

## BIRDS ON LUNDY, 1991

By

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The first day of the year brought an intriguing find: a duck corpse that was tentatively identified as a Harlequin. Cold weather in February brought influxes of various species of wildfowl, waders and thrushes, notably Jack Snipe, Snipe, Woodcock, Fieldfare, Song Thrush and Redwing. A Red-necked Grebe also arrived at this time.

The spring migration was slow to develop. Numbers of some common species that arrive early such as Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest were lower than usual but those moving later, including Swift and hirundines, Wheatear, several warbler species and Spotted Flycatcher, came through in good numbers in May. However, after two encouraging years, Whitethroat numbers were low. Apart from the returning Ancient Murrelet, there was nothing to excite hardened twitchers at this time, although Goshawk, Osprey, Spotted Crake and Woodchat Shrike added interest to the early summer — and Dotterel, Hoopoe and Golden Oriole are always good to see. Two other birds that were seen in May, and unusual by virtue of their dates, were summer-plumaged Little Sprint and Snow Bunting.

In summer, Puffins remained in a very precarious position as a breeding species, while Collared Dove reached record numbers, though breeding has still to be confirmed. The cliff-breeding House Martins of the last few years seem not to have been successful in 1991, but Spotted Flycatchers bred for the sixth year running.

The autumn migration was disappointing. Numbers of most summer visitors were very low compared with the previous five years and it was only Blackcaps which managed a good showing, moving in late October, after the poor weather that had presumably kept other species away from the island. Goldcrest numbers were extremely low, as in spring, and there were no Firecrest records for the first time in at least twenty years. Siskin numbers were also very low compared with the last three years. Like the Blackcaps, winter migrants such as Fieldfare and Redwing came late enough in October to avoid the bad weather, and arrived in good numbers.

Very unusually, there was only one national rarity in the autumn: a Little Bunting ringed in October. However a Bewick's Swan, which stayed for over a month, was a new species for the island.

Some of the fluctuations in bird numbers that are implied in the Systematic List and Tables below probably reflect the considerable weekly variations in coverage by birdwatchers. It would be interesting to relate migration to weather patterns in more detail but observers have not been good at completing the weather section of the log in 1991, in contrast to the previous two years.

The ease with which the bird records in the log can be analysed owes much to the careful approach of the majority of observers and particularly to the efforts of Andrew Jewels on the island. When a few other observers spare a thought for the analysts and resist the temptation to produce long lists of common species in the wrong section of the book, the job will be even easier! Occasional gems, such as the delightful account of an encounter between a Raven and a red alarm clock, lighten the task though.

The most important improvement needed in use of the log book is in rarities descriptions. The 1991 list of rejected records is a long one and while some of the birds were sadly not obliging enough, other records have been lost simply through observers' inaction. Anyone not familiar with the description procedure should note an unusual bird's characteristics in detail while it is in view, and try to find an experienced bird-watcher among the islanders or visitors as soon as possible, in the hope of corroborating the sighting and to help with the description process.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

The sequence and nomenclature follow those of *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (which follows the Voous sequence).

Note: 'Lundy Rarities'. These are species not classed as national rarities but which are very uncommon on the island. For further details, see the island log book. Records of them are only included below if they have been fully documented with satisfactory substantiating details in the log book or submitted to the Bird List Editor. Observers' names are included below for the species which are national or Lundy rarities.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*. One was seen from 20th to 25th April, with a second bird on the 23rd. Singles were reported on eight days from 20th October to 2nd November (recorded as adult on 28th October) and two on the 28th December.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*. One was seen on 15th February, three on 2nd March and one on 23rd April. Autumn singles on 9th, 28th and 29th October were followed by one on ten dates from 12th to 31st December. Those on 28th October and 29th December were recorded as adults.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*. One, probably first-winter, was in the Landing Bay area from 17th to 24th February (A.M. Jewels, G.A. Vaughan *et al.*). This is the second Lundy record, following one in August 1957.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*. Breeding. Birds were reported throughout the year. There were no complete counts but at least sixty were present at breeding areas on 30th December.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*. The first spring record was of a calling bird on 9th April. High counts included 400 off the South End on 17th May, 1500 off the East Side on 23rd June, 2000 off the South End on 8th July and major northward movements in the evenings in late July, at rates of up to 100 birds per minute. The last of the summer records was on 6th August but in October one was seen on 7th and three on 17th.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*. There were records of up to four birds seen from the island, on five days between 19th May and 9th July. Up to seven birds were seen during boat crossings in this period too. One was caught ashore at night on 26th July. This was done without the use of a tape-lure, so the bird's presence was a natural occurrence.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*. After one on 16th February and an oiled bird that died on 4th March, regular records started on 10th April, and continued until 10th November. Most counts were in single figures, with higher ones including twenty-four on 11th April, twenty on 1st August, forty on 7th October and about twenty on 17th and 25th October.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*. After two on 19th January and one on 5th March, there were records on many days from 24th March to 23rd October. Most involved up to four birds but spring peaks included nine birds moving north on 10th April, followed by twenty on 16th, fourteen on 23rd and twelve on 16th May. Autumn movements included nineteen south on 24th August, thirteen south on 1st September and twenty north on 17th October. Late singles were seen on 10th and 30th November.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. In January only three or four birds were present and from August onwards, maximum recorded counts were about twelve. There were no summer estimates.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*. Singles were seen on 9th April, 4th June, 22nd July and on five days from 15th September to 22nd October.

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*. An adult arrived from the north on 30th October and remained on the island until 7th December, mainly in Lighthouse Field (D. Bucknell, A.M. Taylor *et al.*). Surprisingly, this is the first record of the species for Lundy. (In contrast there have been eight records of Whooper Swans, even though their regular wintering areas are further from Lundy.)

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*. Single birds were seen on 8th October and 23rd to 25th November, the latter bird being an adult male.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*. A female arrived on 8th February, joined by a second on 12th and third on 14th. One remained until 23rd. A male was seen on 10th October.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*. Females were seen on 27th January and 9th February. After one on 1st August, there were records on fifteen dates between 15th September and 8th December, mainly referring to single birds but with four on 29th September, three on 29th October and two on 30th November.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*. The feral flock was present throughout the year, numbering twelve birds before the breeding season and twenty-six in October. Two wild birds were seen on 2nd February.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*. A male was seen on the sea off the East Side, and then on Pondsburry, on 23rd and 24th May (M.Darlaston, A.Rennells *et al.*). This is the thirteenth Lundy record, the fourth in May.

**Harlequin** *Histrionicus histrionicus*. A tideline corpse found on the Landing Beach on 1st January was thought to be a female or immature of this species (D.Lea, per A.M.Jewels). Confirmation of its identity has not been received yet. If correct, it would be the first record of this arctic species for Lundy.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*. One was seen off Long Roost on 7th July and a flock of twenty-two flew north on 22nd July. In October there were four records, involving six flying north on 16th, sixty-one north on 22nd, three south on 23rd and three on 25th. Up to 1987, all but one of the twenty or so records of birds seen from the island were of one or two birds. Since then there have been ten records of three or more birds. This dramatic rise may reflect increasing sea-watching rather than an increase in the species.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*. A female or immature was seen landing on the sea near Rat Island and then on Pondsburry on 28th October (D.Bucknell, L.Cole, A.M.Taylor *et al.*). This is the third dated Lundy record, following birds in October 1941 and November 1990.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*. A female or immature was seen fishing south of Rat Island on 13th October (A.M.Jewels). This is the sixth Lundy record. Four of them have been seen in October.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*. Females were seen on 6th, 24th and 25th May, and a female or immature on 12th October.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*. An adult female was seen on several occasions between 5th and 9th May and possibly on 15th (A.M.Jewels, C.McShane *et al.*). This is the sixth island record, the fourth in spring.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*. In spring there were singles on 14th and 23rd April and 14th May. In autumn there was just one on 22nd September and two on 24th October — fewer than in most recent years.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*. One was present from the beginning of the year to 17th March.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*. One was watched perched in Millcombe, being mobbed by crows, on 15th June (N.Brickle). The same bird may have been present from 12th June. This is the seventh record this century, the others all having been in the period 1974-86. Five have been in spring or summer, two in autumn.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*. Recorded throughout the year, frequently in most months but with only two reports of singles in July. Peak counts were four in January, two from February to May, then singles until two from mid August, up to six in mid October and two in December.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*. After singles on 28th January, 3rd and 27th March, there were three records in April. Further birds on 7th and 16th May, 19th and 20th June were later than usual for spring. In autumn there were singles on many days from 26th September to 30th November. Most records referred to a female, perhaps a single long-staying bird. However there were two birds on six days in October, a male and female on each occasion.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*. There were six spring records, between 9th and 30th May. All were of single birds except on 13th when there were two. In autumn one was seen on 7th and 8th October.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*. Recorded throughout the year, most reports being of one or two birds but with up to four in spring and autumn.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. One was heard calling near the church on 19th May (N.Wall). In view of increasing frequency of this species in recent years, it has been removed from the list of Lundy rarities (requiring descriptions) from 1992.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*. There were three reports of one bird between 20th February and 23rd March, then one on 9th October and one on most days from 22nd to 30th October, with two on 29th.

**Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*. One was seen at the Rocket Pole Pond on 17th and 18th May (A.W.G. John, D.Moss *et al.*). This is the sixth Lundy record, all but one having been in spring.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Peak counts included seven in January and February, ten in March. In a complete survey of the island in late July, about twenty birds were located, but the maximum autumn count was eight in mid October, dropping to two from early November onwards.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. In spring, birds were seen on nine dates from 8th May to 11th June, mostly in ones and twos but with six on 23rd and ten on 31st May. The autumn records were on five dates from 5th to 20th September, including three on 9th and two on 20th, the others being singles.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*. One on 21st May was joined by a further two on 23rd to 25th. There was then one from 30th May to 1st June.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*. There were scattered records from the beginning of the year to 6th May. Most of these were between mid February and mid March, when there were eleven on many days and fifteen on 28th February. Otherwise counts were five or less. After singles in mid June and late July, seven were seen on 22nd August, followed by occasional singles until another peak of seven on 14th October. There were none in November, then eight in mid December. See Table 1.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*. Breeding. Recorded in every month of the year. Numbers were in single figures until late February with about twenty-five present through March and April, twenty through May and June and thirty in early July. There were no records between 23rd July and 25th August, then scattered reports to the end of October, mainly in single figures but with twelve on 28th August and thirteen on 19th October. There were eight further records between 21st November and 14th December, peaking at eleven on the latter date.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*. Single juveniles were seen on 12th August (the earliest recorded autumn date) and 3rd to 9th and 12th September.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*. A summer plumaged bird seen on 29th to 31st May was the first Lundy record outside the months August to October. It was followed by one on 24th August.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. Two were seen and photographed at the North End on 13th September (A.Greaves *et al.*). There have been thirteen previous records on Lundy, mainly in September.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*. The only reports were of four on 23rd February and one on 18th November.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. After one on 19th January, two on 9th February and one on the following day, one was found dead on 17th February. There were records on most days from 5th to 31st May, peaks being eighteen on 17th, twelve on 24th and fifteen on 27th. Autumn records were scattered between 20th July and 28th October. Almost all referred to single birds but peaks included five on 13th August, four on 15th September and ten on 12th October.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*. A good showing early in the year included singles on 20th and 26th January, two on 7th to 9th and four on 10th February and one on 12th March. An early autumn bird on 28th August was followed by singles on four dates between 4th and 28th October.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*. Birds were reported on most days through the first three months of the year, with peak counts of seven in January, twenty-five in February and four in March. Occasional records in the next two months included three on 6th April and four on 28th May. After five on 30th July and one on the following two days, regular records began again on 25th August and continued to the end of the year. Peaks included nine on 8th September, fifteen on 25th October and eight on 23rd December. See Table 1.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*. After one on 3rd and 4th January, there were records of up to five between 3rd and 20th February and two on 14th March. The first autumn bird was on 13th October, followed by records on many days from 22nd October to 2nd December. These included six on 23rd and five on 28th October, with up to three thereafter.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*. One was seen on 10th April.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*. The spring passage was from 15th April to 13th June. Most of the records, and the only counts above five, were between 5th and 18th May, with peaks of thirteen on 6th and 11th, twelve on 16th. There were occasional autumn records from 22nd July to 6th September, all referring to numbers in single figures apart from flocks of thirty-three on 28th July and twenty-five on 6th September. A late flock of twelve was seen on 10th October. See Table 1.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*. There were five records, involving up to seven birds, to 19th February. After scattered records from 22nd April to early July, again of up to seven birds, there were occasional reports of larger flocks, including in July twenty-seven on 7th, thirty-four on 22nd and forty-five on 29th, in September thirty on 6th and 11th and in October twenty-four on 15th and twenty-three on 23rd. Some of these records may refer to long-staying flocks which are infrequently seen because of their tendency to stay low down on the sidelands in the north of the island. Fifteen were seen on 30th December. See Table 1.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*. One was seen on 7th September.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*. Single birds were seen on 15th May, 27th June, 21st July, four dates in August and three dates in early October.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*. Single birds were seen on 27th May, 2nd June, 29th to 31st July, 18th and 27th August and 1st September.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. One was seen on 27th and 28th May.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*. After singles on 22nd and 28th April, there were records on eight dates from 4th to 18th May, with two birds on 6th and 15th. Later singles followed on 30th May and 8th June. Returning migrants were seen on eight dates from 22nd July to 24th October, with two birds on 13th August and 2nd September.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*. There were several reports of up to four birds in January and up to three in February, then singles on 4th and 20th May. After one on 1st July there were occasional records to the end of the year, mainly of ones and twos but with three on 26th July and four on 11th August.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*. One was seen on the boat crossing on 27th April, a dark-phase bird off the south of the island on 19th May and two dark-phase off the north on 9th July. A further sighting on the crossing was on 18th September.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*. Singles were seen on boat crossings on 30th May and 11th September.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*. After one on 16th January, three on 9th February and one on 1st April, there were seven records of up to three birds in May. In autumn there were seven further records, spread between 24th July and 28th October,

all of single birds apart from two on 21st October.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*. Up to thirty were present in the period 3rd to 11th February. Two on 21st October and one on 9th November were the only autumn records.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*. Breeding. After occasional singles seen in January and early February, birds were recorded as present daily from 17th February to late October. Counts included fifty-two in the Landing Bay on 23rd February, 150 on 20th August and 312 on 23rd September. Counts were in single figures by the end of October. There were four records of up to four in November and two singles in December.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. There were no counts until late October, when there were between twenty-five and ninety, apart from a count of 132 flying south on 29th; then fifty on 16th November.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included eight in the Landing Bay on 24th February, forty on 13th September and up to thirty-one in late October, when there was some visible southward movement.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*. Breeding. Recorded regularly until early August, with up to 150 seen in January and 100 in February. In autumn there was a series of records from 7th October to 3rd November, including at least fifty on 20th and 21st October.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*. In April there were two on 6th, singles on 10th and 24th and two on 25th, with a further single on 8th May. An unidentified tern *Sterna* sp. was in the Landing Bay on 1st November.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*. Breeding. After occasional records in January and February, birds were present daily from early March to 1st August. A pale-billed bird was seen at Long Roost for the eleventh successive year. Small numbers were seen between 11th and 30th October and thirty-nine ashore in Jenny's Cove on 30th November.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*. Breeding. After occasional ones and twos in January and February, birds were seen daily from early March to late July, with a few subsequent singles to 13th August. The only later record was of one flying south on 1st November.

**Ancient Murrelet** *Synthliboramphus antiquus*. After the remarkable 1990 record of this North Pacific species, one returned for the breeding season. It was first found, in Jenny's Cove, on 14th April and was seen there on most days until 20th June (A.M. Jewels *et al.*). It was most often seen early in the morning and from early May it usually went into a burrow for the day.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*. Presumed breeding. Two were seen on 31st March, then birds were reported on most days from 14th April to 2nd August. Most counts were in single figures and can be assumed to refer to small areas of the island only. More specific records included three off the East Side on 22nd June, twelve in Jenny's Cove on 7th July and seven off the North End on 22nd July. Birds were entering burrows in Jenny's Cove in July, but not reported carrying fish.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*. Single birds were seen between 16th and 23rd April, 15th and 20th May and 20th and 24th October.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*. Recorded sporadically throughout the year. Maximum counts were three in January, five or six in each of the following five months, then between three and five from July to October. In late November there was an influx of seventy-five on 21st, with eighteen the following day. The only December reports were of a single bird on 29th and 30th.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*. After the first arrived on 14th April, birds were seen on most days to the end of the year. Numbers increased steadily to reach sixty in late May and early June. After eighty on 8th June, they dropped again to levels of about fifteen throughout July and single figures in August and September. In October they rose again slightly to peak at fifteen on 22nd. Up to eleven remained to the end of the year. This is the highest-ever set of counts for the island and the first year in which birds have stayed for the winter. See Table 1.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*. After one from 25th to 28th April and two on 5th May, the main spring passage was between 21st May and 7th June, with a peak of twelve on 31st May. One later bird arrived on 14th June. Autumn records were all of single birds, on 31st August, 1st, 13th and 23rd September, 13th to 22nd and 26th October.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*. One or two birds were present on most days from 23rd April to 31st May. There were then singles on 19th, 23rd and 24th June and 30th August.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*. One was seen in Millcombe, being mobbed by small birds, on 28th October (D.Bucknell, A.M.Taylor, S.Wing). This is only the ninth Lundy record, but the third year running that one has been seen in autumn.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*. Single birds were seen on 26th February and 14th April. An unidentified owl at Pondsburry on 17th April is likely to have been this species. In autumn there was one on 15th September, then daily records of one or two from 21st October until an exceptional five were seen together near Pondsburry on 28th. There were further singles on 11th, 26th and 27th November, 2nd and 3rd December.

**Swift** *Apus apus*. The first ten were seen on 24th April. There were daily records throughout May, with peak counts of fifty on 5th and 6th, 100 on 9th, 250 on 15th and thirty on 27th. There were then scattered reports until 5th August, with numbers mainly in single figures but in July forty on 2nd, fifteen on 22nd and twenty-six on 31st. There were subsequent singles on 24th August, 6th and 19th September. See Table 1.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*. One was seen in the Millcombe area on 3rd and 4th May.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*. Single birds were seen on the East Side on 25th and 26th September and 1st, 3rd and 4th October.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included eleven on 16th January, thirty on 9th February, about twenty for much of October but seventy-five on 22nd, then ten or fewer in the final two months.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*. The first two were seen on 9th March. There were then records on most days from 17th March to 2nd July, mainly in single figures until May when peaks included 350 on 9th, 100 on 14th and fifty on 26th. There were fewer again in June, the maximum being fifty on 14th. After fifty-five on 21st July there were sporadic records, mainly of ones and twos, until 15th October. Larger movements in this period included seventeen on 18th August and twenty on 15th and 19th September. See Table 1.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. The first was seen on 30th March. After small numbers of migrants in early April, there were daily records from 20th April to the last of the year on 4th November. Spring peaks included 200 on 27th April, 1500 on 9th May and 500 on several days in the following week, then 200 on 26th May and 100 on 1st and 14th June. July and August numbers were mainly in single figures apart from 100 on 18th August. The autumn passage included 300 on 15th September and 450 on 19th, then 250 on 8th October and 120 on 22nd. See Table 1.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*. After the first bird on 11th April and another on 15th, there were daily records from 25th April to early July. The main movements were in May, with 300 birds on 12th, 200 on 15th and 26th. In June there were up to fifty in the first half, then up to twenty to early July. There were ten birds present in late July and at this time two partly-made nests were being visited regularly, above the eastern entrance to the Needle's Eye cave, but there was no firm evidence of breeding. After occasional small numbers in August, the main autumn movement was in mid September, with forty on 15th and sixty on 19th. Small numbers continued to move through until 30th October. See Table 1.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One was seen at Tibbett's on 21st May. In Autumn one was seen on 8th, 9th and 11th October.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. Single birds were seen on eight dates from 27th April to 29th May, then two on the last two days of May. In autumn there were singles on 25th August and 8th September, then two or three on five dates in mid September and three singles in October, the last on 20th. See Table 1.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Ten were recorded on 27th January and there was passage of up to 100 birds on several dates between 9th March and 8th April. Autumn migration involving up to 300 birds was noted on four days in the first half of October and up to ninety birds in the second half.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. The highest count was twenty on 22nd October.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*. Spring migrants were seen on fourteen days between 5th May and 1st June, with up to four birds a day. Males of the blue-headed race *M.f. flava* were seen on 18th and 23rd May. In autumn one was seen on five days in late August, then four on 1st and one or two on most days from 5th to 26th September, rising to five on 15th and fifteen on 17th. One late bird was reported on 9th October.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*. In May, one was seen on 9th, two on 13th and one on 31st. One or two were present on fourteen days between 19th September and 29th October, with three on 23rd October. See Table 2.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*. After one from 23rd to 25th February, there were birds on most days from 5th March, when eight arrived, to 10th June. Counts were mainly about five or less but there were fourteen on 21st March and twelve on 23rd April. In the month following the latter date, a few individuals of the continental race *M.a. alba* were present on many days. There were sporadic records of up to four birds from 20th June to late August. These included a juvenile in early July but there was no direct evidence of breeding this year. Birds were seen on most days from 24th August to 15th November, with peak counts of fourteen on 5th, ten on 13th and seven on 19th September, eight on 6th, nine on 13th and twelve on 22nd October. See Table 2.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included ten on 12th January and at least twenty on 22nd October.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Twenty-five were counted on 22nd October.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Forty were counted on 22nd October.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*. One was reported on 16th May, followed by three on 27th and one the next day. In autumn there was one on 3rd October.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A female was seen on 10th May and another on 27th and 28th May. The only autumn birds were two on 27th and 28th October.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. In spring there were records on about half the days from 14th April to 2nd June. Many of the reports were of one or two birds. Higher numbers in May included four on 9th and six on 27th and 31st. A later single was seen on 14th and 16th June. In autumn there were eight singles in September and a series of records of up to three birds from 6th to 15th October. See Table 2.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*. There were three singles in April from 24th onwards, then one or two on many days in May, rising to ten on 9th, seven on 16th and five on 27th. There were three singles in June, the last on 17th. In autumn, birds were seen on thirteen days between 27th August and 15th October. Most of these records were of single birds but there were three on 20th September and two on two October dates. See Table 2.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*. A female was seen on 3rd and 25th March. In autumn, birds were present on seventeen days from 19th September to 25th October. In most cases one or two birds were involved but there were five on the 9th and six on 15th October.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Breeding. The first bird of the year was seen on 16th March. Spring migrants were present on most days from then onwards, with peaks of twelve on 27th March, fifteen on 20th and twenty-seven on 28th April. However, the bulk of them passed through in May, when there were 150 on 9th, 200 on 15th and 150 on the following two days, and 100 on 26th. Small numbers remained through the

summer to breed. In late July three pairs were located feeding large young and there were also at least seven juveniles that were already independent. From August onwards there were almost daily reports, mainly in single figures but with influxes including twenty-five on 18th August and 7th September, fifty on 15th September and twenty on 19th, and thirty-six on 4th October. In the second half of October there were only ones and twos, the last being on 28th. See Table 2.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*. There were ten spring records between 10th April and 31st May, all of single birds except for two on 25th April. After the first autumn bird on 11th September, there were records on almost half the days between 26th September and 26th October. Most were of single birds but in October there were six on 12th, ten on 15th and eight on 24th.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included thirty-five on 20th January, up to 200 in late October, when migrants were present, and forty on 20th December.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*. Up to three were seen regularly in January. Influxes in February included thirty on 10th, sixteen on 18th and fifteen on 25th. One or two were then seen on most days to 13th March, followed by one on 13th and three on 23rd April. The first autumn bird was seen on 13th October and there were several large movements over the following month, with peaks of 200 on 23rd October, 300 on 6th November and eighty-five on 15th. There were several records, of up to thirty birds, later in November and up to five in the first week of December. A final bird was seen on 29th December. See Table 2.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. In most months the maximum count was five or six but there were up to twenty in mid February, only one or two reported in July and August and migrants in late autumn leading to totals between twenty and forty in the period 18th to 26th October and thirty on 6th November. A pair was seen carrying food in late May and two juveniles were present in early June. See Table 2.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*. Birds were present on many days in the first three months of the year, with up to sixteen in January, fifty on several dates in February and seventy-four on 19th, and an arrival of 300 on 14th March. Late spring records included two on 13th and 14th April and one on 9th May. The first autumn birds were seen on 9th October and there were records on most days from then to the end of the year. Major influxes included 500 on 20th, 350 on 22nd and 240 on 26th October, 500 on 6th and 100 on 10th November and 100 on 2nd, 14th and 24th December. See Table 2.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*. One was seen on 22nd July. There was a small autumn movement between 8th and 30th October, involving up to three birds on ten days.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*. After the first arrival on 13th April, there were singles or up to three on many days to 19th May, with a major arrival in the middle of this period: twenty on 7th rising to 100 on 9th May. A late single was seen on 31st May. The only autumn records were singles on 15th September and 9th October.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. The spring passage was from 21st April to 2nd June, with up to ten birds reported on most days in this period but a major arrival of 100 on 9th May. In autumn there was one on 30th July, two on 18th August and six reports in September: 100 arrived on 15th but other counts were of three or less, the last being on 27th.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. One or two spring birds were seen on five dates from 30th April to 31st May. In autumn there were five singles between 1st and 25th September, followed by a late bird ringed on 28th October.

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*. One was seen in Millcombe on 20th September.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*. In spring there were ten records from 4th May to 3rd June, all referring to single birds apart from two on 15th May. In autumn there were four singles, from 25th August to 19th September.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*. Spring records were from 20th April to 16th June, with four in April, five in June and birds on most days in May. Most counts involved one to five birds but there were peaks of ten on 10th, twenty-five on 27th and thirty on 31st May. In autumn there were up to four on ten days between 25th August and 26th September, then late singles on 8th and 25th October. See Table 3.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*. After the first on 3rd May, there were eight singles in the rest of the month and three on 31st. One was seen on 2nd August, then a further ten singles from 30th August to the end of September. Seven October records involved up to five birds, the last being on 23rd. See Table 3.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*. The first spring bird arrived on 10th April and records were regular from 16th April to the end of May. Most counts were four or less but there were eight on 25th April and twenty on 9th May. There were three June singles, the last on 17th. After four records in the second half of September, birds were present throughout October and to mid November, mainly in single figures but with influxes of fifteen on 9th, twenty on 15th and 200 on 23rd October. Two were seen on 30th November and one on 1st December. See Table 3.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One was in St Helen's Combe on 8th October.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. The first spring bird was seen on 24th April. It was followed by twos on 28th April and 6th May, singles on 23rd and 27th May and four on 31st. In autumn there were just two singles, on 30th August and 26th September.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*. The first were seen on 13th March. Numbers remained in single figures until late April, when they rose to fifty on 23rd, and 150 on 25th. Birds were present throughout May but numbers only went above ten on 5th, 12th and 17th, when there were between fifteen and twenty-five. One or two were seen throughout June. Autumn records were from 25th August to 21st November. Numbers were low through September, with one or two on most days but six on 26th. There were no major movements in October either, with peaks of fifteen on 9th and twelve on 23rd. The five November records included five birds on 16th. See Table 3.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*. After one on 30th March, most spring migrants were seen between 10th April and mid May. Peak totals included fifty on 13th April, 200 on 22nd, 500 on 25th and 100 on 27th, then 300 on 3rd May and 1000 on 9th. There were two counts of twenty in late May, then just one on 1st and two on 17th June. Returning birds were seen on most days from 21st July to 15th October. The only counts above ten were twenty-four on 2nd and thirty on 18th August, up to thirty-three on 1st to 4th September and forty on 15th September. See Table 3.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*. One was seen on 3rd January. There were scattered spring records from 17th March to 17th May but the maximum counts were only three in March, two in April and one in May: very low compared with the previous three years. In autumn birds were present on most days from 20th September to 5th November but again numbers were very low compared with the previous few years. The only counts above ten were between 6th and 9th October, with up to twenty, and on 22nd, 24th, 28th and 30th October, with twelve birds in each case. Late singles were seen on 23rd November and 29th December. See Table 3.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*. Breeding. The first was seen on 2nd May. There was a gradual build-up of numbers to twenty on 16th and 17th, then a drop before the major passage of the year with 100 on 26th and 27th May. After twenty on 1st June, numbers were in single figures through the summer. In July, a pair was seen carrying

food on the Terraces on 23rd, and later two fledged juveniles were there. At the same time a pair was in Millcombe, seen mating on 21st and incubating from 23rd. The first autumn increase was to twenty-two on 18th August. For the next month there were about ten on many days, rising to thirty on 15th September. Thereafter there were mainly ones and twos until the last on 9th October. See Table 3.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*. One was in the St. Helen's Combe area on 30th October.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*. After singles on 10th, 16th and 24th April, there were more frequent records between 27th April and 16th May, involving up to four birds. There were three further records at the end of the month, including four on 31st. Most autumn birds passed through between 24th August and 20th September, with peak counts of nine on 2nd September and twenty on 6th. Later singles were seen on 26th September and 8th and 9th October. See Table 3.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*. One was present daily from 15th to 30th October. However ringing showed that at least two individuals were involved.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*. Two arrived on 15th October and were seen until 22nd, then one remained until 10th November. Singles were also seen on 18th to 20th and 30th December.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*. A female was present from 21st October to 6th November.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*. One was seen from 25th October to 2nd November.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*. A male was seen and heard singing in Millcombe on 26th May. A female was present from 31st May to 3rd June.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*. One was seen in the Millcombe area on 27th June (J. Alford, P.A.T. Clabburn, A.M. Jewels *et al.*). There have been about thirty previous records, the majority in late spring.

**Maggie** *Pica pica*. A dead bird was found floating in the Landing Bay on 13th February.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*. Birds were seen on many days between 3rd March and 6th May. Maximum numbers were four in March, nine in April and twenty on 4th May. Two were seen from 25th to 27th October. A dead bird was found in the chimney of Millcombe House in November.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*. Two were seen on 14th February.

**Carriion Crow** *Corvus corone*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included twelve on 20th January, twenty-eight on 30th July, twenty-seven on 2nd September and twenty-one on 22nd October. A Hooded Crow *C. c. cornix* was seen on 23rd April.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included twelve on 26th January, sixteen on 3rd March, twenty on 26th May, twenty-eight on 13th October.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Peak counts early in the year were 160 in late January, 200 in February, 300 in mid March. At the end of the breeding season there were 200 in late July and 300 at the end of August. There were several big movements in late autumn including 2000 on 23rd October and 1000 on 10th and 21st November. About sixty remained to the end of the year.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Before the breeding season, all estimates were of about thirty birds. By August there were fifty. In October there were an estimated 100 on 14th and eighty towards the end of the month. Forty remained in December.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. One was seen on several occasions between 27th May and 10th June. This is only the third record in twelve years; previously the species was more frequent, reflecting its numbers on a national scale.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*. Breeding. Present throughout the year. Counts included five through January, twenty on 8th February, six in mid August and twenty in December. There were significant southward movements over the island on several days in late autumn, including 200 on 13th October, 2050 on 23rd and 500 on 29th, and 500 on 6th November.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. The first arrived on 9th October, then ten on 19th, thirty on 21st and fifty-six on 22nd. Small numbers continued to be recorded until 6th November.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*. Singles were seen on eight dates in the first three months of the year. Up to four were present between 14th April and 10th May, then one on 19th June. There were several short series of records in October, peaking at six on 1st, five on 15th and fourteen on 23rd. In November there were five records of up to three birds. See Table 3.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*. Up to five were seen in the first twelve days of the year, then two in early February. There were spring records from 10th April to 2nd June. Most involved one to three birds but four were present in early May and six on 10th. The main autumn movement was from 5th to 24th October, with three counts of twenty to thirty birds in the middle of this period. Occasional ones and twos were seen until 7th December. See Table 3.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*. Spring records are extremely unusual but two birds were seen on 19th May. The first autumn birds arrived on 15th September, then fourteen on 19th. Small numbers were present throughout October, with arrivals of twelve on 15th, thirty-nine on 23rd and fifteen on 30th. There were four November singles, the last on 22nd.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*. Breeding. Recorded in all months except January, but only sporadically and in small numbers outside the period April to early November. Numbers built up to fifty in April and there were 100 through August, then about fifty through September and October.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*. One was seen on the Airfield on 6th October.

**Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*. One was seen on 24th April, then up to three were present on 8th and 14th May and one on 18th and 23rd May. Two were seen on most days from 13th to 22nd October, followed by one on 30th, two on 23rd November and one on 30th November and 1st December.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*. Two females were seen on several dates from 27th May to 12th June, with singles on 14th and 30th June and 7th July.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. An immature was in Millcombe on 8th October.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*. Singles were seen on 22nd and 23rd September, 9th and 13th October. One was present from 24th to 27th October with three in all on 26th.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Single males in summer plumage were seen on 7th April and from 11th to 17th May — unusually late but not unprecedented. In autumn, birds were seen on many days from 1st to 27th October, mainly three or less but with six on 21st and four on 23rd. There were four November records involving one or two birds.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*. A first-winter bird was seen at Quarry Pond on 8th September and another was in the village on 29th and 30th September.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*. One was caught and ringed at Quarter Wall on 14th October (J. Arnold, C. Matthews, S. J. Wing). This record has been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee and if accepted it will be the ninth for Lundy. Apart from one spring bird, all have been in October or early November.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoenicus*. A pair was seen on 7th May. In October there were two on 6th and singles on 13th and 15th.

**LUNDY RARITIES:** Records rejected because they were undocumented or descriptions inconclusive.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*. One on 17th August.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. One on 24th April.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*. Two on 27th May.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*. Five on 1st October.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*. One on 27th April.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*. One on 24th and 26th April.

**Black-eared Wheatear** *Oenanthe hispanica*. One on 12th May.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. One on 11th September.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*. One on 12th May.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Golden Plover	0.4 0.5	3.9 3.5	1.9 1.1	0.1 0.1 0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3 0.2	0.7 1.2 0.4		2.2
Snipe	0.9 2.3 1.5	8.4 4.0 0.5	0.5 0.6 1.0	0.6 0.2 0.3	0.5 0.4		0.5	0.1 0.5	2.8 0.9 1.1	2.0 2.4 4.8	0.7 0.8 1.6	0.2 1.8 3.6
Whimbrel				0.9 1.5	8.1 6.8 0.7	0.2 0.2	3.7	0.1 0.8	2.7	1.2		
Curlew	0.1	0.6 0.7		1.0	0.7 0.6 0.3	0.1 0.3	2.8 0.1 1.1	0.6 0.9	3.3 5.0 0.1	0.5 2.7 2.4	0.1	1.4
Collared Dove				0.8 4.9	9.3 13 34	35 15 11	9.4 6.1 9.4	3.9 3.4 3.1	3.1 3.2 4.0	4.4 7.2 9.6	9.1 2.7 4.8	4.9 3.5 4.1
Swift				1.3	27 58 11		5.9	4.6	1.0 0.1	0.1 0.1		
Sand Martin			0.2 0.4 2.3	0.3 2.1 3.1	56 32 15	6.8 8.4 1.6	0.5 5.3	1.9 0.1	0.2 4.0 1.7	0.5 0.1		
Swallow			0.4	0.7 5.0 64	247 260 90	26 18 14	3.6 2.0 2.8	1.4 12 6.2	15 91 41	71 46 36	1.0	
House Martin				0.2 1.2	18 81 38	16 14 6.2	2.7 0.2 3.4	0.2 0.8 0.5	0.5 13 7.1	1.3 3.9 2.0		

**Table 1: Waders, Collared Dove, Swift and Martins on Lundy, 1991.**

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tree Pipit				0.1	0.2 0.2 0.5			0.1	0.1 0.8 0.4	0.1 0.2		
Grey Wagtail					0.1 0.2 0.1				0.2 0.2	0.5 0.3 0.6		
Pied Wagtail		0.4	1.0 2.4 3.5	1.5 2.4 5.5	2.9 2.2 1.6	0.7 0.1 0.4	0.9 0.4 1.0	0.3 1.1 1.4	4.3 3.7 3.6	3.0 3.8 3.5	0.2 0.5	
Redstart				0.4 0.8	1.1 0.6 2.0	0.8 0.2			0.3 0.2 0.3	0.4 0.9		
Whinchat				0.3	1.9 1.2 1.5	0.1 0.2		0.2	0.1 0.6 0.2	0.4 0.2		
Wheatear			0.7 5.5	2.3 6.8 14	48 79 31	2.5 1.4 3.1	0.9 1.2 3.5	3.3 5.2 3.2	6.9 11 6.8	5.2 2.1 0.5		
Fieldfare	0.4 0.8 0.3	7.5 3.7 2.1	0.8 0.1	0.1 0.3						1.4 108	561 16 2.9	0.9 0.1
Song Thrush	0.9 0.5 0.6	2.2 7.6 0.6	1.4 0.8 1.3	1.1 0.9 2.5	2.2 1.8 breeding	0.5	0.1 0.1 0.4	0.4 0.2 1.0	0.2 0.6 1.1	1.7 9.2 17	6.1 0.9 0.8	0.6 0.4 1.4
Redwing	3.5 3.2	16 25 2.9	0.1 32 0.2	0.4	0.1					0.6 94 150	95 13 6.7	35 24 23

**Table 2: Pipits, Wagtails, Chats and Thrushes on Lundy, 1991.**

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whitethroat				0.1 0.4	2.2 1.5 6.9	0.8 0.2			0.5 0.6 0.4	0.1 0.1		
Garden Warbler					0.5 0.1 0.5			0.1 0.1	0.3 0.2 0.4	0.7 0.5 0.3		
Blackcap				0.1 0.5 2.5	4.4 1.7 0.5	0.1 0.2			0.2 0.4	3.2 4.5 3.0	2.8 0.8 0.2	0.1
Chiffchaff			1.2 2.3	1.4 3.4 3.2	5.7 7.4 3.6	1.3 1.4 1.3	0.1	0.2	0.6 1.1 1.5	4.4 3.0 4.4	0.5 0.5 0.1	
Willow Warbler				1.0 12 124	189 29 6.9	0.1 0.2		1.0	8.8 6.9 1.4	1.0 0.3		
Goldcrest	0.1			0.2 0.5 0.1	0.2 0.3				0.6	7.2 6.0 7.7	1.1 0.1	
Spotted Flycatcher					0.8 8.2 27	6.2 2.2 1.4	0.7 0.2	breeding	5.9 5.5 1.3	1.1		
Pied Flycatcher				0.1 0.1 0.8	0.5 1.0 0.7				4.3 0.9 0.1	0.2		
Greenfinch	0.2 0.1	0.4	0.1	0.9 1.0	2.0	0.1				1.9 1.3 2.0	0.2 0.4 0.2	
Goldfinch	1.3 0.8	0.3		0.1 0.4 2.0	2.3 1.4 0.7	0.3				1.1 11 0.8	0.6 0.5 0.2	0.2

**Table 3: Warblers, Flycatchers and Finches on Lundy, 1991.**

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year.)