

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2013

by

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 140 species were recorded during 2013.

Wildfowl

The sole representative among swans and geese was a single **Pink-footed Goose** in what was generally a quiet year for wildfowl. Up to six **Wigeon** featured in January, well down on the record numbers of 2012, with only the usual regulars, **Mallard**, **Teal** and **Common Scoters**, also putting in appearances.

Divers, grebes and herons

A very similar pattern to 2012, with a single **Red-throated Diver**, a scattering of **Great Northern Divers** and, as in most years, no records of grebes. **Grey Herons** were seen on four spring days and one in autumn, with just a single sighting of a **Little Egret**.

Birds of prey

An impressive 14 species were seen during 2013. **Peregrines** continue to dominate the skies above Lundy, affording visitors some spectacular flying displays, including on occasion from the *Oldenburg* as she comes into the Landing Bay. Rarer species included a single **Honey-buzzard**, mobbed by corvids and gulls throughout its short visit, Lundy's eighth **Red Kite**, which also suffered the attentions of gulls, a **Marsh Harrier**, four or five **Ospreys** – which, while still classed as 'rare' passage migrants, have become more regular in recent years as the British population continues to grow – and two **Hobbies**, including one seen from the Tavern beer garden. The undoubted highlight, however, had to be Lundy's seventh **Goshawk** (the first sighting since 1991), seen flying over the Terrace by a very happy Chris Baillie. **Hen Harrier**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Buzzard**, **Kestrel** and **Merlin** were the other, more commonly reported, raptors during the year. A single **Long-eared Owl** and six **Short-eared Owls** also contributed to a better-than-average year for birds of prey.

Rails and waders

Confirmed breeding by **Water Rails**, for the seventh consecutive year, came in June when "a black bundle of fluff" was seen by Becky Healey outside Quarters. Likely territory-holding birds were seen in six areas altogether, but no further evidence of successful breeding was forthcoming. Seventeen wader species were recorded, the highlights being a spring passage **Little Ringed Plover** (for the third consecutive year, perhaps reflecting the increase in numbers nationally), and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** on two days in early September. Lundy's only breeding wader, following the demise of the Lapwing population in 2001, is Oystercatcher. The number of breeding pairs (18) counted during the RSPB seabird census matched those of the two previous censuses in 2004 and 2008, perhaps indicating that there is no further accommodation available for Oystercatchers intent on setting up home around Lundy's shoreline!

Seabirds

Lundy's trend towards re-establishing itself as a seabird colony of real national significance continued apace during 2013 with some very encouraging results emanating from the RSPB coordinated survey of breeding cliff-nesting seabirds. All three auk species, **Puffin**, **Guillemot** and **Razorbill**, showed big increases since the last full census in 2008. Equally, if not more pleasing, the estimated number of breeding pairs of **Manx Shearwater** was not far short of 4,000, meaning that Lundy now holds almost 1% of the global population – an important threshold in international conservation priorities. Breeding numbers of **Shags** and **Fulmars** are also both well up on 2008 figures. While one **Storm Petrel** was trapped at night in the shearwater colony north of Old Light, proof of nesting on the island still eludes us – but surely it's only a matter of time! Gulls on the other hand are doing much less well, with significantly fewer nesting pairs of **Herring** and **Lesser Great Black-backed Gulls** and the lowest ever recorded number of nesting **Kittiwakes**. A **Black Guillemot** was recorded for the third year running (will they soon breed?!) and other highlights included Lundy's second **Long-tailed Skua**, up to nine **Great Skuas** off Rat Island on one morning, the first **Black Tern** seen from the island since 1967, **Sandwich**, **Common** and **Arctic Terns**, and a **Little Gull** off North Light.

Passerines and near-passerines

The **Chough** which arrived on Lundy in late October 2012 stayed on in the south of the island until 30 March, providing many visitors with excellent views. Sightings of **Turtle Doves** and **Wood Warblers** on Lundy have been dwindling in recent years, to the extent that, depressingly, 2013 proved to be the first blank year for both species. On the plus side, two charismatic migrants which occur fairly regularly on Lundy in spring, **Hoopoe** and **Golden Oriole**, both put in appearances. A late April fall of an estimated 1,000 **Willow Warblers** had the ringers busy, catching over 100. **Ring Ouzels** and **Garden Warblers** were hard to come by, with just four and two spring records respectively.

The breeding season in 2013 appeared to be late for nearly all species following the prolonged cold weather in March and the first half of April, which delayed nesting by resident species and migrants alike. As usual, **Carrion Crows** held breeding territories in several locations around the island, including Hanmers Copse, St Helen's Copse, Millcombe and Mousehole & Trap. Up to six pairs of **Ravens** held territory around the island's cliffs, with at least one nest being successful. Among songbirds, breeding was confirmed for **Swallow**, **Wren**, **Blackbird** (which had a good year with up to 12 territory-holding males along the East Side), **Robin**, **Wheatear** (which appears to be going from strength to strength), **House Sparrow**, **Pied Wagtail** and **Meadow Pipit**. Post-breeding flocks of **Linnets** indicated that they too succeeded in raising young, and a juvenile **Goldfinch** seen in July may well have hatched on Lundy.

Autumn highlights were plentiful, and in two cases, unique. They included **Short-toed Lark**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Icterine Warbler**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Richard's Pipit**, **Red-throated Pipit** and **Common Rosefinch** as well as the latest autumn record of a **Sedge Warbler**. Lundy's long-awaited first **Booted Warbler** turned up in a mist-net in Millcombe on 1 October, followed two days later, also in a mist-net, by Lundy's – and Devon's – first **Blyth's Reed Warbler**. On the downside, the autumn passage of finches was something of a non-event in 2013, daily numbers of **Chaffinch** peaking at just 600. Thrush numbers were also largely uneventful, apart from an initial 200 **Redwings** in early October and over 1,200 on 16 November. Of note was a large fall of **Goldcrests** on 5 October estimated at 1,300. **Black Redstarts** were unusually scarce, with just a single sighting. Up to four **Snow Buntings** and a handful of **Lapland Buntings** brought late autumn excitement for those lucky enough to encounter them.



Lundy's second Long-tailed Skua appeared on 16 April. Photographed (above) in Middle Park by Rachel Shaftman and Jonny Taylor, the skua appeared to be slightly injured, having first been seen sitting on the south side of The Ugly by Paul and Helen Bolland, who managed to capture some video footage of the bird.

Without doubt, the star of the year turned up in the immediate aftermath of the infamous St Jude's Day Storm. It was a day, indeed a moment, that the lucky finders, Tim Jones and Tim Davis, the island's bird recorders, will not forget in a hurry. With just an hour to go before boarding the helicopter back to the mainland, a last walk down through Millcombe brought them nose-to-bill with a **Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler**, the first in Britain for ten years. Some grainy but revealing footage taken with an iPhone helped secure the identification, which happily was accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. With the *Oldenburg* having finished its sailings for the year and rough weather continuing over the ensuing days, many keen birdwatchers and 'twitchers' were unable to get to Lundy in the hope of seeing the bird.

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**. All contributions by observers are welcome; send an email request to Richard Campey at **richardcampey@btinternet.com** to receive login details.

The website **www.birdsoflundy.org.uk** has been relaunched with updates to the species texts published in *The Birds of Lundy* (Davis & Jones, 2007) in the form of downloadable PDFs of bird reports published in the *LFS Annual Report* between 2007 and 2013. 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), 8th edition, June 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 reported. It should be noted that some of these counts may not be truly representative of the numbers of birds present and are perhaps more 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. Yellow-rumped Warbler) 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. Little Gull, Jackdaw), are assessed by the Lundy Bird Recorders.

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

Observers are asked to ensure that supporting notes for all records of rare species are entered in the LFS Logbook (which contains guidelines on what information to provide) as soon as possible after the sighting has been made. Please take care to ensure that your name(s) and contact details are included – and legible! Photographs and video clips are especially welcome and these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at info@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Observers' names are included below for all accepted 2013 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants, as well as for some other reports of particular interest.

Birds seen during boat crossings

Sightings during boat crossings are generally only included in the main list when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. There is a separate listing at the end of the report for other crossing records of particular interest. Observers are strongly encouraged to submit records for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to the Devon Bird Recorder (email address: recorder@devonbirds.org).

Acknowledgements

As always we are grateful 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 Devon Birds; this report is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals.

Special thanks go to the Devon Bird Recorder, Steve Waite, for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records. Julia Harris, Devon Birds database manager, provided a file of all 2013 Lundy records, including those submitted via BirdTrack, to help ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and the LFS. Others who have helped us in various ways include Chris & Carol Baillie, Tom Bedford, Jez Blackburn (BTO), Paul and Helen Bolland, Helen Booker, Richard Campey, Chris Dee, James Diamond, Derek Green, Andy Jayne, Beccy MacDonald, Chris Perrins, Viv Philips, David & Elisabeth Price, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Grant Sherman, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor and Isabel Winney.

The birds of 2013

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One seen and photographed in the upper aero-generator field on 19 Dec (Grant Sherman, Kevin Welsh). This is the 10th LFS record and follows hot on the heels of sightings in Apr & Oct 2012.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

Following unusually high numbers in autumn and early winter 2012, recorded on six dates in Jan, with three on Pondsburry on 5th, 13th & 23rd, rising to six on 26th, but then just two on 27th and a final singleton on 30th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

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

Present in good numbers Jan–Mar, with records on 24 dates and monthly maxima of about 25 on 30 Jan, 12 on 21 & 22 Feb, and 15 on 2 Mar. Spring saw circumstantial – and admittedly slightly flimsy – evidence of a possible breeding attempt, with a pair seen regularly in late Apr and early May, then a single male on ten dates from mid-May until last seen on 29th. If the female ‘disappeared’ because she was sitting on a nest, it seems likely that the attempt failed. As far as is known, Teal have never bred on the island, so these records are rather intriguing. In autumn, one on 30 Aug, two on 30 Sep & 1 Oct, two on 17 Oct, followed by records on eight dates 17–28 Nov, including a max of 11 on 22nd. Four on 28 Dec were 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
25	12	15	4	2	–	–	1	2	2	11	4
7	5	12	11	12	–	–	1	1	2	9	1

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

Breeding confirmed, with eight recently hatched ducklings near the Tavern on 4 Apr being the first brood of the year. During the period 16–20 Apr, no additional ducklings were seen but territorial adults were noted in St John’s Valley, lower Millcombe, Punchbowl Valley and at Pondsburry. Further broods of ten and eight ducklings were reported at Quarter Wall Pond/ Pondsburry on 1 May (ten), at Quarters Pond on 2 May (eight) and in St John’s Valley on 16 May

(eight). Duckling survival and recruitment into the population appears to have been low given that post-breeding numbers of fully grown birds were only slightly higher than early in the year.

Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	10	10	14	12	6	4	16	14	15	17	10

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Singles in the Landing Bay on 17 & 30 Mar, the latter being noted as a male.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellate*

[Red-throated Loon]

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

A winter-plumaged bird was in the Landing Bay on 14 Apr (Dave Miller).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Great Northern Loon]

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

Following a report of a 'possible' on 26 Jan, there were three on 31 Jan & 1 Feb, but then no further records until singles on 7 & 15 Mar, 13 dates from 14 Apr to 4 May (involving at least two individuals, identifiable from their differing plumages), then two on 16 May, one on 20th, two on 26th and singles on 29th & 31st. The next occurrences were during autumn passage in late Oct, with ones and twos on four dates between 21st and 27th. Thereafter, a single bird on six dates 23–29 Dec was the last of the year.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, though scarce in October.

The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 209 apparently occupied nest sites, showing a considerable increase since the 2008 census when 170 nest sites were recorded. The Gannets' Rock colony, the original stronghold for this species on Lundy, held fewer than 40 pairs, whereas sites along the West Side have shown a considerable increase, in particular the section from Jenny's Cove south to Battery Point, which now holds over half the population (information contributed by David Price, see p. 89).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – for which see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
140	110	100	170	50	3	35	5	12	1	63	45

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One seen from the Castle on 22 Oct (Chris Baillie). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first of the year were three on 30 Mar. Calling birds were heard around Castle Hill in the early hours of 11 & 12 Apr and two were found dead above St John's Valley on 14th. Some 5,000 passed off the West Side during strong westerlies early in the morning of 18 Apr (Tony Taylor). The breeding survey coordinated by the RSPB in May/Jun involved checking over 9,000 holes using recorded calls of adult birds. A total of 1,617 birds responded, which (with adjustments for coverage and response rates) translated into a population estimate of 3,451 breeding pairs. This represents a staggering tenfold increase in numbers since the 2001 survey and is considered almost entirely attributable to the rat eradication completed in the winter of 2003/04. Because

Manx Shearwaters do not breed until they are around five years old, there was a lag between the first successful rearing of young shearwaters post-rat eradication and the return of those birds as nesting adults. The significant increase in breeding numbers already recorded by the last census in 2008 was therefore considered to be due to immigration from other colonies (e.g. of 'surplus' birds from the Pembrokeshire islands). Since 2008, growing numbers of breeding-age, Lundy-reared shearwaters have returned, steepening the rate of increase in the colony, such that Lundy now holds almost 1% of the global population. With over 3,000 holes apparently occupied out of the total of over 9,000 checked, this means that every third hole on Lundy now contains a nesting shearwater! (Information contributed by David Price).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	5,000	60	100	50	1,000	300	8	–	–

During the summer, the highest reported count was 1,000 off the East Side on 24 Aug, though 1,000 were also seen during the crossing on 27 Jul. In late Aug and early Sep, Tony Taylor and Richard Taylor, followed by David & Elisabeth Price, Peter Slader and Nik Ward, spent two weeks catching and ringing young Manx Shearwaters as part of the Seabird Recovery Project. Altogether they ringed 335 juveniles outside burrows, a significant increase on the 251 ringed in 2012. Over 1,000 Lundy-hatched shearwaters have now been ringed since rats were eradicated. David Price comments that this year's high ringing total "*reflected the greater abundance of young birds at all sites. Fifty-nine adults were also ringed and 31 were recaptured from previous years. Four of these recaptured adults were birds originally ringed as juveniles on Lundy, reflecting an increasing number of returning 'home grown' birds.*"

Warden Beccy MacDonald heard shearwaters calling at night over Millcombe on 12 Nov and was able to pick out six individuals. Birds were heard again (but not seen) on 13 & 27 Nov (Beccy MacDonald, Michael Williams). Small numbers of calling shearwaters are regularly heard on the Welsh breeding islands in Nov (*per* Greg Morgan, Ramsey Island RSPB Warden) and are assumed to be late-departing non-breeders or perhaps passage migrants from further north.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

A new record count for Lundy was established when at least 26 were seen from North Light on 21 Oct, including a feeding flock of six that gathered with Kittiwakes, Black-headed Gulls, Gannets and Razorbills off the Hen & Chickens towards low tide. One was seen flying past Rat Island on the same date, making a total of 27 (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Tony Taylor). Two were off Jenny's Cove on 22 Oct (Chris Baillie). On 23 Oct, one was off Lametry, four off North End and one off the East Side (Chris Baillie, Tony Taylor). Finally, nine were seen south-east of Rat Island on 26 Oct (Tony Taylor), with two in the same general area on 27th. Records accepted by 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 was trapped at night, without the use of a tape-lure, in the Manx Shearwater colony north of Old Light on 7 Jun.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

The highest counts of the year were 100 on 13 Jun and between 130 and 180 daily from 19 to 23 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	–	3	35	15	100	20	15	50	180	15	4

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

There were no reports of large migrating flocks in spring. On 18 April an adult in breeding plumage, first seen on the Sugar Loaf on 16 Apr, was watched flying north below cliff-top height, from Quarter Wall Copse area towards the Sugarloaf and disappearing up under the cliffs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), but there were no subsequent sightings suggestive of possible breeding. The highest count of the year was 17 on 6 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	4	5	4	2	–	4	8	17	–	–

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 112 apparently occupied nests – a huge increase on the average count of 61 pairs for the three previous surveys since 2000. This level has not been recorded since the mid-1950s when figures of 120–130 nests were recorded between 1954 and 1957. Numbers of nesting Shags can vary markedly between years (due to food supply and weather). In 2013, it may be that the cold, late spring concentrated more breeding attempts into the period covered by the survey (information contributed by David Price – see p. 90). On 2 May, 142 were feeding off the south-west coast, apparently associated with dolphin activity in the same area (Chris Baillie). Post-breeding counts of Shags during round-the-island boat trips on 7 & 8 Aug produced 227 and 301 birds respectively (Ken Josey).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	6	14	40	160	23	100	301	60	120	4	2

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Lundy vagrant.

One in the Landing Bay on 21 Aug (Beccy MacDonald *et al.*).

Unidentified egret *Egretta* sp.

Lundy vagrant.

One, thought probably to be a Little Egret *E. garzetta*, was at Pondsburry and on rocks in Threequarter Wall Bay on 13 May (Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo, Mick & Lynne Prior).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

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

Only three records. A single bird, 23–26 Mar, was seen around the south of the island, including St John's Valley and Rocket Pole Pond, and one was at Pondsburry on 25 May. The next report was not until 17 Sep when one flew south over the Landing Bay towards Rat Island, where it circled and flew off into the mist.

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	–	–	–
–	–	3	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

[European Honey Buzzard]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

A female flew low over Millcombe House, being mobbed by corvids, at 12.51 hrs on 29 May. It flew south-west towards the Rocket Pole before tracking back east along the South End and being lost to view (Philip Lymbery). It was independently reported being mobbed by crows off South West Point. Record accepted by DBRC. The last accepted Lundy records (involving two individuals) were in May 2008.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus**Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One initially seen from Castle Cottage being mobbed by gulls high over Millcombe at 07.00 hrs on 9 Jun was seen again in the same area an hour later, then near the Old Hospital at 10.00 hrs (Steve & Marion Rosser). In spite of the rapidly growing British (and now Irish) populations, Red Kite remains an extremely rare bird on Lundy. This is only the eighth confirmed record since LFS records began in 1947 and the first since Mar 2010. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring and Devon rarity.

One flew low over the moorland and heathland south of Halfway Wall and towards Pondsburry on 28 Sep. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

[Northern Harrier]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

There were five records during the year: a male at Pondsburry on 4 Feb; a ringtail soaring over the Terrace, then drifting west towards Pondsburry, at 14.30 hrs on 26 May (Philip Lymbery); one between Halfway Wall and the Old Hospital on 2 Oct (Peter Hamlyn *et al.*); one reported anonymously on 3 Oct; and a ringtail over Millcombe and the East Side on 4 Oct (John Haddaway & John Horton). The last three records may have been the same migrant stopping off for at least three days.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

[Northern Goshawk]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One, thought to be a female, flew north over the Terrace from above Quarry Cottages on 2 May (Chris Baillie). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder – the seventh Lundy occurrence, the majority in spring, and the first since May 1991.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

Single birds were reported on 30 Jan, 1 Feb and on six dates between 5 and 29 Mar, with two on 18th. Thereafter, four scattered singles 11–28 Apr and the last spring migrant, a female, on 18 May. The first post-breeding record was one on 26 Aug, followed by sightings of ones and twos on 20 dates between 9 Sep and 24 Nov. The only report in Dec was one on 28th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	2	1	1	–	–	1	2	2	1	1
1	1	7	4	1	–	–	1	6	11	3	1

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.

One flew north over the island on 20 Apr, mobbed by gulls and Ravens. Further singles,

potentially the same individual, were recorded on 21 & 25 Apr. The only other sightings, also involving single birds, were on 16 May & 13 Sep.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

Rare passage migrant and Devon rarity.

One flew north along the East Side, mobbed by gulls and corvids, on 20 Apr (Paul Bolland, Kevin Rylands, Rob Skeates *et al.*). One heading north over Pondsbury on 15 May was seen to join up with a second Osprey heading north up the West Side (Mike Jones). On 17 May one first seen over Rat Island flew north up the East Side before crossing the island near the Old Hospital. The same observers saw what was presumably the same bird repeat the circuit ten minutes later. On the same date, a “probable Osprey”, mobbed by crows as it flew up the island north of Old Light, was reported independently by other observers and presumed to be the same bird, although the possibility of two cannot be ruled out. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

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

Singles (potentially the same long-staying individual throughout, especially given that where observers made a note of the sex of the bird, it was always a female) were reported on 27 Jan, on ten dates 5–27 Mar, on most days during Apr and on scattered dates in May and Jun, the last on 20 Jun. The only records of more than one during the first six months of the year were of three on 27 Apr, four on 28 Apr and two on 13 Jun. Following scattered records during the summer, post-breeding dispersal and migration brought frequent sightings from late Aug to the end of Nov, with a max of four on 26 Aug, 24/25 Sep and 20 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	4	1	2	1	4	4	4	2	1
1	–	10	24	8	6	2	8	20	19	12	1

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

One on New Year’s Day was followed by single females on 12 & 18 Mar and further scattered singletons on eight dates 7 Apr–4 May. The first autumn migrant was a female on 9 Sep. As usual, sightings peaked in Oct, with a max of three on 20th & 21st. The last report of the year was of a single bird on 11 & 12 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	3	2	1
1	–	2	6	2	–	–	–	1	19	4	2

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles reported on 21 May (flying low past the Tavern garden, Viv Phillips) and 10–12 Aug.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

Bred successfully. The highest count of the year was seven on 18 Apr.

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.

Not recorded until singles on 15, 16 & 30 Mar; the bird on 16 March being in St Helen's Field. Ones and twos were seen regularly in Apr, including in rushes near the Water Tanks, Quarters Pond, lower Millcombe and St John's Valley. May brought only three sightings, all of single birds in the second half of the month. Nevertheless, breeding was confirmed for the seventh consecutive year when a pair of adults with a single chick ("*a black bundle of fluff but beak and legs growing fast*") were seen outside Quarters on 16 Jun (Becky Healey). An adult was also seen in upper Millcombe on 15 Jun, suggesting a second territory. One was ringed on 5 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	1	3	–	–	2	4	5	2
–	–	3	11	3	6	–	–	9	15	9	1

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Only small numbers recorded in late winter and early spring, with a max of ten on 18 Mar. A spring peak of 23 was recorded on 16 Apr. Breeding was confirmed when a recently hatched chick was seen at Brazen Ward on 4 Jun, while two chicks were at the bottom of Montagu Steps on 9 Jun. The RSPB seabird census resulted in a breeding population estimate of 18 territorial pairs, which – remarkably – is exactly the same number found by the 2004 and 2008 surveys. Pairs are invariably found in the same locations from census to census, the majority occupying sites along the West Side and around the North End as far as Tibbetts Point along the East Side (information contributed by David Price).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	5	10	23	15	10	6	8	15	13	7	4
4	6	12	25	21	13	7	10	8	6	2	3

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Following a logbook entry of "12?" on 20 Jan, there were no further records until two on 11 & 12 Mar, followed by a single bird during the last four days of Mar, then two on 11 Apr, and ones and twos on six dates 1–28 May.

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)*	–	2	2	2	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
(1)	–	6	1	6	–	–	–	3	5	–	–

*see cautionary note in text

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

Uncommon passage migrant. Formerly a common breeder, spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor, but scarce in recent years and last bred in 2000.

Three on 22 & 23 Feb were the only records during the first six months of the year. Two returning migrants on 16 Jul were seen in flight over the Lighthouse Field. In autumn, one on 11 Oct and two over the Brick Field and Terrace on 25 Oct were followed by one on 13 Nov, 17 on 16 Nov, then three on 26 Nov and one on 30th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One in St Helen's Field on 26 & 29 Mar (Mike Jones) – only the sixth record for the island, but

the third consecutive year, following sightings in May & Sep 2011 and Apr 2012 (previous records in 1998 and 2000). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [Common Ringed Plover]
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter records.

Two around the temporary wetland on Ackland's Moor on 23 Mar and one in the Tillage Field on 26 Mar, followed by singles on 16 Apr, 14, 16 & 26 May and 5 Jun (the latter at North End), with two on 17 May. In autumn, four on 25 Aug, one on 27th and singles on 1 Sep and 8 & 23 Oct.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* [Eurasian Dotterel]
Uncommon but almost annual spring and autumn migrant in very small numbers.

Two were showing well west of the main track, opposite the Brick Field silage heap, from 11 to 13 May (C.G. Marcol, B. Tuck *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. There were no autumn records.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; declining.

The first spring migrant was a single bird on 21 Apr. Thereafter, recorded on just eight further dates during spring migration, with a max of eight on 1 May and the last on 15 May. The only autumn passage record was of one flying south on 26 Aug.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* [Eurasian Curlew]
Regular spring and autumn migrant in small and probably declining numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.

The only reported spring migrants were singles on 18 Mar, 22 Apr and 5 May. During return passage there were records of singles on 30 Jun, 7 & 8 Jul, 23 & 26 Aug and 2, 6 & 21 Oct. The only records of more than one in a day concerned four on 2 Aug and two on 4 Aug.

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	1	4	–	1	–	–
–	–	1	1	1	1	2	4	–	3	–	–

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [Ruddy Turnstone]
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor; signs of a decline in recent years.
 One was reported “on Oldenburg in Landing Bay” on 5 May.

Knot *Calidris canutus* [Red Knot]
Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

One in the Landing Bay on 29 & 30 Jul was reportedly following people up and down the Jetty on 29th (Beccy MacDonald *et al.*).

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

During spring migration, recorded on eight dates from 27 Apr to 7 Jun. All sightings were of single birds, with the exception of three on 15 May and two the following day. In autumn, four on 28 Aug, one on 31st, one on 9 Sep and one on 2 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One near the Brick Field silage heap on 4 & 5 Sep (Aislinn Mottahedin-Fardo, David & Elisabeth Price, Peter Slader) – see colour plate 3. Record accepted by DBRC.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

Two records: in spring, one below the Beach Road on 16 Apr, and in autumn, one on 31 Aug.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

One at Pondsbury on 20 Jul (Roy Lambert).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Singles on 10 Mar (near Gannets' Combe) and 19 Mar. In autumn, one flushed at Pondsbury on 16 Oct (M. Davis); one flushed from the wet area just to the north of Quarter Wall Pond on 20 Oct (Tony Taylor); and further singles reported on four dates 9–28 Nov.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Singles on 22 Feb, 12 Mar and 5 Apr (the latter near South West Point). The remains of a kill were found along the East Side on 16 Apr. In autumn, singles were reported on 13 Sep and 22 Oct, followed by records on seven dates 16–29 Nov, with a max of five on 16 & 17 Nov. The shooting, in northern France in early Jan, of a bird originally ringed on Lundy in mid-Oct 2010 perhaps hints at the continental wintering grounds of some of the autumn migrants passing through the island (see also *Ringing Report*, p. 56).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The late winter/early spring max was 12 on 14 Mar. In autumn and early winter, higher counts included seven on 22 Sep, six on 22 Oct, eight on 17 Nov, 11 on 26 Nov and seven on 28 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
3	2	12	6	–	–	–	1	7	6	11	7
1	4	8	10	–	–	–	2	13	13	16	4

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

Not recorded from the island until Oct, when there was one on 22 Oct, followed by three on 23rd, one on 24th and two on 26th (Tim Jones, Tony Taylor *et al.*).

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

[Long-tailed Jaeger]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

On 16 Apr, one breeding-plumaged adult first seen (from inside Brambles East!) sitting on the south side of The Ugly flew up Millcombe, over the corner of Government House, across St Helen's Field and past Barton Cottages, before being lost to sight as it dropped over the Tillage Field Wall. It was later relocated sitting on grassland in Middle Park, just north of the stile at the western end of Halfway Wall. Video and still images were taken – see p. 23 and colour plate 3. The bird appeared to have a slight injury to its left carpal and some matting of the body feathers close to the carpal joint (Helen & Paul Bolland, Tim Jones, Rachel Shaftman, Ann, Jonathan & Tony Taylor). This is only the second record for Lundy and comes almost 39 years after the first, on 20 Jun 1974, when one was seen at rest near Old Light before flying out to sea and heading south. Tony Taylor is in the unique position of having seen both birds! Record accepted by DBRC.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

Not recorded from the island until Oct, when there was one on 19th, three on 21st, four on 22nd and five on 23rd. Finally, nine flew south-west off Rat Island during the morning of 26th (Tim Jones, Tony Taylor *et al.*).

Unidentified skua species *Stercorarius* sp.

One very distant bird flying west, thought probably to be a first-winter Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*, was seen from the Castle on 28 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

Increasingly common breeding species; formerly bred in large numbers and population now recovering following rat eradication; very rare between mid-Aug and late Mar/early Apr.

Three were on the water at Jenny's Cove on 20 Mar (Grant Sherman). These were followed by five on 3 Apr, 11 on 10th and 15 on 11th. Similar numbers continued to be reported until the end of Apr, when there were 24 on 28th, 27 on 29th and 40 on 30th. There was a further increase to 67 by 2 May, while the highest count of the month was 78 on 26th. As usual, there was a significant influx towards the end of Jun, thought to include visiting immature non-breeders hatched in previous years at other colonies and looking for potential future breeding areas on Lundy. On 25 Jun, 128 were counted – 42 on land at St Philip's Stone at 08.00 hrs, and 86 on land at Jenny's Cove at 09.00 hrs (Grant Sherman). Two days later, 180 were present – 53 on land at St Philip's Stone, 104 on land at Jenny's Cove and 23 at Long Roost (Grant Sherman/Alan Rowland). Reported numbers fell away for a time in Jul, with 75 on 7th but there were still 60 on land at Jenny's Cove on 19th, followed by 50 at Jenny's Cove (of which 35 were on land) and 30 at St Philip's Stone on 20th. Perhaps surprisingly, coming so late in the season, the highest count of the year – and a new post rat-eradication record – was reached on 25 Jul when a total of 190 included 129 at Jenny's Cove and 61 at St Philip's Stone. Finally, 150 were counted on 29 Jul, but there were no reports at all in Aug!

The RSPB seabird census during the last week of May recorded 80 birds and noted the major recolonisation of Jenny's Cove. Within the scope of the methodology for this survey (i.e. a count of all birds present during the last week of May), this represents a remarkable recovery from the low of just five birds recorded during the 2004 census, and a 470% increase on the 14 birds recorded in the 2008 survey. The success of this species is undoubtedly due in large part to the eradication of rats (information contributed by David Price).

Breeding evidence (see also p. 15) included birds entering burrows at St Philip's Stone on 2, 19 & 26 May and 4 Jun. Birds were on land outside burrows at Jenny's Cove on 26 May and entering burrows on 4 Jun. Two adults were seen carrying fish at St Philip's Stone on 14 Jun (Grant Sherman). Away from the colonies at Jenny's Cove and St Philip's Stone, four were on the water at Long Roost on 26 May. At least 27 were in the Gannets' Rock area on 31 May, mostly on the water, but one was seen and photographed apparently defending a burrow on a grassy slope just north of the Rock. Six were on the sea off Puffin Gully on the same date. Six were off North Light on 12 Jun. Five were on the water just south of Tibbetts Point on 25 Jun, and five were just off The Battery on 16 Jul.

A seal was seen attempting to take a Puffin in Jenny's Cove on 30 Apr; the Puffin lived to swim another day. The remains of a recently predated Puffin were found just north of Gannets' Rock on 12 May.

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	40	78	180	190	–	–	–	–	–

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

One was in the Landing Bay on 9 Jun (John Mellor) and still present on 15 & 16 Jun (Darrin Dowding, Ken Ebsworthy, Arthur Goldsmith). On 15th it was on the water below St Helen's Copse and headed so close to shore it was lost from sight. The following day it was also quite close to shore until *MS Oldenburg* arrived, when it flew out to sea. The bird was still present on 22 Jun (Shaun Barnes & Ken Ebsworthy) and roosting on a bollard of the jetty at high tide on 1 Jul (Beccy MacDonald). Record accepted by DBRC.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeder, with a substantial recent increase in the population (though numbers remain significantly below those recorded in the first half of the 20th century); uncommon between Aug and Feb.

The first birds seen on the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove were three on 8 Feb (a month later than in 2012), with 21 present the following day, rising to 350 by 18 Mar (Grant Sherman). The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 1,324 individual birds at breeding sites, representing a 27% increase (similar to that for Guillemots) on the total of 1,045 birds counted during the 2008 census. This takes the species' total to its highest level since the current surveys started in 1981. As with Guillemots, the reasons for this continuing increase are not immediately apparent, though the absence of rats is likely to have contributed given that Razorbills invariably nest towards the tops of the cliffs (information contributed by David Price). Following post-breeding abandonment of the breeding ledges by the end of Jul, there were no further records until the second half of Oct, when numbers feeding and passing by offshore reached 180 on 22nd.

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	40	350	600	500	100	60	–	–	180	–	17

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Murre]

Common breeder, with a substantial recent increase in the population (though numbers remain significantly below those recorded in the first half of the 20th century); uncommon from Aug to mid-Oct, after which breeding ledges begin to be reoccupied.

Higher counts of birds on the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove included 509 on 4 Jan, 1,274 on 22 Jan, 1,154 on 9 Feb and 1,570 on 18 Mar (Grant Sherman). On 19 May Grant Sherman reported: "Lots sitting hunchbacked at St Philip's Stone colonies, so presumably with eggs. Not many at Jenny's Cove colonies." The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 4,114 individual birds at breeding colonies – a phenomenal increase of 25% since the previous peak figure of 3,302 recorded during the 2008 census and representing the highest number since the current surveys started in 1981. The average count during the period 1981–2004 was only 2,200 birds. Whilst several factors may be responsible for this increase, not least food supply, there is subjective evidence that the removal of rats may have helped this species. It has been noticeable during the last two surveys that Guillemots have been recorded at new sites in areas of broken ground not far below the edge of the grassy sidings – locations that would previously have been readily accessible to rats (information contributed by David Price). Between 18 Jun and 7 Jul Grant Sherman posted an informative series of photo essays cataloguing the fortunes of breeding pairs and their chicks on study ledges at St Philip's Stone. Grant's blogs can be viewed at <http://www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk>. See also productivity data on p. 15. The first birds returning to the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove were three on 17 Oct (Grant Sherman).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,274	1,154	1,570	1,766	1,630	800	100	–	6	25	1	55

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Lundy vagrant.

A first-winter bird off North Light on 22 Oct (Tom Bedford & Richard Campey) was the first seen from the island since 9 Aug 1967, when one was in the Landing Bay. The only other recent record concerns two seen from *MS Oldenburg* about one kilometre east of Lundy on 30 Aug 2008.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon migrant, late March to early October.

One on 28 Mar.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon migrant, April to October.

One adult feeding off South Light on 20 Oct (Tony Taylor), with further singles seen from the Castle and The Ugly on 22 & 23 Oct, respectively (Tom Bedford & Tim Jones).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

A flock of up to 15 was feeding with Kittiwakes and Manx Shearwaters off the East Side during the afternoon of 16 Apr, with six in the same area on 17 Apr, two on 18th, one on 19th and one on 20th (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Kevin Rylands, Tony Taylor). A strong passage of Arctic Terns through the Bristol Channel was noted at this time and it is likely that the above sightings included a turnover of birds rather than a steadily dwindling single flock that the counts might imply – especially as 12 birds appeared to leave the island waters during the early evening of 16 Apr. In autumn, two were feeding among Kittiwakes off the East Side on 23 Oct (Tony Taylor). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

In spring, five on 17 Apr, 20 on 18th and two on 20th. There was an exceptionally strong passage of Arctic Terns in spring 2013 and it seems likely that many of these birds, too distant to be identified, were also Arctics.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

Declining breeding species; common passage migrant, with large numbers sometimes occurring offshore, especially after stormy weather, including in winter.

About 700 were offshore on 30 Jan, with 250 on 31 Jan & 1 Feb. An exceptionally high count – especially given the time of year – of 1,160 was made off South West Point in a period of strong westerlies on 18 Apr (Tony Taylor). Birds were seen collecting grass and turf as nesting material on 19 May (Grant Sherman). The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 127 apparently occupied nests. Despite a slight rally detected by the 2008 census, the inexorable decline of Lundy's breeding Kittiwakes continues, with the population reaching its lowest level since records began. Apart from a remnant eight pairs in Jenny's Cove, nesting birds are now restricted to just two colonies between St Philip's Stone and St James' Stone. The decline is part of a wider regional and national picture and is not attributed to any Lundy-specific factor (information contributed by David Price). See also productivity data on p. 15. On 28 Aug, birds were heard calling in Jenny's Cove (Deep Zawn colony) until dark at 22.00 hrs (Tony Taylor). In autumn, there were 1,500 offshore, mainly off the North End and East Side, on 23 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
700	250	100	1,160	120	8	100	50	12	1,500	108	4

Colour-ring sightings: On 1 May, Chris Baillie saw two colour-ringed Kittiwakes in the colony below Threequarter Wall. One had a green colour-ring with a white inscription, 'AV', on its right leg. The other had three colour-rings on its right leg, from top to bottom: green, orange, red. 'AV' was last reported from the same colony in 2007 & 2008 and was ringed on Lundy on 30 June 1999 (*not* in Norway in 2004 as tentatively suggested in the 2008 *LFS Annual Report*). Unfortunately, it is proving hard to pin down the source of the second bird (potentially Brittany) since – in the past – multiple projects in various countries used plain colour-rings and it is difficult to distinguish between them. Things are more rigorously organised now, but Kittiwakes are long-lived birds, meaning that effectively untraceable individuals may continue to be seen for some years yet.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]
Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.

One on 26 Jan. One seen on land on the West Side and at Quarter Wall Pond on 5 & 6 Jun seems likely to have been the same as a first-summer bird noted at Rocket Pole and Quarter Wall Ponds, on the grass between the Shop and Tavern, and outside Quarters from 8 to 10 Jun. Four were settled on the water next to the Landing Bay jetty on 9 Jul (Mike Jones), while two were on Rat Island the following day. Thereafter, one on 29 Sep, two on 30 Sep and ten (in two flocks of five) off North Light on 21 Oct, followed by singles on 23, 24 & 27 Oct – the latter in the Landing Bay sheltering from stormy weather.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Lundy vagrant.

An adult in non-breeding plumage off North Light on 22 Oct (Tom Bedford & Richard Campey) was only the sixth LFS record, the last being of a single bird in 1990 – remarkably in exactly the same location and on precisely the same date!

Common Gull *Larus canus* [Mew Gull]
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly September to April.
One in the Landing Bay on 29 Sep (John Haddaway & John Horton).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Common but declining breeding species and passage migrant; generally uncommon in winter.
The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 242 apparently occupied territories, reflecting a continued decline of 8% on the 263 territories counted in 2008, and representing the loss of almost half the number of Lesser Black-backs nesting in 2000 and 2004 (information contributed by David Price). An extremely dark-mantled bird showing characteristics of *L. f. intermedius* was roosting at Brazen Ward on 27 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	14	12	70	91	12	20	50	20	17	5	6

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* [European Herring Gull]
Common but declining breeding species; present all year but generally fewer in winter, though stormy conditions may bring influxes.

High numbers early in the year included an estimated 500 on 12 dates from 19 Jan to 17 Feb –

perhaps birds seeking shelter from persistent stormy weather. The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 428 apparently occupied territories, a further reduction of 20% on the 534 territories counted in 2008 and an overall decline of 44% since 2000, when 762 territories were found (information contributed by David Price).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
500	500	200	75	259	30	75	15	8	20	553	50

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Fifty were counted on 27 Jan. The RSPB seabird census recorded a total of 50 pairs – similar to numbers in the two previous surveys: 58 and 57 pairs in 2004 and 208 respectively (information contributed by David Price). A high total of 124 was recorded on 26 Nov (Neil Trout).

Maximum logbook count for each month (excludes RSPB census – see text)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	10	10	12	22	16	6	5	16	50	124	20

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	–	1	3	6	3	2	3	1	–	–
2	3	–	1	12	14	3	2	7	8	–	–

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

Probably breeds – or attempts to breed – in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers, with occasional larger influxes; sporadic in winter.

Following a report of a single bird on 26 Jan, there were no further records until two on 11 Mar, increasing to three on 19 Mar, five on 3 Apr, seven on 5 Apr and then between two and five recorded on most days during the remainder of Apr and May, with a high of eight on 22 May. Song was heard in Millcombe on 19 Apr but there was no other reported evidence of breeding. Numbers and frequency appeared to dwindle in Jun, but observer coverage was also lower. Thereafter the peak count was consistently four or five until a remarkable influx of 100 on 10 Nov – part of a major movement that brought thousands moving along the south coast of mainland Devon. The final sightings of the year were singles on four dates 15–22 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
1	–	3	7	8	4	4	4	4	5	100	–
1	–	6	24	21	11	4	7	20	5	5	–

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.

Spring migrants were recorded on 21 dates between 22 Apr (one) and 30 Jun (one), with maxima of five on 31 May and four on four dates in late May and the first half of Jun.

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	5	4	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	10	8	–	–	–	–	–	–

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

[Common Cuckoo]

Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past, but is only known to have done so successfully in three years since 2000, most recently in 2012.

In spring, recorded on nine dates: 16–19 & 25 May and 4, 5, 7 & 20 Jun, with most records from the Millcombe and St John's Valley area. Later in the summer one was at Halfway Wall on 23 Jul and a juvenile was seen below the Terrace on 30 Aug; fully grown it was thought more likely to be a passage migrant rather than a Lundy-hatched bird.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One landed on the windowsill of Pigs' Paradise during the afternoon of 24 Mar (Grant Sherman, Shelley Southon). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Walking through Gannets' Combe on 26 Jan, Alan & Sandra Rowland startled a herd of goats, which in turn flushed a Short-eared Owl from the tussock-sedge. Singles were flushed in the Tibbetts Point area on 18 & 28 Apr. On the latter date, the bird was seen again later near Brazen Ward, where it was being mobbed by gulls. In autumn, one on 20 Oct between the Lower and Upper East Side Paths south of Quarter Wall flew up onto the plateau and out of sight. Two were in the vicinity of Halfway Wall on 16 Nov (Philip Lymbery).

Swift *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

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

The first spring migrants were three on 26 Apr. Thereafter recorded on 27 further dates until the last reported sighting of five on 31 Jul. Maxima were 53 flying north on 26 May and 20 on 19 Jun.

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	53	20	9	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	10	12	5	–	–	–	–	–

Unidentified swift *Apus sp.*

A noticeably large swift with a white square patch on its chest and belly was seen over St John's Valley and Castle Hill at 15.00 hrs on 13 Jul but soared away before the observer, Helen Bolland, who suspected it to be an Alpine Swift *A. melba*, could confirm its identify.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was first seen in flight near the western end of Halfway Wall at Jenny's Cove on 6 May and then further east, along the main track near Halfway Wall Gate, on 7th & 8th (Simon Dell, Grant Sherman *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One in Millcombe on 26 Aug (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). One in Millcombe on 24 & 25 Sep (Chris Dee, Jan Swan, Andy Turner). One mist-netted in Millcombe and ringed on 4 Oct (John Haddaway & John Horton) was still present on 5 & 6 Oct. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major**Lundy vagrant, though more frequent in recent years.*

A juvenile was seen from the Marisco Tavern on the post to the left of the blue door to Government House on 27 July (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A male was in the St John's Valley and Millcombe area during the afternoon of 23 Apr (David Clifton, Rob Skeates *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC. What were possibly the remains of a Golden Oriole were found on the Lower East Side Path, between Millcombe and St Helen's Combe, on 8 May.

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

[Red-billed Chough]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

The bird which arrived in Oct 2012 continued to be seen regularly up to and including the last record on 30 Mar, when it was feeding in St Helen's Field. All logbook entries for Jan–Mar involved sightings in the south of the island, from Old Light, to St Helen's Field, Millcombe/St John's Valley, Tent Field and South End. St Helen's Field and the paths between the Tavern and Millcombe appeared to be especially favoured feeding areas from mid-Feb onwards. There were further sightings (presumed to relate to other individuals, since the overwintering bird was not seen in April, in spite of thorough searching) reported in mid-May: one feeding in field just north of High Street gate and seen and heard in flight near Jenny's Cove on 18 May (N. & D. Downie, J. & S. Buchanan) and one seen and heard calling over Millcombe on 19 May (Viv Phillips, Kim Atkinson & Jan Ozyer). All the above records accepted by DBRC. In addition there was an unsubstantiated report of two on and around cliffs in the north-west of the island on 8 May.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

One on 23 May (Neil Trout).

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

On 19 Apr four flew north past lower Millcombe, calling as they went, before turning west, rising over the fields and out of sight (Tony Taylor).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Breeds; present throughout the year.*

During the period 16–20 Apr breeding territories were located in Hammers Copse (active nest), St Helen's Copse (active nest), Millcombe, and the Moushole & Trap area. There was also a non-breeding flock of more than 30 birds centred as usual on the Airfield and Brick/Tillage Fields. The highest count of the year was 59 on 24 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	30	35	42	48	33	18	40	40	47	59	20

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

A pair of birds were gathering nesting material near Benjamin's Chair on 13 Feb. Up to six pairs were holding territory along the cliffs in mid-Apr. Breeding was confirmed when well-grown fledglings were seen in Jun.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	3	4	9	12	12	8	17	8	10	7	12

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter. Spring migration was recorded between 17 Mar (two) and 13 May (three) and peaked in Apr with 40 on 12th. All other spring records were of one to six birds only. A trickle of migration in late Aug and the first three weeks of Sep was followed by 20 on 22 Sep, 150 on 4 Oct (67 ringed) and a major fall, coinciding with large arrivals of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps, which brought at least 1,300 to the island on 5 Oct (141 ringed). Only 30 remained on 6 Oct, but a further influx – estimated at 1,000 – occurred on 9th. Counts during the remainder of Oct and Nov were of ten or fewer, with the exception of 20 on 24 Oct and 16 Nov. The only Dec report was of one on 29th. A first-year bird ringed on Lundy in late Sep 2012 was found dead in County Kerry, Ireland in early Apr 2013 (see also *Ringing Report*, p. 56).

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	40	3	–	–	1	20	1,300	20	1
–	–	4	20	4	–	–	6	16	20	13	1

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered. Not recorded until autumn migration when there were reports on 15 dates from 23 Sep (one) to 17 Nov (one), with maxima of three on 30 Sep and five on 16 Nov. All other records were of ones and twos.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

[Greater Short-toed Lark]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One near Quarter Wall on 23 Oct (Richard Campey). Record accepted by DBRC.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

One singing on 14 Jan was the first record of the year. The highest count of the spring was 120 on 11 Apr. More than 30 breeding territories were located in a partial count of the island between 16 and 20 Apr. The maximum autumn passage total was 80 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
10	20	50	120	80	12	10	2	7	80	8	1
4	9	17	29	22	14	7	3	14	14	5	1

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia**Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.*

The first spring migrants were three on 19 Mar, followed by one on 23rd and three on 24th. Migration continued through Apr but numbers were generally low except for 30 on 20th. Things

did not pick up in May, with records on just five widely scattered dates. The last of spring (or perhaps more likely an early-returning failed breeder?) was one on 26 Jun. Return passage was noted on eight dates from 5 Jul (one) to 29 Sep (five), with a maximum of just ten 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
–	–	3	30	4	1	5	1	10	–	–	–
–	–	3	12	5	1	3	1	4	–	–	–

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in very small numbers in most years.

The first of the year were two on 24 Mar. Numbers peaked in Apr, with higher counts (≥ 200) including 280 on 14th, 200 on 18th, 500 on 20th and at least 1,000 on both 25th & 26th, but were generally low in May, with no more than 50 in a day, except for 410 flying north on 26th. As for Sand Martin, numbers in Apr/May were quite low in comparison with recent years; presumably a reflection of the cold, late spring in 2013. The fact that as many as 417 were still moving north on the relatively late date of 5 Jun strongly suggests that migration was significantly delayed. A pair was holding territory around Pigs' Paradise on 2 Jun, and a pair was feeding young in the gas shed on 30 Aug and 12 Sep. There were few high counts during autumn migration, with maxima in late Sep and early Oct of 750 on 22 Sep, 500 on 29th (seen going to roost in conifers above Brambles) and 3,000 on 4 Oct. The last of the year was a single bird on 11 Nov. During the year the LFS was notified of Lundy-ringed Swallows found in Spain and Nigeria (see also *Ringling Report*, p. 56). It also emerged that the Portuguese recovery detailed in the 2012 LFS Annual Report was – remarkably – the first British-ringed Swallow ever to be found in that country.

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	1,000	410	417	6	7	750	3,000	2	–
–	–	1	23	23	21	9	8	26	18	2	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

As for Sand Martin and Swallow, spring migration was delayed by unusually cold weather, with none recorded until 6 Apr when one was seen near North Light. Numbers were low throughout the rest of Apr and most of May. The lateness of the season was confirmed when 40 flew north on 28 May, followed by the spring passage peak of 170 on 5 Jun. The last spring record was of four on 19 Jun. During autumn passage the only reported counts of 50 or more were 80 on 3 Sep, 50 on 29 Sep and 50 on 4 Oct. The last of the year was one on 17 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
–	–	–	30	40	170	1	–	80	50	–	–
–	–	–	16	16	17	1	–	14	5	–	–

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

During the latter part of Oct, singles were recorded as follows: Millcombe on 15th (M. Davis); Quarter Wall Copse on 23rd (Richard Campey); upper Millcombe and by the main track at Quarter Wall on 25th (Tom Bedford, James Diamond); and Millcombe on 28th (Tim Davis). One, mist-netted in Millcombe, was ringed on 16 Nov (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Not recorded during either spring or autumn passage. Though always a scarce migrant on Lundy, 2013 marks the first year since 1970 that Wood Warblers were not recorded at all. This is hopefully just a blip and could reflect gaps in observer coverage at key times. However, it may also reflect the species' parlous conservation status; the UK breeding population declined by 65% between 1995 and 2010.]

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

Singles on 4, 8 & 14 Mar were followed by three on 18th. Visible spring migration appears to have been extremely poor, with unusually low numbers reported. The only records of more than ten in a day were 100 on 12 Apr (the spring max), 20 on 21 Apr and 50 on 26th. Up to three singing in the first week of Jun could have been late migrants, but one was singing in Millcombe on 20 Jul, so it is certainly possible that breeding attempts were made. During autumn migration, there were 25 on 25 Sep, 100+ on 4 Oct (51 ringed) and an exceptional 500+ on 5th (49 ringed), coinciding with a major arrival of Goldcrests, Blackcaps and other migrants. Counts were of 20 or fewer during the remainder of Oct, while the last of the autumn were three on 17 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
–	–	3	100	4	3	1	4	25	500	6	–
–	–	4	21	13	17	1	6	18	19	4	–

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus**Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; has bred.*

The first spring migrants were singles on 16, 17 & 19 Mar, the bird on 17th singing below Brambles. Numbers were generally low during the main passage period in Apr and May, with the exception of a fall estimated at 1,000 or more (110 ringed) on 26 Apr (Rob Skeates *et al.*). The only other counts of more than 50 were both in Apr: 100 on 12th and 60 on 21st, coinciding with arrivals of Chiffchaffs. There were no breeding records. In autumn, the peak count was 50 on 9 Sep, when a daytime 'fall' coincided with a drizzly shower at 10.00 hrs. Millcombe had been very quiet earlier in the morning, but 32 Willow Warblers were ringed in the hour following the shower and birds were seen dropping into the valley. A similar fall occurred after rain on 5 Aug when 12 were seen on Halfway Wall. Autumn passage maxima were 40 on 30 Aug and 50 on 9 Sep. The last of the year was a single bird on 25 Oct. Spring migrants ringed on the Isles of Scilly and in south Devon in Apr 2013 were controlled on Lundy two and three days later, respectively (see also *Ringing Report*, p. 56).

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	1,000	30	1	–	40	50	2	–	–
–	–	2	21	14	3	–	8	21	5	–	–

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

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

During spring migration, which was recorded from the late date (by recent standards) of 10 Apr, Blackcaps showed a similar pattern to Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler, with generally low numbers throughout, punctuated by modest falls in mid to late Apr. These included 50 on 12th, 30 on 21st and 100 on 26th. All other day totals during Apr and May were of 12 birds or fewer. During autumn migration there were 41 on 30 Sep and a fall of 300+ on 5 Oct (75 ringed), coinciding with a major arrival of Goldcrests, Chiffchaffs and other migrants. Thereafter, 100 on 9 Oct but otherwise

fewer than 20 during the remainder of Oct and Nov. Following ten on 17 Nov, the last of the year was a single bird on 16 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
–	–	–	100	12	–	–	1	41	300	10	1
–	–	–	20	12	–	–	2	20	19	5	1

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.

Singles on 25 Apr and 26 May were the only spring passage records. During autumn migration there were singles on five dates between 23 Sep and 5 Oct, followed by two on 24 Oct, 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	1	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	4	2	–	–

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

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

Singles on 26 & 30 May were the only spring-passage records. The only autumn record was of one ringed on 8 Oct.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.

A very sparse spring migration was recorded on 24 dates between 20 Apr (two) and 15 Jun (one), with a max of three on 30 Apr and 1 & 17 May. Autumn migrants were reported on 20 dates from 25 Aug (two) to 4 Oct (one). There was no reported evidence of breeding.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	3	1	–	4	15	1	–	–
–	–	–	7	16	1	–	5	13	1	–	–

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

In spring reported on ten dates from 12 Apr (one) to 17 May (one), with a max of three on 29 Apr. Autumn migrants were recorded on six dates from 28 Aug (one) to 30 Sep (one), with a maximum of two on 25 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
–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	8	2	–	–	1	5	–	–	–

Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata*

British vagrant. Breeds from central Russia, eastwards to western China; winters in South Asia. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One, mist-netted in Millcombe, was ringed and photographed on 1 Oct (John Haddaway & John Horton) – see colour plate 2. Record – a long overdue first occurrence of this species on Lundy – accepted by BBRC.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird mist-netted in Millcombe was ringed on 3 Sep (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor). Record accepted by DBRC.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus**Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring.*

During spring migration, recorded in small numbers between 21 Apr (one) and 25 Jun (one), with no more than three in a day, the exception being a late burst of seven on 26 May and four on 30th, reflecting the generally delayed season. Two were singing in upper Millcombe and in St John's Valley in late May, and there were virtually daily records of single birds during the first half of Jun (two on 5th), including mention of one singing in Millcombe on 13th & 14th. This is strongly suggestive of at least one territory-holding male, but there was no additional evidence of breeding. Autumn migrants were recorded on 12 dates from 3 Sep (one) to 24 Oct (one), with a max of three on 5 Oct. The late Oct sighting of one in Millcombe on 24th (Tim Davis) is the latest ever recorded on Lundy, the previous latest date being 21 Oct 2006.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	7	2	–	–	1	3	–	–
–	–	–	5	20	16	–	–	10	2	–	–

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum**British vagrant. Breeds from eastern Europe, eastward across Russia and Central Asia; winters in South Asia. Not previously recorded on Lundy or in Devon.*

One, mist-netted in Millcombe, was ringed and photographed on 3 Oct (John Haddaway & John Horton) – see colour plate 2. This is the first record of this species on Lundy and came hot-on-the-heels of another long-anticipated Lundy 'first', Booted Warbler, caught by the same ringing team two days previously (though that record remains subject to BBRC acceptance). The breeding range of Blyth's Reed Warbler is expanding westwards and this, together with improved identification and observer awareness, has led to a large increase in the number and frequency of British records in recent years. Record accepted by BBRC.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two on 25 Apr (Millcombe), singles on 1 & 25 May and three on 26 May were the only records during spring migration. In autumn there were singles on 26 Sep and 5 Oct, both mist-netted (St John's Valley/Millcombe) and ringed.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident.

In mid-Apr at least 32 singing males were located from the Devil's Lime Kiln and Landing Bay in the south, all the way to North Light, with the main concentration, as usual, being Millcombe/St John's Valley and the East Side south of Halfway Wall (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The only reported proof of breeding came on 22 Jul when two juveniles were seen near the Earthquake (Chris & Sharron Blackmore). The highest spring count was 40 on 20 May, while the autumn maximum was 52 on 26 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	1	2	16	40	7	15	17	22	40	52	12

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

A flock of about 100 roosted overnight in bushes next to Stonecroft on 4 Apr. Between 16 and 20 Apr, birds were seen entering presumed nest sites at Old Light, the Laundry, Barton Cottages and the Workshop. The total breeding population was estimated at 30 birds (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The highest counts during autumn migration were of 3,500 on 16 Nov, with 3,100 the following day. An adult male ringed on Lundy in Oct 2012 was killed by a cat in northern Germany in late Mar 2013, possibly already back in its breeding area, or perhaps still on migration and heading still further east (see also *Ringing Report*, p. 56).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100	100	50	100	50	30	30	107	80	200	3,500	50

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

A sparse spring passage, with singles reported on 22 & 24 Mar (the latter along the Lower East Side Path), two among the rocks at Jenny's Cove on 26 Mar, two (male and female) around the Quarries on 18 Apr, one on 19th and a female near North Light on 26th. In autumn, singles recorded on 19 Sep (a first-year male around the Quarries), 13 Oct and daily from 20–25 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	2	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	1	7	–	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

No evidence of any winter or spring-passage influxes, with the peak count of 17 in Apr probably made up largely or entirely of the island's breeding population. Singing males were defending at least a dozen territories in mid-Apr, mainly along the East Side, from the Beach Road below Hammers as far north as Tibbetts Point, with most in Millcombe/St Helen's Combe and around the Terrace. Successful breeding was confirmed when juveniles were seen in Jun. Very unsettled weather during the second half of Oct, with strong westerly winds, meant that the usual autumn influx was delayed, with no notable peaks until 80 on 16 Nov, but then seven other daily counts of between 20 and 56 between then and the end of the month. An adult female mist-netted in Millcombe on 23 Oct had been ringed in Norway as a first-year bird in Oct 2012 (see *Ringing Report*, p. 56 for full details).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	5	8	17	13	4	2	10	10	15	80	4

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

An influx during the second half of Jan brought a max of 50 on 19th, but no more than ten on other dates during the month. A trickle of spring passage involved singles on 13, 27 & 30 Mar, followed by sightings on five dates 3–11 Apr, with a max of five on 11th. The first reported autumn migrants were ten on 11 Oct. As with Blackbird, numbers were low until a mid-Nov influx brought 200 on 16th. There were regular double-digit counts from then to the end of the month, including 90 on 26th. The last of the year was one on 1 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
50	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	–	10	200	1
12	–	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	8	13	1

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Breeding resident in small numbers until 2009; common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather.

It appears that the handful of birds seen during the period Jan–Apr were all winter visitors and/or passage migrants. After two on 12 Apr, there were no further spring or summer records. Territory-holding singing males have not been heard since spring 2010, while successful breeding last occurred in 2009. It is thought that the recent run of cold winters is the likely explanation. In fact, the next report was not until 30 Sep when two were noted. There were scattered records of one to four birds in the first three weeks of Oct, followed by ten on 24th. Thereafter, recorded regularly but in low, single-digit numbers only.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	2	10	9	4
3	4	5	5	–	–	–	–	1	16	16	4

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

An influx from 18 Jan brought maxima of 200 on 19th and 50 on 18th & 21st. These were followed during spring migration by ones and twos on 11 widely scattered dates from 13 Mar to 22 Apr, and a further arrival of 200 – for one day only it appears – on 12 Apr. The last occurrence of the season was a single bird in Millcombe on 17 May. The first autumn arrivals were an impressive 200 on 11 Oct, coinciding with a large influx to Britain from across the North Sea on north-easterly tailwinds. A change to unsettled Atlantic weather during the second half of the month meant that these numbers were not maintained, though there were 60 on 24th and 100 on 25th. A new arrival brought 1,200 on 16 Nov – the highest count of the year – and there were six other counts of 50 or more between then and 1 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
200	–	2	200	1	–	–	–	–	200	1,200	50
11	–	3	9	1	–	–	–	–	13	16	2

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

During spring migration, singles were reported on 24 & 29 May. In autumn, recorded on four dates in Nov, with singles on 4th, 16th & 17th and two on 10th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.

Spring migrants were recorded on 23 days between 3 May (two) and 19 Jun (one), with maxima of ten on 18 May, 14 on 28th and 12 on 30th. In common with many other insectivorous migrants in 2013, the main passage appeared to be later than normal. In autumn, recorded on 39 days from 25 Aug (eight) to 8 Oct (one), with a maximum of 15 on 25 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
–	–	–	–	14	5	–	8	15	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	19	4	–	6	26	7	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Up to six potential breeding territories located 16–20 Apr, with singing males in Millcombe (three), St Helen's Combe (one) and Quarter Wall Copse (two). Breeding was confirmed when an adult was watched feeding a juvenile along the East Side below Quarry Cottages on 11 Jun. During autumn passage higher counts included ten on 22 Sep, 20 on 20 Oct and a peak of 23 on 23 Oct. The Nov max was ten on both 15th & 28th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	3	4	6	4	2	–	8	10	23	10	5

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One, thought to be a first-winter bird, was in St Helen's Copse on 8 Oct (Malcolm Shakespeare) with one in Millcombe the following day (John Horton *et al.*). On 10 Oct, two were seen together in Millcombe, feeding above the Casbah in shelter from north-east winds (John Haddaway & John Horton). Records accepted by DBRC.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

For the first time in many years there were no spring records. This is likely to reflect a combination of the cold, late spring that suppressed numbers of many migrants, but also sparse observer coverage – something that is obvious from the logbook entries. In autumn, recorded on 22 dates from 22 Aug (one) to 30 Sep (four), with a maximum of 11 on 25 Aug.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	14	–	–	–

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

One on 30 Jan (the first winter record since Dec 2009) was followed by singles on 24 & 29 Mar (the latter a female) and four in the shelter of the West Side, during a prolonged period of easterly winds, on 31 Mar (Mike Hopes). Thereafter, singles on 2, 6 & 28 May, the latter seen by Grant Sherman at Long Roost. Unusually scarce in autumn, the only record being of one on 24 Oct, a first-winter male around the farm buildings.

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	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	1	–	–

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Regular but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

A negligible spring passage with records on just three dates: 12 Apr (two males), 20 Apr (male) and 3 May (one; sex not reported). In autumn, reported on 13 dates from 25 Aug (two) to 30 Sep (one), with a maximum of four on 23 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
–	–	–	2	1	–	–	2	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	1	–	–	1	12	–	–	–

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

The only reported spring migrant was one at Quarter Wall on 27 Apr. In autumn, reported on 12 dates from 29 Aug (one) to 16 Nov (one), with a maximum of just two on 23 & 25 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	–	–	–	1	2	1	1	–
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	7	1	3	–

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

There was no reported evidence of breeding (successful breeding last occurred in 2009). Spring migration was sparse, with singles on five dates 8–27 Mar and two on 28th, followed by an isolated occurrence of a female near Old Light on 18 May. Thereafter, no further occurrences until autumn passage when there were records on 31 dates from 20 Sep (one) to the end of the year, with a maximum of 12 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
–	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	6	12	3	4
–	–	7	–	1	–	–	–	6	15	4	6

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first of the spring were two on 9 Mar, with up to six on 11 further dates until 28 Mar, followed by an influx of 20+ on 29th. Recorded virtually daily thereafter, with notable counts in Apr including 50 on 16th, 100 on 20th, 160 on 21st and 100 on 26th. While passage no doubt continued during May, the logbook totals do not suggest any sizeable new influxes over and above the island's breeding population. Nevertheless, three of 28 birds seen on 30 Apr were considered by the observer to be of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorrohoa*. Successful breeding was confirmed when the first fledgling of the year was reported on 7 Jun (Angus Tillotson). An adult carrying food above The Battery on 14 Jun was colour-ringed (pale blue above dark blue) on its left leg, with a metal ring on its right leg – part of a long-running project coordinated by Tony Taylor (for details see pp. 80–84). As a result of this work, the island's breeding population in 2013 was estimated at about 80 pairs – the highest ever recorded and likely to be attributable, at least in part, to the eradication of rats. An adult and 11 juveniles were seen along part of the West Side on 20 Jul. A female was still feeding a fledgling on the fairly late date of 8 Aug. There were no reports of particularly high counts during autumn passage, the max being 25 on 6 Sep. The last was one 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
–	–	20	160	30	48	14	15	25	5	–	–
–	–	13	25	24	19	11	9	13	10	–	–

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

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

Though formerly more numerous when rhododendron cover provided extensive nesting habitat, the island's small breeding population seems to be holding its own, with a max spring total of seven singing males (Millcombe and the Lower East Side Path as far north as the Terrace). The highest counts of the year were nine on 22 Oct and ten on 26 Nov. The 'dead hedges' of cut rhododendron have provided temporary substitute nest sites, but these are being progressively removed and burned. So long as overgrazing is prevented, there should be sufficient regeneration of native gorse and bramble to maintain a viable and even increasing population.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	7	7	1	–	–	2	9	10	1

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

Ninety different individuals were trapped by the Sheffield University research team during the period 21–27 Jan. In mid-Apr birds were seen taking nesting material into nestboxes in Millcombe, including dried grasses and gull feathers collected in St Helen's Field, while Issie Winney estimated the post-breeding population at 230 individuals (130 breeding adults and 100 young of the year) on 8 Aug. On 13 Nov, the team estimated the population to be about 200 individuals.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	20	20	30	69	140	30	230	80	70	200	30

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.

Spring migrants were recorded on 12 dates between 15 Apr (one at Pondsburry) and 22 May (one), with a max of three on 20 Apr. One of two birds seen on both 19 & 21 May (in South West Field on the latter date) showed characteristics of the nominate race Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*, which breeds in continental Europe (Mark Dyer). During autumn passage, recorded on nine dates from 26 Aug (one) to 22 Sep (one), with a max of two on 28 Aug.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	2	–	–	2	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	8	–	–	4	5	–	–	–

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

There were only three spring passage records, all of single birds, on 16 & 27 Apr and on the late date of 26 May. During autumn passage, recorded on 19 dates from 2 Sep (one) to 25 Oct (one), with a max of two on 21 & 27 Sep and 7 & 8 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	–	–	–	2	2	–	–
–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	10	9	–	–

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

[White Wagtail]

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

The first Pied Wagtails of the year were two on 5 Mar. Up to three were recorded regularly until 23rd when an influx brought ten to the island, followed by 11 the next day, ten again on 26th and 12 on 29th. The Apr max, again of 12, was on 19th. White Wagtails were recorded on 15 dates between 14 Apr and 28 May. Most counts were of one to three, but an influx in late Apr gave totals of nine, ten and 12 on 19th, 20th & 21st, respectively. An entry in the logbook noted: "Good movement; totals entered are minima; probably many more, but birds highly mobile and never more than four together. Seen from Devil's Limekiln to North East Point!" The highest combined count of Pied & White Wagtails during spring migration was 21 on 19 Apr. Breeding was proven when fledglings were seen on 12 & 13 Jun. On the latter date, two juveniles were being fed by both parents in the Campsite. An adult was feeding two fledglings in lower Millcombe on 20 Jul. The highest count during autumn migration was ten on 23 & 27 Sep and 24 Oct. White Wagtails were recorded on seven dates from 27 Aug to 25 Oct, with a max of three on 27 Aug (feeding among ponies outside Barton Cottages) and 1 Sep (feeding among sheep near Old Light).

Maximum count for each month (top row = Pied Wagtail; bottom row = White Wagtail)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	12	12	4	6	4	10	10	10	2	–
–	–	–	12	2	–	–	3	3	1	–	–

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One flushed from grassland on the Airfield on 24 Oct flew off southwards with Meadow Pipits (James Diamond). Record accepted by DBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

In spring, recorded in Apr only, on five dates from 15th to 29th. The highest counts were also on these two dates: three on 15th were all in Millcombe/St John's Valley/Castle Hill area, while four on 29th were all on the sides of St John's Valley. During autumn passage, recorded on eight dates from 25 Aug (two in Millcombe) to 11 Sep (two), with a max of four (flying together and calling over upper Millcombe) on 3 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
–	–	–	4	–	–	–	2	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	5	–	–	–	3	5	–	–	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

The first notable influx of the year was 20 on 20 Mar, followed by up to 50 from 23rd to 29th. The highest spring passage totals occurred in the first half of Apr, with 120 on 10th and 300 the next day. Numbers in May would easily have been accounted for by the island's breeding population. Adults were seen carrying food in mid-Jul. The highest counts during autumn passage were a relatively modest 100 on 29 Sep, 200 on 4 & 6 Oct and 130 on 24 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	10	50	300	77	15	15	65	100	200	15	12

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One in the Castle Hill area 25–27 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

Once again this species was greatly under-recorded owing to difficulty of access to much suitable habitat, particularly during the breeding season.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	3	10	15	2	8	6	5	8	4	6

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 totals shown in the table hint at a trickle of spring passage during Mar–May. Song was heard in Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse and below the Terrace in mid-Apr, and two were still singing in early Jun, but no proof of breeding was reported. The first tangible signs of autumn passage were 20 on 8 Sep and 25 on 10th. As usual, numbers picked up during the second half of Oct, but with totals only exceeding 100 on three dates and peaking at a lowly 600 on 24th, due to adverse weather conditions on most days. Oct 2013 was among the worst on record for visible Chaffinch migration – something that normally ranks among the highlights of the birdwatching year on Lundy.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	6	11	12	14	4	3	5	25	600	100	2

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no late-winter or spring passage records. In autumn, recorded on seven dates from 19 Oct (two) to 24 Nov (one), with a max of four on 24 Oct.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

A male calling from a perch above the Terrace on 19 Apr, in full song in Millcombe on 20th and last seen on 23rd, was the only record during the first six months of the year. In autumn and early winter, recorded on 13 dates from 22 Sep (three) to 18 Nov (one), with a maximum of 12 on 18 Oct.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Five on 5 Jan, followed by six on 1 Feb, four on 10th and two on 19th & 28th, then five on 9 Mar. A trickle of passage was noted in early to mid-April, followed by a small influx of 22 on 19th, but numbers were back to single digits by 21st and stayed that way for the rest of the spring. Probably bred; song was heard in Millcombe in mid-Apr and again on 6 Jun and a juvenile thought likely to have been hatched on the island was seen in St John's Valley on 20 Jul. Six adults were seen on the same date. The highest reported counts during autumn passage were 50 on 11 Oct and 100 on 24 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
5	6	5	22	7	4	7	25	20	100	14	4
1	4	1	18	23	12	6	7	22	19	15	8

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

The only spring migrants reported were singles on 19 & 20 Apr, nine on 30 Apr, and further singles on 28 & 31 May (the latter identified as a male). Very unusually, just five records were noted during autumn passage, on 6 Sep, 4 & 9 Oct and 17 & 26 Nov, all involving single birds, with the exception of six on the last date.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

The first of the year were two on 19 Feb, followed by a trickle of migrants (two to six in a day) in mid-Mar and early Apr. Numbers increased slowly from mid-Apr, with 15 on 13th, 31 on 17th and 65 on 18th, with nesting territories gradually being reoccupied. As is often the case, post-breeding flocks gathered in late summer, reaching peaks of 160 on 30 Aug and 120 on 1 Sep, after which counts declined, not exceeding 50 after mid-Sep, as migrants departed. The last report was of four on 29 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	6	65	62	10	30	160	120	50	8	–

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

[Common Redpoll]

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

Single migrants on 19 & 20 Apr were followed by a more notable influx in May, when ones and twos on 14 dates from 11th to 25th were followed by nine on 26th, two on 27th, six on 28th, eight on 29th and finally two on 30th, the last of the spring. Remarkably, the only autumn records were of singles on 9, 13 & 20 Oct.

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year male was singing in Millcombe on 28 & 31 May (Paul Holt, Philip Lymbery). A first-winter bird was mist-netted in Millcombe and ringed on 5 Oct. It was retrapped the following day, when a second bird, an adult female, was also mist-netted in Millcombe and ringed (John Haddaway & John Horton). Records accepted by DBRC.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis**Uncommon but regular autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; rare in midwinter; Devon rarity.*

Not recorded until the second half of Oct, when there were singles on 21st, 24th, 26th & 28th, with two on 23rd. Following one on 4 Nov, four were on the main track near Widow's Tenement on 9 Nov (John Hedger & Alan Rowland), with presumably the same group seen flying north at Halfway Wall on 17 Nov (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). Thereafter, singles on 24, 25 & 27 Nov, the latter at North Light the last of the year (Carole Clark). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

One flushed from ruts between Halfway Wall and Pondsbury on 22 Oct (James Diamond); two on 23 Oct near Tibbetts and over the Upper East Side Path south of Quarter Wall (Richard Campey, James Diamond); and two flying south over Castle Hill during a visible migration survey on the morning of 24 Oct (James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

At least three were seen/heard in and around Millcombe and St John's Valley, plus one on the Airfield, during an influx of diurnal migrants in the early morning of 24 Oct. In Nov, seen on four dates, with four on 23rd, two on 24th and singles on 28th & 30th. One on the unusual date of 28 Dec was the last of the year.

Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata*

[Myrtle Warbler]

British vagrant. Seventeen previous British records, the last of these in 2003. One previous Lundy record – in November 1960 – the first for Britain and Ireland. Breeds in the forests of northern and western North America, wintering from the southern part of the breeding range southward to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America.

One thought to be a first-winter bird, watched at close range in Millcombe for a few minutes on 28 October (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), showed characteristics of the eastern breeding population known as 'Myrtle Warbler' which has, at times and by some authorities, been regarded as a separate species. The arrival of this individual on Lundy was associated with the passage of a deep, fast-moving Atlantic depression, dubbed by the media the 'St Jude's Day Storm', which moved across southern Britain on the night of 27/28 Oct. Several other North American landbird species were recorded elsewhere in the UK around the same time, while another Yellow-rumped Warbler turned up in Co. Galway, Ireland, on 29th. Record accepted by BBRC.

BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the main list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below, but we do not cover the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary. Records for these areas should be submitted to Devon Birds.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

Two on 14 May, one on 8 Jun, four on 18 Jun (on crossing from Ilfracombe) and one approximately halfway between Bull Point and Lundy on 24 Aug.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Singles on 12 May and 16 & 25 Jul. Two approximately halfway between Bull Point and Lundy on 24 Aug.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

An adult was resting on a floating log about halfway between Lundy and Ilfracombe on 18 Jun.

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

About ten approximately halfway between Bull Point and Lundy on 24 Aug.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

One adult on the return crossing to the mainland on 16 Jul (Chris Baillie).

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated for the reasons given. We would be delighted to receive further information (e.g. brief description of bird, plus additional details of location and circumstances) that could enable any of these reports to be confirmed.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis* – one reported as seen from *MS Oldenburg* about four miles from Lundy on 21 Sep (insufficient supporting information; no contact details for observer).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* – twelve reported off North Light on 31 Jul (no supporting information for an unusually high daylight count from the island).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – singles reported on 20 Feb (Middle Park) and 17 Jun (no supporting information or observer names; a very rare species on Lundy).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* – one on 26 May (no supporting information or observer name).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* – one reported on 18 Jun (no supporting information or observer name for what has become a depressingly rare species on Lundy, at a time when several Collared Doves were on the island).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* – two reported on 5 Oct (no supporting information; a very unusual date, especially for two to be seen on one day).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – one on 2 Sep (insufficient supporting information for an exceptionally rare bird on Lundy).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* – one reported on 13 May (no supporting information or observer name; very rare on Lundy).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans* – one reported near Tibbetts on 17 May (brief view before it was chased off by a Common Whitethroat); though confident of the identification the observer could not relocate the bird and did not feel they had sufficient information to sustain a formal submission.