

RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS

<i>Species</i>	<i>Ring No.</i>	<i>Age and Date of Ringing</i>	<i>Date and Place Recovered</i>	
Shag	1478	pull. 6/7/56	1/4/61	Durlson Bay, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset
Mallard	AH 1932	pull. 16/6/60	9/3/61	St Govan L/V off Milford Haven
	AJ 2062	juv. 29/7/58	14/2/61	Kamperhoek, Oostelijk Flevoland, Holland
Herring Gull	AJ 2049	pull. 15/7/58	19/8/61	Morwenstow, Bude, Cornwall
Razorbill	AT 18.457	pull. 6/7/55	10/5/61	Combe Martin, Devon
	AT 18.357	Ad. 13/7/54	16/7/61	Saunton Sands, Devon
Redwing	X 73.532	1st W. 15/11/58	11/8/60	Ladva, Karelia, U.S.S.R.
Blackbird	X 73.567	1st W. 1/12/58	25/12/60	nr Pordic, Cotes du Nord, France
	S 57.772	Ad. 11/10/57	13/3/61	Venlo, Limburg, Holland
	X 57.743	1st W. 26/11/55	5/11/61	Foulness Island, Essex
Starling	708.298	1st W. 23/11/59	12/6/60	Karelian Isthmus, Leningrad, U.S.S.R.
Chaffinch	76.723	1st W. 26/11/59	3/3/61	Lundy
	76.883	F-g. 16/10/59	9/5/61	Lundy
Willow Warbler	87.662	Juv. 3/9/61	10/10/61	Marinha Grande (Estremadura), Portugal

SOME COMMENTS OF ORNITHOLOGICAL INTEREST—LUNDY

August 26th to September 17th, 1961

BY D. B. ILES

It was quite a new experience for me to have the task of taking charge of a bird observatory, even one with which I was familiar from many previous visits. Like many ornithologists, I find pleasure in being able to witness an interesting happening in the bird world, or the appearance of an unusual visitor. Lundy provides the possibility of these on any day in autumn, if one is prepared to rise at dawn and cover the island before the rest of the population is abroad. This autumn provided its excitements of rare visitors and movements of commoner species.

The 'Gannet' journey across to Lundy proved interesting, from the aspect of wild seas, cold winds and seabirds; forty-five Gannets, two Kittiwakes, three Shearwaters, three Fulmars and five Scoters were seen. This was in sharp contrast to the two Gannets and two Auks seen on the return journey. Was this difference simply

due to the time of year—most of the breeding seabirds having moved away from the coast during the early autumn—or were the larger numbers caused by the advantages which sea birds gain in flying, when there are deep troughs of waves and strong winds?

Migration was in full swing by mid-August and the passage of hirundines, chats, warblers, and waders, unfolded itself during my stay.

Sand Martins dominated the small but steady movements of hirundines south, until the beginning of September when Swallows predominated. Days with strong winds and low clouds reduced the numbers of hirundines, and often on windy evenings in September many Swallows could be seen roosting in the brambles on the terraces. On calm bright days parties of Swallows would arrive on the Island about midday, hawking over the small ponds for an hour or so before moving southwards at dusk. Evidence of this movement came from a Sand Martin ringed on August 30th and retrapped again at Slapton, South Devon, on September 2nd.

This year the brickfield had been ploughed and harrowed. It has provided a feeding ground for large parties of pipits, Wheatears and Wagtails. When the small ponds dried up it also gave rest and food to Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Snipe, as well as Lapwing, Golden Plover and five Dotterel. Twenty-one of these arrived late one afternoon flying in low over the terraces. These were later joined by three more (one of which was in breeding plumage) and a delightful display of recognition was observed between the birds when they met.

The most exciting wader was a Pectoral Sandpiper. This extremely tame bird, of the American race, was additional to the nine recorded in Ireland during August to September, possibly swept here on the August gales.

The warblers and Pied and Spotted Flycatchers numbers, were small compared with other western observatories. It would seem that this is the rule on Lundy and may be due to the island's position far up the Bristol Channel and away from the coastal migration routes. We did, however have this year an unprecedented fall of wagtails. Alba, flava and Grey Wagtails were involved and could be heard flying high overhead with Tree and Meadow Pipits in the early September mornings. On September 2nd over 200 Albas and twenty flava wagtails roosted in the brickfield. At this period all the albas watched and caught, were 'whites' and at least one of the flavas caught, was a Blue-headed Wagtail; thus most of these birds were not of British origin. The numbers of wagtails had declined considerably by the time I left.

We saw, at least three Hippolais Warblers and it would seem that these species are occurring regularly every autumn in Lundy. Speculation on these suggests that they are Melodious Warblers. This may be due to the northward spread of this species in Europe or to migrating birds in the Bay of Biscay simply being swept northwards in southerly winds.

Other birds of interest seen during the autumn included : Nightingale, three Wrynecks (two caught and ringed), two Short-eared Owls, two parties of Ortolan Buntings (one bird of which bounced off a mist net during a strong wind) and a cock Red-headed Bunting which lived in the Hotel garden for nearly three weeks in August.

I was struck with the similarity in species recorded this year with last autumn. All the above species were recorded in both years. Even a Pectoral Sandpiper was seen last year and a Red-headed Bunting ! It is difficult to believe the latter is an escaped bird when it turns up so regularly on Lundy in the autumn.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN 'THE BULLS PARADISE' LUNDY, 1961

BY K. S. GARDNER

In the Thirteenth Report of this Society reference was made to Bulls Paradise¹ or Plot No. 33 on the O.S. 25 inch map, and to the presence thereabouts of graves and other mounds. Since those notes were compiled, further investigations have been carried out, and in order to keep the records up to date the results, inconclusive though they may be, form the basis of this report.

Bulls Paradise is the field which bounds the Shippens and other High Street yards on their north and west sides. Its surface is irregular, interrupted with mounds, ditches and banks, some of which seem to have originally extended beyond the present field walls.

The first step in the 1961 investigations was to prepare a ground plan (Fig. 1) and this was carried out by our member, Mr R. Penwarden, and the writer.

The main points of interest are :

Site I. A large grass-covered mound of stones, roughly circular in plan.

Site II. Traces of a rectangular enclosure.

Site III. A mound partially enclosed by a well defined ditch.

At the north end of the field are a number of old field boundaries, in the middle portion several other mounds and a possible quarry, and at the south end traces of parallel banks.

In order to put the whole site into its true perspective it is now necessary to consider any previously discovered facts about it, and the 1961 investigations included a search on the mainland for such information.

¹ L.F.S. Proc. XIII, pp. 56-57, 'Dark Ages Remains on Lundy', K. S. Gardner.