

MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY, SEAHOUSES, NORTHUMBERLAND

Tel.: Seahouses 372

REPORT FOR 1958

(February, 1959)

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

A SEASON whose very first week produced five rainy days out of seven as a foretaste of joys to come could scarcely be reckoned a fine one, but it takes more to damp bird-watchers' enthusiasm than mere rain: they came from many parts of Britain and from abroad: U.S.A., Toronto, Germany, Eire; together with staff and/or students from Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and Sheffield; six Training Colleges and twelve schools; and bird groups from Bridlington and Lincoln. We were especially pleased to welcome our *Migration Records Officer*, Ken Williamson and Esther and their family at Easter and, towards the end of the season, Mr. H. G. Alexander: and we are especially indebted to Peter Evans for his help as 'second-in-command' in March/April and August/September and to Clive Minton and Pat Granter for their tireless activities among young *Hirundines* (120 House-Martins and 70 Swallows ringed) in July; and to the many kindnesses and energies on so many peoples' parts that combined together to make the season a success. Pauline Rawson is to be congratulated on obtaining First Class Honours in Botany at Sheffield University, gained in part as the result of her Thesis '*A Report on the Vegetation of Newham Bog, Northumberland*', the field work for which she accomplished here in the summer of 1956. The Director attended the *Observatories Conference* at Oxford in January and has helped with Courses or lectured at various places during the year: *King's College (Durham University) N.H.S.*; a *Y.H.A. Course* at Wooler; a special course for VI-form scientists at *Keswick*; *Cambridge Bird Club*; *Herts and Mildenhall (Suffolk) N.H. Societies*; locally on *W.E.A. Courses* and—a service which other Observatories could most usefully undertake—illustrated talks to explain the workings of the *Wild Bird Protection Act* to audiences of police and pest officers, special constables, gamekeepers and others especially concerned with it. Finally, on October 15, we were delighted to contribute to the B.B.C. Naturalist Programme, '*Radio Link*', with four other Observatories.

Some six hundred sea birds (200 Lesser Black-back chicks; 120 adult Puffins; 100 young Cormorants; 40 Kittiwakes, etc.) were ringed on the Farnes by Monks' House parties on behalf of the *Northumberland and Durham N.H.S.*; and all notes of birds seen, interesting recoveries, etc., have been sent in to the compilers of the County Bird Report: we also help with the Wildfowl Counts. Selected details are given below.

The first big event of the year was the early spring passage between end-March and mid-April when, in addition to such delectable birds as White-spotted Bluethroat, Black Redstarts and Great Grey Shrikes, we had by far the heaviest fall we have yet experienced in spring of Continental Robins and Blackbirds in the coastal belt: 200 of these spring passage Blackbirds were ringed and should produce a few worth-while recoveries . . . two have, in fact, come in already: the first, recovered just a week after ringing here, at Stavanger in Norway; the other ringed four days later (April 10), recovered at Alvsborg in Sweden on July 20, presumably from its breeding place. Mist-nets were used a good deal during the summer, accounting among much else for 121 Lesser Redpolls; and in the *Winter Trapping Week '58/'59*, immediately after the turn of the year, for 30 Waxwings, the nets having to be raised on stout poles 12 ft. above ground and used in half-a-gale! The ringing of nestlings again fell considerably—360 as against 800 last year—but, as we intended, has been offset by the taking of free-flying juveniles instead. The summer invasion of Crossbills virtually passed us by: we saw only three of them. The winter Waxwings however, did us proud: there may well have been considerably over a thousand of them quartered in the immediate area just after Christmas.

The high light of the autumn was the vast drift passage at the beginning of September: rarities seen included Hoopoe, Roller, Nightingale, and Rough-legged Buzzard: and among those caught, Bluethroats, Wryneck, Red-backed Shrikes, and Barred-Warbler and, for the first time at Monks' House, Ortolan, Icterine-Warbler, no less than three Red-breasted Flycatchers and four Reed-Warblers. Pied Flycatchers and Redstarts were in incredible abundance and Garden-Warblers almost as prevalent: some indication of the numbers and species involved may be gleaned from the accompanying table:—

MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY: AUTUMN PASSAGE, SEPTEMBER 1-17, 1958

	September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total trapped in period
Wryneck	S(1)	S(2)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wheatear	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	1	S	2	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	3
" (<i>leucorrhoa</i>)	S	2	S	1	S	—	—	1	S	2	S	—	—	—	—	S	—	6
Whinchat	S	S	2	S	2	2	—	1	S	—	—	S	—	S	1	1	S	9
Redstart	2	13	12	9	15	6	1	10	1	1	(S)	1	(S)	1	S	2	1	75
Nightingale	—	S(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bluethroat	S(2)	S(3)	1	1	—	—	—	—	(S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Grasshopper-Warbler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reed-Warbler	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sedge-Warbler	—	2	1	S	1	—	1	(S)	—	—	—	S	—	—	S	1	—	6
Icterine-Warbler	—	—	1	(S)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Blackcap	2	1	—	—	1	S	—	2	—	—	—	S	—	—	—	—	1	7
Garden-Warbler	S	1	22	3	3	—	2	2	S	—	—	S	—	—	1	—	S	34
Whitethroat	3	8	6	—	S	2	S	4	S	—	—	2	S	S	S	2	—	27
Lesser Whitethroat	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Willow-Warbler	S	4	12	6	9	4	1	7	S	S	S	S	—	3	1	—	S	47
" (<i>acredula</i>)	—	—	S	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chiffchaff	S(1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wood-Warbler	S(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Spotted Flycatcher	S	1	5	—	3	3	—	—	1	S	—	S(4)	—	—	—	—	—	13
Pied Flycatcher	2	3	15	2	12	S	S	2	S	S	—	S	1	1	(S)	(S)	—	38
Red-breasted Flycatcher	(S)	(S)	1	1	1	(S)(2)	S	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tree-Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	S	4	—	—	—	—	—	S	—	—	1	5
Red-backed Shrike	(S)	1	1	(S)(2)	1	S	S	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ortolan	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Total 289

Note: (S)=Same birds seen/trapped. S=different birds from those trapped, as far as ascertainable. S(number)=few individuals only, as indicated: otherwise S=more than 4, often many; and in the case of Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers, literally hundreds.

Grey and Golden Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwits, Green- and Purple-Sandpipers, Knot, a Dusky Redshank and fifty Turnstones and ten Ruffs figured among the waders caught this season: nevertheless it was quality rather than quantity, for the total (180+) is far short of last year's owing to the virtual absence of Dunlin on the coast in autumn. Only forty-four were caught (230 in 1957) and we saw not a single Curlew-Sandpiper nor Little Stint. The combined total for all species, however—3,605 of 108 species or races—is well up despite absentee Dunlins, the drop in nestlings and a deliberate 'go slow' on Starlings (130 as against 530 odd: see under 'Recoveries'): an overall increase for which mist-nets and much hard slogging on the part of those who manned them are in the main responsible.

1958 began seasonably enough with snow and a flock of 30 Snow-Buntings inland near Wooler (December '57). Early in February 7 Whoopers appropriated 'Monks' House Pool' and, on February 15, a first-winter Avocet was found on Budle Bay where it stayed until May 16; two other Avocets appeared at Annstead on April 20. Mist-netting at a sedge roost on March 20 and following nights produced 65 Reed-Buntings, some Corn-Buntings and *alba* Wagtails and a Jack-Snipe. The first Wheatear was seen on March 28 along with Continental Robins and Dunnocks, and on 30 a strong movement of Skylarks, Meadow-Pipits, Blackbirds and Goldcrests persisted until April 1, during which at least 4 Black-Redstarts and a White-spotted Bluethroat in full plumage (netted on March 30 at Bamburgh) were seen. On April 1 1,000+ Lapwings set out E. across the North Sea in the afternoon, leaving thousands more in the coastal fields. Willow-Warblers, Yellow Wagtails and Wheatears were on the move also; on 2 and 5, Chiffchaffs and, on 3, the first example of the dark 'Hebridean' type of Song-Thrush we have yet taken on spring migration. On 5 two more Black Redstarts arrived; on 6 another and 2 Great Grey Shrikes. The 7/8 brought more Willow-Warblers and Chiffchaffs and 2 Stonechats; while on 9 a pale-breasted Brent spent the morning on the shore. On 12 another big Blackbird passage began, the most remarkable we have yet experienced in spring. Many were passing through still on 13 and 14, with Song-Thrushes, more Robins and Goldcrests and, on 17, several big parties of Redwings and Fieldfares, a Merlin and the first Sandwich Terns. On 18 a Sand-Martin; on 19 Common Sandpipers and on 20 Swallows and more Sandwich Terns; on 22 a Whimbrel and on 24 a big Swallow passage along the coast and a Corncrake surprised us in the garden. Willow-Warblers were present on most days by now: on 30 two were *acredula*, with singles of this race on May 1, 2 and 9. April 25 brought a Blackcap, 26 a Gadwall drake at Newton; 28 a passage of Wheatears, Sedge-Warblers, Whitethroats and more Swallows; and the first Cuckoo of the year appeared on 29—a day later than last year. Another Whimbrel and 4 Yellow Wagtails arrived on 30, by when there were plenty of Sandwich Terns about.

On May 1 the first Whinchat came; also a Hoopoe which flew over the garden heading N.; and we found some Pied Flycatchers already established in Alnwick Park, although new arrivals were still busy pursuit-flying at the end of the month. Swifts appeared on 4, which also brought a Dark-breasted Brent to Budle Bay; a late Long-tailed drake was seen off Stag Rocks with both Black- and Red-throated Divers. The 6 brought Spotted Flycatchers and on 9 we were shown a freshly-killed Spotted Crake which had crashed into telegraph wires at Beal. Northern Wheatears and more Spotted Flycatchers were passing through on 10/11; on 12, Yellow Wagtails and a Turtle-Dove; and we found a Black Redstart on the Farnes. On 14 small late passage of Pied Flycatchers was taking place, followed by Whimbrels on 18, and on 21 we took a Fieldfare and a Northern Wheatear together in the Heligoland trap. 7 Manx Shearwaters were seen on May 26.

BREEDING SEASON 1958: As explained in our last Report, birds'-nesting has been largely discontinued (except for 'gifts' and certain 'invulnerable' species) in favour of taking the free-flying juveniles in mist-nets. From the birds' point of view it minimises disturbance during the breeding season and from the ringer's point of view is far more economical! We made our customary visits to the Bass Rock, by kind permission of the owner, Sir Hew Dalrymple, to ring Gannets (100 adults) and young Gulls but the only other nestlings ringed in any numbers have been Common Terns on the Emblestones (40); Lapwings (22) Swallows (26); Whinchats (17); and Rock-Pipits (16); Blackbirds were down to 14, and Linnets to 10, and Song-Thrushes to 3! The rings thus 'saved' are now being carried by birds flying freely when ringed and we look forward to a higher proportion of recoveries from them. The only 1958 nestling so far recovered at a distance has been a Lesser Black-back Gull found dead seven weeks after ringing, at Wigan.

AUTUMN PASSAGE, JUNE/JULY, may be said to have begun on June 12 with a Fieldfare and a Black Redstart on the Farnes; and on 21, an Arctic Skua. On July 11 a Common Buzzard at Kylloe and a Greenshank at Fenham were followed, on 12, by a concentration of ca. 300 Swifts travelling S. high and feeding as they flew: on 15, 3 Crossbills were found at Kylloe, our only sign of this year's invasion. On 13 2 pairs of Garganey were on Holy Island loch; on 14 an early Wood-Sandpiper and 12 Swifts going S. On 16 a Turtle-Dove appeared near Monks' House where it (and later a second) remained until August 8; and 2 juvenile Red-throated Divers in charge of an adult, with another near, were diving off Stag Rocks. On 21 a Whimbrel and a few Turnstones arrived; the 29, after a spell of strong N.E. winds, mist and rain, brought the first obvious movement: *alba* Wagtails, Whinchats, Wheatears; on 30 more Wheatears and on August 1, a Garden-Warbler.

By now on the shore, Curlew, Redshank and Dunlin were building up (250/150/100)—but Dunlin remained very scarce right through the season—6 Whimbrel, a Bar-tail, a Green Sandpiper and, on 2, two Arctic Skuas with another on 5. On 6 a fully adult Little Gull passed us in the Forth on our way to the Bass. By 7 many more Turnstones, Purple Sandpipers and another Arctic Skua were present; with single Stonechat and Whinchat; and on 13/14 more Arctic Skuas, Whimbrels and 25 Knots (all adult but two) preceded a small movement of Whinchats, Garden-, Sedge- and Willow-Warblers; continuing over 15, with Whitethroats in addition. On 19, a Long-tailed Skua was seen going S. and on 20 a single Greylag N.; and on 21 an easterly airstream with mist on the coast brought Wood-, Green- and Common Sandpipers, Ruffs, a Greenshank, a Dusky Redshank and a Bonxie. This movement developed and on 23 passerines included Willow-, Garden- and a Reed-Warbler, Whitethroats, Wheatears, Whinchats, one Pied Flycatcher, and 6 dead/dying Swifts were also found, indicating a minor wreck; and on 24 a Barred Warbler was trapped. 26 brought 2 Fieldfares and on 28 a Rough-legged Buzzard was discovered near Craster, said to have been about already for ten days: it stayed in the area for a fortnight, being viewed at close range by many of our visitors; also a Goosander and 17 Whimbrels; several Northern Wheatears and a single *acredula* Willow-Warbler. On the 30 a Marsh-Harrier was seen quartering Newton Bog.

SEPTEMBER: The next day (31) ushered in the vast September drift with Garden-, Willow- and Grasshopper-Warblers, a Pomarine Skua and juvenile Glaucous Gull on the Farnes; Whitethroats, 2 Red-backed Shrikes and the first of a veritable swarm of Pied Flycatchers on the mainland. The ensuing period may be best appreciated in the accompanying table, which shows the numbers of various migratory species trapped/seen between August 30 and September 17. Apart from birds shown in the table, a Kestrel and a Dusky Redshank appeared on September 8 and on 15 another Bonxie. On 19 Whitethroats were coming through and on 20, Pied Flycatchers, probably re-distribution; but Garden-Warblers on 22, Blackcaps on 23 and many Northern Wheatears and a Roller reported coming in off the sea on 24, suggested a fresh movement; the 25 brought Sanderlings and 2 Black-tailed Godwits, and 26 more Northern Wheatears and a strong passage of Swallows with a few House-Martins. Two single Pinkfeet, an Arctic Skua and two Manx Shearwaters passed S. on 27; Scaup, Pintail and great Northern and Red-throated Divers on 28. One Lapland Bunting was seen on Holy Island on 29 and we had a pair of Stonechats and a late Chiffchaff on 30.

OCTOBER: On October 2 ca. 40 Barnacle Geese flew S. 300 yards offshore; and on 4 a Garden-Warbler and 5 a Blackcap and a Kestrel accompanied a small movement of Northern Wheatears and Pipits. A single Swift was seen on 7 and 3 on 8. Two Pinkfeet flocks (53/30) were watched struggling N. over the sea against half-a-gale on 16, when a tired Redwing appeared too. At least a dozen Redwings arrived on 17, and a Goosander was shot on the coast in the gale: more Redwings on 18, of Scandinavian race, with a few Fieldfares and a Short-eared Owl. On 19 a Long-eared Owl was found at Bamburgh, together with Continental Goldcrests and a Merlin. Among the 'Thrushes' dribbling in during the fine days of 20–28 were several of 'Hebridean' type: on the latter date, quite unaccountably, a Little Auk was picked up exhausted in a field at New Berwick, 24 miles inland S.E. of Monks' House.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER: Thrush movement continued into November, 50 Fieldfares coming in high off the sea on 2; and others, with Redwings and Blackbirds, on 4 and 6. A Short-eared Owl was haunting the nearby dunes and a flock of ca. 15 Snow-Buntings, the beach. During the GEESE & GREY SEALS WEEK we watched a fine flock of about 5,000 Pinkfeet at Greenlaw, the nearest Geese only 70 yards away! and the northerly gales brought in a few Little Auks, one of which was diving most obligingly in the entrance of Seahouses Harbour. On 11 many Blackbirds and two Water-Rails were present, sheltering, on the Farnes, and, on 16 a flock of ca. 130 Snow-Buntings was reported from Craster. The passage Blackbirds cleared overnight on 15/16. A few more, with Continental Song-Thrushes, Redwings and Fieldfares were coming over on 22 and 24; but the main arrival was delayed for a further month, i.e. 26-28 December, when they were accompanied by the immigrant Waxwings mentioned above, by far the largest influx of these birds we have ever experienced.

WADER TRAPPING: has been rich in quality if (through no fault of our own!) poor in quantity. Turnstones ranked high at the beginning of the season, some possibly of a new race, *Arenaria interpres scoticus*, since they came so avidly to oatmeal bait; one wee bird in particular becoming completely trap-happy, frothing porridge at the gape each time he was caught. On one memorable evening, September 4, at dusk, four Reeves, a Ruff and a Knot were taken in a low net at once; and for the first time at Monks' House B.O. we have trapped Golden Plover (2), Green Sandpiper (3), Jack-Snipe and Spotted Redshank—the last after an epic hunt. Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwits and Purple Sandpipers have also added spice to the bag.

An outstanding wader recovery was that of a Sanderling ringed on Holy Island on September 2 '57 and recovered on October 2, just a month later, at Poti on the farthest shore of the Black Sea, U.S.S.R., notified to us in March '58. If, as seems most likely, this was a Siberian-bred bird, from the Taimyr or Spitzbergen, it must have made a very long westerly detour to reach its winter quarters; and must have averaged a speed of at least 70 miles a day.

An interesting confirmation of a Dunlin ringed as an *alpina* at Beadnell on August 19 '55 was its recovery in S. Iceland on June 10 this year; two other Dunlins ringed here in August and September '56, were shot in the Vendée and in the Gironde, France, on March 15 and 25 '58 respectively.

We have received five of the new wader mist-nets (in all a 100-yds. stretch) but have not had time yet to give them an adequate try-out. They will certainly catch Blackbirds with 100 per cent efficiency and even outwitted a Carrion Crow. We have not found the standard nets (20 ft. x 9 ft., 3-panel) very useful for waders (invaluable as they are for other species), unless 'invisibly' joined end-to-end to form 'doubles' or better still 'triples' and then used against a broken background: i.e., they may be used efficiently on inland waters, like sewage farms, partially surrounded by reeds, sedge, high bushes or trees; but set in the open, on flats or on the shore, the waders with their super-keen eyesight and aerial dexterity, avoid them with contemptuous ease time after time. There is, however, just the one short period, in the gloaming, as the light fails (or at dawn before it strengthens) and the inevitable breeze dies down, when waders feeding along a creek, for example, can be walked towards the nets, flushed suddenly when within 10-15 yards, and caught. Even so, if you bend low, it is surprising how clearly the nets and poles can be seen from the 'waders' view', both against the sky and reflected in the water. Any wader caught and dangling in or on the surface of the water *must be removed urgently; or it will drown*. The three Green Sandpipers, one of the Golden Plovers, most of the Common Sandpipers and some of the Ruffs and Redshanks, were taken in these double or triple nets in half-light and against a broken background, we having carefully studied beforehand the birds' escape fly-lines: many of the other waders in *low mist-nets*, i.e. standard nets cut twice lengthways, re-strung as needed and joined end-to-end, making a long low net approximately 60 ft. x 3 ft. These are far less visible under relatively open conditions, strung across a marsh or over a ridge of seaweed. Low-flying trips of small waders consistently dodge them in daylight, however, while flying round after disturbance prior to re-settling. But once a party of waders has settled and recommenced feeding, others will make low across the beach straight for it regardless of nets, and it is then that they may be taken. These low nets should be sited accordingly. They prove even more effective strung above low cover, i.e. rough meadows, marsh vegetation, turnip fields, etc., for Thrushes and Finches: good service therefore may be expected from the new 'help yourself' 3 ft. wide nylon netting announced recently by the Ringing Office.

Nevertheless, as far as tideline waders are concerned, there is still no immediate prospect of dispensing with the clap-net as the surest method of outwitting them. Preliminary watching is essential, to gauge the best time and place and opportunity; for tame as they often appear to be, haphazard trapping seldom succeeds. With care and experience good results can be expected: in March, in a single throw with a 10 ft. x 6 ft. net, we took 11 Turnstones and 3 Starlings in Seahouses Harbour; and catches of up to half-a-dozen waders at a time are by no means unusual. We caught several this year too in the 'Swedish Wader' traps on the beach outside the Observatory, after storms when they were hungry and ready to try bait . . . oatmeal! From time to time one hears of would-be inventions on the rocket-netting principle for taking waders *en masse* at their high-tide roosts. The purely practical considerations are considerable, the least difficult being a remote (electrical) release; but even supposing these could be overcome, one would, from one's considerable experience, very much hesitate to recommend any such attempts in the case of waders. They are NOT 'tough' birds, like Geese, or Starlings. They are easily soaked and chilled and I have no doubt that having more of them to dispose of than one could quickly and conveniently handle, might well result in casualties. On a dry field the risk would be less but it would be unwise to budget for more at a time than, perhaps, thirty. We tried out a standard mist-net, rigged up as a clapnet, rising from the water of a pool. It took Snipe, Ruff, Redshanks and—at a third attempt—our Dusky Redshank, but under such conditions no mist-net could expect a very long life! Wader-trapping proves most successful in the late autumn, winter and early spring, when the beaches and pools are undisturbed by trippers. We are arranging to keep Monks' House open at least at intervals throughout the winter of 1959/60 with this in mind; and indeed it is an excellent opportunity for anyone who would like to come and study wildfowl and waders here.

OTHER 1958 RECOVERIES: What was, one supposes, an early passage Blackbird, ringed here on August 29 '56, was caught—and caged!—in Co. Galway at Christmas '57, having reached its wintering area a second time; another, ringed in November '56 was recovered at Masham, Yorks., in January '58. Far more puzzling was a Song-Thrush ringed here in March which, by June, was found 145 miles away near Leigh in Lancs. Two examples of homing are provided, the first by a Swallow ringed in May '57, recaptured in June '58; and the other by one of a brood of five Wheatears, hatched in a garage wall at Beadnell in '56, being killed on the road in August '58 within a few yards of the same spot. A Whinchat ringed at Langleeford in June '57 was recovered, on its return passage, in May '58 at Calvados, France. One of the very few Willow-Warbler recoveries in Britain was of an *acredula* ringed here on spring passage on April 30 '58 and killed by a car at Muir of Ord, Ross-shire, 170 miles N.W., on August 20—had it bred in Scotland or was it already on its way back from a Scandinavian breeding place much farther north? Another of the local Ravens has succumbed, found dead by its nest at Rothbury, 20 miles W.; ringed 9/4/'55, recovered 12/5/'58; and another Lesser Black-back ringed in '57 as a juvenile was found in July '58 in the Loire Atlantique, France.

No less than 29 further Starling recoveries have come in during the year: four from near at hand and so well within the collecting area of the roost; six from within 20 miles; eight from farther afield—Morpeth (2) (25 miles), Newbiggin (27 miles), Ponteland (35 miles), and Hexham (47 miles), all in Northumberland; Gullane, East Lothian (50 miles N.); Acombe and Otley, Yorks. (100 miles); and eleven from abroad: Denmark (2), N. Germany (2), Norway (5), and Latvian S.S.R. (2).

They tell the same story: home-bred birds ringed at the roost up to mid-September disperse, nearly always on a southerly course (tho' the Gullane bird went N.W.); the late autumn and winter birds come mostly from sources in N.E. Europe. The change-over at the roost is shown very nicely by the Gullane bird and one of the German birds, from Leipzig: both were caught and ringed at the same roost on the same night, September 14 '57.

This Lucker roost has been thinned and, this winter ('58/'59), the Starlings have forsaken it and are concentrating in extensive bramble scrub, closely overgrown with hawthorn and sycamore saplings, some eight miles to the N.N.W.; where, during the WINTER TRAPPING WEEK, we took a 'sample' of 250 birds in two nights, using mainly 'butterfly-nets'.

A SUMMARY OF BIRDS RINGED AT MONKS' HOUSE BIRD OBSERVATORY FROM 1951 TO DECEMBER 31st 1958

B.O.U. List No.	Species or Race of Bird	Trapped full-grown	Ringed at nest	1958 Totals	1951-58 Grand Totals	B.O.U. List No.	Species or Race of Bird	Trapped full-grown	Ringed at nest	1958 Totals	1951-58 Grand Totals
1	Black-throated Diver	—	—	—	1	292	Marsh-Tit ...	3	—	3	13
4	Red-throated Diver ...	—	—	—	1	293	Willow-Tit ...	1	—	1	2
6	Red-necked Grebe ...	—	—	—	1	294	Long-tailed Tit ...	5	—	5	50
9	Little Grebe ...	—	—	—	1	296	Nuthatch ...	1	—	1	1
14	Storm-Petrel ...	—	—	—	1	298	Treecreeper ...	6	—	6	35
26	Fulmar ...	2	3	5	28		Northern Treecreeper	—	—	—	4
27	Gannet ...	100	—	100	349	299	Wren ...	24	—	24	193
45	Mallard ...	—	—	—	7	300	Dipper ...	2	4	6	112
50	Wigeon ...	—	—	—	1	301	Mistle-Thrush ...	1	—	1	19
64	Common Scoter ...	—	—	—	3	302	Fieldfare ...	1	—	1	12
67	Eider ...	6	—	6	110	303	Song-Thrush ...	102	3	105	550
74	Shelduck ...	—	—	—	12		Continental Song-Thrush	26	—	26	55
93	Sparrowhawk ...	—	—	—	1	304	Redwing ...	11	—	11	104
107	Merlin ...	—	—	—	6	307	Ring-Ouzel ...	—	2	2	44
110	Kestrel ...	3	—	3	18	308	Blackbird ...	450	15	465	1604
120	Water-Rail ...	1	—	1	4	311	Wheatear ...	15	6	21	263
126	Moorhen ...	3	—	3	15		Northern Wheatear	13	—	13	50
127	Coot ...	—	—	—	1	317	Stonechat ...	2	—	2	33
131	Oystercatcher ...	—	5	5	21	318	Whinchat ...	30	17	47	286
133	Lapwing ...	1	22	23	265	320	Redstart ...	88	4	92	247
134	Ringed Plover ...	11	3	14	120	321	Black-Redstart	4	—	4	6
139	Grey Plover ...	1	—	1	3	324	Bluethroat ...	2	—	2	5
140	Golden Plover ...	2	—	2	2		White-spotted Bluethroat	1	—	1	1
143	Turnstone ...	49	—	49	150	325	Robin ...	64	—	64	274
145	Snipe ...	11	—	11	42		Continental Robin	33	—	33	52
147	Jack Snipe ...	1	—	1	1	327	Grasshopper-Warbler	2	—	2	6
148	Woodcock ...	—	—	—	1	333	Reed-Warbler ...	4	—	4	6
150	Curlew ...	—	—	—	18	337	Sedge-Warbler ...	43	—	43	175
151	Whimbrel ...	—	—	—	4	340	Icterine-Warbler	1	—	1	1
155	Bar-tailed Godwit ...	5	—	5	25	343	Blackcap ...	14	—	14	28
156	Green-Sandpiper ...	3	—	3	3	344	Barred-Warbler	1	—	1	10
157	Wood-Sandpiper ...	—	—	—	4	346	Garden-Warbler	51	—	51	115
159	Common Sandpiper ...	8	—	8	34	347	Whitethroat ...	114	9	123	585
161	Redshank ...	3	3	6	54	348	Lesser Whitethroat	2	—	2	5
162	Spotted Redshank ...	1	—	1	1	354	Willow-Warbler	118	—	118	403
169	Knot ...	1	—	1	2		Northern Willow-Warbler	4	—	4	19
170	Purple-Sandpiper ...	4	—	4	8	356	Chiffchaff ...	4	—	4	11
171	Little Stint ...	—	—	—	19		Northern Chiffchaff	—	—	—	1
173	Temminck's Stint ...	—	—	—	1	357	Wood-Warbler ...	1	—	1	2
178	Dunlin ...	35	—	35	413	361	Pallas's Willow-Warbler	—	—	—	1
	Northern Dunlin	9	—	9	158	364	Goldcrest (incl. Cont.)	39	—	39	107
179	Curlew-Sandpiper ...	—	—	—	21	366	Spotted Flycatcher	20	—	20	57
181	Sanderling ...	—	—	—	40	368	Pied Flycatcher	86	—	86	152
184	Ruff ...	10	—	10	18	370	Red-breasted Flycatcher	3	—	3	3
199	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	35	36	353	371	Duncock ...	95	2	97	582
200	Herring Gull ...	—	81	81	326		Continental Duncock	5	—	5	14
208	Black-headed Gull ...	—	—	—	211	373	Meadow-Pipit ...	36	8	44	998
211	Kittiwake ...	2	—	2	23	376	Tree-Pipit ...	11	—	11	23
217	Common Tern ...	—	40	40	175	379	Rock-Pipit ...	18	16	34	395
218	Arctic Tern ...	—	5	5	99		Scandinavian Rock-Pipit	—	—	—	4
222	Little Tern ...	—	—	—	2	380	White Wagtail ...	5	—	5	10
224	Razorbill ...	—	—	—	3		Pied Wagtail ...	30	5	35	301
226	Little Auk ...	—	—	—	2	381	Grey Wagtail ...	1	5	6	68
227	Guillemot ...	—	—	—	8	382	Blue-headed Wagtail	—	—	—	1
	Northern Guillemot	—	—	—	2		Yellow Wagtail	1	—	1	9
230	Puffin ...	6	—	6	53	383	Waxwing ...	—	—	—	7
234	Woodpigeon ...	4	2	6	73	385	Lesser Grey Shrike	—	—	—	1
237	Cuckoo ...	2	2	4	17	388	Red-backed Shrike	3	—	3	10
241	Barn-Owl ...	—	—	—	5	389	Starling ...	134	—	134	3232
246	Little Owl ...	—	—	—	6	392	Greenfinch ...	292	—	292	2792
247	Tawny-Owl ...	3	—	3	31	393	Goldfinch ...	10	—	10	17
248	Long-eared Owl ...	—	—	—	12	394	Siskin ...	—	—	—	3
249	Short-eared Owl ...	—	—	—	1	395	Linnet ...	74	10	84	1253
255	Swift ...	—	—	—	1	397	Lesser Redpoll	121	—	121	156
262	Green-Woodpecker ...	1	—	1	2	401	Bullfinch ...	15	—	15	34
265	Wryneck ...	1	—	1	6	404	Crossbill ...	—	—	—	4
272	Skylark ...	3	11	14	124	407	Chaffinch ...	91	8	99	395
274	Swallow ...	79	26	105	774	408	Brambling ...	—	—	—	25
276	House-Martin ...	120	—	120	280	409	Yellowhammer	38	1	39	377
277	Sand-Martin ...	18	—	18	204	410	Corn-Bunting ...	6	—	6	47
279	Raven ...	—	—	—	17	416	Ortolan ...	1	—	1	1
280	Carriion-Crow ...	1	—	1	30	421	Reed-Bunting ...	120	8	128	864
282	Rook ...	—	—	—	304	422	Lapland Bunting	—	—	—	2
283	Jackdaw ...	—	—	—	89	424	House-Sparrow	14	—	14	610
284	Magpie ...	—	—	—	17	425	Tree-Sparrow ...	63	—	63	105
288	Great Tit ...	12	—	12	93						
289	Blue Tit ...	141	—	141	517						
290	Coal Tit ...	1	—	1	16						
								3244	+361	=3605	23915
								Species/races ringed in 1958=108			