rarely more than five or six on best days, but up to 10-15 noted in three recent autumns.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*. Regular on passage and in winter; a few often present at midsummer. Winter population normally about 20-30 in recent years, may increase in hard weather; in the early years of the century apparently did not winter regularly, and odd winter birds were noteworthy, but it seems there was a wintering population by 1927. Spring passage mostly April and early May, usually rather small numbers; stragglers to late May and often through June. Return passage starts last days of June or early July and continues to November, mostly end July to late October with no regular peak-period; often 50-80 and occasionally over 100 on best days. Some of those handled are referable to the Icelandic form *T.t. robusta*, others to the typical form. One ringed in April 1958 was retrapped in September 1962, which suggests the same individuals may winter regularly.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*. One spring record, 7th May 1952. Autumn records in 1930, 1936, and in seven of past fifteen years, between 8th August and 20th October, mostly late August and early September. No more than three at one time.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes*. One obtained 24th September 1910; one seen 31st May 1953.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*. Irregular in spring and regular in autumn, in very small numbers. Spring records in 1911

and in eight of past fourteen years, between 15th April and 20th June, mostly May; usually single birds. Autumn passage 14th July to 10th October, mostly August, and one 20th November 1960; seldom more than two or three present, and never more than six recorded.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*. Irregular in spring; annual in autumn though in very variable numbers. Spring records in 1913, 1953, and in five years since 1955, all between 7th and 27th May except one 9th-10th June 1962; usually single birds but once six. Autumn records 7th July to 9th October, mostly August and first week September; in some years fails to reach double figures (as in six of past fifteen), and until 1958 never exceeded thirty at peak, but has since peaked at 35-60 each autumn except 1961, and over 200 on 4th August 1962.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*. Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Winter population usually about 10-30 birds in recent years, may fluctuate with hard weather. Winter birds usually decrease in March or early April; spring passage late March to early May, seldom more than 20 seen but rarely up to 40; stragglers to late May and occasionally early June (late date, 14th). Autumn movements sometimes from late July (early date, 20th), more usually small numbers from mid or late August, though sometimes very scarce until late October; main arrivals normally late October to early December, frequently up to thirty but rarely over fifty seen on one day.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*. One acceptable spring record, 2nd June 1913. Irregular in autumn, though "single birds annually" in 1905-11. In the observatory period, recorded in 1953 and each year 1956-62 except 1959. Records are all between 14th August and 5th October (mostly September), apart from one collected 9th November 1908. No record of more than four birds except in 1960, when there was a strong and protracted passage peaking at seventeen on 17th September.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*. Five records between 1908 and 1913, all single birds and at least three of them collected: 14th August 1908, 8th and 14th-15th June 1912, 8th August 1912, and 13th-16th May 1913. Several parties of up to four birds said to have been seen in September 1936. No acceptable records in recent years.

WESTERN SANDPIPER *Calidris mauri*. One 27th May to 3rd June 1956, trapped on 28th. Originally identified as Semipalmated Sandpiper *C. pusilla*. First record for Britain.

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. One 16th-29th September 1961; one 27th August, two 29th August to 3rd September, one to 9th September 1962.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*. Regular spring and autumn migrant; odd birds or small parties occasionally with hard weather in winter. Spring passage mid-March to early June, mostly May; in some years stragglers to late June; numbers very variable but in most years up to ten, and occasionally up to thirty at peak. Autumn movements sometimes from early or mid-July, more usually end July or early August to early October, with occasional birds into November. In most years the peak period is mid-August to mid-September, but rarely (as in 1961) large arrivals in early October; peak numbers often up to 25 and as many as 60 recorded. Both Northern *C. a. alpina* and Southern Dunlins *C. a. schinzii* occur, but the majority of those trapped cannot be determined with any confidence. A bird ringed in August was in S.W. France a month later and two ringed in May were recovered in the same area of N.W. Spain in May were following year.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris testacea*. One spring record, 24th-26th May 1956; and five in autumn, 21st August 1912 (two), 4th September 1925, 6th September 1948 (three), 15th August 1949, and 17th September 1960.

SANDERLING *Crocethia alba*. Almost annual in spring (seen in 11 of past 14 years); all records of one to four birds, between 6th May and 21st June, except in 1952 when nine reported 17th-18th March and one 5th April. Regular in autumn, between 11th July and 10th October (mostly mid-August to first week September), with stragglers recorded on 11th November 1958, 14th November 1911, and 2nd December 1951, and "a few" 28th December 1922. Peak numbers are usually less than ten but occasionally up to twenty.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*. One on 18th September 1958.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*. Two spring records, 5th-6th June 1913 and 20th May 1950. Annual in autumn in very variable numbers; in some years only odd birds, in others small parties, and up to 32 recorded. Extreme dates are 13th July and 22nd October (and one 16th November 1951); normally only odd birds in July, and October records are confined to the three years 1960-62. The peaks tend to be in late August or early September, but the largest fall on record was on 4th August 1962. A juvenile ringed in September 1958 was shot in the Marismas del R. Guadalquivir, S. Spain, in November 1959.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*. One obtained 8th May, 1947.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Six records: one obtained 2nd and one seen 29th January 1909, one October 1909, one 15th November 1925, one 13th November 1958, and at least one 26th October 1961.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*. Six records: one obtained 4th June 1910, one 6th June 1930, and one 18th June 1959; an adult trapped 3rd and a juvenile (trapped) 16th-24th August 1961, three seen 26th October 1961.

STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*. An adult female obtained 7th June 1913; one reported to have been seen in autumn 1930.

PRATINCOLE *Glareola pratincola*. A female of the black-winged phase ("nordmanni") seen 18th May 1927 and obtained next day. Single birds of the Collared or brown-winged phase were reported seen in May 1934 and May 1935.

(to be continued)

11. The Rarer Birds, Autumn 1962

As will be seen from the following list, the autumn of 1962 was a disappointing season for rare birds, especially by comparison with 1961. The only extreme rarity, in terms of the British List, was the Yellow-headed Wagtail, the fifth record for Fair Isle and Britain; this was the third consecutive autumn in which the species has appeared on the isle. The Goshawk was the first definite record for Fair Isle, and the Parrot Crossbill had not previously appeared.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One, probably an adult, seen 16th to 24th November. What may have been the same bird was seen distantly on the 14th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*. The only record of the year was of one seen by James Wilson on 21st December.

CRANE *Grus grus*. An adult present from 19th July to 28th August; the second record for the island. This bird spent nearly all its time on the hill ground; especially at Sukka Mire and the Mire of Vatnagard, but also on the drier moorland where it fed upon crowberries.

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*. One identified 27th August, two (one trapped) on 29th, both present until 3rd September and one to the 9th. Second record for Fair Isle.

PIED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos m. major*. The largest "invasion" since 1949. One 17th to 27th August; 6th September; 19th to 21st and (probably same) 24th to 28th September; at least twelve 11th October, eight 12th, some present to 26th; one 6th November, 10th to 12th November; another 13th, 16th, 18th to 22nd November. Five handled were all of the typical form; all handled and well-seen were juveniles.

- WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*. One or two 31st August to 3rd September (one trapped); one 19th September.
- BLUE TIT *Parus c. caeruleus*. A first-winter bird trapped 6th November, the latest date among our four autumn records.
- BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER *Cinclus c. cinclus*. One in the Gill of Finnikuoy, 17th October to 11th November (trapped 20th October).
- BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*. One 17th to 23rd November.
- BLUETHROAT *Cyanosylvia svecica*. Single birds seen 27th-28th September, 1st-2nd and 7th October; a male of the typical (Red-spotted) form trapped 7th November.
- GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*. One trapped 29th September, seen to 2nd October. Most of our records are in spring.
- MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*. An adult trapped on 2nd September.
- ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*. One seen 31st August. Another *Hippolais* watched on 1st September was believed to be a Melodious Warbler *H. polyglotta*.
- BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria*. At least ten or twelve different birds (six trapped) between 21st August and 27th September; most records were of singles, but two 21st August, three 5th to 8th September, two 25th September.
- WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. One trapped 27th August; one seen 1st September.
- ARCTIC WARBLER *Ph. borealis*. A first-winter bird trapped 1st September.
- YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Ph. inornatus*. Two (one caught) 29th September; one seen 5th and 7th October.
- RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa parva*. One 25th-26th September (trapped) and singles seen 12th and 24th October.
- RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One 24th September (probably from 20th); a first-winter bird 6th to at least 26th October, another 20th to at least 26th, both trapped 20th; one of these to 10th November.
- YELLOW-HEADED or CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola*. A first-winter bird trapped 22nd September, seen again 24th.
- WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. One caught 8th November, seen 9th. One reported by Gordon Barnes, 21st December.
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*. A first-winter bird seen 8th and 10th November; an adult 12th to 15th November; and one reported by Gordon Barnes, 21st December.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *L. cristatus*. A juvenile trapped 29th September, the only autumn record.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula p. pyrrhula*. A female (trapped) 7th to 17th November.

SCARLET GROSBEAK *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One trapped 12th September, another seen 13th to 15th; one trapped 25th October.

PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pityopsittacus*. Two large arrivals, one from 27th September peaking at thirty-three birds 4th October; another involving at least twenty additional birds on 11th October. Decreasing numbers to 23rd October, and one straggler 29th. Thirty-six different birds were handled between 4th and 13th October, and the measurements established that these were of Scandinavian origin and not Scottish birds. The B.O.U. List Sub-Committee currently treats *scotica* as a race of the present species but this view is not widely shared by taxonomists in Europe and North America, some of whom lump all the Red Crossbills under the name *L. curvirostra* and others (at present most influential) of whom regard all the various ecological forms except the Scandinavian Parrots as races of *L. curvirostra*. According to personal opinion, then, these Fair Isle records constitute the first acceptable records of the species or subspecies in Scotland.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *L. leucoptera*. An immature male seen 29th to 31st July. The first record since 1953.

YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING *Emberiza aureola*. An immature seen 12th to 15th September.

ORTOLAN *E. hortulana*. Immatures 21st-22nd and 25th-27th August (both trapped); one 29th September; one (1st w. female) 9th to 21st October, an exceptionally late record.

LITTLE BUNTING *E. pusilla*. One seen 11th to 18th October, the only record of the autumn.

P. D.

12. Irruptive Species in Autumn 1962

PETER DAVIS

An autumn that was remarkable for the scarcity of small continental night-migrants, such as warblers and chats, was redeemed to some extent by the size and variety of arrivals of the "traditional" irruptive species; those which move into Britain in quantity only in years of high population and inadequate food-supply, and which are few or even absent in other years. Almost all the species which might be classified under this heading at Fair Isle reached us in 1962. Common

Crossbills, Mealy Redpolls, and Pied Woodpeckers were in numbers comparable with those of the larger invasions in earlier years; Lapland Buntings and Siskins gave falls of moderate size, not so large as those in 1961; Greenland Redpolls appeared in small numbers for the first time (apart from odd birds) since the important irruption of 1959; the Waxwing and the Northern Bullfinch were represented by only one or two individuals, as in most years. The Parrot Crossbill, whose wanderings have seldom been known to extend across the North Sea, and never to Fair Isle, made an unprecedented appearance in considerable numbers; and two rarities of irruptive character, the Two-barred Crossbill and the Goshawk, added spice to the proceedings. The species are discussed in the order of their appearance.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*. This is perhaps the outstanding example of the "traditional" irruption species, and its irruptions have been remarkably regular in the last decade, occurring in 1953, 1956, 1959 (after a small fall in 1958) and now 1962. Usually Fair Isle is one of the first places in Britain where the birds arrive, but in 1962 large numbers entered England at the end of June and in the first days of July, whilst we had only an odd bird on 29th June and no more until 7th July. About 25 were present by the 10th, and smaller numbers were seen about the cliffs (feeding on thrift-heads) until the 18th, when parties totalling at least a hundred passed north over the isle in the afternoon, flying into a light N.E. breeze. The direction of flight and the time of arrival suggest that our birds were moving north out of Britain, probably having flown from N. Scotland during the morning. After this there were only a few birds daily until the 25th, when about sixty were found, most of them feeding on Meoness. Small numbers were about until the run of records ended on 20th August.

A few more appeared with the Parrot Crossbills in the late autumn; one was calling from a party of these birds on 27th September, and others were identified on 5th (one), 6th (three), and 7th October (one).

MEALY REDPOLLS *Carduelis f. flammea*. Falls of this form are usually confined to the late autumn and it was quite exceptional that some arrived with the Crossbills in July. One or two were present from the 11th, increasing to at least four on the 18th and 19th, with odd ones to the 22nd and again on 8th August. In September, after a couple of records of indeterminate Redpolls on the 15th (six) and 18th, Mealies were identified, and several caught, between the 19th and 29th, the peak number being five on the 21st. The third wave began with one on 10th October; there were

three next day and one or two until the 18th. As in most years, the best numbers came in the first half of November; after five on the 3rd and 4th there were eleven on the 6th, and at least thirteen from the 8th to the 11th. Up to three were seen occasionally in the rest of the month, and one or two were about the crofts until early February 1963.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *L. leucoptera*. An immature male was seen in the Haa area on 29th July, and in the cliffs at Meonness on 30th and 31st; the first Fair Isle record since 1953.

PIED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus m. major*. On 17th August a juvenile Northern Pied Woodpecker was rescued unharmed from a cat at the South Light; it stayed near the observatory until the 27th. Another appeared on 6th September, and a third 19th to 21st and (perhaps the same) 24th to 28th. The largest arrival of the species since 1949 took place on 11th October, when at least twelve were seen; eight were noted next day and at least three or four different birds were seen irregularly in the next two weeks. Another came on 6th November, and one found on 10th died of starvation on the 11th. Further records of single birds were made on the 12th, 13th, 16th, and 18th to 22nd November. Five birds handled, and all those closely seen, were birds of the year.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*. After two early birds on 29th August, a long run of daily records began on 7th September and lasted until 25th October. There appeared to be several waves of movement, peaking at twenty-one on 12th September, at about forty from 18th to 21st, and at twenty-five on 29th; after this the numbers fluctuated between odd birds and about thirty in early October, but by that time there were few bird-watchers and the hill-ground was not covered regularly so that it was difficult to be certain if any of these fluctuations showed fresh arrivals. Passage was renewed in early November, but instead of the arrivals coinciding with those of Greenland species in westerly weather, as they had earlier, these late birds came in easterly conditions with continental birds, and they may have had a European origin; one or two were also thought to be considerably paler in colour than the early birds. These November records were of one 1st to 4th, and 6th; up to four daily 7th to 11th, and a single bird until 24th.

GREENLAND REDPOLL *Carduelis flammæa rostrata*. Following the records of undetermined Redpolls in mid-September, birds of this form were identified on 22nd (one), 23rd (two), with odd ones later in September, two 2nd October, and one 4th. A second small arrival started with one 11th October, then three 13th and one or two until 17th, at a time

when Iceland Redwings were moving. A last bird occurred on 27th October.

PARROT CROSSBILL *L. pytyopsittacus*. The arrivals of this species are being described in detail in *Bird Migration*. About twenty arrived on 27th September and there were twenty-five next day, as many as thirty by 2nd October and thirty-three on the 4th, then a decrease to ten by the 9th and 10th; most of the birds in this first batch were females and immatures. The picture changed on 11th and 12th October, when about twenty to twenty-five birds were mainly red males; their numbers gradually diminished until they had all left by the 24th, but a single bird passed on 29th. Thirty-four were ringed and two others found dead. The records at Fair Isle alone far outnumbered the previous total of British records!

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*. At least eight were present on 29th September, and up to seven daily until 5th October; there were ten 6th to 8th, thirty 9th and forty-five 10th, then a few until 14th and one on 21st and on 3rd November.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*. One rescued unhurt from a cat at Upper Stonybreck on the evening of 7th November was released next day; a late bird was seen by Gordon Barnes on 21st December.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula n. nesa*. At least one female present from 7th to 17th November, trapped on 13th.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*. One present 16th (perhaps 14th) to 24th November.

Apart from the early Crossbill movements, which occur at a time when few other birds are migrating, it was again noticeable how the larger falls of irruptive species coincided with those of the more regular and "normal" migrants. For example on 27th-29th September the Parrot Crossbills and Siskins arrived in company with large numbers of Song Thrushes and Redwings and a good variety of smaller continental birds, and on 10th-11th October with thrushes, Goldcrests, and another wide selection of birds. Again in early November the irruptives coincided with a major fall of Blackbirds and other thrushes. This confirms our findings in 1961 (see *Bull.* 4: 215-217) that the movements of irruptives are indistinguishable from those of regular migrants in the years when they occur; that they respond to the same stimuli to commence migration; that they are probably making an oriented movement and are deflected to Fair Isle by crosswinds like the rest.

13. Passage in August 1962

PETER DAVIS

Two notable movements occurred in August 1962, one involving waders and gulls of European origin, the other Icelandic birds. The first of these was unusual in that it produced record numbers of Knots and Ruffs, and because of the early date for a movement on this scale. A warm front swept across the northern North Sea on the afternoon of the 3rd August, and during the following night, bringing S.E. winds which reached force 9 or 10 in the early hours of the 4th. The first effect was the arrival of 200 Common Gulls, virtually all adults, on the 3rd, but there were no significant increases of waders, apart from eight Curlews, on this day. Next morning the increases were spectacular; Common Gulls had doubled in numbers but Knots had increased a hundred-fold, from two to 200; more than twice as many as we have ever previously recorded, and nearly all adults in red plumage. A total of at least thirty-two Ruffs was narrowly a record, but the biggest scores in earlier years had been in late August or early September. Other arrivals included a good many Oystercatchers (one flock of 120), eight Ringed Plovers, thirteen Golden Plovers, twenty-five Turnstones, nine Whimbrels, over 120 Redshanks, two Greenshanks, five Dunlins, fifteen Sanderlings; and a few Comic Terns appeared offshore. The Common Gulls and Ruffs, and some of the less numerous waders, must have derived from Europe; perhaps the Knots and other species were also from the Old World, though this is not necessarily indicated by the easterly weather, for we have seen Knots and other species migrating S.E. past Fair Isle into the teeth of a S.E. gale in other years.

The second movement under discussion also included Knots and Turnstones, but was otherwise of impeccably Icelandic origin, not only from the group of species involved but also because one bird was wearing a Reykjavik ring. The movement occurred, like so many in earlier years, in the narrow zone of fair weather between two depressions. The first had cleared Fair Isle by midday on the 25th August, a fresh S.W. wind veered west and moderated, and the skies cleared. Wheatears increased a little in the afternoon; next morning they were numerous, and forty, nearly all of the intermediate-sized "*schioleeri*" type, were trapped during the day. About thirty-five White Wagtails were present, and one had been ringed as a chick in N. Iceland in July. A few parties of Meadow Pipits passed, mostly flying south over the isle in the afternoon. At least thirty-two Knots were seen, also flying south, in the mid-morning. Ringed Plovers, Turnstones, and Purple Sandpipers all increased slightly, and there was a handsome Black-tailed Godwit, still in summer dress.

14. Redwing Movements in September-October 1962

PETER DAVIS

The Redwing was the dominant species for most of the late autumn of 1962 at Fair Isle, and the biggest fall so far recorded by the observatory occurred this year. The first birds were seen on 18th September, and the first arrival of any size was of 150 on the 27th, followed by an increase to 400 on the 29th. These two arrivals were in strong S.E. wind with overcast, and were part of a drifted movement of many continental species. Redstarts and Goldcrests (both c. 25), ten to twenty Song Thrushes, Garden Warblers, and Chaffinches, the first arrival of Parrot Crossbills, and a good selection of other small birds were seen on 27th, and 200 Common Gulls and 150 Song Thrushes were co-dominant on the 29th, with the chats and warblers in similar numbers to the 27th.

A massive arrival of at least ten thousand Redwings on 4th October was evidently of quite different character; not part of a diverse drifted passage, but an upwind movement in moderate south-westerlies, with only Fieldfares and Chaffinches (both c. 50) in company. These Redwings were an impressive sight. The flocks were still moving in from the north-east at mid-morning; on many of the grassy parts of the isle the birds were like a moving carpet; the census figure was almost certainly an underestimate. Unfortunately the big flocks were outside the trap-area, and Continental Redwings are peculiarly adept at avoiding traps; only a pitiful eighteen were caught. Although four-fifths of them were gone next day, we did a little better, mainly as the result of the bird's inclination to be less flighty at first light, and trapped twenty-five. By the 6th most of the remainder had moved on.

The next fall, on 10th October, was a much smaller affair involving only three to four hundred new birds, and like the late September arrivals was part of a drifted movement in east winds, also bringing Fieldfares and Song Thrushes (about fifty of each), 45 Siskins, and a sprinkling of late chats and warblers.

The 15th October saw another up-wind migration, in moderate S.S.W. wind. Fieldfares (700) were dominant and the 250 Redwings were a mixture of continental and Icelandic birds; it is not clear if these arrived in company or as two independent groups, for all were present by dawn. No other species were involved.

The two remaining falls of Redwings in October, on 20th and 23rd, each involved about 200 birds of the Icelandic race. Both came in the westerly airstream and brighter conditions behind a belt of frontal rain; on the 20th the birds were in by

early morning, but on 23rd they appeared after the clearance in the early afternoon. The only other species moving were grey geese; ten on 20th and about seventy (probably Grey Lags) on 23rd.

In earlier years a feature of Iceland Redwing falls has been the tendency of these birds—in marked contrast to their continental cousins—to follow the dykes and so be caught in the traps which straddle them, whilst the gully traps took few or none. In the F.I.B.O. Annual Report for 1956, and in more detail in a recent issue of *Bird Migration* (2: 178) Kenneth Williamson discussed this habit, and suggested that the birds might be using the long straight dyke at Vatstrass as a leading-line to assist them in re-orientation after a long oversea drift. It was interesting therefore to find that this year the birds were behaving differently; the twenty-two birds caught on the 20th were nearly all in Vaadal and the Gully, and none were in the dyke-traps, nor were any birds seen to follow the dykes. Over the whole autumn, 34 Iceland Redwings were taken in the traps over or alongside dykes, and 58 in the other traps; and most of those taken in the dyke-traps were not freshly-arrived but off-passage birds.

Despite this comparative rejection of the dykes this year, we still caught a far higher proportion of the Icelandic arrivals than of the continental ones, and this was evidently due to a Blackbird-like preference for remaining near cover, and flying low, in the Iceland birds, whereas the continentals seek open country, and rise steeply when disturbed. Perhaps these differences are due to the different habitat in the breeding-grounds; the Icelandic birds being adapted to existence in the comparatively low scrub and poor cover of their homeland, where predators and frequent gales would make it necessary to keep low.

15. A Memorable November Passage

PETER DAVIS

The first half of November in 1962 was in some ways comparable to the resounding early-October spell in the previous year (see *Bull.* 4: 211-215), with fresh or strong S.E. winds for ten days from the 1st, a plethora of continental birds and fresh arrivals almost every day. Both periods were unrivalled in the annals of the observatory, and both yielded over 600 birds in the traps. There the comparison ends, for the dominant species were of course quite different, due to the later date.

The movements really began on the 2nd November, with 120 Fieldfares, 70 Redwings, and 30 Blackbirds; 18 Rooks (an

exceptional score at Fair Isle), 17 Chaffinches, 4 Bramblings, odd Goldcrest and Reed Bunting. There were probably also more Starlings, and these produced the bulk of the 20 captures. Most of these species increased a little next day (Chaffinches and Bramblings doubled in numbers), and some sixty Common Gulls arrived in the afternoon. New records included a Sparrowhawk, a Water Rail, a few Woodcocks (5 shot), a Dunlin, three Robins, a Chiffchaff, a Siskin, and at least five Mealy Redpolls. Twenty-three birds were ringed. Blackbirds increased to 75 on the 4th, but otherwise there were no marked changes, and on the 5th most species decreased slightly. The catch on the 4th was fifty-six birds, mostly Starlings; but on the 5th it slumped to eleven.

The 6th November was the first "big day." Fieldfares increased greatly, to over 800; there were 300 Blackbirds, 200 Redwings, considerably more Starlings (600), 48 Lapwings, 160 Common Gulls, over 100 Skylarks; and 40 Woodcocks were shot. A few additional Robins and Chaffinches also appeared, at least five Song Thrushes, a late Ring Ouzel, a Greenfinch, more Redpolls (at least eleven), and Fair Isle's fifth Blue Tit was caught. Sixty-one birds were ringed on this day, and another caught, a Blackbird which had been ringed as a nestling in Finland in the spring.

The 7th was a far busier day; Blackbirds (over 700), Lapwings (120), Woodcocks (about 120 shot), Skylarks (300) more than doubled their scores, and Common Gulls reached the phenomenal total (for so late in the year) of about 700. Fieldfares, Redwings, and the finches had decreased and Starlings were unchanged. The new selection was a nice male Red-spotted Bluethroat (one of our latest records), a Long-eared Owl, about a dozen Robins, a Bullfinch, and two or three Lapland Buntings. Ninety-six new birds were trapped, and again there was a Blackbird with someone else's ring, one that had been caught as a migrant at Spurn in the big Blackbird rush exactly a year earlier.

The 7th was the climax but by no means the end of the passage. On the 8th there were no very striking changes apart from a slump in Common Gulls, but Lapwings now totalled 160 and the Redpolls increased to fourteen (ten definitely Mealy). New records were of two Black-headed Gulls, two Long-eared Owls, another Ring Ouzel, a Stonechat (major rarity in November), a Great Grey Shrike, a Waxwing, two Greenfinches, three Yellowhammers. About forty Woodcocks fell to the islanders. eighty-eight birds were ringed.

After this the picture is of a gradual decrease, less abrupt than is usual at this time of year, but still there were new birds each day. Woodcocks may have increased again on the 9th—at any rate, 57 were shot; other newcomers, or new discoveries, were several Teal, two Mistle Thrushes, a Black-

cap, another Chiffchaff, at least a dozen Goldcrests, a Linnet, more Bramblings (22 seen). Fifty-eight birds in the traps. On the 10th some 500 Snow Buntings came in, a further 50 Woodcocks died, and records included two Great Northern Divers, five Wigeon, three Water Rails, evidently a few new Robins, at least two Continental Wrens, a Hedge Sparrow, and a different Chiffchaff. The traps could still take fifty new birds.

The 11th being Sunday, there was no "survey" of Woodcocks; the most notable changes were in waterfowl—a dozen Mallard, some thirty Wigeon, two Scaups, two Long-tailed Ducks, and a Velvet Scoter were logged. A small arrival of Meadow Pipits (about 15) was surprising at this late date. Forty-three birds were taken. On the 12th, when Fieldfares and Blackbirds decreased most markedly but the gunners could still find 35 Woodcocks, the Meadow Pipits numbered over twenty, and there was a passage of geese—11 Grey Lags, a Pinkfoot, and an adult Barnacle (which was shot, and found to have been ringed in Spitsbergen in July)—and an increase in Turnstones, to about seventy. Four Water Rails were seen, a new Great Grey Shrike, and there was a remarkable score of owls, at least ten, of which five were Long-eareds and two Short-eareds. Boosted by a catch of Starlings, the ringing total was still as high as forty-one.

This was the end of the south-east wind and also of the passage. Most birds had left by the 13th, when only sixteen birds were ringed, and only ten Woodcocks shot (bringing the ten-day tally of the gunners to over 360!); and the birds did well to depart, for the 14th saw a big drop in temperature and the start of a week of snow.

16. Recoveries 1962

Seventy-five recoveries of ringed birds came in during the year, and full details of these are given in the following list. The international code of symbols for method of recovery is employed: 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 released, or released without ring; /?/—method 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 (ringed at Fair Isle unless otherwise stated) are given on the first line, and recovery details on the second.

FULMAR.

AT 64591 pull. 7.8.59.

() 26.11.61. At sea, N.E. of Newfoundland, 51°40'N. 51°00'W.

AT 64602 pull. 7.8.59.

() 22.8.62. Viderejde, Viderbö, Faeroes, 62°23'N. 6°31'W.

AT 90749 pull. 6.8.62.

/?/ 15.12.62. Ribadeo (Lugo) Spain, 43°32'N. 7°04'W.

SHAG.

1008059 pull. 12.6.59.

xA 23.12.61. Uyeasound, Unst (Shetland). 75 m. NNE.

1009588 pull. 16.6.60.

x 24.3.62. Eyemouth (Berwicks). 250 m. S.

1013064 pull. 21.6.60.

x 7.3.62. Shapinsay (Orkney). 55 m. SW.

1013124 pull. 25.6.60.

x (2.6.62). Evie, Pomona (Orkney). 60 m. SW.

1013458 pull. 23.6.61.

x 26.2.62. Firths Voe, Delting (Shetland). 60 m. N.

1022013 pull. 28.6.61.

x (10.7.62). Avelshay, Rousay (Orkney). 60 m. WSW.

1022058 pull. 29.6.61.

x 19.4.62. Near Newtonhill (Kincardineshire). 170 m. S.

1022065 pull. 29.6.61.

xA (21.2.62). Brewick, nr. Lerwick (Shetland). 50 m. NNE.

1022103 pull. 30.6.61.

x 20.4.61. Whalefirth Voe, Yell (Shetland). 80 m. N.

1022119 pull. 30.6.61.

xA 8.6.62. Burrafirth, Unst (Shetland). 100 m. NNE.

1022134 pull. 1.7.61.

x (12.3.62). Near Start Point, Sanday (Orkney). 33 m. WSW.

1022237 pull. 2.7.61.

xA (29.8.62). Scalloway (Shetland). 45 m. NNE.

1022374 pull. 13.7.61.

xA 14.3.62. Burrafirth, Unst (Shetland). 100 m. NNE.

1022377 pull. 13.7.61.

x 24.8.62. Achiltibuie, Loch Broom (Ross). 170 m. SW.

1022408 pull. 17.7.61.

x (21.3.62). Southend, Eday (Orkney). 50 m. WSW.

1022459 pull. 18.7.61.

xA 7.8.62. Auskerry (Orkney). 50 m. SW.

1022481 pull. 2.8.61.

v ca. 1.4.62. High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire). 540 m. S.

Released 8.5.62 on R. Thames at Cookham (Berkshire).

1022482 pull. 2.8.61.

x 3.9.62. Lambsholm, Scapa Flow (Orkney). 70 m. SW.

1026686 pull. 6.7.62.

v 21.9.62. Burra Isle (Shetland). 40 m. NNE.

1026972 pull. 24.7.62.

x (11.9.62). West Nesting Bay, Mainland (Shetland). 60 m. NNE.

1026999 pull. 25.7.62.

() 2.10.62. Wick (Caithness). 90 m. SW.

1028832 pull. 25.7.62.

() 9.11.62. Wick.

MERLIN.

2020931. 1st W. ♂ 2.10.61.

x (11.3.62). 7 miles from Edinburgh (Midlothian). ca. 250 m. SSW.

KESTREL.

2044371 st W. ♀ 6.10.62.

() 23.11.62. Elmlohe, nr. Bremerhaven (Niedersachsen), Germany. 53°35'N. 8°45'E.

WATER RAIL.

2020928 1st W. 7.9.61.

x 15.1.62. Ballytrober, Larne (Antrim), Ireland. 350 m. SSW.

Our first recovery of a Water Rail further away than Orkney.

OYSTERCATCHER.

AT 67617 pull. 26.6.61.

xA 27.5.62. Powfoot, near Annan (Dumfries). 315 m. SSW.

AT 77290 pull. 26.7.61.

v 22.1.62. Near Rhosneigr (Anglesey). 445 m. SSW.

LAPWING.

2036356 pull. 9.7.61. Westing, Unst, by M. Sinclair.

x 6.1.62. Porrino (Vigo), Spain. 42°10'N. 8°37'W.

Our first recovery of a Lapwing.

DUNLIN.

624887 f.g. 23.5.61.

x ca. 10.5.62. Arriondas (Oviedo), Spain. 43°23'N. 5°11'W.

ARCTIC SKUA.

3075546 pull. 8.7.59.

x 14.8.62. Bressay (Shetland). 45 m. NE.

2044356 pull. 21.7.62.

† 26.8.62. Gabol (Jutland), Denmark. 55°15'N. 9°09'E.

This bird fledged about 31.7.62.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.

AT 64653 3rd W. 8.11.59.

x 1.2.62. Peterhead (Aberdeenshire). 140 m. S.

HERRING GULL.

AN 7319 pull. 9.7.59.

x 20/25.6.62. Cadzand (Zeeland), Holland. 51°23'N. 3°23'E.

AJ 37274 1st W. 13.12.61.

xA 22.4.62. Rómö (Jutland), Denmark. 55°10'N. 8°33'E.

AJ 37279 Ad. 13.12.61.

† 8.6.62. 7 km. from Honningsvåg (Finnmark), Norway.
70°58'N. 25°59'E.

The last two birds were caught at the same roost, together with the Russian-ringed bird from Murmansk, referred to in para. 17. The Norwegian bird was presumably in its breeding-area, near the North Cape.

RAZORBILL.

AT 90139 pull. 4.7.62.

† 20.10.62. Oslofjord, E. of Faerder Fyr, Norway, ca. 59°32'N.
10°32'E.

AT 90140 pull. 4.7.62.

† 29.10.62. Rövaer, off Haugesund (Rogaland), Norway,
59°27'N. 5°03'E.

AT 90535 pull. 14.7.62.

† 20.11.62. Rövaer.

GUILLEMOT.

AT 90198 pull. 7.7.62.

† 27.10.62. Near Kristiansund (More og Romsdal), Norway.
63°07'N. 7°45'E.

SONG THRUSH.

x 30958 f.g. 5.10.55.

† 11.3.62. Macas de Dona Maria (Beira Litoral), Portugal.
39°52'N. 8°20'W.

R 78920 f.g. 1.3.60.

x 16.4.62. Inverness. 165m. SW.

REDWING.

V 76753. 1st W. 14.10.58.

† 11.2.62. Olivera de Lobos (Beira Litoral), Portugal.
39°42'N. 8°36'W.

BLACKBIRD.

V 76081 1st W. ♀ 31.3.58.

x 29.12.61. Bromölla, nr. Sölvesborg (Kristianstad), Sweden.
56°05'N. 14°30'E.

R 20460 1st W. ♂ 7.11.58.

xA (28.4.62). Dunmore, nr. Cookstown (Tyrone), Ireland.
380 m. SW.

R 78598 Ad. ♂ 24.10.59.

x (17.4.62). Morefield, nr. Ullapool (Ross). 165 m. SW.

725309 1st W. ♂ 24.10.60.

x 7.4.62. Molde (More og Romsdal), Norway. 62°44'N. 7°08'E.

725681 1st W. ♀ 30.10.60.

† 6.11.62. Frøyland, Sogndal (Rogaland), Norway. 58°21'N.
6°18'E.

- 725333 Ad. ♀ 4.11.60.
 v ca. 2.1.62. Moyasta, near Kilkee (Clare), Ireland. 560 m.
 SW.
- 725946 Ad. ♀ 19.4.61.
 † 11.3.62. Nr. St. Savin de Blaye (Gironde), France. 45°50'N.
 0°26'W.
- CK 00709 Ad. ♀ 5.11.61.
 x 19.4.62. Holmsland Klit, nr. Hvide Sand (Jutland), Den-
 mark, 56°00'N. 8°08'E.
- CK 00925 1st W. ♂ 10.11.61.
 x (22.2.62). Dingwall (Ross). 165 m. SW.
- CK 00951 1st W. ♂ 12.11.61.
 x 0.1.62. Rhiconich, Loch Inchard (Sutherland). 140 m. SW.
- CK 11517 Ad. ♂ 16.11.61.
 † 5.11.62. Vik, nr. Alfoten (Sogn og Fjordane), Norway.
 61°50'N. 5°40'E.
- CK 11627 1st W. ♂ 3.2.62.
 x 13.5.62. Nr. Voldby, Randers (Jutland), Denmark. 56°28'N.
 10°53'E.
- CK 18606 Ad. ♂ 30.3.62.
 x 21.4.62. Lesjöfors (Varmland), Sweden. 59°57'N. 14°12'E.
- CK 18657 1st S. ♂ 30.3.62.
 v 6.4.62. Skagen (Jutland), Denmark. 57°43'N. 10°35'E.
- CK 18727 1st S. ♂ 31.3.62.
 x 21.4.62. Hacksta, nr. Enköping (Uppland), Sweden. 59°32'N.
 17°22'E.
- CK 18732 1st S. ♂ 31.3.62.
 xA 10.11.62. Kristinehamn (Varmland), Sweden. 59°17'N.
 14°09'E.
- CK 21059 1st S. ♂ 16.4.62.
 † 22.10.62. Nr. Heggemsvannet, Øre (More og Romsdal),
 Norway. 62°54'N. 7°58'E.

The return from S.W. France (725946) was only our second report of a Blackbird in France, and much the most southerly record of any ringed at Fair Isle. It was reported to have been shot from a flock migrating north.

WHEATEAR.

- 600527 juv. 13.7.59.
 /?/ 15.10.62. El Viso (Cordoba), Spain. 38°29'N. 4°57'W.
- 618774 1st S. ♀ 13.5.61.
 x 5.4.62. Puerto Soller, Majorca, Balearic Islands, Spain.
 39°48'N. 2°41'E.
- 618784 1st S. ♀ 21.5.61.
 † 23.9.61. Puerto de Santa Maria (Cadiz), Spain. 36°36'N.
 6°14'W.

BA 10435 1st W. 14.8.62.

† (10.9.62). Nr. Bordeaux (Gironde), France. 44°50'N. 0°35'W.

BA 10600 1st W. 26.8.62.

x 2nd half 9.62. St. Etienne du Rouvray, nr. Rouen (Seine Maritime), France. 49°22'N. 1°07'E.

BA 10668 1st W. 27.8.62.

x 30.8.62. Knardijk, Oost-Flevoland Polder, IJsselmeer, Holland. 52°25'N. 5°29'N.

Of these birds, 618784 was of Iceland/Greenland origin; BA 10600 and BA 10668 were almost certainly from Iceland; and the remainder were probably of local stock. Note that BA 10668 was recovered only three days after ringing.

ROBIN.

H 76458 Ad. 29.4.62.

x ca. 23.10.62. Dompierre-sur-Mer (Charente Maritime), France. 46°12'N. 1°04'W.

HEDGE SPARROW.

H 76454 Ad. 27.4.62.

x 3.5.62. March (Cambridgeshire). 480 m. SSE.

Like our only previous Hedge Sparrow recovery, this bird had moved a considerable distance south within a few days of being ringed at Fair Isle in spring.

MEADOW PIPIT.

H 37342 juv. 17.6.61.

† 24.1.62. Ecija (Seville), Spain. 37°33'N. 5°04'W.

H 47248 f.g. 28.8.61.

() (25.1.62). Near Rabat, Morocco. 34°02'N. 6°51'W.

H 87861 1st W. 29.8.62.

v ca. 20.11.62. Ballingry, Lochgelly (Fife). 240 m. SSW.

STARLING.

R 78107 juv. 28.6.59.

† 2.12.62. Delny, nr. Invergordon (Ross). 150 m. SW.

CK 21596 f.g. 28.10.62.

x 21.11.62. Hamnavoe, Burra Isle (Shetland). 40 m. NNE.

17. Ringed Strangers at Fair Isle, 1962

Four birds ringed elsewhere were recovered on the island during the year; and details of another, caught in 1961, were received during the spring.

BARNACLE GOOSE.

Stavanger 310445 Ad. 24.7.62. Dunoyane, Hornsund, West-Spitsbergen. 77°00'N. 14°30'E.

† 12.11.62. Fair Isle.

This bird was one of a large number of flightless adults caught on the breeding-grounds.

HERRING GULL.

Moscow D. 492577 pull. 0.6.60. Murmansk coast. 68°49'N. 37°20'E.
v 13.12.61. Fair Isle.

This bird is from the breeding-area of the race *L.a. omisus*.

BLACKBIRD.

London 82081 X Ad. ♂ 5.11.61. Spurn Point (Yorkshire).
v. 7.11.62. Fair Isle. 410 m. N.

Helsinki A 151619 pull. 28.5.62. Hattula, Ihaniemi, Finland.
61°03'N. 24°19'E.
v. 6.11.62. Fair Isle (as 1st W. ♀). Retrapped to 12.11.62.

WHITE WAGTAIL.

Reykjavik 911107 pull. 18.7.62. Skipalon, Horgardalur, Iceland. 65°47'N. 18°12'W.
v 26.8.62. Fair Isle (as 1st W. ♂).

18. Some Interesting Recaptures in 1962

Among the many recaptures of birds ringed on the island in earlier years there were a number of special interest, particularly in the sea-birds. A series of recaptures of young SHAGS was most gratifying; three ringed as nestlings in 1959 were caught on their nests, presumably as first-time breeders, at the age of three years. Two of these had been marked at the Swadin colony on Bunes, and were both nesting only about three hundred yards away in Mavers Geo; the third was reared at Wester Lother and was now breeding there. Four other Shags ringed as young were also found; two from 1960 were found dead on the beaches during the summer, another was caught in its natal colony at Lericum, still in the brown dress of immaturity. One ringed in 1961 was also visiting its birthplace, at South Mila Hesslands.

An OYSTERCATCHER marked at Sukka Mire as a chick in June 1952 was found recently-dead on the Brae of Restensgeo in early May 1962, when almost ten years old.

A REDSHANK caught in Vaadal on 15th April 1958 was re-trapped on Bunes on the night of 30th September 1962. At its original capture it was thought to be probably of the Icelandic form (wing 168); this time its wing was only 159, but the longest primary was still in sheath at the base and probably not fully grown. It seems likely that this individual has been wintering regularly on the isle.

A BONXIE caught as a first-time breeder on a nest at a new site at the south end of the Brae of Restensgeo had been ringed only about 300 yards away as a chick in 1958; and gave us our second instance of breeding at four years old in this species. A 1959 chick, presumably immature, was found dead (some time) during August; within half a mile of its birthplace.

A considerable number of RAZORBILLS and several GUILLEMOTS ringed as adults at the nest since 1960 were caught again in the same sites. One Razorbill ringed as a chick at Wester Lothar in 1959 was found injured among the rocks there in July 1962; unfortunately there was no proof that it was breeding.

PUFFIN recaptures were all of birds ringed as adults at the nest since 1957 (all were still in the same place); except for one adult ringed at Wirvie (presumably in a burrow) in July 1954, and caught there in a fleegy in April 1962.

The recaptures of passerines included nothing very unusual; none of the WHEATEARS or MEADOW PIPITS had been ringed for more than three years; though one ROCK PIPIT marked as a juvenile in June 1957 was caught in May 1962. Birds of all three species included several bred on the island in earlier years. There were no TWITES ringed more than two years. The oldest STARLING had been marked as adult over seven years earlier, and another as a juvenile six years before.

P. D.

19. A New Bird for Norway—*via* Fair Isle

A letter from Dr Holger Holgersen of Stavanger Museum read as follows: "I see from the last issue of *British Birds* that one of your Redwings, No. CK 00170, has been recovered in Norway at Sogndal. Ringing date 12th October 1961, and recovery on 2nd November, i.e. after only 21 days and in an extraordinary direction. I wonder if you made any remarks on this individual in your log-books. Perhaps it is not unlikely that this could be an Icelandic bird and not a Norwegian one. I have so far looked in vain for *coburni* among the numerous Redwings I have seen here and have had in my hand, and the subspecies has never been recorded from this country where it no doubt occurs, particularly in autumn and in westerly winds. If you have identified this one as *coburni* it will be the first record for Norway, and I should very much like to hear from you on this."

As mentioned in the *Bulletin*, Vol. 4, p. 232, this bird was in fact an Icelander, and we were delighted to be able to pass the details to Dr Holgersen.

P. D.

20. Bird Notes from Shetland

C. J. BOOTH

Autumn 1962

- GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. Maximum 16 on 20th October at Bay of Quendale.
- SLAVONIAN GREBE. One Weisdale Voe on 14th October.
- LITTLE GREBE. One, Loch of Asta, 16th December.
- FULMAR. A dark phase bird at Stromfirth on 22nd September.
- HERON. First migrants noted, were 2 on 22nd July.
- TUFTED DUCK. Three males and 3 females, Loch of Tingwall, 3rd July. Female with one almost fully grown young on Huma Water, West Mainland, on 27th August.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK. First flock recorded was 20 birds on 24th October at Quendale.
- VELVET SCOTER. Maximum 8, Dales Voe on 14th October.
- COMMON SCOTER. Three Mid Yell Voe on 22nd September.
- RED-BREADED MERGANSER. Maximum 62 on 14th October at Sullom Voe.
- GREYLAG GOOSE. Two on 12th October were the first migrants noted.
- WHOOPER SWAN. First birds seen on 10th October. At Loch Spiggie there were 94 (18 1st W.) on 20th October, 150 (31 1st W.) on 28th October, 145 (16 1st W.) on 4th November.
- BUZZARD. One near Scalloway on 9th July.
- KESTREL. 1 Sumburgh 12th August, 1 at Sandness 2nd October, 1 on 7th October and 4th November at Sandwick, 1 near Lerwick on 10th December.
- COOT. Single birds on Loch of Hillwell 3rd July and 25th August, two on 20th October. Two on Loch of Tingwall 16th December.
- OYSTERCATCHER. A flock of 70 on Sumburgh Airfield 22nd July had increased to 150 on 8th August.
- GREY PLOVER. 1 at Virkie on 7th October.
- JACK SNIBE. A number seen during October; maximum 4 at Whiteness on 17th October.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT. First birds recorded on 17th August at Virkie. Maximum 19 on 31st August.
- GREEN SANDPIPER. One at Levenwick 8th August.
- REDSHANK. Main passage during August. Flock of 12 at Tingwall on 16th December.
- KNOT. Maximum 25 at Virkie on 5th August.
- RUFF. Maximum at Virkie, 4 on 1st September. Two at Uyeasound on 3rd September, 1 at Haroldswick 5th September.
- GREAT SKUA. Last bird seen on 13th October.
- COMMON GULL. Majority of young birds had left the area of

- breeding colonies by the end of July.
- ICELAND GULL. A 3rd summer bird on Compass Hill, Dunrossness, on 22nd and 24th July.
- WOOD PIGEON. Maximum at Kergord, 32 on 14th October.
- LONG-EARED OWL. One at Kergord on 25th July.
- SWIFT. Single birds on 24th July, 5th August and 22nd August.
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER. 1 at Quendale on 25th August. 1 present at Baltasound from 3rd September to 24th September. 1 at Walls on 15th October. Birds were also reported from Lerwick and Burra Isle during October and November.
- SKYLARK. A late flock noted at Whiteness, on 5th November.
- SWALLOW. Two at Cunningsburgh 3rd July. At Lerwick—1 on 27th and 30th August, 2 on 29th August.
- HOUSE MARTIN. Three at Sumburgh 22nd July, 3 at Quendale on 25th August.
- ROOK. Maximum at Kergord, 200 on 14th October.
- JACKDAW. Twenty on 14th October was the largest number recorded.
- FIELDFARE. First flocks seen on 4th October. Noticeable increase recorded on 13th and 20th October, 3rd and 10th November.
- SONG THRUSH. Influx on 15th October and one noted on 15th November.
- REDWING. First heard calling at night on 29th September. Small flocks on 1st October. Big increase on 4th October with large numbers present until 14th October.
- BLACKBIRD. Numbers noted on 3rd, 4th and 10th November.
- WHEATEAR. Big influx on 7th October; last recorded 17th October.
- WHINCHAT. One 7th October.
- REDSTART. Single birds on 2nd, 7th and 15th October.
- ROBIN. Birds noted on 2nd, 6th and 7th October, 5th, 16th and 17th November.
- GARDEN WARBLER. One 7th October.
- WHITETHROAT. One 7th October.
- WILLOW WARBLER/CHIFFCHAFF. Two at Baltasound on 8th and 15th September.
- GOLDCREST. Three on 14th October at Kergord.
- PIED FLYCATCHER. Single birds 18th and 24th September in Unst, 1st, 6th and 7th October, Mainland.
- PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL. Three, 13th August, Mainland, 2 on 3rd and 15th September, Unst.
- SISKIN. First flocks noted on 13th October.
- CROSSBILL. Three on Noss, 8th July, 6 at Whiteness and 2 at Kergord on 20th July. 1 near Lerwick on 22nd July. c.10 at Voe on 8th October, 1 Walls on 10th October, 10 at Whiteness on 12th October, 14 at Quendale on 13th October, 1 at Whiteness 15th, 17th and 18th October, 19th October—4 at Bressay. 1 on 20th, 2 on 21st October at Whiteness. Probably

the majority of the October records refer to the Parrot Crossbill.

PARROT CROSSBILL. Four at Quendale on 7th October. One in same area on 13th October.

CHAFFINCH. Single birds in Unst on 8th and 21st September. Migrant flocks noted on 7th, 8th and 14th October, Mainland. Flocks of 80 feeding in the Whiteness area during December.

BRAMBLING. Two at Kergord on 14th October. Twenty feeding with Chaffinches at Whiteness during December.

REED BUNTING. Two at Quendale on 13th October.

SNOW BUNTING. Flocks of at least 100 birds noted on 20th October, Boddam, 2nd December, Weisdale and 16th December, Whiteness.

TREE SPARROW. Maximum recorded at Kergord, 18 on 14th October.

21. Bird Notes from Haroldswick, Unst, Autumn 1962

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. One inshore on August 20th.

RED-THROATED DIVER. Two on September 10th and one on 12th were the last seen.

HERON. One flying over Watlee Loch in mid-July (J.F.M.). Singles seen at Haroldswick from August 17th onwards.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. First arrival October 13th.

GEESE. Four on October 4th.

WHOOPEE SWAN. Five at Baltasound on October 8th (J.F.M.). Four at Haroldswick from 15th.

KESTREL. Two on July 27th. In August one on the 10th, two on 13th and one on 19th. Singles on September 8th and October 2nd. One PEREGRINE on October 25th.

CORNCRAKE. At least one pair bred successfully. Eight young seen, four of which were ringed on July 26th.

GOLDEN PLOVER. F/300 on August 18th.

TURNSTONE. Four arrived on August 10th and an increase on 14th.

SNIPE. F/20 on October 13th.

WHIMBREL. Moving south on August 8th.

GREEN SANDPIPER. One at Hermaness on August 17th (P.V.U.).

COMMON SANDPIPER. One pair with three chicks seen at Watlee Loch in first week July (J.F.M.). I went there on July 8th and found two pairs breeding. Caught and ringed one chick of each brood.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. Five arrived on August 20th.

RUFF. One on August 16th and two next day.

GREAT SKUA. Last dates were one September 30th, four October 11th and one on 15th.

TERN. All breeding birds had left by fourth week of August. One migrant on October 1st.

- TURTLE DOVE. One on October 29th.
- OWL. One on August 17th.
- SWIFT. One at Hermaness on August 18th (P.V.U.). One at Saxa Vord on 26th (A.J.T.N.).
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER. One at Baltasound, seen by several people during first half of September.
- FIELDFARE. One seen on October 6th with more on 8th. Twenty on November 4th; F/100 on the 7th with small flocks scattered over the hills till mid-month.
- SONG THRUSH. Two seen at Baltasound on September 30th (J.F.M.).
- REDWING. Singles seen on September 20th and 30th. Two on October 2nd and ten next day. A lot heard passing over between 2 and 4 a.m. on 4th and F/40 during the day. This increased to 100 on 8th and then decreased towards mid-month. Heard passing again at dusk on 20th, and an increase on 21st included a number of juvenile birds. Up to F/50 seen from November 9th onwards.
- BLACKBIRD. Small influx on August 25th, and a larger one on October 21st. Another increase on November 3rd and thereafter scattered over the hills.
- WHEATEAR. An albino around Haroldswick from mid-July to mid-August. (A completely white Wheatear was at Fair Isle from 19th August—P.D.). An increase on August 25th. One seen catching large moths at 2 a.m. B.S.T. by the light from a lamp post on August 29th. Increase again on October 2nd but most passed on and last seen were two on 7th.
- STONECHAT. One on September 4th.
- REDSTART. Singles on September 29th and October 2nd, One on 3rd (V.O.). One at Baltasound on the 5th (A.J.T.N.). Last seen one on 7th.
- ROBIN. Singles on October 3rd and 4th; November 6th to 10th.
- WARBLERS. One on August 27th. One at Saxa Vord on September 6th (A.M.T.). Two CHIFFCHAFFS on October 14th and singly till the 19th.
- GOLDCREST. One September 28th (A.J.T.N.). Also on October 21st and November 1st.
- PIED FLYCATCHER. One on August 22nd.
- PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL. At least one pair bred successfully again in a stone quarry. Migrants on August 10th and 13th with increase 16th-17th. In September noted on the 10th, 18th and 19th. Last one October 6th.
- YELLOW WAGTAIL. One "*flava*" seen on October 2nd (D.S.).
- REDPOLL. Two feeding on cotton-grass seeds on July 18th. One on November 6th and 13th.
- CROSSBILL. First seen were four on July 4th and fourteen on 10th. Three from 12th-15th, then F/21 on 16th and also reported from Baltasound (J.F.M.). Ten the following day and seven on 18th. Six on 20th, ten on 23rd, twelve on 25th,

with two on 26th and 27th. One on August 1st. One on September 30th was possibly a PARROT CROSSBILL as a flock of twenty-one at Norwick on October 7th were the heavy billed type; about half of this flock were red males, feeding on the stubble. F/10 were still there on October 20th. Ten were seen at Haroldswick on October 10th.

BRAMBLING. A flock at Baltasound on 6th-8th November (J.F.M.).

SNOW BUNTING. Fourteen on September 11th and twenty on 13th, decreased towards the end of month. Seen from October 2nd to 12th largest number being thirty on 7th-8th, and sixty on 11th. Small flock on October 21st and November 9th.

Records gratefully acknowledged from the following—

Mrs V. Owers, Mrs P. V. Upton, Flt./Lt. J. F. Molloy, Messrs
A. J. T. Nicolson, D. Sinclair, A. M. Thomson.

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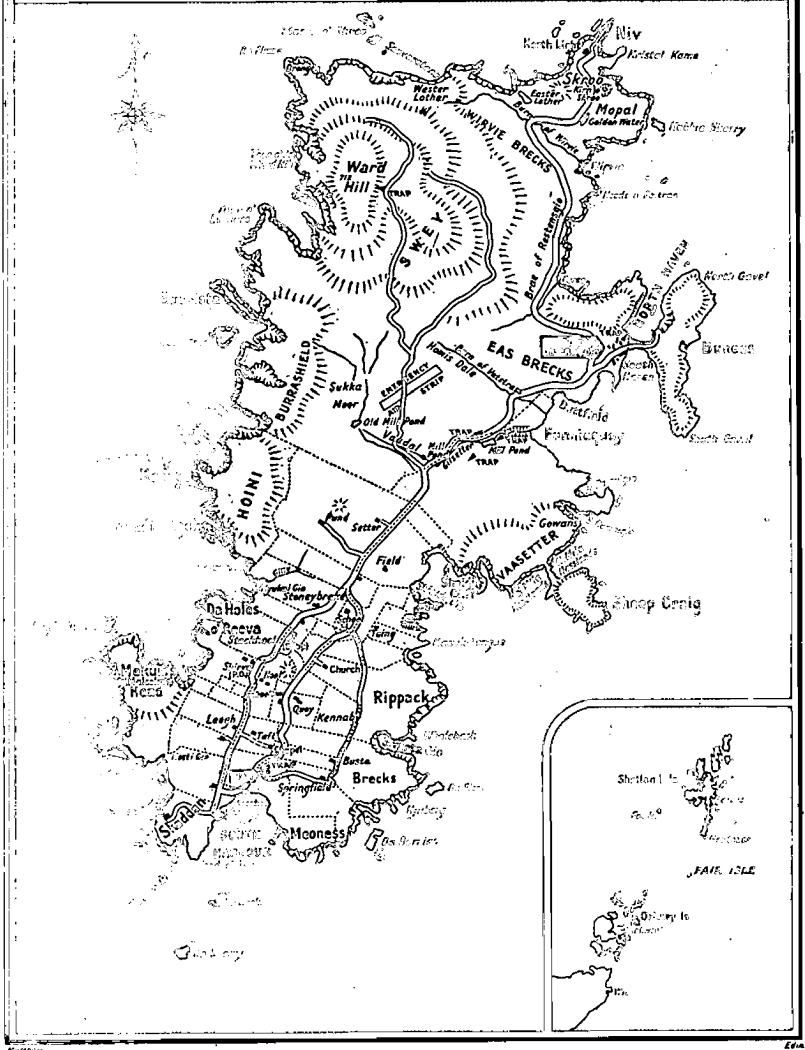
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