

**Lundy Field Society  
Annual Report 2020**



## **Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2020**

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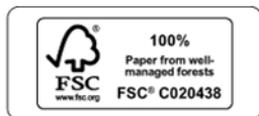
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# LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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*Inside back cover – iconic Lundy: Rocket Pole*



# OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2020

## **President**

Diana Keast

## **Vice Presidents**

Roger Chapple  
Jennifer George  
John Harman  
Keith Hiscock

## **Chair**

Alan Rowland

## **Vice Chair**

Belinda Cox

## **Secretary**

Michael Williams

## **Treasurer**

Chris Dee

## **Membership Secretary**

Sandra Rowland

## **Committee Members**

Richard Breese	(2020-2023)
Roger Chapple	(2020-2023)
Andrew Cleave	(2018-2021)
André Coutanche	(2018-2021)
Tom Dickens	(2019-2022)
Trevor Dobie	(2018-2021)
Jennifer George	(2018-2021)
Keith Hiscock	(2018-2021)
Tim Jones	(2019-2022)
Chris Pawson	(2018-2021)
Frances Stuart	(2018-2021)
Chris Webster	(2018-2021)

## **Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group Representative**

Robert Irving (co-opted)

## **Non-Committee posts**

Island Representative: Sue Waterfield  
Bird Ringing Coordinator: Tony Taylor  
Independent Examiner: Bill Williams

# WELCOME

*Tim Davis (Editor)*

Despite what was an incredibly difficult and challenging year, with Lundy unattainable for many, whether as a staying visitor or day-tripper, the Annual Report for 2020 actually matches the 2019 report in length and diversity. In all, 91 people (77 visitors and 14 islanders) contributed records to the LFS logbook, either directly or via the recording sheets produced by Warden Dean Jones for use by visitors (no doubt fewer hands turned the pages of the logbook than in any year previously!). Thanks to those records and the many photographs taken (the vast majority by Dean), the pages that follow reveal yet again what an astounding place Lundy is for its breathtaking views, wide array of marine and terrestrial habitats, vibrant wildlife above and below the water, and human endeavour.

You will see in the table of contents on page 1 names that will be familiar to regular readers of these yearly compilations. Without their efforts there would be no report, certainly not in the level of detail provided, so once again grateful thanks to all for the hours spent producing the individual contributions that make this LFS publication possible.

There's no doubt that for those who go to Lundy primarily to watch and study birds, 2020 was a memorable year despite the restrictions, as the review of the birding year will attest. Whatever one's individual interest or interests may be, Lundy has a knack of providing memorable – 'hairs on the back of the neck' – moments. Over the course of 48 years I have experienced several, but none to match that which occurred for Tim Jones and myself on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Given a good forecast, we had decided the evening before to make for North End, to which I added, jokingly, "to see a White-tailed Eagle". We never made it to North End because a juvenile of the said eagle species flew almost over our heads just minutes after we'd walked through High Street gate. It flew low northwards, harried at every wingbeat by two Ravens, which looked small by comparison, one behind each wing. We stood speechless for some seconds before the realisation hit that we were the first people in 140 years to witness a White-tailed Eagle over Lundy. For more details, including information on the bird's origin, turn to p.63.

Other wildlife highlights in 2020 included a number of moths new to Lundy (p.109), a Spiny Spider Crab extravaganza (p.99) and a new species of sea slug for Lundy (p.97).

## **Lundy Bird Observatory**

Lundy is in process of rejoining the network of bird observatories, of which there are currently 20 located at prime migration points around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. Each observatory conducts long-term monitoring of migration and bird populations, carrying out ringing and a daily census in a defined recording area. Since taking on the role of Warden in February 2017, Dean Jones and his Conservation Team colleagues have entered bird data from the 2017–2020 LFS logbooks into Excel spreadsheets. Digitisation of earlier logbooks, dating back to 1988 (the year the current recording format was introduced) is also ongoing. The process involves photographing the pages of each logbook, sending the resulting images to Dean and his team for data-entry (usually carried out on wet or stormy days!), and subsequent verification of each year's data against the original logbook by two two-person LFS teams on the North Devon mainland.

## **Filling the void**

Succession-planning is a modernism now adopted by the LFS, those of us filling particular roles encouraged to find their successor – in my case the next editor of the Annual Report. If this has appeal for you, please get in touch with Michael Williams at [secretary@lundy.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lundy.org.uk).

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Michael Williams*

You might expect this to be a short report given the extraordinary international situation we experienced in 2020. In fact the LFS adapted remarkably well and although some of our core activities were affected by the pandemic, the Society had a busy year and has achieved a lot, as you will see below.

The developing situation with the coronavirus pandemic resulted in some considerable discussion between the Secretary and Chair before the decision was taken to postpone the AGM originally scheduled for early March. In the end the AGM took place online in September and went smoothly despite the internet connection dropping out during the Treasurer's report. Attendance was 93 people which compares favourably with recent in-person AGMs and feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Following the imposition of the lockdown the Secretary organised a series of online webinars open to all. From late April to the first week of July a total of 12 talks and presentations took place, ranging from lectures about Lundy's archaeology, birds, wildflowers and LFS conservation breaks to a photography workshop and a poetry recital. The series restarted in October with a talk from Andrew Cleave about moths and butterflies. John Hedger and Mandy Dee spoke about fungi and there were talks about wildlife photography and seals. The Marisco Tavern online Christmas Quiz was a huge success with an estimated 120 people taking part. The post-quiz socialising on the Zoom call went on well into the evening in true Tavern style, except that the electricity stayed on!

The LFS was promoted during each talk, attracting many new members – welcome if you are one of them! Thank you to all the speakers who gave their time freely to talk to us, and to Dave Richards who hosted the webinars and made the technical arrangements. Typically around 250 people watched live each week, with very many more catching up on YouTube afterwards. Collectively the talks have so far been watched over 10,000 times!

Having served for six years as Treasurer, Roger Chapple retired at the end of the 2019 financial year, Chris Dee taking on the role. Roger had previously been Chair between 2002 and 2007, so in recognition of his contribution to the Society we were delighted when he was elected as a Vice President at the 2020 AGM. Roger continues as an active member of the committee and will maintain the role he has made his own as AGM auctioneer!

Following John Hedger's retirement from the committee a vacancy arose on the Grants sub-committee and this was filled by Andrew Cleave. Richard Breese was elected to the committee at the AGM. Earlier Richard had undertaken a project to scan and rehouse the glass plate negatives donated to the Society by the family of Harry Savory.

The £500 grant given to Dr James Waggitt of Bangor University for research in July 2020 on the influence of tidal currents and weather patterns on cetacean presence in Lundy waters has been deferred until June 2021. A grant of £500 to Jamie Dunning for a study of the role of social interactions in the life histories of House Sparrows is also being transferred to 2021. Jamie is the current Lundy sparrows project research student. Financial assistance of £500 was given to the field studies activities relating to the St Helen's Centre Appeal, enabling the Education Officer, Rosie Ellis, to purchase binoculars and equipment to support school visits.

During the summer it became apparent that the pandemic was causing real financial difficulties for the Landmark Trust and the Lundy Company and an appeal was launched to raise funds to cover the shortfall. In August, Derek Green, Lundy General Manager, wrote to the Chair with a

request that the LFS might consider financial support. He explained that, although the Lundy Company had been fortunate to receive large grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Culture Recovery Fund, it was not enough to see them through the coming winter. After much virtual discussion and consideration, the committee determined to donate £10,000 to the Lundy Appeal, ring-fenced to support conservation and education work on Lundy. In October the Society received a personal thank you for helping to secure the future of Lundy.

The Investment sub-committee monitored the Society's endowment fund and reviewed the policy that assesses our risk with respect to investment. Both the Privacy Policy and the Safeguarding Policy were reviewed and brought up to date. Copies of all the Society's policies can be found on the website ([www.lundy.org.uk/policies](http://www.lundy.org.uk/policies)).

Sadly no conservation breaks were possible during 2020 but we are exploring the possibility of increasing the number of LFS working holidays in the future. For the first time in over 25 years the annual Lundy Cabbage count was not able to take place. Bird ringing, too, was significantly affected by the Covid pandemic, but it was still possible to carry out some valuable work. Before the first lockdown, necessary repairs were made to the Manx Shearwater nestboxes, seven of which were subsequently occupied. Lockdowns provided plenty of time for continuing digitisation of historic LFS ringing records, to make them more readily available for analysis.

Work on the long-term study of breeding Wheatears could not take place, and the absence of visiting ringers greatly reduced the number of migrants caught in spring. However, from July onwards good numbers of birds were ringed, leading to an annual total of almost 2,000 birds, which was very pleasing under the circumstances.

In January the first steps were taken towards Lundy rejoining the network of British and Irish Bird Observatories (Lundy was formerly a member between 1946 and 1968). The rebuilding of the Terrace Heligoland Trap would contribute towards this process. As the trap is sited at the Quarries, which is a Scheduled Monument, approval by Historic England for carrying out the necessary work is required but has been delayed by the pandemic.



A Communications & Engagement sub-group, established following the committee workshop on Lundy in May 2019, has been reviewing our visual identity and developing a strategy that will help sustain the LFS as we move towards our centenary in 2046. This work will continue in 2021, recognising that we need to attract people who are willing to undertake a variety of roles, for example as a committee member, wildlife recorder, data manager or conservation volunteer.

In May bookings opened for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebratory 'Discover Lundy' week, due to take place in May 2021 and to conclude with the first-ever Society AGM to be held on the island. Within ten days all 60 places had been reserved, but with the ongoing pandemic more detailed organisation was paused as the event would have to respond to the restrictions in place at the time. As part of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, commemorative Lundy stamps will be issued in conjunction with the island authorities. For this, Alan Rowland has been working with the Lundy stamp consultant Lars Liewendahl.

As reported last year, Jenny George retired as Editor of the LFS Journal following publication of the seventh volume in early 2021, and André Coutanche also stepped down as Production Editor. Tom Dickins took over as Editor and committee discussions started to consider how the Journal might evolve in terms of its editorial management.

Sue Waterfield, who manages the Lundy General Stores, has been appointed as the Society's Island Representative, succeeding Grant Sherman in the role. We look forward to working with Sue in the years ahead.

In February and early March a working party convened twice in Marlborough to sort through the Harman family's archives, cared for by our President, Diana Keast. A very considerable amount of material relating to the family's ownership of Lundy has been identified and was transferred to the North Devon Record Office, located in Barnstaple Library. Meanwhile the philatelic archive will join the Lundy stamp collection at the British Library.

The website was enhanced with records of Lundy observations by taxonomic group, in addition to online submission to iRecord, operated by the national Biological Records Centre (BRC), and publication in summary form in the Annual Report. New members are now able to sign up on the website too.

Despite limited on-island activities by the Society during the year, Belinda Cox was still able to edit and produce an excellent and entertaining annual bulletin, *Discovering Lundy*, that was distributed to members in early 2021.

Thank you for your continued support through these turbulent times.



# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Sandra Rowland*

In an extraordinary year – one in which I thought the Society would have few new members – I am delighted to inform you that we have had an unprecedented number of new members, which means we have a record number of LFS members as we move into our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Thank you to all members for paying their annual subscription in 2020 and continuing to support the LFS, especially to those of you who included cards and messages with their subscription cheques; it is lovely to hear from you. I must also thank all those members who gave a donation to the Society in 2020; large or small they all help to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Society.

## Subscription and membership news

I am pleased to say that the Society continues to keep the subscription rates at £25 for individuals and £28 for family membership. Student membership is also available to members or potential members; the reduced rate is £15, which we hope will encourage future members.

May I remind you that subscriptions become due in January, and our preferred method of payment is by standing order. However, if you prefer to pay by cheque please make your cheque payable to 'LFS' and post it to me at the address below. Alternatively, if you would like to set up a standing order then also please contact me and I will send you the appropriate information.

I sent letters and emails during the summer to members who had not paid their annual subs. Those who did not reply, or decided not to renew, had their details removed from the database to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Membership of the Society at the end of 2020 stood at a record 555 members (counting only two members per family membership). The LFS also sends its publications to 16 institutions, including the six legal deposit libraries as well as other libraries, the RSPB, BTO and The Landmark Trust.

I am sorry to say that the Society has been informed of six members who sadly passed away during 2020: **Mr Charles Ellis** (obituary, p.22), **Mr Jeffrey Evans**, **Mr Leonard Gregory**, **Mrs Pat Rodley**, **Mr Kenneth Thompson**, and **Mrs Frances Jenkins**.

In 2020 a further three LFS members celebrated at least 50 years continuous membership of the Society: Simon Archer, Keith Hiscock and Tony Parsons. To mark this milestone a card and a message of congratulations was sent to them all from the Chair.



## New members

Over 80 new members joined the Society in 2020, we welcome them all. The list below shows the names of new members who have given permission for me to publish their names and their main Lundy interest.

Rosie Ellis	Conservation	Mike & Irene Woollacott	Birdwatching / Walking
Sam Bosanquet	Bryophytes/Plants/Birds/Insects	Stephen Hubbard	Supporting LFS objectives
Kathy Weston	Conservation Breaks	Sally Rothwell	All things Lundy
Helen Clark-Hayton	Walking	Sally Jenkinson	Wildlife
David Rowe	Moths / Plants	James Yeo	Wildlife
Roger & Jackie Hayes	Walking	Roy Williams	Bellringing
Claire Redstone	History / Bellringing	Lucy Lo-vel	Lundy
Clive Smith	Bellringing	Stephanie Evans	Lundy
Tom Weitzel	All things Lundy	Roger James & Linda Pritchard	History
Jill Brown & Hans Jensen	Archaeology	Justin Dee	Ornithology
Chris & Jenny Ball	Wildlife	Trevor Rees	
Peter Tombs	Birds / Bellringing	Ed & Vick Crane	
John Tyrer	Photography	Jamie Dunning	Birds / House Sparrows
Jon Charles Lovell	Everything Lundy	Charles Crundwell	Birds
Keith & Julie Mintern		Jonathon Ross	Birds
Anna-Lena Rykfors	Botany	Peter & Peter Burnett	Lundy
Betty Cloke		Rosamund Hall	Birds
Linda Blythe	Lundy ecology	Shaun Robson	Birds
Amanda Jones	Wildlife	Mark & Sandra West	Birds / Marine life
Richard Lowes	History / Archaeology	James & Hattie Quartermaine	Enjoying Lundy
Terry & Lesley Armstrong	Nature / Birds	David Christmas	Lundy
Ellen Boulton	Birds	Vernon Ansdell	Birds
Carole Ann Lee		Ann Graystone	History
Mark & Julia Webber	Ornithology	Gary Bridge	Conservation
Lorna & Brian Curtis	Support work of LFS	Charles Booth	History
Christine & Beth Breese	Lundy in general	David Richards, Helen Atkins &	
Stephen & Louisa Hook		Ellen Richards	St Helen's Church / Marine life

### Change of address or email

Please email me at my address below if you change your postal address or your email address. This will ensure that you do not miss any of the Society's publications or any important emails that the Secretary might send out.

Finally, do visit our website at [www.lundy.org.uk](http://www.lundy.org.uk) for up-to-date information and all the latest news. Here too you may read or search through our publications and also view the list of LFS and associated publications available for purchase. Our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ DiscoverLundy](https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverLundy)) will offer you 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)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Dee

The accounts presented here show a deficit for the year of £4,984, just over 10% of our total reserves at the start of 2020. This needs to be viewed in the context of the substantial donation provided to the Landmark Lundy Appeal given at a time when all parties genuinely believed that the future viability of Lundy as we know it was in jeopardy. That donation was given, and accepted, with the caveat that it was to be used to further the objects of the Lundy Field Society.

Membership income has grown by 10% and donations have also increased. Included in donations is a total of £134 from Amazon Smile – members are encouraged to nominate the LFS as their charity of choice when buying online from Amazon. We also continue to benefit from generous monthly donations from the Jennetts Trust, for which we are grateful. The Gift Aid claim was similar to 2019, but with increased membership could rise in 2021. With access to the island restricted for much of the year, a research grant award has been carried over to 2021, but a grant of £500 was given to the The Lundy Centre Appeal for educational equipment, in the hope that school visits will resume in 2021. The cancellation of all planned Conservation Breaks meant that there was no expenditure attributed to supporting conservation.

Previous sales of *The Harman Family's Lundy* and *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* have now covered the outlay, so the residual value of remaining stock of these publications has been written off. Sales of these publications in 2020 has been included in Sundry sales, along with sales of past Annual Reports and other donated publications and Lundy ephemera. The stock shown as assets includes the value at cost of stock of *Lundy Fungi* and the *Colouring Book* at the end of the year.

The Society continues to provide financial support to ornithological research on the island through bird ringing, by fully subsidising the cost of rings for Manx Shearwaters and from 2020 for Storm Petrels. Visiting members who are qualified bird ringers are also subsidised to an individual annual maximum of £25 and re-imbursed the LFS for ring usage above that. We are pleased that the Warden is now qualified to ring birds independently, when he has spare time, and have agreed to cover the costs of rings used by him. The net value of our contribution to bird ringing in 2020 was £395.

As we were unable to hold a physical AGM in 2020, we missed the opportunity for additional sales and auction proceeds. The AGM did still incur expenditure, namely the printing of flyers for distribution with the Bulletin (at which time we were still hopeful that a face-to-face event could take place) and costs for mailing notifications of the online event to members for whom we do not have email addresses.

The 2020 expenditure shown for our regular publications – Bulletin, Annual Report and Journal – includes typesetting, printing and distribution costs, which has not necessarily been the case in previous years. We are grateful to the Lundy Company and the Bideford Shore Office staff for handling the franking of the Bulletin and Annual Report, which reduced the distribution costs.

In taking on the role of Honorary Treasurer, I would like to thank my predecessor, Roger Chapple, for the excellent state in which the records were handed over, and in particular for his assistance in the far from trivial task of transferring signing rights and correspondence addresses for our various accounts.

## Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2020

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Subscriptions	9,222	8,353
Donations	1,511	1,128
Jennetts Trust	2,040	2,040
Gift Aid	1,345	1,364
Conservation break deposits	–	440
Book sales – <i>The Harman Family's Lundy</i>	–	656
Book sales – <i>Protecting Lundy's Marine Life</i>	–	92
Book sales – <i>Lundy Fungi</i>	280	889
Book sales – <i>Colouring Book</i>	–	67
Sundry sales	452	284
AGM auction	–	167
AGM lunches	–	305
Postage	68	31
Bird ringing	254	437
Sundries	45	22
Interest	116	126
Stock value increase	211	–
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,401</b>
	<b>15,544</b>	<b>16,401</b>
Deduct expenditure	20,528	9,517
	<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>6,884</b>
	<b>(4,984)</b>	<b>6,884</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Bulletin	934	872
Report	3,031	2,308
Journal	3,847	200
Website	66	33
Bird ringing	1,155	674
Grants	500	–
Conservation breaks	–	2,090
Donation to Landmark Lundy Appeal	10,000	–
AGM venue	–	186
AGM expenses	92	60
AGM catering	–	511
Books – <i>Colouring Book</i>	–	377
Committee expenses	109	147
Discover Lundy 2021	55	–
Membership survey	–	109
Postage	387	855
Stationery	64	53
LFS Library	116	–
Stock reduction	–	933
Sundries	172	64
Advisors fees	–	45
	<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>9,517</b>
	<b>20,528</b>	<b>9,517</b>

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	£	£
Stock – books	3,702	3,997
Stock – bird rings	1,743	1,237
NS&I account	381	381
Current account	31,523	3,239
Reserve account	9	9
CAF (Shawbrook) account	–	15,109
Discover Lundy 2021 deposits with Landmark	5,608	5,608
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,966</b>	<b>29,580</b>
Less		
Advance subscriptions	882	597
Advance conservation break deposits	450	350
Advance Discover Lundy 2021 payments	18,030	–
Creditors	–	45
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>23,604</b>	<b>28,588</b>
Other assets		
LionTrust Sustainable Fund	20,000	20,000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>43,604</b>	<b>48,588</b>
Reserves		
Brought forward	28,588	41,704
Transfer to specific reserve	–	-20,000
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(4,984)	6,884
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>23,604</b>	<b>28,588</b>
Specific reserve	20,000	20,000
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>43,604</b>	<b>48,588</b>

**Note:** In 2019 an Ethical Fund was established as an endowment in which income and capital would be accumulated to meet the costs of future major projects. This is shown above as a Specific reserve. At the balance sheet date the investment had a market value of £26,047 (£21,586 as at 31 December 2019).

### Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2020

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2020, and can report that the figures presented to me by the Honorary Treasurer, in my opinion, represent fairly and accurately the overall financial situation of the Society for the financial year.'

R.A. Williams  
Honorary Independent Examiner  
3 March 2021

## ISLAND REPORT

*Derek Green (General Manager, The Lundy Co Ltd)*

The year 2020 will undoubtedly be remembered for the global pandemic which affected everyone around the world, but Lundy's year began with MS *Oldenburg* remaining stranded in dry dock awaiting outstanding repairs to her damaged rudder stock. The damage had seemingly occurred in April 2019 after a stray rope disabled the ship at Lundy and she had to be towed home. The damage only came to light after the ship entered the dry dock in November 2019.

What should have been a relatively straightforward repair turned into a European saga, with a new stock eventually being newly forged from approved steel in Germany. During the extended dry docking, extreme weather hampered the possibility of other supply runs to Lundy from charter vessels, and as a result island fuel levels were perilously low. With the situation becoming increasingly concerning, we were finally given dispensation to refit the original damaged rudder stock in order to resupply the island with fuel. Fortunately, a short weather window appeared, and so with just two days of fuel remaining, *Oldenburg* with her precious cargo of diesel and other supplies was a very welcome sight in the Landing Bay. It wasn't quite the start to 2020 we had expected but as things turned out it wasn't the biggest crisis of the year. The new rudder stock was finally delivered from Germany and *Oldenburg* returned to Sharpness for refitting, eventually leaving Sharpness on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

The island opened after its annual maintenance closure in January with the helicopter service beginning as usual. There was news of a virus in China and concern for the UK, but who could have known how quickly it would have affected us. Despite growing concern, things on the island were kept as normal as possible and in March we welcomed a visit from the Lundy Collectors Club. The Club's members had travelled from far and wide and enjoyed a full week of activities, but as the threat of lockdown loomed, they turned out to be our last visitors for some time.

*The R.I.B. being loaded at Appledore (photo: James Wright).*



Lundy finally closed the door of the Marisco Tavern on 27<sup>th</sup> March and the island remained locked down until 4<sup>th</sup> July. During what became the first lockdown, typically the weather was exceptional and the island's wildlife and vegetation flourished without interruption and disturbance from people. All but a few key workers on the Island were furloughed, with *Oldenburg* providing a monthly supply run bringing fuel and groceries to the islanders. On the mainland the *Oldenburg* crew worked one in every four weeks, while shore office staff were redeployed to work safely from home. Islanders and shore-based staff quickly adapted to the 'new normal' and routines established.

During lockdown Lundy's maintenance project programme was curtailed considerably, with all but critical work postponed. The island's finances immediately became a concern and the focus from Bideford and Shottesbrooke was firmly assigned to applying for grants and other assistance to keep the Lundy Company financially buoyant.

During lasting periods of good weather, I made a few socially distanced but memorable trips to the island with fresh stores and mail in the R.I.B. between *Oldenburg* sailings. On most occasions I was accompanied by pods of Common Dolphins, curious as to the lone boat in an otherwise empty Bristol Channel. I sometimes wondered who was entertaining who as I made my way to and from Lundy. In any other year this would have been the greatest of pleasures, but the pandemic overshadowed most things. It did however provide a small respite from day-to-day challenges, and to be at one, alone with the sea.

Leading up to the planned re-opening in July, an immense amount of work was put into ensuring that the entire operation was 'Covid secure', which entailed the fitting of screens, sanitising stations and social distancing measures throughout, as well as enhanced cleaning measures for the island properties.

We finally reopened for staying visitors only, gradually introducing a small number of day-trippers. The ship, Tavern and General Stores took on a completely different feel and, like the rest of the country, we firmly hoped this would be a short-term measure before returning to normal.

*Repainting Old Light (photo: Derek Green).*



However, in the fullness of time the situation on the mainland deteriorated and so, like the rest of the UK, Lundy entered Lockdown 2 in November.

During the summer months however, when we were open, we endeavoured to keep things as normal as possible, and were pleased to be able to host our annual Fly-In in early August.

The company's financial position was bolstered by several grants from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the Cultural Emergency fund. However, it was clear that more funds would have to be found to ensure the company remained viable. A public appeal launched in August turned out to be the most successful of all Landmark's appeals, bringing in over £200,000 in a very short space of time.

During the second lockdown we took the decision to keep everyone working and brought forward the annual 'Deep Clean' closure programme for properties (which otherwise would have taken place in January 2021) in anticipation of re-opening before or shortly after Christmas. *Oldenburg* entered dry dock in mid-November which kept the crew occupied for the winter. The island re-opened on 30<sup>th</sup> November with students from Imperial College London able to visit ahead of members of the public, who followed soon after on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas and New year were inevitably a much-subdued affair, with guests departing on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 and Lockdown 3 following in mid-January.

One benefit to the Island to come out of the pandemic however was grant funding from Historic England to keep heritage workers employed. As a result we have been able to progress works to the castellated wall behind Government House, repointing works to the gable end of the Old Light accommodation block and, pleasingly, further works to finally complete the replacement spindles in the stairwell of the Old Light tower. This involved (at very short notice) shipping and erection of scaffolding along with the awarding of contracts to Old Light Building Conservation, Charlie Smith and Rachel Thompson. Somerset Forge were engaged to carry out specialist welding and the sourcing of marine-grade stainless steel for the spindles, especially laser cut to size and delivered before *Oldenburg* entered dry dock. One of the challenging conditions applied to the grant was that the work had to be arranged, completed and invoiced before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, so it was a tight deadline but (at the time of writing) we look to be on track.

When news of the lockdown first broke, many visitors will have been disappointed not to have enjoyed their Lundy holiday in 2020, but Landmark and the Lundy Company quickly established an automated online system to enable guests to defer their holidays. This proved very easy to use, ensuring that 2021 is going to be extremely busy once we re-open. It's testament to the popularity of the island and support from visitors that over 80% of bookings were deferred rather than cancelled completely.





*Jack Bater (left) receiving his retirement memento – a propellor nut – from Derek Green (photo: Lyndsey Green) and (right) Richard Goodman and Rachel Sylvia bade farewell to life on Lundy during 2020, here taking a 'selfie' from the top of Old Light.*

To supplement island accommodation we have been working closely with St Helen's PCC to make the Vestry more available to the public as a distinct and unique place to stay. Whilst it's not considered part of the Landmark Handbook island portfolio, I'm delighted that from 2021 we will be able to offer bookings for the Vestry directly through the Lundy Shore Office. I am sure it will soon become a popular property with regular Lundyites.

During the topsy-turvy year that was 2020 we had inevitable staff changes, notably with the retirement of Jack Bater, Ship's Superintendent, MS *Oldenburg*, after 30 years. Jack first served as chief engineer before taking over the superintendent role in 2005. Jack will remain as engineering consultant for the near future. We welcomed Paul Gyurgyak who, having served as relief Master on *Oldenburg* for many years and thus is very familiar with the operation, took over Jack's role. In the shore offices we welcomed back seasonal regular Kate Bennett in Ilfracombe, while Jo Lake joined us for the short summer season in Bideford. On Lundy we said *bon voyage* to Pete and Simone Lambden, respectively Carpenter and Head Housekeeper, who set sail for a Greek retirement after spending eight productive years on Lundy. Richard Goodman and Rachel Sylvia also left to take up positions on the mainland. During the year we welcomed Matt and Sam Scantlebury to work with our Cargo and Housekeeping teams, and Matt Stritch and Jo Farrow joined us from Ascension Island as Ranger and General Assistant respectively.

Clearly the pandemic has had a major impact on the operation, the business, our staff and visitors, with just 2,674 staying visitors and 1,634 day-trippers (compared to 5,515 stayers and 9,979 day-trippers in 2019). However, it has been very reassuring, with both government and public support, that we were able to keep a full complement of permanent staff as well as recruit some key positions during the year. It's also a pleasant reminder of how importantly Lundy is viewed, and valued.

At the time of writing we remain in lockdown, but there is light on the horizon and we wait anxiously to re-open once more. We sincerely hope that the coming year will be safe, and in the Lundy Field Society's 75<sup>th</sup> year, a successful one for all.

With many thanks for your ongoing support.

# CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Dean Woodfin Jones (Lundy Warden)



The strident calls of ravenous Rock Pipits fill the Village as birds relocate to soggy fields from their usual sea cliff haunts; fearless flocks of gulls and corvids gather gregariously on the drier and blustery days to chase the farmer through High Street Field for his feed; and stunning Starlings serenade upon various Landmark properties – all hinting at the breeding season to come. Another year has passed – one which has seemingly done so quicker than ever before. It's that time again to reminisce, rejoice and to rally ideas together for the upcoming season – January shutdown!

As you are all too aware, the year 2020 has been a year like no other, not just for Lundy but for the entire planet as the Coronavirus spread from the east, changing lives, forcing lockdowns, tier systems and social distancing from family and friends.

On the island the season started off in marvellous fashion with around 200 trees being relocated from cosy nurseries into areas of Millcombe Wood and St John's Valley, as well as lots of sorting and planning for a plethora of events and monitoring for the year ahead. Shortly after this period, however, post prolific working party with the National Trust in March, the nation went into full lockdown, just as we were gearing up to welcome the first ship full of visitors. It became evident as the weeks went on that the events and gatherings that we all know and love on Lundy would not be able to go ahead. Everything, like the eagerly awaiting Lundy Marine Festival, the welcoming of numerous schoolchildren and Lundy Ambassadors for a day of exploration, the LFS work parties, the snorkel safaris, and the company of regular visitors, researchers and friends from across the channel, all went by the board.

Despite all the losses encountered due to lockdown, it was in fact a remarkable time for the Conservation Team. Here the Lundy locals (following government guidelines), in their characteristic communal and dedicated demeanours, helped out on a voluntary basis where they could, resulting in a very rewarding and prolific time for conservation and general maintenance on the island.

Just some of the tasks carried out included the removal of no less than 1,053 young Rhododendron plants from the east sidelands (a task normally achieved using multiple work parties), the creation of a new wildflower meadow outside Paradise Row, carting and laying literally tonnes of granite to the North End and Old Light for repairs to the main track, Alexanders clearance in Millcombe,

building and repairing the Quarry Beach steps, frequent beach cleans, the erection of two new lengths of fence at Quarter Wall (to restrict the roaming steers and ponies from doing a Houdini into Ackland's Moor) and of course to try to cover as much as possible of the usual bird ringing activities, seabird productivity monitoring and migratory bird counts.

Looking back, I can't actually think of words that would do justice to the incredible privilege we had being here on Lundy during lockdown. Skylarks took to building their nests right next to normally busy footpaths, the Sika deer became fearless and were often seen roaming the Village in the day undeterred by Lundy staff, seas were shipless and bustling with nothing but seabirds, seals and cetaceans, and the island's vegetation quickly reclaimed paths and engulfed benches in just a few quick months – all a reminder of how truly wild this little island is here in the Bristol Channel.

Finally, come July, the lockdown restrictions lifted, allowing us to get some lucky visitors over on the *Oldenburg*, although in much reduced numbers. Despite all the new rules on travel, and access to the General Stores and the Marisco Tavern, it was truly magical being able to welcome guests back to the island again – even though it was from a distance of two metres, or seven rafting Puffins depending on your fancy.

Towards the end of the season we managed to bring over some long-term volunteers to help with the year's seal surveys and ranger duties. Once again I'd like to take the opportunity to say a massive thank you to Volunteer Assistant Ranger Peter Hayes – a young lad with a long history of visiting Lundy who we managed to hang on to, keeping him on as our new Outdoor General Assistant. Also a huge thank you to Volunteer Assistant Wardens Ben Hanson and Sophia Upton who helped out in so many ways throughout the late summer and autumn, particularly with the seal counts and surveys, and of course for their top class company.

One person I must single out for all her amazing work and dedication towards the Conservation Team is Rosie Ellis, a lady who has truly outdone herself this year by stepping in on all the ranger duties, helping on seabird surveys, ship duties and continuing with the island's ever-growing education programme, amongst countless other tasks. Thank you so much, Rosie, for all your help. Is there anything you cannot do?!

After a prolonged absence in the Conservation Team, we welcomed a new Ranger and his partner to the island in September. Matt Stritch and Jo Farrow, a pair who are no strangers to island life after first meeting and then moving to Lundy from their sea turtle and frigatebird-filled lives on Ascension Island. Both have well and truly settled on Lundy now and we are very much looking forward to working with them in 2021.

*Dean Jones and Fiona Bradley building the new wall at Quarters (photo: Rosie Ellis) and (right) Pete Hayes (Assistant Ranger), Ben Hanson (Assistant Warden), Matt Stritch (Ranger), Rosie Ellis (Education Officer) & Alice Waterfield (General Assistant) clearing Millcombe Pond (photo: Dean Jones).*



I'd also like to thank the islanders, particularly Zoë Barton, Sue Waterfield and Tom Carr for all their help with this year's seabird studies; Pia Murrell, Rachel Sylvia and Matt Scantlebury for their help with fencing and Rhododendron clearance; Richard Goodman for his stellar work making Quarry Beach accessible again; Joe Burford-Redgrove for helping clear the Lower East Side Path; Fiona Bradley, Tess Footitt and Cameron Alway for their help with building new dry-stone walls and walkways; and Rob Waterfield and Derek Green for all their support again this season.

As always, between all the glories of living in such a place, there have been some real stand-out happenings and observations for me this year. These include: the multiple nights ringing one of Lundy's most magical and somewhat mythical birds, the European Storm Petrel, at North End; those three incredible seawatches where I was extremely lucky to see a breaching Thresher Shark and two mighty Bluefin Tuna erupt from glass-like seas; all those delightful evenings spent plodding through soggy fields in the rain in search of Woodcock and Snipe with Rob Duncan and Jamie Dunning; all the glorious rare birds I was lucky enough to set eyes upon, in particular the White's Thrush, Sora, Bridled Tern and Lundy's first White-tailed Eagle in 140 years (thanks Tim & Tim for the latter), and of course, each and every day I had the privilege to spend my time immersed in the busy lives of Lundy's incredible seabird colonies.

Last but by no means least, a HUGE thank you to you at the Lundy Field Society for all your ongoing support, all of the very entertaining online talks and your constant dedication to the island. Also, thanks to all those who helped secure Lundy's future by donating to the Lundy Appeal during what was, like everywhere else in the country, a very uncertain year.

The Conservation Team are very much looking forward to seeing you all back on the island very soon. Take care and stay safe!

*Chandam Kittiwake III and mother Annie in Barton Field, 18<sup>th</sup> July (photo: Dean Jones).*



# LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Robert Irving (LMPAAG Secretary)

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, 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.

As we are all aware, 2020 was no 'normal' year. Instead of having our typical two meetings during the course of the year, one in the spring and one in the autumn, we cancelled the spring meeting entirely and held the autumn meeting online on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via the video-conferencing platform Zoom, kindly hosted by Sarah Young of WWF-UK. Whilst the LMPAAG normally reports to the Lundy Management Forum, there were no meetings of that group in 2020.

The following topics were raised at the LMPAAG meeting:

## Report from the island by Dean Jones, Warden

Dean gave a Powerpoint presentation from the island, encompassing the work he and his Conservation Team had undertaken relating to the MPA since the autumn of 2019. Most of what he said is covered elsewhere in this publication. Highlights had included the recent sightings of Bluefin Tuna breaching off the east coast and of a Thresher Shark off the west coast; the occurrence of a small number of Celtic Sea Slugs in Devil's Kitchen; and of large numbers (over a thousand) of moulting Spiny Spider Crabs and their cast exoskeletons which were being washed up on the Landing Bay shoreline. The Group were reminded of the Lundy Marine Facebook page, set up to register such records.

## News from Natural England

Mel Parker (NE Marine Lead Adviser, SW) had been unable to attend the meeting in person though had informed the Secretary there was little to report over the past twelve months. She was disappointed that the Marine Festival and its associated marine surveys had had to be postponed. However, she recognized the amount of preparatory work that had gone in, and that the funding Natural England were offering was ring-fenced to support the marine surveys and so would be available when the Festival is able to be run in a couple of years' time. Some extra funding had been found to support management of the MPA this year, to be used to pay for the Wardens' time to complete some of the intertidal surveys that will keep the long-term data sets on Lundy up to date. Natural England is very interested in the Compass Tool approach to MPA management (see mention below) and will work with others to see how this can be applied to Lundy so that the site and its users can benefit.

## News from Historic England

Hefin Meara, Historic England's representative on the Advisory Group, confirmed that in November 2019 the wreck of the *South Australian* had been designated a Scheduled Monument. Lying approximately three miles off the island's North East Point at a depth of approximately 43 m (below Chart Datum), the wreck is actually outside the MPA boundary. The Group was informed of the ship's history by Keith Denby, a member of the Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub-Aqua Club and the person who had led the research into identifying the wreck. Since its discovery by club members in the mid- to late 1980s, it had been known as 'the railway wreck', on account of its cargo of railway track and rail fishplates. According to Historic England's designation notes: "The *South Australian*

was a composite-hull clipper ship that voyaged annually between London and South Australia for about 20 years, carrying passengers and goods. She was built at North Sands, Sunderland in 1868. She sank on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1889 while on a new passage from Cardiff to Rosario, Argentina."

Keith Denby explained that the wreck makes for a difficult dive, only suitable for experienced, technical divers (i.e. those trained in breathing mixed gases), as the site is deep (at about 50 m once tidal height is taken into consideration), dark and hazardous (it is affected by strong currents).

### **News from D&SIFCA**

Lauren Parkhouse (D&SIFCA Environment Officer) also pointed out that the pandemic had affected working practices within the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, with all staff having to work from home. The one issue that might be of interest to the Group was the tagging of Spiny Lobsters (the Lundy MCZ's only listed feature) off the South Devon coast. The IFCA were particularly interested in the increase in numbers of Spiny Lobsters throughout the South West in recent years and were asking divers to pass on sightings information to them. Members of both Ilfracombe and Appledore sub-aqua clubs confirmed the number being seen around the island was continuing to increase, as was the size of individuals.

### **News about the Lundy Marine Festival**

Robert Irving explained what had become of the Marine Festival which was due to have taken place over three months during the summer. Sadly, the pandemic and its consequences (primarily the shut-down of the island) meant that a decision was taken on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 'suspend' the planned event. It was hoped that the Festival will now be held during the summer of 2022, though confirmation of this will not be made until later in 2021.

### **Looking ahead: making the most of WWF's Compass Tool for MPA Management**

Robert Irving had taken the opportunity during lockdown to investigate the outcome of WWF's Compass Tool assessment, a form of opinion poll undertaken during summer 2018. The Tool consists of a series of questions asking respondents to rank the perceived completeness/incompleteness of steps during the evolving life of an MPA. The results had shown Lundy to have fared well in some categories but poorly in others. It was these latter categories which required looking into to see if any improvements could be made. The main issues appeared to centre on money matters: (1) the long-term funding of the MPA; (2) separate income generation to assist with (1); and (3) a lack of infrastructure/equipment needed to manage the site. Unfortunately, now was not the best time to be addressing such issues, but the exercise had proved useful and it was hoped it could be picked up again once life had returned to something like normal.

### **Highly Protected Marine Areas – an update from Defra**

We were very pleased to welcome Dr Jen Ashworth (currently leading Defra's team on Highly Protected Marine Areas) to the meeting. She kindly explained the outcomes of the report on HPMA's which was published in summer 2020, following a six-month study led by former environment minister Richard Benyon. Keith Hiscock, Chair of the Lundy MPA Advisory Group, had made representations to this study some months previously. Lundy's No Take Zone could be viewed as the equivalent of a small HPMA (i.e. no extractive activities whatsoever), so the outcome of this study was of interest to Group members. The main finding of the study was that "HPMA's are an essential component of the MPA network and that the Government should introduce them as soon as possible within Secretary of State waters" (that is, English inshore and offshore waters and Northern Irish offshore waters).

Dr Ashworth was also able to inform the Group that, despite the UK leaving the EU at the end of 2020, there would be no change in the status of SACs (designated under EU legislation) by Defra post-Brexit, although all such sites would thereafter be known as Marine Protected Areas.

*If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, Robert would be happy to raise them on your behalf:  
[Robert@sea-scope.co.uk](mailto:Robert@sea-scope.co.uk)*



## OBITUARY

### CHARLES ELLIS 1936–2020



Charles Robert Ellis was born on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1936 in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, to be joined by a younger sister. He attended a preparatory school, Hampton House, following at Bradfields.

He worked his passage to Canada and was employed as a lumberjack amongst other adventure-some occupations – Charles always gave great store to his Canadian experiences!

His father, Basil, took him to Lundy in 1951, when Charles joined the Lundy Field Society and first stayed at the Manor Hotel. Charles and his father appear in the original hotel register, which Derek Green currently holds in his island office, where their names regularly appear, with others, almost as a 'Who's Who' of the Harman family's Lundy.

He was commissioned into the Sherwood Foresters during his National Service.

He started a company of stockholders, Ellis Steel, and acted as a representative, regularly touring the

South West, and was well remembered in the West Country. He continued his Lundy connections by supplying steelwork for the island's large workshops.

Charles was married to Jennifer, whose photographic work is regularly featured in the Lundy calendar. Their son, Robert, continues to run the company, who with three daughters gave Charles and Jennifer eight grandchildren

He was a Committee member of the Society from 2003 to 2006, and pursued his Lundy interests which varied from the weather records and archaeological matters (especially the work of Charles Thomas) to Lundy shipping, also reprinting at his own expense the pamphlet *The Early Christian Memorials*.

In his retirement, Charles continued to play golf, enjoyed comparing his garden with others and visited the island, continuing to keep everyone on their toes by writing numerous letters to his 'Lundy Family'.

He died, suddenly, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 aged 84. A Service of Celebration of his life was held at St Peter's Church, Newton, Swansea, followed by interment at Oystermouth Cemetery, Swansea on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The thirty mourners permitted under Covid restrictions attended a lunch thereafter, an arrangement of five tables of six – all of a Lundy theme!

*Roger Chapple*

# BIRDS ON LUNDY 2020

Tim Jones, Tim Davis & Dean Jones ([gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk))

## REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 162 species were recorded during 2019. Highlights included:

- Lundy's first **Killdeer** (Mar), **Sora Rail** (Sep) and **Great White Egrets** (Dec)
- The island's second **White's Thrush** (Oct)
- The first **White-tailed Eagle** for 140 years
- A good breeding season for **Puffins**, **Guillemots** and **Razorbills**
- Confirmed breeding by at least one pair of **Whitethroats** and two pairs of **Blackcaps**

Overall, it was the third wettest year on record for the island, although spring was drier than average, and June was the second driest ever.

### **JANUARY – Max temp 11.9C, min 1.6C, mean 7.8C. Rainfall 119.1mm**

*January was mostly mild and unsettled with strong westerly and south-westerly winds, including Storm Brendan, which arrived on 13<sup>th</sup> bringing gusts up to 66 mph. There was some quieter weather early in the month and, more especially between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, when high pressure brought fine, settled but chilly conditions. Wet and windy conditions returned from 26<sup>th</sup>.*

After a notable absence earlier in the season, **Red-throated Divers** finally turned up off the East Side, with up to three during the first ten days, rising to 28 on 24<sup>th</sup>. A single **Black-throated Diver** graced the Landing Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Other seabirds, also primarily off the Landing Bay, included single **Cormorants** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, a maximum count of 2,113 mixed **auks** (19<sup>th</sup>), regular sightings of up to two **Great Northern Divers**, and both abundance and diversity of **gulls**. These comprised a maximum of 2,766 **Kittiwakes** (29<sup>th</sup>), up to 14 **Mediterranean Gulls**, 32 **Common Gulls**, two **Black-headed Gulls** and, remarkably, a first-winter **Little Gull**, first seen from the Terrace on 19<sup>th</sup>, then in the Landing Bay area on 20<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. On the passerine front, notable occurrences included a singing **Goldcrest** in Millcombe on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Pied Wagtail** on 5<sup>th</sup>, single **Chiffchaff** and **Black Redstart** on 10<sup>th</sup>, up to four **Stonechats** on well-scattered dates, a high count of 39 **Rock Pipits** on 18<sup>th</sup> and small numbers of **thrushes**, **Chaffinches** and **Goldfinches**. The spell of settled weather after mid-month stimulated **Skylarks** to begin singing and displaying, whilst more unusual for January were a female **Reed Bunting** on 19<sup>th</sup> and two **Snow Buntings** over the Terrace on 24<sup>th</sup>. Also logged were single **Woodcocks** on 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, up to five **Snipe**, regular sightings of two **Woodpigeons**, and a **Kestrel** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. At the end of the month, a group of three adult **Greenland White-fronted Geese** appeared on the Airfield on 26<sup>th</sup>, remaining on the island to 8 Feb.

*Greenland White-fronted Geese, Airfield, 26<sup>th</sup> January (photo: Dean Jones).*





Lapland Bunting, Brick Field, 13<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones).

### **FEBRUARY – Max temp 10.9C, min 4.2C, mean 7.6C. Rainfall 163.2mm**

February began with mild, changeable, westerly weather before high pressure briefly crossed the country between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bringing more settled conditions. The rest of the month was exceptionally wet and also windy, with frequent belts of persistent heavy rain interspersed with brighter showery weather. Storm Ciara on 9<sup>th</sup> and Storm Dennis on 15<sup>th</sup> brought very high rainfall totals to much of the country, and Storm Jorge ushered in further heavy rain on 28<sup>th</sup>. Winds during these storm systems peaked at 68–70 mph. During February as a whole, most of England experienced 200–300% of the average rainfall for the month. Flooding was consequently widespread, with Lundy's ponds, pools and streams filled to capacity and extensive surface-water lying in places, notably on Ackland's Moor, near the water tanks.

The often stormy weather brought large numbers of gulls seeking shelter on and around the island. Among an abundance of **Kittiwakes** (max 1,316 on 27<sup>th</sup>) and Herring Gulls (max 447 on 21<sup>st</sup>) were a second-winter **Yellow-legged Gull** on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> (only the second record for Lundy), a first-winter **Glaucous Gull** on 20<sup>th</sup> (which remained into Mar) and another **Little Gull** (this time an adult, seen between 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, sometimes together with the lingering first-winter bird from Jan). Also of note were up to 10 **Common Gulls**, four **Mediterranean Gulls**, and single **Black-headed Gulls** on two dates. Almost certainly a casualty of Storm Ciara, a freshly dead **Grey Phalarope** was found along the Lower East Side Path on 11<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Lapland Bunting** feeding unobtrusively among Skylarks in Brick Field on 13<sup>th</sup> was one of the few late-winter or early spring occurrences known for the island. An exceptional count of six **Great Northern Divers** (likely also sheltering from the storms) was made on 17<sup>th</sup>, but **Red-throated Divers** were comparatively scarce with a peak of seven on 8<sup>th</sup>. Among other sightings of note were four **Purple Sandpipers** in the Devil's Kitchen area on 16<sup>th</sup> and two at Gannets' Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup>, three passing **Cormorants** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a **Water Rail** on the Warden's front doormat on the night of 14<sup>th</sup>! A **Jackdaw** was calling from Millcombe Wood on 26<sup>th</sup> and two were seen the next day. In spite of the challenging conditions, a trickle of spring passerine migration was apparent from the first week of the month, with small arrivals of **Skylarks** and **Meadow Pipits**, the latter reaching a maximum of 36 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, whilst five **Pied Wagtails** and four **Stonechats** in the final week also provided a hint of things to come.

### **MARCH – Max temp 13.7C, min 3.3C, mean 7.9C. Rainfall 73.2mm**

During the first week, a cool westerly airstream brought a mix of sunshine and showers, with occasional longer spells of rain. It was generally milder but still rather unsettled from 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> with belts of rain crossing the country at regular intervals, interspersed with brighter, showery weather. High pressure slowly built across the British Isles after mid-month, and a welcome spell of dry, settled weather followed, bringing plenty of sunshine by day and chilly nights. However, an increasingly strong east or north-east wind took the shine off things towards the end of the month, especially on 29<sup>th</sup>, when the 'feels like' temperature, taking account of wind chill, struggled to get above 1C.

The return of **Puffins** is always a keenly anticipated moment in the island's ornithological calendar. This year it was on 11<sup>th</sup> that the first 32 birds were recorded at Jenny's Cove and St Philip's Stone, several already prospecting for burrows on the sidelands.

Passerine migration really kicked in during the first half of March, with peak counts of 214 **Meadow Pipits** (3<sup>rd</sup>), 23 **Pied/alba wagtails** (11<sup>th</sup>) and 36 **Stonechats** (5<sup>th</sup> – including a dozen scattered over a small area of South West Field). The first **Grey Wagtail** of the year was recorded on 8<sup>th</sup> and the first confirmed **White Wagtail** on 20<sup>th</sup>, and there was a typical smattering of **Firecrests** (max three on 14<sup>th</sup>) and **Black Redstarts** (max 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>), whilst **Goldcrests** peaked at 18 on 24<sup>th</sup>. The first dates for longer-distance migrants included a very early **House Martin** on 8<sup>th</sup>, **Chiffchaff** on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Blackcap** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Sand Martin** on 18<sup>th</sup>, **Wheatear** on 20<sup>th</sup>, **Ring Ouzel** on 21<sup>th</sup>, **Swallow** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and **Willow Warbler** on 24<sup>th</sup>. However, the cold north-easterlies depressed both variety and numbers during the latter part of the month, with six **Redwings** on 27<sup>th</sup> adding to a distinctly wintry feel.

Notable non-passerine passage migrants included **Cormorants** (max five on 22<sup>nd</sup>), **Sparrowhawk** (a male on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>) and **Woodcock** (ones and twos on four dates to 31<sup>st</sup>), whilst representatives of some of the island's scarcer breeding birds included **Teal** (max 21 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, comprising 7 drakes & 14 ducks), **Woodpigeon** (max 10 on 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>) and **Water Rail** (max four on 14<sup>th</sup>).

On the rarity front, the undoubted highlight was Lundy's first **Killdeer**, a North American plover, which has only been recorded a handful of times in Devon. Many congratulations to Neil Trout for this extraordinary find near Stoneycroft and the water tanks on 16<sup>th</sup>. Scarcities logged during the month included first-winter **Glaucous Gulls** on 1<sup>st</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> and a stunning adult at Pondsbury on 5<sup>th</sup>, up to 14 **Common Gulls**, a single **Black-headed Gull**, several **Mediterranean Gulls** and up to nine **Red-throated Divers** (the latter on 5<sup>th</sup>). Two **Hooded Crows** arrived on 13<sup>th</sup> (one remaining to 14<sup>th</sup>), a female **Bullfinch** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25<sup>th</sup>, a male **Hen Harrier** was hunting over Barton Field on 27<sup>th</sup> and an **Osprey** was being mobbed by **Ravens** over Brick Field on 28<sup>th</sup>. Finally, after a single bird on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, **Jackdaws** were seen on six dates from 24<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month, with a maximum of 14 in Tent Field on 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Firecrest, Millcombe, 14<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



## FIRST DATES FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

March	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Black Redstart
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Manx Shearwater
	8 <sup>th</sup>	House Martin
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Chiffchaff
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Puffin
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Firecrest
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Blackcap
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Sand Martin
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Wheatear
		White Wagtail
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Ring Ouzel
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Swallow
24 <sup>th</sup>	Willow Warbler	
April	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sandwich Tern
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Collared Dove
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Ringed Plover
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Sedge Warbler
		Grasshopper Warbler
		Redstart
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Yellow Wagtail
		Tree Pipit
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Pied Flycatcher
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Whitethroat
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Whimbrel
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dunlin
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Cuckoo
		Lesser Whitethroat
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Swift
		Garden Warbler
		Reed Warbler
	Whinchat	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Curlew	
	Spotted Flycatcher	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Common Sandpiper	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Wood Warbler	
May	7 <sup>th</sup>	Turtle Dove

## LAST DATES FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

March	31 <sup>st</sup>	Woodcock
April	1 <sup>st</sup>	Red-throated Diver
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Snipe
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Fieldfare
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Redwing
May	6 <sup>th</sup>	Merlin
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Great Northern Diver

*Top: Black Redstart, near Pilot's Quay, 16<sup>th</sup> April.  
Below: Spotted Flycatcher, Millcombe, 1<sup>st</sup> May  
(photos: Dean Jones).*



## BREEDING SPECIES IN 2020

The following 38 species were all confirmed as successfully fledging young:

Mallard	Manx Shearwater	Blackbird
Teal	Shag	Robin
Woodpigeon	Kestrel	Stonechat
Water Rail	Peregrine	Wheatear
Oystercatcher	Carrion Crow	House Sparrow
Kittiwake	Raven	Duncock
Great Black-backed Gull	Skylark	Pied Wagtail
Herring Gull	Swallow	Meadow Pipit
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Chiffchaff	Rock Pipit
Guillemot	Blackcap	Chaffinch
Razorbill	Whitethroat	Linnet
Puffin	Wren	Goldfinch
Fulmar	Starling	

In addition, Spotted Flycatcher bred but failed to fledge any young, whilst Storm Petrel almost certainly bred near North Light, probably also at Brazen Ward, and possibly elsewhere.

*Male Starling, Village, 8<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones)*



**APRIL – Max temp 19.9C, min 3.9C, mean 10.3C. Rainfall 36.9mm**

*Until the last few days of the month, April 2020 was notable for being extremely dry and also one of the sunniest Aprils on record. Although the frequently clear skies brought some beautifully warm and sunny days, the nights were rather cold and – as often with high pressure in spring – the East Side was sometimes exposed to a gusty and bone-chilling easterly, belying the sunshine. The month ended with some welcome rain as a slow-moving area of low pressure edged in from the south and west.*

Ornithologically, the month opened with a characteristic mixture of departing winter visitors and growing numbers of summer migrants arriving from the south. On 1<sup>st</sup>, for example, the last two **Red-throated Divers** of the season and a small influx of 11 **Redwings** coincided with 38 **Linnets** and 184 **Puffins** – the highest counts of the year so far for these two Lundy breeding species – together with 23 **Chiffchaffs**, 11 **Willow Warblers** and 18 **Wheatears**.

One of the most noticeable features of the month – continuing a trend started in March – was the unusually high number of **Jackdaws**. The prolonged settled weather seems to have encouraged roaming birds from the mainland to make the crossing to Lundy, with a mass arrival of 59 coming in from the south-east on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Altogether there were records of this irregular visitor to the island on nine dates during April.

Migratory movements continued throughout the first week, with diversity making up for relatively low numbers. Highlights included a female **Greenfinch** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a male **Merlin** on 4<sup>th</sup>, a **Firecrest** on 5<sup>th</sup>, the first **Sandwich Tern** of the year on 6<sup>th</sup> – in the Landing Bay alongside a lingering **Great Northern Diver** – and singles of **Jack Snipe**, **Mediterranean Gull**, **Collared Dove** and **Black Redstart** on 7<sup>th</sup>. The second week kicked off with a **Ringed Plover** calling in flight on 8<sup>th</sup> and brought the first falls of warblers: 90 **Willow Warblers** on 8<sup>th</sup> and 75 **Blackcaps** on 9<sup>th</sup>, the latter accompanied by the first **Sedge Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Common Redstart** of the year, all represented by lone individuals. The following day (10<sup>th</sup>) the first **Tree Pipit** gave its characteristic flight call over Millcombe, two stonking male **Yellow Wagtails** appeared in High Street Field and a **Buzzard** began a two-day visit to the island. These were followed on 11<sup>th</sup> by the first **Pied Flycatchers** and a further fall of 110 **Blackcaps** and 53 **Willow Warblers**, and in Millcombe on 13<sup>th</sup> by the first **Whitethroat**.

*Common Sandpiper, Devil's Kitchen, 26<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Hoopoe, main track near Pondsbury, 10<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

Hirundine migration was decidedly slow to get going, with 122 **Swallows** on 14<sup>th</sup> being the first three-digit count. However, numbers reached some 1,750 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, alongside 140 **House Martins**, whilst the highest **Sand Martin** count of the month came on 23<sup>rd</sup> when 130 were logged. Numbers of passage **Wheatears** appeared lower than in many recent years, with 92 on 15<sup>th</sup> being the highest count. Large, brightly marked birds typical of the Greenland-breeding race were seen on at least six dates from 9<sup>th</sup>. The first **Whimbrel** was below North Light on 15<sup>th</sup> and six **Dunlin** were in South West Field on 16<sup>th</sup>, the same day that **Linnet** numbers peaked at 143. **Ring Ouzels** were recorded on ten dates, mainly during the third week of Apr, peaking at four on 18<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the first **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Cuckoo** appeared along the Terrace, followed a day later by a **Swift** over the Battery, a single **Garden Warbler** and **Reed Warbler** in Millcombe and two **Whinchats** in South West Field. The last week or so brought a lone **Siskin** over Millcombe on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a **Curlew** and a female **Reed Bunting** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a **Common Sandpiper** in the Devil's Kitchen on 26<sup>th</sup> and two **Wood Warblers** in Millcombe on 28<sup>th</sup>.

Against the backdrop of all these migratory comings and comings, some of Lundy's resident species were already well on with the business of breeding; the first broods of **Mallard** ducklings were on Rocket Pole Pond and Barton Pond on 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rarities**

A **Hoopoe** near Pondsbury on 10<sup>th</sup> was part of an influx to southern Britain during the fine, settled weather conditions. A female **Hawfinch** perched on the allotment wall outside Paradise Row on 16<sup>th</sup> following a run-in with the local **Pied Wagtails**. It was seen later in Millcombe Wood and reappeared on Sue Waterfield's feeder on 18<sup>th</sup>. The allotment wall yielded an even more spectacular bird on 16<sup>th</sup> when a **Black Kite** set pulses racing and camera shutters firing. However, the clearly visible jesses gave away the bird's captive origin. It was seen the following day at Jenny's Cove and over the Village.

**MAY – Max temp 21.8C, min 5.1C, mean 12.0C. Rainfall 15.1mm**

Overall, it was the sunniest May on record for England and also an exceptionally dry month with just 17% of average rainfall. However, things started off on a rather unsettled note, with mist and drizzle affecting Lundy on 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by heavy rain with easterly gales on 5<sup>th</sup>. High pressure then built across the country bringing mostly warm, dry and sunny conditions to the island from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. North or north-easterly winds heralded a shift to much cooler weather from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, and though it remained dry with often unbroken sunshine by day, there were some very chilly nights. Winds turned to the west or south-west from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, bringing warmer, moister air for a time, enveloping the island in banks of sea-fog each morning from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, and triggering thunder and lightning over the Channel on the night of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, though it remained stubbornly dry. Gale-force south-westerlies on 22<sup>nd</sup> drove a big swell into the West Side – potentially bad news for some nesting seabirds – but gradually eased as high pressure firmly re-established itself, giving a period of baking sunshine and light breezes once any morning mist and fog had cleared. However, this summer-like interlude came to an end as stiff easterly winds set in from 29<sup>th</sup>.

Visible spring migration very much reflected the strong contrasts in wind direction during the month, with hirundine movements in particular showing significant peaks early and later in the month, either side of the plunge of cold, north-easterly winds during mid-May. **Swallow** counts, for example, reached 1,916 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 1,794 on 19<sup>th</sup>, but were below 50 every day from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. **Sand Martins** posted an unusually late spring peak of 478 on 6<sup>th</sup>, the same day that 341 **House Martins** passed through, although the maximum count of House Martins was not until 19<sup>th</sup> when 471 were logged. **Swifts** were sadly in short supply, with ones and twos for the most part; 10 on 4<sup>th</sup> was by far the highest number seen. Given that skies were frequently clear at night, nocturnal migrants were able to navigate unhindered by cloud or rain, meaning that only small numbers stopped off to rest and feed on Lundy. The more unsettled conditions at the beginning of May, followed by the arrival of warm, dry air from the south, brought a few flurries of warblers, including 17 **Willow Warblers** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 **Blackcaps** on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13 **Sedge Warblers** and 14 **Whitethroats** on 7<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> also saw a scattering (ones and twos only) of less common migrants, including **Reed Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Garden Warbler**, **Whinchat** and **Yellow Wagtail**, but it was an overnight influx of 26 **Spotted Flycatchers** on 6<sup>th</sup> that stole the show. On 9<sup>th</sup> there were two **Redstarts** around the Quarries and two **Pied Flycatchers** bathing in the stream below the Casbah in Millcombe. As is often the case, a trickle of migration continued right up to the end of the month and into early June, with small arrivals of **Blackcaps**, **Whitethroats** and **Spotted Flycatchers**, and the transient presence of singing **Willow Warblers** in Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse.

May often sees a nice diversity of waders stopping off on their northbound journeys, but they were rather few and far between in 2020. There were just two **Common Sandpipers** on 9<sup>th</sup>, two **Ringed Plovers** on 13<sup>th</sup> and a **Golden Plover** on 20<sup>th</sup>, alongside a handful of **Whimbrel** (maximum of 4) and **Dunlin** (maximum 6).

*Garden Warbler, Terrace willows,  
7<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Cliffside auks in Jenny's Cove, 31<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*

A typical scattering of unusual or unseasonal avian visitors included six **Jackdaws** over Jenny's Cove on 1<sup>st</sup> (with two more calling from the Barn roof on 25<sup>th</sup>), a **Buzzard** over the Village on 9<sup>th</sup>, single **Lesser Whitethroats** in Millcombe on 10<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, one or two **Great Northern Divers** on 19<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, a **Mistle Thrush** in Barton Field on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a **Grey Wagtail** in Millcombe on 27<sup>th</sup> and the first **Grey Heron** of the year – at Pondsbyrny – on 29<sup>th</sup>. Small arrivals of **Woodpigeons** to the East Side (11 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 18<sup>th</sup>) – alongside the more typical spring influx of **Collared Doves** – were definitely also in the 'unusual' category, whilst a purring **Turtle Dove** in Millcombe on 7<sup>th</sup> arguably qualifies for genuine rarity status these days. A pair of **Bullfinches** foraging in Turkey Oaks behind Brambles on 31<sup>st</sup> provided a very unexpected way to close the month!

Among the island's breeding seabirds, adult **Manx Shearwaters** were incubating eggs in five of the nestboxes at the Old Light colony on 5<sup>th</sup>, 147 **Guillemots** were on eggs in the St Mark's Stone study plot by 6<sup>th</sup>, and the first **Kittiwake** egg was seen on 15<sup>th</sup> (at Threequarter Wall Buttress). Encouragingly, a total of 297 **Puffin** burrows had been mapped at Jenny's Cove by 21<sup>st</sup> and the first observation of adults delivering sand eels to burrows (proving the presence of young 'pufflings') was made on 25<sup>th</sup>. A count of seabirds on 30<sup>th</sup> undertaken by walking the whole of the island's perimeter came up with 191 **Fulmars**, 89 **Shags** (including large chicks at Long Roost), 330 **Kittiwakes**, 141 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 415 **Herring Gulls**, 48 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 7,637 **Guillemots**, 2,384 **Razorbills** and 397 **Puffins**.



*Female Stonechat, Lower East Side Path, 24<sup>th</sup> May  
(photo: Dean Jones).*

Breeding landbirds seem to have had a generally good month, in spite of the widely fluctuating temperatures, though the extremely dry conditions made life challenging for adult **Blackbirds** foraging for earthworms to feed to their chicks. Fifty-six active **Starling** nests were located during surveys of the Church, Village and Old Light areas on 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. The first **Raven** fledglings were seen along South End on 12<sup>th</sup>, the first **House Sparrow** on 14<sup>th</sup>, the first **Robins** on 19<sup>th</sup>, the first **Starlings** on 21<sup>st</sup>, the first **Carion Crows** on 26<sup>th</sup>, the first **Chaffinches** and **Blackbirds** on 29<sup>th</sup>, the first **Dunnocks** and **Wheatears** on 30<sup>th</sup>, and the first **Goldfinches** and **Meadow Pipits** on 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, adult **Skylarks**, **Stonechats** (four pairs), **Pied Wagtails** and **Rock Pipits** were all seen gathering and delivering food to nest sites containing hungry young. Singing male **Chiffchaffs**, **Willow Warblers**, **Whitethroats** (up to five) and **Blackcaps** were all apparently holding territory in Millcombe and elsewhere along the East Side during the second half of the month. Though there were no observations of courtship or nestbuilding, all except **Willow Warbler** were to go on to breed successfully in 2020.

### Rarities

A **Hooded Crow** was foraging in Tent Field on 1<sup>st</sup> and there was a further sighting in the same location on 15<sup>th</sup>, but it was unclear whether it was the same individual. A gorgeous, but typically elusive, singing male **Golden Oriole** graced Millcombe on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, whilst a second individual – either a female or a first-year male – turned up, also in Millcombe, on 20<sup>th</sup>. Detailing the first occurrence for the Lundy Birds blog, Dean Jones related that, *“Although the bird was being very vocal, I didn’t manage to actually see it until later in the day due to the now lush-green canopies in Millcombe providing perfect camouflage. Luckily though, come the afternoon, Tom was driving down the Valley in his ATV, after his umpteenth lamb check of the day, and flushed the bird, allowing brief but spectacular views in flight. Thanks Tom!”* The prize for star bird of the month though has to go to the female **Rustic Bunting** seen (and photographed) briefly in Millcombe on 10<sup>th</sup> during an otherwise generally quiet morning – proof, if ever that were needed, that just about anything can turn up anywhere, at any time, on Lundy!

*Sika Deer and a Hooded Crow, Tent Field, 15<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*





Male (left) and female colour-ringed Wheatears, Pilot's Quay, 3<sup>rd</sup> June (photos: Dean Jones).

### **JUNE – Max temp 23.7C, min 7.9C, mean 13.7C. Rainfall 129mm**

*The month started dry and sunny under high pressure, with Warden Dean Jones describing the 1<sup>st</sup> as: "An absolute scorcher of a day! Clear skies and wall-to-wall sunshine and very little in the way of wind throughout." However, it soon turned much cooler and more changeable, with northerly winds and even a little rain on 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by a period of often overcast and windy conditions (WNW gusts of 41 mph on 6<sup>th</sup>) and a thoroughly wet spell from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Things settled down again for a time mid-month, with long sunny spells and light winds until further rain arrived – preceded by thick fog – on 18<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, it remained changeable to the end of the month, with several very warm days from 22<sup>nd</sup> contrasting with a prolonged period of SW gales and heavy rain from 27<sup>th</sup>.*

It was a time of mixed fortunes for some of Lundy's cliff-nesting seabirds, the number of **Kittiwake** nests (first chicks seen on 13<sup>th</sup>) down on 2019 and signs of another poor year for productivity (not helped by the periodic storms washing out a number of nests), whilst **Guillemots** (including a Skomer colour-ringed individual in Jenny's Cove) appeared to be enjoying a very good breeding season. Writing about **Puffins** on 4<sup>th</sup>, Dean Jones commented: "By mid-morning, the productivity slope was covered in birds! It's hard to think that this time 15 years ago there were only five Puffins counted on the whole island – none of which were present in Jenny's Cove. Whereas today there were 115 birds running around, fighting and affectionately billing on the productivity slope, and 317 birds in total between the Battery and the Pyramid – a truly incredible recovery of numbers since the eradication of rats was confirmed in 2006."

Small numbers of migrating **Collared Doves**, **Swallows**, **martins**, **Swifts**, **warblers** and **Spotted Flycatchers** continued to move north until mid-month and even beyond, whilst singing **Chiffchaffs**, **Willow Warblers**, **Blackcaps** and **Whitethroats** were still all holding territory. Breeding was confirmed for three of these warbler species when a pair of **Chiffchaffs** were copulating in Millcombe on 10<sup>th</sup>, **Whitethroat** fledglings were seen along the East Side on 16<sup>th</sup> and **Blackcap** fledglings appeared in Millcombe on 24<sup>th</sup>. Towards the end of the month, a pair of **Spotted Flycatchers** were found to be incubating four eggs in the Casbah (Millcombe) – only the second known breeding attempt of recent years.

Continued efforts were made to read as many **Wheatear** colour-rings as possible for the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project as more and more fledglings emerged from nests around the island. Other species with recently fledged young included **Pied Wagtail** on 7<sup>th</sup>, good numbers of **Wrens** on 18<sup>th</sup> and the first **Woodpigeon** on 19<sup>th</sup>, along with plenty of **Goldfinches**, **Linnets** and second-brood **Dunnocks** and **Blackbirds**.

The 16<sup>th</sup> was devoted to another count of cliff-nesting seabirds around the entire island, with totals (adult birds only) of: 191 **Fulmars**, 111 **Shags**, 8,252 **Guillemots**, 2,177 **Razorbills**, 400 **Puffins**, 242 **Kittiwakes**, 602 **Herring Gulls**, only 145 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 62 **Great Black-backed Gulls**.

Notable sightings included an unseasonal male **Siskin** on Sue Waterfield's bird feeders outside Paradise Row on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, a **Cuckoo** in Millcombe on 8<sup>th</sup>, a **Golden Plover** in Middle Park on 9<sup>th</sup>, a different **Cuckoo** at Threequarter Wall on 12<sup>th</sup> and one in Quarter Wall Copse on 16<sup>th</sup>. Finally there was a singing male **Reed Warbler** in the Secret Garden on 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Rarities

An elusive first-year male **Common Rosefinch** was singing in Millcombe during the early morning of 1<sup>st</sup>; a **Crossbill** flew over Millcombe on 3<sup>rd</sup>; a misty, murky Millcombe was brightened by a singing sub-adult male **Golden Oriole** on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup>; two more **Crossbills** (both females) were feeding in Millcombe from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>; and the valley was also graced by an adult **Rose-coloured Starling**, together with **Common Starlings**, on 21<sup>st</sup>.

## JULY – Max temp 21.9C, min 10.0C, mean 14.7C. Rainfall 22.7mm

*The first week was dominated by a continued cool and changeable, often cloudy and wet westerly airflow. Strong winds gusting to 45 mph (in excess of Force 8 on the Beaufort Scale) during the first week generated an unusually powerful Atlantic swell for the time of year. The middle of the month was more settled, with a few particularly warm and sunny days around 17<sup>th</sup>. However, this benign interlude broke down in the final week, with westerlies picking up again, bringing prolonged spells of low cloud, fog and drizzle, and outbreaks of heavier rain at times. The island was once more battered by gale-force winds on 27<sup>th</sup>, peaking at 47 mph (Force 9), but these abated the following day and temperatures were back up to 23C by 30<sup>th</sup>.*

The first 'pufflings' (**Puffin** chicks) of the year emerged from their burrows at Jenny's Cove on 1<sup>st</sup>, the first **Fulmar** chicks were seen there on 6<sup>th</sup>, and most young **Guillemots** had 'jumped' from the study colony at St Mark's Stone by the end of the first week of the month. Only a few dozen **Guillemots** and a single **Razorbill** remained on the cliffs between Jenny's Cove and Aztec Bay by 19<sup>th</sup>. The swell piling into the West Side at the start of the month sadly washed out a number of **Kittiwake** nests at Threequarter Wall Bay, including a rebuilt nest – complete

with chick – after an earlier wash-out event. A raft of at least 4,000 **Manx Shearwaters** gathered in the relatively sheltered waters off the East Side on 7<sup>th</sup>, and a check of the 'Manxie' nest-boxes at the Old Light colony found seven occupied, including several containing fluffy chicks. Some 35 **Storm Petrels** were ringed near North Light on the night of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, and a post-breeding raft of 71 **Shags** was off the Quarries on 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*Manx Shearwater chick in a nestbox in the Old Light colony, 11<sup>th</sup> July (photo: Dean Jones).*



*A juvenile Kestrel, one of two that fledged from an East Side nest, 6<sup>th</sup> July (photo: Dean Jones).*

Among landbirds, the first young **Peregrines** of the season took to the wing on 1<sup>st</sup>, the **Swallow** brood fledged from the Church porch over the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, and the **Spotted Flycatcher** pair in Millcombe were feeding four small young in the Casbah on 6<sup>th</sup>, the same day that two **Kestrels** fledged from a nest along the East Side – the first successful nest on the island since 2005. Another brood of young **Blackcaps** (clearly reared by a different pair to the family party seen in late June) was in Millcombe on 9<sup>th</sup> and adult **Chiffchaffs** were feeding a single fledgling there on 14<sup>th</sup>. Sadly, the flycatcher chicks were found dead in the nest on 10<sup>th</sup> – a casualty of the poor weather in preceding days, which had made it near impossible for the adults to find food.

After a 'blink-and-you'll-miss-it' hiatus at the end of northbound migration in the latter part of June, a flurry of post-breeding dispersal and early southbound movement was already evident by mid-July. There were 40 **Swifts** on 11<sup>th</sup> and a daily trickle of **Willow Warblers** through the island began on 14<sup>th</sup>, building up to 45 in Millcombe alone on 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day after the first returning **Sedge Warbler** was logged at Quarters Pond. Other migrants in the last two weeks of July included small numbers of **Swallows** and **martins**, single **Cuckoos** on three dates, up to four **Grey Herons**, a scattering of waders – including ones and twos of **Whimbrel**, **Curlew**, **Dunlin**, **Green Sandpiper** and **Redshank** – and single **Mediterranean Gulls** on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Rarities

A first-year **Melodious Warbler** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 31<sup>st</sup> – a very early date for this scarce migrant from south-west European breeding grounds.



*Manx Shearwater chick from the Old Light colony nestboxes, 24<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*

#### **AUGUST – Max temp 24.2C, min 10.0C, mean 16.3C. Rainfall 81.4mm**

*Glorious sunshine, light winds and high temperatures from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> were followed by near gale-force winds and heavy rain on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, calm but very murky conditions on 6<sup>th</sup>, then several days with morning sea-fog clearing to very warm sunshine but continued high humidity, which triggered spectacular thunder and lightning storms (but little actual rain) on 10<sup>th</sup>. Following a quiet but often cloudy and showery period mid-month, things took a decidedly wet and windy turn, with several deep depressions moving in off the Atlantic. These included Storm Ellen (19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>) and Storm Francis (25<sup>th</sup>), when winds reached 63 mph (Force 10 on the Beaufort Scale) and 54 mph (Force 9), respectively. It was notably cool for the time of year as the month drew to a close.*

Birds on the move early in the month included a **Great Skua** past Rat Island on 1<sup>st</sup>, single **Grey Herons** on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, a **Black-headed Gull** on 4<sup>th</sup>, two **Whimbrel** on 5<sup>th</sup>, and fly-over **Ringed Plovers** on 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> brought the first mixed fall of passerine migrants of the autumn, featuring minimum counts of 110 **Willow Warblers**, 29 **Sedge Warblers** and 13 **Spotted Flycatchers**. A male **Common Scoter** was on the sea below North Light, with a **Turnstone** calling in flight nearby on 9<sup>th</sup>, the same day that 12 **Swifts** flew high over Castle Hill and the first **Whinchat**, **Pied Flycatcher** and **Tree Pipits** of the season were also logged. A **Golden Plover** called in flight over South End on 10<sup>th</sup>. Sound recording of nocturnal migrants from close to Brambles on three consecutive nights (8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>) captured calls of **Common** and **Green Sandpipers** on two nights, and those of **Ringed Plover**, **Dunlin** and **Curlew** on one night each. A **Greenshank** was seen by day on 11<sup>th</sup>, another **Turnstone** was logged on 20<sup>th</sup>, further **Black-headed Gulls** (ones and twos only) on three dates from 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, single **Dunlins** on 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, another **Greenshank** on 24<sup>th</sup>, a **Ringed Plover** on the night of 25<sup>th</sup>, two **Common Sandpipers** on 26<sup>th</sup>, the first **Merlin** of autumn flew over Millcombe on 28<sup>th</sup>, and another **Green Sandpiper** passed through on 31<sup>st</sup>. **Flycatchers** were prominent towards the end of the month, with up to 10 **Spotted** (24<sup>th</sup>) and six **Pied** (31<sup>st</sup>), whilst the first **Goldcrest** of autumn arrived on 28<sup>th</sup>, and both the first **Yellow Wagtail** and **White Wagtail** occurred on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Although so much migration was already in evidence, the breeding season was still in progress for some species. Recently fledged later broods of **Blackbirds**, **Wrens**, **Goldfinches** and **Linnets** were still being fed by adults during the first half of the month, a **Water Rail** chick was calling near Quarter Wall on 11<sup>th</sup>, and increasingly fat **Fulmar** chicks continued to occupy the ledges at Gannets' Rock and Jenny's Cove, with the island's nesting **Manx Shearwaters** and **Storm Petrels** also still at the chick-rearing stage.

Single **Puffins** were offshore on 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, a spectacular feeding frenzy of nearly 200 **Gannets** was off the East Side on 8<sup>th</sup>, a southbound flock of eight **Cormorants** flew over the Castle on 10<sup>th</sup>, 23 **Storm Petrels** were mist-netted near North Light on the night of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, and there was a notable count of more than 2,500 **Manx Shearwaters** offshore on 20<sup>th</sup>, along with two **Mediterranean Gulls** and two **Sandwich Terns**. The last week of the month saw a concerted effort to ring as many **Manx Shearwater** chicks as possible. In spite of challenging weather conditions, over 120 individuals were ringed (including some adults), and 50 **Storm Petrels** were handled on the night of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>, again near North Light.

## Rarities

An unprecedented influx of juvenile **Yellow-legged Gulls** involved up to seven individuals, including three on 5<sup>th</sup>, singles on 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and two together in the Landing Bay on 25<sup>th</sup>. A **Great Crested Grebe** in the Landing Bay on 7<sup>th</sup> was only the seventh record for the island. Two **Balearic Shearwaters** off Rat Island on 20<sup>th</sup> turned out to be both the first and last of a very poor year for this species. As well as likely being responsible for several of the Yellow-legged Gulls, Storm Francis also brought an adult **Sabine's Gull** to the Landing Bay on 26<sup>th</sup>. The second **Melodious Warbler** of the year was found in the Terrace willows on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## SEPTEMBER – Max temp 23.2C, min 8.5C, mean 14.6C. Rainfall 48.3mm

*After two warm and sunny days on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, the early part of the month was unsettled with areas of rain moving in from the west, interspersed with brighter showery weather. Pressure rose from 12<sup>th</sup> settling things down, though the island was enveloped in sea-fog on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> and a relentless buffeting easterly set in for several days from 17<sup>th</sup>, taking the edge off otherwise sunny conditions. After something of a hiatus on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, things turned much more unsettled and cooler again from 23<sup>rd</sup>, with rain and strong winds at times, the northerly wind on 24<sup>th</sup> gusting to 50 mph (= Force 9, Severe Gale). Winds veered to the north-east towards the end of the month, making landing conditions tricky for MS Oldenburg.*

The effort to ring as many **Manx Shearwater** chicks as possible continued, with a further 126 (plus nine adults) ringed between 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. During the murky nights of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> a few fledgling shearwaters were disoriented by interior lighting of buildings in the Village area, some landing on

*The first southbound Spotted Flycatcher of the year, Barton Field, 4<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Wheatear (Greenland/Iceland race), Paradise Row, 29<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Dean Jones).*

the grass outside the Tavern, others close to the front doors of surprised island staff. Though the number of birds involved appeared to be quite low, this shows the adverse impact that artificial light can have, especially at times of peak fledging if visibility is also poor due to low cloud or sea-fog. Visiting ringer Richard Taylor was particularly startled to find a 'crash-landed' fledgling shearwater partly concealed in a narrow strip of long grass on the Beach Road, only about 50 m from the jetty, moments after stepping ashore from MS *Oldenburg* on 5<sup>th</sup>. Rich rescued the youngster from its vulnerable position, kept it in a safe, dark place during the remainder of daylight hours, then released it that night, happily none the worse for its unorthodox introduction to a lifetime of mastery of the seas and skies, spanning both northern and southern hemispheres.

Among other seabirds were **Mediterranean Gulls** on three dates in the second half of the month, a **Sandwich Tern** on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, single **Pomarine Skuas** off the East Side on 5<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, and a handful of records of **Arctic** and **Great Skuas**.

Small numbers of waders continued to pass through, including a scattering of **Golden Plover**, **Ringed Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Curlew**, **Turnstone**, **Dunlin**, **Green Sandpiper**, **Redshank**, **Greenshank**, **Jack Snipe** and **Snipe** – mainly ones or twos only, but a migrating flock of 16 **Snipe** flew south, high over the Terrace, on 11<sup>th</sup> and there were 13 **Golden Plovers** on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Passerine migration was in full swing, but – with a few exceptions – characterised by a steady flow of birds rather than particularly notable falls. One exception was on 10<sup>th</sup> when an arrival of 150 **Blackcaps** and 35 **Willow Warblers** was accompanied by smaller numbers of **Chiffchaff**, **Whitethroat**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Goldcrest**, **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Tree Pipit**, plus singles of **Reed Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler** and **Pied Flycatcher**. The first large-scale movements of hirundines also occurred on 10<sup>th</sup>, when 3,000 **Swallows** were estimated to have passed through, along with 61 **Sand Martins** and a dozen **House Martins**. Hirundine passage remained steady for the rest of the month, before another major influx of 2,500 **Swallows** on 29<sup>th</sup>. **Wheatears** peaked at 60 on 12<sup>th</sup>, there was an arrival of 60 **Chiffchaffs** on 21<sup>st</sup> and between 40

& 50 **Blackcaps** were logged daily from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The first **Lapland Buntings** of the season were flushed near Rocket Pole Pond on 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by **Snow Bunting** on 17<sup>th</sup>, **Firecrest** and **Yellow-browed Warbler** on 19<sup>th</sup>, **Brambling** on 23<sup>rd</sup> and **Redwing** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Both numbers and frequency of **Redstarts**, **Whinchats** and **Yellow Wagtails** were very low in what should be the peak month for all three of these species. Notable records included singles of **Wood Warbler** (7<sup>th</sup>), **Treecreeper** (7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>) and **Hobby** (10<sup>th</sup>).

## Rarities

The first **Magpie** to be seen since 1996 was briefly near the Black Shed on 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst an **Icterine Warbler** was in Millcombe the same day, and a **Marsh Warbler** spent much of the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> in St John's Valley. Lundy's first ever **Sora Rail** was found in remarkable circumstances near the Terrace Heligoland Trap on 12<sup>th</sup> (see p.49) – with a juvenile **Red-backed Shrike** seen in the same general area earlier in the day. A **Goshawk** flew in off the sea, as banks of fog rolled in, and perched briefly in VC Quarry on 15<sup>th</sup>. The first **Spotted Redshank** for a decade was seen and heard on several occasions on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, whilst a juvenile **Dotterel** was in South West Field on 27<sup>th</sup>. Single **Dartford Warblers** were found in the gorse near Pondsburry on 10<sup>th</sup> and by the Rocket Pole on 17<sup>th</sup>, and there was a **Wryneck** along the Terrace on 22<sup>nd</sup>.



*Marsh Warbler, St John's Valley, 6<sup>th</sup> September  
(photo: Tim Jones).*

## **OCTOBER – Max temp 15.7C, min 7.6C, mean 11.7C. Rainfall 158.4mm**

*October was generally cool, dull and unsettled with frequent drizzle and showers, but also heavy, persistent rain at times, making it the island's third wettest month of the year; only February & December yielded higher totals. The 3<sup>rd</sup> went down as the UK's wettest day on record in a data series stretching back to 1891. The first fortnight was also very windy on Lundy, mainly from the west or north-west. In particular, Storm Alex made its presence felt from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, with winds peaking at 54 mph (just shy of Force 10) on 4<sup>th</sup>. It was briefly much drier and more settled from 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, with easterly then south-easterly winds under the influence of high pressure to the north and east of the UK, but winds veered back to the west from 20<sup>th</sup>. With the exception of a quiet, sunny interlude on 22<sup>nd</sup>, the rest of the month saw a return of a mobile, wet and windy pattern, with gusts reaching Force 9 or 10 on four days from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, including storm-force northerlies on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.*

Bird-wise, the month kicked off in style with three **Yellow-browed Warblers**, two of which were trapped and ringed in Millcombe, the third being seen in Quarter Wall Copse. On average, this stunningly beautiful migrant from Siberian forests was recorded every other day throughout October. Increasing frequency and numbers mean that it is no longer on the list of species considered as rare in Devon.

In spite of the often rough weather, hirundines continued to battle south, both **Swallow** and **House Martin** being logged daily to 18<sup>th</sup>, after which records were more sporadic. **Swallows** reached totals between 100 and 200 on five dates to 16<sup>th</sup>, while **House Martin** totals were between 20 and 30 on four dates to 11<sup>th</sup>. There were some classic days of 'summer meets winter' migration, the species list for 12<sup>th</sup> for example featuring not only the aforementioned hirundines, alongside

## LAST DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS

July	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Cuckoo
August	5 <sup>th</sup>	Puffin
September	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Swift
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Reed Warbler
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Sedge Warbler
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Grasshopper Warbler
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Yellow Wagtail
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Spotted Flycatcher Pied Flycatcher
October	24 <sup>th</sup>	Tree Pipit
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Sandwich Tern
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Willow Warbler, Whinchat
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Sand Martin
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Wheatear
November	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Redstart
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Whitethroat
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Warbler Lesser Whitethroat
	5 <sup>th</sup>	House Martin, Ring Ouzel
December	30 <sup>th</sup>	Swallow, Blackcap
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Manx Shearwater

**Note:** A last date cannot be given for Chiffchaff due to the presence of overwintering birds.

## FIRST DATES FOR AUTUMN MIGRANTS/WINTER VISITORS

August	8 <sup>th</sup>	Snipe
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Merlin
September	4 <sup>th</sup>	Siskin
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Lesser Redpoll
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Lapland Bunting
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Snipe Snow Bunting
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Yellow-browed Warbler Firecrest
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Reed Bunting
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Brambling
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Great Northern Diver
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Redwing
	October	8 <sup>th</sup>
12 <sup>th</sup>		Fieldfare
16 <sup>th</sup>		Woodcock
19 <sup>th</sup>		Black Redstart

*Juvenile Cuckoo below the Ugly, 15<sup>th</sup> July – there was no proof of breeding by Cuckoos in 2020, this bird most likely a southbound passage migrant (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Willow Warbler, Whinchat and Redstart**, but also **Merlin, Redwing and Fieldfare**. Other 'bread and butter' mid- to late-autumn species on the move included **Blackcap** (max 100 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), **Chiffchaff** (a rather lowly 15 on 12<sup>th</sup>), **Goldcrest** (83 on 9<sup>th</sup>), **Stonechat** (26 on 22<sup>nd</sup>), **Pied Wagtail** (10 on 3<sup>rd</sup>), **Meadow Pipit** (190 on 11<sup>th</sup>), **Linnet** (130 on 15<sup>th</sup>) and **Goldfinch** (183 on 15<sup>th</sup>). There was also a scattering of **Firecrest, Grey Wagtail, Greenfinch, Lesser Redpoll and Reed Bunting** records during the month – all single-digit counts. **Coal Tits** were logged on most days from 10<sup>th</sup>, with up to five on 15<sup>th</sup> and a long-staying individual which showed plumage features suggestive of the Irish-breeding race *hibernicus*. A male and female **Bullfinch** appeared in Millcombe on 27<sup>th</sup>, the female remaining to the end of the month.

The short spell of more settled weather and easterly winds mid-month brought excellent conditions for logging visible (and audible) early-morning migration over Millcombe and Castle Hill. For example, the thousands of birds that passed through during the three mornings of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> reached peaks of 400 **Redwings**, 200 **Fieldfares**, 90 **Blackbirds**, 500 **Starlings** and 500 **Chaffinches**, along with smaller numbers of **Song Thrushes** (max 18), **Mistle Thrushes** (4), **Ring Ouzels** (6), **Siskins** (27), **Bramblings** (4) and a variety of scarcer species, among them small groups of **Crossbills** on both 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

The same settled spell brought some large aggregations of feeding gulls and other seabirds off the East Side, peaking on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Highest counts during this period included 500 **Herring Gulls**, over 400 **auks** (mostly **Razorbills**), 122 **Shags**, 110 **Kittiwakes**, 93 **Common Gulls**, 30 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 23 **Mediterranean Gulls**, 10 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and a single **Great Skua**.

With the exception of one notable rarity (see below) it was not a vintage month for raptors, with just small numbers of **Kestrels, Sparrowhawks** and **Merlins** joining the island's resident **Peregrines**. The only owls were single **Short-eared Owls** on 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Waders too were thin on the ground, with just a handful of records of one or two **Golden Plover**, plus single **Lapwing, Curlew** and **Woodcock**. The exception was 16 **Snipe** (and two **Jack Snipe**) located by 'lamping' in the in-fields on the night of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>.

## Rarities

A flock of 15 **Barnacle Geese** flying low over the water past North Light on 5<sup>th</sup> was the first record of this dapper Arctic-nesting goose since 2002. Also on 5<sup>th</sup>, two **Blue Tits** were the first since 2015 and a **Snow Bunting** along the main track was the first of only five records during the month – all single birds. **Lapland Buntings** were also rather scarce, with four records of up to three birds from 7<sup>th</sup>. A **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was in Quarter Wall Copse on 6<sup>th</sup>, and two more **Barnacle Geese** were found at Pondsbury on 7<sup>th</sup> (staying to 11<sup>th</sup>) but were somewhat overshadowed by the appearance in Millcombe of a **White's Thrush** on the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> – only the second ever for Lundy, the first way back in Oct 1952! The thrush remained in Millcombe for almost three weeks but was shy and elusive during most of its stay. A **Dotterel** was seen and heard calling in flight over the Terrace on 11<sup>th</sup>, and a male and female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** both arrived in Millcombe on 15<sup>th</sup>, the same morning as two **Hawfinches** flew over the valley and out over the Castle towards the mainland. The 16<sup>th</sup> brought two **Woodlarks** and the month's second 'mega' in the form of a juvenile **White-tailed Eagle** from the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme – the first of its kind to be seen on Lundy for 140 years, the last one having been shot in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. A different **Red-breasted Flycatcher** was in Quarter Wall Copse on 18<sup>th</sup>, whilst the island's sixth **Cetti's Warbler** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 18<sup>th</sup>, as was a **Little Bunting** on 19<sup>th</sup>. Another **Woodlark** was above Benjamin's Chair on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and an *abietinus* **Chiffchaff** (confirmed subsequently by mtDNA analysis) was caught in Millcombe on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Finally, a first-year **Iceland Gull** flew past Rat Island on 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **NOVEMBER – Max temp 14.7C, min 5.2C, mean 10.4C. Rainfall 101.4mm**

Continuing the theme of late-October, the month began mild, wet and windy, with northerly gusts of 60 mph (Force 10) on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Things turned quieter and drier from 4<sup>th</sup> as a ridge of high pressure built in and there followed several beautifully tranquil and sunny late-autumn days. Easterly, then south-easterly winds picked up from 7<sup>th</sup>, veering south-westerly on 9<sup>th</sup>, with outbreaks of rain. Another quiet, sunny day on 10<sup>th</sup> was the prelude to a further lengthy wet and windy period. Wind gusts reached Force 9 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and rarely dropped below Force 7 or 8 on other days until 23<sup>rd</sup>, when quieter, much more pleasant weather saw out the month.

The 1<sup>st</sup> brought 266 **Kittiwakes** and a late dark-morph **Arctic Skua** off the East Side, as well as a notable group of 13 **Rock Pipits** at North End. The female **Bullfinch** (first seen in late-October) reappeared in Millcombe on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, the same dates that single **Black-headed Gulls** were logged. A **Black Redstart** on 3<sup>rd</sup> was followed by a flurry of up to four between 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The switch to much more settled weather from 4<sup>th</sup> saw passerine migration pick up to levels not seen since mid-October. Peak day-totals during 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> included 234 **Redwings**, 128 **Blackbirds**, 69 **Fieldfares** and 35 **Song Thrushes**, alongside 950 **Chaffinches** and 4,750 **Starlings** – by far the highest counts of the autumn for the latter three species.

Following an influx of 32 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Blackcaps** reached double digits for the final time on 5<sup>th</sup> when 11 were logged. Alongside their more-numerous and more-seasonal relatives, an exceptionally late **Whitethroat** was photographed in Millcombe on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Lesser Whitethroat** was at Quarter Wall on 4<sup>th</sup> and a **Garden Warbler** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe, also on 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the 4<sup>th</sup> brought a **Collared Dove**, four **Mistle Thrushes** and at least six **Bramblings**, and there were 10 **Mediterranean Gulls** offshore.

A final lone **House Martin** was seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, as were four **Swallows**, but there were records of a single **Swallow** on a further ten days, up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> – an exceptionally late date for Lundy. The last **Ring Ouzel** was part of the thrush arrivals on 5<sup>th</sup>, the same day that at least seven **Woodcocks** were flushed at various places around the island, the **Bullfinch** put in a final appearance, and three **Reed Buntings** were logged. Star bird, however, was a ringtail **Hen Harrier** over Quarter Wall. A **Lapwing** was logged on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, with two present on 7<sup>th</sup>, and three **Golden Plovers** dropped into Brick Field on 8<sup>th</sup>, whilst four late **Manx Shearwaters**, also on 8<sup>th</sup>, were followed by a single bird on 15<sup>th</sup>.

The end of the settled spell was almost like throwing a switch and there was a mass exodus overnight on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, with Dean Jones remarking on 9<sup>th</sup> that “today’s birding had a distinct wintry feel”. The remainder of the month was much quieter bird-wise, with only a trickle of migration continuing, but also a few notable records, including a late **Great Skua** harassing up to 180 **Kittiwakes** off the East Side on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, a **Yellow-browed Warbler** scouring Quarter Wall Copse for a meal on 12<sup>th</sup>, a **Common Scoter** flying past Rat Island on 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by six on 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a few **Mediterranean Gulls** and **Common Gulls** that continued to be seen off the Landing Bay. Small numbers of finches and thrushes continued to move through until the end of the month, including a notable late pulse of 76 **Chaffinches** on 26<sup>th</sup>. Single **Blackcaps** were



logged on 26<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and a **Firecrest** lingered in Millcombe, alongside the long-staying *hibernicus*-type **Coal Tit**.

### Rarities

A **Lapland Bunting** was on Ackland's Moor on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst a male **Great Spotted Woodpecker** first seen on fenceposts in Barton Field on 5<sup>th</sup> had made its way down to Millcombe on 6<sup>th</sup>. Also on 5<sup>th</sup>, a **Hoopoe** made for a very unexpected, if all-too-brief, sighting from the window of Castle Cottage. Nearly as unlikely was a late **Red-throated Pipit** calling in flight over Millcombe on 13<sup>th</sup>. As Dean Jones remarked at the time: "*Not a bird you'd expect to find in a force 6/7 westerly.*" Yet both of these birds were eclipsed in Lundy rarity terms by the female **Goosander** feeding in Rocket Pole Pond on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> – only the second record for the island, the last as long ago as 1934! Finally, there were single **Snow Buntings** on three dates between 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was roosting with **Lesser Black-backs** in lower Lighthouse Field on 14<sup>th</sup> and a small influx of four 'Siberian' *tristis* **Chiffchaffs** occurred on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### DECEMBER – Max temp 12.2C, min 1.6C, mean 7.8C. Rainfall 196.3mm

*The month was quite cold at first and again approaching New Year's Eve, when northerlies brought snow to some parts of the country, though not to Lundy. However, December was generally unsettled and mild, a succession of depressions bringing mainly south to south-westerly winds and frequent rainfall, making it the wettest month of the year and filling up the island's seasonal wetlands, including the marsh on Ackland's Moor. Wind speeds reached Force 9 on 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and Force 10 on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.*

On 1<sup>st</sup>, a vocal 'Siberian' *tristis* **Chiffchaff** was in Millcombe, a **Golden Plover** flew over the Village, and 11 **Goldfinches** were logged – a high count for this time of year on Lundy – along with a single **Siskin**. A search of the in-fields under cover of darkness that evening revealed 11 **Snipe** and three **Woodcock**. Exceptionally late **Manx Shearwaters** were seen off the Landing Bay on 11<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (a single bird on both dates), a **Purple Sandpiper** was photographed along the western edge of Middle Park on 11<sup>th</sup>, single **Mediterranean Gulls** were off the East Side on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, with a **Common Gull** in the same area on 7<sup>th</sup>, and a **Great Northern Diver** was in the Landing Bay on 17<sup>th</sup>. One or two **Linnets** were seen on three days to 11<sup>th</sup> and the last **Skylark** of the year was a single bird on 10<sup>th</sup>. The **Firecrest** and *hibernicus*-type **Coal Tit** remained in Millcombe to the end of the month and into 2021, and two **Reed Buntings** were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Other notable records included well-scattered sightings of **Black Redstart** (ones and twos), **Stonechat** (up to four) and a standard (*collybita*) **Chiffchaff** in Millcombe.

### Rarities

Single **Snow Buntings** were on the main track at Quarter Wall on 6<sup>th</sup> and close to Tibbetts on 30<sup>th</sup>, and a juvenile **Glaucous Gull** was mixed in with other gulls using the in-fields on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. These pale into insignificance next to Martin Thorne's remarkable sighting of three **Great White Egrets** in flight off South End on 8<sup>th</sup> (see p.62) – a first for Lundy to end 2020!

*Left: Mistle Thrush, Barton Field, 4<sup>th</sup> November. Below: Snow Bunting, main track, 6<sup>th</sup> December (photos: Dean Jones).*



## BIRDS IN 2020 – NOMENCLATURE AND SEQUENCE

The Systematic List follows The British List (9<sup>th</sup> edition, summarised version dated January 2020) 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 primarily 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 at least partly reflective of variations in observer coverage.

## ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS

Records of species and sub-species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Sora Rail, Killdeer) 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. Red-breasted Flycatcher, Marsh Warbler) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, records of 'Lundy rarities', species that are regularly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Mediterranean Gull, Treecreeper), 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 enter supporting notes for all records of rare species 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! Photos and video-clips are especially welcome; these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

### 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 2020. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from almost 75 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 (text and/or captioned photos), which can be emailed to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

Observers' names are included in the Systematic List for all accepted 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, preferably via BirdTrack, for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to Devon Birds ([www.devonbirds.org](http://www.devonbirds.org)).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the island residents and visitors, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the LFS logbook. This 2020 Lundy Bird Report (as well as other wildlife reports) is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals.

We note once again the outstanding contribution made by Dean Woodfin Jones, the resident Lundy Warden, together with his colleagues from the island Conservation Team, both staff and volunteers.

Special thanks to Devon Birds, particularly County Bird Recorder Kevin Rylands and Data Manager Karen Sims, for providing copies of BirdTrack data and other Lundy records submitted to Devon Birds, and for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records, which help to ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and LFS.

Others who have helped us in various ways include Chris & Carol Baillie, Zoë Barton, Sam Bosanquet, Richard Campey, Chris & Mandy Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Martin Elcoate, Chas Holt, Andy Jayne, Ivan Lakin, Pete Lambden, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Grant Sherman, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Andy Trout, Nik Ward, Mark & Julia Webber, Lucy Winder and Justin Zantboer.

*A gathering of gulls, Brick Field, 18<sup>th</sup> February (Photo: Dean Jones).*



## THE BIRDS OF 2020

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A flock of 25 flew south past North End, low over the sea, on 5 Oct (Rosie Ellis & Hope Simpson). These were followed by two adults (thought to be a pair) that settled on and around Pondsburry from 7 to 11 Oct (Shaun Barnes, Dean Jones *et al.*), where they were often to be found either on one of the small islands or feeding on the nearby grassland. These are the first Lundy records of this Arctic-breeding goose since 2002. The flock on 5 Oct equalled the previous highest count of 25 on 3 Nov 1968.

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

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Three adults (or possibly two adults and a third-calendar-year individual with reduced dark barring on the belly and a less prominent white forehead blaze) were on the Airfield and adjacent parts of Ackland's Moor from 26 Jan to 8 Feb (Dean Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

A male was on Pondsburry on 20 Feb, followed by a pair on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Martin Thorne). A first-winter male joined Mallard and Teal on Barton Pond from 15 to 17 Oct (Tim Jones *et al.*).

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

*Resident breeding flock of feral origin, though numbers appear to have declined in recent years; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.*

The first winter period maximum was 10 on 12 Feb. Bred successfully, with ducklings recorded between 10 Apr (10 at Barton Pond and 12 on Quarters Pond) and 19 May. The highest daily count of ducklings was 24 on 11 Apr. At the end of the year, the maximum of 13 was recorded on 29 Nov and 20 & 22 Dec (in all three cases composed of 4 males & 9 females).

#### Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	10	9	5	5	5	6	6	10	11	13	13

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

[Eurasian Teal]

*Regular migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. First breeding record in 2015, followed by successful breeding in 2016–2018, inclusive. Breeding appeared to be unsuccessful in 2019.*

The highest count during the first winter and early spring period was 21 (7m & 14f) on 22 Mar. Display was seen in spring but successful breeding was only confirmed late in the season, when a female with two ducklings, thought to be about a week old, were on Pondsburry on 8 Aug (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). This suggests that earlier nesting attempts probably failed. The only double-digit count for the second winter period was 14 (5m & 9f) on 22 Dec.

*Barnacle Geese, Pondsburry, 10<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Cuckoo, Halfway Wall, 27<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Max 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
18	16	21	5	3	–	–	2	1	4	9	14
5	4	18	3	4	–	–	5	2	6	6	7

**Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Only recorded during autumn passage, with sightings on five dates: a male on the water close-in to North Light on 9 Aug, a female in the same area on 16 Oct, then – all off the Landing Bay or Rat Island – two males on 28 Oct, a male on 12 Nov, and six (2m & 4f) on 22 Nov.

**Goosander *Mergus merganser***

[Common Merganser]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A female fishing for Mirror Carp on Rocket Pond on 22 Nov was still present on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Dean Jones). This was only the second record of this saw-billed duck for Lundy, the first seen 86 years previously, by Felix Gade, on 17 Dec 1934.

**Swift *Apus apus***

[Common Swift]

*Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor, though generally in small numbers.*

Recorded between 19 Apr (one over the sidelands near the Battery) and 3 Sep (one). Higher counts included 43 on 23 Jun, 62 on 25 Jun, 40 on 11 Jul, 28 on 21 Jul and 18 on 1 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	10	62	40	13	18	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	16	8	10	4	2	–	–	–

**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).*

Single birds were recorded on 16 dates, from 18 Apr (along the Terrace) to 23 Jul. Both males and females were seen in May, so it is possible that breeding occurred. A juvenile was seen below the Ugly on 15 Jul, but nothing hinted at it being a Lundy-reared individual as opposed to a dispersing/passage bird from the 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
–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	7	3	3	–	–	–	–	–

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly from spring until autumn, the great majority of those reaching Lundy being lost and/or tired racing pigeons.

Unusually few were recorded in 2020, presumably as a result of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions reducing the number and size of pigeon-racing events. The only double-digit count was of 10 on 12 Sep.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

In spring, single birds were seen on four dates from 3 to 22 Mar – including, on 8<sup>th</sup>, one perched on the Church Tower. The only subsequent record was of a late autumn migrant in Tillage Field on 1 Dec.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

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

Although ones and twos were logged intermittently throughout Jan, none was seen in Feb and it appears that the island's small breeding population did not arrive until Mar (e.g. six on 5<sup>th</sup>). One was perched, incongruously, on Goat Island on 3 Mar. The highest counts of the year were 16 on 18 May and 13 on 22 Sep. There were only five other double-digit counts. Successful breeding by a pair in the tree-planting enclosure below Government House was confirmed when fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 19 Jun (Dean 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
2	–	10	8	16	8	10	7	13	4	1	1
8	–	20	25	29	25	20	23	27	7	15	2

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

Increasingly scarce migrant; now occasional in very small numbers in spring but rare in autumn.

A singing male in Millcombe on 7 May (Dean Jones) was sadly the only record for the year.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

[Eurasian Collared Dove]

Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has both bred and overwintered, though not recently.

During spring migration there were records on 25 dates between 7 Apr (one in Millcombe) and 25 Jun (two), with a maximum of four on 8 May, and also including one with a Woodpigeon at Aztec Bay on 15 May. A single bird turned up on 20 & 21 Jul, whilst autumn migrants were limited to two birds on three dates 17-22 Sep and one on 4 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	4	2	1	–	2	–	1	–
–	–	–	2	17	6	2	–	3	–	1	–

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015 & 2019; no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016–2018.

Writing in the LFS logbook on 17 Feb, Dean Jones commented: "Water Rail on my front doormat this evening (Pig's 4). Poor wee dote must have been trying to escape the winds." Although adults were seen and heard during the spring, including one calling from Quarter Wall Copse tree nursery on 26 May, successful breeding was only confirmed when persistent calls of at least one chick were heard from an extensive area of dense juncus cover just west of the intersection of Quarter Wall and 'Pointless Wall' (the incomplete wall that is bisected by the Airfield) on 11 Aug (Tim Jones). The highest autumn-passage count was five on 11 & 13 Oct, with most of these in Millcombe.

**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	2	2	1	–	1	2	5	4	2
5	2	12	23	17	2	–	1	8	25	17	7



Lundy's first Sora Rail, Terrace, 12<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Dean Jones).

**Sora Rail** *Porzana carolina*

[Sora]

*British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

A clearly tired but otherwise apparently healthy juvenile was captured by hand as it clambered through brambles near the Terrace Heligoland trap during the late afternoon of 12 Sep. It was seen again at around 11:30 hrs the next morning by visitors Sandie & Mark West along the Lower East Side Path, closer to Quarter Wall Copse than to the Terrace. It was also seen later that day, at around 16:00 hrs, by Conservation Team volunteer Ben Hanson, this time back on the Terrace. There was no sign of the bird on 14<sup>th</sup> or subsequently. Record accepted by BBRC.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

[Common Moorhen]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A passing nocturnal migrant was recorded calling in flight at 21:40 hrs on the night of 16-17 Oct (Tim Jones) – the first island record since Feb 2009.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was in the Landing Bay, close to Rat Island, where it was seen from the jetty and from *Obsession II*, on the afternoon of 7 Aug (Jamie Dunning & Rosie Ellis). This is only the seventh record for the island; the most recent previous occurrences being in Feb 2017 and Sep 2003.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Numbers built up in late winter and early spring as the island's breeding Oystercatchers returned to take up their territories. A ringed bird was seen within a group of seven below Millcombe on 19 Feb – a metal ring on the left leg and yellow over white colour-rings on the right leg (Martin Thorne). A minimum of 15 pairs bred (Dean Jones). The highest count of the year was about 60 using the high-tide roost at Brazen Ward on 26 Jul (Josh Harris), likely including staging passage migrants in addition to post-breeding aggregations of Lundy-nesting birds.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	20	15	28	31	60	20	12	15	8	3

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The only spring-passage record was of a single bird on Ackland's Moor from 19 to 25 Mar (Dean Jones). In autumn there were singles near the Old Hospital on 15 Oct (Jamie Dunning) and in High Street Field on 6 & 7 Nov, followed by two there on 8 Nov (Dean Jones).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Not recorded during the first winter period. The only spring migrants were singles on the Airfield on 20 May and in Middle Park on 9 Jun. In autumn there were records on 24 dates between 10 Aug (one over South End) and 8 Nov (three), with a max of 13 on 23 Sep. The only later occurrences were single birds on 1 & 25 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	13	2	3	1
–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	11	9	3	2

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

During spring passage, the only records were of single birds on 8, 16 & 22 Apr and two at South West Point on 13 May. Autumn migrants – most of which were calling 'fly-overs' – were recorded on 13 dates from 1 Aug to 30 Sep. Most of these were again single birds, but there were two on 6, 9 & 12 Sep and three on 10 Sep.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus**British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One was found near Stoneycroft during the late afternoon of 16 Mar (Neil Trout). The following is a transcript of Neil's entry in the LFS logbook: "16.20 to 16.40 hrs. Initially in Stoneycroft Meadow but flew to temporary pond on Ackland's Moor, beyond water tanks. From distance, thought to be a Ringed Plover but closer inspection allowed the following notes to be recorded: Bulky plover, larger than Ringed Plover with longer tail. Double wide, black breast bands with lower part of lower breast band more mottled. White breast band between the 2 black bands was a brighter white than the belly. Upperparts mid-brown to greyish brown. Legs greyish flesh. Bill black with length of half the head width. White supercilium flaring towards rear of ear coverts. White on lores extending onto side of face. Dark eye with thick black line between eyes, over loreal area. White collar broadening onto chin and upper breast. Call a 'Klee-oo'. Flight details too brief to note anything. 10x40 binoculars, down to 30 yards."

The following day (17<sup>th</sup>), Assistant Lundy Warden Rosie Ellis reported that the island plateau was shrouded in claggy low cloud, with "shockingly poor visibility" and the bird was not seen by those out peering through the murk (in spite of rumours on social media to the contrary). Neil's initial sighting therefore turned out to be both the first and the last. Record accepted by BBRC. There have been two previous BBRC-accepted records in Devon, and about three further historical (pre-BBRC) Devon records.

Two of the six Dunlin in South West Field, 16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).



**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

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

There were two records of single birds during autumn passage. A juvenile was photographed in South West Field by Lundy Ranger Matt Stritch during the late afternoon of 27 Sep. One seen and heard calling in flight over the Terrace on 11 Oct appeared to come down in the vicinity of Quarry Cottages or Brick Field but could not be relocated (Zoë Barton, Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Spring migrants were recorded on 23 dates from 15 Apr (one below North Light) until 30 May (one), with maxima of 10 on 28 Apr and 11 on 30 Apr. Autumn passage was typically sparse, with single birds on 19 & 29 Jul, followed by two on 5 Aug and 2 Sep.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

*Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred (up to 1973) and was also a common passage migrant.*

The table tells another chapter in the sorry tale of this species of global conservation concern, with records on just seven dates during the year (23 Apr; 16, 22, 24 & 27 Jul; 14 Sep and 17 Oct), all involving single birds only.

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

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

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

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

There were just three late-summer and early-autumn records, all of birds seen and heard calling in flight: one off North Light on 9 Aug (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and single birds over the Village on both 1 Sep (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones) and 15 Sep (Dean Jones).

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

In spring there were six in South West Field on 16 Apr and 4 May, followed by two on 6 May and one on 7<sup>th</sup>. Autumn-passage migrants were logged on 13 dates from 19 Jul to 20 Sep, with all records involving ones and twos only.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	6	6	–	1	2	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	3	–	1	3	9	–	–	–

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima**Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.*

Four were on rocks in the Devil's Kitchen/Hell's Gates area on 16 Feb, followed by two in the same general location on 19<sup>th</sup>, then two at Gannets' Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup> (all records Martin Thorne). During the second winter period one was photographed (very unusually) on grassland on the West Side on 11 Dec (Jonny Morgan).

*Purple Sandpiper, Rat Island, 16<sup>th</sup> February  
(photo: Martin Thorne).*



**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

During the first winter period and spring passage there were records of ones and twos on seven dates from 18 Jan to 31 Mar (the latter involving an unfortunate individual that was flushed from next to the Upper East Side Path above White Beach by escaped Highland Cattle, straight into the talons of a female Peregrine...). Following the first autumn migrant – a single bird on 16 Oct – Woodcocks were logged on a further nine dates to the end of the year (the last being two on 3 Dec), with a notable influx of seven on 5 Nov, following a clear night with light easterly winds.

**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	7	3
2	1	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	6	2

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtes minimus**Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly late September to March.*

One was flushed from the side of the track between Rocket Pole Pond and South West Point on 7 Apr (Dean Jones). One was flushed on Ackland's Moor on 17 Sep (Richard Campey). Two were located by torchlight during nocturnal searches of the farm in-fields during the evenings of 15 & 16 Oct (Jamie Dunning & Dean Jones). Finally, there were singles at Pondsburry on 19 & 22 Dec (Neil Trout) and by Quarter Wall on 31 Dec (S. Aggot).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor, generally in small numbers; occasional hard-weather influxes.*

Numbers logged were low during the first winter period and early spring, with a maximum of six on 3 Mar. The final sighting of spring was one on 14 Apr. In autumn, returning passage migrants were noted from 8 Aug (one flushed by a Grey Heron on Pondsburry), with numbers peaking at 16 on 11 Sep when a flock flew south high above the Terrace, and again on 15 Oct when most were picked out by torchlight during an evening search of the farm in-fields.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	2	6	1	–	–	–	3	16	16	3	11
3	4	7	2	–	–	–	4	14	10	7	7

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

[Red Phalarope]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

The fresh corpse of an adult was found along the Lower East Side Path above White Beach on 11 Feb (Mr & Mrs Vincent *per* Dean Jones). This followed a period of Atlantic gales when winds reached 70 mph on 9 Feb as Storm Ciara bore down on the island. It seems probable the bird was a victim of weather-related exhaustion and starvation. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos**Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers (though the abundance of hard-to-view shoreline habitat must mean that many are missed); very rare in winter.*

During spring passage there were singles on the Beach Road on 26 Apr and calling from White Beach on 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by two feeding on the edge of the Landing Bay on 9 May. Autumn migrants comprised recordings of flight calls from near Brambles on the nights of 8/9 & 9/10 Aug (Tim Jones) and two calling to each other in the darkness near North Light at 03:00 hrs on the night of 26/27 Aug (Dean Jones).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus**Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Single southbound migrants were logged on seven dates in late summer and early autumn: 20 & 30 Jul, 8, 9 & 31 Aug and 2 & 23 Sep. Of these, the individuals on 30 Jul and 8 & 9 Aug were detected by 'nocmiggling' – the deployment of digital sound-recording equipment to capture nocturnal flight calls of migrant birds (Jamie Dunning, Tim Jones).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two were on Rat Island on 29 Jul (Dean Jones), one flew from near the Jetty and around Rat Island on 1 Sep (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones) and one heard calling from below the Terrace on 15 Sep was eventually glimpsed on Quarry Beach (Richard Campey).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus**Rare autumn migrant.*

A calling bird flew high over Quarter Wall and Ackland's Moor during the late afternoon of 16 Sep (Dean Jones). It was still present on 17<sup>th</sup> when it was heard and seen in flight over the Airfield and later near Pondsburry (Richard Campey).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Flight calls of a single bird were heard from the Tavern Garden, in the direction of South West Field, on 11 Aug (Tim Davis). One was calling in flight, low past the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony when nestboxes were being checked, on 24 Aug (Rosie Ellis & Dean Jones). One calling in flight over the mouth of Millcombe during the morning of 6 Sep was later found roosting on the north shore of Pondsburry (Tim Jones *et al.*).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

*Common but declining breeding species; large flocks may occur offshore outside the breeding season.*

The peak counts during the first winter period – and indeed the year – came at the end of Jan when there were 1,499 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 1,570 on 28<sup>th</sup> and a massive 2,766 on 29<sup>th</sup>, all birds feeding in large flocks off the East Side. There were further high counts of between 1,200 and 1,500 on four dates from 26 Feb to 6 Mar. The only four-digit count logged during the autumn and second winter period was 1,000 on 27 Oct, again involving flocks feeding off the East Side. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 242 adult birds, whilst the total number of nests located during the season was 308 – a reduction of 41 on the 2019 total. The first egg was seen at the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony on 15 May, whilst the first chicks were logged here and at the Aztec Bay colony on 13 Jun – although the great majority of adults were still incubating in mid-Jun. By the end of the month, 105 nests within the productivity study plots contained chicks. The first fledging was observed on 19 Jul. Final analyses showed that a total of 101 chicks fledged from the combined total of 152 apparently occupied nests (aon) at the Aztec Bay colony (124 aon) and Threequarter Wall Buttress colony (28 aon), representing 0.66 chicks fledged per active nest. Although this was higher than for any of the three previous seasons (0.59 in 2019, 0.46 in 2018 and 0.38 in 2017), quite a number of nests sited lower down the cliffs were lost due to storm-swell during unseasonable periods of westerly gales, with other losses resulting from predation by gulls, or falling from over-crowded and crumbling nests (Dean Jones).



*Kittiwake with the first chick of the year, Jenny's Cove, 13<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2,766	1,316	1,500	150	330	242	460	197	210	1,000	266	150

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

### **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An adult in the Landing Bay on 26 Aug (Bart Donato, Tim Frayling & Dean Jones) was the first Lundy record of this delightful Arctic-breeding gull since Sep 1997 and only the fifth ever for the island. Its arrival followed in the wake of a deep depression that was centred over the Irish Sea at noon on 25 Aug, with severe westerly gales affecting Lundy. Record accepted by DBRC.

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

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

The significant increase in regular seawatching, especially during the late-autumn and winter months, thanks to the presence of a resident ornithologist in the form of Warden Dean Jones, has led to greatly improved information on the current status of the three scarcer small gulls in Lundy waters (namely Black-headed, Mediterranean and Common Gulls). In 2020, Black-headed was by far the least regular and least numerous of the three, with records on just 16 dates, compared with 50 for Mediterranean Gull and 48 for Common Gull, whilst the maximum counts for the three species were six, 29 and 93, respectively. The last Black-headed Gull of winter and early spring was an adult foraging in the Landing Bay on 27 Mar, whilst the first post-breeding bird was not logged until 4 Aug. The peak of six was on 5 Oct (all in the Landing Bay and off the East Side).

#### **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	–	6	1	–
1	2	1	–	–	–	–	4	–	4	4	–

### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A first-winter bird was first seen foraging off the Terrace on 19 Jan. What was thought to be the same individual was then off the East Side on 28 Jan, closer in to the Landing Bay on 12 Feb, with foraging Kittiwakes off the southern tide race on 18 & 23 Feb, and then in the Landing Bay again on 26 Feb. An adult was in the Landing Bay, feeding with a small group of gulls just below the Ugly, on 19 Feb, close to the first-winter Little Gull in the southern tide race on 23 Feb, and again with the first-winter bird in the Landing Bay on 26 Feb (Dean Jones). These are the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> LFS records.



1<sup>st</sup>-winter Mediterranean Gull off the Jetty,  
8<sup>th</sup> December (photo: Martin Thorne).

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

*Uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.*

In just a few years the status of Mediterranean Gull in Lundy waters has transformed from that of extreme rarity to regular visitor. As noted in the account for Black-headed Gull (above), this is undoubtedly due in part to improved seawatching coverage throughout the year. However, continued expansion in range and numbers of European and British 'Med Gull' populations is probably the most significant driver of change. In 2020, the highest count during the first winter period was 14 on 25 Jan, whilst the last of the season was a single adult off the Landing bay on 7 Apr. In the latter part of the year there were records on 28 dates from 20 Aug (two juveniles) to 8 Dec (one), with a maximum of 29 on 20 Oct. The wings only of a first-winter bird were found on the cliff-tops above Long Roost on 19 Sep (Sam Bosanquet).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	4	2	1	–	–	–	2	3	29	10	1
13	2	6	1	–	–	–	1	3	11	11	2

**Common Gull *Larus canus***

[Mew Gull]

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

Recorded on 26 dates in the first winter period, with a maximum of 32 along the east coast on 24 Jan. The last of the season were eight on 31 Mar. The second winter period brought records on a further 22 dates, the first of these a single bird on 5 Oct, with a maximum of 93 on 18 Oct. See the Black-headed Gull account above for comments on improved information of the status of smaller gulls in Lundy waters.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	10	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	93	15	1
12	6	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	12	1

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

A fourth-calendar-year bird wearing a red darvic colour-ring was seen at Ponsbury on 6 Apr but it was too distant for any inscription to be seen (Dean Jones). It appears highly likely that this individual had been ringed on the Pembrokeshire island of Skokholm, although there is an Irish scheme that also uses red colour-rings. An adult was incubating eggs on a nest below the Earthquake on 22 Apr. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 62 adult birds. Chicks from a nest at North East Point were close to fledging on 10 Jul.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
29	22	36	34	48	62	10	15	20	30	7	23

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus****Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

An exceptional year by Lundy standards, with an unprecedented series of multiple sightings involving at least four individuals. A first-winter bird was in the Brick Field, Tillage Field and Ackland's Moor marsh area from 20 Feb to 1 Mar (Dean Jones). An adult on Ponsbury on 5 Mar flew off in the direction of Jenny's Cove (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). A first-winter bird at Jenny's Cove on 14 Mar was potentially the same individual seen in late Feb but also seems quite likely to have been a different bird (Dean Jones). A first-year bird was in Lower Lighthouse Field, roosting with a flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, on 14 Nov (Dean Jones). Finally, another first-winter bird on 11 & 12 Dec was first seen in Tillage Field (Dean Jones, Martin Thorne). These are the sixth to ninth records for the island, including the first for both Feb and Mar. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



*Immature Glaucous Gull, Brick Field, 26<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Iceland Gull *Larus galuoides****Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Seen from Hammers, a first-winter bird was watched flying past Rat Island on 28 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer). A first-winter bird – potentially the same as that seen in late Oct – was over Quarry Beach on 4 Nov (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

*Common but declining breeding species; present all year, and though generally fewer in winter there may be significant influxes during storms and cold snaps.*

An exceptional concentration of at least 1,500 were feeding off the East Side with Kittiwakes and other seabirds on 2 Mar. Adults were incubating eggs below the Earthquake on 22 Apr. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 602 adult birds, whilst the first fledglings were seen at Jenny's Cove on 10 Jul (Dean Jones). It was generally a poor year for the island's three breeding large-gull species, with very few fledged young seen.

#### Maximum count for each month\*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
470	447	1,500	470	415	602	150	105	26	500	214	334

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole, particularly for May & Jul.

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

*Lundy vagrant.*

Increased year-round attention to gulls on Lundy, greater awareness among birders of key identification features for juveniles and immatures, and growing numbers of Yellow-legged Gulls reaching south-west Britain (particularly in late summer) combined to make 2020 an exceptional year for this species on the island. A third-calendar-year (= second-winter) bird in Tillage Field on 18 Feb and around Ackland's Moor marsh on 19<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones) was only the second record for the island, the previous occurrence being as far back as May 1999. Aug saw an unprecedented influx of juveniles, involving up to seven individuals, including three that arrived in the wake of south-westerly storms on 5<sup>th</sup>. Of these, one was seen from the Ugly during a morning seawatch (Dean Jones); the other two were moving along the west coast in the evening (Jamie Dunning). Later in the month there were single juveniles on 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones) and two together in the Landing Bay on 25<sup>th</sup>, sheltering from Storm Francis (Dean Jones).



*Second-winter Yellow-legged Gull over the Tillage Field, 18<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones)*

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

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

Adult birds were incubating eggs in the small colony above Miller's Cake on 12 May. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of just 145 adult birds (Dean Jones).

#### Maximum count for each month\*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
52	37	61	110	141	145	45	33	20	10	24	10

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole, particularly for May & Jul.

### Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

*Uncommon passage migrant April to October.*

Single birds were in the Landing Bay on 6, 10 & 16 Apr (Dean Jones); the bird on 6<sup>th</sup> perched on one of the mooring buoys. There were three scattered late-summer and autumn records: two off North Light during a seawatch on 20 Aug (Dean Jones); one off the East Side on 15 & 16 Sep (Richard Campey); and one from MS *Oldenburg* on 8 Oct about 15 minutes out from the island (Alison & Nick Blinston).

**‘Commic Tern’** unidentified Common or Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo* or *S. paradisaea*

Two were off the East Side on 5 Sep (Tim Jones), followed by one in the Landing Bay on 24 Sep (Dean Jones).

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

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

Not recorded during the first seven months of the year. There were autumn-passage records on 10 dates from 1 Aug to 12 Nov. Most were single birds but there were two on both 26 Sep and 28 Oct. All but one were off the East Side – frequently harassing feeding Kittiwakes and other gulls – and picked out from various vantage points including the Ugly and the Terrace. The exception was one off the West Side on 26 Sep.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

[Pomarine Jaeger]

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

One seen from MS *Oldenburg* a few minutes out from arrival in the Landing Bay on 5 Sep (Shaun Robson *et al.*) A pale-morph adult was seen in the Landing Bay during a seawatch from the Ugly on 24 Sep (Dean Jones).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

There were just four records, all in autumn, involving nine birds. Three dark-morph birds were off the Landing Bay on 26 Aug (Dean Jones). Two were kleptoparasitising Kittiwakes off the Landing Bay on 5 Sep, followed by three (one pale, one dark and one intermediate morph) in the same area on 7 Sep (Tim Jones, Shaun Robson *et al.*). A dark-morph bird was off the East Side on 1 Nov (Andy Jayne).

**Unidentified skua species** *Stercorarius* sp.

One off the Landing Bay on 7 Dec (Martin Thorne) was thought possibly to be a Pomarine Skua – probably the most likely species in Lundy waters on such a late date.

**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 in highly variable numbers to breeding ledges during late autumn and winter.*

Many were occupying the breeding ledges on 18 Jan, including 649 at Jenny’s Cove, 226 at St Mark’s Stone and 402 at Aztec Bay. The first chicks within the productivity study colony at St Mark’s Stone were seen on 1 Jun, when an estimated 200 birds were continuing to incubate eggs. By 12 Jun a similar number of adults were looking after chicks and the majority of young had ‘jumped’ from the ledges by the end of the month. Overall productivity was good for the study colony: 165 chicks ‘fledged’ from 217 breeding pairs, representing 0.76 chicks per pair (*cf.* 0.69 in 2019 and 0.65 in 2018). The average number of adults at this site has increased six-fold since 1981, most likely as a result of the eradication of rats. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 8,252 adult Guillemots (Dean Jones). Colour-ringed individual ‘red 0114’ (red ring with white numbering), originally marked on the Pembrokeshire island of Skomer in Jul 2013, was seen again in Jenny’s Cove, occupying almost exactly the same spot on the breeding ledges as in 2019. First observed on 1 May, it was incubating an egg on 13 May & 4 Jun, then provisioning a chick on 13 Jun, rearing it successfully to the jumping stage (Dean Jones). Departure from the colonies was almost complete by mid-Jul; some 2,033 were counted between Jenny’s Cove and Aztec Bay on 10 Jul, but only 64 were still present along the same stretch of coast on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,277	200	2,000	3,500	7,637	8,252	2,274	5	12	1**	4**	7**

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. \*\*From mid-Oct to the end of the year, up to 500 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.



Razorbill, Aztec Bay, 20<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).

**Razorbill *Alca torda***

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

An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 2,177 adult birds. The majority of chicks had departed the breeding colonies around Jenny's Cove by the end of Jun (Dean Jones).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
231	800	623	2,000	2,384	2,177	533	–	32	410	14**	70**

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. \*\*In Nov & Dec, up to 500 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Razorbills and Guillemots.

**Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

[Atlantic Puffin]

*Common and gradually increasing breeding species; formerly bred in considerably larger numbers; very rare between mid-August and early March.*

The first of the year were 32 (28 at Jenny's Cove – of which eight were on land and 20 on the water – and four at St Philip's Stone) on 11 Mar. Numbers had reached 184 by 1 Apr and many were gathering nest material at Jenny's Cove on 23 Apr. Adults were first seen delivering fish to burrows in Jenny's Cove on 25 May, and over 70 burrows within the productivity study slope were being provisioned by 11 Jun. Final analysis showed that productivity was once again on the low side, with 133 chicks reared to 'fledging' from 261 apparently occupied burrows, representing 0.51 chicks per burrow (Dean Jones). An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 400 adult birds (Dean Jones), whilst the usual late-season peak of 402 was recorded on 1 Jul – the same date that the first 'puffling' was seen emerging from its burrow. The last of the year, a single bird, was seen off Rat Island on 5 Aug.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	37	184	397	400	402	1	–	–	–	–

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts included in the table do not necessarily reflect the total breeding population.

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

[Red-throated Loon]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.*

During the first winter period and early spring, recorded on 33 dates from 3 Jan (one) to 1 Apr (two). Both frequency and numbers peaked in Jan, with a maximum of 28 on 24<sup>th</sup>, and six other double-digit counts between 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. The Feb & Mar maxima were seven on 8<sup>th</sup> and nine on 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively. There were no records during the autumn or second winter period.

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

[Arctic Loon]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One was off the East Side on 23 Jan (Dean Jones). 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 early spring, recorded on 44 dates from New Year's Day to 12 Apr, with a maximum of at least six on 17 Feb in ones and twos along the East Side between Quarry Beach and Rat Island (Martin Thorne). There were two late-spring records – both involving single birds, perhaps one and the same individual – on 19 & 24 May. During the autumn and second winter period, recorded on only 15 dates from 25 Sep (one, in full breeding plumage still, flying north off the east coast) to 28 Dec, including a maximum of three on 27 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	2	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	2	3
12	17	8	7	2	–	–	–	1	4	7	3

**Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

[European Storm Petrel]

*Uncommon passage migrant; apparently increasing numbers during the breeding season; size of the breeding population unknown.*

During the night of 16/17 Jul, 35 individuals were mist-netted near North Light. These included 31 new birds, three Lundy-ringed retraps, and one bird that had been ringed in North Wales in 2012 (Dean Jones & Jamie Dunning). Singles were over the tide race south of Rat Island on 25 Jul (Jamie Dunning) & 5 Aug (Dean Jones). At least six were calling from crevices in and immediately above the wall of Brazen Ward on the night of 3/4 Aug (Eleanor & Josh Harris). During the night of 7/8 Aug, ones and twos were seen at Jenny's Cove, the west end of Quarter Wall, between The Battery and Old Light, and at Pilot's Quay (Josh Harris). Another ringing session at North Light on the night of 10/11 Aug, led by Chris Dee, resulted in the trapping of 23 individuals, of which 18 were new, four had been ringed on Lundy in 2018 (two individuals), 2019 (one) and earlier in 2020 (one), whilst one had been ringed on Skokholm only a couple of weeks earlier, on 13 Jul. A number of the birds caught (all without the use of tape-luring) showed evidently full crops and were almost certainly feeding chicks in the vicinity. Finally, a further 50 birds were trapped at North Light on the night of 26/27 Aug (Tim Frayling, Dean Jones *et al.*). Among these were 30 new birds, 17 Lundy-ringed retraps, two individuals ringed on Skokholm in 2019 and 2020 (the latter the bird captured on Lundy on 10/11 Aug) and one ringed at Annagh Head, Co. Mayo, Ireland in 2014. See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88.

Tony Taylor adds: "In the three ringing sessions near North Light in Jul & Aug, a record 79 Storm Petrels were newly ringed and 29 other birds were recaptured. Four of these had been ringed elsewhere. While large numbers of non-breeding birds wander between colonies, there was plenty of evidence among the recaptures that a significant proportion of them are faithful to the catching area. Some were recaptured on more than one of the 2020 visits, and 16 had also been captured several times over the previous three years. The evidence all points towards a growing breeding population on Lundy."

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

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

The highest pre-breeding count was 228 on 18 Jan. During the peak of the egg-laying and incubation periods there were two identical all-island counts of 191 adults on 30 May and 16 Jun. The first chicks were seen at Jenny's Cove on 6 Jul. In spite of good attendance at the breeding colony on the north-facing side of Gannets' Rock early in the season, the number of actual breeding attempts and overall success were again rather low, with 17 chicks fledging from 36 apparently occupied sites, a productivity value of 0.48 (cf. 0.48 in 2019; 0.39 in 2018). During the post-breeding moult, which takes place at sea, there were just six scattered records, all involving low single-digit counts, between mid-Sep and mid-Nov. The first significant number of the 'new' season was 48 on 22 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
228	47	52	78	191	191	133	46**	40	1	48	2

\*There was no full island breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

\*\*Including 11 chicks.

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

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

Many were heard coming into the island on the evening of 24 Mar and 82 were counted passing Rat Island in 30 minutes at 07:00 hrs on 5 Apr. Adults were incubating eggs in several of the LFS/RSPB-installed nestboxes in the Old Light colony on 14 May. These included bird EA10081 which has been using the same box since 2017. Checks on 11 Jul showed that of seven breeding attempts in the boxes, all were still active, with each box holding either a young chick or an adult continuing to incubate (Dean Jones). By far the highest counts of the year were 4,000 on 7 Jul, followed by 2,677 on 5 Aug and 2,542 on 20 Aug. There were no other four-digit counts. Following the departure of most breeding birds in Sep, a calling bird was recorded at night on 16/17 Oct and there were several unusually late records, including four on 8 Nov, one on 15 Nov and two on 11 & 16 Dec. Two Lundy-ringed adult shearwaters were reported from Bardsey and Skokholm during the year, while two chicks ringed on Lundy in late Aug in 2019 and 2020, respectively, were both found dead on the coast of Brazil in Oct 2020 (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

Tony Taylor has provided the following update on the long-running ringing study of the island's shearwaters: "*In late Aug and early Sep, two weeks were spent ringing Manx Shearwaters at night. A few further birds were caught earlier and later in the year, including during checks on nestboxes. In all, 67 adults were newly ringed and 27 birds ringed in previous years were recaptured. The number of chicks ringed was 245, along with seven other young birds that were in the process of fledging. Four of these fledglings were found in the village, probably after being attracted to artificial light in weather conditions that made orientation difficult during their first flights. A fifth fledgling was recaptured in the same circumstances, three days after it had been ringed as a chick below Sunset Buttress. The most significant of the recaptured adults included three originally ringed as adults in 2008, 2010 and 2011, and three ringed as chicks, two in 2013 and one in 2016. The nestboxes also provided valuable data, with five chicks reaching ringing age in them, from a record seven eggs laid. Of the parent birds, seven had been ringed in previous years and all were occupying the same boxes as before.*"

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	h*	82	16	100	4,000	2,677	24	2	4	4

\*many heard at night

### **Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

*Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.*

Two flying west past Rat Island were seen from the Ugly on 20 Aug (Dean Jones). Although this was the second-earliest record for the island (after one on 26 Jul 2018) there were no further sightings,

marking 2020 as the first year since 2004 in which Balearic Shearwaters were not recorded in Lundy waters during Sep or Oct – in spite of regular seawatching by the Warden and other experienced observers. Interestingly, record numbers were seen off the south coast of South West England during the late summer.

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

*Common offshore, especially from spring to autumn, with peak numbers usually in late summer; typically less frequent in winter; formerly bred (until early 1900s).*

There was a high late-winter count of 50 on 28 Jan. As is typical, both numbers and frequency were generally higher during the second half of the year; the peak count of 190 on 8 Aug was accounted for by a 'feeding frenzy' off the East Side, about a kilometre out from Tibbetts Point.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	5	20	11	25	25	30	190	30	30	43	41
23	13	16	13	22	14	16	23	23	25	23	12

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

*Common breeding species present throughout the year; numbers usually smaller in winter.*

Two chicks were seen in nests at Long Roost on 30 May. A count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 111 adult birds (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen at Long Roost on 10 Jul, alongside many other large, soon-to-fledge chicks waddling around nest sites. A raft of 71 birds was off the Quarries on 22 Jul, but the highest post-breeding counts were 167 on 9 Aug and 191 on 21 Sep.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	60	53	27	89	111	94	167	191	122	5	4

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, typically in flocks overflying the island; formerly bred (until 1959); occasional in winter.*

Recorded in all months except Jun and Dec, with a peak of 12 on 12 Sep. One was on the water off Quarry Beach on 29 Jan. In Oct, a first-winter bird was regularly seen fishing at Rocket Pole Pond.

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

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

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

*Uncommon visitor; most regular from midsummer to early autumn.*

One at Pondsbury on 29 May was the only record during the first six months of the year. In late summer and autumn there were records on 41 dates from 10 Jul (one in Barton Field) to 4 Nov (one), with a maximum of four on both 22 Jul and 14 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	–	4	1	4	2	1	–
–	–	–	–	1	–	14	11	10	5	1	–

*Cormorants, off Pilot's Quay, 7<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

[Great Egret]

*Colonising UK breeder; Devon rarity. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

Three birds (below) were photographed by Martin Thorne in flight as they passed South Light heading towards the North Devon mainland on 8 Dec. This is the first Lundy record of a species that has recently extended its breeding range to the UK, including 14 nests in the Somerset Levels alone in 2019. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

*Scarce, but now annual passage migrant.*

One over Brick Field on 28 Mar was wearing a blue darvic colour-ring (Dean Jones). Indications are that this bird had probably been ringed as a nestling in Scotland.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

*Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; bred at least once in the past (1922); occasional in winter; has overwintered twice, in 2011/12 and 2018/19.*

There were no records until spring passage when single birds were logged on 18 dates between 29 Mar and 1 Jun, with two present on 12 May. Following a single female on 19 Jul, autumn passage extended from 3 Sep to 28 Nov, with records on 52 dates: single birds on 37 days, two on 14 days and the maximum count of three on 17 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	2	1	1	–	3	2	2	–
–	–	2	11	4	1	1	–	20	17	15	–

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

[Northern Goshawk]

*Lundy vagrant.*

During the afternoon of 15 Sep, amidst deteriorating visibility due to gathering fog, a male flew in off the sea and perched briefly in VC Quarry (Richard Campey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

A male over Millcombe and Barton Field during the early morning of 27 Mar was quartering South West Field later in the morning (Dean Jones). On 5 Nov, a ringtail over Quarter Wall mid-morning was seen several times during the afternoon, then quartering Pondsburry at dusk (Andy Jayne *et al.*).

### **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

On 16 Oct, a juvenile was seen in flight low over Ackland's Moor mid-morning, being harried by two Ravens, then later soaring off the East Side before heading south-east towards Hartland Point at 13:00 hrs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). This exciting record – concerning the satellite-tagged and colour-ringed individual 'G471' released in August 2020 as part of the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme – comes some 140 years after the last known White-tailed Eagle to have occurred on Lundy was shot in about 1880. Record accepted by DBRC.

*Lundy's first White-tailed Eagle (inset) for more than a century flew over the island on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The tracking map (reproduced with permission of the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation) confirmed that G471 left the North Devon mainland at 10:20 hrs, some 35 minutes before it was first seen over the island. It flew out north of the island before returning to rest for a time near North Light, where it was seen by one of the Trinity House team working on the lighthouse as it flew below him! It later returned to the North Devon mainland where it roosted in cliffside woodland (photo: Dean Jones).*



### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* [Common Buzzard]

*Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident (last nesting attempt in 1965).*

Single birds on 10 & 11 Apr (being harassed by a Raven over Quarter Wall on 10<sup>th</sup>, then seen over High Street Field on 11<sup>th</sup>) and 9 May (the latter a 'rather tatty' individual flying south over the Village and Millcombe) were the only records for the year.

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

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

There were just two records, both in autumn: one flushed near to the top of the 'Steps of Doom' (that run between the Ugly and the Lower East Side Path) on 8 Oct (Ken Ebsworthy), followed by one flushed by the feral livestock management team near Pondsbury on 22 Oct.

### **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One flushed from the main track next to Pondsbury during the late morning of 10 Apr showed very well for a few minutes before disappearing into the long sward above the Quarries (Dean Jones). It was seen again in the afternoon feeding back along the main track (Rosie Ellis). On 5 Nov, one was watched from the window of Castle Cottage as it fed on the short turf of Castle Parade before flying off over the perimeter wall, in line with South Light (Elizabeth & Jonathan Williams). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One seen briefly along the Terrace on 22 Sep (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

*Rare passage migrant and post-breeding visitor; one overwintering record (2018/19).*

A male and female appeared in Millcombe on 15 Oct, with both still present on 18<sup>th</sup> and the male remaining until 20<sup>th</sup> (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). A male, thought to be a different individual to that seen in Oct, was first seen working its way along fence posts in Barton Field on 5 Nov, remaining until 6<sup>th</sup>, when it was in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

[Common Kestrel]

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

A single female was seen on three days in the second half of Jan, followed by a male in early Mar and a female later in the month. Two were logged on several days in Apr, but it was in May that the presence of a territorial pair was confirmed, and Jun when a nest site was discovered along the East Side. Two chicks fledged on 6 Jul – the first confirmation of successful breeding since 2005. Autumn passage peaked in Sep and Oct, with a maximum of four on 16 & 17 Oct. 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
1	1	1	2	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	–
3	1	6	12	12	5	11	8	18	13	15	–

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

There were no records during the first winter period. Single spring-passage birds were logged on eight dates from 16 Mar to 6 May. These included a male hunting Meadow Pipits in Barton Field on 4 Apr and a female with a Wheatear in its talons at the western end of Quarter Wall on 17 Apr. The first autumn migrant was on the early date of 28 Aug. Thereafter, passage birds were recorded on a further 37 dates, from 20 Sep (one) to 29 Nov (one), with a maximum of three on 13, 14 & 16 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	1	–	–	1	1	3	2	–
–	–	1	6	1	–	–	1	5	23	9	–

*Merlin, Barton Field, 23<sup>rd</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.*The only record for the year involved one hunting over Lighthouse Field on 10 Sep (Tony Taylor *et al.*).**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

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

A female was feeding on a drake Mallard in Barton Field on 22 Feb (Kevin Welsh). There were five occupied breeding territories. Eggs were being incubated from 15 Apr. Three pairs managed to fledge a total of five chicks, the first fledgling being noted on 1 Jul (Dean Jones).

**Maximum count for each month\***

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

**Request: Please report any sightings of colour-ringed Peregrines directly to the Warden, and help to protect the island's breeding birds by not revealing nest locations in the LFS logbook, on social media, or elsewhere.**

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio**Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.*A juvenile was in the vicinity of Quarry Cottages, the Terrace and the track to Quarry Beach during the early afternoon of 12 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*There were three records during the peak May-Jun period for this species on Lundy, all involving single birds in Millcombe: a singing male on 8 & 9 May (Dean Jones *et al.*); a female or second-calendar-year male on 20 May (Dean Jones); and a sub-adult male on 18 Jun (Dean Jones). Records accepted by DBRC.**Magpie** *Pica pica*

[Eurasian Magpie]

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was seen briefly in Tent Field, between the Black Shed and the helipad, during the early afternoon of 5 Sep (Shaun Robson). This is the first record of this exceptionally rare bird for Lundy since May 1996!

**Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

*Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.*An exceptional spring for a species that normally occurs only two or three times each year, with records on 20 dates from 26 Feb to 25 May. One calling from Millcombe Wood on 26 Feb was followed by two over Millcombe on 27<sup>th</sup>, one in High Street Field on 13 & 14 Mar, one over Millcombe on 24 Mar, three on 26<sup>th</sup>, and two foraging in lower 'Aerogenerator Field' (Lighthouse Field) on 28 & 29 Mar. Fourteen parachuting into Tent Field on 30 Mar, seven in High St Field on 31<sup>st</sup> and 11 on the Church Tower on 1 Apr were the advance party for a mass arrival of 59 drifting in from the south-east and over Castle Hill at about 13:00 hrs on 2 Apr, resting briefly before continuing north at 15:00 hrs. There were 11 again on 3 & 4 Apr, one over the Village on 11<sup>th</sup>, two calling loudly over the Village on 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 in lower 'Aerogenerator Field' on 25<sup>th</sup>, in Tent Field on 26<sup>th</sup> and on the roof of Old House South on 27<sup>th</sup>, six over Jenny's Cove on 1 May and – finally – two calling from the roof of the Barn and later in High Street Field on 25 May (Dean Jones *et al.*). This is by far the most significant and sustained influx to the island of recent years. It is thought that the prolonged spells of settled weather in Apr may have been a contributory factor. The flock of 59 birds on 2 Apr exceeded the previous record spring count of 53, set way back in the early years of the LFS on 25 Apr 1948. However, the all-time record still stands at a colossal 250 on 20 Oct 1983.**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus**Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

One in upper Lighthouse Field on 20 Apr (Dean Jones).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

Numbers were relatively high at the start of the year, with a count of 57 on 19 Jan, but the post-breeding maximum was just 43 on 7 Sep. Unusually low numbers were recorded from then until the end of the year, including an Oct peak of just 20 – a month when counts have typically been around 60 in many recent years. Poor breeding productivity and possible emigration from the island could explain the apparently reduced numbers. Potential underlying causes might include a shortage of food due to a very low rabbit population and a pandemic-related reduction in human visitors and their discarded food scraps. One was watched leaving the island from South West Point and flying towards Hartland Point on 12 Apr (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen along the East Side on 26 May.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
57	41	41	29	25	31	27	23	43	20	15	23

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Two were with Carrion Crows and Jackdaws in High Street Field and on Ackland's Moor on 13 Mar, one remaining until 14<sup>th</sup> when it was seen in Brick Field (Dean Jones). Single birds were in Tent Field on 1 & 15 May (Dean Jones). With no sightings between 2 and 14 May, it seems probable that either two different birds were involved on 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> or the same individual visited the island twice but disappeared to the mainland in the intervening period. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

One was carrying nesting material along the East Side on 26 Jan. The highest count of the year was 20 on 8 Mar. There were four successful nests: at Benjamin's Chair, the cliffs just west of Old Light, Halfway Wall Bay and Long Roost. The first fledglings were seen at the South End on 12 May.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	6	20	9	14	8	7	12	14	13	11	9

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

A mid-Oct arrival brought daily records from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, including a peak of five on 15<sup>th</sup> (in Millcombe, St Helen's Combe, and in willows above Quarry Beach). There were two on 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, and singles on the remaining dates. The first bird to arrive, on 10<sup>th</sup>, showed plumage features consistent with the Irish-breeding race of Coal Tit *P. a. hibernicus*, having noticeably yellowish cheeks, a similar yellow wash on the underparts, and distinctly cinnamon flanks. However, no definite conclusions about the bird's origins can be drawn on plumage alone as there are known to be intergrades between Irish and British Coal Tits in the north-east of the island of Ireland. This particular individual, which was ringed in Millcombe on 15 Oct, was seen regularly in Millcombe through the rest of Oct and Nov, then more sporadically in Dec, but was still present at the end of the year and into early 2021.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

[Eurasian Blue Tit]

*Uncommon autumn migrant and rare spring migrant.*

Two were seen in the Ugly/St Helen's Copse area on 5 Oct (Shaun Barnes).

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A very good autumn for this species, with records on three dates thought to involve four different birds: one flew south, calling as it went, over the Ugly and lower Millcombe, during the early morning of 16 Oct (Jamie Dunning, Dean Jones *et al.*), with what was considered to be a different individual seen and heard on the western fringes of Middle Park, just north of Halfway Wall, at 16:30 hrs the same day; one showed well, allowing itself to be photographed, above Benjamin's Chair on 22 Oct (Dean Jones); and one was calling in flight over Millcombe on 4 Nov (Dean Jones).



Woodlark, Benjamin's Chair, 22<sup>nd</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).

**Skylark *Alauda arvensis***

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

Scarce for a time immediately after New Year, song was first heard on 17 Jan and numbers reached 20 the following day. The highest count of the spring – indeed the year – was 69 on 1 Mar. Some 51 song territories were located during the breeding season and adults were first seen delivering food to chicks in the nest on 11 May in South West Field (Dean Jones). The autumn-passage peak was 35 on 14 Oct. After 21 on 22 Nov there were only five more scattered records of one to three birds until the end of the year (the last on 10 Dec), though there continued to be coverage of suitable habitat, indicating a real, rather than apparent absence.

**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	51	69	38	32	39	15	20	28	35	29	2
13	22	28	29	31	26	18	14	23	17	12	2

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

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

The first spring migrants were four on 18 Mar. Numbers were low until the fourth week of Apr when there were 120 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 130 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 112 on 26<sup>th</sup>. By far the largest arrival was on 6 May when 478 were logged. The last of the spring were two on 10 Jun. Return passage was logged on 26 days from 19 Jul (five) to 13 Oct (one). Numbers were generally low, with only six double-digit counts, the highest of these being 61 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	130	478	2	5	6	61	1	–	–
–	–	5	21	18	1	5	4	15	2	–	–

**Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first of the spring were one over Quarter Wall on 23 Mar, followed by three the next day, but then a gap to 3 Apr. Maximum counts reached 34 in the first week of Apr, 122 in the second week, 312 in the third week and a first peak of 1,750 on 22 Apr (when 532 passed north off the West Side in the space of an hour). Thereafter, numbers fluctuated considerably, with counts in the tens or low hundreds interspersed with a further two very high counts: 1,916 on 6 May and 1,794 on 19 May. A handful of

birds were still moving north well into Jun (e.g. pulses of 11 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>). Three pairs nested: in the Church porch, next to the Black Shed, and in a natural site at Quarry Pond. Four young fledged from the Church porch on 4 Jul, whilst the other two pairs both fledged three young. A second brood was attempted in the Church Porch and young were being fed during the first half of Sep, but they failed to fledge successfully. There was some evidence of post-breeding dispersal in Aug (e.g. 15 on 8<sup>th</sup>) but it was well into Sep before the first real pulse of migration, when 305 were logged on 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by estimates of 1,000 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3,000 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 750 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 2,500 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Numbers fell away rapidly from the start of the fourth week in Oct, though there were still records on most days. Swallows were logged on the unusually high total of 15 dates in Nov, the last of the year being a single bird over lower Millcombe on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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	1,750	1,916	15	7	15	3,000	200	4	–
–	–	2	27	31	29	30	25	30	27	15	–

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

Unusually, it was a House Martin over the Terrace on 8 Mar (Kevin Waterfall) that provided the first hirundine record of the year – a distinction usually claimed by Sand Martin or Swallow. Following another lone individual on 24 Mar and single-digit counts during the first fortnight of Apr, the first real influxes were 38 on 15 Apr and 140 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, the largest arrivals were in May, when there were 341 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 471 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Autumn migration appeared rather sparse and there were only seven counts of 30 or more, of which 150 on 29 Sep was by far the highest. The last of the year was a single bird on 4 & 5 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	140	471	3	4	14	150	30	1	–
–	–	2	20	27	5	6	6	16	19	2	–

*Yellow-browed Warbler, Millcombe Pond, 12<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti**Lundy vagrant.*

One trapped and ringed in Millcombe during the early morning of 18 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dean Jones) was only the sixth to be recorded on Lundy.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus**Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; has overwintered once (2008/09).*

One was working its way south, calling as it went, in the incongruous setting of the bracken and boulder-strewn sidelands above Jenny's Cove on 14 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

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

There were just three records during the year, comprising two during spring passage and one in autumn: two birds on 27 Apr (one in the Battlements sycamores and one along the Lower East Side Path above White Beach) and one in upper Millcombe on 28<sup>th</sup> – see cover photo (all Dean Jones); and one in Millcombe, feeding above the Casbah within a small mixed flock of Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Goldcrests, on 7 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

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

During autumn passage, logged on 21 dates from 19 Sep (one in sycamores above the Casbah, Millcombe) to 12 Nov (one in Quarter Wall Copse), with a maximum of five on 22 Oct (two in Millcombe, one in Quarter Wall Copse, one in the Terrace Trap willows, and one in Howard's Quarry – the small quarry with willows and blanket weed to the south of VC Quarry). Most other records concerned ones and twos only, but there were three on 12 Oct. Unusually there were several records of birds feeding on the ground. One was on the muddy margins of Millcombe Pond on 12 Oct, whilst another spent much of 14 Oct feeding in the lee of the main track wall alongside Tillage & Brick Fields. Another individual, also on 14<sup>th</sup>, was feeding on the ground, out in the open, on the sunny, sheltered edge of St Helen's Field above Millcombe, together with a Chiffchaff and several Goldcrests.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus**Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; breeds sporadically.*

The first of the spring were two on 24 Mar, one of which was in full song in Millcombe Wood. Numbers peaked at 90 on 8 Apr and there were other counts of 50 or more on 9 Apr (50), 11 Apr (53) and 26 Apr (57). One very pale bird, lacking yellow or green tones in its plumage, was seen in Millcombe on 18 Apr and considered likely to be from a northern European breeding population (Dean Jones). The last double-digit count of spring was 17 on 2 May. Although song was heard into Jun there was no evidence of any breeding attempt. Return passage was noted almost daily during the second half of Jul, including a small fall of 45 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Movements peaked in Aug, with 110 on 6<sup>th</sup> representing the highest count of the season and of the whole year. The last was a single bird on 12 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	90	17	3	45	110	35	1	–	–
–	–	3	30	29	26	18	21	21	1	–	–

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

During the first winter period there were single birds on 10, 20, 24 & 29 Jan and 10 Feb. The first probable spring migrant was in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) on 10 Mar, but it was only from the relatively late date of 22<sup>nd</sup> onwards that passage really got under way. Thereafter there was an almost uninterrupted run of daily records throughout the rest of the spring, though there were only five double-digit counts, all between 24 Mar and 4 Apr, including the modest peak of 23 on 1 Apr. Song was heard throughout May and early Jun and a pair were seen copulating in Millcombe on 10 Jun. However, just one fledgling was being fed by adults in the same area on 14 Jul (Dean Jones), perhaps indicating that productivity had been adversely affected by poor weather earlier in the month. A second pair were feeding three fledglings in upper Millcombe on 20 Jul – again suggestive of poor productivity. Autumn

passage became evident from the end of the first week of Sep, reaching double digits on 10 Sep with 15, then peaking at 60 on 21<sup>st</sup>. Numbers in Oct were unusually low, with 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> being the highest count. At the end of the year there was a late pulse of six on 1 Dec, then further singles on 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. A first-year bird ringed on Lundy in Sep 2019 was caught on Bardsey on 27 Mar (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

Individuals with plumage and calls typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were seen in Millcombe on 1 Dec (one bird) and at several locations on 26 Nov (a small influx of four: two in Millcombe; one in the Terrace willows and on the sidelands above Quarry Beach; and one in the Village next to Quarters). A fifth bird, showing plumage and call characteristics possibly better matching 'Northern' Chiffchaff *P. c. abietinus* was also logged on 26 Nov, together at one point with one of the 'Siberian' Chiffchaffs below the Terrace (all records Dean Jones). In addition, an individual showing plumage and call characters of one of the grey northern or eastern races, possibly *P. c. abietinus*, was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 8 May (Dean Jones). MitDNA analysis of shed body feathers from an individual trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23 Oct indicated maternal lineage as *P. c. abietinus* (Prof. J. Martin Collinson & Thomas Shannon, University of Aberdeen *per* Dean Jones). A good candidate for *abietinus* was also foraging at Millcombe Pond on 6 Nov (Dean Jones). Records of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**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	10	23	6	5	6	4	60	15	6	6
4	1	11	27	26	24	13	13	28	27	19	4

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

*Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically.* During spring migration, logged on 27 dates from 9 Apr (one singing in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) to 29 May (one), with maxima of 19 on 26 Apr and 13 on 7 May. Return passage was noted on nine dates from 21 Jul (one at Quarters Pond) to 20 Sep (two), with maxima of 29 on 6 Aug and six on 10 Sep. The report *Bird Ringing on Lundy* (see p.88) contains details of an adult ringed in Ireland in 2016 that was trapped on Lundy on 8 May, and an adult ringed on Lundy on 26 Apr that was caught in France on 3 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
–	–	–	19	13	–	2	29	6	–	–	–
–	–	–	12	15	–	3	3	3	–	–	–

*Icterine Warbler, Millcombe, 5<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Richard Taylor) and (right) male Blackcap, Battery Slope, 16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Ones and twos were recorded on eight dates in spring from 19 Apr (one trapped in Millcombe, already wearing a BTO ring – see below) to 17 Jun (a singing bird in the ‘Secret Garden’, lower Millcombe). There were only two logged in autumn: single birds on 23 Aug and 10 Sep. The bird trapped on 19 Apr had been ringed as an adult near Land’s End in Jul 2019 (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year bird was watched (and photographed – see p.39) at close range in St John’s Valley during the morning of 6 Sep (Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC – the sixth occurrence for Lundy.

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year bird was mist-netted in Millcombe (on the slope up to the Ugly) mid-morning on 31 Jul (Dean Jones). It was not seen in the field, either before capture or after release. Another was watched and photographed in willow scrub at the Terrace on 31 Aug (Dean Jones). Records accepted by DBRC.

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

One was feeding actively in lower Millcombe on 5 Sep (Richard Taylor *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Spring passage migrants were logged on nine dates from 9 Apr (one reeling in St John’s Valley) to 6 May (one), with a maximum of four on 19 Apr (all reeling in Millcombe first thing). The only autumn records were single birds on 10 & 21 Sep.

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

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

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in winter. Successful breeding confirmed for the first time in 2016, then again in 2018 & 2019.*

The first migrants in spring were two logged on 17 Mar. The highest counts were 75 on 9 Apr and 110 on 11<sup>th</sup>, with 16 additional double-digit counts during the month. A trickle of movement continued throughout May and most of Jun, whilst two pairs got down to the serious business of nesting in Millcombe, where fledglings were first seen on 24 Jun, in the upper part of the valley, followed by a different brood being fed in the Walled Gardens on 9 Jul. The outcome of a third breeding attempt in the tree nursery at Quarter Wall Copse is unknown (Dean Jones). This is the third year in a row of successful breeding, the first time that more than one pair has bred, and the first time that a breeding attempt outside Millcombe has been recorded. Autumn passage became evident from the fourth week of Aug, when 10 were logged on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Counts showed two distinct peaks, one in the first half of Sep (150 on 10<sup>th</sup>) and again in early Oct (100 on 3<sup>rd</sup>). The first of these probably coincides with the main departure of the British and Irish breeding population for Mediterranean and sub-Saharan wintering grounds, whilst the second peak is more likely to involve the arrival of Blackcaps that breed in central and north-west Europe and spend the winter in Britain and Ireland. The last of the year was a single bird 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
–	–	5	110	10	5	5	14	150	100	32	–
–	–	7	30	31	28	20	16	30	27	11	–

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

In spring, logged on seven dates from 19 Apr (one in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) to 29 May. Most records were of single birds but there were two on 26 Apr and 7 May. Autumn migrants (all single birds) were noted on nine dates from 6 Aug to 4 Nov (trapped and ringed in Millcombe – Chris Dee). Although this is an unusually late date there have been records during the first week of Nov in seven previous years, most recently on 4 Nov 2011. The latest ever was on 27 Nov 1994.

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

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

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

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

Single spring passage migrants were logged on 18, 26 & 27 Apr and 10 & 29 May, the first of these along the Terrace. The bird on 26 Apr was trapped and ringed. The only autumn record was of an unusually late bird photographed at Quarter Wall Pond on 4 Nov (Andy Jayne), just a day after one of the island's latest ever Common Whitethroats (see below).

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

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

The first of the spring was a female in Millcombe on 13 Apr. Thereafter there were records on most days until the fourth week of Jun, with modest peaks of 14 on both 26 Apr and 7 May but no other double-digit counts. Singing males were holding territory in Jun (four singing on 4<sup>th</sup>) and Jul and a pair bred successfully on the sidelands above White Beach, feeding nestlings there on 16 Jun, with a further recently fledged brood being fed on the sidelands just south of Kaaksburg Bay on 24 Jul (Dean Jones). Return passage was noted from 31 Aug (five) until 23 Sep (one), with a maximum of just 10 on 10 Sep. There were no Oct records, so the appearance of a very late bird in Millcombe on 3 Nov (Andy Jayne & Dean Jones) came as quite a surprise, being only the second Nov record for the island (the first as long ago as 1959!).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	14	14	4	5	5	10	–	1	–
–	–	–	14	26	20	14	7	11	–	1	–

**Dartford Warbler** *Curruca undata*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was in gorse, heather and bracken scrub about 200m south-south-west of Pondsby during the early afternoon of 10 Sep (Tim Jones *et al.* Photo below by Richard Taylor). One was seen briefly in gorse near the Rocket Pole on 20 Sep (Richard Campey). There is no way of knowing for sure if these sightings refer to one or two individuals, though it seems likely that two birds were involved. These constitute the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> records for the island.



**Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla***

[Common Firecrest]

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

In spring there were three on 14 Mar, followed by one on 24<sup>th</sup> (trapped and ringed in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) and two on 25<sup>th</sup>, then a single male in Millcombe on 5 & 6 Apr (ringed on 6<sup>th</sup>). Autumn migrants were noted from 19 Sep, with records on a further 60 dates to the end of the year, though one lingering into Dec (and on into Jan 2021) probably accounted for most, if not all, sightings after the third week of Nov. The highest counts were five on 20 & 21 Sep and four on 18 & 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
–	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	5	4	2	1
–	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	8	20	26	7

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

During the first winter period there were ones and twos on 26 dates from 2 Jan to 4 Mar, including one singing in Millcombe on 3 Jan. The first small arrival of spring migrants was five on 5 Mar, after which passage was noted on a further 41 dates, peaking at 18 on 24 Mar and concluding with one on 1 May. Autumn movements kicked off with singletons on 28 & 31 Aug, followed by 15 on 4 Sep. From then on, records were virtually daily until mid-Nov, peaking at 20 on 27 Sep, 40 on 5 Oct and 83 on 9 Oct – a very modest maximum compared with the mass arrivals that occur in some autumns. Numbers dwindled in the second half of Oct, when 16 on 22<sup>nd</sup> was the highest count, whilst Nov brought low single digits only, with frequency declining from mid-month. The last of the year were two 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
2	2	18	6	1	–	–	1	20	83	6	2
13	9	22	23	1	–	–	2	26	31	20	2

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

[Eurasian Wren]

*Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.*

The highest count of the year, during a walk of the whole island perimeter, was 33 on 16 Jun (Dean Jones). Adults were carrying food to nestlings in Millcombe on 6 Jun and good numbers had fledged by 18<sup>th</sup>. An adult was carrying food near Brambles, for a presumed second brood, on 11 Aug. There was no island-wide count during the post-breeding period of late-summer and autumn when numbers are typically at their highest.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	12	17	15	17	33	10	20	23	20	16	9

**Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

One was in Millcombe from 7 to 11 Sep (Rebecca Taylor *et al.*).

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

[Rosy Starling]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An adult, mixing with a small flock of juvenile Common Starlings, was around Millcombe early in the day on 21 Jun. It was rather flighty, providing only brief views on the wing, before it finally settled briefly in sycamores near Brambles, then disappeared towards the Village, not to be seen again (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

*Rose-coloured Starling, Millcombe, 21<sup>st</sup> June*  
(photo: Dean Jones).



### Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

*Common breeding resident; common migrant, particularly in late autumn when large influxes may occur.*  
A count of 200 on 8 Mar suggested a modest movement of passage migrants through the island, but other counts in late winter and spring were in line with the estimated size of the island's breeding population. Adults were nest-building on 12 Apr and taking food to chicks in nests around the Village on 2 May. Some 56 active nests (the same total as in 2019) were located around the Church, Village and Old Light between 8 & 12 May, with most containing noisy chicks (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen in the farmyard on 21 May and a flock of 40 young had built up in Brick Field by 29<sup>th</sup>. Two or three late nests – potentially second broods for pairs that fledged chicks early in the season as all had held large, noisy chicks in May – contained young ready to fledge at the end of Jun (Dean Jones). The first notable arrival in autumn came on 14 Oct, when numbers reached 350, followed by 500 on both 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Counts fell away during the second half of Oct but surged during early Nov, with a huge influx of 4,000 on 4<sup>th</sup>, rising to 4,750 on 5<sup>th</sup>. The last instance of numbers clearly well in excess of the 'resident' population came on 22 Nov, when 326 were logged.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
134	129	200	100	108	70	97	77	200	500	4750	170
6	14	19	5	8	7	16	8	22	15	9	10

### White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea*

*British vagrant.*

A typically wary and elusive individual was seen in Millcombe during the early morning of 7 Oct but could not be relocated after about 08:30 hrs (Dean Jones). However, it was trapped and ringed on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup>, when it was aged as a first-year bird, though its wing length was in the overlap zone between male and female (Nik Ward). Thereafter, it was seen intermittently in Millcombe over the next two weeks, mainly frequenting the wooded area on the south side of the valley, though often seeming to 'disappear' for long periods and usually being seen briefly – either in flight or perched in dense cover – though a few lucky observers had more prolonged views of it perched. It was retrapped on 17<sup>th</sup> (Rob Duncan), when it was found to be in good health, having put on significant body fat, and seen feeding in the relative open near Government House on 22<sup>nd</sup>. There has been one previous Lundy record – a first-year male, also in Millcombe, that was first seen on 15 Oct 1952 and remained on the island until 8 Nov. Record accepted by BBRC.

*White's Thrush, mist-netted in Millcombe, 9<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*





Female Ring Ouzel near Old Light, 14<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

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

In spring, logged on 11 dates from 21 Mar to 22 Apr, with a maximum of four on 18 Apr. Return passage migrants were recorded on nine dates from 3 Oct (two) to 5 Nov (one), with a maximum of six on 15 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	4	–	–	–	–	–	6	1	–
–	–	1	10	–	–	–	–	–	8	1	–

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

There were hints that a few spring migrants were passing through in early Mar when 21 were logged on 6<sup>th</sup>. One was carrying nesting material on 14 Mar. Ten breeding territories were identified (four in Millcombe, one in the Village, one in St Helen's tree nursery, one at Quarter Wall Copse, one at Quarter Wall and two along the Terrace). In addition, singing males were located at Gannets' Combe and Threequarter Wall Bay in May. All but one of the early-season pairs failed, most likely due to the very dry spring making it challenging for the adults to provision chicks with sufficient food. The exception was at Quarter Wall Copse, where two fledglings were seen on 29 May. Second-brood attempts, starting in Jun, were more successful, but most pairs only managed to rear one or two young to fledging (the first in Millcombe on 14 Jul) and these appeared to struggle to develop as quickly as usual. Some birds were still in juvenile plumage, only partially moulted, quite late into the autumn (Dean Jones). Although some autumn movement was probably already under way in Sep, the first real evidence of passage came in mid-Oct when 20 were logged on 7<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by major influxes of 90 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 80 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The majority on the latter date were new arrivals, watched dropping into the island at dawn, rather than birds simply remaining from 15<sup>th</sup>. Numbers were low during the remainder of Oct, but there were 33 on 4 Nov, followed by a further mass arrival of 128 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, numbers dropped back once more, 24 on 30 Nov being the next highest count to the end of the year.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	6	21	11	14	16	8	9	16	90	128	10

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

*Regular migrant, generally in small numbers, in early spring; much more frequent and more numerous in late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.*

Ones and twos were recorded on nine scattered dates in the first winter period and during spring passage, the last of these being one on 11 Apr. The first autumn migrants were five on 12 Oct, building rapidly to 20 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 130 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 200 on 16<sup>th</sup> (alongside significant influxes of Redwings and Blackbirds). Though passage continued to be logged regularly until 2 Dec, daily totals were on the low side, with the exception of 66 on 18 Oct and 69 on 5 Nov. The last of the year were four on 16 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	200	69	6
–	2	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	14	14	3

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

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

Following scattered singles in Jan there was clear evidence of a small spring passage through the island, with 19 records between 26 Feb (one) and 13 Apr (one), including a maximum of 16 on 2 Apr. One in Barton Field on 9 Apr showed plumage characteristics typical of the Icelandic race *T. i. coburni* (Dean Jones). In autumn, after single birds on 28 Sep and 5 Oct, logged almost daily from 7 Oct to 9 Nov, with maxima of 200 or more on six dates, the peak being 400 on 14 Oct. Sound recording during the nights of 11/12 Oct (from the Barn) and 13/14 Oct (from the Castle) detected 45 and 66 Redwing calls, respectively (James Diamond, Tim Jones). Passage continued more sporadically through Nov and into the first week or so of Dec. There were two further isolated records of three on 16 Dec and one on 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **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	8	16	–	–	–	–	1	400	234	14
5	1	8	10	–	–	–	–	1	21	21	8

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

*Regular migrant in small numbers in early spring; more numerous and more frequent in mid-to-late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Bred sporadically prior to 2010.*

Ones and twos that probably overwintered on the island were recorded in Jan & Feb. These were followed by a very light but distinct spring passage, with up to four birds logged on 28 dates in Mar & Apr, the last of these being one singing in Millcombe on 28 Apr. Although song was heard regularly during fine weather in spring there was no evidence of any breeding territory, and Song Thrushes were sadly absent from May to Aug inclusive, the first autumn migrants being singles logged on 2 & 21 Sep. Passage was noted almost daily in Oct, but numbers were modest and it was not until the first week of Nov that the highest counts were recorded, with 24 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a notable winter count of 11 on 31 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
2	2	4	4	–	–	–	–	1	18	35	11
9	8	14	14	–	–	–	–	2	26	19	4

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

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

The only spring record was of one in Barton Field on the late date of 22 May. Logged on five days in autumn: on 14 Oct (singles in Millcombe and above Pilot's Quay, two on sidelands at Jenny's Cove); one on 15 Oct; two on 22 Oct (over Millcombe), four on 4 Nov (two flying high towards the mainland first thing, then one in Barton Field, and one with Fieldfares near the Old Hospital). A last singleton graced Millcombe on 6 Nov.



Spotted Flycatcher, Millcombe, 1<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Common but declining spring and autumn passage migrant on the UK 'red' list of birds of conservation concern; irregular breeder, last confirmed in 2017.

Spring passage extended from 23 Apr (three in Millcombe) to at least 1 Jun (four), with peaks of 26 on 6 May and 12 the next day. All other counts were in single figures. A pair settled to nest in the Casbah (just south of Millcombe House) and were incubating four eggs at the end of Jun and feeding small nestlings by 6 Jul. Sadly, a spell of cool, wet and very windy weather at this time meant the adults were unable to find sufficient insect food and the chicks were found dead in the nest on 10 Jul. This was only the second confirmed breeding attempt of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, following a successful nest at Quarter Wall Copse in 2017. Return passage was evident from 6 Aug when there was an influx of 13. Numbers were generally low, the highest subsequent count being 10 on both 24 Aug and 1 Sep. Two were fly-catching from cliffs above Long Roost on 9 Aug. The last of the year, a single bird, was on the relatively early date of 23 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	26	4	2	13	10	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	19	23	7	10	16	–	–	–

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

There were possible hints of spring passage in Mar when 12 were counted on 6<sup>th</sup>, though this would actually be well within the size of the island's breeding population in 2020. Nine breeding territories were located (four in Millcombe, one in St Helen's Copse, one above White Beach, two at Quarter Wall Copse and one on the Terrace). Adults were gathering nesting material in Millcombe on 3 Apr, collecting food in the Walled Gardens on 30 Apr, and the first fledglings were seen in the same area on 19 May (Dean Jones). A second brood of fledged young was being fed at Quarter Wall Copse on 15 Jul. A protracted period of post-juvenile dispersal and autumn passage was recorded from 31 Aug, when 12 were logged. Though numbers were very much up and down, further influxes included 15 on 11 Sep, 16 on 27 Sep, 22 on 30 Sep, 25 on 9 Oct, 40 on 12 Oct and six other counts of 20 or more in the second half of Oct, before declining during Nov. There was a notable midwinter count of 11 on 31 Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	4	12	7	5	7	6	12	22	40	16	11

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

First-winter birds were found in Quarter Wall Copse on 6 Oct (Paul & Jackie Holt, Dean Jones) and 18 Oct (Dean Jones). Plumage differences apparent in photographs confirmed these to be two different individuals. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

The only spring migrants were a male in Millcombe and female in the Terrace willows on 11 Apr, followed by a male at Jenny's Cove on 17 Apr, two females on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a male and a female bathing in the stream below the Casbah on 9 May. Autumn passage was logged on 22 dates from 9 Aug (one in Millcombe) to 23 Sep (one). The highest counts were six on 31 Aug and 10 on 1 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	2	–	–	6	10	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	1	–	–	5	17	–	–	–

*Red-breasted Flycatcher, Quarter Wall Copse, 6<sup>th</sup> October and (right) female Pied Flycatcher, High Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> April (photos: Dean Jones).*



**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

*Common late-autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.*  
 The only record during the first winter period was one on the camping field gate on 10 Jan. Spring migrants were seen on five days from 3 Mar (a female at Benjamin's Chair) to 7 Apr (a female on the Terrace), with a peak of three on 27 Mar (all females, along the West Side between Old Light and Jenny's Cove). Autumn passage was logged on 12 dates, from 19 Oct (one) to 1 Dec (one). The highest count was four on 22 Nov.

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

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

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

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

In spring, ones and twos were recorded on 10 dates from 9 Apr (a male on a Barton Field fenceline) to 9 May. Autumn passage was particularly sparse, being logged on just seven dates from 7 Sep (one) to 23 Oct (one), with a peak of three on 19 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	2	–	–	–	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	9	1	–	–	–	5	2	–	–

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Perhaps the poorest year yet for this 'red-listed' species of UK conservation concern. In spring there were ones and twos on five days between 19 Apr (two in South West Field) and 8 May, whilst autumn passage brought single birds only on seven well-scattered dates from 9 Aug (one between the water tanks and Airfield) to 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
–	–	–	2	2	–	–	1	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	2	–	–	2	2	3	–	–

*Male Whinchat, Old Light track, 22<sup>nd</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

Breeds in small numbers but set back in hard winters; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.

There was a remarkable fall of spring-passage migrants on 5 Mar when at least 36 were distributed around the island, including 12 concentrated in a small area of South West Field. Obvious passage continued until the middle of Mar, after which most observations appeared to involve Lundy's small breeding population. Four pairs successfully fledged chicks from nests sited next to the Beach Road, north of St Helen's Copse, along the Terrace and at Tibbetts. Three of these pairs were feeding young on 13 May and the fourth was feeding young on 23 May. A fledged second brood was being fed along the Lower East Side Path on 15 Jul (Dean Jones). Although there was likely a turnover of dispersing young in summer, autumn movement was only really apparent from the third week of Sep (a count of 12 on 21<sup>st</sup>). The highest totals came in Oct, with 22 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	4	36	3	6	8	7	7	12	26	8	1
7	8	23	18	20	15	13	8	22	24	12	2

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first migrants of spring – two on 20 Mar followed by a single-digit trickle over the next six days – were a little later than in many recent years. The first more significant arrivals were 26 on 27 Mar, 18 on 1 Apr and 44 on 7 Apr. The peak during spring passage was 92 on 15 Apr, whereas the highest count of the year, 102 on 16 Jun, reflected the presence of family parties noted during a walk of the whole island perimeter (Dean Jones). Whilst some adults were still gathering nest material on 2 May, the first adults carrying food to nests were seen at the Quarries on 20 May, and the first fledgling (at Halfway Wall) was logged on 30<sup>th</sup>, with numerous fledged young present along the South End and West Side by 7 Jun (Dean Jones). During autumn migration an arrival of 60 on 12 Sep was by far the highest count of the season. The last record concerned a flurry of six on 21 Oct.

Birds showing plumage characteristics of 'Greenland Wheatear' *O. o. leucorhoa* were logged between 9 Apr and 10 May, with a maximum of at least eight on 23 Apr. One was also noted on 29 Sep (all records Dean Jones).

Tony Taylor has provided the following update on the long-running 'Retrapping Adults for Survival' (RAS) study of Lundy's breeding Wheatears: "*The usual three weeks of fieldwork in late May and early June were not possible because of the Covid lockdown. However, thanks to some dedicated searching by Dean Jones and other islanders, 34 different individuals colour-ringed in previous years were identified. These included 24 birds from 2019 and a further 10 from the preceding three years. Since fieldwork effort was not directly comparable with other years, the BTO was unable to calculate adult survival rates, but the records will still be very valuable in tracking the histories of the individuals involved.*"

**Request.** Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos of colour-ringed birds are particularly valuable 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
–	–	26	92	54	102	45	36	60	6	–	–
–	–	11	27	28	20	20	20	23	10	–	–

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; only one confirmed instance of emigration to the mainland and no confirmed immigration.

**Maximum count for each month (as entered in the LFS logbook)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
59	57	38	42	55	70	39	69	50	36	–	41

The first fledglings of the year were seen on 14 May.

PhD researcher Jamie Dunning has contributed the following report on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme:

Our project monitoring the House Sparrows on Lundy turned 20 in 2020 (excluding the addition of historic back-data), and it is this long-term monitoring, as well as the population's geographic isolation, which makes the Lundy Sparrow Project so valuable to ecological research. These specific factors allow us to study the genetics of the population without the frequent introduction of new genetic information from immigration/emigration, as would be the case on the mainland. This genetic pedigree, which underpins much of our research, has allowed us to continually record the pairings, infidelities and divorces, births and deaths of more than 10,000 individual sparrows. Complete genetic pedigrees are rare in wild systems because they require continued monitoring without missing a single generation. However, while the Lundy project weathered the foot-and-mouth epidemic of 2001, fieldwork in 2020 presented a particular challenge owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Lucy Winder and I arrived in mid-June to an island in lockdown, having already missed the first two waves of House Sparrow broods. Despite this, we monitored 35 broods up to August, from which 99 chicks fledged (although some of these birds were captured as post-fledglings). Given the late start, it is difficult to compare with data from previous years. In 2019 we ringed 217 chicks from 103 broods, so the number of broods in 2020 may have been slightly down.

As of autumn 2020, we began using LFS rings for the sparrows we catch, which we hope will unify our project with other bird monitoring on the island. Indeed this also means that it is easier for visiting LFS ringers to contribute to our colour-marking work, and their efforts probably helped us catch up on what we missed early on in the breeding season.

We returned in October and November to catch, colour-mark and DNA sample those birds that we missed as fledglings. Some of these individuals can be retrospectively allocated to natal broods, based on unique genetic information derived from the parents. Despite the increased effort, we caught far fewer birds (73, including 29 ringed prior to 2020) than during the previous year's winter trip (192), which may suggest a poor breeding season, or high mortality in the early autumn of 2020.

As the preceding few seasons were particularly good, it is not unexpected that the breeding population was smaller in 2020.

We now hope, without the uncertainty of spring 2020, that our 2021 field season will proceed more normally. The apparently small breeding population may mean that we missed fewer sparrows than we feared, and that those we did miss were subsequently caught, ringed and DNA-sampled in the autumn.

We would like to thank the Conservation Team on Lundy, the Landmark Trust and the LFS for their continued support, especially over the course of what was a difficult year for everyone. Here's to warm weather and more sparrows in 2021.

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

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

The highest day-total of the year was 14, logged on 2 & 6 Mar and again on 11, 12 & 30 Oct. Whilst these numbers could be accounted for by the island's breeding population alone, it is likely that some dispersing or passage birds move through the island in both spring and autumn. Twelve breeding territories were located – the highest for some years (five in Millcombe, two in St Helen's Combe, one above White Beach, one at Quarter Wall Copse, two along the Terrace and one at South Light). Several adults were feeding nestlings in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) on 24 May and the first fledglings were seen there on 30<sup>th</sup>, with some pairs embarking on second broods before the end of Jun and feeding fledglings again in Millcombe on 14 Jul (Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	8	14	12	9	12	5	8	12	14	12	4

**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. It was formerly much 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 on nine dates from 10 Apr (two males foraging around sheep in High Street Field) to 26 May (one), with a maximum of three on both 28 Apr and 6 May – and also including one, unusually, at Jenny's Cove on 22 Apr. Autumn singles were logged on seven dates from 31 Aug to 22 Sep.

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

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

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

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

The only spring-passage records were of single birds on four scattered dates between 8 & 27 Mar, followed by one in Millcombe on the unusual date of 27 May. A strong autumn passage was recorded on 46 dates from 29 Aug (one) to 30 Nov (one), with a maximum of seven on both 15 Sep and 21 Oct. During the two peak months there were 28 'bird-days' (used here to mean accumulative total of daily counts) in Sep and 51 bird-days in 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	7	7	1	–
–	–	4	–	1	–	–	1	14	26	5	–

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

[White Wagtail]

*Pied Wagtail*: nests most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant; rare in midwinter.

*White Wagtail*: occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

After three scattered records in Jan and early Feb, spring passage commenced with a trickle of birds during the second half of Feb, peaked during the first half of Mar and continued at least until early May. The highest count of confirmed Pied Wagtails was 15 on 5 Mar, whilst the highest combined count of Pies and untraced 'flyover' *albas* was 23 on 11 Mar. Three Pied Wagtail breeding territories were located (Millcombe, Village allotments and Lambing Shed). A male was collecting food for nestlings in the Village on 15 May and the first two fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 7 Jun. One pair located its second nest of the season in a compost bin at Paradise Row towards the end of Jun (Dean Jones). Autumn passage was evident from the tail-end of Aug and peaked during the first half of Sep. The highest day-total was 63 on 7 Sep, all unidentified *alba* wagtails, whilst the maximum number of confirmed Pied Wagtails was 21 on 18 Sep. The last of the year was one on 26 Nov.

**Maximum combined counts of Pied Wagtail & unidentified alba wagtail for each month, with proportion confirmed as Pied in bold (top); number of days recorded (bottom)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1(1)	5(5)	23(17)	114(10)	10(8)	10(10)	3(3)	9(5)	63(0)	15(10)	5(5)	–
2	7	27	27	30	17	20	25	30	19	7	–

Confirmed White Wagtails were recorded on 17 days during spring passage, from 20 Mar to 14 May, with a maximum of nine on 26 Apr (seven in Brick Field, two in Barton Field), and on 13 dates in autumn, from 31 Aug (one) to 7 Oct (one), with a maximum of five, in Barton Field, on 18 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	9	2	–	–	1	5	1	–	–
–	–	2	13	2	–	–	1	11	1	–	–



Male Yellow Wagtail, High Street Field, 10<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

*Breeds; very common passage migrant in spring and autumn; uncommon in winter.*

As is usual, very few were present in Jan and the first half of Feb. The first obvious pulses of spring migrants were towards the end of Feb, including 16 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 36 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Passage peaked in the first half of Mar when there were five counts of 100 or more, the maximum being 214 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Adults were gathering nesting material in South West Field on 16 Apr and continued to do so into early May, though chicks were already being fed in other nests in the same area on 8 May. The first fledglings were seen around the Quarries on 31 May, with second-brood fledglings noted from 22 Jul (Dean Jones). A steady but unspectacular autumn migration was most evident in mid-Sep when numbers exceeded 200 on four dates between 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, including the peak count of 400 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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	36	214	98	69	89	55	60	400	190	24	9
3	17	27	28	29	22	26	23	30	30	25	14

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring passage was logged on 13 dates from 10 Apr (one over Millcombe) to 21 May; all records concerned ones and twos only. In autumn there were four on 9 Aug followed by a long gap until the next on 31 Aug. The highest count was eight on 10 Sep, whilst the last of the year was a single bird on 24 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	2	-	-	4	8	-	-	-
-	-	-	7	6	-	-	2	10	-	-	-

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

*British vagrant.*

The calls of one in flight over Millcombe at about 08:00 hrs on 13 Nov were recorded using a mobile phone (Dean Jones). Record accepted by BBRC – the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the island, the most recent previous occurrence being on 26 & 27 Oct 2017.

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest count during the first winter period (and for the whole year) was 39 on 18 Jan between South End and along the West Side up to North Light. Song flight was first noted on 22 Feb in the south-east of the island (Dean Jones). The spring peak was 33 on 5 Mar, whilst the autumn maximum was 18 on 16 Oct. Adults were carrying food to nestlings along the south and east sidelands on 20 May and fledged young were noted foraging in the pig pen on 13 Jun (Dean Jones).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
39	13	33	10	21	23	4	6	17	18	15	5

**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.*

Only single-digit counts were made during the first half of the year – consistent with the island's small resident breeding population and with no evident sign of any spring passage. Two pairs bred in Millcombe, where a female was gathering nesting material on 5 Apr and delivering food to nestlings on 15 May. The first fledglings appeared in Millcombe on 29 May. A third nest was located in Quarter Wall Copse (Dean Jones). Small post-breeding aggregations, likely involving some dispersal from the mainland, built up from the end of Aug and through Sep. Numbers reached the low 20s early in Oct, followed by a sudden mass arrival of 500 on 14<sup>th</sup>, but there were only four other three-figure counts during the rest of the month, all of 300 birds or fewer. A second wave saw numbers peak at 950 on 4 Nov and 400 the next day – the final three-figure count of the season – though small flocks continued to pass through until the end of the first week in Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	8	4	9	7	4	14	16	500	950	11

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no records for the first winter period or during spring passage. The first autumn migrant was logged on the relatively early date of 23 Sep, followed by records on a further 13 days from 15 Oct (4) to 22 Nov (1), with a maximum of six on 4 Nov.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A single female on 16 Apr was “resting on the allotment wall after a run-in with the Pied Wagtail pair. The bird was seen again later in the afternoon foraging in Millcombe Wood” (Dean Jones *et al.*). It reappeared on Sue Waterfield's feeders on 18 Apr. Two flew over Millcombe and then south over the Castle towards the mainland on the morning of 15 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

*Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant.*

In spring a female was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Mar and a pair were foraging in Millcombe on the highly unusual date of 31 May (Dean Jones). In autumn a male and female were in Millcombe on 27 Oct, the female being seen on four further dates up to and including 5 Nov (Dean Jones *et al.*). A male ringed on Lundy in Apr 2015 was found dead in mainland North Devon on 1 Dec (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A brown, second-calendar-year male was singing for about 20 minutes in Millcombe during the early morning of 1 Jun (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

Single birds on 13 Mar (a male in Millcombe) and 3 Apr (a female calling loudly from the Laundry garden privet) were the only records during spring passage. In autumn, migrants were logged on 14 dates from 3 Oct (4) to 4 Nov (1), with a maximum of six on 16 Oct.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

There were no records of overwintering birds. Spring passage started with one calling over Tillage Field on 7 Mar. There were further ones and twos after mid-month, but it was not until 23 Mar that more significant movements began, with double-digit counts logged on most days to the end of the month. Passage peaked in mid-Apr at 143 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Nest-building was first noted on 12 Apr but several pairs



*Female Crossbills, Millcombe, 19<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

were still gathering nesting material on 7 May. The first fledglings were logged on 2 Jun in South West Field (Dean Jones). Post-breeding flocks began to build up in late summer, with maxima of 96 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jul, 204 on 9 Aug and 250 on 11 Sep. Thereafter, autumn passage produced eight further three-figure counts to mid-Oct, the last of these being 123 on 16<sup>th</sup>, dropping away sharply to a trickle of single-digit counts from the end of Oct, through Nov and early Dec, to the last of the year, a single bird on 11 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
–	–	20	143	58	76	96	204	250	130	6	2
–	–	13	30	30	25	27	27	27	22	7	3

**Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret***

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers; rare in winter.*

Unusually there was just one record of a single bird in spring, on 7 Apr. Autumn passage was logged on 28 dates from 10 Sep (one) to 8 Nov (one), with maxima of five on 21 & 23 Sep, six on 27 Sep and four on 5 Nov. There were no records for either 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
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	6	3	4	–
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	8	15	5	–

**Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

[Red Crossbill]

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

One flew over Millcombe on 3 Jun, followed by two females, also in Millcombe on 19-21 Jun (Dean Jones). One was calling in flight over the Terrace on 21 Sep (Sam Bosanquet). In Oct nine flew south over Millcombe on 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by up to seven around the valley on 15<sup>th</sup> – including four perched in the Battlements sycamores (Dean Jones *et al.*), and finally a female in Millcombe on 22<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Jones).

**Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

[European Goldfinch]

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

Between one and three presumed overwintering birds were logged on scattered dates during Jan and Feb. Records were more frequent in late Feb and the first half of Mar, suggesting a trickle of spring passage, but it was not until the second half of Mar that a count of 19 on 17<sup>th</sup> confirmed movements were properly under way. Passage was steady but unspectacular, with no large numbers recorded. At least six breeding territories were located, including four in Millcombe and single pairs at Quarter Wall Copse and the Terrace (Dean Jones). A pair was gathering nesting material in Millcombe on 7 May, with the first fledglings seen there on 31<sup>st</sup>, and many fledged young noted on 7 Jun. Adults were again collecting nest-lining material in Millcombe, in preparation for a second brood, on 1 Jul. Numbers were consistent with the breeding population until autumn passage got going from mid-Sep. The highest counts were logged in Oct when there were four days with more than 100, the maximum being 183 on 15<sup>th</sup>. Only low single-digit counts were logged after the first week in Nov, with the exception of 11 on 1 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	19	24	38	21	20	28	74	183	18	11
8	8	26	30	31	27	30	27	28	28	26	11

**Siskin *Spinus spinus***

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

There were only two records during the first eight months of the year: a single bird in Millcombe on 22 Apr and a male (on feeders at Paradise Row) on the unusual dates of 5 & 6 Jun. In autumn there was a markedly early and strong start to passage from 4 Sep, including 40 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 120 on 9<sup>th</sup>. Smaller movements were logged on most days during the remainder of Sep and throughout Oct (maximum 46 on 30<sup>th</sup>), then more sporadically in Nov, with the last a single bird on 1 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	120	46	10	1
–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	22	31	14	1

**Lapland Bunting *Calciarius lapponicus***

[Lapland Longspur]

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

One was in Brick Field on the exceptional date of 13 Feb (Dean Jones) – the only previous Feb record was in 1954! Autumn migrants were logged by multiple observers on 12 dates from 12 Sep (two in South West Field and one over the Terrace) to 5 Nov (one), with the majority between mid-Sep and mid-Oct. There was one further day-total of three, over Threewall on 8 Oct; all other records were of ones and twos only. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

There was a very unusual midwinter record of two, in flight over the Terrace, on 24 Jan (Dean Jones). Autumn passage was distinctly sparse, with records of single birds on just 12 dates from 17 Sep to 6 Dec at locations scattered across the island from Rocket Pole to North End (multiple observers). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla****Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 19 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica****British vagrant.*

A female was in Millcombe for a short period during the morning of 10 May (Dean Jones). Writing for the Lundy Birds blog at the time, Dean reported that: "It was a rather quiet start in Millcombe first thing, with very few migrants moving up the Valley and into the mist-nets. As the forecast predicted, the wind picked

up and the nets had to be furled. It was then – as I was tying up the last of the nets in the Secret Garden – that I heard a bird ‘zitting’ high up on the Sycamore in the heart of the garden. Luckily, I could just about see its head through the canopy and, as I raised my binoculars, I was immediately met with a beautiful chestnut-and-white face pattern – the markings of a female Rustic Bunting! The bird then flew around the Valley for a few minutes or so, perching briefly again in the trees next to Millcombe House before flying towards St John’s Valley and out of sight.” Record accepted by BBRC – the seventh for the island.

### Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

Regular autumn migrant in very small numbers; rare and irregular spring migrant; very rare in winter. There were four scattered records of single birds during the winter and early spring months, from 19 Jan (calling from gorse near the Old Hospital) to 23 Apr (a female in Millcombe). Thereafter, not recorded until autumn passage brought records on 12 dates from 20 Sep (one over Jenny’s Cove) to 8 Nov (one). There were three on 5 Nov (two at Quarter Wall and one at Rocket Pole); all other days involved ones and twos. The last of the year were two on the unusual date of 22 Dec.

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

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

### References

Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007. *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon EX34 9TB. [www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.uk)

Jones, D.W. 2020. *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2020*. Lundy, Bristol Channel, Devon EX39 2LY.

## BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the main list, above. Other reports of interest for the ‘open sea’ part of the crossing are given below, but we do not cover the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary. Records for these areas should be submitted to Devon Birds ([www.devonbirds.org](http://www.devonbirds.org)), preferably via BirdTrack.

### Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One on the crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 6 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). One on 23 Jul (Josh Harris *et al.*). One on the crossing to Bideford on 8 Aug (Josh Harris).

### Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Two on the crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 6 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## ESCAPE

### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

An escaped, notably rufous bird, wearing jesses, was perched on the allotment wall outside Paradise Row during the evening of 16 Apr. The following day it was seen at Jenny’s Cove in the afternoon “battling through the strong winds and hordes of upset gulls” (Dean Jones) and later flying over the Village (Sue Waterfield). Record accepted (as relating to an escaped bird) by Devon Bird Recorder.

*Escaped Black Kite, Paradise Row, 16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



## BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY

Tony Taylor ([ammataylor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ammataylor@yahoo.co.uk))

In a major step forward for Lundy bird ringing, Warden Dean Jones attended the annual Bird Observatories Council meeting in Thetford on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 at which he presented the case for Lundy to rejoin the Bird Observatories network. This went very well, but the process will require three probationary years before full recognition is given. Lundy's case will be backed up by two actions currently in progress or being planned.

First, the digitisation of historic ringing data has continued, with over 100,000 Lundy records now in the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) database and available for analysis. As well as the original ringing data, all subsequent recaptures are included. Recaptures are particularly valuable because they allow demographic statistics, such as annual survival, to be calculated. The second development is the planned rebuilding of the Terrace Heligoland trap. This will require permission from Historic England, which the Covid pandemic has delayed.

Another change initiated in 2020 has been the move by Imperial College London and Sheffield University, which carry out the long-term study of House Sparrows on Lundy, from using their own rings to using LFS ones. This will make it easier for LFS ringers to help with the study when researchers are not on the island. It will also make the long-term future of the study more secure, as the research students are not always sufficiently qualified as ringers to order new ring stocks from the BTO (see Jamie Dunning's note on the House Sparrow study in *Birds on Lundy*, p. 81).

Inevitably, the pandemic had a direct impact on bird ringing, with no visiting ringers able to operate on the island until August. This meant that work on the long-term study of Wheatears for the BTO's RAS (Retrapping Adults for Survival) project could not be carried out. However, Dean Jones recorded sightings of 34 Wheatears that had been colour-ringed on Lundy in previous years, filling in what would otherwise be gaps in those birds' life histories. Dean was also able to ring some spring migrants, record the Manx Shearwaters making use of nestboxes through their breeding season, and to mist-net Storm Petrels near North Light in July. We are most grateful to him for all his efforts at a time when he had so many other tasks to tackle.

With Covid restrictions easing in August, the first visiting ringers arrived in time to mist-net Storm Petrels in two more night-time sessions that month, and good numbers of Manx Shearwater chicks were ringed during two weeks in late August and early September. In these same two weeks some autumn migrants were also ringed, though the ringers' need for sleep, after nights spent in the shearwater colonies, limited the numbers caught. Autumn migrants then became the primary targets during a further six weeks of ringing to early November.

In total, 1,975 birds were ringed in 2020. While this was lower than in most other recent years, good autumn coverage resulted in a productive year considering the difficult circumstances. The birds caught were made up of 47 species, which is close to the average for the previous ten years. For the fourth year in a row Blackcap topped the species list, with 511 ringed, followed by Manx Shearwater (319), and Goldcrest, Swallow, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler also reaching three figures. It was another record year for Storm Petrels, with 79 ringed.

Rarities included the first White's Thrush to be ringed on Lundy, the eighth Little Bunting and the thirty-third Melodious Warbler. Though not unusual nationally, a Cetti's Warbler was only the fifth ringed on the island and a Bullfinch was the thirtieth. The Woodcock total of three was a record, with just 15 ringed in the previous 73 years. A full list of ringing totals is given below.

## Recoveries and controls

An interesting selection of ringing recoveries and controls included four warblers ringed and recaptured in successive migration seasons as they moved between Lundy and other locations in South West England, North Wales, Ireland and Western France.

There was also very delayed news of another migrant, a Goldcrest that moved from Devon to Lundy in September 1988. This record came to light during the process of digitising historic ringing data. While the bird's northward movement in autumn may seem odd, it could have been using Lundy as a stepping stone on what was essentially an east-west journey towards the milder winter conditions of Ireland.

Taking the same step but in the opposite direction was a Bullfinch ringed as a one-year-old on Lundy in spring 2015. It was found dead in North Devon in June 2020. Given its age when originally ringed, it would have been exploring in search of a breeding territory and mate at that time. Unlike most passerines, Bullfinch pairs are remarkably faithful and stay together throughout the year, so it probably settled permanently in North Devon soon after ringing.

The Guillemot from Skomer that was seen on Lundy in 2019 returned in 2020. It bred on the same ledge where it had been prospecting the previous year. As noted in the 2019 ringing report, it is unusual for Guillemots to breed away from their natal colony.

Several records of Manx Shearwater and Storm Petrel movements are discussed below, and full details of all 2020 recoveries and controls also follow.

## Manx Shearwaters

The steady uptake of shearwater nestboxes continued in 2020. Eggs were laid in seven of them and five were successful, with the five chicks ringed before fledging. Of the 14 breeding adults involved, 11 were encountered when boxes were being checked. One pair was ringed in 2017 and has used the same box each year since then. Five more birds were ringed in 2018–20 while incubating in boxes, and a further four were ringed when they were perhaps young, prospecting pre-breeders which have since started breeding in boxes. In all cases where birds first bred before 2020, the pairs have stayed together and in the same box. All these records are contributing valuable data for calculating breeding success rates and other variables relevant to shearwater breeding biology and conservation.

*Manx Shearwater and egg laid in a nestbox, 14<sup>th</sup> May (photos: Dean Jones).*



In all, 319 shearwaters were ringed in 2020, of which 245 were chicks, 67 were adults and seven were fledglings making their first flights. Most of these fledglings were found in the Village after becoming disorientated. Their instinct is to use residual light close to the horizon to guide them away from land as they fledge, but on exceptionally dark nights they can be confused by artificial light sources.

Recaptured shearwaters included 22 ringed on Lundy in previous years. The oldest of these were from 2008, 2010 and 2011. Three others originally ringed as chicks, two in 2013 and one in 2016, provide particularly valuable data because their ages and origins are known precisely. Also of interest was a bird ringed as a chick below Sunset Buttress, north of the Old Light, in September 2020. It turned up on the Warden's doorstep three nights later, when it was trying to fledge in dark, windy conditions and was presumably attracted to lights in the village.

Two shearwaters, both ringed on the same night in 2013, were found in other colonies in 2020. One was encountered twice on Bardsey Island, North Wales. The other was found dead on Skokholm, after previously being recaptured there in 2018. In both cases they were probably wandering pre-breeders when ringed on Lundy which subsequently settled down to breed on the other islands.

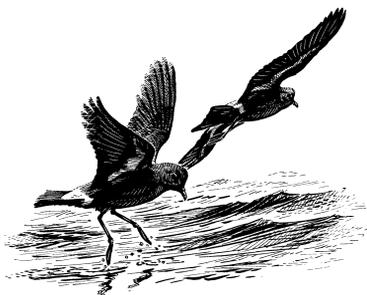
Three further shearwaters have sadly died before reaching breeding age. One was ringed as a chick in 2016 and found dead after returning to Lundy in 2020. As a pre-breeding bird it would have been more vulnerable to predation than breeders, because it would have spent more time exposed on the colony surface than more experienced individuals, which disappear quickly down their familiar burrow when they arrive at night.

The other two recoveries concerned birds ringed on Lundy as chicks and found on the same beach in southern Brazil in October 2020. They had probably died as a result of severe storms offshore. One was a little over one year old, while the other had only taken about a month to migrate nearly 10,000 km since fledging.

## Storm Petrels

As in the previous three years, Storm Petrels were targeted by using mist-nets at night near North Light. Birds were initially captured without the use of sound lures in order to select those that were in the area as part of their routine activities, and therefore perhaps breeding locally. Sound lures were sometimes also played to draw in birds from further away and increase the number caught, though these would include a higher proportion of wandering pre-breeders.

A record total of 79 birds were ringed during three nights in July and August, with 29 previously ringed individuals also caught, four of them arriving from elsewhere. These came from north-west Wales after eight years, the west of Ireland after six years, and two from Skokholm, one after one year and the other after 29 days. Further details of these controls are given below.



Nationally there is plenty of evidence that Storm Petrels visit colonies other than their own, particularly as pre-breeders but also sometimes after they have started breeding. However, on Lundy in 2020, 16 of the 25 locally ringed recaptured birds had been caught several times at the same site over the previous three years, and so were very likely to be breeding there. There was further support for this in several cases where birds were clearly carrying very full crops of food, almost certainly being brought in to feed to their chicks.

## LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2020

Manx Shearwater	(245)	319	Redwing	52
Storm Petrel		79	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Water Rail		1	Robin	23
Woodcock		3	Pied Flycatcher	2
Snipe		1	Redstart	2
Kestrel		1	Stonechat	1
Goldcrest		122	Dunnock	17
Firecrest		7	House Sparrow	38
Coal Tit		1	Grey Wagtail	2
Swallow		196	Pied Wagtail	1
House Martin		9	Meadow Pipit	2
Cetti's Warbler		1	Chaffinch	51
Yellow-browed Warbler		9	Bullfinch	1
Chiffchaff		114	Greenfinch	2
Willow Warbler		147	Linnet	2
Blackcap		511	Lesser Redpoll	5
Garden Warbler		5	Goldfinch	47
Lesser Whitethroat		1	Siskin	26
Whitethroat		19	Little Bunting	1
Grasshopper Warbler		1		
Melodious Warbler		1	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,975</b>
Sedge Warbler		27		
Reed Warbler		4	<b>Number of species</b>	<b>47</b>
Wren		18		
Starling		48	Numbers in brackets indicate pulli	
White's Thrush*		1	(included in the main totals)	
Blackbird		42	*Species added to the Lundy ringing list	
Song Thrush		10	in 2020	

Clockwise from top left: Reed Warbler, Little Bunting, Sedge Warbler, Firecrest, Yellow-browed Warbler and a possible 'abietinus' Chiffchaff (photos: Dean Jones and Zoë Barton).



## RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

**Storm Petrel** 2602962 – ringed as an adult at Porth Iago, Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd, North Wales, 28.7.12. Controlled on Lundy, 17.7.20 (2,911 days; 184 km; **direction S, bearing 179°**).

**Storm Petrel** 2702714 – ringed as an adult at Annagh Head, Mayo, IRELAND, 16.8.14. Controlled on Lundy, 27.8.20 (2,203 days; 498 km; SE, 133°).

**Storm Petrel** 2746154 – ringed as an adult on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, South Wales, 17.7.19. Controlled on Lundy, 26.8.20 (406 days; 70 km; SE, 144°).

**Storm Petrel** 2746790 – ringed as an adult on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, South Wales, 13.7.20. Controlled on Lundy, 11.8.20 and 27.8.20 (29 and 45 days; 70 km; SE, 144°).

**Manx Shearwater** EX74442 – Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 6.6.13. Controlled on Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, North Wales, 19.6.20 and 14.8.20 (2,570 and 2,626 days; 178 km; N, 358°).

**Manx Shearwater** EX74428 – Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 6.6.13. Controlled on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 19.6.18 and found dead there (killed by predatory bird) on 28.5.20 (2,548 days; 73 km; NW, 325°).

**Manx Shearwater** EZ06366 – Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 7.9.16. Found dead (killed by predatory bird) on Lundy, 25.7.20 (1,417 days; 3 km; NNW, 328°).

**Manx Shearwater** EA41405 – Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 26.8.19. Found dead (not fresh) at Praia de Ipanema, Pontal do Parana, BRAZIL, 17.10.20 (418 days; 9,567 km; SSW, 207°).

**Manx Shearwater** EA41446 – Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 24.8.20. Found dead (not fresh) at Praia de Ipanema, Pontal do Parana, BRAZIL, 9.10.20 (46 days; 9,567 km; SSW, 207°).

**Guillemot** N05511, with red colour-ring, engraved 0114 – ringed as a chick on Skomer, Pembrokeshire, 8.7.13. Re-sighted on Lundy, 13.6.20 (2,777 days; 76 km; SE, 145°).

**Chiffchaff** LEH396 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 17.9.19. Controlled on Bardsey Island, Gwynedd, North Wales, 27.3.20 (192 days; 178 km; N, 358°).

**Sedge Warbler** Z246781 – ringed as an adult female at Blackditch, Wicklow, IRELAND, 17.7.16. Controlled on Lundy, 8.5.20 (1,391 days; 232 km; SSE, 156°).

**Sedge Warbler** ABH2037 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 26.4.20. Controlled at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE, 3.8.20 (99 days; 468 km; SSE, 157°).

**Reed Warbler** AVH4186 – ringed as an adult male at Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall, 8.7.19. Controlled on Lundy, 19.4.20 (286 days; 144 km; NNE, 31°).

**Starling** LK69656 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 5.7.20. Found dead (not fresh, inside building) on Lundy 1.12.20 (149 days, 0 km).

**Bullfinch** Z391313 – ringed as a second-year male on Lundy, 8.4.15. Found freshly dead (road casualty) at Redmonsford, North Devon, 2.6.20 (1,882 days; 36 km; SSE, 151°).

### **LUNDY RINGING CONTROL 1988**

*Ringing details received in 2020:*

**Goldcrest** 9N9264 – ringed as an adult male at Hartland Point, Devon, 4.9.1988. Controlled on Lundy, 21.9.1988 (17 days; 20 km; NNW, 328°).

# FAUNA AND FLORA RECORDS (for groups other than birds)

The following reports have been compiled by the recorders for each group of taxa. The records summarised have been taken mainly from the LFS Logbook and Recording Sheets and are reproduced here in good faith. No attempt has been made to verify all of the records but unusual or particularly interesting entries will have been checked with the originators. For marine species other than cetaceans and seals, there was much less reporting in 2020 than previous years and so comparisons should be made with care. Thanks to Dean Jones for compiling records into spreadsheets.

## WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES

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*Keith Hiscock & Dean Jones*

The most frequently seen cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin. Both species were seen through the year. Favoured locations were the tide races off the south and north coasts and, for dolphins, off the east coast. As with 2017, 2018 and 2019 the number of days with sightings from the island of Harbour Porpoise exceeded those of Common Dolphin (respectively 33 porpoises in 2017, 25 in 2018, 26 in 2019 and 40 in 2020; and 14 dolphins in 2017, 19 in 2018, 14 in 2019 and 25 in 2020).

### **Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

14 May – one offshore from the Old Light heading north at 15:00 hrs (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

20 May – one on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy (Andrew Bengey).

30 Jul – two travelling in tandem and seen from the Oldenburg just after Bull Point on the crossing to Lundy (Derek Green).

12 Aug – one travelling south to north just beyond Bull Point on the crossing from Ilfracombe (Richard Ware & Lee Langford).

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

The first recorded observation in 2020 was on 10 Jan when 10 were seen feeding off the Landing Bay (Dean Jones). Significant numbers (put arbitrarily at 20 or more seen in a day) were:

8 May – c.60 about 200m off the east coast at 10:30 hrs, including at least five small calves; the pod foraged for about 20 minutes before heading north (Dean Jones).

15 May – c.30 in three feeding pods offshore from St Mark's in the afternoon; at least four calves were present (Dean Jones).

16 May – 24 off the South West Point. Watched for one hour before they headed north along the west coast. (Dean Jones, Rosie Ellis & Rob Waterfield)

11 Jul – c.100 playing around the bow of the *Oldenburg* about 1 hour out of Bideford (Emily Trapnell & Mike Jones).

12 Jul – c.100 in multiple loose pods between Pilot's Quay and Battery along the west coast during the afternoon. Possibly the same animals seen during crossing the previous day. (Sue & Alice Waterfield).

21 Jul – c.50 off Rat Island; 30 offshore from the Quarries; c.20 offshore from Jenny's Cove; and c.20 off the East Side (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

22 Jul – several pods totalling up to 50 seen from the East Side path (Julia & Mark Webber).

22 Jul – 30 in two pods of 25 and five respectively (Sam Bosanquet).

24 Jul – 20 offshore from Quarry Beach (Rosie Ellis).

*Minke Whale off the West Side, 14<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*



4 Aug – c.50 including one small calf were foraging off Rat Island before moving west (Jamie Dunning & Dean Jones).

6 Aug – 42 in four pods (20, 2, 10 & 10) between Lundy and Bideford (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Thanks also to Chris & Sharron Blackmore, Richard Campey and C. Godfrey for their observations.

#### **Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

17 Oct – one offshore of the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

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

Days on which there were sightings were spread through the year and were mostly of single individuals or two or three at a location. On 1 & 15 Apr five were seen on each day respectively off the South West Point and North End (Dean Jones). Chris & Sharron Blackmore made timed observations from Castle Parade and additional observations off the west coast from 6 to 16 Jul, recording as many as five or six together early in the morning from Castle Parade.

*Thanks also to Chris Baillie, Zoë Barton, Richard Campey, Rosie Ellis, Tim Davis, Jamie Dunning, Tim Jones, Tony Taylor and Sophia Upton for their observations.*

## **SEALS**

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*Dean Jones*

#### **Grey Seal** *Halichoerus grypus*

The Atlantic Grey seal population has been monitored annually on Lundy since 2011 and to a varying degree beforehand. The highest count of seals in the 2020 survey, carried out by the Lundy Conservation Team on 24 Aug, was 218 (121 females, 17 males, 47 juveniles, one white-coat pup and 32 animals of undetermined sex) – the third highest number recorded around Lundy's shores (the highest count to date being 239 animals in August 2011). This compares with 206 in 2019 and 223 in 2018, and 42 more animals than the mean highest counts since 2006.

Similar to the surveys of 2017 to 2019, the majority of seals around the island were females, with some showing obvious signs of pregnancy in some of the popular haul-out areas, especially at the start of the land-based surveys. After the initial counts at the start of the season, the number of female seals dropped slightly, possibly due to some of the pregnant females moving into the island's inaccessible coastal caves to pup, or to other areas in South West England after conditioning themselves in Lundy

*Seals hauled out at Mousehole & Trap, 4<sup>th</sup> August and (right) a seal pup in Devil's Kitchen, 21<sup>st</sup> August (photos: Dean Jones).*



waters. As in previous years, an increase in males around the island was evident by mid-September compared to the start of August, likely to be turning up to patrol beaches for females in order to conceive next year's pups.

Notable haul-outs recorded outside of the main surveys included 30 seals in Gannets' Bay on 23 Feb (Martin Thorne), 38 in Threequarter Wall Bay on 9 Mar (Dean Jones), 104 between Gannets' Bay and North East Point on 9 Jun and 113 between Gannets' Bay and Halfway Wall Bay on 6 Jul (Michael Williams). All counts taken from the LFS logbook.

## MARINE FISHES

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*Keith Hiscock*

This report includes unusual or charismatic fish species, whilst those that are 'always present' are not generally recorded in the logbook or here. There were very few fish records in 2020, greatly reflecting the lack of activity by observers during Covid-19 restrictions. In particular, it is worth noting that there were no recorded sightings of Basking Sharks (reflecting continued low numbers throughout South West England) and no recorded sightings of Sunfish (although numbers in South West England were slightly higher in 2020 than in 2019).

There were significant observations of Blue-fin Tuna, which have shown a remarkable return to south-west waters in the past few years, and a sighting of a Thresher Shark. Brief views offshore of the Landing Bay of a medium-sized shark species on 24 Jan could have been a Porbeagle *Lamna nasus* or Tope *Galeorhinus galeus*. It had a pointed dorsal fin and caudal (tail) fin that breached the surface. It was seen giving chase, moving in a serpent-like fashion, to a shoal of fish for about 10 seconds before disappearing (Dean Jones).

There were egg cases, washed-up in the Landing Bay, of Thornback Ray *Raja clavata* on 31 Dec, Cuckoo Ray *Leucoraja naevus* on 31 Dec and 8 Apr, and Small-spotted Catshark *Scyliorhinus canicula* on 31 Dec (Rosie Ellis, Dean Jones & Matt Stritch).

### **Blue-fin Tuna** *Thunnus thynnus*

28 Sep – one very large fish breaching off Rat Island (Dean Jones).

11 Oct – a large fish 200-300m off the Terrace (Dean Jones).

### **Thresher Shark** *Alopias vulpinus*

21 Jul – one breaching three times offshore of Jenny's Cove (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## MARINE INVERTEBRATES

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*Keith Hiscock, Dean Jones & Rosie Ellis*

Records of marine invertebrates have been separated into **Gelatinous plankton**, **Ocean surface drifters and strandings** and **Shore and seabed**.

### GELATINOUS PLANKTON

Planktonic invertebrate species that are gelatinous are described colloquially as 'jellyfish'. They include species from the Classes Hydrozoa and Scyphozoa in the Phylum Cnidaria and from the Phylum Ctenophora. Gelatinous plankton may be abundant at Lundy and some sting. The larger jellyfish are seen frequently, but Dean Jones recognises and records many of the smaller species, especially at times of snorkel safaris (so that their reporting does not necessarily identify the time of year or specific dates they are most abundant). However, many records are from late May and early June.

*CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA*

### **Many-ribbed Jellyfish** *Aequorea* sp.

21 Jun – six washed-up in the Landing Bay/Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones).

### **A hydrozoan** *Neoturris* sp.

9 May – one in Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones).

## CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

### **Barrel Jellyfish** *Rhizostoma octopus*

Recorded on 10 days off the east coast through the year, especially in Apr. Maximum of three in any one sighting (Dean Jones).

### **Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarckii*

26 June – small numbers off the east coast (Dean Jones).

15 Jul – 10 washed-up (Dean Jones).

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

9 May – three in Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones).

24 Jun – small numbers off the east coast (Dean Jones).

15 Jul – c.100 washed up (Dean Jones and Rosie Ellis).

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

24 Jun – small numbers off the east coast (Dean Jones).

15 Jul – about 30 washed up at Hell's Gates (Dean Jones).

## CTENOPHORA

### **Melon Comb Jelly** *Beroë cucumis*

12 Jul – about 100 near the jetty (Dean Jones).

### **Northern Comb Jelly** *Bolinopsis infundibulum*

3 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 June – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

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

9 May – three in Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones).

12 Jul – about 50 near the jetty (Dean Jones).

## OCEAN SURFACE DRIFTERS AND STRANDINGS

### CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

### **By-the-wind Sailors** *Verella verella*

30 Aug – 30 washed up at the jetty (Dean Jones).

### **Portugese Man O' War** *Physalia physalis*

24 Jan – one washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

3 Oct – one washed up at Hell's Gates (Dean Jones & Rosie Ellis).

8 Nov – six washed up at Hell's Gates (Dean Jones).

27 Nov – one washed up at Hell's Gates (Dean Jones).

[In 2020 this species was frequently stranded and for a much longer period than in previous years throughout South West England.]

## CRUSTACEA

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

14 Sep – about 50 on an old fishing crate with other goose barnacles (Dean Jones).

### **A goose barnacle** *Lepas hillii*

14 Sep – c15 on an old fishing crate with other goose barnacles (Dean Jones).

### **A goose barnacle** *Lepas pectinate*

14 Sep – two on an old fishing crate with other goose barnacles (Dean Jones).

### **Buoy Barnacle** *Dosima fascicularis*

30 Aug – 30 small colonies washed up with between 2-6 animals per colony (Dean Jones).

14 Sep – one on an old fishing crate with other Lepadidae (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – seven washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

## SEASHORE AND SEABED

Sightings reported here from seashores and the shallow subtidal are of unusual species or that indicate breeding times or variations in abundance. The 2018 Annual Report provides an account of species that are (and were in 2020) normally encountered during 'rockpool rambles' and 'snorkel safaris', and those that had been reported from subtidal habitats. Here we feature only those records that are of unusual species, unusual abundances or of breeding and behaviour, and not of commonly occurring species.

There were two species where occurrence or behaviour were particularly notable. The first record for Lundy (by Rosie Ellis) of the Celtic Sea Slug *Onchidella celtica* represents a significant range extension and presence in a habitat (intertidal algae on a moderately exposed rocky shore) where not usually recorded. The nearest known population is at Croyde Bay on the North Devon mainland where this pulmonate mollusc occurs in a typical habitat amongst barnacles on rock outcrops on a sandy 'surf' beach. The observation, in the Landing Bay, of a moulting aggregation of Spiny Spider Crabs *Maja brachydactyla* in early July by Dean Jones, and further studied in late August by Keith Hiscock, is remarkable. Such aggregations are known to occur in late summer in the South West and seem to be becoming more common. See p.99.

The record of a Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas* at the end of the jetty is of a species that, on the mainland, appears to recruit from nearby established populations. Since larval lifespan is believed to be about 14-18 days, its presence at Lundy was a surprise. The species is non-native and can take over intertidal areas in enclosed locations.

### ALGAE

During a visit at the end of August, rockpools at Devil's Kitchen were briefly investigated with a particular interest in the abundance of non-native species. Wireweed *Sargassum muticum* was of much lower abundance than in some previous years, and no *Asparagopsis armata* (the gametophyte – Harpoon Weed – stage) were found, having been common in some previous years. Six Wireweed plants were counted in rockpools at Devil's Kitchen by Dean Jones and Rosie Ellis on 8 Apr.

### CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA

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

20 Apr – counts at the two monitoring sites on the lowest shore at Devil's Kitchen recorded 57 at the eastern site and 101 at the western site; this compares to 32 and 72 in 2018, and 48 and 110 in 2020 (Dean Jones). At the lower midshore pool at Devil's Kitchen, where slate had fallen away in the 2013/14 storms, some 15 were counted, and there were a further 15 in photographs taken under overhanging rock that obscured counts by eye; cf. 20 in 2018, 19 in 2019 (Keith Hiscock). The populations on the lower shore below the foot of the jetty (where there is continuous shade) were healthy on 21 Aug.



Rosie Ellis with her discovery of Lundy's first record of Celtic Sea Slug, 21<sup>st</sup> August (photos: Dean Jones).

**Devonshire Cup Coral** *Caryophyllia smithii*

20 Apr – Six (7 in 2019) at the eastern and three (1 in 2019) at the western monitoring sites (see above) (Dean Jones).

**CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA**

**Spiny Spider Crab** *Maja brachydactyla*

12 Jul – 1,000+ under the jetty (Dean Jones).

18 & 21 Aug – aggregations in the same area as on 12 Jul but many also present crouched in edges of intertidal gullies on 21 Aug, including 'soft' (recently moulted) individuals (Keith Hiscock).

**MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA: ONCHIDIIDAE**

21 Aug – two amongst *Lomentaria articulata* on the lower midshore at Devil's Kitchen (Rosie Ellis).

16 Nov – six at Devil's Kitchen (Rosie Ellis).

**MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA: OSTREIDAE**

**Pacific Oyster** *Magallana gigas*

12 Jul – one at the end of the jetty (Dean Jones). [Subsequent searches in 2021 confirmed the presence of Pacific Oysters – see the image (below) from Rat Island of an individual that most likely settled there in 2019.]

*A Pacific Oyster Magallana gigas attached to rock at Rat Island and recorded at Lundy for the first time in 2020. Pacific Oysters in Britain were first introduced to oyster farms where they have bred and produced larvae that have further established breeding populations away from the farms.*



## SPINY SPIDER CRAB AGGREGATIONS AT LUNDY

Keith Hiscock (*khis@mba.ac.uk*)

Spiny Spider Crabs *Maja brachydactyla* are a common species in inshore areas around the southern part of Britain. They are large crabs with a carapace (shell) width of up to 20cm and arms of up to 50cm in length. The crabs have a hard protective shell and, to grow, need to moult their existing shell and expose a soft shell that hardens at its new, bigger, size. Large numbers (hundreds) of individuals aggregate to moult: a phenomenon that is known from many locations and an annual event in mid to late summer. However, such aggregations have not been reported or observed by the author and collaborators in more than 50 years of undertaking marine biological studies at Lundy. So, to see the strandline inshore of the jetty littered with cast shells on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020 was a surprise to me and one that warranted further investigation.

I took photographs from the jetty and along the strandline, then donned my snorkelling gear to look underwater; planning to return the next day to make a more thorough investigation. 'Storm Ellen' swept-in as 19<sup>th</sup> August dawned and further observations were restricted to searching at low water on the subsequent four days.

A key question for me was 'had such aggregations been seen at Lundy before?'. Enquiries were made of Ilfracombe and Appledore Sub-Aqua Club members, as those clubs visit Lundy regularly. High densities (but not aggregations) had been seen by Ilfracombe SAC (Margaret Ashton, pers. comm.) off the south-west coast in 2015 and a dense aggregation recorded on video during an Appledore SAC dive north of Gannets' Rock on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (Mark Lavington, pers. comm.). The first record in 2020 was by Dean Jones (Warden) on 12<sup>th</sup> July when over a thousand were recorded huddled together around Rat Island, the jetty and the Landing Bay beach. The aggregation persisted and was videoed on 7<sup>th</sup> August by Rosie Ellis (Assistant Warden). That video was to provide evidence that I did not have about 'layering' within the aggregation.

*The Spiny Spider Crab aggregation photographed from the jetty and (right) cast-off shells at low water on the south side of the Landing Bay, 18<sup>th</sup> August (photos: Keith Hiscock);*





Part of the Spider Crab aggregation videoed on 7<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Rosie Ellis) and (inset) a soft crab picked up from the lower shore on 22<sup>nd</sup> August – the crab has 'decorated' itself with algae (photo: Keith Hiscock).

A count of live individuals clustered together photographed from the jetty at low tide on 18<sup>th</sup> August, came to 655. That figure is approximate and, allowing for the 'layering' of individuals two to three thick in places, there may have been a thousand or more. The width of cast shells was about 65-105mm. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, a large number of 'soft' crabs were located crouched into the sides of gullies on the north-west side of Rat Island near to low water on a spring tide. The crabs had 'decorated' themselves with algae fastened to spines on the carapace and legs: a form of camouflage.

The aggregations known from other locations in Britain (and worldwide for some other spider crab species) seem to remain faithful to a location for a few years and then aggregations develop, perhaps a few kilometres away, in other years. Although the Lundy gathering was a large aggregation compared to the 'pods' reported off north-west Spain, a mound of about 50,000 individuals was reported by Dr Ken Collins off Burton Bradstock in Dorset (cited in María-Paz & González-Gurriarán 2004).

Corgos, Verísimo & Freire (2006) summarise the sequence of moulting and mating events: "Our results show that males carry out the terminal molt before females, the former having a peak in July and the latter in August. The onset of gonad maturity in females occurs two to three months after they have reached morphometric maturity (starting in October), coinciding with the periods prior to and during the mating migration to deep waters."

If you see such aggregations of Spiny Spider Crabs at Lundy, do take images if you can and do report them.

### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Rosie Ellis for filming, Harry Dwyer for use of the GoPro camera on 7<sup>th</sup> August, and Margaret Ashton and Mark Lavington for information from previous years.

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## FRESHWATER FISH

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*Jennifer George*

Several species of fish have been recorded in the Lundy ponds since their introduction by Martin Coles Harman in the late 1920s. No detailed monitoring of the fish has taken place since their introduction, but the most frequently mentioned by observers are Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus*, Crucian Carp *Carassius carassius* and Mirror Carp *Cyprinus carpio*. An early survey of the Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond in 1981 showed that a very large population appeared to be present (LFS Annual Report 32).

In February, Golden Orfe with several juveniles were seen in Quarry Pond by Martin Thorne who also saw Crucian Carp, although in fewer numbers that he had seen previously.

In July, August and September, numbers of adult Golden Orfe in Quarry Pond seen by observers ranged from 18 to 40 at any one time, and 30-50 juveniles were also seen at various times during July.

A fairly detailed survey of the Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond was carried out in early July by Alan & Sandra Rowland who threw in food and then counted the numbers of fish rising simultaneously to take it. Estimates of fish size were also made and photographs taken. Ten large carp, about 50cm in length and six which were 30cm in length were seen together with 100 or so juvenile fish.

It is interesting that both Quarry Pond and Rocket Pole Pond support a large fish population. The food of these carp consists of invertebrates, algae and plant material, and they may also take insects alighting on the pond surface. Previous studies have shown that neither pond has a large invertebrate population and they do not have many weed beds that would provide food. However, Rocket Pole Pond experiences large algal blooms at various times during the year. Cannibalism of very young fish by adults remains a distinct possibility.

*Observers: Sam Bosanquet, Tim Davis, Chris & Mandy Dee, Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland and Martin Thorne.*

*Quarry Pond in July showing the Golden Orfe and (inset) a large Mirror Carp taking food at the surface of Rocket Pole Pond in July (photos: Alan Rowland).*



## INTRODUCED REPTILES / NATIVE & FERAL LAND MAMMALS / BATS

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Chris Dee

### Introduced Reptiles

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but **Slow-worms** *Anguis fragilis* 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. One on the Terrace on 10 May, one in St Helen's Copse on 19 Sep measured at 32 cm, and one in Millcombe on 2 Oct were the only reports in 2020. However, the species is probably under-recorded and members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS Logbook (or the alternative recording arrangements in place due to Covid-19 precautions).

### Native Land Mammals

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal, **Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus* which is widely distributed across the island and can be found throughout the year. Probably associated with most properties, in 2020 it was reported only from Big St Johns and Bramble Villa East. The species is also found away from human habitation, but with reduced visitor numbers there were no sightings elsewhere.

### Bats

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*. Only a single sighting of a pipistrelle species was reported, on the early date of 26 Feb at Quarry Pond (Pete Squire & Terese Hesper).

### Feral Land Mammals

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. The island-wide stock count was undertaken in March. These early spring surveys provide the best estimation of numbers, but extra counts by visitors are useful for the record, particularly if some assessment of completeness of coverage is included.

#### **Sika** *Cervus nippon*

Around 40 were reported on the East Side at the end of January. The stock count in March estimated a population of 125 individuals (Peter Hamlyn), although no breakdown of age or sex was provided. No other double-figure counts were reported. A cull in April reduced the population by seven (5 hinds and 2 prickets) and two stags were culled in October.

#### **Soay Sheep** *Ovis aries*

The stock count in March estimated 220 individuals (Peter Hamlyn). The only other significant count was of 190 between Halfway Wall and the North End on 5 Jul, although six were at the South End in March. One ram was culled in April and a further 70 rams and 29 ewes were removed by the culls in September and October.

#### **Goat** *Capra aegagrus*

Goats continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall in order to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. The stock count in March found 35 individuals (Peter Hamlyn). The culls in April, September and October reduced the population by three billies.

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

Rabbit numbers remain low as a result of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease or Myxomatosis). Individuals or small groups were reported from four locations across the island: Upper East Side Path, Rocket Pole, on the main track at Halfway Wall (at night) and at Paradise Row (photo right by Dean Jones). All records of this formerly common species would be welcome to allow its status to be fully assessed.





*Garden Snail with Horse Leech on emergent vegetation in Millcombe Pond (photo: Dean Jones).*

## FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

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*Jennifer George*

Alan Rowland continued his monitoring of freshwater invertebrates in the St John's Valley and Millcombe stream systems and the new Brambles Pond in the summer of 2020. Seventeen different species were recorded in these habitats. Apart from the above, only two observations of freshwater invertebrates were recorded in the LFS Logbook during the year.

On 8 May, Dean Jones found a Garden Snail with a **Horse Leech** *Haemopsis sanguisuga* attached to it on plants emerging from Millcombe Pond (see photo above). Horse Leeches have been found previously in Millcombe Pond and they also occur elsewhere on the island, particularly in the puddles along the track near Quarter Wall gate. Unlike the related Medicinal Leech *Hirudo medicinalis*, Horse Leeches are not bloodsucking ectoparasites of mammals but feed on other freshwater invertebrates and can often leave a pond to feed on earthworms, molluscs, insects and carrion. The possible fate of the Garden Snail is unknown!

In July, **flatworms** of two species were found in St John's stream, the white *Phagocata vitta* and the black *Polycelis nigra*. The former is usually found in streams at high altitudes, for example in Snowdonia above 300 metres, but can occur in cold streams at lower altitudes.

Two species of Crustacea were recorded. The **Water Slater** *Proasellus meridianus*, which occurs in many of the island's ponds, was found in large numbers in St John's stream near Square Cottage (139) and in the Millcombe stream (171). The small **seed shrimp** of the Ostracoda group occurred throughout St John's stream and in Brambles Pond.

The most abundant invertebrate in St John's and Millcombe streams was the small mollusc, **Jenkins' Spire Snail** *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, with over 100 found at each of the sites studied and 45 living in Brambles Pond (see photo overleaf). Two other molluscs were found in the stream: **Wandering Snail** *Lymnaea peregra* in St John's stream near Square Cottage, and a **pea mussel** of the Sphaeriidae group in Millcombe stream.



Pond skaters, *Gerris* spp., are capable of flight and feed mainly on other insects that fall onto the water surface (photo: John Clegg). The diving beetle *Colymbetes fuscus* (top right) grows up to 18 mm in length and feeds mainly on other invertebrates, while Jenkins' Spire Shell is found in most of the Lundy streams, often in fairly large numbers (photos: Alan Rowland).

Insects were well represented in the streams and Brambles Pond. A **pond skater**, *Gerris* sp., was seen on the water surface of St John's stream near Square Cottage, and a fairly large **diving beetle** of the Dytiscid family, *Colymbetes fuscus*, was also seen there. The caddis fly larva *Diplectrona felix* found on Lundy for the first time in 2019 in St John's stream at Millcombe occurred there again in 2020.

Small larvae of the Order Diptera (True flies) were dominant in the streams and Brambles Pond. Chironomid (non-biting midge) larvae occurred at all sampling sites, and the Thaumaleid (Trickle fly) larva that closely resembles the Chironomids was also found. An interesting find was the larva of the **Meniscus Midge** (Family Dixidae); it has a U-shaped body and lives in the meniscus amongst aquatic vegetation and pupates on emergent plants. Other larvae recorded by Alan Rowland were a **biting midge** (Ceratopogonidae) and a larger **crane fly** (Tipulidae). **Mosquito** pupae (Culicidae) were found in Brambles Pond and St John's stream at Millcombe. It is encouraging to see that Brambles Pond, which was less than a year old at the time of sampling, was showing a range of species from different biological groups.

On 9 Aug, Tim Jones and Chris Dee watched a very large adult diving beetle at the surface and diving down into the water of Quarter Wall Pond. It was thought to be the **Great Diving Beetle** *Dytiscus marginalis*. This species, which has a large predatory larva, has not previously been recorded on Lundy, although large beetles of the same family, Dytiscidae, have been found in Pondsburry (Clabburn 1993) and in Quarter Wall Pond (George, 1979, 1986, 2007). Precise identification, with a photograph if possible, is required before it can be definitely documented as a species new to Lundy.

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## TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

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Alan Rowland

Species reported through the year:

### Slugs and Snails Gastropoda

Garden Snail *Cornu aspersum*, Brown-lipped Snail *Cephea nemoralis*, White-lipped Snail *Cephea hortensis* and Black Slug *Arion ater* agg.

### Spiders, Harvestmen and Mites Arachnidae

Cave Orb Weaver *Meta menardi*, Copper Sun Jumper *Heliophanus cupreus*, Cellar Spider *Pholcus phalangioides*.

### Woodlice Isopoda

Common Pill Woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*, Common Woodlouse *Oniscus asellus* and Ant Woodlouse *Platyarthrus hoffmannseggi*.

### Centipedes and Millipedes Myriapoda

Banded Centipede *Lithobius variegatus*, julid millipede *Cylindroiulus* sp, Celtic Sea Slug *Onchidella celtica* (the first record for Lundy – see p.97).

### Silverfish Thysanura

*Lepisma saccharina*.

### Earwigs Dermaptera

Common or European Earwig *Forficula auricularia*.

### Cockroaches Dictyoptera

Lesser Cockroach *Ectobius panzeri* (first sighting since 1983).

### Grasshoppers and Crickets Orthoptera

Common Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus* and Meadow Grasshopper *Pseudochorthippus parallelus*.

### True Bugs Hemiptera

Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*, Meadow Froghopper *Philaenus spumarius* and Alder Spittlebug *Aphrophora alni* (found across the UK – the first record for Lundy).

### Beetles Coleoptera

A soldier beetle *Marthinus seriepunctatus* and a dung beetle *Aphodius prodromus* were both first records for Lundy. Also recorded were: a water scavenger beetle *Sphaeridium scarabaeoides*, Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris*, a ground beetle *Carabus granulatus*, Bronze Carabid Beetle *Carabus nemoralis*, a ground beetle *Abax parallelepipedus*, Black Snail beetle *Silpha atrata*, Black Sexton Beetle *Nicrophorus humator*, Sexton Beetle *Nicrophorus investigator*, Devils's Coach Horse Beetle *Ocyopus olens*, Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus*, Dor beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius*, Brown Chafer *Serica brunnea*, Rose Chafer *Cetonia aurata*, Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*, Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* and Black Oil Beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*.

### Caddisflies Trichoptera

*Beraea maurus* (last seen as a larva in 1993).

*Black Oil Beetle, near South Light,  
30<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



## True Flies Diptera

Sam Bosanquet

Although no specialist Dipterists recorded on Lundy in 2020, 71 records of 38 species was a substantial increase on recent years. **Craneflies** (Limoniidae, Pedicidae and Tipulidae) led the way with 18 recorded species, many of which were last seen on the island in the 1970s and three of which were new. Most of the eight recorded species of **Hoverfly** (Syrphidae) were island regulars, such as **Marmalade Hoverfly** *Episyrphus balteatus* and **Pied Hoverfly** *Scaeva pyrastris*. Seven species of **Leaf Mining Fly** (Agromyzidae and Cecidomyiidae) included five new for Lundy, whilst one of the two recorded **Soldier Flies** (Stratiomyidae) was new. Two species of **Parasite Fly** (Tachinidae) included six sightings of the regular **Giant Tachinid Fly** *Tachina grossa*, but also the first Lundy record of *Linnaemya vulpina* since 1990. One record of *Mesembrina meridiana* was the only **House Fly** (Muscidae) identified in 2020. New species for the island were:

*Erioptera flavata* (Limoniidae): one netted in Millcombe and gen. det., 22 Jul (SB).

*Limonia macrostigma* (Limoniidae): swept from *Sphagnum* flush in Gannets' Coombe, 21 Sep (SB).

*Tipula rufina* (Tipulidae): resting by John O'Groats, 21 Sep (SB).

*Agromyza alnivora* (Agromyzidae): mines on *Alnus* in Quarter Wall Copse, 20 Sep (SB).

*Aulagromyza hendeliana* (Agromyzidae): mines on *Lonicera* in Millcombe, 13 Jun (DJ).

*Phytomyza lappae* (Agromyzidae): mines on *Arctium* in Millcombe, 20 Sep (SB).

*Phytomyza spondylialpastinacae* agg. (Agromyzidae): mines on *Heracleum* in Millcombe, 27 Jun (DJ).

*Jaapiella veronicae* (Cecidomyiidae): galls on *Veronica chamaedrys* in Millcombe, 20 Sep (SB).

*Beris morrisii* (Stratiomyidae): swept from tree branch in Millcombe, 20 Jul (SB).

The island Diptera total now stands at 471 species, but only 59 of these have been recorded since 2000! Specialist Diptera recording on Lundy is urgently needed.

The following observers recorded Diptera in 2020: Sam Bosanquet, Dean Jones and Alan Rowland.



*Tipula cava* swept from wetland by Quarry Pond, 20<sup>th</sup> July, the first record since 1990 (photo: Sam Bosanquet) and (right) Giant Tachinid Fly, Tibbets, 16<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).

## Bees, Wasps & Ants Hymenoptera

Sam Bosanquet

The majority of the 48 Hymenoptera records from 2020 were bumblebees, accounting for 37 records and six of the 16 recorded species. Three records of **Heath Bumblebee** *Bombus jonellus* from September were the least common of those six. One **Yellow-legged Mining-bee** *Andrena flavipes* on 25 Jun was the only other recorded bee. 100 **Turnip Sawfly** *Athalia rosae* were noted at the North End on 30 May, whilst galls of *Xestophanes brevitaris* (Cynipidae) on *Potentilla erecta* near Pondsbury on 29 Sep represented a new sawfly for Lundy. Seven assorted wasp species were noted during the

year, although some were only identified to genus level; a **Hornet** *Vespa crabro* that flew south near Old Light on 21 Sep was only the second island record. It appears that nobody identified any ants on Lundy during the year.



A gall of the sawfly *Xestophanes brevitarsis* near Pondsbury – the first island record (photo: Sam Bosanquet) and (right) a nocturnal ichneumon wasp *Enicospilus ramidulus* near Rocket Pole, 10<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Martyn Roper).

### Dragonflies & Damselflies Odonata

Tim Davis

Six species were recorded during the year: **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – first of the year on 27 May at Quarter Wall Pond; also present at Pondsbury. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* – first of the year on 21 May at Quarter Wall Pond, max 10 there on 20 Jul. **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* – four records: Terrace, 10 Jul, St Helen's Combe, 8 Aug; North End, 9 Aug; Earthquake, 20 Sep. **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* – noted on 10 days between 1 Jul and 11 Aug at Quarter Wall Pond, Quarry Pond, Pondsbury (two on 9 Aug) and Widow's Tenement, and a female ovipositing in Quarter Wall Pond on 20 Jul. **Vagrant Emperor** *Anax ephippiger* – one on the main track between Tibbets and Threequarter Wall, 11 Oct; and **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* – one in Millcombe, 13 Oct.

Observers: Sam Bosanquet, Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, and Michael, Jennie & Bill Williams.



Vagrant Emperor resting by the main track between Tibbets and Threequarter Wall on 11<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Jennie Williams).



*Small Heath and (right) Small Copper (photos: Dean Jones).*

## Butterflies Lepidoptera

Anthony John

Sixteen species of butterflies were recorded in 2020, two fewer than in the previous year. It was a better year for Small and Green-veined Whites and Small Tortoiseshell, but most other species were recorded in smaller numbers than in 2019. Very few Painted Lady butterflies were seen (see table below). The reduction in records may have been partly caused by fewer observers due to coronavirus restrictions. Only four scarcer species of butterflies were seen on Lundy in 2020. They included Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus* on five dates between 5 Jul and 18 Aug, including five on 18 Aug, Grayling *Hipparchia semele* on nine dates from 29 May to 31 Aug (max five on 19 Jul), single Commas *Polygonia c-album* on 6 Jul and 11 Oct, and single Holly Blues *Celastrina argiolus* on 8 & 16 April and 21 Jul (one male on the Landing Bay). However, there were no records of Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*, Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*, Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera* or Speckled Wood *Parage aegeria* in 2020.

Species	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date	Butterfly-days 2020	Butterfly-days 2019
Large White	10 Apr	27 Sep	6 on 2 days in Sep	116	144
Small White	27 Apr	15 Oct	5 on 8 Aug	182	77
Green-veined White	2 Apr	14 Sep	20 on 3 Aug	214	109
Small Heath	10 May	12 Sep	27 on 1 Jun	237	456
Ringlet	25 Jun	21 Jul	4 on 10 & 12 Jul	21	163
Meadow Brown	30 May	5 Sep	123 on 25 Jun	1243	2517
Red Admiral	3 Jan	22 Oct	97 on 13 Jun	801	1092
Painted Lady	5 Jun	12 Sep	3 on 4 days in Jul, Aug & Sep	27	3226
Peacock	29 Jan	18 Aug	4 on 6 & 7 Apr	32	29
Small Tortoiseshell	13 Mar	1 Dec	27 on 16 Sep	104	68
Small Copper	12 May	22 Oct	5 on 21 Sep	30	49
Common Blue	9 May	6 Sep	6 on 13 Aug	48	69



Top (l-r): Oak Eggar, Barrett's Marbled Coronet, Brindled Ochre.  
 Bottom (l-r): Cream-spot Tiger, Peppered Moth, Fox Moth (photos: Dean Jones).

## Moths Lepidoptera

Anthony John

In 2020, 227 species of moths were recorded (cf. 134 species in 2019): 89 micromoths and 138 macromoths. Of these, 26 species were new to Lundy, 16 micromoths and 10 macromoths. Light traps were set on 36 dates during the year. The Millcombe Heath Trap (MHT) was set on 31 dates between 4 Apr and 24 Oct: one trap was set in April, eight in May, nine in June, five in July, four in August, two in September and two in October. The Heath Trap was deployed at five other locations: Benjamin's Chair on 20 May, Tibbetts on 9 Jun, Tent Field on 15 Jun, the Ugly on 18 Jun and at North End on 17 Jul.

New micromoths (16 species – in the order recorded): *Tinea semifulvella*, *Acrobasis suavella*, *Neofaculta ericetella*, *Argyresthia spinosella*, *Eucosma compolliana*, *Anarsia spartiella*, *Batrachedra praeangusta*, *Anacamptis populella*, *Stigmella hybnerella*, *Parornix anglicella*, *Cnephasia conspersana*, *Monochroa tenebrella*, *Celypha striana*, *Dichrorampha acuminatana*, *Mecyna asinalis* and *Acleris hyemana*.

New macromoths (10 species – in the order recorded): Grey Arches *Polia nebulosa* (two records), Sycamore *Acrionicta aceris*, Marbled White Spot *Deltote pygarga*, Cream Wave *Scopula floslactata*, Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis*, Dot Moth *Melanchnra persicariae*, Gold Spot *Plusia festucae*, Pinion-streaked Snout *Schrankia costaestrigalis* (netted in flight at night near Millcombe House), Dark Spectacle *Abrostola triplasia* and Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera*.

There were second records for 12 micromoths: *Micropterix aruncella* (first recorded in 1993), *Tinea pelliionella* (2018), *Psychoides filicivora* (2018), *Glyphipterix thrasionella* (2018), *Argyresthia albistria* (1988), *Lyonetia clerkella* (2011, mines on *Betula*), *Borkhausenia fuscescens* (2018), *Agonopterix yeatiana* (2019), *Blastobasis adustella* (2018), *Aphelia paleana* (2019), *Acleris sparsana* (2016) and *Lobesia abscisana* (2018). There were also second records for six macromoths: Pale-shouldered Brocade

Day-flying moths	Recorded on	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date
Emperor Moth	8 days	26 Apr	20 May	15 on 26 Apr
Humming-bird Hawk-moth	13 days	31 May	18 Oct	2 on 22 Jul & 5 Sep
Silver Y	37 days	11 Apr	27 Oct	17 on 9 & 31 Aug
Fox Moth caterpillars	18 days	31 May	19 Oct	22 on 14 Oct



Top (l-r): Vine's Rustic, *Mecyna asinalis*, *Tinia semifulvella*.  
 Bottom (l-r): Grey Arches, Vestal, *Esperia sulphurella* (photos: Dean Jones).

*Lacanobia thalassina* (first recorded in 1986), Vine's Rustic *Hoplodrina ambigua* (1990), Nutmeg *Discestra trifolii* (2011), Grey Pug *Eupithecia subfuscata* (2018), Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua fimbriata* (2018) and Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria* (2019) – one flushed near Smelly Gully!

On 7 May at least 200 Cocksfoot Moths *Glyphipterix simplicicella* were seen in Millcombe and on the Beach Road. Later in May around 100 *Cydia ulicetana* (the larvae feed on gorse) were observed in Millcombe and along the Lower East Side Path on 24<sup>th</sup>. On 3 Jun a Heath trap in Millcombe caught three species new to Lundy – *Acrobasis suavella*, Sycamore *Acrionicta aceris* and Marbled White Spot *Deltote pygarga* – as well as 186 Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea* and 117 Heart and Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*. On 16 Jun over 100 *Celypha lacunana* were flushed from the Lower East Side Path. Three further new species were found on 6 & 7 Jul, all of them on old willow on the Terrace; two of them were micromoths – *Batrachedra praeangusta* and *Anacampsis populella* – and the third was the Lunar Hornet Moth *Sesia bembeciformis* (empty pupal cases found).

Three Nationally Rare/Scarce species were recorded in the Millcombe Heath trap, Devonshire Wainscot *Mythimna putrescens* and *Nothris congressariella* in June, and Double Line *Mythimna turca* in August. Close examination of hawthorn leaves in Millcombe on 2 Jul revealed vacated mines of the leafminer moths *Stigmella hybnerella* and *Parornix anglicella*. On the same day the micromoth *Cnephasia conspersana* was swept from coastal heath at the North End. All three micromoths are new to the island. Fifty Five-spot Burnet moths were present near John O'Groats on 20 Jul and 100+ Six-spot Burnet moths were seen near Tibbetts Hill on 22 Jul. Two Humming-bird Hawk-moths were nectaring on Ivy-leaved Toadflax at the Farm on 22 Jul.

On 20 Sep, 11 species were found at night on ivy flowers near the Old School. The next day two further new species were found in a Heath trap in Millcombe – *Dichrorampha acuminatana* and *Mecyna asinalis*; on 24<sup>th</sup> a Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera*, a scarce migrant new for Lundy, turned up in the Lundy Shop! Another scarce migrant, a *Convolvulus* Hawk-moth, was found earlier in the summer in the Shop on 1 Aug.

Ten species of migrant moths logged were Diamond-back Moth *Plutella xylostella*, Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis*, Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*, *Convolvulus* Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli*, Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*, Vestal, Silver Y *Autographa gamma*, Scarce Bordered Straw (new), Delicate *Mythimna vitellina* (on 21 & 28 Sep) and Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*.

Many thanks to all the observers who noted records of Lepidoptera in 2020: Zoë Barton, Sam Bosanquet, Tim Davis, James Diamond, Chris & Mandy Dee, Richard Goodman, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Malcolm Lee, Patrick Penny, Alan Rowland and Sue Waterfield. Particular thanks are due to Dean Jones, who generated the great majority of the moth records.

## BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS)

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Sam Bosanquet

Recording during a family visit from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July produced 211 records of 73 bryophyte taxa. I returned on my own between 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September to continue dedicated bryophyte recording on the island using a 200x200m Ordnance Survey grid. This trip generated 907 records of 140 taxa (1 hornwort, 44 liverworts and 95 mosses). Full data are given in Excel format on the LFS website, have been sent to the British Bryological Society Recorder for Devon, and will be available on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

To date, 120 of the 125 potentially searchable 200x200m squares now have bryophyte records, and 110 of these have been pretty thoroughly recorded. Return visits to some squares that were partly recorded in previous years significantly boosted their totals, most notably around Queen Mab's Cave and the Punchbowl Valley.

Twenty-one bryophyte taxa (9 liverworts and 12 mosses) were newly recorded for Lundy in 2020, taking the island's tally of bryophytes to 220 taxa (2 hornworts, 63 liverworts and 155 mosses). The most notable discoveries in 2020 were all liverworts: the bog specialist *Cladopodiella fluitans*, the Hyperoceanic *Plagiochila punctata*, the non-natives *Lophocolea bispinosa* and *L. semiteres*, and the Nationally Scarce *Scapania lingulata*, the last of which was new for South West England.

The list below covers the notable bryophytes recorded in 2020. An asterisk indicates a newly discovered species for Lundy.

### Hornworts

*Anthoceros punctatus*: five records from stream valleys on the west coast and one from the Queen Mab's Cave area; this uncommon species is now known from seven sites on Lundy.

### Liverworts

*Blasia pusilla*: three large patches with both forms of gemmae on slumped soil in a coastal gully east of Jenny's Cove – the second Lundy record.

*Cephaloziella hampeana*: noted on coastal soil at Earthquake and Mousehole & Trap as well as around Pondsburry, whereas the previous records were from *Sphagnum* in the Pondsburry area.

*Chiloscyphus pallescens*: a colony in mire vegetation by Quarry Pond – the third island record.

*Chiloscyphus polyanthos*: recorded by Punchbowl Stream – the fifth Lundy site.

\**Cladopodiella fluitans*: a few shoots in a damp peaty rut with *Cephalozia bicuspidata*, south of Pondsburry – the first Lundy record of this uncommon bog liverwort.

*Fossombronina maritima*: collected with sporophytes from a coastal spring east of Jenny's Cove – the second record.

\**Fossombronina wondraczekii*: several fruiting patches on a peaty track edge north of the Quarries, confirming the presence of this common Frillwort on the island (see photo overleaf).

*Frullania teneriffae*: a few patches on a tor on Long Roost – the fourth record and the first from the west coast.

*Kurzia sylvatica*: a small colony north of Pondsburry – the fourth record of this uncommon liverwort.

*Lejeunea lamacerina*: found new for the west coast by Punchbowl Stream as well as on rocks by Government House Pond and in the Ugly ravine – the third to fifth known sites.

\**Lophocolea bispinosa*: collected new for Lundy from Punchbowl Stream and then found in five localities along the island's north-west coast. Dense patches of this non-native liverwort, which originates from New Zealand, occupy various habitats on Lundy, including coastal heath, peat below tors, and coastal stream gullies. It may have been overlooked previously as *L. bidentata*, which is widespread on the east coast of the island.

\**Lophocolea heterophylla*: a patch collected from under a boulder on Puffin Slope – the first Lundy record of this acid-loving liverwort, which is common on the mainland.

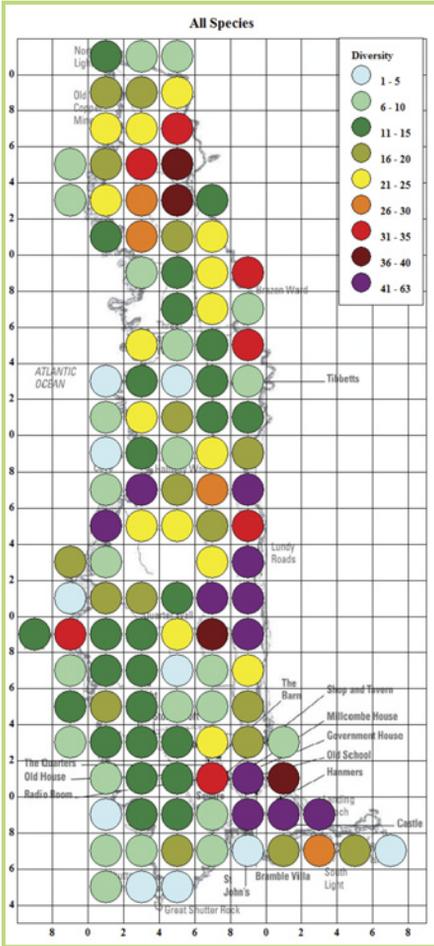


Figure 1. Recorded bryophyte diversity on Lundy after the 2020 visits. Top: fruiting *Fossombronia wondraczekii*, a new liverwort for Lundy, from a trackside north of the Quarries. Bottom: a cushion of *Sphagnum papillosum* supporting *Erica tetralix* near Pondsburry (photos: Sam Bosanquet).

\**Lophocolea semiteres*: a 15cm patch of male plants on the side of a peaty path through heathland east of John O’Groats is the first North Devon record of this non-native liverwort, which originates from New Zealand like *L. bispinosa*. It may have arrived on Lundy as fragments on walkers’ boots, although the lack of records further south on the island is surprising.

\**Lunularia cruciata*: abundant juvenile thalli and a few mature plants were found on disturbed ground behind the Rocket Shed. This is a common garden liverwort in most of southern Britain.

\**Odontoschisma sphagni*: 15x5 & 5x5cm patches with *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Erica tetralix* in wet heath south of Pondsburry – the first Lundy record of this moderately common bog liverwort.

*Pellia endiviifolia*: the fourth Lundy record came from a dripping sea-cliff behind Ladies Beach.

*Pellia neesiana*: noted twice on the west coast, taking the number of known colonies to five.

\**Plagiochila punctata*: ten small cushions growing alongside the scarce lichen *Parmotrema crinitum* on rockface in a deep chasm in Earthquake are particularly noteworthy because this Hyperoceanic liverwort is very uncommon in South West England.

*Riccardia chamedryfolia*: a small population with *Pellia neesiana* in a coastal gully east of Jenny's Cove – the third Lundy record.

*Riccardia latifrons*: a few patches growing on *Sphagnum papillosum* south of Pondsbyr – the first record since 1975.

\**Scapania lingulata*: collected from coastal heath above Long Roost and identified microscopically by virtue of its abundant oil bodies. This is the first record for South West England, although *S. lingulata* occupies similar habitats in Pembrokeshire and Anglesey, so it is not unexpected.

## Mosses

\**Bryum tenuisetum*: this uncommon moss was collected from the edge of Ackland's Pond and identified by its yellow rhizoidal tubers.

\**Campylopus pyriformis*: confirmed microscopically from thin peat over granite by Quarry Pond and subsequently noted at two more localities on the island.

*Cryphaea heteromalla*: small colonies on Elder in Millcombe Walled Gardens and VC Quarry – the fourth and fifth Lundy records.

*Dicranella rufescens*: noted in 2020 by Quarry Pond and in a gully north of Gannets' Combe, following the first Lundy record in 2019.

\**Dicranella varia*: a few shoots alongside *Funaria hygrometrica* from the fire site by the Stonecrusher in Tent Field.

*Dicranum scottianum*: four small cushions in Earthquake are the first west coast record of a moss which is scattered on sheltered east coast tors from Gannets' Combe to the Quarries.

\**Ditrichum (Trichodon) cylindricum*: a few shoots on dried out mud of Brambles Pond.

\**Ephemerum (serratum* var.) *minutissimum*: fruiting patches on poached area between wall and fence at west end of Quarter Wall.

*Eurhynchium (Oxyrrhynchium) hians*: the second and third Lundy records came from dripping coastal rocks at Ladies Beach and near Queen Mab's Cave.

\**Eurhynchium (Oxyrrhynchium) speciosum*: confirmed microscopically from dripping coastal rocks near Queen Mab's Cave.

\**Funaria hygrometrica*: abundant at the bonfire site by the Stonecrusher in Tent Field and also present at Brambles Pond and by St Helen's Church – this 'Bonfire Moss' is common on the mainland.

\**Grimmia lisae*: confirmed microscopically from Castle Hill and the slopes above the Landing Bay, although previous records of *Grimmia trichophylla* s.l. may include some colonies of *G. lisae*.

\**Grimmia trichophylla* s.str.: confirmed microscopically from rocks by Punchbowl Stream and a stream east of Jenny's Cove, although *G. trichophylla* s.l. is scattered elsewhere on Lundy.

*Heterocladium wulfsbergii*: recorded by three cascades on Punchbowl Stream, downstream of the Grid Reference given for the 2006 first Lundy record but clearly representing the same colony. This Hyperoceanic moss is locally frequent in Wales, Scotland and South West England but is very localised.

*Hookeria lucens*: found new for the west coast by Punchbowl Stream; there are four colonies on the sheltered east coast.

\**Leptobryum pyriforme*: identified microscopically from pond margins at Brambles Villa and Ackland's Pond, and from a coastal slump east of Jenny's Cove.

*Philonotis* sp.: spotted through binoculars on the flushed cliffs behind Ladies Beach and requiring microscope checking to identify whether it is *P. fontana* or *P. rigida* – impossible without abseiling!

*Plagiothecium denticulatum* var. *denticulatum*: a lush patch in a gully north of Gannets' Combe – the third Lundy site.

*Pohlia annotina*: the second Lundy record came from gritty soil by Quarry Pond.

\**Pohlia melanodon*: found in a seeping crevice at the back of Victoria Beach – new for Lundy.

*Polytrichum commune* var. *commune*: juvenile plants on slumped gritty peat on the coastal slope north of Gannets' Combe – the fourth Lundy record of this bizarrely rare moss.

*Pseudocrossidium revolutum*: the second Lundy record was from wall mortar by the Battery steps.

*Racomitrium aciculare*: last seen on Lundy in the 1950s, this moss was rediscovered by Punchbowl Stream and a stream east of Jenny's Cove.

*Rhizomnium punctatum*: the fourth Lundy population was found in a gully by Queen Mab's Cave.

*Rhynchostegium alopecuroides* (*Platyhypnidium lusitanicum*): a large population by Punchbowl Stream makes the small colony found in 2019 further north on the west coast somewhat less surprising. This Hyperoceanic moss is very uncommon in western Britain.

*Sphagnum fimbriatum*: small patches in coastal gullies by Queen Mab's Cave and north of Gannets' Combe – the second and third Lundy records.

\**Sphagnum papillosum*: several large mounds of *S. papillosum* from wet heath south of Pondsburry were checked microscopically. The lookalike *S. palustre* is much more frequent on Lundy so it is good at last to confirm the presence also of *S. papillosum* (see photo, p.112).

*Thamnobryum alopecurum*: found by Punchbowl Stream and on the coast near Brazen Ward – the fourth and fifth Lundy records.

\**Trichostomum crispulum*: locally frequent on thin soil over rock by the Castle – new for Lundy.

*Weissia controversa*: the second Lundy record is of patches growing on wall mortar by Tent Field.

## LICHENS

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### Sam Bosanquet

The only lichen records made during the year were casual notes made during bryophyte recording. These included the rare coastal lichen \**Rocella fuciformis* (new for Lundy), the second Lundy record of *Dermatocarpon luridum* by Punchbowl Stream, and the second and third known colonies of the uncommon *Parmotrema crinitum* in Earthquake (a very large colony) and VC Quarry. The *Sticta* colony in the gully which houses the Ugly letterbox was identified as *S. fuliginosa sensu stricto* by national expert Neil Sanderson; it is the only known *Sticta* on Lundy. Several patches of *Teloschistes flavicans* were GPS'ed during 2020, as were two colonies of the similarly rare *Anaptychia ciliaris* var. *mamillata*. The Lundy lichen list now stands at 373 taxa. A revised checklist has been uploaded to the LFS website.

*The rare lichen Rocella fuciformis – new for Lundy, below Mousehole & Trap (photo: Sam Bosanquet).*



## FLORA

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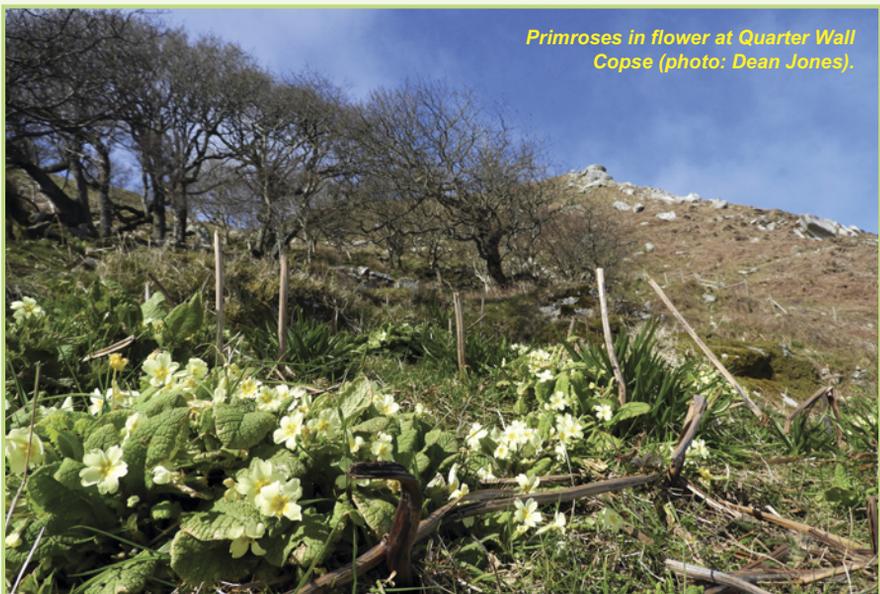
Andrew Cleave

In a year of lockdowns and travel restrictions, botanical records were rather patchy, but thanks to island residents and those visitors who were able to get to Lundy a number of interesting records did find their way into the logbook. Once again, the earliest sightings of open flowers were of **Primroses** and **Snowdrops** in a few sheltered locations at the end of January. The first open **Thrift** flowers were spotted at the end of March by the South Lighthouse and the first **Bluebells** were seen in the first week of April. **Lundy Cabbage** was first seen in flower in mid-April in Smelly Gully. Eight plants of the very attractive **Twiggy Mullein** *Verbascum virgatum* were found in flower in the Walled Garden by the middle of June. This rather scarce biennial seeds itself around the Millcombe valley and can often be seen in flower well into November in a mild autumn.

The grass verge on the High Street opposite the Barn continued to provide plants of interest, and a combination of accidental spills of bird seed and a lack of cutting at the critical time of year meant that various colourful annuals and biennials were able to flower here. Not all of these were native species and most will be very short-lived but it will be worth checking this verge regularly.

Elsewhere the first **Heath Spotted Orchids** opened up around Pondsbury in the middle of June and the diminutive **Bristle Spike-rush** *Isolepis setacea* was spotted in a wet flush nearby. Other very small plants recorded this year, which are usually overlooked unless searched for, were **Allseed** *Radiola linoides*, which does very well on Lundy, and **Chaffweed** *Lysimachia (Anagallis) minima* which grow in damp situations. Kistvaen Pond at the South End is a good site for these, but they suffer in a dry summer. Patches of **Swine-cress** *Coronopus didymus* were spotted in the typical dry habitat of well-trodden paths and gateways.

An exciting discovery by Sam Bosanquet in September added a new species to the Lundy plant list. Exploring on the East Side, he came across what at first looked like a patch of green filamentous algae growing on a damp, shaded rock face. However, this turned out to be the gametophyte stage of the very rare **Killarney Fern** *Trichomanes speciosum*. Ferns have two stages in their life cycle, one of which is the familiar fern frond stage which produces the spores. These are released from sporangia which are usually found on the underside of the frond. The microscopic spores are carried away by the wind and any which settle in a suitable environment produce the gametophyte stage which is quite unlike the mature plant. These delicate structures require damp conditions to develop and will eventually produce the reproductive cells; the antheridium produces the male gametes and the archegonium contains the female cells. Unlike pollen grains which blow in the wind or are carried by insects, the



*Primroses in flower at Quarter Wall Copse (photo: Dean Jones).*



Killarney Fern (photo: Sam Bosanquet) and Twigg Mullein (photo: Dean Jones).  
Below: Lundy Cabbage (photo: Dean Jones) and Heath Spotted Orchid (photo: Zoë Barton).

male gametes have to swim through a film of water to reach the female cells. Once fertilisation has taken place, the sporophyte stage can start to grow, eventually becoming the mature fern plant which can start producing spores. In the case of Killarney Fern the mature frond is finely divided and very delicate, but strangely this stage in the life cycle is far less common than the gametophyte stage which was found on Lundy. The plant has a mainly western distribution in Britain and Ireland, with some outliers in the uplands, but coastal sites seem to really suit it. It requires permanently damp situations in order to thrive so it often grows in places which are rarely explored by botanists. Sadly, this elegant fern is highly prized by collectors so locations are usually withheld.

Other records of ferns included a sighting of one of Lundy's rarest ferns, **Wall Rue** *Asplenium rutamuraria*, which is just hanging on in a couple of sites. On the mainland it is very widespread, especially in limestone areas and on mortared walls, but it does not thrive on granite. There were several sightings of **Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum* in sites around the South End and West Side at least as far as Threequarter Wall. **Royal Fern** *Osmunda regalis* and **Hay-scented Buckler-fern** *Dryopteris aemula* continued to do well in the quarries and along the East Side. Another rare fern on Lundy is **Hard Fern** *Blechnum spicant* which has just a few small colonies on the East Side and near Pondsburry, but back on the mainland it is a very widespread and common species in damp habitats. There is some evidence that this fern is now increasing its range slightly in the quarries.

In November, Joanne Wilby spotted some unusual marbled leaves near Millcombe which turned out to be the leaves of the garden cultivar of **Large Cuckoo Pint** (Lords and Ladies) *Arum italicum* sbsp. *italicum*. Unlike our native Cuckoo Pint *Arum maculatum*, the leaves are marbled rather than spotted, and the central spadix is yellow, rather than purple, so this is something to look for in the spring when it should be in flower.

Thanks to all the observers: Zoë Barton, Sam Bosanquet, Tim Davis, Mandy Dee, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Joanne Wilby and Michael Williams.



## FUNGI

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Mandy Dee

Fungi recording in 2020 was badly hit by Covid-19 restrictions, but with the island open to visitors for much of the main autumn season, some recording did take place. Six new species were added to the island list, which is available on the LFS website ([www.lundy.org.uk/species-lists/fungi](http://www.lundy.org.uk/species-lists/fungi)), giving a new total of 656 species (including Chromists and Protists). Four species were found for a second year, which is a valuable confirmation of their presence on the island.

The spring lockdown meant that the first fungus was not recorded until June, when Dean Jones found a **Pleated Inkcap** in Millcombe. This was soon followed, once the island reopened, by a new species, *Neofavolus alveolaris*, a small brown kidney-shaped bracket fungus discovered growing on oak in Quarter Wall Copse by Alan and Sandra Rowland. They were also able to report a count of 14 of the distinctive **Parasols** growing in South West Field.

Taking advantage of one of the many cancellations available, I was able to visit the island in early August, after a damp spell, and recorded an unusual 23 species, many more than you would find in a hot, dry summer. Dung fungi, the mushroom family, and puffballs are normal summer species, and added to those were **Bluefoot Bolete**, **Brown Rollrim**, and **Coral Brittlelegill**, which are usually recorded a little later in the summer, or early in autumn once the rains start. A few early waxcaps were also present.

The most interesting August find was a slime mould from the *Stemonitis* family, none of which have been recorded before on Lundy. It was growing on a tree trunk in Millcombe Wood, by the path to Brambles, and although the condition of the specimen precludes identification to species, it will surely be recorded again in future years.

My main late-September recording week was able to take place, but after a dry spell in early September the fungus season hadn't advanced much since my previous visit. **Marsh Webcap**, an attractive orangey-brown toadstool, appeared in the damp areas round Pondsburry. Turning over dead logs in the copses proved more fruitful, with a second record of *Nemania confluens*, which forms little clusters of black pimpled domes on decaying wood, and a second record for the transparent lumps of jelly called **White Brain**. More exciting still were two new records growing on dead sycamore in St Helen's Copse: *Tyromyces lacteus*, a soft squishy little white bracket, and **Moss Oysterling**, looking like a tiny oyster mushroom.

*Tyromyces lacteus*, St Helen's Copse (photo: Mandy Dee).





*Melanoleuca strictipes*, above Benjamin's Chair (photo: Mandy Dee).

Sam Bosanquet recorded another new species during his September visit: a tiny fungus called *Helminthosphaeria clavariorum*, which imparts a lilac colouration to other fungus species, in this case to **Crested Coral**. Well spotted, Sam!

My early November visit, unfortunately without my normal partner-in-crime John Hedger, was cut short by the start of the second lockdown. The island was awash with fungi and I was able to find a wide variety of the usual grassland specialists: waxcaps, clubs, corals and earthtongues. One of the more unusual waxcaps, **Yellowfoot Waxcap** was found by the path near South West Point. A dull greyish-white in colour, it is similar to **Grey Waxcap** that proliferates at the North End, but has a yellow base to the stipe. With limited time and without additional helpers, the regular surveys of Grey Waxcaps at the North End, and of waxcaps in the Airfield, were not able to be undertaken,

The very short cropped turf which covers the ruins of buildings near the Old Hospital is always a good place for the smaller waxcaps, and for **Meadow Coral**. This year they were joined by an unusually large number of **White Spindles**. In richer soil this species can grow to hand height, but in the very thin soil there they were just a few millimetres high.

Much of the Lundy dung is covered with a small orangey-red fungus called *Psilocybe coprophila*. This has a sister species which is similar, but with a blue base to the stipe, called *Psilocybe fimetaria*. Only recorded once before, I was determined to find it a second time, so after several hours of close observations of pony dung, I was pleased to find it near Quarter Wall. The things we mycologists have to do!

The final record of the trip was of a new species in the Cavalier family, *Melanoleuca strictipes*. Growing in grass right on the edge of the cliff overlooking Benjamin's Chair, photographing it was a bit perilous, and it is hard to imagine it being overlooked in previous years, as it was reasonably large and quite obvious. So, it may well be the first fruiting.

Scientific nomenclature follows *Index Fungorum*: [www.indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp](http://www.indexfungorum.org/Names/Names.asp). English names follow the British Mycological Society checklist: [www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/english-names](http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/english-names).

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- For general information about the Lundy Field Society please contact:  
MICHAEL WILLIAMS  
Secretary LFS, 10 Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4PL  
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 purchasing Lundy Field Society publications, including current Annual Reports, Bulletins or the Journal, as well as books published by the LFS and a range of out-of-print publications contact:  
ALAN ROWLAND  
Sales Officer LFS, Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow,  
Cornwall EX23 9JR  
Email: [sales@lundy.org.uk](mailto:sales@lundy.org.uk)
- For information about the Lundy Field Society, our work (including conservation breaks) 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.lundyisland.co.uk](http://www.lundyisland.co.uk)

**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.

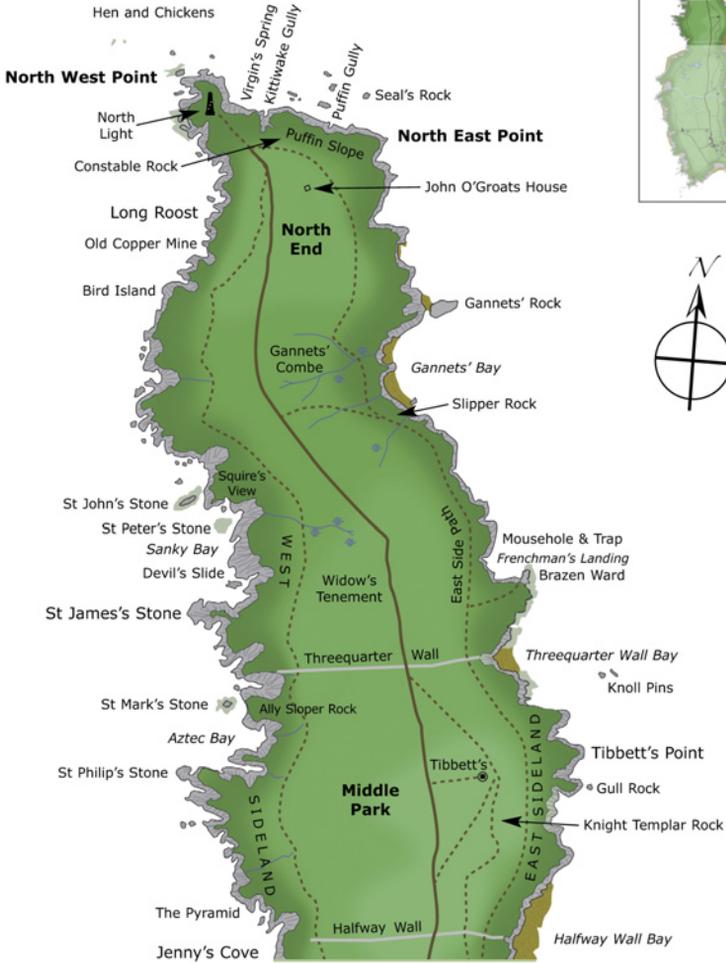


# Lundy South



Map reproduced from 'The Birds of Lundy' (2007) courtesy of Tim Davis & Tim Jones.

# 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 Milcombe 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<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **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.

## **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.





*Rocket Pole (photo: Tim Davis).*



Cuckoo, Threequarter Wall, 15<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).

Front cover: Wood Warbler, Millcombe, 28<sup>th</sup> April  
(photo: Dean Jones).



Lundy Field Society  
Annual Report No.70

DiscoverLundy @



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