

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2009

By

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

Altogether 131 species were seen during 2009. While these included several national and Lundy rarities, there was no exceptional vagrant to set twitchers' hearts racing and pagers bleeping, and no new species was added to the island list. However, as always, fascinating new facts about Lundy's regular breeding birds and passage migrants continued to emerge – not least through satellite-tracking of some of Lundy's breeding Manx Shearwaters (of which more below). Coverage by birdwatchers in April/May and November seems to have been patchy, with many common migrants reported in lower numbers than would be expected. In May, June and July, little effort was made to record/confirm the breeding status or numbers of landbirds. In general, less is known about Lundy's breeding landbirds, including common species such as Chaffinch and Blackbird, and we would encourage visitors to enter [all](#) records of confirmed breeding in Section 3 of the LFS Logbook.

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

Regularly updated news, photos and video-clips of birds seen on Lundy are maintained by Richard Campey at www.lundybirds.org.uk – all contributions are welcomed by Richard.

Updates to the species texts published in *The Birds of Lundy* (Davis & Jones, 2007) are posted periodically at www.birdsoflundy.org.uk. Click on the blue box at the bottom of the menu bar to receive emails announcing text updates.

Seasonal summary for 2009

Winter (January/February & November/December)

One of the winter highlights was an extremely shy **Moorhen** around the chicken feeder at Pig's Paradise between 9 January and 10 February. **Teal** were reported on just three days in February and two males stayed for two days in early December.

The very cold weather in the early part of the year brought small influxes of **Golden Plovers** (max. 14 on 9 January) and **Lapwings** (max. 22 on 2 February). A **Black-throated Diver** was seen on 4 February off the East Side, where up to three **Great Northern Divers** were present during January and February.

Four **Cormorants** sitting on Gannets' Rock in early February, some in the early stages of breeding plumage, prompted thoughts that the species might return to breed there, but none stayed into the spring. A single Cormorant, seen on six days in the second winter-period, may have overwintered. **Oystercatchers** peaked at 14 on 27 December.

Counts of 1,000-1,500 **Kittiwakes** were recorded in the early part of the year, in particular during a cold spell with strong easterlies in early February; and 1,000 were present off North End and

the East Side on Christmas Day. Grant Sherman's longstanding interest in **Guillemots** yielded high counts of birds back on their breeding ledges in February (1,288) and December (1,115).

Rock Pipits get little in the way of attention, largely because so much of their favoured habitat is inaccessible to most observers, so it is good to report flocks of 15 and 20 in different parts of the island during BTO Atlas survey work in December.

Severe cold weather on the mainland brought January and February peaks of 80 and 100 **Redwings** respectively, but only small numbers of **Fieldfares** (max. 12). Cold weather around Christmas time resulted in small influxes of **Blackbirds** (max. 12), Fieldfares (25) and Redwing (40).

A **Firecrest** was present on 20 January, with probably the same bird seen in Millcombe on 2 February. The first recorded overwintering of **Long-tailed Tits** occurred in 2008/09, with two of the birds that arrived in November 2008 staying on through January and, remarkably, still present on 21 February, having survived the worst of the very cold weather – quite an achievement for an insectivore! The last sighting was of one in Millcombe on 15 March.

The only winter record of a **Snow Bunting** was of one bathing in pools on the main track at North End on 10 December, possibly still migrating rather than overwintering on the island.

Spring migration

Arrival of spring migrants got under way with the first **Wheatear** and **Chiffchaff** on 14 March, Wheatear passage peaking between 19 April and 2 May. Small numbers of **Black Redstarts** were about the island between 17 and 26 March. The first **Willow Warbler** was seen on 19 March, passage peaking between 20 and 24 April, with a high of 200, and the first **Blackcap** occurred on 11 April, reaching a peak of 20 before falling off quite suddenly at the end of the month.

The first hirundines to appear, on 13 March, were four **Sand Martins**, followed a day later by two **Swallows**, with the first **House Martins** (6) passing through on 22 March. Swallow migration lasted through to mid-May, reaching a peak on 20-22 April, with an estimated 15,000 on 22nd – an island record. **Redstarts** continue to be few and far between, with one or two seen on only four days in spring. Another increasingly scarce passage migrant on Lundy is **Ring Ouzel**, seen on just four days, although a maximum of five on 19 March was comfortably higher than the previous year's two.

A **Moorhen** at Pondsby on 15 March might possibly have been the earlier winter visitor. A lone **Pink-footed Goose** on 15-29 May was preceded on 29 April by a single **Canada Goose**. Nine **Shelducks** on the sea off the West Side on 16 April constituted the highest number ever recorded on Lundy.

For the second year running, the colour-ringed **Guillemot** from the Swedish island of Stora Karlsö in the Baltic was present in the breeding colony at St Philip's Stone. This year it revealed itself as a male when seen mating on 26 April.

Spring passage of waders was again very poor, with just a single **Ringed Plover**, one **Woodcock**, one or two **Golden Plovers** and single **Snipe** on just five days each, a lone **Dunlin** and one or two **Curlews** on four dates each, **Whimbrels** seen on 17 days with a maximum count of three, and a solitary **Green Sandpiper**.

Rarer spring migrants included Lundy's eighth **Nightjar** since 1970, seen at dusk on 25 May, and a **Wryneck** on 4 May. Not so much a spring migrant but a midsummer visitor came in the shape of Lundy's first **Kingfisher** this century, seen at North End on 27 June. On this date, too, a **Woodchat Shrike** was seen at Quarter Wall. A single **Hawfinch** was in Millcombe on 4 May, and a day earlier a **Corn Bunting** was seen around the farm buildings.

In both 2008 and 2009, **Spotted Flycatchers** were recorded on 17 days in May; however, whereas numbers peaked at an estimated 45 individuals in 2008, nine was the maximum this year, on 15th. **Jackdaws**, a rare spring migrant on Lundy, were about the island at various times between 14 March and 8 May, with five present in Middle Park on 16 April. A single **Rook** was seen on 13 & 15 March.

A sad footnote to the spring migration was the non-appearance, for the first time in many years, of **Turtle Dove**, numbers of which continue to decline nationally.

Half-a-dozen or so **Crossbills** were seen at various locations between Millcombe and Threequarter Wall between 14 and 29 July.

Breeding

The initial fieldwork in what is hoped will be a longer-running project to track the movements of feeding and migrating **Manx Shearwaters** took place over 12 nights in August: GPS tracking devices were fitted to 15 birds to trace their movements during feeding trips, with geolocators placed on another 19 individuals to track their migration to and from wintering areas off South America (see the report on p. nn). (Further fieldwork in 2010 is being supported by funds from *The Birds of Lundy* book.) From ringing work carried out in September, it would appear that shearwater numbers are increasing at a considerable rate, with young birds found in eight colonies between Puffin Slope westwards around to Benjamin's Chair.

Storm Petrels continue to elude efforts to prove that they are breeding on the island, none of the nearly 30 birds caught showing signs of a brood patch; more work to try and establish whether the species does breed on Lundy is planned for 2010.

It's almost impossible these days to set foot on the jetty from the *Oldenburg* without first seeing a **Peregrine**, and while their numbers continue to impress, with a possible five territorial pairs in 2009, only two pairs are thought to have reared young.

Water Rails nested successfully for the third consecutive year, providing yet further proof of the benefit to ground-nesters of eradicating rats from the island. In December, Water Rails were reported from five different locations, including Gannets' Combe.

Puffin numbers were up on 2008, with a maximum of 22 on 16 July, the highest since 2004; however, while birds were seen taking fish into three burrows in Jenny's Cove, no chicks were seen.

Cuckoo bred for the second consecutive year, a recently fledged bird being fed by **Meadow Pipits** in early June; a subsequent sighting of a juvenile in Millcombe three weeks later may have been the same bird.

Whitethroat song in early June and a juvenile in Millcombe suggested that breeding may have taken place.

Autumn migration

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the autumn was the arrival, on 18 October, of a party of eight **Whooper Swans**, six staying until 5 November, mostly on Pondsburry but also seen grazing the Brick, Tillage and Lighthouse Fields. **Mallard** numbers peaked at 26 on 25 September, a total that may have included one or two migrants. **Teal** were seen on only five days, all singles, on four days in September and one in November.

Raptor highlights included a **Montagu's Harrier** seen in the southern half of the island on two days in mid-September, while a **Hobby** on the very late date of 6 November was just two days off the latest date ever. A solitary **Turtle Dove** on 24 September was the only record for the year. A day later came the year's only sighting of a **Short-eared Owl**.

The latest ever **Sand Martin**, by a day, was recorded on 3 November. **House Martin** passage peaked at 750 on 27 September, while the autumn **Swallow** migration this year was prolonged and spectacular, with highs of 5,000 on 10 & 27 September, peak passage occurring in the last week of the month.

Two pipit species, one a scarce migrant and the other a British vagrant, both arrived on the same day, 23 October: while the former, a **Richard's Pipit**, was seen in flight only and quickly disappeared, Lundy's second **Olive-backed Pipit** stayed for two days and was photographed in St John's Valley by Andy Jayne. **Black Redstarts** were reported in good numbers, 20 around North Light on the last day of October. By contrast, **Redstart** numbers peaked at three and were seen on just nine days in autumn.

Numbers of autumn thrushes were marginally higher than in 2008, with maximum counts of 80 **Blackbirds**, 250 **Fieldfares**, 40 **Song Thrushes** and 250 **Redwings**. **Ring Ouzels** were recorded on nine days, with a high of three on 18 October, an improvement on 2008's single bird.

Among warblers, 30 **Sedge Warblers** on 24 August was a notable influx, coinciding with arrivals of **Whitethroats** (10) and **Grasshopper Warblers** (4). **Blackcaps** peaked at 50 on 14 October, **Whitethroats** at 12 on September, and there were single **Garden Warblers** on 14 days between 7 September and 19 October. A **Lesser Whitethroat** ringed on 13 October may have been the same individual seen on 3 November. 2009 was another very good year for **Yellow-browed Warblers**, with possibly up to 12 different birds occurring between 19 September and 30 October. **Chiffchaffs** passed through in good numbers in the second week of September, reaching 120 on 19th, the last of the year on 19th November.

Goldcrests were very low in number this year, with maxima of six in September, five in October and none recorded at all in November. By contrast, **Firecrests** were plentiful and seen on 24 days between 15 September and the last on 29 October, peaking at six on 18 October.

Two **Rooks** – a very rare autumn migrant – were seen on 14 September. The highest count of **Ravens** was 14, on 13 September. Since no reports of nesting birds or young of the year were entered in the LFS Logbook, it is difficult to say whether these were all island-bred birds.

Finch passage was down on previous years, with **Chaffinches** peaking at 1,200 on 19 October. Very small numbers of **Greenfinches** and **Bramblings** passed through in the second half of October, shortly after the peak of 75 **Goldfinches** on 13 & 14th. **Siskin** passage reached 140 on 22 October, while the highest estimate of **Linnet** numbers was 330 on 25 September.

Autumn sightings of **Lapland, Snow, Ortolan** and **Reed Buntings** brought the year's bunting list to five species following the spring Corn Bunting. Other autumn highlights included a **Cetti's Warbler** (22 Oct); one or two **Wrynecks** present for a short time in early September; a **Woodlark** which flew over Millcombe calling on 22 October; a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** about St John's Valley and Millcombe on 21-23 September; and a **Common Rosefinch** in Millcombe on 18 September.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Nomenclature and sequence

In January 2010, the Taxonomic Sub-Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) published its latest recommendations relating to the British List (Sangster *et al.* 2010. Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: Sixth report. *Ibis* 152: 180-186). The report's recommendations, centring on a new sequence for most passerine families, was adopted by the BOU with immediate effect. The LFS, in line with the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society, has adopted the new sequence, which is followed in this report. In the systematic list, where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (e.g. European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name.

The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken from the LFS Logbook and give the monthly maxima and, for some cases, the number of days on which the species was recorded. These counts obviously relate to times when visiting birdwatchers are present, particularly spring and autumn. Even then, coverage of the island may be patchy. Hence, the counts entered in the logbook are not necessarily fully representative; those that are evidently underestimates are given in square brackets.

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Olive-backed Pipit) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' (e.g. Richard's Pipit), or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Corn Bunting), are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, there are 'Lundy vagrants', species that are common on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Magpie); these records are assessed by the Lundy Bird Recorders.

In all cases, records of species that are rare – whether at national, county or island level – must be accepted by the relevant committee or recorder as being adequately documented. This helps to ensure that the ornithological records kept by different bodies, including the LFS, form a coherent whole, and that high standards of assessment are shared and applied. The unpredictable nature of birdwatching means that even the most experienced and knowledgeable observers are sometimes unable to clinch the identity of a suspected rarity; perhaps it was not seen for long enough, was too far away, or the weather was too bad for crucial plumage details to be picked out. In other cases, the distinguishing features are so subtle that photographs and/or examination of the bird in the hand may be required. The assessment of a rarity record as 'not proven' should be seen in the light of such challenges; it does not necessarily mean that those assessing the record believe the observer was mistaken.

Observers are asked to ensure that supporting notes for all records of rare species are entered in the LFS Logbook (which contains guidelines on what information to provide) as soon as possible after the sighting has been made. Please take care to ensure that your name(s) and

contact details are included – and legible! Photographs and video-clips are especially welcome and these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at info@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Observers' names are included below (where given in the LFS Logbook or in rarity accounts submitted direct to BBRC and DBRC) for all accepted 2009 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants.

Birds seen during boat crossings

Sightings during boat crossings have only been included when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. Observers are encouraged to submit other 'crossing records', particularly those for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw/Torridge Estuary, to the Devon County Recorder (email: recorder@devonbirds.org).

Acknowledgements

This report is a distillation of many individuals' observations. As always, the main debt of thanks goes to all those who contribute sightings to the LFS Logbook and/or to the database maintained by the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society (DBWPS).

Special thanks go to Richard Campey, with whom we liaise closely on the latest news sent for posting on his lundybirds.org.uk website, and to Nicola Saunders, Sophie Wheatley and their colleagues from the island wardening team. We also express our sincere appreciation to the Devon Birds Records Committee; Mike Langman, the Devon Bird Recorder; Julia Harris, the DBWPS database manager; and Peter Reay, editor of the *Devon Bird Report*. Others who have helped us in various ways include Tim Ball, Dawn Balmer, Tom Bedford, Frank Clark, Nigel Dalby, Tim Guilford, Mike Jackson, Andy Jayne, Ivan Lakin, James Leonard, Colin McShane, Grant Sherman, Tony Taylor and Neil Trout.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Lundy vagrant.

Eight adults arrived during the afternoon of 18 Oct, when they were seen flying along the East Side and later on Pondsburry (Shaun Barnes, Tony Taylor, Richard Taylor *et al.* – see frontispiece). All eight remained until 23 Oct. Thereafter, six stayed from 24 Oct until they were last seen on 5 Nov. Most sightings were either at Pondsburry or of birds grazing on sheep pasture in the Brick, Tillage and Lighthouse Fields. This constitutes the 14th Lundy record (the last being in May 2007) and the largest group ever seen on the island, following a flock of seven that arrived in Oct 2002. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Lundy vagrant.

One on Pondsburry and in Brick and Tillage Fields from 15 to 29 May (Chris Baillie, James Leonard, Grant Sherman *et al.*). This is the first occurrence in spring and constitutes the seventh LFS record, three of which have been since 2004. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder, who noted that a lone bird on this late date could have been an escaped or feral bird.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Lundy vagrant.

One on Pondsburry on 29 Apr (Grant Sherman). This is the 15th LFS record, 11 of which have been in Apr/May.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna**Lundy vagrant.*

Nine were on the sea off the West Side in the bay between Battery Point and Dead Cow Point on 16 Apr (Frank Clark) and two were on Pondsbury on 29 Apr (Grant Sherman) – the 20th and 21st LFS records.

Teal *Anas crecca* [Eurasian Teal]*Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer.*

Recorded on five dates in late winter and early spring: a male and female on 5 Feb, a male on 17 Feb, two (sexes unspecified) on 18 Feb, one on 19 Feb and one on 22 Mar. A very poor showing in autumn, with four records of single birds between 20 & 26 Sep, followed by one on 9 Nov, two (females) on Pondsbury on 9 & 10 Dec and a single female on 27 Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos**Resident breeding flock of feral origin; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.*

Mallard: maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	10	7	11	15*	9	9	20	26	22	20	19
*The May max of 15 on 11th probably includes a number of ducklings not specified in the logbook entry.											

Breeding was confirmed, the first ducklings being recorded on 8 Apr. A brood less than one-quarter grown were on Quarters Pond on 29 May and eight ducklings were on Pondsbury on 31 May.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* [Black Scoter]*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Three flew west on 4 May and one was seen on 4 Oct.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* [Black-throated Loon]*Lundy vagrant.*

One off the East Side was watched from the Terrace on 4 Feb, during a period of extremely cold weather that lasted for several days (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) – the 10th Lundy record and the first since 2003. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* [Great Northern Loon]*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.*

Recorded on eight dates in Jan, 12 in Feb and four in Mar, with monthly maxima of three on 4 & 24 Jan; two on 2, 4 & 5 Feb; and three on 9 Mar. The last sighting in Mar was on 16th. None thereafter until a single second calendar-year bird seen flying west on 4 May. In the latter part of the year there were singles on 26 Oct, 15-19 & 22 Nov.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* [Northern Fulmar]*Common breeder; recorded in all months, mainly from January to September.*

Fulmar: maximum one-day count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	89	70	70	50	50	25	20	40	–	21	251

There was no complete census of the island's breeding population in 2009 and this is reflected in the relatively low numbers shown in the table. The maximum of 89 was recorded on 8 Feb when many adults were present at the main breeding colonies. Several well-grown chicks (and attendant adults) were still on the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove on 6 Aug. Productivity at the Gannets' Rock colony was 0.47 chicks fledged per nesting attempt (Nicola Saunders & Sophie Wheatley, pers. comm.). A count on 10 Dec revealed 251 birds, most on breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove, at Long Roost and on Gannets' Rock.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from late March to September; occasional records in October.

Manx Shearwater: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	–	8	20	360	300	2,000	10,000	17	7	1	–

Three reported on 19 & 25 Jan and six on 22 Jan were perhaps more likely to have been Balearic Shearwaters. The first returning birds in spring were eight on 21 Mar. While birds were recorded on seven dates in Apr, the maximum was just 20 (off the East Side) on 27th. The first report of calling birds at night was on 4 May.

Tim Guilford and Robin Freeman of the Edward Grey Institute, University of Oxford, spent the first 12 nights of August carrying out fieldwork at the breeding colony between Old Light and Battery Point. During the first five nights, a total of 15 Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices were attached to assumed breeding adult shearwaters to track in detail the birds' movements during feeding trips out at sea. In addition, geolocator devices were attached to 19 birds to record their migration to and from wintering grounds off the coast of South America. (For further details of the methods used and results obtained, see p. nn.) During daylight hours, Tim and Robin recorded by far the highest count of shearwaters for the year; some 10,000 seen rafting between two and five km off the west coast on 3 Aug.

Between 27 Aug and 12 Sep, 145 chicks were ringed – twice the number found in 2008. Tony Taylor commented: "Not only a big increase in the main Old Light colony but shearwater nestlings also found on seven other slopes ranging from Puffin Slope to west of Benjamin's Chair."

A fledged chick found in the Black Shed on 17 Sep was ringed and released at a known breeding colony.

Later in the autumn, birds were seen offshore on six dates in Oct, with a maximum of seven on 23rd. The main breeding colony near Old Light was searched at night for late chicks and/or prospecting adults on 18 Oct. None was found, but one was heard calling further to the south. A single bird on 16 Nov was the only sighting for that month and the last of the year.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Lundy vagrant.

One seen off the East Side from The Ugly on 24 Oct (Andy Jayne), with the same or another individual in the same area on 25 Oct (Chris Baillie). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* [European Storm Petrel]

Uncommon passage migrant; possibly breeds – recorded on the island at night in small numbers during the breeding season.

Stuart Brown ringed 29 at night, using a tape lure, on the Terrace between 25 & 28 Jul. None of these birds had brood patches. One found dead on the Landing Beach on 28 Jul showed signs of having a brood patch. A few individuals were seen on four nights between 1 & 8 Aug in the vicinity of the Manx Shearwater colony between Old Light and Battery Point (Tim Guilford & Robin Freeman). This is potentially significant in that these birds were visiting the island at night and had not been drawn in artificially through the use of tape lures, which is generally the case for Storm Petrels ringed on Lundy. One on the crossing was seen “nearish” to Lundy on 30 May, with another “about 25 minutes before we docked” on 11 Aug.

Gannet *Morus bassanus* [Northern Gannet]

Common offshore from spring to autumn; less frequent in winter; formerly bred.

Gannet: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	2	7	25	80	40	31	60	150	300	6

Very scarce in the early part of the year, with only one record in Jan, one in Feb and three in Mar. Seen more frequently in Apr (12 records) but numbers still low. The spring/summer maximum of 80 was on 3 Jun. More numerous in autumn, the highest count of the year being 300 on 1 Nov.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* [Great Cormorant]

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

Cormorant: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	6	3	–	8	4	5	13	13*	13	1	1

*Counts of 60+ and 50+ were entered in the logbook for 16 & 17 Sep. While flocks of migrating Cormorants regularly overfly the island in Sep, these would be among the highest daily totals on record. Given that the corresponding counts entered for Shag were one and zero (even though between 40 and 70 were recorded regularly on other days during the month), and in the absence of supporting information to the contrary, we consider that an error may have been made.

Noted feeding around the island (rather than passing through) in early Feb. Of six seen on 4 Feb, four were sitting on Gannets’ Rock (former Cormorant breeding site). Many of the birds seen in Feb showed signs of breeding plumage. However, these seem to have been winter visitors only, as there was no indication of presence at potential breeding sites during the spring or summer. Small numbers of presumed non-breeders and passage migrants were seen in May–Jul. In autumn, the highest count was 13 on 6 Aug, 26 Sep and 4 Oct. One was seen on 4 & 5 Nov, and a single, possibly overwintering bird was also seen on six days, including perched on Gannets’ Rock, in Dec.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* [European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

There was no complete breeding census of the island’s breeding population in 2009 (estimated at 63 pairs in 2008) and this is reflected in the low counts contained in the table for May–Jul.

The maximum of 100+ was recorded on 21 Apr. Two chicks were seen being fed at a nest on the north side of Jenny's Cove on 9 Jun. Fledged young were still being fed by adults on 6 Aug at Jenny's Cove and North West Point.

Shag: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	38	30	100+	32	33	20+	100	60	77	14	5

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Former Lundy vagrant, now uncommon visitor mostly between spring and autumn.

One seen by the Sugar Loaf on 17 Jul flew over Castle Hill and continued westwards (James Leonard). This is the 23rd record for the island and the sixth consecutive year in which Little Egrets have been seen on Lundy.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; recorded throughout the year but most regular during late summer and early autumn.

Grey Heron: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	–	4	2	1	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	4	5	4	3	2	–	–

More notable sightings included four flying north together on 22 Jun, and two soaring in the updraught off North Light on 21 Jul.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* [Northern Harrier]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

One on 7 Feb, one on 15 Mar and two on 16 Mar (ages/sexes not specified). None was recorded in autumn.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Lundy vagrant.

A ringtail was seen at various locations in the southern half of the island on 12 & 13 Sep (Colin McShane, Frances Stuart & Anne Woolley). Record accepted by DBRC.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nissus* [Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; has bred at least once.

Sparrowhawk: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	3	2	2
–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	9	28	7	3

In spring, singles recorded on six dates between 24 Mar and 30 Apr. Towards the end of the year, noted between 8 Sep and 10 Dec, with virtually daily sightings of up to three birds in Oct.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* [Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; breeds occasionally.

Kestrel: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
–	–	–	1	2	1	–	2	3	2	1	1	
–	–	–	7	13	10	–	13	27	20	9	1	

Singles were recorded regularly from 16 Apr to 28 Jun with two reported on 5 & 12 May. However, there was no evidence of breeding behaviour and the birds' sexes were not recorded. In autumn, there were records from 9 Aug, with frequent sightings of one to three birds in Sep and Oct. Singles only were recorded in Nov, and in Dec the only sighting was of a male on 9th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; very rare in summer.

Merlin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	2	3	2	1	
–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	10	26	7	4	

There was no sign of overwintering on the island and spring migration was apparently sparse, with single birds on six dates between 5 Apr and 12 May. In autumn, seen from 6 Sep, with a maximum of three on 1, 2, 11 & 28 Oct. The last bird of the year was one on 23 Dec.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* [Eurasian Hobby]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

The only spring record was of one on 21 Apr. Autumn passage consisted of singles on 26 Aug and 13, 19 & 25 Sep. A very late bird was reported on 6 Nov, approaching the latest-ever date for this species on Lundy, a record set on 8 Nov 2004.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* [Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

Seen in all months, with a maximum of five recorded in the logbook on 4 Apr and four dates in Oct (19th, 22nd, 23rd & 28th). Up to five territorial pairs, but only two pairs thought to have bred successfully.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; first confirmed breeding in 2007 since when a small, apparently resident, population has established.

Water Rail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	1	2	5*	4*	7*	1	2	7	7	2	4	
2	7	4	13	15	14	3	5	21	28	10	7	
*Maxima for these months include adults and young												

Bred successfully for the third consecutive year, with at least two pairs, one in lower Millcombe in the vicinity of the pond/stream below dam and another in St John's Valley. An adult with three chicks was seen in lower Millcombe on 18 Apr. A nest with seven eggs was found near Brambles on 21 Apr. Juveniles were seen on at least four dates in Jun and heard calling in lower Millcombe from 6–8 Aug. Birds were also heard calling persistently at night from Pig's Paradise pond in mid-Jun (where one seen by torchlight on 12th), but no other evidence of breeding. Broods of at least two chicks each heard calling from Lower Millcombe and St John's on 23 Aug. In Sep, three adults and at least four chicks were recorded in different parts of Millcombe on 7th, and at least six birds were recorded on 23rd, including three "on top" of the island, perhaps indicating passage. The highest October count was also seven (on 10th) but there was no indication whether this included chicks. In Dec, Water Rails were recorded at five locations: Millcombe, St John's Valley, Pig's Paradise, near the stone crusher in the Tent Field, and near the main track at the head of Gannets' Combe – the latter possibly a late migrant or a wintering bird, or perhaps evidence of a further spread of the resident population.

One was caught in a mist-net set to trap House Sparrows in the lambing shed on 14 Feb. The remains of a fully grown bird were found at Pondsburry on 17 Apr (skull, bill and a few head feathers only).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* [Common Moorhen]

Rare visitor; has bred.

One was seen regularly on the pond and around the chicken feeder at Pig's Paradise/Quarters from 9 Jan to 10 Feb. It was extremely shy and scuttled off quickly whenever it caught sight of people. One was seen in the north-west corner of Pondsburry on 15 Mar. These are the first records since 2006.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [Eurasian Oystercatcher]

Common breeder and passage migrant; recorded throughout the year but scarcer in late autumn and winter.

Oystercatcher: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	20	24	16	22	32	13	14	25	14	14
11	15	18	21	20	23	19	13	11	10	7	9

Confirmed breeding with a nest containing eggs on the Miller's Cake on 24 May, a pair and three young at Frenchman's Landing on 15 Jun and two young on the Miller's Cake on 16th, but there was no all-island count of territories or nests. The highest count of the year, 32 on 14 Jul, involved a flock seen off the Sugar Loaf. Fourteen on 27 Dec was an unusually high count for this time of year.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [Common Ringed Plover]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter records.

The only spring record was of two on 14 May. In autumn, singles were seen on six dates between 11 Aug and 13 Sep.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [European Golden Plover]

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; irregular winter visitor.

Golden Plover: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	4	10	1	5
4	1	2	1	2	–	–	–	11	9	1	2

Cold weather early in the year brought a small influx of five on 2 Jan, followed by two on 7th, 11 on 8th and 14 on 9th. Following five more scattered sightings of ones and twos, the last spring record was of one in breeding plumage on 31 May. The first of autumn was one on 5 Sep. The highest count was ten on 16 Oct.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [Northern Lapwing]

Common passage migrant. Formerly a common breeder, spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor, but major decline in recent years.

Small influxes at the beginning of the year during periods of cold weather. Recorded on eight dates between 7 Jan and 3 Feb, with peak counts of 14 on 10 Jan and 22 on 2 Feb. In spring, there were singles on 12 Mar and 12 Apr, while further single birds were seen on three dates between 7 and 24 Jun. In autumn, three were seen on 16 Oct, one on 29 Oct, one on 5 Nov, three on 8 Nov and one on 9 Nov.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

One seen on rocks below North Light on 27 Sep.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; very rare in winter.

In spring, there were singles on four dates between 19 Apr and 15 May, while autumn migration brought further single birds on 17 Jul, 9 Sep and 8 Oct. All-in-all a poor showing by one of the commoner migrant waders on Lundy.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly late Sep to Mar.

One record only, of a single bird on 4 Feb.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* [Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Snipe: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	1	1	1	–	–	2	6	6	2	8
4	7	2	2	1	–	–	2	13	16	5	6

Only absent during the early summer, but numbers generally low, with peak counts of six on 20 Sep and 22 Oct, and eight on 9 Dec during a BTO Atlas winter-period survey.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* [Eurasian Woodcock]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly Oct to Mar.

Recorded on six dates between 7 & 23 Jan (maximum three on 9th), twice in Feb (singles on 3rd & 6th) and once in Mar (one on 21st). The first of the autumn was one on 19 Oct, with further singles on 29 Oct and 6 & 9 Nov, with two on 7 Nov; a rather poor showing, perhaps reflecting the unseasonably mild conditions up to mid-Dec.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; declining.

In spring, recorded on 17 dates between 20 Apr and 15 May; mostly single birds but two on 27 Apr, three on 29 Apr and two on 4 May. In autumn, four on 14 Aug and one on 24th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* [Eurasian Curlew]

Common spring and autumn migrant in declining numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.

Curlew: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	3	1	2	–	1	–	5	2	1	–	–
–	1	1	3	–	1	–	5	4	3	–	–

Recorded on 18 days (similar to 2008), with a maximum count of five on 6 Aug.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

One on 25 Aug was the only record for the whole year; a dismal showing.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

One flew in off the sea and called over Millcombe before flying off high to the south on 2 May (John Horton). The only autumn record was of two on 24 Aug.

Redshank *Tringa totanus* [Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

The only sighting of the year was of one on 29 Aug.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [Ruddy Turnstone]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Two were seen on Gull Rock on 4 Sep. The only other record was of a single bird on 26 Oct.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* [Parasitic Jaeger]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

Single birds were recorded on 15 Oct and 18 Nov.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

Singles were seen on 7 & 8 Sep and 3 & 23 Oct.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* [Black-legged Kittiwake]

Common but declining breeding species; uncommon from Sep to Jan.

There were high numbers offshore early in the year, with 1,000 or more on eight dates between 15 Jan and 16 Feb, and a maximum of at least 1,500 off the East Side on 3 Feb during a cold snap with strong easterly winds. In the second winter period, 1,000 were estimated offshore (North End 800, East Side 200) on Christmas Day. There was no complete census of the island's breeding population in 2009 but surveys of the colonies at St Mark's Inlet and Aztec Bay produced 106 and 28 nesting attempts respectively, with combined productivity of 0.28 young fledged per nesting attempt (Nicola Saunders & Sophie Wheatley, pers. comm.).

Kittiwake: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,250	1,500	800	200	200	220	30	80	2	200	10	1,000

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]
Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.
 Five on 16 Apr, one on 22 Oct and two on 25 Dec were the only records.

Common Gull *Larus canus* [Mew Gull]
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly September to April.
 One on 3 & 4 Feb during a period of cold weather.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Common breeding species and passage migrant; uncommon in winter.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	21	100	400	107	300	80	100	17	32	23	80

There was no census of the island's breeding population in 2009, so the table gives an incomplete picture for the spring/summer months. Eighty birds, sitting out stormy conditions, were in the Brick Field on 7 Dec, with 60 still present the following day.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*
Common breeding species; present all year but fewer in winter.

Herring Gull: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
150	324	110	500	207	400	100	60	20	100	50	350

There was no census of the island's breeding population in 2009, so the table gives an incomplete picture for the spring/summer months.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
Breeds; present in all months, but fewer in winter.

Great Black-backed Gull: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	59	29	30	49	100	20	20	51	72	60	60

There was no census of the island's breeding population in 2009, so the table gives an incomplete picture.

Guillemot *Uria aalge* [Common Murre]
Common breeder, but in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from Aug to Oct, then occasional sightings to Jan.

Guillemot: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
814	1,288	1,400	1,773	1,545	1,000	250	2	–	60	4	1,115

There was no complete census of the island's breeding population in 2009, so the table gives an incomplete picture. Surveys of the colonies at Long Roost and Aztec Bay produced 36 and 29 nesting attempts respectively, with combined productivity of 0.63 young fledged per nesting attempt (Nicola Saunders & Sophie Wheatley, pers. comm.). The maxima given in the table are derived mainly from detailed counts carried out by Grant Sherman at the main colonies on the West Side. The peak Jan count of 814 (on 9th) relates to birds already occupying breeding ledges, continuing the run of high counts from Nov (650) and Dec (915) 2008 and demonstrating that birds come back to their breeding sights on a regular basis earlier than previously (or at least earlier than previously known about). This was underlined when 1,115 birds were counted on breeding ledges on 10 Dec.

The colour-ringed bird '74A' ringed on the Swedish Baltic island of Stora Karlsö in 2002 was seen in the breeding colonies at St Philip's Stone for the second year running – identifying itself as a male when seen mating on 26 Apr.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeder, though in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between Aug and Feb.

Razorbill: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	89	650	530	500	500	200	4	1	3	3	–

There was no census of the island's breeding population in 2009, so the table gives an incomplete picture. Birds were back on the breeding ledges from mid-February, much later than Guillemots (which returned during the late autumn of 2008).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* [Atlantic Puffin]

Uncommon breeding species; formerly bred in large numbers; very rare between mid-Aug and early Apr.

Puffin: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	18	11	13	22	–	–	–	–	–

The first of the year were two off St Philip's Stone on 23 Mar. The first sightings on land were also at St Philip's, where two were seen outside burrows on 8 Apr. On 10 Apr, three were seen on land at Jenny's Cove. Birds were collecting nest material on 13 Apr and by 21 Apr six were seen on land at St Philip's Stone and up to 11 at Jenny's. In contrast with recent years, Jenny's Cove saw more breeding season activity than St Philip's Stone and breeding was confirmed at Jenny's when adults were seen taking fish into three burrows on 1 Jul; however, no chicks were seen this year. The count of 22 on 16 Jul was the highest since 2004 (when 25 were counted in Jun). The last record was of seven on 27 Jul.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
Common visitor in small numbers.

Feral Pigeon: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	2	3	9	4	12	18	1	–	–
–	–	–	2	5	17	6	6	10	3	–	–

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.
Two were seen on 27 Mar. In autumn, singles occurred on 14 Oct and 9 Nov.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* [Common Wood Pigeon]
Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; sporadic in winter.

Woodpigeon: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	2	3	4	4	2	3	4	–	1	1
–	2	5	19	15	8	5	8	23	–	5	1

Present throughout the breeding season but no evidence of nesting. Potential nesting habitat is dwindling as the remaining stands of rhododendron are cleared.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* [Eurasian Collared Dove]
Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has bred; has overwintered.

Collared Dove: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	2	1	3	3	–	1?	–	–	–
–	–	1	1	7	10	3	–	1?	–	–	–

Typically, not seen until spring (first at the Rocket Pole on 23 Mar). The highest count was just three on 28 Jun and 13 Jul. The single autumn record, of one on 25 Sep, may in fact have been a misidentified Turtle Dove (see entry below).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* [European Turtle Dove]
Scarce spring and autumn migrant.
For the first time in many years there were no spring records of this beautiful migratory dove whose breeding population has declined alarmingly, especially in western parts of the UK. A single autumn record of one on 24 Sep, possibly still present the next day but recorded as a Collared Dove.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* [Common Cuckoo]
Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding not confirmed between 2000 and 2007 but was successful in both 2008 and 2009.
Recorded between 23 Apr and 26 Jun, with sightings of single adults on two dates in Apr and six dates in May, and two adults present on 4 May. Successful breeding was confirmed when a

juvenile was seen on 2 Jun being fed by Meadow Pipits near the Terrace Heligoland Trap. Another juvenile, perhaps the same bird, was seen in Millcombe on 25 & 26 Jun; there was no indication that this bird was still being fed by its host parents.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

One on 25 Sep was the only record for the year.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* [European Nightjar]

Lundy vagrant.

One seen at dusk on 25 May near the gate between the Upper East Side Path and the top of Millcombe. The bird circled low over scrub close to the observer, then flew off north along the East Side (Mike Jackson). Although Nightjars are reported as having bred on Lundy in the distant past, this is only the eighth record since 1970.

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]

Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

Swift: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	4	12	30	5	5	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	15	8	1	5	–	–	–	–

The first of the year were four on 25 April – a typical date. Fair weather in Jun but poor conditions in Jul are reflected in the maxima for those months. The last of the year were three on the relatively early date of 6 Aug, again probably reflecting the wet summer weather in the South West.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* [Common Kingfisher]

Lundy vagrant.

One called several times off North End between Puffin Gully and the North Light landing steps on 27 Jun. The bird was then seen flying about 50m into Puffin Gully and back out again (Stephen Westcott). This is the 14th LFS record and the first since Jun 1999.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* [Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was flushed from the Upper East Side Path just below Quarter Wall Cottages on 4 May (John Horton). A first-year bird was trapped, ringed and released in Millcombe on 4 Sep (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor). What was probably a different bird (there being no obvious sign of a ring) was in Quarter Wall Copse on 10 & 11 Sep (Malcolm Shakespeare, Richard Taylor). Records accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was seen at Quarter Wall and on the wall between the Brick Field and main track on 27 Jun (Katharine Sawyer, Chas Wood *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* [Western Jackdaw]

Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Four were seen flying north, then landing in amongst the sheep in the Brick Field on 14 Mar, remaining until 15th. Later in the spring, five were seen in Middle Park on 16 Apr, four were on

the island on 6 May (location not recorded), an unspecified number were seen on 7 May and six on 8th (locations not recorded).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.

One was in the Lighthouse Field on 5 & 6 Feb and one in the Brick Field on 13 & 15 Mar. In autumn, two reported on 14 Sep.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeds; present throughout the year.

Carrion Crow: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	40	30	52	30	25	20	60	38	30	30	45

The winter maximum early in the year was considerably lower than the 57 recorded in Feb 2008 but there was otherwise no clear trend when comparing the monthly maxima for 2008 and 2009. There was no estimate of the number of breeding pairs and only one breeding location was reported – a nest containing at least three well-feathered young in St Helen’s Combe on 23 May. Well-grown, fully fledged young were seen about the island in the first week of Aug. The count of 60 on 25 Aug is the second-highest count ever (after 69 on 17 Oct 1957) and may have involved a temporary influx of dispersing young, given that counts before and after were much lower.

Raven *Corvus corax* [Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

Raven: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	9	6	6	8	5	4	9	14	10	8	8

There was no estimate of the breeding population and no nest locations were reported in the logbook. The peak count of 14 – the highest since 19 on 18 Oct 2002 (14 also occurred on 9 Oct 2005) – was recorded on 13 Sep. Three or more birds were regularly to be seen scavenging food from the pig-sty, following arrival of two Gloucestershire Old Spots on 27 Aug, offering startlingly close-up views, especially for photographers.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.

Not recorded until the commencement of spring movements with one on 10 Mar and a maximum of 16 on 16th. The last of the spring was one on 7 May. There was no evidence of summering or breeding. The first autumn migrant was one on 27 Aug, followed by two on 14 Sep. Thereafter, seen on most days from 19th to the end of the month, but numbers low with a maximum of just six on 28th. The poor showing continued in Oct with a maximum of just five on 10th and no records at all for Nov. The unusually low numbers in autumn were perhaps due to a combination of weather-related factors, including the severe cold spell in Feb, followed by a cool, wet breeding season in north and west Britain and Ireland, from where ringing has suggested that most of the Goldcrests passing through Lundy in autumn originate. The only winter record was of a single bird on 28 Dec.

Goldcrest: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	16	4	1	–	–	1	6	5	–	1
–	–	9	8	1	–	–	1	12	17	–	1

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered. One was seen on 20 Jan and perhaps the same bird on 2 Feb, the latter in Millcombe during the cold snap of early Feb. Thereafter, none until another singleton in Millcombe on 22 Mar – a typical date for a spring migrant. In autumn, the first were two on 15 Sep. Records of ones and twos followed on a further nine dates until 14 Oct, then a run of almost daily counts up to and including 29 Oct, with maxima of five on 21st and six on 18th, making this species more frequent and more numerous than the usually much commoner Goldcrest! None was seen after a single bird on 29 Oct.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Lundy vagrant.

One was seen and heard calling in flight over Millcombe during the late morning of 22 Oct (Richard Taylor). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder – the 14th record since 1960, the last being in Oct 2007.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* [Sky Lark]

Common breeder; common spring and autumn migrant; sporadic in winter with influxes during exceptionally cold weather.

Skylark: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	25	50	50	71	40	12	20	40	13	6	8
2	18	20	16	19	20	11	9	23	21	8	3

There were no counts of singing males and no confirmation of breeding, showing a high degree of under-recording. As usual, the island was largely vacated in winter.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

Sand Martin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	46	25	40	1	1	3	100	4	1	–
–	–	8	15	12	1	1	7	18	3	2	–

The first spring migrants were four on 13 Mar, with the spring maxima being 46 on 16 Mar and 40 on 7 May. In autumn, the maximum was 100 on 13 Sep. The final record of the year was of one on 2 & 3 Nov, beating by a day the previous latest sighting (of one on 2 Nov 1978).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* [Barn Swallow]

Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in very small numbers from time to time.

Swallow: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	40	15,000	1,800	30	20	30	5,000	1,500	8	–
–	–	8	21	22	28	24	18	28	26	6	–

The first of the year were two on 14 Mar. Spring migration peaked towards the end of Apr, when an estimated 1,000 per hour passed through on 20th and 21st and a record 15,000 were estimated on 22nd. The highest count in May was 1,800 on 10th. Three recently fledged young were seen on the gate opposite the shop on 12 Jul and at least four young fledged from the gas store and were being fed by adults in the treetops in Millcombe on 8 Aug. The nest in the fire-engine shed held two dead (but fully feathered) and two live chicks on 3 Sep. Breeding was also confirmed in the beach building and Church porch, but with no record of fledging success. With nests in at least four different locations, 2009 was the best year on record in terms of the number of breeding pairs, though the often wet and windy weather from Jul to Sep may have suppressed the number of young fledged successfully due to starvation and/or chilling.

Main autumn movements began in the second week of September, with 400 on 9th and 5,000 on 10th. There were counts of 500 or more on a further 11 dates in Sep, including 5,000 on 27th, when a continuous stream passed south along the East Side, many 'stacking' over Castle Hill and South Light for a time, feeding on flying ants. A first-year bird caught and ringed on the latter date was controlled 374 km away, at Icklesham, East Sussex, just three days later (30th). Back on Lundy, numbers reached 500 or more on eight dates during the first half of October, with a maximum of 1,500 on 4th & 8th. The last of the year were three on 7 Nov.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum* [Common House Martin]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional during summer and has bred.

House Martin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	6	50	50	4	2	20	750	200	2	–
–	–	2	14	14	11	2	6	19	16	2	–

The first spring migrants were six at Pondsburry on 22 Mar. The modest spring peak of 50 was recorded on 22 Apr and 7 & 10 May. As for Swallow, major autumn movements were first noted in the second week of Sep, with 200 on 13th and five other counts of 50 or more before the end of the month, including 750 on 27th. In Oct, higher counts included 50 on 4th & 15th and 200 on 5th. The last of the year was a single bird on 7 Nov.

Cettii's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Lundy vagrant.

One seen by the Terrace Trap on 22 Oct (Andy Jayne) was later trapped, ringed and photographed (Richard Taylor – see frontispiece). This is only the third occurrence of this species on Lundy following singles in 2003 and 2006, both also in the second half of Oct.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* [Long-tailed Bushtit]

Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; two previous winter records.
 The two birds remaining at the end of 2008, following a small influx in Nov, were seen on six dates in Jan, mainly in Millcombe but also around the Campsite on one occasion. They were seen together in Quarter Wall Copse on 3 Feb, after which one was seen in apparently poor condition attempting to feed on the ground in freezing rain at the top of Millcombe on 5th. Thereafter, one was in Millcombe on 15 Feb but two were reported again on 21st. Finally, one was seen in Millcombe on 14 & 15 Mar. This is the first occasion on which this species is known to have overwintered on Lundy. It is especially remarkable that at least one bird survived the severe cold weather in the first week of Feb.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

At least nine (and possibly up to 12) different individuals occurred between 19 Sep and 30 Oct: one in Millcombe, 19 Sep (Ivan Lakin); one in Millcombe, 2 Oct (Tim Jones *et al.*); one trapped and ringed in Millcombe, 13 Oct (Tim Ball); one trapped and ringed below Brambles, 15 Oct (Tim Ball), with perhaps the same bird seen on 16 Oct (James Leonard); one trapped and ringed in Millcombe, 18 Oct (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor); one on the Terrace early morning of 23 Oct (Chris Baillie), with what was presumed to be the same bird trapped and ringed in Millcombe that afternoon (Tony Taylor); one ringed in Millcombe at 14:00 on 26 Oct (Rob Duncan, Richard Taylor *et al.*), with another unringed bird seen on the Terrace mid-afternoon that day (Andy Jayne); one in Millcombe on 27 Oct may have been the individual ringed on 26th (Ross Bower); one ringed in lower St John's Valley on 30 Oct (Rob Duncan, Tony Palmer, Tony Taylor). Records accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; declining.

Just two records during spring migration: one on 26 & 27 Apr and one on 13 May. One on 17 Sep was the only autumn record.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; breeds sporadically.

Chiffchaff: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	30	10	5	5	3	120	30	6	–
–	–	6	15	16	12	3	5	28	28	10	–

The first spring migrant was one on 14 Mar. Passage peaked towards the end of Apr with 30 on 21st. Song was reported regularly until mid-May, then again between 30 May and 3 Jun and although small numbers were seen on many dates in Jun – with five reported on 17th – there was no evidence of breeding. Significant autumn movements were apparent from the second week of Sep, with peak counts of 120 on 19th, 75 on 25th and 60 on 30th; 30 or more occurred on five other days. More modest movements continued throughout Oct, with 30 recorded on five dates between 2nd and 15th, followed by much lower counts to the end of the month and scattered reports of one to six birds in Nov, the last of these being two on 19th. There were no records in either winter period.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus*

Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; has bred.

Willow Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	200	20	1	7	100	50	2	–	–
–	–	2	19	15	3	1	16	23	5	–	–

The earliest spring migrant was one on 19 Mar. Spring passage peaked in the second half of April with 90 on 17th, 100 on 21st & 24th and 200 on 22nd. The highest count in May was 20 on 6th. Song was heard in Millcombe on 3 & 4 Jun but there was no evidence of breeding – and indeed no further sightings until the first dispersing young/returning migrants were recorded on 30 Jul. There were several notable influxes in Aug with 56 on 7th and 100 on 24th. Movements continued throughout Sep, including peaks of 50 on 13th and 40 on 14th & 19th. Migration slowed to a trickle later in Sep with no more than three in a day recorded during the last week of the month. After two on 1 & 2 Oct, there were singles on 14th, 16th and 17th, the latter the last of the year.

Single first-year birds showing the characteristics of *P. t. acredula* were trapped and ringed in St John's Valley on 24 Aug and on the Terrace on 27 Aug (John Walshe).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* [Eurasian Blackcap]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter.

Blackcap: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	20	6	1	–	1	40	50	–	–
–	–	–	14	8	1	–	1	25	27	–	–

The first of the spring were two on 11 Apr. Spring passage seems to have been patchy and/or under-recorded, with a modest peak of 20 on 26 & 28 Apr. The highest count in May was just six on 7th. Birds were seen regularly until 15 May, followed by one on 30 May. Thereafter, no records until 27 Jun when one juvenile was reported from Millcombe – presumably an early dispersing mainland-bred bird as there is no suggestion that breeding occurred on Lundy. The next record, and the only sighting for Aug, was of one on 24th. Migrants were recorded almost daily in Sep & Oct, with maxima of 40 on 20 Sep, 30 on 25 Sep, 25 on 4 Oct and 50 on 14 Oct. The last of the year was one on 31 Oct.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.

Garden Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	2	–	2	–	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	2	–	2	–	9	5	–	–

In spring, one on 27 Apr and two on 15 & 23 May. There were two reports in Jul, a single bird on 29 Jul and two on 30th. It is unfortunate that no additional detail was provided by the observer(s)

as midsummer records of Garden Warbler are virtually non-existent for Lundy, so some doubt must exist as to the reliability of these reports (the only previous Jul record is of a single bird on 17 Jul 1992). In autumn, singles were recorded on nine dates in Sep between 7th & 26th and on five dates between 14 & 19 Oct, the latter being the last of the year. One controlled in Millcombe on 18 Sep by Rob Skeates *et al.* had been ringed as a first-year bird at Snettisham Coastal Park, Norfolk, some 397 km to the east, on 9 Sep.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; one recent breeding record.

Seen on three dates in spring: two on 18 Apr, two on 26 Apr and one on 6 May. In autumn, singles on ten dates between 13 Sep and 3 Nov. At least six of these records probably refer to a single ringed bird originally trapped on 13 Oct and apparently still present on 30th. It seems likely that the last sighting of the year, on 3 Nov, also involved this same individual.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* [Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; formerly bred in small numbers

Whitethroat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	6	2	2	3	10	12	1	–	–
–	–	–	8	7	6	7	8	23	2	–	–

The first spring migrant was seen on 17 Apr, with numbers reaching a maximum of just six on 24 Apr. Up to two were recorded sporadically in May, Jun & Jul; song was reported from 2–4 Jun and a juvenile was seen in Millcombe on 17 Jul, suggesting that breeding may have occurred on the island. The first noticeable movement of autumn was of ten on 24 Aug, coinciding with an arrival of Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers. Thereafter, seen almost daily in Sep, with peaks of 12 on 10th and 17 on 20th. The final sightings of the year were of singles on 4 & 19 Oct.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* [Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

The first migrant of the spring was on 13 Apr. Recorded on 13 further dates until 4 May, with a maximum of ten on 27 Apr. In autumn, four on 24 Aug, with one the following day, followed by records on six dates in Sep (between 14th & 30th, with a maximum of four on 20th) and two dates in Oct (two on 4th, one on 5th).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring.

Sedge Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	10	8	1	–	30	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	11	7	2	–	3	7	–	–	–

The earliest spring migrant arrived on 17 Apr and the highest count was ten on 26 Apr. The last spring record was a singing bird on 3 & 4 Jun, while the first of the autumn migration arrived on 6 Aug, with five the following day. There was a notable influx of 30 on 24 Aug. Singles occurred on six dates in Sep, with four on 20th, the last of the year being one on 28 Sep.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* [Eurasian Reed Warbler]*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

In spring, recorded on five dates between 7 May and 3 Jun. Four of these sightings involved single birds, with two present on 8 May. In autumn, singles on 27, 29 & 30 Aug, 7 & 10 Sep and 17-19 & 21 Oct, the latter the last of the year.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* [Winter Wren]*Common breeding resident.*

Wren: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	9	10	8	36	12	15	46	51	20	30	24

There was no full count of territorial males in spring but 36 Wrens were recorded on two dates in the last week of May. Breeding was confirmed when adults were seen carrying food in at least three different territories in Millcombe in mid-May and fledged young were seen in the first week of Aug. Forty-six were recorded in a partial count of the south and east of the island (south of Halfway Wall) on 7 Aug and 51 were counted in a similar area on 30 Sep. The Dec count of 24 was made on 9th during a BTO Atlas survey, with all the birds located in the south-east of the island, south of Halfway Wall.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* [Common Starling]*Resident; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant, often in large numbers.*

Starling: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	50	20	30	30	25	30	25	55	350	600	310

There were no unusually high counts during the first half of the year, though a small influx was noted during the cold weather of early Feb. There was no estimate of the breeding population and just one nesting location was reported, a pair with young in a wall at the Campsite. The first autumn movements were apparent from the second week of Sep, when numbers rose above 30 for the first time since the winter, with 55 on 11th. There were significant movements from mid-Oct: 300 on 18th and 23rd, 350 on 29th and 600 on 9 Nov. Migration continued well into Dec, with flocks seen leaving the island high to the north, into a headwind, on 10 Dec and to the south, following a change in wind direction to SE, on 11th. The highest Dec count was 310 on 8th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus**Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Ring Ouzel: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	–
–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	8	1	–

In spring, the first was seen on 17 Mar, followed by five on 19th. Thereafter, a female on 24 & 26 Apr was the only other record. In autumn, seen on nine dates between 13 Oct and 7 Nov. All records were of single birds, except for three on 18 Oct.

Blackbird *Turdus merula* [Common Blackbird]

Common breeding resident; irregular spring migrant and common late-autumn migrant; occasional winter influxes during hard weather.

Blackbird: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	11	4	6	8	7	8	7	12	80	41	12

Frequently cold conditions in Jan and Feb meant that numbers were perhaps slightly higher than in typically mild winters. There was no notable spring passage and little evidence of breeding indicated in the logbook, though song was heard in Millcombe in mid-May and at least one fledged youngster was seen there on 23 May. The first sizeable influx during autumn migration also brought the highest count of the year: 80 on 14 Oct. Other notable counts included 70 on 16 Oct, 30 on 18 Oct and 41 on 9 Nov. Movements appear to have largely ceased by mid-Nov, with no counts in double figures after 19 on 11th, apart from a cold-weather influx of 12 on 24 Dec.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common migrant in early spring and, especially, late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.

Fieldfare: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	12	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	50	250	25
1	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	11	11

Very few early in the year, with a maximum of 12 on 7 Feb. The first of the autumn were 15 on 14 Oct. Modest movements took place from then until the third week of Nov, with peak counts of 50 on 17 Oct and 250 on 6 Nov. A small influx occurred in late Dec, peaking at 25 on 24th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Resident in small numbers, breeding in most years; common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather.

Song Thrush: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	11	1	2	2	1	1	3	6	40	8	3

Until autumn, the highest count and greatest number of sightings was in February, with a maximum of 11 on 3rd during a cold snap when the adjacent mainland was snow-covered. Two separate territories with adults carrying food were noted in May and an adult was feeding a fledgling in Millcombe on 14 May, with possibly the same youngster seen on 24 May. One well-grown juvenile in Millcombe on 7 Aug. There was a significant influx of 40 on 14 Oct, coinciding with notable movements of many other migrants. Other higher counts included 20 on 18 Oct and 17 on 29th, but there were only scattered records of one to eight birds in Nov, and no more than three birds in Dec.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.

Redwing: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	100	12	–	1	–	–	–	–	150	250	40
8	14	9	–	1	–	–	–	–	18	10	11

Influxes of Redwings occurred during spells of cold weather at the beginning of the year with 80 in the Brick Field on 4 Jan and a maximum of 100 on 5 Feb during particularly harsh conditions on the mainland. Song was heard in Millcombe on 14 Feb and near the laundry on 15 Mar. One late migrant was seen on 3 May. The first of the autumn were 15 on 12 Oct. Movements continued until mid-Nov, with counts of 50 or more on seven dates, including 150 on 14 Oct and 250 on 30th, the highest count of the year. A late-Dec influx during cold weather included a count of 40 on 24th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant; rare summer and winter visitor.

Singles recorded on seven dates between 20 and 29 Oct, with three on 27th, and a single bird also reported in front of the Church on 19 Dec, though the record is doubtful as the observer placed a question mark against the sighting.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.

Spotted Flycatcher: max. count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	9	1	–	4	23	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	17	2	–	6	50	1	–	–

The first spring migrant was one on 26 Apr (the only record that month) and subsequent passage was alarmingly sparse, though maybe also under-recorded to some extent. In May – normally the main month for spring migration of this rapidly declining UK red-listed species – there were records from 7th to 30th, with a very low peak of just nine on 15th, the next highest counts being five on 8th and 14th. There were singles on 3 & 22 Jun but no indication that breeding had occurred. There were no further sightings until four on 24 Aug. Thereafter seen almost daily until the end of Sep, with peaks of 50 on 10th and 20 on 14th & 15th. The last of the year was one on 1 Oct.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* [European Robin]

Common breeding resident present in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant in small numbers.

Robin: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	8	6	8	10	4	1	3	20	25	11	7

The peak count in spring was ten on 8 May, but some of these may have been migrants. There was no count of territorial males in spring, but a pair was feeding young at Quarter Wall Copse on 24 May and juveniles were seen on 30 Jul and in Millcombe on 7 Aug. Autumn migration was noticeable from mid-Sep, with a maximum of 20 on 16th and 17 on 21st & 30th. In Oct, the peaks were 18 on 11th and 25 on 14th, the latter the highest count of the year.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common late-autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.

Black Redstart: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2+	–	–	–	–	–	–	20	3	1
–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	7	1

One was seen on the Tent Field wall near the Church on 22 Mar and "several" were reported around the West Side on the same day, coinciding with a fall of Wheatears.

Autumn migrants were recorded on 19 dates between 14 Oct and 9 Nov. Most sightings were of one or two birds but a series of high counts at the end of Oct included 13 on 28th, 17 on 29th and a remarkable 20 in the vicinity of North Light on 31st. One was seen at the top of Puffin Slope on 9 Dec – a late migrant or a potential overwintering bird?

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* [Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Redstart: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	8	1	–	–

Recorded on just four dates in spring: a single male on 24 Apr, one (sex unspecified) on 5 May, two on 8 May and one on 26 May. In autumn, recorded on nine dates between 12 Sep and 14 Oct, with a maximum of three on 20 & 21 Sep.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn; occasional records in midsummer.

Whinchat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	14	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	15	1	–	–

A very poor spring passage, with single birds seen on just three dates: 27 Apr (a male) and 26 & 28 May (sexes unspecified). Autumn migrants were noted between 10 Sep and 2 Oct, with a maximum of 14 on 19 Sep.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* [Eurasian Stonechat]

Breeds occasionally; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; irregular in winter.

Stonechat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	5	1	2	3	4	6	18	10	2	2
8	12	4	5	5	9	2	6	24	29	10	6

Indications of spring passage in Feb & Mar, with a maximum of five on 14 Mar. There were no records of nesting pairs or adults feeding young, but well-grown young were seen around the Terrace in the first week of Aug. Autumn migration brought an influx of 18 on 20 Sep and small movements continued throughout Oct, with ten on 23rd, but only scattered sightings of ones and twos in Nov and Dec.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* [Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

Wheatear: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	12	50	40	40	30	30	50	10	1	–

The first spring migrant appeared on 14 Mar, with one to six birds daily thereafter until a significant influx of 30 or 40 on 21st and birds “all over the island” by 22nd. In Apr, 50 were present on 19th & 20th, while 40 on 10 May was the maximum for that month. An immature male of the Greenland race (*O. o. leucorhoa*) was trapped and ringed on 2 May. One still-downy juvenile was seen on 6 Aug but there were otherwise no breeding records and no estimate of the nesting population. Autumn migration saw peaks of 50 on 12 & 18 Sep. Numbers dwindled rapidly after the end of Sep, with ten on 1 Oct followed by sightings of one to three birds on a further seven dates, including the last of the year, a single bird, on 1 Nov.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One seen below Brambles in lower St John’s Valley on 21 Sep (Derek Baggott, Chris Dee, Andy Turner) was seen in Millcombe the following day and trapped and ringed on 23rd. Record accepted by DBRC.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* [Eurasian Pied Flycatcher]

Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; occasional records in midsummer.

Pied Flycatcher: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	1	–	–	2	15	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	1	–	–	4	15	1	–	–

The only spring migrants were a female on 25 Apr, one (sex unspecified) on 27 Apr and three on 30th, followed by one on 2 May. In autumn, recorded on 20 dates between 27 Aug and 1 Oct, but few after mid-Sep. The highest counts were 15 on 10 Sep and six on 9 & 11 Sep.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common breeding resident in apparently declining numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn.

Dunnock: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	2	2	4	0	1	2	4	5	5	4

The population now appears to be very small, probably as a consequence of rhododendron clearance and grazing-out of shrubby nesting habitat. Fourteen different birds were handled by ringers during the year: two adults from previous years were retrapped in spring, while of 12 ringed in Sep and Oct, all but one were birds hatched in 2009. It is likely that these were all reared on Lundy, though there may be some dispersal of young birds from the nearby mainland in autumn. There was no census of territorial males in spring, but song was heard below the Terrace Trap and in Millcombe in the first week of Aug.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; possible immigration obscured by resident population.

House Sparrow: maximum count for each month (as per LFS logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	40	20	27	20	20	15	33	54	30	22	36

Writing in the logbook on 10 May, Ian Cleasby reported: "*This year the sparrow breeding season began remarkably early. The first chicks of the season fledged on 1 May, a rough estimate suggests that egg-laying began at the start of April. To put this in context, in the previous two field seasons no eggs had even hatched until the start of May. So far I have recorded sightings of roughly 50 different individuals on the island. Not all have begun breeding yet. There is a large number of first-year birds present this year, suggesting that the recruitment of last year's fledglings was very high.*" One of the factors responsible for the high survival of young birds from 2008 seems likely to be the absence of overwintering Merlins, which took a high toll during the 2007/08 winter.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Uncommon spring migrant; common early autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional in summer. Formerly more numerous, particularly in autumn.

Yellow Wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	2	–	–	1	5	–	–	–

Recorded on just three dates in spring: one on 23 Apr, one on 11 May and one on 15 May. In autumn, one was present on 25 Aug, followed by further singles on five dates between 7th and 20th Sep, the latter being the last of the year.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional summer records; rare in winter.

Grey Wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	6	–	–	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	17	11	–	–	

Very unusually, none was seen in the first seven months of the year, most likely reflecting a relative dearth of observers, particularly during spring migration. In autumn, one on 2 Aug, followed by singles on 13 dates in Sep, with two recorded on 20th, 21st & 24th and a maximum of three on 25th. Singles were reported on ten days in Oct, with six on 15th being the highest count of the year. The last sighting was of one on 28 Oct.

Pied / White Wagtail *Motacilla a. yarrellii* / *M. a. alba* [White Wagtail]

Pied Wagtails nest most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant, but rare in midwinter. White Wagtails occur annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

Pied / White Wagtail: maximum count for each month												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
–	2	8	12	6	7	8	12	22	8	1	3	

The first of the year was seen on 15 Feb. The highest count in spring was 12 on 11 Apr. 'White' Wagtails *M. a. alba* were recorded as follows in Mar: one on 31st; in Apr: one on 26th, three on 27th, one on 28th and two on 29th. The number and location of breeding pairs was not recorded but up to eight juveniles were seen in the first week of Aug (though it was unclear whether all of these were Lundy-bred birds). One White Wagtail was seen on 26 Aug, with six on 10 Sep. Movements peaked in Sep with 22 on 11th (not specified whether this included any White Wagtails). The last of the autumn was one on 17 Nov.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

One flew over the Upper East Side Path and Tillage Field (Richard Taylor), then over upper St John's Valley and southwards over Castle Hill (Andy Jayne) mid-afternoon on 23 Oct. Record accepted by DBRC.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

British vagrant. 300 records for Britain 1950–2006.

One seen and photographed in St John's Valley on 23 & 24 Oct (Andy Jayne, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor – see frontispiece) was only the second Lundy record, the first being exactly two decades previously, on 24–29 Oct 1989. Record accepted by BBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

The only spring records were singles on 22 & 26 Apr. In autumn, recorded on six dates between 24 Aug and 14 Oct, with two on 24 & 25 Aug and 21 Sep. One trapped and ringed on 14 Oct was the only record for that month.

Tree Pipit: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	2	–	–	–	4	2	1	–	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeds; common passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce or absent in winter.

Meadow Pipit: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	25	75	50	74	30	12	50	500	300	17	5

The highest count during spring migration was 75 on 16 Mar. Seventy-four recorded on 24 May are presumed all to be birds breeding on Lundy as spring passage would be all but over by this date. However, generally under-recorded during the breeding season, with no counts of singing males and only one confirmation of breeding – a nest with four eggs on Castle Hill on 10 May – until adults were seen feeding young near Gannets' Combe, in Middle Park and at the South End during 6–8 Aug. Broods were also seen at the Rocket Pole and in St John's Valley on 23 Aug. Autumn movements were noticeable from the second week of Sep, especially towards the end of the month and into early Oct. Daily counts in excess of 100 were made from 20 Sep, peaking at 500 on 26th and followed by 300 on 1 & 2 Oct. Five counts of 100 to 150 were made in mid-Oct but numbers were otherwise in the tens, dwindling to mostly single digits in Nov.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* [Eurasian Rock Pipit]

Common breeding resident; extent of migratory or dispersive movements involving Lundy unknown.

Rock Pipit: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	1	3	5	4	6	8	20	9	7	30

Severely under-recorded, as usual, with no real indication of the current size of the island's breeding population. The first winter-period maximum of ten occurred on 4 Feb. Twenty were recorded on 16 & 17 Sep. In Dec, flocks of Rock Pipits were observed feeding on top of the island (e.g. 15 by the Church on 11 Dec), with a maximum count of 30 on 9th, including a flock of some 20 feeding near Old Light. Eighteen recorded the following day in the north and west of the island pointed to a population of possibly 50 or more birds.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Resident, breeding annually in small numbers. Common, at times abundant, on autumn passage; noticeable spring passage rarely recorded; winter influxes in some years.

Chaffinch: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	15	10	10	8	6	15	15	40	1,200	60	20

Only small numbers were recorded in the first eight months of the year, with no count exceeding 15. Adults were feeding young (location unreported) on 24 May, three recently fledged juveniles were seen in Millcombe in Jul, and males were still sub-singing in Millcombe and on the Terrace in the first week of Aug. It seems likely that the island's breeding population will have declined as the progressive clearance of rhododendron cover limits suitable nesting sites. Autumn movements began in the second half of Sep, with five daily counts of 20 or more, including 40 on 21st. October migration was much less spectacular than in recent years, with a maximum of just 1,200 on 19th. There were only five other daily counts in excess of 200, the highest of these being 800 on 27th. Apart from 50 on 4 Nov and 60 on 9 Nov, all records for that month were of fewer than 40 birds.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon spring migrant; annual autumn migrant in variable numbers; occasional in winter. None was seen in winter during the early part of the year and the only spring migrants were singles on 16 Mar and one reportedly with a Lesser Redpoll on 23 May. In autumn, recorded on nine dates in Oct between 15th and 29th, with a single Nov record of one on 19th. The maximum was six on 29 Oct.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Uncommon spring migrant in small numbers; common autumn migrant; occasional visitor in summer and winter.

There were no records until October, when ones and twos were seen on 11 dates between 15th and 28th. A male seen next to Government House on 10 Dec was the only other record for the year.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* [European Goldfinch]

Breeds occasionally; common spring and autumn migrant; irregular in summer and winter.

Goldfinch: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	3	3	12	6	5	10	8	21	75	14	5
6	8	7	18	7	16	5	7	27	31	15	11

A family party was present in Millcombe on 6–8 Aug and though the juveniles were well grown, the fact that Goldfinches were seen in every month during the spring/summer, and particularly often in Jun, suggests that breeding probably took place. The highest count during autumn migration was 75 on 13 & 14 Oct, with seven other counts of 30 or more in the same month.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* [Eurasian Siskin]

Late autumn migrant in greatly varying numbers; very rare in spring.

None was seen in winter during the early part of the year and spring passage was sparse at best, with one flying around over Millcombe on 16 Mar, two on 28 Apr, singles on 2 & 4 May and two on 29 May. In autumn, noted between 11 & 29 Oct – 120 on 11th, 70 on 18th and 140 on 22nd being the highest counts – as well as one record of a single bird on 20 Nov.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* [Common Linnet]

Common breeder; irregular spring and autumn migrant; more numerous in autumn; occasional in winter.

None was seen in winter during the early part of the year and the first spring migrants were two on 14 & 15 Mar. Passage peaked in late Apr and early May, with a maximum of 70+ on 24 Apr. Many family parties, with adults still feeding young, were seen about the island from 6–8 Aug,

with additional flocks of 200 in Middle Park and 50 in South West Field giving an estimated total of at least 300 birds on 7 Aug. Young were still begging adults for food on 23 Aug. The highest autumn count was 330 on 25 Sep, but numbers dwindled rapidly from early Oct, with no more than 20 after mid-month, none in Nov and two on 9 & 10 Dec.

Linnet: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	70	60	30	80	300	330	100	3	2

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers, but more frequent than formerly; rare in winter.

In spring, migrants were seen on 11 dates between 19 Mar and 23 May. Most records involved single birds but two were reported on 12 May and six on 23rd – a high count for spring passage. No further sightings until one on 15 Sep, followed by two on 24th and one on 28th. In Oct, recorded on nine dates between 4th and 30th, with a maximum of six on 26th. All other Oct records were of ones and twos. Not reported in Nov, but singles on four days in Dec, the last on 28th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* [Red Crossbill]

Rare summer and autumn migrant, occurring highly irregularly, but in large numbers during 'invasion' years.

Seen on six dates from 14–29 Jul: a male in pines near The Ugly on 14th; a female at Halfway Wall gate on 15th; two males at the eastern end of Threequarter Wall on 17th; three males and two females on 18th; a male on the Lower East Side Path close to Millcombe on 26th; and a male and female in the trees below Brambles on 29th (J. Cooper, Chris Flower, Paul James *et al.*). In autumn, four were reported on 16 Sep but without any substantiating detail or observer name(s).

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 18 Sep (Colin McShane, Rob Skeates *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant.

One seen in Millcombe on 4 May (John Horton). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Uncommon but regular autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; rare in midwinter.

None appeared to have overwintered on the island. During spring migration one was seen on 4 Mar, followed by three feeding around sheep in the Brick and Tillage Fields from 13–15 Mar, two remaining on 16th and the last on 17th. A first-winter bird was seen around the Village between 25 Sep and 1 Oct. On 8 Oct, one was seen at North End and another on the main track at Halfway Wall. A female was observed bathing in a pool on the main track at North End on 10 Dec.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* [Lapland Longspur]

Uncommon but regular autumn migrant; rare spring migrant; very rare in winter.

Two calling in flight over Tibbett's on 1 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). One calling in flight near Government House on 2 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Records accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One seen perched briefly on Threequarter Wall adjacent to the main track at 11:30 on 25 Sep was also heard calling in flight. The same or another bird was seen on short grass and calling in flight close to Halfway Wall at 15:30 the same day (Ivan Lakin). Record accepted by DBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* [Common Reed Bunting]

Regular autumn migrant in very small numbers; rare and increasingly irregular spring migrant; very rare in winter.

One on 17 Mar was the only record during the first eight months of the year. One heard calling over Millcombe on 24 Sep was followed by another single bird on 1 Oct, with two present on both 23 & 26 Oct.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Lundy vagrant.

One was seen and photographed in the lambing shed area of the farm on 3 May (John Horton, Paul James – see frontispiece). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder, constituting the 19th LFS record.

Two were subsequently reported by various observers in the Brick Field on 5 May, one in St Helen's Field on 6th, two on 7th and one near Halfway Wall on 9th. However, no descriptions accompanied any of these additional sightings and, as Corn Bunting is a Lundy vagrant, the records remain unsubstantiated. The Bird Report editors would be delighted to receive further information enabling these records to be properly assessed.

**2009 REPORTS OF NATIONAL/DEVON RARITIES AND/OR LUNDY
VAGRANTS ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN AND THEREFORE
EXCLUDED FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* [European Honey-buzzard]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One, mobbed by a crow, flying north from the direction of the Old Light past Quarter Wall on 20 Apr. Details were submitted to DBRC who considered the record as not proven.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Lundy vagrant.

A possible juvenile reported off The Ugly on 16 Oct. The description in the logbook is inconclusive.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Lundy vagrant.

One reported near Long Roost on 10 May. The description in the logbook is inconclusive and the observer is unable to provide further detail.

Black Wheatear *Oenanthe leucura*

Not yet recorded in Britain.

The report of one on the West Side 1 Apr was assessed by BBRC as not proven. One was also reported on 22 Mar but no formal submission was made.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was reported in Millcombe on 28 May but the description entered in the logbook and additional information provided by the observer were inconclusive.

**2009 REPORTS OF LUNDY VAGRANTS AND UNCOMMON MIGRANTS
THAT LACK SUPPORTING DETAILS AND ARE THEREFORE
EXCLUDED FROM THE SYSTEMATIC LIST**

The Bird Report editors would be delighted to receive further information enabling these reports to be properly assessed:

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Lundy vagrant.

One reported five miles SE of Lundy, in the vicinity of many Gannets and 20+ dolphins, but no description or observer name(s) were included in the logbook.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Lundy vagrant.

One was reported "on S.E. Side" on 29 Mar but no further details, description or observer name(s) were included in the logbook.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Uncommon migrant.

Two were reported on 16 & 17 Sep but no location, description or observer name(s) were included in the logbook.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Lundy vagrant.

One reported near Quarter Wall on 4 Oct but no description provided.

**BBRC DECISIONS CONCERNING NATIONAL RARITIES
REPORTED FROM LUNDY IN 2008**

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

British vagrant.

The record of one in Millcombe on 14 Sep 2008 was assessed by BBRC as not proven.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

British vagrant.

The record of one at Pondsburry on 28 Sep 2008 was assessed by BBRC as not proven.