

## BIRDS ON LUNDY, 1994

By

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### Introduction

For much of the year the level of coverage of the island by birdwatchers varied greatly from week to week, as in 1993. Again, it was felt that the use of bar graphs to show common migrant species' numbers would not be justified in these circumstances but tables of the data are included. These show the gaps all too clearly - in mid September, for instance. With the arrival of Andrew Jewels in October and the new warden Emma Parkes in November, the consistency of coverage improved greatly. The signs are encouraging for 1995 too.

#### Birds of 1994

Occasional records of Redwings and other thrushes, waders (such as Snipe and Jack Snipe) and a wintering Blue Tit preceded the arrival of the first summer migrants. Sand Martin, Chiffchaff and an early Willow Warbler appeared on the 9th and 10th March, Wheatear and Swallow at the end of the month.

In April, numbers of most common migrants reported were very low. Records of note included unusual numbers of Jackdaws and a Golden Oriole. A feature of the spring was the number of finch species seen, in addition to the regular four (Chaffinch, Linnet, Goldfinch, Greenfinch). A Brambling stayed till late May and Siskins, Redpolls, Hawfinch and Scarlet Rosefinch also appeared.

The first four days of May saw good numbers of migrants such as Swallow and Wheatear moving through, the first Swifts and Spotted Flycatchers and an exciting series of unusual species including Purple Heron, Subalpine Warbler and Woodchat Shrike, all of which stayed a week or so (sadly the Heron died on the island), and Marsh Harrier, Dotterel and Chough. Later in the month, two Quail arrived and there were regular records of up to three Golden Orioles.

As well as the island's regular breeding species, Swallow, Pied Wagtail, Chiffchaff and Spotted Flycatcher nested, with Song Thrush and Stonechat probably doing so too. Puffin numbers continue to decline, with most counts in single figures and no hard evidence of breeding.

July and August saw the usual trickle of migrating waders including up to four Green Sandpipers and two Little Stints. A more unexpected arrival was a Scaup in July. The last week in August produced the highest autumn counts of Sand Martin, Wheatear, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. Through much of September there were almost no reports of migrant species, presumably because of lack of observers rather than birds, but in the last few days good numbers of Swallows, Meadow Pipits and Goldcrests were moving, and the first autumn Redwings and Siskins arrived.

Early October brought several rarities including a Semipalmated Sandpiper, Rose-coloured Starling, Little Bunting and the first of a remarkable series of Richard's Pipit records that continued throughout the month. Short-toed Lark, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Rustic Bunting followed in the second week. Warblers finished off October well, with Dartford and Yellow-browed seen, Pallas's and a Siberian-race Lesser Whitethroat both ringed. The last ten days also produced the largest autumn movements of species such as Redwing, Starling and Chaffinch following a steady trickle of other common migrants through the rest of the month. On the debit side, the decline of Water Rails in recent years was evident.

November and December produced the usual scatter of thrush, finch and Snow Bunting records, late Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs and the autumn's second Long-eared Owl. Rarity highlights were Serin and Little Bunting in late November.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST

Note: "Lundy Rareties". 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.*

Singles, 8th March and 7th April. One adult seen on nineteen days from 21st October to the end of the year.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*.

*Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.*

Seen in all months. No unusual records or full breeding counts reported.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*.

*Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.*

Five reported off the North End on 17th February were exceptionally early. Recorded regularly between 28th March and 10th August but with no observations of the large offshore movements or feeding flocks of most years: maximum count was fifty. Forty were ringed on the night of 17th July, all caught in a single mist-net, suggesting that much higher numbers were visiting the island undetected. One late bird seen on 24th October.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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

Two, 30th June. Eight ringed at night between 17th and 22nd July.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

Five, 30th March. Heavy movement in late October, peaking at 300 on 24th. Otherwise up to sixteen on many days from early May to late November.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: counts on eleven days, 9th March to 30th May, peaked at eleven on 12th April. Autumn: seen on twenty-two days, 28th July to 27th November. Numbers mainly in single figures. Maximum thirty-six moving south on 30th August.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

Seen in all months. No breeding counts reported. Maximum count thirty in late August.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.*

Singles reported on eighteen days, 25th May to 13th October, probably involving nine different visiting birds.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, in April 1970 and April '78.*

An immature bird was seen on many occasions from 4th to 9th May, either in flight being mobbed by gulls or at various ponds on the island (J.K.Allen, A.Shepherd, K.Wimbush *et al.*). Possibly also present from 22nd April but descriptions inconclusive. It grew progressively weaker and was found dead on 10th.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*.

*Vagrant. Four previous dated records, three of them in spring.*

Three were seen on Pondsbury, 1st May (J.K.Allen, A.Shepherd, K.Wimbush).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*.

*Vagrant. Eleven previous records, mainly in autumn.*

Three were on Pondsbury from 16th to 18th September (M.Gade). This is the earliest autumn record for the island.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.*

Singles on 26th September, 18th to 25th October and 14th November.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in winter.*

Spring: one on 26th April. Autumn: one from 8th August, joined by three others on 11th. Three, 2nd September. Two present on many days, 17th October to 15th November, with eight on 19th October.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to thirty-two resident birds. Four on 14th November were considered to be wild visitors.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, in October 1955, May'65 and October '81.*

A drake was seen on Pondsbury on 18th July, presumably making a late move to a moulting site (A.M.Taylor).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*.

*Occasional visitor, seen more regularly in recent years.*

Thirty flew south on 5th November.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*.

*Vagrant. Up to thirteen previous records, all but three being in spring.*

A female soared over the north of the island, then left to the northwest, 1st May (P.A.T.Clabburn).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on 9th May, 31st August and 12th and 17th October.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

*Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: singles on four days, 25th March to 1st May. Autumn: one on most days from 3rd to 12th October and another on 24th October.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

Singles on 18th April, 29th May, 27th July and 13th August.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in spring and autumn.*

Singles on twelve dates from the New Year to 16th May, with two on 2nd January. Then reported frequently from 29th June to the end of the year, with peaks of five in August and eight in October.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Spring: singles on six days, 9th April to 16th May - later than usual. Autumn: one on 23rd August, then singles on twenty-five days, 26th September to 27th November and one on 30th December.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Spring: seen on eight days between 25th April and 6th May, with three on 3rd and 6th; then one on 11th and 13th June, unusually late. Autumn: one on 25th September.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Seen regularly throughout the year with monthly maxima of three or four in April, May and July to October; otherwise one or two.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*.

*Vagrant, mainly in spring, with twelve records this century to 1983. More frequent since 1988.*

Singles on 8th and 12th May.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

*Formerly present in small numbers from September to April but a decline has become evident in recent years.*

Singles on 14th February, 10th and 15th March, 10th and 15th October.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

*Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.*

Recorded through the year from early February. Peak counts were forty on 17th February, twenty-two on 23rd July and eleven on 31st December.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: three on 1st May, then singles on four days to 14th May. Autumn: four singles from 18th July, before two on 1st September.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One on 30th April, then four on 1st May.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Spring: thirteen reports of up to ten, 26th April to 18th May, then a late bird on 19th June. Autumn: eighteen records of up to six, 21st August to 24th October.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Reported in all months except January and September but regularly only in the breeding season. Peak counts included twelve on 12th April and seven on 11th October.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla*.

*Vagrant. The four previous records, between 1966 and 1983, were all in August or September.*

A juvenile was watched at close range, feeding in Southwest Field, on 9th and 10th October (G.K.Gordon, A.M.Jewels).

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant. One spring record.*

Two on 16th August, one remaining to 17th.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.*

Singles on 25th April, 9th May, 20th October and 20th November, with two on 10th November.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.*

Two seen together, 15th and 25th January. Spring: up to four on nine days, 30th April to 17th May. Autumn: up to four seen on fourteen days, 18th July to 26th September, then one on 20th November.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late September to March.*

After two on 31st January, there were singles on seven days in autumn, 5th October to 12th November.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

*Regular migrant and visitor, mainly August to April.*

Reported in all months except June, July and December. Peak counts included five on 17th February, eight on 21st August, seven on 19th October.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Singles on most days from 18th to 28th October, with two on 22nd, then one on 21st November.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on twenty-three days, 22nd April to 24th May, with up to three birds in the first half of May. Autumn: six reports of one or two birds, 18th July to 22nd September. See table 1.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

Recorded sporadically through the months of April to October, including peak counts of five on 22nd April, six on 27th June, twenty-two on 7th August, fourteen on 4th October.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 28th August and 2nd September.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Three were seen on 31st August.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

After two on 23rd July, there were eight records between 8th and 30th August, with three on the first and four on the last of these dates.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

A poor year, with just one on 18th April.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

From 6th January to 5th May, nine records of up to five birds. Just one further bird, on 23rd August.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*.

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

One on 23rd January, then nine reports of up to three birds, mainly juveniles, 17th July to 24th October.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*.

*Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.*

Singles, 16th to 19th February and 15th October.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Reported present on 2nd January, then recorded regularly from 18th February to the end of the year. No breeding numbers reported. Peak counts included 300 on 9th March and 200 on 23rd August and 15th November.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

*Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.*

Present but largely uncounted. High counts: 200 on 10th March, 175 on 22nd August, 150 on 21st October.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*.

*Breeding. Present all year but few in winter.*

Present but largely uncounted. 100 reported on 2nd September and 7th October, otherwise mainly below twenty.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded regularly from mid February to late September, then sporadically to the end of the year. Counts included 400 on 18th March, 300 on 24th October.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to October.*

One, 3rd August.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

*Breeding. Usually absent from early August to October, then sporadic until January.*

Present from the beginning of the year to 9th August. No complete breeding counts reported. Five records from 20th October onwards, including forty on breeding ledges as early as 7th November.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

Reported regularly from early March to 5th August, with occasional records of small numbers in February, October and November. No breeding counts reported.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

*Breeding now doubtful. Present in low numbers, April to August. Major decline in the last fifty years.*

Present from 19th April to 31st July. The highest single count was only fourteen, on 18th June.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One stayed for three days from 29th March. Then two on 13th April, one on 10th August and four on 5th November.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

*Breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.*

Recorded in all months, mainly in ones and twos but with four in early June, up to seven in late August and a large flock of about forty-five present between 6th and 21st November.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years. Common in spring and autumn.*

Present from 29th March to the end of the year. Peak counts were about fifteen from April to June, then mainly seven to early October declining to two for the final two months. See table 1.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

*Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.*

Spring: recorded on twenty-eight days, 30th April to 20th June, peaking at fifteen on 4th May. Autumn; up to three, 29th September to 1st October, then one found dead, 8th October.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: fourteen records of up to three birds, 3rd May to 14th June. Autumn: one, 4th to 12th October.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*.

*Vagrant. Nine previous records, five of them in late autumn.*

One was seen in Millcombe, 14th October (J.Arnold, G.K.Gordon, A.M.Jewels *et al.*), then one there again, 15th November (Q.Campbell, A.M.Jewels).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two, 9th March, then singles on four days between 18th October and 11th November.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Seen on most days from 2nd May to 30th June, peaking at fifty on 6th and 30th May. Then occasional reports of up to three until 31st August. See table 1.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

*Vagrant. Eight previous records, four in May and four in autumn.*

One was watched feeding on Castle Hill on several occasions, 12th to 16th October, with a probable second bird present on the last day (G.K.Gordon, A.M.Jewels, R.Lo-Vel *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 autumn, when the highest count was 100 on 23rd October.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.*

Spring: six arrived on 10th March, with three more records that month; then seen on most days from 11th April to 31st May, the highest count being thirty on 17th April. Autumn: reported on sixteen days, 17th July to 5th October, with a highest count of eleven on 29th August. See table 1.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.*

Spring: first arrival was on 29th March and highest count 1000 on 2nd May. A pair bred successfully in a farm building. Autumn: seen on most days until 10th November, with counts of fifty or more on many days from 1st September to 23rd October and 250 on 25th to 27th September. See table 1.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: ten scattered records of up to eight, 18th March to 25th April. Then seen on most days from 30th April to 27th June, with 100 on 2nd and 6th May. Autumn: one on 22nd July and seven on 27th August were followed by regular records between 24th September and 28th October, mainly of ten or less but with fifty on 27th and 28th September. See table 1.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

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

There was a remarkable series of autumn records, with birds seen on most days from 1st to 29th October, usually in Southwest Field or Brick Field. Four were seen together on the first day and it was thought that at least six individuals were involved in all (G.K.Gordon, A.M.Jewels, C.Matthews *et al.*).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: nine records, 1st May to 15th June; two involved two birds and the rest were singles. Autumn: up to four present daily, 28th August to 2nd September, then singles on 27th September and 9th October.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.**

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

Present all year. The highest counts during migration were 500 on 10th April and 2000 on 28th September.

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.**

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. No complete counts.

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.**

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: singles on 28th April and 8th, 13th and 15th May, with one of the continental race *M.f.flava* also present on 15th and 16th. Autumn: one or two each day from 29th August to 2nd September and one from 28th September to 8th October.

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.**

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

One on four days in March, two on 21st April and four singles between then and 3rd July. After one on 29th August, there were eight September records of up to three birds, then reports on most days in October until 28th, peaking at four on 5th.

**Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.**

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

Present on most days from 1st March to 26th November. Highest spring count: fifteen on 10th March. A nest with five young in Millcombe in late July was presumably a second brood: there were at least three fledged juveniles on the island at the same time. Peak autumn counts: thirty-one on 2nd September and twenty-four on 20th.

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.**

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count: thirty-four in late August.

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis*.**

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty-six in mid October.

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.**

*Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.*

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty-five in mid October.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.**

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.*

Spring: singles on 13th and 31st May and 11th June. Autumn: one or two on most days from 10th to 28th October, with five on 15th; eight scattered records in November, including four on 5th, then singles on 16th and 24th December.

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.**

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: after three on 18th April, eight further records of up to three, to 12th May. Autumn: One, 30th August; three, 25th September, with one staying to 29th. See table 1.

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.**

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

Spring: eight records, 30th April to 13th May, maximum four on 12th. Autumn: nine singles, 25th August to 30th September, then daily records of up to three, 7th to 19th October. See table 1.

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.**

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

Singles were seen on seventeen days, 8th February to 30th April, with two on 10th April. Four on 6th May, with eight other reports of up to three in May and June.

Several late spring records were in the Gannets' Bay area, one involving a female with dependent juvenile, strongly suggesting breeding on the island.

Five reports of ones and twos in July and August, then seen regularly from 25th September to the end of the year. Passage peaked at fifteen on 12th and 13th October; highest counts in the last two months were four and three respectively.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: first four, 26th March; highest count, 200 on 30th April. Present but largely uncounted through the breeding season. Autumn: highest count, forty-four on 26th August. Numbers very gradually dropped until the last on 23rd October. See table 1.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: singles, 27th March and 1st May. Autumn: two on 3rd and 12th October; five singles, 25th September to 21st October.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. Counts likely to involve passage birds included sixty on 15th and 19th October and fifty on 28th.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Two, 16th January; thirty, 9th March. Autumn: two, 5th October, then seen most days to 1st December, with highest counts of sixty on 17th October, 26th and 27th November. In December, fifteen on 7th, twenty on 30th. 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.*

Present in all months, most records being of three birds or less. High counts in spring included ten on 19th April, eight on 9th May. Probably bred, with juveniles seen in July. Autumn: numbers rose to ten on five days, 7th to 17th October, with fifteen on 15th. Then up to five to the end of the year.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Twenty-five on 2nd January and eighty on 9th March, with thirteen records of smaller numbers between these dates. A late spring bird was seen on 1st May. Autumn: one on 27th September, then seen regularly, 5th October to 1st December. Major peaks were 100 on 18th and 300 on 28th October. Two were seen several times in December. 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: singles on 9th and 19th March, 22nd and 25th April. Autumn: three on 8th October and up to two on eight other days, 7th October to 4th November. One, 2nd and 13th December.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

*Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.*

Spring: six records, 30th April to 7th May, with peak of four on 2nd. Autumn: singles, 22nd July, 4th and 25th August, 2nd September, and two on 30th August.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: thirteen records, 30th April to 19th May, including counts of twenty on 8th and 13th. Then one on 2nd June. Autumn: five reports of up to four, 25th August to 2nd September. Then singles on three days, 30th September to 5th October.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: singles on four days, 11th to 19th May. Autumn: singles, 7th August and 5th and 6th October.

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, in October 1951, March '63 and April '88.*

One was seen briefly in Millcombe, 21st October (A.M.Jewels).

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*.

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

A female was in the area of V.C. Quarry, 2nd to 7th May (J.K.Allen, A.Shepherd, K.Wimbush).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two on 2nd May, four on 15th and five other singles, 7th to 18th May. Autumn: one on 30th August; two, 4th October, with singles on four subsequent days to 15th. A late bird ringed on 28th October showed characteristics of the Siberian race *S.c.blythi*.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: reported between 24th April and 2nd June; most arrived in the first half of May, with twenty on 8th, 12th and 13th. Autumn: seen on most days from 21st August to 2nd September, with nine on 25th August and eight on 2nd September. A further series of records involved one or two birds on five days, 24th September to 8th October. See table 2.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: seen on thirteen days, 20th April to 23rd May, with ten on 8th May; otherwise three or less. Autumn: four records of one or two, 26th August to 2nd September. Then up to five on thirteen days, 28th September to 23rd October, and an exceptionally late bird on 27th November.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Spring: seen on nineteen days, 18th April to 18th May, peaking at twenty on 1st May. Autumn: seen daily, 24th September to 29th October, with numbers rising to ten on four days in the first half of October, then twenty-seven on 19th and twenty-three on 23rd. Up to three seen on nine days through November. See table 2.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*.

*Vagrant. One previous record, in November 1993.*

One was watched feeding and later caught and ringed in Millcombe, 25th October (R.A.Duncan, A.M.Taylor *et al.*). After a long wait for Lundy's first, the next has followed hot in its heels.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One, 21st October.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Seen on seven days in spring, 1st to 15th May. There were two on 10th but otherwise single birds.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: six March records, from 9th, then remarkably few in April, four being the maximum count. Up to twenty in the first week of May, then smaller numbers daily to 18th. Through the next four months there were scattered records of up to ten. A pair bred, with recently fledged young being seen in Millcombe in July. Autumn: up to forty in the last week of September, then seen daily through October with peaks of fifteen on 5th and thirteen on 19th. One or two were seen frequently through November, rising to seven on 27th. After four on 5th December, one remained to the end of the year. Birds seen on 5th and 26th November showed characteristics of the northern race *P.c.tristis*. See table 2.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: one reported on 10th March was exceptionally early. The next was on 8th April, with daily records from then to 19th May and maximum counts of 100 on 25th and 30th April. Scattered records of up to four to the end of July. Autumn: patchy coverage in August and September left obvious gaps in the record, but high counts included forty on 7th, sixty-five on 25th and 150 on 30th August, fifty on 2nd September. From late September, scattered records of up to three until 15th October. See table 2.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring: twenty-one records from 11th March to 18th May, maximum four on 3rd May. One was present from 17th to 22nd July. Autumn: up to twenty between 27th August and 5th September; then seen daily from 25th September to the end of October, peak counts including 218 on 27th September and in October thirty on 5th, twenty-five on 12th. Up to four remained through November and one was seen on 26th December. See table 2.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*

Spring: one, 8th May. Autumn: eleven records, 27th September to 21st October, the most being four on 5th October.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

*Breeding in recent years. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Present almost daily from 1st May to 5th October. Highest spring count: seventy, 12th May. At least one successful brood, with three fledged young seen in July. Autumn peaks: twenty on 6th and fifty on 30th August. See table 2.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One, 11th October.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

*Regular migrant; small numbers in spring and common in autumn.*

Spring: sixteen records, 19th April to 19th May; most involved one or two birds but there were five on 12th May. Autumn: recorded from 20th August to 22nd October, with peaks of eleven on 25th and twenty on 30th August and then scattered reports of up to four.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

One, 10th to 12th October.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

One was seen occasionally from 10th January to 19th March.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

A female arrived on 18th October and was seen on the next ten days. Occasional records in November and one on 16th December probably referred to the same bird. A male was also seen on 22nd October.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*.

*Uncommon visitor, usually between July and October.*

One on 2nd May: only the second spring record for the island.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant.*

After single males on 30th April and 8th May, there were up to three birds present on most days from 13th to 30th May.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One was present at various sites on the east side between Millcombe and Quarter Wall, 1st to 9th May (J.K.Allen, A.Shepherd, K.Wimbush).

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*.

*Bred until late nineteenth century. Vagrant since then, with singles in October 1949, February '52 and February and June '90.*

One was seen flying north up the east side of the island, 4th May (J.K.Allen).

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Seen on sixteen days between 29th March and 9th May, with eighteen on the first date, eleven on the last, twenty on 10th April, thirty-two on 13th and smaller numbers in between.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. Rare visitor at other times.*

One, 13th March.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. The highest count was twenty-two in late August.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. The highest count was fourteen in early May.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Peak counts were eighty on 9th March, seventy on several days in late August and then during autumn migration 200 on 12th October, 300 on 23rd and 250 on 28th, then 450 on 27th November.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*.

*Vagrant. Four previous records accepted this century include three adults in summer and one autumn immature bird.*

A juvenile was in the Old Light area on 3rd and 4th October (G.K.Gordon, A.M.Jewels *et al.*).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. High counts included thirty in March, 110 at the end of August and seventy in early October. Breeding numbers seemed high, with unenclosed nests in Millcombe, trees being used as well as the usual cavity sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*.

*Uncommon visitor, most frequently seen in early summer. Becoming rarer.*

One, 30th September: only the fourth in the last fifteen years.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Peak autumn counts were 340 on 20th October, 500 on 23rd and 300 on 1st November.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

After one on 21st February, there were one or two on three days, 17th to 22nd April, then two on 5th May and a male seen on several further occasions until 23rd May - very late but not unprecedented. Autumn: Seen on many days from 12th October to 30th November, including six on 27th October. All other counts were three or less.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus*.

*Vagrant. Of five previous records, four were in spring.*

A male was watched feeding in Bulls' Paradise on several occasions, 29th November to 5th December (A.M.Jewels, E.Parkes *et al.*).

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Spring: one, 8th to 12th April, then one or two on seven days, 2nd May to 1st June. Autumn: present on many days from 4th October to 27th November. October peaks were thirty on 28th and fifteen on 30th. One bird stayed through November until numbers rose to twelve on 26th.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

Spring: seen on many days from 30th March to 15th May, with peaks of eighteen on 19th April and nine on 1st May. Sporadic records of singles continued through the summer and to the end of September, perhaps all referring to the same long-staying bird. Autumn: in October, birds were seen almost daily, with high counts of five on 4th, four on 12th and five on 22nd; then scattered records until 6th December, with three on 29th November but otherwise all referring to singles.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

*Late autumn migrant, numbers varying greatly from year to year. Rare spring visitor.*

Spring: three arrived on 2nd May, two remaining till 7th, then one was seen on 14th. Autumn: present from 26th September to 12th November. The main arrivals were in October, with eleven on 5th, fourteen on 15th, forty on 21st and twenty on 28th. Two later records included one on 25th November and two on 27th.

**Linnets** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Recorded between 13th February and 15th December, with a highest count of 350 in late August.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: one was seen on seven days, 25th April to 16th May, then two the next day. Autumn: singles on 26th September, 23rd and 26th October.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 3rd June.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 27th October.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

*Rare visitor, April to November.*

A female was caught and ringed on 13th May.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

Autumn: seen on most days from 3rd to 24th October, mainly singles but two on 20th, rising to six on 22nd. One, 2nd November.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

*Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.*

Spring: one, 14th April. Autumn: four, 21st October, rising to six on 23rd; two on 26th, then six singles to 20th November.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*.

*Vagrant. Three previous accepted records, in 1986, 1990 and 1993, all in October.*

One was watched feeding outside the Tavern on 12th October (N.Jeffrey, A.M.Jewels, R.Lo-Vel).

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*.

*Vagrant. Nine previous accepted records, one in spring and eight in late autumn.*

One was seen at Quarter Wall, 1st October (G.K.Gordon). Another, also at Quarter Wall, 27th November (A.M.Jewels).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

One or two were seen on most days from 15th to 24th October.

ESCAPES: birds assumed to be of captive origin.

**Canary** *serinus canaria*. One, 29th to 31st July.

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

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*. One, 15th August.

**Ross's Gull** *Rhodostethia rosea*. One, 19th February.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*. One, 23rd October.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One, 30th and 31st August.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whimbrel				- - 0.7	1.3 0.7 0.2		- 0.1 0.1	0.3 - -	- - 0.2			
Collared Dove			- - 0.5	0.4 2.6 3.6	7.2 6.8 P	2.3 P 2.9	2.3 P 3.3	3.8 2.5 5.5	1.3 2.3 4.4	5.1 3.6 2.2	1.1 0.5 1.7	0.1 0.7 1.0
Swift					14 2.2 8.4	2.6 P 1.9	P P 0.5	0.1 0.2 0.5				
Sand Martin			0.6 0.5 0.3	- P P	3.6 1.2 0.5		- 0.1 0.6	1.0 0.2 1.1	0.1 - 0.7	0.1 - -		
Swallow			- - 0.3	P P P	290 81 8.5	P P P	P P 0.7	2.8 0.3 1.1	33 12 130	30 19.3 11	0.7 - -	
House Martin			- 0.2 0.6	0.1 0.2 1.4	39 15 P	P P P	- - 0.1	- - 0.6	- - 13	2.3 1.0 0.5		
Redstart				- 0.4 0.3	0.7 0.1 -	0.1	0.1	- - 0.1	0.1 - 0.9	0.9 0.4 -		
Whinchat				- - 0.2	0.8 0.7 -			- - 0.4	0.1 - 0.4	0.7 1.0 -		
Wheatear			- - 0.8	P 25 P	42 P P	P P P	P P P	7.2 P 20	P P 13	2.7 1.8 0.2		

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1994.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fieldfare	0.2		3.0 - -							0.7 8.8 12	1.4 5.0 21	1.7 - 1.8
Redwing	2.5 4.0 -	3.4 1.5 0.8	8.6 0.3 -		0.1 - -					3.3 64 50	9.0 8.8 11	0.6 0.2 0.3
Whitethroat				- - 0.3	4.5 5.2 0.3	0.1 - -		- - 2.1	1.0 - 0.5	0.1 - -		
Blackcap				- 1.0 1.2	4.3 1.1 -				- - 1.2	4.8 8.1 5.4	0.8 0.3 0.3	
Chiffchaff			0.3 0.2 0.2	0.1 0.7 0.9	10 4.0 0.8	0.1 P P	- P 0.7	1.7 - 1.4	1.0 - 14	7.0 5.0 4.6	1.1 0.2 1.9	0.5 - 0.3
Willow Warbler			0.1 - -	1.1 7.3 44	35 6.7 0.5	0.8 P 0.1	P P 0.5	8.0 1.1 35	17 - 0.5	0.4 0.1 -		
Goldcrest			- 0.5 0.1	0.1 0.1 0.1	1.9 0.4 -		- 0.2 0.2	- - 1.3	3.3 - 44	16 15 8.5	1.3 0.2 0.9	- - 0.1
Spotted Flycatcher					3.1 31 P	2.0 P P	P P P	p 1.0 10	4.1 0.1 2.4	0.7 - -		

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1994.

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