

APPENDIX

ANIMALS COLLECTED FROM LUNDY

LIST OF LUNDY SPECIES		
SATYRIDAE	Eumenis semele Maniola tithonus Maniola jurtina Coenonympha amphilus Aphantopus hyperantus	Graying Gatekeeper Meadow Brown Small Heath Ringlet
NYMPHALIDAE	Argynnis selene Argynnis euphrosyne Vanessa atlanta Vanessa cardui Aglaia urticae Nymphalis io Polygonia c-album	Sm Pearl-Bdr Fritillary Pearl-Bdr Fritillary Red Admiral Painted Lady Sm Tortoiseshell Peacock Comma
LYCAENIDAE	Aricia agestis Polyommatus icarus Lycaena phlaeas	Brown argus Common blue Sm Copper
PIERIDAE	Perris brassicae Perris rapae Perris napi Euchoe cardamines Colias croceus Gonepteryx rhamni	Large White Small White Green-veined White Orange tip Clouded Yellow Brimstone

Generic Nomenclature as ROYAL ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY Feb. 1934

OUTLINE SURVEY OF THE RHOPALOCERA OF LUNDY

B. R. SHERWOOD 1974

Introduction

The number of known species of Butterfly throughout the world has been put at over thirteen thousand. The number that may be called British is about sixty-eight, and these are diminishing rapidly. Two species are already on the brink of extinction, and several bad summers would be sufficient to wipe them out. The situation is becoming so bad that it has been suggested that no species may be considered safe, and the commonest is expected to disappear if our present rate of "progress" is continued unchecked. The Forestry Commission and the British Butterfly Conservation Society have been co-operating with naturalists and others in an attempt to find a viable solution to the problem. The only hope at present is that the Nature Conservancy and the Countryside Commission will lay aside large areas of nature reserve to contain a proper balance. In the light of this concern, and as a result of the work done recently by the society's warden, I felt it was a good time to survey the situation of the Lundy species.

Early Records

Records have appeared from time to time in the past and these have been collated in various books such as Lloyds "Lundy Its History and Natural History" and the "Ilfracombe Flora and Fauna". From these it is possible to produce a list which could be said to be a full Island Check List.

It is unfortunate that no information as regards the quantity of each species was recorded at this time. It is impossible therefore to determine any long term fluctuation of species.

The Society Records

The oldest records of the Society are the results of investigations made by Mr. L. Hart and Mj. A. B. Grey in 1947. During their period on the island they recorded thirteen species from this list. Of the species not recorded on this list none have in fact ever appeared on any later listing, and one species has subsequently disappeared.

Short studies were made again in 1952 and 1968. Unfortunately these could not be considered conclusive due to the short duration of the visits. In 1972, however, the island Warden, Mr. N. Dymond, started recording sightings on a daily basis, this continued until the end of 1973.

Listed below are the species and the relative numbers recorded from these reports.

Species	1947	1952	1968	1972	1973
Graying	Abundant	*	*	Abundant	Abundant
Gatekeeper	—	—	—	—	—
Meadow Brown	Abundant	*	*	Abundant	Abundant
Small Heath	Numerous	*	*	Abundant	Numerous
Ringlet	Few	*	*	Abundant	Numerous
Sm. Pearl-Bdr Fritillary	—	—	—	—	—
Pearl-Bdr Fritillary	—	—	—	—	—
Red Admiral	Numerous	*	*	Few	Numerous
Painted Lady	Few	*	*	Few	V Abundant
Sm. Tortoiseshell	Few	—	—	Few	V Abundant
Peacock	—	—	—	Few	Few
Comma	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Argus	—	—	—	—	—
Common Blue	Common	*	*	Several	Common
Small Copper	Few	—	—	Few	Numerous
Large White	Common	*	*	Abundant	Numerous
Small White	Few	*	*	Several	Abundant
G.V. White	Few	*	—	Few	Few
Orange Tip	—	—	—	—	—
Clouded Yellow	Few	—	—	—	—
Brimstone	—	—	—	—	—
Holly Blue	—	—	—	Several	One only
Total	13	10	9	14	14

*Recorded Species.

During these investigations several interesting facts have emerged. In 1968 Mr. C. Garrett-Jones observed that the species most prevalent on Lundy were not as those on the North Devon Coast. It was also pointed out in earlier surveys that a number of the Lundy species showed marked colour variations. This was especially noticeable with the Meadow Brown which was much darker and finely marked, and the Small Heath which was an unusually rich copper-brown colour. The only species on the 1947 list not recorded since is the semi-migratory Clouded Yellow. During the three months August to October that year they were observed on twenty three days, when they averaged about 7 sightings a day. The maximum was reached on the 17th of September when 15 were seen. The variety *Helice* (White Clouded Yellow) was also recorded on several occasions during this period. The greatest number also being seen on the 17th when they were recorded 'taking a southerly path coming in over the sea'.

In 1972 Mr. N. Dymond observed the Holly Blue (*Celastrina argiolus*) for the first time. Several were seen on the east-sidelands, but unfortunately the next year only one specimen was recorded.

The Present Situation

The present situation may be summarized by grouping the species as follows:

(1) COMMON EXISTING SPECIES

Large White	Small White
Greyling	Meadow Brown
Ringlett	Small Heath

These appear to be in sufficient numbers to require no immediate attention, provided the present ecology of the island is not unduly disturbed.

(2) EXISTING SPECIES (Limited Numbers)

Green-Veined White	Small Tortoiseshell
Small Copper	Common Blue
Holly Blue	

These species could easily fall below a level that would assure their continued survival on the island. It must therefore be determined what could be considered a reasonable size of population, and one the island could support. From preliminary investigations it does appear that there is no shortage of the required food plants, as their habitat and general requirements are similar to those species still abundant.

(3) LOST SPECIES

Gatekeeper	Sm. Pearl-Bdr Fritillary
P.B. Fritillary	Comma
Orange Tip	Brimstone
Brown Argus	

These would all appear to have vanished from the island prior to 1947, and as previously mentioned the early records do not indicate the numbers then present, it would seem logical to assume that some are listed as the result of isolated sightings.

(4) MIGRATORY SPECIES

The Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady, and Red Admiral have been excluded from the above listing as except in the case of the former the numbers recorded in recent years have been quite high. As all of these species are migratory it would be futile to endeavour any type of rescue operation in the island.

Future Hopes

The Society is conscious of the need to maintain the population on the island. At present it is hoped to conduct a more detailed 'Habitat Survey' and to obtain as many records of sightings as possible, during the next two or three seasons.

It is to be regretted that despite a wide general interest in Butterflies, there is very little scientific knowledge of the requirements of various species during their life-cycle.

It is to be hoped that during this period of monitoring, sufficient research may be undertaken both on the island, and by the various interested organisations on the mainland, to amass sufficient information to conserve the population. It may be hoped that Lundy will in the near future be able to offer itself as an established reserve for its species. It may also be found practical to re-colonise the island with some of the former species, and so provide a breeding ground for stock which could be introduced to other habitats.

Either way every effort should be made to help Societies, and Conservationists to make sure butterflies do not join the lists of extinct British species.

LUNDY ROCK CLIMBS

R. BOULTON

<i>Route</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Cliff</i>	<i>Grade</i>
St. Swithin XXIII	North Quarry		A2
Twelve Bore	1st Knight Templar		S
Bideford Ridge	" "		D
Scafoid (& Footoff)	2nd " " Knight Templar		VS
Flake Route	" " "		VD