

## **BIRDS ON LUNDY 2002**

**By**

A. M. TAYLOR

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

### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

#### **a INTRODUCTION**

Extensive coverage of the island, by observers recording their observations in the L.F.S. log book, showed a different pattern to that of 2001. Spring recording began earlier this year, in March, but there was comparatively little detail from late April onwards. Spells of good coverage in late August and late September produced some unusual species and high numbers of migrants, making one wonder what was being missed at other times in these months. As usual, October was well documented, but this year the high standards were continued further into November than in the recent past. Though some island residents contributed very valuable data, it is inevitable that their birding activities were limited in comparison to those of keen visitors, because of their employment duties. I am particularly grateful to Ben Sampson and Brian Owens for their efforts. The variable extent of coverage is likely to colour the impression given by the data about the peak migration times of species moving in late spring and early autumn.

#### **b BIRDS OF 2002**

Early March was a transitional time, with all the regular thrush species seen, including Redwing and Fieldfare as winter visitors and Ring Ouzel as a summer migrant. The first Wheatears also arrived, followed in mid month by hirundines and warblers. Wheatears moved through in good numbers on 24 and 28 March and 1 April, as did Willow Warblers on 14 April and Swallows the next day. A Red Kite also arrived on 15th. Hirundines, particularly Swallows, continued to pass on their way north from 19 to 24 April. In May, records were sparse, but there were further Red Kite sightings on 5 and 12 May and two Bee-eaters brightened up the island briefly by flying over on 16th. Two Rosy Starlings did so for longer, with at least one of them staying for virtually the whole of June.

Though there was some evidence of Willow Warbler movement from the end of July, the first major autumn migration of warblers was on 16 and 18 Aug, closely followed

by three unusual species: a Woodchat Shrike, a very early Barred Warbler and an Icterine Warbler. A large flock of Crossbills was also present in late August. There was then a quiet spell until 21 September, when there was significant passage of Spotted Flycatchers, which had been very scarce in spring, and Swallows. On the same day a first-year Rosy Starling arrived, and a Richard's Pipit and Ortolan Bunting were found in the next two days. Then 25 September produced two Red-breasted Flycatchers, as well as Swallow and warbler movements. The month ended on a sad note with a Grey Phalarope found dead at Pondsburry, probably a victim of oil pollution.

3 and 4 October produced strong migration of hirundines, particularly Swallows, and Meadow Pipits and Goldcrests. Another Red-breasted Flycatcher arrived on 5th and Swallows continued moving on 6th. In the next week, unusual species included a Sooty Shearwater, a Goldeneye, a Chiffchaff of the *tristis* subspecies and the first of the autumn's Lapland Buntings. There were good numbers of Redwing on 16 and 19th. Blackcaps, Goldcrests and finches were also in evidence on 19th, when five Barnacle Geese made a flying visit. Then a flock of Whooper Swans graced Pondsburry on 23rd, one of them staying to the end of the year. In the final week of October, there were several days when Redwings, finches and Starlings were migrating south, and a Long-eared Owl was located roosting on the Terrace.

In the first half of November, the movements of thrushes, Goldcrests, Starlings and finches continued while a few late Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs lingered. The highlight of Lundy's bird year was a White-rumped Sandpiper, which was found in Southwest Field on 10th. A Twite on 16 November, and a pair of Tufted Ducks that joined the Whooper Swan on Pondsburry in December, were rewards for the intrepid observers who were still venturing out on the island in winter.

## 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.

Records of birds seen during boat crossings have only been included when it is clear from the log book that they were seen close to Lundy. Others have been forwarded for inclusion in the Devon Bird Report.

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly February to May.*

One, 19 Apr.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.*

Singles on eight days, 27 Feb to 13 Apr, then one on 2 May. Autumn: seventeen records, 2 Oct to 25 Nov, all referring to single birds except from 28 Oct to 1 Nov, when there were two.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*.

*Breeding. Infrequent from October to February.*

Recorded as present on most days from 14 Feb to 23 Sep. No full breeding counts reported. Eleven records of up to sixty birds from 9 Nov to the end of the year.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, in Aug 1970, Sep '73 and Aug '87.*

One was seen about four miles from Lundy, 8 Oct (A.M. Jewels, M. Langman et al).

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*.

*Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.*

Recorded on many days from 9 Apr to 27 Aug. There were counts of between 1000 and 5000 offshore on ten days from 5 to 16 Jul, and at least 5000 on 23 Aug. Two late birds were seen on 25 Oct.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

Recorded on most days from 1 Apr to 23 Nov. The highest summer count was sixty on 11 Jul. Autumn totals reached 100 on 27 Sep and 15 Oct, 115 on 24 Oct. up to four were seen on three days in late Dec.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: twenty records between 16 Mar and 16 May, maximum six birds on 14 Apr. Occasional reports of one or two through the summer. Autumn: seen on many days from 26 Aug to 25 Nov, with peak movements of fourteen on 26 Aug, twenty-seven on 20 and twenty on 25 Sep, thirteen on 14 and fourteen on 28 Oct.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

No breeding counts reported. Recorded in all months. Maximum in autumn was seventy on 15 Oct.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*.

*Formerly a vagrant, with one in Apr 1957. Now becoming a more regular visitor, with seven records, mainly in autumn, since Sep '89. This reflects the dramatic increase in British records and the establishment of British breeding colonies.*

One in St John's Valley and later roosting in Rhododendrons, 2 Jan. Three flew south offshore, 16 May.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.*

One, 13 Apr, two, 5 Jun, then singles on six days from 25 Jun to 11 Jul and on twenty days from 22 Sep to 18 Nov.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*.

*Vagrant. Nine previous records, including parties of up to six birds, with eight records between 1949 and '81, then one in Nov 2001. All were in Oct, Nov or Dec.*

Seven were on Pondsburry on 23 Oct, with three adults remaining from 24 Oct to 2 Nov, then one to the end of the year (N. Brewer, V. Clatworthy, A.M. Taylor et al).

An unidentified swan was at Pondsburry on 4 Mar.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*.

*Vagrant. Eleven previous records, mainly in late autumn, several of which have involved small flocks.*

A flock of five flew down the east side of the island on 19 Oct (B.K. Owens, R.M. Patient).

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.*

Six, 1 Nov.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in winter.*

Spring: singles on 15, 16, 23 Mar and 2 Apr. Autumn: one or two were seen on most days from 16 Sep to 23 Oct, rising to four on 18 Sep and seven on 16 Oct. Then one, 7 Nov, and two, 20 Nov.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to fourteen resident birds.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*.

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

A pair was on Pondsburry on 12 Dec and the drake remained until 16th (J.W. Leonard).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*.

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

Two, 6 Nov.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*.

*Vagrant. Three previous Lundy records, in Oct 1941, Nov '90 and Oct '91.*

A female or immature was seen in the Landing Bay, 9 Oct (I. Kendall).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, in Apr 1929, Oct '71 and Mar '97.*

One flew west along the south coast of the island on 15 Apr (R.J. Campey), then one was seen in various parts of the island on 5 May (S. Hill) and one soaring over the middle of the island on 12 May (A.M. Jewels at al.). It is not clear whether these refer to different birds or to one long-staying individual.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

A male was seen on 15 May, a 'ring-tail' bird on 24 Oct and one on 6 Nov.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

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

At least one was seen on most days from 25 Sep to 16 Nov, with two on six days in Oct and on 6 Nov.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

Singles on 14 to 23 Feb, 5 May, 14 Aug, and twenty days from 30 Sep to 24 Nov, with two on 11 Nov. One, 23 Dec.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in spring and autumn. Has bred occasionally.*

One or two were seen on many days from 25 Mar to 25 Apr, then one on six dates in May and Jun. One or two on twenty days from 10 Jul to 31 Aug and on most days from 1 Sep to 20 Nov, numbers rising to three or four in the second half of Sep, with five on 24 and 25th.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Spring: twelve records between 28 Mar and 26 Apr, mainly of single birds but with two on three dates. Then an unusual series of six reports of singles from 12 May to 30 Jul. Autumn: three singles, 20 Aug to 1 Sep, then seen on most days from 6 Sep to 20 Nov, with seven reports of two birds; otherwise singles.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Singles on 1 Jun, 31 Aug, 28 and 29 Sep and 6 to 11 Oct.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Seen regularly in all months except Jan, with maximum counts of seven in Mar, Apr and May, eight in Jul and four in Nov and Dec.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

Singles on seven days from 2 Jan to 3 Apr. Autumn; reported on many days from 4 Sep to 12 Nov, including nine records of two birds and seven of three. Then singles on 13 and 27 Dec. There has been an improvement in the species' autumn numbers over the last two years.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*.

*Rare visitor. Has bred.*

Singles on 15 Apr and 26 Oct.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

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

Recorded in all months except Jan. There was an unusually high count of twenty-six on 10 Apr, otherwise monthly maxima were generally in single figures.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: two, 7 May, then one on four days to 15 May. Autumn: eleven records, 22 Aug to 21 Nov, all of singles apart from two on 11 Oct.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 26 May and 21 to 24 Sep.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Spring: five records of up to three birds, 5 to 22 May. Autumn: thirty-three records, 22 Aug to 16 Nov, with most referring to up to four birds, but higher numbers from 16 to 22 Oct peaking at twenty-four on 17th.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

*Formerly bred in small numbers but now only sporadically. Was a common spring and autumn migrant, less regular in winter. Major decline in recent years.*

Two on 8 Mar, then seen on many days from 3 Apr to mid Jun, with a maximum of four on several days in Apr, but with no evidence of breeding reported. Then four records of single birds to 17 Jul. Autumn: fifteen records, 23 Sep to 17 Nov, with five birds on 7 Oct and eleven on 17 Oct; otherwise ones and twos.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 17 May.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*.

*Vagrant from North America. Not recorded on Lundy previously.*

A first-year bird was watched feeding in Southwest Field on 10 Nov (R. Curtis, K. Rylands). This record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*.

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

Singles, 15 Oct and 7, 10, 11 and 12 Nov.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*.

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

Spring: one or two recorded on six days, 6 to 22 May. Autumn: singles on 9 and 26 Aug, on four days from 17 to 22 Sep, then 6 Oct and 16 Nov.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

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

Autumn: seventeen records, involving up to two birds, 28 Sep to 21 Nov. One, 16 Dec.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Spring: one or two recorded on ten days from 5 to 23 Mar, then singles on 3, 19 and 22 Apr and 13 May. Autumn: singles on five days in Aug, from 2nd, then seen on most days from 16 Sep to 22 Nov, with peaks of seven on 17 Sep, thirteen on 1 Nov and ten on 20 Nov. One, 26 Dec.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Autumn: one or two birds on 17, 19, 21 and 23 Oct, then up to four on most days from 1 to 22 Nov.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: up to seven on seventeen days, 23 Apr to 16 May. Then one, 2 and 3 Jun, and two, 21 Jun. No autumn records. (See Table 1)

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

Spring: just nine records of up to two birds, 24 Apr to 30 May, Then one on eleven days, 25 Jun to 3 Aug. Autumn: seen on eighteen days, 22 Aug to 15 Nov, with maximum counts of eight birds on 2 and 17 Oct.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 20 Mar and 6 Oct.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 24 Apr, 25 Aug and 24 Sep.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Singles on six days from 17 to 30 Aug, then on 8 Sep and 29 Oct. The last record is unusually late in the year for Lundy.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 29 Sep and 12 Oct.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

One, 11 May. Three, 27 Oct.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*.

*Vagrant. Eleven previous records, mainly in Sep or Oct.*

One was found dead, lightly oiled, beside Pondsburry on 29 Sep (B. Sampson).

**Great Skua** *Catharacta skua*.

*Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.*

Singles, 21 Sep and 9 Nov.

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

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

Singles, 19 Apr, 17 and 27 Jun and 26 Jul. Then sixteen records from 14 Sep to 14 Nov, including four on 15 Oct and eight on 23 Oct.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*.

*Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.*

Two, 19 Apr. Four records, 10 to 20 Oct, including seven birds on 17th.



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

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded between 15 Feb and 24 Nov. No breeding numbers reported. Highest autumn counts were just forty on 29 Sep and 3 Nov.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

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

Present in all months. No breeding numbers reported. Highest autumn count was just sixty-five on 21 Oct.

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

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

Present in all months. No breeding numbers reported. Highest count: 100 on 18 and 20 Sep.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded regularly from 14 Feb to 27 Aug. No breeding numbers reported. Occasional records of offshore birds from 20 Sep to 28 Dec included ninety on 14 and 15 Nov, 1500 on 25 Dec, 300 on 26th and 1000 on 28th.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, Apr to Sep.*

Two, 7 Jul.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

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

Recorded as present on most days from 14 Feb to 7 Aug. No breeding numbers reported. Occasional records of up to twenty birds offshore from 26 Sep to the end of the year.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

Recorded as present on most days from 14 Feb to 5 Aug. No breeding numbers reported. Seven records of up to six birds offshore, 8 Oct to 16 Nov.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Recorded from 9 Apr to 29 Jul. One was seen excavating a burrow on 6 May. The highest count was eighteen on 8 Jul. No complete island surveys reported.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 5 May and 19 Oct.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

*Probably breeds in most years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.*

Recorded as present in all months except Dec. High counts included eight on 17 Apr, forty-three on 13 Nov, thirteen on 15 Nov.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years. Has bred. Most numerous in spring and autumn.*

Recorded as present in all months except Jan and Dec. Peak counts included eight on 3 Apr, thirteen on 10 Jun four on 27 and 28 Aug. (See Table 1)

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

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

Spring: one from 15 May, then two on 18 and 19 May. Singles on eight dates from 2 Jun to 14 Jul.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Bred in the past. No evidence in recent years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: four reports from 1 to 17 May, with three birds on 17th. One on five days from 3 to 25 Jun. None in autumn.

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

*Vagrant. Fourteen previous records, nine of them in late autumn.*

One was on the Terrace on 27 Oct (A. Plant, A.M. Taylor, R. Taylor).

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

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Singles, 15 Mar, 3, 12, 21 and 22 Apr. Autumn: twenty-one records from 23 Sep to 22 Nov, mainly of single birds but with two on 23 Sep, 19 and 21 Nov.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Spring: two, 26 Apr, and one, 30 Apr, then reported as present on most days from 4 May to 10 Jun, but often without numbers being given; the highest recorded count was just seven on 8 May. Seen sporadically from 18 Jun to 20 Aug, with most counts involving one or two birds but including forty on 15 Jul and ten on 19 Aug. Later singles on 21 and 28 Sep. (See Table 1)

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, in May 1940 and May '85.*

Two flew east over the village, then south over the Castle and out to sea, on 16 May (M. Goose, A. Jayne, B. Sampson).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*.

*Uncommon migrant, more regular in autumn than spring.*

No records in 2002.

2001: details of one seen on 13.10.01 have been submitted (J. Diamond) and the record accepted.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Recorded as present in all months except Jan and Dec. Highest reported numbers were forty, 22 Sep, fifty, 4 Oct, forty-one, 17 Oct, and forty-eight, 19 Oct.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

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

Spring: after five on 15 Mar, reported as present on most days from 23 Mar to 31 May, with a peak count of 100 on 23 Apr. Then five records in Jun and Jul, including seven on 11 Jul. Autumn: extreme dates were 12 Aug and 17 Oct, with records on most days between 14 Sep and 4 Oct. Peak numbers were thirty, 2 Sep, thirty-five, 14 Sep, 100, 3 Oct, and 1000, 4 Oct. (See Table 1)

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

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

Spring: seen on most days from 9 Apr onwards, with peaks of 1000, 15 Apr, and 2000, 19 Apr. No reports of breeding, though recorded as present throughout the summer. Autumn: seen daily until 31 Oct with main movements including 5000 on 21 Sep, 12,000 on 25 Sep, 5000 on 3 Oct. There were eight Nov records, the last on 16th, including seventeen seen on 4th. (See Table 1)

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two, 16 Mar, then seen on most days from 23 Mar onwards with a peak of 100 on 3 May. Small numbers recorded sporadically through the summer. Autumn: seen on many days from 27 Aug to 23 Oct, with most counts below fifty but a peak of 200 on 25 Sep. (See Table 1)

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One at various sites in the south of the island, 22 to 24 Sep (D.S. Flumm, A.R. Kitson).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seven records, 16 Apr to 17 May, all of single birds except on 18 Apr when there were two. Autumn: nine records, 21 Aug to 17 Oct, all of single birds except on 27 Aug and 30 Sep when there were three.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Reported as present in all months except Jan. Peak autumn counts included 200 on 22 Aug, 500 on 22 and 24 Sep and 3 and 4 Oct, with numbers over 100 on another twenty-four days between 15 Sep and 23 Oct.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Reported as present in all months except Jan, Feb and Dec. The peak autumn count was six in Oct.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: singles 25 Apr, 5 May, 3 Jun. Autumn: twelve records, 19 Aug to 3 Oct, with a maximum of four on 21 Sep.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring: nine records, 10 Mar to 19 Apr, with two birds on 16 and 20 Mar but otherwise singles. Autumn: thirty-three records, 28 Aug to 13 Nov, mainly involving one or two birds but with three on 1 and 17 Oct and six on 3 Oct.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen on most days from 1 Mar to 10 Nov. Peak counts in spring were twenty-four on 28 Mar, twenty on 9 to 11 Apr and twenty-six on 20 Apr. Two pairs bred. Highest autumn counts were forty-six on 15 Sep, twenty-nine on 20 Sep and thirty on 10 Oct. Migrant birds of the continental race *M. a. alba* were reported in spring and autumn, peaking at sixteen on 20 Apr and sixteen on 17 Sep.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Recorded as present whenever observers were active. Highest autumn count: thirty-one on 23 Oct.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Recorded as present whenever observers were active. Highest autumn count: ten on 24 Oct.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*.

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

Recorded as present whenever observers were active. Autumn: fifteen counts of more than twenty, 20 Sep to 24 Oct, with a maximum of fifty on 29 Sep, suggesting some passage.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

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

Spring: seen on thirteen days, 26 Mar to 25 Apr, with highest counts of six on 26 Mar and eight on 24 Apr. Then one on 10 Jun. Autumn: one, 30 Aug, then up to three birds seen on twenty-two days, 21 Sep to 18 Nov.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: singles on 9, 13 and 21 Apr and 4 and 10 Jun. Autumn: twenty-one records between 6 Sep and 29 Oct, mainly involving one or two birds but with five on 22 Sep. Two very late birds on 15 Nov, with one on 19th. (See Table 1)

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

Spring: an unusually early series of records, coinciding with large numbers of Stonechats, involved fourteen reports between 6 Mar and 3 Apr, with six birds on 6 Mar, seven on 23 Mar, eleven on 1 Apr and eight on 3 Apr. Thereafter there were seven records of one or two birds, 9 Apr to 16 May. Autumn: one, 29 Jul, then two, 22 Aug and three on 31 Aug and 7 Sep. The main movement was between 14 Sep and 4 Oct, with records on most days, including twelve on 22 Sep and nine on 23rd and 24th. One late bird, 21 Oct. (See Table 1)

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Several high totals were reported in spring, including thirty on 6 Mar and forty on 1 Apr. A pair bred and were seen feeding fledged young in early Jun and late Jul - likely to be two separate broods. Autumn: reported regularly from mid Sep onwards, with highest counts of six on 22, 24 and 30 Sep, four through Oct and Nov and two on 25 Dec.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on most days from 6 Mar onwards, with main arrivals of forty on 24 and 28 Mar, fifty on 1 Apr, thirty on 24 Apr. Small numbers remained through the summer, with fledged young seen in Jul. Autumn: main arrivals included fifty on 27 Aug, forty on 13 Sep and fifty-three on 15 Sep. The last was seen on 19 Oct. (See Table 1)

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: ten records of up to three birds, 6 Mar to 14 Apr. Autumn: fourteen records, 22 Sep to 23 Oct, with a maximum of six on 16 Oct.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. A count of thirty on 6 Mar suggests possible migrants. Late autumn movements peaked at 120 on 15 Nov.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Spring: seen daily from 5 to 10 Mar, maximum eleven on 8th. Autumn: after six on 6 Oct, birds were seen on most days from 14 Oct to 22 Nov, with peaks of 250 on 1 Nov, 300 on 15 Nov. One, 16 Dec. (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.*

Seen in all months except Jan. Spring maximum: forty on 8 Mar. At least one pair bred, and four singing males were reported in early Jun. Autumn arrivals included sixty on 6 Oct, eighty on 19 Oct, fifty on 15 Nov. Up to ten were present in Dec.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Spring: seen on most days from 4 to 15 Mar, with a peak of eleven on 9th. Then seven on 28 Mar. Autumn: seen almost daily from 6 Oct to 22 Nov, with main arrivals of 600 on 19 Oct, 1500 on 29 Oct, 1000 on 31 Oct, 730 on 15 Nov and more than 100 on twelve other days. Up to six were seen in mid Dec. (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.*

One was seen on many days from 5 Mar to 16 Apr, and then on 2 May. Autumn: seen on twenty-two days from 11 Oct to 13 Nov, with peaks of six on 17 Oct, five on 29 Oct, four on 13 Nov.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

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

Spring: recorded on nine days, 14 Apr to 31 May, all singles except on 3 and 4 May, when there were two. In Jul, one on 3rd and two on 9th. Autumn: ten records of one or two birds, 20 Aug to 28 Sep.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: after twenty on 12 May, up to four were seen on most days to 10 Jun. One, 30 Jun. Autumn: seen on most days from 12 Aug to 1 Sep, with sixteen ringed on 16 Aug, other totals five or less. Then singles, 20 and 26 to 28 Sep, 11 Oct.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: singles, 4 May, 2 to 4 Jun and 10 Jun. Autumn: singles, 20, 23 and 26 Aug, 3 and 4 Oct and 17 Oct.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*.

*Rare migrant, usually in autumn.*

One was caught and ringed in St John's Valley, 23 Aug (D. Kightley, A. Stagg).

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*.

*Rare autumn migrant.*

A first-year bird was caught and ringed in St John's Valley, 21 Aug: an unusually early date for this species (D. Kightley). It was also reported on 23rd.

2001: details of one seen on 13.10.01 have been submitted (J. Diamond) and the record accepted.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two, 17 May. Then one was reported on six dates, 5 Jun to 14 Jul. Autumn: two on eight days from 14 to 28 Aug, then two, 20 Sep.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on many days from 2 May to 10 Jun, with a maximum of seven on 27 May. Scattered records of up to two through the summer, and three on 4 Jul. Autumn: twenty-one records between 12 Aug and 10 Oct, with peaks of eighteen on 16 Aug, ten on 15 Sep and six on 21 Sep. (See Table 2)

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: two on 24 Apr, and one, 15 to 17 May. Autumn: twenty-four records

between 19 Aug and 19 Oct, most referring to one or two birds but with five on 23 Aug and three or four on three days in late Sep.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Spring: seen on most days from 31 Mar to 7 Jun, with peaks of eight on 14 Apr and thirteen on 3 May. Occasional records, mainly of a single male, through the summer. Autumn: recorded on most days from 15 Sep to 8 Nov, with the largest influxes involving twenty-four on 25 Sep and fifty on 19 Oct. There were five later records of up to five birds, the last on 21 Nov. (See Table 2)

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: one, 9 May. Autumn: one, 25 Sep.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: recorded as present on most days from 15 Mar to early Jun, with peak counts of sixteen on 3 Apr and fifty on 24 Apr. Occasional records of one or two through the summer. Autumn: seen on most days from 20 Sep to 11 Nov, including thirty on 22 Sep, seventy-seven on 25 Sep and ten on 30 Oct. There were six later records of one or two birds, the last on 24 Nov. (See Table 2)

One on 11 and 12 Oct showed all the known characteristics of the northern subspecies *P. c. tristis* (J. Oates, R. Patient).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: recorded as present on most days from 31 Mar to early Jun, with peak counts of 100 on 13 Apr and fifty on 23 and 24 Apr. Occasional records of up to three birds through the summer. Autumn: seen on most days from 27 Jul to 25 Sep, including 200 on 9 Aug, 350 on 16 Aug, 105 on 18 Aug. There were four later records of one or two birds, the last on 10 Oct. (See Table 2)

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring: recorded as present on most days from 15 Mar to 5 May, with peak counts of 9 on 19 Mar and eight on 2 Apr. Five later records of single birds to 2 Jun. Autumn: seen on most days from 25 Aug to 21 Nov, with main arrivals including fifty on 30 Sep, 250 on 4 Oct, sixty on 19 Oct and 200 on 9 Nov. (See Table 2)

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*



Autumn: twenty-six records from 12 Sep to 16 Nov, with peak counts of five on 6 and 19 Oct.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

*Breeding in most years recently. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: one on 4 May, then up to five from 15 to 18 May. Reported on most days from 26 May to 12 Jun, with twenty on 28th but otherwise in single figures. One or two seen occasionally through the summer, with four on 4 Jul. Autumn: seen on most days from 16 Aug to 2 Oct, with highest counts of twenty on 26 Aug and twenty-one on 21 Sep. There were late singles on 11 and 17 Oct. (See Table 2)

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One in Millcombe and one on the Terrace, 25 Sep, two again on 28th and one on 29th (D.S. Flumm, A.R. Kitson et al.). One, 5 and 6 Oct (B.K.Owens). One, 12 Oct (S.L.Cooper, B.K.Owens).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: one, 20 Apr. Autumn: seen on twenty days from 15 Aug to 29 Sep, with a maximum of four on 19 Sep. One later, on 11 Oct.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*.

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

One, 25 to 27 Sep, then two on 28 Sep and 1 Oct.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*.

*Uncommon visitor, mainly between July and October.*

One, 28 and 30 Sep and 1, 4 and 23 Oct.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant.*

Two, 10 Jul.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

A juvenile was trapped and ringed in St John's Valley, 19 Aug (D. Kightley et al.) and also reported on 25th.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Singles, 30 Sep and 5 to 10 Nov.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. The highest autumn count was thirty-two. Single Hooded Crows *C. c. cornix* were reported on 16 Apr and 10 Jul.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. The highest autumn count was nineteen.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. There were counts of up to thirty in Jun. The main autumn movements were of 1100 on 29 Oct and 6250 on 13 Nov, with between 100 and 900 on seventeen other days from 11 Oct to 18 Nov.

**Rosy Starling** *Sturnus roseus*.

*Vagrant. Eight twentieth century records have been accepted, involving five adults in summer and three autumn immature birds.*

One from 1 Jun, joined by a second on 4 Jun, then one to 10th, mainly in the St John's Valley area (J.R. Diamond, B.K. Owens et al.). One seen near Quarter Wall on 22 and 27 Jun was presumably one of the two earlier birds. A juvenile was in the village area on 21 to 24 Sep (D.S. Flumm, A.R. Kitson).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. The highest autumn count was 125.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. The main autumn movements included 1500 on 19 and 24 Oct, 3000 on 28 Oct, 2450 on 13 Nov and 3275 on 15 Nov.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Spring: one, 21 Mar. Autumn: fourteen records, 13 Oct and 15 Nov, of up to seven birds except on 15 Nov when there were twenty.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Autumn: seen on many days from 30 Sep to 20 Nov, with main influxes of forty on 19 Oct, twenty on 28 Oct, eighty-seven on 13 Nov and twenty-five on 15 Nov.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

After seventeen arrived on 9 Apr, birds were seen on most days until 17 Nov. Numbers were mainly five or below until Aug, when a flock of eleven was seen regularly. A pair was seen feeding young in late Aug and there were nineteen on 2 Sep. Autumn peaks included twenty-three on 20 Sep, thirty-five on 14 Oct, seventy on 17 Oct and forty-seven on 19 Oct.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

*Late autumn migrant, numbers varying greatly from year to year. Very rare in spring.*

Spring: up to three were reported on fifteen days from 16 Mar to 16 Apr. Autumn; seen on most days from 25 Sep to 25 Nov, with main arrivals of 500 on 19 Oct, 280 on 24 Oct and 290 on 13 Nov.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Recorded as present from 6 Mar to 21 Nov. Numbers were estimated at 100 on 23 to 25 Apr, fifty through Jun, between 100 and 400 daily through the second half of Sep. The maximum in Oct was 150 on 17th, with numbers mainly in single figures after 20th.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: sixteen records, 16 Apr to 7 Jun, with a maximum of five on 16 May. Then eight records of up to three in Jul and three, including a juvenile, on 18 Aug. Then singles on thirteen days to the end of Sep. Seen on sixteen days from 3 Oct to 21 Nov, with most records referring to one or two, but five on 3 Oct, twelve on 12 Oct, thirteen on 19 Oct and seven on 17 Nov.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*.

*Very rare visitor, mainly in late autumn.*

One, 16 Nov (K. Rylands).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*.

*Uncommon summer and autumn visitor.*

Thirteen records, 10 Aug to 2 Sep. Most reports were of four or less but thirty-five were seen on 26 Aug and thirty-six on 28th.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

One, 21 and 22 Sep, One, 14 Oct, two, 16 Oct, one, 17 to 19 Oct. One, 24

Oct. One, 17 Nov.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Three on 12 Mar and one on 16 Mar. Autumn: twelve records, 27 Oct to 24 Nov, with nine on 15 Nov, six on 16 Nov and eleven on 24 Nov; otherwise, four or less.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One was seen near the village and at Quarter Wall, 23 and 24 Sep (D.S. Flumm, A.R. Kitson).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Six records of one or two birds, 12 to 25 Oct. One, 16 Nov.

## LUNDY RARITIES

Records rejected because they were undocumented or descriptions inconclusive.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*. One, 3 Jun, and one, 21 Jul.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*. One, 29 Sep, and one, 17 and 19 Oct.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One, 27 to 30 Sep, and one, 9 Nov.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. One, 12 Jul.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Whimbrel				3.1	3.5 0.6	0.2 0.2						
Collared Dove		P P	P 1.5 2.9	5.7 5.2 P	P P P	5.7 P P	P P P	P P 1.7	P P	0.2 0.1	0.4	
Swift				0.3	1.6 1.7 P	1.5 0.2 0.9	0.4 5.1 0.3	0.3 1.0 0.2	0.2			
Sand Martin			0.5 13	17 19 21	P P P	0.2	0.2 1.0 0.2	0.1 0.1 1.7	4.6 8.1 3.7	110 0.5		
Swallow				7.0 390 130	120 18 11	15 P P	P P P	P P 8.2	P 100 1900	130 100 9.9	3.0 0.3	
House Martin			0.2 4.2	3.9 4.9 8.1	18 P P	4.1 P 2.5	P P P	0.1 1.5	P 17 41	6.9 11 0.3		
Redstart				0.1 0.1 0.1		0.2			0.3 0.1 1.4	0.4 0.2 0.3	0.1	
Whinchat			1.4 0.6 1.4	2.6 0.1 0.3	0.2 0.2	0.1		0.5	0.3 0.9 5.3	0.2 0.1		
Wheatear			0.5 1.0 17	10 9.6 7.1	6.5 P P	2.3 0.8 P	B B 0.5	P 8.1	P 21 14	3.5 1.6.		

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 2002.

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

P: Present but numbers not reported; B: present, breeding

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Fieldfare			3.2 0.1							0.6 2.4 20	38 99 0.4	0.1
Redwing		0.3	3.4 1.0 0.6							21 160 270	44 180 6.1	1.1
Whitethroat					1.1 0.9 2.2	1.4 0.3 0.2	1.2 0.7 0.1	2.1 0.5	0.3 1.9 1.5	0.2		
Blackcap			0.2	1.3 3.4 1.4	0.6 2.1 0.5	0.7 0.2 0.1	0.4 0.1 0.1	0.2	0.5 1.9 12	4.3 12 7.1	3.2 1.1 0.2	
Chiffchaff			2.6 4.5	5.8 4.2 9.9	P 1.4 P	1.8 P P	P P 0.3	0.2 0.2 0.6	P 0.1 18	4.5 2.3 3.8	2.6 0.7 0.2	
Willow Warbler			1.4	12 30 16	P P P	1.7 P P	P P 6.2	37 54 11	5.0 13 0.8	0.4		
Goldcrest			2.7 2.5	2.6 1.3 1.7	0.8 0.1	0.2		1.1	1.8 4.9 24	52 24 6.9	23 2.8 0.1	
Spotted Flycatcher					0.1 1.2 4.0	3.2 0.8 0.8	1.2 0.4 0.4	0.2 1.5 4.2	2.9 6.0 5.8	0.2 0.2		

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers, Goldcrest and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 2002.

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

P: Present but numbers not reported; B: present, breeding