

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2011

by

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 139 species were recorded during 2011.

Wildfowl

Mallards bred once again, with the first ducklings seen on 16 April. Small numbers of **Wigeon** and **Teal** occurred early and late in the year, while there were just two **Common Scoter** records, both in October. Lundy vagrants were represented by two male **Tufted Ducks** on Pondsburry in July, a **Greylag Goose** on Pondsburry in November (only the 10th Lundy record) and three **Red-breasted Mergansers** in October. A lone female Red-breasted Merganser was also seen during the crossing at the end of June.

Game birds, crakes and rails

Water Rails bred successfully for the fifth successive year; up to four pairs reared young in Lower Millcombe, at Brambles and at Pondsburry. Sadly, the remains of a **Corncrake** were found near the Church in late October – the first Lundy occurrence of this flagship species for the conservation of traditionally managed grasslands since 2006.

Divers, grebes and herons

As expected, there were scattered records of **Great Northern Divers** off the East Side from February to May and again in November and December. More unusually, there were up to two **Slavonian Grebes** in the Landing Bay in early February; only the 12th LFS record. Four records of **Little Egret** involved at least six individuals – the highest number yet recorded in one year. **Grey Herons** were noted on 11 dates, as usual mainly in summer and autumn.

Birds of prey

In addition to Lundy's breeding **Peregrines**, visiting raptors included **Sparrowhawks**, a long-staying **Buzzard**, **Kestrels** and **Merlins**. In addition, there were single records of **Hobby** in both spring and autumn, three **Hen Harriers** were seen in October/November and an **Osprey** graced the island on the afternoon of 15 October, the 20th occurrence of this iconic species.

Waders

Oystercatcher is nowadays Lundy's only nesting wader, **Lapwing** and **Curlew** both having died out. Successful breeding occurred in 2011, but there was no effort to estimate the size of the population. Small numbers of a further 18 wader species were seen during the year, with rarities including **Dotterel** and **Little Ringed Plover** in May and **Buff-breasted** and **Pectoral Sandpipers**, plus another **Little Ringed Plover**, in September. A Lapwing found long dead in Millcombe gardens on 13 February was thought to have succumbed to the cold weather in November/December 2010. **Whimbrels** were more prevalent during spring passage than for several years, while up to three **Turnstones** feeding on pasture in the Brick Field in mid-August was an unusual sight on the island.

Seabirds

The first **Puffin** was one on the early date of 25 March. Successful breeding was proven and the highest count of the year was 59 on 11 July. The **Manx Shearwater** breeding colony seems to be going from strength to strength. A milestone reached this year was the first retrapping on the island of two Manx Shearwaters known to have been hatched on Lundy. These birds were ringed as fledglings in 2008 and will have spent the intervening years at sea, most likely returning in 2011 to prospect for a future breeding site and mate.

The **Macaronesian (Little) Shearwater** found in 2010 repeated its (presumably) lonely vigil in 2011, its calls being heard in the Landing Bay in late April and early May, but not subsequently (though it is unclear whether anyone made a specific effort to hear it at a later date).

Good numbers of **Bonxies (Great Skuas)** and (especially) **Arctic Skuas** occurred in October, plus Lundy's second **Pomarine Skua**, following hot on the heels of the first in October 2010. **Balearic Shearwaters** were once again seen offshore in October and November.

Passerines and near-passerines

Many spring migrants arrived quite early, but numbers were generally low – both factors likely due to the prolonged fine, warm, settled weather, which assisted rapid migration and made it unnecessary for birds to stop and rest or feed on Lundy. A general dearth of grounded birds, combined with the persistent easterly winds and clear skies associated high-pressure systems made mist-netting difficult or impossible, resulting in low spring ringing totals.

Rare birds during spring passage included a much-publicised male **Trumpeter Finch** from 13 to 25 May, with a supporting cast of **Golden Orioles** (one in April, another in May), **Subalpine Warbler** (a male in April) and **Hawfinch** (one in May).

Once again, breeding landbirds were under-recorded by most observers, and though successful breeding was confirmed for **Raven, Swallow, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Pied Wagtail** and **Meadow Pipit**, there was little information on numbers of many of these species. An exception is House Sparrow, for which long-term studies of the island's population continue (see paper by Isabel Winney and Yu-Hsun Hsu on p.98). **Starling, Wheatear, Rock Pipit, Chaffinch** and **Linnet** are assumed to have bred, but no proof was recorded.

It appears that **Stonechat** and **Song Thrush** did not breed in 2011; both species are likely to have suffered significant population checks after three consecutive winters with severe and prolonged cold spells. The impact of winter cold is the probable explanation for a dearth of **Grey Wagtail** records. Normally a common autumn migrant and regular spring migrant, this species was only noted once in March and twice in September.

Autumn movements of **Dunnocks** through the island, previously suspected, were confirmed when a bird ringed on Lundy in Oct 2010 was caught on the Wirral Peninsula, Merseyside in April 2011.

Writing in the logbook on 4 September, David Price provided an atmospheric glimpse of early autumn migration:

“After a rainy and blustery night, the warm morning sunshine brought out lots of warblers in Millcombe. Willow Warblers were hawking insects from every bush

and tree, and at least 100 were estimated (though only two Chiffchaffs were seen). Spotted Flycatchers were also abundant with 9 together at one time perched along the fencing round the newly planted trees. Whitethroats and Blackcaps regularly popped up from the bracken and brambles and Robins even ventured into song occasionally. A few Goldcrests in the conifers and a Sparrowhawk sweeping through completed the picture.”

It was a generally poor autumn for visible hirundine (Swallow and martin) migration; peak counts were of just 50 **House Martins**, while – unusually – no **Swallow** count exceeded 1,000 in a day. A number of late-moving first-year Swallows were caught out by bad weather in October and effectively became stuck on the island, where they faced the prospect of starvation as shown by Tim Ball’s write-up on pp.100-103.

A record fall of 400 **Wheatears** (thought to have been mainly of the Greenland race) occurred on the morning of 1 October, quickly followed by an equally impressive arrival of 300 **Chiffchaffs**, 300 **Blackcaps** and 100 **Goldcrests** on 4 October. A few days later there was a major southward passage of hirundines, **Skylarks**, **Meadow Pipits**, **Goldfinches** and **Siskins** when drizzly rain came in temporarily during the morning.

13 October saw a day of patchy fog and drizzle that didn’t clear until mid to late afternoon. In the last hour of daylight two **Grey Herons** flew south along the East Side, six **Golden Plovers** over the Airfield, a flock of 25 **Chaffinches** passed south (unusually late in the day for a migrating flock), and two **Hen Harriers** were quartering around Pondsburry. It seems likely that all of these were day-flying migrants that had become disorientated by the fog earlier in the day. The Hen Harriers were both seen leaving the island early the following morning.

The first arrival of **Redwings** and **Fieldfares** occurred on 14 October, along with an influx of **Ring Ouzels**, **Song Thrushes** and **Chaffinches**.

Autumn records of species that are uncommon on Lundy, but common enough on the mainland, included **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Blue Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Treecreeper** and **Bullfinch**, while among nationally scarce species were: **Wryneck** (three in October), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (eight in October), **Rose-coloured Starling** (two juveniles in September/October), **Common Rosefinch** (two in October), **Ortolan Bunting** (one in October) and **Little Bunting** (one in September).

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 will be welcomed by Richard.

Updates to the species texts published in *The Birds of Lundy* (Davis & Jones, 2007) will be posted at www.birdsoflundy.org.uk, along with pdfs of the bird reports published in the LFS Annual Report. The aim, by combining the information published in the 2007 book with comprehensive data from subsequent years, is to provide a readily accessible set of data on Lundy’s birds for anyone wishing to undertake research or look up specific information.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Nomenclature and sequence

These follow *The British List* maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU), version dated 15 January 2012. 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. It should be noted that many counts are not necessarily fully representative of the numbers of birds present and are reflective of periods when observer coverage is higher (particularly spring and autumn).

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Trumpeter Finch) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hoopoe) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, records of 'Lundy vagrants', species that are occasionally or commonly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Red-breasted Merganser), 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 2010 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 Bird Recorder (email address: recorder@devonbirds.org).

Acknowledgements

We are indebted first and foremost to the island residents and visitors, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the LFS Logbook and to the database maintained by the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society (DBWPS); this report is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals.

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 and ranger teams. We also express our sincere appreciation to the Devon Birds Records Committee, and especially the Devon Bird Recorder, Steve Waite, for their ever-reliable and enthusiastic correspondence with us on the assessment of rarity records. Julia Harris, DBWPS database manager, provided a data file of all 2011 Lundy records to ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and the LFS. Others who have helped us in various ways include Tim Ball, Shaun Barnes, Tom Bedford, Andrew Cleave, Nigel Dalby, Mark Darlaston, Ben Dean, Chris Dee, James Diamond, Ian Farrell, Derren Fox, Andy Jayne, James Leonard, Luke Phillips, David Price, Alan Rowland, Grant Sherman, Tony Taylor, Mark Telfer, Neil Thomas, Kevin Welsh, Steve Wing, Isabel Winney and Echo Yu-Hsun Hsu.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Lundy vagrant.

One on Pondsburry on 9 Nov (James Leonard). This is the 10th Lundy record, the last being in Apr 2008.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

[European Wigeon]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and occasional winter visitor.

One on six dates 3-13 Feb and a female, daily, 27-29 Dec (James Leonard, Neil Thomas) were the only records for the year.

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer.

One on 30 Jan, two on 5 Feb, four on 8 Feb and three on 12 Apr. Then four on 19 Aug. Unusually scarce in autumn, with three on 17 Oct and six the following day, then none until a single bird on Pondsburry 27-29 Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

The first recorded ducklings of the year were a brood of 11 on the pond outside Quarters on 16 Apr. Two broods of two and seven ducklings on Pondsburry, 9 May. The highest count of the year was 26 on 2 Oct.

Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	13	6	11	12	13	14	25	21	26	20	20

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Lundy vagrant.

Two males on Pondsburry 9-11 Jul (Louise Jaggard, James Leonard) – the 20th Lundy record (the last being in 2008), with the midsummer timing being typical.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Lundy vagrant.

None has been reported from the island since two females were seen flying north on 25 Oct 1999. However, one was seen during the boat crossing on 30 Jun by Staffordshire birder Rob Swift, who reported: “*The sighting was of a single female, two thirds of the way to the island on the boat trip. I picked it up as I was binocular scanning for Manx Shearwaters. It ‘skidded’ to a halt on the sea in my field of view about 150 m away. As the boat got nearer, it took flight and flew across the ‘front’ of the boat at about 30 m distant, in a south-westerly direction, then lost to view.*” Then, on 15 Oct, three ‘redheads’ flew south past the Landing Bay (Tony Taylor, Richard Taylor). These constitute only the eighth and ninth LFS records.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage visitor.

A male on 7 Oct, two males on 21 Oct and a single bird (sex not noted) on 9 Nov were the only records for the year.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Great Northern Loon]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.

Singles on four dates in the first half of Feb, and four on 4, 6 & 7 Feb. These were followed by singles on 5 & 23 Apr. A distant bird was seen off the Castle on 6 May and one flew south off Rat Island on 29 May. There was none in autumn until single birds on four dates between 7 & 25 Nov (the latter, unusually, at Gannets’ Bay) and at the end of the year from 26 to 29 Dec.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, mainly from January to September.

There was no census of breeding numbers in 2011. As usual, scarce in Sep and Oct when birds move away from breeding colonies before visiting the ledges once again in late autumn/early winter.

Maximum one-day count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	30	50	55	75	43	25	36	8	1	11	50

Cory’s Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One off the West Side on 18 August. There are two previous records (1992 and 2002) of birds seen during the crossing, but this is the first for the waters immediately around Lundy and a long-awaited addition to the island list.

The observer, Brian Hill, reported: “*I embarked M.V. Balmoral at Minehead hoping to see seabirds, and maybe some migrants on Lundy, but in the event sea conditions prevented a landing. As an alternative the vessel made a trip round the island, certainly beneficial from a seabird point of view. There were several Manx Shearwaters passing on a north-westerly line, with a few Fulmars, flocks of Kittiwakes and a few Gannets (all adults). As we rounded the west of the island I saw a large shearwater moving along the same track, and was soon able to identify it as a Cory’s. It cruised obliquely away as Balmoral turned round the island, but was in view for around five minutes, before the turning of the vessel obscured views.*”

Record accepted by DBRC.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	700	100	100	125	3,000	200	9	–	–

The first record of the year was of 10 on 6 Apr. Birds were heard calling around the Landing Bay at around 22:30 hrs on the same date (Gillian & Stuart Wallace), over the Castle on 14 Apr, over Pig's Paradise on 19 Apr (Grant Sherman) and around the Landing Bay and Benjamin's Chair on 21 Apr. Some 700 were off the South End during the early afternoon of 25 Apr.

Four shearwater corpses presumed taken and stripped by Peregrines – with one young Peregrine still feeding on remains – were found at Jenny's Cove on 21 Jun (Shaun Barnes). The highest counts of the year occurred in Aug, including an estimated 3,000+ on 8th, 2,000 on 14th (feeding in same area as 20 dolphins) & 19th, and 2,500 on 23rd.

David & Elisabeth Price, Peter Slader and Tony and Richard Taylor ringed totals of 167 young and 89 adult shearwaters in late Aug and early Sep. On 22 Aug, Tony Taylor wrote: *"Manx Shearwaters very active, with much calling last two nights, particularly 20th. Six chicks found so far at Old Light colony. One adult, ringed on Lundy as a chick in 2008, was first known returning Lundy-bred bird since the rat eradication."* (Editors' note: a second such bird was trapped later during Tony and Richard's visit – see ringing report on p.63 for details). On 6 Sep David Price noted: *"Our perception was that there were more young birds around than last year, and that there are still plenty more to emerge from their burrows. The last three days (4-6 Sep) were problematic due to rain and strong winds. When the conditions were too difficult on the west coast we tried the colony below Tibbett's on the East Side, but thanks to head-high bracken were unable to locate any birds"*.

Birds were heard calling from the direction of the Landing Bay at the Castle, at 22.40 hrs on 24 Oct (Trevor & Karen Dobie) and also on the nights of 25 & 26 Oct (Tony Taylor) – unusually late in the year. It seems likely that these were birds of pre-breeding age attempting to pair up ahead of the following year's breeding season.

The leg and ring only of a Manx Shearwater ringed as an adult on Lundy in 1992 were found on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire in Jun 2011 (see the ringing report on p.66 for details).

During the last week in Jul and the first week of Aug, the Oxford University team returned to continue the shearwater tracking project at the breeding colony between Old Light and Battery Point. Thirteen birds tagged during previous years were recaptured. Data from their geolocators were downloaded and the devices left attached to continue functioning for another year. These data will reveal the birds' migration routes and wintering areas. Some birds are currently in their third year of tracking, allowing examination of how consistent migration routes are in different years. Unfortunately, one geolocator was recovered from the corpse of a deceased bird found by a group of climbers. From the condition of the corpse, the bird was estimated to have died early during the 2011 breeding season. Using GPS loggers, 20 breeding adults were tracked over the course of their foraging trips during the chick-rearing period. Loggers were recovered from 16 of these birds, while the remainder would have fallen off within two weeks of deployment. Most birds appeared to have foraged and rafted locally around Lundy, or along the north coast of Devon and Cornwall, with dense aggregations off Penzance. (For a full report, see pp.104-108.)

For an excellent review of information gathered during the first two years of tracking, including maps of the migration routes of individual birds, see the paper by Dean *et al.* in *Devon Birds* 64(2), pp.15-24.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Lundy vagrant.

One off East Side on 2 Oct (James Diamond, Tim Jones); two off South West Point on 3 Oct (James Diamond); and seven off North End on 7 Oct (Tom Bedford, Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones). One off East Side on 26 Oct (Julian Allen). One off Rat Island on 29 Oct, two south in same area on 30th, and three on 31st (Andy Jayne). Finally, two off Gannets' Combe on 12 Nov (Phil Johnson). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Macaronesian Shearwater (formerly Little Shearwater) *Puffinus baroli*

British vagrant. Breeds on the North Atlantic islands of Madeira, Cape Verde and the Canaries – 59 British records between 1950 and 2007.

The individual heard calling at night in Jun 2010 was heard in the same area of the Landing Bay on 21 Apr (Chris & Mandy Dee) and nightly from 25 to 28 Apr and again on nights of 2/3 May and 4/5 May (Richard Campey, Tim Jones, Kevin Rylands, Mark Telfer), but not subsequently, though it is unclear whether specific efforts were made to try and hear the bird later in May or in Jun. Record subject to acceptance by BBRC (a process currently 'on hold' while BBRC conducts a detailed review of all records of this species).

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.

One was tape-lured and ringed at Pilot's Quay on 25 Apr. Two were seen during the crossing from Lundy to Ilfracombe on 29 May (Shaun Barnes). Ten were reported on 16 Jun with five on 17th (these were not tape-lured/ringed birds and there is no information in the logbook to indicate where these birds were seen; the editors would be grateful to receive further details).

Dr Mark Bolton (RSPB) and Andrew Cleave (LFS) were netting plankton in early August. Among the species caught was *Hyperia galba*, which is a significant component of the diet of Storm Petrels. Mark and Andrew noted that their hands, net and specimen pots took on a very distinctive smell; the same smell as that encountered when Storm Petrels are handled for ringing purposes.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	3	2	100	100	42	28	130	80	150	30	1

A 20-minute 'feeding frenzy' of 35+ birds was seen off Brazen Ward on 6 May. The highest count of the year was 130 on 23 Aug.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	10	3	20	1	2	6	15	57	8	1

The peak count during spring migration was 20 on 19 May. In autumn, a flock of 15 flew south over South West Field on 16 Sep and an exceptional 55 passed over Lametor on 4 Oct: "After circling for a minute or so, they flew off south, but around 40 returned some minutes later after thick mist set in to the south of Lundy. These 40 then appeared to settle behind Rat Island. Two Grey Herons approached from the east at the same time and flew south under the Cormorants – both herons and cormorants apparently disorientated by the suddenly poor visibility" (Tim Davis).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
60	50	25	25	20	40	39	300	42	36	15	1

There was no census of breeding numbers in 2011 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. By far the highest counts of the year – and in fact since LFS recording began in 1947 – occurred in August, presumably reflecting post-breeding gatherings in food-rich areas, when 200 were in the Landing Bay on 12th, followed by 300 (location not specified) on 25th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Lundy vagrant (though the number of records is increasing).

One seen on 24 May flying from Pondsburry towards the Logan Stone, settled for a time in Halfway Wall Bay, before circling over Tibbett's and back to Pondsburry (Shaun Barnes *et al.*). One flying west over Pondsburry on 27 Jun (M. & K. Fryer). Three off East Side, south of the quarries, on 16 Sep (Stuart Evans); also reported on 17th. One was on the East Side, between the Landing Bay and Miller's Cake, on 2 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones).

This is now the eighth consecutive year in which this once exceptionally rare species has occurred on Lundy. These four records constitute the 25th to 28th records and the highest number of individuals yet recorded in a single year.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

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

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	1	1	1	2	–	–
–	–	–	1	–	2	1	1	2	4	–	–

A single bird on 18 Apr was followed by three on 14 Jun, one over Jenny's Cove on 30 Jun, and one flying over Pondsburry on 18 Jul. Further singles were recorded on 31 Aug and 9 & 23 Sep, then two on 4 & 13 Oct, with singles on 17th & 19th (the last of the year).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

[Horned Grebe]

Lundy vagrant.

One in the Landing Bay 5-9 Feb, with two present on 6th (Mary Gade, Grant Sherman, Steve Wing). Initially picked out from Big St John's, then seen (and photographed) from the Beach Road and Jetty. This is the first record since Feb 2005 and only the 12th year in which this species has occurred since LFS recording began in 1947.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

[Northern Harrier]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Two ringtails were seen quartering the Pondsby area at dusk on the evening of 13 Oct, having apparently arrived – along with other diurnal migrants – when murky conditions gave way to a clearance during the afternoon. Both left soon after first light the following morning, one circling up high over Tibbett's, the other flying south at island-plateau height, just to the east of Castle Hill (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A single bird was seen daily 12-14 Nov.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nissus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

*Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; has bred at least once.***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	3	2	1
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	9	15	30	16	5

A female on 29 Apr was the only record during the first six months of the year. Recorded regularly during the late summer and autumn, from 21 Aug onwards, with two on 22 Aug and 27 & 28 Sep and three on 19 Sep and 4 & 30 Oct. At the end of December, Kevin Welsh reported that he had seen a Sparrowhawk hunting in the lambing shed on most days between 07.30 and 08.30 – presumably taking roosting House Sparrows and Starlings (see House Sparrow account, p.57).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo**Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.*

What was presumably a single, long-staying individual was first seen on 19 Jan, then on a further 38 dates from 5 Feb to 30 Apr. It was watched being mobbed by two Ravens over Quarry Cottages on 15 Mar (Nicola Saunders). Two birds were reported on 8 Mar.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus**Rare passage migrant.*

One on the afternoon of 15 Oct seen to fly in from the sea over the Landing Bay, before turning north and flying up the East Side, then crossing the island near Quarry Cottages (Tim Ball *et al.*). Seen a few minutes later as it flew south along the West Side past Tim Davis & Tim Jones who were standing on the southern side of Jenny's Cove. The 20th LFS record, of which eight have involved autumn migrants, the majority being in spring. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; breeds occasionally.***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	2	2	–	1	3	4	4	1	2
3	4	13	15	8	–	1	11	20	30	10	5

Though seen regularly in spring, all records were of single birds, with the exception of two on 19 Apr and 3 May. No sex was specified for most sightings, and though a male was reported on 21 Apr, with a female on 24th, and both a male and female on 3 May, there was nothing further to suggest the presence of a territory-holding pair. In fact there was a complete absence of records between single birds on 25 May and 20 Jul. Seen frequently in Aug & Sep, with a max of four on 29 & 30 Sep and on 2, 15 & 17 Oct.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

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	–	–	–	–	2	2	2	–
–	4	2	4	–	–	–	–	2	18	10	–

In late winter and early spring there were records of single birds on 10 dates between 13 Feb and 30 Apr. Autumn passage was slightly less marked than in some recent years; the first migrant was a single female on 27 Sep, followed by two birds of unspecified sex on 30th, then ones and twos on a further 28 dates until the last on 23 Nov. On 7 Oct, one was seen to fly in from the north down the length of the island, continuing directly south out to sea in the direction of Hartland Point.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 7 May and 14 Oct, the latter bird over Lower Millcombe, were the only records for the year.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

The highest count in spring was of five on 7 Apr. Mating was observed on 6 Apr. Females were seen sitting on eggs at two nest sites on 7 May (Tom Shield). Three pairs are known to have bred successfully and are thought to have fledged six young. An adult was seen killing and eating an adult Kittiwake at St Mark's Stone on 9 May. An adult female was seen to feed two chicks with a Puffin on 27 May. An adult was watched taking a Puffin at Jenny's Cove before passing the carcass to two fledged juvenile Peregrines on 22 June.

On 23 Jul Andrew Cleave saw "a Peregrine on the west side around the Half-way Wall/Pondsburry area which was acting rather like a Hobby – hovering on the updraught from the cliffs and then stooping down to catch something on the top of the bracken – we could not see what it was catching but it appeared to be a large beetle or insect. Each time it caught something it would swoop back up to its hovering height and eat the prey, with bits and pieces falling to the ground each time. We watched this behaviour for about 45 minutes – it seemed to catch something on the bracken at every second or third attempt. We had a good look around to try to see what prey would be available, but apart from a few beetles, and some burnet moths there was nothing very obvious."

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Lundy vagrant.

The remains of one were found by the Church on 23 Oct (Richard Taylor). This is the first record since Sep 2006, which also involved the finding of remains only. The last live Corncrake was seen in Sep 2004. Record accepted by DBRC.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; has bred in all years since breeding was first confirmed in 2007.

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	2	2	2	6	3	1	3	4	7	4	1
2	5	4	11	6	8	2	3	11	30	8	1

Young were heard calling in lower Millcombe on 24 & 29 Apr, providing confirmation of successful breeding on the island for the fifth consecutive year. On 2 May, Richard Campey saw/heard an adult with at least one calling chick in lower Millcombe, a calling chick near Brambles, an adult with at least one chick at Pondsburry and an adult calling from mid-way along Quarter Wall, suggesting the presence of four pairs. A brood of six chicks (one of which later died) was seen at Brambles on 4 May (John & Janet Whittington). A black fluffy chick (accompanied by two adults) was seen by Alan Rowland in lower Millcombe on 26 Jun, showing that at least two broods were raised by the pair here. A chick was seen and photographed at the southern end of Pondsburry dam on 11 Aug but found dead on 12th. A chick was heard calling on 15 Oct and six fully grown birds were seen – all in the Millcombe/St John's area.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

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	25	14	13	12	15	22	24	7	10	12	3
8	13	17	27	16	18	24	15	7	3	4	3

There was no census of the breeding population in 2011. However, breeding was confirmed as follows: a nest on islet off Rat Island on 24 Apr; another nest, with three eggs and adults taking turns to sit, on Miller's Cake on 9 May (Kristin Reed); a chick on Gannets' Rock on 14 Jun (James Leonard). The highest counts of the year were 25 on 10 Feb and 24 on 7 Aug.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Lundy vagrant. Two previous records in May 1998 and Apr 2000.

One at Pondsburry with four Dunlins on 2 May (Tony John, Richard Campey) and one in Brick Field on 15 Sep (Malcolm Shakespeare), were only the third and fourth island records. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

Singles on 27 & 29 Apr, with two on 30th, two on 1 May and singles again on 2nd & 3rd. During autumn migration, three on 13 Aug, two on 22 Aug, three on 23rd and one on 30th, followed by four on 1 & 4 Sep, and one on 28 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

One with damage to its left leg was seen and photographed just south of Tibbett's, 11-16 May (Shaun Barnes, Barbara Canavan, James Leonard *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

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	6	–	–	6	–	1	7	–	–
–	–	4	3	–	–	1	–	3	9	–	–

While unusually high numbers were seen during the harsh weather of Dec 2010 (e.g. 40 on 12th), the much milder conditions during the rest of the winter were reflected in an absence of Golden Plovers from the island.

Six seen on Ackland's Moor on 23 Apr were in full breeding plumage (Alan Rowland). Six flew in over St John's Valley during the early morning of 1 Jul, but were not seen subsequently (Alan Rowland). Scarce during autumn passage, with records on just 12 dates between 26 Sep and 28 Oct and a maximum of seven on 6 Oct. None at all in Nov/Dec – an exceptionally mild early winter – in complete contrast to 2010.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

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

While up to 150 were recorded during the freezing weather of Dec 2010, few remained into 2011 after conditions moderated. Eight on 22 Jan, were followed by singles on 28 & 31 Jan. One found dead in Millcombe gardens on 13 Feb was probably a victim of the extreme cold at the end of 2010. Very scarce in autumn, with just four records: one on 14 Oct, then three the following day, 14 flying south over the Airfield on 27 Oct, and 10 on 8 Nov.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn; has occurred in winter.

One seen and photographed near the jetty on 27 May (Shaun Barnes).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Lundy vagrant.

A first-winter bird seen at Pondsburry on 24 Sep (Mike Stephen) and at Halfway Wall and Pondsburry on 28 Sep (J. & M. Bowden, Chris Dee *et al.*). There have been about 20 previous occurrences of this North American species on Lundy, most recently in Sep 2004 and Sep 2008. Record accepted by DBRC.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; occasional winter visitor.

Eight on rocks near Virgin's Spring on 10 Mar. One seen flying around rocks on Rat Island on 4 May (Richard Campey).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

There was a small movement of migrants through the island in late Apr and early May. One on 24 Apr was followed by seven on 27 Apr, two on 28th & 29th, four on 30th, five on 1 May, four on 2nd, seven on 3rd and three on 4th. Return migration was noted from late Aug, with one on 24th & 26th, followed by further singles on 1 & 5 Sep, two on 2 Oct and one on 3 Oct.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A juvenile was present from 2 to 4 Sep – the 14th Lundy record, but the first since Sep 1983 (see colour plate 9). Describing their initial sighting, David & Elisabeth Price and Peter Slader wrote: “Three waders flew in from the north over the sea into the North End (John O’Groats) and a Turnstone call was heard. However, the leading bird was not a Turnstone. They pitched down onto the short turf and heather and immediately began feeding on the insects in the vegetation. Two were indeed Turnstones, but the third bird was a juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The Turnstones soon left, but the Sandpiper remained, allowing close views and much photography”.

On 4 Sep, James Leonard commented: "*Buff-breasted Sandpiper (juvenile) feeding happily on grass at the Quarter Wall around the footings of the cottages. It found one really large orange worm, which it downed with great relish. Not fazed by passing people or the landrover.*" Record accepted by DBRC.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Two on 31 Jan, followed by singles on 1 & 2 Feb and two on 3 Feb, then three on 11 Apr and one on 12th. In autumn, one on 3 Oct (at Pondsbury) and two on 26 Oct were the only records.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

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	2	3	3	1	–	–	1	2	25	3	2
4	7	4	5	2	–	–	1	6	20	5	2

Low numbers during the first half of the year, with the last spring migrant being one on 15 May. After the breeding season, the first was one on 11 Aug. Autumn numbers were generally low (one to three), with the exception of 23-26 Oct, when searches were made at dusk or after dark and counts reached 25, 6, 11 and 7, respectively, the first (and highest) of these being birds around the edge of Pondsbury at dusk (Richard Taylor).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Two on 1 Feb and one on 5 Feb were the only records during the first winter-period. There were no spring records. During autumn passage, single birds recorded on 11 dates between 17 Oct and 17 Nov. One on 29 Dec was the last of the year. On 28 Oct one was seen being attacked by a Peregrine over Quarry Beach: "*After short grapple, Woodcock flew down into kelp at the water's edge. Peregrine sat approx 40 feet up on ledge for 10 mins then left N. Woodcock flew to cliff bottom after further 10 mins*" (Trevor and Karen Dobie). The remains of a fairly fresh raptor kill were found on the East Side Path at Brazen Ward on 1 Nov (Andy Jayne).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; declining.

Recorded almost daily from 26 Apr to 20 May, with maxima of four on 28 & 30 Apr, six on 2 May and 15 on 3 May. All other counts were of three or less. A better showing than in many recent springs. During southward migration in late summer and autumn, singles on 25 & 26 Aug and 30 Sep.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

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	1	1	3	–
–	1	2	4	–	1	–	3	1	7	2	–

With the exception of three on 12 Nov and two the following day, all records were of single birds.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

One on 1 May. Two on 12 Aug.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

One on 28 Aug.

Turnstone *Arenaria intrpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor; signs of a decline in recent years.

Between one and three birds recorded on six dates from 11-23 Aug, including three in Brick Field on 14th and two there on 11th and 16th. While Turnstones are regularly seen feeding on short, coastal grassland at other sites around the UK, this is an unusual occurrence for Lundy, where most previous sightings have been of birds on rocks at, or close to, sea level (though in *Birds of Lundy* (1980), Nick Dymond notes that Turnstones sometimes shelter on the plateau in severe weather). Subsequent sightings were of seven on 2 Sep and five on 10th, then two on 8 Oct and one on 12th. Altogether, this is one of the best showings by this species for many years.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Lundy vagrant.

One off the East Side on 26 Oct (Julian Allen, Rob Duncan, Richard Taylor) – only the second Lundy record after the first in Oct 2010. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

Between one and four birds recorded on 13 dates between 2 Oct and 12 Nov, with four off North End on both 5 & 6 Oct.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

One harrying other seabirds off the East Side on 27 Aug and one off North Light on 30 Sep, followed by four on 6 Oct, one on 7th, then one on 28th, two on 29th and singles on 30th & 31st. In addition, one seen from *MS Oldenburg*, about halfway across to Ilfracombe, on 13 Sep.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
800	900	50	200	200	100	200	35	45	600	100	180

Large numbers were offshore in late Jan and early Feb, with 800 on 30 & 31 Jan, 900 on 1 Feb and 700 on 3 Feb. There was no census of breeding numbers in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul are not necessarily reflective of the island's breeding population. However, surveys of breeding productivity resulted in figures of 0.51 fledged young per breeding attempt at the St Mark's Inlet/Three Quarter Wall Bay colony and 0.21 fledged young per breeding attempt at the Aztec Bay colony (Nicola Saunders).

Higher numbers were again offshore during the last week of Oct, with a maximum of 600 on 26th being the highest count of the autumn and early winter period. Seen feeding close to shore on the West Side on 17 & 18 Dec, with 50 in Jenny's Cove on 17th and 30 at St Philip's Stone and at least 100 in Jenny's Cove on 18th (Grant Sherman).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]
Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.
 Ten reported on 12 Mar. Four first-summer birds flew south off the Battery on 29 Apr. Singles on 7 & 9 May, the latter near the Castle. During late summer and autumn, six on 10 Aug and one adult on 31 Oct and 1 Nov, then two (one ad, one juv) on 15 Nov and two (ages not specified) on 19 & 21 Nov.

Common Gull *Larus canus*
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly September to April.
 One on 16 Apr. Twenty moving south off the East Side, during a period of strong seabird passage on 26 Oct (Julian Allen), was the highest count for some years.

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

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	200	50	165	60	105	55	70	6	53	7	50

There was no census in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul should not be considered as reflective of the island's breeding population.

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

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
150	350	80	220	150	275	70	40	20	100	80	220

There was no census in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul should not be considered as reflective of the island's breeding population. An adult was seen killing and eating a fledgling House Sparrow on a trailer outside the Black Shed on 30 May (Kevin Welsh).

A Herring Gull ringed as a chick on Lundy in 1998 was found dead in Carmarthenshire in Jul 2011 (see p.66 for details).

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

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	60	15	31	12	30	16	40	12	40	10	8

There was no census in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul should not be considered as reflective of the island's breeding population. On 5 May, a member of the team counting feral mammals on the island made the following entry in the logbook: "One Great Black-backed Gull in Brick Field. Had a baby rabbit in its beak, fighting with it, and broke its back. The gull then picked it up and gobbled it down head first and whole. Then struggled to fly away." Five juveniles were seen on Gannets' Rock on 14 Jun.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.
 A first-winter bird, associating with feeding Kittiwakes, passed south off the East Side on 26 Oct (Julian Allen). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Common Tern or Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo* or *S. paradisaea*

Common Tern is an uncommon migrant, April to October; *Arctic Tern* is a rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

Three on 20 Apr. In autumn, six were feeding over the tide-race off Rat Island as *MS Oldenburg* arrived on 1 Oct, with one in the same area on 2nd.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Murre]

Common breeder, but in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from Aug to Oct, then occasional sightings to Jan.

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1300	500	1300	680	1000	900	300	50*	–	300	566	837

*combined count of Guillemots and Razorbills

There was no census in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul should not be considered as reflective of the island's breeding population. Twenty-nine were back on the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove on 12 Oct (six days earlier than in 2010, and 14 days ahead of 2008), building to 300 at Jenny's Cove and the area around St Mark's Stone on 26 Oct and 837 by 10 Dec (Grant Sherman). [See p.66 for full details of the colour-ringed bird from Skomer mentioned in the 2010 *LFS Annual Report*.]

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	500	340	500	350	150	50*	1	50	10	–

*combined count of Guillemots and Razorbills

Razorbills reoccupied the ledges much later than Guillemots, being absent until Mar. There was no census in 2011 and the counts shown in the table above for Apr-Jul should not be considered as reflective of the island's breeding population.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

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

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	15	11	49	59	–	–	–	–	–

Successful breeding was proven once more and while the maximum count in 2011 (59) was lower than in 2010 (74), numbers still give room for cautious optimism.

The first record of the year was one at Jenny's Cove on 25 Mar (Grant Sherman). Further singles were seen on 27 & 30 Mar. At least 15 on land at Jenny's Cove on 19 Apr (Kirsten Elliott). A pair entering a crevice/burrow at Long Roost and three birds around burrows 'A' & 'C' at St Philips Stone on 22 Apr (Sophie Wheatley). A pair apparently occupying a burrow at St Philip's Stone in late May/early Jun. Raft of seven on the sea just north of Brazen Ward on 9 Jun. From the *Jessica Hettie*, about 55 seen on the water around the west and north coasts on 10 Jun. Six on the water off the South End on 14 Jun. An adult was seen carrying a fish into burrow 'G' at Jenny's Cove on 14 Jun (Grant Sherman) and into burrow 'A' at St Philip's Stone on 24 Jun (Nicola Saunders).

Two on ledge and one at burrow entrance at Long Roost on 27 Jun (Alan & Sandra Rowland). Forty-five were seen on land at Jenny's Cove on 22 Jun (Shaun Barnes, Nicola Saunders). A total of 49 (23 at Jenny's Cove, 16 at St Philip's Stone and 10 on the water off North East Point) were counted on 24 Jun, with 43 at Jenny's Cove on 30 Jun (Alan Rowland). A partial albino bird (all white, except for some splotchy black feathering in the wings and mantle) was seen at Jenny's Cove on 28 Jun and photographed the following day (Grant Sherman, Shelley Southon); a video clip can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxriCJhNikM. Fifteen at St Philip's Stone and 14 at Jenny's Cove on 9 Jul (James Leonard, Nicola Saunders). Twelve at St Philip's Stone at 07:00 on 11 Jul, with 46 adults plus one chick at Jenny's Cove at 09:00 on the same date, making a potential combined total of 59 (Grant Sherman). Forty-one on the sea at Jenny's Cove on 22 Jul; none on land.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers.

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	6	12	2	1	2	1	–
–	–	–	5	2	10	12	12	1	8	1	–

As usual, numbers peaked during the summer – presumably a combination of the height of the pigeon-racing season and abundant kind-hearted human visitors to the island, readily mugged for picnic scraps (in spite of health and sanitation advice to the contrary – particularly in relation to the shop and Tavern). Those birds that become dependent on the chicken feed put out in the Village are placed in a makeshift aviary in the farmyard before being carefully transported to the mainland for rehabilitation/re-release in the expectation that many will find their own way back to their home lofts.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

One on 17 Apr.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; sporadic in winter.

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	–	7	4	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	–
1	–	5	28	12	3	4	5	8	20	1	–

After one on 24 Jan there were frequent sightings between 20 Mar and 20 May, but no evidence of territorial/breeding behaviour was recorded. The highest counts of the year were seven on 21 Mar and four on four dates 19-30 Apr and again on 2 & 3 Oct.

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.

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	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	10	2	–	–	1	–	–	–

As usual there was a light spring passage, with records on 21 dates between 16 Apr and 15 Jun, reaching a max of three on 7 May. There was no evidence of breeding behaviour. The only record during autumn migration was of one on 4 Sep.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* [European Turtle Dove]
Increasingly scarce migrant, still regular in spring but rare in autumn.
 Singles on 6, 23, 24 & 26 May, with two on 7th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* [Common Cuckoo]
Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; bred in 2008 (for the first time since 1999) & 2009, but not in 2010.
 In spring, singles recorded on nine dates from 3 to 30 May, with two on 4th & 5th (including an exhausted female on the latter date – see colour plate 10). No indication of breeding.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.
 One on 19 Jan, two on 4 Feb. In autumn, singles on seven dates 15 Oct to 12 Nov. The first of these was first seen over Castle Hill and Hammers, before it flew south towards the Castle and was lost from sight (Tony John). A few minutes later, Tim Ball (sitting in the Tavern garden!) saw it flying in over the Landing Bay, then turning to fly north up the East Side.

Unidentified owl species – probably Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*
 A bird thought to be a Long-eared Owl was seen off the West Side on 27 Oct (Kevin Welsh) and at Gannets' Combe on 29 Oct (Henry Ware).

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]
Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

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	10	2	6	1	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	8	1	4	2	–	–	–	–

Perhaps the worst year on record for this declining species (the English Breeding Birds Survey index fell by 29% from 1995 to 2008), with records on just 17 dates. The first spring migrant was one on 21 Apr. A sparse and/or under-recorded spring passage peaked at just 10 on 2 May, with no further records until two on 26 Jun. The last of the year were singles on 22 & 25 Aug.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* [Eurasian Hoopoe]
Nationally scarce migrant.

Two birds were seen at various locations, including Pig's Paradise and the water tanks near Stoneycroft, on 27 Mar (Roger Fursdon *et al.*), with one remaining in the Millcombe area until last seen on 7 Apr – see colour plate 9. Record accepted by DBRC.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* [Eurasian Wryneck]
Nationally scarce migrant.

One in Millcombe on 1 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*). One on Terrace just south of Heligoland Trap and another along Lower East Path between Quarter Wall Copse and St Helen's Copse on 2 Oct, both of these birds remaining in the same locations until 6 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. See colour plate 10.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major**Lundy vagrant.*

A female on the Terrace on 1 Oct (James Diamond). Presumably the same bird was seen on a gate post at Old Light, then in Millcombe on 3rd (Tom Bedford *et al.*). It was trapped and ringed on 13th and found to be a first-year bird (Tim Ball *et al.*) and remained until at least 10 Nov (Alan Rowland). It was retrapped on 19 Oct. About the 20th record for the island, half of which have been during the last 15 years.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A male was present in Millcombe from 10 to 16 Apr (Ian Campbell, Ernie Dowding *et al.*), with a female or immature male, also in Millcombe, from 7-10 May (Shaun Barnes, Ernie Davis, James Leonard *et al.*) – see colour plate 11. Records accepted by DBRC.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator**Nationally scarce migrant.*

2010 record – update. The record of one in upper Millcombe on 17 May 2010 (David Illing, Enslin family) has been accepted by DBRC and becomes the first for Lundy since 2006.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

Four on 28 Apr were seen leaving the island with three Carrion Crows, flying high to the south-east towards Hartland, at 18:05 hrs on 29 Apr (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). One was sitting on the eastern end of Halfway Wall on 27 May, with what seems likely to have been the same bird on the Tillage Field wall on 30 May (Nicola Saunders).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Breeds; present throughout the year.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	20	60	63	51	40	18	37	30	39	40	30

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	10	12	16	9	9	8	13	15	16	8	8

Successful breeding proven; two juveniles seen at the South End on 29 Apr (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and two at the Battery on 26 Jun (R. Brown).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus**Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.***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	–	–	–	5	25	100	6	–
–	1	5	4	–	–	–	6	18	31	8	–

One on 1 Feb. Thereafter, sparse spring passage in Mar and Apr, with singles on eight dates and two on 19 Mar.

Late summer and autumn movements were noted from the end of Aug, with one on 21st, followed by one to five on a further 10 dates to the middle of Sep. Thereafter, recorded virtually daily until mid-Nov, with maxima of 30 on 20 Sep and 25 on 27 Sep, 100 on 4 Oct (the highest count of the year), of which 35 were ringed, and seven other Oct counts of 25-45 birds.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered. A male and a female were seen in trees below the Beach Road on 17 Feb (Alan & Sandra Rowland). One in Millcombe on 23 Mar (Mike & Paul Hopes). Only a sparse showing in autumn, with ones and twos on 13 dates between 20 Sep and 19 Nov.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Uncommon autumn migrant and rare spring migrant. Occasional in winter. One on 28 Sep (the same date as a lone Great Tit). Subsequently recorded on 13 dates between 20 Oct (one ringed in Milcombe) and 9 Nov; mostly single birds, but two on 25 & 27 Oct (in Millcombe/St John's Valley on latter date).

Great Tit *Parus major*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor. One in Millcombe on 23 Apr. One on 28 Sep (the same date as a Blue Tit) – no information on location.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Sky Lark]

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

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	24	100	50	25	55	38	3	15	60	12	2
4	10	16	20	19	15	15	6	14	29	4	1

Only small numbers were seen early in the year, apart from a flock of 24 around the eastern end of the Airfield and the Brick Field dung heap on 14 Feb. Spring passage peaked at 100 on 22 Mar. No information on breeding numbers/success. Autumn max 60 on 8 Oct.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

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	150	3	–	–	300	5	1	–	–
–	–	6	24	4	–	–	8	5	5	–	–

The first spring migrants were 10 on 12 Mar. Passage peaked at 150 on 17 Apr, with the last being one on 4 May. Autumn movements were not recorded until 50 on 21 Aug, followed by 300 on 22nd (the autumn max) and 70 on 23rd. Only small numbers recorded thereafter, with the last a singleton on 8 Oct.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

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

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	2,000	200	12	12	400	1,000	1,000	5	–
–	–	3	30	19	15	24	18	23	28	3	–

The first spring migrants were 20 on 12 Mar. Migration peaked in late Apr, with counts of 500 or more as follows: 500 on 24 Apr, 900 on 25th (including at least 600 flying north over the Castle between 14:00 and 16:00 hrs), 2,000 on 25th, 500 on 27th and 550 on 28th. A nest was located at the southern end of Government House (a new site) on 9 Jul (Louise Jaggard). A brood of four half-grown chicks was in the gas store on 28 Aug, an adult was feeding recently fledged chicks at Pig's Paradise on 29th, while a brood of three half-grown chicks in the farmyard on 30 Aug died about a week later, probably due to starvation in bad weather (Tony Taylor). Noticeable autumn movements got underway in late Aug, when there were 400 on 22nd, but numbers were lower than usual in Sep, with counts of 100 or more on just five dates. These included 100 on 22 & 24 Sep, 200 on 20th & 21st and the max of 1,000 on 26th. The main visible migration occurred during the first 10 days of Oct, with counts of 800 on 3rd and 1,000 on 4th, 9th & 10th. Numbers dwindled rapidly after mid-Oct and the last of the year was a single bird on 10 Nov. Many were trapped on the island by poor weather conditions on 9 & 10 Oct and about 100 roosted on the ledges of Millcombe House on the night of 9th/10th, with others roosting on nearby vegetation. A small improvement in the weather allowed at least some of these to leave on 11 Oct. The article by Tim Ball on pp.100-103 gives further insights into the weather hazards facing migratory birds – especially inexperienced, first-year birds of an exclusively insectivorous species leaving late in the year. A first-year bird ringed on Lundy on 4 Oct was caught at a roost site on Jersey a few days later (see p.66 for details).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional during summer and has bred.***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	200	50	7	4	5	30	50	–	–
–	–	6	20	17	7	3	3	5	23	–	–

The first of the spring were two on 21 Mar. In Apr, the only count of more than 30 in a day was 200 on 26th, while 50 on 10 & 16 May were the highest counts for that month. Recorded on just eight dates in Aug-Sep, with a lowly peak of 30 on 30 Sep. Apart from 50 on 8th, counts in Oct barely reached double figures on most days and the last of the year was seen on 31st.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One in St Helen's Copse on 3 Oct; one in St Helen's Copse, and another in Millcombe on 4 Oct; and one in Millcombe on 8 Oct (Tom Bedford, Richard Campey, Tim Davis, James Diamond & Tim Jones). One on the Terrace on 12 Oct (John Sanders). One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 15 Oct (Tim Ball *et al.*). One in bracken above Quarter Wall Copse on 21 Oct (Luke Phillips, A. Watts). One in Millcombe on 30 & 31 Oct (Andy Jayne). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; declining.*

One on 16 Apr and one singing in Millcombe on 7 May. During post-breeding dispersal and autumn migration, singles were reported on 27 Jul and 7 Aug.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

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

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	6	400*	16	3	1	5	44	300	–	–
–	4	11	23	10	4	1	12	14	31	–	–

*A significant 'fall' of *Phylloscopus* warblers occurred on the morning of 2 Apr after stormy overnight weather. The count of 400 entered in the logbook was for Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers combined. Experience of such falls in previous years suggests that Willow Warblers are likely to have been in the majority. While the date is early for such a large number, commencement of spring migration in 2011 was well advanced for several species.

What was presumably the same bird was first reported on 1 Feb, then daily from 4 to 6 Feb – the first Jan or Feb record for the island since 1989. Spring passage got underway with two on 14 Mar, peaking at 150 on 7 Apr (but see footnote to table above) and continuing until mid-May. Up to three were seen in mid-Jun but no evidence of breeding was reported.

A strong autumn migration saw daily records from mid-Sep to early Nov, including counts of 20 or more on 15 dates. A major overnight arrival of 300 Chiffchaffs (along with similar numbers of Blackcaps and 100 Goldcrests), of which 69 were ringed, occurred on 4 Oct, with 60 still present on 5th and 40 on 6th. The last of the year was a single bird on 9 Nov.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus*

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

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	400*	3	1	100s	120	100	4	–	–
–	–	2	26	9	2	8	15	11	8	–	–

*See footnote to Chiffchaff table, above.

The first record of the year was of one in Millcombe on the early date of 22 Mar (Mike & Paul Hopes), followed by three the next day. In addition to the fall of 400 *Phylloscopus* warblers on 2 Apr, thought likely to be composed mainly of Willow Warblers, the only other Apr counts of more than 100 were 165 on 15th and 200 on 19th.

Autumn passage was underway by the end of Jul, when Andrew Cleave witnessed an impressive fall on 23rd, with birds "along the East Side from Millcombe almost as far as Gannets' Bay – the numbers had thinned out at that point but there were still birds to be seen flitting through the bracken and feeding amongst rocks. The greatest density was between Millcombe and the Quarries – we did not do a count, but there always seemed to be 10-15 birds in view as we headed north, so the total must have run into hundreds of birds". Large numbers were still present early the following afternoon, when, during a day trip, many were seen in Millcombe and along the walls between the High Street Gate and Old Light (Tim Jones). Other notable counts during autumn migration were of 120 on 22 Aug and 100 on 4 Sep, but then single figures only until the last two birds on 20 Oct.

A first-year bird ringed on Lundy in Sep 2009 was controlled in Lincolnshire in Sep 2011 (see p.66 for details), when it would have been moving south from its breeding area.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

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

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	30	3	1	–	6	30	300	10	–
–	–	4	25	3	1	–	8	18	30	9	–

Spring passage began with one on 25 Mar and peaked with 30 on 19 Apr. There were no reports of territory holding birds in the summer, but Tony Taylor reported that an adult female Blackcap caught on 22 Aug was in full moult, while a juvenile captured on the same day was undergoing a partial moult. In general, passerines are thought to undertake such moults in or close to their breeding territories, suggesting that breeding might have occurred on Lundy in 2011. Return movements were noted from late Aug, with a Sep maxima of 30 on 18th. A major fall of an estimated 300 Blackcaps (together with 300 Chiffchaffs and 100 Goldcrests) occurred on the morning of 4 Oct, the main concentrations being in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse and along the Terrace, with smaller numbers in all parts of the island that were visited by observers. Seventy were ringed using a small number of mist-nets in Millcombe. The total of 300 is a record for Lundy during either spring or autumn passage, with the next highest count being an estimated 200-300 on 10 Oct 1984. Most of the birds involved in the fall of 2011 were gone by the next day, when only 40 were seen. Though still recorded almost daily, well into Nov, numbers fell away after mid-Oct, only reaching double digits on four dates later in the month. The last of the year was a single bird on 23 Nov.

An adult female ringed on Lundy in Apr 2010 was controlled on Anglesey in Jun 2011 (see ringing report on p.66 for details) where it seems likely to have been in its breeding area.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin**Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.***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	1	–	–	1	1	1	1	–
–	–	–	4	3	–	–	3	1	7	1	–

Spring passage was very thin, with singles on 21, 23 & 25 Apr and two on 24th, followed by further singles on 2, 4 & 8 May. In autumn, singles on 22 and 28-29 Aug, 23 Sep, on seven dates between 3 & 12 Oct and, the last of the year, on 4 Nov.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca**Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; one recent breeding record.*

Singles on six dates from 17 to 28 Apr, plus two on 19 Apr, were followed by one on 3 May, five on 4 May and one on 16 Jun. By contrast, there was just one record during autumn migration: a single bird on 4 Oct.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.***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	7	6	1	15	10	4	–	–
–	–	–	14	9	3	5	7	3	2	–	–

The first of the year were two on 10 Apr – a much earlier date than normal (the earliest ever was 7 Apr 1947). The spring max of 20 was on 19 Apr. Six were along the East Side on 13 Jun, suggesting that territory-holding birds may have been present. Intriguingly, a single male was singing off the Lower East Side Path on 30 Jun (Rob Swift). Only small numbers noted during post-breeding dispersal and autumn migration, with maxima of 15 on 22 Aug and 10 on 4 Sep. The last of the year was one on 15 Oct.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*
Nationally scarce migrant.

An apparently adult male of the western race *S. c. cantillans* was seen at Quarter Wall on 24 Apr (Kevin Rylands). Record accepted by DBRC; the 15th occurrence on Lundy.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* [Common Grasshopper Warbler]
Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

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	–	–	1	–	1	–	–
–	–	–	9	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	–

Recorded on only 10 dates in spring, with the first on the west sidelands on 15 Apr and a peak of just three on 16 & 23 Apr. The last recorded spring migrant was one at Gannets' Combe on 6 May. In autumn, the only records were of single birds on 23 Aug and 1 & 4 Oct. Seven were ringed in spring and one in autumn.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Bred in 2010 for the first time since the 1930s.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	25	15	2	2	3	–	1	–	–
–	–	–	12	12	4	5	3	–	1	–	–

Three on 19 Apr were the first migrants of the year. Spring movements peaked with 25 on 28 Apr and 15 on 2 May. There were regular sightings until mid-May, then singles on 22 May and 13, 17 & 18 Jun, with two on 16 Jun. Singles were seen in St John's Valley and along the East Side on 7 Jul, with ones and twos on four other dates during the first half of the month. In summary, though birds were seen sporadically during the late spring and early summer, there was no reported evidence of breeding behaviour to follow on from confirmed breeding in St John's Valley in 2010. There were very few records of autumn migrants, with one to three on three dates between 21 & 27 Aug, then none until one on 4 Oct – the last of the year.

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

Singles on 24 & 28 Apr and 9 May. There were no records at all during autumn passage.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* [Eurasian Treecreeper]
Uncommon late summer and autumn visitor; very rare outside this period.

One on the highly unusual date of 31 Jan; in fact the first island record for the period Jan-Mar, though there have been occurrences in Dec and this was presumably the same bird as seen in Millcombe on 28 Dec 2010.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Common breeding resident.

[Winter Wren]

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	3	15	3	18	6	20	20	47	16	3

Numbers were very low prior to the breeding season, following the third consecutive harsh winter, but had recovered strongly by the autumn. It is interesting to compare the peak Oct counts for the last several years, which were derived from broadly similar methods by the same observers (possible interpretation given in brackets):

- 2008:** 75 (high population after a long run of mild winters)
- 2009:** 51 (decrease after the severe weather of Feb 2009)
- 2010:** 21 (further decrease after the severe weather of winter 2009/10)
- 2011:** 47 (partial recovery after a successful breeding season, in spite of the severe cold of Nov/Dec 2010; also possible immigration – see below)

Tony Taylor has also commented: “On 27/28 Oct we caught five unringed Wrens in Millcombe. Till then most had been retraps, so presumed residents. It’s possible they [the five unringed birds] suddenly moved into Millcombe from elsewhere on the island, but we got the impression there might have been an influx onto the island.”

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

Resident; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant, often in large numbers.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100	100	50	31	27	70	25	63	70	540	2,000	15

There was no confirmation of breeding in 2011, though it is assumed pairs once again nested successfully. The first noticeable movements of autumn migration occurred in Oct, with 110 on 4th & 6th, 540 on 15th, then 200 on five dates between 23 Oct and 2 Nov, followed by 500 on 6 Nov and a major arrival of 2,000 on 7th. Numbers declined to 100 or so by the middle of Nov and just 30 by the end of the month.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A juvenile found in Millcombe on 24 Sep (Andy Turner) was trapped and ringed on 25th (see colour plate 8) and retrapped on 30th (Derek Baggott, Chris Dee, John Griffin, Andy Turner *et al.*) and last seen in the field on 4 Oct. The presence of a second, unringed bird was confirmed on 1 Oct. This bird tended to spend its time around the Village, where it frequently roosted with House Sparrows and Starlings in the farmyard buildings, remaining to at least 13 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*). Both birds were seen together on 3 & 4 Oct. The decomposed corpse of the first, ringed bird, was found near Brambles on 15 Oct. Records accepted by DBRC; these constitute the 16th and 17th Lundy records, the last being two juveniles in Sep 2007.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

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	–	–	–	–	–	15	1	–
–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	–	5	1	–

After two on 11 Apr, there were singles on a further six dates to 29 Apr. In autumn, recorded on six dates between 1 Oct and 2 Nov, all records involving single birds, with the exception of 15 on 14 Oct, the highest count since 20 on 18 Oct 2005 – see colour plate 8.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	7	15	18	12	24	7	7	18	40	25	2

Breeding was confirmed when an adult was seen carrying food on 4 May (Richard Campey). Numbers reached a peak of 24 at the end of the main breeding period in mid-June, then were generally low during the summer until autumn movements got underway at the end of Sep. The highest autumn count was 40 on 12 Oct and there were only eight other dates on which 20 or more were seen, the last of these being 25 on 7 Nov.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

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	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	32	25	–
1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	8	–

Only recorded on three dates early in the year, with three on 19 Jan, one on 18 Mar and 12 on 25 Mar. Thereafter, not recorded until 14 Oct, when 32 were seen, coinciding with an arrival of Redwings and Ring Ouzels. Autumn passage was sparse, with records of 20 or more on only three other dates to 8 Nov, the last a single bird on 23 Nov.

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.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	3	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	7	3	–

For the second year running no evidence of successful breeding was reported and for the first time since the mid-1980s there were no records of singing (i.e. territory holding) males. This is most likely a consequence of three consecutive hard winters. Equally remarkably, Song Thrush was not recorded at all in Sep, with a thin autumn passage not really getting underway until mid-Oct, following singles on 4 & 7 Oct. Seen almost daily from 14 Oct to 8 Nov, but with a max of just seven on 15 Oct and none after a single bird on 8 Nov.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

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	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	220	20	3
3	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	12	1

Only small numbers recorded sporadically at the beginning of the year, with the latest spring record being four on 25 Mar. After an initially promising influx of 220 on 14 Oct (along with Fieldfares and Ring Ouzels), autumn passage was meagre, with counts of 20 or more on just five other dates to mid-Nov, including 50 on 25 Oct. The only Dec sighting was of three on 27th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

One reported on 12 Mar. In autumn, recorded on five dates between 21 Oct and 2 Nov, with two birds on the first of these dates, but singles thereafter.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.

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	20	–	–	7	14	3	–	–
–	–	–	1	13	–	–	10	18	13	–	–

The first of the year was on the typical date of 28 Apr. There were records on a further 13 days in May, with a max of 20 on 19th, which was also the latest date during spring migration. Thereafter, not recorded until one on 15 Aug, marking the commencement of autumn passage, with maxima of seven on 22 Aug, 14 on 4 Sep and six on 9 Sep. All other counts were of one to four birds, with the last being two on 14 Oct. Only four Spotted Flycatchers were ringed during the year, all of them in autumn.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	4	4	1	3	1	5	16	27	6	1

Breeding was proven when an adult was seen carrying food in Millcombe on 3 May (Richard Campey). During autumn passage, peak counts included 16 on 26 Sep and six Oct counts of 20 or more between 2nd and 14th, peaking at 27 on 4th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

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	2	1	–
–	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	1	5	1	–

In late winter/early spring, singles on 6 Feb and 25 & 27 Mar, with a male at North End on 6 May. During autumn, a male on 29 Sep was followed by ones and twos on five dates 15-28 Oct and one (the last of the year) on 20 Nov.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

*Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.***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	–	–	1	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	2	–	–	1	3	2	–	–

One was found dead on the very early date of 2 Apr. Three males on 14 Apr, a female on 25th and a male on 28th, then singles on 5 & 8 May. In autumn, one on 24 Aug, followed by one on 27 Sep and two on 29 & 30 Sep, one on 1 Oct and one on 14 Oct, the last of the year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra**Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn; occasional records in midsummer.***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	–	–	4	4	15	–	–
–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	2	8	–	–

The only spring records were of singles on 2 & 3 May. In autumn, four on 8 Aug and one on 23rd, followed by one on 29 Sep and four on 30th, then a significant influx brought 10 on 1 Oct, 15 on 2nd (thought to be the highest Oct count on record), with one to four on six further dates, up to and including the last singleton on 11 Oct.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

[Eurasian Stonechat]

*Breeds occasionally; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; irregular in winter.***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	–	(10)	2	5	1	–
–	1	–	4	4	1	–	1	2	6	1	–

Numbers in spring were very low, following three consecutive winters with prolonged freezing conditions. After one on 17 Feb there were no further sightings until singles on 17 & 23 Apr, followed by two on 29 & 30 Apr and further singles on four dates from 3 to 11 May, then two on 16 Jun. Although the birds seen in Apr/May included both males and females, there were no indications of breeding behaviour. A count of 10 on 9 Aug, which was the only record for Jul or Aug and by far the highest total for the year, appears doubtful, but the Bird Report editors would be pleased to receive further details. In autumn, ones and twos on five dates from 24 Sep to 3 Oct, five on 4 Oct, followed by singles on 16 & 21 Oct and the last of the year on 22 Nov.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

*Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	20	200	70	60	40	40	50	400	1	–

The earliest spring migrants were three on 9 Mar. Recorded on an additional 12 dates before the end of Mar, with a max of at least 20 on 24th. Movements peaked in Apr with counts of 50 or more as follows: 60 on 8 Apr, 50 on 15th, 100 on 19th, 200 on 20th, 90 on 24th, 50 on 25th. Seventy were seen on 2 May, but numbers fell away after this, leaving just the island's breeding population (which was not censused in 2011). A bird of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorroha* was ringed on 26 Apr.

The main autumn migration occurred during the last week of Sep and the first week in Oct, with seven counts of between 50 and 100, although these were dwarfed by a fall of at least 400 on 1 Oct – by far the highest-ever count recorded on the island. By mid-Oct, daily counts had fallen back to single digits. There were unusually late (though not record-breaking) stragglers into Nov, with single birds on 4th, 6th and 11th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[Eurasian Pied Flycatcher]

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

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	–	–	4	4	4	–	–
–	–	–	10	3	–	–	9	3	16	–	–

After a male was seen on the early date of 3 Apr, there were records of single birds on a further 12 dates during spring migration, with two on 9 Apr and three on 4 & 6 May – one of the better showings of recent springs. There was also a relatively strong autumn migration, with sightings on 28 dates from 16 Aug to 23 Oct. Most counts were of ones and twos, but four were present on 30 Sep and 1 & 3 Oct, with three on 4 Oct.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	2	2	2	1	–	1	3	7	4	–

In spite of the extremely low numbers recorded during the first few months of the year, breeding was proven when an adult carrying food was seen in lower Millcombe on 3 May (Richard Campey). As usual, numbers reached a peak – albeit a modest one – in Oct, with seven on 3rd. There were no recorded sightings after four on 3 Nov, but this probably reflects lack of coverage rather than an absence of Dunnocks. Although the clearance of rhododendron has reduced the extent of suitable nesting habitat, the ‘dead hedges’ of rhodie brushings and developing scrub between St Helen’s Copse and the Terrace continue to provide opportunities for this species outside of Millcombe. The previously suspected occurrence of at least some autumn passage of Dunnocks through Lundy was confirmed when a first-year bird ringed on Lundy on 14 October 2010 was recaptured on the Wirral Peninsula, Merseyside on 8 April 2011 (see ringing report for details). The BTO *Migration Atlas* shows that British-bred Dunnocks are extremely sedentary – more than 95% staying within 1 km of their place of hatching. Continental Dunnocks are, however, highly migratory and this recovery raises the intriguing thought of a bird moving north-west from Central Europe, to winter in the British Isles, in the manner of many Central European Blackcaps.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	48*	50	20	20	65	35	230*	50	62	123*	15

*The totals for these months were confirmed by ringing studies; the totals for other months are the maximum counts recorded in the LFS Logbook. This clearly demonstrates how the population is greatly under-estimated by casual observations alone.

Forty-eight marked individuals were recorded in the farmyard, workshop and lambing shed on 3 Feb.

The 2011 breeding season was very successful, with 151 clutches laid, beginning on 3 Apr, and 475 nestlings hatched. The post-breeding population was composed of at least 230 individually marked birds, including 102 adults and 128 successfully fledged young. Sparrowhawks routinely entered the lambing shed to hunt during the autumn and winter, leading to a significant drop in sparrow numbers. While 123 marked individuals (of all ages) were recorded in Nov, only 41 were caught in Feb 2012 (see the paper by Isabel Winney & Yu-Hsun Hsu on p.98 for further details of current House Sparrow research on Lundy and the 2011 breeding season).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

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

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	–	–	1	1	5	–	–
–	–	–	1	3	–	–	5	2	4	–	–

Two on 28 Apr, one on 5 & 6 May and two on 7th, were the only records during spring passage. In autumn, recorded on 11 dates between 23 Aug and 4 Oct, with all counts being of ones and twos, except for four on 1 Oct and five on 2nd.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

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	–	–
–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	7	–	–

Three consecutive cold winters appear to have had a significant adverse effect on numbers of this species, with one on 9 Mar being the only record during the first eight months of the year. Even in autumn, none until singles on eight dates between 29 Sep and 23 Oct and two on 2 Oct – the poorest showing for many years.

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.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	5	14	5	4	4	10	8	40	1	1

In spring, White Wagtails were recorded on nine dates from 26 Apr to 6 May, with a max of at least five on 26th. Breeding by Pied Wagtails confirmed, with an adult carrying food near Millcombe pond on 10 May (James Leonard) and an adult carrying food for a presumed second brood on 24 Jul (Tim Jones). Autumn migration peaked in late Sep and early Oct, with 40 on 4 Oct being the highest count of the year. Autumn White Wagtails were recorded on 22 & 26 Aug (singles) and on 4 & 6 Oct (two and one, respectively).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.***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	–	–	4	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	3	–	–	6	2	3	–	–

Singles on 23 & 26 Apr, with two on 25th, followed by one on 3 & 4 May and two on 6th. In autumn, recorded on six dates from 22 to 30 Aug (max four on 22nd), then singles on five dates between 27 Sep and 16 Oct.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis**Breeds; common passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce or absent in winter.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	5	20	250	20	100	30	100	200	1,000	10	10

Following the very cold weather at the end of 2010, there were no records at all in Jan and only a handful of sightings in Feb. Noticeable migration got underway from mid-March with 20 on 16th and 20th, but it was not until Apr that larger numbers were reported, with counts of 50 or more including 60 on 6th, 50 on 7th, 250 on 19th and 100 on 20th. No information on size of breeding population, but “many” adults were seen carrying food on 11 Jul – presumably feeding second broods. After the breeding season, the first notable count was not until 30 Sep when 200 were recorded. The main autumn passage occurred during the first two weeks of Oct, peaking at 1,000 on 2nd, with 750 on 4th and 400 on 8th. After mid-month the highest count was 62.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

*Common breeding resident; extent of migratory or dispersive movements involving Lundy unknown.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	2	4	2	9	–	16	10	12	16	–

As usual, severely under-recorded, with successful breeding assumed but not confirmed and no indication of overall numbers present at any time of year.

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.***Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	12	40	16	11	15	4	12	34	850	920	8

There was no reported evidence of successful breeding, though birds were present throughout the breeding season and nesting is assumed to have occurred. In autumn it was not until the very end of Sep that numbers began to increase noticeably, with 34 on 29th, but numbers did not break 50 until mid-Oct when there were 60 on 13th, 400 on 14th and 560 on 15th. Daily counts were then all below 100 with the exception of 850 on 25th, 660 on 26th, 200 on 27th, 150 on 29th, 920 on 1st Nov (the highest count of the year), 250 on 2nd and 300 on 4th. Remaining counts in November were of 30 or fewer. Given that flocks totalling thousands – or even tens of thousands – in a day, are commonplace in late Oct/early Nov, this was one of the poorest autumn migrations of recent years.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon spring migrant; annual autumn migrant in variable numbers; occasional in winter.
Recorded on nine dates between 20 Oct and 4 Nov, during the peak of Chaffinch migration, with a max of six on 25 Oct. The only later sighting was of a male on 22 Nov.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

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

In spring, ones and twos recorded on eight dates from 1 to 15 Apr. In autumn, recorded on 11 dates between 1 Oct and 15 Nov, with a max of 10 on 28 Oct.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

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	1	10	7	7	3	9	26	400	28	6
2	3	2	26	12	8	5	12	18	31	8	5

Two juveniles were seen along the Lower East Side Path on 5 Jul, but these may not have been hatched on Lundy. Autumn migration peaked in Oct, with 200 on 10th and 400 on 8th – the latter the second-highest count ever for Lundy, after 450 on 12 Oct 2005.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

In spring, one on 4 Mar. In autumn, one on 26 & 27 Sep and four on 30th were followed by virtually daily records until 4 Nov, with a max of 100 on 8 Oct and eight other counts of between 50 and 80 in the first half of Oct. An adult male ringed on Lundy during the huge Siskin influx of Oct 2007 was recaptured in Shropshire in Mar 2011 – see Ringing Report for details.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	50	60	40	80	20	300	120	100	11	–

The first logbook entry of the year was of at least 50 on 25 Mar. Though recorded almost daily during Apr, counts only reached 50 or more on 26th, 27th and 29th, with a peak of 60 on 26th. Eighty on 16 Jun presumably included fledged young from the island's breeding population, which was not censused in 2011. The highest post-breeding count was a flock of at least 300 near the Old Hospital on 17 Aug, while autumn migration reached 100 on 8 Oct.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

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

During spring migration, recorded on 11 dates from 28 Mar to 30 Apr, with singles on most days, but two on 28 Apr and three on 15 Apr. In autumn, recorded on 20 dates between 26 Sep and 4 Nov, with a max of eight on 19 Oct.

Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus*

British vagrant. Discontinuous breeding distribution from the Canary Islands across North Africa and the Middle East, with small numbers in south-eastern Spain. Only 15 accepted British records to the end of 2010.

An unknown finch seen and photographed along the main track near Tibbett's by Barbara & Colin Canavan on 13 May was identified from the photo by Steve O'Donnell. Shaun Barnes subsequently relocated the bird at Halfway Wall and obtained a number of excellent photographs – see colour plate 11. The bird remained until it was last seen on 25 May affording excellent views to large numbers of visiting birders. It divided its time between Halfway Wall, Quarter Wall and the Old Hospital. Record accepted by BBRC. What was presumably the same bird was relocated on the nearby North Devon mainland at Morte Point (near Woolacombe) on 2 Jun.

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One first-winter trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 8 Oct remained until at least 13 Oct (Tim Ball *et al.*) – see colour plate 8. A first-year bird trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 16 Oct (Tony Taylor *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant; recent evidence of possible breeding; one winter record.

A male in Millcombe on 25 Mar (Paul & Mike Hopes) and 2 Apr. Two males in Millcombe on 10 Apr, one on 13 Apr. Further singles on 9 & 18 May. In autumn, a female was seen in Millcombe, mainly close to Blue Bung, on 2 & 3 Nov. Presumably the same bird (though no details given in log) also reported on 1 Nov.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant.

One seen and heard flying south along the East Side at Halfway Wall on 6 May (Mark Telfer). Record accepted by DBRC.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

A strong autumn passage, with records on 26 dates between 4 Oct (four) and 10 Nov (five), with a max of 20 on 5 & 6 Oct. Seventeen of those seen on 5 Oct were between Tibbett's and North End, with the remainder around the Village and Old Light. At the end of the year, two were seen on 24 and 29 Dec, with one on Christmas Day.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Singles near the main track close to the Heinkel wreck and in South West Field on 6 Oct (Tom Bedford, Richard Campey, James Diamond *et al.*). Then five birds present at various locations on 7 Oct, two on 8th, and six on 14th. One was found dead between the main track and the northern end of the Terrace on 11th (Chris & Carol Baillie). Finally, one along the main track between Halfway and Threequarter Walls on 28 Dec (James Leonard) was only the third winter record for Lundy. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-winter bird at the head of St John's Valley and on Castle Hill during the evening of 2 Oct was relocated on the Airfield the following morning (see colour plate 10) and later seen flying towards the Old Light (James Diamond *et al.*) Record accepted by DBRC.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 29 Sep (Derek Baggott, Chris Dee, John Griffin, Andy Turner). Record accepted by DBRC – the 16th for Lundy.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A poor year, with none until autumn when there were records on six dates between 4 Oct and 4 Nov, all of single birds, except for two on 13 Oct.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The Bird Report editors would be pleased to receive additional information that might enable any of the following records to be accepted.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus* – one reported off Rat Island on 31 Dec; record determined as 'not proven' by Devon Bird Recorder, description inconclusive.

Knot *Calidris canutus* – singles reported on 5 & 7 Mar, but no supporting information provided.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* – singles reported on 19, 21 & 27 Mar, but no supporting information provided.

Little Owl *Athene noctua* – one reported from the vicinity of VC Quarry on 28 Mar; description inconclusive.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* – there are two (independent) entries in the logbook of a possible Hoopoe, heard but not seen, in Millcombe on 19 & 21 May. However, given that large numbers of twitchers visited the island on these dates to see the Trumpeter Finch, it seems quite likely that the calls emanated from recordings being played – especially as Hoopoes are generally silent when on migration.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* – one reported on 17 Oct; description inconclusive.