

THE BIRDS OF THE PARISH OF DALE, INCLUDING SKOKHOLM

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DALE is the most south-westerly parish in Wales. Skokholm lies three and a half miles to the west and is part of the parish only for administrative purposes and because it is included in the Dale Castle Estate. The geology, climate and vegetation of the island have been discussed by Goodman and Gillham (1954). Oliver (1959) deals with the climate of the mainland and Dresser (1959) has described and mapped the broad divisions of habitat.

For information about the island's birds I have constantly referred to Lockley (1936) and Conder (1953), but these contributions are by no means always easy to reconcile with each other or with the Skokholm Reports 1936-39 and 1946-58, all of which I have consulted. Particular difficulties are mentioned in the text below.

The mainland records are largely from the Field Centre's file which was started in 1947, to which have been added records contributed by those listed below, to all of whom I wish to express my thanks:

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Details referring to both the island and the mainland have been taken from Mathew (1894) and Lockley *et al.* (n.d.).

The following abbreviations have been used:

w.v. winter visitor, i.e. arriving in autumn and leaving in spring.

s.v. summer visitor, i.e. arriving in spring, breeding, and leaving in autumn.

p.m. passage migrant, i.e. passing through on migration.

The word "resident" indicates presence throughout the year and breeding, unless breeding is specifically excluded.

Where a season is written "Apr.-May" the whole period from 1 April to 31 May is indicated; but where it is written Apr./May the period is only the end of April and the beginning of May.

If a species has occurred six or fewer times the occasions are listed.

A sentence that does not refer specifically either to the mainland or to Skokholm should be read as referring to both of them.

The nomenclature follows the B.O.U. Check List (1952).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER, *Colymbus arcticus*. One Dale Roads 12 Jan. 1956. For Skokholm no record in Lockley (1936) or any Report, but Lockley (1947) lists just the name without any date and Conder (1953) says "Two records" without dates or authority. I suggest that this species be removed from the island list.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER, *Colymbus immer*. Off the mainland w.v. in very small numbers, earliest 18 Oct. and last 29 Apr. For Skokholm not mentioned in any Report since Lockley (1936) and (1939) assessed them as common from Sept. to 15 Apr.

RED-THROATED DIVER, *Colymbus stellatus*. P.m. Dale Roads very small numbers end Oct. and Mar.-Apr. For Skokholm since Lockley (1936) "less numerous than Great Northern at same season" two 23 Sept. 1949 and one 10 May 1955.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE, *Podiceps cristatus*. Gann or Roads, one 23 Jan. 1946, 1-5 and 18 Mar. 1948, 27 Mar. 1955, 24 Feb., 21 Apr. 1957.

RED-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps grisegena*. Roads or Gann, one Apr. 1938, 30 July 1948, 20 Sept. and 3-12 Oct. 1953, 28 Feb. 1956 and 14 Mar. 1958.

SLAVONIAN GREBE, *Podiceps auritus*. One Gann 27 Jan. 1947, 17 Apr. 1948, Roads 20 Mar. 1950.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE, *Podiceps caspicus*. One Roads 24 Jan. 1938 and 11 Sept. 1950.

LITTLE GREBE, *Podiceps ruficollis*. On mainland regular w.v., particularly to Pickleridge lagoons, where 25-50 mid-winter; earliest 23 Aug., last 28 Mar. On Skokholm one 21 Oct. 1929 and 28 Sept. to 4 Oct. 1948.

LEACH'S PETREL, *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*. Two dead in Dale Oct. 1952 (Boyd 1954).

STORM PETREL, *Hydrobates pelagicus*. On Skokholm about 500 pairs bred 1928-1949 since when no census, arriving 25 Apr. and young leaving Nov. No record inside St. Ann's. Only rarely seen offshore in summer.

MANX SHEARWATER, *Procellaria puffinus*. On Skokholm about 10,000 pairs breeding since 1928, rising to 10,000-15,000 pairs in 1949. No census since. Arrive in Feb. and last young leave Oct. Seen commonly off-shore summer but in Roads only 14 Sept. 1948 and 25 June 1958, although regularly heard in Dale during summer nights.

SOOTY SHEARWATER, *Procellaria grisea*. On Skokholm not recorded since Lockley (1936) and Lockley *et al.* (n.d.) noted "fairly regular in first week of Sept." until two 7 Sept. 1957.

FULMAR PETREL, *Fulmarus glacialis*. Up to 5 prospecting St. Ann's 1951, about 5 pairs visiting ledges 1956, first egg probably 1957 and 3 pairs bred 1958; further 2-3 pairs on ledges Little Castle Point. Landed momentarily Skokholm 1953. Seen Jan.-Aug.

GANNET, *Sula bassana*. Off-shore seen all through year, particularly Apr.-Oct., occasionally Roads in rough weather.

CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Common all round coasts but does not breed. High flying parties Mar./Apr. and often Aug./Sept. suggest migration.

SHAG, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Common, particularly on Atlantic coast, but does not breed mainland. Pair bred Skokholm 1932-35 and two pairs 1936-37.

HERON, *Ardea cinerea*. On Skokholm irregular 10 July to 29 Sept. but becoming rather more frequent; also 8 Apr. 1953, 25 May 1956, 28 May and 22 Oct. 1957. On mainland regular w.v. in small numbers, and seen frequently in summer, juvs. arriving in June.

LITTLE EGRET, *Egretta garzetta*. On Gann one 25 May 1938 and 7-12 May 1949.

BITTERN, *Botaurus stellaris*. Dale one 2 Feb. 1888.

AMERICAN BITTERN, *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Dale one 11 Dec. 1905.

SPOONBILL, *Platalea leucorodia*. Gann, one between Nov. 1952 and May 1953, with two together 8 May 1953. On Skokholm juv. 20 Oct. 1956.

MALLARD, *Anas platyrhynchos*. On mainland has markedly decreased since 1939; now probably two pairs breed sheltered cliffs. Regular w.v. on Gann, 70-90 in mid-winter. On Skokholm one pair bred 1936, 1937, 1953 and 1955: occurs throughout year, particularly in spring and at night.

TEAL, *Anas crecca*. On mainland has decreased since 1939. W.v. to Gann and Skokholm and probably p.m., arriving about 12 Aug. and leaving by about 5 Mar. (22 Apr.), with about 40 on Gann (150 22 Nov. 1957) and up to 70 on Skokholm in mid-winter.

GARGANEY, *Anas querquedula*. Skokholm ♂ and ♀ 1 June 1951.

WIGEON, *Anas penelope*. W.v. to Gann and Skokholm, arriving by 15 Sept. (30 Aug.) and leaving by 20 Mar. (22 May); usually about 300 in Jan. (1,000 7 Feb. 1954) on Gann, and up to 100 on Skokholm.

PINTAIL, *Anas acuta*. On Gann ♂ 9 Dec. 1945, 18 on 8 Oct. 1951, ♂+2♀ 6 Nov. 1952, ♂+♀ 7 Jan. 1955, 2♂ 21 Mar. 1958. On Skokholm ♂ 30 Mar. 1940, ♀ 8 Sept. 1949, one 30 Jan. to 8 Feb. 1950, 3 juv. 19 Sept. 1956.

SHOVELER, *Spatula clypeata*. Up to 1939 occasionally shot over Longlands; since then on mainland two 30 Aug. 1948, ♂+♀ 11 Feb. 1950, ♀ 8 Oct. 1951, 2♂ 2 Dec. 1952, 2♂+3♀ 7 Feb. 1954, 2♂+♀ 7 Jan. 1955. On Skokholm very rare w.v. and spring p.m., 19 Mar. to 4 May; also pair 6 July 1935 and ♂ 4 Aug. 1949; no record since 1952.

SCAUP, *Aythya marila*. On Gann ♂ Dec. 1933/Jan. 1934.

TUFTED DUCK, *Aythya fuligula*. On Gann very rare w.v., particularly Feb. (22 Sept. to 11 May). On Skokholm ♀ 6-20 May 1958.

POCHARD, *Aythya ferina*. On mainland one Kete 3 Aug. 1932, five lagoons 16 Dec. 1945. On Skokholm two 11 Apr. 1948.

GOLDEN-EYE, *Bucephala clangula*. Regular w.v. to Gann in very small numbers, arriving mid-Oct. (8 Sept.) and leaving end Feb.; usually chocolate headed.

LONG-TAILED DUCK, *Clangula hyemalis*. On Gann juv. 6 Nov. 1957 to at least 11 Dec. 1957.

VELVET SCOTER, *Melanitta fusca*. On Roads one 7 Dec. 1947, two 22 Jan. 1948, one 25 Feb. 1951.

COMMON SCOTER, *Melanitta nigra*. W.v. in small numbers Roads. Seen irregularly offshore and round Skokholm all through year, up to 20 or 30 or even 50 at a time.

EIDER-DUCK, *Somateria mollissima*. Roads ♂ 18 Jan. 1891, ♂+3♀ 25-30 Nov. 1952, 2♀+juv. 9 Dec. 1957.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER, *Mergus serrator*. Roads one 29 Mar. 1952, 6 Oct. 1956, ♂ 4-7 Jan. 1955, 2♀ 7 Apr., one 3 and 9 Nov. 1957, ♂ 5 Jan. 1959.

GOOSANDER, *Mergus merganser*. Roads four 3 Nov. 1949, ♀ 21 Sept. 1950.

SMEW, *Mergus albellus*. Dale a pair 1904.

SHELD-DUCK, *Tadorna tadorna*. On Gann bred to 1940; regular May 1947-1953, but very irregular since, and for rest of year. For Skokholm seen very rarely off-shore and on North Pond.

GREY LAG-GOOSE, *Anser anser*. Skokholm two 1 Oct. 1954.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, *Anser albifrons*. On mainland five 20 Dec. 1938, eight 13 Nov. 1951, juv. 4 Jan. 1953. On Skokholm eight 25 Oct. 1954.

BRENT GOOSE, *Branta bernicla*. On Gann occasional p.m. 2 Sept. to 7 Oct., in parties up to 11; four 5 Jan. 1950. All pale breasted. On Skokholm sixteen 10 Apr. 1936.

CANADA GOOSE, *Branta canadensis*. Skokholm four 3 Oct. 1952.

MUTE SWAN, *Cygnus olor*. On mainland one or two pairs resident, rarely succeed in hatching as nest below L.W.E.S.T. Additional birds often seen throughout year (15 on 28 Apr. 1955).

WHOOPEE-SWAN, *Cygnus cygnus*. Dale Roads fifteen 16 Jan. 1955, two Pickleridge lagoons 1 Dec. 1957. From Skokholm 47 seen on 19 Feb. 1956.

BEWICK'S SWAN, *Cygnus bewickii*. On Gann 2 ad. and 2 juv. 4-7 Feb. 1954.

BUZZARD, *Buteo buteo*. On mainland rare to 1920 and then increased to 1954 by when two pairs bred regularly; since 1954 breeding uncertain but frequently seen throughout year. On Skokholm bred 1928 and regularly 1931 to 1951 (nest, no eggs 1954).

SPARROW-HAWK, *Accipiter nisus*. Occurs irregularly throughout year on mainland and Skokholm. Does not breed.

MARSH-HARRIER, *Circus aeruginosus*. Skokholm one 12-13 May 1954.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER, *Circus pygargus*. On Skokholm one 5 Aug. 1935, two 8-10 and one 11, 13 Aug. 1951, juv. 27, 28 Sept. 1956, ♂ 20 Apr. 1958.

HOBBY, *Falco subbuteo*. Dale one shot 3 Oct. 1888.

PEREGRINE FALCON, *Falco peregrinus*. Seen throughout year. Has bred on mainland; bred Skokholm 1930 and 1932.

MERLIN, *Falco columbarius*. On mainland juv. 25 Oct. 1955, ♀ 27 Jan. 1957. On Skokholm casual in winter, and p.m. in small numbers that have increased since 1947, particularly Mar.-Apr. and Sept.-Oct.; absent 9 May to 20 July.

KESTREL, *Falco tinnunculus*. On mainland one or two pairs breed regularly but not on Skokholm. Seen throughout year.

PARTRIDGE, *Perdix perdix*. To 1934 common resident; probably reduced by rabbit trapping and nearly extinct after Feb./Mar. 1947 frost; now rarely seen. Last bred ? 1949.

QUAIL, *Coturnix coturnix*. On mainland one 4 Sept. 1933, 5 Jan. 1948. On Skokholm very rare p.m. May/June (23 Apr. to 1 July); and records 14, 16 July 1951 and 24 Sept. 1955.

PHEASANT, *Phasianus colchicus*. On mainland resident in small numbers; those without white ring round their neck still occur.

WATER-RAIL, *Rallus aquaticus*. Regular w.v. in small numbers (6 Aug. to 22 Apr.) and p.m., Sept./Oct. and Mar. On Skokholm bred 1929 and 1931. (Lockley (1947) adds breeding 1934; this was doubted by him in 1936 and he excludes it from the 1937 Report; Conder (1953) excludes it and it is not included here).

CORNCRAKE, *Crex crex*. Used to breed on mainland and island in small numbers; last nest Skokholm 1930. Now scarce p.m., regular on Skokholm Apr./May (14 Mar.-3 June) and Sept. (8 Aug.-30 Sept.).

MOORHEN, *Gallinula chloropus*. On mainland to 1939 bred Longlands; now very rare vagrant. On Skokholm, except for 1937, bred annually to 1938 and again 1954; (Conder (1953) contradicts the 1939 Report and his 1940 record is not in the 1946 Report); since then one 6-14 Aug. 1955 and 4-12 May 1956.

COOT, *Fulica atra*. On Pickleridge lagoons six parties since 1933 in hard weather Dec.-Mar. On Skokholm all five records are between 11 July and 23 Aug.

OYSTERCATCHER, *Haematopus ostralegus*. Common p.m. second half Apr. and Sept./Oct. On Skokholm resident, 40 pairs bred 1928, 54 in 1953 and 35 in 1957. Does not breed mainland but present all year, about 30 mid-June and 50 mid-winter.

LAPWING, *Vanellus vanellus*. Resident, about three pairs breeding mainland; on Skokholm 6 pairs bred 1928, 12 in 1932, one 1948 rising to about 25 pairs 1954 and then 16 in 1957. Common autumn p.m., second half Oct., heading generally W. No evidence of spring passage. Irregular w.v., up to 50 on Gann in cold spells.

RINGED PLOVER, *Charadrius hiaticula*. On mainland all year round but does not breed; less than 5 in mid-summer; common w.v., to 30 in mid-winter. On Skokholm in 1936 was "casual, August and Sept.". First spring record 12 Apr. 1937; from 1947 has been increasingly common p.m., Apr./May (10 Mar.-9 June) and Aug./Sept. (15 July-12 Oct.). On mainland common p.m.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER, *Charadrius dubius*. On mainland on Gann 16 May 1949, first for Wales.

GREY PLOVER, *Charadrius squatarola*. On mainland on Gann regular p.m. in small numbers, Apr. (to 19 May) and Oct. (from 7 Sept.), and w.v. On Skokholm rare p.m., spring records in only 5 years from 1936, in autumn in 5 years from 1946.

GOLDEN PLOVER, *Charadrius apricarius*. P.m. Mar./Apr. (to 26 May) and Sept./Oct. (from 3 Aug.) and w.v. in irregular numbers, often abundant in hard weather. On Skokholm fifteen records of *C.a. altifrons* are all between 15 May and 8 June.

DOTTEREL, *Charadrius morinellus*. On mainland one 9 Sept. 1951.

TURNSTONE, *Arenaria interpres*. Resident but does not breed. On mainland less than 5 mid-summer. Common p.m. Apr. and Sept./Oct. and common w.v., up to 25 mid-winter. On Skokholm about 10 mid-summer but 30-40 during migrations.

COMMON SNIBE, *Capella gallinago*. On mainland common w.v. Aug.-Mar. in very variable numbers. For Skokholm Lockley (1936) suggests breeding to 1927 and from then always present; but five of the first eight Reports do not mention the species. Since 1950 has been regular p.m., 15-30 Mar. (to 22 June) and Sept. (earliest 18 July), and w.v.

JACK SNIBE, *Lymnocyptes minimus*. W.v. in small numbers, arriving Oct. (18 Aug.) and leaving Mar. (13 Apr.).

WOODCOCK, *Scolopax rusticola*. W.v. in small but variable numbers from Oct. (11 Oct.) to Mar. (23 Apr.). On Skokholm p.m. in very small numbers. Mar./Apr. and Oct.

CURLEW, *Numenius arquata*. Scarce resident (mid-summer about 15 on mainland and one or two on Skokholm) but does not breed; abundant p.m. Apr. and Aug.-Sept.; abundant w.v. (to 200 daily mid-winter).

WHIMBREL, *Numenius phaeopus*. Common p.m., first half May (from 2 Apr.) and second half Aug. (to 24 Oct.); from 27 June to 6 July stragglers on both passages.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa limosa*. Rare p.m., May (4 Apr.-28 June) and July/Aug. (30 June-21 Sept.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT, *Limosa lapponica*. P.m. in small numbers, rather irregular in spring, May (to 31 May) and Sept. (from 17 Aug.). On mainland w.v. in irregular numbers (25 on 7 Feb. 1954).

GREEN SANDPIPER, *Tringa ochropus*. On mainland one 23 Aug. 1947, two 8 Aug. 1948, one 4 Aug. 1951, 13 Nov. 1951, two 19 Jan. 1952, one 4 Aug. 1957, four 5 Sept. 1958. On Skokholm first record 1 Oct. 1946; since then p.m. in autumn in very small numbers, Aug./Sept. (17 July-1 Oct.); one 27 Apr. 1952.

WOOD-SANDPIPER, *Tringa glareola*. On Skokholm one 10-20, 26 Aug. 1955, 22 May 1956, two 1, one 17, 18 Sept. 1958.

COMMON SANDPIPER, *Tringa hypoleucos*. Regular p.m. in small numbers, May (21 Mar.-4 June) and first half Sept. (23 June-10 Nov.).

REDSHANK, *Tringa totanus*. On mainland common p.m. Mar. (to 22 Apr.) and Sept.-Oct. (from 16 June) with 50 or more a day; common w.v. On Skokholm already becoming commoner by 1936 is now still commoner p.m., particularly in autumn; latest spring bird 27 May.

SPOTTED REDSHANK, *Tringa erythropus*. On mainland one 25 Aug. 1944, two 7 Sept 1947, one 11 Sept. 1952, 21 Sept. 1953, 4 Oct. 1953, 19 Dec. 1954, two 30 Nov. 1957. On Skokholm one 14, 28 Aug., 1 Sept. 1955, 10 Sept. 1956, 24, 25 May 1958.

GREENSHANK, *Tringa nebularia*. On mainland p.m. in small numbers without obvious peaks; last spring bird 17 May, first in autumn 13 June. W.v. in slowly increasing numbers (Barrett and Davis (1958)), in 1957/1958 about 5 on Gann. On Skokholm first record 9 Sept. 1934, then May 1946 and from then in one April, three Mays, a June, a July, seven Augusts; since 1953 four Septs., Oct. 1957 and Nov. 1958.

KNOT, *Calidris canutus*. On mainland irregular p.m., in spring no clear peak, last bird 21 May, in autumn Aug./Sept. (9 Aug.). Irregular w.v., 55 on 7 Feb. 1954 on Gann. On Skokholm one 7 Sept. 1934, 4 May 1947 and then 1956-1958 some fifteen birds all between 16 July and 29 Sept.

PURPLE SANDPIPER, *Calidris maritima*. On mainland one 27 Mar. 1951. On Skokholm w.v. and probably p.m. Sept. (first 7 Aug.) and Apr. (last 25 May), in small numbers.

LITTLE STINT, *Calidris minuta*. On Skokholm one 11 Sept. 1933, 23-26 Aug. 1954, four 26; one 27, two 28, one 29, 30 Sept. 1957.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER, *Calidris melanotos*. On mainland one Gann 11 Aug. 1950. On Skokholm one 23 Sept.-12 Oct. 1958.

DUNLIN, *Calidris alpina*. Sometimes resident (one or two mid-summer) but does not breed. Common p.m. in irregular numbers, mid-May and Aug./Sept. Regular w.v., usually about 5 on Gann in mid-winter, but only casual on Skokholm.

CURLEW-SANDPIPER, *Calidris testacea*. On mainland one Gann 30 July 1948 and 11 Sept. 1952. On Skokholm one 29-30 June 1955, 4 Sept. 1956.

SANDERLING, *Crocethia alba*. On mainland p.m. in small numbers, 15-30 May (11 May-1 June) and Aug./Sept. (6 Aug.-19 Sept.); only winter record three 7 Feb. 1954. On Skokholm one 7 Sept. 1934, 27 May 1938, 23-30 Aug. 1948, 19 Oct. 1954.

RUFF, *Philomachus pugnax*. On mainland, Gann, one 19 Oct. 1947, 15, 20 Sept. 1949, four 8 Sept. 1955, one 7 Apr. 1957, 11 Apr. 3♂ 5♀ 8 Sept. 1958. On Skokholm becoming less rare p.m. May (14 Mar.-28 May) and Aug./Sept. (10 July-23 Sept.).

GREY PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Skokholm two 17 Sept. 1955 and two 30 Sept. 1957, off-shore.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, *Phalaropus lobatus*. Off St. Ann's one 19 Sept. 1950, one Gann 16 Sept. 1957.

STONE-CURLEW, *Burhinus oedipnemus*. Skokholm one 25 Apr. 1940.

ARCTIC SKUA, *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Mainland, Dale Roads, one May 1949, 7 July 1956. Off Skokholm casual May-Oct.

GREAT SKUA, *Stercorarius skua*. Off Skokholm one 7 Aug. 1956.

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus marinus*. On mainland common resident but does not breed, and common autumn p.m. Sept./Oct. but no clear peak of spring return. W.v. in very variable numbers. On Skokholm resident, 31 pairs bred 1928, 52 pairs 1937, 72 in 1949 reflect quick increase in island populations (Davis, 1958), but control has allowed only 27 pairs 1957.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL, *Larus fuscus*. Barnes (1952) has shown Mathews (1894) was wrong in describing this species as resident. S.v. but does not breed on mainland. Common p.m. Mar./Apr. and Sept. Vagrant in winter, becoming more regular in very small numbers. The Scandinavian form, *L.f. fuscus*, has been recognized in Jan., Apr., three times in May, in Sept. and Nov. Breeds on Skokholm. Lockley (1936) gives 800 pairs and Lockley *et al.* (n.d.) repeat that figure for 1946. The 1949 Report gives 350 pairs, in 1955 about 300 pairs and 360 pairs in 1958.

HERRING-GULL, *Larus argentatus*. Common resident, about 20 nests St. Ann's and 10 on Kete Point; on Skokholm breeding population rose slowly from 250 pairs 1928 to about 550 in 1950, but in 1955 was down to about 400 pairs. Common "p.m." Mar. and Sept.-Oct. W.v. in variable numbers, large on mainland, small on Skokholm.

COMMON GULL, *Larus canus*. On mainland common p.m. Mar. (to 26 Apr.) and Oct./Nov. (earliest 17 June). Regular w.v., 5-20 on Gann mid-winter. On Skokholm very rare p.m. and w.v.

GLAUCOUS GULL, *Larus hyperboreus*. On mainland one 10 Feb. 1938, 7 Oct. 1956.

BLACK-HEADED GULL, *Larus ridibundus*. On mainland common p.m., Feb./Mar. (to 14 May) and Aug.-Sept. (from 20 June). Common w.v.; from 25 to 250 Gann mid-winter. From Skokholm common off-shore July-Mar., having become much commoner since 1950, and scarce Apr.-June.

KITTIWAKE, *Rissa tridactyla*. Seen off-shore commonly in summer and seldom in winter and only in bad weather inside Haven. Does not breed.

BLACK TERN, *Chlidonias niger*. On mainland, one Gann 8 May 1954, five Dale Point 25 Sept. 1957. From Skokholm twelve 8 Sept. 1958.

COMMON TERN, *Sterna hirundo* and

ARCTIC TERN, *Sterna macrura*. Although Common and Arctic Terns have often been distinguished the majority of terns that pass remain unidentified and so the two species are here treated together. P.m. in small numbers, May (20 Apr.-26 June) and mid-Sept. (17 July-8 Oct.), with to about 17 in a day (more than 300 off St. Ann's 10 Sept. 1958). Possibly Arctic Terns outnumber the Commons. 20 pairs may have been breeding Skokholm Stack 1884 but Lockley (1936) and Lockley *et al.* (n.d.) in citing Mathews (1894) omit Mathews' reservations on p. 101: "We learn from boatmen . . ." and on p. 102: "We were told . ..". Lockley *et al.* (n.d.) cite without authority breeding until 1916 but there is no mention in (1936).

ROSEATE TERN, *Sterna dougallii*. Three off St. Ann's 10 Sept. 1958. Mathews' note of breeding on Skokholm Stack before 1894 may be read cautiously; on p. 102 he writes "perhaps" and on p. xxxiii "it is just possible that . ..". Mathews was clearly not convinced, Witherby *et al.* (1941) do not admit it, but Roseates do breed on stacks and amongst other terns and Mathews is referring to a period when the species was commoner than now.

LITTLE TERN, *Sterna albifrons*. In Dale Roads two 22 Apr. 1949, one 20 Sept. 1953, two 13 Sept. 1954, one 24 Aug. 1958. Off Skokholm one 18 Sept. 1930.

SANDWICH TERN, *Sterna sandvicensis*. From Dale p.m. in small numbers, 17 Mar.-26 May and 14 July-4 Nov.; up to seven in a day. From Skokholm not identified until 2 Apr. 1947 and remains very rare p.m.

RAZORBILL, *Alca torda*. On Skokholm 800 pairs bred 1928, 670 in 1947 and 1188 birds present 1958, arriving on ledges end Mar. and leaving early Aug. Common off all shores in summer, occasional Sept.-Mar.

LITTLE AUK, *Plautus alle*. On mainland one Gann 1 Jan. 1952. Off Skokholm two 17 Dec. 1928, one 15 Jan. 1930, three 2 Feb. 1930, one 12 Dec. 1932.

GUILLEMOT, *Uria aalge*. On Skokholm 160 pairs bred 1928, 220 in 1937, about 110 in 1947 and perhaps only 50 pairs since 1955. Visits ledges end Feb. and leaves in Aug.; having been common all coasts during summer becomes rare in winter (rarer than Razorbills). Less than 1 per cent. bridled (Southern 1951). Dead birds of the Northern form, *U.a. aalge*, have been washed ashore in autumn on Skokholm, all before 1936.

PUFFIN, *Fratercula arctica*. On Skokholm Lockley (1936) suggests 20,000 breeding pairs, whereas Conder (1953) gives 5,000-10,000 pairs and Dickinson (1958) gives about 6,000 pairs for 1955 and a decrease since. Visits burrows late March and leaves early Aug. Common off-shore summer but only winter record is one 21 Nov. 1952. No record inside St. Ann's.

STOCK-DOVE, *Columba oenas*. On mainland regular w.v. to 1939; since then three 16 Sept. 1949, one 10 May 1951, two 24, 25 May 1952, one 4 Jan. 1953. On Skokholm one 28 Apr., 21, 28 May, 3, 4 June 1939, 28 Mar. 1949, 29 Apr. 1954, 18, 19 May, 8 July 1958.

WOOD-PIGEON, *Columba palumbus*. On mainland common resident, perhaps 25-50 nests annually. No migration noted. W.v., with mid-winter population about 200. On Skokholm only 4 records before 1947; since then in nine Aprils and very irregular May-Sept.

TURTLE-DOVE, *Streptopelia turtur*. Regular p.m., perhaps becoming commoner since about 1948, May (1 Apr. to about 10 June) and Aug./Sept. (about 15 July-5 Oct.); June/July records might be either movement.

CUCKOO, *Cuculus canorus*. Scarce p.m., Apr./May (18 Apr.-12 June) and Aug. (4 June-8 Sept.). In some years not heard on mainland. Bred Skokholm 1928.

BARN-OWL, *Tyto alba*. On mainland bred Point Wood 1948 and perhaps since. On Skokholm one 7 Nov.-20 Dec. 1929.

SCOPS OWL, *Otus scops*. On Skokholm one 25 Apr. 1955.

LITTLE OWL, *Athene noctua*. On mainland resident in small numbers, was commoner before 1939. On Skokholm bred, or tried to, in most years to 1937 and in 1954, but, being severe predator of storm petrels, used to be deported. W.v. to island Sept.-Feb./Mar.

TAWNY OWL, *Strix aluco*. Probably only owl breeding regularly in Dale, nesting in several woods.

SHORT-EARED OWL, *Asio flammeus*. On mainland used to be regular w.v. in very small numbers but no record since 1947 except three on aerodrome 4 Jan. 1954. On Skokholm rare Aug.-Dec., three Apr.-May records 1947-1951, and since 1956 detected in summer crossing from Skomer to prey on petrels.

NIGHTJAR, *Caprimulgus europaeus*. On mainland bred aerodrome 1948; one 14 Sept. 1951. On Skokholm rare p.m. May (6 May-28 June) and very rare Sept. (18 Aug.-29 Sept.).

SWIFT, *Apus apus*. Common p.m. May (18 Apr.) and July/Aug. (last 22 Sept.). Although now commonly seen in summer, used to breed in Dale in small numbers, to ? 1939.

KINGFISHER, *Alcedo atthis*. On mainland w.v. in very small numbers (21 Aug.-5 Mar.), on Gann and sheltered shores. On Skokholm one 17 Aug. 1936, juv. 16 July 1948.

BEE-EATER, *Merops apiaster*. Dale Point two 31 May 1958.

HOOPOE, *Upupa epops*. On mainland one 21-24 Apr. 1950, 23 Aug. 1956, 3 May 1958. On Skokholm five birds to 1950, since when thirteen more, p.m. Apr. (12 Mar.-27 May) and, much rarer, Aug. (18 July-8 Sept.).

GREEN WOODPECKER, *Picus viridis*. On mainland resident to 1940 in very small numbers. Since 1945 one recorded 11 Apr. 1949.

GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos major*. On mainland occasionally bred before 1940. Since 1945 one 4 Sept. 1949, 24 June, 10 Oct. 1951, 3 Jan 1952, 12 Nov. 1955, 9 Oct. 1957, 18 Mar. 1958.

WRYNECK, *Jynx torquilla*. On Skokholm one 6 May 1938, 21-23 May 1949, 21-25 Sept. 1956, 13-18 Sept. 1958.

SHORT-TOED LARK, *Calandrella brachydactyla*. On Skokholm one 9-13 Apr. 1952, 10-20 Apr. 1956.

WOOD-LARK, *Lullula arborea*. On mainland one 19 Sept. 1954, 3 May 1956.

SKYLARK, *Alauda arvensis*. Resident; on mainland about ten nests annually, mostly on aerodrome, and on Skokholm 3 pairs bred 1928, only one pair 1939, nine in 1949 and 15-20 in 1956. Abundant p.m.; spring movement not clearly defined; autumn peak Oct./Nov., in two streams, one to S. and SE. and one to NW. Abundant w.v., numbers increasing sharply in cold weather.

SHORE-LARK, *Eremophila alpestris*. On Skokholm one 23-24 Apr. 1957.

SWALLOW, *Hirundo rustica*. S.v. in small numbers, although on Skokholm bred only 1928, 1932-34. Abundant p.m., second half Apr. (first 23 Mar.) passing N. and coasting NW., and Sept., flying mainly E. (late birds 3 Nov. 1949 and 1952, 12 Nov. 1955).

HOUSE-MARTIN, *Delichon urbica*. S.v. (does not breed Skokholm) in numbers smaller than for swallow. Abundant p.m. Apr./May (first 25 Mar.), coasting NW; and Sept. (last 17 Nov. 1956), flying E.

SAND-MARTIN, *Riparia riparia*. Not common p.m., often amongst swallows, Apr./May (first 18 Mar.) and Aug./Sept. (last 7 Oct.). (Has bred Crabhall sandpits, 20 yds. N. of parish boundary).

RAVEN, *Corvus corax*. Resident; probably two pairs annually on mainland cliffs, and one pair Skokholm. Has become commoner in last twenty years.

CARRION-CROW, *Corvus corone*. Has increased in last twenty years and is now common resident; on Skokholm 4-10 pairs nest annually. No record of spring migration since Lockley (1936) noted it.

HOODED CROW, *Corvus cornix*. On mainland one 13 Dec. 1958; on Skokholm one 11 Apr. 1939 and 11 May 1951.

ROOK, *Corvus frugilegus*. On mainland common resident, about 105 nests in 1958 in Blue Anchor Wood. On Skokholm scarce p.m., Mar./Apr. and very scarce Aug.-Sept.; casual mid-summer and mid-winter.

JACKDAW, *Corvus monedula*. On mainland common resident. On Skokholm very scarce p.m. Mar./Apr. and Aug./Sept.; rare vagrant mid-summer.

MAGPIE, *Pica pica*. On mainland common resident in numbers that have increased since 1945.

CHOUGH, *Coracia pyrrhocorax*. Seen irregularly throughout year, particularly July-Nov. Bred Skokholm 1928 and St. Ann's 1950.

GREAT TIT, *Parus major*. On mainland common resident. On Skokholm one 23 Mar. 1949; between 26 Sept. and 26 Oct. 1957 200 passed W. during that astonishing invasion and one ringed then stayed until 7 Apr. 1958.

BLUE TIT, *Parus caeruleus*. On mainland very common resident. May be scarce p.m. in Oct., coasting and then flying E. On Skokholm first record 16 Oct. 1948 and has occurred since only in six Octobers; in the 1957 invasion about 400, of which some were *P.c. caeruleus*, one of which stayed until 8 Apr. 1958.

COAL-TIT, *Parus ater*. On mainland two 15 Apr. 1948, one 21 Oct. and 22 Nov. 1951, July 1953 and 3 May 1956. On Skokholm one 8 Nov.-6 Mar. 1931, 28 Sept.-8 Oct. 1949, and about 100 during the Oct. 1957 invasion, one 19 Oct. 1958.

MARSH-TIT, *Parus palustris*. On mainland common resident to 1939, now probably one or two pairs nest.

LONG-TAILED TIT, *Aegithalos caudatus*. On mainland used to breed regularly until Feb./Mar. 1947 frost killed them all. Reappeared winter 1949/50 and bred again 1953, 1954, 1958. On Skokholm two 11 Oct. 1957.

NUTHATCH, *Sitta europaea*. On mainland resident, breeding in several of the woods; became commoner between 1939 and 1952.

TREE-CREEPER, *Certhia familiaris*. On mainland common resident, breeding in all woods. On Skokholm one 16 July 1928, 12 and 23 July 1938, 24, 25 June 1949, 1 Oct. 1957.

WREN, *Troglodytes troglodytes*. On mainland abundant resident, breeding in all woods, scrub and cliffs. On Skokholm w.v., 18 July-20 May, with up to 50 in mid-winter.

MISTLE-THRUSH, *Turdus viscivorus*. On mainland resident in small numbers until the frost of Feb./Mar. 1947; since then only seven records, all between Sept. and Feb. On Skokholm very casual throughout year, particularly in winter.

FIELDFARE, *Turdus pilaris*. P.m. in Oct./Nov. and, much scarcer, Mar./Apr. (last 20 May). W.v., conspicuous only in cold spells.

SONG-THRUSH, *Turdus ericetorum*. Common p.m. Oct. and, much less common, Mar. W.v., may be abundant in cold spells (though far fewer than Redwings). Resident on mainland with about 5 pairs annually. On Skokholm has become casual in summer since 1936. *T.e. philomelos* Skokholm 23 Feb. 1939.

REDWING, *Turdus musicus*. Abundant p.m. many nights Oct.-Nov., rarely seen by day; spring passage small and inconspicuous. W.v. in numbers that are large in cold spells (perhaps 10,000 in Dale 4 Jan. 1955) and they may totally disappear the day the thaw arrives. Measurements of dead put all into *T.m. musicus* but *T.m. coburni* ringed Skokholm 19 Oct. 1954.

RING-OUZEL, *Turdus torquatus*. On mainland one 4 Oct. 1951, ♀ 23 Mar. 1955, one 4 Apr., 2♀ 26 Sept. 1957. On Skokholm p.m. in small numbers, Apr. (15 Mar.-23 May) and, fewer, Sept. (28 Aug.-23 Oct.).

BLACKBIRD, *Turdus merula*. Very common p.m., by night Oct./Nov., with residual dawn movement to SE., and, very inconspicuous, Mar. W.v., numbers becoming large in cold spells. On mainland resident, about 25 pairs nesting. On Skokholm one or two pairs bred annually 1928-35, since when only casual in summer.

WHEATEAR, *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Regular p.m. Apr. (9 Mar.-16 May) and Aug./Sept. (2 Aug.-29 Oct.). Breeds regularly on Skokholm, 10 pairs in 1928 and 1936, 20 pairs 1948, 38 in 1951 and about 30 pairs 1957. The Greenland Wheatear, *Oe. oe. leucorroha*, is p.m. in variable numbers, rather later in spring.

STONECHAT, *Saxicola torquata*. Nearly exterminated by Feb./Mar. 1947 by frost; by 1951 was again resident on mainland in very small numbers; perhaps five pairs nested 1953-58. On Skokholm bred 1928 and 1932; otherwise w.v., 19 June-27 May. Ringing records appear not to confirm Conder's (1953) suggestion of passage.

WHINCHAT, *Saxicola rubetra*. Regular p.m. first half May (10 Apr.-27 June) and, fewer, Aug./Sept. (12 July-10 Oct.). On mainland two exceptional records 29 Nov. 1947 and ♂ 19 Nov. 1949.

REDSTART, *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. On mainland ♂ 8 July 1948 and one 22 Aug. 1948. On Skokholm to 1936 only casual 25 Aug.-3 Oct. but since then increasingly common and regular p.m. Apr./May (2 Apr.-19 June) and Aug.-Sept. (7 July-19 Oct.).

BLACK REDSTART, *Phoenicurus ochrurus*. P.m., but very irregular and widely fluctuating numbers, Mar./Apr. (to 1 June) and Oct. (from 23 Sept.); equally erratic w.v.

NIGHTINGALE, *Luscinia megarhynchos*. On Skokholm one 4 May 1951, juv. 8-12 and 18 Sept. 1955.

BLUETHROAT, *Cyanosylvia svecica*. On Skokholm first winter ♂ of Red-spotted form *C.s. svecica*, 10 Oct. 1955; one 12-15 Sept. 1956. First and second for Wales.

ROBIN, *Erithacus rubecula*. On mainland common resident. Bred on Skokholm 1939 and 1940. Both Lockley (1936) and Conder (1953) note autumn passage, yet analysis of Reports suggests it is w.v. to Skokholm, arriving Aug. (2 July) and leaving Mar. (15 May), with about 30 in mid-winter.

GRASSHOPPER-WARBLER, *Locustella naevia*. On Skokholm p.m., increasingly common since 1947, Apr./May (22 Mar.-22 May) and, rarely, Aug./Sept. (10 July-14 Oct.). First autumn record was not until 4 Aug. 1938. On mainland singing ♂ 28 Apr. 1957 and 1958.

REED-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. On Skokholm one 1 June 1947, 16 June 1949, 7 Sept. 1958.

SEDGE-WARBLER, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. Common p.m., first half May (19 Apr.-4 June) and Aug. (10 July-17 Oct.). Common s.v., perhaps 20 nests annually on mainland; and bred Skokholm 1927-30.

AQUATIC WARBLER, *Acrocephalus paludicola*. On Skokholm one 5 Sept. 1949; first for Wales.

MELODIOUS WARBLER, *Hippolais polyglotta*. On Skokholm juv. 3-12 Oct. 1955, 17 Sept. 1956, 30 Aug. 1957, 15 Aug., 9, 21 Sept. 1958.

ICTERINE WARBLER, *Hippolais icterina*. On Skokholm juv. 31 Aug. 1955; first for Wales.

OLIVACEOUS WARBLER, *Hippolais pallida*. On Skokholm one 23 Sept.-3 Oct. 1951; first for Wales.

BLACKCAP, *Sylvia atricapilla*. On mainland 2♂ 8 July, ♂♀ 9 July 1948, ♀ 10 Dec. 1955, ♀ 16-24 Feb. 1957, singing ♂ 24 May 1958. On Skokholm p.m., rare 5 Apr.-7 June, and very rare 18 July-15 Oct.

BARRED WARBLER, *Sylvia nisoria*. On Skokholm juv. 12 Sept. 1956.

GARDEN-WARBLER, *Sylvia borin*. On Skokholm p.m., small numbers first half May (17 Apr.-19 June) and rare (although becoming less so) Sept. (21 Aug.-13 Oct.). On mainland song 9 May 1952 and 24-26 May 1958.

WHITETHROAT, *Sylvia communis*. Abundant p.m., up to 500 in a day Skokholm, first half May (first 26 Mar.) and Aug.-Sept. (last 21 Oct.). Abundant s.v. on mainland; bred Skokholm 1925, 1931, 1932.

LESSER WHITETHROAT, *Sylvia curruca*. On Skokholm very rare p.m. May (27 Apr.-5 June) and 27 Aug.-20 Oct.

SUBALPINE WARBLER, *Sylvia cantillans*. On Skokholm one 1 Oct. 1953; first for Wales.

WILLOW-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Abundant p.m., to 200 a day on Skokholm, Apr./May (26 Mar.-28 June) and, to 500 a day, Aug. (2 July-31 Oct.), with 3,000 on 31 July and 8 Aug. 1948. S.v. in small numbers on mainland. On Skokholm *P.t. acredula* identified May 1936, 1937, 1953, 1957 and Aug. 1958.

CHIFFCHAFF, *Phylloscopus collybita*. Very common p.m. first half Apr. (9 Mar.-25 May) and Sept. (7 July-20 Oct.). Common s.v. on mainland, breeding thickets as well as woods. One 19 Feb. 1949, 5 Jan. 1953, 12 Jan. 1958.

WOOD-WARBLER, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. On Skokholm one 9 Aug. 1951, 27 Aug. 1954, 18 Aug. 1955, juv. 13 Aug., one 2 Sept. 1957.

BONELLI'S WARBLER, *Phylloscopus bonelli*. On Skokholm one 31 Aug. 1950; first for Britain (*Ibis* 92. 1, p. 139).

GOLDCREST, *Regulus regulus*. On Skokholm up to 1948 only one 22 Oct. 1929, 7 Apr. 1938 and 1 Apr. 1939. From 1949 quickly becomes regular, even common, p.m., Mar./Apr. (to 30 Apr.) and Sept./Oct. (from 27 Aug.). On mainland first bred 1953 and in several woods from 1956; w.v. in small numbers.

FIRECREST, *Regulus ignicapillus*. On Skokholm one 17, 18 Apr. 1949, ♂ 11 Oct., ♂♀ 13 Oct. 1952, ♀ 11 Mar., one 25 Oct. 1957.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa striata*. Regular p.m. in small numbers, May (2 May-28 June) and, rather more, Aug./Sept. (10 July-11 Oct.). On mainland bred until 1939 and again 1948.

PIED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa hypoleuca*. On Skokholm very rare p.m., 27 Apr.-20 May; regular Aug./Sept. (4 Aug.-5 Oct.).

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER, *Muscicapa parva*. On Skokholm one 26 Sept. 1949, juv. 1-6 Oct. 1955.

HEDGE-SPARROW, *Prunella modularis*. Common resident on mainland. On Skokholm breeding 1928 (5 pairs) to 1939 (1 pair); rare p.m. Mar.-Apr. and very irregular Sept./Oct. Lockley's (1936) "Large influxes Aug.-Nov." have never been noted since.

MEADOW-PIPIT, *Anthus pratensis*. Abundant p.m. Sept.-Oct., when mainly to SE., with marked secondary movement to NW.; spring movement very inconspicuous, many Reports not mentioning it, Mar.-Apr. Small numbers breed on mainland; on Skokholm 45 pairs bred 1928, 31 in 1937, 24 in 1947, 60 in 1950 and perhaps only 16 pairs in 1955.

TREE-PIPIT, *Anthus trivialis*. On Skokholm not in Lockley (1936) since when it has become rather irregular p.m. Apr. (4 Apr.-1 June) and Aug./Sept. (2 Aug.-8 Oct.). On mainland two 13 Sept. 1947, one 22 Aug. and three 25 Aug. 1949.

ROCK-PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta*. Common resident breeding all exposed coasts. By Oct. begins to move to more sheltered shores and is common on Gann in mid-winter. On Skokholm 39 pairs bred 1928, 29 in 1936, 48 in 1950 and at least 38 in 1958. WATER-PIPIT, *A.s. spinoletta*. On Skokholm one 8 Oct. 1933. (The other record in Lockley (1936) and (n.d.) was recaptured and shown not to be a Water-Pipit—see 1937 Report and *Brit. Birds* Jan. 1938).

PIED WAGTAIL, *Motacilla alba yarrelli*. P.m., very irregular in spring, Mar./Apr., but common Aug./Sept., mixed with Whites. Probably about two pairs breed annually on mainland; on Skokholm one pair bred in ten years between 1925 and 1957. Scarce in winter on mainland and casual on island. **WHITE WAGTAIL**, *M.a. alba*. P.m., irregular in spring, Apr./May (20 Mar.-26 May), but probably common Aug. (to 9 Oct.); i.e. tends to be later in spring and earlier in autumn than the Pieds, though the latter movement is confused by the difficulties of identification.

GREY WAGTAIL, *Motacilla cinerea*. W.v. in very small numbers. On Skokholm only a dozen records to 1939 but since 1947 has been p.m., very irregular Mar.-Apr. but regular Sept./Oct. (from 4 July), peaks coinciding with *alba* activity.

YELLOW WAGTAIL, *Motacilla flava*. P.m., irregular Apr./May (17 Mar.-22 June) and, common, Aug./Sept. (1 July-5 Nov.). The **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL**, *M.f. flava*, recorded Skokholm 15 May 1958.

WOODCHAT-SHRIKE, *Lanius senator*. On mainland juv. 12 Sept. 1950. On Skokholm ♂ 12-17 June 1948, juv. 18, 31 Aug. 1949, ♂ 23-26 May 1950, juv. 11-12 Sept. 1951, 3-4 Aug. 1957, ♀ 4 June, juv. 3, 29 Aug. 1958.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE, *Lanius collurio*. On Skokholm ♀ 5 June 1938, 3 June 1940, 3 June 1946, 30 May 1947, one 5 Aug. 1949, juv. 22, 29-30 Sept. 1955, 30 June 1957.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris*. Abundant p.m. in autumn, second half Oct., with main flight line E. and strong subsidiary movement NW.; smaller spring movement Mar. Common w.v., the first juvs. appearing July, and large influxes in cold weather. Measurements of birds killed by cold Feb. 1956 put most into *S.v. zetlandicus*. On mainland one pair bred W. Blockhouse 1948; on Skokholm first bred 1940, 12 pairs in 1950, and decline to probably 4 pairs in 1957.

HAWFINCH, *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. On Skokholm one 4 June 1949, ♀ 15 Oct. 1957.

GREENFINCH, *Chloris chloris*. Regular p.m. but not very common. Apr.-mid-May, and Oct., when they fly E. W.v. in irregular numbers. Resident on mainland, 3-5 pairs breeding annually.

GOLDFINCH, *Carduelis carduelis*. P.m., common and becoming commoner, Apr.-15 May, and Oct./Nov. when main direction is SE., with subsidiary movement to NW. Common and prominent w.v. On mainland resident, perhaps two pairs breeding annually.

SISKIN, *Carduelis spinus*. On mainland very rare p.m., Oct./Nov., main direction NW. On Skokholm ten 29 Sept. 1949, one 16, 17 Oct. 1957, ♀ 1, 2 May 1958.

LINNET, *Carduelis cannabina*. P.m., common 15 Mar.-15 May and very common Oct., mostly to E. and SE., with secondary movement to NW. Common w.v. On mainland common resident, but bred on Skokholm only 1929.

TWITE, *Carduelis flavirostris*. On Skokholm ♂ 8 Apr. 1933, one 20 Apr., 5, 6 Oct. 1958.

REDPOLL, *Carduelis flammea*. On Skokholm Nov. 1929, 1930, two 7, 8 May 1950, three 4 Oct. 1955, one 14 Apr., ten 18 Oct., two 19 Oct. 1958.

BULLFINCH, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. On mainland resident in small numbers, perhaps three to five pairs breeding annually. W.v., sometimes common in mid-winter.

SCARLET GROSBEAK, *Carpodacus erythrinus*. On Skokholm one 26 June 1949.

CROSSBILL, *Loxia curvirostra*. On Skokholm one 5 July 1929, five 2 July, four 3 July, one 13 Sept., four 14 Sept. 1953.

CHAFFINCH, *Fringilla coelebs*. P.m., very common Mar./Apr., and abundant Oct., generally to SE., with secondary movement NW. Very common, and in cold spells abundant, w.v. On mainland very common resident. On Skokholm absent 11 June-26 Oct.

BRAMBLING, *Fringilla montifringilla*. P.m. Oct./Nov., mostly to NW., in small numbers. Irregular w.v. in cold spells, usually disappearing with thaw; late birds on Skokholm ♂ 27 Mar. 1950, ♀ 4 Apr. 1934 (or are these the only hint of spring passage?).

YELLOW HAMMER, *Emberiza citrinella*. On mainland resident in small numbers, having recovered from crash in winter 1953-54. On Skokholm Lockley (1936) noted "Casual Feb. to June". 1936 to 1958 Reports give records in 4 years for Mar., in 8 for Apr., 9 for May, 1 June, 1 July, 1 Aug., 2 Sept. and 2 for Oct. (Do these hint at migration?).

CORN-BUNTING, *Emberiza calandra*. On mainland common resident until 1925. Not seen since 1939. On Skokholm not recorded since Lockley (1936): "Casual March to June."

RED-HEADED BUNTING, *Emberiza bruniceps*. On Skokholm ♂ 2 Aug. 1953, ♀ 14 Aug. 1954.

ORTOLAN BUNTING, *Emberiza hortulana*. On Skokholm very rare p.m., 19 May-2 June and 26 Aug.-19 Sept. (total of 18 birds).

RUSTIC BUNTING, *Emberiza rustica*. On Skokholm ♀ 8 June 1953; first for Wales.

REED-BUNTING, *Emberiza schoeniclus*. On mainland may have bred 1953, 1956 and 1957; w.v. in small numbers. On Skokholm ♂ 10 Apr. 1958, ♀ 22 Apr. 1956, 26 Apr. 1949, two 26 Apr. 1935, ♀ 7-10 May 1950, juv. 22 Oct. 1955, and two 1 Nov. 1929.

LAPLAND BUNTING, *Calcarius lapponicus*. On mainland one 28 Oct. 1955, three 4 Nov. and one 5 Nov. 1956; all flying SE. over aerodrome. On Skokholm autumn p.m., rare but regular since 1952, 30 July-26 Oct. (25 or more birds 1956); ♂ 10 May 1948.

SNOW-BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis*. On mainland one 27 Apr. 1914, 18 Nov. 1954, 29 Oct. 1955, ♂♀ 30 Jan. 1957. On Skokholm one 3 Mar. 1932, 23 Sept. 1937, ♂ 26 Sept. 1953, one 8, 12 Oct. 1954, 1 Oct. 1956, 18 Oct. 1957, ♂ 9, 10 Mar. 1958.

HOUSE-SPARROW, *Passer domesticus*. On mainland resident, population 1958 is 250-300 birds. On Skokholm casual, nine records between 12 Apr. and 14 June, and one 4 Oct. 1957. (None between 1931 and 1950).

TREE-SPARROW, *Passer montanus*. On mainland autumn p.m. end Oct., both to SE. and NW., in very small numbers. On Skokholm one 15 May 1934, 6 May 1938, 20 May 1947, 31 May 1951.

SUMMARY

Two hundred and nineteen species have occurred in the administrative parish of Dale, sixty of them less than seven times. Seventy-five species have bred, fifty-nine on the mainland and thirty-six on Skokholm. In mid-winter on the mainland seventy to seventy-five species occur.

Very little is known about the numbers of birds on the mainland; particularly lacking is an accurate census of breeding pairs, above all for such common species as the blackbird, greenfinch, goldfinch, skylark, jackdaw, hedge-sparrow and others.

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