

BIRDS ON LUNDY, 1993

By

A. M. TAYLOR

26 High Street, Spetisbury, Blandford, Dorset DT11 9DJ

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

Last year's Review commented that Andrew Jewels's departure from the island would be a severe loss, because of his work in ensuring full and proper use of the L.F.S. log book and his field observations. Sadly this has proved very much the case and the 1993 bird records are so patchy in quality that they clearly do not give a true picture of migration. While some weeks had excellent coverage, many had almost none (the log book shows all too clearly which dates were Saturdays - when columns of records suddenly started filling up or ceased!). There was a regrettable tendency, particularly in summer and early autumn, for observers to list species as present without recording numbers. Since the answer could often be anything between one and hundreds or even thousands, the resulting loss of information is huge.

Because of these limitations, it has not been feasible to continue the bar-graphs introduced in 1992 showing passage of common migrants, so the previous system, giving tables of data, has been used again. In this form the information is at least available, even though less instantly interpreted.

A new feature of the systematic list that follows is a summary (shown in italics) of the status of each species on Lundy. This is intended to give a baseline with which to compare the 1993 records, also to some extent making up for the inadequate recording of some species and giving people not familiar with the island's birds an introductory picture.

Birds of 1993

Early in the year the highlights among the occasional records of visiting water birds, waders and thrushes were a Red-necked Grebe seen on 14th March and a hundred Redwings moving through the next day. By that time the first summer migrants had already arrived, with Wheatear and Chiffchaff both appearing in the previous week. More surprisingly, in the same spell, House Martins were the first hirundines reported and an early Willow Warbler was seen. In the second half of April, 24th was notable for the hundreds of Sand Martins, Swallows and Willow Warblers on the move.

Early May saw not only large numbers of Swallows, House Martins and Wheatears moving but also the first real rarities of the year: a Short-toed Lark on 2nd (seen also on 4th and - perhaps a different individual - from 12th), a Subalpine Warbler on 3rd continuing their recent upsurge in numbers and - the bird of the year on Lundy - an Alpine Accentor on 8th. Wildfowl, including Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose and Tufted Duck, were a surprising feature of the middle of the month. Then in late May and early June several more unusual species appeared including Montagu's Harrier, Hoopoe, Bluethroat, several Golden Orioles, Red-backed Shrike and a fine male Black-headed Bunting.

Breeding species included Song Thrushes which have become regular in recent years. A pair of Stonechats seems to have summered on the island but there is no evidence of breeding, perhaps due to a lack of observers. The same could also apply to other summering species like Swallow, Pied Wagtail and Spotted Flycatcher.

August and much of September received very sparse coverage. It is almost inconceivable that there was really not a single autumn Sedge Warbler on the island for instance. The only unusual species reported in this period were three Crossbills in late

August and a Wryneck on 4th September. When coverage improved in late September, a significant movement of Goldcrests was under way and a big influx of Siskins just starting. Both these species continue to rebuild their numbers after major declines in 1991. A second Wryneck and a Little Stint were also found in the final week.

October saw the usual good movements of Swallows, thrushes and Blackcaps. Lapland Buntings returned in pleasing numbers after a poor showing in the previous two years. Late in the month thousands of Starlings moved through and Chaffinches took over from Siskins as the dominant finch. The month's rarity highlights were two Rustic Buntings with a Little Egret, Long-eared Owl and the more usual Richard's Pipits, Yellow-browed Warblers and Red-breasted Flycatcher also notable. Two Dotterel and a Melodious Warbler were later in autumn than usual.

In early November the last of the summer migrants, Swallow and Blackcap, left and various wildfowl including six Barnacle Geese and a White-fronted Goose visited the island. The autumn finished on a high note with Andrew Jewels making a return trip and finding Lundy's first Pallas's Warbler - a gem of a bird, and the target of many unsuccessful island searches in the past.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

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.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.

One, 7th March. One adult, 27th October to 11th November, with two others on 4th November.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*.

Vagrant. Two previous records, in August 1957 and February 1991.

One was seen off Ladies Beach, 14th March (L. Gibson).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.

No unusual records or full breeding counts reported.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.

Reported from 18th April to 14th August. Maximum count much lower than usual: 500 offshore on 7th July.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

Occasional offshore in summer and autumn. Also recorded on the island at night in very small numbers.

One report: 14th August, number unspecified.

Gannet *Sula bassana*.

Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.

Reported frequently, 28th March to 9th November. High counts: one hundred on 27th May and seventy-five flying north on 28th October. Other records mainly in single figures.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: twenty-four records of up to eight birds, 25th March to 1st June. Autumn: ten records of up to four birds, 15th September to 7th November.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Breeding, present throughout the year.

No breeding counts reported. Seventeen on 28th September, then single figures thereafter.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Vagrant. Two previous records, in April 1957 and September 1989.

One flew north over the island on 11th October (G. K. Gordon).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.

Singles on twelve days, spread between 8th May and 8th October.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*.

Vagrant. Nineteen previous confirmed records, mainly in late autumn.

One was seen on Pondsby and elsewhere in the southern half of the island, usually in company with a Canada Goose, 10th to 15th May (S.F. Darling, T.J. Davis et al.). A second was with the domestic geese in Lighthouse Field, 5th to 7th November. Both were of the European race *A.a. albifrons*.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*.

Vagrant. Three previous dated records, two of them in spring.

One (later joined by a White-fronted Goose) was seen at Pondsby and elsewhere in the southern half of the island, 9th to 15th May (A.M. Jewels et al.). There were unconfirmed reports that it had arrived a few days earlier, with two other Canada Geese.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*.

Vagrant. Nine previous records, mainly in late autumn, several of which involved small flocks.

A flock of six was seen flying over the island and settled in the Rocket Pole area, 7th and 8th November (J. Alford, A.M. Jewels et al.).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*.

Vagrant. Ten previous records, mainly in autumn.

One was seen feeding near the Castle, 19th October (C. and N. Nicholson).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.

A pair on 7th November, the male remaining till 8th.

Teal *Anas crecca*.

Regular visitor, mainly in winter.

One, 27th February to 3rd March. One or two on six days, 20th October to 10th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Occasional visitor, but wild birds difficult to differentiate from the resident ones of domestic origin.

Up to thirty-five resident birds. One wild bird reported on 7th November.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*.

Vagrant. Of thirteen previous records, the majority have been in spring and early summer.

A drake was seen, mainly on Pondsby, 18th to 25th May (J. Alford et al.).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*.

Occasional visitor, seen more regularly in recent years.

One female, 27th October to 6th November.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Occasional spring and autumn migrant.

One, 15th to 28th October.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*.

Vagrant. Ten previous records, mainly in spring.

A female flew in off the sea to Millcombe, then north, 1st June (R. A. Duncan).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.

Singles, 4th January and 16th to 29th March. Five records of singles between 3rd and 23rd May involved at least two different birds. In autumn, just one from 16th to 20th October.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Uncommon visitor.

Singles, 24th February, 19th May, 25th October and 3rd and 4th December.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

Regular visitor, mainly in spring and autumn.

Spring: seen on twenty-four days from 7th March to 23rd May, all as singles apart from two on 25th April. Autumn: seen on most days from 31st July to 14th November, with peak counts of six in August and September, four in October and three in November.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

Spring: singles on eight days, 18th March to 28th April. Autumn: singles on nine days from 27th August to the end of September, then almost daily to 30th October, with two or three birds on most dates from 9th to 22nd.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.

One on 13th May.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Recorded in all months in recent years.

Up to four reported in late March and early May. Otherwise one or two present on many days from late February to the end of the year.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

Usually present in small numbers from September to April.

Singles seen on eight days in January and February, then one or two on eight days in October, with one found dead on 19th.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.

Recorded throughout the year. Maximum count ten in May.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: two on 8th and one on 17th May. Autumn: four reports, involving up to four birds, 8th August to 12th October.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two, 4th October - a later date than usual.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional visitor in all other months.

Spring: eight records of up to four birds, 14th April to 18th May. Autumn: twenty records between 25th September and 7th November, mainly of ones and twos but with six on 6th October.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant, less regular in winter.

Recorded in all months except August and December, Spring peak: twenty-three in late March. Autumn peak: forty-five on 31st October.

Knot *Calidris canutus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.
One, 9th April.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*.

Uncommon autumn migrant. One spring record.
One, 25th September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.
Unusually scarce: just one, on 29th December.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.

One, 2nd to 4th February. Spring: eleven records of up to three birds, 22nd April to 19th May. Autumn: thirty-one records, 19th July to 31st October, mainly of singles but with peaks of four in August and seven in early October.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late September to March.

Two on 23rd February, one remaining to 27th. Six records of up to two, 6th to 30th October.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Regular migrant and visitor, mainly August to April.

Spring: only eight records, 20th March to 4th May, with maximum of three on 30th March - fewer than usual. Autumn and winter: occasional ones and twos from 27th August to end of year, apart from the period 6th October to 11th November when there were reports on most days and a maximum of six.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.

Migrant and visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.

The only records were from 15th October to 7th November, with one or two on twelve days and three on 28th October.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: recorded on most days from 27th April to 28th May, peaking at twenty from 1st to 5th May. Thereafter unusually few, with singles on 28th June, 26th August and 31st October. See table 1.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, also visiting in all other months.

Unusually scarce in the first half of the year: just sixteen records of ones and twos, 17th April to end of June. Then reported sporadically until 17th November with peak counts of eight in July and about fifteen in August, September and October.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.
One, 5th October.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.
One, 5th October.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Three singles, 8th and 12th May and 8th August: fewer than usual.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late August to early May.

Singles, 5th May, 1st September, 5th and 18th October and 21st December.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*.

Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.
Two on 21st May.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

Uncommon visitor throughout the year.
Three on 20th February, one on 7th to 9th May, one on 12th June, five on 6th October and one on 8th October.

Common Gull *Larus canus*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.
One, 2nd May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.
Recorded between 19th February and 6th November. No breeding numbers reported.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*.

Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.
Present but largely uncounted. Up to one hundred in October and November.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Breeding. Present all year but few in winter.
Present, but largely uncounted. Up to forty in October.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.
Recorded from 1st March to 11th November. Counts included 250 on 21st April. Sporadic from the beginning of September, the most being thirty on 16th October.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to September.
Up to four seen daily, 22nd to 25th August.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to October.
One to 28th April, then three on 15th September and one on 16th.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

Breeding. Usually absent from early August to October, then sporadic until January.
Present from 1st January to 5th August. No complete breeding counts reported. Six records from 18th October onwards, including 300 on 2nd December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*.

Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.
Reported regularly between 7th March and 20th August - later than usual. No breeding counts reported. Nine records, all of four or less, 7th October onwards.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

Breeding now doubtful. Present in low numbers, April to August. Major decline in the last fifty years.
Present from 2nd April to 1st August. Highest count twenty-one on 28th May.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.
Four records of up to three birds, 17th October to 7th November.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

Breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.
Up to five seen regularly from 2nd February to 3rd October. Ones and twos seen on seven earlier dates, and up to four on four days in November and December.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*.

Recorded in all months in recent years. Common in spring and autumn.
Reported all year until 2nd November. Monthly peak counts of six or seven until

May, when they rose to eleven on 9th. Thereafter, numbers were often not recorded but they appeared to remain at nine or less, then decline through October. See table 1.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.

Spring: one or two on twenty-eight days, 6th May to 28th June. Autumn: singles, 5th September and 11th and 12th October.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two on 18th May. Otherwise scattered records of single birds, 4th April to 21st August, including a juvenile in June.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*.

Vagrant. Eight previous records, four of them in late autumn.

One was seen among the rhododendrons near St. Helen's Copse on 21st October (per R.J. Campey).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on four days from 8th to 31st October, then daily in early November, rising to four on 6th, then three on the next two days.

Swift *Apus apus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.

Reported sporadically, 19th April to 2nd September, all too often without numbers being specified. Maximum count of fifty on several days in early May. See table 1.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One, 30th May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

Uncommon migrant, more regular in autumn than spring.

One, 24th, 28th and 30th September.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

Vagrant. Seven previous records, three in May and four in autumn.

One was in the Rocket Pole and Southwest Field area, 2nd to 4th May (R. Bower et al.), then one - perhaps a second bird - by the Quarry Cottages, 12 to 14th May (T. J. Davis et al.).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

Breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers. Sporadic in winter.

Reported as present all year, without numbers being recorded except in late autumn, when the highest count was forty-four on 27th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.

Spring: three on 19th March, then seen on most days from 14th April to 17th May with peaks of one hundred on 24th April and forty on 7th May. Then reported, with numbers mainly in single figures, on twelve days to the end of June. Autumn: no meaningful summary possible because numbers were not recorded, except in October when single birds were seen on six dates up to 20th. See table 1.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

Spring: seen on most days from 20th March to 5th June, with peaks of 500 on 24th April and 1000 on 6th and 11th May. Apparently present through the summer and early autumn but numbers generally not recorded. Late autumn: seen on most days to 24th October, with peaks of 200 on 26th September and 2nd October and 500 on 11th October. Three late birds arrived on 7th November, with two seen the next day. See table 1.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: first reported on 11th March - exceptionally early. Then occasional records in single figures until the main passage from late April to early June. The peak count was 250 on 7th May. Present, but inadequately recorded, on many days in summer and early autumn. October: thirteen records of up to twenty-five birds, the last on 21st.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

Uncommon autumn migrant, with three spring records in recent years.

One was seen at various sites in the southern half of the island on 5th and 6th October (G. K. Gordon) and one in the Pondsby area on 19th and 20th October (G. K. Gordon and R. J. Campey).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles on seven days, 21st April to 12th May. Autumn: singles on six days, 10th September to 19th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant. Scarce in winter.

The only counts were 150 on 14th March and in late autumn generally between twenty and fifty but one hundred on 10th October.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Breeding. Resident.

The few counts reported were in single figures and presumably were not complete island censuses.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: one or two on seven days, 24th April to 28th May. Autumn: up to three on eleven days, 25th August to 15th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional visitor in summer and winter.

Spring: one or two on four days, 22nd April to 7th May. Autumn: up to four birds on fifteen days, 28th August to 23rd October.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.

Breeding in most years. Regular spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon in winter.

Present on most days from 11th February to 26th October, with most counts in single figures but peaks of ten on 5th May and twelve on 16th September. No breeding evidence reported. One or two birds seen on six days in November.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty-five on 7th November.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported count: twelve on 29th October.

Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*.

Vagrant. Not recorded on Lundy previously. Thirty-seven previous British records, only two of them in the last thirteen years.

One was watched feeding near the west end of Halfway Wall through much of the day on 8th May (J.K.G. Allen, R.L. Castle, K. Wimbush *et al.*).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.

Present all year. Highest reported count: seventeen on 29th October.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*.

Vagrant. Five previous records, four of them in autumn.

One of the red-spotted northern race *L.s.svecica*, was watched catching insects on the dung-heap at the top of the High Street, 27th May (A.M.Jewels *et al.*).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.

Spring: singles, 8th April and 4th May. Autumn: nine records of up to five birds, 24th September to 7th November.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: up to three recorded on eighteen days, 13th April to 15th May, then one on 4th June. Autumn: eleven records, all of single birds, 10th September to 21st October. See table 1.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.

Spring: one reported on 3rd April was unusually early. Then up to three on seven days, 26th April to 14th May. Autumn: eleven reports of up to three birds, 3rd August to 11th October. See table 1.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.

Recorded in all months. Breeds very occasionally. Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant.

Up to four reports of one or two birds in each of the first four months. Mid May to mid July: more frequent records, often of a pair, but no evidence of breeding reported. Autumn: up to ten seen almost daily from 26th October to 11th November. One on 29th December.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on most days after the first bird on 13th March, with numbers rising to one hundred on 4th to 6th May. Mid May to late September: reported as present without numbers being given apart from a few counts in June of up to twelve. October: up to four seen on ten days. One on 7th November. See table 1.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: five singles, 14th April to 8th May. Autumn: seen on thirteen days, 6th October to 11th November. Most were in the first week of this period, including ten on 11th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.

Present all year. The only counts were in late October and early November, with peaks of one hundred on 19th October and eighty on 8th November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn. Winter visitor during cold spells.

Spring: only six reports of up to twelve birds, 24th February to 1st April. Autumn: seen on most days from 3rd October to 24th November, peak numbers being one hundred on 14th October, 200 on 8th November and one hundred on 17th. See table 2.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

Regular breeding in recent years. Usually present throughout the year. Common migrant in early spring and late autumn.

Up to seven, including at least three recently fledged, seen regularly in spring. Otherwise there were sporadic records throughout the year to the end of September. Late autumn: seen daily in October, the major influxes being one hundred on 11th and eighty on 19th. Up to ten on the first eleven days of November and one on three days in December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*.

Common early spring and late autumn migrant. Winter visitor during cold spells.

Up to ten in early February, then ten records to 24th March, in single figures apart

from one hundred on 15th March. One on 14th April. Autumn: seen on most days from 28th September to 24th November, with counts reaching 200 on five dates and 300 on 8th November. December: seventeen reports of up to thirty birds. See table 2.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

Uncommon visitor, seen at all times of year except late summer but most regular as a late autumn migrant.

Spring: one, 1st May. Autumn: one or two on most days from 9th to 29th October.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.

Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.

Spring: up to five on most days from 21st April to 14th May, then one on 3rd June. Autumn: none reported.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on twenty-five days from 20th April to 24th May, with fifteen on 14th May but otherwise five or less. Autumn: none reported.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one on 5th June. Autumn: one on 28th September and two on 11th October, with one the following day.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.

Rare migrant, usually in autumn.

One was caught and ringed on 11th October: a late date for this species.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*.

Vagrant. Five previous accepted records, the first as recently as 1985. Four have been in spring.

A male was caught and ringed in St John's Valley on 3rd May (J. Allen, R.L.Castle and K. Wimbush).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: six records, 28th April to 12th May, involving one or two birds except on 30th April when there were six. Autumn: singles, 14th September and 15th October.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on most days from 21st April to 5th June. Numbers were in single figures apart from twelve on 10th and twenty-five on 14th May. Autumn: reported as present on 7th and 8th September, then one on 6th October. See table 2.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: recorded on fifteen days from 27th April to 30th May, the maximum being six on 10th May. Autumn: four September records, then seen on most October days to 19th, including twelve on 11th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.

Spring: seen on most days from 15th April to 5th June, the most being eight on 20th April. Autumn: reported between 11th September and 11th November, with peaks in October of seventy on 5th, 130 on 11th, 120 on 19th and fifty on 29th. Twenty-six on 7th November was an unusually large influx for that month. See table 2.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*.

Vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One was watched feeding on the Terrace on 11th and 12th November (A.M.Jewels).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

In October, one on 6th and 7th, three on 10th and one on 12th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: one on 16th April, then singles on five days in early May, followed by two on 13th. Autumn: reported as present on 1st to 5th September - numbers not given.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter in recent years.

Spring: recorded from 10th March to 18th June, with a peak of fifty on 19th April. Autumn: present from 14th September to 31st October, the highest counts being ten on 10th, 11th and 19th October. One bird on the latter date was thought to be of the northern subspecies *P.c.abietinus*. See table 2.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one was reported on the early date of 15th March, followed by five records over the next month. Then present on most days to 4th June, with peaks of 200 on 19th and 300 on 24th April. Autumn: recorded as present on many days from 12th July to 15th October but with few counts given, the only high ones being one hundred on 27th August and 200 the next day. An exceptionally late bird was seen on 7th November. See table 2.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter and summer visitor (has bred occasionally).

Spring: up to five were seen on thirteen days from 18th March to 3rd May. Autumn: present on many days from 8th September to 19th November, with peaks of 200 on 26th September and fifty on five dates in October. See table 2.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.

Spring: one, 26th April. Autumn: seen on sixteen days from 6th October to 8th November. There were four on 11th October but other records were of one or two.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.

Breeding in recent years. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Reported as present on many days from 1st May to 12th October but uncounted for much of the summer. The highest spring count was twenty on 24th May. The highest of the very occasional counts in subsequent months was ten. See table 2.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

In October, one on 6th and another on 9th and 10th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

Regular migrant, small numbers in spring and common in autumn.

Spring: up to three on eighteen days from 11th April to 22nd May. Autumn: reported as present, but mainly uncounted, through September. Two on 7th and 11th October.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

One was seen on 2nd and 6th April.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

Up to four were present, 21st to 29th October, then one was seen regularly through November with a second on 10th. One on 19th December.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

Uncommon spring migrant.

One on 27th and 28th May, then up to three daily, 30th May to 6th June.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*.

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

A female was seen on 6th June.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Sixty arrived on 16th October, then numbers decreased gradually to one on 22nd. With another arrival there were twenty-three on 23rd and again numbers dropped gradually, the last being seen on 2nd November.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. Counts included twenty-six on 13th February and thirteen on 16th October.

Raven *Corvus corax*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. Counts included twenty-seven on 24th May and twenty-two on 10th November.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

Present all year. Peak autumn counts were 1000 on 19th October and 1100 on 26th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. The highest of several late autumn counts was eighty-five.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year. Late autumn migrant in large numbers.

Present all year. Peak autumn counts were 800 on 19th October, 400 on 29th October and 400 on 2nd November.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*.

Rare spring and common late autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Seen on most days from 8th October to 12th November, the most being ten on 30th October. A later bird appeared on 23rd November.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

Common late autumn migrant. Uncommon visitor through the rest of the year.

Spring: up to three were seen on six days from 2nd April to 11th May. Autumn: up to five seen on most days from 5th October to 10th November.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

Common spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon winter and summer visitor.

Spring: seen on many days from 7th April to 30th May, the most being eight on 25th April. Autumn: seen on most days from 2nd October to 20th November, with October peaks of twenty on 20th and fifteen on 28th. One on 13th December.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.

Late autumn migrant, numbers varying greatly from year to year.

Seen on most days from 25th September to 12th November. Numbers exceeding one hundred on eleven days in October, including 400 on 10th and 250 on 19th.

Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*.

Breeding. Irregular migrant, mainly in autumn. Uncommon winter visitor.

Present from 10th March to 11th November. Counts included a flock of one hundred on 13th September and up to sixty in late October.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*.

Uncommon summer and autumn visitor.

One on 28th and three on 31st August, then, in October, thirteen on 4th and one on 26th.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

A male was seen on 20th March.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*.

Regular autumn migrant in small numbers. Has also been recorded in winter and spring.

Seen on most days from 3rd to 29th October, with peak counts of fourteen on 8th and 20th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Seven records of up to four birds, between 25th September and 11th November.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional summer and winter visitor.

Two were seen on 16th and 17th October.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*.

Vagrant. Two previous accepted records, in 1986 and 1990, both in October.

One was caught and ringed in St John's Valley, 8th October (J.M.B. King et al.), and a second seen in Punchbowl Valley, 20th October (G.K. Gordon).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional summer and winter visitor.

One or two were seen on ten days from 12th to 29th October.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*.

Vagrant. One previous record, in September 1957.

A male was seen at various sites in the southeast of the island from 24th to 27th May and singing in St John's Valley on 4th June (R.A. Duncan, D. Parker et al.).

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

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*. One on 21st July.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Five from 12th to 24th February.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*. One on 28th October and 3rd November.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*. One dead on 1st December.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. One on 18th and 19th September.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*. One on 24th May.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*. One on 20th July.

Serim *Serinus serinus*. Two on 1st November.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whimbrel				1.2	11 1.0 0.7	0.1		0.1		0.1		
Collared Dove	2.0 1.3	3.2 1.1	2.6 2.5 1.6	3.6 3.4 18	5.2 5.3 4.6	6.6 4.8 3.5	4.0 P P	P P P	P P 6.8	3.9 2.1 1.0	0.6	
Swift				0.3	20 3.4 4.3	1.6 2.4	P 1.0 P	0.2	0.2			
Sand Martin			0.3	2.2 18	17 7.3 1.1	0.5 1.2 1.2	15 P P	2.7	P P	0.3 0.3		
Swallow			0.2 1.2	1.6 16 92	300 336 49	9.0 7.3	P P P	P P P	P P 76	48 68 5.5	0.5	
House Martin			1.8 0.5	0.3 0.8 11	87 36 31	9.8 4.0 0.6	0.1 P P	0.1 P	P P 1.4	1.4 5.6 0.2		
Redstart				0.4 0.8	0.6 0.8	0.1			0.1 0.1	0.3 0.5 0.1		
Whinchat				0.1 0.3	0.3 0.6			0.1 0.1 0.1	0.6 0.3	0.2 0.1		
Wheatear			4.1 3.9	P 14 20	60 30 P	1.3 3.6 9.0	P P P	P P P	P P 0.4	0.8 1.0 0.1	0.1	

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1993.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year. P = present: numbers unreported.)

25

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fieldfare		0.2 0.1	1.6	0.1						1.8 48 33	56 26 2.0	
Redwing		1.8 0.4	1.1 12 0.1	0.1					0.2	45 98 70	68 30 4.0	7.8 5.6 8.5
Whitethroat				2.0	2.1 4.9 0.4	0.4			0.2	0.1		
Blackcap				1.8 2.2	1.1 1.1 0.3	0.3			0.2 1.0	17 41 9.6	4.3 0.2	
Chiffchaff			0.2 0.3 0.2	3.1 6.5 16	6.2 6.2 1.0	2.6 0.3			P P	4.3 3.8 1.9		
Willow Warbler			0.1 0.5	33 59	17 7.6 0.4	1.1	0.2 0.3	P 64	P P 0.3	0.9 0.5	0.1	
Goldcrest			0.7 0.5	0.2 0.6	0.1				1.2 0.3 57	34 21 4.2	1.1 0.6	1.0
Spotted Flycatcher				3.2 7.4 1.7	5.8 1.7 2.5	0.3 0.5 10		P 5.0	0.1 6.0 2.4	1.1 0.3		

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers and Spotter Flycatcher on Lundy, 1993.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year. P = present: numbers unreported.)