

[Fair Isle Bird Observatory and Guest House](#)

Amazing news!!! This Turtle Dove was ringed on Fair Isle on 23rd May this year and its ring was read in the field at Vidarlundin Park on the Faroe Islands on 30th June.

It is only the third Turtle Dove to be recovered after being ringed on Fair Isle. A bird caught on 5th May 1982 was shot in Spain on 1st September 1982 and another ringed on 6th June 1974 was shot in France on 4th September 1977.

It's not only an interesting insight into the movements of this rapidly declining species, it's also great to hear the birds ring was read in the field rather than being shot. According to the new breeding bird survey results, the Turtle Dove population in the UK has declined by 93% since 1994. The intensification of farming resulting in the loss of habitat and increase in hunting on their migration routes has seen their numbers plummet. This decline has been mirrored on Fair Isle where this was just the second to be caught in the last nine years, whereas in the 1970s an average of 3.5 were caught here every year.

Hopefully this bird gets back on track and survives to breed to boost the population of this struggling species.