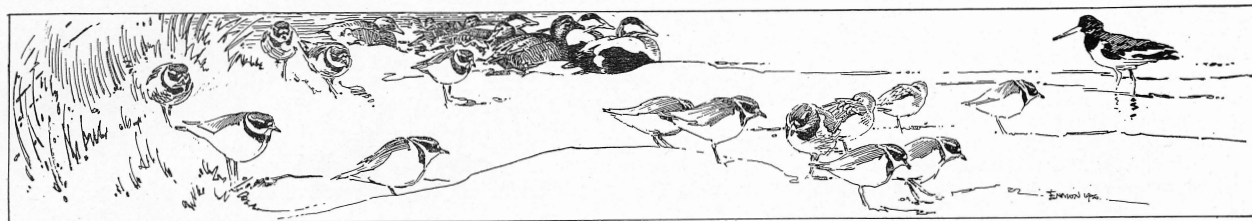


MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY, SEAHOUSES, NORTHUMBERLAND

E. A. R. ENNION, M.A., *Director*

Telephone: Seahouses 372



1955 REPORT

JANUARY, 1956

1955—a busy year, blessed with a fine summer and more individual visitors than ever before from all parts of the country and from abroad: Rhodesia, Ontario, New Zealand, U.S.A., Norway, Sweden, Holland, Switzerland. Officers and members of several Natural History Societies, undergraduates and lecturers from various Universities, student groups and staff from five Training Colleges and sixteen Schools came also, most of the smaller parties specifically to study birds. We were especially glad to welcome Mr. W. B. Alexander, Dr. Bruce Campbell, *Secretary of the British Trust for Ornithology*, who came to stay with his family; and Robert Spencer, *Secretary of the Ringing Committee*, and his Assistant, David Summers; and Colonel Guy Brownlow, always ready to go to the aid of any Observatory needing his skill. The Director attended the *Observatories Committee's* winter meeting at Oxford and, with Mrs. Ennion, the joint conference in January at Grantley Hall, Ripon, and, in October at Perth, the Annual Conference of the *Scottish Ornithologists Club*, all most congenial and stimulating gatherings. Lectures were given at various places: Leeds, Cambridge, Brentwood, Newcastle, etc. and, in June, a small Monks' House Expedition set off for Finnish Lapland, primarily to study breeding conditions in the far north for some of the waders and other shore birds (e.g. Shorelark, Snow and Lapland Buntings) which occur here as winter residents or passage migrants: a short summary of the expedition's work will be found overleaf. Two hundred birds, including a number of adult Wood-sandpipers, Red-necked Phalaropes and Ruffs, were ringed in Scandinavia on behalf of *Stavanger Museum* and, on behalf of the *N.H.S. of Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-on-Tyne*, well over fifteen hundred birds on the Farnes, including in round numbers 500 Lesser Black-backed Gull chicks; 140 Kittiwakes; 350 Sandwich, 30 Roseate, 250 Arctic and 40 Common Tern chicks; 40 Cormorants and 130 Shags; 80 Puffins, more than half of each of the last two items adult birds. Our own (Monks' House) total for 1955 is 2468, of which details are given on the end page. Three visits were made to the Bass Rock, by kind permission of the owner, Sir Hughe Dalrymple, and in July we were delighted in return to be able to take a large group of *S.O.C.* members over to the Farnes. Our thanks are again due to Mr. Gordon Thompson of Cambridge for help in the identification of ectoparasites; to Dr. Mary Adams of Manchester P.H. Laboratories for post-mortem examinations of diseased birds, and to all who have so generously given us book-tokens, donations or gifts in kind. Our 'Casualty Department,' as well as dealing with oiled and storm-driven Gannets, Guillemots, Gulls, etc., at times became a crèche: a dozen lost Eider ducklings, four day-old Shelducklings (of which Mrs. Ennion succeeded in rearing three to maturity) and two young Tawny Owl nestlings were admitted for varying periods. The Survey of the Breamish Valley, Cheviot, is now concluded (a summary appears overleaf) and although, for us, 1954/55 has been a poor wader year, 160 of 14 species have been trapped on the shore: we hope in our next Report to review the past three years' efforts and to describe and discuss the merits of the various methods used. The recovery on 27th October, in French Equatorial Africa, of a Turnstone ringed on Beadnell beach on 30th August, 1955, is encouraging.

WINTER PERIOD 1955. When the Observatory opened on January 5th a large Starling-Redwing roost was discovered not far away in a plantation of 40 ft. larch and fir, with a few other trees. Catchers with their batfowling nets climbed and lashed themselves to the tree-tops in a line across the narrower end of the wood, while beaters drove the birds slowly to and fro past them until well into the wee sma' hours of the cold and frosty mornings: birds caught were put into small bags, each catcher lowering his catch at intervals on a cord for the birds to be examined, ringed and released. 300 Starlings and 40 Redwings (none of which appeared to be *coburni*) were caught either by this means or in 'mopping-up operations' during the daytime by clapnets set in their feeding areas. Already three Starlings taken together on the night of January 6/7th have been recovered: the first near Trondheim, Norway, on April 8th, the probable (breeding) area of origin of this flight; the second in Schleswig-Holstein on July 28th and the third in Fyn, Denmark, on August 1st, perhaps indicating steps in the earlier stages of their autumn emigration. Another Starling ringed on March 20th '54, found dead near Aberdeen on February 24th '55, and yet another ringed on October 9th '53, recovered in N.E. Durham on January 20th '55, point to an extensive wintering sector in North Britain for these subarctic breeders. The second half of January was marked by an unusually hard spell of frost and snow—for the Northumberland coast—when Snipe, Woodcock, Fieldfares, Redwings, Song-thrushes and Greenfinches fed busily at high water mark alongside Snow-buntings and waders. About 30 Dunlin and a dozen Turnstone (one ringed here in the previous February) were caught and, out of 6 Redshanks, 5 proved on measurement to be of the Continental form. The only other species trapped in fair numbers were Greenfinches (*ca.* 100) Song-thrushes (*ca.* 30) and Blackbirds (*ca.* 60). On January 12th Little Auks were seen and on 22nd Northern Guillemots, moving N., but apart from what was probably only an extensive weather movement on February 18/19/20th of Lapwings, Starlings, Skylarks and Meadow-pipits, very little passage was observed before the first week of March. Several cock Stonechats wintered in the area, none staying to breed.

SPRING PASSAGE 1955. Fair numbers of Pale-breasted Brents were present on Holy Island Slakes early in March, a maximum of *ca.* 1,000 on 5/6th: no Dark-breasted having been seen for some years. By 12th, auks had begun to gather round the Farnes: 50 Puffins, 20 Guillemots and 10 Razorbills were counted on that day. The first few Wheatears were seen on April 1/2nd together with Lesser Black-backs and many pipits; on 4th, 14 Whimbrel and a Spotted Redshank, perhaps one wintering in vicinity. Sandwich Terns arrived on 6th; Swallows, martins and Goldcrests on 7th; Gadwell and Garganey on 8/9th; Willow-warbler on 11th; Chiffchaff and Redstart on 12th. Later on, between April 22nd and 26th, 5 *acredula* Willow-warblers were trapped and at least one other seen, the first time they have been identified with certainty in this area on *spring* passage. Yellow Wagtails appeared on 26th and May 1st; Sedge-warblers on 2nd; Whinchat and Arctic Tern on 7th, the terns increasing to 300 or so by 14th, when many Northern Wheatears were also going N. Fair numbers of late Whitethroats and Sedge-warblers were passing through on 29/30th.

BREEDING SEASON 1955. As may be seen from the *Summary of Birds Ringed in 1955* only about 500 were nestlings, of which more than half were seabirds : mainly Gannets and Herring Gulls from the Bass Rock but also 70 Common Terns from a recently established colony on a coastal reef easily reached at low tide from the shore. The small totals of passerine chicks are due primarily to the absence of the Director, away in Lapland for four critical weeks in June/July, but partly to the cold late spring which discouraged if it did not prevent the earlier attempts at nesting and partly to myxomatosis, the ground and low-bush-nesters being sought by hungry foxes (of which too many infest the area), even broods of Wheatears having been scrapped out and eaten. Losses from cats, stoats and crows may well be rising also, live or dead rabbits hitherto providing much of their food. The figures are significant : comparing this season with last, and discounting the period corresponding to the Director's absence from home, 30 Lapwing chicks, 22 Meadow-pipits, 13 Dunnocks, 29 Linnets and 3 Chaffinches were ringed as against 41, 36, 21, 66 and 22 respectively in 1954. Nevertheless, although not in our Observatory totals, more nestlings than ever before (1,532) were ringed by us on the Farnes and nearly two hundred more in Scandinavia, including young Wood-sandpipers, Wrynecks, many Fieldfares, Whinchats, White Wagtails, Pied Flycatchers and Ortolans. We may not, therefore, have been quite so idle as the figure suggests ! Further summer activities have been the marking of nearly 100 Sand-martins, caught by suddenly letting fall a curtain-net over their holes ; of 60 young and over 50 adult Gannets on the Bass Rock, whence we have had several recoveries : two '54 nestlings, one found dead near Dumfries on December 26th '54, the other shot in France, Baie de la Somme, on July 13th '55 ; and a '55 nestling recovered at Skegness, on September 23rd.

BREAMISH VALLEY SURVEY, CHEVIOT, 1952—1954 ('55) : SUMMARY. The chance discovery in May 1951 of an abnormally big breeding population, especially of Linnets, in one of the lower Cheviot valleys led, after a careful check, to a long-term inquiry into its possible causes. As far as circumstances allowed weekly visits were made throughout the breeding seasons of 1952, '53, '54, with sampling visits in the earlier and later weeks of 1955. In all nearly 450 nests of 27 species of birds were found and followed-up in the chosen study area, a one-mile stretch of the valley half-a-mile wide ; and in so far as it provided nest cover and, in its ground layer, seed food, many surveys of the vegetation were made at intervals. A number of more or less comparable breeding areas elsewhere were watched as controls, but no detailed study of individual pairs at the nest was possible nor detailed investigation of insect food. Of species nesting in the study area, seven were in sufficient numbers for useful conclusions to be drawn : *Song-thrush*, *Blackbird*, *Dunnock*, *Linnet*, *Chaffinch*, *Yellowhammer* and *Reed-bunting*. The remainder, *Oystercatcher*, *Common Sandpiper*, *Sand-martin*, *Dipper*, *Whinchat*, *Willow- and Sedge-warblers*, etc. were neither especially numerous nor would they seem to compete for food or nest-sites to any significant extent with the seven abundant species—whose breeding success in 1952 and '54, and relative numbers over all four years are shown in the accompanying Tables :

			1952 No. of breeding pairs	Nests made	lost	No. of Young fledged per pair	:	1954 No. of breeding pairs	Nests made	lost	No. of Young fledged per pair	:	1953 No. of breeding pairs	:	1955 No. of breeding pairs
SONG-THRUSH	...	...	6	10	6	2.6	:	8	15	9	2.1	:	8	:	11
BLACKBIRD	...	...	6	9	5	2.5	:	6	11	5	2.7	:	4	:	5
DUNNOCK	...	...	6	13	2	2.3	:	7	9	2	2.3	:	5	:	8
LINNET	...	...	27	42	15	3.8	:	18	33	13	3.1	:	17	:	10
CHAFFINCH	...	...	7	12	2	5.5	:	5	10	3	3.2	:	5	:	3
YELLOWHAMMER	...	...	7	14	5	4.0	:	6	13	7	1.5	:	6	:	3
REED-BUNTING	...	...	5	7	5	1.6	:	3	5	1	1.5	:	3	:	2

NESTS DESERTED

(all Spp.)

	1952	1954
Lined ...	7	1
Eggs/brood ...	10	5

NESTS DESTROYED

1952 1954

Boys ...	9	13	Wood-mice ...	4	2
Cats ...	3	1	Crows, etc. ...	4	2
Stoats, etc. ...	3	2	Rain and cold ...	—	4

NOTE : a long cold wet spell in May/June '53 destroyed virtually all first broods, those with 'felted' nests suffering more than those with 'openwork' nests, e.g. Dunnock more than Whitethroat ; and in the Director's absence in '55 no records were kept : comparable data is not available, therefore, for these two years. Nevertheless it is clear that while the first three species maintained or even bettered their breeding status over the four year period, the last four—and especially Linnets—steadily declined. Can this be correlated with any changing conditions in the valley, affecting in particular food supplies and nest-sites ? As regards nest losses boys are the chief menace and probably responsible for many desertions too, especially during Whitsun and weekend holidays, i.e. visitors rather than local boys. Human depredation increased markedly in 1955. A gamekeeper keeps Carrion-Crows and Magpies in check.

The Breamish Valley runs due E from the SE border of the Cheviots, its enclosing hills rising to 500 ft. on the N and to 750 ft. on the S flank ; its broad, almost level floor of glacial boulders and clay cut by the river (a large 'beck,' which joins the Till near Wooler and finally the Tweed) running briskly on its winding course immediately below the southern hill. It has one feeder and, when full, a number of interlacing channels within the survey area. A byroad (to Ingram) runs parallel 200 yds. away, between the river and a series of cultivated fields of 20-30 acres each, which extend to the northern flank. Although campers and picnic parties are seasonally troublesome, the farms and villages are too far off to send more than the occasional boy or prowling cat. Sparse hedge-row timber, mostly elm and ash, and tall straggling hawthorns line the field borders and one roadside : there is one narrow plantation of 30 ft. beech with a few spruce. Otherwise trees—alder, willow and swallow—are confined to the riversides or to 'islands' formed by its channels, these being clothed partly also by thickets and isolated bushes of gorse, broom and raspberry, of an average height of 3 ft. 6 ins. This cover provides sites for practically all the nests of the seven species under review : there is, however, selection between species. In 1953 and '55 130 sites were analysed, their heights above ground recorded together with the kind and character of the bush—sparse, medium or dense. 84 nests were in gorse, 39 in broom, only 7 anywhere else. Broom, somewhat taller than gorse, comes later into leaf and was used mostly for second nests—except by Sedge-warblers building in its terminal crotches at ca. 5 ft. They (and the two buntings) nested not infrequently in dead broom or gorse. The analysis, as shown in the diagram, confirmed a tendency for each of the seven species to choose sites of different cover-density and height, only Song-thrush and Blackbird being impossible to separate. Apart from local deterioration due to killing by frost or growing 'leggy' with age (compensated by new growth elsewhere) no change in nesting cover took place during the four years : there was no evidence of nest-site shortage, nor competition, so this cannot have been a decisive factor in the decline—or rather the return to normal numbers—of the finch-bunting population. Is it a matter of food ? A series of 'exercises' was planned to investigate this problem.

		Dense	Medium	Sparse
B	4' 6" and over	(((
U	4'	(((
S	3' 6"	(((
H	3'	(((
	2' 6"	(((
C	2'	(((
O	1' 6"	(((
V	1'	(((
E	6'	(((
R		(((

Many observations were made throughout the survey on the exact destination of parents leaving their nests to collect food for the brood. *Song-thrushes* and *Blackbirds* collected worms, large insects, etc. almost entirely from the margins of slower-running streams and backwaters (where mimulus and water veronics grew thickly) or from bracken patches on hillsides, either within or well outside the survey area : *Dunnocks* from bare soil below their nest thickets or sparse vegetation in the close vicinity. None of these has shown any marked change in status over the period.

Chaffinches collected caterpillars (mainly) from the alders and taller bushes, usually within 100 yds. of their nests but sometimes visiting trees round the field borders. They also, at times, took flies and emergent caddis from stones at the river margins. *Reed-buntings* and *Yellowhammers* collected (insect) food partly from the same sources but, unlike the *Chaffinch*, also from the turf and ground among the taller grasses and other vegetation : a small percentage of their food (especially the *Yellowhammers*!) came from the road margins and bare stony areas by the river or in the cultivated fields. Whether they fed their young entirely on insects or partly on seeds or seed-pulp is uncertain : there is no uncertainty in the case of the *Linnet*. *Linnet*s fed almost exclusively in the latter situations, returning again and again to the gravel beds beside the fast-flowing reaches of the river, washed out of the boulder clay by former spates. The last severe flooding occurred in 1947 : plant recolonisation was obviously in progress but still (in 1951) very far from complete. A close investigation of these gravels revealed very little insect life but a plentiful growth of stunted low-growing Crucifers and Composites—e.g. *Cardamine* and *Filago*—and such small almost sessile, many-seeded plants as *Montia*, *Arenaria*, *Sagina*, *Spergularia* and the *Medicago*—*Trifolium* group. *Linnet*s were seen to carry off beakfuls from these plants to their young in the nests, where, by parting the feather-tracts and looking through the transparent skin, the chicks' crops were found to be crammed with these half-ripe seeds to the exclusion of all else. Sun warmth and moisture on the gravel fans favoured the production of seed rather than stem and leaf and a quick succession of generations in the little plants, thus maintaining an ample supply of seeds in the right state : a situation the *Linnet* was well able to exploit. It is possible too that close proximity of feeding area and nest-site outweighed the necessity to provide more (vegetable) food than would have been needed on a richer (and, according to the *Hand-book*, normal) animal, i.e. insect, diet. By a series of counts and quadrats it was possible to demonstrate that, after 1951, recolonisation of the gravels by grasses and taller, more leafy plants took place at an ever increasing rate, the reduction in the bare areas matching the decline in *Linnet*s. No corresponding decrease occurred in any of the control areas.

EXPEDITION TO FINNISH LAPLAND, JUNE-JULY : SUMMARY. The four members of the Expedition, the Director, Hugh Ennion, Peter Naylor and Clive Minton, left Newcastle aboard SS *Braemar* for Oslo on June 11th, returning on July 3rd. We planned to travel in a Ford 10 cwt. Estate Car, complete with stores and gear, across to the Baltic, up to the Finnish border and thence along the Arctic Highway to Lake Enare and, if conditions proved possible, on again to Lakselv and the Porsanger Fjord, a trip (with certain deviations on the return journey) of about 3,000 miles, spending most of our time some 200 miles N of the Circle. Our aim was to study the terrain and breeding ecology of waders and shore birds on their nesting grounds ; to catch and ring all we could, collecting their ectoparasites by a special polythene-bag technique ; to collect specimens of food material, plants, insects, etc. and to get colour-film and photographic records whenever possible. In the main we carried out this programme despite a late spring, which meant not only lower temperatures and wetter going, but an earlier phase of the breeding cycle than we had expected—eggs everywhere rather than chicks. We saw more of display—and less of mosquitoes ! Nor could we make the last 50 miles across Finmark to Porsanger and the Arctic Ocean. Our arrival at a vital ferry coincided with Midsummer Celebrations : it was not running and someone who had seen the ferryman said the odds were 10 to 1 against it running the following day ! So we retired, had we crossed we were unlikely to have seen much more. Between us we recorded 33 'lifers' and 11 subspecies new to us out of a list of 165 birds seen, four of them well N of their given range, and what was almost certainly a Collared Dove was heard near Karlsholm, Sweden (N/ E) but not, unfortunately, seen. A brief selection must suffice : many Black-throated and the extraordinary retarded flight display of the Red-throated Diver ; Great-crested and Slavonian Grebes ; Goldeneye and Velvet Scoter, apart from Wigeon, perhaps the commonest duck, Long-tailed Duck, Smew and Bean-goose ; Golden Eagle, Common and Rough-legged Buzzards, Goshawk, many Ospreys ; Willow-grouse, Ptarmigan, Caper ; Crane ; Pomerine and Long-tailed Skuas, Caspian Tern ; Hawk Owl ; Black Woodpecker ; Shore-lark ; Nutcracker, Siberian Jay and Tit, Bluethroat, Grey-headed Wagtail, Waxwing, Mealy and Arctic Redpolls, Pine Grosbeak, Oortolan, Lapland and Snow-buntings, etc. Waders studied on their breeding grounds included Arctic and Little Ringed Plovers, Northern Golden Plover and Dotterel, Jack-snipe, Whimbrel, Wood-sandpiper, Dusky Redshank, Temminck's Stint, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Ruff and innumerable Red-necked Phalaropes.

AUTUMN PASSAGE 1955. Mid-July brought the first parties of Whinchats, Chaffinches and tits ; on 20th Grey and Yellow Wagtails arrived—Pieds having been on the move since June. Two Arctic Skuas on 24th proved to be heralds of the most spectacular invasion yet seen, up to twenty-five being watched in the air at once on many occasions in the sea area Budle Bay-Stag Rock : the maximum, recorded by four experienced observers coast-watching on September 15th, was no less than forty-one flying S. Bonxies were seen too, chasing Gannets preying on the herring shoals which came early and unusually close inshore ; Long-tailed at least twice (August 20th and 28th) and, on September 3rd, a young Pomarine gave us a magnificent display as it chased terns up and down the 'Kettle' between Inner Farne and Knoxes Reef. Waders were in well before July was out : Sanderling on 24th, Purple Sandpiper on 25th, Greenshank on 26th, Spotted Redshank on 27th—with many Whimbrel at the beginning of August, Ruff on 14th, Green Sandpiper on 16th and a lone Little Stint on 18th, which, with an equally lone Curlew-sandpiper, appear to have been the sum total of these two species for the year. Fine weather continued day after day through summer into autumn : the waders were there but hordes of trippers made trapping well-nigh impossible on the beaches—how we prayed for rain to send 'em packing ! A second-winter Iceland Gull and a Black-necked Grebe in transition plumage were off Seahouses harbour on 26th and, before the end of the month, Manx Shearwaters had appeared in fair numbers off the coast. Sooty Shearwaters were seen too : Two either Sooty or Balearic, were recorded on the 15th and, close to on September 16th, a Sooty and another with two or three small—probably Leach's—petrels off Monks' House during a gale on October 6th. Juvenile Barred Warblers turned up in force, six seen and four trapped : August 24th (1), September 16th (2) and October 7th (1), the day before the first considerable passage of Redwings, Fieldfares and Bramblings. Three late Ruffs appeared on October 9th. The second half of October brought unusual numbers of Barnacle Geese—30+ on October 15th. November brought Little Auks and, on 12th a belated Blackcap. An Arctic Skua was still present on 14th and on 20th, a Bonxie. Little Auks persisted in considerable numbers offshore (up to 50) throughout the winter.

1955 RECOVERIES. Other returns include a *Lapwing* ringed in July '54 as a nestling, shot in February '55 on the Côte Maritim, our second French recovery : another a '54 juvenile, was found dead near Dumfries in December. Two more home-bred waders, a *Redshank* and a *Curlew*, ringed in '54, were recovered on nearby coasts in January and September '55 respectively : a third, an adult passage *Dunlin*, netted on September 17th '54, was found in February '55 near Liverpool. A *Herring Gull*, ringed as a Bass Rock

chick in '53, landed on the deck of the vessel *Glorious*, to be caught by the skipper and released on March 30th '55 10 miles E.S.E. of Ardglass, County Down. *Blackbird* recoveries include a third-winter bird shot in Jutland at the end of October '54 ; a second-winter bird killed by a cat in July in SW Sweden ; and two birds ringed here on the same day (October 27th '54—c.p. the three winter Starlings) on their first autumn journey, the one recovered in its wintering area, Tipperary, on February 21st, the other on April 18th '55 on its breeding ground near Brevik, Norway. A '53 *Whinchat* and a '54 *Meadow-pipit* (our second) were found in Portugal and another pipit in the Basses Pyrénées during the winter ; and a '54 juvenile *Pied Wagtail* found dead in a barn at Sherburn-in-Elmet in the West Riding. *Greenfinches* show once more the random scatter of their kind : a '52 winter bird 50 miles SW at Haltwhistle, three '53 birds 180 miles S at Stoke-on-Trent, 160 miles SSE at Retford and the third 50 miles due S again at Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. Five passerines, all ringed as adults in 1951, two *Greenfinches*, a *Meadow-pipit*, a *Reed-Bunting* and a *House-sparrow*, have been recovered or retrapped in 1955 : that makes them at least five years old and their rings had caused them no inconvenience or injury.

SUMMARY OF BIRDS RINGED AT MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY, TO DECEMBER 31st, 1955

B.O.U. List No.	Species of Bird	1955: trapped	ringed at nest	Total 1955	Total 1951-55	B.O.U. List No.	Species of Bird	1955: trapped	ringed at nest	Total 1955	Total 1951-55
1	Black-throated Diver...	—	—	—	1	284	Magpie	—	—	—	16
4	Red-throated Diver ...	1	—	1	1	288	Great Tit	4	—	4	18
6	Red-necked Grebe ...	—	—	—	1	289	Blue Tit	20	—	20	112
9	Little Grebe	1	—	1	1	290	Coal-Tit	—	—	—	1
14	Storm-Petrel	—	—	—	1	298	Tree-Creeper	1	—	1	22
26	Fulmar	3	—	3	14		Northern Tree-Creeper	—	—	—	2
27	Gannet	48	43	91	179	299	Wren	14	—	14	112
45	Mallard	—	—	—	7	300	Dipper	1	7	8	85
50	Wigeon	—	—	—	1	301	Mistle-Thrush...	1	—	1	16
64	Common Scoter	1	—	—	2	302	Fieldfare	5	—	5	8
67	Eider-Duck	58	—	58	78	303	Song-Thrush	44	20	64	271
74	Sheld-Duck	5	—	5	5		Continental Song-Thrush	10	—	10	17
107	Merlin	—	—	—	6	304	Redwing	40	—	40	81
110	Kestrel	—	—	—	7	307	Ring-Ouzel	—	—	—	25
120	Water-Rail	1	—	1	2	308	Blackbird	146	8	154	698
126	Moorhen	1	—	1	5	311	Wheatear	3	5	8	205
131	Oystercatcher	1	—	1	11		Northern Wheatear ...	2	—	2	20
133	Lapwing	2	30	32	162	317	Stonechat	2	—	2	22
134	Ringed Plover	11	—	11	29	318	Whinchat	19	—	19	193
143	Turnstone	35	—	35	57	320	Redstart	6	6	12	52
145	Snipe	4	—	4	19	321	Black Redstart	—	—	—	1
148	Woodcock	1	—	1	1	325	Robin	13	4	17	123
150	Curlew	—	—	—	16		Continental Robin ...	—	—	—	18
151	Whimbrel	—	—	—	4	327	Grasshopper-Warbler	—	—	—	1
155	Bar-tailed Godwit ...	—	—	—	5	333	Reed-Warbler	—	—	—	1
157	Wood-Sandpiper	—	—	—	4	337	Sedge-Warbler	15	—	15	85
159	Common Sandpiper ...	2	—	2	21	343	Blackcap	2	—	2	7
161	Redshank	6	—	6	26	344	Barred Warbler	4	—	4	5
	Continental Redshank	5	—	5	8	346	Garden Warbler	5	—	5	24
169	Knot	—	—	—	1	347	Whitethroat	35	4	39	295
170	Purple Sandpiper	3	—	3	3	348	Lesser Whitethroat ...	—	—	—	2
171	Little Stint	—	—	—	6	354	Willow-Warbler	16	4	20	189
173	Temminck's Stint ...	—	—	—	1		Northern Willow-Warbler	5	—	5	6
178	Dunlin	32	—	32	125	356	Chiffchaff	—	—	—	3
	Northern Dunlin	48	—	48	48	361	Pallas's Willow-Warbler	—	—	—	1
179	Curlew-Sandpiper ...	—	—	—	10	364	Goldcrest	3	—	3	27
181	Sanderling	9	—	9	12	366	Spotted Flycatcher ...	1	—	1	13
184	Ruff	1	—	1	6	368	Pied Flycatcher	2	—	2	20
199	Lesser Black-backed Gull	—	49	49	262	371	Dunnock	28	13	41	240
200	Herring-Gull	—	82	82	242		Continental Dunnock	1	—	1	5
208	Black-headed Gull ...	4	19	23	117	373	Meadow-Pipit... ..	49	22	71	858
211	Kittiwake	4	—	4	18	376	Tree-Pipit	—	—	—	2
217	Common Tern	2	70	72	72	379	Rock-Pipit	27	2	29	335
218	Arctic Tern	40	17	57	63		Scandinavian Rock-Pipit	—	—	—	4
222	Little Tern	—	—	—	2	380	Pied Wagtail	21	9	30	226
224	Razorbill	—	—	—	2		White Wagtail	1	—	1	2
226	Little Auk	2	—	2	2	381	Grey Wagtail	3	—	3	35
227	Guillemot	2	—	2	7	382	Yellow Wagtail	—	—	—	6
	Northern Guillemot	1	—	1	1		Blue-headed Wagtail	—	—	—	1
230	Puffin	22	—	22	35	385	Lesser Grey Shrike ...	—	—	—	1
234	Woodpigeon	5	8	13	35	388	Red-backed Shrike ...	—	—	—	3
237	Cuckoo	1	—	1	10	389	Starling	651	10	661	1247
241	Barn-Owl	—	—	—	5	392	Greenfinch	196	—	196	2070
246	Little Owl	—	—	—	3	393	Goldfinch	1	—	1	3
247	Tawny Owl	1	—	1	24	394	Siskin	—	—	—	2
248	Long-eared Owl	2	—	2	12	395	Linnet	28	29	57	1003
249	Short-eared Owl	—	—	—	1	397	Redpoll	—	—	—	5
265	Wryneck	—	—	—	1	407	Chaffinch	5	3	8	112
272	Skylark	1	8	9	88	408	Brambling	7	—	7	24
274	Swallow	1	4	5	72	409	Yellowhammer	17	—	17	194
276	House-Martin... ..	3	—	3	3	410	Corn-Bunting	1	6	7	27
277	Sand-Martin	88	—	88	92	421	Reed-Bunting	44	18	62	494
279	Raven	—	4	4	17	422	Lapland Bunting ...	1	—	1	1
280	Carrion-Crow	—	9	9	21	424	House-Sparrow	6	—	6	569
282	Rook	2	—	2	250	425	Tree-Sparrow	7	—	7	22
283	Jackdaw	1	—	1	11						

TOTAL No. Spp./Sub-Spp. ringed 1955 : 90 (1951-55 : 130)

TOTALS for 1955: 1955 trapd. + 513 at nest = 2468 (1951-55: 12309)