

A photograph of a seal resting on a beach of smooth, grey pebbles. The seal is lying on its side, facing towards the bottom of the frame. Its fur is dark grey with some lighter patches. A semi-transparent dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing the text 'Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2017' in a light blue, sans-serif font.

# Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2017



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The opinions expressed in the Annual Report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Lundy Field Society.

Edited by Keith Hiscock

Production by Tim Davis

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**[www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk)**

# LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

(67<sup>th</sup> Report)

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2017

President:	DIANA KEAST	
Vice Presidents:	PROFESSOR JENNIFER GEORGE JOHN HARMAN DR KEITH HISCOCK DR MYRTLE TERNSTROM BEM	
Chairman:	DR KEITH HISCOCK	
Vice Chairman:	ALAN ROWLAND	
Honorary Secretary:	MICHAEL WILLIAMS	
Honorary Treasurer:	ROGER CHAPPLE	
Honorary Membership Secretary:	SANDRA ROWLAND	
Committee:	ANDREW CLEAVE MBE BELINDA COX ANDRÉ COUTANCHE CHRISTOPHER DEE PROFESSOR TOM DICKINS TREVOR DOBIE PROFESSOR JENNIFER GEORGE PROFESSOR JOHN HEDGER TIM JONES DIANA KEAST CHRIS WEBSTER	(2015-2018) (2016-2019) (2015-2018) (2015-2018) (2016-2019) (2015-2018) (2015-2018) (2015-2018) (2016-2019) (2015-2018) (2015-2018)

Lundy Marine Protected Area  
Advisory Group Representative: ROBERT IRVING (co-opted)

#### Non-Committee posts:

Island Representative: GRANT SHERMAN  
Bird Ringing Coordinator: TONY TAYLOR  
Editor, Annual Report: TIM DAVIS



*Myrtle Ternström pictured with Derek Green on the Jetty, 26 May 2012, at the start of the first LFS Discover Lundy week. Read Myrtle's obituary on page 21. © Alan Rowland*



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## EDITORIAL

This editorial starts by thanking Tim Davis for managing, improving and publishing the Annual Report for the past six years. In that time, the layout and style has been made more attractive and the report has benefited from a generous number of colour plates.

For me as the new editor, dissecting the LFS logbook to pull-out records is a fascinating but tedious task. Dean Jones (Lundy Warden) has helped the section editors tremendously by doing that. Thankyou.

The most substantial part of the report is the 'Birds on Lundy' and Tim Davis with Tim Jones continue to pull all of that information together.

Every year seems to bring surprises. I thought that we must have covered all the 'ologies over the years but Sam Bosanquet demonstrates that there are still taxonomic groups that are not well covered by specialists. His list of 141 species of bryophytes [mosses (Bryophyta), liverworts (Marchantiophyta) and hornworts (Anthocerotophyta)] is remarkable.

This year, the records of fauna and flora are compiled by section editors – members who are specialists in relevant groups of species – and we have added an introductory paragraph to each list to highlight unusual or special finds and events.

The LFS logbook in the Tavern remains our key source of observations by visitors to the island. Do seek it out, enter your observations and indicate who you are (we may need to contact you if your observation is unusual or special). I have (as a marine biologist) been especially impressed by the number of records of porpoise and dolphin – some collected in a way that will allow future comparisons. However, a problem for me is that many fascinating observations are made by divers, anglers and boat owners who either do not make it to the Tavern and, if they do, are almost certainly unaware of the logbook. To help address that challenge, Dean Jones has created a Facebook page (Lundy Marine Sightings) for marine observations that those on boats can access from their vessel or when they get home. They will still need a nudge to post those observations.

So, just where does 'Lundy' extend out into the sea? We thought about the question when the Lundy Marine Fauna lists were being compiled in the early 1970s and determined that it was the area likely to be affected by the presence of the island in accelerating tidal currents, providing shelter from wave action and influencing the character of sediments. The area is 23 km east to west by 15.5 km south to north between Longitude 4°30' to 4°50' W and Latitude 51°07' to 51°15' N.

If you overhear someone speaking of a fascinating find, do ask them to make an entry in the logbook.

For those 'special' species or observations of behaviour, if you have images that you would be willing to have used to illustrate the report, please do send them.

KEITH HISCOCK  
May 2018

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

It may seem strange that I am writing both the editorial for this Annual Report and the Chairman's Foreword. At the AGM in 2017, I informed the Committee that I would stand down as Chairman at the 2018 AGM. Ten years as Chairman would be quite enough for me (and for you). Time for some new blood. Also in 2017, Tim Davis indicated that he wished to hand-on editorship of the Annual Report and, without other volunteers, I put my hand up.

Early in 2018, we welcomed Dean Jones and Siân Scott as Warden and Assistant Warden. Both have been extremely active in helping visitors enjoy Lundy and find out about its history and natural history. Their support for the LFS is greatly welcomed. LFS members who have specialist interests on Lundy have also been more active in guiding visitors and giving talks when they are on the island and that is also very welcome.

The past ten years has been an exciting one for the Society and for me. I started my chairmanship badly by announcing that I couldn't chair the 2008 AGM as I would be diving in Antarctica – thank you to a slightly bemused Jenny George for taking on the role that year. I have relied almost entirely on the excellent work of the Committee to ensure that the LFS thrived. The LFS also benefits greatly from the collaboration that we have with the island management and thanks to the whole Lundy team for their support.

Over the past ten years, members will have noticed an evolution in several aspects of the LFS which I hope you find favour with. We have become much more 'electronic'. We have developed the website into a very significant source of information about the Society, its activities and its publications, we use e-mail frequently to communicate with the membership, we have a Facebook page. We find ourselves in a good position financially and are pleased to now contribute to the cost of the conservation team on the island. We contribute to the work of the Lundy Management Forum. We have 'Discover Lundy' weeks for members. We give grants for research and to help with capital expenditure on equipment. I do not do all those things but your Committee do.

It's not all fun. Sometimes a Chairman has to move quickly to bring a decision together. That happened over a period of about 36 hours in February when our declared support for the development of a St Helen's Centre had to be solidified into a pledge (in principle) to subscribe a large sum (£10,000) to the fund and so that Heritage Lottery money would be released. Our (your) money was to develop educational and research facilities. Whilst such urgencies seem the norm when dealing with the Heritage Lottery advisors, there were legitimate questions from Committee members about the process and a bit of a rough ride for the Chairman!

Good luck to the new Chairman and to everyone who enjoys and contributes to our knowledge of Lundy.

KEITH HISCOCK  
May 2018

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Inevitably, after a busy year in 2016 celebrating our seventieth anniversary, 2017 was a much quieter one. Nevertheless, it has been a productive and successful year.

Three grants were awarded in 2017: Nathaniel Legall received £280 to continue his research into Lundy's pygmy shrews, Linda Losito & Bob Cowley received £500 for their study of the dung beetles and Tony Taylor received £116 to support a student who is analysing bird ringing data (see below). For some years, it has been difficult to budget grant allocations as we could not predict how many applications would be received in a year. We have reviewed the way in which grants are allocated and will now seek grant applications up to the end of October before considering all applications together for an award.

We also made a further contribution of £1000 to assist with the funding of the Warden's post. Progress has been made with discussions about setting up an endowment fund and will continue during 2018. The Society had also donated £10,000 to the church project to restore the building as St Helen's Centre from which the Society will benefit by providing a base for study as well as providing a centre for exhibitions and lectures.

There were three working parties during 2017. The first, in February, was prevented from reaching Lundy for four days by fog. Eventually, a party of eight set to work doing rhododendron seedling searches, bench renovation, transplanting trees from the nursery to side lands and recycling pallets into kindling for the shop. One new member, Vicky Edwards who was visiting for the first time, became the Assistant Ranger for the season. In June, the conservation break focussed on bracken control and quadrat surveys. In October, a good deal of growth was cleared from Millcombe Pond, some fencing was installed on top of walls near the water tanks, unwanted plant growth was removed from above Millcombe Gardens and Kevin Walsh, the farmer, was helped to gather his crop of silage from many places where ex-hurricane Ophelia had deposited it.

The Society continues to contribute to activities on the island including talks in the Wheelhouse, fungi forays and moth trapping and bird ringing demonstrations. We have a really excellent relationship with both the Warden and Ranger teams on Lundy.

Chris Dee has been revamping the LFS website and this went live in early 2018. In addition to all the information from the old website, the wildlife and history sections have been supplemented with new information. We hope it continues to be an appealing and useful resource.

2018 will see 25 years of study of the Lundy Cabbage by Steve Compton and Roger and Rosy Key. This will be their last year of doing annual counts and we hope they will provide an account for publication of what has been going on in that time. Steve comments that they produced a report about ten years ago when the picture was very clear and they should have stopped then, as cabbage numbers have become chaotic since!

There was little marine research work in 2017 although there was a significant programme of sampling and survey undertaken by Natural England and the Environment Agency and described in the Report of the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group later in this Report. The LFS logbook included a great many very welcome records of porpoise and dolphin around the island. Like the rest of south-west England, Lundy received a rare influx of Portuguese man o'war hydrozoan jellyfish in the autumn.

The long-term ringing study of Manx Shearwaters continued, with 242 adults and 121 young birds newly ringed, and 154 previously-ringed adults caught. These all contribute to our understanding of the population dynamics of Lundy's breeding colony. A pair bred successfully in one of the artificial burrows installed in 2016, allowing more detailed study of their breeding biology. During nocturnal work on shearwaters, Storm Petrels were encountered on several occasions, providing evidence that these seabirds are taking advantage of Lundy's rat-free status and establishing a breeding colony on the island.

As part of the BTO's national study of adult survival in Wheatears, 51 birds were newly colour-ringed and 48 that had been ringed in previous years were re-sighted. This project also helps us to calculate the size of the island's population: 2017 was a record year, with an estimated 121 pairs breeding.

The ringing of migrant songbirds in spring and autumn continued, contributing towards the national effort to understand their movements and monitor their populations.

A Master's degree student from Imperial College, London, started a project analysing the Society's 10,000 ringing records for Chaffinches caught on Lundy since 1972, comparing the resident breeding population with the migrants from Northern Europe that pass through in autumn. We hope to publish a report on this work in a future volume of the Journal.

Jenny George has continued to edit the Journal, with assistance from André Coutanche as production editor and the sixth volume was published at the end of February 2018. Tim Davis retires as editor of our Annual Report. His contribution over the past six years has been substantial, and Tim has transformed the report into the attractive publication that we are all familiar with. Thank you, Tim.

Keith Hiscock will be standing down as Chairman after completing eleven years in office. This is actually Keith's second stint as Chairman, having previously held the role for three years from 1985. Keith's contribution to the Society and its administration has been significant not least in his marine work and representing the Society's interests at the Lundy Management Forum and the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group during his current tenure. What you may not know is that Keith has been active in Society matters for over 45 years having been elected to



*The LFS Committee at a strategic planning workshop facilitated by Paul James during the Residential Committee Meeting in May. Image: Keith Hiscock.*



the Committee in 1973 having already served as chairman of the 'Marine science sub-committee' since 1971. Keith will continue his support for the Society by taking over from Tim Davis as Annual Report editor. Thank you for such dedication to Lundy and the LFS.

We held a committee meeting on Lundy in May and in 2018 we plan to try a number of new locations for meetings and we are experimenting with using technology to enable further flung committee members to participate in meetings. Looking to the future, we expect to publish the long-awaited guide to Lundy fungi in the autumn and Andrew Cleave is preparing a book about the island's flora.

None of what has been achieved would be possible without our members. Whether you have participated in a working party, purchased a publication or simply paid your subscription, we would not be able to undertake all of these activities without your support. Thank you.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS  
March 2018

## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

A huge thank you to all members for paying their subscriptions during 2017 and also to members who have donated to the Society during the year. All donations are very much appreciated by the Society, no matter how large or small, and they all help to fulfil the Society's aims. Please remember to gift aid your subscriptions and donations as this also helps the Society.

### **Subscription and membership news**

Subscriptions become due annually in January, and may I remind you that our preferred method of payment is by standing order, however if you prefer to pay by cheque please make your cheque payable to the LFS and post it to me at the address below, or if you would like to set up a standing order then also please contact me and I will send you the appropriate form. A reminder that the subscription rate is currently £25 for individual members and £28 for family membership. A student membership is also available to members or potential members beginning a degree course, the reduced rate for students is £15, which we hope will encourage future members.

In 2017 I sent out 51 reminder letters by post and by email to non-payers, and also to a few members who had not updated their subscription rate. At the end of the year the 28 members who had not responded to my letters had their details removed from the Society's database in order to comply with data protection rules. Those members will be welcomed back to the Society should they wish to rejoin.

Membership of the Society remains healthy, the total number of addresses on our database at the end 2017 was 357, which means that membership stands at around 463 if you count just two members for each family membership. The Society also sends its publications to 16 institutions which includes the legal deposit libraries as well as other libraries, the RSPB, BTO and The Landmark Trust.

The Society has been informed of four members who sadly passed away during 2016:

Dr Myrtle Ternström BEM – obituary page 21  
Mr Keith Hand  
Mr Douglas Penny  
Miss Jacqueline Cummins

### **New members**

Twenty-two new members joined the Society in 2017, we welcome them all. The list below shows the names of new members and their main interest if given.

### **Archaeology**

Jeremy and Pamela Disley  
Teresa Davies and Jane Sharkey

### **Conservation Breaks**

Michael Lenz  
Vicky Edwards  
Nick and Sophie Cooper  
Danielle Agnew  
Anna Lenz  
Megan Adams  
John and Sue Hadon  
Malcolm Lee  
Julie Schroeder  
Susan Smith  
Nick Bigwood  
Robert Hendry  
Pat Doody  
Marie Thomas  
Steve Hodgson  
Hannah Swann

**Orthoptera**  
**Lundy Sparrows**  
**Frogs and Fungi**  
**Ornithology**  
**Lundy**

### **Keep in touch**

Please inform me if you change your postal address so that I can keep the membership database up to date and you do not miss any of the Society's annual or biennial publications that are part of your membership benefits. Likewise please let us know if you change your email address so that you do not miss any information that the Secretary might send out. Please do visit our website at [www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk) for up to date information, where you may read or search our on-line publications and also view our list of publications available for purchase. You might also like to visit the Society's Facebook page for more informal information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any membership queries:

By post: Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR  
Email: [membership@lundy.org.uk](mailto:membership@lundy.org.uk)

SANDRA ROWLAND  
March 2018

# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

## LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2017

INCOME	Year End 31/12/2016	Year End 31/12/2017
Subscriptions	£ 7,783.00	£ 7,549.00
AGM Auction	£ 639.00	£ 454.50
Donations	£ 1,946.27	£ 2,063.47
Legacy	£ 500.00	£ -
Bird Ringing	£ 84.60	£ 366.40
Conservation Break Deposits	£ 160.00	£ 272.00
Gift Aid	£ 1,391.20	£ 1,552.14
PayPal	£ 30.00	£ -
Bulletin Donation and Advertising	£ 100.00	£ 150.00
Sales	£ 127.02	£ 707.23
Discover Lundy 2016	£ 2,555.00	-
DL2016 Dinner	£ 1,395.00	-
DL2016 Covers	£ 67.00	£ 38.50
Car Stickers	£ 4.00	-
<i>Protecting Lundy's Marine Life</i>	£ 84.10	£ 11.50
<i>The Harman Family's Lundy</i>	£ 326.22	£ 472.01
<i>Island King</i>	£ 215.30	£ 376.00
AGM Lunches Sold	£ 360.00	£ 320.00
Jennett's Trust	£ 170.00	£ 2,040.00
Postage	-	£ 32.50
Committee/Guest Lunches	-	£ 132.90
Wright Book Sales	-	£ 169.00
Interest	£ 179.19	£ 141.40
Stock Movement	-£ 296.67	£ 114.03
<i>Brought forward from previous year:</i>		
- DL2016 Deposits	£ 8,655.00	-
- Subscriptions	£ 587.00	£ 570.00
- Conservation Breaks	£ 260.00	£ 240.00
- Creditors Paid 2016	£ 858.97	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£ 28,181.20</b>	<b>£ 17,772.58</b>

## LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2017

EXPENDITURE	Year End 31/12/2016	Year End 31/12/2017
Discover Lundy 2016	£ 9,556.45	-
AGM Boniface Centre	£ 170.00	£ 170.00
AGM Catering	£ 580.00	£ 580.00
AGM Expenses	£ 23.10	£ 63.22
Bird Ringing	£ 343.25	£ 1,010.25
Annual Report	£ 1,355.00	-
Bulletin	£ 822.00	£ 1,005.00
Journal	£ 2,634.00	-
Grants	£ 900.00	£ 801.33
Conservation	£ 2,030.50	£ 2,035.00
Stationery	£ 136.04	£ 69.79
Postage	£ 1,130.25	£ 392.20
Pop Up Signs	-	£ 319.99
Website Expenses	£ 23.99	£ 85.93
Refunds from DL2016	£ 1,142.50	-
DL2016 Dinner	£ 1,395.00	-
70th Anniversary Plaque	£ 400.00	-
Computer	£ 558.97	£ 89.98
<i>Island King</i>	£ 341.04	£ 165.00
St Helen's Centre Appeal	£ 60.00	£ 10,000.00
Lundy Warden	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00
Committee/Guest Lunches	-	£ 181.92
Membership Leaflets	-	£ 153.00
LFS Library	-	£ 380.00
Provision for 2016 Annual Report costs	-	£ 1,768.55
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 24,602.09</b>	<b>£ 20,271.16</b>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 3,579.11</b>	<b>-£ 2,498.58</b>

## LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2017

ASSETS	Year End 31/12/2016		Year End 31/12/2017	
Stock	£	1,475.97		£ 1,590.00
NS&I Account	£	30,004.03		£ 30,145.42
Current Account	£	9,936.23		£ 8,541.33
Reserve Account	£	9.07		£ 9.08
2017 Computer Service Agreement (paid in 2016)	£	59.99		-
Debtor – PayPal Balance Misc. Sales		-		£ 126.43
		£ 41,485.29		£ 40,412.26
<b>LESS</b>				
Advance Subscriptions	-£	570.00		-£ 227.00
Advance Conservation Deposits	-£	240.00	-£ 810.00	-£ 467.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		£ 40,675.29		£ 39,945.26
Less Creditors – Annual Report 2016				-£ 1,768.55
				<b>£ 38,176.71</b>
Balance b/f	£	37,096.18		£ 40,675.29
Surplus/Deficit for year	£	3,579.11		-£ 2,498.58
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		£ 40,675.29		<b>£ 38,176.71</b>

The above tables are the summaries given at the Annual General Meeting in Crediton on 10th March 2018.

ROGER CHAPPLE  
Honorary Treasurer  
March 2018

### LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION FOR 2017

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2017, and I can report that the figures presented to me by the Treasurer, in my opinion, represent fairly and accurately the overall financial situation of the Society for the financial year.

BILL WILLIAMS  
Honorary Independent Examiner  
5 February 2018

## LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2017 was a successful year for Lundy with *Oldenburg* completing 96 of her 100 scheduled sailings, 11 of which were full to capacity. She carried some 16,870 passengers over the year, an increase of 8.7% on 2016. The ship also completed three river cruises, two Lundy charters and five relocation cruises from Bideford to Ilfracombe. The winter helicopter service had a steady season with 36 scheduled flying days of which three were cancelled due to fog. The helicopter carried 1283 passengers, a slight decrease on 2016. The total attendance for both ship and helicopter was 18,153, an overall increase on 2016 of 6.4%.

As well as *Oldenburg's* regular sailings to Lundy, we enjoyed visits from the cruise ships *Ocean Nova*, *Hebridean Sky* and tall ship, *Pelican of London*. MV *Balmoral* paid us a visit at the beginning of the season but unfortunately suffered mechanical problems which cut her season short. Sadly we have learned that she requires considerable investment to bring her back into service and it's unlikely that she will visit Lundy again. PS *Waverley* was due to visit in September, however bad weather forced the cancellation of the trip.

At the end of the season *Oldenburg* sailed up the Bristol Channel to Sharpness for her annual dry docking and spent four weeks undergoing repairs and maintenance. In total we invested £139k to the ship this year to keep her in service.

At Hartland heliport the long serving fuel tank was replaced by a larger 10,000 litre stainless steel tank which will serve the heliport well for many years to come. To protect the new tank from the elements a purpose built shed was constructed on the bund.

The island's maintenance programme continued and following the success of the fog battery consolidation in 2016, we were fortunate to receive funding from Historic England to carry out works to the undermined and eroded historic defence at Brazen Ward. Materials had to be bought in by sea due to the remote and difficult to access location and a site was established with scaffold access in order to carry out vital repairs.

Island properties enjoyed a good year with occupancy of our letting properties at a healthy 86.5%. Further improvements were carried out to many properties including a new roof and skylight to Castle Cottage and several properties had new kitchens and bathrooms fitted.

Sadly we said goodbye to our resident decorator Keith Ward after some 18 years of service to the island. We wish Keith a long and happy retirement back in Ilfracombe.

The island farm had a good year with the long and anticipated arrival of two new foals, North Star and Helena.

2017 saw the issue of one of the best sets of Lundy stamps in recent years with the production of Lundy Birds by local wildlife artist Sharon Read. The set quickly proved popular with sales hitting all time high.

The island hosted a number of events over the year including a visit by the Lundy Collectors Club, our annual 'lympics, two weddings, a climbing festival, our annual fly in and two all island birthday celebrations including LFS Secretary Michael Williams in December.

Back on the mainland, the marketing team visited all of the notable events with our exhibition trailer across the summer, flying the flag for Lundy.



St Helen's Church was fortunate to finally receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund following a prolonged campaign which culminated on 15th March with the awarding of just under one million pounds. Work began almost immediately with Splitlath building conservation Ltd having been awarded the main contract. Over the summer the roof and rainwater goods were replaced, the cavity walls emptied, the iconic east window reinstated and the tower refurbished. Internally the vestry has been transformed to small, but comfortable accommodation for two and there are plans to utilise the nave for a new interpretation exhibition. As part of the project the 'St Helens Centre' will also deliver a range of activities to involve a broader section of the community and Siân Scott, our seasonal warden from 2017, has been employed to deliver the activity plan. It is anticipated that the activity plan will be fully in place by the end of the 2018 summer season.

During the course of 2017, talks continued with the National Trust on the future of Lundy and the renewal of the islands lease. It's recognised that the island will require significant capital investment to its infrastructure in the coming years and so, to help inform a future strategy for Lundy, consultants were engaged to assess and recommend solutions for the islands power, water and transport. At the time of writing discussions continue and it is anticipated that agreement will be reached during the course of this coming year.

I would like to thank the Field Society for their continued support and advice and look forward to working in close partnership during the course of 2018.

DEREK GREEN  
April 2018



*The church encased in scaffolding during the repairs and refurbishment that were undertaken in 2017. Image: Keith Hiscock.*

# CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Dreich would be the word of choice if I were asked to define the island during my first few weeks. Prolonged thick fog, mist and squalls swathed the isle during this unforgettable period, conditions which vetoed Zoë and my plans of exploration and the chance to kick off my Lundy bird list. Even though the wet and windy weather prevailed throughout the winter months and the first part of spring, all-in-all, 2017 was a rather dry year compared to most: 69.95ml below the island average to be precise (1971–2017). Great news for the sandal-clad day-tripper but not so good for some of the island's wildlife and the often pungent staff members when water levels became worryingly low by midsummer.

As the first Skylark erupted into the heavens to signal the start of spring, all plans and preparations were set for what became a very busy season indeed. Thankfully I had some extra heads arrive in early April to accompany me on my road of Wardenship. This came in the form of Nick Herbert who took over the helms of the island strimmer, spray-pack and spade as the island's new Ranger. A short while later the wonderful Vicky Edwards joined us as the year's Assistant Ranger, after she was won over by the island during the February LFS work party. Then, last but not means least, the little but loud Siân Scott from the Valleys arrived in late April as the Lundy's new Assistant Warden.

The Conservation Team does not stop there however! I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone and anyone who helped the team out in anyway throughout the year. This includes team *Fratacula* which was composed of the delightful duo of Bethany Pihama and Jack Daniels, who both helped out with the island's biosecurity and seabird surveys during the summer months. Likewise, a massive thank you to all the Ranger cronies (Callum Girvan, Natalie Harrison, Joe Reynolds and Ian Davidson), all of the boat, island and shore office staff for their endless support and devotion to the isle – in particular Emily Trapnell, Zoë Barton and Chloë Lofthouse for keeping our lovely Landing Bay beach clean of plastic waste. Then we have all of the bird ringers, researchers, students, visitors and all the lovely folk who entered data into the LFS logbook to acknowledge, all of which have helped us understand our island and its wildlife that little bit more. Lundy thanks you all!

Lest we not forget the delightful LFS and National Trust work party volunteers, whose enthusiasm and dedication to the island always exceeds our expectations. A total of three LFS work parties occurred throughout 2017, in June, October and February, the latter of which was unfortunately cut short by four days due to prolonged foggy weather. The parties helped out with a huge variety of tasks, including annual bracken surveys, Rhododendron searches, the clearing of Millcombe pond, and fixing up the allotments, as well as that spontaneous 'day-of-hay' clearance, a gift left scattered throughout the village by the unyielding storm Ophelia. Two National Trust work parties also joined us in March and October for a week at a time. During their stay the team also helped out with Rhododendron seedling searches, some tree planting and the upkeep of the island's allotments.

## Monitoring

I was lucky enough to join Katie Arnold from the Environment Agency and the Severn Guardian team on a day of grab sampling within Lundy's Marine Conservation Zone. The team also carried out drop-down video surveys to accompany these samples, with the goal of finding out how Lundy's surrounding marine habitats and species composition has changed within the MCZ since the last survey in 2012 (as well as the data from previous surveys), if at all. Fingers crossed we'll start receiving some of the results from this very exciting project at some point in 2018.

The quadrennial cliff-nesting seabird census work and Manx Shearwater playback surveys were also carried out in 2017. Although there were some complications with equipment and weather conditions throughout the study period, the surveyors did extremely well regardless and the



*Warden Dean Jones and Assistant Warden Siân Scott pictured in the Devil's Kitchen, where a series of Rockpool Rambles were held through the year. Image: Keith Hiscock.*

preliminary results look promising for the majority of the island's marine avifauna. A huge thank you to Peter Slader, David Price, AJ, Helen Booker and the rest of the RSPB and Natural England teams for battling through the downpours and harassment from the midges!

Annual productivity monitoring was carried out as usual, ending with good results for our Puffins and Guillemots but not so good for our Kittiwakes, particularly within the Threequarter Wall buttress site. Results can be found in the bird section of this report.

Our hugely important monthly biosecurity checks were carried out as usual, thankfully with no signs of any rats or mice being recorded in 2017. We did however have one scare from a couple staying in Brambles West, who were adamant that they had seen a big furry rat rustling within the undergrowth outside the building. Luckily for us this sighting was more than likely a young rabbit, but a poison grid and camera traps were put in place just to be safe. A huge thank you to Helen Booker (RSPB) for her continued support and for all her hard work producing the island's Biosecurity Plan, and to Karen Varnham (RSPB) for taking the time to look at all the problem poo sent via the Lundy postal service.

A biosecurity workshop was also carried out on the island, fronted by Karen who used some of the left-over funding from the Shiant's LIFE project to run a series of workshops for various island/reserve managers and conservation staff from around the country. The course had a lot of interest and included members of staff from Brownsea, Skomer, the Shiant's, the Scilly isles and the Farnes. The workshop involved working through a number of presentations and exercises in the comfort of Millcombe House, as well as a rather blustery day in the field with myself.

After a slow start to the season due to Nick Herbert having to go off to obtain his pesticide ticket, things picked up in the summer regarding our Rhododendron eradication project. A total of 3,772 plants were treated in 2017, most of which were found within section 12 (just south of the Terrace on the east coast) – unsurprising as this was the last area to be cleared of mature regrowth. Only nine flowering plants were found in 2017, all removed before seeding stage. Angus Tillotson and the ropeworks team also visited the island on two dates to treat plants on the East Side cliffs.

Following the existing bracken management plan, Nick tackled the bracken across South West field, Ackland's moor and Middle Park in late summer. This is the second consecutive year this has occurred in these areas so fingers crossed we will start seeing reduced coverage of bracken during 2018 survey.

A huge thank you to Roger & Rosy Key and Steve Compton for again carrying out the annual Lundy Cabbage surveys and for their dedication and enthusiasm towards this long-running project. The total number of Lundy Cabbage in flower in early June 2017 was about 6,800 plants, a 57% increase since 2016, with by far the greatest increases in the sub-populations at the extremes of the plant's range in the south and north of the island. The estimated total is 30% higher than the running average figure over the last 24 years. The team's very rough estimate of the overall number of plants, including those not in flower, was around 50,000 plants. The endemic Lundy Weevil *Ceutorhynchus pallipes* was found in abundance, but unfortunately the team was probably too early to see more than a single individual of the often elusive Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle *Psylliodes luridipennis*.

Lundy's rabbit population was nearly completely wiped out quite early in the season, including the South Light warrens which were thought to be isolated enough to avoid infection of what we believe was Myxomatosis. By the early summer you would have been very lucky to have seen a rabbit at all unless you were out at night with a torch. Some animals held on around Quarter

Wall, Threequarter Wall and below the North Light and by the end of the year were seemingly starting to recuperate, with increased sightings towards the end of 2017.

Peter Hamlyn and his team were over for a total of three weeks during 2017 in order to count and cull our semi-wild stock. The very poor weather at times prevented the group from getting out but they still managed to take a good number of animals. Results can be found in the Mammal section of this report.

### **Education, interpretation and events**

A total of ten groups from six different primary schools visited throughout the season, along with students from five different universities. The kids, students and accompanying staff were all wonderful and both Siân and I had a superb time getting to know everybody and to have the opportunity to teach them all about the wonders of Lundy. Special thanks to all the volunteers from the LFS for helping with the school visits in September, in particular Frances Stuart.

With the support of the LFS (namely Simon Dell, Frances Stuart and Grant Sherman), guided walks occurred on most boat days, mainly around the south end of the island. On longer days/non-boat days, walks to Jenny's Cove to see the Puffins, or along the east coast on days of westerly gales, took place. The 'Above and Below the Waves' illustrated talk had a re-vamp and, similar to the walks, were given on every Ilfracombe boat day.

A few special talks throughout the season included Simon Dell's delightful 'Lundy through time', Grant Sherman's Guillemot surveys and results, André Coutanche's 'The History of Lundy in 30 minutes' and 'A Little Kingdom: The Harman family's Lundy', and finally Ben Brownless did a superb talk on the Battle of Kohima. If you would like to do an educational talk yourself, please get in touch.

We had a number of Rockpool Rambles at the start of the season, followed by 28 hugely popular snorkel safaris days. A huge thank you to all who helped out with shore support on busy days and to receptionist Shelly Sherman for helping with bookings.

We also had some very popular special events, including 'World Seabird Day' which was aimed at raising awareness of the current problems our seabirds and the marine environment are facing. This involved taking visitors on a guided walk to see the Puffins in Jenny's Cove, as well as a Manx Shearwater night walk! In the autumn we also held two highly successful fungi forays led by John Hedger and Mandy Dee.

Siân has set up an Instagram page which we are updating frequently with photographs of the island, its wildlife and staff – an easy and enjoyable way to get your Lundy fix! Why not give us a follow?

With my Lundy bird list sitting at 118 species for the year, a cloak of trepidation and excitement for the upcoming season looms overhead. What wondrous wildlife encounters await me come the turn of the year? Only time will tell!

Hope to see you all at some point through the season!

All the very best,

DEAN WOODFIN JONES  
Lundy Warden  
June 2018



# REPORT OF THE LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP

The Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group (LMPAAG) provides a forum for the discussion of all matters relating to the island's waters and shores. The Group includes representatives from the Island (the Lundy Company/Landmark Trust), Natural England, the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA), Historic England, the Marine Management Organisation, Torridge District Council, the Lundy Field Society, the Marine Biological Association, MARINELife, local nature conservation groups, commercial fishing interests, dive charter boat skippers, local dive clubs and local sailing clubs.

The Group meets twice a year: in 2017 it met on 15 May on board the MS *Oldenburg* alongside Bideford Quay, and on 17 October at the Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club, Ilfracombe. The Lundy Field Society provides the secretariat for the LMPAAG. Through the Secretary, the Group brings matters of importance to the island's Management Forum (which also meets twice a year, usually immediately after the Advisory Group meetings), the decision-making body which manages both terrestrial and marine aspects of Lundy.

During the two meetings held in 2017, a variety of issues were brought to the attention of the Group and discussed. These are summarised below:

## **A change of Warden**

We welcomed Dean Jones as the new Warden to his first meeting of the Advisory Group in May (although he had been in post since the end of January). The Group's Secretary sent a letter of thanks on behalf of the Group to Beccy MacDonald for her considerable contribution to 'all things marine' on and off the island over the past 3½ years.

## **New mooring at Brazen Ward**

A new mooring was set in place off Brazen Ward at the start of the 2017 diving season, after considerable delays. It was well used during the summer and Derek Green in particular would like to thank Andrew Bengay, Leigh Hanks and others for sorting this out and for covering its cost. As archaeological repair work has been undertaken to the Brazen Ward defensive platform this summer, for which all materials had to arrive by sea, the mooring has proved particularly useful.

## **The updated (2017) Marine Management Plan for the MPA**

Following on from the work done by Beccy MacDonald on updating the existing Marine Management Plan in 2016, some further additions and editing work were completed by Robert Irving early in 2017 on behalf of Natural England. The Plan has now been officially 'signed off' by the island's Management Forum.

The main additions to the 2016 Plan are:

- a new section (2.4) explaining the day-to-day management of the MPA
- a table detailing the various designations and their monitoring/reporting requirements
- an infographic on how each feature page of the document is set out
- the addition of research references relevant to each feature
- the addition of a Glossary of terms and abbreviations
- the splitting of the cetacean and basking shark entries

- the withdrawal of the Devonshire cup coral as a feature and the insertion of branching sponges in its place
- a review of seabird sections (with RSPB and LFS approval)
- inclusion of the Code of Conduct, definitions of 'important' species & tidal stream information as Annexes
- a revised Zoning Scheme diagram (when it becomes available)

The intention is that the Lundy MMP is a living document which can be updated and changed in the future, as and when necessary and when resources to do so are available. The Marine Management Plan (2017) is now available on-line at: [www.landmarktrust.org.uk/globalassets/lundy\\_marine\\_management\\_plan\\_2017.pdf](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/globalassets/lundy_marine_management_plan_2017.pdf).

### **Update to the MPA's Zoning Scheme**

As mentioned above, in light of the new edition of the Marine Management Plan and changes to various D&SIFCA byelaws, it had been agreed to produce an update to the existing MPA Zoning Scheme (the last such update being in 2003 following the introduction of the No Take Zone). However, unexpected postponements of meetings of the IFCA's byelaw sub-committee had led to delays in agreeing the new byelaws, and so a re-drawing of the Zoning Scheme had had to be delayed too. It was hoped this would now be completed in 2018.

### **Natural England's concern about anchoring within the MPA**

The new Marine Management Plan makes mention of the possibility of introducing No Anchoring Areas within the MPA if it is shown that damage is being caused through the deployment of anchors to delicate benthic species such as branching sponges and sea fans. It was suggested that the whole MPA could be regarded as a No Anchoring Area, but this was felt to be excessive by both local dive clubs (who wanted to be able to anchor close to favourite dive sites all around the island) and by yacht owners (who wanted the opportunity to anchor in the lee given strong winds and choppy waters). It was agreed that an assessment be made of where anchoring currently takes place (at least where the most popular sites are), prior to raising this topic again at a future meeting of the Group.

### **Marine archaeological matters**

Unfortunately, plans to undertake an archaeological survey in September of what remains of the wreck of the HMS *Montagu* had to be postponed due to adverse weather conditions. The intention is to try again in 2017. The survey has been commissioned by Historic England after the possibility was raised (at the Advisory Group meeting in October 2016) of the wreck being designated a Protected Wreck, should it be found the additional protection this affords be warranted.

Regarding one of the island's other protected wreck sites, Alison James from Historic England indicated there were no plans to produce a virtual (on-line) tour of the *Iona II* wreck site, as had been done with several other protected wreck sites elsewhere off the English coast. These can be viewed on their website (<https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/visit/protected-wreck-dive-trails/>). However, the *Iona II* dive trail can be viewed at: [www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/iona-ii-dive-trail/](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/lundyisland/iona-ii-dive-trail/).

### **Offshore sediment survey**

A major seabed survey was undertaken this summer using the vessel *Severn Guardian*. Clare Miller (Natural England) later clarified that Defra had funded a drop camera and benthic grab

survey in 2017 which was undertaken by the Environment Agency in conjunction with Natural England and the Devon and Severn IFCA. The grab samples were taken off the east coast from nearshore to offshore areas and, off the north and west coasts from deep offshore sediments. The drop camera sites were mainly off the north, west and south coasts. Sediment samples will be analysed for their fauna, for particle size and five stations for polychlorinated biphenyls, polyaromatic hydrocarbons and heavy metals. Particular note was made of any invasive species and of any crawfish encountered. Results are due in 2018.

### **MARINELife survey report**

Each year, Rick Morris of the charity MARINELife provides the Group with a report of sightings of marine wildlife (chiefly cetaceans and seabirds) that have been seen from the *Oldenburg* during crossings to and from the island. A sightings volunteer is on board once a week during the summer months. The results of sightings made in 2016 are to be found elsewhere in this report, or can be found at: [www.marine-life.org.uk/ilfracombe-or-bideford-lundy](http://www.marine-life.org.uk/ilfracombe-or-bideford-lundy).

### **Welcome to new representatives and visitors**

Having had no representatives from the yachting or boating fraternity for quite a number of years, we were delighted to re-establish contact with two local clubs this year (North Devon Yacht Club and Ilfracombe Yacht Club) and to welcome their representatives to the October meeting.

We were also pleased to welcome Sue Wells from the National Trust (Marine Project Manager) to our October meeting. One of Sue's tasks is to see how the National Trust might expand its support of marine conservation and of MPAs in particular. It may come as news to many that the Trust is interested in marine matters, but this is largely due to the considerable length of coastline it now owns (778 miles). It also owns areas of the intertidal (often associated with coastal properties) and even some subtidal areas. Sue was also interested to observe how the MPA management structure at Lundy worked.

If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, I would be happy to raise them on your behalf.

ROBERT IRVING  
Honorary Secretary  
Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group  
[Robert@sea-scope.co.uk](mailto:Robert@sea-scope.co.uk)  
March 2018

## OBITUARY



### MYRTLE TERNSTRÖM 1930–2017

Myrtle, who was born in London in 1930, first visited Lundy in 1951, the year she married Tony Langham. She used to tell how Felix Gade looked her up and down and said, “You’ll do”, which she took – correctly – as a compliment. Many years later she was to spend much time with Mr Gade taking down his memoirs and then editing them with Tony Walker; the result was Felix Gade’s autobiography *My Life on Lundy* which is still sought after. Myrtle joined the LFS in 1952.

From this beginning, Myrtle (and Tony) enjoyed holidaying on Lundy whenever they could; they took a short lease on the signal hut adjacent to the castle (now Castle Cottage), and soon began researching the history of the island. This led to the publication of their first book, *Lundy – Bristol Channel* (1960) which was privately printed and which formed the basis for their next one, *Lundy* in the David & Charles Islands series (1970).

Myrtle’s primary interest was history, and she enjoyed spending time with Eileen Heaven hearing about Lundy during the Heavens’ period of ownership. She then spent two years transcribing Heaven family letters; her findings produced two more books, *A Lundy Album* (1980) and *Frivolling & Scurriffunging: A Lundy Gathering* (2004, Myrtle’s favourite book).

Seeking a fuller understanding of Lundy’s unique social and economic history, Myrtle undertook a PhD comparing Lundy’s history with that of North Devon over several centuries. Her determination to find out all the relevant information that could be had is evidenced by the fact that she taught herself Medieval Latin so that she could read and understand primary source materials. She was always grateful to those who shared information with her and was equally encouraging to those who wrote to her asking for information. Her PhD thesis, along with all her Lundy papers, is lodged at the North Devon Record Office in Barnstaple.

Over a period of some 40 years, Myrtle continued to write books on various aspects of Lundy's history, covering aspects such as the Heaven and Harman families and other owners of Lundy; the Nightingale Scandal; the Old Light; and the Castle. She also wrote academic papers on topics such as the granite industry and the lives and (sometimes questionable) antics of those historic characters associated with the island over the years.

Myrtle was elected a Vice President of the LFS in 1998 and served on its committee. She sought always to promote the development of the Society, both in its research and in increasing general awareness of, and interest in, Lundy. Myrtle was instrumental in arranging The Lundy Symposium, held at the University of Exeter in 2006 to mark the Society's 60th anniversary. She was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the Lundy Field Society in 2012.

Finally, despite trying to cope with the onset of Alzheimer's disease, she was able to make a significant contribution to the LFS book *The Harman Family's Lundy*, a project that gave her much personal pleasure as it was published to coincide with a significant birthday of her friend of 50 years, Diana Keast (daughter of Martin Coles Harman and joint owner of Lundy).

Myrtle will be remembered for her enduring affection for Lundy, her support for the LFS, and her many years of scholarship. She took pleasure in writing and receiving letters, and latterly e-mails, and was always excited to learn of further research being conducted.

#### **ALEX SANDERS & JENNY CLARK**

(Myrtle was author, co-author or editor of 12 books, published 12 articles in the Annual Report of the LFS, six articles in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, a chapter in *Lundy Studies* and a paper in the Journal of the LFS. Full references will be included on the LFS website.)

*Photo of Myrtle by André Coutanche.*



# BIRDS ON LUNDY 2017

by

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 146 species (147, subject to acceptance of a record of Little Bunting) were recorded during 2017. The all-time Lundy bird list increased by one species (to 327) when the British Birds Rarities Committee accepted the record of a Pallid Swift, seen over Millcombe on 25 October 2016; not only a first for the island, but also the first accepted record for Devon (see page 70).

### Spring migration

#### March

After a smattering of early migrants, the first significant widespread movement of the spring was noted on 22nd with the arrival of over 20 **Wheatears**, including the first three females of the year and three returning colour-ringed Lundy-breeding males. Also recorded were 130 **Meadow Pipits**, 46 **Skylarks**, six **Stonechats**, eight **Cormorants**, 12 *alba* **Wagtails**, seven **Sand Martins**, three **Black Redstarts**, six **Chiffchaffs**, an early **Willow Warbler**, 10 **Goldcrests**, a **Firecrest** and two **Redwings**. The first **Linnet** of the year was reported on 20th. There was a fall of 60+ **Chiffchaffs** on 23rd. Two **Jackdaws** on 24th & 25th increased to three on 26th and four on 27th, when all left to the north. **Manx Shearwaters** of breeding age were already visiting burrows at the Old Light colony on the evening of 25th. 110 **Sand Martins** and 25 **Swallows** moved north in the lee of the West Side on 26th and a **Grey Heron** flew over the Village. An influx of migrants on 27th included 20 **Willow Warblers**, the first three **Blackcaps** of the year, two male **Ring Ouzels**, 15 **Song Thrushes**, a female **Bullfinch**, and an **Osprey** drifting quickly north-north-east past the Castle and along the East Side, mobbed by gulls as it went. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on Pondsburry showed characteristics of the continental breeding race *Larus fuscus intermedius*. Numbers of **Puffins** in Jenny's Cove reached 99 (the first of the year having been seven rafting birds at Jenny's on 16th). Two of the **Robins** seen on 28th had the greyish tones and pallid orange breasts associated with continental birds.

#### April

Unsettled weather with showers and longer spells of rain at the end of March, gave way to predominantly dry and often sunny conditions during the first ten days of April, with high pressure ruling the roost. Clear skies brought frequently sunny days to the island, but chilly nights, whilst daytime temperatures were pegged back by winds mainly from the north and west, though there was a short-lived incursion of warmer, continental air during the weekend of 8th/9th. There was another **Osprey** on 2nd, an influx of **Swallows** on 6th & 7th (counts of 78 and 100 respectively), a modest arrival of 20 **Willow Warblers** on 7th, and first records for the year of single **Sandwich Tern** (1st), **Redstart** (9th) and **Grasshopper Warbler** (8th). In general however, visible migration was sluggish, as is often the case in fine weather, when birds tend to overfly Lundy having little need to make landfall on a remote island. Lingering winter birds included **Great Northern Diver**, **Red-necked Grebe** and the odd **Redwing**. Continued anticyclonic conditions, but a slack pressure gradient (with hardly an isobar contour showing between the Mediterranean and southern Britain on the pressure charts for 12/13 Apr) surely aided the arrival of Lundy's fourth

**Night-heron**, which flew past a startled Warden and other island staff as they bumped down to the Landing Bay by Landrover on 13th. It proved to be an elusive visitor, playing hide-and-seek around Lametor until 21st. Arrivals over the same period included a very early **Wood Warbler** (13th) and a male **Pied Flycatcher** (12th & 13th), both firsts for the year and both in Millcombe. The 17th brought the first **Sedge Warbler** of 2017 – in the iris bed in Millcombe Pond – and second **Tree Pipit**, this one on a more typical date, below the Battlements.

Writing in the logbook on 19th, Dean Jones noted: *“One of the best days yet. The first **Whitethroats** of the season were seen – one at Quarter Wall and one along the Terrace. Three **White Wagtails** were at the top of St Helen’s Field and a single **Fieldfare** was at Quarter Wall. Two **Sedge Warblers** were caught and ringed in Millcombe in the early morning, along with good numbers of **Blackcaps**, **Willow Warblers** and **Chiffchaffs**. Two **Lesser Redpolls** were feeding amongst a flock of seven **Linnets** above Benjamin’s Chair. A steady passage of **Swallows**, **Sand** and **House Martins** was noted, along with an obvious arrival of **Wheatears** (including a fabulous Greenland male). A beautiful male **Redstart** was catching insects along Quarter Wall.”*

In common with both Skokholm and Bardsey Bird Observatories, Lundy witnessed a substantial fall of warblers and other migrants on the morning of 20th, when thick cloud and patchy light drizzle moving south-east across Wales and the Bristol Channel grounded large numbers of birds after days of fine, dry weather. Chris Dee ringed 149 new birds, including 85 **Willow Warblers**, 29 **Blackcaps**, 16 **Chiffchaffs**, 16 **Sedge Warblers** and two **Grasshopper Warblers**. A British-ringed **Reed Warbler** was controlled (Lundy’s first Reed Warbler of the year) along with a **Sedge Warbler** bearing a French ring – see Systematic List and *Ringing Report* for details. Elsewhere there was a **Little Egret** feeding among rockpools off Lametor, two **Green Sandpipers** at various locations in the south of the island, two **Ring Ouzels** at the Quarries, a female **Redstart** in Millcombe, a male **Pied Flycatcher** at Brambles and a **Collared Dove** (present since 18th).

Continued good weather for mist-netting brought further excellent ringing totals, including 113 on 21st, 85 on 22nd, 118 on 23rd and 178 on 24th, before strong north/north-easterlies set in for a couple of days, reducing the activity of migrants and ringers alike. The total of 178 on 24th included 88 **Willow Warblers**, 24 **Blackcaps**, 16 **Chiffchaffs**, 14 **Sedge Warblers**, eight **Whitethroats**, two **Grasshopper Warblers** and one each of **Firecrest**, **Lesser Whitethroat** (first of the year), **Spotted Flycatcher** (also a first for the year) and male **Pied Flycatcher**. A male **Ring Ouzel** would also have featured in the ringing totals had it not managed to find its way out of a mist-net. A notable movement of hirundines during the afternoon of 23rd included 400 **Swallows**, 50 **Sand Martins** and 40 **House Martins**. Chilly northerly winds eased on 28th and another **Osprey** headed north off South West Point, whilst the first **Cuckoo** of the year was heard calling. The 29th saw an adult **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** in the Landing Bay and a male **Yellowhammer** at Quarter Wall. Also reported were one or two **Buzzards**, a **Jackdaw**, the first **Garden Warbler**, three **Pied Flycatchers** and a **Lesser Redpoll**. There was a steady passage of **Swallows**, conservatively estimated at 500. The month closed with the **Red-necked Grebe** still in the Landing Bay on 30th, along with four first-summer **Black-headed Gulls**. The day’s otherwise modest ringing total of 39 included a notable four **Redstarts** and five **Garden Warblers**.

## May

The first part of the month was dominated by cold easterly or north-easterly winds, which, as is typical for Lundy, often made conditions challenging for both observation and ringing. The 1st brought an intermittently singing **Scarlet Rosefinch** that evaded being seen during its brief morning stay in the Millcombe/St John’s area. Five **Swifts** (the first of the year), a **Short-eared Owl** (near Pondsburry), two **Jackdaws**, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** (in South West Field), a **Stock**

**Dove** and a late **Redwing** also put in appearances. The long-staying **Red-necked Grebe** in the Landing Bay bade farewell on 2nd, and a brood of newly fledged **Blackbirds** was in lower Millcombe, whilst a typically flighty **Hoopoe** was seen briefly in Gannets' Combe on 3rd. The 5th saw a significant movement of 145 **Swifts**, 565 **Swallows**, 123 **House Martins** and 30 **Sand Martins**. Flocks of **Swifts** were arriving along the West Side and crossing the middle of the island directly into the north-east headwind, whilst the hirundines tended to stay in the lee of the West Side. Among other arrivals were **Cuckoo** (2 or 3), **Garden Warbler** (1), **Redstart** (2), **Whinchat** (3), **Yellow Wagtail** (5) and **Tree Pipit** (2). Two female **Blue-headed Wagtails** joined **Yellow Wagtails** feeding among the ponies in Barton/St Helen's Fields on 5th & 6th, whilst clear skies, much lighter winds and higher temperatures on 7th gave a window of opportunity for delayed migrants to flood north. In line with observations along the mainland coast of North Devon, **Swallows** were particularly abundant, with a "highly conservative" estimate of 1,000 entered in the LFS logbook, alongside 400+ **House Martins** and 100+ **Sand Martins**. A **Wood Warbler** was in Millcombe.

There was a notable fall of 25-30 **Spotted Flycatchers** on 13th and a male **Subalpine Warbler** graced the Ugly on 14th. There were tantalising reports of a male **Golden Oriole** in Millcombe/St John's Valley on the afternoon of 16th and morning of 17th, but unfortunately no description or observer contact details were entered in the logbook. A very late **Fieldfare** put in an appearance on 17th. As expected, numbers of migrants dropped off during the second half of May, though there were still northward pulses of **Swifts**, hirundines, **Spotted Flycatchers** and a handful of warblers, among them two mist-netted **Chiffchaffs** that showed prominent pollen 'horns' suggesting these individuals were recently arrived from habitats well to the south of the UK and belying the species' reputation as an habitually early migrant. Unusual sightings included a **Hobby** on 21st and a **Little Egret** on 23rd and again on 30th. The month ended with the arrival of an RSPB-led team of volunteers to carry out the periodic island-wide census of breeding seabirds (see 'Breeding birds' panel below for a summary of results). They were greeted on 27th by a **Red-rumped Swallow**, seen over Quarry Beach and Millcombe, and seen on 28th over the Village. Not quite as rare, but still unusual for Lundy, was a **Rook** on 29th & 30th.

## June

The month got off to a fine start with an adult **Rose-coloured Starling** in St Helen's/Barton Field. Presumably the same **Red-rumped Swallow** seen on 27 & 28 May was over Lameton on 2nd and near Quarter Wall Copse on 3rd, whilst a late **Reed Warbler** also put in an appearance on 3rd. Single **Grey Herons** and **Golden Plovers** on three dates each were perhaps the first evidence of post-breeding dispersal and the onset of ornithological 'autumn'!

### First dates for spring migrants

13 March	Swallow, Wheatear	13 April	Wood Warbler
14 March	Chiffchaff, Firecrest, Tree Pipit	17 April	Sedge Warbler
15 March	House Martin	20 April	Reed Warbler
16 March	Puffin, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler, Ring Ouzel	19 April	Common Whitethroat
20 March	Black Redstart, White Wagtail	22 April	Whimbrel, Yellow Wagtail
27 March	Blackcap	24 April	Lesser Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher
08 April	Grasshopper Warbler, Common Redstart	28 April	Cuckoo
12 April	Pied Flycatcher	29 April	Garden Warbler
		01 May	Swift, Whinchat

## Breeding season

### Seabirds

The results of the RSPB-led breeding seabird census of cliff-nesting species were as follows:

Species	2008	2013	2017	% change 2013–2017
Fulmar	170	209	<b>227</b>	+9
Shag	63	112	<b>55</b>	-51
Kittiwake	151	127	<b>238</b>	+87
Guillemot	3,302	4,114	<b>6,198</b>	+51
Razorbill	1,045	1,324	<b>1,735</b>	+31
Puffin	14	80	<b>375</b>	+369

All of these species bred successfully in 2017. Breeding censuses of **Manx Shearwater** and large gulls will be completed in 2018. **Storm Petrels** were found to be nesting at North Light for the first time and there was again evidence of breeding in the vicinity of the Old Light shearwater colony, though successful breeding was not confirmed at either site.

### Landbirds

**Teal** bred successfully for the third successive year, with at least two different broods seen on Pondsburry in Jun. **Spotted Flycatchers** were confirmed breeding for the first time since 1997 when three fledged juveniles were watched being fed by adults at Quarter Wall Copse on 17 Jul. Successful breeding was also confirmed for: **Mallard, Oystercatcher, Woodpigeon, Peregrine, Carrion Crow, Raven, Skylark, Swallow, Wren, Starling, Blackbird, Robin, Wheatear, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Chaffinch, Linnet and Goldfinch**. There was evidence of breeding territories/behaviour for the following additional species: **Water Rail, Kestrel** (early in the season only), **Chiffchaff** and **Whitethroat**. **Willow Warbler** and **Blackcap** were both singing in the last week of May, but there was no further indication of territory-holding birds.

## Autumn migration

### July

The Met Office summed up July as “a generally unsettled month, with only brief fine spells.” On Lundy it was particularly cool and rainy at the start of the month and again from about 20th onwards, no doubt having adverse impacts on late nests, recently fledged young and early migrants alike. There were further single **Grey Herons** on 2nd & 6th. A single juvenile **Black-headed Gull** was in Gannets' Bay on 9th and an adult **Common Gull** perched on Mouse Island on 12th. Ten **Swifts** on 6th was the highest count of the month and a trickle of hirundines included a **House Martin** on 4th and three **Sand Martins** on 12th. Warblers were already on the move, with single **Sedge Warblers** on 17th & 23rd and seven **Willow Warblers** on 23rd. Also noted during the second half of the month were a **Whimbrel** (18th), three **Cormorants** (23rd), a **Cuckoo** (23rd & 24th), single **Curlew** and **Black-headed Gull** (both 25th), and a **Turnstone** in the Landing Bay on 29th. A Force 7 south-westerly on 28th produced 80 **Gannets** off South West

Point and a **Storm Petrel** close in off South End. Lundy or Devon rarities included a **White Wagtail** on 2nd (an unusual date), a long-staying **Rook** which put in regular appearances from 2nd onwards (possibly the same bird as seen at the end of May), an equally long-staying juvenile **Marsh Harrier**, first seen on 22nd and remaining into Aug, and a **Little Egret** on 23rd.

### August

Seawatching during a spell of rough weather in the first week of the month yielded at least 10,000 **Manx Shearwaters** off North End on 5th, a **Sooty Shearwater** and 136 **Gannets** on 6th, plus the first **Bonxies** (Great Skuas) of the season on 5th & 6th. Conditions remained on the cool and unsettled side for most of the month. As usual, though, warbler and hirundine passage gradually became more evident, with **Willow Warbler** counts reaching 13 on 12th and 40+ on 23rd & 26th, alongside small numbers of **Whitethroats**, **Sedge Warblers**, **Reed Warblers**, **Grasshopper Warblers** and **Goldcrests**, whilst 10 **Blackcaps** on 31st marked the start of that species' main autumn movements. Also towards the end of the month came the season's highest counts thus far of hirundines: 20 **Sand Martins** on 23rd & 26th, 200 **Swallows** on the latter date and 10 **House Martins** on 25th. There were small falls of 30 **Spotted Flycatchers** on 26th and 6 **Pied Flycatchers** on 27th, whilst singles of **Turtle Dove** (24th), **Garden Warbler** (22nd to 24th), **Lesser Whitethroat** (23rd & 24th), **Whinchat** (25th), **Yellow Wagtail** (25th) and **Tree Pipit** (five dates 20th-30th) injected further variety of migrants as August drew towards a close. A scattering of passage waders included one or two **Ringed Plovers** on three dates, single **Common Sandpipers** on 13th & 25th, a **Green Sandpiper** on 16th, two **Curlews** on 22nd and juvenile **Dotterels** on 24th & 27th. The juvenile **Marsh Harrier** was present throughout, 31st being the final day of its almost six-week stay. A **Little Egret** was in the Devil's Kitchen on 13th & 14th and a **Kingfisher** put in an appearance in the same area two days later. Among passerine scarcities were a juvenile **Crossbill** in Millcombe on 10th, a first-year **Nightingale** ringed in Millcombe on 25th, a juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** sighted in various places between lower Millcombe and Tillage Field on 26th, and the long-staying **Rook**, last reported on 26th.

### September

September continued the run of unsettled weather with a succession of low-pressure systems arriving off the Atlantic. The Met Office observed "*an unusually high number of rain days across England and frequent north-westerly winds*" up to 19th, including the passage of Storm Aileen on 12th & 13th. The last 10 days were milder with mostly southerly winds, but these brought further cloud and rain. Movements of several common migrants typically peak during September and in 2017 counts of the following were all the highest of the autumn, and indeed the year: 250 **Sand Martins** (16th), 2,000 **Swallows** (18th), 60 **Chiffchaffs** (14th), 300 **Blackcaps** (14th, when 92 were ringed) and 300 **Goldcrests** (26th). **House Martins** reached 150 on 16th and **Meadow Pipits** 520 on 30th, but numbers of both species continued building into October. The last departing **Sedge Warbler** was seen on 7th, the last **Swift** on 11th, the last **Reed Warbler** on 18th, the last **Whitethroat** on 25th and the last **Whinchat** on 26th. Conversely, 'firsts' of the autumn included **Firecrest** on 7th, **Grey Wagtail** on 9th, **Snow Bunting** on 11th and **Ring Ouzel** on 15th. There were further scattered records of **Pied Flycatcher**, **Yellow Wagtail** and **Tree Pipit** and a maximum of three **White Wagtails** on 17th. Single **Redstarts** on 25th & 26th were – depressingly – the first and last of autumn. Among non-passerines were **Grey Herons** on five dates (including two on 20th & 21st), a **Lapwing** on 15th, two **Golden Plovers** on 17th, a **Common Sandpiper** on 18th and three **Arctic Skuas** on 18th & 19th. Atlantic storms brought Lundy's 15th **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** to the Airfield on 11th & 12th and were likely also responsible for the arrival of an even rarer wader – by Lundy standards – when an unsuspecting visitor captured smartphone images of a **Red-necked Phalarope** on Pondsburry on 23rd, only the third record for the island. Other scarcities included the season's first **Yellow-browed Warbler** and **Lapland Bunting** on 16th and a **Hobby** over Brambles on 26th.

## October

After further cool Atlantic weather during the first week, much of October saw a persistent south-westerly flow, bringing warm and humid conditions with low cloud and patchy rain and drizzle at times. The passage of ex-Hurricane Ophelia on 16th/17th, followed by Storm Brian on 21st, brought exceptional winds to the island, even by Lundy standards. The shipping forecast for 16th was: "*Cyclonic, mainly south or south-west, 5-7, increasing severe gale 9 to violent storm 11, occasionally hurricane force 12 later*". Generally, then, conditions were not conducive for much in the way of visible migration or falls of nocturnal migrants from continental Europe, and this was reflected in unremarkable counts for most species until the end of the month, when a change of weather from 25th onwards saw some very busy days indeed.

The autumn's final big movement of hirundines, on 6th, comprised 800 **Swallows** and 700 **House Martins**. There are regularly big arrivals of **Chiffchaffs** and **Blackcaps** during October, but this year's passage was more 'steady as she goes' with continuous movement but modest maxima of just 20 **Chiffchaffs** (on 18th & 26th) and 40 **Blackcaps** (on 26th). **Goldcrests** featured throughout the month, with several dozen present on many days and influxes of 200 on 12th and 100 on 25th/26th by far the highest counts. **Firecrests** were seen on 17 days, peaking at 10 on 27th. The last departing summer migrants included **Sand Martin** and **Pied Flycatcher** on 8th, **Spotted Flycatcher** on 13th, **Garden Warbler** and **Wheatear** on 27th, **House Martin** on 29th and **Swallow** on 30th. Although the first few **Redwings** were seen on 9th, it was the last week of the month before there was any real arrival of winter thrushes or finches. The big change came on 26th when a migrant-filled day brought 1,000+ **Redwings**, 100+ **Song Thrushes**, 50+ **Blackbirds**, the first two **Fieldfares** of the season, a **Mistle Thrush**, 5,500 **Chaffinches**, 15 **Bramblings** and 350 **Siskins**. Some 255 birds were ringed that day and the 27th was also busy. A nationwide influx of **Hawfinches** was reflected on Lundy with the first arrivals on 7th and a maximum of 15 on 26th. Other notable species during the month included: juvenile **Hobby** (5th), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (7th, 8th, 12th & 18th), **Turtle Dove**, **Short-eared Owl** and **Hen Harrier** (8th), **Crossbill** (9th), two **Balearic Shearwaters** and a **Pomarine Skua** (11th), **Snow Bunting** (12th, 15th & 26th), **Olive-backed Pipit** (13th), **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Barred Warbler** and three **Lapland Buntings** (15th), **Little Bunting** (17th), two **Purple Sandpipers** and another **Short-eared Owl** (25th), **Ruff** (26th), **Red-throated Pipit** (26th/27th), male **Bullfinch** and six **Long-tailed Tits** (27th), **Little Egret** and another **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (28th), five **White-fronted Geese** (30th), and **Coal Tit** and female **Bullfinch** (31st). A **Red-throated Diver** was off South Light on 11th, the first **Great Northern Diver** of the season was in the Landing Bay on 14th, and the first **Black Redstart** was logged on 15th.

## November

The excitement of late October did not extend far into November in the case of most species, and although there were 2,000 **Chaffinches** and 96 **Siskins** on 1st, such numbers were not maintained as the weather reverted to the largely westerly rut it had been stuck in for much of the late summer and autumn. The exceptions were **Redwings**, with moderately high counts on some days (e.g. 238 on 3rd, 370 on 13th and 100+ on 30th) and **Bramblings**, which reached their highest numbers for many years, peaking at 50 on 1st and 52 on 14th – brief periods of northerly winds presumably helping them on their way. Scarcities included a **Coal Tit** (seen regularly throughout the month and presumed to be the bird that arrived on 31 Oct), **Mistle Thrush** (1st), a remarkable diversity comprising two **Little Egrets**, two **Mediterranean Gulls**, **Arctic Skua**, **Stock Dove**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Dartford Warbler** and **Lapland Bunting** (2nd), **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** and **Olive-backed Pipit** (14th), **Grey Heron** (15th), **Common Scoter** (up to 40 on 15th/16th), **Manx Shearwater** (two unusually late birds on 23rd) and **Lapwing** and **Jack Snipe** (30th). The month ended on a cold note as Arctic air was dragged down across the country, though the more wintry effects stayed to the north of Lundy.

## Early winter

### December

December brought frequently cold, windy and at times wet conditions, including the passage of Storm Caroline on 7th and Storm Dylan to close out the year on 30th/31st, though the worst of the weather continued to remain north and east of Lundy (Exmoor and the Welsh uplands were blanketed by snow on 11th, for example). The **Jack Snipe** that arrived on the last day of November was still present on 1st, whilst the **Lapwing** lingered until 5th. **Teal** reached their early-winter peak of six on 26th, one or two **Great Northern Divers** were in the Landing Bay throughout the month, and other regularly reported species included up to three **Water Rails**, a single **Merlin**, a **Firecrest**, the long-staying **Coal Tit**, a lone **Stonechat**, good numbers of **Blackbirds**, **Song Thrushes** and **Redwings**, and a pair of **Goldfinches**. Single **Chiffchaffs** put in appearances on 2nd & 11th, as did a **Sparrowhawk** and a **Black Redstart** on 9th. Dean Jones found three adult **Mediterranean Gulls** in the Landing Bay on 3rd (the first time this species has been reported from Lundy in winter), whilst the following day (4th) Dean wrote: "*I had four more **Med Gulls** today, all adult birds feeding in a superb mixed seabird frenzy this afternoon. Alongside them were Harbour Porpoise, 400+ **Kittiwakes**, two adult winter **Black-headed Gulls**, one 2nd calendar-year **Common Gull**, 200+ **Herring Gulls**, eight **Great Black-backed Gulls**, a single **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, seven **Gannets**, three **Shags** and 363 **auk spp.** (mostly **Razorbills**). Really exciting stuff; it was hard to get up and go back to the office after that!*"

### Nomenclature and sequence

These follow The British List (summarised 9th edition, updated version posted on the BOU website January 2018) maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). Where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (in this case 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, in most 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 (particularly spring and autumn) when observer coverage is higher.

### Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species and sub-species that are vagrants to Britain (in 2017, Red-throated Pipit) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Night-heron, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Little Bunting) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In

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

The website [www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.uk) linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2017. Further updates will be added as new observations continue to build on the knowledge gained from 70 years of intensive study by the LFS. Complementing this long-term archive is an online blog [www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk) through which visiting birdwatchers and ringers may contribute news of the latest sightings. This relies completely on voluntary contributions. If you would like to become a 'co-author' of the blog, meaning that you can post your own updates, please send an email to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

addition, records of 'Lundy vagrants', species that are regularly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Great Crested Grebe, Dartford Warbler), 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 this context; it does not necessarily mean that those assessing the record think 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 [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

Observers' names are included below for all accepted 2017 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 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 ([recorder@devonbirds.org](mailto: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; the annual bird report is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals. In particular we must single out the outstanding contribution made by Lundy Warden Dean Jones, together with his colleagues from the wardening and ranger teams, including seasonal volunteers.

Special thanks go to Devon Birds for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records, especially Karen Sims, Devon Birds database manager, who provided a file of all 2017 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, Helen Booker, Charles Crundwell, Chris & Mandy Dee, John Duffy, Rob Duncan, Tim Frayling, Paul Holt, Andy Jayne, Mike Langman, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Steve McAusland, David & Elisabeth Price, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Kevin Rylands, Alfredo Sánchez Tójar, Grant Sherman, Aaron Sibma, Luke Sutton, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Chris Townend, Jon Turner, Steve Waite, Nik Ward, Joanne Wilby, Mark Worden and Justin Zantboer.



## The Birds of 2017

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

[Brant Goose]

*Lundy vagrant. Sixteen previous records; the last in Oct 2015.*

An adult of the Dark-bellied race *B. b. bernicla* was in the Landing Bay during the late afternoon and evening of 29 Apr (Chris Baillie, Tim Davis *et al.*). A Dark-bellied bird was watched for about 10 minutes as it flew erratically over the island several times, in the vicinity of Gannets' Combe, on 14 Nov (Robert & Helen Gooderham). It was later seen standing on the Landing Beach (Siân Scott). These are the 17th & 18th LFS records, 12 of which have been in autumn.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

*Lundy vagrant. Sixteen previous records, most recently in 2014.*

Two in Tent Field c.17.30 hrs on 18 Mar and at Quarters Pond c.09.00 hrs the next morning (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). Soon after on 19th, heard over Quarters and seen in flight over Lighthouse Field and later photographed on Pondsburry (Alan & Sandra Rowland) – see colour plate 3. This is the 17th LFS record, the last being in Oct 2014.

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

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity. Ten previous records; the last in Nov 2013.*

Five flying down the East Side on 30 Oct turned and appeared to drop down over the Airfield. All were adults, but could not be assigned to race (Andy Jayne). Andy was leaving the island on a helicopter flight that morning and didn't have time to go up the island to try and locate the birds on the ground. This constitutes the 21st LFS record. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

The first winter period maximum was 11 on 9 Mar. Successful breeding confirmed: broods of recently hatched ducklings were seen between 26 Apr (f plus 12 y) and 17 Jun (f plus 10 y at Rocket Pole Pond). The peak post-breeding counts during the autumn and second winter period were 14 (2 m & 12 f) on 8 Oct and 13 (3 m & 10 f) on several dates in the last week of Dec, so rather little net change over the year.

#### Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	8	11	8	13	11	10	14	11	14	11	13

### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

*Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer. First breeding record in 2015; bred again in 2016.*

Successful breeding confirmed for the third successive year: two displaying males and four females were on Pondsburry on 24 Mar; a female and three young were seen there on 21 May, followed by two females and six ducklings the next day. A juv was seen on Quarter Wall Pond on 7 Jul, with two there on 24th (Mike Archer).

#### Maximum count of fully grown birds for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	7	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	3	6
–	2	6	10	10	4	9	3	1	5	3	8

**Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Four records: two females were in the Landing Bay on 24 Feb (Martin Thorne); a single male flew E past North Light on 27 Oct (Andy Jayne); about 40, in small groups of four to eight, passed off the Ugly in the space of five minutes mid-morning on 15 Nov (Martin Thorne); and a flock of c.30 flew north along the East Side at 11.00 hrs the following day (Tony Taylor).

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

[Red-throated Loon]

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Two were off Rat Island 24-26 Feb (Martin Thorne), whilst singles were seen off Rat Island on 27 Feb (Martin Thorne) and off the Castle on 11 Oct (Chris Baillie).

**Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica***

[Black-throated Loon]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One was in the Landing Bay, 24-26 Feb (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

[Common Loon]

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

During the first winter period and spring there were sightings on 14 dates from 13 Feb to 14 Apr, mostly involving single birds, but two on 13 Feb & 6 Apr. The first of the autumn was one on 14 Oct. There were sightings on a further 17 dates to 31 Dec, including two on 9 & 10 Dec, but otherwise single birds only. As usual almost all records came from the Landing Bay area, though one was off Quarry Beach on 31 Dec. Writing in the log on 9 Dec, Warden Dean Jones reported: "Two feeding in close to Miller's Cake at 13.30 hrs. One bird caught a definite monkfish/anglerfish and the other a rather large, pale-yellow flatfish."

**Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

[European Storm Petrel]

*Increasingly recorded during the breeding season in recent years; probably a response to the eradication of rats. First confirmation of successful breeding in 2014. Also a passage migrant and visitor to Lundy waters from other breeding colonies.*

Recorded between 1 Jun and 24 Aug, with evidence of breeding at North Light and probable breeding around Old Light shearwater colony. At least two were flying around the top of the gully at Old Light shearwater colony at 23.30 hrs on 1 Jun (Richard Taylor & Tony Taylor). Playback of Storm Petrel calls at North End on 9 Jul produced two responses from burrows (Dean Jones). A single bird was heading west close in to Shutter Rock on 28 Jul (Dean Jones). One was heading west off South West Point on 3 Aug (Dean Jones). At least five were seen coming into burrows at North End after 23.00 hrs on the night of 5 Aug (Dean Jones). Singles mist-netted (not tape-lured) at night at Old Light shearwater colony on 21 & 22 Aug had large brood patches (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). Eighteen were mist-netted at North End on 24 Aug, including at least six caught without the use of a tape lure (Rosie Hall, Dean Jones, Rebecca & Richard Taylor). One bird on the latter date had been ringed previously at The Lizard, Cornwall in Jul 2016 – see *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details.

**Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

[Northern Fulmar]

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

The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey produced a total of 227 apparently occupied nests, a figure 9% higher than the 209 nests counted in 2013 and in fact the highest total since the current periodic all-island surveys began in 1981. The early spring maximum of 153 birds was recorded on 31 Mar. As usual, numbers were at their lowest in autumn when most birds leave inshore waters during post-breeding dispersal and moult. The breeding ledges were already being reoccupied by early Dec, with 24 at Long Roost on 5th (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Maximum count for each month  
(from the logbook; excluding the seabird census)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	50	153	120	133	80	64	25	8	3	1	24

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity. Five previous records, the last in Oct 2013.*

One was off North End on 6 Aug (Dean Jones); the 6th LFS record. 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.*

Recorded between 25 Mar (birds present in the Old Light colony – see below) and the unusually late date of 2 Nov (off the East Side – Dean Jones). The only counts of more than 300 were during the period 3-9 Aug when there were 538 on 3rd, a “highly conservative” 10,000+ passing off North End between 16.30 hrs and dusk on 5th (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton), 1,121 on 6th and 639 on 9th. There were only six daytime counts reported for Sep/Oct, with four of these in single digits.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	300	200	200	300	10,000	200	13	2	–

Ringling studies continued, with most work carried out at the main breeding colony north of Old Light. Several calling birds were heard there on the night of 25/26 Mar; some from burrows underground, others in flight; two birds ringed on Lundy in previous years (2009 & 2014) were retrapped (Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Tony Taylor). Unfavourable weather conditions and moon phases in Sep restricted the number of chicks ringed to 119 (plus two recently fledged birds), but 242 adults were newly ringed and there were 157 recaptures of birds ringed in previous years. Among these were 16 birds originally ringed as chicks, the oldest being from 2005. Even older was a bird ringed as an adult in 2004 – see *Ringling Report* (page 66) for details. All the retrap data contributes to understanding of the breeding population’s age structure, productivity and recruitment. Since shearwaters usually spend at least two years prospecting for a nest site and pairing up before they lay, it was a delightful surprise to find a female incubating an egg in May 2017, in one of the nestboxes installed in Mar 2016. This enabled her, and later her partner, to be ringed as confirmed breeding adults. They reared a chick that was a healthy 100g heavier than its parents when it was ringed in mid-Aug.

**Report on 2017 burrow census – contributed by Helen Booker, RSPB**

A team of RSPB and Natural England staff and volunteers hoped to report another sizeable increase in the Manx Shearwater population, repeating the surveys undertaken previously in 2001, 2008 and 2013. The results were mixed; although the anticipated increase was not evident, numbers were similar to 2013 and birds were found in new areas. Surveying involves playing an audio soundtrack of shearwater calls at all potential nesting burrows and recording the number of holes from which an incubating bird responds. In 2017 a greater proportion of the team used MP3 players of various types for playback, as well as mobile phones and the traditional hand-held cassette players. The survey was timed to coincide with the mid to late incubation period for maximum occupancy of burrows. It was mostly conducted between 27 May and 3 Jun, with the aim of completing any unfinished areas between 6 and 10 Jun. A separate response rate calibration exercise was carried out in parallel with the main survey by checking the same 110 marked burrows every day.

The survey was completed along the south, west and north coasts of the island but little was covered on the east coast due to adverse weather conditions. The response to the various devices was somewhat variable – a particular type of (unbranded) MP3 player, new for this survey, proving to produce a noticeably low response rate. The result was therefore only partial and has left questions over the reliability of the data. The team is returning in 2018 to complete coverage of the unsurveyed parts of the island (including areas where rhododendron has been removed), to re-do some of the areas covered in 2017 and to repeat the calibration exercise. All data will then be reviewed and analysed to produce a new population estimate for the island.

*Thanks to all the team who took part in the survey and to the Landmark Trust and island team for supporting it.*

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

*Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant; Devon rarity.*

Two off the North End on 11 Oct (James Diamond, Tim Jones) was the only record in an unusually poor year for this species. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity. Five previous records, the last in 1996.*

Records of a single bird in the Landing Bay on 13 & 28 Feb, regularly from 15 to 30 Mar, and again from 9 Apr to 2 May (Dean Jones *et al.*) are considered to relate to an overwintering individual that had been present in the same area since December 2016 (see *2016 LFS Annual Report*). The periodic gaps between sightings were due to a combination of low observer coverage (especially Jan to mid-Feb) and spells of rough weather. By mid-Mar the grebe was already showing clear signs of breeding plumage, which had developed quite extensively by the time of its departure in early May. This is only the 6th record for the island, the first since Feb/Mar 1996, and by far the longest-staying individual. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Lundy vagrant. Five previous records, the last in 2003.*

One in the Landing Bay, in full breeding plumage, on 28 Feb (Dean Jones) was the first for the island since Sep 2003 and only the 6th occurrence since LFS records began. Four have been in autumn and two in spring.

**Night-heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

[Black-crowned Night Heron]

*Nationally scarce migrant. Three previous records, the last in 1990.*

One in flight over the Landing Bay flew through the Devil's Kitchen and disappeared behind Lametor on the morning of 13 Apr (Dean Jones). It was relocated on the south side of Lametor, below South Light and just above the tide line at 19.30 hrs that evening (Dean Jones, Rob Waterfield). It reappeared briefly in the Devil's Kitchen at c.16.00 hrs on 17 Apr before flying off west (Dean Jones). It was seen again in the Landing Bay by island staff member Mike Jones on 21 Apr. This is the first Lundy Night-heron since March 1990 and only the fourth ever for the island. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

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

One on 26 Mar was the only record for the first five months of the year. Thereafter, seen on 18 dates from 13 Jun (one) to 15 Nov (one), with maxima of two on 7 Jul and 20-21 Sep, and three on 8 Oct. The latter involved two birds watched from the Castle flying low over the sea towards Hartland Point in calm conditions and excellent visibility during the early evening. They were

followed a few minutes later by a third bird flying on a similar trajectory. All were calling loudly as they left the island, but it was unclear whether they had started their flights from Lundy or were simply passing close to the South End, perhaps having crossed from the Welsh mainland (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

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

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

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

*Scarce but increasing passage migrant.*

One around rock pools off Lametor on 20 Apr (Dean Jones). Presumably the same bird was flushed from below the Beach Road and flew up Millcombe where it spent time around the pond and then on the lawn of Millcombe House on 22 Apr. Sadly, this individual was later found dead; the corpse was emaciated and it was thought the bird may have died from starvation (Martin Thorne, Dean Jones). One was in the Landing Bay on 23 May and perhaps the same bird was seen again on 30 May. One flew south off the Terrace on 2 Jun (Steve Compton, Roger & Rosy Key). One was in the Devil's Kitchen on 13 & 14 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton) – see colour plate 3. One flew below Benjamin's Chair on 28 Oct (Andy Jayne). Two flew north along the East Side on 2 Nov (Paul Holt).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

The highest counts of the year occurred in late Jul and early Aug, with 80 on 28 Jul, 145 on 3 Aug, 136 on 6th and 124 on 9th. The spring and autumn peaks were 30 on 1 May and 50 on 11 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	17	9	20	30	16	80	145	43	50	16	20

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

*Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.*

The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey produced a total of 55 apparently occupied nests, a figure that is just under half of the 112 nests counted in 2013 and the lowest total recorded by the periodic census since 2000. The reason for this is unclear and it will be interesting to see if counts from 2018 (even though there will be no complete census) point towards a real decline. Higher counts, all coming at the end of the breeding season, included 66 on 12 Jul, an amazing 305 on a round-the-island trip at high tide on 21 Aug (Dean Jones) – on the face of things, at odds with the apparently lower breeding population – 175 on 23 Aug and 192 on 26 Aug.

**Maximum count for each month (from the LFS logbook; excluding the seabird census)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	27	29	19	46	25	66	305	28	16	5	4

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, typically in flocks overflying the island; formerly bred; occasional in winter.*

The peak count during spring passage was 14 on 28 Mar. Higher counts of autumn migrants included 17 on 23 Aug and 12 on 12 Oct. One on 28 Dec was the only record during the second winter period.

**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	14	6	4	4	3	17	9	12	–	1
–	2	8	1	5	2	3	3	14	6	–	1

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

*Rare passage migrant and Devon rarity.*

There were three spring records of single birds. One flew past the Castle, over the mouth of Millcombe and along the East Side, mobbed by gulls and corvids, on 27 Mar (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Tony Taylor). One off the Terrace on 2 Apr flew quickly north (Solomon Gilbert). One was mobbed by Great Black-backed Gulls as it flew east over Shutter Rocks on 28 Apr (Martin Thorne). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

During the spring there were single birds on eight dates from 20 Mar to 1 May. As usual, more frequent and more numerous in autumn, being recorded on 35 dates between 16 Sep and 9 Dec, with a maximum of three on 19 Oct. Two were present on three dates in Oct; all other records were of single birds.

**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	1
–	–	2	5	1	–	–	–	4	21	9	1

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

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

A juvenile ranged widely over the island during the period 22 Jul to 31 Aug (Philip & Helen Lymbery, Zoë Barton & Dean Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.*

A ringtail, thought likely to be a first-year bird, soaring off the East Side on 8 Oct (James Diamond) was the only record for the year. The bird was seen gaining height before gliding high across the island to the north-west.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

*Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.*

At least one, probably two, over the southern half of the island on 29 Apr. One was seen heading high towards Hartland Point and not turning back, around lunchtime that day, so further sightings during the afternoon, and again during 1-4 & 7 May (ranging widely along the East Side from Gannets' Combe to South Light) appeared to confirm the presence of a second bird (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). One on 22 Aug flew north over Pondsburry and up the West Side beyond Jenny's Cove (Rebecca & Richard Taylor).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus**Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015; no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016.*

The first record of the year was of one on 6 Mar. Two were 'singing' from St Helen's Field, after

dark, at 20.15 hrs on 24 Mar (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Tony Taylor), and one was 'singing' near Quarters Pond at 03.00 hrs on 23 May (Dean Jones) and on the night of 25/26 May (Tony Taylor), but with no subsequent proof of successful breeding. There were no records at all between 13 Jul and the first bird of autumn on 8 Sep, but from then until the end of the year there were occurrences on 58 days, with a maximum count of nine on 15 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	4	2	2	3	1	–	2	7	9	3
–	–	6	1	22	22	1	–	10	23	13	12

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

The highest counts of the year were 27 on 19 Mar and 30 on 27 Mar; 31 on 3 May; 26 on 16 Jun (including a flock of 18 at Brazen Ward); and 28 on 18 Aug. Successful breeding confirmed: a bird was sitting on a nest at Slipper Rock on 21 May; a pair of adults were seen feeding limpets to a chick on the Landing Beach on 20 Jun; and a chick was on Miller's Cake on 7 Aug (Mike Jones & Emily Trapnell).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	6	30	14	31	26	16	28	12	18	20	5

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

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

The only records were single birds on 25 Mar, 15 Sep, 27 & 30 Oct and 30 Nov-5 Dec, plus two on 28 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	1	1
–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	1	5

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

In spring there were singles on 27 Mar and 4, 21 & 22 May. One on 23 Jun was presumably an early returning failed or non-breeder, but there were no further records until the autumn proper, with records on 13 dates from 17 Sep (two) to 15 Nov (one), including a maximum of 10 on 12 Oct.

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

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

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

The only spring records were in May: two on 5th, one on 6th and four on 10th. Return migration was similarly sparse, with singles on 3 & 4 Aug followed by two on 16th.

**Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus***

[Eurasian Dotterel]

*Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; Devon rarity.*

Two records: a juvenile on the Airfield on 24 Aug (Rosie Hall, Dean Jones, Richard & Rebecca Taylor *et al.*); and two juveniles photographed at the North End on 27 Aug (David White & Alice Hasted) – see colour plate 4. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus****Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

During spring passage there were records on 19 dates from 22 Apr (one) to 24 May (one), with maxima of eight on 1 May, 20 on 4th (including a flock of nine at North Light and others scattered along the West Side) and five on 13th.

**Curlew *Numenius arquata***

[Eurasian Curlew]

*Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in very small numbers; occasional winter visitor (most recently in 2010); formerly bred.*

There were records on just eight dates, all involving ones and twos: two on 24-26 Feb; one on 29 Apr; one on 25 Jul; two on 22 Aug; one on 1 Sep; and one on 30 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	–	–	1	2	1	1	–	–
–	3	–	1	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–

**Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica****Rare passage migrant; has occurred in winter.*

One in South West Field on 1 May (Neil Trout) was seen again at Pondsburry on 2 May (Martin Thorne) and 5 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa****Rare passage migrant; one winter record.*

One was in Brick Field at approximately 19.00 hrs on 4 Jun (D. Mantijay).

**Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

[Ruddy Turnstone]

*Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.*

Just two records: one in the Landing Bay on 18 May and one feeding near the jetty, on rocks below the beach building, on 29 Jul (both Dean Jones).

**Ruff *Calidris pugnax****Rare passage migrant; has occurred in late winter.*

One was in Lighthouse Field near Stoneycroft on 26 Oct (Gavin Bennett, Dean Jones).

**Dunlin *Calidris alpina****Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; apparent decline in recent years; very rare in winter.*

Spring migrants were recorded on 10 dates from 26 Apr (one) to 8 May (three), with a maximum of 10 on 6 May. In autumn there were records on just three dates from 25 Oct (one) to 1 Nov (one), with a maximum of just two on 27 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	10	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
–	–	–	2	8	–	–	–	–	2	1	–



**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

*Rare passage migrant; occasional winter visitor.*

Two birds were circling MS *Oldenburg* as she approached the Landing Bay on 25 Oct (Gavin Bennett, Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Calidris subruficollis*

*Nationally scarce migrant. Fourteen previous records, most recently in September 2011.*

A juvenile was on the Airfield on 11 & 12 Sep (Tim Frayling, Dean Jones, Mark Worden *et al.* – see colour plate 4). The 15th LFS record and the first since a juvenile at North End, 2-4 Sep 2011. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Recorded on a total of 14 days, Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. During the first winter period, one on 25 Jan was followed by two on 2 Feb, two on 24 Feb, five on 25 Feb and two on 26 Feb. The only record later in the spring was of a single bird on 20 Mar. The first autumn migrant was one on 26 Oct, followed by two on 28th. In Nov there were singles on 1st, 7th & 10th, three on 14th and two on 15th. The last of the year was one on 2 Dec.

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

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

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Records on three dates involved two individuals: one flushed from near the main track Heinkel wreck on 8 Oct (James Diamond); and one flushed at Kistvaen Pond on 30 Nov (Dean Jones) was seen in the same area the following day, 1 Dec (Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The spring maximum was six on 1 & 28 Mar. The last of the spring was a single bird on 6 May. The first autumn migrant was one on 19 Aug, whilst the highest autumn count was eight on 12 Oct. Eight was also the peak of the second winter period, 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
–	1	6	2	1	–	–	1	1	8	3	8
–	2	11	4	1	–	–	1	3	15	7	5

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A juvenile photographed on Pondsburry on 23 Sep (Andy Hauser & Jean Shotter); only the third record for the island, following single birds in Nov 1955 and Oct 1960. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Scarce but regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.*

The only spring records were one at the bottom of Montagu Steps on 4 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and two, location unspecified, on 5 May (Martin Thorne). During autumn passage there were singles on 13 & 25 Aug in the vicinity of Rat Island and the Landing Bay, and on 18 Sep heard from Quarry Beach (all Dean Jones).

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

The only spring records were for late Apr. Two circled lower Millcombe at c.11.30 hrs on 20th but didn't land (Chris Dee). Later the same day one was reported from the pond outside Barton Cottages and two were flushed from Rocket Pole Pond in the afternoon (Dean Jones). One flushed from Pondsby at c.15.00 hrs on 21st flew off north (Chris & Mandy Dee). One was at the Devil's Kitchen at 10.30 hrs on 22nd (Mandy Dee). The sole autumn passage record was of one flushed from Brick Field Pond on 16 Aug. It circled west, calling, before returning to the pond (Rebecca & Richard Taylor).

### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

*Common but declining breeding species; uncommon from September to January.*

The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey produced a total of 238 apparently occupied nests, a figure 87% higher than the 127 nests counted in 2013 and the highest total from comparable surveys since 327 nests were counted in 1996 and 237 in 2000. However, this apparently encouraging result was not reflected in breeding success. Studies undertaken by the island wardening team showed that productivity at the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony equalled the lowest recorded since the current methodology was initiated in 2007: seven chicks fledged from 57 apparently occupied nests within the study area at the start of the season. The Jenny's Cove colony fared much less badly: 47 chicks fledged from 47 apparently occupied nests within the study area at the start of the season. It is hoped to monitor the Threequarter Wall Buttress site using a camera in 2018 to try to understand better the reasons for this colony doing so poorly, though it is thought that south-westerly storms in early Jun washed out the lower nests at least. The colour-ringed adult observed in the Aztec Bay colony in 2015 (left leg: orange over white; right leg: green over red or reddish orange) was again present there on 4 May (Chris Baillie).

Outside the breeding season the highest counts included 400+ on 23 Feb; 460 on 18 Sep; 500+ on 16 Nov; 400 on 23 Nov; between 400 and 450 on 4, 8 & 23 Dec; and 500+ on 28 & 29 Dec.

#### **Maximum count for each month (from the LFS logbook; excluding the seabird census)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	400	267	40	341	40	236	317	460	40	500	500

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly July to September; occasional severe-weather influxes.*

Recorded on 10 dates. Late-winter/spring birds occurred on 28 Mar, an adult in breeding plumage in the Landing Bay (Kevin Welsh) and 30 Apr, four first-summer birds in the Landing Bay (Tim Jones). In 'autumn', there were singles on 9 & 25 Jul, a juvenile at Gannets' Bay and a first-summer bird in the Landing Bay (both Dean Jones); three first-winter birds around Rat Island on 13 Aug (Dean Jones); an adult on Seal Rock on 23 Aug (Dean Jones); a first-winter bird off the Ugly on 21 Oct (Dean Jones); an adult over Millcombe on 26 Oct (Andy Jayne & Justin Zantboer); two feeding offshore on 27 Oct (Andy Jayne & Justin Zantboer); and two adults off the East Side on 4 Dec (Dean Jones).

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

*Lundy vagrant, though records have increased substantially during the last three years.*

An adult and a first-winter bird roosting on the water within a mixed gull flock approximately a mile off Rat Island on 2 Nov, were seen from the island RIB during seal surveys (Dean Jones).

Three adults were close in to the Landing Bay on 3 Dec (Dean Jones); four adults were part of a mixed gull 'feeding frenzy' off the East Side on 4 Dec (Dean Jones); and an adult was off Rat Island on 9 Dec (Dean Jones).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly September to April.*

Five were seen close to the island from MS *Oldenburg* at the start of the crossing to Ilfracombe on 28 Mar (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). In 'autumn' there were singles on 12 Jul (an adult on rocks south of Mouse Island – Dean Jones), 10, 21 & 22 Oct and 4, 9 & 16 Dec.

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

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

The highest count of the year was of 114 birds and 34 apparently occupied nests during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on 3 May (Tim Davis). Successful breeding confirmed. A breeding census of large gulls is due in 2018.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	12	40	9	114	11	44	38	25	10	10	80

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

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

The highest count of the year was of 525 during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on 3 May (Tim Davis). Successful breeding confirmed. A breeding census of large gulls is due in 2018.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	59	300	71	525	47	295	120	40	196	178	200

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

*Common but declining breeding species; passage migrant; uncommon in winter.*

The highest count of the year was of 299 during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on 3 May (Tim Davis). Successful breeding confirmed. A breeding census of large gulls is due in 2018. One showing characteristics of the Scandinavian breeding race *L. f. intermedius* was at Pondsby on 27 Mar (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) – record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. A bird colour-ringed as a nestling on Lundy in Jun 1995 was seen at Courant de Mimizan, Landes, south-west France in late Jan 2016 – see *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details. This is the fourth consecutive year that (presumably) the same returning individual, approaching 21 years of age at the time of the most recent observation, has been reported at this site. So far there have been no sightings at Mimizan between early Nov and late Jan, suggesting that the bird could be staging there en route to/from wintering grounds further south.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
60	15	77	40	299	91	123	20	6	23	37	30

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

*Uncommon passage migrant, late March to early October.*

One in flight over the Landing Bay for about 10 minutes on 15 Apr (Dean Jones) was the only confirmed record of the year.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

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

There were singles on 5 & 6 Aug (from Puffin Slope and North End, respectively – Dean Jones) and 22 Aug (off the East Side – Martin Thorne). In Oct, there were one to three birds on six dates, 11th to 25th, with a maximum of three on 11th (off the East Side – Tim Jones). These were followed by singles on 14 Nov (one south off the East Side – Tony Taylor), 27 Nov (chasing Kittiwakes in the Landing Bay – Dean Jones) and 24 Dec (one flying north off the Landing Bay – Dean Jones).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

[Pomarine Jaeger]

*Lundy vagrant.*

Two records: one off North End on 9 Jun (Bart Donato) and one off the Castle on 11 Oct (Chris Baillie). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Confirmed records involved: one off the East Side on 22 Aug (Martin Thorne); a pale-morph bird off North End and two off the East Side on 18 Sep (Dean Jones); and three pale-morph birds off the East Side the following day (Jan Swan & Andy Turner).

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

[Common Guillemot, Common Murre]

*Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from August to October, then sporadic visitor to breeding ledges during late autumn and winter.*

The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey produced a total of 6,198 birds, representing a 51% increase over the number recorded in 2013, and by far the highest total since the regular seabird census commenced in 1981. Successful breeding confirmed: chicks (estimated to be 2-5 days old) were first seen on 4 Jun at St Mark's Stone. Productivity was very good within that colony, being the highest recorded for any of the years when comparable surveys were conducted (2007 & 2013-2017), with an average of 0.72 chicks fledged from 147 breeding pairs (Dean Jones).

**Maximum logbook count for each month (from the LFS logbook; excluding the seabird census)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	365	1,212	322	2,213	400	100	2	37	12	18	7

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

*Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between August and February.*

The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey produced a total of 1,735 birds, representing a 31% increase over the number recorded in 2013, and the highest total since the regular seabird census commenced in 1981. Successful breeding confirmed: many chicks were being fed within the large burrows and boulder scree beneath the Jenny's Cove Puffin colony by mid-Jun (Dean Jones).

**Maximum logbook count for each month (from the LFS logbook; excluding the seabird census)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	500	237	462	100	50	4	1	60	–	76

**Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

[Atlantic Puffin]

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

The first of the year were seven rafting in Jenny's Cove on 16 Mar (Anne Coombs, John King), but there were no further records until the last week of the month: 41 on 25th, 58 on 26th, 99 on 27th and 97 (20 on the water and 77 on land) on 29th. Peak counts during the remainder of the breeding season included 107 on 20 Apr, 100 on 12 & 27 May, 253 on 16 Jun and (remarkably) the same total on 1 Jul. There were still 200 to be seen as late as 20 Jul, falling a few days later to 45 on 24th. The RSPB-led breeding census found 375 birds, representing a 369% increase over the total recorded using the same methodology in 2013. Successful breeding was confirmed, with frequent fish provisioning first noted on 9 Jun at burrows in Jenny's Cove. Overall productivity fared well with an estimated 80 chicks fledged from 130 burrows, equivalent to 0.62 chicks per nesting pairs (Dean Jones). The last was a single bird on 6 Aug.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	99	107	100	253	253	1	–	–	–	–

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly between spring and autumn.*

The first of the year was a single bird on 12 Apr and the last on 8 Sep. This period coincides almost exactly with the pigeon racing season, indicating that most, if not all, Feral Pigeons stopping on or passing through Lundy are from racing stock.

**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	8	20	3	4	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	14	16	6	3	2	–	–	–

**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Four records: one on 1 May, two on 20 May, one on 26 May (below Long Roost – a very unusual location for this species) and one on 2 Nov.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

[Common Wood Pigeon]

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

Two on 10 Feb and again on 7 Mar. Seen regularly from mid-Mar onwards, with a spring maximum of nine on 25 Mar and eight on four other dates during the month. Successful breeding confirmed: a pair were mating in Millcombe on 29 Apr (Tim Jones) and a recently fledged juv was seen near Millcombe House on 5 Jul (Mike Archer). The last of the year were singles on 1 & 3 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	9	8	5	4	5	7	6	7	1	–
–	1	15	20	18	12	15	20	19	7	2	–

**Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

[European Turtle Dove]

*Increasingly scarce migrant, still fairly regular in very small numbers in spring but rare in autumn.*

Two records: one seen briefly in Millcombe and St John's Valley on 24 Aug (Rosie Hall, Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor) and a first-winter bird photographed by the main track on the unusually late date of 8 Oct (Julian Arkell).

**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.*

Recorded on 31 dates between 18 Apr (one) and 24 Aug (one), with a maximum of six on 22 & 26 May, including, on 22nd, five at Long Roost and one at Gannets' Combe.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	6	4	1	3	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	5	12	6	1	7	–	–	–	–

**Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

[Common Cuckoo]

*Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding confirmed just twice since 1999 (in 2007 and 2012).*

Singles on 28-30 Apr, two on 5 May, one on 29 May and singles on 23 & 24 Jul were the only records in what appears to have been a very poor year for this species.

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

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

One on 1 May was the only spring record. In autumn there were singles on 8, 25 & 31 Oct.

**Swift *Apus apus***

[Common Swift]

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

Recorded on 37 dates between 1 May (four) and 11 Sep (one). Numbers only reached double digits twice in May, with 14 on 4th and a spike of 145 on 5th, when many birds were seen flying in off the sea along the West Side during a period of strong easterly winds, which appeared to have displaced arriving migrants further west than intended (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Higher counts during the summer included 20 on 18 Jun and 10 on 6 Jul, while Aug brought sightings of one to three on just four dates towards the end of the month.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	145	20	10	3	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	16	10	7	4	1	–	–	–

**Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus***

*UK vagrant.*

**2016 record**

The record of one over Millcombe on 25 October 2016 (Carol & Chris Baillie, Gavin Bennett, Rob Duncan, James McCarthy, Simon Slade, Ellie & Justin Zantboer) has been accepted by BBRC. This is the first record for Lundy and the first accepted record for Devon (see page 70).

**Hoopoe *Upupa epops***

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was in Gannets' Combe on 3 May (Tim Davis); record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. There have been sightings of this flamboyant but often elusive species in four of the last five years, all in spring, between late Mar and mid-May.

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

[Common Kestrel]

*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; has bred (most recently in 2005).*

Following scattered sightings of single birds from mid-Jan to mid-Mar, a male and female were seen regularly from late Mar until the third week of May, with occasional reports of a third bird. A

female was watched migrating north from North Light, until lost to view, on 2 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Jun brought just three records of a single bird and there were no reports in Jul until the last week of the month. This pattern of sightings suggests that a pair may have held territory during the spring, but that breeding was either not attempted or unsuccessful. Numbers in autumn were unusually low, perhaps indicative of a poor breeding season generally for Kestrels.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	–	–
1	1	9	15	16	3	4	5	6	7	–	–

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

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

In late winter and spring there were records on 17 dates from 18 Feb to 9 May. All involved single birds with the exception of two on 25 & 28 Mar. During autumn migration there were singles on 8 & 20 Sep, followed by sightings on 30 dates in Oct/Nov and a further eight dates in Dec. The majority of these also concerned single birds, but there were two on 9 & 25 Oct and 13-15 Nov, and three on 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	2	1	1	–	–	–	1	3	2	1
–	1	8	2	6	–	–	–	2	18	11	8

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

A single bird was seen daily 20-22 May (Seb Loram & Ryan Burrell *et al.*). In autumn there were singles on 26 Sep (over Brambles – Chris Dee & Andy Turner) and 5 Oct (a juvenile near Tibbetts – Zoë Barton *et al.*).

**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

[Peregrine Falcon]

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

There were six occupied territories. Three pairs reared a total of five young to fledging, whilst a fourth nest failed at the chick stage. Data provided by Luke Sutton from his ongoing study of Lundy Peregrines (see @LundyPeregrine on Twitter).

**Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula***

[Western Jackdaw]

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

In late Mar there were two on 24th & 25th, three on 26th and four on 27th (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*) – all four birds were seen flying north above the Terrace on the latter date, apparently leaving the island. Later in the spring there was one on 29 & 30 Apr, followed by two in Lighthouse Field on 1 May (Neil Trout).

**Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

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

One on 29 & 30 May (Chris Townend) and, what was considered to be the same long-staying individual, on a further 19 dates up to and including 26 Aug (Dean Jones, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). Most sightings were from the vicinity of Tillage Field and the pig-sty.

**Carrion Crow *Corvus corone***

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

The pre-breeding maximum was 49 on 22 Mar, whilst the autumn peak was 48 on 9 Oct, suggesting

indifferent to poor breeding productivity. Pairs nested at traditional sites in the south-east of the island, including Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse, but also elsewhere on the sidelands and fledged young were seen in the late spring.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	28	49	32	44	31	31	36	45	48	37	42

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

The highest pre-breeding count was eight on 26 Feb. Successful breeding confirmed: an adult was commuting back and forth carrying food to Halfway Wall Bay on 21 & 22 Mar and two fledged young were being fed by adults between the north end of the Terrace and Halfway Wall on 3 May; a pair of adults were feeding four quite lively but still largely pink young in a nest between Benjamin's Chair and the Devil's Limekiln on 23 Mar, and four fledged young were seen on the sidelands above this nest site on 2 May (Tim Jones). Following fledging of young, there were peaks of 12 on 3, 21 & 25 May. Twelve were reported again on 23 Aug, 25 Oct & 5 Dec, then 13 on 6 Dec, but the highest count of the year by some way was of 20 on 16 Sep when "a mobile gang of presumed adolescents flew over the village area in at least two separate groups calling very loudly" (Dean Jones).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	8	7	6	12	8	8	12	20	12	8	13

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

Sightings, probably involving just one long-staying individual, were made on 14 dates from 29 Oct (Millcombe and also feeding with Chiffchaffs and Goldcrests along a wall above Benjamin's Chair – Andy Jayne & Dean Jones) to 30 Dec (in Quarter Wall Copse – Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). Most reports were from Millcombe, with one additional sighting in Quarter Wall Copse on 14 Nov. This bird overwintered, being seen again in late Jan and early Feb 2018.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

After two on 25 Jan and six on 4 Feb, the first singing bird was reported on 7 Feb (Dean Jones). Counts rose to 13 on 18 Feb and 20 on 26th, 46 on 22 Mar and 51 on 3 May. Over 30 territorial (singing) birds were counted on 1 & 2 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), but there was no systematic census and no reports of confirmed breeding were received. In Oct, 50 on 8th and 46 on 17th were the only counts higher than 20. In Nov, 46 on 2nd was the only double-digit count, and nine on 16th the only other count of more than five. At the very end of the year, there were singles on 23 & 24 Dec, three on 28th and two on 30th.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	20	46	15	51	20	18	11	12	50	46	3

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

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

Spring passage was recorded between 16 Mar (one) and 1 Jun (two), with higher counts (all those ≥40) including 110 on 26 Mar, 75 on 27 Mar, 42 on 17 Apr, 50 on 23 Apr, 40 on 2 May, and



100+ on 7 May. A trickle of returning migrants was noted from 12 Jul, with one to three on 15 further dates until the end of Aug when more definite passage included 20 on 23rd and 26th. The only really significant count of the autumn, however, was 250 on 16 Sep – part of a substantial movement of hirundines on that day. The last of the year was a single bird on 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
–	–	110	50	100	2	3	20	250	1	–	–
–	–	8	16	11	1	9	13	9	1	–	–

**Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

[Barn Swallow]

*Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; a few pairs breed in most years.*

Spring passage was recorded between 13 Mar (one) and mid-Jun (10 on 15th was the last occasion when counts exceeded the handful of individuals breeding on the island). There were only three counts of 500 or more in a day: 500 on 29 Apr, 568 on 5 May and 1,000+ on 7 May. Successful breeding confirmed: pairs bred at the Timekeeper's Hut (= Felix Gade memorial) where a nest with three or four young was found on 1 Aug (Peter Williams), and at Tillage/Brick Field pig-sty, where a recently fledged juvenile was seen on 4 & 5 Jul (Mike Archer; see colour plate 5), and a nest built unusually low to the ground contained a second brood of at least three chicks on 6 Aug (Dean Jones).

Autumn passage was noticeable from the last week of Aug, with 200 on 26th and 171 on 27th. As usual, movements peaked between mid-Sep and early Oct, with counts ≥500 including 1,200 on 16 Sep, 2,000 on 18 Sep, 1,500 on 25 Sep, 800+ on 6 Oct and 500 on 8 Oct. The last of the year was one on 30 Oct. See *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details of a Swallow ringed on Lundy in Sep and controlled two days later in the Channel Islands.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	26	500	1,000	16	11	200	2,000	800	–	–
–	–	8	22	22	18	21	25	26	27	–	–

**House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

[Common House Martin]

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

Spring passage was noted between 15 Mar (one) and 25 Jun (four), with counts ≥50 on 23 Apr (50), 5 May (128) and 7 May (400+). On 26 May, Tony Taylor noted: "*House Martins prospecting possible nest sites on the east side of Old House; birds were landing in crevices but no obvious signs of building yet.*" After lone birds on 4 Jul and 18 Aug, the first real sign of autumn migration was 10 on 25 Aug. Numbers were generally low in Sep, with the only counts ≥50 being 150 on 16th and 100 on 25th. It was not until the first week of Oct that numbers peaked at a notable 700+ on 6th, with 70 on 9th. The last of the year was a single bird on 29 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	50	400	6	1	10	150	700	–	–
–	–	4	13	20	12	1	2	10	15	–	–

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was over Quarry Beach and later over Millcombe (Charles Crundwell, Chris Townend) on 27 May and over the Village on 28 May (Richard Taylor). What was presumed to be the same bird was seen near South Light on 2 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor), then feeding

below the Castle at 11.10 hrs and at Quarter Wall Copse at 13.10 hrs on 3 Jun (Dean Jones, Chris Townend). These sightings constitute the 10th record for Lundy (the last in May 2012) and the sixth in spring. Record accepted by DBRC.

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

*Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant; has overwintered once.*

Six were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 27 Oct (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*).

A ring found in a Peregrine pellet in Jul came from a Long-tailed Tit that had been ringed in Apr 2016 – see *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

*Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; breeds sporadically.*

After an early individual on 16 Mar, the end of the month saw the start of migration proper, with 20 on 27th and 15 on 28th. As normal, movements peaked in Apr, but numbers were unusually low, with 150 on 20th and 100 on 24th the only three-digit counts. However, passage extended well into May, including a relatively high count of 40 on 5th. Although one to four birds were recorded on several dates during the second half of May, including a singing male on the Terrace during the last week of the month, there were no records at all in Jun, indicating that breeding did not take place in 2017. A trickle of return passage was noted from 17 Jul and during the first three weeks of Aug, with the highest count in this period 13 on 12 Aug. Numbers picked up at the end of Aug, with 41 on 23rd, 40 on 26th and 23 on 27th, but were notably low in Sep, with 15 on 14th the only double-digit count. Following an unusually high count for Oct of five on 10th, the last of the year was one on 26 Oct. A bird showing characteristics associated with the northern race *P. t. acredula* was in lower Millcombe on 31 Oct (Paul Holt).

**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	150	40	–	7	41	15	5	–	–
–	–	1	20	16	–	6	22	13	3	–	–

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

The first spring migrants were three on 14 Mar, followed by 21 on 16th, then (higher counts only) 60 on 23rd and 30 on 28th. As for Willow Warbler, numbers in Apr were unusually low, with 40 on 20th and 30 on 24th the only counts >20. A bird controlled on Lundy on 27 Apr had been ringed near Land’s End five days previously – see *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details. Singing males were holding territory in Millcombe (two), St Helen’s Copse and Quarter Wall Copse in late May and early Jun, but there was no other evidence of breeding. There was no real sign of autumn passage until mid-Sep, when there were 11 on 13th, 60 on 14th and 20 on 15th, followed by 30 on 25th, with intervening lower counts that continued almost throughout Oct; 20 on 18th and 26th being the unusually modest maxima for that month. A trickle of movement continued until mid-Nov, after which single birds were recorded on seven scattered dates, the last of these on 11 Dec. Singles showing characteristics of ‘Siberian’ Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 2 May and 26 & 27 Oct. Another was seen in lower Millcombe on 31 Oct. These four records of Siberian Chiffchaff have been submitted for review by DBRC, though Devon Birds policy is to ascribe individuals definitively to subspecies level only when this is supported by evidence from DNA analysis.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	60	40	10	5	6	4	60	20	11	1
–	–	14	18	28	16	14	13	24	25	15	2

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.*

Singles on 13 &amp; 30 Apr and 8 May were the only records for the year.

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

There were records on 10 dates, from 16 Sep to 2 Nov, involving at least 10 individuals: one calling from St Helen's Copse on 16 Sep (Nik Ward); one in Millcombe on 25 Sep (Chris Dee); one in Smelly Gully, lower Millcombe on 7 & 8 Oct (Tim Davis, Dean Jones); a different bird along the Upper East Side Path above St Helen's Copse on 8 Oct (Tim Davis, Tim Jones); one at Quarry Pond on 12 Oct (Chris Baillie, Julian Bowden *et al.*); one near the stonecrusher on 18 Oct (Chris & Carol Baillie); three trapped and ringed on 26 Oct (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*); an unringed bird near the stonecrusher on 30 Oct (Andy Jayne); one in the same area on 1 Nov (Paul Holt); and one feeding near Brambles on 2 Nov (Mike Beck). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Spring migration was noted on 27 days from 17 Apr (one) to 21 May (two), with peak counts of 17 on 20 Apr, 15 on 23 & 24 Apr and eight on 1 May. There was no evidence of breeding. The first returning migrants were single birds on 17 & 24 Jul, after which passage was recorded on just seven further dates from 16 Aug until the last of the year on the comparatively early date of 7 Sep. All of these dates involved single birds, with the exception of two on 26 Aug. See *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details of movements within Britain of two Sedge Warblers handled on Lundy in late Apr and early May. In addition, a first-year bird ringed at Donges, Loire-Atlantique, north-west France, in Aug 2015 was controlled on Lundy in Apr 2017 (see *Ringing Report* for full details). This is the third Sedge Warbler to be ringed at the same French reedbed site in late summer and controlled on Lundy during a subsequent spring migration. Altogether, there have been six Lundy Sedge Warbler movements to or from the Loire-Atlantique, reflecting not only the importance of wetlands in this region for fattening-up prior to trans-Mediterranean and trans-Saharan flights in autumn, but also the intensive ringing effort there. Since 2002, thousands of Sedge Warblers have been ringed annually in Donges; over 10,000 individuals were handled in 2011 alone! These have generated numerous controls in other countries, the great majority in the UK.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	17	8	–	1	2	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	14	13	–	2	6	1	–	–	–

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

During spring passage, recorded daily 20-25 Apr, with single birds on most of these days, but two on 22nd. Further singles were noted on 28 & 29 May and 3 Jun. Returning migrants were recorded on seven dates between 2 Aug and 18 Sep. All were single birds with the exception of two on 2 Aug. A bird controlled on Lundy on 20 Apr had been ringed on the Isles of Scilly two days previously – see *Ringing Report* (page 66) for full details.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Spring migrants were recorded on 14 dates from 8 Apr (one) to 4 May (one), with a maximum of

four on 23 & 28 Apr. The only records during autumn passage were of single birds on five dates, 16-31 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
–	–	–	4	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	11	3	–	–	5	–	–	–	–

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter. Successful breeding confirmed for the first time in 2016, following a breeding attempt of unknown outcome in 2015.* There were no records during the first winter period. Spring passage was noted from 27 Mar (2m, 2f) until the end of the first week in May. Numbers were low (one to five birds only) during the first 18 days of Apr, but there was a noticeable influx of 50 on 19th, followed by daily counts of between 30 and 50, up to and including 24th. The final double-digit count of the spring was 17 on 1 May. Although song was heard in Millcombe on 22 & 23 May, the only occurrence in Jun was of one on 3rd and there were no sightings at all in Jul, meaning that there was no repeat of the successful breeding recorded in 2016. A trickle of migrants (one to three birds only) was noted from 8 Aug, but it was the last day of the month before the first noticeable influx of 10 occurred. Movements peaked during the period 9-19 Sep with counts of 50 or more on eight days, including maxima of 300 on 14th and 200 on 15th. Passage continued throughout Oct, but there were no major influxes, with 30 on 7th & 9th and 40 on 26th the highest counts. Small numbers continued to be noted regularly until 16 Nov, after which the last of the year (a single f) was seen on 30 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
–	–	4	50	17	1	–	10	300	40	7	–
–	–	3	22	21	1	–	12	24	25	9	–

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

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

Spring migrants were noted on 11 dates from 29 Apr (one) to 22 May (one), with peak counts of seven on 30 Apr and five on 7 May. In autumn, recorded on nine dates from 22 Aug (one) to 27 Oct (one), with a maximum of four on 10 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
–	–	–	7	5	–	–	1	4	1	–	–
–	–	–	2	9	–	–	3	2	4	–	–

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird in Millcombe on 15 Oct (Chris & Carol Baillie, Richard Campey *et al.*) was the first since Oct 2014 – see colour plate 5. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

*Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; has bred once (2002).*

During spring migration, recorded on seven dates from 24 Apr to 7 May. Single birds on 24 & 27 Apr and two on 30th were followed in May by two on 1st and singles on 2nd, 3rd & 7th. Single birds were recorded on five dates during autumn passage: 23 & 24 Aug, 14 Sep and 8 & 28 Oct.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; breeds occasionally.*

Spring migration was noted from 19 Apr (two), with peak counts of nine on 24 Apr and 11 on 7 May. Noticeable passage had thinned out by mid-May, after which there were scattered records of single birds on 12 dates from 20 May (male song-fighting on the Terrace) to 12 Jul, plus two on 27 Jun, but there was no evidence of a breeding attempt. The first and only notable influx during autumn migration concerned 10 on 26 Aug. The last of the year was a single bird 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
–	–	–	9	11	2	1	10	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	14	7	3	9	4	–	–	–

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata**Lundy vagrant. Eight previous records, most recently in Oct 2015.*

A male near Brambles on 2 Nov (Paul Holt) was only the 9th record for Lundy, six of which have now been in autumn.

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was on the side of the Ugly near the top of the 'Steps of Doom' on 13 May (Dean Jones). Record accepted by BBRC as an unraced individual.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

*Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.*

In spring there were four scattered records of single birds, on 14 & 22 Mar, 24 Apr and 7 May. In autumn, recorded on 26 dates from 7 Sep (one) to 14 Nov (one), with maxima in Oct of four on 12th, seven on 15th, eight on 26th, 10 on 27th and seven on 28th. All other autumn records involved one to three birds. At the end of the year, a single bird was seen on five scattered dates from 2 to 28 Dec – an overwintering female that was subsequently re-sighted in late Jan 2018.

**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	10	2	1
–	–	2	1	1	–	–	–	4	17	5	5

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

The first of the year was a single bird on 17 Feb, either an early migrant or an overwintering bird that had gone undetected in Jan. Spring passage was noted on 31 dates from 1 Mar (three) to 4 May (one), with peaks during Mar of 13 on 16th, 10 on 22nd and 14 on 23rd. Autumn migrants were recorded on 74 dates from 12 Aug (one) to 16 Nov (four), after which there were scattered records of one to three birds, either late migrants or individuals attempting to overwinter, on a further 13 dates from 19 Nov to the end of the year. Peak counts during autumn migration (all those ≥100) were: 150 on 14 & 19 Sep, 300 on 25 Sep, 150 on 28 Sep, 200 on 12 Oct and 100 on 25 & 26 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	14	3	1	–	–	16	300	200	10	3
–	1	16	14	1	–	–	14	25	25	13	10

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

[Eurasian Wren]

*Common breeding resident.*

The highest count of the year was 40 on 3 May. Territory-holding birds in early May, away from the main strongholds in the south-east of the island and along the East Sidelands, included those at Quarter Wall Pond, the Devil's Limekiln, the Earthquake, near Dead Cow Point, the bottom of Punchbowl Valley at Jenny's Cove, the western end of Halfway Wall, near Knight Templar Rock, Gannets' Combe and North Light. Successful breeding confirmed: a fledgling was seen near the stonecrusher on 20 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The autumn maximum of 37 on 9 Oct was unusually low in comparison with recent years; poor summer weather may have reduced breeding success.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	9	24	25	40	4	31	23	20	37	28	17

**Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus***

[Rosy Starling]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A breeding-plumaged adult was in St Helen's Field, immediately outside Barton Cottages, on 1 Jun (Dean Jones, Tony Taylor), and a juvenile was in Millcombe and in Tillage & St Helen's Fields on 26 Aug (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor) – see colour plate 6. Rose-coloured Starlings have now been seen on Lundy in three of the last four years. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

[Common Starling]

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

The spring pre-breeding maximum was 90 on 21 & 26 Mar. Successful breeding confirmed: adults were seen commuting back and forth to nest sites, carrying food, on 29 Apr; 37 occupied nests were counted on 3 May, including those in the Church, Village and Old Light complex (Tim Jones), and the first fledgling was seen by the Ranger's Shed on 9 May (Dean Jones). The post-breeding summer peak was 130 on 8 Jul, while autumn movements brought 200 on 25 Sep, 347 on 25 Oct, 660 on 27 Oct, 530 on 31 Oct, 200 on 1-3 Nov, 500 on 13 Nov, and the year's peak count of 1,260 on 18 Nov, mainly moving south towards Hartland.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	nc	90	70	66	58	130	80	200	660	1260	130

nc = no count

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

Spring migrants were noted on 12 dates from 16 Mar (one) to 10 May (one), including two birds on 27 Mar and 20, 22 & 23 Apr. Autumn passage records occurred on 15 dates from 15 Sep to 14 Nov. With the exception of two on the first date, all of these records concerned single birds.

**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	–	–	–	2	1	1	–
–	–	3	8	1	–	–	–	8	5	2	–

**Blackbird *Turdus merula***

[Common Blackbird]

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

Successful breeding confirmed: there was no full breeding-season survey, but an adult was carrying food in lower Millcombe on 29 Apr, where a fledged brood was seen on 2 May (Tim Jones); a recently fledged juvenile was in Millcombe on 5 Jul (Mike Archer); and adults were carrying food at St Helen's and Quarter Wall Copses and along the Terrace (two pairs) in late May. During autumn migration there were no significant influxes until the end of Oct, with 50 on 26th and 34 on 28th. Numbers remained high in the first week or so of Nov, with 33 on 2nd and 32 on 7th, whilst further movements brought 29 on 13 Nov and 2 Dec, followed by a high count for late Dec of 24 on 23rd.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	15	18	20	8	6	10	12	50	33	29

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

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

One on 25 & 26 Jan and two on 18 Feb were the only records during the first winter period. Spring passage saw records of single birds (perhaps one long-staying individual) on seven dates from 19 Apr to 3 May, then a further lone individual on the late date of 17 May. Autumn migrants didn't appear until the last week of Oct, when two on 26th and 20 the following day were the vanguard of significant arrivals estimated at 150 on 28th, 225 on 30th and 200 on 31st. These numbers were not maintained into Nov, when the highest counts were 42 on 1st and 35 on 13th.

**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	1	–	–	–	–	225	42	8
2	1	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	6	13	5

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

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

There were four scattered records of between two and 20 in Feb. However, writing in the LFS logbook, Dean Jones noted for the night of 18/19 Feb: "Possibly hundreds if not thousands of Redwing over the village c.23.00 hrs onwards. Conditions clear and calm. Frequency of calls heard was very high. However, many of these could be from birds attracted to the now continuous light emitted from the village (generators running all night)." Numerous calls were heard from c.22.00 hrs on both of the next two nights, when there was thick fog and little wind, but the overall numbers of birds involved were considerably lower. Later in the spring there were 10 on 1 Mar and sightings of ones and twos on 12 further dates from 7 Mar to 14 Apr, including one at Jenny's Cove on 31 Mar. The last of the spring was a single bird in Millcombe Wood on 1 May. Autumn passage commenced with four on 9 Oct, but there were only sporadic records of small numbers until mass arrivals during the last week of the month, after which Redwings continued to be logged on the majority of days until the end of the year. Peak counts included 1,000+ on 26 Oct, 800 on 28th, 350 on 29th, and over 200 on five other dates in the last week of Oct and first week of Nov. A further arrival brought 370 on 13 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	20	10	1	1	–	–	–	–	1,000	370	70
–	4	10	3	1	–	–	–	–	14	19	20

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

*Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Occasional resident and sporadic breeder prior to 2010.*

During late winter and spring there were records on 14 dates from 5 Feb (three) to 1 May (one), with evident migration peaking in late Mar when there were 11 on 27th. There were no further records until the first autumn migrants: four on 6 Oct, which paved the way for regular sightings of one to three birds until the last week of the month, when a significant influx (coinciding with a mass arrival of other thrushes) brought 100+ on 26th and over 30 on 27th and 31st. Alongside Redwings and Blackbirds, Song Thrushes remained a feature of island birding until the end of the year, including a high count for late Dec of 16 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
–	3	11	1	1	–	–	–	–	100	18	16
–	2	7	4	1	–	–	–	–	16	21	22

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

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

During autumn migration one was seen on four dates during the period 26-30 Oct, followed by three on 1 Nov and two on 18 Nov.

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

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

Spring migrants were recorded on 25 dates from 24 Apr (two) until at least 11 Jun, peaking at an estimated 25-30 birds on 13 May. Successful breeding was confirmed for the first time since 1997, three fledged juveniles being fed by adults at Quarter Wall Copse on 17 Jul (Dean Jones). Autumn passage was noted on 30 dates from 21 Aug (five) to 13 Oct (one), with maxima of 12 on 23 Aug and 30 on 26 Aug. Numbers did not reach double digits on any other date.

#### **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	25	1	5	30	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	20	3	1	11	15	7	–	–

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

A modest early-spring passage saw counts reach 14 on 21 & 27 Mar. Two birds seen on 28 Mar had the greyish tones and pallid orange breasts associated with continental birds (Tony Taylor). Successful breeding confirmed: the first fledged young of the year were seen near Millcombe House on 17 May (Dean Jones); other pairs successfully fledged young in May on the Terrace (two pairs, either end of the Terrace Trap platform) and at Lone Pine Gulch (Tim Davis, Mandy Dee, Tim Jones); and adults were carrying food just south of Quarter Wall Copse on 20 May. Noticeable autumn movements commenced on the early date of 23 Aug, when 17 were counted, coinciding with a small fall of Willow Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers. Higher counts included 25 on 18 Sep and 7 Oct, followed during the rest of Oct by 30 on 8th, 32 on 9th, 40 on 12th and 24 on 18th. Twelve on 30 Dec was a high count for the time of year, and the only double-digit count during the month, perhaps suggesting a small influx from the mainland.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	5	14	8	10	4	8	17	25	40	17	12



**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

[Common Nightingale]

*Lundy vagrant. Nine previous records, most recently in 2010.*

A first-year bird was mist-netted and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Aug (Tony Taylor); the first Lundy record since one was ringed in May 2010. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

In spring there were records of migrants on 10 dates from 12 Apr to 6 May. All concerned single birds, with the exception of three (a male & two females) on 29 Apr and two (both females) on 4 May. Autumn passage was noted on 16 dates from 23 Aug (one) to 8 Oct (one), with a maximum of six on 27 Aug. There were three on 26 Aug, three on 3 Sep and four on 18 Sep, but all other records were of ones and twos.

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

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

There were two records in October: one in the Terrace Trap willows and later at Quarry Pond on 15 Oct (Richard Campey) and one in Millcombe on 28 Oct (Andy Jayne). Records accepted by DBRC.

**2016 addition**

One was in Millcombe in the vicinity of the walled gardens and lower slopes of the Ugly on 1 Oct (Paul Sterry, Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

During the first winter period, single birds were noted on 25 & 27 Jan (the latter at Jenny's Cove) and 4 Feb. Spring passage was recorded on 13 dates between 20 Mar (a single female type at the Earthquake) and 30 Apr (a single female type on the Battlements), followed by two late singles on 28 May and 18 Jun. The peak spring count was five on 23 Mar (four at Benjamin's Chair and one in the Landing Bay). Autumn migrants were seen on 10 dates from 15 Oct (one) to 3 Nov (one), with a maximum of just three on 26 & 27 Oct. Subsequent records of single birds on 29 Nov and 12 Dec may have been late migrants or, perhaps more likely, wintering individuals, given that two were seen at the end of Jan 2018.

**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	5	3	1	1	–	–	–	3	1	1
2	1	7	6	1	1	–	–	–	8	3	1

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

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

Spring passage was noted on 10 dates from 9 Apr (one male) to 5 May (two), with maxima of six on 30 Apr and 1 May and three on 3 May; all other records were of single birds. The only records during autumn migration concerned single birds on 25 & 26 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
–	–	–	6	6	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	6	4	–	–	–	2	–	–	–

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

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

The only spring passage reports were during the period 1-17 May: a single male on 1st, two females and a male on 5th, two on 6th, three on 7th and one on 17th. In autumn, one outside Quarters on 25 Aug was followed in Sep by one on 14th, two on 16th & 17th and further single birds on 25th & 26th – surprisingly, 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
–	–	–	–	3	–	–	1	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	5	–	–	1	5	–	–	–

**Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola***

[European Stonechat]

*Breeds occasionally (most recently in 2015, following a five-year gap); regular spring and autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.*

Ones and twos were recorded on 22, 25 & 26 Jan and 4 & 18 Feb. Spring passage was noted from the last week of Feb, with seven on 24th, 14 on 25th, six on 26th and 11 on 28th, followed by Mar peaks of seven on 3rd, eight on 9th and six on 22nd. However, the later spring and summer period, Apr to Aug inclusive, brought just six well-scattered records of single birds, with no evidence of breeding. Autumn movements were noted from mid-Sep to early Nov, with maxima of five on 16 Sep, eight on 8, 9 & 12 Oct, 11 on 18 Oct, and six on 26 & 27 Oct and 2 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	14	8	1	1	1	1	1	5	11	6	1
3	6	10	2	1	1	1	1	10	19	12	4

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

[Northern Wheatear]

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

The first of the year was a single male on 13 Mar. Following several further records of up to three in a day, new arrivals brought the total to 21 birds by 22nd (including the first three females and the first returning colour-ringed males) with 24 on 27th. Migration continued during Apr but there were no major influxes and counts didn't exceed 30 until the second half of the month, when there were 40 on 20th & 23rd. Things didn't change much into May, with 40 on 2nd, 50 on 3rd & 10th and 51 on 21st (perhaps representing pulses of Greenland Wheatears *O. o. leochorhoa* passing through) being the highest totals reported. The first fledglings of the year were below Benjamin's Chair on 17 May (Dean Jones). A count of 94 on 7 Jun presumably included a number of fledged family parties. Autumn passage was even more modest than in spring, with small influxes noted in late Aug (21 on 23rd) and late Sep (16 on 21st), but nearly all other counts in single digits. The last record was of two on 27 Oct.

The colour-ringing project under the BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival scheme entered its fifth year. A further 51 birds were newly colour-ringed, whilst 48 birds marked in previous years (2013-2016) were resighted. One of the latter, ringed in 2015, was seen on Guernsey on 13 Mar (2017), then back on Lundy 11 days later. The breeding population within the main study area, from the

Castle, along the south and west coast as far as Halfway Wall, was estimated at 53 pairs, and for the island as a whole, 121 pairs (data provided by Tony Taylor; see also *Ringing Report*, page 66).

**Request.** *Further birds will be colour-ringed in 2018 and 2019 so please continue to record sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos are particularly appreciated and can be sent to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).*

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	24	40	51	94	25	21	16	5	–	–
–	–	11	15	24	21	15	27	14	12	–	–

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

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

The highest counts recorded in the LFS logbook were 150 on 13 Oct and 200+ on 30 Nov. Aaron Sibma has contributed the following update on behalf of the Lundy Sparrow Project:

After an average 2016 when it comes to number of broods (146), 2017 turned out to be surprisingly different. The 2017 breeding season started extremely early; by the time of the team's arrival on Lundy on 22 April, many pairs already had chicks of at least a few days old. The first egg was estimated to have been laid around 31 March. What sparked this early onset of the breeding season is only speculative, but could have been the relatively mild winter, followed by some early warm weather in spring. Unfortunately, most of these early broods did not make it. A lot of chicks died during a cold spell that lasted for a few days. It is likely that the parents had to spend too much time keeping the chicks warm, leading to less time to provision food. The cold spell also affected the food source for their chicks – insects – negatively. After the loss of entire nests, most birds waited for a week or so before they started laying again. These broods, after the first, early wave, fared a lot better.

At the end of the season we had accounted for 218 broods, which is a lot more than in 2016. A total of 317 chicks were ringed; ringing takes place when the chicks are 10-12 days old and close to fledging. When looking at the fledgling to brood ratio, the 1.45 fledglings per brood in 2017 was a lot lower than in 2016, when there were 1.73 fledglings per brood. The higher number of broods seemed to affect the number of fledglings, perhaps due to competition. This was evidenced by the occasional discovery of live chicks on the ground, which had clearly been pulled out of the nestboxes by competing adults. Some other chicks were pecked to death in the nest, but thankfully such occurrences remained rare. The Lambing Shed area, containing 30-40 nestboxes, was very little used in 2016. It was speculated that the renewal of the roof in autumn and winter had disturbed the birds in their usual winter habits, which include searching for and selecting their eventual nest site. However, in 2017 it was back in business, with the Lambing Shed hosting many sparrow broods. Given that the area was not disturbed during winter 2016/2017 prior to the 2017 breeding season, birds had time to prospect and claim nestboxes, which they took full advantage of. In November, we returned to Lundy for about a week to catch surviving fledglings and adults. This led to a total of 199 captures involving 144 individuals. It was clear the numbers were still high from the previous breeding season.

**Maximum count for each month (LFS Logbook entries only)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
nc	nc	50	48	61	30	50	62	75	150	200	86

nc = no count, but present

### **Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

*Breeding resident in small numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn.*

There were signs of birds passing through Lundy in late Mar, with counts of eight on 22nd and 11 on 27th – the latter the highest count for the island since 2005. This total was exceeded in the autumn when there were 13 on 9 Oct (the highest since Oct 2004), and eight or nine on six other dates during Oct, suggestive of both a good breeding season and some passage movement. Successful breeding confirmed: song was heard in lower Millcombe on 30 Apr and a pair were feeding fledged young by the gas store on 21 May, when there were two males singing in Millcombe (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A territory-holding singing male was heard between the Terrace and Quarry Beach on 30 Apr and in the same area in late May, and one was singing above White Beach on 22 May.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	11	4	5	3	2	5	7	13	8	5

### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

[Western Yellow Wagtail]

*The British race M. f. flavissima is an uncommon spring migrant, regular early autumn migrant in small numbers and occasional summer visitor. Formerly more numerous, particularly in autumn. The continental race M. f. flava 'Blue-headed Wagtail' occurs occasionally in spring; all other races are vagrants.*

Spring migrants were recorded from 22 Apr to 21 May. All sightings involved single birds with the exception of seven on 5 May. Two female Blue-headed Wagtails *M. f. flava*, keeping company with Yellow Wagtails and feeding around the ponies, were in Barton, St Helen's and Tillage Fields on 5 & 6 May (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Joanne Wilby *et al.*). Records of Blue-headed Wagtail accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. In autumn, there were just two records, of single birds on 25 Aug and 13 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	7	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	5	4	–	–	1	1	–	–	–

### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Following three singles on 10, 14 & 16 Mar, there were no further reports in spring until mid-May, after which there was an unusual series of records of single birds on seven dates from 14 May to 27 Jun – perhaps a long-staying individual? Autumn passage was recorded on 27 dates from 9 Sep (one) to 3 Nov (one). With the exception of three on 8 Oct, all records were of ones and twos.

#### **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	3	2	–
–	–	3	–	4	3	–	–	14	11	2	–

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

[White Wagtail]

*Pied Wagtail nests most years in small numbers and is a common spring and autumn migrant, but rare in midwinter. White Wagtail occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.*

**Pied Wagtail:** The only record during the first two months of the year was of one on 17 Feb. Spring passage was evident from mid-Mar, with nine on 16th followed by double-digit counts on

seven dates later in the month, peaking at 15 on 26th. Breeding confirmed: two recently fledged juveniles were in Millcombe on 5 Jul (Mike Archer). There were no significant influxes during the early autumn, the highest Sep count being eight on 17th. Numbers increased in Oct, however, with 15 on 8th and 24 on 12th. The last of the year was a single bird on 10 Nov.

**White Wagtail:** In spring there were singles on 20 & 23 Mar, two on 24th, four on 27th & 28th and two (males) on 31st, then three on 19 Apr, five on 2 May, singles on 5 & 6 May, two on 8 & 10 May and one on 31 May. An adult female was feeding around Tillage Field/Brick Field pig-sty on the unusual date of 2 Jul (Dean Jones). The only autumn records were in Sep: two on 7th, one on 11th and three on 17th. Records of White Wagtail accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Maximum count for each month: (Pied Wagtail (top) & White Wagtail (bottom))**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	15	6	8	4	6	5	8	24	4	–
–	–	4	3	5	–	1	–	3	–	–	–

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

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

The first evident pulse of spring passage occurred in the second half of Feb when there were 25 over the Village on 17th and 50 on 18th, with further small influxes during the first two weeks of Mar. It was the end of Mar before migration was in full swing, however, with peaks of 300 on 23rd and 500 on 25th. Successful breeding confirmed but no estimate was made of the breeding population. The main period of autumn passage was mid-Sep to mid-Oct, with maxima of 300 on 16 Sep, 520 on 30 Sep, 700 on 8 Oct and 850 on 12 Oct. Numbers declined during the second half of the month, leaving only single-digit counts in Nov & Dec, with the exception of 33 on 14 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	50	500	27	60	40	60	80	520	850	33	7
1	7	17	12	16	13	19	18	24	22	13	12

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One was on the flanks of the Ugly on the unusually early date of 14 Mar (Dean Jones). Thereafter, one below the Battlements on 17 Apr, one on 1 May and two on 5th (over Ackland's Moor and Quarter Wall). In autumn, single birds were recorded on eight dates, 20 Aug to 16 Sep, followed by four on 17 Sep and further singles on 21st, 25th & 28th. The last of the year was one on 7 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	–	–	1	4	1	–	–
–	–	1	1	2	–	–	5	7	1	–	–

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

*Nationally scarce migrant. Three previous records, most recently in Oct 2012.*

One in Millcombe on 13 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC. There were tantalising records of 'probable' Olive-backed Pipits, based mainly on flight calls, in the south-east of the island on five additional dates during the period 26 Oct to 14 Nov (the latter remaining under consideration by DBRC), suggesting that a single long-staying but elusive individual could have been present.

**Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus***

*UK vagrant. Ten previous records, most recently in Dec 2016.*

One found in Brick Field during the late afternoon of 26 Oct was still present early on the morning of 27 Oct before flying off to the south-west at 08.15 hrs (Andy Jayne). The 11th Lundy record, four of which have been since 2013. Record accepted by BBRC.

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest counts of the year included 19 on 22 Mar, 26 on 3 May (during a complete walk of the island's perimeter – Tim Davis), 18 on 23 Aug, 17 on 15 Oct, 20 on 14 Nov and 14 on 26 Dec. Successful breeding confirmed: an adult was feeding fledged young at North End on 7 Jun.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	4	19	4	26	12	5	18	12	17	20	14

**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 only real evidence of spring passage were counts in mid-Apr of 26 on 13th, 15 on 14th and 10 on 17th. All other late-winter and spring records were in single digits, consistent with the island's small breeding population. A female was carrying nesting material near the Blue Door on 29 Apr (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), single singing males were holding territory in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse in late Apr/early May and at Quarter Wall Copse in late May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and two recently fledged young were seen in lower Millcombe in the late spring (Dean Jones). Mid-Sep brought the first sign of autumn movements, with 12 on 14th, but it was another month before migration started in earnest: 33 on 12 Oct rose to 100 on 15th, 275 on 19th, 650 on 25th and peaked at 5,500 on 26th, 4,360 on 31st and 2,000 on 1 Nov. Thereafter, numbers declined to 600 on 3 Nov and 130 on 14th – the last three-digit count of the year. Twelve on 28 Dec hinted at a small arrival of winter visitors, following much lower counts earlier in the month. See *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details of the recovery in West Devon of a Lundy-ringed Chaffinch.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	3	9	26	6	2	3	4	12	5,500	2,000	12

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

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

During autumn migration there were records on 22 dates from 12 Oct (three) to 24 Nov (two), with maxima of 15 on 26 Oct, 40, 50 and 25 during the period 31 Oct to 2 Nov and a further influx of 52 on 14 Nov, with 26 the following day. This represents the strongest showing of this species for many years; the last time numbers exceeded the 2017 peak of 52 was a quarter of a century ago, when there were 56 on 30 Oct 1992.

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

The autumn of 2017 saw an unprecedented irruption of Hawfinches of as yet unclear continental origin across much the UK. Lundy did not get quite the numbers encountered elsewhere in the country, but there were nevertheless records on at least 16 dates between 7 Oct and 3 Nov, with a maximum of 15 on 26 Oct. Two feeding on blackberries on the side of the Ugly on 7 Oct left

high to the east at 07.55 hrs on 8 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones). Five were in Millcombe on 14 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*) and at least seven on 15 Oct (Richard Campey *et al.*). Two in Millcombe on 17 Oct (Malcolm Shakespeare) remained to 19th, when one was found dead (Chris & Carol Baillie). Five (including the moribund bird) were in Millcombe on 18 Oct (Dean Jones & Eddie Stubbings). A female was in Millcombe on 20 Oct (Dean Jones). Two were in Millcombe on 25 Oct (Andy Jayne). At least 15 were present on 26 Oct, when constant movement was noted with birds coming in off the sea; one was trapped and ringed (Rob Duncan, Andy Jayne, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Of four on 27 Oct, two were trapped and ringed (Rob Duncan, Andy Jayne, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Thereafter, one on 28 Oct (Andy Jayne); four on 29 Oct (Andy Jayne); two in Millcombe and one in St Helen's Copse on 31 Oct (Paul Holt); and finally, singles in Millcombe on 1 & 3 Nov (Paul Holt). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Bullfinch** *Phyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

*Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant. One winter record.*

The only spring records were of a female that remained in the same blackthorn bush, though feeding actively, at the head of St Helen's Combe on 27 & 28 Mar (Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Dean Jones) and a female – potentially the same individual – ringed in Millcombe on 21 Apr (Chris Dee). In autumn there was a male in Millcombe on 27 Oct (Justin Zantboer) and a female in St Helen's Combe on 31st (Paul Holt).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A singing male was heard around Millcombe and St John's Valley during the morning of 1 May (Chris Baillie, Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

*Scarce spring migrant in small numbers; uncommon autumn migrant; occasional visitor in summer and winter.*

One on 8 Sep was the first of the year. Later in the autumn there were records on 12 dates from 7 Oct to 16 Nov; all of these involved ones and twos, with the exception of five on 2 Nov.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

There were no records until the commencement of spring migration towards the end of Mar, when ones and twos on 20th-22nd increased to 11 on 25th and 30 on 26th & 27th. Movements continued throughout Apr (maximum 33 on 29th) and peaked in early May, with 90 on 2nd and 97 on 5th – probably a mix of passage birds and island breeders. Successful breeding confirmed: e.g. family parties of recently fledged young seen on 5 Jul (Mike Archer). Post-breeding flocks were noted from late Jul, when there were 100+ on 23rd, rising to 250 on 16 Aug. Autumn passage was noted through Sep and peaked at 300 on 8 Oct. Numbers dwindled rapidly after mid-Oct, barely reaching double digits in the second half of the month. The last of the year was a single bird on 24 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
–	–	30	33	97	30	100	250	120	300	5	–
–	–	10	20	22	12	20	19	21	22	6	–

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

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

The only spring passage records were two on 19 Apr, one on 29 Apr and singles on 1 & 2 May. Autumn migrants were recorded on 23 dates from 6 Oct (two) to 12 Nov (one), with maxima of 10 on 27 Oct and six on 1 Nov. Most other counts were of one to three birds.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

*Rare summer and autumn migrant; occurring sporadically, but occasionally in large numbers during 'invasion' years.*

One was in Millcombe on 10 Aug (R.M.R. James) and one was heard calling loudly as it circled Millcombe on 9 Oct (James Diamond).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

After ones and twos in Feb and early Mar, the onset of spring passage brought five on 18 Mar, 13 on 21st & 23rd and 10 on 27th & 31st. Showing a similar pattern to Linnet, migration continued throughout Apr and into May, but without any especially notable numbers; 15 on 14 & 29 Apr, 22 on 1 May and 17 on 18 May being the maxima. Successful breeding confirmed after adults were seen collecting nest material in Millcombe on 2 & 30 May (Tim Jones, Tony Taylor): a pair feeding three juveniles in Millcombe on 3 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor), and family parties in Millcombe and near Tillage Field pig-sty on 5 Jul (Mike Archer). Post-breeding numbers reached 20 on 10 Jul and 23 on 23 Aug, with autumn migration bringing peaks of 30 on 14 Sep and notable totals during the first half of Oct of 120 on 8th, 130 on 9th, 70 on 12th, 75 on 14th and 90 on 15th. Numbers then fell away rapidly and did not exceed low single digits after 10 on 2 Nov, though ones and twos continued to be seen until the year's end. See *Ringing Report* (page 66) for details of a Lundy-ringed Goldfinch controlled on the North Devon mainland.

**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	13	15	22	9	20	23	30	130	10	3
–	5	20	20	26	18	18	21	23	26	13	10

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

In spring, ones and twos were present daily, 25-27 Mar, followed by four on 13 Apr, one on 27 Apr and one on the late date of 28 May. The first of the autumn was a single bird on 7 Oct, the forerunner of what became quite a strong passage, with records on 33 dates from 7 Oct (one) to 21 Nov (one), and counts  $\geq 100$  (all in Oct) comprising 125 on 15th, 350 on 26th, 100 on 27th and 183 on 31st. The Nov maximum was 96 on 1st.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	4	1	–	–	–	–	350	96	–
–	–	3	2	1	–	–	–	–	23	11	–

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One on 29 Apr: a male flew up from the ground just to the west of the main track at Quarter Wall and perched alongside Linnets (Sam Bosanquet). This is the first record since 2014 of what was once a regular visitor and even bred until the middle of the twentieth century.



**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One on the Terrace flew off in the direction of the Timekeeper's Hut and Quarry Pond on 17 Oct. Record under consideration by DBRC.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

One on 26 Apr was the only spring record. During autumn passage there were records on 15 dates from 4 Oct to 24 Nov, with the highest count being six on 1 & 24 Nov. Most other records were of ones and twos.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Records on six autumn dates: one on the ground near Threequarter Wall on 16 Sep (Geoff Edmond); three over the water tanks on 15 Oct (Richard Campey); one over Brick Field on 25 Oct (Andy Jayne); one on the Airfield and in flight over Lighthouse Field on 26 Oct (Andy Jayne); one very flighty and mobile individual seen several times between Middle Park and North Light, and also briefly on the ground just west of the main track near Tibbetts on 27 Oct (Andy Jayne); and one south over the Rocket Pole on 2 Nov (Paul Holt). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Records on 7 autumn dates between 11 Sep and 18 Nov: one near Pondsbury on 11 & 12 Sep (Mark Worden *et al.*); one at North End on 12 Oct (Julian & Maggie Bowden) – see colour plate 8; one on the Terrace on 15 Oct (Richard Campey); one on the Airfield on 26 Oct (Andy Jayne); one over Millcombe on 3 Nov (Paul Holt); and one calling over the Stonecrusher area on 18 Nov (Tony Taylor). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

## **BBRC/DBRC DECISIONS PENDING**

**Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris*

One off the Landing Bay on 17 Oct 2016. At the time of writing (Sep 2018), this record remains under consideration by BBRC.

## **BBRC/DBRC DECISIONS ON RARITY RECORDS ASSESSED AS 'NOT PROVEN'**

**Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans cantillans/albistriata*

One, Millcombe, 14 Apr. BBRC assessed the record as proven at species level, but not at sub-specific level. This is reflected in the main Systematic List.

## **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 the Devon Bird Recorder ([recorder@devonbirds.org](mailto:recorder@devonbirds.org)).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A flock of 12 off Bull Point during the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 23 Jul (Martin Thorne).

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

Two off Bull Point on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 23 Jul (Martin Thorne). One feeding at sea about 20 minutes out from the island on the crossing to Lundy on 25 Jul (Dean Jones). Five on the outward crossing from Ilfracombe on 15 Aug (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor).

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

[Leach's Storm Petrel]

Two on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 17 Oct (Eddie Stubbings). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

One on the crossing to Lundy on 27 Apr (Martin Thorne).

**Great Skua** (Bonxie) *Stercorarius skua*

Two on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 23 Jul (Martin Thorne).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

[Pomarine Jaeger]

An adult with tail-spoons about halfway across during the morning crossing from Bideford to Lundy on 26 Oct (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

[Long-tailed Jaeger]

An adult still in breeding plumage about halfway between Lundy and Ilfracombe during the afternoon/evening crossing on 16 Sep. Record under consideration by DBRC.

## RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated for the reasons given. We would be delighted to receive further information that could enable any of these reports to be confirmed.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

One on 27 Apr – scarce on Lundy but no information on location, circumstances or observer provided.

**Black-headed Gull** *Croicocephalus ridibundus*

One on 26 Feb and four on 3 Apr – scarce on Lundy but no information on location, circumstances or observer provided.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

One on 1 Apr – scarce on Lundy but no information on location, circumstances or observer provided.

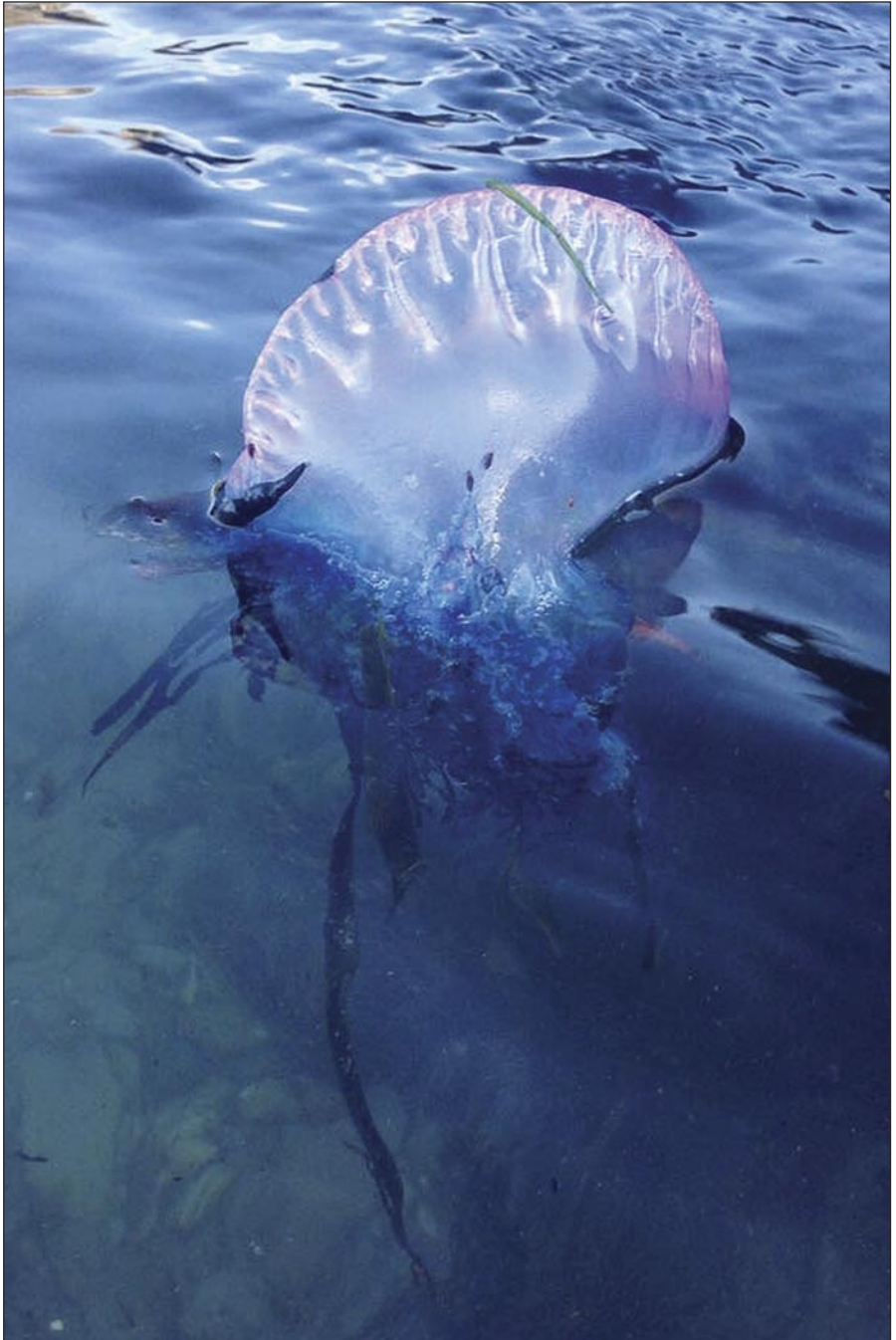
**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Singles were reported on 13 & 16 Oct and three on 14th; plus one on 2 Nov. No information on location, circumstances or observer provided.

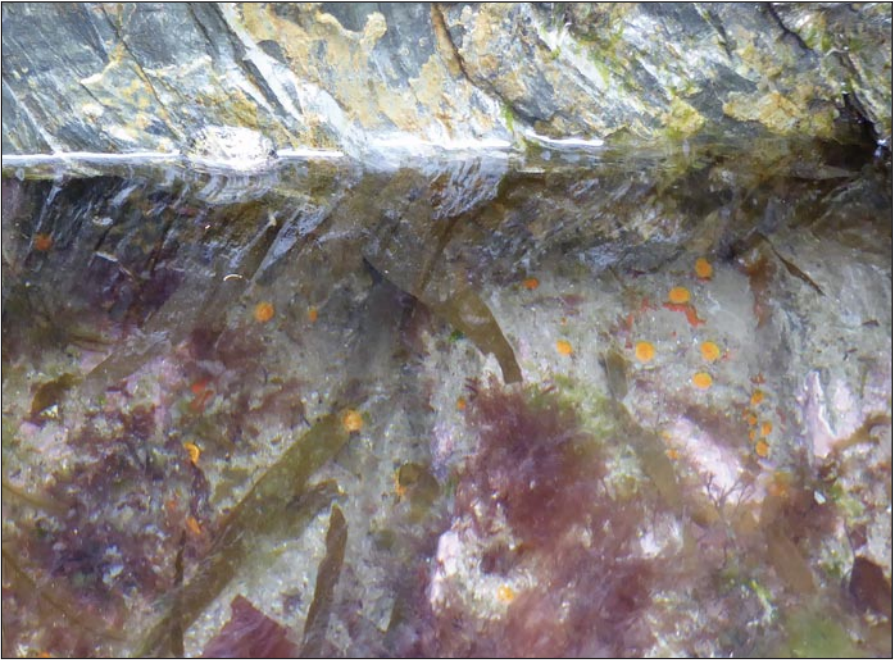
**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

One was reported on the highly unusual date of 23 Jul but no information on location, circumstances or observer provided.



**Portuguese Man o' War** *Physalia physalis*, Landing Bay, 24 October.

© Emily Trapnell



**Scarlet and Gold Cup Corals** *Balanophyllia regia*, Devil's Kitchen, 23 May. © Keith Hiscock  
**Horse-leech** *Haemopsis sanguisuga*, main track pool near Quarter Wall, 17 May. © Alan Rowland







**Canada Geese** *Branta canadensis*, Pondsbyury, 19 March. © Alan Rowland  
**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*, Devil's Kitchen, 13 August. © Dean Jones





**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*, North End, 27 August. © David White & Alice Hasted  
**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Calidris subruficollis*, Airfield, 11 September. © Mark Worden







Fledgling **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*, Quarter Wall cattle run, 4 July. © Dean Jones  
**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*, Millcombe, 15 October. © Richard Campey





**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus* in summer plumage, Barton Cottages, 1 June (© Dean Jones) and in immature or winter plumage, Millcombe, 26 August (© Richard Taylor).







**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*, VC Quarry, 27 March. © Tim Jones  
**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*, Quarter Wall, 22 August. © Rebecca Taylor





**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*, Barton Field, 5 May. © Joanne Wilby  
**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*, North End, 12 October. © Maggie Bowden







**Chaffweed** *Lysimachia minima*, Kistvaen Pond, 13 July. © Andrew Cleave  
**Hornwort** *Anthoceros punctatus*, by The Battery steps, 29 April. © Sam Bosanquet





**Rock Fingerwort** *Lepidozia cupressina*, Gannets' Combe, 1 May. © Sam Bosanquet  
**Scott's Fork-moss** *Dicranum scottianum*, Gannets' Combe, 1 May. © Sam Bosanquet







**Common Red Soldier Beetles** *Rhagonycha fulva*, on Wild Thyme, 4 July. © Alan Rowland  
**Emperor Moth** *Saturnia pavonia*, female, Village, 9 May. © Zoë Barton





Clockwise from above:

**Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux*, Casbah,  
15 August. © Helen Cole

**Rosy Footman** *Mittochrista miniata*,  
Casbah, 15 August. © Helen Cole

**Peach Blossom** *Thyatira batis*, Casbah,  
22 August. © Dean Jones

**Brown China-mark** *Elophila nymphaeata*,  
Middle Park Pond, 1 July. © Alan Rowland

**Knot Grass** *Acrionicta rumicis*, Casbah,  
15 August. © Helen Cole

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Singles were reported on 1 Jun & 10 Sep, and two on 28 Oct – very scarce on Lundy but no information on location, circumstances or observer provided.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

One along the Lower East Side Path, below Tibbetts, on 24 May – nationally scarce migrant and the information provided was insufficient to confirm the record.

One “at bottom of cattle field, flitting from post top to post top along fence” on 13 & 14 Jun – nationally scarce migrant but no description or observer contact details provided and therefore no submission could be made to DBRC.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

A male was reported independently by two visitors during the afternoon of 16 May and further reported flying up St John's Valley from Millcombe on the morning of 17 May – nationally scarce species but no description or observer name(s)/contact details provided and therefore no submission could be made to DBRC.

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

One along the East Side on 25 Sep – nationally scarce migrant but no description or observer contact details provided and therefore no submission could be made to DBRC.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

One reported on the very early date of 22 Mar, when potential confusion with Black Redstart (more likely in Mar) would need to be ruled out, but no supporting information or observer name provided.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

A flock of about eight were reported from the track below Old Light on 26 Jan, but no descriptive details were provided for what is a Devon category B rarity.

# BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY IN 2017

by

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The 2017 ringing total of 3254 birds was much higher than in 2016, with improved coverage and better weather conditions in spring helping to boost numbers. Ringers targeted migrants during three weeks in spring and six weeks in autumn. Three weeks in May and early June were spent continuing the long-term study of breeding Wheatears, with some night work on Manx Shearwaters also at this time. Shearwaters were targeted during two and a half weeks in August and September.

In all, 44 different species were caught, with seven reaching three-figure totals: Blackcap (668), Goldcrest (479), Willow Warbler (463), Manx Shearwater (363), Swallow (323), Chiffchaff (222) and Chaffinch (100). The rise in Blackcap numbers has been remarkable, with the 2017 total bettered only in 2012 and the average for the last ten years being higher than any year in the 20th century. Goldfinches have also been doing very well in recent years, with an average of 48 birds ringed annually over the last 20 years but just seven per year in the preceding 20. In contrast, Greenfinch annual averages have dropped from 23 in 1998-2007 to two in 2008-17. Both of these changes could relate to the popularity of feeding garden birds in the UK, which has probably improved Goldfinch survival rates while contributing to the spread of the disease Trichomonosis in Greenfinches. In most other species, changing ringing totals are probably largely explained by variations in ringing effort and short-term population fluctuations caused by factors such as winter weather conditions.

The main highlights among the unexpected species were three Hawfinches that were part of the exceptional influx of these impressive birds into Britain from the Continent in autumn 2017, and a Nightingale. A Water Rail, 16 Firecrests, 6 Long-tailed Tits, 4 Yellow-browed Warblers and a Ring Ouzel were also noteworthy. Nineteen Storm Petrels were caught, in circumstances that tie in with an apparent increase in the newly established breeding population on Lundy. A complete list of the year's ringing totals is shown in the table below.

The Society has begun a partnership with Imperial College, London, in which students analyse Lundy ringing data as a project for their Masters degree. In 2017, a student started work on the records of almost 10,000 Chaffinch captures from 1972 onwards, comparing Lundy's resident birds with migrants.

## **Manx Shearwaters**

During an early check of the main colony at the end of March, four new and five retrap adults were found. In late May and early June, 91 new adults and 91 previously ringed birds were caught, then a further 147 new and 63 retrapped adults in late August and September. Two recently fledged young and 119 chicks were also ringed in the autumn.

Of the recaptured birds, 16 had originally been ringed as chicks, and their ages ranged from two to twelve years old, with four- and five-year-olds being the most numerous. This fits with the ages at which most shearwaters are thought to pair and start breeding.

One of the birds originally caught as adults was ringed as far back as 2004, and there were others from every year since 2006. Several of the older rings were difficult to decipher after years



spent in sea water, so it was useful to have an opportunity to replace them with more modern rings, made of a harder alloy.

In May a pair of shearwaters were found to have laid in one of the nest-boxes installed for the species in 2016. They went on to rear their chick successfully, and all three birds were ringed during the season, with the prospect of following their life stories very closely.

Four shearwaters, all ringed as adults, were found dead. One was predated by a Peregrine on Lundy and one by a Great Black-backed Gull on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire. The other two were also found on Skokholm but it was not possible to tell how they had died. They were ringed as long ago as 1996 and 1987. In those days any shearwaters attempting to breed on Lundy would have encountered problems with rats. So they would tend to move elsewhere to breed successfully, and Skokholm is the large colony nearest to Lundy.

### **Wheatears**

The Wheatear RAS project continued, with three weeks of ringing and observation in late May and early June. Fiftyone breeding birds were newly colour-ringed, and 48 birds colour-ringed in previous years were re-sighted. One was from 2012, one from 2013, two from 2014, thirteen from 2015 and 31 from 2016.

Since some colour-ringed Wheatears have been missed in one year but seen in the next, past survival estimates need to be re-calculated. They currently stand at 62% from 2013 to 2014, 56% from 2014 to 2015, and 44% from 2015 to 2016. The figure for 2016 to 2017 is already 61% and this will probably need upward revision in the future. This suggests that conditions for migration and wintering in Africa were better than usual.

The minimum number of breeding females present in the study area was 53. This indicates the highest number of pairs recorded there to date, and was used to produce an estimate for the whole island of 121 pairs.

For the first time, a colour-ringed Wheatear was reported away from Lundy. A male ringed in 2015 was seen on Guernsey in the Channel Islands on 13th March. He had completed the last leg of his northward migration to Lundy by 24th March, when he was seen back on his breeding territory. Two other males were noteworthy because they had been ringed as nestlings on Lundy in 2016 and returned to breed in the study area.

Many thanks to all observers who reported colour-ringed birds before and after the main study period, adding to our knowledge of the birds' life histories. Any 2018 records will be much appreciated.

### **Recoveries and Controls**

As well as the Manx Shearwaters and Wheatear described above, ten other ringed birds showed movements to or from Lundy in 2017.

Other seabird movements included a Storm Petrel, caught at night near North Light, which had been ringed at The Lizard in 2016; and the Lesser Black-backed Gull, colour-ringed as a chick on Lundy in 1995, was seen again at the site where it winters regularly on the southwest coast of France.

There were some rapid movements shown by Passerines in spring, with a Chiffchaff arriving from Land's End in five days, a Reed Warbler arriving from the Isles of Scilly in two days and a

Sedge Warbler moving to Gloucestershire in two days. Two other Sedge Warblers caught on Lundy in spring had originally been ringed in Dorset and France. In autumn, a Swallow reached the Channel Islands in two days.

A record involving a Long-tailed Tit was remarkable for several reasons. It was ringed on Lundy, where very few have ever been seen or caught, in spring 2016. The ring was found in a Peregrine pellet on Lundy's west coast. The habitats, sizes and behaviour of these two species are so different that an encounter between them would seem to be highly unlikely. Perhaps the Long-tailed Tit was attempting to return to the mainland and was therefore particularly exposed to predation but, even so, Peregrines usually target much larger prey.

Full details of all these ringing recoveries are listed below.

**Manx Shearwater** EX17685 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 27.4.11. Found freshly dead (predated by Great Black-backed Gull) on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 12.8.17. (2,299 days; 74 km; 325°).

**Manx Shearwater** EX74128 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 29.8.11 and retrapped on 30.7.13 and 1.9.16. Found freshly dead on Lundy, predated by Peregrine, 12.7.17.

**Manx Shearwater** FC93323 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 27.6.1996. Found dead (ring and leg only) on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 16.4.17. (7,598 days; 74 km; 325°).

**Manx Shearwater** FR86417 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 20.5.1987. Found dead (ring only) on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 21.6.17. (10,990 days; 74 km; 325°).

**Storm Petrel** 2726021 – ringed as an adult at Hot Point, The Lizard, Cornwall, 6.7.16. Controlled on Lundy, 24.8.17. (414 days; 139 km; 16°).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** colour-ring: blue, with white L, on left leg; metal on right – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 25-29.6.95. Seen at Courant de Mimizan, Landes, FRANCE, 27 & 28.1.17. (7884-7888 days; 814 km; 162°).

**Long-tailed Tit** HRC365 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 3.4.16. Ring found in a Peregrine pellet on Lundy, 12.7.17.

**Swallow** S218358 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 14.9.17. Controlled at Longis Reserve, Alderney, CHANNEL ISLANDS, 16.9.17. (2 days; 240 km; SE, 133°).

**Chiffchaff** KDY004 – ringed as a second-year bird at Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall, 22.4.17. Controlled on Lundy, 27.4.17. (5 days; 144 km; 31°).

**Reed Warbler** S327850 – ringed as an adult at Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 18.4.17. Controlled on Lundy, 20.4.17 and 22.4.17. (2 and 4 days; 180 km; 40°).

**Sedge Warbler** D995351 – ringed as a first-year bird at Squire's Down, Stalbridge, Dorset, 1.9.16. Controlled on Lundy, 1.5.17. (242 days; 163 km; 278°).

**Sedge Warbler** Z981823 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 20.4.17. Controlled at Hasfield Ham, Gloucestershire, 22.4.17. (2 days; 188 km; 63°).

**Sedge Warbler** Paris 7502526 – ringed as a first-year bird at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE. 18.8.15. Controlled on Lundy, 20.4.17. (611 days; 468 km; 337°).

**Wheatear** Z660128 – ringed and colour-ringed as a breeding adult male on Lundy, 3.6.15. Bird with same unique colour-ring combination seen at Pulias, Guernsey, Channel Islands, 13.3.17. (649 days; 244 km; 142°). Then seen on Lundy from 24.3.17 to 4.6.17.

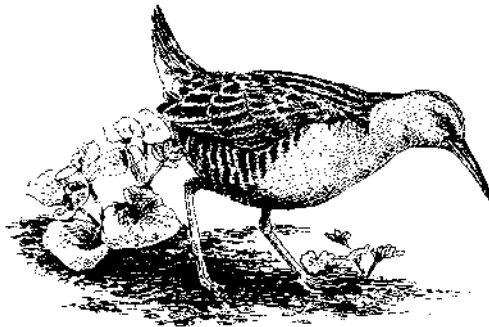
**Chaffinch** Z981660 – ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 25.10.16. Found dying (hit window) at Lifton, Devon, 12.11.17. (383 days; 64 km; 155°).

**Goldfinch** S218196 – ringed as a juvenile on Lundy, 11.9.17. Controlled at Buttercombe Barton, West Down, Devon, 13.11.17. (63 days; 36 km; 91°).

## LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2017

Manx Shearwater	(119)	363	Song Thrush	23
Storm Petrel		19	Redwing	44
Water Rail		1	Spotted Flycatcher	5
Goldcrest		479	Robin	35
Firecrest		16	Nightingale	1
Sand Martin		1	Pied Flycatcher	9
Swallow		323	Redstart	7
House Martin		4	Whinchat	1
Long-tailed Tit		6	Stonechat	5
Yellow-browed Warbler		4	Wheatear	(14) 66
Chiffchaff		222	Duncock	13
Willow Warbler		463	House Sparrow	11
Blackcap		668	Pied Wagtail	2
Garden Warbler		9	Meadow Pipit	15
Lesser Whitethroat		3	Chaffinch	100
Whitethroat		37	Hawfinch	3
Grasshopper Warbler		15	Bullfinch	1
Sedge Warbler		80	Greenfinch	1
Reed Warbler		4	Linnet	19
Wren		31	Lesser Redpoll	2
Ring Ouzel		1	Goldfinch	62
Blackbird		36	Siskin	44
			<b>Total</b>	<b>3,254</b>

Numbers in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).  
Number of species: 44



*Water Rail by Mike Langman from 'The Birds of Lundy'*

## PALLID SWIFT – A NEW SPECIES FOR LUNDY AND DEVON

Over the summer of 2018 came news that the British Birds Rareities Committee (BBRC) had accepted the record of Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* on Lundy on 25 October 2016, representing not only the first for the island, but also the first accepted record for Devon.

Below are excerpts from the accounts written by Justin Zantboer and Chris Baillie, along with one of Simon Slade's photos which helped clinch the identification. Congratulations to all involved for their presence of mind and diligent observation; this is not an easy species to clinch!

*"Whilst counting migrants passing overhead during an indoor break, I noted a Swift descending rapidly from above Redwing and Chaffinch flocks. It was briefly holding its wings in a strong 'V' as do Common Swifts in similar descent. It levelled out and I went outside to record what I assumed to be a very late Common Swift. I quickly realised it was not that species, discounted North American vagrants and realised it was a Pallid Swift. It was separately observed by other birders, who independently reached the same identification, and Simon Slade's photos support this. I observed it intermittently between c15.00 and c15.30."* **Chris Baillie**

*"Whilst ringing in Millcombe Valley with Ellie Zantboer at approximately 1500hrs, we were talking with James McCarthy who was on a day trip, when we noticed a swift overhead with House Martins! We were all hopeful that it was going to be something good but it was quite high and, against the cloud, appeared to be dark! We all agreed though that it appeared to have broader and blunter wings and a more relaxed flight than would be expected of a Common Swift. It was obvious that we needed better views! It passed overhead a couple more times but again, we couldn't see any plumage details. We were joined by Gavin Bennett and Rob Duncan but as time was pressing, James had to leave to catch the boat. We picked the swift up again some ten minutes later and this time it made several passes, both level with and below us, at times only 30 metres away, enabling us to note some key features and identify it as a PALLID SWIFT! It spent about an hour over the island and was seen well in good light around Millcombe Valley, sometimes flying close to the ground and the cliff faces as it fed. It was also seen well flying around the church, where I assumed that it was going to roost but then at about 1630hrs, the skies cleared and it disappeared and was unfortunately not seen again. However, during its stay it was also seen well by Chris Baillie and his wife Carol, and by Simon Slade, who managed to get a photo. Both Chris & Simon identified it as a Pallid Swift before they had spoken to me and we were all more than happy with our verdict."* **Justin Zantboer**

Description (from Justin's submission):

- Underparts greyish brown, being paler than Common Swift, with pale edgings to many feathers on the breast, belly and flanks, giving the classic scaling effect. When seen close, the throat was noticeably much paler than the rest of the underparts but this feature was surprisingly difficult to see at even mid-range. The face and forehead was also paler, except for a darker eye patch, giving a slightly masked impression. The underwing showed much contrast when seen well, with the darker underwing coverts contrasting with the paler secondaries and the bases of the inner primaries. The outer primaries and the tips of the inner primaries appeared darker, creating a darker wedge, this again contrasting with the paler inner wing. Upperparts appeared mostly brownish, again paler than a Common Swift.



*Pallid Swift Apus pallidus over Millcombe on 25 October 2016 – the first accepted record for Lundy and Devon. Image: Simon Slade.*

The upperwing coverts were a few shades darker than the secondaries and inner primaries but the outer primaries were noticeable darker still so when seen against a darker background, there was a distinct contrast in the upperwing. The mantle was also darker, being a similar shade to the upperwing coverts but not quite as dark as the outer primaries so this also added to the contrasting effect. The rump appeared to be slightly paler than the mantle so with the contrast in the upperwing, gave the classic 'saddled' look.

- Shape and size as Common Swift, with a short, forked tail and long, scythe-like wings. The wings appeared very slightly broader, heavier and blunter than Common Swift. It also appeared to have subtly heavier look about it than a Common Swift. When feeding, it flew with much more gliding than normally seen in a Common Swift, with slightly slower wingbeats and at a slightly slower speed. It gave the impression of being much more relaxed.

TIM JONES  
Joint Lundy Bird Recorder

# FAUNA AND FLORA RECORDS 2017

## (for groups other than birds)

### INTRODUCTION

The records reproduced here are compiled by the separate editors for each major group. The records are taken mainly from the LFS Logbook and are reproduced here in good faith. No attempt has been made to verify all of the records but unusual or particularly interesting records will have been checked with the originator.

KEITH HISCOCK

### WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES (CETACEANS)

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Compiled by Keith Hiscock

Cetacean species are most often seen from the island when looking out to sea and from vessels near to Lundy. The most frequently seen cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Common Dolphin. Both species were seen through the year although large pods (which have been reported in previous years) were not reported. Some records are of 'dolphins' and, whilst Bottlenose Dolphins have been seen at Lundy, such records are most likely of Common Dolphin.

MARINElife observations (Bereton *et al.*, 2018) taken during six return trips between Ilfracombe or Bideford and Lundy, and sometimes including a trip around the island in 2017, included: Harbour Porpoise 4, Common Dolphin 37, Bottlenose Dolphin 3. MARINElife have a Wildlife Officer onboard Saturday sailings of MS *Oldenberg* making and recording observations on the passage.

Thanks to all who have contributed records, and especially to Chris & Sharron Blackmore for such systematic observations.

#### Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

29 Apr – two seen from Castle Parade (Martin Thorne).

17 Jun – between 1905 and 1925 three 1.5km north of Castle Parade; at 1949-1955 four 800m NE of Castle Parade (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

18 Jun – from South West Point, "one way out in the tide race" (Martin Thorne).

20 Jun – three-hour cetacean watch from Castle Parade 0900-1200: at 0951 eight 1.5km SW slowly swimming east and in sight for 30 mins (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

21 Jun – at 1401 nine 700m SW of Shutter Point; at 1530 six 500m SE of Castle Parade (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

29 Jun – nine seen from MS *Oldenburg* (Dean Jones).

1 July – cetacean watch from 1050-1205, 10 1km SE swimming SW with 1 Gannet at 1136 (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

22 Jul – one seen three times from MS *Oldenberg* (Helen Lymbery).

18 Sep – two (probably this species) off BV East (Dean Jones).

29 Sep – three off the South Light (unattributed).

9 Oct – a pod of six feeding and breaching off Rat Island with Gannets feeding amongst them (Tim Jones).

11 Oct – c. 20 off the North Light; c. 5 off The Ugly (Tim Jones *et al.*).

17 Oct – one off the North End (Frances Stuart).

17 Oct – 15 in the Landing Bay and in the tide race (James Diamond).

15 Nov – six off the SW point (Martin Thorne).

### **Bottle-nosed Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

5 Aug – two off the north end (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

### **Risso's Dolphin** *Grampus griseus*

29 Jun – two seen from MS *Oldenburg* (Dean Jones).

### **Dolphin spp.**

9 Jun – distant view of six off the North End (Bart Donato).

3 Jul – two pods – one off Rat Island and one of eight individuals not far out from Tibbett's. Actively feeding and with Gannets feeding around them (unattributed).

2 Nov – two pods actively feeding off the west coast: a group of c. eight seen from the Old Light and 14 in another group off The Eathquake. Some leaping clear of the water (Paul Holt).

22 Dec – one 15 minutes out from the Landing Bay (Chris Breese).

### **Harbour Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena*

10 Apr – group of at least six off The Battery. Two stayed close together, one of which was smaller than the other (mother and calf?) (Ben Harris).

17 Apr – two seen separately approximately half-a-mile out from The Rattles on the south coast and heading west (Emily Trapnell).

29 Apr – 12 seen from Castle Parade (Martin Thorne).

2 May – eight off the west coast and six off the north coast (Dean Jones).

8 May – eight close to Shutter Rock (Mark Thomas).

18 Jun – between 1450 and 1500 four due south of Castle Parade (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

18 Jun – from South West Point, "a few way out in the tide race" (Martin Thorne).

19 Jun – at 0822 one 500 m NE of Castle Parade; at 0902 two 500m SW of Castle Parade heading due S; at 1100 one swimming south (from *Obsession II*) 400m NE of the jetty (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

20 Jun – three-hour cetacean watch from Castle Parade 0900-1200: at 1040 one 800m due south heading SW (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

21 Jun – at 1358 one 500m SW of Shutter Point; at 1419 one 300m NW of Shutter Point; at 1550 two 300m SE of Castle Parade (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

22 Jun – three-hour cetacean watch from Castle Parade 0900-1200: at 1011 one 300m SE milling/resting; at 1958 two 800m due east feeding with seven Gannets; at 1141 one 800m SE fast surfacing with 9 Gannets circling (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

24 Jun – at 0636 one 500m due east of Castle Parade with two Gannets circling; at 0730 one feeding 700m SE of Castle Parade with 20 Gannets diving; at 0903 one 800m SE of Castle Parade with four Gannets circling (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

25 Jun – two-hour cetacean watch from Castle Parade: at 0935 one 500m SE heading west with one Gannet circling; at 0946 one 500m SW heading SW; [time] two 800m SW feeding with five Gannets circling (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

25 Jun – at 1950 one porpoise 800m off Castle Parade heading SW with two Gannets circling; at 1300 (from The Ugly) one 1 km SE feeding and c. 15 Gannets circling/diving (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

26 Jun – at 1340 four 500m SE of Castle Parade milling/resting then feeding with seven Gannets circling; at 1420 three 300m NW of The Battery milling/resting then heading NW; at 1445 two 800 m SW of The Battery milling/resting with two Gannets circling; at 2030 seven 500m SE of Castle Parade milling/resting, occasionally feeding (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

27 Jun – at 0645 one 800m SE of Castle Parade heading SE with c. two Gannets; at 1045 three porpoise 500m SW of Castle Parade heading SE with three Gannets; 1625 six 800m SE of Castle Parade heading SW with three Gannets (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

- 28 Jun – cetacean watch from Castle Parade 0805-1215: at 0812 four 800m SE feeding and with c. seven Gannets; at 0912 one 1km SW with c. five Gannets circling; at 0920 three 300m due E with c. one Gannet circling; at 0934 three porpoise 1km SW feeding and c. eight Gannets and lots of Manx shearwaters on the surface and circling; at 0952 one 500m SW heading SW; at 1008 four 300 m SE heading east with c. one Gannet; at 1030 one 300m SE heading E; at 1045 two 800m SE, heading E; at 1155 five in feeding frenzy with occasional breach completely clear of the sea, 500m SE with c. seven Gannets circling and diving (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 29 Jun – at 1203 one 300m S of Castle Parade heading SW with three Gannets circling (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 29 Jun – one c. 300 m S of Castle Parade swimming fast and surfaced three times (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 30 Jun – at 1044 two feeding in The Race 500m SE of Castle Parade with c. 10 Gannets circling/diving (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 1 Jul – cetacean watch from 1050-1205: two 500m due S heading SW with c. two Gannets circling (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 12 Jul – five feeding off The Battery at c. 0900 (Dean Jones)
- 17 Jul – one at SW Point heading west (Emily Trapnell).
- 23 Jul – one (seen from Castle) very far out (Helen Lymbery).
- 25 Jul – five from MS *Oldenburg* 20 mins out from Lundy (Dean Jones).
- 3 Aug – Seawatch survey 0600-0830: two off the South End (Dean Jones).
- 5 Aug – one breaching through the swell off the North End in the evening (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 9 Aug – Seawatch survey 0700-1000: six off the North End (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 19 Sept – five foraging off the south coast with about 50 Gannets also feeding at about 1800 (unattributed).
- 20 Sep – c. five off the north coast foraging and with c. 15 Gannets (unattributed).
- 10 Oct – three off the Castle (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones).
- 11 Oct – two off the North Light and two off The Ugly (Tim Jones *et al.*)
- 17 Oct – three off the North End (Frances Stuart).
- 30 Oct – one in the tide race off South Light (Paul Holt).
- 15 Nov – eight spread out around Rat Island seen from The Ugly (Martin Thorne).
- 1 Dec – one feeding off Rat Island in the afternoon (Dean Jones).
- 23 Dec – two feeding just off the southern races (Dean Jones).

### Reference

Brereton, T.M., Davies, R., Kitching, M., Williams, A.R. & Morris, R. 2018. MARINELife Cetacean and Seabird Annual Report: 2017. MARINELife, Dorset.

### SEALS

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Compiled by Keith Hiscock

#### Grey Seal *Haliochoerus grypus*

The following records are from the logbook. A separate paper by Dean Jones describing the results of systematic surveys undertaken in 2017 appears on page 131. Grey seals are observed frequently and are considered always present. Those records which include counts or are of behavioural or injury observations or of pups are included here.

- 28 Jan – one in Jenny's Cove with severe neck injury caused by monofilament net (Martin Thorne).



- 23 Apr – five from the headland in Jenny's Cove (Paul Rose).
- 28 Apr – one young seal light tan in colour and with an orange tag hauled out at Shutter Rock (Martin Thorne). Martin Thorne observes (in a later entry): a similar seal arrived on Skomer on 29 May. If it was the same seal, it had been 'picked up' at Salcombe late in 2016 and released from Combe Martin on 7 February.
- 24 Jun – 14 hauled-out at Devil's Kitchen including one with monofilament net around its neck (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).
- 7 Jul – 29 on Knoll Pins, 17 below Mousehole & Trap, 10 in Gannets' Bay (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 12 Jul – 60 counted from all around the island at near high water (Dean Jones).
- 6 Sep – two pups near the jetty: one white, one speckled; one pup at White Beach (Dean Jones).
- 8 Sep – one pup on the Landing Beach being fed by its mother (Dean Jones).
- 18 Sep – dead pup floating off The Battery (unattributed).
- 24 Sep – pup and mother swimming off the slipway in the Landing Bay (unattributed).
- 11 Oct – three pups on White Beach (Dean Jones).
- 17 Oct – adult and pup on rock off Rat Island (Ruth Turner).
- 21 Oct – one pup on rock behind the beach building and one pup swimming near the jetty and later on the beach (Ruth Turner).
- 22 & 23 Oct – one pup on the slipway below the beach hut (Jenny Mattingley and Vicky Gentil).
- 29 Oct – one pup behind the beach hut (John Coates).

## MARINE FISHES

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Compiled by Keith Hiscock

### Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

- 13 Nov – one off Hartland Point heading south (observed from the helicopter, Mark Kelly). [Not strictly a Lundy record but, in view of sparsity of Basking Sharks in the past c. 6-8 years off Lundy, worth recording.]

### Ocean Sunfish *Mola mola*

- 6 Aug – one off Dead Cow Point and one in Jenny's Cove (both presenting their sides to attendant juvenile gulls); one very large one off Gull Rock swimming south at speed (Emily Trapnell and Mike Jones).
- 1 Aug – one from MS *Oldenburg* 10 mins before arrival at Lundy (Tana Symes).
- 21 Aug – one in the Landing Bay close to the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

### Sprat *Sprattus sprattus*

- 22 Aug – thousands stranded along the high tide mark (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). See note below.

### European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* (see also page 78)

- 18 Jun – small individual seen while snorkelling in Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones).

On 21 Aug, the Landing Bay was 'full' of flying ants, many of which landed on the water surface attracting, it seemed, very large numbers of Sprats *Sprattus sprattus* followed by large numbers of Mackerel *Scomber scombrus* and Bass *Dicentrarchus labrax* (Rob Waterfield).

On 2 Dec, egg cases of Two-spotted (Cuckoo) Ray *Leucoraja naevus* and several egg cases of Small Spotted Catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula* washed-up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## MARINE INVERTEBRATES

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Compiled by Keith Hiscock

### 'Gelatinous plankton'

Planktonic invertebrate species that are gelatinous are described colloquially as 'jellyfish' but include ctenophores (Phylum Ctenophora) and different Classes in the Phylum Cnidaria. They may be abundant at Lundy and some sting.

### CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

**A siphonophore (string jelly)** ?*Nanomia cara*

21 May – frequent near the jetty and up to about 20 cm long; identified (but with uncertainty) from photographs (Keith Hiscock).

**Many-ribbed Jellyfish** *Aequorea forskalea*

31 Jul – two in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

4 Aug – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones, Zoë Barton, R. Barton).

**An anthomedusa (pelagic phase of a hydroid)** *Neoturris pileata*

16 Jun – large numbers at Brazen Ward (Dean Jones).

31 Jul – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

4 Aug – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones, Zoë Barton, R. Barton).

**By-the-wind Sailor** *Velella velella*

7 Jun – 50+ in the Landing Bay (Sam Bosanquet).

2 Dec – thousands washed-up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones, Zoë Barton, R. Barton).

**Portugese Man o' War** *Physalia physalia*

24 Oct – two by the Jetty – see colour plate 1 by Emily Trapnell.

30 Oct – two on the Landing Bay beach (Paul Holt).

### CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

**Barrel Jellyfish** *Rhizostoma octopus*

16 Apr – two in Halfway Wall Bay and two at Brazen Ward (Joshua Harris).

20 Apr – two off the east coast (Mandy Dee).

7 May – two off South West Point (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

8 May – one off Quarry Terraces (Dean Jones).

24 Nov – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

**Lion's Mane Jellyfish** *Cyanea capillata*

23 Apr – one in Jenny's Cove (Paul Rose).

**Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarckii*

7 May – two in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

7 June – 'hundreds' in the Landing Bay (Sam Bosanquet).

### **Moon Jellyfish** *Aurelia aurita*

- 7 May – ‘hundreds’ in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).  
21 May – ‘moderate densities’ in the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).  
7 June – ‘thousands’ in the Landing Bay (Sam Bosanquet).

### **Compass Jellyfish** *Chrysaora hysoscella*

- 7 May – small numbers of small individuals in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).  
22 May – reported from the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).  
7 June – ‘hundreds’ in the Landing Bay (Sam Bosanquet).

### **Mauve Stinger** *Pelagia noctiluca*

- 21 May – ‘moderate densities’ (juveniles) in the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).

## **CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA**

### **Scarlet and Gold Star Coral** *Balanophyllia regia*

- 23 May – a significant ‘new’ colony located in a lower midshore rockpool at Devil’s Kitchen where shale rock had fallen away revealing a colony (of about 29 individuals) that had previously been under an overhang (Keith Hiscock) – see colour plate 2.  
30 Mar – check of sites where counts are undertaken below the jetty and on the south lowest shore at Devil’s Kitchen. Below the head of the jetty, 26 plus eight very small (pinhead size) (Keith Hiscock). The two sites at Devil’s Kitchen had an agreed count of 33 (eastern site) and 73 (western site) (Keith Hiscock, Dean Jones, Siân Scott).

## **CTENOPHORA**

### **A comb jelly** *Beroe cucumis*

- 7 May – countless numbers in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).  
21 May – ‘moderate densities’ in the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).

### **Sea Gooseberry** *Pleurobrachia pileus*

- 7 May – a few amongst the *Beroe cucumis* in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).  
21 May – ‘moderate densities’ in the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).

## **CRUSTACEA**

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### **Common Goose Barnacle** *Lepas anatifera*

- 19 Nov – c. 150 attached to driftwood stranded in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

## **MARINE ALGAE**

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- 21 May – the diatom *Phaeocystis* sp., which is microscopic but creates a gelatinous globule and forms a ‘soup’ of what is known as ‘May water’, was present in large amounts in the Landing Bay (Keith Hiscock).

## **FRESHWATER FISH**

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Compiled by Jenny George

Species of the Carp family – Crucian, Mirror, Golden Orfe and Tench, were introduced by Martin Coles Harman and were moved around various ponds during his tenure of the island (1925-1954). In 1976/77 Crucian Carp in Pondsbyury and Quarry Pond were studied and in recent years,

fish, particularly Golden Orfe and Mirror Carp, have been regularly recorded in Quarry and Rocket Pole Ponds. The European Eel, found in October in Millcombe Pond during clearance of the vegetation by Alan Rowland and the LFS Working Party, has been recorded previously in rock pools in the Landing Bay.

**European Eel** *Anguilla anguilla*

17 Oct – one adult in Millcombe Pond (Alan Rowland).

**Golden Orfe** *Leuciscus idus*

7 Nov – six in Quarry Pond (David George).

**Mirror Carp** *Cyprinus carpio*

7 Nov – one large fish in Quarry Pond (David George).

9 Nov – 10+ in Rocket Pole Pond (Jennifer George).

## INTRODUCED REPTILES

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Compiled by Chris Dee

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms were first observed in the gardens in Millcombe in November 2010. They are believed to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland. Until one was reported from the camping field in 2016, all previous records have been in Millcombe, so this year's record demonstrates a further expansion in range. Numbers and distribution are probably under-recorded and members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS Logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern.

**Slow-worm** *Anguis fragilis*

25 May – one near gate to St John's cottages (Tony & Ann Taylor).

## NATIVE LAND MAMMALS

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Compiled by Chris Dee

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal. The Pygmy Shrew is widely distributed across the island, probably associated with most properties but also living away from human habitation.

**Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus*

12 Mar – one in the Marisco Tavern (M. Lee).

26 Jun – two at South West Point (Lydia Blake).

27 Jun – up to ten together on West Side near Mill Stone (Sam Matchette).

2 Jul – one at the North End.

21 Aug – one in Old House South kitchen (Nigel Cooper & family).

13 Sep – one in Bramble Villa East (Luke Phillips).

16 Sep – three at rear of Bramble Villa East (J. Swan *et al.*).

27 Sep – one near Halfway Wall (Tom Nunn).

11 Oct – one at Quarter Wall (Rebecca Healey *et al.*).

20 Oct – two in Millcombe walled gardens (Alan Rowland).

22 Oct – one in the Marisco Tavern (unattributed).

23 Oct – three in the Marisco Tavern (Chris Breese).

8 Dec – one in Old Light Lower.

15 & 16 Dec – one in Old Light Cottage.

## BATS

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Compiled by Chris Dee

Bats are occasionally observed on Lundy and are usually assumed to be one of the native pipistrelle species: Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*. A passive detector study by Geoff Billington during 2014 confirmed the presence of a further nine species.

25 & 26 May – Adam Day operated a bat detector around the village and Millcombe but did not detect anything.

25 Sep – one pipistrelle sp. in Millcombe at dawn (Chris Dee).

27 Sep – two pipistrelle sp. in Millcombe / Bramble Villa at dawn (Chris Dee and Derek Baggott).

28 Sep – one pipistrelle sp. in Millcombe at dawn (Chris Dee).

## FERAL LAND MAMMALS

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Compiled by Chris Dee

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. Goats are now actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. Rabbit numbers are extremely low as a result of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease and/or Myxomatosis), but isolated colonies appear to have avoided infection.

### Sika *Cervus nippon*

The stock count in April estimated 107 individuals: 76 hinds, 8 stags, 13 prickets and 10 calves (Peter Hamlyn, per Dean Jones). The annual cull in October and November reduced the population by 13. Other notable counts were:

19 Mar – 24 on the East Side (unattributed).

1 Apr – 42 on the East Side (Chris & Mandy Dee).

20 May – 40 on the East Side and Brick Field (Chris & Mandy Dee, Tony Taylor *et al.*).

21 May – 27 in the Brick Field (Michael Williams).

10 Nov – 31 on the East Side (Tony Taylor).

### Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count in April estimated 199 individuals: 160 ewes and 39 rams (Peter Hamlyn, per Dean Jones). The first lambs were noted on 3 April and 82 animals were removed by the annual cull in October and November. Other notable counts were:

1 Apr – 75 (Chris & Mandy Dee).

17 Aug – 101 in Middle Park (Richard Taylor *et al.*).

8 Oct – 126 north of Halfway Wall (Michael Williams).

### Goat *Capra aegagrus*

The stock count in April found 21 individuals: 11 nannies, 3 billies and 7 kids (Peter Hamlyn, per Dean Jones). Three summer-born kids were reported from the North End on 6 Aug, an unusual timing as they are usually born in winter on Lundy. None were culled in October or November. Other notable counts were:

19 May – 15 in Middle Park and 2 at Quarter Wall (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

8 Oct – 10 north of Halfway Wall (Michael Williams).  
16 Oct – seven on Lower East Side Path (Richard Campey).

### **Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

The only reported counts were as follows:

23 Mar – one black form (M. Lee).  
3 May – one black form (Martin Thorne).  
2 Jun – 'almost none' (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).  
2 Jul – 'quite a few' at North End (Beccy Healey and Chris Hart).  
5 Aug – at least a dozen around North Light (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## **FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES**

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Compiled by Alan Rowland

Common and scientific names follow the *Freshwater Association Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates* (Dobson *et al.* 2012) and the more comprehensive *Collins Guide to Freshwater Life* (Fitter & Manuel 1986). All records are by Alan Rowland except where credited otherwise.

### **HYDRAS (Cnidaria)**

#### **Green Hydra** *Chlorohydra viridissima*

17 May – three in Ackland's Moor Pond.

### **FLATWORMS (Platyhelminthes)**

#### ***Phagocata vitta***

18 Mar – 11 in Government House Pond.  
14 Oct – eight in Millcombe Pond.  
6 Dec – 13 in Government House Pond.  
24 Dec – four in Millcombe Pond.  
27 Dec – 51 in Government House Pond.

#### ***Polycelis nigra***

21 Mar – 48 Middle Park Pond.  
17 May – 10 Ackland's Moor Pond.  
19 May – 20 Middle Park Pond.  
30 Jun – three in Ackland's Moor Pond.  
1 Jul – 17 Middle Park Pond.

#### ***Dalyellia viridis***

23 Mar – 32 in Kistvaen Pond.  
17 May – three in Kistvaen Pond.

#### ***Mesostoma* sp.** (Microturbellarian)

17 May – two in Kistvaen Pond.

#### ***Rhyncomesostoma* or *Phaenocora* sp.** (Microturbellarian)

3 Jul – four in Brickfield Pond.

## SEGMENTED WORMS (Oligochaeta)

### *Lumbriculus variegatus*

- 18 Mar – 11 in Government House Pond.
- 23 Mar – one in Kistvaen Pond.
- 17 May – two in Long Roost Pond
- 6 Dec – 41 in Government House Pond.
- 17 Dec – 47 in Government House Pond.

## LEECHES (Hirudinea)

### Horse Leech *Haemopsis sanguisuga*

- 17 May – one in main track pool near Quarter Wall (Alan Rowland) – see colour plate 2.
- 14 Oct – two in Millcombe Pond.
- 7 Nov – one in water-filled ruts near Quarter Wall Pond (David George).
- 28 Dec – one in water-filled ruts near Quarter Wall Pond.

### *Helobdella stagnalis*

- 21 Mar – six in Middle Park Pond.
- 17 May – three in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 19 May – three in Middle Park Pond.
- 30 Jun – three in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 1 July – two in Middle Park Pond.
- 14 Oct – two in Millcombe Pond.
- 27 Dec – two in Millcombe Pond.

## ROTIFERS (Rotifera)

- 17 May – Present in plankton of Kistvaen Pond.

## POND SNAILS (Gastropoda)

### Jenkin's Spire Shell *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*

- 18 Mar – 102 in Government House Pond.
- 21 Mar – one in Middle Park Pond.
- 6 Jul – seven in Quarters Pond.
- 14 Oct – 200 in Millcombe Pond.
- 6 Dec – 27 in Government House Pond.
- 24 Dec – 54 in Millcombe Pond.
- 27 Dec – 10 in Government House Pond.

### *Lymnaea peregra*

- 24 Dec – two in Millcombe Pond.

### *Lymnaea (Galba) truncatula*

- 18 Mar – one in Government House Pond.

## MUSSELS (Bivalvia)

### Pea Mussel *Pisidium personatum*

- 18 Mar – 48 in Government House Pond.
- 6 Dec – 132 in Government House Pond.

24 Dec – one in Millcombe Pond.  
27 Dec – 82 in Government House Pond.

### **SHELLED ARTHROPODS (Crustacea)**

#### **Clam shrimps (Ostracoda)**

18 Mar – 12 in Government House Pond.  
23 Mar – two in Kistvaen Pond.  
6 Jul – 30 in Quarters Pond.

#### **WATER FLEAS (Family Daphniidae)**

17 May – Present in Kistvaen Pond and Long Roost Pond.

#### ***Cyclops* sp. (Copepoda)**

17 May – present in Kistvaen Pond.  
22 Dec – three females with eggs in Kistvaen Pond.  
24 Dec – present in Kistvaen Pond.

#### **WATER SLATERS (Isopoda)**

##### ***Proasellus meridianus***

18 Mar – six in Government House Pond.  
21 Mar – 29 in Middle Park Pond.  
19 May – five in Middle Park Pond.  
1 Jul – 35 in Middle Park Pond.  
6 July – one in Quarters Pond.  
6 Dec – two in Government House Pond.  
7 Dec – two in Kistvaen Pond.  
22 Dec – four in Kistvaen Pond.  
24 Dec – two in Millcombe Pond.  
27 Dec – four in Government House Pond.

#### **WATER MITES (Hydracarina)**

7 Dec – one in Kistvaen Pond.  
22 Dec – two in Kistvaen Pond.

#### **INSECTS (Insecta)**

##### **SPRINGTAILS (Collembola)**

###### ***Podura aquatica***

17 May – one in Kistvaen Pond.  
7 Dec – two in Kistvaen Pond.

#### **MAYFLIES (Ephemeroptera)**

##### ***Cloeon dipterum***

21 Mar – five larvae in Middle Park Pond.



## **DAMSEFLIES (Odonata)**

### **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans*

- 19 May – three nymphs in Middle Park Pond.
- 3 Jul – one adult on Brickfield Pond.
- 6 Jul – one adult on Quarters Pond.

## **WATER BUGS (Hemiptera)**

### **Pond skaters** (Gerridae)

- 17 May – two (early instar) on surface of Kistvaen Pond.
- 30 Jun – three on surface of Ackland's Moor Pond.

### **Lesser Water Boatman** (Corixidae)

- 21 Mar – two in Middle Park Pond.
- 17 May – four in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 17 May – five in Kistvaen Pond.
- 19 May – 20 in Middle Park Pond.
- 19 May – two in Widow's Tenement Pond.
- 30 Jun – 20 in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 1 Jul – 21 in Middle Park Pond.
- 3 Jul – 15 in Brick Field Pond.
- 6 Jul – 32 in Quarters Pond.
- 24 Dec – one in Millcombe Pond.

### **Greater Water Boatman** *Notonecta* sp.

- 19 May – one in Middle Park Pond.
- 30 Jun – four in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 1 Jul – two in Middle Park Pond.
- 3 Jul – one in Brick Field Pond.
- 6 Jul – three in Quarters Pond.

## **WATER BEETLES (Coleoptera)**

### **Diving beetles** (Dytiscidae)

- 21 Mar – six adult and one larva in Middle Park Pond.
- 23 Mar – three adult & six larvae in Kistvaen Pond.
- 17 May – one adult & three larvae in Kistvaen Pond.
- 17 May – one larva in Long Roost Pond.
- 19 May – one adult & one larva in Middle Park Pond.
- 19 May – five adults & seven larvae in Widow's Tenement Pond.
- 1 Jul – one adult & one larva in Middle Park Pond.
- 7 Dec – five adults & one larva in Kistvaen Pond.
- 22 Dec – five adults & five larvae in Kistvaen Pond.

### ***Acilius sulcatus***

- 17 May – three larvae in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 30 Jun – six larvae in Ackland's Moor Pond.
- 7 Jul – one larva in Quarters Pond.

### **Hydroporid beetle**

6 Jul – one larva in Quarters Pond.

### **Whirligig beetles** (Gyrinidae)

#### ***Gyrinus* sp.**

30 Jun – 50 adults in Ackland's Moor Pond.

### **Haliplidae beetle**

6 Jul – one larva in Quarters Pond.

#### ***Hygrobia hermanni*** (Screech beetle)

17 May – four adults in Ackland's Moor Pond.

30 Jun – six larvae in Ackland's Moor Pond.

### **CADDIS FLIES (Trichoptera)**

#### ***Sericostoma personatum***

17 May – one larva in Ackland's Moor Pond.

#### ***Diplectrona felix*** (Caseless caddis) Hydropsychidae

24 Dec – two larvae in St John's stream inflow into Millcombe Pond. First record at Lundy.

### **TRUE-FLIES (Diptera)**

#### **Crane Fly** (Tipulidae)

14 Oct – three larvae in Millcombe Pond.

#### **Meniscus Midge** (Dixidae)

14 Oct – three larvae in Millcombe Pond.

6 Dec – one larva in Government House Pond.

#### **Blackfly** (Simuliidae)

34 Dec – one larva in St John's stream inflow into Millcombe Pond.

### **Non-biting midge larvae** (Chironomidae)

18 Mar – 10 in Government House Pond.

21 Mar – five in Middle Park Pond.

22 Mar – two pupae in Long Roost Pond.

17 May – one in Kistvaen Pond.

19 May – eight in Middle Park Pond.

19 May – one in Widow's Tenement Pond.

30 Jun – one in Ackland's Moor Pond.

1 Jul – one in Middle Park Pond.

3 Jul – 24 in Brick Field Pond.

6 Jul – six in Quarters Pond.

6 Dec – eight in Government House Pond.

24 Dec – one in Millcombe Pond.

27 Dec – three in Government House Pond.

### **Mosquito larvae** (Culicidae)

21 Mar – one in Middle Park Pond.

22 Mar – one in Long Roost Pond.

3 Jul – 15 pupae in Brick Field Pond.

6 Jul – one in Quarters Pond.

## **TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES**

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Compiled by Alan Rowland

We have been fortunate to have had experts in two different terrestrial invertebrate groups visiting the island. Jann Billker was only 13 years old in 2015 when he came to Lundy to search for flies. He has added new species to the list. In 2017 the LFS awarded a grant to Linda Losito and Bob Cowley to survey for dung beetles. They added 281 Coleoptera records to this year's list. Of these, 135 come within the definitions of DUMP (the Dung Beetle UK Mapping Project), and 155 come within the slightly wider definitions of the Scarab Beetles Recording Scheme. That leaves a further 126 records from various other Families of Coleoptera that they came across either in the wild or from subsequent analysis of bird pellets. Not only has this added greatly to the number of recorded Coleoptera but has also increased the species list substantially. Other species are also being recorded more regularly and accurately, for which we thank all those who enter their records either in the logbook or on accessible online databases.

### **SLUGS AND SNAILS (Gastropoda)**

#### **Snails**

23 May – more than 200 seen at Quarry Cottages (Bee Cox).

#### **Slugs**

**European Black Slug** *Arion ater forma albomarginata*

3 Aug – seen along South West Field path (Dean Jones).

**Leopard Slug** *Limax maximus*

14 Oct – one, location unspecified (Ruth Turner).

### **SPIDERS, HARVESTMEN AND MITES (Arachnidae)**

**Woodlouse Spider** *Dysdera crocata*

26 May – one found in a linen bag in the laundry room (Zoë Barton).

**Cellar Spider** *Pholcus phalangoides*

1 Jun – one seen in the Dairy (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**Walnut Orb-weaver** *Nuctenea umbratica*

2 Jun – one seen in the cave on the Beach Road (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

### **SHELLED ARTHROPODS (Crustacea)**

**Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillidium vulgare*

9 April – nine seen along Lower East Side Path (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

19 May – two seen at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

2 Jul – two seen along the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

## **CENTIPEDES AND MILLIPEDES (Diplopoda)**

### **Pill Millipede** *Glomeris marginata*

19 May – one seen at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

## **NETWINGED INSECTS (Neuroptera)**

### **Green Lacewing** *Chrysoperia cemea*

30 Jun – one seen in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

## **BEEES, WASPS AND ANTS (Hymenoptera)**

### **Common Heather Mining Bee** *Colletes succinctus*

5 Aug – more than 100 seen mating and digging burrows on the Lower East Side Path and a further six seen on the west coast just beyond Quarter Wall stile (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

9 Aug – twelve seen digging burrows above Benjamin's Chair (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

12 Aug – similar activity of 200-300 bees seen above the cottage at the Battery and around a rotting log on the Lower East Side Path which could have been more of this species (Michael Williams).

### **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris*

21 Mar – two seen in the Terrace willows (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

22 March – one seen on the Terrace (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

### **Ruby-tailed Wasp** Chrysidae indeterminate

26 May – one seen low down in Jenny's Cove (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

### **Red-banded Sand Wasp** *Ammophila sabulosa*

4 Aug – one seen near the Sugar Loaf (Dean Jones, Zoë Barton and R. Barton).

### **Sawfly** *Symphya* sp.

21 May – one seen on the door of Millcombe House (Mandy Dee).

### **Black Ant** *Lasisus niger*

21 & 22 Aug – mass emergence of flying ants attracted a flock of feeding gulls and later in the day Sprats and Mackerel joined the feast (Roger & Rosy Key, Tony Taylor, Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## **DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES (Odonata)**

### **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum*

26 May – one male seen west of Pondsby (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

2 Jul – one at Quarry Pond (Becky Healey & Chris Hart).

5 Jul – 20 around Pondsby (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

5 Jul – two around Quarter Wall Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

13 Aug – male and female in wet area north of Halfway Wall (Rod & Liz Thomas).

16 Aug – about 50 around the edge of Pondsby (Tony Taylor).

17 Aug – about 20 around Pondsby (Roger & Rosy Taylor & Tony Taylor).

**Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans*

3 Jul – one around Brick Field Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 & 5 Jul – two around Quarter Wall Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Hawker dragonfly** *Aeshna* sp.

2 Jun – one on bracken by the Castle (Roger & Rosy Key & Steve Compton).

**Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*

21 Sep – one to the rear of Brambles East (J. Walker).

24 Sep – one near Millcombe (Andy Turner).

25 Sep – one in Millcombe (Chris Dee *et al.*).

28 Sep – one, location unspecified (Andy Turner).

8 Oct – two in Middle Park (Tim Davis *et al.*).

9 Oct – one on the Castle battlements (Tim Davis *et al.*).

**Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea*

13 Sep – one near St Helen's Copse (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*

26 May – one north of Pondsby (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**BUGS (Hemiptera)**

**Meadow Froghopper** *Philaenus spumarius*

1 Jun – seen on bracken on East Sidelands (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**BEETLES (Coleoptera)**

On 7 & 8 Jul 2017 Linda Losito and Bob Cowley visited Lundy on a grant application funded trip to search the island for dung beetles. This was in support of the Dung Beetle UK Mapping Project (DUMP). They subsequently identified seven species from remains in pellets, and insects in dung and on the ground and gave an excellent presentation to the 2018 AGM which will be fully reported in Journal No.7. Their records are included in the general list below.

**2014 record**

**A carabid beetle** *Badister bullatus*

31 Apr – East Side (Steve Compton).

**Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris*

3 May – one at Long Roost (Tim Davis).

25 May – four in the Devil's Limekiln area (Tony Taylor).

2 Jun – one near the Quarries (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**Granulated Carabid** *Carabus obscurus*

18 May – one along the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

7 Jul – eight at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Violet Ground Beetle** *Carabus violaceus*

21 May – one on the main track north of Threequarter Wall (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Parallel-sided Ground Beetle** *Abax parallelepipedus*

2 Jun – one near the Quarries (Roger & Rosy Key & Steve Compton).

7 Jul – five at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A ground beetle** *Calathus (Calathus) fuscipes*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A ground beetle** *Carabus (Archicarabus) nemoralis*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A ground beetle** *Poecilus versicolor*

7 Jul – five at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A carabid beetle** *Pterostichus (Omaseus) melanarius*

7-8 Jul – three at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A carabid beetle** *Pterostichus (Platysma) niger*

7-8 Jul – 16 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Strawberry Seed Beetle** *Harpalus (Pseudoophonus) rufipes*

7 July – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A beetle** *Margarinotus (Ptomister) striola*

7-8 Jul – two at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A beetle** *Ptomaphagus subvillosus*

7 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A snail beetle** *Silpha obscura*

1 Jun – one on the main track near Quarries turn off (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**Black Snail Beetle** *Silpha atrata*

2 Jun – one along the Beach Road (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

7-8 Jul – 17 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A carrion beetle** *Silpha tristis*

7-8 Jul – seven at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A sexton beetle** *Nichrophorus humator*

19 Feb – one near Tibbetts (Dean Jones).

24 Mar – one near Black Shed (Tim Jones, Tim Davis, Tony Taylor).

3 Jul – one near Pondsby (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

5 Aug – one near the Church (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**A sextonbeetle** *Nichrophorus investigator*

7-8 Jul – six at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

6 Aug – one in Millcombe (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**A sexton beetle** *Nichroporus vespilloides*

21 Aug – one on the East Side below Tibbetts (unattributed).

8 Oct – two on the Lower East Side Path (James Diamond *et al.*).

**A carrion beetle** *Thanatophilus rugosus*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito and Bob Cowley)

**A rove beetle** *Platydracus stercorarius*

2 May – one along the East Side (Tim Davis *et al.*).

21 May – one seen on main track in Middle Park (Tim Davis *et al.*).

1 Jul – one seen at Gannets' Coombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**A rove beetle** *Staphylinus erythropterus*

17 Aug – one on the main track near Pondsbury (Roger & Rosy Key, Tony Taylor).

**A rove beetle** *Philonthus decorus*

7 Jul – two at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A rove beetle** *Philonthus marginatus*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Devil's Coach-horse** *Ocypus olens*

7-8 Jul – two at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

22 Aug – one on wall by the Old Light (Rebecca Taylor).

10 Sep – one on the main track south of Halfway Wall (Siân Scott).

18 Sep – two near the Church (Dean Jones).

9 Oct – one on the Upper East Side Path (Tim Davis *et al.*).

11 Oct – one on the main track near Halfway Wall (Tim Jones).

23 Dec – one on the track near the Castle (Alan Rowland).

**Minotaur Beetle** *Typhaeus typhoeus*

19 Mar – one near the Timekeeper's Hut (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

22 Mar – one on the East Side path (Alan Rowland).

27 Mar – one on the Upper East Side Path (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

5 Apr – three along the Quarries track (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

30 Apr – 27 along the Terrace (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

3 May – one found dead on East Side Path (Tim Davis).

17 May – one at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

8 Jun – one (Rebecca & Richard Taylor).

2 Jul – one along East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland)

7/8 Jul – 14 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

5 Aug – one along the South End (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton)

21 Sep – one along East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

9 Oct – two on Lower East Side Path and north end of Terrace (James Diamond *et al.*).

10 Oct – one on the Terrace (James Diamond *et al.*).

11 Oct – one near the Timekeeper's Hut (James Diamond *et al.*).

21 Oct – one on Lower East Side Path (Alan Rowland).

### **Dor Beetle** *Geotrupes stercorus*

- 19 Mar – four along East Side Path half way to Gannets' Bay (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 22 Mar – eight along East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 25 Mar – one in Manx Shearwater colony on West Side (Tim Jones *et al.*).
- 5 Apr – 11 along Quarries track (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 9 Apr – seven along Lower East Side Path (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 2 May – eight along East Side (Tim Davis *et al.*).
- 3 May – more than 60 live and 30 dead along the East Side Path (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).
- 6 May – one on East Side (Alan Rowland).
- 17 May – seven at the North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 18 May – 12 along the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 19 May – eight near North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 1 Jun – “large numbers” along the East Sidelands (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 2 Jun – one near Quarries (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 27 Jun – one at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 28 Jun – one at the Quarries (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 1 Jul – two in Gannets' Coombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 2 Jul – many along the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 3 Jul – one on Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 7 Jul – two at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 4 Aug – nine along Lower East Side Path between Millcombe and the Quarries (Dean Jones, Zoë & R. Barton).
- 11 Aug – 14 along north end of Lower East Side Path (Michael Williams).
- 21 Aug – 20 on East Side near Tibbett's (unattributed).
- 18 Sep – five on the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 9 Oct – five on Lower East Side Path (James Diamond *et al.*).
- 21 Oct – one on Lower East Side Path (Alan Rowland).

### **A dor beetle** *Anoplotrupes stercorosus*

- 7-8 Jul – 38 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

### **A dor beetle** *Geotrupes spiniger*

- 7-8 Jul – seven at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

### **Rosechafer** *Cetonia aurata*

- 21 May – six at North End (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).
- 21 May – two on the Terrace (Paula Chapple).
- 24 May – four at St Mark's Stone (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 25 May – two in Devil's Limekiln area (Tony Taylor).
- 26 May – twelve between Jenny's Cove and St Mark's Stone (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 4 Jun – three around the South Light (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 2 Jul – three by St Mark's Stone (Dean Jones).
- 7 Jul – one at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 6-8 Jul – 11 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).
- 17 Jul – one on the Terrace (Dean Jones).
- 25 Aug – one in Millcombe (R. Hall & Rebecca Taylor).

### **Night-flying Dung Beetle** *Aphodius (Acrossus) rufipes*

- 7-8 Jul – five at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).



**A dung beetle** *Aphodius (Agrilinus) ater*

7-8 Jul – 20 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A dung beetle** *Aphodius (Melinopterus) sphaelatus*

Jul 7/8 – 12 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A pill beetle** *Byrrhus pilula*

7-8 Jul – three at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A click beetle** *Agrypnus murinus*

2 Jun – one by the Castle (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

4 Jun – one seen around South Light (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

7 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A click beetle** *Agrypnus obscurus*

4 Jun – one around South Light (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**A click beetle** *Agrypnus sordidus*

7/8 Jul – four at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A click beetle** *Agriotes lineatus*

7-8 Jul – 12 at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A click beetle** *Agriotes sputator*

7/8 Jul – four at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Common Red Soldier Beetle** *Rhagonycha fulva*

2 Jul – two along the East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Jul – 35 on Wild Thyme (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

8 Jul – two at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Sulphur Beetle** *Cteniopus sulphureus*

6 July – six at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Oil beetle** *Meloe* sp.

9 Mar – two along Castle Hill path (Dean Jones).

29 Mar – two at Lametry (Shaun Barnes & Andy Inch).

**Black Oil Beetle** *Meloe proscarabaeus*

21 Mar – one below Hammers (unattributed).

3 Apr – one on South Light path (Dean Jones).

**A leaf beetle** *Chrysolina banksii*

21 Mar – one (Alan Rowland).

**Lundy Cabbage Leaf Weevil** *Ceutorhynchus contractus pallipes*

4 Jun – “very few seen” on Lundy Cabbage compared to elsewhere (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**Vine Weevil** *Otiorhynchus (Dorymerus) sulcatus*

7 Jul – three at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Clover Leaf Weevil** *Hypera (Antidonus) zoilus*

7 Jul – four at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**Clover Root Weevil** *Sitona Lepidus*

7-8 Jul – nine at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A weevil** *Rhinoncus pericarpus*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**A weevil** *Sitona waterhousei*

7-8 Jul – two at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

**TRUE FLIES (Diptera)**

In a study on 30 April 2015, Jann Billker sampled and, with assistance from John Ismay, identified 13 fly species from Lundy of which six are believed to be new records for the island (indicated below by \*). The species are listed here to ensure that they are logged by the LFS. All records are credited to Jann Billker and were seen on 30 April 2015.

Anthomiidae indet. – four at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Bibio lanigerus*\* – one near Quarry Pond.

*Canaca nasica*\* – one at Hell's Gates.

*Oscinella frit* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Syntormon pallipes*\* – one at Quarter Wall Copse, two near Quarry Pond.

*Drosophila subobscura*\* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Scaptomyza pallida* – one near Quarry Pond.

*Hydrellia* sp. – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Nostima picta*\* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

Muscidae sp. – one at Quarter Wall Copse, one near Quarry Pond.

*Schoenomyza litorella* – one near Quarry Pond.

*Tricyphona immaculata* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

Psychodidae sp. – one near Quarry Pond.

*Scathophaga stercorarea* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Scathophaga furcata*\* – two at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Spelobia clunipes* – one at Quarter Wall Copse.

*Platycheirus clypeatus* – one near Quarry Pond.

The woodland area (Quarter Wall Copse) was located at SS139448. The marshy area in the Quarries (Quarry Pond) was located at SS137450. The seashore (Hell's Gates) was located at SS145437.

**Reference**

Billker, J. 2017. New records of flies (Diptera) from Lundy. *Dipterists Digest* 24: 43–47.

**Giant Tachinid Fly** *Tachina grossa*

8 Jul – one at the southern end of the island (Linda Losito & Bob Cowley).

## ICHNEUMONDAE

**An ichneumon wasp** *Heteroelma amictum*

17 Jul – five along the Terrace (Dean Jones).

5 Aug – four at the South End (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS (Orthoptera)

**Speckled Bush Cricket** *Leptophyes punctatissima*

2 Nov – several heard and identified using a bat detector on the slope down from the Timekeeper's Hut (Malcolm Lee).

## BUTTERFLIES (Lepidoptera)

Compiled by Anthony John

Sixteen species of butterflies were recorded in 2017, including the third Lundy record of Orange Tip. However, there were no records of Clouded Yellow, Wall, Comma or Holly Blue in 2017.

**Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines*

One record: one on 14 Apr, only the third Lundy record (observer unknown). The previous records were in Apr 1997 and Apr 2014.

**Large White** *Pieris brassicae*

Recorded on 29 days between 26 Apr and 9 Oct, with a max of 6 on 25 May and on 3 days in 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	6	3	5	6	2	1	-	-
-	-	-	1	6	2	6	9	2	3	-	-

**Small White** *Pieris rapae*

Recorded on 38 days between 17 Apr and 25 Sep, with a max of 10 on 24 Jul.

### 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	7	-	10	5	3	-	-	-
-	-	-	6	13	-	3	6	10	-	-	-

**Green-veined White** *Pieris napi*

Recorded on 46 days between 8 Apr and 25 Sep, with a max of 19 on 17 Jul.

### 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	10	4	19	10	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	2	12	5	11	13	3	-	-	-

**Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria*

The only record was one on 14 Apr.

**Small Heath** *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Recorded on 50 days between 20 May and 26 Sep, with a max of 22 on 26 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
-	-	-	-	22	17	11	10	4	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	9	12	9	11	9	-	-	-

**Ringlet** *Aphantopus hyperantus*

Recorded on 12 days between 25 Jun and 22 Jul, with a max of 34 on 4 Jul.

**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	34	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-	-	-

**Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina*

Recorded on 40 days between 24 May and 27 Aug, with a max of 187 on 17 Jul.

**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	100+	187+	25	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	2	6	16	16	-	-	-	-

**Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus*

Four records: singles on 1 Jun, 9 Jul and 21 & 23 Aug.

**Grayling** *Hipparchia semele*

Eight records between 5 Jul and 22 Aug: singles on 6, 16 & 30 Jul, and 4 & 22 Aug, with two on 5 & 17 Jul and 9 Aug.

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*

Recorded on 112 days between 25 Mar and 6 Nov, with a max of 64 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
-	-	1	2	18	9	22	18	64	25	3	-
-	-	1	7	15	12	15	19	21	19	3	-

2 Jun – an observation of aggressive interaction between Red Admiral and Painted Lady near the Ugly (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui*

Recorded on 47 days between 2 May and 20 Oct, with a max of 9 on 31 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
-	-	-	-	9	4	2	6	4	4	-	-
-	-	-	-	10	4	5	14	9	5	-	-

### Peacock *Inachis io*

Recorded on 20 days between 6 Apr and 27 Oct, with a max of 3 on 3 days in Sep.

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

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

### Small tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Recorded on 24 days between 25 Mar and 28 Sep, with a max of 8 on 7 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
-	-	2	1	8	1	3	2	4	-	-	-
-	-	2	1	3	1	4	2	11	-	-	-

### Small copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Recorded on 19 days between 17 Jul and 17 Oct, with a max of 6 on 23 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
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	3	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	4	4	-	-

### Common blue *Polyommatus icarus*

A good year, with ten records between 19 Apr and 27 Aug. Singles on 19 Apr, 18 & 21 May, 3 & 15 Jun, 9, 13, 17 & 27 Aug, with two on 16 Aug. On 13 Aug, "Common Blue, male and female, seen in wet area north of Halfway Wall" (Mark & Liz Thomas).

The table below shows the number of records of scarcer butterflies on Lundy from 2009 to 2017.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Orange Tip	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Clouded Yellow	1	-	5	-	5	3	2	-	-
Wall	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Speckled Wood	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Gatekeeper	10	3+	8	1	4	-	4	3	4
Comma	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Holly Blue	2	6	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
Common Blue	3+	6	2	-	-	-	1	2	10

## MOTHS (Lepidoptera)

Common and scientific names follow the *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles* by D. J.L. Agassiz, S.D. Beavan & R.J. Heckford, published for the Royal Entomological Society in 2013. The numbers before the species names also follow this checklist. A *Provisional List of the Moths of Lundy, Devon*, compiled by S.D. Beavan and R.J. Heckford, was published in 2014 in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* (Volume 27, pp 45-62).

During 2017, 125 species of moths were recorded on Lundy: 35 species of 'micro' moths and 90 species of 'macro' moths: these included seven species of migrant moths.

## MOTHS (Lepidoptera)

### Micro-moths (35 species)

#### 11.009 *Luffia ferchaultella*

15 Jul – larval cases on wall of Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

#### 12.039 *Monopis crocicapitella*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

#### 18.001 **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella* (a migrant)

9 Apr – two on Lower East Side Path (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

2 May – one (Tim Davis *et al.*).

20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

#### 27.001 *Oegoconia quadripuncta* (needs genitalia determination for positive identification)

4 Jul – two in Quarters corridor (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

#### 28.009 **White-shouldered House-moth** *Endrosia sarcitrella*

20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

#### 28.010 **Brown House-moth** *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*

7 Jul – one in Beacon Hill Cemetery (Tony John).

#### 32.018 *Agonopterix heracliana*

15 Aug – four light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

#### 32.029 *Agonopterix umbellana*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

#### 32.036 **Parsnip Moth** *Depressaria radiella*

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

15 Aug – five light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

#### 35.065 *Monochroa cytisella*

17 Jul – one on Quarry Beach path; one near South Light (both Sam Bosanquet).

37.044 ***Coleophora discordella***

4 Jun – cases on common bird's-foot-trefoil on Landing Beach (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).

44.001 **Twenty-plume Moth** *Alucita hexadactyla*

16 May – one in Black Shed (Zoë Barton).

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

45.044 **Common Plume** *Emmelina monodactyla*

27 Mar – one on Upper East Side Path (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

46.001 ***Schrekensteinia festaliella***

17 Jul – one near Quarries (Sam Bosanquet).

49.026 **Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix** *Pandemis heparana*

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

49.077 ***Acleris variegana***

30 Aug – one on Tavern door (Dean Jones).

49.109 ***Agapeta hamana***

7 Jul – one in Millcombe House (Tony John).

49.285 ***Epiblema scutulana***

19 Aug – one in grass, Lower East Side Path (Richard Taylor).

49.294 **Bramble Shoot Moth** *Notocelia uddmanniana*

5 Jul – one in Millcombe House (Tony John).

62.001 **Bee Moth** *Aphomia sociella*

5 Jul – one female in Millcombe House (Tony John).

62.077 ***Endotricha flammealis***

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

63.021 ***Anania terrealis***

25 May – one in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).

63.025 **Small Magpie** *Anania hortulata*

5 Jul – one in Millcombe House (Tony John).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

63.038 **Mother of Pearl** *Pleuroptya ruralis*

6 Jul – one in Millcombe House (Tony John).

63.052 **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* (a migrant)

1 Jun – one on track near Tillage Field (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

8 Oct – one on Lower East Side Path (Tim Davis *et al.*).

63.064 **Scoparia ambigualis**

15 Aug – three light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

63.067 **Eudonia lacustrata**

15 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

63.069 **Eudonia angustea**

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

63.074 **Eudonia mercurella**

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

63.080 **Garden Grass Veneer** *Chrysoteuchia culmella*

3 Jul – one in Quarters bathroom (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

5 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

7 Jul – two (one light-trapped) at Millcombe House (Tony John).

63.088 **Crambus perlella**

19 Aug – one in grass, Lower East Side Path (Richard Taylor).

63.089 **Agriphila tristella**

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

63.093 **Agriphila straminella**

28 Jun – five in Quarters bathroom (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

63.095 **Agriphila geniculea**

30 Aug – one on Tavern door (Dean Jones).

63.114 **Brown China-mark** *Elophila nymphaeata*

1 Jul – two moths found on Middle Park Pond (Alan Rowland) – see colour plate 12.

63.117 **Ringed China-mark** *Parapoynx stratiotata*

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

### **Macro-moths (90 species)**

3.001 **Orange Swift** *Triodia sylvina*

21 Aug – one on wall of Big St John's (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor).

3.002 **Common Swift** *Korscheltellus lupulina*

23 May – one at Casbah (Andrew Cleave).

7 and 8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).



52.016 **Thrift Clearwing** *Pyropteron muscaeformis*

24 May – one at St Marks (Dean Jones).

54.008 **Six-spot Burnet Moth** *Zygaena filipendulae*

Jun – singles were reported on 25th and 29th.

Jul – a max of 100+ on 16th and two on 17th.

54.010 **Five-spot Burnet Moth** *Zygaena trifolii*

Recorded on 16 days between 21 Jun and 29 Jul (2 days in Jun, 14 days in Jul), with a max of 27 on 24 Jul.

23-24 Jul – 27 on one cluster of flowers on one Ragwort plant on track to Castle (Helen Lymbery).

29 Jul – many on Devil's-bit Scabious on track to Castle (Jill Atkinson).

65.007 **Chinese Character** *Cilix glaucata*

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

65.008 **Peach Blossom** *Thyatira batis*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton) – see colour plate 12.

66.003 **Lackey** *Malacosoma neustria*

4 Jul – one caterpillar near Millcombe House (Sam O'Shea).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

66.007 **Oak Eggar** *Lasiocampa quercus*

2 May – one caterpillar on west side of Three-quarter Wall (Tim Davis *et al.*).

21 May – one (Mandy Dee).

7 Jun – two caterpillars on Lower East Side Path (Tina & Ian Hartley).

17 Jul – one in Millcombe (Sam Bosanquet).

7 Aug – one male in Laundry Room (Zoë Barton).

66.008 **Fox Moth caterpillars** *Macrothylacia rubi*

Recorded on 43 days between 19 Mar and 29 Oct, with a max of 10 on 8 Oct.

19 Mar – one on central track (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

13 May – one moth recorded.

28 May – four caterpillars (Ronan Rees).

**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	8	10	-	-
-	-	1	2	2	3	-	6	17	12	-	-

66.010 **Drinker** *Euthrix potatoria*

4 May – one caterpillar at top of steps to North Light (Carol Baillie).

68.001 **Emperor Moth** *Saturnia pavonia*

Apr – one moth on 12th, one male on 28th.

May – five moths on 3rd, one in the Village on 9th – see colour plate 11.

5 Jul – one caterpillar on track near Quarter Wall (Tony John).

31 Jul – one caterpillar on track between Quarter Wall and Halfway Wall (Peter Williams).

10 Aug – one caterpillar just north of Quarter Wall (R. Skeet).

14 Aug – one caterpillar crossing track near Heinkel wreck (Mark & Liz Thomas).

69.004 **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** *Agrius convolvuli* (a migrant)

30 Aug – one found dead at the Lodge (Steve Pratt, Dean Jones).

69.010 **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* (a migrant)

Recorded on 30 days between 21 May and 18 Oct, with a max of 3 on 25 Aug.

21 May – one in High Street (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

26 May – “one on West Side just north of Quarter Wall, flying around granite buttresses, repeatedly ‘touching’ the sea-facing rocks that were in the sun” (Ann Taylor).

19 Jun – one at Hammers (Chris & Sharron Blackmore); one feeding on thistle on East Side near Halfway Bay (Siân Scott).

6 Jul – one in Millcombe gardens (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**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	2	-	-
-	-	-	-	4	2	4	7	5	8	-	-

70.011 **Single-dotted Wave** *Idaea dimidiata*

15 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

70.013 **Small fan-footed wave** *Idaea biselata*

22 Aug – three light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.023 **Mullein Wave** *Scopula marginepunctata*

15 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

70.024 **Small Blood-vein** *Scopula imitaria*

7 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.029 **Blood-vein** *Timandra comae*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.041 **July Belle** *Scotopteryx luridata*

7 Jul – four on East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

8 Jul – two in Middle Park and West Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

70.049 **Garden Carpet** *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*

17 Jul – one below Hammers (Sam Bosanquet).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.054 **Silver-ground Carpet** *Xanthorhoe montanata*

- 20 May – three light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).
- 2 Jun – one by Benson's Cave (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 7 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden, Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).
- 19 Jun – one in the Tavern (Siân Scott).

70.059 **Yellow Shell** *Camptogramma bilineata*

- 17 Jul – one below Hammers (Sam Bosanquet).
- 15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).
- 17 Aug – one in Millcombe (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor).

70.087 **Purple Bar** *Cosmorhoe ocellata*

- 15 Aug – three light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

70.097 **Common Marbled Carpet** *Dysstroma truncata*

- 20 May – two light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).
- 8 Jun – one trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).
- 14 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).
- 23 Sep – one trapped Bramble Villas (Andy Turner, Chris Dee).

70.132 **Rivulet** *Perizoma affinitata*

- 7 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.133 **Small Rivulet** *Perizoma alchemillata*

- 7 Jul – two at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.141 **Double-striped Pug** *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*

- 22 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.173 **Lime-speck Pug** *Eupithecia centaureata*

- 4 Jul – one in Tavern toilets (Tony John).
- 6 and 7 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.179 **Ling Pug** (a form of Wormwood Pug) *Eupithecia absinthiata*

- 16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

70.200 **Yellow-barred Brindle** *Acasis viretata*

- 15 Aug – one trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

70.205 **Magpie Moth** *Abraxas grossulariata*

- 4 Aug – one at top of Millcombe (Shelley & Grant Sherman).
- 22 Aug – one at top of Millcombe near Government House (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).
- 22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.222 **Brown Silver-line** *Petrophora chlorosata*

- 1 Jun – all along East Sidelands (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).  
7 & 8 Jun – one trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).  
19 Jun – one on bracken above Quarry Beach (Siân Scott).

70.226 **Brimstone** *Opisthograptis luteolata*

- 22 Aug – five light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).  
14 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).

70.237 **Early Thorn** *Selenia dentaria*

- 22 Mar – one at Bramble Villas (Zoë Barton).  
19 Apr – one in Millcombe (Chris & Mandy Dee, Dean Jones).  
20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).  
22 Aug – three trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.240 **Scalloped Hazel** *Odontopera bidentata*

- 20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

70.265 **Mottled Beauty** *Alcis repandata*

- 8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden, Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).  
7 Jul – three light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.277 **Common White Wave** *Cabera pusaria*

- 8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

70.280 **Clouded Silver** *Lomographa temerata*

- 7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.283 **Light Emerald** *Campaea margaritaria*

- 30 May – one in Black Shed (Zoë Barton).  
14 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).

70.284 **Barred Red** *Hylaea fasciaria*

- 5 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

70.288 **Brussels Lace** *Cleorodes lichenaria*

- 7 Jul – three light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).  
16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).  
15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).  
22 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

70.305 **Common Emerald** *Hemithea aestivaria*

- 5 & 6 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

71.025 **Buff-tip** *Phalera bucephala*

- 23 May – one at Casbah (Andrew Cleave).  
24 May – one in Black Shed (Dean Jones).

72.003 **Snout** *Hypena proboscidalis*

- 15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).
- 22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).
- 23 Sep – one light-trapped at Bramble Villas (Andy Turner, Chris Dee).

72.015 **Pale Tussock** *Calliteara pudibunda*

- 7 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).
- 10 Jun – one on path above Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).
- 17 Oct – one caterpillar in Millcombe.

72.019 **Buff Ermine** *Spilosoma lutea*

- 7 & 8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).
- 4 Jul – two at Millcombe House (Tony John).

72.020 **White Ermine** *Spilosoma lubricipeda*

- 29 Apr – one in Tavern (Tim Davis *et al.*).
- 20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).
- 25 May – two in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).
- 29 Jun – two in Quarters bathroom (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 4 & 5 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).
- 11 Aug – one caterpillar in Tavern toilets (R. Skeet).

72.024 **Ruby Tiger** *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*

- 13 Sep – one caterpillar near Castle (Luke Phillips).
- 10 Oct – three caterpillars (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones).

72.026 **Garden Tiger** *Arctia caja*

- 21 Mar – one caterpillar on East Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 28 May – one caterpillar above Battery Steps (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor).
- 3 Jun – one caterpillar on path above Pilot's Quay (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).
- 5 Jun – one caterpillar on steps down to the Battery (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 9 Jun – one caterpillar above the Battery (Richard Taylor).
- 16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

72.027 **Cream-spot Tiger** *Arctia villica*

- 31 May – two in Millcombe on upper path to Ugly (Frances Stuart).
- 2 Jun – one at Castle (Roger & Rosy Key, Steve Compton).
- 8 Jun – one at Halfway Wall (Andrew Cleave).
- 16 Jun – one in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

72.030 **Jersey Tiger** *Euplagia quadripunctaria*

- 21 Mar – one caterpillar on Lower East Side Path (Alan Rowland).

72.035 **Rosy Footman** *Miltochrista miniata*

- 7 Jul – two at Millcombe House (Tony John).
- 15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes) – see colour plate 12.

72.044 **Dingy Footman** *Eilema griseola*

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

72.045 **Common Footman** *Eilema lurideola*

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

15 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

22 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

72.047 **Hoary Footman** *Eilema caniola*

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

72.053 **Fan-foot** *Herminia tarsipennalis*

4 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

73.001 **Spectacle** *Abrostola tripartita*

23 May – one at Casbah (Andrew Cleave).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

73.015 **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma* (a migrant)

Recorded on 21 days between 26 May and 26 Sep, with a max of 5 on 18 Aug and 17 & 26 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	4+	5	5	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	4	1	5	6	5	-	-	-

73.045 **Knot Grass** *Acrionicta rumicis*

25 May – one in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).

6 & 7 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

14 Aug – one at the Castle (Helen Cole).

15 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes) – see colour plate 12.

19 Aug – one caterpillar on wall above Benjamin's Chair (Richard Taylor).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.113 **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

21 Sep – one on bracken near Benjamin's Chair (Chris Dee).

73.114 **Small Angle Shades** *Euplexia lucipara*

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

73.121 **Frosted Orange** *Gortyna flavago*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

13 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).

73.123 **Rosy Rustic** *Hydraecia micacea*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.131 **Flounced Rustic** *Luperina testacea*

15 Aug – nine light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

22 Aug – three light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.154 **Dusky Brocade** *Apamea remissa*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.156 **Clouded-bordered Brindle** *Apamea crenata*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.159 **Small Clouded Brindle** *Apamea unanimitis*

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.162 **Dark Arches** *Apamea monoglypha*

7 Jul – two (one light-trapped) at Millcombe House (Tony John).

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.169 **Common Rustic agg.** *Mesapamea secalis* agg.

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.171 **Rosy Minor** *Litoligia literosa*

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.176 **Middle-barred Minor** *Oligia fasciuncula*

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

73.254 **Antler Moth** *Cerapteryx graminis*

21 Aug – one at Big St John's (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor).

73.267 **Bright-line Brown-eye** *Lacanobia oleracea*

20 May – seven light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

28 Jun – one in Quarters bathroom (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 & 6 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

24 Aug – one caterpillar at Big St John's (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor).

73.281 **Lychnis** *Hadena bicruris*

20 May – six light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

73.283 **Marbled Coronet** *Hadena confusa*

20 May – eight light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

73.291 **Common Wainscot** *Mythimna pallens*

7 Jul – one light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

15 Aug – two light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.293 **Smoky Wainscot** *Mythimna impura*

16 Jul – one at Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

73.307 **Pearly Underwing** *Peridroma saucia* (a migrant)

21 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (J. Walker).

73.319 **Turnip Moth** *Agrotis segetum*

8 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.324 **Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux*

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes) – see colour plate 12.

73.327 **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon* (a migrant)

20 Mar – one (Dean Jones, Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

4 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Tony John).

73.329 **Flame Shoulder** *Ochropleura plecta*

20 May – one light-trapped in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.334 **Small Square-spot** *Diarsia rubi*

23 May – one at Casbah (Andrew Cleave).

7 Jun – one light-trapped in walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

23 Sep – one light-trapped at Bramble Villas (Andy Turner & Chris Dee).

73.338 **True Lover's Knot** *Lycophotia porphyria*

29 May – one at Rocket Pole (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

7 Jul – two light-trapped at Millcombe House (Tony John).

73.342 **Large Yellow Underwing** *Noctua pronuba*

7 & 8 Jun – one light-trapped in Millcombe walled garden (Andrew Cleave).

15 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Helen Cole & Isabel Hayes).

73.345 **Lesser Yellow Underwing** *Noctua comes*

7 Aug – one forma sagittifer in Laundry Room (Zoë Barton).

22 Aug – one light-trapped at Casbah (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

73.357 **Square-spot Rustic** *Xestia xanthographa*

13 Sep – one in Tavern (Luke Phillips).

14 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).



73.359 **Setaceous Hebrew Character** *Xestia c-nigrum*

13 Sep – one in Tavern (Luke Phillips).

14 Sep – one at Bramble Villas (Luke Phillips).

20 Sep – one (unattributed.).

73.365 **Autumnal Rustic** *Eugnorisma glareosa*

23 Sep – one light-trapped at Bramble Villas (Andy Turner, Chris Dee).

## FLORA

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Compiled by Andrew Cleave

Sequence and nomenclature follow Stace, C. 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press. See [http://www.thewildflowersociety.com/wfs\\_list\\_of\\_all\\_plants/main\\_menu\\_2010.htm](http://www.thewildflowersociety.com/wfs_list_of_all_plants/main_menu_2010.htm) for Stace 3rd edition names.

### FERNS

**Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum*

26 Apr – 295 fronds at SS13394371 (Sam Bosanquet).

29 May – 15 plants with fertile fronds near Rocket Pole (Rebecca & Richard Taylor).

5 Jun – scattered plants on grassy slope near Jenny's Cove, but very few fertile fronds (Andrew Cleave).

**Hay-scented Buckler-fern** *Dryopteris aemula*

22 May – abundant near quarries and in Punchbowl Valley (Andrew Cleave).

**Hard Fern** *Blechnum spicant*

5 Jun – a few plants producing fertile fronds on a bank in North Quarry (Andrew Cleave).

**Rusty-back Fern** *Asplenium ceterach*

9 Jun – spreading along wall facing the church, behind Blue Bung. Small colony in Stoneycroft garden getting smothered by Fuchsia and Bramble (Andrew Cleave).

**Wall Rue** *Asplenium ruta-muralis*

16 Jun – a few small plants on wall near iron gate to Government House. This is a new colony of this very rare Lundy fern. A few plants still surviving on first gateway after Barton Cottages. (Andrew Cleave).

**Sea Spleenwort** *Asplenium marinum*

9 Jun – a small colony at the Battery, and a few plants on the south wall of the Castle. (Andrew Cleave).

**Royal Fern** *Osmunda regalis*

26 Apr – 11 tiny plants on mossy bank at SS13194549 (Sam Bosanquet).

### FLOWERING PLANTS

**Lesser Celandine** *Ficaria verna*

8 Apr – Forming extensive flowering patches on slopes above Beach Road (Andrew Cleave).

**Round-leaved Water-crowfoot** *Ranunculus omiophyllus*

26 Apr – in wet flush near Jenny's Cove (Sam Bosanquet).

**Lesser Spearwort** *Ranunculus flammula*

26 Apr – in wet flush near Jenny's Cove (Sam Bosanquet).

**Red Campion** *Silene dioica*

25 Feb – two plants in flower in tree nursery near St Helen's Copse (Dean Jones).

**Sea Campion** *Silene uniflora*

23 Apr – a few flower-heads on crossroads near the Castle (Alan Rowland).

25 Dec – four plants, each with one flower above Benson's Cave (P.J. Ellam).

**Heath Pearlwort** *Sagina subulata*

22 May – flowering well near Timekeeper's Hut and Heligoland trap (Andrew Cleave).

**Procumbent Pearlwort** *Sagina procumbens*

22 May – very common along Terraces and near Heligoland trap (Andrew Cleave).

**Lesser Stitchwort** *Stellaria graminea*

3 Jun – in wet acid flush between the Quarries and the buttresses and also in wet flush near Quarter Wall Gate (Steve Compton, Roger & Rosy Key, Andrew Cleave).

**Rock Sea Spurrey** *Spergularia rupicola*

6 Jun – in flower above Benson's Cave and Battery Cottages (Andrew Cleave).

**Thrift** *Armeria maritima*

5 April – single flower behind the Battery (Dean Jones).

**Round-leaved Sundew** *Drosera rotundifolia*

26 Apr – in Sphagnum near Pondsbyury (Sam Bosenquet).

6 Jun – flowering well in Sphagnum at mouth of North Quarry (Andrew Cleave).

**Trailing St John's-wort** *Hypericum humifusum*

21 May – near Belle Vue Cottages (Andrew Cleave).

3 Jun – on steps between Millcombe and Government House and also on Goat Path (Andrew Cleave).

**Slender St John's-wort** *Hypericum pulchrum*

2 Jun – on eastern sideland just north of St Helen's Copse (Steve Compton, Roger & Rosy Key).

**Common Dog-violet** *Viola riviniana*

18 Apr – in flower and fairly common on north side of Millcombe Valley (Alan Rowland).

**Lundy Cabbage** *Coincya wrightii*

26 Apr – in flower on slate strip near pond below Millcombe (Sam Bosanquet). See the *Conservation Team Report* (page 14) for numbers.

**Thale Cress** *Arabidopsis thaliana*

5 Jun – a few plants around Millcombe House, mostly with seed pods. (Andrew Cleave).

**Weld** *Reseda luteola*

13 Jul – large colony near Battlements (Andrew Cleave).

**Rhododendron** *Rhododendron ponticum*

23 Dec – large patch with buds down towards Quarry Beach (Chris Breese).

**Primrose** *Primula vulgaris*

23 Feb – single flower outside gate at South Lighthouse (Dean Jones).

26 Feb – several in flower in copse on east side (Dean Jones).

30 Dec – plants in flower in Quarter Wall Copse (Dean Jones).

**Bog Pimpernel** *Anagallis tenella*

26 Apr – in wet flush between Jenny's Cove and Threequarter Wall (Sam Bosanquet).

**Chaffweed** *Centunculus minimus*

13 Jul – a few plants flowering and some in fruit in dried-up bed of Kistvaen Pond (Andrew Cleave) – see colour plate 9.

**Bird's-foot** *Ornithopus perpusillus*

21 May – abundant along terraces and near quarries, and also grassy bank near Battlements (Andrew Cleave).

3 Jun – very common along Upper East Side Path and Quarry Terraces (Andrew Cleave).

**Bird's-foot Trefoil** *Lotus corniculatus*

5 Jun – forming large colourful patches at South West Point (Andrew Cleave).

**Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil** *Lotus pedunculatus*

6 Jun – flowering in ditch between Church and Square Cottage, and near Quarter Wall gate (Andrew Cleave).

**Hare's-foot Clover** *Trifolium arvense*

6 Jun – in flower on top of walls near Black Shed and Beer Garden (Andrew Cleave).

**Kidney Vetch** *Anthyllis vulneraria*

6 June – common on Rat Island, below South Light steps and on margins of Devil's Limekiln (Andrew Cleave).

**Allseed** *Radiola linoides*

26 April – in damp mossy turf (Sam Bosanquet).

**Common Milkwort** *Polygala vulgaris*

6 Jun – on slopes below Rocket Pole (Andrew Cleave).

**Procumbent Yellow Sorrel** *Oxalis corniculata*

21 May – creeping through stony and paved areas around Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

**Alexanders** *Smyrniololus atrum*

23 Feb – early blooms beside gas store in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

**Knotted Bur-parsley** *Torilis nodosa*

7 Jun – a few small plants in rabbit scrapes inside North Light compound (Andrew Cleave).

**Hemlock** *Conium maculatum*

7 Jun – some rather stunted specimens in Stonecroft garden and on Castle Parade (Andrew Cleave).

**Common Centaury** *Centaureum erythraea*

9 Jun – near the Battery Cottages (Andrew Cleave).

17 Oct – in flower behind Millcombe House (Alan Rowland).

**Henbane** *Hyoscyamus niger*

21 May – several large plants flowering near Benjamin's Chair (Andrew Cleave).

**Buck's-horn Plantain** *Plantago coronopus*

17 Aug – one growing in drain outside Big St John's (Rebecca & Richard Taylor); many dwarfed specimens growing in peaty hollows beyond Three-quarter Wall (Andrew Cleave).

**Small Nettle** *Urtica urens*

9 Jun – grass verge of High Street and in gateways. (Andrew Cleave).

**Lousewort** *Pedicularis sylvatica*

21 Apr – in north quarry on *Sphagnum* moss (Chris & Mandy Dee).

21 May – many plants in flower on slopes below Rocket Pole (Andrew Cleave).

**Twiggy Mullein** *Verbascum virgatum*

13 Jul – two plants, with one over 2m tall, either side of Millcombe front door. (Andrew Cleave, Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Balm-leaved Figwort** *Scrophularia scorodonia*

7 Jun – in the usual locations above Beach Road but also apparently colonising areas cleared of Rhododendrons on east side. (Andrew Cleave).

16 Oct – plants with leaves and seeds in the Secret Garden, lower Millcombe (Ruth Turner).

**Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana*

6 June – on slope above Benson's Cave (Andrew Cleave).

**Honeysuckle** *Lonicera periclymenum*

9 October – single flower noted in Quarry Cottage garden (Michael Williams).

**Slender Thistle** *Carduus tenuiflorus*

13 Jul – in flower near the Battlements, Benson's Cave and Benjamin's Chair (Andrew Cleave).

**Common Cudweed** *Filago vulgaris*

24 Jun – group near Stone Crusher (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Floating Club-rush** *Eleocharis fluitans*

13 Jul – forming extensive mats in Kistvaen Pond (Andrew Cleave).

**Greater Tussock-sedge** *Carex paniculata*

26 Apr – near Gannets' Coombe (Sam Bosanquet).

**Sand Sedge** *Carex arenaria*

13 Jul – a very common species and found in large patches at South West Point (Andrew Cleave).

**Water-bent** *Polypogon viridis*

13 Jul – a non-native grass species on the Beach Road near South Light steps – a new record for Lundy. First reported in 2015 but not relocated until now (Andrew Cleave).

**Soft-brome** *Bromus hordeaceus* ssp. *feronii*

7 Jun – extensive patches above Benson's Cave, Benjamin's Chair and South West Point (Andrew Cleave).

**Bog Pondweed** *Potamogeton polygonifolius*

26 April – in wet flush near Jenny's Cove and around Pondsburry (Sam Bosanquet).

**Bluebell** *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*

April 6 – a small scattering at Quarter Wall Copse (Zoë Barton).

**Bog Asphodel** *Narthecium ossifragum*

19 Jun – “more abundant than a normal year” (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Heath Spotted-orchid** *Dactylorhiza maculata*

19 Jun – “in flower at Pondsburry” (Siân Scott), “about a dozen” (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS)**

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During 2017, Sam D.S. Bosanquet undertook surveys on Lundy, making 525 records of 141 bryophyte taxa (1 hornwort, 36 liverworts and 104 mosses). Full data have been sent to the British Bryological Society Recorder for Devon and will be available on the National Biodiversity Network. Fifty of these taxa appear to be new for Lundy, including several notable species. The records have been reproduced in the article on page 126.

**FUNGI**

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Compiled by Mandy Dee

Scientific nomenclature follows *Checklist of the British & Irish Basidiomycota* available at <http://www.basidiochecklist.info/index>.

A total of 168 species were recorded in 2017, significantly up on last year, of which 26 were new to Lundy (marked in the text with an asterisk). In March, Alan & Sandra Rowland who are regular contributors of records, discovered a fascinating blistered cup growing next to the wooden pallets that were positioned at the top of St John's Valley, storing the stones for the wall repair. It may

be that this was the means by which the fungal spores reached the island. Violet Coral and Beige Coral were found by John Hedger, Jenny George and David George on their regular November recording trip, along with a slimy earthtongue. Three new species of pinkgill were discovered by Mandy Dee & John Hedger in September. Corals, earthtongues and pinkgills are indicators for good quality unimproved grassland, and as such are excellent finds. Mandy Dee & John Hedger also had first records for Twisted Deceiver, Orange Bonnet and Split Fibrecap. John Hedger undertook a project to discover if aquatic fungi were present on Lundy. Apples were placed in several ponds on the island as a means of attracting, collecting and identifying any aquatic fungi or moulds present. Five species were found growing on the apples after a few weeks and all are new records for Lundy.

A visit by John Hedger in September enabled a few days of intensive training in field mycology for Mandy Dee, who hopes to be able to contribute an increasing number of records as her experience grows. A laboratory was set up in the offices above the tavern, which enabled many of the staff to take a look at some of the specimens. John and Mandy ran a foray for visitors, and the fungi found are recorded below as 'LFS Foray'.

The regular Airfield survey of fruit bodies of fungi was carried out in both September and November, and Alan & Sandra Rowland continued the ongoing survey of Grey Waxcaps in December.

The number of entries for fungi in the LFS logbook from other recorders remains small but will hopefully improve following publication of *Lundy Fungi*, scheduled for autumn 2018.

## GILL FUNGI

### **Horse Mushroom** *Agaricus arvensis*

19 Sep – South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

8 Nov – 2 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

### **Field Mushroom** *Agaricus campestris*

19 Sep – Old House lawn (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### ***Agaricus comtulus***

19 Sep – South West Field, second record (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### ***Agaricus impudicus***

7 Nov – in long grass with bracken, Upper East Side Path (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in long grass with bracken, East Side above Knight Templar Rock (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – in long grass, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

### **Scaly Wood Mushroom** *Agaricus langei*

9 Nov – in tall grass with bracken, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

### **Yellow Field Cap** *Bolbitius titubans*

8 Nov – on dung, Tibbetts (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

### ***Calocybe carnea***

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Clouded Funnel** *Clitocybe nebularis*

7 Nov – in tall grass with bracken, Upper East Side Path (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Fool's Funnel** *Clitocybe rivulosa* syn. *dealbata*

A seemingly innocuous but deadly poisonous white toadstool.

20 Sep – on Old House Lawn (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

22 Sep – Ackland's Moor (LFS Foray).

9 Nov – in short turf, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Common Conecap** *Conocybe tenera*

22 Sep – in short grass, Castle (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Glistening Ink Cap** *Coprinellus micaceus*

20 Sep - St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Variable Webcap** *Cortinarius anomalus*

23 Sep – Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Marsh Webcap** *Cortinarius uliginosus*

23 Sep – Second record, in creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Crinipellis stipitaria**

21 Sep – on path, Bramble Villa (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Snowy Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus* (= *Hygrocybe*) *virgineus*

19 Sep – Courtyard Lawn (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

22 Sep – short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – Lighthouse Field (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Big St John's; in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – In medium grass, Lighthouse Field.

2 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny George & David George).

**Earthy Powdercap** *Cystoderma amianthum*

9 Nov – in grass with bracken and gorse, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Crazed Cap** *Dermoloma cuneifolium*

21 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Navy pinkgill** *Entoloma atrocoeruleum*

23 Sep – Second record, in short grass by rocket pole (Tina, island visitor).

**Indigo Pinkgill** *Entoloma chalybaeum* var. *chalybaeum*\*

23 Sep – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Entoloma chalybaeum* var. *lazulinum***

- 22 Sep – in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).
- 23 Sep – in short grass, Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).
- 24 Sep – in short grass, west side path in Middle Park (John Hedger).

**Star Pinkgill** *Entoloma conferendum*

- 22 Sep – Ackland's Moor (LFS Foray).
- 7 Nov – in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).
- 8 Nov – in medium grass, Lighthouse Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).
- 9 Nov – in medium grass, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Pimple Pinkgill** *Entoloma hebes*

- 19 Sep – in short grass, South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Entoloma lampropus***

- 20 Sep – in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Entoloma longistriatum***

- 24 Sep – in short grass, west side path in Middle Park (John Hedger).

**Papillate Pinkgill** *Entoloma papillatum*

- 20 Sep – Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Entoloma poliopus*\***

- 24 Sep – First record, in very short grass, west side path in Middle Park (John Hedger).

**Lilac Pinkgill** *Entoloma porphyrophaeum*

- 17 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

**Cream Pinkgill** *Entoloma sericellum*

- 20 Sep – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Silky Pinkgill** *Entoloma sericeum*

- 8 Nov – in medium grass, East Side above Knight Templar Rock (John Hedger, Jenny &, David George).
- 9 Nov – in short turf, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Entoloma sericeoides***

- 22 Sep – in short grass, Castle (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).
- 22 Sep – in short grass, Old Hospital (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Blue Edge Pinkgill** *Entoloma serrulatum*

- 19 Sep – in short turf, Rocket Pole (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Entoloma xanthochroum*\***

- 19 Sep – in short turf, Rocket Pole (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).



**Hairy Leg Bell\*** *Galerina vittiformis*

23 Sep – in short grass, west end of Quarter Wall (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Bog Bell** *Galerina paludosa*

18 Sep – on sphagnum in North Quarry (Mandy Dee).

**Galerina pseudomycenopsis**

7 Nov – second record for Lundy, in short turf, Timekeeper's Hut (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Lined Meadowcap** *Gamundia striatula* (= *pseudoclusilis*)

9 Nov – in medium grass with bracken, north of Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Russet Toughshank** *Gymnopus dryophilus*

22 Sep – Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

9 Nov – in grass with bracken, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Dwarf Poisonpie** *Hebeloma pusillum*

23 Sep – in grass, Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Orange Waxcap** *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens*

21 Sep – frequent, Airfield (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

8 Nov – 2 on Airfield survey; in short turf, Old Hospital; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Goblet Waxcap** *Hygrocybe cantharellus*

21 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Butter Waxcap** *Hygrocybe ceracea*

8 Nov – in short turf, Old Hospital; in short grass, Halfway Wall Gate; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; in medium grass, Lighthouse Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Golden Waxcap** *Hygrocybe chlorophana*

22 Sep – abundant, Airfield (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – abundant, Lighthouse Field (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George)

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; in medium grass, Lighthouse Field; 4 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Scarlet Waxcap** *Hygrocybe coccinea*

14 Sep – 2 in South West Field (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

14 Oct – abundant, Lighthouse Field (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in short turf, Old Hospital; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; in medium grass, Lighthouse Field; 1 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – in short turf, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Toasted Waxcap** *Hygrocybe colemanniana*

8 Nov – on the lawn at Old Light (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Blackening Waxcap** *Hygrocybe conica*

19 Sep – Government House lawn (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

22 Sep – Airfield (LFS Foray).

8 Nov – in medium grass, Airfield (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

22 Dec – opposite church (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Yellow Foot Waxcap** *Hygrocybe flavipes*

22 Sep – in short turf, Old Hospital (LFS Foray).

8 Nov – 1 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Glutinous Waxcap** *Hygrocybe glutinipes*

20 Sep – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley.

**Spangle Waxcap** *Hygrocybe insipida*

21 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in short turf, Old Hospital; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; in short turf, west end of Quarter Wall (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Slimy Waxcap** *Hygrocybe irrigata*

14 Oct – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

**Grey Waxcap** *Hygrocybe lacmus*

6 Dec – 325 found on annual survey, North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Heath Waxcap** *Hygrocybe laeta*

21 Sep – in rough grass with bracken, Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

18 Oct – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf with bracken, Quarter Wall Cottages.

8 Nov – in short grass, Halfway Wall Gate; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; 40 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – in grass with bracken, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Hygrocybe marchii***

8 Nov – a second record of this rare waxcap, in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Vermillion Waxcap** *Hygrocybe miniata*

22 Sep – in short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

***Hygrocybe olivaceonigra*** (= *Hygrocybe conica* var. *olivaceonigra*)

22 Sep – in short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

**Meadow Waxcap** *Hygrocybe pratensis*

17 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

22 Sep – short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – abundant, Lighthouse Field (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in short turf, Old Hospital; in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; 2 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – in short turf, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Pale Waxcap** *Hygrocybe pratensis* var. *pallida*

22 Sep – short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

**Parrot Waxcap** *Hygrocybe psittacina*

1 Apr – Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee).

22 Sep – Airfield (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

7-9 Nov – found in many locations round the island in short turf, including 7 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Parrot Waxcap** *Hygrocybe psittacina* var. *perplexa*\*

22 Sep – in short grass, Old Hospital.

**Crimson Waxcap** *Hygrocybe punicea*

This was noticeably absent in September, as it was in Sep 2016.

18 Oct – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

8 Nov – 43 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – abundant in short turf, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Honey Waxcap** *Hygrocybe readii*

23 Sep – Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

7 Nov – in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Cedarwood Waxcap** *Hygrocybe russocoriacea*

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – 1 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Splendid Waxcap** *Hygrocybe splendidissima*

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley; in medium grass, Airfield (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Snowy Waxcap** *Hygrocybe* (= *Cuphophyllus*) *virginea* var. *virginea*

19 Sep – Courtyard Lawn (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

22 Sep – short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – Lighthouse Field (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Big St John's; in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – In medium grass, Lighthouse Field; 2 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Hygrocybe virginea* var. *ochraceopallida***

9 Nov – in short turf, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Sphagnum Brownie** *Hypholoma elongatum*

23 Sep – Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Sulphur Tuft** *Hypholoma fasciculare*

21 Sep – Millcombe Wood (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Star Fibrecap** *Inocybe asterospora*

23 Sep – Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Split Fibrecap** *Inocybe rimosa* var. *perlata*\*

19 Sep – in sycamore leaf litter, Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**The Deceiver** *Laccaria laccata*

21 Sep – in leaf litter, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Twisted Deceiver** *Laccaria tortilis*\*

20 Sep – in leaf litter, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Orange Milkcap** *Lactarius auranticus*

26 Sep – under Turkey Oak and Corsican Pine, Millcombe (previously only found in creeping willow) (John Hedger).

**Liver Milkcap** *Lactarius hepaticus*

20 Sep – in leaf litter, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

***Lepiota oreadiformis*** (= *L. laevigata*)

22 Sep – second record, in short grass, Castle (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Wood Blewit** *Lepista nuda*

6 Dec – wall above St Helen's Copse (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Heath Navel** *Lichenomphalia umbellifera*

20 Sep – on peat beside East Side Path (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Parasol** *Macrolepiota procera*

18 Sep – abundant in medium grass, South West Field (Mandy Dee).

8 Oct – abundant in South West Field (Michael Williams).

**Fairy Ring Champignon** *Marasmius oreades*

1 Apr – Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee).

18 Sep – very common along the paths through South West Field (Mandy Dee).

9 Nov – in short turf, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Orange Bonnet** *Mycena acicula*\*

20 Sep – Quarter Wall Cottages (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Drab Bonnet** *Mycena aetites*

9 Nov – in short turf, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Mycena clavularis*\***

21 Sep – on rotten Corsican Pine log, Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Brownedge Bonnet** *Mycena olivaceomarginata*

9 Nov – in medium grass, South West field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Lilac Bonnet** *Mycena pura*

8 Nov – two on Airfield (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Snapping Bonnet** *Mycena vitilis*

21 Sep – Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Cinnamon Navel** *Omphalina pyxidata*

8 Nov – in moss, Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Porcelain Fungus** *Oudemansiella mucida*

16 Sep – dead stump, Millcombe Woods and (Mandy Dee).

20 Sep – living tree, Quarter Wall Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Dewdrop Mottlegill** *Panaeolus acuminatus*

21 Sep – Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

14 Oct – Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee).

6 Nov – in tall grass, Blue Bung (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

7 Nov – in short grass, Timekeeper's Hut (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in tall grass with bracken, East Side above Knight Templar Rock (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Banded Mottlegill** *Panaeolus cinctulus*

17 Sep – Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee).

8 Nov – in tall grass, west end of Quarter Wall (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Turf Mottlegill** *Panaeolus fimicola*

17 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

14 Oct – Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee).

8 Nov – in medium grass, Ackland's Moor (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Brown Mottlegill** *Panaeolus foenisecii*

8 Nov – in medium grass, Ackland's Moor; in medium grass, Lighthouse Field; 1 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Petticoat Mottlegill** *Panaeolus papillionaceus*

19 Sep – South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

22 Sep – Old Hospital (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – Ackland's Moor (Mandy Dee).

**Egg-head Mottlegill** *Panaeolus semiovatus*

1 Apr – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

18 Sep – Middle Park (Mandy Dee).

**Pleated Inkcap** *Parasola plicatilis*

1 Apr – in grass in Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee).

**Deer Shield** *Pluteus cervinus*

21 Sep – Millcombe Wood (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Mealy Meadowcap** *Porpoloma metapodium*

7 Nov – a second record for Lundy, in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages.

**Psilocybe coprophila**

19 Sep – common on sheep's dung in South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Magic Mushroom or Liberty Cap** *Psilocybe semilanceata*

22 Sep – in short turf, Quarter Wall (LFS Foray).

14 Oct – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

8 Nov – 12 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Butter Cap** *Rhodocollybia butyracea* var. *asema*

9 Nov – in grass with bracken, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Orange Moss-cap** *Rickenella fibula*

19 Sep – Old House lawn. (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

8 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Purple Brittlegill** *Russula atropurpurea*

16 Sep – common in Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee).

**Charcoal Brittlegill** *Russula cyanoxantha*

20 Sep – leaf litter, St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Ochre Brittlegill** *Russula ochroleuca*

20 Sep – St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Coral Brittlegill** *Russula velenovskyi*

23 Sep – Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Peppery Roundhead** *Stropharia pseudocyanea*

9 Nov – in long grass, path along south of Tent Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Dung Roundhead** *Stropharia semiglobata*

19 Apr – main track, Old Hospital (Mandy Dee).

17 Sep – Airfield (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in medium grass, Ackland's Moor (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**BOLETES**

**Red Cracking Bolete** *Xerocomellus* (= *Boletus*) *chrysenteron*

21 Sep – in leaf litter, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Xerocomellus** (= *Boletus*) *cisalpinus*

26 Sep – in pine needles, Millcombe Valley (John Hedger).

**FAIRY CLUBS**

**White Spindles** *Clavaria fragilis*

25 Sep – large lump in grass by stone, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger).

**Violet Coral** *Clavaria zollingeri*\*

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Meadow Coral** *Clavulinopsis corniculata*

22 Sep – Ackland's Moor (LFS foray).

14 Oct – short turf, Quarter Wall (Mandy Dee).

**Yellow Club** *Clavulinopsis helvola*

7 Nov – in short turf, Quarter Wall Cottages (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – in short turf, Halfway Wall Gate; in medium grass, Airfield (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Golden Spindles** *Clavulinopsis fusiformis*

23 Sep – first record of the year, in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

14 Oct – in short turf, Quarter Wall (Mandy Dee).

7 Nov – in short turf, Timekeeper's Hut; in tall grass, Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

8 Nov – 2 on Airfield survey (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Apricot Club** *Clavulinopsis luteoalba*

7 Nov – in short grass, Quarter Wall Cottages; in short grass, Timekeeper's Hut (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

9 Nov – in short grass, South West Field (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Beige Coral** *Clavulinopsis umbrinella* (= *cineroides*)\*

8 Nov – in short turf, Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

## **POLYPORES (Bracket fungi)**

### ***Botryobasidium pruinaum*\***

21 Sep – on mossy log, Millcombe Valley (John Hedger).

### **Oak Mazegill *Daedalea quercina***

20 Sep – on fallen oak, Quarter Wall Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### **Cinnamon Porecrust *Fuscoporia ferrea***

19 Sep – on tree guard, Millcombe Valley (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### ***Grandinia crustosa***

25 Sep – on rotten, mossy Turkey Oak log, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

### ***Peniophora cinerea***

25 Sep – on dead beech branch, Quarter Wall copse (John Hedger).

### ***Perenniporia ochroleuca***

16 Sep – on blackthorn trunk near Government House (Mandy Dee).

14 Oct – on tree guard, Millcombe Valley. (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

6 Nov – on blackthorn trunk near Government House (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

22 Dec – on tree guard, Millcombe Valley. (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

### ***Phanerochaete sordida***

25 Sep – on rotten Turkey Oak log, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

### ***Phlebia merismoides***

21 Sep – on dead sycamore, St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### **Split Porecrust *Schizopora paradoxa***

20 Sep – St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### **Bleeding Oak Crust *Stereim gausapatum*\***

25 Sep – on sound dead Turkey Oak branch, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

### **Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum***

20 Sep – on dead wood, St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

### ***Tomentella bryophila*\***

25 Sep – on rotten, mossy Turkey Oak log, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

### ***Tomentella griseo-violacea***

25 Sep – on rotten Turkey Oak log, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

### **Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolor***

24 Sep – on dead wood, Millcombe Valley (Mark Kelly & Sian Scott).

6 Nov – on blackthorn, Blue Bung (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).



**Waxy Crust** *Vuilleminia comedens*

25 Sep – on sound dead Turkey Oak branch, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

**PUFFBALLS**

**Brown Puffball** *Bovista nigrescens*

9 Nov – on turf path south of Old Light (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Grey Puffball** *Bovista plumbea*

19 Sep – South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Mosaic Puffball** *Lycoperdon utriforme*

22 Sep – Airfield (LFS Foray).

**Dusky Puffball** *Lycoperdon nigrescens*

18 Sep – Middle Park (Mandy Dee)

9 Nov – in grass with bracken and gorse, Rocket Pole (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Meadow Puffball** *Lycoperdon pratense*

19 Sep – South West Field (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

9 Nov – in short turf on clifftop south of Old Light (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**JELLY FUNGI**

**Small Stagshorn** *Calocera cornea*

20 Sep – St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Jelly Ear** *Auricularia auricula-judae*

1 Apr – on elder by Millcombe Pond (Mandy Dee).

9 June – on elder in Walled Garden, Millcombe (AJC).

20 Sep – St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**Jelly Spot** *Dacrymyces stillatus*

20 Sep – on dead wood, St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

**ASCOMYCETES**

**Apiocrea sepedonium**

23 Sep – parasitic on *Russula ochroleuca*, Millcombe (Mark Kelly & Sian Scott).

**Lemon Disco** *Bisporella citrina*

25 Sep – on dead rhododendron, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

**Cowpat Gem** *Cheilymenia granulata*

22 Sep – on dung (LFS Foray).

7 Nov – in short turf by Timekeeper's Hut (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Cryptosphaeria euonomia\***

25 Sep – on dead ash branch, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

**Slimy Earthtongue** *Geoglossum peckianum*\*

7 Nov – in short turf by Timekeeper's Hut (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Glioniopsis praelonga**

6 Nov – on dead gorse, its normal host, by Blue Bung (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

7 Nov – on dead bramble stem, a new host for this on Lundy, Upper East Side Path (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

**Hyalorbilia inflatula**\*

25 Sep – on dead Turkey Oak, Quarter Wall Copse, (John Hedger).

**Coral Spot** *Nectria cinnabarina*

18 Sep – on dead twig, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee).

**Nectria episphaeria**

25 Sep – on fruit bodies of *Cryptosphaeria eunomia*, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

**Nemania serpens**

20 Sep – on sycamore log, Millcombe (John Hedger).

**Orbilia auricolor**

25 Sep – on dead rhododendron, Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

**Orbilia sarraziniana**\*

20 Sep – on rotten sycamore, St Helen's Copse (Mandy Dee & John Hedger).

20 Sep – on rotten sycamore, Millcombe (John Hedger).

21 Sep – on rotten Corsican Pine log, Millcombe (John Hedger).

**Blistered Cup** *Peziza vesiculosa*\*

17 Mar – on rough ground adjacent to the wooden pallets under the stone blocks used to repair the St John's Valley Wall (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Sycamore Tar Spot** *Rhytisma acerinum*

21 Sep – on sycamore leaves, Millcombe (John Hedger).

**Venturia palustris**

21 Sep – on *Potentilla erecta* (Common Cinquefoil), Millcombe (John Hedger).

**Dead Moll's Fingers** *Xylaria longipes*

16 Sep – on dead sycamore, Millcombe Woods (Mandy Dee).

**MICROFUNGI – Aquatic**

***Saprolegnia litoralis***\* – a water mould or *Oomycota*

Widow's Tenement Pond and Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger).

***Achlya* sp.\*** – a water mould

Widow's Tenement Pond (John Hedger).

***Blastocladiella pringsheimii*\*** – an aquatic fungus  
Quarter Wall Pond and Ackland's Moor Pond (John Hedger).

***Blastocladiella ramosa*\*** – an aquatic fungus  
Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger).

***Monoblepharis sp.*\*** – an aquatic fungus  
Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger).

#### **MICROFUNGI – Other**

***Alternaria dennisii*\***  
24 Sep – on dead stems of *Senecio jacobea* (Ragwort), Pondsburry (John Hedger).

***Didymaria kriegeiriana*\***  
7 Nov – on leaves of *Silene rubra* (Red Champion) Upper East Side Path (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Erysiphe depressa***  
20 Sep – on leaves of *Arctium lappa*, Millcombe (John Hedger).

***Erysiphe heraclei***  
25 Sep – on leaves of *Heracleum sphondylium*, Millcombe (John Hedger).

**Hat Thrower *Pilobolus kleinii***  
24 Sep – on cow dung, Middle Park (John Hedger).

***Puccinia arenariae***  
7 Nov – on leaves of *Silene rubra* (Red Champion), Upper East Side Path (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Puccinia coronata***  
9 Nov – on leaves of *Dactylis* (Cocksfoot), Millcombe (John Hedger, Jenny & David George).

***Puccinia violae***  
24 Sep – on petiole of *Viola palustris*, Pondsburry (John Hedger).

**Sycamore Powdery Mildew *Uncinula bicornis***  
25 Sep – on sycamore leaves, Government House (John Hedger).

#### **SLIME MOULDS**

**Flower of Tan *Fuligo septica***  
14 Oct – Windy Corner (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**Insect-egg Slime Mould *Leocarpus fragilis***  
14 Oct – Millcombe Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

# BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS) ON LUNDY IN 2017

by

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British Bryological Society Recorder for Liverworts, Monmouthshire

I visited Lundy twice in 2017: from 29th April to 1st May with my wife and from 16th to 18th July with my wife and children. Solo recording walks and *ad hoc* recording produced 525 records of 141 bryophyte taxa (1 hornwort, 36 liverworts & 104 mosses). Full data have been sent to the British Bryological Society Recorder for Devon and will be available on the NBN. Fifty of these taxa appear to be new for Lundy, including several notable species.

In contrast to lichens and vascular plants, which are well-recorded on Lundy, the bryophyte flora seems to be remarkably poorly known. The British Bryological Society database, maintained by CEH (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology), included records made by Mark Pool (BBS recorder for Devon) on a visit in 1997, some from 1959 (Cox, 1959), and a few *ad hoc* records from other visitors. Most of the liverwort records in Paton (1975) were not included in the BBS dataset, and these needed to be 'remobilised' by the author. The majority of previous records were poorly localised – for example those made by Mark Pool were at tetrad resolution only – but it was clear that the two most significant recorders (Paton and Pool) who visited the island went no further north than Pondsburry.

The list below includes all bryophyte taxa recorded by the author in 2017. The \* symbol indicates those which appear to be new for Lundy, following scrutiny of the BBS database, Paton (1975), Cox (1959) and the NBN Atlas. More recording would be needed to produce a comprehensive list of the island's bryophytes, as there are undoubtedly more species to be found, particularly in the northern half of Lundy. Even the species with the most records, such as *Kindbergia (Eurhynchium) praelonga* and *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*, have only been recorded in 8 of the 12 1-km squares which make up the island.

## RECORDS FROM 2017

### Hornworts

*Anthoceros punctatus*: 4 records in 2017. An uncommon, Mediterranean-Atlantic species that is locally frequent on the edge of coastal flushes. See colour plate 9.

### Liverworts

*Calyptogeia arguta*: 2 records in 2017.

*Calyptogeia fissa*: 6 records in 2017.

*Cephalozia bicuspidata*: 7 records in 2017.

*Cephalozia connivens*: 3 records in 2017.

*Cephalozia lunulifolia*: 8 records in 2017.

\**Cephaloziella* sp.: 6 records in 2017. First record: coastal slope, Battery Steps (SS12884493).

Fertile material would be required for identification, 3 or 4 species of *Cephaloziella* could be present on Lundy.

- \**Chiloscyphus pallescens*: 2 records in 2017. First record: coastal flush, Quarry Beach path (SS13884516).
- \**Cololejeunea minutissima*: 4 records in 2017. First record: wall, Millcombe NE (SS13874412).
- Conocephalum conicum sensu stricto*: 3 records in 2017.
- Diplophyllum albicans*: 4 records in 2017.
- \**Fossombronina* sp.: 4 records in 2017. First record: damp peat over granite, Jenny's Cove (SS13194549). This is probably the Nationally Scarce *F. maritima*, but examination of ripe spores would be needed to confirm the identification.
- Frullania dilatata*: 7 records in 2017.
- Frullania fragilifolia*: 13 records in 2017.
- Frullania tamarisci*: 14 records in 2017.
- \**Frullania teneriffae*: 2 records in 2017. First record: north-facing quarry face, Quarries (SS13874535). The first confirmed record for North Devon (v.-c. 4) of this coastal liverwort.
- Jungermannia gracillima*: 1 record in 2017.
- Kurzia sylvatica*: 1 record in 2017. Very scattered in Britain, with few Devon records, but recorded previously from Lundy by Paton (1975).
- Lejeunea cavifolia*: 1 record in 2017.
- \**Lepidozia cupressina*: 2 records in 2017. First record: tor, Gannets' Combe (SS13534729) – see colour plate 10. An uncommon Hyperoceanic leafy liverwort, with a few populations on Exmoor and Dartmoor tors.
- Lepidozia reptans*: 7 records in 2017.
- Lophocolea bidentata*: 9 records in 2017.
- \**Lophozia excisa*: 1 record in 2017. First record: bank by track, Castle Hill (SS13914385).
- Lophozia ventricosa*: 10 records in 2017.
- Metzgeria furcata*: 7 records in 2017.
- Microlejeunea ulicina*: 3 records in 2017.
- Nardia scalaris*: 1 record in 2017.
- \**Pellia endiviifolia*: 2 records in 2017. First record: rocks in stream, St Johns (SS13984399).
- Pellia epiphylla*: 5 records in 2017.
- \**Plagiochila asplenioides*: 1 record in 2017. First record: woodland bank, Millcombe south (SS13944404). A woodland liverwort that is generally rare in coastal parts of Britain.
- \**Plagiochila (killarniensis) bifaria*: 2 records in 2017. First record: coastal slope, Landing Bay (SS14144392). This Hyperoceanic liverwort is locally frequent on the coasts of Cornwall and Pembrokeshire.
- Saccogyna viticulosa*: 8 records in 2017.
- \**Scapania compacta*: 3 records in 2017. First record: rocks, Landing Bay (SS14124398).
- Scapania gracilis*: 9 records in 2017.
- Scapania irrigua*: 2 records in 2017.
- Scapania undulata*: 2 records in 2017.
- \**Tritomaria exsectiformis*: 2 records in 2017. First record: coastal slope, Battery Steps (SS12874493). Primarily a woodland liverwort, with a few records from coastal peat; scarce in Devon and Cornwall.

## Mosses

- \**Aloina aloides*: 1 record in 2017. First record: ruined building, Quarter Wall cottages (SS13804495).
- \**Amblystegium serpens*: 2 records in 2017. First record: building, Lower Millcombe (SS14044403).

\**Archidium alternifolium*: 2 records in 2017. First record: flush, South West (SS13294398).  
*Aulacomnium palustre*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Barbula convoluta* var. *convoluta*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Barbula unguiculata*: 5 records in 2017.  
*Brachythecium albicans*: 4 records in 2017.  
*Brachythecium rivulare*: 2 records in 2017.  
*Brachythecium rutabulum*: 4 records in 2017.  
\**Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: ruined building, Quarter Wall cottages (SS13804495).  
*Bryum alpinum*: 3 records in 2017.  
\**Bryum argenteum*: 2 records in 2017. First record: path, Lower Millcombe (SS14044405).  
*Bryum capillare*: 8 records in 2017.  
\**Bryum dichotomum*: 4 records in 2017. First record: bank by track, St John's east (SS14004398).  
*Bryum pseudotriquetrum*: 1 record in 2017.  
\**Bryum rubens*: 3 records in 2017. First record: quarry, St Johns (SS13934391).  
*Bryum* sp.: 1 record in 2017. A large *Bryum* near the North Light appears to be one of the *caespiticium/archangelicum/intermedium* group, but needs ripe sporophytes for identification.  
\**Bryum subapiculatum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: ditch, Quarter Wall (SS13574488).  
*Calliergonella cuspidata*: 6 records in 2017.  
*Campylopus brevipilus*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Campylopus flexuosus*: 3 records in 2017.  
*Campylopus fragilis*: 2 records in 2017.  
*Campylopus introflexus*: 8 records in 2017.  
*Ceratodon purpureus*: 4 records in 2017.  
*Cratoneuron filicinum*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Cryphaea heteromalla*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Dicranella heteromalla*: 9 records in 2017.  
*Dicranoweisia cirrata*: 3 records in 2017.  
*Dicranum majus*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Dicranum scoparium*: 6 records in 2017.  
\**Dicranum scottianum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: tor, Gannets' Combe (SS13534730) – see colour plate 10. This uncommon Hyperoceanic moss grows alongside *Lepidozia cupressina*, as it does on Exmoor and Dartmoor.  
*Didymodon insulanus*: 5 records in 2017.  
*Didymodon rigidulus*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Didymodon tophaceus*: 3 records in 2017.  
*Entosthodon obtusus*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Epipterygium tozeri*: 3 records in 2017.  
*Fissidens bryoides* var. *bryoides*: 4 records in 2017.  
*Fissidens bryoides* var. *cespitans (curnovii)*: 1 record in 2017.  
*Fissidens viridulus sensu stricto*: 2 records in 2017.  
*Fontinalis antipyretica*: 2 records in 2017.  
*Grimmia pulvinata*: 2 records in 2017.  
*Grimmia trichophylla* agg.: 3 records in 2017.  
\**Hennediella heimii*: 1 record in 2017. First record: coastal slope, North Light (SS13094809).

*Homalothecium sericeum*: 8 records in 2017.

*Hookeria lucens*: 1 record in 2017.

\**Hypnum andoi*: 2 records in 2017. First record: Salix in pool, Quarries (SS13864526).

\**Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *cupressiforme*: 12 records in 2017. First record: wall, Millcombe NE (SS13854409).

\**Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *lacunosum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: ruined building, Quarter Wall cottages (SS13804495).

*Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *resupinatum*: 18 records in 2017.

*Hypnum jutlandicum*: 9 records in 2017.

*Isothecium myosuroides* var. *myosuroides*: 11 records in 2017.

*Kindbergia (Eurhynchium) praelonga*: 19 records in 2017.

*Mnium hornum*: 22 records in 2017.

\**Orthodontium lineare*: 1 record in 2017. First record: peat bank, Quarries (SS13854508).

\**Orthotrichum anomalum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: wall, Landing Bay (SS14144396).

*Orthotrichum diaphanum*: 3 records in 2017.

\**Oxyrrhynchium (Eurhynchium) hians*: 1 record in 2017. First record: damp rock, Quarry Beach path (SS13914508).

\**Oxyrrhynchium (Eurhynchium) pumilum*: 2 records in 2017. First record: stream, Millcombe south (SS13874406).

*Philonotis fontana*: 1 record in 2017.

\**Philonotis rigida*: 1 record in 2017. First record: coastal slope, Quarry Beach (SS13964507). This declining, Nationally Scarce moss is the rarest bryophyte recorded from Lundy so far: there are only 7 other known post-2000 British sites.

*Plagiothecium denticulatum* var. *denticulatum*: 1 record in 2017.

\**Plagiothecium succulentum*: 2 records in 2017. First record: woodland bank, Millcombe NE (SS13904412).

*Plagiothecium undulatum*: 4 records in 2017.

*Platyhypnidium (Rhynchostegium) riparioides*: 4 records in 2017.

\**Pogonatum nanum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: stream bank, Earthquake (SS13184548). A rapidly declining moss, with scattered colonies around the British coast and a handful inland.

\**Pohlia lutescens*: 1 record in 2017. First record: woodland bank, Millcombe south (SS13934404).

*Pohlia nutans*: 1 record in 2017.

*Polytrichastrum (Polytrichum) formosum*: 1 record in 2017.

*Polytrichum commune* var. *commune*: 1 record in 2017.

*Polytrichum juniperinum*: 4 records in 2017.

\**Polytrichum piliferum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: wall top, High Street (SS13684434).

*Pseudephemerum nitidum*: 1 record in 2017.

\**Pseudocrossidium hornschuchianum*: 2 records in 2017. First record: path, St John's (SS13964399).

*Pseudotaxiphyllum elegans*: 2 records in 2017.

*Racomitrium heterostichum sensu stricto*: 1 record in 2017.

*Rhynchostegiella tenella*: 2 records in 2017.

*Rhynchostegium confertum*: 3 records in 2017.

*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*: 2 records in 2017.

*Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*: 1 record in 2017.

\**Schistidium crassipilum*: 2 records in 2017. First record: wall top, Battery steps (SS12884491).

*Schistidium maritimum*: 5 records in 2017.

- \**Schistidium rivulare*: 1 record in 2017. First record: rock by pool, Quarter Wall (SS13584494).  
The presence of this river moss on rocks by a pool is unusual.
- Scleropodium purum*: 7 records in 2017.
- Scleropodium tourettii*: 5 records in 2017.
- Sphagnum denticulatum*: 5 records in 2017.
- Sphagnum palustre*: 1 record in 2017.
- Sphagnum subnitens*: 3 records in 2017.
- \**Syntrichia montana*: 2 records in 2017. First record: roof, village (SS13734411).
- \**Syntrichia ruralis*: 1 record in 2017. First record: concrete, St John's (SS13964399).
- Tetraphis pellucida*: 3 records in 2017.
- \**Thamnobryum alopecurum*: 1 record in 2017. First record: wall by stream, Lower Millcombe (SS14014402).
- Thuidium tamariscinum*: 1 record in 2017.
- Tortella flavovirens*: 2 records in 2017.
- Tortula muralis*: 5 records in 2017.
- \**Tortula truncata*: 1 record in 2017. First record: ditch, Quarter Wall (SS13574488).
- \**Tortula viridifolia*: 2 records in 2017. First record: stone-faced bank, St John's (SS13904387).
- Trichostomum brachydontium*: 15 records in 2017.
- \**Ulota bruchii*: 1 record in 2017. First record: Salix, St Johns (SS13934395).
- \**Ulota intermedia*: 1 record in 2017. First record: woodland, Millcombe NE (SS13924413). A recent split from *Ulota crispata*, with a confused distribution in GB.
- Ulota phyllantha*: 13 records in 2017.
- \**Weissia controversa* var. *controversa*: 1 record in 2017. First record: quarry, St John's (SS13934391).
- \**Weissia perssonii*: 2 records in 2017. First record: coastal slope, Landing Bay (SS14334375).
- \**Zygodon conoideus* var. *conoideus*: 3 records in 2017. First record: Sambucus, Lower Millcombe (SS13994404).
- Zygodon viridissimus* var. *viridissimus*: 6 records in 2017.

## References

- Cox, R.M. 1959. Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 13: 49-53.
- Paton, J.A. 1975. Hepatics on Lundy. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 26: 18.



# ATLANTIC GREY SEAL *HALICHOERUS GRYPUS* POPULATION AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES, LUNDY 2017

by

DEAN WOODFIN JONES  
Email: warden@lundyisland.co.uk

## INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic Grey seal population has been surveyed annually on Lundy since 2011 to a varying degree and intermittently beforehand. Previously, the surveys have been carried out by the warden throughout the year measuring population size, distribution and productivity. In 2016 the survey method was reviewed to enable the data collected at Lundy to contribute to wider seal population assessments, such as the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) national seal surveys.

## METHODS

Pups are generally born all year round on Lundy, though following the review of previous data it is expected that the peak pupping period is between September and November. This is difficult to distinguish however due to the lack of data covering the winter months on the island. This is primarily due to weather limitations during this period, though on occasion, records of pups around Lundy are submitted from as early as June right up until February. For this project, standardised surveys were carried out with the aim of collecting data four times approximately 10 days apart over the peak summer/autumn pupping period. This timing was set in order to get reliable data for the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) population model.

Monitoring by boat was carried out whenever possible which allowed the entire coastline to be surveyed. At times when the weather and sea state conditions prohibited this, surveys were completed from the land using 17 predetermined observation points (Figure 4 in Jones, 2017). It was recommended that during the peak pupping period at least one land survey was to be carried out simultaneously with a boat survey to allow extrapolation of the accuracy of data collected from land-based surveys.

### Monitoring sites

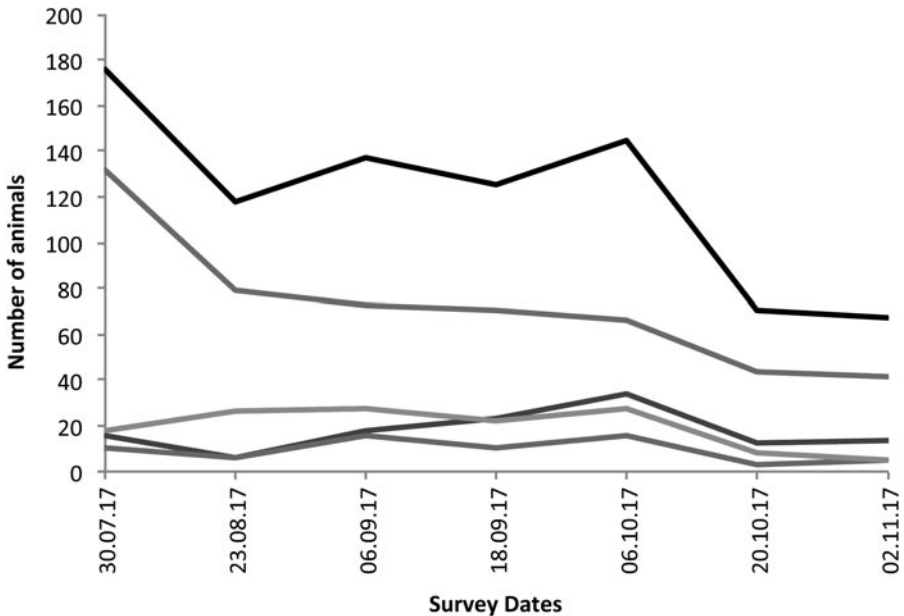
Lundy's coastline has been divided into 46 subsections (Figure 4 in Jones, 2017) which are easily viewed from a boat. There are no land-based observation points on the west coast as there are very few points where the shoreline is visible. Furthermore it is not practical to have land-based survey points the whole way around the island as they could not all be surveyed in one tide by one person (Macdonald, 2015).

### Procedure

The methodology described in the Marine Monitoring Handbook for Lundy SAC was followed (MacDonald, 2015).

## RESULTS

A summary of results is given here. The full results including detailed tables are given in Jones (2017).



**Figure 1.** A graph showing the variations in seal abundance from seven surveys spanning from the end of July to the start of November. The lines (from top to bottom at the right side of the figure) are: Total; Females; Males; Unknown (age/sex); Juveniles.

### Abundance

The highest abundance of Grey Seals around Lundy during the study period was on 6th October, when a total of 176 animals were noted along the east coast – observed from the charter boat *Obsession II*.

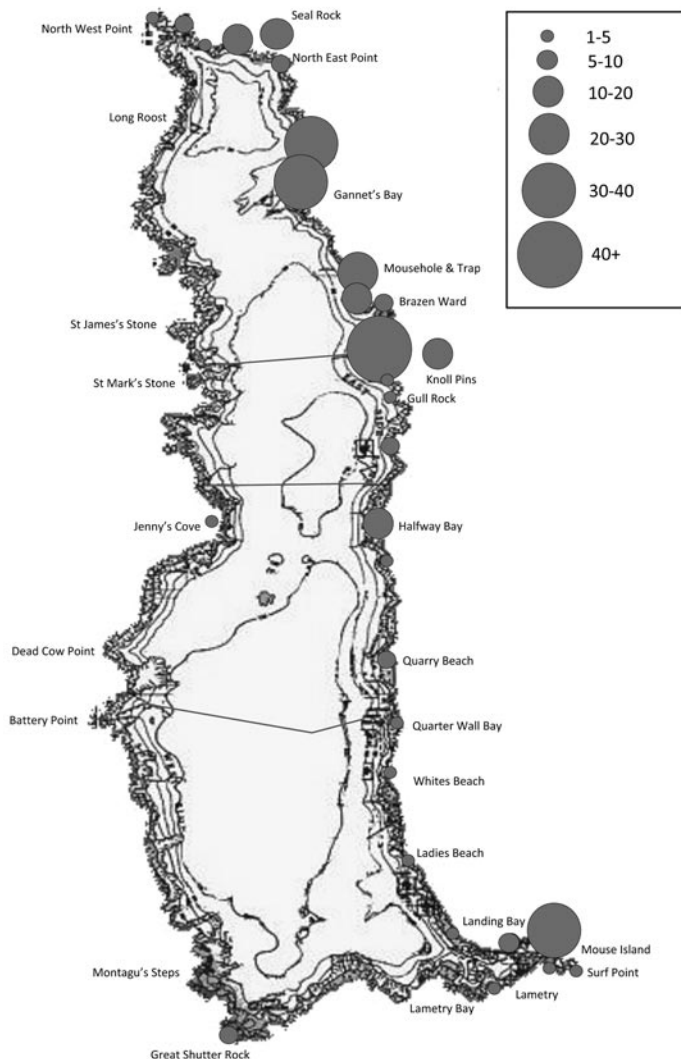
7

At the start of the survey period, the majority of animals around the island were females with some of those, from observational notes, showing obvious signs of pregnancy in some of the popular haul-out areas. From here the numbers of females dropped rather dramatically, possibly due to some of the pregnant females moving off into the island's inaccessible coastal caves to pup. The number of females reduced further though at a more gradual pace up until 20th October when another marked decrease in numbers was noted (Figure 1). Shortly before this drop in abundance, the number of males present around the island increased as the pupping season got well underway, possibly to patrol beaches and females in order to conceive next year's pups. The number of juvenile animals varied throughout, again dropping off somewhere between 6th and 20th October. Adverse weather conditions and the onset of the end of the peak pupping season could be the reason for this drop in abundance, though without detailed meteorological data and observations during this period, this is hard to tell.

### Distribution

The distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather and sea state. From observations at times when the winds came directly from either the north or south, animals seemed to disappear and move off from some of the more popular haul-outs, e.g. Rat and Mouse

Island, either to areas away from the island or to some of the caves or more sheltered bays on the island (e.g. Threequarter Wall Bay). The two most popular haul-outs during the study were Mouse and Rat Island during times of settled weather, and/or some of the north-eastern bays, namely Threequarter Wall Bay and Frenchman's Landing. The highest number of animals recorded from within the 46 sub-sections was from within Threequarter Wall Bay on 18th September where 49 individuals were counted (Figure 2).



**Figure 2.** Grey Seal haul-out distribution. Figures show the highest numbers of animals found in each count section of coastline throughout the study period.

## **Hauled out or in the water?**

On average, 82.26% of the seals throughout the study were recorded to be hauled out onto the shore rather than in the water. From notes taken during these surveys, the animals recorded in the water tended to be either bottling/resting, moving between sites, and/or males later in the season patrolling areas of the shore (Beach masters). It would be very beneficial to ensure further behavioural notes are taken with regard to individuals in the water to try and gain a better understanding of the use of some of these bays.

## **Entanglement**

Only two records of entanglement were recorded during the survey periods, both of which involved the same individual (see colour plate 14). This seal was first seen in Gannets' Bay on 30th July and then on a later survey on Mouse Island on 26th August. Supplementary to this, additional sightings of this animal had been submitted to the warden outside of the survey times from a number of visitors, most of which were from these two areas on the island.

During a snorkel safari the warden was actually able to approach this animal rather closely to try and see the extent of the damage. The damage seemed to be coming from a fine recreational fishing line which has wrapped around the animal's neck multiple times. Some of the coils had broken and frayed but a number of them were still present and cutting into the seal's flesh. Although the damage from the line seemed rather foul, the animal never showed any signs of severe pain or stress from the entanglement.

## **Disturbance**

Instances of disturbance were recorded on three out of the eight surveys. Although the seal code of conduct was adhered to during each survey, two of these disturbances occurred due to the presence of the survey vessel.

- 30th July: 15 animals were disturbed into the sea due to the presence of the survey boat (charter boat, *Obsession II*).
- 6th September: 10 animals were disturbed by a walker present on the low shore of Brazen Ward (land-based).
- 2nd November: 6 animals were disturbed into the sea by the survey boat (island RIB).

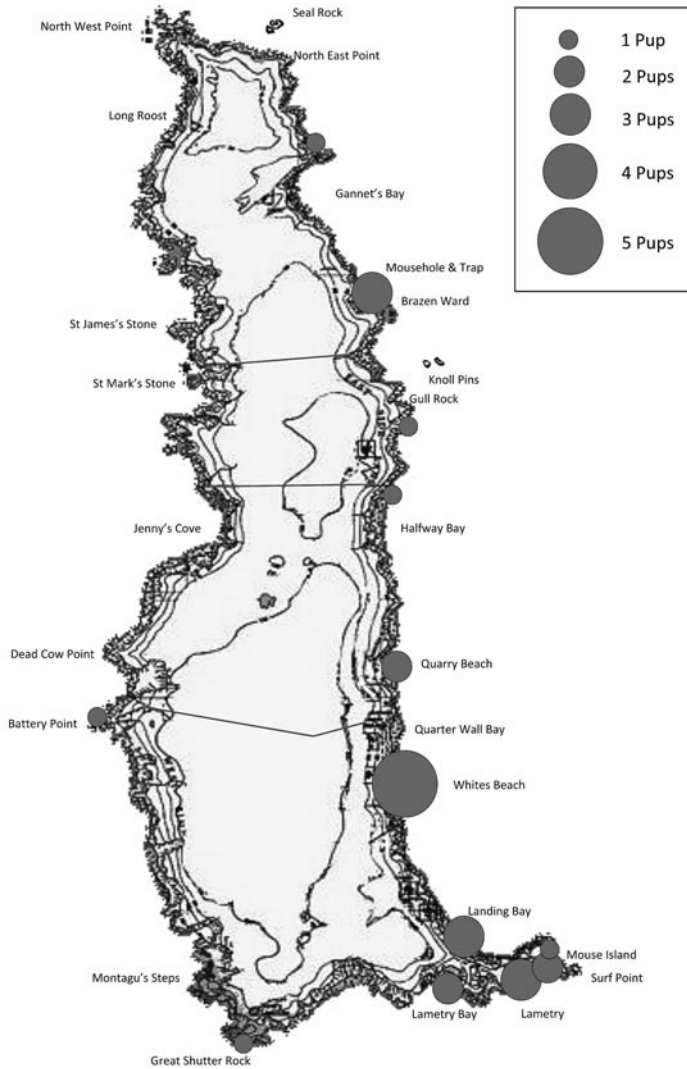
## **Productivity**

A total of 26 pups were recorded from 28th August to 20th November, only seven of which were found during the surveys. White Beach proved the most popular for pups this season with a total of 5 pups being recorded here through the study period (Figure 3).

Numerous other larger weaner pups were noted during the latter part of the season (outside of the survey dates) but were not included here as the origin of these individuals was unknown, and it is known that young pups are very able to travel vast distances at very young ages.

## **Mortality**

At least seven of the pups recorded perished, all at very young ages. All the pups which were born around the Lamentor and Mermaid's Hole area (South East Point) disappeared during a period of very strong winds and swell created from Storm Ophelia. Another pup found in Lametry Bay shortly after Ophelia was lost after a second bout of stormy weather during storm Brian. The reasons and birthing locations for the other three corpses are unknown. For a detailed breakdown see Jones, 2017.



**Figure 3.** Grey Seal pup distribution. Figures show the total numbers of pups found around Lundy's coastline throughout the study period.

## DISCUSSION

Due to adverse weather conditions during suitable tides, most of the surveys had to be carried out from the land. The comparative boat and land-based surveys unfortunately were not carried out due to a lack of available surveyors during appropriate survey conditions. With regard to the

boat-based surveys, from experience of surveying from three different vessels I have concluded that the island's RIB is really the only boat that can be used to allow for an accurate estimate of population size from the water. Unfortunately all of the planned charter trips during the season rarely tied in with the appropriate tide times, and views from MS Oldenburg were often difficult due to the size of the vessel, meaning it had to travel much further away from the coast, making it difficult to spot and appropriately sex individuals. This large vessel also creates a lot of noise which seemingly causes a lot of seals to hide away as the vessel approaches.

Additionally, due to the lack of staff this year, obtaining precise estimates and records of seal pups and numbers proved difficult at times. We are hoping to include an additional 'Seal Volunteer' next season to help out with surveys, record productivity and pup survival more accurately, and to record and reduce disturbance to breeding animals during this sensitive period. During the pupping season this volunteer will also help out with our photo identification catalogue, collecting photographs of our breeding seals for identification and inclusion in the Lundy Seal Identification Catalogue.

### **A review of the current methodology**

As mentioned previously, the methodology for this survey had been developed in order to allow the data collected to be used alongside current Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) national seal surveys and assessments. This is the first season this protocol has been used on Lundy, and after review I would like to now put forward a few queries and issues to improve on for next year's studies.

#### ***Land-based surveys***

The areas highlighted in the Marine Monitoring handbook (MacDonald, 2015) do not allow for the full available coverage around Lundy's coast, e.g. Gull Rock, White Beach. Some of the survey points selected also are inadequate to accurately cover some sections of the coast, e.g. at Mouse Hole & Trap. A more accurate set of survey vantage points are detailed in Jones (2017).

Advantages of land-based surveys are:

- Better vantage point into some of the bays; e.g. can see pups behind large boulders which easily hide the pups from view if viewing from the water.
- Allows surveying during times of stronger westerly winds and of poorer sea state which prevents boat from being deployed.
- Fewer disturbances to hauled-out seals.

Disadvantages of land-based surveys are:

- More effort required to cover most of the East Sidelands within the tidal period.
- Cannot survey the island's entire coastline.
- Missed out important bays, e.g. Lametry Bay. Better way to tie in land-based qualitative counts at times of poor weather.
- Seals on Surf Point and Mouse Island cannot be identified to sex due to the vast distance between the site and the observer on the Quarry Terrace.

Additional survey amendments are:

- It would be best using a mixture of both land- and boat-based methods throughout the peak pupping season, and to try and survey more often whenever possible.

- Allow for the east coast to be assessed by boat if surveying the entire coastline is not possible.
- Tie in with fortnightly qualitative searching in areas by foot or by kayak, making sure not to disturb any of the breeding animals.
- Ensure that additional detailed comments, behavioural notes and changes in weather are noted within each survey sub-site.
- Ensure that the direction of land-based surveys is alternated to allow coverage of the sub-sections to be covered at times of alternate tidal height and time of day.
- To ensure adequate coverage during a land-based survey, commence the survey before the time of low water rather than starting at this time.
- Additional surveyors to cover more ground within periods of smaller tidal range; this would also allow for extra time to photograph breeding individuals.
- Try to incorporate a winter/spring monitoring schedule to estimate annual productivity.
- Tie in with meteorological data from throughout the entire period. A new weather station (currently being sourced for the island) might allow better understanding of variations in seal abundance and distribution.

## Acknowledgement

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## References

Jones, D.W. (2017) Atlantic Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) population and productivity studies, Lundy 2017. Published by the Landmark Trust and Natural England.

Macdonald, R. (2015). Marine Monitoring Handbook for Lundy's Special Area of Conservation (Warden Edition).

## OTHER RESEARCH

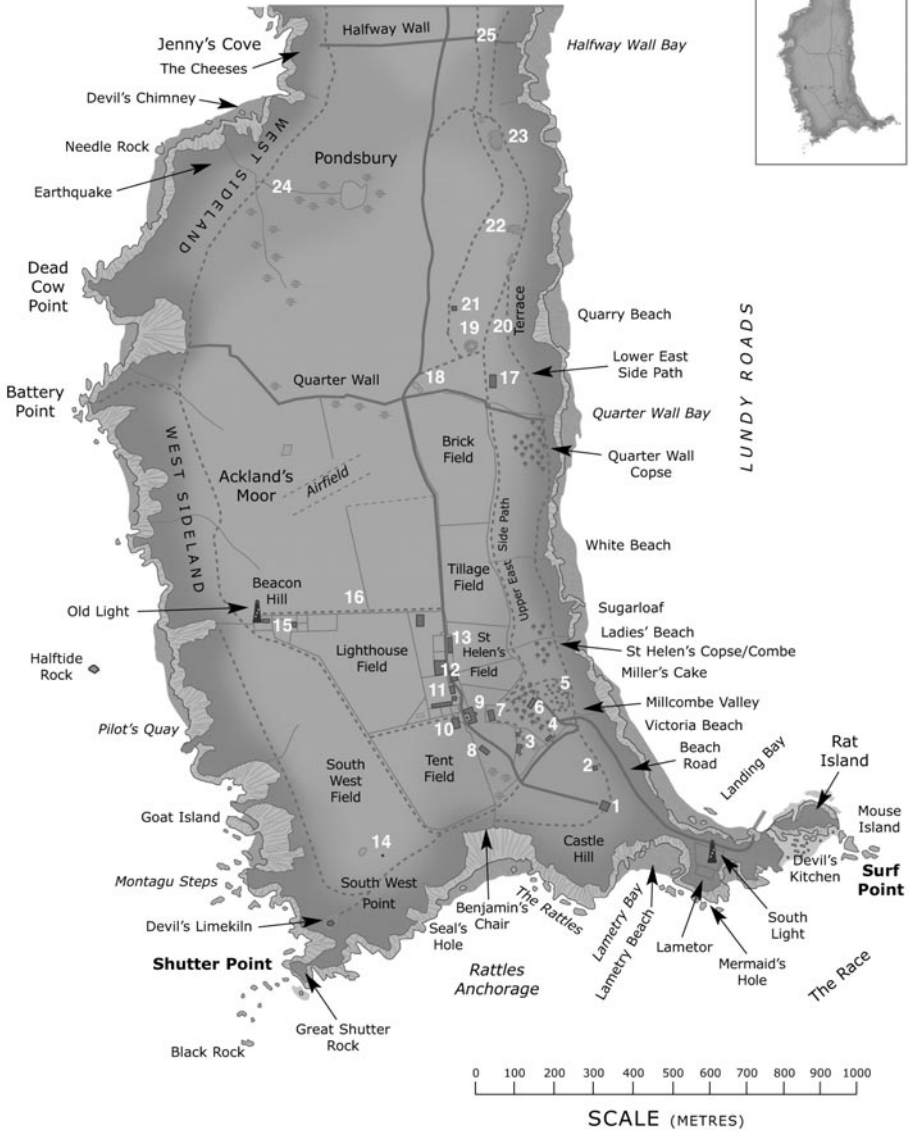
### Seabed surveys

Defra (via Cefas) funded a drop camera and benthic grab survey in 2017 within the Lundy Marine Protected Area (MPA) which was undertaken by the Environment Agency in conjunction with Natural England and Devon and Severn IFCA.

- Infauna and Particle Size Analysis (PSA) samples were collected at 98 stations across the MPA using a mini-Hamon grab.
- Four stations yielded only PSA samples.
- Five stations had additional sediment contaminant samples taken (Poly Chlorinated Biphenols, Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons, heavy metals) using a Day grab.

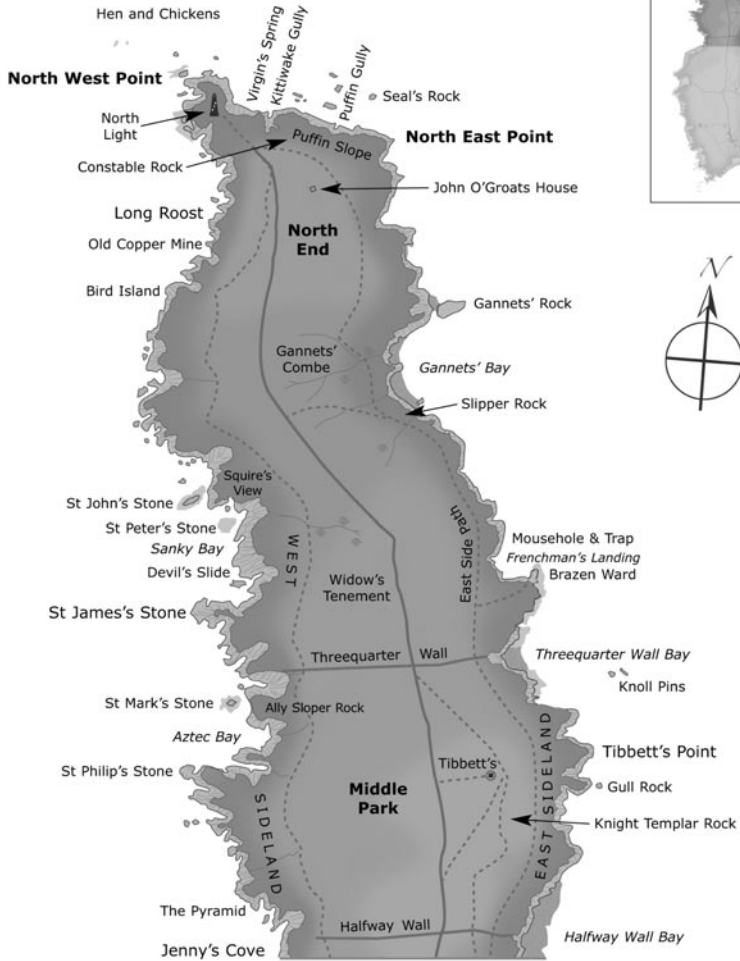
CLARE MILLER  
Marine and Coastal Specialists Team  
Natural England

# Lundy South





# Lundy North



## Number key

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Marisco Castle  | 10 Black Shed   | 18 Quarter Wall Pond & Quarter Wall Trap |
| 2 Hammers   | 11 Campsite, Quarters (Pig's Paradise) & Reservoir Pond | 19 Quarry Pond                           |
| 3 St John's Valley, Old School & Big & Little St John's | 12 Shop, Museum & High Street                           | 20 Terrace Trap                          |
| 4 Brambles Villa  | 13 Barton Cottages                                      | 21 Old Hospital                          |
| 5 The Ugly  | 14 Rocket Pole, Rocket Pole Pond & Rocket Pole Marsh    | 22 VC Quarry                             |
| 6 Millcombe House                                       | 15 Stonecroft & Cemetery                                | 23 North Quarry                          |
| 7 Government House                                      | 16 Water Tanks  | 24 Punchbowl Valley                      |
| 8 Church of St Helena                                   | 17 Quarter Wall Cottages                                | 25 Logan Stone                           |

**LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY**  
Founded 1946

**CONSTITUTION**

(adopted at the Annual General Meeting, 3 March 2012)

**1. NAME**

The name of the Society shall be The Lundy Field Society.

**2. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) To further the study of Lundy and in particular its history, natural history and archaeology;
- b) To undertake investigations in these fields;
- c) To further the conservation of wildlife and antiquities of the island.

**3. POWERS**

In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the Society through its Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- a) to promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research;
- b) to act as a co-ordinating body and to co-operate with the local authorities, statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having objects similar to those of the Society;
- c) to promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature which further the objects of the Society;
- d) to publish papers, reports and other literature;
- e) to hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions;
- f) to educate public opinion and to give advice and information;
- g) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose;
- h) subject to such consents as may be required by law, to borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions;
- i) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

**4. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to all who support the objects of the Society. Membership of the Society shall not confer any right on members to use the Society's name for any activity unless agreed by the Executive Committee. Any member behaving in a manner prejudicial to the interests and work of the Society shall be liable to expulsion. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if his or her subscription is more than six months in arrears at the time. Corporate bodies may at the discretion of the Executive Committee become members of the Society. On payment of a fee they shall receive Society publications. Members of such corporate bodies may be invited to attend meetings of the Society; each corporate body will have a single vote. Subscriptions shall be due on 1 January each year. The rates of subscriptions shall be agreed by an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY CONSTITUTION, continued**

### **5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a) The Society shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of Officers and more than six and not more than twelve other members. The Officers of the Society shall comprise Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) The other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill up to three casual vacancies occurring among the members of the Executive Committee between General Meetings.
- d) In addition to the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee, a President and Vice-Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society. The President and Vice-Presidents shall not be members of the Executive Committee by virtue of that role, but the individuals may be elected to the Executive Committee as Officers or other members.
- e) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote. Co-opted members shall stand down at each AGM but may be co-opted again by the Executive Committee until the next AGM.
- f) The quorum shall comprise nine members of the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee except co-opted members shall have one vote. In the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- g) The Executive Committee may constitute such Working Groups from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Convenor of each Working Group shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each Working Group shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Working Groups shall be subordinate to and may be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

### **6. MEETINGS**

- a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held, normally in March. The Executive Committee shall upon the request in writing of not less than fifteen members stating the motion or motions to be brought forward call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society. Such a meeting may also be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee. At least 14 days notice shall be given to members of all General Meetings. At all General Meetings the decisions shall be taken on a majority of those members present and voting.
- b) It shall be the duty of every member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any meeting of the Society (including any meeting of the Executive Committee or a Working Group) at which he or she may be present to declare such interest and he or she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

### **7. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION**

The Executive Committee shall, out of monies received by the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall use the residue of such monies as it thinks fit for or towards the objects of the Society. The assets of the Society shall be held in its name and not that of one or more individuals.

## **LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY CONSTITUTION, continued**

### **8. INVESTMENT**

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purposes shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investment or securities as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may for the time being be required by law.

### **9. AMENDMENTS**

Any proposed alteration or addition to the Constitution must be notified to the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before a General Meeting and communicated by him or her to all members not less than 14 days before the Meeting. Amendments must be carried by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting, but no amendment may be made which would have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity at law. Any proposed amendment of which notice has been given may be altered prior to voting thereon without further notice being given to members. The notice of any proposed amendment sent to members shall state that alterations to its wording may be considered and adopted at the General Meeting at which it is considered without further notice to the membership. The Chairman may refuse to allow any alteration to a proposed amendment if in his opinion the alteration is such as to require further notice to the membership before voting.

### **10. WINDING UP**

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, they shall call a meeting of all members of the Society of which not less than 28 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the Society may determine, or, if that cannot be done, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY is a registered charity, number 258294.

- For general information about the Lundy Field Society and the purchase of copies of its publications (including back numbers of the Lundy Field Society Annual Report) please contact:  
MICHAEL WILLIAMS  
Hon. Secretary LFS, 5 School Place, Oxford OX1 4RG  
Email: [secretary@lundy.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lundy.org.uk)
- For information about membership of the Lundy Field Society please contact:  
SANDRA ROWLAND  
Membership Secretary LFS, Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR  
Email: [membership@lundy.org.uk](mailto:membership@lundy.org.uk)
- For information about the Lundy Field Society, and about the island itself (including a virtual tour), visit the Society's website at:  
[www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk)
- For information about visiting Lundy, including accommodation, and general information about the island, visit the Landmark Trust's Lundy website at:  
[www.landmarktrust.org.uk/Lundyisland](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/Lundyisland)
- For information about Lundy's special conservation significance, visit Natural England's website at:  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/lundy.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/lundy.aspx)

**LFS CAR-STICKERS** are printed in dark red on white on self-cling vinyl, 20 cm long x 5 cm high. Cost: £1 each. Please send a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque payable to 'Lundy Field Society' to:

**André Coutanche, 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8LB**

The envelope you send should be at least 20 cm long to avoid having to fold the car-sticker.



**LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY**

*for the study and conservation of a unique island*

[www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk)



**Common Heather Mining Bee *Colletes succinctus*, Lower East Side Path near Quarter Wall Copse, 5 August 2017. © Dean Jones**

**Front cover: Atlantic Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*, Landing Bay, 14 October 2017 © Dean Jones**



**67th Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society  
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