

VISIBLE MIGRATION

Meadow Pipit.

On September 22nd a watch was kept between 1000 hrs and 1600 hrs G.M.T. on the headland to the east of the South Light which gave the following results :—

G.M.T.	Number of Birds	Number of Parties	Directions from which Birds Arrived
1000—1100 hrs	16	5	NE. to ESE.
1100—1200 hrs	28	13	ENE. to SSE.
1200—1300 hrs	18	8	ENE. to ESE.

No birds were seen to arrive between 1300 hrs and 1600 hrs. The greatest number seen in a party was five and ten of the parties consisted of single individuals. At least one bird in a party was calling in all the above observations. All birds passed over flying in a general westerly direction.

The wind on September 22nd was NNW. 2-3 and the sun was shining all day. Although only a small movement it may be representative of much of the movement during August and September when the distribution of the Meadow Pipit seen on the cruise corroborates such an east-west movement. The frequent presence of flocks in the south-west corner may, on further investigation, prove that although arrivals seem to be in small groups, departure is usually in larger flocks.

On October 7th a large movement of Meadow Pipits was observed totalling two thousand and twenty birds. Between 0740 hrs to 0825 hrs G.M.T. seven hundred and fifty were seen leaving the Island in a southerly direction. The remainder were seen passing over the Old Light in a general southerly direction the following times :—

0825—0925 hrs	1020
0925—1000 hrs	142
1000—1030 hrs	58
1030—1100 hrs	46
1100—1120 hrs	4

The watch was stopped at 1120 hrs when flocks began circling and flying in all directions. The weather on October 7th was fine, sun all day, wind E. 1.

RINGING IN 1954

One thousand and ninety-eight birds of forty-six species were ringed during the season. Seven hundred and four were 'seabirds', which includes sixty-four adults. The willing assistance given with seabird ringing enabled a reasonable number to be ringed in spite of the weather. Except for the rush of September 18th there was a very meagre autumn migration. Two hundred and seventeen birds were caught in the Terrace Trap, one hundred and seven in the