

VISIBLE MIGRATION

Swallows.

The time of arrival and departure of the Swallows during the autumn passage has been kept. All movements of eighty birds and over are set out in the following table. They were observed during the two cruises which cover the same period of time each day. All movements were southerly.

Date	Total for Day	Time of Arrival G.M.T.	Peak	Time of Main Departure	Weather
Sept. 6	200+	0845 hrs	0900	0930—1000	NNE/1 visibility fair
Sept. 7	200+	1100 "	1230	During afternoon to 1630	SE/2 visibility fair
Sept. 12	400+	0910 "	0920	0930—1000	WNW/2-4 vis. good
Sept. 17	80+	0900 "	0930	1000—1030	NW/2-3 visibility good
Sept. 18	400+	1000 "	1015	1030—1130	WNW/1 vis. very good
Sept. 22	80	1015 "	—	25 still present at 1715	SW/4-W/3 vis. mod.

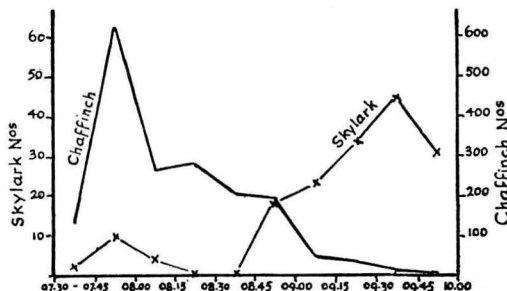
It seems that times of arrival and departure are connected with wind direction even when winds are moderate or light. For instance the earliest arrivals are on days when the winds are most northerly, and on these days birds pass over the Island rapidly; with south in the wind arrival is later and there is a more protracted stay on the Island possibly due to the need for feeding.

Sand Martins and House Martins arrived later than the Swallows.

Skylarks and Chaffinches.

On October 11th a watch was kept on the south coast from 0730 to 1000 hrs, and all Skylarks and Chaffinches leaving in a southerly direction counted. The numbers passing during this time are illustrated in Figure I. Sunrise on this date was at 0618 hrs and

Fig 1. Chaffinch & Skylark movement Oct 11th



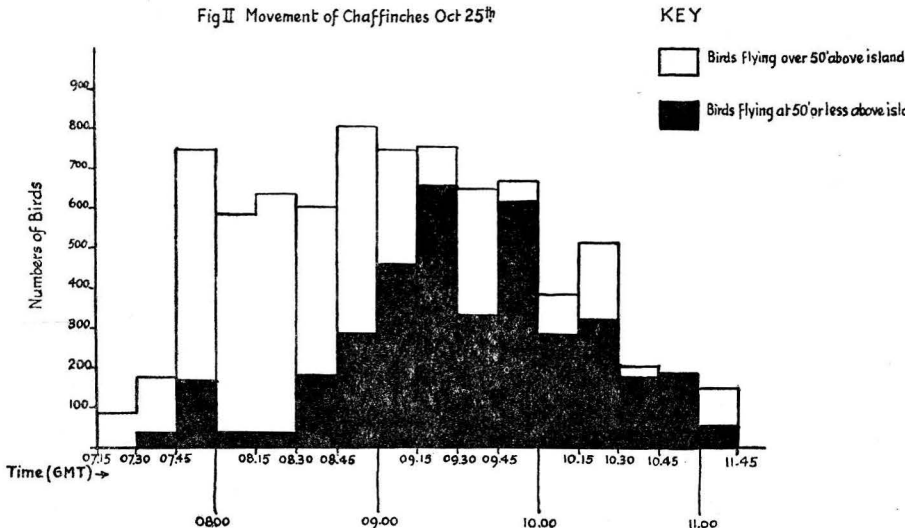
the distance between Lundy and the mainland to the north is thirty miles. Supposing both Chaffinches and Skylarks set out at about sunrise the Chaffinches appear to have been travelling at approximately 17 m.p.h. and the Skylarks at 10 m.p.h.

Weather on October 11th : wind SSE. 1, sun all day, visibility moderate.

Chaffinch.

Some of the autumn Chaffinch movement halts on the Island, and at other times the birds fly straight over. Figure II shows the height variation on October 25th when 7,750 birds were counted leaving the Island between SW. and S. The high flying birds, which, as the table shows, left earlier, did not apparently land on the Island but flew due south over it. The later birds flying lower and coming from the vicinity of the Tillage Field and the farm are believed to have stopped and possibly fed. Weather on October 25th : wind NW. 1 to W. 3, sun all day, visibility good.

Fig II Movement of Chaffinches Oct 25th



Starling

On ten mornings between October 11th and November 8th a total of 4,300 were seen leaving the Island to the south. None of these birds flew straight over the Island but all observed stopped and fed, moving south over the Island in flocks of 40 to 100 birds. When these feeding flocks reached the south coast they left in these small groups in a southerly direction. On October 25th 177 birds flew in from the south between 0705 to 0815 hrs and 1,062 left the

Island in a southerly direction between 0900 to 1115 hrs which may possibly be a daily feeding movement. On November 14th 1,000 plus Starlings suddenly appeared in the late afternoon looking for roosting sites and stayed overnight on the Island. From this date to the end of the season birds roosted on the Island in varying number. Before November 13th no Starlings had been seen going to roost although a special watch had been kept.

SHORT NOTES ON APPEARANCES AND BEHAVIOUR

Curlew.

The numbers present during July, August and September 1954, compared to the same months in 1955, show a significant contrast. During these months in 1954 three or less was the normal number seen in any one day, though occasionally as many as five were seen and on two dates in August there were flocks of about ten birds. In 1955 from July to September a flock of between twenty and thirty birds was seen almost daily. The Island was exceptionally hard and dry during this period but there were large numbers of Crane flies (*Tipulidae*) present, and it is believed that the flock of Curlew must have subsisted almost entirely on these insects as they were normally seen feeding on top of the Island, and no other source of abundant food was observed.

Razorbill.

At 0625 hrs on April 20th the following communal mating behaviour of a party of Razorbills was observed on the south coast. A flock of *c.* twenty birds were swimming just offshore. They were in pairs and there was much growling between pairs. The birds swam up to a rock which rose out of the sea at an angle of about forty degrees hopped out on to the rock where most pairs copulated. Five pairs were seen copulating at the same time. After mating, pairs returned to the water and swam off.

Sardinian Warbler.

An adult male was caught in the Terrace Trap on May 10th. It was shown to F. W. Gade and a photograph was taken by Fred Jones of the South Light. This showed the characteristic black cap extending well below the eye. It was first seen not far from the trap and was easily driven in. Its movements were similar to those of a Dartford Warbler, the tail being frequently held upright making an angle of about ninety-five degrees with the line of the back. Slightly smaller than a Whitethroat, its chief characteristics were the glossy black cap extending to below the eye, grey back and rump, blackish-brown wing and tail, white chin and throat with remainder of underparts greyish-white. The orange-red orbital ring and light brown iris was striking at a range of *c.* thirty yards with 9 x 35 binoculars. The full details of plumage and measurements are recorded in the daily log.