

# BIRDS ON LUNDY 2012

by

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 154 species were recorded during 2012.

### A year of meteorological extremes

Although always an important influence on the number and variety of birds recorded on an offshore island, the meteorological extremes of 2012 had a profound effect on spring and autumn migrants, breeding birds and winter visitors alike on Lundy. A warm, sunny early spring following months of low rainfall meant that the island was dry and dusty, with stunted vegetation and desiccated streams and ponds by March. The heavens opened in April and newly-arriving insectivorous migrants had to contend with torrential rain, gale-force winds and unseasonably cold temperatures. The cool, wet theme dominated what passed for 'summer', leading to depressed breeding success for many species nationwide, with nests getting washed out, eggs chilling and chicks dying from starvation. North-easterly gales and low cloud at the peak of autumn migration in October grounded many birds, including hundreds of thrushes, on Lundy. Elsewhere in the country at the same time, seafarers reported seeing thousands of disoriented migrants desperately settling on boats, with others dropping exhausted into the sea. As if this were not enough, heavy rain and strong winds continued to batter South West England until the turn of the year, making conditions difficult for many species, including seabirds wintering at sea. Though adapted to cope with rough conditions, seabirds can become seriously weakened if prolonged bad weather prevents them from feeding properly.

### Wildfowl

With the exception of **Mallard**, **Teal** and to some extent **Common Scoter**, ducks, geese and swans are generally scarce visitors to the island. It was therefore notable that 2012 brought records of nine wildfowl species – the three above-mentioned 'regulars' plus **Whooper Swan**, three species of geese, a record count of **Wigeon** and a **Tufted Duck**. Many of these arrived during the last week of October when poor weather conditions disrupted the flights of many migrant birds.

### Divers, grebes and herons

While **Red-throated Diver** is the commonest diver species in most British waters outside the breeding season, Lundy has always seen more records of **Great Northern Divers** – a pattern repeated once more in 2012. Also reflecting 'business as usual' (at least in most years) there were no reports of grebes. **Grey Herons**, meanwhile, were seen on 16 dates scattered across seven months of the year. While **Little Egrets** go from strength to strength in the UK as a whole, there were no confirmed Lundy records in 2012.

### Birds of prey

The island's **Peregrine** population continued to do well. Eight other raptors were recorded during the year, with rarer species including a long-staying **Marsh Harrier** (in July/August), two **Hen**

**Harriers** (in late autumn), two **Ospreys** (both in spring) and a **Hobby** (in May). As usual, small numbers of visiting **Sparrowhawks**, **Buzzards**, **Kestrels** and **Merlins** were seen, particularly during the autumn. Equally true to form, owls were few and far between, with a scattering of **Short-eareds** in spring and autumn and a single **Long-eared Owl** that transfixed its observers in late September. Intriguingly, an unidentified owl, most likely one of the two 'eared' species, flew over Quarters in the wee small hours of a November night.

### Rails and waders

**Water Rails** bred for a sixth consecutive year, though in apparently lower numbers, possibly due to the unseasonably parched nature of the island in early spring (a situation that was later reversed by months of above-average rainfall). **Oystercatcher** is now the island's only breeding wader, but the population remains poorly studied and the current number of breeding pairs can only be guessed at. A wide range of other species passed through on migration – most in very small numbers, as is usual nowadays. Highlights included two breeding-plumaged **Black-tailed Godwits** in March, a **Little Ringed Plover** (Lundy's fifth) in April, a strong spring migration of **Whimbrels** and a good autumn showing of **Woodcocks**.

### Seabirds

Lundy's breeding **Manx Shearwaters** continued to be the subject of intensive studies and all indications are that the colony has continued to grow rapidly – a full survey is due in 2013, with the results eagerly awaited by all those who have worked so hard on the Seabird Recovery Project and subsequent monitoring. Also apparently doing well are **Puffins**, with a count of 171 in May being the highest since at least 1980 and by far the highest since the eradication of rats in 2004. **Storm Petrels** with well-developed brood patches were trapped at night in May, but conclusive proof that this tiny and mysterious seabird breeds on the island seems as elusive as the birds themselves. Rarities recorded during 2012 included **Balearic Shearwaters**, which are now annual in late autumn, an **Iceland Gull** in February, a **Glaucous Gull** in April, the island's third **Pomarine Skua** and – perhaps one of the most remarkable occurrences of recent years – two **Black Guillemots** (or 'Tysties') in the vicinity of the Landing Bay in late May and early June, constituting a 'first' for Lundy.

### Passerines and near-passerines

Appalling weather during the late spring and throughout the summer was bad news for insect-eating migrants that attempted (or probably) attempted to breed on Lundy in 2012. These included **Swallow**, **Whitethroat**, **Blackcap**, **Chiffchaff** and **Willow Warbler**. At least one Swallow nest failed, while of the warblers only **Willow Warbler** was seen feeding young. In all, no successfully fledged Swallows or warblers were seen, though this may partly reflect low observer coverage during the summer months. Ringing records indicated that both Blackcap and Chiffchaff at least attempted to breed; the first-known case on Lundy for the former. Also on the positive side, a juvenile **Cuckoo** was seen and numbers of fledged **Wheatears** were encouraging. Though insectivorous, Wheatears feed on the ground and have a breeding range that extends well north of the Arctic Circle; they are therefore better adapted to surviving cool, wet conditions than warblers and members of the swallow family.

Also reflecting the generally awful weather of 2012 – during which migrating birds had to make the most of vanishingly small windows of opportunity to fly in halfway decent conditions – were exceptionally high numbers of **Blackcaps** and **Swifts** in spring, while hundreds of **Blackbirds**, **Song Thrushes** and **Redwings** arrived in late October, grounded when winds from the north and east blew them from the continent into low cloud across Britain, where they quickly became disorientated.

Unusual spring migrants included **Alpine Swift** (the island's first since 1976), **Red-backed Shrike**, **Woodchat Shrike**, a veritable influx of **Golden Orioles**, **Hooded Crow**, a long-staying duo of **Short-toed Larks**, a **Red-rumped Swallow** and two male **Subalpine Warblers** which were trapped and ringed just minutes apart one morning in early June.

Autumn migration brought a similarly diverse line-up featuring **Short-toed Lark**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Melodious Warbler**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Olive-backed Pipit** (only the third for Lundy), **Common Rosefinch**, **Lapland Bunting**, **Ortolan Bunting** and **Little Bunting**.

A **Chough** arrived at the end of October and stayed on into 2013, setting many a pulse racing among islanders and visitors alike, and prompting daydreams of a possible recolonisation of the island to complement the species' recent success in Cornwall.



*One of the first images of the Chough, taken on the afternoon of 30 October 2012 on the path down to Montagu Steps by Paul Barrett – see p 40 for the full report.*

#### **Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information**

For news and photos of birds seen on Lundy throughout the year visit **[www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk)**. All contributions by observers are welcome; send an email request to Richard Campey at **[richardcampey@btinternet.com](mailto:richardcampey@btinternet.com)** to receive login details.

The website **[www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.uk)** is currently being redesigned and will be relaunched with updates to the species texts published in *The Birds of Lundy* (Davis & Jones, 2007). Also included will be pdfs of 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 14 January 2013. 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. Olive-backed Pipit) 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. Short-toed Lark, Chough) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, records of 'Lundy vagrants', species that are regularly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Brent Goose, Tufted Duck), 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](mailto: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 2012 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants.

### Birds seen during boat crossings

Sightings during boat crossings are generally only 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](mailto: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 Birdwatching & 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 posted on the [lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk](http://lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk), and to the Lundy wardening and ranger teams, in particular former Warden Derren Fox for his assistance with 2012 records. 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 2012 Lundy records, including those submitted via BirdGuides and BirdTrack, 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, Andrew Cleave, Nigel Dalby, Chris Dee, James Diamond, Trevor Dobie, Robin Freeman, Echo Yu-Hsun Hsu, Andy Jayne, Ivan Lakin, the late James Leonard, Luke Phillips, David & Elisabeth Price, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Grant Sherman, Paul Sterry, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor and Isabel Winney.

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A first-winter bird flying north over the Lighthouse Field at about 10:00hrs on 29 Oct was resting in the Brick Field an hour later (Richard Campey, Tim Davis *et al.*). During the afternoon it was flew towards South West Point (Steve Pratt *et al.*). It remained on the island until 31 Oct, and was seen in the Lighthouse Field and close to Quarters Pond. Upon its arrival, the bird appeared tired and sat in the Brick Field with its head tucked into its back. However, on several occasions it stood up, stretching out its neck and raising its wings in a dramatic threat posture directed at a nearby Raven. As Whoopers normally migrate (from Icelandic breeding grounds) and spend the winter in family parties, it seems likely that this bird had become separated from its parents and any siblings during bad weather; there had been northerly gales in preceding days. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder – the 14th LFS record and the first since 2007.

Unidentified **swan** *Cygnus* sp.

One, thought to be a juv. Mute Swan *C. olor*, in flight off the East Side, 22 Sep (Jan Swan *et al.*).

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

[Brant Goose]

*Lundy vagrant.*

Two Dark-bellied Brent Geese (*B. b. bernicla*), first seen in flight over South West Field in the early afternoon of 25 Oct, landed in the Lighthouse Field and were later joined by a third adult (Tim Davis *et al.*). Their arrival followed a period of strong north-easterly winds. The birds were clearly extremely hungry, feeding voraciously on grass and allowing people to approach to within a few metres and showing only mild concern. They remained until 30 Oct and were also seen grazing on the Airfield and near Quarter Wall Pond. The 15th LFS record and the first since 2007.

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

An adult flushed from Quarter Wall Pond circled over the south of the island and settled in St Helen's Field on 19 Apr; later the same day it was resighted at Quarter Wall Pond and also on the Airfield (Pete Clabburn, Nigel Dalby, Derren Fox *et al.*). The bird remained on the island until 24 Apr, when it flew north over Millcombe. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder; the 8th LFS

record and the second in spring. One flew south along the East Side on 25 Oct (James Diamond) and appeared to carry straight on without stopping. This appearance coincided with a period of strong north-easterly winds and was associated with the arrival of other wildfowl, including Brent Geese and Wigeon. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder – the 9th LFS record.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A flock of between ten and 15 birds (not seen well-enough to identify to race) flew over the farmyard on 3 Nov (Grant Sherman *et al.*). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

An unusually high number of records, with sightings on 29 days. A single female on Pondsbury on nine dates between 23 Jan and 19 Feb (presumably the same bird seen there in Dec 2011) was followed by a pair on Pondsbury from 27 Apr to 1 May. In autumn, six flew north off the East Side on 24 Sep. Twelve (four males, eight females) flew north-east off Shutter Point on 26 Oct, with a single male on pools at North End and on Pondsbury the same day. The latter bird remained on Pondsbury on 27th and was joined there by eight more on 28th. The total of 13 on 26th was the highest ever recorded from Lundy in a single day, while the nine on 28th was a record count for the island itself (as opposed to birds flying past at sea). Three still present on 31 Oct were followed by two 10-15 Nov, six on Pondsbury on 8 Dec, one on 21 Dec and four on 27th & 28th.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

*Annual migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer.*

Small numbers on eight dates between 21 Jan and 12 Feb, with a maximum of six on 1 Feb. In spring, singles on 20 Mar and 16 & 20 Apr. A single bird 12-16 Aug was the first of the autumn and was followed by up to three during the period 22-26 Sep, four on 7 & 11 Oct, and from one to three birds on a further 13 dates to 13 Nov. An early winter influx brought 20 on 1 Dec, 15 on 8th & 9th, and 14 on 27th.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Breeding was confirmed with a brood of nine ducklings at Pondsbury on 11 Apr. Broods of six and three were seen on 28 May. The maximum count of fully grown birds was 27 on 21 & 22 Oct.

**Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	21	11	14	14	12	7	22	21	27	20	20

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A female in flight near Rocket Pole Pond on 24 Oct (Richard Campey) was the 21st record for the island, following the most recent previous sighting in Jul 2011.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

*Uncommon passage visitor.*

The only 2012 sightings occurred during Oct when 12 were seen from the Tavern flying north off the East Side. A total of 25, in three separate flocks, flew north-east off the South End on 26th and one was seen the following day.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*

One flew in to feed south of Rat Island on 12 Feb (Tony Taylor).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

[Great Northern Loon]

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

There were daily records of ones and twos 26-29 Jan and two in the Landing Bay on 12 Feb – an adult and a 1st-winter bird approaching within 25 m of the end of the jetty and showing curiosity towards observers. Thereafter, singles on 22 & 26 Apr, two on 2 May and the last of the spring on 3 Jun. In autumn and early winter there were singles in the Landing Bay on 20 & 31 Oct, 1 Dec and 23-28 Dec, with two on 24th.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

*Common breeder; recorded in all months, but scarce in Sep/Oct.*

Derren Fox carried out a "late" (no date given) all-island survey of the breeding ledges and found 58 chicks. As usual, the island was largely vacated during Sep & Oct, with only one record, of a single bird in Oct and this at the very end of the month. However, numbers increased rapidly once more from early Nov and up to 30 birds were already on the breeding ledges at Jenny's Cove by mid-month (Andrew Cleave).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	50	100	30	100	70	50	30	4	1	90	135

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus**Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from late Mar to Sep; occasional records in Oct.*

The first reports of the year were of birds calling at night heard from Hammers and the Castle on 20 & 24 Mar. At least 2,000 were feeding just off Shutter Point in very strong winds on 18 Apr. Many were heard calling around the E, S & W coasts after 23:30hrs on 22 May and in the vicinity of the Landing Bay between midnight and 02:00hrs on 19 Jun. Thirty-two birds were ringed at the colony north of the Old Light on the night of 24/25 May, when five birds ringed in previous years were also caught. At Pilot's Quay the following night, five were ringed and two retrapped, while back at the Old Light colony on 28/29 May, four new birds were ringed and two retrapped (Tony Taylor).

David & Elisabeth Price, Nik Ward and Peter Slader made the following logbook entry for 28 Aug to 6 Sep: "*Spent the last 10 days (or more specifically the nights!) out on the sidings catching and ringing Manx Shearwaters. Our target was to ring young shearwaters that have recently emerged from their holes and which will spend several nights out on the slopes losing weight, shedding their fluffy down and exercising their wings before flying out to sea. We managed to ring 106 young birds in total – most of them at the colony between Old Light and Battery, but also north of Dead Cow Point, the sidings north of the Pyramid, and Puffin Slope. The bright full moon hampered our catching somewhat as birds are less likely to emerge on bright nights. This was probably the reason we saw few adults as they are even more reluctant to come in to the sidings unless it is really dark. We saw some evidence of predated juvenile birds, one such looking like a Peregrine kill (prompting the question as to whether Peregrines regularly hunt at night). We caught more birds than in the same period last year, so potentially the population has increased, and we were encouraged to find the Dead Cow Point colony had expanded considerably since our last visit.*" (See also pp 65-70.)

Tony Taylor took over the story, adding: “Richard Taylor and I (with help from Derren Fox and Don Malone on a couple of nights) ringed shearwaters on the nights of 6-12 Sep, alternating between the main colony north of Old Light and other sites (from Pilots Quay to the Old Light wall; west of Benjamin’s Chair and Castle Hill; Dead Cow Point to Needle Rock). Mainly strong winds, but little rain. Some clear nights, but moonlight was not reaching the western slopes for several hours after nightfall. As David Price wrote, the general impression was of another increase in chick numbers, but compared to the previous few years there was little calling and adults were scarce. We did find one feeding its chick on 8th. Our totals: 145 chicks, and five adults ringed. For the main colony only, between us we ringed 170 chicks (including 1 later by Chris Dee), compared with 118 in 2011.”

For the year as a whole, 252 chicks and 53 adults were ringed.

The Manx Shearwater colony north of Old Light was searched at night on 16/17 Oct; none was seen or heard (Tony Taylor). The last record for the year of birds passing offshore was of four on 28 Oct, while Andrew Cleave reported birds calling over Millcombe during the nights of 5 & 8 Nov.

A full survey of the island’s shearwater population is planned during the 2013 breeding season.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	h*	2000	560	500	50	1500	60	5	h*	–

\*heard at night

For a fourth successive year the Oxford University team returned to continue its shearwater tracking project at the breeding colony between Old Light and Battery Point. From 12 to 25 August the team fitted 27 GPS devices to individual birds. A full report on their findings is given on pp 101-107.

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

*Lundy and Devon rarity.*

One off Rat Island, seen from the Castle, flew south-west on 28 Oct (Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

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

One reported on 5 May (no further information provided). On the nights of 24/25 & 25/26 May two different birds were trapped and ringed at the shearwater colonies north of the Old Light and at Pilot’s Quay, respectively. Both birds had well-developed brood patches (which occur in both male and female Storm Petrels); the first was retrapped in the same area on 28/29 May (Tony Taylor, Richard Taylor). In addition, one was seen during the boat crossing on 22 May, with 21 on 26th and two on 29th. Nine reported on 9 Jun also seem likely to have been a crossing record, but this is not made clear in the logbook.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

Very scarce early in the year and recorded on only ten dates before the second week of Apr. A group of 15 feeding off the East Side on 28 May were diving from a sitting position on the water, rather than the much more usual in-flight plunge diving (Tony & Ann Taylor). The highest counts of the year were 160 on 27 Oct, 150 on 28 May and 100 on 29 Aug.



**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	2	30	150	35	70	100	45	160	5	7

**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

[Great Cormorant]

*Uncommon but regular spring/autumn migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; formerly bred.*

The only reported counts of ten or more during spring migration were 15 on 6 Apr, ten on 17 May and 15 on 26 May. One was feeding in Rocket Pole Pond on 25 Aug. The highest autumn passage counts were 26 on 13 Sep and ten on 22 Sep and 4 Oct. Migration continued into Nov, with a flock of six on 9th and four flying high over Pondsbury on 11th.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	–	8	15	10	5	–	9	26	10	4	3

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

[European Shag]

*Common breeder; less numerous from October to February.*

Birds were already occupying nest sites near Seal's Hole on 13 Mar. A count on 20 Jun, which covered many (but not all) of the known nesting sites, resulted in totals of 197 adults and 27 juveniles (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	17	20	40	69	224	58	90	75	40	15	6

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea****Uncommon visitor; recorded throughout the year but most regular during late summer and early autumn.*

Recorded on a total of 16 days during the year, with single birds reported on 11 Mar, 13 Apr, 19 & 20 Jun, 25, 28 & 30 Aug, 25 & 26 Sep (both times flying north), 20, 21 & 24 Oct and 26-29 Dec.

**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
–	–	1	1	–	2	–	3	2	3	–	4

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

[Western Marsh Harrier]

*Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring; Devon rarity.*

A female first seen over Castle Hill flew across St John's Valley and Millcombe and up the East Side on 22 Jul (Grant Sherman & Shelley Southon). What is presumed to be the same individual remained on the island and was seen on a further 11 dates until at least 19 Aug. It ranged widely, though was most often seen along the East Side, and was enjoyed by many different observers. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

[Northern Harrier]

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

An adult (or near-adult) male flew over Millcombe on 21 Oct (Luke Phillips); the bird's identity and age/sex were only confirmed thanks to Luke's careful examination of a series of photographs

that he quick-wittedly rattled off as the bird flew high over the valley into a strong headwind. A female flew along Quarter Wall and towards the Airfield on 8 Nov (Alan Rowland).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* [Eurasian Sparrowhawk]  
*Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; has bred at least once.*

Unusually, one overwintered, causing havoc among the House Sparrows and Starlings around the Village. The sightings of single birds in April included both a male (10th) and female (23rd), suggestive of spring passage through the island. After the expected mid-summer hiatus, the first of the 'autumn' was a female on 13 Aug. Two on 22 Sep and four on 7 Oct, including a group of three flying high to the south, were the only autumn records of more than one in a day.

**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	2	4	1	–
9	5	12	5	3	–	–	3	9	14	3	–

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

One flew out of bracken on the East Side on 6 Aug; two were seen from John O'Groats on 8 Aug (Chris & Sharron Blackmore). Later in the year, singles were recorded on 7 Sep, 25 Nov and 17 Dec. The latter bird flew low over the Beach Road from the north-east before circling back out over the Landing Bay, over South Light, and disappearing behind Castle Hill (Keith & Belinda Lugg).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* [Western Osprey]  
*Rare passage migrant; Devon rarity.*

One gliding high from the south on 25 Mar passed straight over an LFS working party at Quarter Wall, then headed rapidly north-east (Louise Cookson & Kevin Williams). One over Millcombe on 3 May (Derren Fox, Colin McShane). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder; the 21st and 22nd island occurrences. In line with the expanding size and range of the UK population, the frequency of migrants seen passing through Lundy has increased, with most continuing to occur in spring rather than autumn.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* [Common Kestrel]  
*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; breeds occasionally.*

While records were relatively scattered, it appears that at least one bird over-wintered (up to two were seen in Dec 2011). Similarly, though seen during the breeding season, there was no indication of more than one bird. Singles were seen on many dates in late summer and autumn, with three on 16 Aug, and two on four other dates in Aug and on 5 Sep and 10 Oct.

**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	3	2	2	1	1
9	4	–	11	7	6	5	11	7	20	5	1

[2005 update. Belated news concerns successful breeding by a pair of Kestrels in 2005 at a site near Quarry Beach (Trevor & Karen Dobie); the first confirmed breeding since 1982.]

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*  
*Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; very rare in summer.*

There were no records of wintering birds early in the year, but spring migrants were seen on seven dates between 7 Apr and 3 May, with a maximum of two on 16 Apr. The first autumn migrant was one on 6 Sep and there were almost daily sightings from late Sep throughout Oct,

including a maximum of four on 10 & 18 Oct. Single birds occurred on 16 dates in Nov & Dec, with two on 12 & 13 Nov.

**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	4	2	1
–	–	–	6	1	–	–	–	4	27	9	9

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on 8 & 27 May, the latter in flight near the Timekeeper's Hut, being pursued by two Meadow Pipits.

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

[Peregrine Falcon]

*Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.*

Lundy Warden Derren Fox reported a total of seven pairs nesting or attempting to nest in 2012, with mixed success. One nest, visited post-breeding, contained 12 racing pigeon rings and five pairs of Manx Shearwater wings. A plucking site found by Tony & Ann Taylor on 22 May included feathers from at least four Swallows and a Collared Dove. The following day they saw a male Peregrine catching a Collared Dove on the south side of Rat Island after several attempts. The falcon was apparently struggling with the weight of the dove and was forced to land, dropping its kill among the rocks. On 25 May, Steve Compton and Roger & Rosy Key watched a Peregrine flying around a tree in pursuit of a Collared Dove. Fledged juvenile Peregrines, particularly in evidence during Aug, were appreciated by many visitors.

**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.*

After just one record of a single bird during the first three months of the year (12 Feb), things picked up slightly in Apr when one calling at night was heard from the campsite on 12th and the logbook count reached the dizzy heights of two on 26th & 27th. However, all the evidence suggests that the apparently thriving island breeding population during the period 2007-2011 has experienced a sharp reversal in fortunes. One potential explanation might be the exceptionally dry late winter and early spring, which meant that many of the island's marshy areas, pools and water courses were parched – until the heavens opened in April. There were no Water Rail records at all in Jun & Jul, so it was a welcome surprise when adults and chicks were seen outside Quarters on 12 & 13 Aug, marking the sixth consecutive year of successful breeding on Lundy. A chick was calling in the same area on 7 Sep.

**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	2	4	1	1
–	1	–	11	7	–	–	3	14	17	6	1

**Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

An incubating bird was on one of the Sentinel Rocks on the Landing Beach on 26 and 29 May. The highest count of the year came towards the end of the breeding season, when 30 were present on 20 Jun. Two chicks were photographed along the main track about 200 m south of North End on 2 Jul (Nigel Dalby) – the only confirmation of successful breeding received in 2012.

**Maximum count for each month (top)\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	13	7	10	16	30	9	19	9	20	4	3

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Early in the year, four on 14 Feb and one on 25th. Then four on 14 Mar, one on 25 Mar, up to four 27-30 Apr, and one on 23 May, followed by single late migrants on 1 & 9 Jun. The first autumn record was of one on 25 Aug, with sightings on a further 20 dates up to 15 Nov; these mostly also of single birds, but there were seven on 18 Oct, six on 20th, four on 21st and three on 24th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	4	4	4	1	1	–	1	2	7	1	–
–	2	2	3	1	2	–	1	5	14	1	–

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

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

One on 8 May.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

*Uncommon passage migrant. Formerly a common breeder (until 2000), spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor, but major decline in recent years.*

Recorded on 24 dates during the year, Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. A single bird on 14 Jan was followed by a small influx in late Jan and early Feb, with one on 31 Jan, two on 1 Feb, one on 2nd, 18 on 3rd, singles on 4th & 8th and four on 12th. Later in the spring, singles on 26 & 28 Apr. In autumn, singles on 27 Sep and 14 Oct, then an influx during a period of strong north and east winds in late Oct, which brought records on eight dates between 22nd and 30th, peaking at 31 on 26th, with up to six on the remaining days. Thereafter, one on 5 Nov was followed by eight on 15th and four on 27th. One on 14 Dec was the last of the year.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity. Four previous records.*

One on heather moorland just north of Pondsby, and later by puddles on the main track at Halfway Wall, on 23 Apr (Kevin Rylands). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder; the fifth for Lundy, following those in May 1998, Apr 2000, and May & Sep 2011.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

Recorded on 14 days during the year (Apr-Jun and Aug-Sep). In spring, one near John O'Groats on 4 Apr; one on West Side near Halfway Wall on 30 Apr; six on 4 May; singles on 23 & 25 May; two on 27 May and one on 19 Jun. Autumn migrants were few and far between, with one on 11 Aug, two on 30th & 31st, and singles on four dates between 1 & 11 Sep.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Recorded on 27 dates in Apr & May during a significant visible migration of this species through Devon and elsewhere in western Britain, perhaps a consequence of flocks being delayed and/or displaced by the poor spring weather. After the first individual on 21 Apr, further ones and twos

occurred on most of the next few days, followed by six on 28th and 21 on 30th, then 15 on 2 & 8 May and 16 on 6th, but only ones and twos from 10 May onwards, the last a single bird on 28 May. There were no autumn records.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in declining numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.* In spring, singles reported on 14 & 30 Apr and on nine dates between 1 & 23 May, with three on 5th. It is possible that some of these sightings actually involved the very similar-looking Whimbrel, which passed through the island in good numbers in Apr/May. Records of single birds on 20, 21 & 27 Jun may already have been returning migrants, given that the nests of many British breeders were lost during the unseasonable flooding in Jun. During late summer and autumn passage, recorded on eight dates between 5 Aug & 26 Oct, with a maximum of just two on 31 Aug and 26 Oct.

**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	–	2	1	2	–	–
–	–	–	2	9	3	–	3	3	2	–	–

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

*Rare passage migrant; one winter record.*

Two spring migrants in breeding plumage were at Pondsbury on 18 Mar (Sophie Wheatley). These were perhaps most likely to have been birds from the Icelandic population returning north to their nesting grounds.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

*Rare passage migrant; has occurred in winter.*

One at the North End on the unusual date of 7 Feb (András Liker). Two flying over South West Field and the Lighthouse Field on 25 Oct arrived at the same time as three Brent Geese during a period of strong north-easterly winds (Tim Davis). A total of 14, in three small groups, were seen flying over the sea off North End the following day (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

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

Recorded on just five dates in 2012. In spring, there were singles on 25 Apr and near the jetty on 30 Apr. Autumn passage migrants were similarly scarce, with singles on 23 Jul and 9 Aug (in the Devil's Kitchen on the latter date), then none until two on 1 Nov, the last of the year.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

[Red Knot]

*Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.*

One was on the track south of Old Light on 18 Sep.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

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

One in the Lighthouse Field on 5 May.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

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

Recorded on 23 days during the year (Feb and Apr-Oct). One on 1 & 2 Feb was the only late-winter record. During spring passage there were two on 19 Apr; four on the West Side near Halfway Wall on 30 Apr; 11 on 3 May and 14 on 4 May; and sightings on nine further dates between 5 May

& 4 Jun, with maxima of six on 17th, five on 19th and four on 27th (ones and twos on other days). The first southbound migrant of 'autumn' was one on 9 Jul, followed by further single birds on 29 Sep, 7, 9, 11 & 23 Oct, and four on 22 Oct.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

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

Two on 5 Feb and two on 8 Apr (locations not recorded) were the only sightings of a wader that is discreet in both plumage and habits, so liable to being under-recorded, though there is evidence of a shift northwards and eastwards of the winter range, most likely linked to climate change.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.*

More spring sightings than for several years, with two on 26 Apr followed by singles on 28th & 29th and four on 30th, then further singles on 1, 4 & 22 May, with two on 2 May. One on 26 Jun was probably an early-returning failed breeder rather than a late northbound migrant. The only other 'autumn' migrant reported was one on 31 Aug.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

One on 19 Apr. Singles on 11 & 19 Aug.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

During autumn passage, singles on 13 Jul and 27 & 28 Sep.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

During the latter part of winter and spring passage, singles on 23 Jan, four dates between 20 & 26 Mar, and three dates from 3-7 Apr. In autumn, singles on 26 Sep and 11 Oct were followed by two on 22 Oct, one on 24 & 25 Oct, three on 26 Oct and one on 15 Nov.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Recorded on 19 days, Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. Early in the year there were singles on 4 & 13 Jan and 12 Mar. The first autumn migrants were two on 23 Oct, followed by a very good count of eight the following day – the highest number in one day for many years, coinciding with a general influx of migrants from the north-east. There were sightings of one to five birds on a further 11 dates from 25 Oct to 16 Nov, then one on 2 Dec, two on 8th and one on 29th.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Very scarce in the first half of the year, with records for only 13 dates Jan-May, perhaps partly reflecting the dry conditions up until Apr. There were no records at all between the last of the spring on 5 May and the first of the autumn on 5 Sep). Thereafter, virtually daily records from late Sep to mid-Nov, with a maximum of 20 on 22 Oct.

**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	5	1	–	3	–	–	–	2	20	4	2
5	3	4	–	1	–	–	–	10	23	5	7

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

During the late afternoon of 28 Oct, an adult (or near adult) was watched flying-in rapidly from the south-east towards Rat Island where it attacked a Kittiwake, engaging in a prolonged aerial pursuit before forcing the gull onto the water and hovering over it with apparently lethal intent, though the end of the encounter was out of view of the observers (Tim Jones *et al.*). This is only the third sighting of this species from the island, yet remarkably the third consecutive year, following records in Oct 2010 and Oct 2011. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Four on 26 Sep, followed by eight on 12 Oct and two on 15th.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

*Scarce spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.*

Singles on 24 & 28 Aug and 15, 24 & 26 Sep were followed by one on 11 Oct, three on 12th, two on 15th, one on 18th, two on 22nd and the last of the year, a single bird, just off North Light on 26th.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

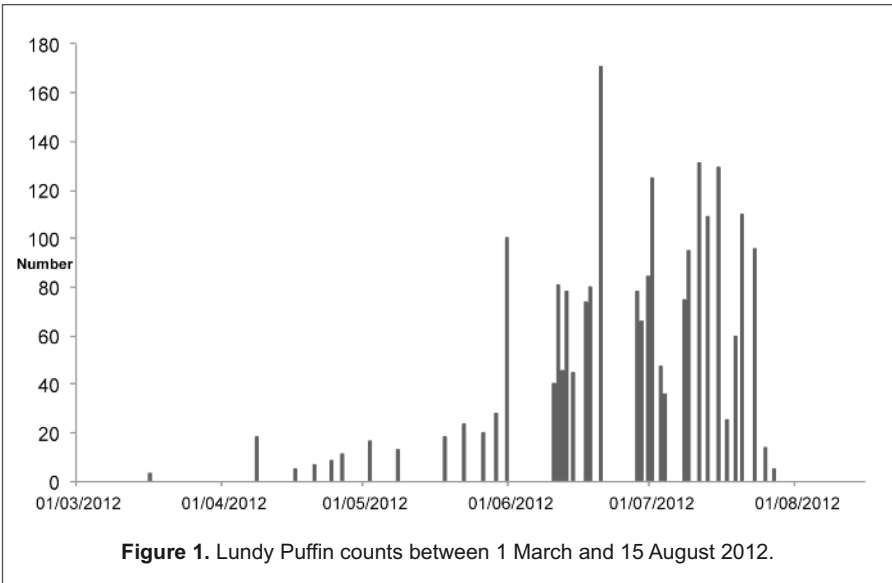
*Uncommon but now slowly increasing breeding species; formerly bred in large numbers; very rare between mid-Aug and mid-Mar.*

Three on the sea at Jenny's Cove on 16 Mar were the first of the year (Grant Sherman) and the earliest returning birds of recent years. Five were at Jenny's Cove on 2 Apr. One took dead grass into a burrow at Jenny's on 7 Apr. Three on the water and about six going in and out of burrows at Jenny's on 24 Apr, with 11 on land at Jenny's on 7th & 25th. Two birds were outside burrows at St Philip's Stone on 8 May.

As shown in Figure 1 (overleaf), numbers increased considerably from the end of May (assumed, as in other recent years, to reflect an influx of immature, non-breeding birds), with a conservative maximum of at least 100 on 31 May – at that point the highest count of Puffins on Lundy since 129 in 1981. These included over 30 at Jenny's Cove, ten at St Philip's Stone, five at Long Roost, more than 40 close to North East Point and six on the water close to the base of Gannets' Rock. On 11 Jun, 52 were seen on land at Jenny's Cove with 16 on land at St Philip's Stone. On the same date, eight were on the water at Gannets' Rock and five off South West Point, making a combined total of 81 birds (Grant Sherman, James Leonard). An adult was seen taking a fish into burrow 'C' at St Philip's Stone on 13 Jun, while an adult flew directly into another burrow in the same area on the same date, also strongly suggestive of feeding young (Grant Sherman). Two feeds were seen at Jenny's Cove on 19 Jun (Grant Sherman & Shelley Southon). On 20 Jun, a new (recent) record total of 171 birds – both on land and on the water – were located in a count of the whole island perimeter, including 71 at Jenny's Cove, 30 at St Philip's Stone, 25 off the South End and others at Long Roost, North End and Gannets' Rock (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A chick was seen outside burrow 'C' at St Philip's Stone on 27 Jun. A total of 125 birds were on land at Jenny's Cove (89) and St Philip's Stone (36) on 1 Jul. As with Lundy's other breeding auks, numbers declined rapidly in late Jul, with 110 still present on 20th, but only five counted on 27th (all on the water off St Philip's Stone) – the last of the season.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	18	100	171	131	–	–	–	–	–



The following logbook entry captures the interest and enthusiasm that Puffins inspire among those who enjoy watching birds on Lundy, whether or not they are 'birdwatchers':

*"We have spent several hours over the last week watching Puffins in Jenny's Cove. We have mainly watched two areas. For anyone reading this looking for them, we found it best to sit on the north bank of the Cove, just south of Halfway Wall. Looking down from the rocks (a bit like a grassland with many rocks showing signs of recent human sitting), watch the grassy banks going down to the sea. An apparent small colony of Puffins is on the bank just the other side of the ravine, near the bottom towards the sea. We were counting the Puffins regularly. The most we saw at once on that bank was 10. These were mostly outside an individual burrow on their own, but some would be two birds together. A best estimate of how many birds were in this small area altogether would be 15 or 20, bearing in mind that they were popping in and out of the burrows and flying out to sea regularly. There is also another area further south in the cove which has a similar number of burrows and birds. Hope this helps some keen bird-watchers who are not quite so 'in the know' and just want to sit and watch the birds like we do."* John Saint-James

**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*  
*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Two in full breeding plumage seen on the water about 250 m from the jetty as MS Oldenburg entered the Landing Bay on 26 May (Andrew Cleave & Paul Sterry). One seen in flight some way off the East Side (while scanning for seabirds with a telescope from the Beach Road turn) on the evening of 1 Jun (Tim Jones). At least one seen on the water and in flight just after MS Oldenburg had sailed past Rat Island when leaving the Landing Bay on 2 Jun (many observers). Records accepted by DBRC. These constitute the first records for the island itself, the only previous sighting having been at sea, during the crossing, on the strikingly similar date of 30 May 1991.



### **Razorbill *Alca torda***

*Common breeder, though in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between Aug and Feb.* The first bird seen on the breeding ledges was one at Jenny's Cove on 7 Jan, with three there (two of which were in breeding plumage) on 4 Feb and seven on 12th – a much later pre-breeding build-up than in the case of Guillemots (Grant Sherman). At least eight adults were seen carrying fish into crevices at St Philip's Stone on 13 Jun.

#### **Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	200	600	200	500	530	500	–	–	40	–	–

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

### **Guillemot *Uria aalge***

[Common Murre]

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

Three heavily oiled birds were found in the vicinity of the Divers' Beach and Devil's Kitchen on 25 Jan (Nicola Saunders). Grant Sherman continued his regular winter visits to count and observe birds on the breeding ledges. Of six visits in January when birds were occupying the ledges, the highest count was 1,138 on 8th. Birds were incubating eggs at St Philip's Stone and Jenny's Cove on 8 May. A colour-ringed bird seen by Grant on 29 May (blue ring on left leg inscribed in white '04M') had been ringed as a chick on Skomer, Pembrokeshire, in 2009. A further colour-ringed bird (yellow ring inscribed in black '058') was found by Grant on 20 Jun and had been ringed as a chick on Skomer in 2010. At the end of the breeding season numbers fell rapidly from mid-Jul, with 1,100 on the ledges on 15th, but just 79 on 23rd. Thirteen birds were back on the breeding ledges at 07:15 on 13 Oct, one day later than in 2011 (Grant Sherman). Subsequent early morning peak numbers of birds on the ledges included 175 on 19 Oct, 404 on 28 Oct, 762 on 30 Oct, 997 on 18 Nov, 1,041 on 29 Nov and 1,313 on 21 Dec, with variable intervening counts.

Grant comments: "On Lundy, generally peak counts occur with westerly winds force 4-5. When the wind gets up to force 6-8 the waves break at the bottom of the cliffs and the spray can wash the lower ledges (in higher winds ledges 100-150ft above sea level can be washed). Counts of zero were generally associated with very cold easterly winds. In colonies above the Arctic Circle, birds don't return to the ledges until March. There are other factors: avian predators will clear the ledges; foggy days will deter predators; and some observers have found cycles of occupation in other colonies. Pairs show breeding behaviour from the time that they're on the ledges. I've observed mating attempts when birds are still in winter plumage (there was a pair mating this morning – 4 Nov 2012). Most birds were in winter plumage on 13th Oct, but now most have started to moult."

A live, partially oiled bird was near the jetty on 16 Dec.

#### **Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,158	1,304	1,706	1,807	2,500	2,550	2,000	–	12	762	1,041	1,313

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*  
*Uncommon migrant, late March to early October.*  
 One on 5 Apr.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*  
*Uncommon migrant, April to October.*  
 One on 11 Aug was the only sighting in 2012.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* [Black-legged Kittiwake]  
*Common but declining breeding species; generally less common from Sep to Jan, but large flocks may occur during or after stormy weather.*

An estimated 900 were offshore on 27 Jan, followed by 1,200 feeding off the East Side on 11 Feb. During the breeding season, at least 50 were seen flying backwards and forwards collecting plant material for nest building in the St Philip's Stone area on 8 May. At the Aztec Bay colony the first egg was recorded on 11 May; pairs were seen nest building and copulating on the same date. Warden Derren Fox reported: "*Kittiwake productivity was monitored at two colonies, Aztec Bay (F7 in seabird site register) and Aztec Zawn (site F16 in site register). Productivity at those sites was as below [see table]. Some fierce storms took out a lot of the lower nests at both sites, but these would have been younger and less experienced birds.*"

Colony	Hatching success (chicks/pair)	Breeding success (young fledged/pair)
Aztec Bay (n=41)	0.85	0.17
Aztec Zawn (n=100)	0.47	0.29

Following a period of rough weather, with very strong north-easterly winds, at least 1,000 were passing off the South End on the morning of 27 Oct. Three hundred off North East Point on 15 Nov was the only other notable concentration during the autumn/early winter period.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
900	1200	200	40	150	112	1	–	200	1,000	300	100

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]  
*Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.*  
 The only records came in late summer and autumn: a juvenile/first-winter bird on 30 Aug, followed by two (ages unknown) on 8 Sep, singles on 25 & 26 Oct, eight off the South End on 27 Oct, and further singles on 5 & 11 Nov.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus* [Mew Gull]  
*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly Sep to Apr.*  
 Not recorded until late Oct, when there were three on 26th and seven off the South End on 27th, coinciding with a period of strong north-easterly winds.

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

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	33	50	30	120	40	40	80	10	25	1	–

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

[European Herring Gull]

*Common breeding species; present all year but fewer in winter.*

Of an estimated 750 present on 12 Feb, hundreds were feeding among the sheep, with hundreds more on the cliffs, apparently already staking claims to breeding sites (Tony Taylor).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
300	750	500	120	150	40	60	40	9	65	80	400

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides***

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A second-winter bird in flight between the Landing Bay and the Sugar Loaf on the afternoon of 2 Feb headed up over the island towards the west (Derren Fox) and was seen in the Lighthouse Field the following day (Nicola Saunders). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder; the sixth LFS record, the last being in Apr-May 2004.

**Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A first-summer bird, picked out during a seawatch from The Ugly, flew in from the south-east, over Rat Island and along the East Side on 22 Apr (Kevin Rylands). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder – only the fifth for the island and the first since May 1986. All have been in Apr/May.

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

*Breeds; present in all months, but fewer in winter.*

Two pairs with small chicks on the East Side (near Mousehole & Trap and at Brazen Ward) on 31 May. Poor late spring/early summer weather seemed to have adversely affected breeding success and few chicks/juveniles were seen during a walk around the island perimeter on 20 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	90	20	20	20	76	12	44	35	23	20	15

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2012 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table above are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**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
–	–	–	6	15	5	1	6	25	1	1	–
–	–	–	6	16	12	2	4	9	2	1	–

Writing in the LFS Logbook on 4 Jun, Chris Eve commented: "Several racing pigeons around. Caught one which kept coming into my tent. Handed it over to Ernie the plumber who takes them back to the mainland and releases them after two weeks."

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Not recorded until the late autumn, when singles on 7, 20 & 29 Oct.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

*Probably breeds – or attempts to breed – in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; sporadic in winter.*

After one on 8 Feb there were scattered reports of ones and twos in Mar, with five on 27th. Potential nesting birds arrived towards the end of Mar, staying throughout the spring and summer, though once again there was no proof of breeding. Apart from the suggestion of a very small passage through the island in Oct, Woodpigeons were extremely scarce during most of the autumn and early 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	5	6	6	3	4	3	1	4	1	1
–	1	6	20	19	10	4	7	1	9	1	1

**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.*

Singles on 6 & 29 Apr were followed by other scattered ones and twos during the first half of May. More noticeable movements in the second half of May brought five on 19th and almost daily records from 23rd, peaking at nine birds on 30th, which remained into early Jun. Only single birds were seen for a time after 10 Jun, including one singing in Quarter Wall Copse and from rhododendron brashings along the Lower East Side Path on 19th, though a presumed fresh influx brought five on 21st. The only autumn records were singles on 19 Aug and 6 Sep. As observed in previous years, Collared Doves seem to be highly favoured as prey by the island's Peregrines (see Peregrine entry on p 29).

**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	9	9	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	12	10	–	1	1	–	–	–

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

*Increasingly scarce migrant, still regular in spring but rare in autumn.*

One photographed outside Brambles on 18 May (Mike Jones) was the only record of this once common migrant.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

[Common Cuckoo]

*Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding confirmed just twice since 2000 (in 2007 & 2012).*

Single birds were recorded on ten dates from 1 May to 13 Jun, the latter a calling male in Millcombe. Breeding was confirmed for the first time since 2007 when a juvenile accompanied by its host parent – a Meadow Pipit – was seen at Tibbett's on 9 Jul and below the Upper East Side Path between the stile in Halfway Wall and the northern end of the Terrace on 11 Jul (R. Charwood).

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One seen and photographed at roost in pines on the northern side of Millcombe on 28 & 29 Sep (Andy Jayne *et al.*) – see colour plate 9. Attention was first drawn to it by scolding Goldcrests and Chaffinches. The owl seemed entirely unperturbed by people passing within two metres of it on the nearby path. Record accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

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

Autumn/winter 2011/12 brought a significant influx of Short-eared Owls to the UK, so it is unsurprising that there were several spring passage records for Lundy. During the autumn and early winter period the only sightings were of singles on 9, 25 & 27 Oct, the latter two between Quarter Wall and Pondsby. One flew up St John's Valley on 3 Apr. Further singles were reported on 15 Apr and 27 & 29 May. The late-May bird was seen and photographed on Threequarter Wall, near Widow's Tenement, on 27th (Alan Rowland).

### **Unidentified owl species**

One flew over Quarters at 04:30 hrs on 15 Nov (Pete Lambden).

### **Swift** *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

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

The first birds were seen, as usual, towards the end of April, with three on 26th & 27th, one on 28th and two on 29th, but then an estimated 1,000 passed through the island on 30th in poor weather, probably displaced much further west than normal during strong easterly winds. Seven were trapped (by flick-netting) and ringed, exceeding the total of six Swifts ringed on Lundy during the whole of the period 1947-2011. Only 50 were seen a day later, on 1 May, but numbers increased again to 200 on 2nd, returning to much lower, more normal levels thereafter. The last of the year was a single bird on 6 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1,000	200	27	12	50	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	19	6	2	9	1	–	–	–

### **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One watched flying around South West Point for about 15 minutes on 28 Mar (Grant Sherman & Shelley Southon), and swooping low around Stoneycroft for about four minutes before heading off north-east on 29 Mar (Richard Brown & Robert Pugh). A swift that seems highly likely to have been the same bird was seen over Pondsby on 25 Mar (Darrin Dowding & Paul Bullock). It was subsequently reported from the Rocket Pole area on 31 Mar (anonymous) and 3 Apr (Rod & Liz Thomas) and over Goat Island on 5 Apr (Joshua & Martin Harris). Record accepted by DBRC – the sixth Lundy record and the first since 1976.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*Lundy vagrant, though more frequent in recent years.*

One in Millcombe on 30 Apr and 1 May (L. Armstrong, Colin McShane). In Sep, a first-year female initially seen along the Terrace, in the willows of the southernmost quarry, on 9th (Richard Taylor) had relocated to Millcombe by 11th (Michaela Cozens *et al.*). Two were reported on 16th (Mike Townsend *et al.*). One was in St Helen's Copse on 18th, while on 24th, one was seen flying from the Tent Field, past the Church and into Millcombe (Andy Jayne *et al.*). One was in Quarter Wall

Copse on 27th. There is no evidence that more than two mobile birds were present, and it is assumed that these were the two individuals trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 7 Oct. The female was retrapped on 10 & 13 Oct (Tim Ball *et al.*). They continued to range as far as the Terrace over the next few days. Finally, one was seen on the Terrace on 17 Oct and one near Brambles on 18 Oct (Tony Taylor), the last record of the year. There have now been well over 20 occurrences of this seemingly unlikely species on the island, with a notable increase in frequency since the mid to late nineties, in line with national population trends.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*  
*Nationally scarce migrant.*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

In spite of (or perhaps because of) the atrocious weather, 2012 was an exceptionally good year for springtime Golden Orioles on Lundy, with several different individuals – probably five or more – occurring between 3 & 30 May. A male first seen and photographed in Millcombe on 3 May (Derren Fox, Louise Jones *et al.*) was trapped and ringed there on 4th (Scott Petrek) and was still present on 5th. A female was reported about 500 m north of South West Point on 4 May. Two birds, a male and a duller female/immature male, were in Millcombe on 6th (James Leonard, Derek Powell). A male was still in Millcombe on 7 & 8 May (Ian Searle) and what may have been the same bird was seen a few hours later on a wall by the forge; it flew off south when disturbed (Ian Searle). Early on 9 May, two birds (male and female/immature male) were seen and photographed outside Government House (Graham Cooper) – see colour plate 8. A comparison of the available images suggests that the males photographed on 3/4 and 9 May were two different individuals, with the first a much brighter, more strongly marked bird. What seem likely to have been the same two birds as seen on 9th continued to be recorded in the Millcombe area until 12 May, on which date the same or another male was “between Old Light and pond” (Mike Vacker). A first-summer male was in St John’s Valley, Millcombe and St Helen’s Copse on 20 May (Rob Andrews & Glen Saul, Mike Jones *et al.*) and a female or immature male was in Millcombe on 29 May (Rob Skeates) and in Quarter Wall Copse on 30 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Records accepted by DBRC.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*  
*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A male just west of the main track at Quarter Wall on 2 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). A first-winter bird was close to the main track near Gannets’ Combe on 7 Oct (Arfon Williams, Ivan Lakin). Records accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

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

One photographed as it perched on Threequarter Wall on 19 May (Rick Morris). Record accepted by DBRC. Although a nationally scarce migrant, about 45 have occurred previously on Lundy, most recently in May 2010 and Sep 2006.

**Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

[Red-billed Chough]

What was thought to be a calling Chough was heard from the direction of South West Point during an early morning migration watch from Castle Hill on 29 Oct (Tim Jones), but without visual confirmation; Tony Taylor later reported glimpsing for a second or two what he thought was a Chough in the same area. An adult was seen and photographed at Shutter Point on 30 Oct (Paul Barrett – see p 21). What is presumed to be the same bird was seen near the Rocket Pole on 15 & 16 Nov and also near Benson’s Cave on 15th (James Leonard, Ed & Ellie Bassett *et al.*). It was again at Shutter Point on 18 Nov (Andrew Taylor) and on the southern edge of Castle Hill on 21 Nov (Kay Easton). There were no further reports until 9 Dec, when it was

foraging and in flight just east of the Devil's Limekiln (David Oddy). On 18 Dec it was seen from the (upstairs) living room of Square Cottage (Keith Lugg). Finally, it was photographed sitting on the Church on 27 Dec, when it was also seen in flight being mobbed by a Raven (A. McGibbon). This is the first record since one off the East Side on 28 Dec 2000, though there was an unconfirmed report of one near the Devil's Slide on 1 Sep 2010. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

Two seen in the south of the island on 26 Apr (Jeremy Barker).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

A nest with three young was noted on 26 May. A count of 52 on 31 May suggests an already-successful breeding season, doubtless encouraged by the myxomatosis outbreak during the late winter and early spring, which would have provided abundant food at a critical time. As is often the case, peak numbers were recorded in autumn, suggesting a degree of passage influx, though coverage by birdwatchers is also usually at its most intensive in Sep/Oct. The maximum of 64 on 23 Oct is the highest since 2007, when numbers were thought to have reached 70 or more, also in the wake of a myxomatosis outbreak.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	24	30	25	52	40	17	30	58	64	50	40

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

*Lundy vagrant, primarily in spring; Devon rarity.*

One photographed on the West Side just north of the Devil's Slide on 17 May (Mike Jones) remained until 28 May and was seen by many observers at a variety of locations (though all south of Quarter Wall). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

Counts of 16 on 11 Apr and 1 Nov suggest a stable population following a good breeding season, thanks in part to an abundance of food early in the year. Writing in the logbook on 28 Apr, Lundy warden Derrin Fox noted: "*Ravens continuing to fledge around the island with young begging adults for food.*" Later in the year he commented: "*Ravens had a good season this year, with four, possibly five pairs breeding. The myxomatosis outbreak was unfortunate for the rabbits, but good news for the ravens, providing lots of carrion throughout the incubating and chick rearing season. This also meant that the ravens did not bother the ewes and lambs during the lambing season as in previous years. Pairs bred at the following sites: The Rattles, The Battery, Quarter Wall (east side) and Long Roost. A possible fifth site (unconfirmed) was along the West Side between The Battery and Jenny's Cove.*"

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	4	6	16	15	10	4	7	11	9	16	6

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

Singles recorded on five dates between 28 Jan and 12 Feb, with two present on 6 Feb. There was noticeable spring passage from mid-Mar to early Apr, beginning with six on 9 Mar, rising to maxima of 25, 20, 25 and 30 on the four days 19-22 Mar, then six on 27 Mar, five on 3 Apr and

20 on 5 Apr. Thereafter, only single birds to 26 Apr, but a further small influx brought ten on 2 May. The last spring migrant was a single bird on 8 May. There were no further records until one on 29 Aug, followed by one to eight during the first half of Sep, then 15 on 18th, 40 on 19th & 20th and 125 on 27th. There were virtually daily records in Oct, the higher counts including 50 on 4th, 65 on 6th, 160 (the maximum for the year) on 12th, and 40 on 14th. Numbers were significantly lower in the second half of the month and no more than four were seen in a day during Nov, with one on 16th being the last of the year.

**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	30	20	10	–	–	2	125	160	4	–
2	4	15	9	8	–	–	3	23	28	6	–

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

*Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has overwintered.* Single spring migrants occurred on 1 & 29 May, the latter a male heard once in full song in Millcombe (Tony Taylor). In autumn, recorded on 25 dates from 6 Sep (one) to 29 Oct (one), with ones and twos on most days, but three on 7 Sep and 21 & 22 Oct, four on 23 Oct, six on 8 Oct and a peak of seven on 7 Oct.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

[Eurasian Blue Tit]

*Uncommon autumn migrant and rare spring migrant. Occasional in winter.* One in Millcombe on 31 Mar (Norma & Trevor Dobie).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

*Uncommon autumn migrant; very rare spring migrant; occasional in winter.*

One in Millcombe on 31 Mar (Derren Fox). A small influx in mid-Oct involved at least five different birds. One was seen at the Castle early in the morning of 13 Oct and later in Millcombe (Ivan Lakin, Kevin Rylands). Two were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 14 Oct, with a third individual trapped there on 15th. During the morning of 16 Oct, two were seen at St Helen's Copse, plus an unringed bird at Quarter Wall Copse. Two were in St John's Valley that afternoon, one of which was unringed (Richard Taylor & Tony Taylor). Over the next several days, individuals were seen regularly along the East Side, from Millcombe to the Terrace Trap, including Quarter Wall Copse and Quarry Pond. All those seen well enough in the field were carrying rings. The maximum count was three on 16 & 17 Oct, with ones and twos thereafter until 28th (many observers). However, new individuals were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 20 & 21 Oct (Tony Taylor). There were two records of single birds in Millcombe in Nov, on 8th & 11th (Andrew Cleave, James Leonard) – perhaps one of the Oct birds that had remained otherwise undetected?

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

[Greater Short-toed Lark]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One in the open area immediately seaward of Quarry Cottages on 8 May was seen well but flew down over the sidelands and out of sight when disturbed by a Wheatear (Ian Searle). Two feeding together on the main track at Halfway Wall on the evening of 1 Jun (Chris & Carol Baillie) were seen the following day by many observers and both remained in the same area until 12 Jun; this is the first time that two have occurred together on the island. Thereafter, only one was seen, on 13, 14, 27 & 29 Jun and 6 Jul (many observers; photographed by Paul & Mike Hopes on 6 Jul). Records accepted by DBRC – the 18th, 19th and 20th individuals recorded on Lundy, the last being in May 2008. One in the stonecrusher area of the Tent Field on 12 & 13 Sep (Richard Taylor & Tony Taylor; photographed on 12th by Michaela Cozens) seems likely to have been different from the summer individuals, though indications are that the bird was in active moult,



which would lend weight to the possibility that one had remained undetected on the island for several months. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

On 12 Feb about ten were apparently on breeding territories in scattered ones and twos, with a flock of 45 on the Airfield. Interestingly, a significant number of birds within the flock were singing for extended periods from the ground (Tony Taylor). Adults were seen carrying food in late May/early Jun. Birds were still singing over South West Field after 22:00 hrs on 19 Jun. A fledgling was seen near the western end of Quarter Wall on 20 Jun – the only confirmation of successful breeding reported in 2012. By far the highest count of the year was during autumn passage when at least 100 occurred on 26 Oct.

**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	55	40	80	35	30	30	17	31	100	–	2
7	7	15	20	20	12	7	12	20	24	–	2

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.*

The earliest arrivals in spring were singles on 13 & 14 Mar, with two on 27th. The main movements were noted between mid-Apr and mid-May. Chris & Mandy Dee counted 172 moving north along the West Side between 13:15 and 15:15 hrs on 13 Apr. The next highest spring counts were of 50 on 28 Apr and 3 & 4 May. Birds were still passing through at the end of May and into early Jun, perhaps reflecting difficult weather conditions en route, with counts still reaching double digits on 26, 30 & 31 May. Autumn passage was not recorded until Sep, with modest numbers peaking at 20 on 6th and 25 on 22nd. The last of the year was one on 9 Oct.

**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	172	50	7	–	–	25	3	–	–
–	–	4	15	21	8	–	–	17	3	–	–

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

*Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in small numbers, sporadically in the past, but annually in recent years.*

After the first spring migrant on 16 Mar, recorded on a further five dates before the end of the month, with a maximum of three at North Light on 22 Mar. After further small numbers in early Apr, significant movements got underway with 50 on 11th. On 13th Chris & Mandy Dee counted 1,169 moving north along the West Side between 13:15 and 15:15hrs. The same observers counted 1,687 heading north along the East Side from 12:00 to 13:00hrs on 24 Apr and made a conservative estimate of 3,000 for the day. The only other count of 500 or more in Apr was of 1,000 on 27th. May started with a colossal 15,000 estimated on 1st (based on Colin McShane's spot counts of birds, averaging 100 per minute, passing over St John's Valley between 11:00 and 13:00 hrs, and movements continuing until 18:00 hrs), with four other counts higher than 500 up to 7 May. Logged numbers were much lower mid-month but reached 100 on three dates in the last week of May. One was seen alighting on dung to feed on insects on 5 May. During the period 29 May to 2 Jun, nests were located in the gas store in Millcombe, in the store shed at the southern end of Government House, and in the pigsty at Pig's Paradise, with birds also prospecting in the Church porch. An adult was sitting on a nest in the Church porch 19-21 Jun, while nest-building in the gas store over the same period suggested loss of the first nest.

On 25 Aug, two active nests included a pair feeding two young in the Church porch and a pair in the gas store. Three chicks were ringed in the gas store nest on 29 Aug. Groups of up to 20 at a time were seen flying south on 6 Sep and passage steadily increased during the month, with 250 on 8th and 400 on 13th, rising to a rather modest maximum of 2,000 on both 21st & 22nd. The last of the year were three on the relatively early date of 28 Oct; in recent years stragglers have occurred well into Nov.

**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	3,000	15,000	50	12	15	2,000	400	–	–
–	–	5	24	25	17	16	19	27	21	–	–

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

Following the first individual on 17 Mar, singles were seen on a further four dates to 29th, with seven on 31st. Small numbers continued to be recorded in Apr, but it was not until the end of the month that more significant movements were noted, with 55 on 24th and 100 on 27th & 30th. Peak spring counts were made in the first week of May, with maxima of 500 on 3rd and 200 on 4th. As with Swallow, numbers recorded in the logbook were very low in mid-May but it is unclear whether this was due to the poor weather or a lack of observers. Steady passage of up to 40 in a day was noted in the last week of May. After a trickle of migrants in Aug, the main return passage was noted in Sep, with higher counts including 50 on 8th, 80 on 28th and 200 on 21st. The last sighting of the year concerned five on the fairly early date of 14 Oct, perhaps a further reflection of the adverse conditions faced by many insectivorous summer migrants in 2012.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	100	500	15	–	6	200	60	–	–
–	–	6	15	22	14	–	6	21	12	–	–

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

While bird ringers were mist-netting migrant 'common' or Barn Swallows on 3 May, a Red-rumped Swallow appeared and perched (appropriately enough) on bramble bushes along the main track outside Brambles, allowing many photos to be taken. The bird departed, as suddenly as it had arrived, with a passing group of Barn Swallows (Dave Clifton, Derren Fox, Scott Petrek *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC – the ninth Lundy record and the fifth in spring. The last occurrence was in May 2007.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

*Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; two winter records; has overwintered once (in 2008/09).*

One in Millcombe on 28 Oct (Tim Jones *et al.*) was the first since Nov 2010.

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One trapped, ringed and photographed, Millcombe, 26 Sep (Derek Baggott, Andy Turner). On 7 Oct, one trapped, ringed and photographed, Millcombe (Tim Ball *et al.*) and one at North Light (around the solar panels) (Arfon Williams). Three all morning in St Helen's Copse, with one briefly in Millcombe on 12 Oct (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). Five trapped and ringed, four of which were photographed, Millcombe, 14 Oct (Tony Taylor *et al.*) – the highest number ever ringed in one day on Lundy – see colour plate 7. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; declining.*

Recorded during spring passage only, on six dates in May: singles on 5th & 7th, with two in Millcombe on 6th, followed by further singles 18th-20th.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; breeds sporadically.* The first spring migrants were reported on 14 Mar (two), with passage getting underway properly a few days later, when there were ten on 19th, 12 on 21st & 22nd and ten on 26th. Generally low numbers in Apr, with a maximum of 100 on 26th, but only four other dates with counts of 20 or more. The first week of May brought 50 from 2nd to 4th. In line with the pattern seen for other migrants this spring, numbers were then very low (one to five) until the end of the month, when further arrivals brought 20 on 27th & 29th. During the period 29 May to 2 Jun, song was heard in Millcombe and at St Helen's and Quarter Wall Copses, but there was no other indication of breeding. Later in Jun (19th-21st) song was heard in Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse and two were singing below the Terrace between VC Quarry and the tramway to Quarry Beach; one was seen with nesting material in the same area. A male originally ringed in Millcombe in May was retrapped there on 1 Sep, when in full moult, suggesting that it had been present all summer. A second bird ringed at the end of Aug and retrapped on 20 Sep was also in full moult on both dates and was likely also to have summered on the island. A trickle of migration during Aug and the first half of Sep gathered pace later in Sep, with a maximum of 30 on 22nd, coinciding with noticeable movements of other warblers and hirundines. The Oct maximum was just 18 on 7th. One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23 Oct, during a period of easterly winds, showed characteristics of one of the eastern races, perhaps *P. c. tristis*. Shed feathers were retained for DNA and isotope analysis. Initial results indicate that the bird was indeed a 'Siberian Chiffchaff' *P. c. tristis*, but further studies are being conducted. There were five records of ones and twos during the period 10-15 Nov, then a final sighting of a potentially overwintering bird on 27 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	12	100	50	5	–	2	30	18	2	1
–	–	10	14	23	8	–	4	25	25	5	1

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochillus*

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

The first spring migrants were two on 24 Mar, followed by three on 27th and two on 30th. There were no more records until 40 on 8 Apr, but thereafter present virtually daily to the end of the month, with counts of 40 or more on a further 14 dates and maxima of 200 on 19th, 250 on 21st & 24th, 1,000 on 26th & 27th and 200 on 28th. In just four days, from 11 to 14 Apr, Chris Dee ringed over 180 Willow Warblers – more than were ringed on Lundy during the whole of 2011 – including the 100,000th bird to be ringed under the auspices of the LFS. High numbers continued into early May, with 500 on 1st and 200 on 2nd. There was a lull in the middle of the month, but movements continued in the last week of May, with 20 on 28th. A pair was seen mating and nest-building on the Millcombe side of Brambles during the period 29 May to 2 Jun. Other singing males were holding territory in lower Millcombe, Hammers Copse and St Helen's Copse. Pairs were feeding young at Hammers Copse and in Millcombe 19-21 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Peak numbers of returning 'autumn' migrant Willow Warblers often occur on Lundy as early as the end of Jul or the beginning of Aug, when falls of dispersing young birds are regular. 2012 was no exception and during a day-trip on 23 Jul, Andrew Cleave noted: "*Impressive numbers along the East Side from Millcombe almost as far as Gannets' Bay. The greatest density was between Millcombe and the Quarries, and while we did not do a count, there always seemed to*

be 10-15 birds in view as we headed north, so the total must have run into hundreds.” The value of Andrew’s record is clear, since during the remainder of autumn passage the highest count otherwise reported was a very modest 20 on 22 Sep. The last of the year was a single bird on 12 Oct.

**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	1,000	500	4	'hundreds'	12	20	2	–	–
–	–	3	21	19	10	1	15	25	8	–	–

**Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

[Eurasian Blackcap]

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

The first spring record was of one on 14 Mar, with occurrences on a further five dates to the end of the month, including five on 27th & 28th. Up to six were seen in the first week of Apr, increasing to 20 on 11th, 40 on 12th and 30 on 13th. There was a further peak from 19th-21st, with a maximum of 50 on 20th, and then an unprecedented fall of at least 3,000 on 26th, 500 on 27th and 200 the following day. Unusually high numbers continued into the first week of May, with counts of 150, 450, 450 and 250 for 1st-4th, but only small numbers after 8th. Unfortunately, the mass grounding on 26 Apr and the other high counts during this period were associated with a prolonged spell of cold, unsettled weather, with frequent strong winds and heavy rain that clearly disrupted normal migration patterns. Some 147 Blackcaps were ringed on 26 Apr alone, contributing to a record annual total of 721 for this species. On 29 May a singing male was heard in Millcombe and a female with a brood patch was trapped and ringed. Alarm calls were also heard (Tony & Ann Taylor). One was singing at Quarter Wall Copse on 31 May. Efforts to prove breeding during June (19th-21st) proved fruitless, short bursts of song in Millcombe being the only evidence of the species’ continued presence (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Successful breeding by Blackcaps on Lundy therefore remains to be proven, though further strong circumstantial evidence came in the form of a male, originally ringed in Millcombe in May, being retrapped in active wing moult on 31 Aug (David Price *et al.*). This individual had almost certainly summered on the island and it seems probable that a breeding attempt was made, given the presence of a female with a brood patch. A trickle of returning migrants was noted from mid-Aug, with more significant movements in the second half of Sep, including peaks of 35 on 19th, 60 on 27th and 100 on 22nd, followed in Oct by 30 on 3rd & 7th and a maximum of 80 on 6th. The last of the year were two on 15 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	3,000	450	2	–	3	100	80	2	–
–	–	6	24	25	7	–	5	21	25	3	–

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***

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

The first of the spring was a single bird on 1 May. Recorded on a further seven dates during the month, with a peak of five trapped and ringed on 4th. In autumn, two on 19 Aug, singles on nine dates 30 Aug-21 Sep, followed by three on 22 Sep and a further five single birds in Oct, the last of which was in lower Millcombe on 20th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	5	–	–	2	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	–	8	–	–	3	8	5	–	–

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

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

Recorded on eight dates in May, with singles on 1st, 3rd, 11th & 12th, two on 4th-6th, and three on 2nd. In autumn, singles on 6 Aug, 7 Sep and 2 & 6 Oct.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.*

The first spring migrants were two on 26 Apr, followed by ten on 28th and five on 30th. The main recorded movements were in the first week of May, with 35 on 2nd and 50 on 3rd & 4th. Only small numbers were seen later in the month, but these included apparently territorial males in Millcombe, along the Lower East Side Path, and in the vicinity of the Terrace Trap during the period 29 May-2 Jun, although there was no other evidence of breeding. By 19-21 Jun there were still two pairs present in Millcombe, around The Ugly and near Government House, the first of which was seen nest building. A probable third pair was in St Helen's Combe. The first autumn migrants noted were two on 30 Aug, followed by records on a further 13 dates to the last individual on 28 Sep. Counts peaked at a modest six on 31 Aug, with five on 22 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	10	50	4	-	6	5	-	-	-
-	-	-	3	21	9	-	2	13	-	-	-

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Two second calendar-year males were mist-netted (one just outside Brambles, the other in the willow scrub in St John's Valley) and ringed within a short time of each other during the morning of 30 May (Paul James, Rob Skeates *et al.*). One was later relocated in Millcombe, on the south side of The Ugly (Chris Baillie *et al.*) and in the same general area on 1 & 2 Jun (Grant & Michaela Cozens *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC – the 16th & 17th records for Lundy.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

The first spring migrants were two on 14 Apr, followed by records on a further 13 dates until 26 May, with maxima of four on 26 & 27 Apr and five on 2 May. The only autumn records were singles on four dates between 12 & 27 Sep, followed by one on 9 Oct and two on 12th, the last of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
-	-	-	8	6	-	-	-	4	2	-	-

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One first seen on the southern side of Millcombe, below Millcombe House, on 10 Sep was trapped and ringed on 13th (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor). A second bird, first seen in upper Millcombe, below Government House, on 20 Sep (Andy Jayne) was trapped and ringed on 21st and was seen again in Millcombe on 22nd (Chris Dee *et al.*) – see colour plate 6. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

*Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Has bred.*

Spring passage began with a single bird on 14 Apr, followed by records on five additional dates in Apr, peaking at ten on 26th & 27th. As with most other warbler species, the main visible movement occurred in early May, with 50 from 2nd to 4th. Small numbers (less than five) continued to be seen until the end of the month, including a territory-holding male in upper Millcombe, which remained until at least 12 Jun. Potentially the same individual was singing strongly from the willow clumps in St John's Valley on 20 Jun, and though one was recorded in the same area on 4 Jul, there was no other suggestion of breeding. After one on 17 Jul, ones and twos on four dates 6-26 Sep were the only reports of autumn migrants.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	10	50	1	1	–	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	6	24	9	2	–	4	–	–	–

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two trapped and ringed on 4 May; one singing male on 22 & 23 May. Singles on 1, 3 and 11 Jun (singing from scrub in lower Millcombe on 11th). In autumn, singles were recorded on four dates between 7 & 22 Sep, followed by a last individual on 13 Oct.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

*Uncommon late summer and autumn visitor; very rare outside this period.*

A female with a brood patch was trapped and ringed on 29 May. There were no records before or after this date and it seems likely that this bird was a wandering individual that had perhaps failed to breed successfully on the mainland.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

*Common breeding resident.*

Clearly under-recorded in the early part of the year given that 19 singing males were counted on 27 Mar, even though the area surveyed was limited to Millcombe, the East Side south of Halfway Wall, and part of the South End. During the period 29 May to 2 Jun many singing males were noted and an adult was seen carrying food in Millcombe. Three weeks later (19-21 Jun) several recently fledged broods were being fed by adults, while other nests still contained young (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	6	19	12	20	15	3	28	50	30	6	4

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

On 27 Jan one was taken by a Carrion Crow from the top of the Church tower, but managed to escape, disappearing over the wall by Blue Bung with several crows in hot pursuit (Jane Anning). Adults were seen taking food to nest sites in the last week of May, with at least 11 active nests located: in the laundry, the ranger's workshed, Barton Cottages (two nests), dog shed, communications shed, south and west walls of the workshop (two pairs), Old Light (two pairs) and the Church (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Young from two other nests built inside the workshop may already have fledged by this date. The first fledgling was seen begging for food on the roof of The Barn on 30 May (Isabel Winney). Three weeks later, most young had not only fledged but reached independence (e.g. a flock of 14 juveniles on the Airfield on 19th), though adults were continuing to carry food to a nest in the Campsite wall of the workshop on the same date. During

autumn migration a large influx was noted on 17 Oct, with 750 reported from North Light. Numbers then remained high well into Nov, with maxima of 1,000 on 25 Oct, 1,200 on 27th, 500 on 30th and 500 again on 14 Nov.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
45	35	40	40	30	35	63	60	66	1,200	500	200

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

A sparse spring passage, with three males on 30 Mar, followed by scattered records of single birds on four dates between 6 & 27 Apr. The first autumn migrants were two on 15 Oct, with records on a further eight dates to 27 Oct, including a maximum of six on 26 Oct.

**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	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–
–	–	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–

**Blackbird *Turdus merula***

[Common Blackbird]

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

During the period 29 May to 2 Jun many adults were collecting food, fledged young were seen in Millcombe and there were estimated to be 20 or more territories in Millcombe and along the East Side between Hammers Copse and the northern end of the Terrace. A few weeks later (19-21 Jun) there were six territory-holding males still singing along the East Side between St Helen's Copse and the Terrace. Independent fledged young were seen in Millcombe, where adults were carrying food for presumed second broods. During autumn migration there was a major influx at the end of Oct, following a period of easterly winds. On 24 Oct, 13 were flushed from the former garden at Stoneycroft, while seven flew out of the nettle bed outside the former lantern room at the base of the Old Light on 25th. Similar numbers could be encountered in any area of sheltered cover, particularly away from the exposed East Side. Maxima rose from 30 on 22nd to 110 on 23rd, peaked at 150 on 25th, but remained at 100 on 28th, before dropping significantly to 20 on 29th, following a change to more favourable weather conditions. However, a further influx resulted in counts of 100 on 6 & 8 Nov, with 55 still present on 16th.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	6	10	20	10	4	7	12	150	100	10

**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

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

One on 12 Feb was the sole record until autumn, when the first returning migrant was a single bird on 12 Oct. There were scattered records of up to five in a day until the last week of Oct, when an influx of thrushes brought 100 on 24th and 120 on 25th, falling to 40 on 26th and much lower numbers by the close of the month. A further arrival, coinciding with an influx of other thrushes, involved 100 on 6 & 8 Nov. The last report of the year was of three on 2 Dec.

**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	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	120	100	3
–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	11	1

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

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

During the early part of the year, small numbers were recorded between 27 Jan and 12 Feb, with a maximum of five on the last date. Spring passage was negligible with just three on 27 Mar, one on 30 Mar and one on 15 Apr. For the third consecutive year there was no evidence of breeding; probably due to a succession of cold winters. Although there were reports of singletons on 4 Jun and 17 Jul, there were no further records until autumn passage began to be noted from 5 Oct. A major influx towards the end of the month brought 60 on 22nd, rising to 80 on 23rd & 24th and an exceptional 150 on 25th, before falling to a still notable 60 on 26th and 40 on 27th. After scattered records of one to five in Nov, the last reports of the year concerned one on 1 Dec and two on 24th. Four birds ringed on 22 Oct were considered to be of the continental race *T. p. philomelos* (Tony Taylor *et al.*). Tony noted: "Their appearance contrasted with three other birds ringed on the same day, which were more typical of British birds. The upperparts were a colder olive colour, rather than brown. The spotting on the underside was heavy and black, contrasting with a whitish background that lacked any buff. There were also no warm buff tones in the pale areas on the head, around and below the eyes."

#### **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	5	3	1	–	1	1	–	–	150	5	2
2	3	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	14	5	2

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

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

Singles on 8 Feb and 16 Mar were the only records until autumn, when the first returning migrant was a single bird on 27 Sep. Small numbers (up to 20) were recorded in the first half of Oct, followed by a significant influx later in the month, including 100 on 15th, 120 on 21st, 350 on 23rd and two huge counts (for Lundy) of 1,500 on 24th and 2,000 on 25th, falling to 600 on 26th, 300 on 27th and 150 on 28th. A further influx brought 100 on 8 Nov, while the last record of the year was of three on 8 Dec.

#### **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	2,000	100	3
–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	22	10	1

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Single migrants reported in spring on 21 Mar and on 3 & 8 Apr, and in autumn on 22, 24 & 28 Oct.

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.*

One was reported on the early date of 19 Apr (the mean earliest date for Devon was 22 Apr for the period 1993–2003). Thereafter, none until ten on 1 & 2 May, followed by almost daily records up to and including 11 Jun. Higher counts included the spring passage maximum of 12 on 7 May and ten on 29th. The last record in Jun was of a single bird on 21st. There were no further reports until two on 8 Aug, with sporadic sightings of up to four birds during the rest of the month, merging into steady passage during the last three weeks of Sep. The highest Sep counts were of ten on 7th, 17th and 22nd and 15 on 16th. The last migrants were singles on 3 & 6 Oct.



**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	12	3	–	4	15	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	21	9	–	8	27	2	–	–

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

During the period 29 May to 2 Jun, fledged young were seen in Millcombe and song was heard at Quarter Wall Copse. From 19-21 Jun there were at least two pairs of adults (as well as fledged young) in Millcombe, while an adult was also heard calling from Quarter Wall Copse and another was seen in St Helen's Copse. The island's breeding population was estimated at three to four breeding pairs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Noticeable autumn passage was reported from mid-Sep, with 12 on 11th and 16 on 27th. As usual the highest counts were in Oct, with influxes of migrants including 40 on 8th, 65 on 23rd and 30 on 28th. There were three reports of 20 between 6 & 10 Nov; thereafter only scattered single-digit counts, with just two records in Dec, the last of these a single bird on 24th.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	6	6	10	7*	6	9	16	65	20	2

\*including two juveniles

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird was trapped, ringed and photographed in Millcombe on 15 Oct (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*) – see colour plate 7. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

The first confirmed occurrences were not until the end of Apr, when there were three on 27th, six on 28th and one on 30th, followed by two on 1 May, ten on 2nd, three on 3rd and singles on four dates 4th-8th. The last of the spring was one on 1 Jun. Return-passage migrants were seen from 11 Aug (one), with a maximum of six on 10 Sep and the last on 7 Oct (one).

**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	10	1	–	3	6	2	–	–
–	–	–	3	7	1	–	8	20	3	–	–

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

The first spring migrants were singles 14-16 Mar, followed by two on 18th, a female at the western end of Threequarter Wall on 22nd, one on 28th, a female at Jenny's Cove and a male near the Tavern on 1 Apr. Then almost daily records from 4 to 10 Apr, with a maximum of four on 5th & 6th. In May, two on 7th and one on 8th. In autumn, there were records from 17 to 27 Oct, with a maximum of 12 on 26th. On 25th, during strong easterly winds, seven were feeding in the shelter and relative warmth of the west sidelands between Shutter Point and Dead Cow Point.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	4	2	(1)*	–	–	–	10	–	–
–	–	6	6	2	(1)*	–	–	–	9	–	–

\*A female of a redstart species was seen on 13 Jun.

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

[Common Redstart]

*Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

The first of the year was one on 5 Apr, followed by one to three birds on a further six dates to 26th, then five on 27th, six on 28th and ten on 30 Apr & 1 May, and the spring passage maximum an unusually high 20 on 2 & 3 May. The last spring record was of one on 11 May, although a female of a redstart species was seen on 13 Jun. Autumn passage was recorded between 19 Aug (one near Old Light) and 26 Oct (a female, St John's Valley/Castle Hill), with most reports involving ones and twos, though three were seen on the late date of 23 Oct.

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

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

\*A female of a redstart species was seen on 13 Jun.

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

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

A sparse spring passage involved a single bird on 14 Apr, followed by ones and twos on six dates between 1 & 26 May. The first autumn migrants were not reported until 6 Sep (two). Thereafter, recorded on a further 11 dates to 25 Oct, all sightings referring to ones and twos, with the exception of three on 23 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	2	3	–	–
–	–	–	1	6	–	–	–	6	6	–	–

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus***

[European Stonechat]

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

One on 20 Mar was followed by ones and twos on four dates from 3-8 Apr and one on 21 May. For the third year running, Stonechats did not breed on Lundy, due most likely to the recent succession of cold winters and cool, wet summers. In fact, the species appears to have been completely absent from the end of May until late Sep, when ones and twos were seen from 21st to the end of the month, followed by records of one to three birds on nine days in Oct, the last of these being three on 25th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	2	1	–	–	–	2	3	–	–
–	–	1	4	1	–	–	–	7	9	–	–

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

[Northern Wheatear]

*Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.*

Two on 17 Mar were the first of the year. Further ones and twos were seen over the next week or so, with an influx of 20 on 28th. Recorded on most days in Apr, but numbers were modest

(maximum of 34 on 13th) until the end of the month, when significant falls brought 400 on 27th, 200 on 30th, 500 on 1 May and 150 on 2 & 5 May. Birds of the race *O. o. leucorhoa* 'Greenland Wheatear', which breeds in Iceland and parts of Arctic Canada, as well as in Greenland, were trapped and ringed on 28 Apr (one), and 30 Apr (three). Of 100 counted around Castle Hill on 1 May, nearly all appeared to be Greenland Wheatears, typical of this relatively late phase of spring migration, and most had moved on by the next day. Though numbers logged did not exceed 30 after the first week of May, continued passage through the island was demonstrated by the trapping and ringing of six more Greenland birds on 23rd & 24th. Tony Taylor commented: "These six birds were notable because their mean weight was 41.5g (range: 35.8-46.6g). This contrasts with the 29 other Wheatears (probably Lundy breeding birds) ringed in the same week, which had a mean weight of 25.1g (range: 22.4-29.0g). The Greenland birds were not only larger but were carrying much more fat than the local birds, and so were probably about to start a long flight north. They were all one-year-old birds, and would probably arrive on their breeding grounds later than more experienced adults."

Of the island's breeding birds (which belong to the nominate race *O. o. oenanthe*), one was heard singing three times between 23:30 hrs and midnight at Pilot's Quay on the night of 25/26 May. The first fledged young were reported from the West Side on 31 May. While there was no complete census of the breeding population in 2012, 42 adults and 50 juveniles were recorded during a perimeter walk of the island on 20 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). In contrast to 2011, autumn migration appears to have been completed early, with the highest count of 60 coming on 31 Aug and only one Sep count of more than 20 (24 on 8th). The last of the year were two on 27 Oct.

**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	400	500	92*	50	60	24	14	–	–
–	–	8	22	22	14	13	19	23	20	–	–

\*including 42 adults and 50 recently fledged juveniles

**Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

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

During the period 29 May to 2 Jun, a pair carrying food was seen below the Beach Road south of the small Turkey Oak clump, an adult was seen in Millcombe and another along the Lower East Side Path. The island's breeding population was estimated as one to three pairs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Once again, the peak count of the year was recorded in Oct, perhaps reflecting increased observer coverage in that month, but maybe also a degree of movement through the island. Given that the island population is now very small, the ringing records during the year (data supplied by Tony Taylor) are of particular interest: an adult male retrapped in spring had originally been ringed on Lundy as a first-year bird in Sep 2009. Two other adults, caught in early autumn, were undergoing their annual full moult and were therefore likely to be resident birds. Four first-year birds were ringed in Sep.

**Maximum count for each month**

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

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

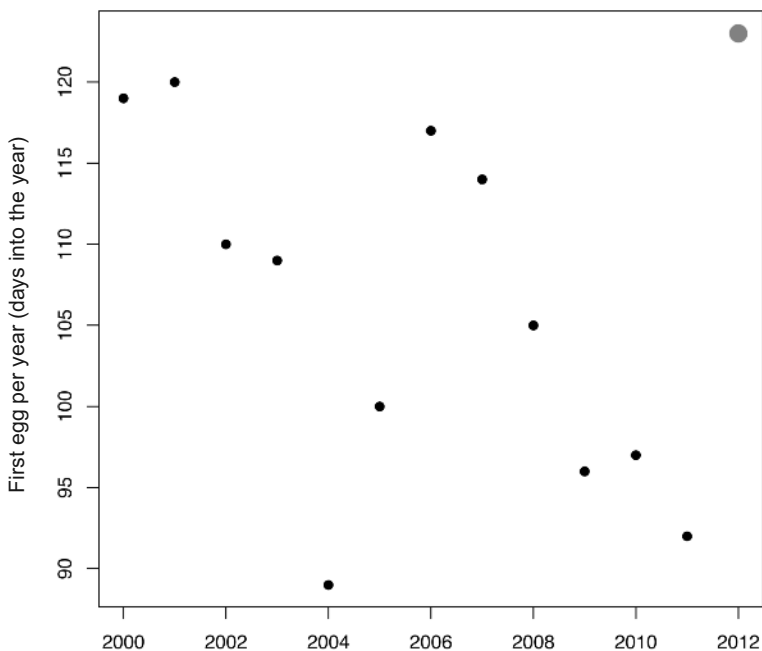
*Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; possible immigration obscured by resident population.*

**Maximum count for each month (taken from the LFS Logbook)**

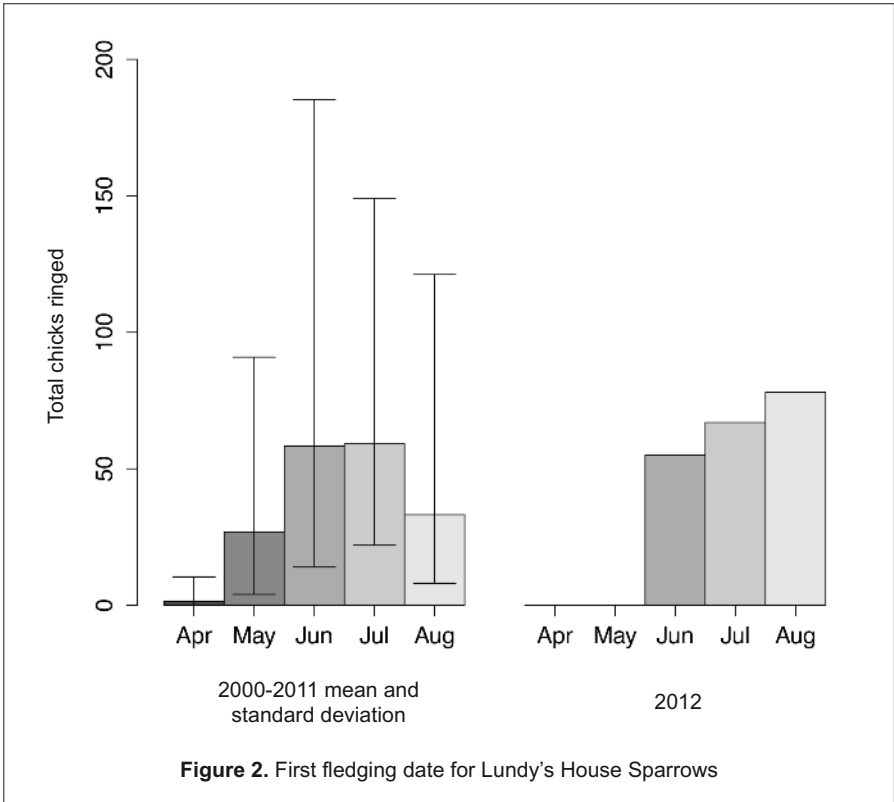
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	39	50	25	25	15	18	95	90	60	80	15

Isabel Winney (University of Sheffield) has contributed the following information based on the continuing long-term study of the island's House Sparrow population:

The 2012 breeding season started late, with the first egg laid on the latest date since comprehensive monitoring began in 2000 (Figure 1). This led to a delay in the first fledglings, with none before June, in contrast with past breeding seasons (Figure 2). The mean number of chicks ringed annually from 2000 to 2011 was 179 (range 68-335). In 2012, the University of Sheffield team ringed 200 chicks. So, despite the late start to the season, 2012 was more productive than the average year, but was not exceptional. Thirty-eight males and 39 females bred in summer 2012, and many of the fledglings they produced were caught again in the winter. In November 2012, 79 individuals were caught, 66 of which were fledglings from 2012. In January 2013, 91 sparrows were caught, of which 49 were 2012 fledglings. Across both winter visits combined, 131 individual sparrows were captured, with 84 being born in 2012.



**Figure 1.** First egg dates for Lundy's House Sparrows, 2000-2012



**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

[Western & Eastern Yellow Wagtail]

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

There were single spring migrants on 16, 26 & 27 Apr, with two on 30th, followed by one on 1 May, three on 3rd, two on 4th & 5th and singles on 6th, 7th and 29th. In autumn, recorded on just eight dates from 6 Sep (one) to 11 Oct (one), with a peak of four on 9 Sep. The flight call of one on 7 Oct was considered to be typical of one of the eastern races, rather than Yellow (*M. f. flavissima*) or Blue-headed Wagtail (*M. f. flava*) (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands).

**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	1	-	-
-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	5	3	-	-

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

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

The only spring migrants were singles on 20 Mar and 5 May. In autumn, first recorded on 12

Sep (one); thereafter, records for a further 15 dates, including the last of the year (one) on 26 Oct. Most of these involved ones and twos, but three occurred on 22 Sep and 12 Oct.

**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	–	–	–	3	3	–	–
–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	4	12	–	–

**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.*

After one on New Year's Day, there were no further reports until seven on 20 Feb. Recorded on 14 days in Mar, with a maximum of eight on 22nd & 23rd. The spring passage maximum of Pied Wagtails was ten on 27 Apr. Migrant White Wagtails in spring were recorded on 27 Mar (one), 13 Apr (three), 21 Apr (one), 23 Apr (three), 26-28 Apr (maximum four on 27th), 1 May (four) and 2 May (two). The island's breeding population of Pied Wagtails was estimated as four to six pairs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). During the period 29 May to 2 Jun, adult Pied Wagtails carrying food were seen at VC Quarry, Brambles, Millcombe pond, in the Village area, in the Tillage Field and at Quarter Wall Pond – see colour plate 8. The first fledged juveniles were seen outside the Radio Room on 13 Jun. A female was nest building near Brambles on 20 Jun. The autumn passage maximum of Pied Wagtails was ten on 22 Sep and 22 Oct. White Wagtails were reported on 5 & 7 Sep (three on both dates), 22 Sep (one), 6 Oct (one), 10 Oct (three), 11 Oct (one) and 13 Oct (one). There were two records of Pied Wagtail in late December, with two on 24th and one on 27th, perhaps reflecting the exceptionally mild weather at that time.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	7	8	14*	10	6	4	6	11**	10	2	2

\*including four White Wagtails \*\* including one White Wagtail

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One seen and heard in flight at the top of St John's Valley on 30 Apr (Dave Clifton, Colin McShane, Scott Petrek). What was assumed to be the same bird was flushed near the Old Light and landed at the western end of the Airfield on 5 May (Colin McShane) and was in the same general area, on the south side of the landing strip, on 8 May (Ian Searle). Record accepted by DBRC; the first on Lundy since Oct 2010 and only the second ever in spring after one in Apr 1989 (reports of this species in May 1990 and May 1991 were not accepted).

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

*British vagrant.*

One seen and heard around the sycamores on the southern side of Millcombe on 7 Oct (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). Record accepted by BBRC. This constitutes the third record for Lundy (the previous occurrences were in Oct 1989 and Oct 2009).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on 26-28 Apr, with two on 30th, followed by one on 1 May, ten on 4th, two on 5th and further singles on 24th & 27th. Autumn migrants were recorded on 14 dates from 31 Aug (three, the autumn maximum) to 20 Oct (one).

**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	–	–	3	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	3	–	–	1	9	4	–	–

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

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

Perhaps owing to the exceptionally fine, settled conditions in Mar, which would have enabled migrants to overfly Lundy, and very poor weather in Apr that would have blocked movements, numbers reported were relatively low, with no more than 60 in a day until the last week of Apr when there were 120 on 23rd and 500 on 27th. Many adults were seen carrying food to nest sites during late May/early Jun. The first fledged young of the year were being fed by adults on a wall near Government House on 27 May. Many recently fledged young were being fed by adults 19-21 Jun. Higher counts during autumn passage included 200 on 4 Sep, 530 on 22nd, 300 on 27th and 350 on 7 Oct. Numbers fell away rapidly in late Oct, with 160 on 25th and 40 on 29th, with only scattered reports of between one and four birds in Nov & Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	5	50	500	55	30	50	150	530	350	2	4

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest spring count was 25 on 8 Apr. Fledged young were seen in the Landing Bay and along the West Side, 19-21 Jun. The autumn maximum was 29 along the west sidelands from South West Point as far north as Threequarter Wall on 25 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	10	4	25	6	7*	1	7	18	29	5	2

\*including four recently fledged young

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

[Common Chaffinch]

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

The highest count during spring passage was 41 on 18 Mar. Fledglings being fed by adults were in the Battlements sycamores (Millcombe) and St Helen's Copse, 19-21 Jun. During the same period there were three singing males in Millcombe, one at Quarter Wall Copse and one along the Terrace (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The first real sign of autumn migration was not until the end of the first week in Oct when there were 30 on 7th, with similar numbers during the period 10th-14th. A further influx brought 60 on 18th, 1,200 on 19th, 1,300 on 20th, 1,200 on 21st, 500 on each of 22nd to 24th and peaking at 2,500 on 25th. Counts were significantly lower in the last days of Oct and early Nov, but 600 were seen heading south between 08:30 and 10:00 hrs on 13 Nov, showing that autumn migration of this species can be quite a protracted affair, depending largely on prevailing weather conditions.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	12	41	15	16	8	2	3	14	2,500	600	10

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

*Uncommon spring migrant; annual autumn migrant in variable numbers; occasional in winter.*

Not recorded until autumn when the first migrants were four on 7 Oct, coinciding with the first influx of migrating Chaffinches. Reported on a further 12 dates to 29 Oct, with a maximum of 25 on 25th.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

The only spring migrant reported was one on 22 May. In autumn, recorded on 19 dates from 20 Sep (four) to 29 Oct (two), with a maximum of ten on 23 Oct.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

After a few scattered winter sightings there were no records at all in Mar, and spring passage appeared not to get underway until Apr, with 16 on 6th, but then only small numbers (fewer than ten in a day) until an influx of 60 on 24th, followed by 30 on 27th and 18 on 7 May. Thereafter, no more than eight were seen in a day. Song was heard in Millcombe at the end of May. Despite sporadic reports in Jun & Jul, there was no definite evidence of breeding. Juveniles recorded in Aug (from 11th) could easily have dispersed from the mainland by this date. Autumn movements peaked in Oct with 90 on 6th and 120 on 27th. Following four on 1 Nov, there were further scattered records of ones and twos until the end of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	–	60	18	3	6	20	25	120	4	2
7	1	–	21	23	5	3	12	28	27	5	4

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

One on 16 Apr, with further singles on five dates 2-29 May. Two were reported on the unusual date of 4 Jul. In autumn, recorded on 30 dates from 19 Sep (seven) to 13 Nov (60), with a maximum of 120 on 25 Oct.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

Not recorded until two on 14 Mar. Only three further reports – of two to four birds – before 20 on 8 Apr, with a spring passage maximum of 100 on 27 Apr. Thereafter, recorded virtually daily throughout the rest of the spring, summer and autumn. Many family parties, with good brood sizes of up to five fledged young each, were seen along the length of the East Side from North Light to South End on 19 & 20 Jun. A significant build-up of numbers post breeding included 127 on 12 Aug, rising to 400 on 31st before falling away again in Sep as migrants departed. The last logbook entry of the year concerned three on 29 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	4	100	36	10	27	400	200	100	–	–

**Lesser Redpoll** *Carduelis cabaret*

[Common Redpoll]

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



Four on track near the Airfield on 7 Apr, followed by singles on 24 & 29 Apr, then records on 15 dates between 1 May & 9 Jun, with maxima of ten on 2 May and seven on 3 May. Singles were reported on the unusual dates of 5 Jul and 6 Aug. In autumn, recorded on 23 dates from 18 Sep (two) to 28 Oct (four), with a maximum of 12 on 27 Oct.

**Common Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

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

The only records were in autumn, with two on 22 Sep followed by four (three males, one female) over Castle Hill on 27 Oct Richard Campey *et al.*

**Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch)** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird seen in Millcombe on 21 Sep was trapped and ringed there on the same day, and was retrapped in Millcombe on 25 Sep and seen again on 27 Sep (Andy Jayne, Chris Dee *et al.*). A first-winter bird was in Millcombe on 3 Oct, with one (age unspecified) on the Terrace on 4 Oct (Julian Bowden & Tony Simpson). One was seen and heard in flight in Millcombe on 11 Oct (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). In the absence of any firm evidence to the contrary, all records could have referred to a single long-staying individual, though it seems quite likely that three individuals may have been involved (21-27 Sep, 3-4 Oct and 11 Oct). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Bullfinch** *Phyrrula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

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

A female was feeding on buds in upper Millcombe on 27 Mar (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The only autumn record concerned one on 22 Oct.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

None was reported during the first winter period or spring passage, which meant the first of the year was an early autumn migrant near Hammers on 29 Aug. There were no further records until three on 3 Oct, with subsequent sightings on 22 dates to 11 Nov (one). The highest count was again three, 7-12 Oct and on 27 Oct.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

One with Snow Buntings at North Light on 6 Oct, with singles in flight over South End on 6th & 7th (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). One on the track just north of Tibbett's on 17 Oct (Richard Taylor). Singles at Pondsburry and in flight near Old Light on 21 Oct (James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*) and further singles on 26 & 27 Oct, the last of the year. Records accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare winter visitor; formerly more numerous and has bred.*

A female perched on top of a sycamore in Millcombe, calling constantly, before flying off towards the north, on 5 May (Ivan Lakin). Sadly, as a result of widespread population decline due to changing agricultural practices on the mainland, this has become an extremely rare species on Lundy. There has only been one other record since 2005 – a male in Nov 2010.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird found near the Kasbah in Millcombe on 7 Sep (Richard Taylor) was seen on the slope below Hammers on 9 Sep (Tony Taylor). What may have been the same bird, but which seems at least as likely to have been a second individual given the long gap between sightings, was in Millcombe, just above the walled gardens, on 21 Sep (Andy Jayne) and still present on 24th (John Griffin *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was flushed three times from gorse and *Molinia* towards the western end of Quarter Wall, near its junction with the Airfield wall, during the morning of 24 Oct (James Diamond). What was presumed to be the same bird was seen in similar habitat on the ridge south of Pondsbury about 90 minutes later (Tim Davis), then relocated in the Tent Field in the afternoon (Richard Campey *et al.*) where it afforded good if rather brief views, at one time perching obligingly on the helipad rope, allowing itself to be photographed. This is the 17th record for Lundy, the last having been as recently as Sep 2011. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A male in Middle Park on 26 Apr (Alan Rowland) was the sole report until one on the unusual date of 20 Aug. There were no further records until Oct, when there were singles on five dates, 12th to 28th.

## **BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING**

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

*Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.*

Three records: two on 22 Sep, one on 11 Oct and 3 on 12 Oct (Kevin Rylands).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One seen in mid-channel on the return crossing on 22 Sep (Kevin Rylands). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

## **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.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser* – one reported flying SE over the island during the morning of 28 March.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* – one hundred on 29 May and 12 on 30th.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* – two reported on 1 May.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus* – one seen from the Old Light flying across the island from E to W on 12 May.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* – one on 23 Jan.

**Hen Harrier** *C. cyaneus* or **Montagu's Harrier** *C. pygargus* – a ringtail on 1 May.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua* – one seen from Castle Keep South on 18 Apr.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* – two on 29 Mar.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco* – two reported in Millcombe at 17:00 hrs on 30 Oct.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* – one “probable” reported from North Light on 13 Aug was also reported from just north of Halfway Wall on 15 Aug.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* – one reported on 9 May.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla* – one reported with House Sparrows outside the shop on 19 Jul.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* – three reported on 31 Mar.