

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). This species continues to increase at an almost alarming rate. In 1967 1608 nests were counted. This year 2399 (to an accuracy rate of + or - 100) were recorded. This indicates an increase of 600 to 700 in two years. During the count the writer noticed on several occasions adult birds of this species attacking young on their first flights. This resulted in the death of at least 6 in one morning.

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). This is another species increasing on the island. In 1962 there were 760 breeding pairs, in 1967 1256 nests and this year 1441 nests. The entire breeding population occurs from Jenny's Cove northwards, and the entire North End around to Gannet's Rock.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*). Due to the type of nesting sites chosen this is a most difficult species to count accurately. In 1967, 1602 birds were counted—almost 1000 fewer than in 1962. In 1969 584 nests were counted. This represents almost 1200 birds. From this figure it can only be hoped that the serious decline is perhaps easing.

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*). For this species the requirement of "Operation Seafarer" was to count individual birds. Unfortunately this revealed a continuing decrease as follows:—figures for the counts of 1962, '67, and '69 are 3,560, 2,355, and 1,647 respectively.

Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Forty-one nests were counted this year (this includes sites apparently used for breeding purposes). Since the count was finally completed in July it is likely that the number of Puffins on the island is higher than supposed. The non-breeding birds are possibly still at sea when part of the count in June was done. It is reasonable to suppose that with the non-breeders the population is 90 to 100 birds. The previous count in 1967 revealed 110 birds.

The Lundy Puffins are now scattered in small colonies from Battery Point northwards to the single pair in Puffin Gully. It is apparent that on Lundy the Puffin is becoming increasingly a crevice nesting species using similar sites to Razorbills. In many cases the colonies are less accessible—this may be a change in habit which will assist in the preservation of the species on the island.

REPORT ON THE SEAL COUNT ON JULY 5th, 1969

By R. W. BRITTON

The species being counted was the Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*).

Volunteers to spend a little of their valuable time were eager to assist in this interesting task. The plan was to divide the coastline of the island into sectors equal to the number of individuals, or parties, engaged. These observers were in their pre-arranged positions and the count began at 3 p.m. The weather for several days prior to the count and on the day of the count was clear and warm with a light N.W. breeze. At the time of the count the state of tide was low water spring. This gave the advantage to observers who then were likely to see the maximum number of seals hauled out on rocks and skerries.

The details of the count are as follows:—

Sector	Number of seals
Landing Bay to S. of Battery Point	37
N. Battery to Dead Cow Point	0
D.C. Point to N. end Jenny's Cove	16
N. End Jenny's Cove to N.W. Point	6
N.W. Point to Gannet's Rock N. side	12
Gannet's Rock to Brazen Wood	6
Brazen Ward to Tibbett's Point	0
Tibbett's Point to ½ Wall Cotts. (off)	3
½ Wall Cotts to Landing Bay	0
	Total 80.

The writer thanks all those who took part in this task, particularly the divers who so kindly took him by boat to Seal's Hole and around the S.W. Corner.