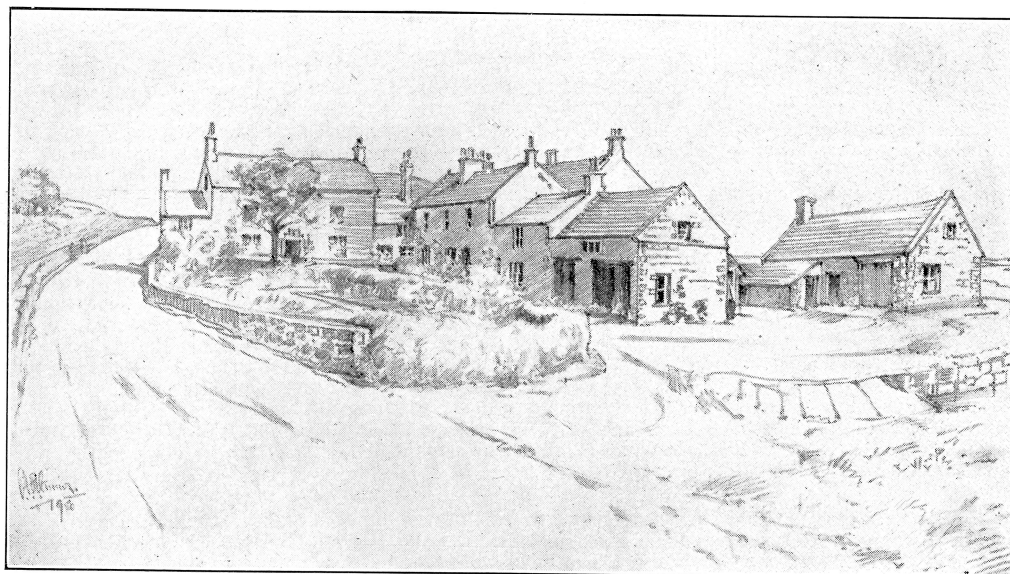


MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY, SEAHOUSES, NORTHUMBERLAND

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1954 REPORT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1955

OCTOBER 31ST, 1954

Past and recent residents of MONKS' HOUSE will be pleased to hear that we have had another busy season : unfilled vacancies from mid-February to the end of October were few and far between and much good work has been accomplished. We have welcomed visitors from S. Africa, Canada, New Zealand and the U.S.A.— we were especially delighted to have Dr. and Mrs. Roger Peterson staying with us in the summer—from Germany, Switzerland, Sweden; and from Oxford, Cambridge and other Universities ; from various training colleges and parties from fifteen different schools, several of whom came specifically to study birds ; and, as in former years, many family parties and people coming for their third, fourth and even seventh visit. This is all exceedingly encouraging, to say nothing of the practical advantage of having a few experienced people among the newcomers, knowing something of Observatory routine. We would wish particularly to mention parties from Clayesmore and Whitgift Schools, who showed real knowledge of birds and were so co-operative both in home and field. The Director attended the Observatories Winter Conference at Oxford and, with Mrs. Ennion, the joint B.T.O.—Yorks. Conference at Grantley Hall, Ripon, in March and, in October, the Observatories ' At Home ' at Dungeness, where we saw much of great interest and were most hospitably entertained. On the way home General Wainwright kindly showed developments at his highly successful trapping station on the big Essex reservoir near Layer-de-la-Haye. In June we welcomed a large party of the *Scottish Ornithological Club* and, in July, joined them on an expedition to the Bass Rock, to which we paid another visit later on. A number of lectures and broadcasts were given during the year.

We have been able to co-operate usefully on the Farnes (where the trap was again blown down) with the *Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-on-Tyne N.H.S.*, by ringing on their behalf nearly one thousand birds, including many adult Kittiwakes and Shags ; also with the compilers of the *County* and the *Farne Islands Ornithological Reports* ; with Duck Counts, Migration Watches and with research on Ectoparasites organised by and using the special apparatus designed by Kenneth Williamson of Fair Isle (see *B.B. vol. XLVII pl. 44*). We are grateful to Gordon Thompson of Cambridge for his help in the identification of these and many nest ectoparasites collected during the season ; and to Dr. Mary Adams of the Manchester P.H. Laboratory for pathological reports on various specimens sent in. We have had our customary succession of injured birds brought to the Observatory, ranging from auks to Eiders, Knots to Lapwings, Barn Owls to Mute Swans. We have covered our third breeding season in the Cheviot valley where a special investigation into the breeding success of certain passerines is in progress : one more season should enable us to conclude this study. Our ringing total for the year is down. This is due partly to the lack of migrants in the spring from which all the Observatories suffered, partly to a relative scarcity of winter finches in the immediate vicinity (we trapped over 1,000 Greenfinches in the winter of 1953) but mainly because we have devoted a lion's share of our trapping time to waders on the shore. This was deliberate. We have long felt that in view of the large numbers of waders ringed on the Continent, their extensive migrations and high recovery rates, we ought to be trapping them in Britain on a far heavier scale than heretofore. General Wainwright is taking a good many in his duck traps round the reservoir but very few are being caught elsewhere. Tidal beaches pose peculiar problems of their own (not found, for example, on the tideless Baltic shores) ; but, as our own modest figures are beginning to show, they can be solved. And we admit furthermore and quite unashamedly that for sheer fascination no other form of trapping can compare with the netting of waders on a waveswept shore ! Our total for waders in 1954 is 213 : of these 60 (chiefly Lapwings and Curlews) were nestlings, practically all the others were trapped on the shore. We hope before long to be able to publish details of methods in some form that would enable other workers to adopt them if they wished to do so, for most of the Observatories are sited conveniently beside the sea. We hope too that others will tackle the problem on suitable inland waters.

WINTER PERIOD 1953/54 : November 1st and 2nd brought the last considerable movements of Skylarks, Redwings and Fieldfares of this winter but at least two heavy falls of Blackbirds came later on : November 15/16th and 25th, when we trapped 40 plus and 30 plus respectively. Other passage migrants included a Water-Rail on 4th, Short-eared Owls on 6th and, on 8th, a cock Lapland Bunting was taken in one of the beach traps with some Greenfinches. In December we turned our attention to wintering Starlings, of which 110 were caught between 9th and 20th : one of these birds was recovered on April 7th, 1954 near Bergen in Norway.

Otherwise the only species trapped in any numbers were Yellowhammers (ca 20) and waders attracted to an area on the beach where shorefly larvae were still active in a layer of rotten seaweed under an inch-thick covering of sand, frozen every night : about 50 waders were caught but we failed to outwit a lone and wary Coot which spent the cold spell on the shore, living on seaweed (chiefly *Ulva* and *Enteromorpha*) and the *Coelopa* larvae. Mrs. Ennion found a Grey Phalarope in Seahouses harbour on January 10th, where three Glaucous Gulls were wintering and, on 29th, a duck Smew was recorded from Budle Bay. A small flock of 35 Pale-breasted Brents was present on Fenham Flats at the beginning of February and after 10th, when a thaw set in, 7 Scaup, a pair of Goldeneye and a Black-necked Grebe took possession of the pool close to the Observatory.

SPRING PASSAGE 1954 commenced with 2 Yellow Wagtails and a cock Wheatear passing N. on March 26th. On the following day a Common Sandpiper, a few Lesser Black-backs and several small chains of Gannets were moving up the coast. On 28th a couple of Bewick Swans and a Scandinavian Rock-Pipit were seen and, on 31st, our first Wheatear trapped this year was found to be a female we had ringed originally on April 11th, 1953. More Wheatears and Rock-Pipits (of which 5 were trapped on 31st) followed but the spring passage of Meadow-Pipits never got under way : only two were caught on the beach during April as against 60 plus during April '53. On April 6th a pair of Sandwich Terns came squealing high over the shore and a probable Bluethroat was heard and flushed several times among marram on the dunes, but never satisfactorily viewed. A Blackcap arrived on 13th and by 17th, the only day on which we noted anything approaching a definite Meadow-Pipit passage, about 800 Common Scoter had collected in the approaches to Budle Bay, together with at least 50 Long-tailed Ducks, many of the drakes in breeding plumage. The 21st brought two pairs of Gadwall, a Black Redstart and the first Swallow ; the 23rd Willow-Warblers and Common Redstarts ; the 28th a few Arctic Terns and the 30th a Cuckoo. But no movement of note had developed until the beginning of May when, on 1st, a Whinchat and on 2nd, Robins appeared including one which, in the hand, was found to be an exceptionally grey and pale-orange Continental bird (another had been caught previously on March 31st). By 3rd a Chiffchaff, a Pied Flycatcher and a few Whitethroats and Tree-Pipits had arrived and a Manx Shearwater passed offshore : ten of these birds were seen flying S.E. off the Inner Farne on June 21st in a loose-knit flock. On 4th a Black Tern appeared—others and a Little Gull on the 14th—and on 5th there was a well marked passage which included Willow-Warblers, Pied Flycatchers, Yellow Wagtail, Ruff, Corncrake and the first Whimbrel. The main body of Whimbrel arrived on 17/19th, when as many as twenty were to be seen early in the mornings 'sand-hopping' with Curlews on the beach : four of these and two Curlew were caught. A late Ring-Ouzel was seen on the Inner Farne on 8th and 4 Whoopers on 11th, from a train window approaching Newcastle ! It was not until 22nd that we saw the first Sedge-Warbler, along with Northern Wheatears, which was passing through also on 26th.

BREEDING SEASON 1954 : 737 nestlings were ringed in 1954 ; fewer, especially of the smaller passerines, than in previous years although we covered much the same ground. Apart from Gannets and Herring-Gulls on the Bass Rock, Rooks, Lapwings, Meadow-Pipits and Skylarks provided the highest totals, except for Linnets and other passerines ringed incidentally in the Cheviot valley in the course of our special breeding survey. Once again we ringed Ravens and four species of owl ; and Kestrels but no Merlins, whose eggs we think were robbed. A new exploit was the ringing of young Fulmars in Shada Quarry, supervised most appropriately by James Fisher who, with his delightful family, was staying with us at the time.

AUTUMN PASSAGE 1954 : The first Ruffs, Whimbrels and Greenshanks arrived early—August 2nd, 3rd and 6th respectively—to be followed on 7th by Common and Wood-Sandpipers, more Ruffs and 3 Yellow Wagtails, of which 6 were present on 13th. By 15th Little Stints (5), Green Sandpipers, Arctic Skuas (4) had arrived, followed on 18th by Garden Warblers and Northern Wheatears. The ensuing week, August 19-26th, was one of the most interesting periods we have experienced here. Strong S.E. winds brought many unusual drift migrants across the North Sea : Barred Warblers, Wrynecks, Red-backed Shrikes, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers, Redstarts, many more Ruffs and Wood-Sandpipers and a Temminck's Stint, a bird very rarely recorded for Northumberland. We netted it on 24th and were able to compare it in the hand with a Little Stint taken an hour or so earlier. We also caught a Wryneck, one of 4 found in the area, and a Barred Warbler, one of 3. One of three Red-backed Shrikes trapped (a first-winter male ringed on 28th) provided an important clue to the origin and destination of this host of drift migrants. It was killed by flying into a house wall while dazzled by electric light at Marsala, Sicily, on September 24th—a little over three weeks after leaving Northumberland (it was still present on August 31st), by when it had contrived to correct its westerly drift and regain its course, presumably from a nest in the Baltic area to winter quarters in equatorial Africa. This particular shrike had shared the same little copse, frequently the same bush and even the same twig, with one of the Barred Warblers, an association between the two species recognised among breeding birds on the Continent. On August 26th a Long-eared Owl flew in from the sea, followed a few minutes later by a juvenile Green Woodpecker, a species not usually regarded as a passage migrant. A Short-eared Owl came in on 27th : one had been seen previously on 11th, coinciding with the arrival of two juvenile Merlins. The 26th-27th also saw the first conspicuous movement of Hirundines of this autumn ; and still more Ruffs and Wood-Sandpipers, but probably of a more north-easterly origin, since they were accompanied by Sanderlings and Bar-tailed Godwits and by several fair-sized parties of Curlew-Sandpipers : on 27th, 26 came in over the dunes just S. of the Observatory in the evening ; on 29th, 23 were found on the shore at Beadnell and on 30th at least a dozen on Fenham Slakes. By September 16th all had gone, seven of them carrying rings, four being taken at one pull of a small net on September 2nd. Whitethroats and Willow-Warblers were passing through at the end of the month but never in large numbers : a very small example of the latter was trapped on 30th, weighing only 7.42 grammes and measuring several millimeters below average in all its dimensions : we took it at first for a Yellow-browed Warbler. To even things up we also caught an exceptionally large Ruff. The usual trickle of young Wheatears, Meadow-Pipits and Pied Wagtails passed along the shore throughout July and August ; but we had very few Whinchats, only 6 being trapped. September 3rd brought us our first Grasshopper-Warbler and a strong movement of Swallows took place on 13th : another on 17th, when they were joined by Swifts. The 17th also brought 3 Black-tailed Godwits, scarce on the N.E. coast : the 19th, Great Northern and Red-throated Divers, a Red-necked Grebe and a party of Coal-Tits, possibly of Scandinavian origin since many northern immigrants arrived during the same week—150 Knot and an increase from ca 150 to ca 400 Golden Plover, some still in the Northern breeding plumage—on 23rd, Goldcrests, more Coal-Tits and many little dune-hopping parties of Blue Tits (and a belated Swift) ; on 24th, 2 Barnacle Geese ; a Bonxie on 25th and, on 26th, a Long-tailed Skua, a Glaucous Gull and the first Snow-Bunting of the winter. On 29th, after a stormy day and a raging high tide, a juvenile Red-necked Grebe was picked up at high water-mark, tired but otherwise fit. It was liberated on Monks' House pool and by next morning had gone. Its small size and delicate proportions in the hand contrasted strangely with the apparent robustness of this species on the water.

On October 7th a Treecreeper, a wandering bird of the year, was trapped and, on 12th, another but an adult and very much paler bird, most strikingly patterned on the upper parts and satiny-white below : we considered this to be a Northern Treecreeper, *C. f. familiaris*. The same thing happened in 1952, Oct. 5th and 8th being the corresponding dates. October 9th brought Redwings, Blackbirds and Song-Thrushes, both the grey Continental and a few of the swarthy 'Hebridean' type ; and 10th, a Great Grey Shrike—another was watched making its landfall pursued by gulls on 15th. On 13th we saw the last Swallow and on 14th a flock of 9 Bonxies flying high and steadily South. Two others and a single Arctic had been chasing Gannets over Budle Bay. A cock Ring Ouzel and 9 Whoopers were seen on 15th, the day of the first strong passage of immigrant thrushes : two visitors driving home westwards along the southern flanks of the Cheviots, wrote to say they had been seeing flocks travelling overhead all the way. A second

heavy passage, of Blackbirds, Redwings and a few Fieldfares, Skylarks and Bramblings, occurred on 23rd ; and a third, far heavier and mainly of Fieldfares, on 27th. This was most spectacular to watch. They came straight in from the N.N.E. against a strong S. to S.W. wind, force 5—6, under a clear sky ; every few minutes from 10.15 almost until dusk, in flocks of 50—20 at around 50 ft. ; although some, mostly cock Blackbirds in loose twos and threes or lone Fieldfares, flew very much higher, at 2—300 ft. For the first 1½ hrs. the flocks were mixed—Fieldfare 75% ; Blackbird and Redwing 10% each ; the odd 5% Brambling, Chaffinch, Song-Thrush and an occasional Starling—but Starlings were travelling mainly on their own in 20—30s, higher and heading due W. ; the others S.S.W. Later the Blackbirds and Bramblings came in separate flocks. Despite the strong head wind which had kept them hours behind schedule they arrived in good trim : many carried straight on out of sight ; a few, mostly Blackbirds, fell out in the dunes, but the majority lit 2—300 yards from the shore and hopped about in the fields for a little while—not long enough to feed—before rising to go on. Out of some 4,000 birds (an average of 35 passing every 3 minutes for 6 hours) travelling within 500 yards of the

SUMMARY OF BIRDS RINGED AT MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY, TO OCTOBER 31st, 1954.

B.O.U. List No.	Species of Bird.	1954: trapped	ringed at nest	Total 1951-54	B.O.U. List No.	Species of Bird.	1954: trapped	ringed at nest	Total 1951-54
1	Black-throated Diver ...	—	—	1	299	Northern Treecreeper ...	1	—	2
6	Red-necked Grebe ...	1	—	1	300	Wren ...	31	—	89
14	Storm-Petrel ...	—	—	1	301	Dipper ...	1	12	77
26	Fulmar ...	—	5	11	302	Mistle-Thrush ...	1	4	15
27	Gannet ...	3	67	88	303	Fieldfare ...	—	—	3
45	Mallard ...	—	—	7	304	Song-Thrush ...	23	30	203
50	Wigeon ...	—	—	1	305	Continental Song-Thrush	7	—	11
67	Eider-Duck ...	19	—	20	306	Redwing ...	12	—	41
107	Merlin ...	—	—	6	307	Ring-Ouzel ...	3	12	25
110	Kestrel ...	1	6	7	308	Blackbird ...	197	15	544
120	Water-Rail ...	1	—	1	311	Wheatear ...	25	10	191
126	Waterhen ...	3	—	4	312	Northern Wheatear	7	—	14
131	Oystercatcher ...	—	5	10	317	Stonechat ...	2	—	20
133	Lapwing ...	10	41	130	318	Whinchat ...	6	11	174
134	Ringed Plover ...	8	—	18	320	Redstart ...	4	—	40
143	Turnstone ...	18	—	22	321	Black Redstart ...	—	—	1
145	Snipe ...	1	—	15	325	Robin ...	12	13	106
150	Curlew ...	2	11	17	327	Continental Robin	8	—	18
151	Whimbrel ...	4	—	4	333	Grasshopper-Warbler	1	—	1
155	Bar-tailed Godwit ...	2	—	5	337	Reed-Warbler ...	—	—	1
157	Wood-Sandpiper ...	1	—	4	343	Sedge-Warbler ...	8	—	70
159	Common Sandpiper ...	7	1	19	344	Blackcap ...	2	—	5
161	Redshank ...	12	2	23	346	Barred Warbler...	1	—	1
169	Continental Redshank	—	—	3	347	Garden-Warbler ...	7	—	19
171	Knot ...	1	—	1	348	Whitethroat ...	36	3	256
173	Little Stint ...	3	—	6	354	Lesser Whitethroat	5	—	2
178	Temminck's Stint ...	1	—	1	356	Willow-Warbler...	15	4	168
179	Dunlin ...	74	—	93	361	Northern Willow-Warbler	1	—	2
181	Curlew-Sandpiper ...	7	—	10	364	Chiffchaff ...	1	—	3
184	Sanderling ...	1	—	3	366	Pallas's Warbler ...	10	—	1
184	Ruff ...	1	—	5	368	Goldcrest ...	—	—	24
199	Lesser Black-backed Gull	56	1	213	371	Spotted Flycatcher	1	—	12
200	Herring-Gull ...	—	126	160	376	Pied Flycatcher ...	7	—	18
208	Black-headed Gull ...	1	—	94	379	Dunnoek ...	23	21	199
211	Kittiwake ...	13	—	14	380	Continental Dunnoek	—	—	4
218	Artic Tern ...	22	8	36	381	Meadow-Pipit ...	107	36	787
222	Little Tern ...	—	—	2	382	Tree-Pipit ...	—	—	2
224	Razorbill ...	2	—	2	385	Rock-Pipit ...	25	16	306
227	Southern Guillemot ...	3	—	5	388	Scandinavian Rock-Pipit	1	—	4
230	Puffin ...	12	—	13	389	Pied Wagtail ...	32	19	196
234	Woodpigeon ...	4	—	22	392	White Wagtail ...	—	—	1
237	Cuckoo ...	—	—	9	393	Grey Wagtail ...	—	4	32
241	Barn-Owl ...	2	3	5	394	Yellow Wagtail ...	—	—	6
246	Little Owl ...	—	1	3	395	Blue-headed Wagtail	—	—	1
247	Tawny Owl ...	—	3	23	397	Lesser Grey Shrike	—	—	1
248	Long-eared Owl ...	—	5	10	407	Red-backed Shrike	3	—	3
249	Short-eared Owl ...	—	—	1	408	Starling ...	202	12	547
265	Wryneck ...	1	—	1	409	Greenfinch ...	234	—	1875
272	Skylark ...	3	16	79	410	Goldfinch ...	—	—	2
274	Swallow ...	8	9	67	421	Siskin ...	—	—	2
277	Sand-Martin ...	—	—	4	422	Linnets ...	50	66	846
279	Raven ...	—	4	13	424	Redpoll ...	—	—	5
280	Carrion-Crow ...	2	9	12	425	Chaffinch ...	7	22	104
282	Rook ...	2	56	248	426	Brambling ...	2	—	19
283	Jackdaw ...	6	2	10	427	Yellowhammer ...	35	12	177
284	Magpie ...	1	7	16	428	Corn-Bunting ...	4	—	20
288	Great Tit ...	2	—	14	429	Reed-Bunting ...	40	17	432
289	Blue Tit ...	19	—	92	430	Lapland Bunting	1	—	1
290	Coal Tit ...	1	—	1	431	House-Sparrow ...	160	—	536
298	Treecreeper ...	1	10	21	432	Tree-Sparrow ...	11	—	15

TOTAL No. Spp./Sub-Spp. ringed 1954; 97 (1951-54 : 120)

TOTALS for 1954 — 2446 = 1709 + 737 — 9932

Observatory we caught only 25. You can't drive passage migrants on fine days in any direction other than that in which they are geared to go : it takes misty days with low cloud cover to fill the bag. Last year a late Chiffchaff arrived on October 29th : this year on 17th we had an *acredula* Willow-Warbler which stayed on in the garden long after the leaves had fallen until the evening of 24th. It was missing on 25th—and so was a convalescent Barn Owl which had escaped overnight !

1954 RECOVERIES : Apart from those mentioned already we have had several other interesting recoveries : A *Snipe* ringed here in August shot in January in Co. Kerry ; three *Lesser Black-backs* recovered in their first winter from the Canaries, Cape Blanco (Spanish W.) and Mellila (Sp. N. Africa) ; a juvenile *Common Gull* picked up here in August ringed in July in Norway ; three nestling *Tawny Owls* recovered, one in its first winter 12 miles S, one in its second winter 25 miles N. and one in its third winter 13 miles E. of their nest-sites respectively ; autumn passage *Blackbirds* from their breeding areas in Denmark and Norway and a third one ringed by us as a nestling in the Cheviots trapped on July 25th at the Observatory ; winter *Starlings* recovered in May and June from Newcastle-on-Tyne, Westmorland and Lincolnshire ; a '53 *Song-Thrush* from near Edinburgh and *Greenfinches* from Aberdeen Kendal and Bedlington. But one which gave us the greatest pleasure was *Rock Pipit* N 7501, ringed 27/4/51, retrapped 23/4/54, the very first bird ringed at Monks' House Bird Observatory. A young *Gannet* ringed on the Bass in July was found oiled on the beach near St. Anthony, Glamorgan, on October 26th.

PROGRAMME FOR 1955.

MAR.	26—APR. 6	...	by arrangement.	JULY	13—20	...	SPECIAL FIELD COURSE NO. II.
APR.	6—13	...	EASTER WEEK		20—27	...	" " " NO. III.
	13—20	...	EASTER BIOLOGY COURSE.		27—AUG. 3	...	early autumn passage—by arrangement.
	20—MAY 14	...	spring passage—by arrangement.	AUG.	3—10	...	OUTDOOR SKETCHING WEEK.
	14—25	...	SPRING BIRD COURSE		10—20	...	SUMMER BIRD COURSE.
	25—JUNE 1	...	WHITSUN WEEK		20—SEPT. 3	...	autumn passage—by arrangement.
JUNE	1—8	...	WILDFLOWER WEEK.	SEPT.	3—14	...	AUTUMN BIRD COURSE.
	8—15	...	NESTING STUDIES		14—21	...	autumn trapping—by arrangement.
	15—JULY 6	...	by arrangement.		21—28	...	EXPERIMENTAL TRAPPING WEEK.
JULY	6—13	...	SPECIAL FIELD COURSE NO. I.		28 ONWARDS	...	by arrangement.

We are finding that we need to devote more and more of our time to what, after all, is our first call—the recording, trapping and various other activities involved in the running of a Bird Observatory. Much of this work can be done only by people who know a good deal about birds, but there are always plenty of opportunities for others who know less—but who are genuinely interested in birds—to come and help and learn under supervision. During the past four years, in fact, many individuals and small groups of three or four boys or girls of VI—or even of V—form age, or from training colleges, have been coming to Monks' House in this way, whether in term-time or in their holidays, and will continue to be welcomed. These are the field naturalists of the future. But we are having to reduce the periods set aside for the larger school or training college groups, coming usually with their own staffs and devoted to general field studies : four Courses will be held in 1955—the EASTER BIOLOGY COURSE, April 13—20 ; and the three SPECIAL FIELD COURSES FOR VI-FORM and TRAINING COLLEGE STUDENTS, July 6—13, 13—20 and 20—27. Accommodation may be available at other times for student groups coming with their own staffs but on the understanding that most of the Director's time will necessarily be spent on work or with visitors directly concerned with Observatory duties.

The dates of the BIRD COURSES for 1955 and of the various other arrangements for the season are given above :

MONKS' HOUSE lies in the dunes right on the shore midway between Seahouses and Bamburgh : a wonderful site, especially for a Bird Observatory. It is just off the Great North Road and is served by the main line station of *Chathill*, where local bus services connect with the overnight and certain day trains, also with the long-distance coaches to Newcastle from London and elsewhere. Travel details and/or lists to advise people what they should bring are sent on request. Some brief indication of intentions, previous experience, approximate age, etc. should accompany first applications and visitors are advised to *book well ahead*—vacancies soon get filled and we can seldom accept visitors at short notice. We are more than grateful to those who sent gifts during the past year : store-boxes, small-mesh netting and other materials for traps, books and the loan of binoculars. Please go on being generous.

In earlier days the Monks' House site belonged to Lindisfarne Priory and was used for a storehouse and a 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 : Aga and Raeburn cookers and electric lighting have been installed and an Agamatic boiler provides an excellent supply of hot water for baths, etc. 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 people 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 helping to wash-up after meals sometimes.

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, for single or double rooms facing the islands and the sea £8 8s. a week ; for other single or double rooms £7 7s. a week ; for short periods 24s. a day. 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 can be allowed and no private trapping and ringing of birds is permitted, nor collecting of any kind without the Director's consent. The principles of conservation must be scrupulously upheld.