

## LUNDY MUSEUM

The Lundy Museum is now in process of collecting material originating from or concerning the island. It is particularly hoped that specimens taken ashore in the past for safe-keeping will now be returned for preservation and reference.

Will members having or knowing of such material please contact the Resident Curator, John Dyke, on Lundy.

## NATIONAL TRUST EXCURSION 1970

Because of adverse weather the Excursion organised by the National Trust on June 14th 1970 was unable to land on Lundy. The steamer was however able to take the 700 passengers on a tour around the island before returning to Ilfracombe.

## BIRDS RECORDED IN 1970

**Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*). A single bird was seen near the Landing Beach on 3rd and 4th October.

**Storm Petrel** (*Hydrobates pelagicus*). A single bird on crossing 22nd June.

**Manx Shearwater** (*Procellaria puffinus*). First heard calling on 7th May and by 23rd May over 100 were seen. On 27th May at least 30 were heard landing on the ground after dark. On 14th June over 100 were seen on the sea and on 29th September 46 were counted.

**Sooty Shearwater** (*Procellaria grisea*). One was seen close inshore on 17th August. This is an interesting record as one was also seen passing Hartland Point on 20th August.

**Fulmar** (*Fulmaris glacialis*). At least 23 nests were counted in June and nine were still on the cliffs on 3rd September. Single birds were seen on 16th September and 2nd October.

**Gannet** (*Sula bassana*). Small numbers were frequently seen in May and June with a maximum of 10 on 21st June. On 30th August four passed and single birds were recorded in mid September with 13 on 24th September.

**Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Single birds were seen in June and six on 14th September. On 18th September 23 passed.

**Shag** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). 60 nests were counted in June.

**Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*). A single bird was seen in June and again during August and September.

**Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*). A single adult was seen just beyond  $\frac{3}{4}$  wall on 19th April and later was seen at Pondsburry. Slightly smaller than a Heron with very long yellow legs it had a rufous breast and rufous also on the front edge of each wing while the bill was orange/yellow. A dark line extended down the neck.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee and it is interesting to note that nearly 30 Purple Herons appeared in Britain in April and May during an extraordinary influx of birds of southern origin.

**Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Up to five birds were frequently seen and on 27th April a female appeared with five ducklings.

**Teal** (*Anas crecca*). A single bird appeared on 22nd August and two on 25th. Up to five were recorded during September and nine were seen on 26th December.

**Tufted Duck** (*Aythya fuligula*). A single record of one on 16th June.

**Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*). A pair appeared on 31st May.

**Montagu's Harrier** (*Circus pygargus*). A single female harrier seen on 3rd and 4th May was probably a migrant Montagu's.

- Sparrow Hawk** (*Accipiter nisus*). A single record of one on 11th August.
- Merlin** (*Falco columbarius*). A single migrant on 20th April.
- Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*). Seen regularly, usually three but six together on 24th September.
- Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*). Records of single birds on 21st August and 26th September to 3rd October.
- Quail** (*Coturnix coturnix*). One on 12th May and two on 16th May. One still present on 31st July. There was a large influx of Quail into Britain in May with many staying to breed.
- Pheasant** (*Phasianus colchicus*). A single male bird frequently seen.
- Water Rail** (*Rallus aquaticus*). One was seen in spring on 28th and 29th April. In the autumn, three were recorded on 27th September, one on 29th and one on 1st October.
- Corncrake** (*Crex crex*). There is a single record of one in the spring on 22nd April.
- Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*). 15th May, one at St. Helen's Field.
- Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*). Seen in all months with up to twelve in June and a maximum of 20 on 25th August. A pair nested at the North End and a pair at Middle Park.
- Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*). An increase from the 1969 numbers, 30 pairs being counted on 28th May. On 30th July 60 were on the airfield increasing to 80 during August and 135 by the end of September.
- Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius hiaticula*). 30th August, two, 16th September, three and 25th September, two were the only records.
- Grey Plover** (*Charadrius squatarola*). One on the airfield on 29th April was the only record for the year.
- Golden Plover** (*Pluvialis apricaria*). In the spring two of the northern form were seen on 28th April with singles on 23rd May and 2nd June. In the autumn, ten appeared on 1st September, three on 18th September, thirteen on 21st September and up to eight in October.
- Dotterel** (*Charadrius morinellus*). Two appeared on 2nd October.
- Turnstone** (*Arenaria interpres*). Seen regularly in the autumn with up to four in August and up to five in September.
- Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*). Seen regularly in small numbers of up to three in April and up to eight in August and up to four in September.
- Jack Snipe** (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*). Singles were seen on 17th and 24th September.
- Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*). Up to six were recorded at Upper St Helens in March and a single bird was seen on 20th August.
- Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*). A pair is believed to have bred. Principal numbers were 16th June, twenty-four, 21st July, twenty, 28th September, fourteen and 3rd October, twenty-one.
- Whimbrel** (*Numenius phaeopus*). The first three were seen at the South end on 20th April and up to three were then seen regularly until 23rd May. From 19th July when four were seen they were regularly recorded with a peak of twenty on 21st August. Until 28th September small numbers of up to four were seen.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** (*Limosa lapponica*). The first two arrived on 21st September increasing to three on 22nd and five on 24th, three staying until 3rd October.
- Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ocropus*). Three appeared on 3rd May and one was still present on 8th. In the autumn one was seen on 19th and 22nd August.
- Common Sandpiper** (*Tringa hypoleucos*). Three were recorded on 20th July and one on 27th.

**Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*). A single record of one at Pondsbyury on 3rd May.

**Little Stint** (*Calidris minuta*). In the autumn single birds were seen on 4th and 16th September.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** (*Calidris melanotos*). A good year for Pectoral Sandpipers in Britain and Lundy had its share with one on 16th September, two on 17th, one on 18th and two from 21st to 24th September. They were often in Middle Park with a flock of Lapwings, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and a Ruff. They were usually with the Ruff and could easily be picked out as they were considerably smaller with fairly long bills slightly decurved at the tips and the breast markings were sharply delineated from the white underparts. The backs of both birds were well marked with a Snipe-like patterning of yellowish lines running from the shoulder to mid-back. The legs were a deep yellow and the call a soft liquid 'preeup'. Two were trapped and ringed on 17th and the birds that stayed until 24th were seen to be ringed.

**Dunlin** (*Calidris alpina*). The only birds seen in the spring were two on 3rd May but an early autumn bird was seen on 23rd July. From 4th September until late in October single birds were regularly seen and occasionally two.

**Great Skua** (*Stercorarius skua*). There is a record of one seen on the crossing to Lundy on 4th October.

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*). A count in June showed 37 nesting pairs.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*). A count in June showed 74 nesting pairs.

**Herring Gull** (*Larus argentatus*). A count in June showed 1,673 pairs.

**Kittiwake** (*Rissa tridactyla*). A count in June showed 757 nests.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*). One on 9th May and two on 14th August. Small numbers were also recorded during crossings to and from Lundy.

**Razorbill** (*Alca tordus*). A count in May between Battery Point and North-west Point showed 367 birds on the nesting ledges which is a further reduction in breeding numbers (325 nests in 1969).

**Guillemot** (*Aria aalge*). Only 819 birds were counted on the breeding ledges between Battery Point and North-west Point in May which is a further decline (1,406 birds counted in 1969).

**Puffin** (*Fratercula arctica*). Counts in late May showed 68 birds at nesting ledges. This compares with 41 nests counted in 1969.

**Wood Pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*). Up to four were seen in April and a flock of nineteen was seen on 19th May. Small numbers of up to three only were seen during September.

**Turtle Dove** (*Streptopelia turtur*). The first three were seen on 4th May and then variable numbers of up to eight were regularly recorded until 2nd June. In the autumn a single bird appeared on 13th September and a late migrant on 3rd and 4th October.

**Collared Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*). One was heard calling on 27th March and at least two during April, usually six during May but thirteen counted on 17th. In the autumn up to five during September with a peak of thirteen on 25th.

**Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*). The first one was heard on 24th April and one or two frequently seen during the spring with three on 24th May. One was seen on 6th August.

**Swift** (*Apus apus*). The first was seen on 7th May followed by small numbers until 2nd June when 60 were counted. Two or three were frequently seen later until the last three on 24th August.

**Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops*). There was a single bird seen at West Side Field on 19th April.

**Skylark** (*Alauda arvensis*). Plentiful and resident with a notable influx during September when the numbers increased from 100 in mid-month to 300 on 29th. On 27th May one was heard singing at 12.30 a.m.

**Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*). Recorded from 17th April onwards but not very numerous in the spring when the highest numbers were twenty-four on 24th April and 36 on 5th May. In September numbers fluctuated from 170 upwards, principal counts being 1,000 on 14th, 300 on 22nd, 200 on 27th and 500 on 29th. Ten were still present on 3rd October.

**House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*). Two on 25th August, five on 14th September, sixteen on 22nd and 60 on 29th during a large movement of hirundines. A single bird was seen on 2nd October.

**Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*). The first three were seen on 18th April rising to six on 24th. On 5th May eighteen were counted but only small numbers otherwise during the spring. In August twenty appeared on 19th followed by very small numbers until 14th September when 250 were counted. The last five were seen on 22nd September.

**Raven** (*Corvus corax*). During April three pairs were seen at the north end and eight pairs at the south end. The number of birds stayed remarkably consistent at between fifteen and twenty in August and September.

**Carrion Crow** (*Corvus corona*). Not very numerous, six or seven being usual in August and September with fourteen on 26th September.

**Jackdaw** (*Corvus monedula*). Five were seen on 17th September.

**Coal Tit** (*Parus ater*). A single bird appeared on 15th May.

**Tree Creeper** (*Certhia familiaris*). One was seen on 4th October.

**Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). Recorded each month, usually four or five but thirteen counted on 28th September.

**Mistle Thrush** (*Turdus viscivorus*). A single bird appeared on 1st August.

**Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*). Two or three were seen each month but there was no autumn influx this year.

**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*). Many appeared during the cold spell in late December

**Ring Ouzel** (*Turdus torquatus*). On 9th April one appeared in the Lighthouse field. In September two to four were seen on most day with twelve on 19th and the last one on 29th.

**Blackbird** (*Turdus merula*). At least three pairs were resident and ten were seen during May. There was an influx in September when the number present built up to over 50 but there was no large scale influx.

**Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). First seen on 22nd March and up to six then regularly seen until September when up to twenty birds were usually seen. On 29th September at least 100 appeared but passed on during the day and the last two were recorded on 2nd October.

**Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*). None were seen until 15th September with six or seven on 18th and 19th. Four or five were seen during October.

**Whinchat** (*Saxicola rubetra*). Only one spring migrant was seen, on 8th May. In the autumn they were recorded on almost every day from 18th August, the first two, although not more than four on one day during August but up to six on 25th September and nine on 28th.

**Redstart** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*). No spring records but singles frequently seen from 20th August to 29th September with two on 21st September.

**Black Redstart** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*). One on 21st September was the only record.

**Nightingale** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). A single bird appeared on 20th August.

**Robin** (*Erithacus rubecula*). Usually seven but increased to fourteen on 19th September and nineteen on 28th.

**Grasshopper Warbler** (*Locustella naevia*). First recorded on 29th April, a single bird but three on 3rd May. In the autumn ones and twos were frequent from 22nd August until 19th September when about twenty passed through. The last one was recorded on 24th September.

**Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*). A single bird appeared on 22nd and 25th September.

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*). The first arrived on 24th April and by 3rd May four or five were present. In the autumn ones and twos from 22nd August but over twenty passed through on 19th September.

**Melodious Warbler** (*Hippolais polyglotta*). One was trapped on 15th September. Additional singles were trapped on 18th and 19th September making three in all.

**Icterine Warbler** (*Hippolais icterina*). One was trapped and examined on 23rd August. A very pale and brownish bird it had a very prominent pale wing-patch. There was a yellow tinge on the throat and under-tail coverts. It had a white eye rim and the legs were grey-blue. The wings extended beyond the upper-tail coverts. The wing formula was checked as correct for Icterine Warbler.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*). One on 3rd May was the only spring record. In the autumn only small numbers compared with the large movement in 1969. Singles from 3rd to 14th September, twelve on 19th and then not more than three until 30th September.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*). In the autumn singles were seen from 3rd to 16th September, five on 18th and then not more than three until 29th September.

**Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*). Not very numerous with one on 29th April followed by ones and twos and three on 3rd May. In August ones and twos but ten on 22nd, four on 19th, six on 27th and the last one on 29th September.

**Lesser Whitethroat** (*Sylvia curruca*). Singles were seen on 9th May, 18th August and 19-20th September.

**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilis*). Small numbers were seen in April and May. On 23rd August 70 were present and on 19th September seven were ringed when about 100 Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs passed through.

**Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*). Numerous during April and May. On 19th September 32 were ringed and on 27th September 350 Chiffchaffs and some Willow Warblers passed through.

**Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*). Three pairs in April, three or four birds in May, two or three in August and up to six in early September increasing to fourteen on 27th. On 1st October at least 37 were seen but only fifteen could be found the next day.

**Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapillus*). One in the autumn on 29-30th September.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*). First appeared on 6th May and four were seen on 7th. In August six on 18th increased to ten on 22nd and no less than 70 on 23rd falling to 50 on 25th. On 3rd September only five could be found and only three on 14th but a further influx on 19th with a count of 40 was followed by twenty-two on 21st and twenty-seven on 27th September and the last on 1st October.

**Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*). The first two were seen on 3rd May after which none appeared until six on 18th August and up to six were frequently seen during the rest of the month. On 14th September eight were found but from 21st to 29th only one could be seen.

**Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*). A pair were present in April and up to eight could be seen in early September rising to seventeen by the end of the month.

**Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*). Residential numbers were well maintained and the autumn influx brought the counts up to 124 on 20th September, 149 on 24th and at least 400 from 27-29th September. 200 could be seen on 3rd October.

**Richard's Pipit** (*Anthus richardi*). On 26th September two were found and three on 27th, two on 28th and one on 29th September.

**Tree Pipit** (*Anthus trivialis*). One was seen on 26th April. Two in August were followed by ten on 24th September and two on 27th.

**Rock Pipit** (*Anthus spinoletta*). Resident as usual although not seen very often.

**Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba*). Not plentiful this year and not more than six reported in September.

**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*). Five appeared on 15th September and three were still present on 1st October.

**Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*). In the spring two passed through on 28th April. The first autumn birds were two on 29th August followed by two on 14th September, three on 20th, five on 27th and the last two on 29th September. On 21st September one was seen showing the characters of the Grey-headed Wagtail (*M. f. thunbergi*) the lower forehead, lores, ear coverts and cheeks being black while the upper forehead, crown and nape were slate-grey. A very faint trace of an eyestripe was seen.

**Woodchat Shrike** (*Lanius senator*). An immature was seen on 18th August on  $\frac{1}{4}$  wall and was seen to catch and eat a large black beetle. Another was trapped and ringed on 17th September and stayed until 19th September. The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee.

**Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio*). One was seen on east side on 3rd September.

**Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Resident and seen daily with an early autumn influx in September when the numbers rose from 57 on 20th to 220 on 22nd and 250 on 29th.

**Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*). Very few this year, only three in the spring on 23rd April and six in the autumn on 14th September.

**Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*). Three appeared on 23rd April on the hotel lawn and ten were recorded on 24th September.

**Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*). Only one was recorded this year on 27th November.

**Linnnet** (*Acanthus cannabina*). On 27th April at least twelve were counted. The autumn flock never exceeded 50.

**Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*). At least one family party was seen in July. The autumn flock built up to twenty-nine by 24th September.

**Corn Bunting** (*Emberiza calandra*). One at St John's Valley on 17th May.

**Red-headed Bunting** (*Emberiza bruniceps*). One on 22nd August.

**Ortolan Bunting** (*Emberiza hortulana*). On 25th September an immature was seen at the Hotel and later at  $\frac{1}{4}$  wall. The pinkish bill and creamy-white eye-ringing could be seen.

**Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*). One was seen on 27th September.

**Lapland Bunting** (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Six appeared at Top Fields on 17th September and one was trapped, three at least were seen on 18th.

**Snow Bunting** (*Plectophenax nivalis*). One was seen at the airfield from 15th April until 3rd May. In the autumn two were seen on 29th September.

**Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*). Two were seen on 13th May.