PUFFIN NUMBERS ON LUNDY DURING SUMMER 1997

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This report contains the results of a simple puffin survey, repeating earlier studies by Campey (1989) and Griffith (1995). June is the optimum period for a survey of this type. However this year it was not possible to carry out all surveys in June due to poor weather conditions and other work constraints, so the surveys took place in June and July of 1997. The study follows as closely as possible the original methodology as recommended by Campey (1989): it is hoped that the results will help to further knowledge of Lundy's puffin population.

Counts were made on the 9th, 24th and the 30th of June and the 7th and 14th of July. All surveys were carried out from land during the morning as the birds tend to move out to sea later in the day. Observation points follow established seabird monitoring points from the Battery to North Light. There are seven observation points each covering an area of cliffs. All individuals recorded were seen on the sea, therefore Jenny's Cove and St. Mark's Stone which were previously divided were both counted as single plots. All birds within the range of the telescope were counted.

Although the number of birds recorded is small they have been divided into survey areas after Campey's method.

Date	Battery	Jenny's Cove	St. Mark's Stone	Long Roost	North Light	Total
9.6.97	0	11	9	10	1	31
24.6.97	0	3	7	6	3	19
30.6.97	2	3	5	6	2	18
7.7.97	3	4	6	4	1	18
14.7.97	0	5	3	3	2	13

Table 1. Number of puffins observed per location.

As mentioned earlier, all individuals observed were seen on the water. Other observers have witnessed birds using burrows but none were seen in this study; this fact makes the estimation of the number of breeding pairs impossible this year. The 1997 survey results seem in general to be concurrent with observations made in 1995 noting the focus of puffins having shifted from the Jenny's Cove area to St. Mark's and Long Roost; however on one occasion eleven individuals were observed in Jenny's Cove. Direct comparison of this year's results with those of 1989 and 1995 are difficult due to the discrepancies in the survey dates. Although an overall impression of a smaller puffin population may be created by these results, it is possible that this may be accounted for by the lateness of the breeding season and the fact

that some birds will consequently have been spending more time out of the range of the telescope.

In order to improve our knowledge of the Lundy puffin population it is recommended that surveys should be carried out if at all possible in June of each year, thus maintaining the integrity of the results. So that the total population can be estimated, the survey area should include additional sites around the North End to Brazen Ward. This area was included in the 1995 survey. In order that the results from such an extension can be comparable with original survey data, monitoring points need to be established in this area. Possibilities include Puffin Slope, North East Point, Gannets' Combe and Brazen Ward. Again so that the information collected in these surveys is of the highest value, the survey point from which the birds are sighted should be recorded. This is in line with Campey's methodology and gives a clearer estimation of the population distribution.

REFERENCES

Campey, R.J. 1989. Puffin numbers on Lundy during June 1989. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 40, 28-30.

Griffith, S. 1995. Puffin Numbers on Lundy during June 1995. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 46, 27-28.