

HALICHOERUS GRYPUS—GREY SEAL

There have been two dead seal calves found during the year. One in Seals' Hole on July 13th a male judged to be about seven days old. The other was found at Hell's Gates by Mary Squires on October 4th. Twelve visits have been made to Seals' Hole during the year but no live calves have been found.

The following seal counts have been made. They cover all the areas round the island where seals commonly lie out.

<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of Seals</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of Seals</i>
March 18th	39	August 12th	52
April 17th	43	August 25th	49
May 14th	51	September 17th	49
May 31st	80	October 20th	62
July 12th	43		

VISIT TO LUNDY ISLAND

Fourteen members of Devonport High School Field Club had the pleasure of spending a week under canvas on Lundy Island during July, last year. Our tents were pitched in 'The Garden' and for three days one of our main preoccupations was to keep them there. Extra guy ropes and boulders kept them on the ground until the wind gave way to a spell of wonderful summer weather.

The main object of our visit was to study Kittiwakes and Puffins nesting. However, the gulls had already left their nests while the only Puffin seen was from the steamer in mid-Channel. This disappointment was more than compensated for by the variety of other birds sighted, particularly the Goshawk. Although this identification is based upon slender evidence, careful sifting of descriptions by independent observers led us to the conclusion that only this bird fitted the facts. The sighting of a Skua off North End is also considered fairly certain although the Warden informed us that no other sighting had been reported.

Of the two accepted night activities of Lundy Island, we restricted ourselves to the Shearwaters. Three night excursions were undertaken. On two of these occasions the summer peace of Lundy had its effect and the distant scream of the Shearwater was rivalled by neighbourly snores.

One evening we undertook a simple investigation, suggested by the Warden who thought that the gulls showed a tendency to fly around the island at the approach of dusk. Between the hours of 5 and 6 p.m. we posted ourselves around the island to record any apparent movement of the gulls. Nowhere was any obvious directional movement observed.

As and when members of our party could be drawn from bird watching, Hymenoptera hunts were organized. This activity was handicapped by lack of nets—those bought for the purpose

were unfortunately left behind on the mainland. Early attempts to use handkerchiefs instead led to the inevitable aftermath of painful stings which further damped enthusiasm. A small collection of some thirty species was made chiefly on the Terraces.

The botanists of the party concentrated on running to earth as many specimens of the Royal Fern as possible. Two only were located—one in the Quarries and one in Gannet Combe.

A chance find of flint flakes in the Brick Field led to a redirection of our activities. An intensive search was organized over a period of three days resulting in a bag of over 1,000 flints. The great majority were chippings and discarded cores, but at least three microburins of the Mesolithic age have been identified among them. These flints are now on loan to the Plymouth museum.

Perhaps worthy of mention is the unexpected mammal seen by three of our party and independently by other observers. It was about the size of a rat but lighter brown in colour and having a longer coat. The description of its tail varied from slightly furry to squirrel-like. The animal was comparatively tame allowing approach to within a few feet. It was apparently vegetarian, feeding on the valerian growing on the slopes above the landing beach. Subsequent efforts to find it again were unsuccessful.

In conclusion, we would record our thanks to Professor Harvey, the Warden, Mr and Mrs Gade and others who made our stay so delightful. We all treasure memories of the visit—the most vivid being a scene from a rock above Gannet's Combe where we sat and watched a deer and her fawn, seals at play, a tribe of goats, a family of horses, the inevitable rabbit and the sea birds. Could anywhere else provide such bounty ?

J. A. DODD.

