

Fair Isle Bird Observatory

BULLETIN



Edited by
ROY H. DENNIS

Vol. 5 No. 5 (New Series)

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Hon. Secretary.

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FAIR ISLE BIRD OBSERVATORY BULLETIN

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Editorial

IN Vol. 5 No. 4 the last section of the Checklist of the Birds of Fair Isle was published. This list was revised up to the end of 1964 by Peter Davis and presented as a whole at the end of Kenneth Williamson's book, *Fair Isle and its Birds*, which was published by Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh in October, 1965.

I must apologise for the delay in publication of Vol. 5 No. 5 which brings up to date work carried out at the Bird Observatory in 1964 and 1965. Comparisons of the autumn migrations in these two years and the analysis of data collected on measurements and numbers of migrants at Fair Isle over the last seventeen years will form the main part of Bulletin Vol. 5 No. 6 which will be published in August 1966. It will also contain details of the spring migration, which has just started.

My wife and I returned to Fair Isle on Tuesday, 15th March, after completing a lecture tour entitled "Fair Isle 1965" (illustrated), for the Scottish Ornithologists' Club.

41. Spring Migration in 1964

ROY H. DENNIS

February was a remarkably fine month on Fair Isle; and the 1963/64 winter was one of the kindest in Shetland in recent years. Oystercatchers, Lapwings, Ringed Plovers and Skylarks returned to Fair Isle in the last few days of February and small numbers of Blackbirds and a few Robins arrived.

The fine weather broke on the 11th March and by the evening of the 12th, a SE gale was blowing. This SE airstream was persistent until 25th March. Small numbers of continental migrants, mainly Redwings, Blackbirds and Song Thrushes, arrived during this period but no large falls occurred. On the 25th there was a big increase of birds during the morning when a small depression passed over the island. Lapwings increased to over 500, Skylarks to over 300, and 120 Fieldfares, 60 Song Thrushes, and 300 Blackbirds were new arrivals. 4 Herons, 4 Woodcocks, 30 Black-headed Gulls, 3 Rooks, 4 Jackdaws, 10 Hedge Sparrows, 2 Bramblings and 3 Chaffinches were also associated with this arrival; and a ♂ Black Redstart had newly arrived.

The light SE wind and clear skies enabled most of these birds to continue their migrations. The next few days were

rather similar with light SE winds which brought in small arrivals of continental birds.

The first Wheatear of the year was found on the 27th March which is early for Fair Isle. Overshooting Pied Wagtails peaked at 4 on the 28th and there were 2 Black Redstarts on this day also, both of them trapped and ringed.

With the advent of northerly and colder weather at the beginning of April, we experienced very little migration until the 9th when several species arrived, including 15 Curlews, 1 Short-eared Owl, 1 Goldcrest, 2 Linnets and a Corn Bunting. That night some Starlings and Wheatears were reported flying in the beams of the Lighthouse. The following day we found that a Grey Wagtail and 3 Wheatears were new. During a period of mainly westerly winds until the 17th April, we saw very few birds, but on the 18th April, after a night of SE winds, we recorded several interesting birds. Small numbers of Common Gulls were flying north over the isle, 35+ Fieldfares, 35+ Redwings and 80 Wheatears were the main arrivals; Bar-tailed Godwit, Black Redstart, Blackcap and Siskin were new. Most species increased overnight and several new ones were seen; Green Sandpiper, 2 Swallows and a Chiffchaff were noteworthy.

On the 20th, the fog produced by the easterly wind cleared at noon and we recorded several new species—Long-eared Owl, Woodlark, Sand Martin, Grasshopper Warbler and Yellow Wagtail. Fieldfares, Ring Ouzels, Wheatears and Bramblings increased and Black Redstart peaked at 4. Fog, drizzle and a SE wind 3-4 on the 21st made watching rather difficult; our impression was of a decrease overnight, but many birds may have been sheltering in the west cliffs. Our only excitement was the netting of two Grasshopper Warblers at Wirvie. The wind had backed during the night but it was still cold and overcast on the 22nd when we found several new species including Teal, Short-eared Owl, Whitethroat, 4 Linnets and 3 Lapland Buntings. The flock of Bramblings increased from 19 to 45.

The 23rd produced our first rarity of the year, a ♂ Sub-alpine Warbler found at the Haa in the evening. Several species increased during the afternoon, the main migrants being a flock of 250 Common Gulls; Chiffchaffs increased to 4 and the 4 Linnets were still present. Most species increased on the 24th; Brambling to 70, White Wagtail to 6, Chiffchaff to 6 and 4 Whinchats were the first of the year. Much the same conditions prevailed on the 25th and the birds were much the same also; a Kestrel was new and we recorded the year's first Willow Warbler.

The wind was SW to W 1-3 with rain showers on the 26th, but we noticed several new species which had probably been

hiding on the isle during the last few days—Great Grey Shrike, Yellow Wagtail, Corncrake, Sparrowhawk and Ortolan Bunting, but 42 Black-headed Gulls were recent arrivals. The rest of the month was similar with no large movements but a few new arrivals each day. Whimbrel and Rook on the 28th, 55 Black-headed and 15 Common Gulls on the 29th and a pair of Greenfinches on the 30th April. The wind was still westerly on the 1st May but there was a definite increase; 1 Hobby, 6 Linnets, more Twites, 2 Carrion Crows, 4 Rooks, 3 Jackdaws, 2 Whoopers and 1 Moorhen.

After a few quiet days we received a small fall of continental migrants on the 4th with the wind SE-S, 1-3. These included 3 Corncrakes, 3 Common Sandpipers, 1 Cuckoo, 3 Whinchats, 2 Redstarts, 1 Robin, many more Wheatears and 4 Hedge Sparrows. With a SW wind during the next few days, we saw no large movements of birds; a Turtle Dove on the 5th, 3 Swallows and a Sand Martin on the 6th, Siskin on the 7th, 3 Purple Sandpipers, 2 Turnstones and a Tree Pipit on the 8th and a Collared Dove on the 9th.

On the 11th May the wind backed to S, 3-4, with poor visibility and some drizzle. Waders arrived, namely 6 Turnstones, 5 Purple Sandpipers and 10 Whimbrels and we also recorded 2 Cuckoos, 3 Turtle Doves, 20 Swallows, 3 Kestrels and 2 Corncrakes. The SE wind on the 12th produced no birds of note, and by the evening it was SSW and nearly gale force. The gale blew all day on the 13th and 2 Merlins and 2 Reed Buntings were the only arrivals. White Wagtails and waders, including a Greenshank, increased on the 14th in the westerly weather and we also saw a Sedge Warbler and a Redpoll. The following day with a continuing SW wind, we found a southern Short-toed Lark at Taing. Most species had decreased overnight but 2 Turtle Doves were new. In the evening, 9 Rooks flew in from the east. There was a morning arrival on the 18th May, when the fog cleared for a short time; the wind was E-SE, 3-4. A Stone Curlew was seen at Taft; a Black-tailed Godwit, another Short-toed Lark and a Spotted Flycatcher were new.

The SE wind continued overnight with heavy rain and fog. On the first drive of the traps we caught 2 Cuckoos and saw a Stonechat; a Collared Dove landed near the pier after breakfast, and from then on there was a continuous arrival of continental birds in the improving weather conditions. We saw the Stone Curlew again and found a ♀ Black-eared Wheatear at Hunds Heilor, which we trapped in the afternoon. Other new arrivals were 13 Wood Pigeons, a Collared Dove, 6 Cuckoos, Redstarts, 2 Black Redstarts, 8 Whitethroats, 4 Lesser Whitethroats, 7 Spotted and 3 Pied Flycatchers, 20 Tree Pipits, a Yellow Wagtail and a Reed Bunting. A Rich-

ard's/Tawny Pipit and several other odd birds were recorded but not identified.

Most of these migrants had left by the 20th, but hirundines had increased to 80 House Martins, 80 Swallows and 2 Sand Martins. Buzzard, Wood Sandpiper and Little Stint were new.

On the 21st, we saw few new species, although the wind had backed to SE; but in the evening, we found all the interesting birds at the north end; a Temminck's Stint and a Little Stint at Easter Lother Water and a Bluethroat in the cliff. A Richard's Pipit was found at Field in the evening. Little change on the 22nd, except 2 Bluethroats and a Velvet Scoter. A similar decrease on the 23rd but a few arrivals on the 24th included a pair of Garganey and a few Turtle Doves.

Easterly wind and poor visibility on the 25th produced 8 Turnstones, a Red-backed Shrike, a Hawfinch, 18 Tree Sparrows; and Turtle Doves and Spotted Flycatchers increased to 7 and 15 respectively. These winds continued and 2 Red-backed Shrikes and a Sanderling on the 26th, 2 Siskins and a Buzzard on the 27th and an Icterine Warbler on the 28th, were new.

A fine day on the 29th, with light easterly winds and clear skies, gave a small, but interesting, arrival of continental species, mainly in the evening; these included small numbers of warblers, flycatchers, Tree Pipits and a fine Serin at the South Reeva. The following day was similar and we refound most of the migrants, plus a few new ones; 2 Red-backed Shrikes and a Yellow Wagtail. Most of these birds had left by the 31st and we saw little on that day, except a large raptor which was seen in the evening. On the following morning we identified it as a Honey Buzzard. A trickle of new migrants had arrived overnight; Turtle and Collared Doves, Lesser Whitethroats and Pied Flycatchers. Similar small movements occurred on the 3rd June when Canada Goose, Hen Harrier and Wood Pigeon were new.

The easterly wind continued for three days and small numbers of warblers and flycatchers arrived daily; also a Bluethroat on the 4th and 20 Swallows, 50 House Martins and a Quail on the 6th. The fog and rain, produced by a west wind, cleared at noon on the 8th and surprisingly we found 75 House Martins, a Grey Wagtail and a Great Reed Warbler, a new species for Fair Isle.

A pale-phase Pomarine Skua flew east past the Head of Tind on the 10th of June. 2 Turtle Doves, a Collared Dove, a Red-backed Shrike and more Quails arrived on the 11th. There were a few new warblers on the 12th, the best being a Melodious Warbler. 2 Marsh Warblers, 2 Song Thrushes and a Spotted Flycatcher arrived on the 15th.

The period from 16th-20th June was very quiet and we recorded no movements during this westerly weather; a Crossbill on the 21st June, a harbinger of the autumn, drew the spring migration to a close.

42. Spring Migration in 1965

ROY H. DENNIS

Oystercatchers, Lapwings, Ringed Plovers and Skylarks had arrived on the isle at the end of February, but little migration had occurred by the time we reached the island on 10th March. On the crossing, we noted some Skylarks flying north, and on the next three days, in southerly weather, there was a steady passage of this species. Little else was associated with this movement, but a Stonechat and 2 Pied Wagails (all males) arrived on the 12th. The weather was mild and SW during the following week and little arrived except small numbers of Fieldfares, Robins, Rooks and the odd Mistle Thrush and Goldcrest.

Colder weather returned on the 19th and 20th, when there were small snowfalls. The island was very quiet during this cold spell which lasted until the 25th; Fieldfares increased to 15 and Blackbirds to 25. Easterly winds on the 26th brought in a Long-eared Owl. The 27th, 28th and 29th March were mild days with a moderate SW wind, but the only migrants were a few Redwings, Blackbirds, Common and Black-headed Gulls. The first Wheatear arrived on the 30th and on the 31st, in a SE airstream, we recorded over 90 Redwings, 4 Wheatears, more Skylarks and a Yellowhammer. So ended our quietest March for many years, with no large movements of Blackbirds or Lapwings and only 91 birds trapped and ringed.

Quiet conditions prevailed in the first week of April; Wheatears gradually increased to 20 on the 6th and 40 on the 7th. A very early Swallow arrived on the 5th. The light SE winds on the 6th gave us our most exciting day so far this spring, with more Skylarks, Common Gulls, Black-headed Gulls, Meadow Pipits and Whooper Swans; other new species were Black Redstart and Lapland Bunting. Southerly weather continued but the only birds moving were Fieldfares which peaked at 250 on the 9th. A Sandwich Tern on the 9th was very early for Fair Isle. Redwings, Song Thrushes and Blackbirds were noticeable by their absence.

On 17th April there was a movement of 500 Common Gulls (biggest of the spring) and 75 Bramblings arrived. Strong northerly winds halted most birds and our next migrant of note was a Greenshank on 21st April, which heralded a small movement on the 22nd, in southerly winds, of

Cormorants, Common Gulls, Wheatears, a Whimbrel and a Redpoll. Migrants continued to be very scarce until the 28th April, with just odd arrivals of Tufted Ducks, Rooks, Linnets Reed Buntings and a very tired Greenland Redpoll on the 27th.

The 28th April was a fine day with light north east winds. A few Fieldfares, Song Thrushes, Ring Ouzels, Robins, Hedge Sparrows and Bramblings had arrived, but the numbers were very small compared with the following day, which was our first real day of migration in 1965. The main migrants, on the 29th, were Song Thrushes 86, Ring Ouzels 36, Robins 54, Hedge Sparrows 25, many Meadow Pipits, and Bramblings 150 (a record spring total). Our newcomers included Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers and Tree Pipits. On the 30th, most species had decreased slightly; but Common Gulls increased and new arrivals were a fine male Rustic Bunting at Kennaby, 3 Whimbrel and a Siskin. We found Song Thrushes still plentiful on the 1st May, but Ring Ouzels and Bramblings had departed; the Rustic Bunting was still at Kennaby and when walking home towards the Kirk, we flushed a Great Snipe from the marsh behind Quoy. Nearly all those birds and the two rarities had departed by the 2nd and we recorded little except an Osprey, which flew north over Ward Hill.

The SE wind increased to gale force on the 3rd May, and in the rain, we had difficulty finding newly arrived migrants, but it was obvious that many were arriving during the day. Fieldfares were the commonest migrant and we estimated about 500 on the isle (a record spring total). There were 35 Song Thrushes and 25 Ring Ouzels but only 8 Blackbirds and no Redwings. Wheatears increased and many of them were of the Greenland race: 2 Wrynecks, 3 Whinchats, Grasshopper Warbler, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, 8 Chiffchaffs, 25 Hedge Sparrows and many Meadow Pipits were other birds which arrived during the morning. Most species stayed overnight in the gale force conditions and numbers of birds were much the same as on the 4th. 500 Fieldfares were still on the island and new species located were Scaup, Common Sandpiper and Blackcap. Many birds moved off overnight and on the 5th, in fine weather, we recorded rather smaller numbers of the common species; Fieldfares down to 400 and all the Ring Ouzels gone. The decrease continued on the 6th May, but we also recorded a few new arrivals, including 12 Reed Buntings, 6 Willow Warblers and a beautiful male Ortolan Bunting at Gaila.

With the wind continuing south easterly, continental night migrants arrived in small numbers. The 7th May started off well with us catching a Wryneck on the pre-breakfast drive

of the traps and Marina getting a Grasshopper Warbler in Coronation Hall. After breakfast we found a Nightingale in the Gully and on the rest of the island we found that most small migrants had increased slightly and Fieldfares decreased. Whereas on the 8th, Fieldfares increased from 120 to 200 the small continentals decreased.

Rather variable conditions in the next few days produced few new arrivals, but a Hen Harrier moved in on the evening of the 10th and the following evening an Osprey soared over North Haven; we also saw a Wryneck and a Sedge Warbler on the 11th. Easterly weather returned on the 12th May and we found that a few more continental migrants had arrived overnight; Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Sand Martin and 14 Tree Sparrows were noteworthy.

This mainly easterly airstream continued until 29th May and the period was marked by a steady trickle of off-course continental migrants going through the island and included some rarities. A pair of Grey-headed Wagtails and a ♂ Blue-headed Wagtail arrived on the 14th; a Snowy Owl on the 17th one Bluethroat on the 18th, one Red-backed Shrike on the 22nd, a Woodchat Shrike on the 23rd, Thrush Nightingale on the 24th, another on the 26th, ♂ Bluethroat and Red-throated Pipit also on this day. A Honey Buzzard and a Short-toed Lark on the 27th and another Nightingale on the 30th.

June was a fine settled month with light southerly winds; we saw no noteworthy movements but the trickle of south easterly drift migrants continued. Collared Doves were passing through on some days with a maximum of 3. House Martins were plentiful in the first three weeks and there were some Swifts. Reed, Marsh and Ictérine Warblers were trapped in the first fortnight as usual, but Chiffchaffs were rather late on the move. Rarities in the month included a Purple Heron from 17th to 22nd, a ♀ Scarlet Grosbeak from 9th to 13th, Black-headed Bunting on 29th and 30th, and Red-headed Buntings on 17th and 20th (the latter a ♀). On the 4th June, I went to Sumburgh in the Good Shepherd for the day to see a Little Bittern which was frequenting a pool at Scatness.

In general, 1965 was a poor year at Fair Isle for early spring migrants: the island being very dead until the end of April, when a large and rapid passage of departing winter visitors coincided with the main passage of continental summer visitors. This passage continued throughout the first week of May and Fieldfares were exceptionally numerous. A light SE airstream was a feature of the late spring and it produced an exciting trickle of rare continental migrant species.

43. Rare Birds in Spring, 1964

GARGANEY. A pair on Gilsetter Marsh, 24th May. 3rd and 4th records for Fair Isle.

CANADA GOOSE. One at Setter from 3rd to 20th June.

HONEY BUZZARD. One on the hill ground, 1st and 2nd June, seen hunting over Vatsrass and Byerwell, being constantly mobbed by Arctic Skuas, except when it was on the ground. On the 2nd it was last seen circling, away to the north, over Ward Hill. This could have been the bird subsequently found dead in Shetland.

HOBBY. RHD saw one at the Double Dyke on 1st May and that evening Gordon Barnes saw it beside the road at Restens Geo.

TEMMINCK'S STINT. One feeding on the shore of Easter Lothar with a Little Stint on 21st-23rd May. This was the first record during the Observatory's existence.

STONE CURLEW. James Stout and James Wilson saw one at Taft on 18th May and we saw it at the North Grind on the 19th May. 3rd record for Fair Isle.

POMARINE SKUA. A pale-phase bird flew east over Skadan on 10th June.

ICELAND GULL. One following the plough at Taing on 14th April.

SHORT-TOED LARK. An adult at Taing on 15th May and another at Springfield and Leogh on 18th-20th May. Both referable to one of the southern races.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR. An adult ♀ trapped at Hunds Heilor on 19th May.

GREAT REED WARBLER. One at Sompal on 8th June was the first record for Fair Isle and 2nd for Scotland.

MELODIOUS WARBLER. One trapped on 12th June was the second record for Fair Isle.

ICTERINE WARBLER. One trapped in the Gully on 28th May.

SUBALPINE WARBLER. An adult ♂ at the Haa on 23rd April and trapped there on the 24th.

HAWFINCH. One at the Observatory on 22nd March and one at Shirva on 25th May.

SERIN. A ♂ at the South Reeva on 29th May. Third record for Fair Isle.

R. H. D.

44. Rare Birds in Spring, 1965

PURPLE HERON. One present in the crofting area from 17th to 22nd June. First for Fair Isle.

HARLEQUIN DUCK. Gordon Barnes found a pair in Maver's

- Geo on 11th January; they were present in the Maver's Geo/South Haven area until 2nd February. First record for Fair Isle.
- HONEY BUZZARD.** One soaring over the Houll on 27th May, later resting in Hesswalls; stayed until 29th. Richard Richardson saw one flying towards Sumburgh Head when he was crossing to Fair Isle on 2nd June. A probable soaring over the Sheep Rock, with a Common Buzzard, on 21st June.
- HEN HARRIER.** A ♀ hunting in Gilsetter on 10th and 11th May.
- OSPREY.** One flew north over Ward Hill on 2nd May and one flying over North Haven and Bunes in the evening of 11th May. Between 3rd and 10th May one was fishing on lochs in the west of Shetland. One flying north over Malcolm's Head on 27th May. 5th, 6th and 7th records for Fair Isle.
- HOBBY.** One hunting in the Quoy/Houll area from 19th to 21st June.
- QUAIL.** Singles at the roadsides on 27th and 28th May, the latter sitting in the catching box of the roadsides trap! One calling at Busta on 21st and 2 there on 22nd June.
- GREAT SNIPE.** One in the marsh behind Quoy on 1st May, was only the 4th seen in the Observatory's time.
- POMARINE SKUA.** One seen on the crossing on 11th May.
- SNOWY OWL.** One flew in high, from the direction of Orkney, over Malcolm's Head on 17th May. It landed in Homisdale for half an hour and then flew north, pursued by an irate horde of Arctic Skuas. We did not see it again. One or two were in Orkney prior to this date and the 1 or 2 in Shetland increased to 2-4 after this date.
- NIGHTJAR.** Gordon Barnes just missed catching one in the Gully trap on 27th May; later saw it in the Bull's Park.
- SHORT-TOED LARK.** An adult of the southern race, *brachydactyla*, feeding on seed oats at the Haa, 27th-29th May.
- NIGHTINGALE.** We flushed one from the small plantation in the Gully on 7th May; then trapped it in the Gully. Another flew out of the Vaadal plantation on 30th May and was caught in the North Grind trap; it was present until 31st. 2nd and 3rd records for Fair Isle.
- THRUSH NIGHTINGALE.** I found one on the roadside near Vaadal on 24th May and caught in the Vaadal trap. It was present near the Observatory until 26th May; on this day, I found and netted another one in the peat banks just south of the lower station, Ward Hill. This one stayed on South Haven beach until the 29th May. 4th and 5th records for Britain and Fair Isle.
- MARSH WARBLER.** One trapped on 6th June.

ICTERINE WARBLER. My wife caught one in the Hjon Dyke trap on 8th June.

RED-THROATED PIPIT. Eddie Wiseman found one, in summer plumage, at Vaadal on 26th May.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE. One found by Jimmy Wilson at Schooltown on 23rd Mas; trapped there on 31st May and released at North Haven, where it stayed until 7th June: on the last day, it was singing.

SCARLET GROSBEAK. An adult ♀ at Utra and the grave-yard from 9th to 13th June was only the 3rd spring record.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING. A young male beside the Schooltown cabbage patch on 29th and 30th June.

RED-HEADED BUNTING. A ♂ at Quoy on 17th and a ♀ at North Haven on 20th June.

ORTOLAN BUNTING. A ♂ at Gaila on 6th May.

RUSTIC BUNTING. An adult ♂ at Kennaby on 30th April and 1st May.

R. H. D.

45. Notes on the Breeding Birds, 1964

ROY H. DENNIS

FULMAR. Numbers on the cliffs still appear to be increasing. New eggs were seen at Lericum on 15th May and Blue Geo on 17th May. There were less young available for ringing on the local cliffs.

SHAG. Nest building was in progress, when we arrived on 12th March, but this was halted during the following week of south easterly gales. Collection of nest materials resumed on 19th March and several pairs had eggs on 4th April at North Ramnigeo. The colonies on the north coast were not so affected by the March gales and on 15th May, eight nests contained young at Lericum and one brood was half grown. The first young birds were recorded on the sea on 11th June. Most colonies had a successful year and a record total of 548 was ringed. At the end of June, late nests were flooded in colonies on the west coast and on 29th June we saw several nests of drowned young at Skinner's Glig.

EIDER. The first pair was seen ashore on 16th May and the first nest was found in Jivy Geo on 25th May. The duck was incubating a full clutch. The first ducklings were seen on the sea on 22nd June; but rearing success was very poor and few chicks survived. On 13th June, we found a female incubating in a Lesser Black-backed Gull's nest, containing one gull's egg and four of her own eggs.

PEREGRINE. A pair bred at the 1962 site at Lerness. The nest was located on 28th May and the two chicks were ringed on 31st May; one chick was twice the size of the other. One young was seen flying on 18th June. A solitary ♀ was seen near the Sheep Rock most of the summer; she was heard calling on one occasion.

CORNCRAKE. First seen at Taft on 21st April; earliest ever record. Next one recorded at Wirvie on 26th April. The maximum seen was 3 on 4th May; at Taft, Schoolhouse and Vaadal. The grass was very late in growing this spring and when they arrived there was little cover for them and it was felt that this made them more vulnerable to predators because none stayed to breed.

QUAIL. The first was seen at North Haven on the 6th June. Then on the 9th one was flushed at Kennaby; 2 were heard calling on 10th, 4 on the 11th and between 12 to 15 calling in the evening of the 12th. On this day birds were heard calling at Busta, Kennaby, Schooltown, Brows, Shirva, Boini Mire, Stonybreck, Taing and Pund/Setter. Calling was heard most days, especially in the evening, with a maximum of 5 until the 24th May. Persistent calling was noted at Taing (one or two ♂♂s), Boini Mire, Stonybreck and Brows. On the 15th June we mist netted one in the Boini Mire. Gordon Barnes thought his dog upset a bird from a nest in the corn at Taing and the only definite evidence of breeding was a deserted nest containing two eggs at Taing, found by G.B. when he was cutting his corn in September. The last bird was seen on 6th August.

OYSTERCATCHER. One was recorded on 20th January, but the return of the breeding birds started on 22nd February and most were present by mid March. About 70 territories were located on the isle, the greatest concentration being on Bunes, at least 13 pairs, and on the Brae of Roskilie. Pairs were distributed over the hill ground, especially on Wirvie Brecks. They were scarce on the west coast, probably because of the lack of area revealed at low tide, except Lerness and Burrista where a small colony could find feeding on the points running into the sea. They had a successful breeding season.

LAPWING. Singles were seen on three dates in February but continuous records began on 24th February. Two pairs nested; one pair reared three chicks in the Hjon Park, ringed on the 13th June and another had c/3 just south east of the Sheep Cru at the North Grind; they hatched on the 9th of June but only two were reared.

RINGED PLOVER. Breeding birds present on Bunes from 27th February and the first nest found, contained two eggs, on 14th May and a second pair had c/3 in the same area on 9th June. Another pair had c/1 on stony

- ground just west of the cliff top at South Ramnigeo and a fourth pair frequented Meoness/Skadan but we couldn't find a nest.
- SNIPE.** The only evidence of breeding was a pair seen in Gilsetter throughout the summer; no nest or young were found.
- GREAT SKUA.** First seen on 3rd April and main arrivals from 10th April. An empty scrape was found at Sukka Mire on 17th May, a nest c/1 was found in the same area on 18th May and the birds of Vaasetter probably had eggs the same day. The number of breeding pairs was much lower than in 1963 and about 18-20 pairs attempted to nest. The Vaasetter nest was hatching on 17th June and young were noted on Sukka Mire on 22nd June. The breeding population started to emigrate on 19th/20th August and the last bird was seen on 28th October.
- ARCTIC SKUA.** Two seen off Skadan on 6th April and first on the hill on 16th, with most arrivals from 25th-27th April. Territories were being defended from 7th May and a c/1 was found on the Airstrip on 17th May. Young were first noted on 22nd June. On 23rd July we saw our first young on the wing. About 70 pairs nested. The breeding population started moving away on 21st/22nd August and the last bird was seen on 17th September, except for two migrants off the South Light on 18th October.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.** 26 sites were occupied on the top of Sheep Rock on 2nd May and 27 pulli were ringed there on 17th July.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.** About 25 pairs nested, but breeding success was poor. 6-7 pairs nested on South Gavel, one pair on North Gavel, ca. 15 pairs on Goorn and 2 pairs on the Rippack. Most had c/3 on 9th June and hatched by 28th June. Only 14 chicks could be found on Goorn on 16th July.
- HERRING GULL.** Breeding population seems to be increasing. 57 occupied sites were counted on the Sheep Rock on 2nd May and there were at least 6 successful nests around the Observatory. One of the breeding birds from the Landberg nest, which was ringed on 3rd July, had been ringed as an adult in May 1952 and ringed at the Observatory on 20th July 1957.
- KITTIWAKE.** First seen ashore on 4th March and plentiful on nesting ledges on 2nd April. Incubation noted at Lericum on 15th May and small chicks seen at Sheep Rock on 18th June. A very good breeding season and the ringing total of 48 was the highest ever recorded. A flock of recently fledged young congregated in North and South Havens and many of them died.
- RAZORBILL.** First seen ashore on 1st March and display-flight-

ing observed at Ramnigeo on 4th April. On 15th May, 12 nests containing eggs were located at Lericum. The species had a good breeding season and was last seen ashore on 7th August.

GUILLEMOT. First seen ashore on 1st March, but no large numbers until 10th April. A good breeding season. A rapid departure from the cliffs; most of the colony had left the Guillemot cave by 13th July and last seen ashore on 3rd August.

BLACK GUILLEMOT. First seen ashore at South Haven colony on 31st March. Numbers were average, but there was some flooding of nest sites in July.

PUFFIN. First seen ashore on 10th April and large numbers on 11th. Egg laying very quickly followed; earlier than usual. Average breeding season. The colonies on Burrista and Toor o'da Ward Hill have decreased considerably since I last saw them in 1959. The breeding ground is eroding badly, especially on Burrista and it was decided not to ring at these two sites. The numbers on the outer stacks, especially Fugli and Brett's Stacks, were greater than ever. Last seen ashore on 20th August.

ROCK DOVE. Numbers very low and breeding population only about 6 pairs.

SKYLARK. The first nest was found at Field on 7th May; it contained c/4. A nest of 4 chicks, a few days old, was found above the hostel on 17th May. The population on the hill area is still increasing.

RAVEN. Four pairs nested. Hoini, 4 young just flying were shot on 23rd May; 2 young just flying at Troila Geo on 28th May; 2 young just flying at Wester Lothar on 2nd June and one young just flying at South Ramnigeo on 30th May.

HOODED CROW. About 10-12 pairs nested. Nest building observed on 19th April at Maver's Geo and c/4 there on 6th May. 3 large nestlings ringed at Duttfeld on 14th June.

WHEATEAR. The first arrived on 27th March and the main arrivals were between 10th and 20th April. The population was higher than 1963 and they had good success. Early fledged young were seen on 22nd June.

MEADOW PIPIT. An increase in the population and a successful breeding season. The first nest (c/3) was found at the Roadsides on 7th May and first flying young were noted on 1st June. A nest of c/6 at Sukka Mire on 15th June.

ROCK PIPIT. Good breeding season and population slightly higher.

STARLING. Good breeding season and numbers slightly higher. Young were first heard calling from the nests on 23rd May and several families were flying on 11th June.

TWITE. The breeding numbers continue to decrease and I would be surprised if more than 15 pairs nested in 1964.

This decrease is due to the use of toxic seed-dressings; none were found dead after the spring sowing of oats but several were seen 'stumbling' on the newly sown fields, and numbers were noted throughout summer which did not breed.

HOUSE SPARROW. This species is also on the decrease and the breeding population is probably about 30 pairs. One or two pairs arrived at the Observatory but did not nest. Young were first heard in the nest at Quoy on 20th May and first fledged young were seen on 9th June.

TREE SPARROW. On 3rd June, one pair was feeding young in the cliff of the South Reeva. but on 5th June another pair was occupying a nest nearby and two more pairs were prospecting. The young had flown from the first nest on 11th June and the two late pairs had forgotten their intentions.

46. The Breeding Census of Common Birds, 1964

In 1963, at the request of the populations branch of the British Trust for Ornithology, a census of the land-birds breeding in the major part of the crofting area was undertaken. A census in the same area was completed in May and June 1964.

Sixteen species of land-birds, excluding Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover, bred at Fair Isle in 1964, compared with seventeen species in 1963. Corncrake and White Wagtail did not breed but Quail did. Peregrine, Lapwing, Snipe and Raven did not breed in the census area; Hooded Crow, Twite and Rock Dove may have nested in the cliffs near the Reevas and Hunds Heilor but proof was not obtained. The last three species and Raven regularly feed in the census area.

The census area was the same as in 1963; that is the crofting area extending southwards from the boundary fence between Pund, Barkland and Taing; excluding the eastern half of Taing, the Rippack and the Breck o' Busta scattalds on the east coast and the Malcolm's Head scattald on the west, but including Meoness and Skadan.

No major changes in land use occurred in the area. The small area in front of the Haa croft was brought back into cultivation and the bed of reeds at Muggideels was ploughed up and an attempt at growing oats on the reclaimed land was made. These two areas were too small to influence the distribution of the breeding birds in the area. More extensive reclamation was completed outside the census area. The Bull's Park and the area north east of the Setter croft were re-seeded with grass.

The seed-oats were again dressed with toxic chemicals and Twite, House Sparrow and Snow Bunting were seen to be affected in the spring; Herring Gull and Rock Dove must also have been affected, considering the time they spent feeding on the newly sown fields. We noted that Herring Gulls drank rather more fresh water than usual, after feeding on the seed-oats.

The occupied territories of each species were plotted on a nine inch map of Fair Isle and the totals were as follows (1963 totals in brackets): Skylarks 44 (41), Wren 4 (3), Wheatear 25 (24), Meadow Pipit 15 (8), Rock Pipit 19 (16), Starling 51 (45) and Tree Sparrow 2, possibly 4 (3). House Sparrows numbered about 25 pairs in the area which is a decrease on the 1963 total of about 40 pairs. They nested mainly in the deserted crofts and out-houses; e.g. 4 nests at the old Stackhoull croft, 5 nests in the out-house at Quoy, 2 or 3 nests at Kennaby and 3 or 4 at the old fish store on Skadan. In addition, about ten Quail were heard calling in the area in early June, but only one pair was proved to have nested and that was at Taing. In contrast to 1963, Corncrakes were absent.

Seven pairs of Oystercatchers nested in the census area, mainly in the coastal fringe at the south end of the isle, but one pair nested successfully in short heather at the north end of Taing.

Most of the common species had increased slightly; Skylarks by three pairs and Starling by six pairs, but Meadow Pipits had increased by seven pairs to 15 pairs. The 1963 total was very low and may have been attributable to the severe winter previous to the 1963 breeding season. Rock Pipits on the coastal strip had also increased from 16 to 19 territories, the increase being on Meoness. The Wrens had increased from 3 to 4 territories, the new one being in South Harbour. The Skylarks were mainly in the areas of good grassland and 23 (over a half) of the territories were in the small area comprising the croft lands of Quoy, Kennaby, Busta, Springfield, Haa, Taft and Middle Leys. 22 in the same area in 1963.

A copy of the map showing all the occupied territories and including a key to the crops growing on each croft was sent to the B.T.O.

R. H. D.

47. The Breeding Census of Common Birds, 1965

A census of land-birds breeding in our common bird census area was completed in 1965; the area was the same as

designated in paras. 27 and 46. Sample counts were also made in most of the rest of the island.

Fifteen species of land-birds bred at Fair Isle in 1965, compared with seventeen in 1963 and sixteen in 1964. Corncrake did not breed for the second successive year and although Quail were heard calling at Busta, there was no indication of breeding. Peregrine, Lapwing, Snipe and Raven did not breed in the census area. Hooded Crow and Rock Dove almost certainly bred, and Twite probably did, in the area.

There were no major changes in land use, although surface reseedling was carried out on a section of Meoness, cultivation was increased at the Haa and the decimation of the reed bed at Muggiedeels was continued. Two new patches were cultivated at Barkland.

The census area contained the following totals of occupied territories: Skylark 49, Wren 4, Wheatear 24, Meadow Pipit 9, Rock Pipit 17, Starling 48 and Tree Sparrow 1 or 2. House Sparrow ca. 15-20 pairs.

Skylarks continued their slight increase in population (41 in 1963, 44 in 1964 and 49 in 1965); but Meadow Pipits decreased from 15 to 9 pairs. We considered that the weather had affected the 1963 breeding numbers, when the Meadow Pipit total was 8, but it looks as though 1964 was a very good year for this species and the population has now returned to a lower level. Rock Pipits have changed little; 16, 19 and 17 and the difference may be due to territories on the edge of the area. The Wren population continued at a high level; pairs nested at South Harbour, Linni Geo, South Reeva and Hjukni Geo. Starlings at 48 were slightly lower than 1964 but higher than 1963. There is some change in the distribution in the area, and in 1965 there were concentrations on the south coast of Meoness and in the stone dykes between the Haa and the Chapel.

One, probably two, pairs nested in the South Reeva and about 15 to 20 pairs of House Sparrows nested in the area, continuing a marked decline noted in recent years. Seven pairs of Oystercatchers nested in the census area, all in the coastal fringe at the south end of the island—a pair even nested half way up the cliff of the Hoose Banks. The pair which nested at Taing in 1964 did not return to that site.

All the occupied territories were plotted on a nine inch map of the island and copies were deposited in our files and at the B.T.O.

R. H. D.

48. The Fair Isle Wren Population in 1964

ROY H. DENNIS

For the first time since 1959, we completed a dawn census of the Fair Isle Wren *Troglodytes t. fridariensis*; Cliff Waller and I counted the singing males between 0300 and 0600 hours G.M.T. on the 7th and 28th May. During the season, geos were examined at various times in connection with sea bird studies and one site was located which had been missed during the dawn census visits; namely, a nest in Clinger's Geo.

52 singing males were located and this is the first time that the Fair Isle population has been recorded in excess of 50 territories. For comparison the populations in 1957, 1958 and 1959 were 47, 45 and 40 respectively. A breakdown of sites is as follows:

	West (coast)	East	North	South	Total
1957	17	21	8	1	47
1958	21	17	7	0	45
1959	12	21	6	1	40
1964	19	24	8	1	52

As can be seen the average number of singing males for the four years is 46; with the average totals for the east and west coasts being 21 and 17 respectively. 1957 was an average year with 17 males counted on the west coast and 21 on the east coast; the following year the situation had reversed with 21 on the west coast and a corresponding decrease on the east coast. In 1959 the distribution of the population had swung back to 21 on the east coast, but the west coast total had slumped to only 12 singing males. In these three years, the numbers of the east and west coast populations were shown to vary with the direction and severity of the winter and spring gales. This produced an annual pattern showing an increase on one coast linked with a decrease on the other coast.

1964 was the first year that this pattern was broken and both the west coast and the east coast populations increased above the average to 24 and 19 respectively. The winter of 1963-64 was one of the calmest and mildest for many years and a period of severe south east gales in late March 1964 was probably of too short a duration to affect the distribution of the Wrens.

Neither of the days chosen was ideal; the wind being south west, 2 to 3, with low cloud on the 7th and east to north east, 2 to 3, with high overcast on the 28th May. Fortunately both days were mild, and with the light wind we could hear Wren song easily, even from the top of the highest cliffs.

There were three males singing in the Observatory area; one in Mavers Geo, which came as far as the garden beside the Warden's flat, one around the Observatory trap, Hoill Lee and both beaches and the third centred on the small stack at the base of the pier on Bunes. Seven territories were located on the east coast, north of the Observatory; four of them between Roskilie and North Furse. The others were in the usual sites at Restensgeo, Geo of Wirvie and Jivy Geo. There were none between Jivy Geo and the North Lighthouse.

South of the Observatory, birds were singing in Duttfeld (sometimes, inland as far as the Double Dyke trap), Finni-quoy, Johnny's Peats, North and South Ramnageos. A sixth bird was singing at the old mills and the pair nested inside the Gully trap; this is a site which has not featured in previous counts but has on occasions been used. The nest contained 6 eggs on the 6th June, when it was found. The young were hatched on the 11th June and they were first seen out of the nest on the 26th June. Every time we drove the trap we passed within two feet of the nest.

One was singing in North Mila Hesslands, none were heard (or seen later in the year) in the Geo of Sheep Craig but there may have been one in South Mila Hesslands but it was not proved. Six territories were found south of the Sheep Craig; namely at Klaver Geo, Hesswalls (2), North Fair Heelor, Swartz Geo and Busta Geo. One bird was missed during the dawn census and that was at Clingers Geo, where a nest was found on 6th June.

The territory around South Harbour was occupied this year; the bird ranging between Fillsi Geo and the Haa garden. Three young were seen flying out of the nest on 24th June.

On the west coast, three birds were singing on the cliffs of Malcolm's Head; one at Sley Heelor (a very exposed site) and two on the north side. Singles were located at Steinsi Geo, South Reeva and Hyukni Geo. Six sites were located on the high cliffs of Hoini and Burrashield; they were at the South Geo of Hoini, the Muckle Geo of Hoini, Gunnawark, Mila Breiti, Stack Alands, South and North Naversgills.

Six birds were singing in the high cliffs between Guithicum and South Felsigeo. This is one of the choicest areas for Wrens on the island, but only had 3 songsters in 1957 and 4 in 1958. The pair in Skinner's Glig had a brood on the wing on 29th June. One Wren was singing from the depths of North Felsigeo but we could not find one in Loangie, which is sometimes occupied.

The north coast held a total of 8 occupied territories. Birds were singing from both sides of Wester Lother and from both

ends of Sauvestein. One bird was singing below the point of Millens Houllan and another was on the beach at Easter Lother. The last two sites were at Lericum and Bergaroo.

49. Storm Petrels at Fair Isle, 1964

ROY H. DENNIS

In previous years, a few Storm Petrels were caught each year at Malcolm's Head and Wester Lother in July and August, and it was thought that small numbers probably bred, although the only nest was found on Bunes in 1962.

In 1964 the first one or two were seen, over the road at North Restensgeo, at 2400 hours G.M.T. (all further times will be in hours G.M.T.) on 31st May, but we did not see any at Wester Lother between 2300 and 0015 on 5th/6th June and none were seen at Malcolm's head that night. On 21st/22nd June we put mist nets at Wester Lother, Millens Houllan point and Kirn o' Skroo. The first bird was noted at 0100 and we caught one at Wester Lother at 0110. By this time it was already light enough to take the bird out of the net without artificial light. We returned to the other sites where we caught 4 birds at Millens Houllan and 3 at Kirn o' Skroo. One of the birds at Millens Houllan had been ringed at Foula on 18th August 1962.

On 26th June, we netted at Millens Houllan point until 0200 and caught 6 birds; we saw about another six in the air. No calling was heard. Some of the birds had brood patches and several disgorged an oily fishy mess when handled. At dawn on 7th July, one was feeding on offal from a small fishing boat tied up at North Haven pier. That night, 7th/8th July, we were at Kirn o' Skroo from midnight and netted two Storm Petrels and saw two more in about one and a half hours. The sky was still rather light, even at midnight.

We discovered that the large grassy slope of the Ley of Millens Houllan, which faces north east, looked very suitable for petrels; so on the night of 10th July we put up two sixty feet mist nets on this slope at 2230. We erected them on the western side of the Ley, running from the top of the slope towards the sea cliff. A few birds were already flying overhead and by 0130 we had netted 41 birds. We found several small burrows on the slope, which looked occupied, but we did not try to dig up any to prove breeding.

The 17th July was a fine calm evening and we netted at Malcolm's Head. We erected one net in the usual gully, just north west of the Coastguard watch-hut and the other about fifty feet lower down the cliff on a grassy slope. We caught thirty birds between 2130 and 0100, mainly in the lower net.

During the night we saw a Leach's Petrel flying over the cliff near the top net, but we did not catch it; this is the first time this species has been identified on the cliffs of Fair Isle.

The following night, in rather wet conditions, we netted at the Ley of Millens Houllan but only caught 18 birds between 2145 and 2400. We decided on 21st July to put up two nets on Bunes, but we did not expect to catch many birds in this area, but between 2245 and 2400 we caught 18 birds. Two birds were caught in a net beside the sheep shelter at the north end of Bunes and the other 16 were caught in a net over the scree above the east side of the Sloager.

On 29th July, we netted at the Ley of Millens Houllan but it was rather windy and also a bright night; we only caught two birds, but saw many more flying high over the cliff. On the same slope on 2nd/3rd August, we caught six birds and saw a few more flying in the area.

A visit to Malcolm's Head on 4th/5th August was much more successful and we caught 34 between 2200 and 0200. The two nets were in the same place as last time, and again we caught most of the birds in the lower net. On the following evening, we tried netting at Gunnawark; we saw quite a few but we were soon forced to leave by continuous rain. We caught 7 birds at the Sloager on 12th August between 2230 and 2400 and at the same place on 26th August we caught three between 2200 and 2300. Our last visit to the cliffs at night was on 4th September, when we netted at the Ley of Millens Houllan and caught one Storm Petrel at 2200.

During the summer we ringed 173 adult Storm Petrels, which is considerably more than the grand total ringed between 1948 and 1963.

The following table shows the yearly ringing totals:

Year.	48	49	53	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	Grand Total
Number ringed.	1	1	1	12	14	10	12	7	2	10	173	243

All the birds netted were weighed, measured and then ringed with a monel A ring. Each bird was also examined for the existence of a brood patch, damage to soft parts and state of plumage.

Of the 175 birds examined (including two Foula controls), 8 did not have a brood patch, (all but one in June), 10 had a small brood patch and the rest, 89.6%, showed a large brood patch. Five of the birds had damaged legs or feet. Two of these had damaged webs, one had two-thirds of the right tarsus and the foot missing, one had one half of the left tarsus and the foot missing and the last had a healed fracture

of the right tarsus. Evidence of damage to soft parts at 3% is higher than that noted for other species at Fair Isle. Could this damage be due to fish snapping at their feet as they patter along the surface of the water feeding?

The detailed measurements have proved interesting, but we are going to analyse them with measurements taken in future years. The measurements were taken with a steel rule calibrated in millimetres, a fine pointed pair of dividers and a Pesola spring balance. The wing measurement was taken with the wing flattened against the rule and the primaries not straightened. The bill measurement is taken from the feathers.

The following table gives the measurements and weights of 175 Storm Petrels examined at Fair Isle. It shows the maximum range of measurements, the majority range of measurements and the range of measurements given in *The Handbook of British Birds*.

Wing (m.m.)	115-127	119-125	114-125
Bill (m.m.)	11-12.5	12	10-12
Tarsus (m.m.)	20-24	21-23	20-24
Tail (m.m.)	50-60	55-57	52-55
Weight (gms.)	22.5-29.5	24-26	

The measurements agree with the *Handbook* measurements although the Fair Isle birds appear slightly larger on the average.

Birds were trapped at the following places: Malcolm's Head 64, Ley of Millen Houllan 58, Bunes 28, Point of Millens Houllan 17, Kirn o' Skroo 5 and Wester Lother 1. During our excursions on the cliffs we heard no calling of petrels except from a small percentage of birds, which called when handled. We did not see any birds on the ground and we did not smell any burrows which smelt of petrels.

It is felt that there must be a great deal of visiting between the various breeding colonies, e.g. Foula, Mousa, Fair Isle and other places in Shetland and possibly Orkney. The population must be much larger than was previously thought, because of 173 birds ringed during the summer, we caught no retraps. It is difficult to decide whether this represents a large breeding population on Fair Isle or a large visiting population from other colonies. Obviously many are just visitors but I feel that the breeding numbers on the cliffs are higher than we thought. It would be interesting to know when our birds start to breed and whether non-breeding birds exhibit a brood patch. We intend to continue this study in future years.

50. Rare Birds in Autumn, 1964

DOTTEREL. One on the summit of Ward Hill, 9th to 15th September. A rather wild bird and we failed to net it.

SHORT-TOED LARK. A bird of the year at Taing on 9th to 11th July, was caught and ringed on the 10th.

BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR. A 1st W ♀ found at the North Grind at dawn on 27th September and trapped in the Joint Schools Trap.

STONECHAT. An immature of the Siberian race was at South Harbour and Utra on 1st November.

ARCTIC WARBLER. An adult trapped at Vaadal on 14th August, present until 19th August. A 1st winter bird trapped at Gailla on 9th September, and 1st winter birds trapped at Quoy and Taing on 12th September.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER. 3 at Easter Lothar on 3rd October one there on 4th and one trapped and ringed at Lower Leogh on 10th October.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER. Singles on 28th September, 3rd and 17th October.

YELLOW-HEADED WAGTAIL. One at Skadan on 19th September was watched for about an hour by RHD, DAR and EJW.

GOLDFINCH. One feeding on the thistles at North Haven on 21st-28th November; 2nd record for Fair Isle.

SCARLET GROSEBEAK. Recorded on 12 bird/days in September and October.

RED-HEADED BUNTING. ♂ most days from 18th July to 11th August, and 2 on 12th August.

RUSTIC BUNTING. One trapped in the cabbages at Setter on 26th September, present until 28th and another at Wirvie on 4th October.

LITTLE BUNTING. One at North Haven beach on 7th October, trapped and ringed.

INDIGO BUNTING. A ♂ arrived on 3rd August, seen on 5th and 7th.

51. Recoveries, 1964

Fifty-nine recoveries of ringed birds were received during the year, and full details of these are given in the following list. The international code of symbols for the 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 de-

tails of each bird (ringed at Fair Isle unless otherwise stated) are given on the first line, and recovery details on the second.

STORM PETREL

629792 Ad. 1.8.63

v 4.8.63 Foula (Shetland), 45 miles NW.

FULMAR

AT 82418 pull. 10.8.61

x 18.8.64 Easington (Durham), 325 miles S.

AT 90848 pull. 9.8.62

x 30.3.64 Winterton-on-sea (Norfolk), 485 miles SSE.

SHAG

1015860 pull. 1.7.64

x (24.11.64) Auckengill, Wick (Caithness), 85 miles SW.

1028848 pull. 25.6.63

x 27.12.63 Brora (Sutherland), 135 miles SW.

1033641 pull. 21.6.64

x 30.8.64 Balfour, Shapinsay (Orkney), 55 miles SW.

1033978 pull. 1.7.64

x 30.8.64 Portmahomack, Tarbat (Ross), 140 miles SW.

1042076 pull. 28.6.63

/?/ 5.1.64 Brandasund (Hordaland), Norway, 59°55'N 5°20'E.

1042077 pull. 28.6.63

xA 6.10.64 St John's Point (Caithness), 80 miles SW.

1042170 pull. 28.6.63

x (15.12.63) Portgower, Helmsdale (Sutherland), 120 miles SW.

1042176 pull. 28.6.63

() 15.6.64 off Troup Head (Banff), ca. 125 miles S.

1042299 pull. 9.7.63

x (17.5.64) Ness of Sound (Yell), Shetland, 75 miles N.

1042315 pull. 9.7.63

x 27.6.64 Sound, Lerwick (Shetland), 45 miles N.

1042413 pull. 11.7.63

x 13.12.64 Egilshay (Orkney), 55 miles WSW.

TEAL

2044369 Juv. ♂ 3.9.62

†17.9.64 Hjarbaek Fjord (Jutland), Denmark, 56°33'N 9°20'E.

MERLIN

EC 28893 1st W. ♀ 7.9.63

x (1.4.64) Whitehaven (Cumberland), 350 miles S.

OYSTERCATCHER

AT 90952 pull. 17.6.63

†24.2.64 Heysham (Lancs), 380 miles S.

SS 05967 pull. 6.7.64

†11.9.64 Morlaix (Finisterre), France, 48°35'N 3°50'W.

LAPWING

P 14648 pull. 15.5.63

†0.12.63 Near Gijon (Oviedo), Spain, 43°32'N 5°40'W.

RINGED PLOVER

CK 00091 Juv. 31.8.61

/?/ 13.12.64 Oued Bou Regreg, Rabat, Morocco, 34°02'N 6°51'W.

SNIPE

P 12203 pull. 21.8.59

†(18.12.64) Bonnetstown, near Kilkenny, Ireland, 520 miles SW.

WOODCOCK

EC 29410 Ad. 13.5.64

†20.12.64 near Youghal, Cork, Ireland, 570 miles SW.

ARCTIC SKUA

AT 22610 pull. 18.7.56

v 14.6.60 breeding Ad. Fair Isle reringed 3075636

x ca. 19.8.64 Winterton-on-Sea (Norfolk), 490 miles SSE.

3075743 pull. 9.7.60

x 8.9.64 near Aberdeen, 160 miles S.

AT 77259 pull. 17.7.61

x (30.9.64) Wilhelmshaven, Germany 53°32'N 8°14'E.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

418023 Ad. 13.12.61

x 17.7.64 Bressay (Shetland), 45 miles NNE.

419307 1st W. 11.10.63

v 5.6.64 Noss Head (Caithness), at sea, 85 miles SW.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

AJ 24915 pull. 13.7.60

x 22.9.63 Vila Nova de Gaia (Douro Litoral), Portugal 41°09'N 8°39'W.

HERRING GULL

AJ 52638 pull. 19.7.63

†(19.5.64) Newcastle-on-Tyne (Northumberland), 315 miles S.

AT 64668 Ad. 30.12.59

xA 21.7.64 Vatster, Gott (Shetland), 50 miles N.

KITTIWAKE

EC 43457 pull. 1.7.64

†20.10.64 Horse Island, White Bay, Newfoundland, ca. 50°00'N 56°30'W.

RAZORBILL

AT 90146 pull. 4.7.62

x 4.7.62 Lokken (Jutland), Denmark, 57°22'N 9°44'E.

SS 05918 pull. 25.6.64

†11.10.64 Stavfjorden (Sogn og Fjordane), Norway, 61°28'N
4°50'E.

SS 05919 pull. 25.6.64

†6.11.64 at sea. 15 miles W of Stavanger, Norway 59°00'N
5°30'E.

GUILLEMOT

AT 90688 pull. 20.7.62

†ca. 15.3.64 Sigersfjord (Nordland) Norway 68°40'N 15°33'E.

SS 22516 pull. 1.7.64

†27.9.64 at sea, W of Bomlo Island (Hordaland) Norway
59°44'N 4°58'E.

WOODPIGEON

SS 05255 Ad. 13.7.63

x 12.5.64 near Hornum, Insel Sylt, Germany 54°48'N 8°18'E.

LONG-EARED OWL

SS 22793 F.G. 1.11.64

x 8.11.64 Zandvoort (Noord Holland) Netherlands 52°22'N
4°31'E.

REDWING

CX 16344 F.G. 10.10.63

†13.2.64 St Vivien du Medoc (Gironde) France 45°26'N 1°02'
W.

CK 21450 1st W. 18.10.62

x 23.4.64 Tong, near Stornoway, Hebrides, 185 miles WSW.

CX 33837 F.G. 17.10.64

x 21.12.64 Trunch, North Walsham (Norfolk), 480 miles SSE.

BLACKBIRD

CK 00707 1st W. ♂ 5.11.61

x (1.5.64) Vindhella, Borgund, Norway 61°02'N 7°49'E.

CK 21160 1st S. ♂ 4.5.62

†autumn 1964 Lissewege (West Flanders) Belgium 51°18'N
3°11'E.

CK 21582 1st W. ♀ 26.10.62

x (2.4.64) Dunrossness (Shetland) 30 miles N.

CX 03749 Ad. ♀ 16.3.63

x (4.3.64) Opsund, Videbaek (Jutland) Denmark 56°05'N
8°33'E.

CX 14580 Ad. ♂ 22.3.63

x 28.3.63 Rygg, Sandane (Sogn og Fjordane) Norway 61°49'N
6°08'E.

CX 14619 Ad. ♂ 22.3.63

†31.7.64 Blackstahyttan, Orebro, Sweden 59°22'N 14°59'E.

CX 33852 1st W. ♀ 19.10.64

x 1.11.64 Golspie (Sutherland) 135 miles SW.

R 20210 Ad. ♂ 3.11.58

/?/(18.11.64) Helleland (Rogaland) Norway 58°30'N 6°10'E.

WHEATEAR

618549 Ad. ♀ 12.9.60

() 20.9.64 El Kelaa (Ouarzazata) Morocco 32°05'N 7°15'W.

BA 39190 Juv. 27.7.63

x 0.5.64 Littlewood, Alford (Aberdeen) 165 miles S.

BA 52032 Juv. 14.7.64

†2.10.64 Barcerena (Estremadura) Portugal 38°44'N 9°17'W.

ROBIN

H 88192 Ad. 31.3.63

x 30.11.63 San Ascensio (Logrono) Spain 42°30'N 2°45'W.

REED WARBLER

N 96215 1st W. 4.9.64

x 7.9.64 Urafirth, Northmavine (Shetland) 75 miles N.

STARLING

CX 14648 Ad. ♂ 22.3.63

v 28.3.64 Thisted (Jutland) Denmark 56°57'N 8°42'E. Copenhagen 8522594 added.

CX 14732 Ad. ♂ 29.3.63

x 1.4.64 Wittmund (Ostfriesland) Germany 53°34'N 7°47'E.

CX 16562 Ad. ♂ 19.10.63

x 5.6.64 Singsaa, near Storen (Sor-Trondelag) Norway 62°55'N 10°40'E.

CX30111 Ad. ♀ 16.3.64

x 4.5.64 Ruokolahti, Liperi, Finland 62°30'N 29°35'E.

BRAMBLING

H 88155 Ad. ♀ 11.10.62

v 18.10.64 reringed Brux. 3V59480 Goe, Liege, Belgium 50°36'N 5°57'E.

R. H. D.

52. Ringed Strangers at Fair Isle, 1964

STORM PETREL

London 649107 Ad. 18.8.62 Foula (Shetland)

v 22.6.64 Fair Isle 45 miles SE.

London 649590 Ad. 15.8.63 Foula (Shetland)

v 5.8.64 Fair Isle 45 miles SE.

WHEATEAR

London AE 32148 F.G. ♂ 25.8.63 Foula (Shetland)

v 21.4.64 Fair Isle 45 miles SE.

The co-ordinates of Fair Isle are 59°32'N 1°37'W.

R. H. D.

53. **Birds reported in Shetland, 1964***Edited by* ROY H. DENNIS

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. Numbers reported from all islands; maximum 20 Bay of Quendale, 17th May. Summer records from Basta Voe, Yell, Loch Spiggie and Dales Voe, Mainland.

RED-THROATED DIVER. Reports of good breeding season; first eggs on 19th May and first chicks 14th June. Maxima numbers; 50 on Ronas Voe 11th April (DC) and 22 on Mussel Loch, Yell 25th June (RJT).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. Singles at Cullivoe 12th January (RJT); Baltasound 10th March (MS), and Lerwick harbour 30th April (JP).

SLAVONIAN GREBE. 5 at Dales Voe, 5th April; 4 at Urafirth 19th April; 1 at Loch Benston, 6th September and 4 there 20th December; 3 at Catfirth, 1st October and 2 there on 22nd November and 4 on 20th December.

LITTLE GREBE. One Strand Loch 1st April.

STORM PETREL. Young birds picked up in Yell, 8th and 14th October (RJT).

SOOTY SHEARWATER. 2 off Yell, 13th August, and one there on 4th September (RJT).

FULMAR. Dark phase bird around Fetlar for second successive year.

GANNET. (MS) reports the Hermaness colony extending southwards.

CORMORANT. Breeding counts: 249 occupied nests Muckle Roe, 25th June; 7 nests Bard, Bressay; ca. 40 on Clett Stacks, Silwick and numbers seen on Ramna Stacks from the shore (RJT).

HERON. A single in Unst on 6th June (MS). Arrivals at Unst, 18th July and Yell, 17th July.

GARGANEY. One ♂ at Haroldswick, 9th May (MS & EM).

WIGEON. Autumn arrivals of 5 in Unst, 26th September and 11 on 17th October; and in Yell, 26 on 30th September and 2nd October.

PINTAIL. Singles at Hillwell, 18th November (DC) and Stourhill, Unst, 13th December (MS).

SHOVELER. 2 at Uyeasound, 25th May, 1 there 12th-14th October, 4 at Norwick, 26th May (MS & EM), 2 at Hillwell, 25th April (DC).

SCAUP. Single males in Unst, 24th and 31st May, and 10th June. One pair Birrier Loch, Yell, 5th March, 4 Benston Loch, 20th September and ♀ Loch Asta 27th September.

TUFTED DUCK. Good numbers reported and possible breeding at Walls. Maxima counts: 40 Kirk Loch, Yell (RJT), 28

- Loch Snarravoe, 17th October (MS), 78 Clickimin Loch, 28th November (WP), 57 Asta Loch, 15th November (DC), and ca. 100 Papil Water, 21st November (RJT).
- POCHARD. Not as numerous as Tufted Duck, but maxima 55 Unst, 13th December, 78 Brow Loch, 28th November, and 11 Asta Loch, 15th November.
- GOLDENEYE. 30 wintered Unst and first autumn birds on 17th October; max. 23 on 21st November, 23 at Clickimin, 28th November and 20 on Papil Water, 10th December.
- LONG-TAILED DUCK. Last seen 11th April, Yell; 25th April, Lerwick and 26th April, Unst. (DC) saw a ♀ at Quendale, 17th May. First autumn birds 12th October, Yell, 13th October Sumburgh and 20th October, Unst. Max. 95 Bluemell Sound, 21st November (RJT).
- VELVET SCOTER. 5 at Dales Voe, 5th April and 2 at Breiwick, 20th October (DC); one Busta Voe, 7th-8th December (W. Brown) and 6 Colgrave Sound, 19th December (RJT).
- COMMON SCOTER. Up to 6 in Yell until mid-June. Nesting suspected and one nest of c/7 found on 21st July. 1st record for Yell (RJT).
- EIDER. First young seen in Yell, 27th May and in Unst, 10th June. 350 in Bluemell Sound, 21st November (MS) and 270 in Colgrave Sound, 6th December (RJT).
- KING EIDER. One male in Breiwick, Lerwick 19th October (G. Bowers; WP & DC).
- RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. Flocks of 52 Trondavoe, 26th September and 40 Basta Voe, January.
- GOOSANDER. One Basta Voe, 30th January and 2 Mid-Yell, 3rd February, all ♀ (RJT).
- SMEW. Female at Clickimin on 21st March (WP).
- SHELDUCK. 1-2 pairs bred Unst, 1 pair with 6 young on Half Gruney, 1 pair with 6 young at Skellister, but the Sumburgh birds did not do very well, max. 3 birds with 9 young.
- GREY LAG GOOSE. Passage from 10th to 19th October; maxima 55 at Spiggie, 19th October and 26 in Unst on 18th October.
- BRENT GOOSE. 2 at Norwick, 26th March (MS & EM); 9 at Sand of Hayes, 10th May (DC); 2 at Virkie, 17th May and 4 at Gutter on 20th-21st May (RJT). All pale-breasted.
- WHOPER SWAN. One summered between Strand and Spiggie Lochs. Arrivals from 30th September; 67 in Unst on 21st November, 28 at Clickimin, 28th October, but no counts from Spiggie.
- BEWICK'S SWAN. 2 at Loch Spiggie, late March to 28th April (JP). 1 at Hillwell, 17th May (RJT).
- BUZZARD. Singles at Norwick, 29th February (MS & EM) and Aywick, Yell, 3rd May (J. Nicholson).
- ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD. One Haroldswick, 10th April (MS & EM).

- HONEY BUZZARD.** One at Camb, Yell, 7th June, found dead on 8th (RJT).
- OSPREY.** One at Sandwater Loch, mainland, 6th-9th June (DC, JP & RJT).
- HOBBY.** One in Lerwick, 15th June (JP).
- PEREGRINE.** Two pairs were found on Mainland with B/1 and B/2.
- MERLIN.** Very few breeding pairs located. Small autumn passage noted.
- RED-FOOTED FALCON.** One (probably 1st S. ♀) Baltasound, Unst, 19th-29th May (RJT, MS & EM). First for Shetland, other than Fair Isle.
- KESTREL.** Small numbers on passage from most islands between 26th March and 20th May, and 7th July to 4th November.
- RED GROUSE.** Heard calling at Kergord, 26th September.
- QUAIL.** Single birds heard as follows: Unst, 13th and 22nd June (MS & EM), Grutness, 14th June (DC), Virkie, 17th June (W. Horne) and Mid-Yell, 20th June (RJT).
- CORNCRAKE.** Birds heard calling in 3 places in Unst from 15th May, at Scalloway and Tingwall, 26th June (JP), Dunrossness, 17th May, Fetlar 17th June and Yell, July (RJT).
- COOT.** One at Mid-Yell, 19th January and 2 at Spiggie 5th October.
- OYSTERCATCHER.** Small numbers wintered; spring arrivals from 9th February. Breeding numbers still spreading; most gone by mid-September and largest flock 200 at Sumburgh on 20th October.
- LAPWING.** Breeding numbers low. Largest flock, 220 at Cullivoe, 15th October.
- GOLDEN PLOVER.** Post-breeding maxima of 260 in Unst, 10th October and 200 in Yell, late October. Late flock of 200 in Unst on 28th November.
- TURNSTONE.** Small numbers summered: 1-2 in Unst, 10-20 at Hascosay and Fetlar.
- JACK SNIFE.** Singles at Fetlar, 14th October (RJT) and Unst, 5th December (MS).
- WOODCOCK.** Singles at North Roe, 12th January, Hermaness, 11th April, and Whalsay, 31st October.
- WHIMBREL.** First seen 30th April and had a good season.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT.** Singles in Unst, 19th May and 10th October; ca. 15 on Virkie, late August and wintering.
- GREEN SANDPIPER.** One at Burrafirth, 26th April (MS & EM).
- WOOD SANDPIPER.** One at Norwick, Unst, 18th May (MS & EM).
- COMMON SANDPIPER.** First seen in Unst, 13th May and 3 pairs found on mainland.
- REDSHANK.** Bred on Mainland, Yell, Unst and Fetlar; increasing on Yell and Fetlar.

- SPOTTED REDSHANK.** One at Haroldswick, 6th May. First for Unst (MS & EM).
- GREENSHANK.** Singles at Virkie 10th August, Spiggie 27th and Strand 6th September.
- DOWITCHER.** One in summer plumage at Small Waters, Unst, 23rd and 24th May. First record for Shetland (MS & EM).
- KNOT.** Small numbers throughout the year, but mainly July-August, maximum 16 Yell, 11th August.
- RUFF.** One Virkie 10th August, 2 Spiggie 27th August, 1 Spiggie 1st September, 1 Unst 6th September, 1 Sound Gruney 23rd September, 1 Graven and 2 Scalloway 26th September.
- AVOCET.** 2 at Cullivoe, Yell 22nd-25th March. One found dead 26th. One Unst 26th-29th and one Asta Loch, Mainland 27th March. One Unst 28th May.
- RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.** Arrived Fetlar 20th and Unst 23rd May. May be slight increase but not a good breeding season.
- GREAT SKUA.** First seen Unst 29th March, Lerwick 16th April and last seen Hascosay 14th October and Unst 19th October.
- ARCTIC SKUA.** First seen Unst 25th and Yell 27th April.
- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.** 800 pairs nesting on Holm of Ness (RJT).
- GLAUCOUS GULL.** One Cullivoe, 6th February; numbers seen in Unst, 21st January-23rd May, mainly February, maxima of 8 on 5th and 8th and 6 on 9th. Adult at Fetlar in June and an immature in Lerwick, July. Singles Unst, 18th October and Lerwick, 22nd November.
- ICELAND GULL.** In Unst, 1 on 5th and 8th, 2 on 13th February, 2 on 7th March (MS & EM). 1 at Lerwick, 16th May (RJT). Singles at Unst, 28th-29th November (MS) and Scalloway, 14th December (DC).
- COMMON/ARCTIC TERN.** First seen Fetlar 5th, Yell 7th and Unst 11th May. Numbers about average but very poor fledging success due to hailstorms.
- LITTLE AUK.** Singles ashore Unst 6th February and Yell 7th December.
- WOOD PIGEON.** Small numbers on passage in Unst. Several pairs nested at Kergord and a flock of 50 there in September.
- TURTLE DOVE.** Singles at Kergord 6th June, Muckle Roe 25th June, Lerwick 25th July, Mid-Yell 14th September and 6th-7th October.
- COLLARED DOVE.** One at Mid-Yell, 19th May (RJT) was the first record for Shetland, excluding Fair Isle and Foula. One at Spiggie, 20th May (T. Henderson). During May and June, 1-3 were seen Fetlar, Unst, Lerwick, Kergord, Bixter, Burravoe and West Sandwick. Singles were seen at

- Unst on 1st-3rd and 4th September and one at Tingwall 12th September. 3 took up residence in Lerwick and wintered.
- CUCKOO.** First heard at Kergord 24th May, Unst and Tingwall 26th May.
- SNOWY OWL.** One on Yell 10th June (RJT). One Fetlar 10th-17th June, 17th July, 15th and 22nd September, last seen there on 12th October (LB, RJT & DC). One Whalsay from 20th June, seen most days until 14th October (DC). One Ronas Hill area late August. Reports probably refer to two birds.
- LONG-EARED OWL.** 11 wintered at Halligarth, Unst. Late singles there 1st, 2nd and 16th May. One pair nested near Scalloway, reared 3 chicks from c/4. Nest found with two eggs on 30th April, young hatched from 26th May and flew from 30th June (DC). Singles in Unst 18th July and 24th August. 2 wintered at Scalloway and 2 at Halligarth, Unst.
- SHORT-EARED OWL.** Singles, both found with broken wings, at North Roe 12th and Nesting 16th October.
- NIGHTJAR.** One at Seafield, Lerwick 26th May (DC).
- SWIFT.** Small movement in July, 15th-26th at Unst, Yell and Sumburgh.
- WRYNECK.** One at Saxaford, Unst 3rd September (EM).
- SKYLARK.** 200 in flock, Mid-Yell 16th-23rd and build up in Unst from 29th March. Song in Unst 24th and Yell 29th March.
- SWALLOW.** Flocks of ca. 20 at Lumbaster (Yell), Hermaness and Sumburgh during last half of May. One pair reared two broods at Grutness.
- HOUSE MARTIN.** Very numerous in spring in Unst, maximum ca. 50 on 25th May.
- SAND MARTIN.** Singles in Unst 21st, 26th May and 13th June (MS & EM). 1 at Tingwall 8th September (DC).
- GOLDEN ORIOLE.** One adult male at Seafield 24th and 25th June (DC). Singles reported from Mid-Yell 4th and 6th June, Kergord 16th June and Busta (mainland) 24th June.
- CARRION CROW.** 5 Dunrossness 17th May; 1 Tingwall 16th May and 1 Scalloway 21st-28th August.
- FIELDFARE.** Considerable movements were noted in Yell and Unst in first week of January; maximum 50 plus on 2nd January. Last seen at Fetlar 24th and Dunrossness (200) 27th April, and Unst 4th May. First seen Exnaboe 8th September (T. Moncrieff) and Walls 26th September (J. Cumming). Large numbers noted at Unst (250), Walls, Lerwick, Yell and Fetlar 30th October.
- SONG THRUSH.** Singles in Unst 27th February, 26th March and 23rd April; one singing at Halligarth on 21st July (N. J.

- Gordon). One at Sumburgh 1st November.
- REDWING. One at Kergord on 6th (RJT). Small numbers noted on passage from 23rd September at Walls (JC). Maxima on 13th-15th October.
- RING OUZEL. Singles at Saxavord 23rd April (MS) and Helia Water (Mainland) 31st May (JP).
- WHEATEAR. First noted Mid-Yell 14th, Unst 18th, Lerwick 19th and Fetlar 20th April. Last one Unst 18th October.
- WHINCHAT. One Fitful Head 17th May (RJT).
- STONECHAT. A male at Aywick (Yell) 28th-29th February (J. Nicholson).
- REDSTART. Single males Unst 3rd, 21st and 28th May. Small numbers on passage from 9th September to 18th October.
- BLUETHROAT. A female at Noup, Saxavord 21st May (MS & EM).
- SEDGE WARBLER. Singles at Spiggie 17th May and Kergord 6th June (RJT). Singles near Snarravoe and Snabrough on 23rd and 24th May; first records for Unst (MS & EM).
- BLACKCAP. Small numbers, up to 6, on passage 18th April-6th May and 27th September-10th November.
- BARRED WARBLER. One Saxavord, Unst 4th September (EM) and one Mid-Yell 7th September (RJT).
- GARDEN WARBLER. Singles Unst 20th and 24th May and 5th June (MS) and Lerwick 19th June (DC). Singles Mid-Yell 30th September and Seafield, Lerwick 29th September-21st October (WP & DC).
- WHITETHROAT. 3 Fetlar 1st May, singles at Gruting 17th May, Haroldswick 13th June and Mid-Yell 16th October.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT. Singles Lerwick 9th May and 10th June (DC) and Unst 4th September (MS).
- WILLOW WARBLER. Small numbers on passage 17th-30th May and 6th September-20th October.
- CHIFFCHAFF. 2 on 10th and 17th October, Unst (MS).
- YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER. One at Haroldswick 11th October (MS & EM). One Seafield, Lerwick 7th-8th October (DC & WP). One at Reafirth, Mid-Yell and 2 at Fetlar 14th October (RJT).
- GOLDCREST. Singles Unst 18th and 22nd April. Small numbers most islands 8th September-30th October.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Singles Saxavord 21st May (MS & EM) and Lerwick 19th May (DC).
- PIED FLYCATCHER. Singles at Scalloway, Sumburgh, Lerwick, Yell and Unst on several dates, 27th August-13th October.
- HEDGE SPARROW. Singles Mid-Yell 27th-28th March (RJT). 2 on 21st, 3 on 25th and 1 on 30th April at Norwick, Unst (MS). 3 Fetlar 1st May (RJT).
- TREE PIPIT. One in Unst on 1st and 5 on 4th September (EM & MS).

- PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL. Small passage 1st-30th March. One Pied at Mid-Yell 28th March. A pair of White Wagtails reported nesting in a quarry near Scalloway and one seen in a quarry at Gonfirth 30th June. 2 White Wagtails in Unst 1st July. Passage at Scalloway 18th August-26th September, maximum 6 on 6th (BH). Passage at Unst 27th August-8th October, maximum 4 on 1st and 2nd September (EM & MS).
- YELLOW WAGTAIL. One *flavissima* at Haroldswick 12th May (EM & MS).
- WAXWING. One Aywick, Yell 20th April (RJT).
- GREAT GREY SHRIKE. One found freshly dead, Yell 30th May.
- RED-BACKED SHRIKE. A ♂ at Saxavord 24th-29th May (MS and EM) ♀ at Baltasound 10th and ♂ at Sellafirth, Yell 11th June (RJT).
- GREENFINCH. One ♂ singing at Seafield, Lerwick 17th-22nd October (WP & DC).
- SISKIN. Singles at Mid-Yell 23rd September (RJT), Lerwick 7th October (DC) and 3 at Halligarth, Unst 10th October (MS).
- REDPOLL. Singles at Saxavord 19th May (MS & EM) and Lerwick 20th May (DC).
- CROSSBILL. One male Kergord 6th June (RJT), singles at Lerwick 23rd July and Whalsay late July.
- CHAFFINCH. Small numbers 27th March-26th April (MS, EM & RJT). One Unst 27th May. 8 on 5th and 1 on 21st October, Unst. Singles on 8th and 22nd October, Lerwick. 2 on 28th and 3 on 29th September at Scalloway.
- BRAMBLING. 1 on 27th March and 3 on 3rd May, Unst. Singles Burravoe 7th and Lerwick 13th April. Small numbers most places 6th October-14th November, maximum 20 on 13th at Mid-Yell.
- CORN BUNTING. (RJT) reports that it is becoming rare as a breeding species. Birds were nesting at Cullivoe, Reafirth and Aywick, Yell, and one was singing in Unst 25th May. A flock of 30 on Whalsay, 14th October (DC).
- REED BUNTING. Singles in Unst 3rd May and 25th June (singing) (MS & EM). A nest with c/5 at Spiggie 17th May (RJT), hatched successfully. One Mid-Yell 14th October.
- SNOW BUNTING. Wintering flocks until 3rd May; maximum number reported from Unst (200). One Unst 31st May-2nd June. Autumn arrivals from 7th September; maxima 150 in Yell and 120 in Unst.
- HOUSE SPARROW. An albino juvenile found dead in Yell, 10th September (RJT).
- TREE SPARROW. One 3rd-5th May and 3 on 2nd June in same bush at Norwick, Unst (MS & EM). 8-10 birds in the plan-

tations at Kergord in June, were thought to have been nesting.

The following species were also recorded: Shag, Mallard, Teal, Pheasant, Water Rail, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Sanderling, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, Razorbill, Guillemot, Black Guillemot, Puffin, Rock Dove, Raven, Hooded Crow, Jackdaw, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Starling and Twite.

I am particularly grateful to Bobby Tulloch (RJT), Mid-Yell (Shetland representative of the R.S.P.B.), Magnus Sinclair, Haroldswick, Unst (MS) and Dennis Coutts (DC), Lerwick, Mainland, for sending very full notes. Records were also received from Eric Machell (EM) and Stephen Saxby, Unst; John Nicholson (JN), Hascosay; Lolly Brown (LB), Fetlar; Jack Peterson (JP) and Bill Porteous (WP), Lerwick; Bernard Hardy, Scalloway; L. Sutherland, Noss and William Horne, Virkie.

GEORGE STOUT OF FIELD

Friends of Fair Isle will learn with sadness of the death of Fair Isle's oldest inhabitant, George Stout or "Fieldy," in his eightieth year, on 5th April 1966.

An appreciation of his ornithological work will be given in the Annual Report for 1965 to be published shortly.

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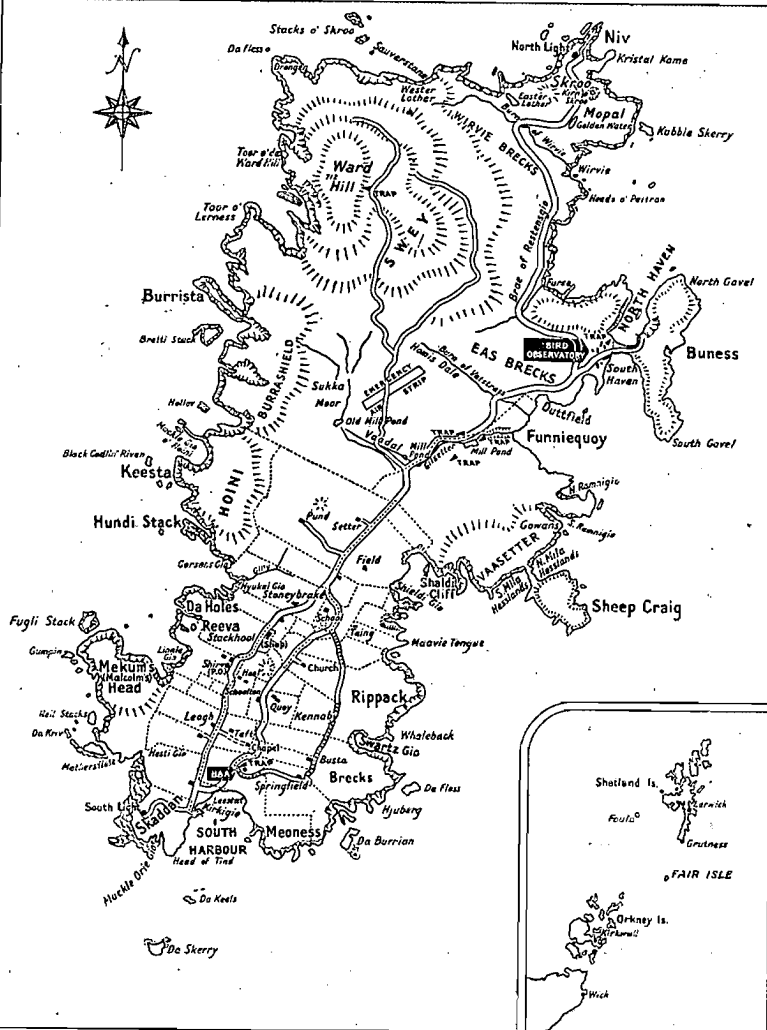
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