

## BIRDS RECORDED IN 1956

One hundred and twenty-three species were recorded during the year.

*Colymbus immer*. **Great Northern Diver.**

One April 9th, 10th and 23rd, 24th.

*Colymbus stellatus*. **Red-throated Diver.**

One February 28th.

*Hydrobates pelagicus*. **Storm Petrel.**

One June 4th found freshly dead inside a hide on the South coast. A rat the probable cause of death as fresh rat droppings also inside the hide.

*Procellaria puffinus*. **Manx Shearwater.**

First heard March 30th, last heard August 11th, a few seen off shore after this date. Although some sea watches were kept by C. Henty, there appeared to be no large movements off shore as observed last year. (*P.p. mauretanicus*. Balearic Shearwater. One probable seen half a mile off the north end on August 2nd.)

*Fulmarus glacialis*. **Fulmar Petrel.**

First seen at breeding sites March 7th, last seen off shore September 7th.

*Jenny's Cove Colony*. Two eggs present May 19th; eight eggs present May 30th; six chicks hatched, one vanishing when three-quarters grown between July 30th and August 2nd.

One egg laid and hatched near the Devil's Chimney, the chick found freshly dead at nest on July 12th.

*Gannet's Rock Colony*. Ten eggs present on May 28th; nine eggs present on June 11th; seven chicks and one hatching egg no July 11th; seven chicks on August 6th. The dark phase bird again present at this colony.

*Phalacrocorax carbo*. **Cormorant.**

Did not breed this year, for the first time for at least nine years. One or two seen frequently during the breeding season. Some movement to the WSW. during late August and September. The maximum fifteen flying in this direction on August 31st.

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. **Shag.**

One hundred and thirty-two pairs bred. The breeding success per pair was considerably lower this year compared with the previous two years.

*Ardea cinerea.* **Heron.**

One July 31st and September 13th. Seen on six days in August, maximum three on August 9th.

*Anas crecca.* **Teal.**

Three records of three or less before the observatory opened (F. W. Gade). One or two seen infrequently in August and September. Three present from November 2nd to 5th.

*Anas penelope.* **Wigeon.**

Three seen frequently and probably resident between February 4th and March 4th. Six on February 18th. Only autumn record, one male on October 12th.

*Melanitta nigra.* **Common Scoter.**

One flying north about half a mile out on August 15th. Fourteen seen while crossing on September 2nd about three miles off Lundy.

*Melanitta perspicillata.* **Surf Scoter.**

One female or immature in the Landing Bay on November 16th. The first record for Lundy.

*Buteo buteo.* **Buzzard.**

One or two seen fairly frequently from March until the end of October. Seen occasionally in November. Four on September 8th and three on two dates in October. No exact evidence of breeding.

*Accipiter nisus.* **Sparrow Hawk.**

One on April 8th.

*Falco peregrinus.* **Peregrine Falcon.**

The eyrie above Gannet's Rock contained three eggs on April 11th, but on May 23rd there was only one slightly dented egg which the female was incubating. A second pair was frequently present in the Jenny's Cove area.

*Falco columbarius.* **Merlin.**

Single birds seen on the following dates: March 31st; October 17th, 27th and November 9th, 11th, 24th and 28th.

*Falco tinnunculus.* **Kestrel.**

One pair probably bred near the Sugar Loaf. One or two seen frequently from April to the end of October. Three and four seen occasionally in August with a maximum of six on August 10th. Four records of single birds in November.

*Phasianus colchicus*. **Pheasant.**

A decrease in the population probably due to illicit guns present on the island during the summer. The largest number seen in the autumn was five as compared to eleven in 1955.

*Rallus aquaticus*. **Water-Rail.**

One October 12th, 13th and 29th. Apparently no wintering birds this year.

*Crex crex*. **Corncrake.**

One April 10th and 27th and September 8th.

*Haematopus ostralegus*. **Oyster-catcher.**

At least fourteen breeding pairs. Autumn flock of more than ten birds first seen on August 1st. Twenty-eight on September 28th was the largest flock recorded.

*Vanellus vanellus*. **Lapwing.**

A decrease in the breeding population to five pairs. First signs of territorial behaviour on March 5th. Seen frequently from the beginning of the year and probably resident. The largest spring flock recorded, thirty on March 17th. A few seen frequently throughout the summer after the breeding season was over. Numbers increased from October 12th until the end of the season with a maximum of about eighty on November 22nd.

*Charadrius hiaticula*. **Ringed Plover.**

One recorded on eight days in August and two days in September. At least thirty heard flying over the island at 0030 hours on September 12th.

*Charadrius apricarius*. **Golden Plover.**

Seventeen on February 19th. Recorded on most days in March with more than ten on six days. Maximum twenty-four on March 26th. A few present up until April 17th. Occasional autumn records from July 31st until the end of the season, number never exceeding five.

*Charadrius morinellus*. **Dotterel.**

Two August 28th.

*Arenaria interpres*. **Turnstone.**

Two February 28th, four March 6th, six 25th; two April 9th, August 11th and 24th. Four records during the first ten days September. Single birds, October 22nd and November 21st.

*Capella gallinago.* **Snipe.**

Greatest number recorded at the beginning of the season, twelve on February 12th (F. W. Gade). Infrequent records of small numbers until April 8th. From July 28th until the end of the season one or two recorded fairly frequently, occasionally three.

*Lymnocyptes minimus.* **Jack Snipe.**

One October 9th.

*Scolopax rusticola.* **Woodcock.**

Single birds recorded January 1st; March 11th, 15th, 20th and April 12th. In autumn nine records of single birds between October 20th and November 25th. Two October 28th.

*Numenius arquata.* **Curlew.**

No breeding although one or two seen frequently from the beginning of the season until June 22nd, when numbers began to increase, up to forty being recorded frequently from this date until August 16th, maximum *c.* fifty on August 14th. Numbers decreasing to twenty or ten from August 16th to September 16th, a further decrease to below ten from this date until November 20th.

*Numenius phaeopus.* **Whimbrel.**

Small spring passage from April 25th to June 1st, daily records not exceeding three. Recorded frequently July 14th to September 21st, maximum ten on August 4th. One October 12th.

*Limosa limosa.* **Black-tailed Godwit.**

Two July 30th, 31st. One August 2nd and 3rd.

*Tringa ochropus.* **Green Sandpiper.**

Two July 24th. Nine records for August with a maximum of three on August 10th; two September 17th; one September 18th.

*Tringa glareola.* **Wood Sandpiper.**

One August 21st.

*Tringa hypoleucos.* **Common Sandpiper.**

Six records of one or two birds April 20th to May 3rd. One or two recorded infrequently from July 5th to September 10th with three on July 10th and 19th.

*Tringa totanus.* **Redshank.**

One June 22nd. Seven records of single birds from July 24th to August 15th.

*Tringa nebularia.* **Greenshank.**

One August 5th and 7th. Two September 14th and one September 17th to 19th.

*Calidris canutus.* **Knot.**

One August 27th and September 7th.

*Calidris maritima.* **Purple Sandpiper.**

One found freshly dead near South light, October 24th.

*Calidris minuta.* **Little Stint.**

One August 31st; September 3rd, 4th and 26th. The first fully authenticated records for Lundy.

*Calidris alpina.* **Dunlin.**

One March 11th and April 19th. Autumn movement from July 25th to October 1st with maximum of five on July 30th and September 17th.

*Philomachus pugnax.* **Ruff.**

A reeve on August 20th and 21st. Second record for Lundy.

*Larus marinus.* **Great Black-backed Gull.**

A count of thirty-two nests was made during the breeding season. This was believed to be complete. First egg found April 21st. Present throughout year with numbers decreasing at the end of the breeding season. Maximum number recorded in a winter flock c. thirty on October 5th and November 5th.

*Larus fuscus.* **Lesser Black-backed Gull.**

An estimate made of forty breeding pairs. First egg found May 5th; first chick May 30th. Autumn passage between August 21st to 26th with a maximum of sixty on the 22nd. Passage in September on the 5th (c. 40), 7th (c. 120), 28th (c. 80) and October 5th (c. 30). Infrequent records of one or two from October 6th to November 9th.

*Larus argentatus.* **Herring Gull.**

First seen at breeding sites on January 14th (M. and V. Squires). First eggs found April 29th; first chick May 29th. Numbers decreased sharply at the end of the breeding season to a wintering flock of thirty to fifty birds.

*Larus canus.* **Common Gull.**

Two February 25th. One October 22nd and November 1st.

*Larus ridibundus*. **Black-headed Gull.**

One March 10th, 12th ; June 28th. Two July 20th and August 8th. One September 17th and November 1st, 2nd and 9th. Five feeding off the Northend on November 7th.

*Rissa tridactyla*. **Kittiwake.**

First noted at breeding ledges March 5th. First eggs seen May 14th ; first chicks seen June 12th. Last seen on ledges August 27th. Seen very occasionally off shore after this date. Last record fifteen fishing off Northend November 7th.

*Sterna hirundo/paradisea*. **Common or Arctic Tern.**

A first winter bird fishing off the Landing Beach on August 26th. Twenty seen on the crossing September 2nd, about nine miles out from Lundy.

*Chlidonias niger*. **Black Tern.**

Three seen on the crossing September 2nd, about nine miles out from Lundy.

*Alca torda*. **Razorbill.**

First seen up on cliffs February 28th. First eggs noted May 7th and first chick June 10th. Most of the birds had left by July 18th. Last seen at breeding sites July 27th. On August 23rd an adult accompanied by a chick about two thirds grown, seen half way between Lundy and Ilfracombe.

*Uria aalge*. **Guillemot.**

First recorded at breeding ledges on March 1st. First eggs seen May 7th, first chick noted June 11th. The majority had left the island by July 24th. Last record of adult and chick at breeding ledge August 6th. On September 2nd about six to seven miles out from Lundy, three adults seen accompanied by threequarter grown young.

*Fratercula arctica*. **Puffin.**

First seen April 2nd, last seen July 30th. The most recorded during the season was 103 on May 30th.

*Columba oenas*. **Stock Dove.**

One October 22nd.

*Columba palumbus*. **Wood Pigeon.**

Present throughout the year, usually five or less recorded. Slight increase of numbers in the autumn with a maximum of twelve on October 15th.

*Streptopelia turtur*. **Turtle Dove.**

One April 22nd. Main spring passage May 5th to June 25th with a maximum of ten on May 21st. Three birds seen in July, one in August and five in September all that was seen of any return migration.

*Cuculus canorus*. **Cuckoo.**

First recorded on April 24th, one or two seen occasionally from this date until the end of August, with records most frequent in August. Four records of single birds in September, the last on the 25th.

*Asio flammeus*. **Short-eared Owl.**

One from September 28th to 30th.

*Caprimulgus europæus*. **Nightjar.**

One September 7th and 8th.

*Apus apus*. **Swift.**

First recorded April 24th. A small spring passage from May 5th to 18th. Less than ten recorded infrequently during the rest of May, June and the first week of July. July 8th *c.* forty moving south. July 11th *c.* fifty feeding over the island, smaller feeding parties also seen on 14th, 15th and 19th. From July 20th until the last record September 22nd, less than ten seen occasionally.

*Jynx torquilla*. **Wryneck.**

One April 10th and 11th. One in Millcombe from September 11th to 26th.

*Lullula arborea*. **Wood Lark.**

One October 27th and November 2nd.

*Alauda arvensis*. **Skylark.**

No change in breeding population, present throughout the year. No spring migration apparent. First signs of autumn migration September 25th which continued until October 30th with peaks *c.* seventy October 26th, *c.* fifty-five October 12 and *c.* fifty-five October 9th and 19th.

*Hirundo rustica.* **Swallow.**

First record April 4th, then recorded daily until June 17th. The most recorded in April was *c.* forty on the 24th. The main movements in May were from 13th to 16th and 19th to 20th with a maximum of six hundred and sixty-five on the 16th. Numbers small and records occasional during July and August with a slight increase towards the end of August. The only sizeable movements in September were *c.* four hundred and thirty-five on the 11th, *c.* fifty on the 12th. Recorded daily October 1st to 22nd with peaks ; *c.* one hundred on the 8th and *c.* eighty on the 13th. Seen occasionally until November 17th.

*Delichon urbica.* **House Martin.**

Six or less seen frequently from April 11th to May 15th. Main spring movement *c.* forty May 16th and *c.* thirty May 21st ; small numbers then recorded until June 21st. A few recorded infrequently during July and August. Seen frequently September 2nd to 13th with a maximum of thirty-five on September 10th. Three records between September 14th and the end of the season, the last on November 10th.

*Riparia riparia.* **Sand Martin.**

One March 29th. Seen fairly frequently April 8th to May 23rd, the maximum fifteen on April 9th and May 5th. Single records June 9th and July 10th. Autumn movement from July 23rd to September 14th ; numbers small except on August 7th, 27th, when *c.* thirty recorded and August 29th with a count of eighty-one.

*Corvus corax.* **Raven.**

Two pairs bred ; one at Long Ruse rearing three young and a second pair near the Old Light on the west side, rearing three or possibly four young. In autumn up to eight sometimes seen together.

*Corvus corone.* **Carrion Crow.**

About five or six pairs bred. The resident flock increased slowly in numbers during August and September to a maximum of forty to fifty in October. Daily numbers usually between twenty-five and thirty-five in November.

*Corvus frugilegus.* **Rook.**

Up to three seen on five days in March. Single bird April 11th and 29th.

*Corvus monedula.* **Jackdaw.**

A party numbering from six to ten appeared to be resident from March 31st to April 5th. Apart from this there are three records of single birds in March ; three in April and two in May.

*Certhia familiaris.* **Tree Creeper.**

Single birds on July 14th ; September 19th and 21st.

*Troglodytes troglodytes.* **Wren.**

No change observed in breeding status. No migration detected.

*Turdus viscivorus.* **Mistle Thrush.**

Single birds recorded on March 5th, 8th, 9th ; October 11th, 23rd and November 18th.

*Turdus pilaris.* **Fieldfare.**

Twenty February 1st (F. W. Gade et al.). Single birds recorded on eight days in March and four days in April up to the 21st. Seen almost daily from October 27th to November 30th with maxima : *c.* thirty-five October 27th, *c.* forty November 17th.

*Turdus ericetorum.* **Song Thrush.**

Small numbers present throughout March with a maximum of seventeen on March 4th. Five records of single birds during April 1st to 19th. Less than ten recorded on most days from October 7th to 31st. Less than fifteen recorded on most days in November except for *c.* twenty on November 6th and *c.* forty on the 17th.

*Turdus musicus.* **Redwing.**

Six or less seen frequently February 28th to March 6th. Single birds recorded March 28th and April 30th. Recorded daily from October 7th to November 15th with peaks of forty-three October 16th ; *c.* one hundred and ten October 22nd. Over twenty recorded from October 26th to 30th with *c.* fifty on the 28th. Infrequent records of three or less from November 16th to the end of the month.

*Turdus torquatus.* **Ring-Ousel.**

Three records in March, the first March 11th. Thirteen records in April, the maximum six on April 10th. First autumn record August 27th ; seven records in September and six in October, the maximum, three on October 16th.

*Turdus merula.* **Blackbird.**

No change observed in breeding status. No spring passage observed except for slight increase in numbers on March 4th. Autumn passage first detected on October 8th, continuing intermittently until November 17th. Maximum recorded c. thirty-five on October 10th, 27th, 28th and November 13th.

*Oenanthe oenanthe.* **Wheatear.**

About seven pairs bred. First recorded March 23rd. Some slight passage movement between May 4th and 7th. Autumn passage first apparent on August 20th. Maximum autumn records sixty-six on August 22nd, sixty-eight on August 27th. Between fifteen and thirty recorded on most days between September 1st and the 26th, when numbers decreased to less than ten until the last record on October 17th.

*Saxicola torquata.* **Stonechat.**

One male March 8th, 10th and 11th, the only spring records. Recorded almost daily from September 11th until the end of November with a maximum of seven on September 17th and October 13th. Numbers smaller during November.

*Saxicola rubetra.* **Whinchat.**

Three on May 15th the only spring record. First autumn record August 22nd. Seen on all but one day between September 3rd and September 24th with a maximum of seven on the 10th. Subsequently only one seen on October 19th.

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus.* **Redstart.**

Seven spring records between April 9th and May 22nd, mostly of single birds. Seen fairly frequently August 24th to September 18th, usually one or two birds but four on September 14th. During remainder of year single birds recorded on September 29th ; October 12th and 23rd.

*Phoenicurus ochrurus.* **Black Redstart.**

One April 24th the only spring record. Thirteen records between October 12th and the 30th of up to three birds. One November 8th.

*Cyanosylvia svecica.* **Bluethroat.**

One first winter male trapped on September 19th. One September 21st, which may well have been the ringed bird.

*Erithacus rubecula*. **Robin.**

No change observed in breeding status and no movement detected.

*Locustella naevia*. **Grasshopper Warbler.**

One or two recorded on six days between April 24th and May 5th. A meagre autumn passage with three single records during the end of July and August and ten birds seen during September, seven of them on the 14th.

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. **Reed Warbler.**

One September 14th.

*Acrocephalus schænobænis*. **Sedge Warbler.**

Two single records for April, the first on the 19th. Small passage during May between the 4th and the 20th. Return passage was also commencing on July 27th and finishing September 24th, with a maximum of fourteen on September 12th.

*Acrocephalus paludicola*. **Aquatic Warbler.**

One seen by C. J. Henty on August 31st.

*Sylvia atricapilla*. **Blackcap.**

One female April 15th and June 1st. Eight autumn records between September 15th and October 17th.

*Sylvia borin*. **Garden Warbler.**

One May 6th. Small autumn passage between September 6th and the 26th with a total of twenty-four birds seen. Two stragglers one October 18th and one October 22nd.

*Sylvia communis*. **Whitethroat.**

One or two breeding pairs. First arrival April 19th. Only appreciable spring movement May 5th and 6th. Return passage commenced August 20th with main peaks *c.* fifty September 8th, *c.* seventy September 14th and forty-three September 25th.

*Sylvia curruca*. **Lesser Whitethroat.**

One killed at North Light, the night of October 27th to 28th.

*Phylloscopus trochilus*. **Willow Warbler.**

First recorded April 6th, small passage throughout April and first week of May with a peak of *c.* twenty-five on April 11th. Occasional records during the rest of May and early June. Return movement from July 22nd until September 25th with a few stragglers after this date. Numbers were generally small but small peaks on August 4th ; September 4th, 11th, 12th and 14th.

*Phylloscopus collybita*. **Chiffchaff.**

First recorded March 17th, a small spring passage up to the end of April. Return movement from September 6th with a maximum of *c.* eighty-five on September 14th. Small numbers recorded fairly frequently throughout October. Six birds seen in November the last on November 24th, believed to be a Scandinavian Chiffchaff *P.c. abietinus*.

*Regulus regulus*. **Goldcrest.**

One or two seen on five days in March and April. Two July 28th. A few seen on all but nine days from September 3rd to November 28th, maxima: twelve September 14th; sixteen October 9th and ten on November 3rd.

*Regulus ignicapillus*. **Firecrest.**

One October 29th.

*Muscicapa striata*. **Spotted Flycatcher.**

One pair bred in Millcombe, rearing at least two young. First record in spring, May 13th, then a very small passage during the ensuing month. Very little passage observed in August. Daily records from September 1st to 26th with peaks of fifteen on September 8th, twenty on September 12th, and fourteen on September 14th. A late straggler present from October 23rd to 29th.

*Muscicapa hypoleuca*. **Pied Flycatcher.**

No spring records. Main autumn movement from August 30th to September 21st with a maximum of thirteen on September 12th. Four records after September 21st, the last on October 12th.

*Prunella modularis*. **Hedge Sparrow.**

About six or seven pairs bred. Present throughout the year.

*Anthus pratensis*. **Meadow Pipit.**

Present throughout the year, only small numbers in the winter. No change in breeding status observed. Spring passage movement between March 14th and April 25th with maxima *c.* one hundred and five March 22nd, *c.* seventy March 23rd, *c.* fifty April 9th and 25th. First sign of autumn passage September 19th. Main peaks *c.* one hundred and twenty September 25th and *c.* five hundred October 1st. Movements had finished by mid-October.

*Anthus trivialis*. **Tree Pipit.**

Single birds recorded April 10th, 11th, 21st, 29th and May 31st. Autumn records on most days between August 20th and September 21st with a maximum of seventeen on September 8th.

*Anthus spinoletta*. **Rock Pipit.**

An apparently static breeding population present throughout the year.

*Motacilla alba*. **Pied and White Wagtails.**

A pair of White Wagtails nested in the wall of the Hotel kitchen garden, rearing at least two young. Recorded fairly frequently from the opening of the observatory until November 11th, with maxima thirty-nine on September 4th and *c.* fifty on September 8th.

*Motacilla cinerea*. **Grey Wagtail.**

Eleven single records during March and one during April and May. Occasional autumn records between August 29th and November 4th, most frequent in September.

*Motacilla flava*. **Yellow Wagtail.**

Small spring passage from March 23rd to June 1st, the majority of records during May. Seen on all but four days between August 21st and October 1st with maxima of fifteen August 23rd and ten September 19th and 23rd.

*Lanius senator*. **Woodchat Shrike.**

One April 10th.

*Sturnus vulgaris*. **Starling.**

A flock of between twenty and fifty birds recorded on most days between February 28th and April 5th; a hundred or more recorded on March 29th, 30th and April 3rd. Five records of single birds in May. The usual small parties appeared occasionally in July. First sign of autumn movement September 24th. Recorded daily from October 6th to the end of the season. Maximum recorded during October *c.* four hundred on the 22nd, maximum recorded during November *c.* one thousand eight hundred on the 6th, *c.* one thousand on the 13th.

*Chloris chloris*. **Greenfinch.**

One or two seen occasionally between March 9th and April 12th. One May 21st. One or two recorded fairly frequently between October 12th and November 24th. Seven on October 27th.

*Carduelis carduelis*. **Goldfinch.**

One January 1st. Seven recorded in spring between April 26th and May 10th. Seen frequently between October 6th and November 6th with a few records later in November. Maximum recorded fifteen on October 19th.

*Carduelis spinus.* **Siskin.**

Seven on October 27th, thirteen on November 6th and one on November 13th.

*Carduelis cannabina.* **Linnet.**

Seen occasionally during March and daily from April 15th throughout the summer. First young seen on wing June 6th. Autumn flocking from the last week in July. A flock of thirty to fifty birds seen on most days during August and September. *c.* Eighty on September 7th. The maximum for the year. Numbers decreased rapidly during the second half of October, not recorded after November 6th.

*Carduelis flammea.* **Redpoll.**

One April 13th and May 5th, 6th.

*Serinus canarius.* **Serin.**

A female present from July 28th to October 24th. The second record for Lundy.

*Loxia curvirostris.* **Crossbill.**

Two July 15th. Ten on September 6th flying in a southerly direction. One September 10th and 15th.

*Fringilla coelebs.* **Chaffinch.**

About six pairs bred. A male singing an unusual warbler-like song, present, for the second year running, above Millcombe House. Slight spring movement between March 30th and April 2nd. Autumn passage between October 11th and the end of November with maxima *c.* three thousand seven hundred on October 22nd, *c.* four thousand six hundred on November 6th.

*Fringilla montifringilla.* **Brambling.**

One March 7th and April 11th. Numbers smaller than usual in autumn, the maximum being thirty on November 6th. First recorded in autumn on October 11th.

*Emberiza citrinella.* **Yellowhammer.**

Single birds seen January 3rd ; March 7th and April 15th.

*Emberiza bruniceps.* **Red-headed Bunting.**

A male, probably first winter from September 4th to 10th. The bird may have been an escape having rather abraded and broken tail feathers.

*Emberiza hortulana.* **Ortolan Bunting.**

One or two recorded September 6th, 7th and 11th to 14th.

*Calcarius lapponicus.* **Lapland Bunting.**

First record for year September 14th, a total of eight records during the remainder of September, the maximum five on September 20th. Recorded on all but four days between October 9th and November 7th, the maximum twelve on October 9th and 10th. Six further records in November, the last on the 29th.

*Plectrophenax nivalis.* **Snow Bunting.**

One October 12th. Two or three recorded on most days between October 21st and November 2nd. Four on November 6th, then five further records to the end of the month.

*Passer domesticus.* **House Sparrow.**

A male present from April 16th to May 14th. A male and two females present May 30th. Two October 19th and 20th.

