

## MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY AND FIELD RESEARCH STATION

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### REPORT FOR 1953 AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1954      OCTOBER 31st, 1953

MONKS' HOUSE has had another busy year. Well over five hundred visitors, many of them students but the great majority independent people, stayed with us for periods varying from long weekends to a month or more. On a number of occasions we were able to welcome family parties, for whom Monks' House offers special attractions and facilities, alongside parties from Natural History Societies, Universities, Training Colleges and at least twenty different Schools. We welcomed, too, many visitors from abroad and, during this coming spring before the *International Ornithological Congress* meets in Switzerland at the end of May, we hope to welcome many more : special arrangements are being made for overseas visitors who wish to see something of Britain's bird life and bird research whilst they are here. Most of the people who come to us are interested primarily in birds. But two innovations, the WILDFLOWER WEEK at the end of June and OUTDOOR SKETCHING IN LINE AND WATERCOLOUR in August, proved so rewarding that we are devoting more time to both subjects in 1954 : MARINE AND FRESHWATER PLANTS in the second week of July and additional LINE AND WATERCOLOUR SKETCHING WEEKS in September and October, months which are so often the finest and sunniest of the whole year on the Northumbrian coast. The SPECIAL COURSES for schools and training colleges were quickly filled last year and already many enquiries for 1954 are coming in. Three of these Courses on general natural history (including marine biology) designed especially for Vth and VIth form and training college student groups, usually coming with their own staffs, will be held in July : *June 30th—July 7th* ; *July 14th—21st* and *21st—28th*. The dates of the 1954 BIRD COURSES, each of which lasts for 10 days, are as follows : WINTER COURSE—*Winter Wildfowl : January 5th—15th* ; SPRING COURSE—*Nests and Nestlings : May 26th—June 4th* ; SUMMER COURSE—*Passage Waders : August 4th—14th* ; AUTUMN COURSE—*Flock Formation : September 1st—10th*.

The BIRD BIOLOGY COURSE on FOOD and FEEDING HABITS held last year at the end of April in collaboration with the *British Trust for Ornithology* was attended by some twenty students. Dr. John Gibb of the *Edward Grey Institute*, Oxford, kindly came to lecture and considerable progress was made, chiefly with the food of certain waders and of the Long-eared Owl. Both at this time and later in the season long series of pellets were found and analysed, representing the bulk of the kills of a pair of these owls during the winter and spring, over 500 pellets in all : they contained remains of 13 young rabbits ; 29 rats ; 385 field-mice (*Apodemus*) ; 46 water-voles ; 143 field voles ; 85 bank-voles ; 1 mole ; 8 common shrews ; 1 pigmy shrew and the following birds : 5 skylarks ; 1 swallow ; 1 house-martin ; 3 blue-tits ; 3 wheatears ; 4 robins ; 1 dunnoek ; 1 starling ; 9 greenfinches ; 11 linnets ; 10 chaffinches ; 1 corn-bunting ; 1 reed-bunting ; 7 house-sparrows and 5 unidentified passerines ; also 86 dor-beetles ; 5 burying-beetles ; 102 ground and 24 click-beetles, some of the smaller of which may well have been originally in the gizzards of some of these insectivorous birds. For this most painstaking analysis we are indebted principally to John Missen of *Lancing*, Duncan Earle of *Greshams* and to a group of VI-form girls from *Newland* (Hull) and *Bridlington High Schools*. Monks' House students helped to restore the wire-netting covering the Heligoland trap on the Inner Farne, completely ripped off in the February gales, and, also on behalf of the Ringing Committee of the *Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-on-Tyne N.H.S.*, caught and ringed more than 200 young Lesser Black-backed Gulls on some of the other islands. The restoration of the trap on the Inner Farne was celebrated by the capture in it of a fine cock Crossbill on September 8th, one of about twenty recorded this summer on the Farnes or in the vicinity of Monks' House. Our records as in previous years are placed at the disposal of the compilers of the *County* and of the *Farnes Ornithological Reports* : those for the current year include Cory's Shearwater (March 1st) ; Hen Harrier ; Quail ; Black Tern ; Scops Owl (Holy Island, October 4th) ; a splendid adult male White-spotted Bluethroat (April 18th) ; another Lesser Grey Shrike (September 8th) and others mentioned in the next section of this Report.

Clive Minton, late of *Oundle*, now up at Cambridge, came and kindly took charge of the Observatory while Dr. and Mrs. Ennion were away in Jersey for the autumn meeting of the Observatories Committee—where not only were they shown the traps and all over the island, but many 'new' birds and were royally entertained by members of the Ornithological Section of the *Société Jersiaise*. In mid-January the Director attended the winter meeting of the Observatories Committee in Liverpool where, by the kindness of his hostess, Mary Henderson, and of Mr. R. Wagstaff of the Museum who led the expedition, he saw vast flocks of waders on the Mersey and the Ribble, and of Pintail on the Dee. On January 27th he was invited to address the *Scottish Field Studies Association* in Glasgow at the inauguration of the first Scottish Field Centre, *The Garth*, Perthshire; on the 29th to give a Vice-Presidential address to the *Kings College Biological Society*, Newcastle; in May, to direct a Field Course at *Grantley Hall*, Ripon, under the West Riding C.C. and, in October, another Course at *Dillington House* near Ilminster in Somerset. Among many other engagements nearer home, Dr. and Mrs. Ennion with a small Monks' House party joined an expedition of the *Scottish Ornithologists Club* to the Bass Rock, when and where the Herring Gulls and most of the Gannets listed in the summary overleaf were ringed, together with many others on behalf of the S.O.C. But before coming to these more detailed aspects of the past year's work we would wish to thank warmly those who have contributed so generously to Monks' House needs—books for the Library; loan of binoculars; tools for both workshop and laboratory; gloves for 'gorse-nesting' and, last but not least, the Long-tailed Drake which, far more aptly than a mere weathercock, gives us the direction of the wind. Our greatest need is more binoculars to lend to those who deserve but cannot afford them; an accurate chemical balance and weights; unwanted store-boxes (entomological) to house our growing study collection of bird skins; standard reference books of any branch of natural history and sound small-mesh netting.

Once again it is convenient to subdivide this TRAPPING AND RECORDING SECTION of the Report into four parts, and from now on we intend to bring our year into line with the 'Observatories Year,' i.e. to end on October 31st. Our last Report ran to the end of September 1952: this and the summaries therefore cover an extra month.

(I) *Late Autumn 1952 and Winter Trapping*: on October 5th a typical native Treecreeper was trapped and, on October 8th with the first flush of passage Blackbirds, another but very different bird which appeared to be the Northern *C. c. familiaris*. A second Blackbird flush came on 12th/14th and the largest for the whole winter, with many Fieldfares and Redwings and Song-Thrushes, overnight on 17th/18th. From then to the end of the month Rock-Pipits were moving down the shore: we caught about 50. On October 13th the Lesser Grey Shrike recorded in our previous Report was recovered in Aberdeen, dead after having fallen down a chimney. A Black-throated Diver found on the road after a wild night, quite uninjured, was kept for awhile, fed and released from the beach on November 20th: it spluttered over the surf, settled down to wash and preen and then swam away strongly. By the end of November a big Greenfinch-Linnet flock was building-up in the vicinity of the Observatory: a good many were caught but it was not until after the great flood and gale at the end of January that we really got busy. The storm debris strewn around the house and thrown on to the adjacent dunes was littered with Sea Rocket seed-pods (*Cakile maritima*). Greenfinches gathered in swarms to the feast and after feeding on this salty fare, flew over to the willow-lined burn in the trapping garden to drink. By Mrs. Ennion and myself, or even singlehanded, thirties, forties and fifties were driven into the Heligoland trap—on one occasion 77 and on another 64 in one drive!—and not until mid-February were we getting a significant proportion of re-traps. Many too were taken in the 'Swedish S-traps' on the dunes: a thousand Greenfinches should give some indication of their travels in the next year or so.

(II) *Spring Passage 1953*: Rock-Pipits were on the move again by mid-March. About 60 were trapped of which two very grey birds taken on March 10th, and another on 22nd (handled also by Kenneth Williamson who was staying with us at the time), showed patches of pale creamy-pink feathers on the fore-neck and upper breast and were referable to the Scandinavian *A. a. littoralis*. Meadow-Pipits came through in numbers rather later: about 50 were caught on the beach during the week 12th—18th April. A Ruff on March 8th; a Black Redstart on 22nd and a Wheatear on 26th, followed in April by Green Sandpiper on 1st; Lesser Black-back on 2nd; Tree-Pipit and Sandwich Tern on 3rd; Hooded Crow on 7th; another Black Redstart and a Sand-Martin on 8th and Yellow Wagtails on 9th warned us that spring passage was well under weigh. We saw one and caught another Chiffchaff on April 10th—the first we have ever taken here and not another seen until a belated bird was caught in the evening of October 29th. Nor do we get many Willow-Warblers compared with the 'island' Observatories, although one of two taken on May 15th was the Northern *P. t. acredula*. Four out of six Redshanks caught in drop-nets on April 15th proved to be of the Continental race *T. t. totanus*. On April 18th a White-spotted Bluethroat, a male in full summer dress, was found in a cottage garden a few miles south of Monks' House, and watched at a few yards' range by everyone staying at the Observatory then. A Woodlark, a rare visitor to Northumberland, was seen on April 26th. Many Wheatears were passing through at the time, five out of a dozen caught referable on wing measurement to the Northern *O. o. leucorrhoa*. The Sedge-Warbler N 7492 cited in our last Report as having been ringed in 1951 and recaptured in 1952, turned up for a third year running on May 11th, 1953.

(III) *Nestlings*: the season opened well with 5 young Dippers ringed on April 10th and 5 young Ravens on the 11th. In a fortnight's time, with the aid of boys from *Oundle*, *Lancing* and elsewhere, another 100 Rooks from one of the rookeries visited last year were duly ringed—many of the firs in the second rookery (Shada) had been thrown down by the winter gales and it was only possible to find and ring about a dozen young Rooks there. By the beginning of June we had ringed over 40 dippers, mostly along the burns and rivers of the eastern flank of the Cheviots; about 50 Meadow-Pipits, mostly the first broods of the pipits nesting along the dunes to the north and south of the Observatory; and many of the first broods of Linnets, Whinchats, Song-Thrushes, etc. in the Cheviot valley, the subject of the special study recorded in the 1952 Report. Then came disaster. Five days of bitterly cold, wet, stormy weather around the 3rd of June played havoc: deserted eggs, starved broods and fledgelings (e.g. Black-headed Gulls) and even adults, confronted us everywhere—five out of our six resident Swallows perished, or disappeared. We noted that broods chilled more readily in thick felted nests like Chaffinches' and Dunnocks' than in 'free-drainage' nests like Whitethroats' and Reed-Buntings'. There were, of course, repeats and second broods but neither birds nor weather got properly into stride again: we ringed 67 young Linnets, for example, 22 Reed-Buntings and 28 Whinchats as against 194, 74 and 67 respectively last year. Among other nestlings ringed (by Monks' House) for the first time were Long and Short-eared Owls, Curlews, Ring-Ouzels, Redpolls, Treecreepers and Stonechats, of which a pair contrived to raise two broods of five apiece. But we should have been hard put to maintain our 'quota' of 1000 nestlings had it not been for 130 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, most of which were ringed in co-operation with Mr. Brian Weld on Flanders Moss, Stirling; and 90 Black-headed Gulls from a large Northumberland gullery where about 200 in all were ringed in co-operation with Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Webb of Berwick.

(IV) *Autumn Passage* : perhaps the most unusual feature has been the constant dribble of Pied Wagtails along the shore. During the six weeks between July 28th and September 6th we caught no less than 55 which, as anyone who has tried to catch them knows, implies the presence of a great many more. A *flava* wagtail taken on August 25th was found on critical examination to belong to the Blue-headed race. 30 Wheatears were caught between July 13th and September 25th but only half as many Whinchats (7) as in the year before and less than a quarter of what we took in 1951. The unlucky breeding season may well have had something to do with it. 60 Meadow-Pipits were caught, about half of these in last week of August; and rather more Rock-Pipits, although they did not 'peak' until October when, on the 9th, we had 20 in one day. The first Siskins seen at Monks' House, an adult pair, were caught on September 18th; but the first real flush of the autumn—Blackbirds, Redwings and a few Fieldfares, Bramblings, Continental Dunnocks and (presumably) Wrens—came about October 18/19/20th. We seem at long last to be learning how to catch waders on the tide-line. Of the mixed 'bag' of sixty detailed in the summary below as 'taken in traps' during the season all but a few almost-fledged juveniles were honestly come by, i.e. caught in drop or clap-nets on a pool (the Snipe) or on the shore. They include three each of Little Stint, Curlew-Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit, neither of the last two (to the best of my knowledge) having been ringed in this country before. It was an unforgettable experience for those who were with us to see all together under a 6' x 4' drop-net, a Dunlin, a Little Stint and a Curlew-Sandpiper (August 31st) and, a week later under a 5' x 4' clap-net, a Dunlin, another Curlew-Sandpiper and two Bar-tailed Godwits, one of which at the very last moment broke away and is not, of course, counted in the score!

SUMMARY OF BIRDS RINGED AT MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY,  
NORTHUMBERLAND, UP TO OCTOBER 31st, 1953.

B.O.U. list No.	Species (1951-53 : 106 species)	Grand Total 51-53	Total last year	1953 taken in traps	1953 ringed at nest	B.O.U. list No.	Species (1953 : 88 species)	Grand Total 51-53	Total last year	1953 taken in traps	1953 ringed at nest
1	Black-throated Diver ...	1	0	1	0	301	Mistle-Thrush ...	10	4	2	4
14	Storm-Petrel ...	1	1	0	0	302	Fieldfare ...	3	2	1	0
26	Fulmar ...	6	1	4	1	303	British Song-Thrush ...	149	90	25	34
27	Gannet ...	18	2	3	13		(Cont. Song-Thrush) ...	5	3	2	0
45	Mallard ...	7	0	0	7	304	Redwing ...	29	28	1	0
50	Wigeon ...	1	0	1	0	307	Ring-Ouzel ...	10	0	3	7
67	Eider-Duck ...	1	0	1	0	308	Blackbird ...	332	223	78	31
107	Merlin ...	6	2	0	4	311	Wheatear ...	166	101	58	7
126	Waterhen ...	1	1	0	0		(Northern Wheatear) ...	7	5	2	0
131	Oystercatcher ...	5	3	0	2	317	Stonechat ...	18	8	0	10
133	Lapwing ...	79	34	11	34	318	Whinchat ...	157	122	7	28
134	Ringed Plover ...	10	4	3	3	320	Redstart ...	36	24	12	0
143	Turnstone ...	4	3	1	0	321	Black Redstart ...	1	0	1	0
145	Snipe ...	14	9	5	0	325	British Robin ...	86	53	22	11
150	Curlew ...	4	0	1	3		(Cont. Robin) ...	5	4	1	0
155	Bar-tailed Godwit ...	3	0	3	0	333	Reed-Warbler ...	1	1	0	0
157	Wood-Sandpiper ...	3	3	0	0	337	Sedge-Warbler ...	62	45	3	14
159	Common Sandpiper ...	11	7	3	1	343	Blackcap ...	3	3	0	0
161	British Redshank ...	8	1	7	0	346	Garden-Warbler ...	12	6	6	0
	(Cont. Redshank) ...	3	0	3	0	347	Whitethroat ...	217	153	51	13
171	Little Stint ...	3	0	3	0	348	Lesser Whitethroat ...	2	0	2	0
178	Dunlin ...	19	3	16	0	354	Willow-Warbler ...	149	115	23	11
179	Curlew-Sandpiper ...	3	0	3	0		(Northern Willow Warbler) ...	1	0	1	0
181	Sanderling ...	2	1	1	0	356	Chiffchaff ...	2	0	2	0
184	Ruff ...	4	4	0	0	361	Pallas's Warbler ...	1	1	0	0
199	Lesser Black-backed Gull ...	156	21	1	134	364	Goldcrest ...	14	10	4	0
200	Herring-Gull ...	33	3	0	30	366	Spotted Flycatcher ...	11	8	3	0
208	Black-headed Gull ...	93	1	2	90	368	Pied Flycatcher ...	11	6	5	0
211	Kittiwake ...	1	0	1	0	371	Dunnock ...	155	104	29	22
218	Arctic Tern ...	6	0	1	5		(Cont. Dunnock) ...	4	0	4	0
222	Little Tern ...	2	1	0	1	373	Meadow-Pipit ...	544	309	140	95
227	Guillemot (Southern) ...	2	1	1	0	376	Tree-Pipit ...	2	0	2	0
230	Puffin ...	1	0	1	0	379	Rock-Pipit ...	265	157	108	0
234	Wood-Pigeon ...	18	10	2	6		(Scandinavian Rock-Pipit) ...	3	0	3	0
237	Cuckoo ...	9	9	0	0	380	Pied Wagtail ...	145	66	56	23
246	Little Owl ...	2	2	0	0		(White Wagtail) ...	1	1	0	0
247	Tawny Owl ...	20	8	2	10	381	Grey Wagtail ...	28	14	0	14
248	Long-eared Owl ...	5	0	1	4	382	Yellow Wagtail ...	6	6	0	0
249	Short-eared Owl ...	1	0	0	1		(Blue-headed Wagtail) ...	1	0	1	0
272	Skylark ...	60	28	5	27	385	Lesser Grey Shrike ...	1	1	0	0
274	Swallow ...	50	48	2	0	389	Starling ...	333	118	203	12
277	Sand-Martin ...	4	4	0	0	392	Greenfinch ...	1641	611	1030	0
279	Raven ...	9	4	0	5	393	Goldfinch ...	2	2	0	0
280	Carrion-Crow ...	1	1	0	0	394	Siskin ...	2	0	2	0
282	Rook ...	190	77	0	113	395	Linnet ...	730	596	67	67
283	Jackdaw ...	2	0	2	0	397	Redpoll ...	5	1	0	4
284	Magpie ...	8	8	0	0	407	Chaffinch ...	75	54	9	12
288	Great Tit ...	12	12	0	0	408	Brambling ...	17	11	6	0
289	Blue Tit ...	73	64	9	0	409	Yellowhammer ...	132	92	28	12
298	Treecreeper ...	10	2	1	7	410	Corn-Bunting ...	16	8	1	7
	(Northern Treecreeper) ...	1	1	0	0	421	Reed-Bunting ...	355	273	60	22
299	Wren ...	67	45	22	0	424	House-Sparrow ...	403	217	184	2
300	Dipper ...	64	17	5	42	425	Tree-Sparrow ...	4	3	1	0
TOTAL for 1953 ...						Totals ...					
						7487 4105 2377 1005					

*Some 1953 Recoveries* : a *Redshank* caught here in August 1952 was shot near Wisbech, Cambs. in December of the same year ; and a *Redwing* ringed in January 1952 was found, also in Cambs., in the following January (53), having returned to and from Scandinavia meanwhile. A *Tawny Owl*, one of two nestlings ringed at Budle Farm in 1952 was found near Moffat, Dumfries, on November 4th, 1952 ; and a *Lesser Black-backed Gull* ringed as a nestling near Stirling was recovered near Rockcliffe, Cumberland, on September 1st, 1953. Of three *Blackbirds* ringed as passage migrants in October 1952, one was retrapped on spring passage 1953 ; another was recovered at Skien, S. Norway, presumably near its breeding-ground, on May 21st, 1953 and the third at Gifford, E. Lothian on its way back to Scandinavia on May 15th, 1953 ; a fourth *Blackbird* ringed on October 8th, 1951, was re-trapped on its third autumn passage on September 24th, 1953. A good example of triple spring passage recovery is *Sedge-Warbler* N 7492 first caught on May 21st, 1951 (and again on 23rd and July 11th, i.e. it was breeding in the vicinity of the Observatory) ; then on June 1st, 1952 and now this year on May 11th 1953. Many birds caught in 1951 have been retrapped in 1953 : a *Robin* (October 13th, 1951/October 3rd, 1953) ; two *Rock-Pipits* (July 18th, 1951/April 19th, 1953 and July 23rd, 1951/April 25th, 1953) and others taken on autumn passage 1952. Similarly with *Meadow-Pipits* : two autumn passage 1951 and no less than *nine* autumn 1952 were retaken on their return in spring 1953 ; and *Reed-Buntings* : one spring and four autumn 1951, and two autumn 1952, were retaken, all during April, 1953. Finally *Greenfinches* : eleven trapped in the winter of 1951/52 have been recovered, mostly fairly near home but one near Lincoln (three of the same flock were recovered in 1952 from near Blackpool, Whitby and North Shields) and, of the recent 1952/53 winter birds, two already from near West Hartlepool out of about 60 recovered or retrapped this year all told. This indicates an interesting 'random scatter' of a few birds from a flock.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1954.

JAN.	5—15	...	WINTER BIRD COURSE— <i>Winter Wild-fowl.</i>	JULY	14—21	...	SPECIAL COURSE NO. II—in <i>general natural history for V and VI—form and T. Col. students.</i>
	16—MAR. 17		<i>by arrangement—winter trapping.</i>				
MAR.	17—24	...	EQUINOCTIAL SPRING TIDES.		21—28	...	SPECIAL COURSE NO. III—in <i>general natural history for V and VI—form and T. Col. Students.</i>
	24—APR. 7		<i>by arrangement—early spring passage.</i>				
APR.	7—14	...	EASTER BIOLOGY COURSE.		28—AUG. 4...		OUTDOOR SKETCHING IN LINE AND WATER COLOUR.
	14—21	...	EASTER WEEK.	AUG.	4—14	...	SUMMER BIRD COURSE— <i>Passage Waders.</i>
	21—MAY. 26		<i>by arrangement—spring trapping except that between these dates part of the accommodation will be reserved for overseas visitors.</i>		14—SEPT. 1		<i>by arrangement—autumn passage and wader trapping.</i>
MAY	26—JUN. 4		SPRING BIRD COURSE— <i>Nests and Nestlings.</i>	SEPT.	1—10	...	AUTUMN BIRD COURSE— <i>Flock Formation.</i>
JUNE	4—12	...	WHITSUN WEEK— <i>First Broods.</i>		11—18	...	OUTDOOR SKETCHING IN LINE AND WATER COLOUR.
	12—23	...	<i>by arrangement—breeding studies and ringing nestlings.</i>		18—OCT. 2		<i>by arrangement—autumn passage.</i>
	23—30	...	WILDFLOWER WEEK.	OCT.	2—9	...	OUTDOOR SKETCHING IN LINE AND WATER COLOUR.
	30—JULY 7		SPECIAL COURSE NO. I—in <i>general natural history for V and VI—form and T. Col. students.</i>	OCT	9—16	...	EXPERIMENTAL TRAPPING WEEK.
JULY	7—14	...	MARINE AND FRESHWATER PLANT COURSE.		16—onwards		<i>by arrangement—winter trapping.</i>
				JAN.	5—15 1955		WINTER BIRD COURSE— <i>provisional.</i>

The arrangements for 1954 set out above should enable intending visitors to Monks' House to plan their dates well ahead—vacancies soon get filled and it is not often that we can accept people at short notice. Anyone who wishes to come but is in doubt whether he or she is 'qualified'—or who finds these dates difficult—should write to the Director for advice, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and giving some brief indication of previous experience, intentions, age, etc. Copies of this Report will be sent to anyone else who is interested on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope sent to the Director, Monks' House Bird Observatory, Seahouses, Northumberland.

MONKS' HOUSE lies just off the Great North Road. It is served by the main line station of *Chathill*, where local bus services connect with the overnight and certain day trains, as also with the long distance coaches to Newcastle from London and elsewhere. Travel details may be had on request. Lists are sent on confirmation of booking to advise students what they should bring. Parcels of clothes, etc. may be sent in advance.

In earlier days the Monks' House site belonged to Lindisfarne Priory and was used for a storehouse and landing place by monks going to and from their retreat on the Inner Farne. In its day it has also been an inn. There are three main buildings, now converted into one, and Dr. and Mrs Ennion have given much thought and care to the replanning, equipment and furnishing : Aga and Rayburn cookers, electric lighting and new hot and cold water systems have been installed. Every effort is made to ensure that all the rooms are warm, comfortable and pleasant to live in. We do our utmost to welcome visitors and to offer them the comfort of a home. Ample meals are served in the Refectory : *breakfast* at eight ; *dinner* at seven ; *tea* at four-thirty for those who have come in—packed lunches are normally provided to enable students to spend as much time as possible outdoors. Visitors are asked kindly to take a share in keeping their bedrooms tidy and in clearing away and washing up after meals. We are more than fortunate in the staff who help us : in their spare time they share the interests of the students and join in whatever happens to be going on.

Single rooms are usually available or, in the case of friends, double rooms if desired. Residence rates vary : for non-earning students who share dormitory accommodation £5 15s. 6d. a week ; for adults sharing dormitory accommodation £6 10s. a week ; for single or double rooms facing the Islands and the sea £8 8s. a week and for other single or double rooms £7 7s. a week. A minimum rate of one guinea per day is payable for shorter periods. The terms for the seven and eight guinea rooms are reduced from the end of September to the end of April (excluding Easter and Whitsun weeks). Advance booking is essential and a non-returnable booking fee of one guinea is due on confirmation, which will be deducted from the final payment. These charges include everything except such extras as taxi, coach or boat fares, car transport, telephone calls or meals not provided by the house. School and training college students may apply to their Local Education Authority for grants in aid of fares, tuition fees and residence costs. Impending cancellations should be notified AT ONCE to enable the vacancy to be offered to somebody else. Limited garage accommodation is available on the premises. NO DOGS or other pets are allowed and no private trapping or ringing of birds is permitted nor collecting of any kind without the Director's consent. The principle of conservation must be scrupulously upheld.