

Calcarius lapponicus. **Lapland Bunting.**

The largest incursion of this species into the British Isles yet recorded occurred this autumn. On Lundy the first appeared September 3rd, and birds were seen almost daily until October 18th. The peak numbers were seventeen plus September 5th, twenty-three plus 10th, thirty-three plus 15th, eleven 27th. Single birds November 6th, 8th, two 16th and one 17th.

Plectrophenax nivalis. **Snow Bunting.**

Single birds January 25th; February 2nd (J. Ogilvie) and 15th to 24th; April 4th and 21st. In autumn, one October 19th, one 25th to 28th, three 30th and one November 4th.

Passer domesticus. **House Sparrow.**

A female March 29th, a male April 22nd, 23rd and May 9th.

RINGING IN 1953

One thousand, six hundred and ninety-eight birds of fifty-three species were ringed this year. Only six hundred and nine sea birds were ringed, a poor total due mainly to the foul weather in July and to the absence of helpers during the season. Forty-six of the sea-birds taken were adults.

A small Heligoland trap was constructed over the Quarterwall in April, and caught seventy-five birds. It should do much better if the wings can be extended in the coming season. The Garden Trap, which had to be almost rebuilt after the winter gales, took 222 birds, whilst the Terrace Trap caught 616. This last total is a gratifying one, considering the poverty of the autumn migration, and amply justifies the roof-extensions made in November 1952, and the demolition of the great rocky buttress which used to project into the mouth of the trap. This prodigious task was undertaken by the Seale Hayne party, who also helped with the building of the Quarterwall Trap, in the third week of April.

'Other methods' accounted for 121 captures, and fifty-five wader and land-bird nestlings were also marked.

M. J. Daniel and the Warden built a ringing-hut on the Terrace in May, and it was completed in time for the autumn movements. The purchase of a new balance in September made it possible to extend facilities for weighing migrants to our most successful trap.

A number of balsam poplar cuttings provided by Mr Harman were planted in the Garden and Terrace traps by Jim Prouse, and most of them have taken well. This American tree is said to grow very rapidly. The tree mallows in the Garden Trap have now completed their allotted span, but it is pleasing to note that several seedlings appeared this autumn. Less pleasing was the destruction of many of the bramble clumps in the Stonycroft gardens, which has been partly responsible for the reduced catch of the Garden Trap.

LIST OF SPECIES RINGED IN 1953

	<i>Trapped</i>	<i>Nestlings</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fulmar	—	4	4
Cormorant	—	6	6
Shag	—	65	65
Buzzard	—	2	2
Peregrine Falcon	—	2	2
Kestrel	1	—	1
Water Rail	1	—	1
Oystercatcher	—	2	2
Lapwing	—	14	14
Turnstone	2	—	2
Snipe	1	—	1
Curlew	—	4	4
Dunlin	1	—	1
Great Black-backed Gull	—	8	8
Lesser Black-backed Gull	—	6	6
Herring-Gull	—	182	182
Kittiwake	11	164	175
Razorbill	9	68	77
Gullemot	26	60	86
Wood Pigeon	—	2	2
Cuckoo	2	—	2
Skylark	2	1	3
Swallow	2	—	2
Raven	—	3	3
Wren	11	—	11
Fieldfare	2	—	2
Song Thrush	40	—	40
Redwing	20	—	20
Ring-Ousel	2	—	2
Blackbird	103	6	109
Wheatear	4	—	4
Stonechat	13	—	13
Whinchat	2	—	2
Redstart	3	—	3
Black Redstart	1	—	1
Robin	16	4	20
Grasshopper-Warbler	11	—	11
Sedge-Warbler	58	—	58
Blackcap	4	—	4
Garden-Warbler	2	—	2
Whitethroat	314	—	314
Willow-Warbler	203	—	203
Chiffchaff	48	—	48
Goldcrest	9	—	9
Spotted Flycatcher	18	—	18
Pied Flycatcher	11	—	11
Hedge-Sparrow	1	—	1
Meadow-Pipit	11	11	22
Pied Wagtail	—	4	4
Starling	95	—	95
Linnet	10	—	10
Chaffinch	8	—	8
Lapland Bunting	2	—	2
	1080	618	1698

In the 1952 list, the total of Kittiwakes (Details lost) should have been 76, and the Grand Total 2282.