

**Lundy Field Society  
Annual Report 2021**



## **Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2021**

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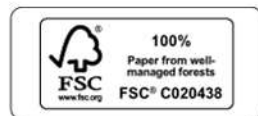
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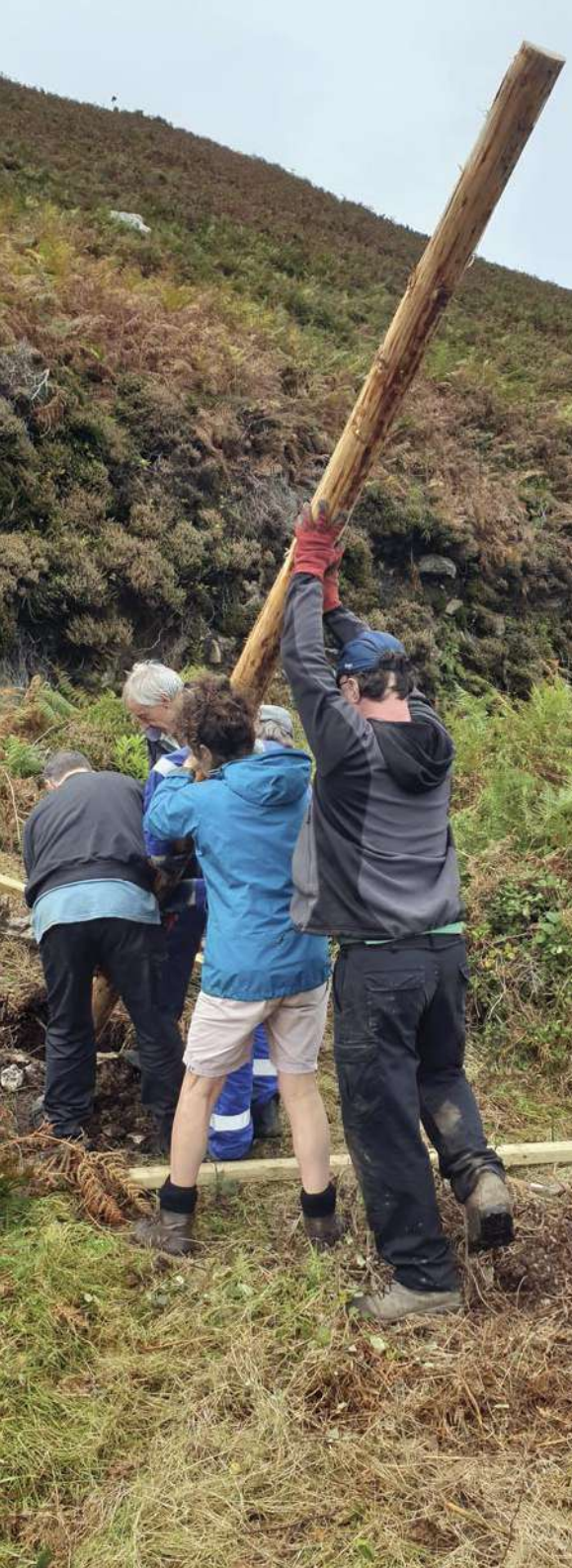
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# LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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*Inside back cover – iconic Lundy: Old Light*



## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2021

### 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   | (2021-2024) |
| André Coutanche | (2021-2024) |
| Trevor Dobie    | (2021-2024) |
| Jennifer George | (2021-2024) |
| John Hedger     | (co-opted)  |
| Keith Hiscock   | (2021-2024) |
| Tim Jones       | (2019-2022) |
| Chris Pawson    | (2021-2024) |
| John Tyrer      | (co-opted)  |
| Chris Webster   | (2021-2024) |

### 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

John Hedger (Editor)

The problems of 2020 for Lundy seemed to be fated to continue in 2021, beginning with a Covid lockdown in January, but improved with the opening of the island from April onwards. The adventures of working under the Covid regulations for the rest of the year are described by island manager Derek Green in his annual report (see p.13). Derek also details some silver-linings to the 'Covid-cloud', including the opportunity to complete a number of projects such as the Lundy Heliport helipad and repairs to the Jetty, which will be of benefit to us all. A silver-lining for the LFS itself has been the success of the online events organised by Michael Williams which must have helped in the recruitment of 93 new members in 2021, some of whom are listed by Sandra Rowland in her Membership Secretary's Report (see p.8), bringing the total to a record 604.

The increased number of sailings and helicopter flights made access to the island again possible. As a result the LFS logbook (now to be found again in the bookcase in the Tavern in case you did not know) was well used by visitors and staff and had a very creditable number of entries duly abstracted by our hard-working LFS recorders, whose accounts of the different groups occupy most of this report. Well done. They included a number of new finds for Lundy, ranging from birds to invertebrates, plants, mosses and fungi. Some of them were national rarities, such as the gill-fungus *Porpoloma pes-caprae* found on the Airfield (see p.130), one was a new record for the whole of the UK, the tiny moss *Didymodon tophaceus* subspecies *sicculus* discovered on the mortar of Government House by Peter Martin (see p.128) but even this is eclipsed by the Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* seen by David Price near Old Light on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, new for UK and a second record for the whole of the Western Palearctic, (see p.72 and cover picture). Complete listing for all the Biological Records for Lundy in 2021 will be available on the LFS Website [www.lundy.org.uk/records/2021](http://www.lundy.org.uk/records/2021) once they have been entered and checked. The overall species total for Lundy is impressive for such a small land area; it is still growing and is of national significance. Well done everyone, keep on observing.

The departure of Warden Dean Jones and his partner Zoë Barton for Northern Ireland in the autumn of 2021 has meant the loss of one of our chief sources of records and photographs of the birds of Lundy but also of a wide range of other wildlife (even the occasional fungus!). Some of their legacy records and photographs feature in this report. Rosie Ellis has been an excellent choice as Dean's successor and her account of the activities of the island's Conservation Team under the 2021 lockdown, including working with the LFS volunteers, can be found on p.17. The new Assistant Warden, Stuart Cossey, and his partner Megan Hollywood Harry seem to have wide-ranging interests like Dean and Zoë, so all seems to be set fair for the entries in the 2022 Annual Report.

The LFS achieved its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021 but celebrations were thwarted by the Covid regulations, as discussed by Michael Williams in his Honorary Secretary's report overleaf, which also includes the activities of your committee and a wide range of happenings in the LFS year. Sadly the latter included the passing of Diana Keast, the uncrowned 'Queen of Lundy', and Michael has written an obituary for Diana (seen p.24), illustrated with a picture of her looking very regal standing beside Island Manager Derek Green. We shall miss her very much.

Finally, thanks from me to Tim Davis, the previous editor of the Annual Report, for much good advice as well as practical help with the layout. Could not have done it without you, Tim.

*Pictured left: Members of the October LFS Working Party erecting one of the poles at the start of the restoration of the Terrace Heligoland Trap (photo: Hilary Winsor).*

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Michael Williams

The Lundy Field Society was 75 years young in 2021 and we commemorated this in several ways. Following the success of previous Discover Lundy activity weeks, another was planned for May, however, the coronavirus restrictions in place at the time prevented the week going ahead. This was disappointing given almost two years of planning. Another project which had been in planning for a similar length of time came to a much more successful fruition: a commemorative stamp issue. Three panoramic illustrations of Lundy, each perforated into a pair of stamps were prepared and launched in May. Our thanks to Lars Liewendahl, Lundy's stamp advisor, Alan Rowland and Derek Green for their work, and the artist Sharon Smart for producing such elegant souvenirs of our anniversary. We were also able to unveil a commemorative picture in the Wheelhouse in the Tavern illustrated with images of Martin Coles Harman and Leslie Harvey, our founders.

The AGM was due to be held on Lundy for the first time in our history during the Discover Lundy week. Unfortunately, Covid prevented this and we rescheduled the meeting to September, moving online. I hope we can return to holding future meetings in person as there are a number of members who are not able to participate in online events.

At the last AGM in September, the very new news was that Dean Jones, the Lundy Warden, would be leaving Lundy with his fiancée Zoë Barton, Head Housekeeper, to return to Northern Ireland in a role with the RSPB. Dean has made a massive contribution to the conservation of Lundy and especially in ornithological observation. It is through his leadership that Lundy is progressing towards re-establishing itself as a Bird Observatory. Derek invited me to join the recruitment panel for the new Warden in October and I'm pleased to say that we appointed Rosie Ellis, Dean's assistant, as the new Warden. Rosie is originally from Reading and came to Lundy in 2019 via Norwich, Cornwall and North Devon. As Assistant Warden, she has also combined her role with that of Education Officer, engaging with school groups as part of the education programme run jointly by Lundy and St Helen's Centre.

*A Northern Ireland selfie from Dean and Zoë, and a rockpooling Rosie Ellis (photo: Keith Hiscock).*



We were also able to appoint a new Assistant Warden in Stuart Cossey who has come to Lundy from the Bird Observatory on Bardsey Island, off the Llŷn Peninsula in North Wales. Stuart arrived on Lundy in November with his partner Megan Hollywood Harry. We very much look forward to continuing to work with Rosie, Stuart, Matt Stritch and the rest of the Conservation Team in the years ahead.

The year concluded with the tremendous sadness of the passing of our President, Diana Keast. Diana, the daughter of Martin Coles Harman, was the last surviving private owner of Lundy. After the sale to the National Trust, Diana maintained her relationship with Lundy, visiting regularly and she reinforced those connections through the Lundy Field Society. Diana became a Vice President in 2007 and we were pleased to elevate her to our President in 2015. When she attended the committee meeting later that year it was only the third time in the Society's history that the President had attended such a meeting – the last being in 1969! Diana remained a regular attendee until the travelling became too much for her, but she continued to participate by commenting on business and writing to Officers, including myself, in her instantly recognisable, elegant hand.

A highlight of my role is dealing with enquiries and correspondence that reach me as Honorary Secretary. During the past 12 months I have dealt with a broad range of enquiries including requests for maps of Lundy, images from the Catford archive, and filming for a documentary. I was also asked by Lyndsey Green to reply to an enquiry she had received from someone whose ancestor was reputed to have been a lighthouse keeper on Lundy. It transpired that he was in fact part of the Coastguard based on Lundy in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and I was able to provide quite a significant amount of information supplemented by references to articles in our Bulletin and Journal.

There has been correspondence about the Gade family tree, and I have been able to supply some information and images to the Ilfracombe Museum about the Old Light. Simon Dell and I also corresponded about the swearing in of a Mr Hole as Constable on Lundy in 1787. I answered an enquiry about the MV *Polar Bear* leaving service on Lundy which also elicited some information about its visit to Kinlochleven to collect John and Ina Hinshelwood who were moving to Lundy in 1973! I also received an enquiry from John Bament who is the grandson of Jack Bament who worked on Lundy from 1928 to 1932. This resulted in a scrapbook of contemporary newspaper cuttings and a set of family photos taken on Lundy being donated to the LFS.

There were three working parties in 2021 that avoided lockdown restrictions, all in October and in consecutive weeks. Rebuilding the Heligoland Bird Trap on the Quarry Terrace was a major objective, and considerable effort was devoted to it. Chris Webster was on hand to oversee the groundwork for archaeological reasons in the first week. Other tasks taken on included gulley clearing, drystone wall repairs, pond level management, preparatory work for a lightning conductor around the church, bridge replacement near the Casbah, tree management, rhododendron seedling searches and many other jobs, vital to aid the Lundy Conservation Team. The inaugural swim for the 'Lundy Bluetits' was a highlight for some with a dip in the sea. We record our very grateful thanks to the group leaders Megan Debenham, Jan Paul and Belinda Cox for their hard work with lots of extra organising due to the Covid regulations and last-minute changes to personnel.

The total number of bird species recorded in 2021 was 162 (a provisional total, pending confirmation of some rarities), which was very much in line with 2019 and 2020. Easing of Covid lockdown restrictions came early enough in the season for ornithological recording during the year to return to something more like normal. The presence of resident bird specialist Dean Jones, succeeded in November by Stuart Cossey, together with other members of the Lundy Conservation Team, made a huge contribution to ensuring high-quality coverage throughout the year.

The RSPB-led survey of cliff-nesting seabirds in June, found record post-rat eradication numbers of Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins, the counts for the latter two species having more than doubled since the last census in 2017. Fulmars, Shags and even Kittiwakes also showed increases, but the three breeding large-gull species – Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed – are not faring so well, with both black-back species posting steep declines. Separate investigations of suitable habitat showed that the island's breeding population of Storm Petrels continues to grow in number and expand to new sites. The number of pairs was conservatively estimated at a minimum of 50, which is nevertheless impressive given that Storm Petrel was only added to the list of confirmed breeding species in 2014.

As usual, a number of rare and unusual birds were logged during the year, the stand-out being a Sulphur-bellied Warbler (our front cover image) that appeared for one day only in June – not only a first for Lundy, but a first for Britain and Ireland and just the second for the whole of the Western Palearctic. Other national rarities during the year included a Rustic Bunting (also in June), a Red-eyed Vireo in October, whilst a Little Grebe in the Landing Bay on 30 July was just the fifth Lundy occurrence of what is a common and widespread species in most of Britain.

The island continues to progress towards regaining its former status as a member of the Bird Observatories Network of Britain and Ireland. Associated activities included the progression towards this included continuing digitisation of historic ringing records and the restoration of the Heligoland Bird Trap. It is hoped that provisional accreditation could be granted to Lundy in 2023, with full accreditation following, pending successful completion of a two-year probationary period.

2021 was a productive year for bird ringing. The total of 4,446 birds ringed was the highest since 2009. The long-term studies of breeding Manx Shearwaters, Storm Petrels and Wheatears continued, with increased success in the shearwater nestboxes, and Wheatear work going a long way towards recovering the high proportion of colour-ringed birds that had been achieved before Covid restrictions prevented this work in 2020. Two more studies were added to these: the long-term Lundy House Sparrow colour-ringing project, previously operated independently by Imperial College London and University of Sheffield, transferred to using rings issued to the LFS, and a colour-ringing study of Lundy's breeding Starlings was started.

While these extra House Sparrows and Starlings contributed to the year's high ringing total, the spring and autumn seasons of migrant ringing were particularly productive too. Most notably, the previous record annual totals for Blackcaps and Siskins were easily surpassed, and between them made up more than a third of all birds ringed.

Alan & Sandra Rowland were able to undertake the Lundy Cabbage count, having missed 2020, but photographic monitoring and invertebrate counts were not undertaken. Total numbers increased by 65% from just over 5,000 in 2019 to over 8,200 in 2021. The plants appear to be doing well both in abundance and in extending their habitat and a small landslip adjacent to the Lundyite Dyke on the Beach Road produced more plants. Rhododendron is under control, there is a low number of rabbits, and selective culling of feral stock appear to be benefitting the Cabbage.

The webinars continued at the start of the year and Tim Jones joined me for the webinar in February. His excellent talk attracted the largest audience we have ever achieved – somewhere in the region of 450-500 watching live and over 800 subsequent catch-up viewings. Plans to start a new series of webinars in the autumn did not proceed due to other pressures. John Tyrer, who has led two photography webinars, has come forward to help the Society build a photo-library. This is an exciting development, and we were able to co-opt John to the committee in the latter part of the year.

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, was





*Lundy Cabbage counting from the Lundy RHIB, 7<sup>th</sup> June (cabbage photo: Mandy Dee).*

deferred until June 2021. A grant of £500 was awarded to Jamie Dunning for a study of 'The role of social interactions in the life history of the House Sparrow' which took place during 2021. Jamie is the current Lundy Sparrow Project PhD student. We were also able to provide financial support of £500 for field equipment for the visiting school groups to St Helen's Centre.

A sub-committee reviewed and developed proposals for the long-term sustainability of the LFS, focusing on the Society's communications and ways in which the LFS can both better retain its current membership and attract new and younger members. This continued work started in 2020 following the outcomes of the membership survey in 2019. It proposed a series of priorities for the committee to consider. Unfortunately, the committee could not agree on how to take these forward and the work has halted.

Our new Journal editor, Tom Dickens, explored ways in which software could support the editorial process and how we could present the Journal through an online platform. This would improve discoverability of current Lundy research and raise awareness of the Journal among potential authors, as obtaining content is very reliant on a considerable amount of cajoling of authors. A new editorial board was considered. Regrettably, Tom later resigned from the committee and his ideas have not progressed further. Keith Hiscock has picked up the mantle as his successor.

Tim Davis retired as editor of the Annual Report. During Tim's tenure the presentation and quality of the publication has increased immeasurably, and we now have a flagship publication in full colour. We thank Tim for his service and transformation of the report. John Hedger has agreed to take on the editorial for the 2021 report. Frances Stuart retired from the committee and we record our thanks to her for leading our work on safeguarding and we are delighted that Frances will continue to lead in this area.

We are extremely grateful for a significant legacy received in 2021 from the estate of Pat Rodley who, with her late husband Ken and late sister Pamela Dunthorne, were long standing members. The Society will receive £66,000, of which we had received £52,000 by the end of the year. A significant portion has been invested in our endowment fund. The receipt of such a generous legacy resulted in a long wish-list of ways in which a portion of the reserved income could be used to support our objectives. This was distilled down to a priority list of projects including organising field courses, researching how we might attract younger members, providing financial support to enable relevant equipment to be bought, and supporting the Lundy Bird Observatory. These ideas are being developed and it is noteworthy that the Rodley legacy has already been able to support the restoration of the Heligoland Bird Trap.

At the end of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we are in a strong position to build further on our recent growth. Thank you for your support.

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Sandra Rowland*

The past year was another incredibly successful one for the Society when a record breaking 93 new members joined; 21 were family memberships, 51 were individual members, and I also enrolled two student members.

## Thank you

I must thank everyone for continuing to support the Society, either by paying their annual subscription or by making a donation. Thank you also to those of you who make your payment by cheque and include a message or a card, I really enjoy and appreciate hearing from you.

## Subscriptions

I am pleased to report that membership subscription rates remain the same, £25 for individuals, £28 for family membership, and a very reasonable £15 for students of any age. An additional £10 each year is required from our growing number of overseas members. I should also remind members that all annual subscriptions become due on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

## Membership news

One of our members, Mr Peter Stanley, celebrated over 50 years continuous membership of the Society in 2021, he was sent a congratulatory card and letter from our Chair, Alan Rowland.

I sent out 56 subscription reminder letters or emails last summer and had an unprecedented response. Only 12 members did not respond and their details were removed from the database, in accordance with GDPR.

Sadly nine of our members passed away last year: Mr John Wilson, Mrs Anne Andrews, Mr Paul Doubler, Mr Chris Price, Revd. Ian Ainsworth-Smith, Mr Doug Kestell, Miss Pamela Roth, Mrs Margaret Pink, and Mrs Diana Keast.

## Membership count

At the end of 2021 the membership count showed 463 addresses on the database, equating to 604 members (counting only 2 for each family membership). The breakdown follows:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Individual    | 260              |
| Family        | 141              |
| Student       | 3                |
| Organisations | 4                |
| Corporate     | 1                |
| Life          | 46               |
| Ex Officio    | 6                |
| Honorary      | 4                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>463 (604)</b> |

## New members

As indicated earlier, 93 new members joined the Society in 2021. We welcome them all, and hope they will remain members for many years to come. I can only list those who have given me permission to print their names and main interest, in order to comply with GDPR regulations. If your name is not on the list and you would like it to be, please contact me and I will add your name next year. New members in 2021 in order of joining are:

| <b>Name(s)</b>          | <b>Interests</b>       | <b>Name(s)</b>         | <b>Interests</b>      |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rachel Forster          | Wildlife, history      | Amanda Head            | Lundy                 |
| Mary Eggins             | Lundy                  | Keith & Elizabeth      |                       |
| Neil & Nikki Thomas     | Birds and Wildlife     | Bridgewater            | Birdwatching          |
| Christine Hallam        | Conservation work,     | Julie Ross             | Plants & Conservation |
| & David Jones           | Botany                 |                        | Breaks                |
| Beth Strefford          |                        | Johnny Cayford         | Birds                 |
| & J Humphries           | Lundy                  | Joe Parker             | Bird ringing          |
| Trevor & Jane Eastman   | Ponies and Goats       | Adam Mills             | Conservation Breaks   |
| Jonny & Lydia Morgan    | Ornithology,           | Paul Hayes             | All Lundy             |
|                         | Photography            | Diane Hawes            | Conservation Breaks   |
| S Hughes & M Gardener   | Lundy                  | David Elliott          | Conservation Breaks   |
| Claire Graham           | Conservation Breaks    | Alison Parrott         |                       |
| Paul Connolly           | Writing, Lundy Poetry  | & Jackie Wright        | History and Wildlife  |
| Richard Clark           | Conservation Breaks    | Madeline Gowers        | Conservation Breaks   |
| John Boyle              | Conservation Breaks    | Louisa Bartlett        | Wildlife              |
| Ishbel Hayes            | Natural History        | Melvyn Mullins         | Conservation Breaks   |
| Evelyn Northage-Hickin  | Conservation Breaks    | Angel Jin              | Conservation Breaks   |
| Naomi Hamilton          | Wildlife, Vegetation   | Andrea May             | History, Archaeology, |
| Robert & Annie Wood     | Bells and Birds        | Warren Shipman         | Birds                 |
| David Bagley            | Wildlife, Bell Ringing | Karl Huesing           | Conservation Breaks   |
| Steve & Ruby McAusland  | Birds, Cetaceans       | Elizabeth Coates       | Lundy                 |
| Lynda Garcia            | Conservation Breaks    | Brian Bottomley        | Lundy                 |
| Pam Shepherd            | Tibbetts               | Robert Crowley         | Lundy                 |
| Ester Spears            | Photography & Tibbetts | Louise McKee           | Conservation Breaks   |
| Patricia Thompson       | Lundy                  | Judith Dent            | Conservation Breaks   |
| Jane Harding            | History, Flora & Fauna | David and Ann Campbell | Working parties       |
| Judith Hible            | Lundy                  | Beryl & Dick Tudhope   | Lundy                 |
| Duncan Porter           | Everything Lundy       | Rachel Elliott         |                       |
| John & Carole Appleyard | Ponies                 | & David Evans          | Conservation Breaks   |
| Bill Blowfield          | Lundy                  | Lisa & James Lyons     | Wildlife              |
| Susan Murray            | Birds                  | Paul & Jill Stevenson  | Lundy                 |
| Sarah Bye               | Bell Ringing           | Stuart Cossey          | Birds and Moths       |
| Taylor Ensor            | Seabirds               | Bronte Giddens         | Conservation Breaks   |
| Frances Simpson         | Conservation Breaks    | Chris Hughes           | Birds and Wildlife    |
| Richard &               | Natural History,       | Mark Esbester          | Bell ringing          |
| Kenzou Twitchett        | Geology                | Peter Graves           | Ecology               |

### **Change of address**

Please let me know if you have changed your postal or email address so that you do not miss any of our publications or emails from the secretary. My email address is:  
[membership@lundy.org.uk](mailto:membership@lundy.org.uk)

*Sunset over Old Light, 24<sup>th</sup> April  
(photo: Dean Jones).*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Dee

We were very fortunate this year to receive a substantial bequest from the estate of Patricia Rodley who, with her late husband and sister, were regular enthusiastic visitors to Lundy. The accounts presented here show a surplus for the year of £59,266 which includes £52,000 from that bequest. The remaining surplus of £7,266 is largely the result of increased membership, reduced funding to conservation breaks and the lack of expenditure on the biennial Journal.

To strike a balance between making immediate use of large donations and investing in the future of the Society, the committee agreed that 20% of individual legacies or donations exceeding £1,000 would be allocated to a 'project fund' and the remainder invested. The additional investments amounted to £24,100 during the year. To ensure that the day-to-day operation of the Society is covered by subscription income, other donations (excluding the regular Jennetts Trust income) is now also diverted to the 'project fund', which at the end of the year stood at £10,679. The committee would welcome ideas from the membership on suitable projects which could benefit from this fund.

Despite reduced access to the island, membership income has grown by 13% and donations have also increased. Included in the donations is a total of £223 from Amazon Smile and 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, which the donor is happy for us to use to support general running costs, for which we are grateful. The 2020/21 Gift Aid claim was delayed beyond the end of the financial year due to complications in the change of Treasurer and will be included in the 2022 accounts.

The regrettable cancellation of the Discover Lundy 2021 event, due to Covid restrictions, after we had paid the balance on the property rentals, resulted in a lot of administration. We are very grateful to Landmark Trust for providing a full refund, including the deposits paid in 2019. There was no net income or expenditure in 2021 and the only cost to the Society was that of printing booking forms in 2020.

Sales of *The Harman Family's Lundy* and *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* in 2021 have been included in Sundry sales, along with sales of past Annual Reports and other donated publications and Lundy ephemera. We continue to sell *Lundy Fungi* through the website and Lundy General Stores, which is also our primary outlet for the *Colouring Book*. The stock shown as assets includes the value at cost of these two publications at the end of the year.

Research grants were carried over from 2020, although the full amounts of the awards were not claimed. The committee agreed to contribute up to £1,650 towards the refurbishment of the Terrace Heligoland trap, the first payment of which is shown as project expenditure. The cancellation of the spring Conservation Breaks meant that there was less expenditure attributed to supporting conservation work.

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 Storm Petrels. Visiting members who are qualified bird ringers are also subsidised to an individual annual maximum of £25 and re-imburse the LFS for ring usage above that. We anticipate that the new Assistant Warden will soon be qualified to ring birds independently and have agreed to cover the costs of rings used by him, as we did for the previous Warden. We are grateful for an award of £472 from Natural England towards the cost of seabird rings and were able to forestall a rise in ring costs by re-stocking in October. The net value of our contribution to bird ringing in 2021 was £248.



The 2021 expenditure shown for our regular publications – Bulletin, Annual Report and Journal – includes typesetting, printing and distribution costs. We are grateful to the Lundy Company and the Bideford Shore Office staff for handling the franking of the Annual Report, which reduced the distribution costs.

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2021

| <b>Income</b>                           | <b>2021</b>   | <b>2020</b>    |
|---|---------------|----------------|
|   | £             | £              |
| Subscriptions                           | 10,423        | 9,222          |
| Donations                               | 1,923         | 1,511          |
| Jennetts Trust                          | 2,040         | 2,040          |
| Legacies                                | 52,000        | –              |
| Gift Aid                                | –             | 1,345          |
| Conservation break deposits             | 590           | –              |
| Book sales – <i>Lundy Fungi</i>         | 328           | 280            |
| Book sales – <i>Colouring Book</i>      | 54            | –              |
| Sundry sales                            | 679           | 452            |
| Postage                                 | 17            | 68             |
| Bird ringing                            | 1,216         | 254            |
| Sundries                                | –             | 45             |
| Interest                                | 3             | 116            |
| Stock value increase                    | 448           | 211            |
| <b>Total income</b>                     | <b>69,721</b> | <b>15,544</b>  |
| Deduct expenditure                      | 10,455        | 20,528         |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b> | <b>59,266</b> | <b>(4,984)</b> |

| <b>Expenditure</b>                | <b>2021</b>   | <b>2020</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                   | £             | £             |
| Bulletin                          | 763           | 934           |
| Annual Report                     | 3,106         | 3,031         |
| Journal                           | –             | 3,847         |
| Website                           | 52            | 66            |
| Publicity                         | 201           | –             |
| Bird ringing                      | 1,802         | 1,155         |
| Grants                            | 1,018         | 500           |
| Conservation breaks               | 2,214         | –             |
| Projects                          | 897           | –             |
| Donation to Landmark Lundy Appeal | –             | 10,000        |
| AGM expenses                      | 38            | 92            |
| Committee expenses                | –             | 109           |
| Discover Lundy 2021               | –             | 55            |
| Postage                           | 170           | 387           |
| Stationery                        | 93            | 64            |
| LFS Library                       | –             | 116           |
| Sundries                          | 101           | 172           |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>          | <b>10,455</b> | <b>20,528</b> |

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

|  | 2021           | 2020          |
|--|----------------|---------------|
|  | £              | £             |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                      |                |               |
| Stock – books                              | 3,348          | 3,702         |
| Stock – bird rings                         | 2,545          | 1,743         |
| NS&I account                               | 384            | 381           |
| Current account                            | 43,387         | 31,523        |
| Reserve account (project fund)             | 10,679         | 9             |
| Discover Lundy 2021 deposits with Landmark | –              | 5,608         |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            | <b>60,343</b>  | <b>42,966</b> |
| <b>Less</b>                                |                |               |
| Advance subscriptions                      | 963            | 882           |
| Advance conservation break deposits        | 610            | 450           |
| Advance Discover Lundy 2021 receipts       | –              | 18,030        |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                  | <b>58,770</b>  | <b>23,604</b> |
| <b>Other assets</b>                        |                |               |
| LionTrust Sustainable Fund                 | 44,100         | 20,000        |
| <b>Total assets</b>                        | <b>102,870</b> | <b>43,604</b> |
| <b>Reserves</b>                            |                |               |
| Brought forward                            | 23,604         | 28,588        |
| Transfer to specific reserve               | -24,100        | –             |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year           | 59,266         | (4,984)       |
| <b>General reserves</b>                    | <b>58,770</b>  | <b>23,604</b> |
| Specific reserve                           | 44,100         | 20,000        |
| <b>Total reserves</b>                      | <b>102,870</b> | <b>43,604</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 £56,063.

### Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2021

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2021, 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**  
**16 February 2022**

## ISLAND REPORT

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

My report this year unfortunately begins with some sad news following the untimely passing of Kevin Welsh, our recently retired Lundy farmer and Island Foreman. Kevin and his wife Julie first came to work on Lundy in 2002 and retired at the end of the season last year. Kevin managed the farm and was promoted to Island Foreman in 2005. He rarely left the island and was one of those people who could turn their hand to almost anything. A larger-than-life personality, Kevin will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

The last year has also seen the passing of Diana Keast, which marked the end of a very special era in Lundy's history. Diana was classed as true 'Lundy Royalty' and she remained passionate about Lundy throughout her life. She was a great help and mentor to me during my early years and her legacy will endure for generations to come.

2021 will be remembered first and foremost for Covid and the lockdown from January to April. During the lockdown we took the opportunity to complete outstanding project work from the previous year which was postponed due to the pandemic and the furlough scheme. At Hartland we tarmacked the helipad, luggage bays and helicopter approach to further improve the facility for both staff and visitors.

On the island, Millcombe had a make-over with a splendid new kitchen, handmade by the Landmark team at our Honeybourne workshops. Once complete, the kitchen was delivered to the *Oldenburg* in Sharpness and shipped across for fitting in January. Further up the island, Stonecroft had a coat of paint which was ably applied by the Conservation Team. In the Tavern, restoration work to the island's Reception revealed the historical bread ovens which had been built by the Lundy granite company mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. A fascinating feature of the island's history, we are carefully restoring and leaving them exposed for everyone to enjoy. Our thanks go to Charlie Smith and Rachel Thompson of Old Light Building Conservation for their painstaking attention to the project.

We were fortunate at the beginning of the year to also have received some funding from Historic England through their Heritage Stimulus Fund which allowed us to complete re-pointing works to the exterior of Old Light Upper and Lower, as well as finally completing the restoration of the stairwell spindles in the tower, a project which had been running for almost five years. Other work included within the funding was to complete more re-pointing works to Millcombe's historical garden wall, behind Government House, which allowed us to involve some of the islanders as an alternative to being furloughed. All of the work had to be completed by the end of March which proved a challenge logistically with a lack of readily available materials and scaffolding to erect. However, with a degree of determination and persistence, we were delighted to be able to see all three projects to completion.

The Old Light additionally benefited from a fresh coat of paint to the exterior of the upper lantern room in April, when contractor painters working on Lundy North lighthouse found themselves with some time on their hands after completing works for Trinity House ahead of schedule. It was too good an opportunity to miss and, after some negotiation, the unplanned works were duly completed, and the tower is now looking in fine shape.

Back in the village we were delighted to have bid for and received funding from the North Devon Biosphere to refurbish the Rocket Shed, Rosie Ellis being given the challenge of managing the project. The building is now looking fantastic and has been renamed the 'Museum'. We are grateful to signwriter Jimmy Campbell of Ilfracombe for providing his iconic Lundy style to the new sign.



*Rosie outside the refurbished Museum (photo: Derek Green).*

Following the lockdown there was concern about lack of income for the first quarter of the year. However, following a further bid to the Government's Culture Recovery Fund we were relieved to successfully receive funding of £500,000 to cover the loss of income during that period. Director Anna Keay subsequently wrote and thanked the Chancellor of the Exchequer personally.

With the Covid vaccine becoming readily available by March, we were fortunate enough to be able to bring a team from the local NHS to Lundy and vaccinate all the islanders en masse, but in true Lundy fashion the planned helicopter trip to bring the medical team over was cancelled due to fog on the day. The *Oldenburg* crew were duly mustered at short notice and the ship came to the rescue. We sailed with half-an-hour of tide to spare with just three passengers and a coolbox full of vaccine, the only cargo on the day, and everyone on the island received their jabs.

Lundy finally opened on 13<sup>th</sup> April with a host of restrictions which proved a challenge for everyone, particularly on wet change-over days when the Marisco Tavern had to remain closed. To overcome this, a large tepee was erected to provide shelter and complimentary drinks for visitors. However, the weather soon intervened and the tepee was shipped back to the mainland in more pieces than it arrived – unfortunately it hadn't quite lived up to its 150 mph wind rating!

The pandemic had a significant effect on visitor numbers for the year, though the total was still well up compared to 2020. Some 7,997 day-trippers and 5,059 stayers managed to get to Lundy, with *Oldenburg* completing 83 sailings and the helicopter 16 flying days – remarkable given the impact of the pandemic and lockdown. As a result of the deferral scheme introduced by Landmark through which people could defer their holiday, the island's properties had an extraordinarily busy year with 96% of all available nights booked throughout the year. 2021 has seen the Vestry become more readily available for bookings, and details were published on the website for the first time. As a result, it enjoyed a healthy first year occupancy of 78% and has firmly become a popular island property.

The effect of the pandemic brought additional cruise ships to the island, as they were restricted from their normal routes, and as a result we enjoyed visits on 16 occasions from a variety of vessels, including the *Hebridean Sky*. In total, over 800 cruise ship passengers disembarked and climbed the beach road over the year, all vitally helping the island's coffers.





*Goliath and her crew at work on the Jetty (photo: Derek Green).*

2021 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LFS, but unfortunately plans for the ever-popular 'Discover Lundy' week were cancelled due to the restrictions. However, the occasion was marked when a new montage about the LFS and its work was hung in the Wheel House. Following the tradition of the Lundy Postal Service, a new set of stamps was issued to mark the occasion.

During the year, we took the opportunity to refurbish the Jetty fixtures and fittings, now 21 years old and in need of some TLC. Local company Severn Seas Shipping were awarded the contract and, using their trusty tug *Goliath*, works to the Jetty began during periods of calm weather. The long dry summer provided a challenge for the island's water system and historical water sources were brought back into use with new bore-hole pumps fitted to alleviate the problem. Plans have been submitted to Torridge District Council to increase the capacity of the island's reservoir at the earliest opportunity.

Back on the mainland the marketing team had a quiet year with most shows cancelled, and so we took opportunity to refurbish the iconic exhibition trailer and vehicles with new livery in readiness for 2022.

The *Oldenburg* had a busy year and an unexpected overnight visit to Sharpness in August to replace a propeller following some blade damage. She returned to Sharpness in November for her annual dry-docking, and what should have been a straightforward programme turned into a challenge when we discovered that the steel deck at the aft end had failed the ultrasonic inspection. Intergranular corrosion underneath the deck timbers meant that we had to find a solution to replace the entire steel deck. Following some discussion with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Class Society (quality standards for the ship structure), we eventually agreed to replace the deck over several years due to the extraordinarily high cost of the work and time required to carry it out. Twenty-five percent of the deck was finally replaced but this meant that we had to rewire and refurbish the entire aft saloon below, which meant work continuing back in Bideford until March. Other works at the dry dock were completed successfully and the ship finally returned to Bideford mid-February of 2022.

During the period at Sharpness we used local charter boats from Bideford and Ilfracombe to supply the island, which was particularly busy as a result of the previous year's deferrals.



*Oldenburg in dry dock at Sharpness and, below, the Lundy team (photos: Derek Green).*

Over the year we saw a number of staff changes, with Dean Jones and Zoë Barton, Kevin and Julie Welsh, and Dave and Fiona Bradley leaving the island. This created opportunities for others, and I'm pleased that stalwart Tom Carr has ably taken over the running of the farm, while Rosie Ellis has stepped up to become our new Warden, assisted by Stuart Cossey who joins us from Bardsey Island with his partner Megan. In the Tavern, Alice Waterfield has taken on the role of front of house manager and Teresa Davies has taken on the challenge of managing the kitchen as head chef. We wish them all well in their new roles.

Looking ahead to 2022 it is clear it is going to be a busy year as the popularity of the island continues to spread. We look forward to progressing our plans to increase the capacity of the water reservoir and also the power station with a view to introducing renewables across the island. We have developed a draft plan for a new power generation system in partnership with the National Trust, based on a model currently used on Fair Isle in Scotland.

2022 also brings the twice-postponed Lundy Marine Festival which I am sure will be well supported by everyone who visits and loves Lundy.

I hope that the Field Society has a successful year and we look forward to seeing you back on the island. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the past challenging year.



# CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Rosie Ellis (Lundy Warden)



*Lundy's Fire & Rescue Team pose in front of Old Light after a busy day of training and equipment checks, 21<sup>st</sup> April (photo: Kobe Garfoot).*

**A**nother record-breaking year on Lundy with wildlife thriving around our coast. A Minke Whale in the Landing Bay, a Wryneck in the hand doing impressions of a snake, and a 'mega' for Lundy, Britain and Ireland and beyond... the Sulphur-bellied Warbler (if you had not read all about it in the tabloids already!). Looking back at the year I see how much changed for us all on the island. We have said our fair share of tearful farewells to friends, neighbours and colleagues, and hello to many new but now familiar faces.

2021 started out feeling ominously like 2020 with the usual January shutdown becoming a lockdown. This time we were joined by teams of contractors to carry out tasks such as pointing walls, fixing gigantic compasses, restoring the Rocket Shed and, oh, yet more pointing walls. Thanks to all the grants, and customers choosing to postpone rather than cancel their holidays, we were able to keep on working, with Manx Shearwater nestbox repairs, sapling planting and rocky shore surveys before we opened. With our usual spring work parties cancelled, many thanks go to staff who helped to get saplings in the ground quickly and, with the cullers unable to get here, many thanks to those who helped with the stock count.

With the information on volunteer positions going viral this year we were spoiled for choice with hundreds of candidates from the UK but also Germany and Korea. In the end we were joined by Yorkshire and proud walling extraordinaire Assistant Ranger Adam Waters and the great northern birders Ben Arkless and Eleanor Grover for our Assistant Seabird Wardens. In true Lundy style, our spring volunteers stayed on longer than anticipated; Ben eventually leaving us for a paid role on Brownsea Island and Eleanor getting back home in time for Christmas!

The season was filled with our usual productivity surveys, RSPB seabird counts, Natural England rocky shore surveys, Biosecurity for LIFE training and the long-awaited return of our snorkel safaris – with some cosy new wetsuits thanks to North Devon Biosphere. Except for our poor Kittiwakes, seabirds are doing well, with the bounce-back of the seabird recovery project still being felt. Many thanks to Alan and Sandra Rowland for the cabbage counting, an enjoyable and productive boat survey was a highlight of the year for me, plus the T-shirt!



Finally, schools and universities were able to join us again with fourteen groups winning the 'no lockdown lottery' and able to get across to Lundy. Thanks to Plastic-Free North Devon, a lucky few got to snorkel with some help from the Conservation Team – it's a tough job but someone's got to do it! Many thanks to our team of LFS Ambassadors for all their help with school groups, walks and talks. It was so great to finally be allowed to have a get-together and a long-awaited group picture.

I am coming to realise there is never a normal year on Lundy. Nonetheless, 2021 was particularly busy with sold-out boats and accommodation. The Conservation Team would not be able to engage with the numbers of visitors that we do without the LFS Ambassadors' considerable help. Special thanks to Amanda Head for her faultless work, as ever, co-ordinating the team this year.

In Autumn we were joined by Chloe Mortlock and Lucy Woolfenden for another record-breaking year for our Atlantic Grey Seal pupping season. Many thanks to them for their passion and dedication to finding every pup; 62 is the new number to beat and our highest ever count of seals (244), with more hiding in sea caves no doubt. (More details of the counts can be found on p.109.)

We had all known it was coming at some point but it was still a sad day on the island when Warden Dean and his partner Zoë handed in their notice. Not many people in life get such a lovely boss and I will be forever grateful for the chance to work alongside such a knowledgeable and passionate colleague who has given so much to Lundy. We look forward to many future visits from them and wish them both all the very best for their new adventure back on the big island of Ireland.



Many thanks to Eleanor Grover who stayed on and helped out with surveys and write-ups in the interregnum after Dean's departure and generally going above and beyond. Tom Carr has now taken over the farm after years of being Kev's right-hand man. As I am sure anyone who knows Tom would expect, he has thrown himself into his new role and the lambing shed is looking spotless.

*Rosie and Matt with one of the newly installed Manx Shearwater nestboxes, 5<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones).*



*Assistant Ranger Adam walling with LFS working party members, 8<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Amanda Yates).*



As for the Warden role, I am very humbled to have been successful in applying for the post. It is a little nerve-wracking following Dean as Warden, but I am very lucky to be supported by Stuart Cossey, a fantastic birder, as the new Assistant Warden and Education Officer, and by Ranger Matt Stritch who lots of you hopefully got the chance to meet on our three weeks of back-to-back work parties that finally got to go ahead, along with a National Trust staff week.

Many thanks to Matt for all his hard work in 2021. There are many essential but never-ending ranger tasks that often go unnoticed. From clearing drains in a downpour to strimming the Lower East Side Path in a heatwave, he is always a pleasure to work with. So many jobs were ticked off thanks to the LFS work parties, with lots of walling improved by the lambing shed, the Heligoland Trap almost complete, the Casbah bridge replaced, Rhododendron seedlings marked, lightning conductor dug, and everyone's favourite: kindling and drains. The 'ranger shack' has moved to the lambing shed and renamed as the 'ranger cave'; now volunteers can be treated to luxurious new surroundings when weather forces us indoors. Many thanks for the hard work and dedication of all volunteers and special thanks to Trevor Dobie for all the work he does behind the scenes.

Although Lundy Cabbage, seals and most seabirds are on the up, there is still a lot of work to do making up for lost time following lockdowns. Deer, Goat and Soay numbers are high and the cullers will be working overtime this winter to get the population back down to levels agreed with Natural England to prevent overgrazing of wildflowers. The long-running Rhododendron eradication is still a mammoth undertaking with thousands of plants still to be dealt with. The 2022 season promises to be a busy one with daily Bird Observatory surveys, 2,000 metres of fencing almost complete and of course the long-awaited Marine Festival.

So much to look forward to and I hope to see you all soon!

*Painting team Rosie, Pete Hayes and Matt pose in front of a half-painted Stoneycroft, 22<sup>nd</sup> March (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, the Lundy Field Society, the Marine Biological Association, MARINELife, local nature conservation groups, commercial fishing interests, dive charter boat skippers, local dive clubs and local sailing clubs.

2021 was another unusual year due to the continuing restrictions related to the Covid pandemic. Both the spring and autumn meetings of the Group were held on-line, via the video conferencing platform Zoom, kindly hosted by Derek Green. The first meeting took place on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> May and the second on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Robert Irving, in his role as Secretary to the Group, reported what had been discussed at these meetings to the Lundy Management Forum at their meetings which took place on 26<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Below is a summary of topics that were raised and discussed during both meetings.

## Reports from the island

Further to the Conservation Team's report elsewhere in this edition, items of particular interest to Group members included the following:

- The good spring tides at the end of March/start of April saw the repeat monitoring of intertidal sites (funded by Natural England), including the cup coral monitoring in the Devil's Kitchen. Whilst the number of Devonshire Cup Corals *Caryophyllia smithii* had remained stable, the number of Scarlet-and-Gold Star Corals *Balanophyllia regia* showed a marked increase, from 191 in 2020 (which had been an 11% increase on the previous year) to (a record) 232 in 2021. What are thought to be two new sites for the *Balanophyllia* coral have also been found within the Devil's Kitchen, so the species seems to be doing particularly well at the moment. On behalf of Natural England, a series of five rockpools within the Kitchen were also re-assessed, the first time this has been done since 2015. The study of these pools was initiated by Keith Hiscock and Robert Irving in 1984.
- The appearance of five Pacific Oysters *Magallana gigas* (a non-native, invasive species) early in the year on the south side of the Landing Bay raised concern. Keith Hiscock was surprised that the larvae had managed to get over to Lundy, as the larval lifespan is believed to be about 14 days and they were thought to be entirely intertidal. However, he assumes the closest source of a parent oyster must be the north coast of Devon. The species was originally allowed to be farmed in this country as the waters were considered too cold for its spat to survive. This has proved not to be the case and in the sheltered waters of South Devon, the species has become the dominant intertidal species in places. The agreed policy for those found at Lundy was to kill individuals by destroying their shells, to avoid any possible increase in numbers.
- Regarding the appearance of other non-native species, Keith Hiscock had come across the Pom-pom weed *Caulocanthus okamurae* (originally from east Asia) in the Devil's Kitchen, and the encrusting Red-ripple Bryozoan *Watersipora subatra* (which has a global distribution) from a small cave on the north side of Rat Island. Keith further expects the brown alga Wakame *Undaria pinnatifida* to make an appearance at Lundy soon, probably attached to the Jetty pilings.

## News from Natural England

Mel Parker (NE Marine Lead Adviser, South West) explained at the May meeting that Natural England had no immediate plans to undertake any subtidal monitoring of the SAC. [It has since been decided, however, that some subtidal monitoring studies will take place in September 2022.] Such monitoring was last undertaken in 2014/15. Natural England's outlook was now to prioritise their resources on a risk basis (mostly from anthropogenic sources) and as Lundy was fortunate to escape from many of the pressures experienced by mainland coastal sites, the island's MPA was assessed as being a low priority.

Mel also explained that the priority assessment of sites by Natural England is now being done at a national level and not – as in previous years – at a regional level. It was of concern to some that the island's long-term marine data sets would be adversely affected by this change in policy.

Mel moved to a new position within Natural England towards the end of 2021, with her place as Marine Lead Adviser being taken by Sophie Hare. Mel had represented Natural England on the Group for 12 years and was warmly thanked by the Chair for her contributions to the Group over this period of time.

## News from D&SIFCA

Lauren Parkhouse (Environment Officer) reported that, following an assessment of Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems (IVMS) data over the past year, she had found no activity at all in the north-east corner of the MPA during that time. This is an area where boats with demersal mobile gear were permitted. By comparison, during the previous year (2019) there had only been five days of activity within the same area, involving just a single turn-around sweep of a vessel towing gear.

Early in 2021, the Warden had reported a possible infringement within the MPA's north-eastern border by a scallop dredger *Emily-J*. The vessel had been observed with her gear down, although for some reason had had her IVMS tracker turned off. Following advice from D&SIFCA, the Warden had contacted the vessel to find out what she was up to. The skipper explained he was having engine trouble and had come into the Landing Bay. Suspecting the vessel may have been actively dredging for scallops (a banned activity within the MPA), D&SIFCA staff began an

*Devil's Kitchen at low tide  
(photo: Dean Jones).*



infringement investigation. By October's meeting, this matter had still not been resolved. The initial description was that the vessel was "sitting on a dredge at anchor" rather than it being actively fishing. This is classified as an 'infringement' but not a 'fishing infringement'. A court case took a further 12 months to resolve, with the skipper eventually being fined for an infringement within the MPA.

Lastly, Lauren brought to the Group's attention a project to be undertaken by Ocean Mind, a company which conducts fisheries surveillance around the world. They have been asked by Defra to look at five sites in the UK to investigate the efficiency of their surveillance techniques with regard to fishing activity, and Lundy is one of these chosen sites. The techniques could include satellite monitoring and fixed-wing drones, with the trial period starting in 2022.

### **News from Historic England**

In the early part of the year, Terry Newman took over from Hefin Meara as the Historic England representative on the Group. Terry informed the Group as to who had licences to dive on the two Protected Wreck sites within the MPA. Later on in the year, concern had been raised about possible non-licencees diving on the Gull Rock wreck site. Unfortunately, there was insufficient detail of the incident to take it any further, but it was as well to know that other users of the MPA were keeping their eyes open for such incidents.

### **News from the North Devon Biosphere Reserve**

At the Group's October meeting, Andy Bell of the Biosphere Reserve explained he had put in an application to the government's Communities Recovery Fund and to the Environment Agency's 3-SEAS fund, for funding to help with a number of projects. These included the compilation of a Marine Nature Recovery Plan for North Devon (to include Lundy); a project reviewing the management of the MPA (to be contracted out to Plymouth University); and an assessment of the blue carbon resource of North Devon's coastline.

The Biosphere Reserve had also arranged for another skipper accreditation training course (Lundy's own WISE scheme) to be run. This time around, it would be on-line (on Google Classroom) so that skippers could undertake the course at a time of their own convenience. By completing the course, boat skippers obtain a certificate and are able to display the course logo on their boat. The intention will be for them to repeat the course every two-three years.

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

By early summer 2021 it was agreed that the situation regarding the status of the Covid pandemic in England was improving and that restrictions to contain the disease were gradually easing. Consequently, it was decided that the Marine Festival, which had been due to take place during the summer of 2020, would run from mid-July until mid-September 2022. 2022 would also mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lundy MPA (which had started out in 1972 as a voluntary marine nature reserve), so there would be an opportunity to celebrate this milestone too, which seemed appropriate.

Robert Irving agreed to act as Co-ordinator of the Festival. By the end of 2021, preparations for the Festival were well underway. Applications had been submitted to a number of grant-awarding bodies; possible sponsors were being approached for funding; projects were being drawn up with specific groups being invited to get involved; publicity opportunities were identified; dive boats were reserved; and the Festival's website, which had been created two years previously but had been put on hold, was further developed.

*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)*



# GRANT-AWARDED RESEARCH PROJECTS 2021

*Jennifer George (Chair, Grants Committee)*

**T**wo grants that were awarded for research work to be carried out in 2020 were deferred to 2021 due to the 2020 Covid lockdowns.

## **Sparrows**

***Jamie Dunning, Imperial College, London – £500***

Jamie has been studying the Lundy House Sparrows for several years and was awarded funding for the construction of nestboxes and purchase of bird rings. Lundy sparrows have been monitored and ringed on Lundy since 1990. Each year every sparrow nest is located and nestlings are ringed and given a RFID (Radio Frequency IDentification) tag. As Lundy is 11 miles from the mainland few sparrows move off or on to the island and the Lundy population provides a perfect system for monitoring the social lives of sparrows and their behaviour. There are plans to use new technology to collect and save RFID data all year round.

## **Cetaceans**

***Dr James Waggitt, Bangor University – £500***

Dr Waggitt and his team are exploring the relative influence of tidal currents and weather patterns on cetacean presence around Lundy. Bottlenose Dolphin, Common Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise are regularly sighted around the island in the summer months. Shore-based surveys were carried out at several locations around the island. Observations are being linked to tidal currents and weather pattern data from the Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the Marine Environmental Monitoring Service.

Two grants were awarded in 2021.

## **Kittiwakes**

***Amanda Mead, Middlesex University – £452***

Amanda was studying sibling conflict in Kittiwake chicks on Lundy in July 2021. Non-invasive observations of nests containing two or more chicks were undertaken in early July. Attempts were made to identify the drivers of physical conflict between the siblings in the nest. Instances of brood reduction through siblicide have been reported in Kittiwake colonies on Lundy. Results from these younger chicks will be compared with existing video footage for older Kittiwake chicks taken during the 2018, 2019 and 2020 breeding seasons.

## **Isotope Analysis in Lundy Granite**

***Dr Richard Madgwick, Cardiff University – £500***

This research will determine the existence of lead and strontium isotopes in Lundy granite and will begin in January 2022. This is part of a large project looking at the origin of Neolithic human and animal remains at Stonehenge and other archaeological sites. Lundy's distinctive geology means that humans and animals raised on Lundy could have very diagnostic isotope signatures. Unpublished pilot data on some Neolithic animal remains hint at a possible origin on Lundy.



*Common Dolphin (photo: Dean Jones).*



## DIANA KEAST 1922–2021

**D**iana was born to Martin Coles and Amy Ruth Harman at Dean's Place, Chaldon in Surrey on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1922, the youngest of four children. Diana grew up on Lundy. Her father had bought the island in 1925 shortly after she had turned three, and this was the start of her 96-year relationship with Lundy. In July 1931, however, her mother tragically died. Her father was worried about Diana's health and decided to give her a year's break from school, sending her to Lundy, under the care of Mr & Mrs Gade. In the autumn of 1932, Diana was able to join her siblings at Bedales School. Diana met her future husband Kenneth Keast, a teacher at Bedales, in her last year at the school. She was due to attend St Martin's School of Art to study fashion and design, but as for so many other young people, the war intervened. Instead, she went to help set up a school at Wennington Hall in Wetherby, Yorkshire, after which she went on to study at Leicester College of Design. In August 1942 she married Ken and they set up home in rooms above the Harrow Inn in Steep, Hampshire.

*Above: Diana with Derek Green on the Ugly in May 2010 (photo: Keith Ward).*

## OBITUARY

After the war she returned regularly to Lundy with Ken, and she would spend the whole summer there. Diana helped Mrs Gade with the catering for the visiting paddle steamer visitors, baking at Millcombe and carrying everything up the hill. She enlisted the help of many people, including family members, in her persuasive way. In the 1950s and 1960s some of the buildings were turned into self-catering accommodation. Diana and her sister Ruth were responsible for the furnishings. The late Felix Gade recalled, *"Diana is a woman of taste, who can make up her mind what she wants. I am positive that no-one could have fitted out the cottages more suitably, intelligently, or to better effect than Ruth and Diana did."*

Diana, Ruth and brother Albion inherited Lundy in 1954 and when Albion passed away in 1968, Lundy was put up for sale. Diana was sure that Lundy's deep peace and tranquillity should be preserved for posterity and whoever took over Lundy should love it as she and the family did. In Diana's own words, *"The sale to the National Trust had been concluded with profound relief and a sense of triumphant achievement by everyone involved."*

Ken became headmaster of Frensham Heights, later moving on to Marlborough College where he taught German, and Diana became involved with the drama and wardrobe departments. Very sadly she suffered a great loss when Ken died of cancer in 1971.

Lundy played a tremendous part in Diana's life. The island was the property, home and abiding passion of the Harman family and Diana was the last surviving private owner. After the sale, Diana maintained her relationship with Lundy, visiting regularly and she reinforced those connections through the Lundy Field Society. Diana became a Vice President in 2007 and we were pleased to elevate her to our President in 2015.

When Diana's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was on the horizon, the LFS committee started to think about how to mark the occasion. Initially, we agreed to surprise Diana and present her with something on the big day. Keeping the secret would be easy; she was the only member of the committee not on e-mail! The idea for a book chronicling the Harman family's ownership of Lundy was adopted but it soon became apparent that it would be a much better book with Diana's input, so we told her about it. She threw herself into the project with her characteristic enthusiasm. Not only could she cite historical details which no-one else knew, she brought unpublished photographs and endless anecdotes to illustrate and illuminate Lundy life. After the book was published and launched at the 2013 LFS AGM, she bought many copies to give to family and friends, thereby helping the Society's cash-flow!

Diana had a wonderful way of saying things in a convincing or persuasive manner to the point you didn't realise you were being given a job to do. She set her expectations and you did not wish to disappoint her. Roger Chapple recalls an LFS event on Lundy when he was staying in Old House South with Diana and Myrtle Ternstrom. A drinks party was to be held for all those members on the island and Diana thought it would be a good idea to set everything outside on the grass in the square behind the Tavern. Roger and Ken Rodley were tasked with getting the dining table outside but discovered there is only one way for the table to be moved: the long way round – out through the double doors, over the semi-circular wall, around the corner, and over the wall to the allotted position on the grass. They gathered their breath, and after due deliberation Diana decided it was rather too windy to be outside and, not wishing to disappoint, Roger and Ken had to reverse the procedure and retrace their steps!

Diana leaves a wonderful legacy of so many happy memories and many of us are privileged to have shared time with her on Lundy and be touched by her presence.

*Michael Williams*

# BIRDS ON LUNDY 2021

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

## REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 162 species (pending rarity decisions) were recorded during 2019. Highlights included:

- Record post-rat eradication totals of breeding **Guillemots**, **Razorbills**, **Puffins** and **Storm Petrels**
- First **Sulphur-bellied Warbler** for Britain and only the second for the Western Palearctic
- Other national rarities: **Rustic Bunting**, **Red-eyed Vireo** and **Buff-bellied Pipit**
- Lundy's fifth **Little Grebe**

### JANUARY – Max temp 10.2C, min 0.7C, mean 6.1C. Rainfall 158.0 mm

*The mean UK temperature was 1.5C below the 30-year long-term average, making it the coldest January since 2010. The month started cold, with wintry showers in eastern areas, although Lundy remained dry to 11<sup>th</sup>. In spite of chilly north-easterly winds, there were some bright winter days and temperatures on the island remained above freezing. Later in the second week it turned milder and wetter as winds shifted to the west, bring much more unsettled conditions. Storm Christoph brought particularly wet and windy weather on 19<sup>th</sup> with gusts on Lundy of 50 mph. Following a brief colder interlude with a crisp, sunny day on 23<sup>rd</sup>, the month ended mild, wet and windy once more with gusts reaching 60 mph on 28<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall of 108.9 mm (just over 4¼ inches) during the second half of the month meant that the island was saturated, with extensive surface water in places, including near the water tanks on the edge of Ackland's Moor.*

Winter sunshine early in the month stimulated **Skylarks** and **Blackbirds** to sing and **House Sparrows** were seen taking nesting material into the farmyard nestboxes. A sunny interlude on 23<sup>rd</sup> saw **Rock Pipits** starting their parachute song-flights at South Light and **Starlings** nest-building in the eaves of the General Stores. Small numbers of **Red-throated Divers** arrived off the east coast early in the month, with a peak of 10 on 7<sup>th</sup>, along with a single **Great Northern Diver** on eight days. Numbers of **Kittiwakes** feeding off the East Side reached 2,300 on 13<sup>th</sup> and there were also a few **Mediterranean** and **Common Gulls**. The cold weather at the start of the month provoked a small hard-weather influx of **Lapwings** and **Golden Plovers**, with up to three and eight respectively on 10<sup>th</sup> with further scattered records later in the month. Some 62 **Fulmars** and 1,320 **Guillemots** were on the ledges from Jenny's Cove to St Mark's Stone on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Up to four **Water Rails** were in various corners of Millcombe, there was a single **Pied Wagtail** on 5<sup>th</sup>, a lone **Woodpigeon** in Quarter Wall Copse on 10<sup>th</sup>, a **Chiffchaff** turned up briefly in Millcombe on 16<sup>th</sup>, the first **Linnet** of the year dropped into Barton Field on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a **Woodcock** was flushed from the 'Secret Garden' on 29<sup>th</sup>. Also of note were counts of up to 18 **Teal**, 24 **Snipe**, 16 **Blackbirds**, 16 **Song Thrushes** and 11 **Redwings**, as well as an arrival of both territorial and passage **Skylarks** (up to 22 on 23<sup>rd</sup>).

### Rarities and scarcities

A sub-adult 'Northern' *argentatus* **Herring Gull** was resting on the Water off Miller's Cake on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A **Jack Snipe** was located by torchlight on Ackland's Moor on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup>. A very confiding male **Snow Bunting** was seen from 7<sup>th</sup> onwards, foraging mainly along the main track or near Old Light, and there was a male **Black Redstart** at Benjamin's Chair on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, with a female there on 21<sup>st</sup>. Though abundant later in the year, a **Manx Shearwater** off the East Side on 13<sup>th</sup> was very much a seasonal rarity. The *hibernicus*-type **Coal Tit** (ringed in Oct 2021) and **Firecrest** that had both been logged regularly in Dec 2021 held on throughout the month.



## **FEBRUARY – Max temp 11.4C, min -1.0C, mean 6.3C. Rainfall 78.3 mm**

*The first few days were unsettled but mild with south-westerly winds and temperatures rising to a balmy 10C on 3<sup>rd</sup>. After a calm and sunny interlude on 4<sup>th</sup>, it became steadily colder from 6<sup>th</sup> with bitter easterly winds – associated with Storm Darcy in the North Sea – gusting at 48 mph on Lundy on 9<sup>th</sup> along with a wind-chill temperature of -8C. There were intermittent snow flurries, the ground froze solid and all puddles and ponds iced over, including half of Pondsburry. From 14<sup>th</sup> the winds switched to a more southerly direction but remained strong, gusting at 61 mph and bringing in heavy rain. Mild but often wet and windy conditions continued for much of the second half of the month, though high pressure calmed things down from 25<sup>th</sup>, bringing cooler air from the east once more and some banks of sea fog.*

Sunshine and light winds on 4<sup>th</sup> encouraged **Song Thrushes** to start singing in Millcombe and the South End **Raven** pair to get on with the business of nest-building. **Chaffinch** song was heard in Millcombe from 25<sup>th</sup>. Up to nine **Red-throated Divers** and a single **Great Northern Diver** were off the East Side at times, as were a handful of **Mediterranean** and **Common Gulls**. **Guillemots** continued to visit the west coast breeding cliffs, with 1,110 counted at Jenny's Cove on 4<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the first four **Razorbills** were seen on land (rising to 400 ashore here by 27<sup>th</sup>). There were 26 **Teal** on Pondsburry on 19<sup>th</sup>, and one or two **Lapwing** and **Golden Plover** were logged on four dates each, with a single **Woodcock** on two days. A **Pied Wagtail** flew over the farm on 5<sup>th</sup>, a single **Woodpigeon** was in Millcombe on 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by two in 19<sup>th</sup>, and lone **Linnets** were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, whilst the overwintering **Coal Tit** and **Firecrest** both lingered on in Millcombe, the latter beginning to sing from 21<sup>st</sup>. The first **Goldcrest** of 2021 was calling in Quarter Wall Copse on 16<sup>th</sup> and two **Reed Buntings** dropped into Quarter Wall on 17<sup>th</sup>, whilst a light south-westerly breeze and a rise in temperatures spurred on the first proper movement of spring migration, bringing influxes of **Meadow Pipits** and **Skylarks**, the first **Grey Wagtail** of the year and a trickle of **Stonechat**, **Pied Wagtail** and **Goldfinch** on 21<sup>st</sup>. By 25<sup>th</sup>, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat counts had reached 88 and 13, respectively. Offshore, there was a small but noticeable passage of **Gannets**, **Herring** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, and the island's breeding **Lesser Black-backs** were seen defending East Side territories towards the end of the month. The month drew to a close with Lundy's second earliest ever record of **Sand Martin** and a calling **Water Rail**, both at Pondsburry on 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Rarities and scarcities**

A first-winter **Little Gull** was foraging with Kittiwakes in the Landing Bay on 5<sup>th</sup>. Three **Lapland Buntings** together in High Street Field on 4<sup>th</sup> remained throughout the month, whilst the Old Light **Snow Bunting** lingered until 26<sup>th</sup>. Also of note were a male **Black Redstart** at Benjamin's Chair on 8<sup>th</sup>, an adult **Little Gull** foraging near Rat Island on 15<sup>th</sup>, a second-winter **Yellow-legged Gull** on Ackland's Moor on 20<sup>th</sup>, and a 'Northern' *argentatus* **Herring Gull** in Lower Lighthouse Field on the same date. Finally, a **Woodlark** in Barton Field on 27<sup>th</sup> was only the second February record for the island.

*Lapland Bunting, High Street Field, 28<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Goldfinch, fresh in off the sea at Benjamin's Chair, 18<sup>th</sup> March (Dean Jones).*

**MARCH – Max temp 17.6C, min 1.2C, mean 7.5C. Rainfall 41.1 mm**

March began mostly settled, but rather cold. From 9<sup>th</sup> onwards it turned unsettled and windy, with heavy rain and south-westerly gales on 10<sup>th</sup>, the winds then veering north and reaching 66 mph later in the day. Hail on 11<sup>th</sup> was followed by further northerly gales, gusting to 68 mph, on 13<sup>th</sup>. Conditions were much more settled from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, with often sunny days but rather chilly nights under frequently clear skies and a generally northerly airflow, with light winds. From 23<sup>rd</sup> winds switched back to the south-west, bringing spells of rain or drizzle at times from 25<sup>th</sup> to the morning of 29<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by gales peaking at 53 mph on 28<sup>th</sup>. Later on 29<sup>th</sup> the skies cleared, the winds dropped and the month ended on a more spring-like note, with temperatures reaching 18C on 30<sup>th</sup>.

The first two **Chiffchaffs** of spring were logged on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last of the long-staying **Lapland Buntings** in High Street Field was seen on 6<sup>th</sup>, the *hibernicus*-type **Coal Tit** remained in Millcombe until 12<sup>th</sup>, and the overwintering **Firecrest** continued to sing regularly until it too moved on mid-month. New for the year were singles of **Stock Dove** and **Siskin** on 6<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Black Redstart** at Jenny's Cove on the same day was considered the first spring migrant after the overwintering birds logged in January & early February. The first **Wheatears** (both males) were seen on 7<sup>th</sup> and the **Meadow Pipit** count broke three figures, with 105 logged. Migration was largely on pause for a few days due to adverse weather from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, though the urge to move north towards the breeding grounds is so strong in spring that three **Goldcrests** turned up in Millcombe on 11<sup>th</sup> and a trickle of **Meadow Pipits** battled through the northerly gales on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Calmer weather from 15<sup>th</sup> saw a resumption of more general movement, including **wagtails**, **Meadow Pipits** (peaking a few days later at 243 on 20<sup>th</sup>) and small numbers of **Chaffinches**, as well as another **Stock Dove**. The first **Swallow** zipped over the Village on 16<sup>th</sup>, followed by the first two **House Martins** on 17<sup>th</sup> – the same day that the first **Puffin** was seen ashore at Jenny's Cove.

By now, migration was really moving through the gears, the 18<sup>th</sup> bringing a small fall of 22 **Chiffchaffs**, the first **Willow Warbler**, **Blackcap** and **White Wagtail** of the year, and a total of 19 **Goldfinches** – by far the highest count of the year to date. The 20<sup>th</sup> brought an arrival of around 40 **Goldcrests** and three **Firecrests**, whilst a female **Sparrowhawk** and 11 **Fieldfare** were also logged. **Redwings** were seen most days from 16<sup>th</sup> to the end of the month, reaching 26 on 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a further weather-related slow-down in passerine migration, but the next



few days brought the first **Collared Dove** of spring on 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first **Cormorants** on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the first **Merlin** on 24<sup>th</sup>. At least 11 **Wheatears** scattered along the West Side on 27<sup>th</sup> included a colour-ringed female at Jenny's Cove – the first returning bird from Lundy's colour-ringed breeding population to be seen in 2021. The month concluded with a record-breaking influx of migrants, including 212 **Sand Martins** and 162 **Swallows** on 29<sup>th</sup>, followed on 31<sup>st</sup> by a remarkable fall of warblers, comprising 36 **Willow Warblers**, 23 **Chiffchaffs** and an unprecedented (for March) 144 **Blackcaps**, plus a single reeling **Grasshopper Warbler** (Lundy's earliest ever) and a fly-over **Tree Pipit**.

Apart from **Oystercatchers** noisily defending their breeding territories, waders were thin on the ground, with just a scattering of **Golden Plovers** (maximum four on 8<sup>th</sup>) and **Snipe** (maximum eight on 17<sup>th</sup>). Among the island's breeding seabirds, the first three **Puffins** of the year were on the water at Jenny's Cove on 6<sup>th</sup>, the same date as the first **Manx Shearwaters** of spring were seen in flight off the Battery. Small numbers of **Kittiwakes** were ashore in Jenny's Cove on 20<sup>th</sup>, whilst **Puffin** numbers there had reached 75 by 21<sup>st</sup>, of which 25 were on land. **Shags** were nest-building along the east coast on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Offshore, up to seven **Common Gulls** and a single **Mediterranean Gull** were off the east coast on 5<sup>th</sup>, whilst up to three **Red-throated Divers** and one or two **Great Northern Divers** were seen at times. A **Great Skua** passed South West Point on 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally, a colour-ringed **Lesser Black-backed Gull** photographed in High Street Field on 26<sup>th</sup> (at this stage of the spring potentially still a passage migrant rather than necessarily a Lundy breeder) had been ringed in southern Spain a year previously.

### Rarities and scarcities

The first **Jackdaw** of the year flew over the Village on 1<sup>st</sup>, with perhaps the same long-staying individual logged sporadically to the end of the month. A **Pink-footed Goose** that arrived on 6<sup>th</sup> remained until 18<sup>th</sup>, spending most of its time on Ackland's Moor. Two **Long-tailed Tits** were found in Quarter Wall Copse on 18<sup>th</sup>, with probably a different bird in Millcombe from 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> (ringed on 30<sup>th</sup>). Also in Millcombe on 21<sup>st</sup> was a **Treecreeper**, feeding close to the **Long-tailed Tit** at one point. Two **Rooks** were foraging in South West Field on 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Pink-footed Goose, Ackland's Moor, 15<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



## FIRST DATES FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

|          |                  |  |
|----------|------------------|--|
| February | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Sand Martin                                |
| March    | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Chiffchaff                                 |
|          | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Puffin, Manx Shearwater                    |
|          | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Wheatear                                   |
|          | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Swallow                                    |
|          | 17 <sup>th</sup> | House Martin                               |
|          | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Willow Warbler, Blackcap,<br>White Wagtail |
|          | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Great Skua                                 |
|          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Collared Dove                              |
|          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Cormorant                                  |
|          | 31 <sup>st</sup> | Grasshopper Warbler,<br>Tree Pipit         |
| April    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Ring Ouzel                                 |
|          | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | redpoll sp.                                |
|          | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Sedge Warbler,<br>Pied Flycatcher          |
|          | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Redstart                                   |
|          | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Whimbrel, Yellow Wagtail                   |
|          | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Whitethroat, Mistle Thrush                 |
|          | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Dunlin                                     |
|          | 19 <sup>th</sup> | Reed Warbler                               |
|          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Garden Warbler                             |
|          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Swift, Ringed Plover, Whinchat             |
|          | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Black-headed Gull,<br>Spotted Flycatcher   |
|          | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Common Sandpiper                           |
| May      | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Lesser Whitethroat, Osprey                 |
|          | 11 <sup>th</sup> | Golden Oriole                              |

## LAST DATES FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

|       |                  |                      |
|-------|------------------|----------------------|
| April | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Woodcock             |
|       | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Red-throated Diver   |
|       | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Fieldfare            |
| May   | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Redwing              |
|       | 18 <sup>th</sup> | Merlin               |
|       | 21 <sup>st</sup> | Great Northern Diver |



Top: Chiffchaff, Millcombe, 31<sup>st</sup> March.  
 Right: Whinchat, Quarter Wall, 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
 (photos: Dean Jones),.

## BREEDING SPECIES IN 2021

Thirty-seven species were all confirmed as successfully fledging young:

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

In addition, Storm Petrel probably bred successfully at three sites where active burrows were located, whilst a male and female Kestrel were present in suitable habitat during the breeding season, but there was no evidence of a nesting attempt. Singing Willow Warblers were present in late spring and early summer but also with no further indication of breeding.

*Peregrine, 17<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



#### **APRIL – Max temp 13.1C, min 2.7C, mean 7.7C. Rainfall 6.9 mm**

*The month began settled but chilly with a stiff wind from the east or north-east – a weather set-up that was to become very familiar as the month wore on. Across England as a whole, it was the second coldest and seventh driest April since the current data series began in the mid-late 1800s, with frosts much more prevalent than usual. Conversely, it was the second sunniest April on record for England, with only April 2020 having been sunnier. Cold, sunny and dry conditions certainly dominated on Lundy, with total precipitation not much more than half a centimetre. Daytime temperatures recovered somewhat from the middle of the month, with long sunny spells and generally lighter winds – though still persistently from an easterly quarter – meaning that April's maximum temperature was significantly below the March peak, whilst the mean temperature during the month was barely higher than that recorded for March.*

After the early arrivals of late March, the first week of April was generally rather quieter than usual for passerine migration amidst often chilly conditions. The 1<sup>st</sup> saw a small but noticeable movement of hirundines and finches hugging the west coast cliffs for shelter from a keen easterly, a **Reed Bunting** in the Laundry Garden, and the first **Ring Ouzel** of the year – a fine male near the Lambing Shed. Two more were along the West Side on 3<sup>rd</sup>, the same day as a **Woodcock** was flushed in Middle Park, a **Redwing** was by the site of the Forgotten Heinkel, and three **Siskins** appeared, marking the start of almost daily records in April and the first half of May. A fly-over **redpoll** (presumably a Lesser Redpoll) on 4<sup>th</sup> was the first of the year, and a very pale **Buzzard** arrived on 7<sup>th</sup>, remaining until 15<sup>th</sup>. A brood of 12 freshly minted **Mallard** ducklings at Quarters Pond on 6<sup>th</sup> were also new for the year. After a spell of early-morning rain, there was a pulse of 232 **Swallows** on 8<sup>th</sup> and **Puffin** numbers at Jenny's Cove had risen to 167 by the same date. The 9<sup>th</sup> brought the first **Pied Flycatcher** and **Sedge Warbler** of spring, plus another **Grasshopper Warbler** – this one on a much more typical date than the exceptionally early bird at the end of March. Also arriving more or less 'on time' were two male **Redstarts** on 14<sup>th</sup> and both **Whimbrel** and **Yellow Wagtail** on 15<sup>th</sup> – by which time **House Sparrow** and **Starling** nests in the Village already contained hungry chicks. The second half of the month saw an improvement in weather, with generally light winds and some warm, sunny days. Migration picked up considerably.

*Skylark, High Street, 14<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*







*Redstart, Quarter Wall, 17<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

Firsts for the year included **Whitethroat** and **Mistle Thrush** on 16<sup>th</sup>, the same date as a Gibraltar-ringed **Blackcap** was trapped in Millcombe, a late(ish) **Fieldfare** was in Barton Field, and a count of 61 **Wheatears**, including several Greenland-race birds, was the highest of the spring to date. Though there were no exceptionally large warbler falls during the month, 150 **Willow Warblers** on both 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, as well as 200 or more **Blackcaps** on both dates, contributed to an impressive total of more than 900 birds ringed in just five days from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, including 307 on 20<sup>th</sup> alone. The 18<sup>th</sup> also brought a passage of 400 **Swallows**, 100 **Sand Martins** and the first **Dunlin** of the year, whilst the first **Reed Warbler** of spring, trapped in Millcombe on 19<sup>th</sup>, had been ringed in the Isles of Scilly in July 2019. The first **Cuckoo** was energetically shuttling between Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse to perform his iconic call on 20<sup>th</sup>, a day on which a fine array of other migrants were logged. The last week or so, brought typical later-spring 'firsts', including **Garden Warbler** in Millcombe on 22<sup>nd</sup>, whilst the next day saw a **Whinchat** at Quarter Wall, three **Ringed Plover** in South West Field with five **Dunlin**, and a **Swift** over Jenny's Cove. Nearly 1,500 Swallows and just over 100 House Martins passed north in the lee of the West Side in just one hour on 25<sup>th</sup>. A **Spotted Flycatcher** graced Millcombe on 27<sup>th</sup>, whilst a second calendar-year **Black-headed Gull** in Barton Field was a more surprising 'first' for the year on the same date, and at least four **Tree Pipits** were logged. The 28<sup>th</sup> saw a **Common Sandpiper** by the Jetty and a stonking male **Whinchat** at Quarter Wall for most of the day. The first **Guillemot** egg of the season was seen at Jenny's Cove on 27<sup>th</sup>, followed just two days later by the first **Razorbill** egg.

### **Rarities and scarcities**

Two **Hoopoes** together on the Terrace for much of the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> constituted the only nationally scarce species logged, but it was a good month for 'Lundy rarities'. The March **Jackdaw** lingered until the first day of April, being joined by another on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both left the island to the east on 3<sup>rd</sup> but there were further singles between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A female **Bullfinch** was feeding on Blackthorn in Millcombe on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was photographed in the Devil's Kitchen on 15<sup>th</sup>, whilst a **Sanderling** was along the main track on 19<sup>th</sup>. A female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 24<sup>th</sup>, and a male **Yellowhammer** foraging on the main track by the Lambing Shed on 26<sup>th</sup> was only the fifth record during the last decade. Finally, a **Rook** was in Tillage Field, also on 26<sup>th</sup>, and the month ended with a **Corn Bunting** in St John's Valley on 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

**MAY – Max temp 20.3C, min 2.2C, mean 10.1C. Rainfall 102.75 mm**

After a quiet, sunny but rather chilly first couple of days, most of May was very unsettled, often windy and unseasonably cold, with showers and spells of heavier rain at times. The first week was particularly cold, northerly winds gusting at Force 11 (Violent Storm) on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>. There was heavy rain on several days mid-month, with further Force 11 winds, this time from the west-south-west, on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, accompanied by another deluge. Daytime temperatures never exceeded 13C – and were often lower – right up to 27<sup>th</sup> when things finally started to settle down and warm up, the weather station thermometer reaching 17C on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> and a tropical 20C on 31<sup>st</sup>! Across England, the mean temperature for May was 1.3C below the long-term average, making it the coldest May for 25 years. It was also a very wet month, the fifth wettest in England since the 1860s, with well over 200% of average rainfall across much of the South West.

The 1<sup>st</sup> saw the biggest surge of hirundine migration of the entire spring with highly conservative estimates of 3,500 **Swallows**, 1,500 **House Martins** and 150 **Sand Martins** piling through, plus a single **Swift**. On the same day, the first **House Sparrow** fledglings appeared in the Village, followed on 2<sup>nd</sup> by the first young **Starlings** to leave their nests. A late **Redwing** was in upper Millcombe on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The winds were so strong on 3<sup>rd</sup> that visitors and staff alike were under instruction to avoid going outside and it was still blowing a gale on 4<sup>th</sup>. Unsurprisingly, there were few notable bird sightings. The 5<sup>th</sup> brought a **Stock Dove** foraging in Barton Field, a **Lesser Whitethroat** along the Lower East Side Path, and a **Firecrest** in Millcombe pines. Another pulse of 700 **Swallows** passed through on 7<sup>th</sup>, along with a variety of other migrants. Further heavy rain and gales grounded hirundines on the Landing Bay beach on 8<sup>th</sup> and a **Swift** was taken into care overnight and released the next day. Sadly, persistently cool and unsettled weather during the following week meant that **Swallows**, in particular, were struggling to find sufficient food, and a number were found dead in the gas store and Casbah on several dates, whilst others were seen perching weakly on bramble stems or sitting in the middle of paths, clearly in a parlous state.

*Garden Warbler, Millcombe, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (photo: Richard Campey).*





A late **Great Northern Diver** was in the Landing Bay on 10<sup>th</sup>, a flock of 23 **Oystercatchers** was roosting in Threequarter Wall Bay, and there were at least 10 **Spotted Flycatchers** scattered across the island that day. The first **Grey Heron** of the year flew along the east coast on 12<sup>th</sup> and a stunningly beautiful northern-race *altifrons* **Golden Plover**, with a solid black face, breast and belly, was foraging in Barton Field. Intriguingly, male and female **Siskins** and **Lesser Redpolls** were seen in potentially suitable breeding habitat mid-month, with song heard from both species. A female **Lesser Redpoll** was carrying what appeared to be nesting



*Pied Flycatcher, St Helen's Field, 6<sup>th</sup> May  
(photo: Richard Campey).*

material on 13<sup>th</sup> but there was no further evidence (for either species) that any actual breeding attempt was made. Single **Wood Warbler** and **Whinchat** put in appearances on 14<sup>th</sup>. **Wrens**, **Blackbirds**, **Robins**, **Dunnocks**, **Chaffinches**, **Goldfinches** and **Linnets** were all nest-building, or already tending eggs and young in Millcombe during the third week, and the first **Kittiwake** of the year egg was recorded at Aztec Bay on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Herring** and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also getting on with breeding, though they seemed to be having quite a protracted season, eggs not far off hatching in some nests whilst other pairs were only just starting to collect nesting material.

A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed from the Rocket Pole area during the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> and the first **Stonechat** fledglings were near Pondsburry on 19<sup>th</sup>. Yet more wind and rain on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> saw **Swallows** and **House Martins** grounded once again on the Beach Road and in Millcombe, and the weather was likely responsible for the appearance of three **Storm Petrels** and a **Black-headed Gull** off Rat Island. Arriving with a clearance to sunnier skies, a count of 50 **Swifts** on 22<sup>nd</sup> was the highest of the spring and coincided with the unusually late fledging of **Ravens** near Benjamin's Chair, where two young took to the air. The weather window was only brief, however, and further rain and wind on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> did little to boost sightings for the LFS logbook. Sadly, a number of **Guillemot** eggs at the St Mark's Stone study colony were lost to puddling caused by incessant rain, but **Kittiwake** nests appeared to be largely unscathed (unlike in some years when south-westerly gales and swell have washed away nests sited lower down the cliffs). Also on the plus side, the first **Puffins** were delivering fish to young tucked away in burrows on 26<sup>th</sup>, and the first **Guillemot** chicks were spotted on 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Rarities and scarcities

May is often one of the best months of the year for oddities but, doubtless due to the adverse weather, May 2021 was rather quiet. The **Corn Bunting** from the end of April reappeared in St John's Valley on 2<sup>nd</sup>, and an **Osprey** was an unexpected arrival amidst the atrocious conditions on 8<sup>th</sup>. Two **Golden Orioles** brought a touch of the exotic to Millcombe on 11<sup>th</sup>, the valley filled with their incredibly varied, deceptively ventriloquial but unmistakeable calls. Both remained until 14<sup>th</sup>, with one staying to 15<sup>th</sup> – the same day as a male **subalpine warbler** put in an appearance in Millcombe, but views were unfortunately too brief to assign it definitively to one of the recently 'split' species. Two **Sanderlings** were on the side of Rat Island on 16<sup>th</sup> and a **Turnstone** was in the Landing Bay on 20<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, a first-year male **Common Rosefinch** was singing in Millcombe early on 30<sup>th</sup>, then trapped and ringed near the Lodge in the evening, and a **Crossbill** was flying around Millcombe. Sadly now categorised as a rarity, a **Turtle Dove** was found by the Lambing Shed on 31<sup>st</sup>.



*Kittiwakes building nests at Aztec Bay, 6<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

**JUNE – Max temp 21.7C, min 9.9C, mean 14.0C. Rainfall 41.6 mm**

*The month was mostly rather settled on Lundy, with plenty of sunshine, light winds and rather warm temperatures. There were some brief duller, damper periods too, particularly on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> when the island experienced thick mist and drizzle from dawn to dusk. Across England as a whole, rainfall was significantly above the long-term average, but Lundy had a comparatively dry month following the downpours of May.*

Nine **Collared Doves** on 1<sup>st</sup> was the highest count of the year to date. Small numbers of **Swift**, hirundines, warblers, '**Greenland**' **Wheatear** and **Spotted Flycatcher** continued to pass through early in the month, whilst more unusual late migrants included **Cuckoo**, **Tree Pipit** and **Pied Flycatcher** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a **Yellow Wagtail** on 12<sup>th</sup> and a further **Tree Pipit** on 15<sup>th</sup>. **Swift** numbers rose to 30 on 30<sup>th</sup>. The regular four-yearly census of cliff-nesting seabirds was completed in the first half of the month, revealing that the island's auks continue to go from strength-to-strength as populations recover post rat-eradication. **Guillemot**, **Razorbill** and **Puffin** all showed significant increases since the last survey in 2017, with Guillemot now approaching the 10,000 mark and Puffin clocking in at 848, a 21<sup>st</sup> century record. **Shag**, **Fulmar** and **Kittiwake** all posted increases as well (albeit modest for Kittiwake), but the three large gull species, particularly **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, continue to show declining trends. The first Kittiwake chicks were seen on 11<sup>th</sup> at Aztec Bay, whilst Guillemot 'jumplings' started to leap from the study ledges at St Mark's Stone from 20<sup>th</sup>.

Among the island's other breeding birds, half-a-dozen **Manx Shearwaters** were incubating eggs in the LFS-built and installed nestboxes along the West Side on 1<sup>st</sup> and there was exciting evidence of further expansion of the island's **Storm Petrel** population. The first **Oystercatcher** chicks and **Carrion Crow** fledglings appeared on 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Teal** ducklings were seen at Pondsbyrny on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional first fledging dates including **Linnet** and second-brood **Starling** on 15<sup>th</sup>, **Chaffinch** and **Meadow Pipit** on 19<sup>th</sup>, **Pied Wagtail** on 22<sup>nd</sup> and **Wren** on 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Wheatears** appeared to have had a good season, Dean Jones reporting "*noisy gangs of young birds on nearly every buttress and drystone wall around the island*". Intriguingly, up to three **Siskins** were noted on three dates, including a singing male in Millcombe on 16<sup>th</sup>, but no evidence of any breeding attempt was found.

### Rarities and scarcities

A **Rustic Bunting** was found in Barton Field during the afternoon of 1<sup>st</sup>, whilst a *Hippolais* warbler glimpsed in Millcombe on 2<sup>nd</sup> was probably an Icterine, but views were too brief for definitive ID. The 8<sup>th</sup> brought one of those ornithological 'once-in-a-lifetime' events for birders lucky enough to be on the island when the first **Sulphur-bellied Warbler** for the UK (and only the second for the entire Western Palearctic) was found singing near Stonecroft before relocating to Millcombe. Though it unfortunately departed overnight, intensive scouring of the valley on 9<sup>th</sup> revealed a male **subalpine warbler** (not identified to species) and a female **Hawfinch**, and an adult **Rose-coloured Starling** dropped in briefly around the farmyard on 14<sup>th</sup>. Two **Crossbills** were seen and heard in Millcombe on 28<sup>th</sup>.

### JULY – Max temp 26.2C, min 10.7C, mean 16.7C. Rainfall 97.1 mm

*The first two weeks of July were rather unsettled, bringing the island welcome significant rainfall and some strong and chilly south-westerly winds, particularly on 6<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Overall, though, Lundy was again drier than other parts of England, where many areas experienced up to double the long-term average precipitation. It became much warmer for a time mid-month, with dry, settled conditions and light winds, temperatures reaching 26C on 18<sup>th</sup>, before the next spell of wind and rain arrived on 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by Storm Evert on 30<sup>th</sup> when wind gusts reached 56 mph.*

Small numbers of **Swift** were logged, along with a few **House Martins**, **Sand Martins** and warblers, particularly towards the end of the month when the first returning **Sedge Warblers** were logged and there was a significant arrival of 230 **Willow Warblers** on 28<sup>th</sup>. Passage waders included scattered ones and twos of **Golden Plover**, **Ringed Plover**, **Curlew**, **Dunlin** and **Green Sandpiper**. Other typical July migrants included **Black-headed Gull**, **Grey Heron** and **Cormorant**, and a juvenile **Cuckoo** stopped over for several days from 25<sup>th</sup>. More unusual was a male **Yellow Wagtail** in St Helen's Field on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Breeding productivity of **Kittiwakes** was poor and whilst **Guillemot** productivity at St Mark's Stone was slightly down on 2020, **Puffins** had a very good season at Jenny's Cove. **Whitethroats** bred successfully for the third year running and breeding was also confirmed again for **Chiffchaff**, **Blackcap** and **Woodpigeon**, whilst six young **Peregrines** fledged from the island's eyries. Post-breeding flocks of **Linnets** and **Goldfinches** started to build up, Linnets especially seeming to have had a productive season. A single **Song Thrush** continued to be logged periodically in Millcombe but the breeding season drew to a close with no evidence of any nesting attempt.

### Rarities and scarcities

A **Turtle Dove** was around Quarter Wall on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **Hobby** was hunting over Barton Field on 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a **Marsh Harrier** was seen regularly from 24<sup>th</sup>, the same day that a **Crossbill** landed briefly in Millcombe. Star bird of the month, however, was a **Little Grebe** in the Landing Bay on 30<sup>th</sup> – only the fifth record for Lundy.





*One of the last Puffins of the season (photo: Philip Lymbery).*

**AUGUST– Max temp 20.6C, min 11.7C, mean 15.4C. Rainfall 40.2 mm**

*Following a briefly warm and settled start to the month, the first three weeks of August were mostly rather unsettled and dull, with frequent spells of rain, drizzle and mist, and lower than normal daytime temperatures. Westerly wind gusts approached gale force on 15<sup>th</sup>. Things dried up from 22<sup>nd</sup> as high pressure built, bringing clearer skies, higher temperatures and easterly winds for the remainder of the month.*

As expected, southbound migration gathered pace significantly during August. The last **Puffin** of the season was at Jenny's Cove on 1<sup>st</sup>, 16 departing **Swifts** on 4<sup>th</sup> proved to be the highest 'autumn' count, and the final **Cuckoo** of the year (another passage juvenile) was logged on 24<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers of waders continued to pass through, with additions to the range of species logged in July comprising **Whimbrel**, **Redshank**, **Greenshank**, **Common Sandpiper** and **Turnstone**, and, on 30<sup>th</sup>, the island's first **Knot** since 2018. Warblers included the first returning **Garden Warbler** on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a fall of 210 **Willow Warblers** and 17 **Sedge Warblers** on 9<sup>th</sup>, a single **Grasshopper Warbler** on 20<sup>th</sup>, and five **Whitethroats** and the autumn's first **Reed Warbler** on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Sand Martin** reached a lowly autumn-passages maximum of 32 on 4<sup>th</sup>. Flycatchers started moving through during the last week of August, including a notable arrival of 35 **Spotted Flycatchers** and 20 **Pied Flycatchers** on 27<sup>th</sup>. The first **Whinchat** appeared on 25<sup>th</sup> and the first **Firecrest** of autumn was in Millcombe pines on 28<sup>th</sup>, the same day as six calling fly-over **Tree Pipits** were logged (following the first on 16<sup>th</sup>). An early **Merlin** put in an appearance below the Terrace on 28<sup>th</sup>. Finally, successful breeding was confirmed for **Water Rail** when young were heard calling near Quarter Wall on 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Rarities and scarcities**

The **Marsh Harrier** from July remained until 9<sup>th</sup>. Two **Balearic Shearwaters** flew past Rat Island on 7<sup>th</sup>, a lone **Black-tailed Godwit** did likewise on 8<sup>th</sup>, and single **Wood Sandpipers** were logged on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Two **Little Egrets** were in the Devil's Kitchen on 29<sup>th</sup>, the same day that a **Wryneck** found its way into a mist-net in Millcombe. An exotically colourful visitor that arrived on 24<sup>th</sup> and remained to the end of the month proved to be an escaped **Yellow-crowned Bishop**, native to sub-Saharan Africa, but often kept as a cagebird.

**SEPTEMBER – Max temp 24.9C, min 10.3C, mean 15.5C. Rainfall 109 mm**

*September began settled and reasonably warm with plenty of sunshine, but strong east or south-east winds for a time presented challenging conditions for both observation and ringing. With light winds and blue skies, temperatures reached a tropical 24C on 7<sup>th</sup>, ahead of a change to more typical autumn weather from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> with spells of wind and rain arriving from the west. There was a good deal of quiet, rather settled weather in the second half of the month, though the last few days saw the return of wind and rain.*

Hirundines, warblers, flycatchers, chats and pipits continued to pass through, with higher counts during the first half of the month including 10 **Pied Flycatchers** on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 **Whinchats** on 4<sup>th</sup>, 83 **Willow Warblers** on 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 **Whitethroats**, 60 **Spotted Flycatchers** and 110 **Wheatears** on 7<sup>th</sup>, 40 **House Martins**, four **Redstarts** and nine **Tree Pipits** on 8<sup>th</sup>, 30 **Blackcaps** on 11<sup>th</sup>, 145 **Swallows** on 12<sup>th</sup> and 15 **Yellow Wagtails** on 15<sup>th</sup>. Further variety was provided by scattered singles of **Reed Warbler**, **Grasshopper Warbler**, **Garden Warbler** and **Firecrest**, and the last **Swift** of the year on 12<sup>th</sup>. The second half of the month saw **Swallow** numbers reach their autumn peak at 1,500 on 16<sup>th</sup>, whilst 18<sup>th</sup> brought arrivals of 100 **Chiffchaffs** and 145 **Blackcaps**, along with a further 800 **Swallows** and 22 **Spotted Flycatchers**. **Meadow Pipit** and **Goldcrest** numbers were lower than might be expected, with maxima of 178 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 16 on 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

Regular migrant waders were represented by small numbers of **Golden Plover**, **Ringed Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Curlew**, **Dunlin**, **Snipe** and **Common Sandpiper**, mostly in ones and twos, but there were 20 **Golden Plovers** on 13<sup>th</sup>. Other passage species included **Merlin** (singles on three days), **Cormorant** (maximum 13) and **Grey Heron** (maximum 3). A night-time ringing expedition to North End yielded six **Storm Petrels** on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Rarities and scarcities**

A **Wood Warbler** was in the more sheltered parts of a very blowy Millcombe on 1<sup>st</sup>. Scarce waders – by Lundy standards – included single **Knot** on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and a **Green Sandpiper** on 3<sup>rd</sup>. A **Common Rosefinch** was mist-netted in Millcombe on 5<sup>th</sup> (remaining to 12<sup>th</sup>) and a **Wryneck** was perched on the Heligoland Trap on the same date. A juvenile **Great Spotted Woodpecker** showed up at the Terrace/Quarries on 7<sup>th</sup>, with a further **Wood Warbler** close by. A **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** in the Landing Bay and a **Great Tit** in Millcombe both turned up on 10<sup>th</sup>. Six **Common Scoters** and six **Great Skuas** were off North Light on 11<sup>th</sup>; whilst 20<sup>th</sup> brought a ringtail **Hen Harrier** over Tent Field and an **Ortolan Bunting** flushed from Barton Field. The escaped **Yellow-crowned Bishop** remained until 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Willow Warbler, ruffled by easterlies, 7<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Dean Jones).*





## LAST DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS

|           |                  |   |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| August    | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Puffin  |
|           | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Cuckoo  |
| September | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Grasshopper Warbler   |
|           | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Swift   |
|           | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Yellow Wagtail  |
|           | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Sedge Warbler   |
| October   | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | White Wagtail   |
|           | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sand Martin   |
|           | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Willow Warbler  |
|           | 14 <sup>th</sup> | Reed Warbler,<br>Pied Flycatcher, Whinchat  |
|           | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Tree Pipit  |
|           | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Garden Warbler,<br>Whitethroat, Redstart  |
|           | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Wheatear  |
|           | 26 <sup>th</sup> | House Martin  |
|           | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Spotted Flycatcher  |
|           |                  |   |
| November  | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Ring Ouzel  |
|           | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Swallow   |
|           | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Manx Shearwater   |
|           | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Blackcap – the last autumn<br>migrant but followed by a<br>winter visitor 20-22 Dec         |
| December  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Chiffchaff – after five on 23<br>Nov, ones & twos remained<br>through Dec and into Jan 2022 |

## FIRST DATES FOR AUTUMN MIGRANTS/WINTER VISITORS

|         |                  |   |
|---------|------------------|---|
| July    | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Ringed Plover   |
|         | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Common Sandpiper  |
|         | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Golden Plover   |
|         | 21 <sup>st</sup> | Black-headed Gull   |
| August  | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Dunlin  |
|         | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Snipe   |
|         | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Balearic Shearwater   |
|         | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Merlin, Firecrest   |
| October | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Snow Bunting  |
|         | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Siskin  |
|         | 11 <sup>th</sup> | Yellow-browed Warbler,<br>Redwing, Black<br>Redstart, Brambling,<br>Lapland Bunting |
|         | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Lesser Redpoll  |
|         | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Jack Snipe  |
|         | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Fieldfare   |
|         | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Woodcock  |
|         | 28 <sup>th</sup> | Great Northern Diver  |
|         |                  |   |
|         |                  |   |

*Below: Merlin, High Street, 5<sup>th</sup> April  
(photo: Dean Jones).*



## **OCTOBER – Max temp 18.3C, min 8.7C, mean 13.3C. Rainfall 129 mm**

*The month started with an unsettled, wet and windy spell, but it became much quieter, drier and sunnier for a time between 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, with generally light winds from varying directions and it was often unseasonably mild. Mild, murky and damp weather with strong south and south-westerly winds set in on 18<sup>th</sup>, clearing to showers behind a thundery cold front on 20<sup>th</sup>. The last ten days were dominated by much colder conditions in a blustery and showery westerly flow, gusts reaching 58 mph on 31<sup>st</sup>.*

The rough weather at the start of October brought disruption to island transport but nothing of note seabird-wise. The most notable occurrence was an arrival of 46 **Goldcrests** during a relative lull in the weather on 5<sup>th</sup> – it's always amazing how these tiny birds manage to battle through such conditions. There were also eight **Greenfinches** on 2<sup>nd</sup> – a fairly good count for Lundy these days. The first half of the month saw the tailing away of significant hirundine passage, with 203 **Swallows** on 9<sup>th</sup> and 65 **House Martins** on 11<sup>th</sup> eclipsing all subsequent counts. **Chiffchaff**, **Blackcap** and **Goldcrest** movements were steady but generally unremarkable, with no sign of the big falls that occur in some years.

Passage of 'winter thrushes' started quietly with a handful of **Song Thrush** between 6<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and a single **Redwing** on 11<sup>th</sup>, but exploded into action with the mass arrival on 13<sup>th</sup> of 1,000 **Redwings** and 65 **Song Thrushes**. Smaller influxes of **Redwing** occurred throughout the rest of the month and **Song Thrush** peaked at 80 on 14<sup>th</sup>. Conversely, both **Fieldfare** and migrant **Blackbird** (as opposed to the resident breeding Blackbird population) were both notable by their near absence. **Fieldfare** was logged on just three dates, with a maximum of 11 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a flurry of **Black Redstarts** mid-month, peaking at nine on 15<sup>th</sup>, and up to a dozen **Bramblings** were logged on 17 dates from 11<sup>th</sup>. Several summer migrants posted later-than-average 'last dates', including **Spotted Flycatcher** on 27<sup>th</sup> – ringed during the same session as a male Brambling!

Finch migration was dominated by exceptional numbers of **Siskin**, with over 500 ringed during a three-week stint to 29<sup>th</sup>. A conservative estimate of 1,170 was logged on 20<sup>th</sup> alone. In contrast, **Chaffinch** passage, such a feature of many Octobers past, never really got going, with 400 on 17<sup>th</sup> by far the highest day total. Among non-passerines were the first **Jack Snipe** and **Woodcock** of the season, a lone **Lapwing**, and up to six **Water Rails** heard on most days.

### **Rarities and scarcities**

A **Twite** was seen at Old Light on 6<sup>th</sup>; an eastern-race **Lesser Whitethroat** was trapped in Millcombe on 11<sup>th</sup> (remaining to 14<sup>th</sup>); Lundy's tenth **Red-eyed Vireo** was in Millcombe on 16<sup>th</sup>; a **Great White Egret** flew south along the East Side on 17<sup>th</sup>; a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** graced Millcombe Wood on 20<sup>th</sup>; two **Choughs** were over the Landing Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup>, whilst a **Little Bunting** was feeding outside Little St John's on the same date. At the end of the month, Lundy's second **Glossy Ibis** was a very unexpected arrival over the Landing Bay. The first **Snow Bunting** and **Lapland Bunting** of the autumn were logged on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, respectively. A feature of autumn 2021 across the UK was the relative dearth of **Yellow-browed Warbler**, a species that has become so regular in recent decades as to barely warrant scarcity status and which is no longer categorised as a Devon rarity. There were Lundy records this year on only seven days, from 11<sup>th</sup>. On the other hand, there were regular sightings of presumed 'Siberian' **Chiffchaff**, several of which were trapped, allowing shed body feathers to be retained for DNA analysis (results pending). Unusual for Lundy were a raft of 30 **Common Scoters** on 9<sup>th</sup>, a **Marsh Harrier** on 15<sup>th</sup>, a **Dartford Warbler** at Quarter Wall and 12 **Crossbills** over Millcombe on 17<sup>th</sup>, 13 **Mediterranean Gulls**, a **Pomarine Skua** and four **Arctic Skuas** on 18<sup>th</sup>, a female **Bullfinch** in Millcombe on 21<sup>st</sup>, and a **Purple Sandpiper** on the side of Rat Island on 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Everyone's friend, the Ugly Robin, 8<sup>th</sup> November (photo: Eleanor Grover).*

**NOVEMBER – Max temp 13.7C, min 3.3C, mean 10.1C. Rainfall 47.4 mm**

*Much of November was on the mild side, becoming significantly colder towards the end of the month. There was plenty of settled weather, with only limited amounts of rainfall. It turned much more unsettled during the last week, a period which included the first named low-pressure system of the season, 'Storm Arwen', which brought gusts of 57 mph on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>.*

Late migrants included ones and twos of **Great Northern Diver** and **Merlin** on multiple dates, plus the last **Sparrowhawk** and **Grey Heron** of the year. Among passerines, the last **Swallow** of the year winged its way south on 6<sup>th</sup>. **Chiffchaff**, **Blackcap** and **Goldcrest** continued to trickle through, with single-digit counts of all three species on many dates, following a 'last hurrah' of 12 **Chiffchaffs** and 13 **Goldcrests** on 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, one or two **Firecrests** were logged regularly to 18<sup>th</sup>. Thrushes were very much a feature throughout the month, with three-figure counts of **Redwing** on seven days, whilst **Blackbirds** posted a later-than-usual autumn maximum of 73 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. **Fieldfares** also made up for their poor October showing with almost daily records, reaching a peak of 97 on 8<sup>th</sup>, and the last **Ring Ouzel** of the year was seen on 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Chaffinch** movements carried on throughout November, but counts were low, not breaking double figures. In contrast, **Bramblings** were both more frequent and more numerous than in most autumns, with a notable 41 on 10<sup>th</sup>. **Siskins** also featured on most days but numbers were considerably lower than in October, 117 on 2<sup>nd</sup> being by far the highest total. Finally, the 14<sup>th</sup> saw a massive influx of at least 1,500 **Starlings** – not only the highest count of the month but also for the year as a whole.

**Rarities and scarcities**

Rarity highlights were provided by a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** around Millcombe walled gardens on 2<sup>nd</sup> and the island's latest-ever **Barred Warbler**, in the same general area, on 14<sup>th</sup>. In addition, 30 **Common Scoters** were rafting off the Landing Bay on 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>; the thrush movements included single **Mistle Thrush** on ten dates; three **Lapwings** flew over the Airfield on 22<sup>nd</sup>; up to



five **Jack Snipes** were found in Lower Lighthouse Field on the night of 27<sup>th</sup>; a **Whooper Swan** travelled the length of the island on 29<sup>th</sup>; and ones and twos of both **Reed Bunting** and **Snow Bunting** were logged on scattered dates.

#### **DECEMBER – Max temp 12.2C, min 4.1C, mean 8.6C. Rainfall 99.1 mm**

*The first ten days were unsettled, rather chilly, and often windy with gusts reaching 40-60 mph on several dates. Higher pressure built from 11<sup>th</sup> onwards, ushering in calmer, milder weather but also periods of fog and low cloud, though there were a few clear and quite sunny days too. It turned briefly colder for a time, with strong easterlies affecting the island from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, but by 22<sup>nd</sup> it was back to a mild Atlantic airstream with spells of rain, strong west or south-west winds and often poor visibility – conditions that persisted to the end of the year. Rainfall across the year totalled just over 950 mm, equivalent to about 98% of the 1971–2021 average.*

In line with the trend for extended autumns and shorter, milder winters in these times of rapid climate change, several shorter-distance migrants, such as **Woodpigeon**, **Stonechat**, **Meadow Pipit**, **Pied Wagtail**, **Linnet** and **Goldfinch**, were seen later and/or in greater numbers than would have been the norm in most Decembers past. Unusually, **Chaffinch** movements also continued at a low level throughout the month (e.g. 65 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 24<sup>th</sup>) and there were nine **Brambling** on 9<sup>th</sup>. A **Black Redstart** put in an appearance on 13<sup>th</sup> and one or two **Chiffchaffs** were noted on eight dates, plus a male **Blackcap** on 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Up to six **Goldcrests** were recorded almost daily. November's thrush theme continued, with moderate numbers (for Lundy) of **Redwing**, **Song Thrush** and **Blackbird**, along with a few **Fieldfares**, logged on most days. Single **Merlin** and one or two **Kestrels** were seen regularly and there were 13 **Golden Plovers** in Tent Field on 19<sup>th</sup>. Following a period of rough weather, some 3,000 **Kittiwakes** were off the Landing Bay on 4<sup>th</sup>, along with four **Great Northern Divers**. Later, there was a flurry of **Common Gulls**, 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. **Teal** peaked at 12 in the second half of the month.

#### **Rarities and scarcities**

A **Stock Dove** was logged daily 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>; a **Corn Bunting** was briefly near Tillage Field on 5<sup>th</sup>; single **Redshank** and **Little Egret** were at North End on 12<sup>th</sup>; three **Purple Sandpipers** in the Devil's Kitchen on 13<sup>th</sup>; and a **Short-eared Owl** was near Montagu Steps on 15<sup>th</sup> – the same date that a **Sooty Shearwater** was off South West Point and a **Yellow-legged Gull** was off the East Side. A flock of 12 **Turnstones** was in the Devil's Kitchen on 16<sup>th</sup>; a **Jackdaw** was above the Landing Bay on 17<sup>th</sup>; another **Purple Sandpiper** was on the main track pools near Quarter Wall on 20<sup>th</sup>; and a **Hawfinch** was near Brambles on 22<sup>nd</sup>. There were further scattered records of a single **Snow Bunting**, whilst one or two **Reed Buntings** were in the Pondsburry area on several dates, and a single **Mistle Thrush** was noted on four dates. Wildfowl took centre stage as the year drew to a close: 10 **Wigeon** on Pondsburry on 19<sup>th</sup>, a female **Pintail** near Rocket Pole on 20<sup>th</sup> and at Pondsburry on 28<sup>th</sup>, and single **Pink-footed Goose** and **White-fronted Goose** arriving on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> respectively, both remaining until the first day of January 2022, mainly in the farm fields along the East Side.

*Turnstones, Devil's Kitchen, 16<sup>th</sup> December (photo: Martin Thorne).*



## BIRDS IN 2021

### Nomenclature and sequence

These follow The British List (9<sup>th</sup> edition, summarised version dated 29 November 2021, including revisions in line with version 10.2 of the IOC World Bird List) 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 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. Killdeer, Rustic Bunting) 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. Barred Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher) 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. Pintail, Little Grebe), 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! Photographs and video-clips are especially welcome and can be emailed to [assistantwarden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:assistantwarden@lundyisland.co.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.

### 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 2021. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from 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 via [assistantwarden@lundyisland.co.uk](mailto:assistantwarden@lundyisland.co.uk).





*Male Wheatear, Quarter Wall, 23<sup>rd</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

### **Birds seen during boat crossings**

Sightings during boat crossings are generally only included in the main list when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. There is a separate listing at the end of the report for other crossing records of particular interest. Observers are strongly encouraged to submit records for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to the Devon Bird Recorder ([recorder@devonbirds.org](mailto:recorder@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 2021 Lundy Bird Report (as well as other LFS 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 (up until his departure in early October), together with his colleagues (including volunteers) from the island Conservation Team and in the last three months of the year, the newly appointed Assistant Warden, Stuart Cossey.

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, Richard Campey, Chris & Mandy Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Jamie Dunning, Rosie Ellis, Chas Holt, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Jac Turner-Moss and Justin Zantboer.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS IN 2021

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

[Brant Goose]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A Pale-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. hrota* was swimming in the Landing Bay during the late morning of 10 Sep and remained until 11<sup>th</sup> when it was seen in flight over Millcombe and the Village during the morning, but was back in the Landing Bay by midday (Dean Jones, Rebecca & Richard Taylor *et al.*). Later in the autumn, flocks of five and 12 Dark-bellied Brents *B. b. bernicla* were seen on 8 Nov, the smaller group heading south past South West Point in the morning, whilst the larger flock, seen from the Ugly, flew west past Rat Island and disappeared behind the south of the island (Martin Thorne). These are the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Lundy records of Brent Goose overall and just the fifth occurrence for the Canadian Arctic-breeding pale-bellied race.

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

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One that dropped in briefly to Lower Lighthouse Field on 6 Mar was relocated on 7<sup>th</sup> on Ackland's Moor where it was seen daily up to and including 18<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones, Matt Stritch *et al.*). At the end of the year, one arrived on 21 Dec, initially being sighted along the main track north of Quarter Wall, and remained until the end of the year, spending its time together with the White-fronted Goose that arrived two days later, most often in the East Side fields (Stuart Cossey, Rosie Ellis). These are the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> records for the island (the most recent previous occurrence being in Oct 2014). The Mar bird was only the third in spring. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

An adult that arrived on 23 Dec was seen amidst very murky conditions during the morning in company with the Pink-footed Goose in Tent Field, and in much better light in Brick Field later in the day. It was still present on 31 Dec and, like the Pink-footed Goose with which it continued to keep company, remained into 2022 (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

*Pink-footed Goose (left) and White-fronted Goose, East Side fields, 26<sup>th</sup> December (photo: Rosie Ellis).*



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

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One flew in over North End at approximately 10:30 hrs on 29 Nov (Jamie Dunning). It was later briefly on Pondsburry and flying over the Village, before leaving from South End at about 11:30 hrs. The 19<sup>th</sup> LFS record, the most recent previous occurrence being Dec 2019. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

A female flew east off Quarter Wall Pond on 18 Dec and six were on Pondsburry on 21 Dec, followed by two on 23<sup>rd</sup> and four on 31<sup>st</sup> (Stuart Cossey).

### **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 highest pre-breeding count was 13 on 16 Jan and numbers of fully-grown birds only reached double digits on four other dates (all in Jan/Feb) until late summer. The first ducklings of the year were a brood of 12 at Quarters Pond on 6 Apr, with further broods logged on 21 Apr (12 small ducklings) through May and into Jun. The highest count of the year was 20 on 14 Sep but numbers in Dec were back to where they started the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 13  | 11  | 7   | 4   | 9   | 8   | 8   | 15  | 20  | 19  | 14  | 13  |

### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

[Northern Pintail]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A female was flushed from Rocket Pole Marsh (= Kistvaen Pond) on 20 Dec (Stuart Cossey). The close views allowed the distinctive features to be seen – the long narrow neck and white trailing edge to the primaries. The same or another female was photographed (*right, by Stuart Cossey*) on Pondsburry a few days later on 28 Dec). These are the first records in nearly 45 years, the most 'recent' being a female in Sep 1977.



### **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 and 2020.*

Unusually, 10 were seen on the floodwater near the water tanks on Ackland's Moor on 7 Jan. The highest counts of the first winter period were all from Pondsburry, where there were 26 on 10 Feb (one of the higher totals on record for the island), 24 on 21 Feb, and 21 on 6 Mar. Several drakes were displaying at Pondsburry on 18 Mar. Later in spring there were six on 21 Apr, five on 1 May, and three adults plus three ducklings on 22 May, confirming successful breeding for the sixth time in seven years. Two fully-grown birds with several very small young were seen on 3 Jun, followed by a female and three ducklings on 6 Jun – the final breeding-season record of the year. Following ones and twos during Jul to Oct (including two on Barton Pond in mid-Oct) the highest count in the second winter period was eight on 26 & 29 Dec.

#### **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  | 26  | 21  | 6   | 5   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 2   | 5   | 8   |
| 7   | 5   | 7   | 5   | 13  | 2   | 2   | 11  | 4   | 11  | 7   | 17  |



**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*  
*Uncommon passage migrant.*

There were three records: six flew east off North End on 11 Sep (Martin Thorne); 30 were rafting off the Landing Bay on 8 & 10 Nov (Martin Thorne); and six distant scoter sp., thought likely to be Common Scoter, were off Brazen Ward on 29 Nov (Jamie Dunning).

**Swift** *Apus apus* [Common Swift]  
*Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor, though generally in small numbers.*

Recorded on 61 dates from 23 Apr (one over Jenny's Cove) to 12 Sep (one). The highest spring-passage total was 50 on 22 May, following the clearance of stormy weather on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, whilst 30 on 30 Jun were heading south – perhaps to avoid poor weather. Four double-figure counts logged between 14 Jul and 4 Aug, with a maximum of 16 on both 20 Jul & 4 Aug, were the only real indications of autumn passage, and all occurrences after 4 Aug were of single birds only, the last of these on 12 Sep. A bird found grounded next to Government House amidst heavy rain and strong winds on 8 May was taken into care overnight and successfully released in St John's Valley on the following morning.

**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   | 50  | 30  | 13  | 16  | 1   | –   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 3   | 19  | 14  | 11  | 7   | 7   | –   | –   | –   |

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

During spring and early summer, single birds were logged on 16 dates from 20 Apr (a calling male that ranged widely from Quarter Wall Copse to St John's Valley) to 30 Jun (one on Threequarter Wall mobbed by Meadow Pipits). A juvenile was present from 25 Jul to 2 Aug, being seen in various locations, but there was no evidence that this was a Lundy-reared individual rather than one dispersing from the mainland. Feathers of a (different) predated Cuckoo were found along the Lower East Side Path on 1 Aug (Holt family). The last of the year was another juvenile on Brick Field fence on 24 Aug (Dean Jones, Adam 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | –   | –   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 2   | 7   | 7   | 4   | 2   | –   | –   | –   | –   |

*Cuckoo, Threequarter Wall, 25<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**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.*

As usual a summer peak coincided with the main pigeon-racing season, the highest count being 21 on 3 Jul.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | –   | 25  | 18  | 21  | 2   | 1   | 2   | 2   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | –   | 2   | 20  | 26  | 13  | 9   | 18  | 5   | –   |

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

One over Millcombe on 6<sup>th</sup> was still present the next day, and another flew in off the sea during the afternoon of 15 Mar. Later in spring, further singles were logged on 14, 15, 27 & 30 Apr and 5, 7, 9 & 10 May. There were no further records until mid-autumn when singles birds were logged on 16 dates from 12 Oct to 4 Dec, including a long-staying bird seen frequently in Barton Field in Nov and early Dec. One was being pursued by Peregrines off the East Side on 14 Oct.

**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.*

Singles were in Quarter Wall Copse on 10 Jan and in Millcombe on 10 Feb, with two there on 19 Feb. After two more from 6 to 9 Mar, seen almost daily from 13<sup>th</sup>, when there was an influx bringing the total to six, rising to eight on 19<sup>th</sup> and nine on 31 Mar, followed by 10 on 9 Apr. Successful breeding was confirmed with a fledgling seen in Millcombe on 11 Jul. Numbers dwindled in Sep and remained in single digits for the rest of the year, though records were unusually frequent in Dec, with up to five on 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> being high counts for the time of year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 9   | 10  | 9   | 7   | 12  | 12  | 8   | 2   | 6   | 5   |
| 1   | 2   | 22  | 30  | 31  | 30  | 29  | 26  | 21  | 6   | 15  | 22  |

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

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

There were just two records: one next to the Lambing Shed during the late afternoon of 31 May (Rebecca & Richard Taylor); and one at Quarter Wall Copse and Quarry Cottages on 3 Jul (Sam Bosanquet). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**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.*

An early spring migrant arrived on 22 Mar and was heard singing above the gas store in Millcombe. This was followed by records on a further 32 dates throughout the spring and early summer, from 16 Apr to 30 Jun, with maxima of five on 29 May and nine on 1 Jun. Song was heard in Millcombe on 17 Apr. Later in the summer a single bird was logged on four dates from 23 to 31 Jul. The only occurrences later in the year were single birds reported on 23 Aug and 22 Oct.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 9   | 1   | 1   | –   | 1   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 1   | 2   | 14  | 16  | 4   | 1   | –   | 1   | –   | –   |



### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

*Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and again in 2015, 2019 & 2020; no proof of breeding for the intervening years.*

Notable records early in the year included four in various parts of Millcombe on 10 Jan, one calling at Pondsburry on 26 Feb, and one calling from the slope above Quarry Beach on 14 Mar. Small numbers continued to be logged sporadically through the spring and summer, including singles on 4 Jun & 10 Jul. 'Song' was heard near Quarter Wall on 13 May and breeding in this area was confirmed when an adult and a young bird were heard calling to one another near Quarter Wall on 25 Aug. An adult male was trapped and ringed in the 'Secret Garden' (lower Millcombe) on 14 Oct. Peak numbers during autumn passage included six on 15 & 17 Oct and five on 20 & 28 Nov.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4   | 3   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 6   | 5   | 4   |
| 7   | 10  | 8   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 25  | 22  | 16  |

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A summer-plumaged adult was seen and photographed (*right, by Dean Jones*) in the Landing Bay on 30 Jul as the Holt family made their way down to the Jetty (Paul Holt, Dean Jones). This is only the fifth-ever record for Lundy, the most recent previous occurrence being one on the remarkably similar date of 26 Jul 2000.



### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Spring peaks were 33 on 6 Mar and 37 on 10 May, the latter including a roosting flock of 23 along the east coast at Threequarter Wall Bay. The first chicks of the year were seen on Rat Island on 2 Jun. A flock of 27 roosting at Jenny's Cove on 3 Sep provided the maximum post-breeding count.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 8   | 7   | 33  | 9   | 37  | 9   | 14  | 15  | 27  | 20  | 3   | 15  |

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

A small cold-weather movement early in the year brought sightings on eight dates from 8 to 20 Jan, with a maximum of eight on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> in Tillage and High Street Fields. These were followed by two on 10 Feb and one from 12 to 14 Feb (Dean Jones). There were no further records until autumn when one was hunkering down near Threequarter Wall gate on 14 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and three flew over the Airfield on 22 Nov (Stuart Cossey).

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Up to three were logged on eight scattered dates from 9 Jan to 20 Feb, followed by small numbers during spring passage on 15 further dates from 2 Mar to 30 May, with maxima of six on 23 Apr and four in South West Field on 13 May. A stunning breeding-plumaged bird of the northern race *P. a. altifrons* was feeding in Barton Field on 12 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). 'Autumn' passage recorded on 23 dates from 16 Jul (one) to 28 Oct (one), with a peak of 20 on the Airfield, together with a Knot, on 13 Sep. At the end of the year, birds were logged on five days in the second half of Dec, with a maximum of 13 (in Tent Field) on 19<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   | 2   | 4   | 6   | 4   | —   | 1   | 2   | 20  | 6   | —   | 13  |
| 4   | 4   | 4   | 3   | 8   | —   | 1   | 3   | 9   | 10  | —   | 5   |

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

The first spring migrants were three on 23 Apr (including two foraging with five Dunlin in South West Field) followed by four on 24<sup>th</sup> and six on 25<sup>th</sup> (all in South West Field), then one at Quarter Wall on 4 May. Autumn migrants, many of which were calling 'flyovers', were logged on 14 dates from 2 Jul (one over North End) to 13 Oct. All were single birds except for two on 21 Aug and 29 Sep. Finally, a late bird was calling during the morning of 20 Nov.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

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

The first of the spring was a single bird next to the Old Light on 15 Apr. Thereafter, recorded on a further 29 dates to 18 May (two), with a maximum of seven on both 20 Apr and 12 May. Two on 5 May were in Quarter Wall Copse! In autumn, one on Rat Island on 13 Aug was followed by five in Barton Field on 19 Aug, one on 16 Sep and one on the side of Rat Island on 25 Sep.

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

Not recorded in late winter or spring. Singles on 28 & 30 Jun and on seven dates from 1 to 23 Jul were likely early-returning failed breeders. Later migrants included singles on 7, 10 & 12 Aug, two on the Airfield on 3 Sep, and one on 5 Sep. The last of the year was one calling over Tillage Field on 10 Nov.

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

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

A bird in partial breeding plumage was photographed resting on the tideline at Hell's Gates on 15 Apr (Peter Newman) – the first Lundy record since May 2017.



*Bar-tailed Godwit,  
Hell's Gates, 15<sup>th</sup> April  
(photo: Peter Newman).*

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

*Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.*

One flew south, close inshore past Rat Island, together with three Oystercatchers, at about 07:00 hrs on 8 Aug (Dean Jones).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

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

One was photographed in the Landing Bay on 20 May (Paul Dean) and two were seen there on 22<sup>nd</sup> (Stephen O'Donnell). In autumn, there were single flyover birds on 24 and 31 Aug (Dean Jones), whilst another spent two days around the Landing Bay on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (Pete Clabburn & Charles Crundwell). At the end of the year, a flock of 12 was photographed in the Devil's Kitchen on 16 Dec (Martin Thorne) – the highest Lundy count for many years, though still some way off the record of 20 in Aug 1972.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

[Red Knot]

*Rare passage migrant, with all recent records in autumn, during the period Jul–Sep.*

A juvenile was seen in flight over the Campsite and later photographed at Rocket Pole Pond on 30 Aug (Pete Clabburn & Charles Crundwell). A juvenile was roosting on Rat Island during the evening of 3 Sep (Jamie Dunning). Finally, one was with Golden Plover on the Airfield on 13 Sep (Louisa Bartlett, Chris Dee *et al.*). These are the first records for the island since 2018.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

*Rare passage migrant, with all recent records in either May or Sep; has occurred in winter.*

A bird still in non-breeding plumage was along the main track on 19 Apr (Dean Jones). Two were on the eastern side of Rat Island on the afternoon of 16 May (Dean Jones & Rob Waterfield). These are the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> spring records for the island.

*Sanderling, main track, 19<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

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

Spring passage migrants were recorded on 12 dates from 18 Apr (one at Rocket Pole Pond) to 22 May (one), with a peak count of 14 on 27 Apr (comprising a flock of 12 flying past Old Light in the early morning, plus two at Rocket Pole Pond). In autumn, recorded on 14 dates from 24 Jul (one) to 13 Oct (one) with a maximum of seven, flying past Rat Island, on 5 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | 14  | 2   | –   | 1   | 7   | 1   | 1   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 6   | 6   | –   | 1   | 9   | 3   | 1   | –   | –   |

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

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

One was photographed on the rocky perimeter of Rat Island, a few metres away from a bottling Grey Seal, on 30 Oct (*photo, right, by Rosie Ellis*). Three were in the Devil's Kitchen on 13 Dec (Martin Thorne) and, unusually, one was flushed from pools by Quarter Wall on 20 Dec (Kevin Waterfall).



**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

*Very rare autumn migrant.*

One was seen and heard during the early evening of 5 Sep as it circled over the Village, calling repeatedly for about ten seconds before flying off to the south-west. Though it was already dark, it was thought possible the bird was attracted by artificial light (Dean Jones).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Singles on 29 Jan (flushed from the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe), 19 & 21 Feb, and 3 Apr (flushed from a small patch of heather in Middle Park). The start of autumn passage was later than normal, with singles on 26 & 27 Oct – the only records that month. Ones and twos were logged on 14 dates in Nov (5<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>), mainly from Millcombe and elsewhere along the East Side. One narrowly evaded a Peregrine by diving into cliff-top scrub on 24 Nov. Four were around the Campsite before dawn on 15 Dec (Martin Thorne), followed by one on 19<sup>th</sup> – the last of the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 1   | –   | 1   | –   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 1   | 2   | 4   |
| 1   | 2   | –   | 1   | –   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 2   | 14  | 2   |

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

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

One foraging close to the water tanks on Ackland's Moor during the evening of 7 Jan (Dean Jones) was the only record for the first winter period, and there were no further occurrences until autumn. Two at Pondsburry on 13 Oct were followed by four there, plus one at Middle Park Pond, on 14<sup>th</sup>, and singles at Pondsburry and Middle Park Pond on 15<sup>th</sup>. Two or three, possibly as many as five, were flushed by torchlight in Lower Lighthouse Field during the evening of 27 Nov (Jamie Dunning), and one was at Pondsburry on 29 Nov. Finally, singles were flushed near Quarter Wall Pond on 18 Dec (Kevin Waterfall) and from Rocket Pole Marsh (= Kistvaen Pond) on 28 Dec (Stuart Cossey).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

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

The highest count from the first winter period was 24 foraging in the farm in-fields on the evening of 29 Jan (Dean Jones). The last of spring were singles on 12 & 16 May, above North Light and at Pondsburry, respectively. The first autumn migrants were singles on four dates from 3 to 23 Aug and on three scattered dates in Sep. Logged numbers didn't rise until mid-Oct when there were 10 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28 on 15<sup>th</sup> (of which 25 'dazzled' at night).



One caught on the night of the 7/8 Jan turned out to be a retrap that had been ringed on Lundy by Ellie Zantboer in October 2016 (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.98, for details).

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 24  | 15  | 8   | 4   | 1   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | 28  | 6   | 2   |
| 5   | 7   | 4   | 7   | 2   | –   | –   | 4   | 3   | 9   | 13  | 7   |

**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.*

Single spring-passage migrants were logged on 28 & 29 Apr (by the Jetty on both dates) and 25 May (calling near Shutter Rock). Autumn migrants were similarly sparse, with one in the Landing Bay on 8 Aug, two calling along the east coast on 23 Aug, and further singles on 5 & 21 Sep, calling at night along the West Side, and in the Devil's Kitchen, respectively.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Autumn passage migrants were logged on five dates: two flew over the Village on 23 Jul (Philip & Helen Lybery); one was at Aztec Bay (west coast) on 26<sup>th</sup> (Eleanor Grover, Sophie Smith *et al.*); one flew south past the Landing Bay on 18 Aug (Dean Jones); three were logged overhead on 31<sup>st</sup> (Jamie Dunning); and one flew over the Village during the early morning of 3 Sep (Jamie Dunning).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Single birds were logged at Pondsburry on 28 Aug (Pete Clabburn) and over the Village on 30 Aug (Dean Jones). One was feeding at a pool on the West Side on 12 Dec (Jaclyn Pearson).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

*Very rare autumn migrant.*

A noisy individual flew low over the Jetty and Rat Island at about 13:30 hrs on 9 Aug. Another flew low over the Village at about 08:00 hrs on 15 Aug, circling low between the Castle and the Village, allowing good views before it gained height and left the island to the south-east (both records Dean Jones). A remarkable 'double whammy' given that the most recent previous occurrence was as long ago as 2000!

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One calling flew over the Village on 26 Aug (Dean Jones).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

Counts of 1,000 or more were logged on seven dates between 13 & 23 Jan, peaking at 2,300 on 16<sup>th</sup> – nearly all adults, with very few young birds seen (Dean Jones). The Feb peak was 733 on 15<sup>th</sup>. Small numbers were noted ashore in Jenny's Cove on 20 Mar and 190 were on the water from Jenny's Cove to St Mark's Stone on 8 Apr.

Nest-building had commenced at the Aztec Bay colony on 6 May, the first egg was seen on 15 May and the first chicks on 11 Jun (Eleanor Grover). The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of 284 apparently occupied nests (aon) – an encouraging rise of 19% since 2017, though the long-term trend remains sharply downwards, with a 70% fall in the number of

ation since 1981. Some 124 active nests were identified in the two productivity study colonies at Aztec Bay and Three-quarter Wall combined, but the great majority of these ultimately failed and only 23 chicks fledged, representing just 0.19 chicks per nest, considerably down on the 2020 productivity value of 0.66 and the lowest since the current studies began in 2017. Most nests failed at the chick-rearing stage, and multiple instances of inter-sibling aggression and one case of sibicide (killing of one chick by the other) were observed. This suggests that adults may have been struggling to find sufficient food to provision their young (Jones & Grover 2021).

In autumn and early winter, peak numbers offshore were 500 on 17 Oct, 1,000 on 4 Nov and four counts of over a thousand from 4 to 8 Dec, including 3,000 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2,500 on 6<sup>th</sup>.

A breeding, colour-ringed bird, found by Eleanor Grover whilst surveying Puffins at Jenny's Cove on 18 Jul, had been ringed as a chick in Brittany, France in 2009. A second colour-ringed individual, seen by Eleanor at Jenny's Cove on 19 Jul, is also known to have been ringed as a chick in Brittany, in this case in 2013, but it was not possible to read the full colour-ring combination, so the exact date and site of ringing are unknown. A third colour-ringed bird, with a partially read ring-code, was loafing at Aztec Bay on 3 Jun; this individual had also been ringed as a chick in Brittany (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.97, for further details).

#### Maximum count for each month

| Jan   | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov   | Dec   |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| 2,300 | 733 | 170 | 190 | 245 | 182 | 110 | 30  | 20  | 500 | 1,000 | 3,000 |

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*  
*Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly July to October; occasional cold-weather influxes. Particularly scarce in 2021. A second calendar-year (= first-summer) bird feeding in Barton Field at sunrise on 27 Apr was followed by an adult off the Landing Bay during stormy conditions on 21 May. In autumn, a juvenile in the Landing Bay on 21 Jul and a first-winter bird off the western end of Quarter Wall on 14 Oct were followed by further singles off the East Side on four dates between 17 & 24 Oct.*



*Black-headed Gull, Barton Field, 27<sup>th</sup> April  
 (photo: Dean Jones)*

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*  
*Lundy vagrant.*

A first-winter bird was foraging with Kittiwake flocks offshore from the Landing Bay on 5 Feb, followed by an adult feeding east of Rat Island on 15 Feb (Dean Jones) – only the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> records for the island. It is also the second winter running that this Lundy rarity has graced the waters off the east coast, following similar sightings of single first-winter and adult individuals in early 2020.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*  
*Uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.*

Records on five dates during the first winter period and early spring comprised a single adult on 2 Jan, two adults on 23 Jan & 4 Feb (of which one on the latter date was in full breeding plumage with a complete black hood), and further singles on 5 & 6 Mar. There were no further records until autumn when an adult was off Millcombe on 11 Oct, followed by an influx of 12 off the East Side on 17<sup>th</sup> and 13 on 18<sup>th</sup>, comprising eight seen from Old Light and five from the Ugly. Eleven of the 13 were adults. Later in Oct there were eight on 20<sup>th</sup>, three on 21<sup>st</sup> and “a few” on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Common Gull *Larus canus***

[Mew Gull]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly Sep to Apr.*

Early in the year, recorded on 13 dates from 2 Jan to 19 Mar, with a maximum of seven, feeding off the East Side with other gulls, on 5 & 6 Mar. In autumn two were off the East Side on 17 Oct, followed by five the next day (four off the East Side, one off Old Light; all first-winter individuals) and further ones and two on three dates to 28<sup>th</sup>. In Dec, there were six on 19<sup>th</sup> and two from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, all off the East Side or North End.

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

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

Numbers appear to have been low throughout most of the year, with the highest count recorded in the LFS logbook being just 29 during a walk of the whole island perimeter on 6 Mar (Dean Jones). The first eggs were seen on 1 May on Goat Island and there were chicks on Miller's Cake on 4 Jun. Fledglings were seen at The Battery from 14 Jul. The RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of 21 apparently occupied nests – a huge fall in numbers of 55% since 2017.

**Maximum count for each month**

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 20  | 14  | 29  | 24  | 17  | 12  | 17  | 19  | 16  | 26  | 26  | 90  |

**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***

[European Herring Gull]

*Common but declining breeding species; present all year; generally fewer in winter, but significant influxes can occur during storms and cold snaps.*

Higher counts during the first winter and early spring periods included 349 on 24 Jan and 506 on 6 Mar. The first chicks were seen near St Peter's Stone on 26 May (Dean Jones). The RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of 248 apparently occupied nests – a slight increase of 8% since 2017, but a worrying 43% lower than the 2013 total.

A sub-adult showing characteristics of the nominate race *L. a. argentatus*, known as 'Scandinavian' or 'Northern' Herring Gull, was resting on the water off Miller's Cake on 23 Jan (Dean Jones), whilst an adult of the same race sheltering from south-westerly gales with other large gulls was photographed in Lower Lighthouse Field on 20 Feb (Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Maximum count for each month**

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 349 | 300 | 506 | 230 | 300 | 90  | 189 | 199 | 20  | 300 | 119 | 250 |

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***

*Lundy vagrant; possibly under-recorded prior to recent records.*

A third calendar-year (= second-winter) bird was photographed roosting with other gulls next to the floodwater on Ackland's Moor on 20 Feb (Dean Jones). A second calendar-year bird was close in off the East Side on 15 Dec (Stuart Cossey). These are only the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> records for the island, following an unprecedented five records in 2020.

*Right: Second-winter Yellow-legged Gull (centre)  
with nearby Herring and Great Black-backed  
Gulls, Ackland's Moor, 20<sup>th</sup> February  
(photo: Dean Jones).*

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

*Declining breeding species; common passage migrant; generally less frequent in winter, but weather-related influxes may occur and spring passage can be well underway in Feb.*

Higher counts during the first winter and early spring periods included 22 roosting next to the water tanks on 29 Jan, 30 on 23 Feb, and 40 passage migrants flying north offshore on 16 Mar. Breeding birds were back on territory along the east coast on 21 Feb. The first chicks logged were above Miller's Cake on 11 Jun and fledglings were seen below the Quarries on 14 Jul. The RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of just 91 apparently occupied nests (aon) – a further drop of 31% since 2017 and a massive decline of 79% since the peak of 444 aon in 2004, in a trend that is beginning to look as though it could be terminal.

One was caught and ringed in the Lodge garden in Nov. A colour-ringed individual photographed in High Street Field on 26 Mar had previously been found in very poor condition on Malaga Beach, southern Spain on 28 Nov 2019 and subsequently taken into care before being ringed and released in Feb 2020 (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.103, for full details).

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 22  | 30  | 40  | 41  | 59  | 30  | 40  | 113 | 10  | 27  | 3   | 20  |

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

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

One passed off South West Point on the morning of 20 Mar (Dean Jones). In autumn there were six on 11 Sep, including two off South West Point and four harassing Kittiwakes off North Light (Martin Thorne), whilst one flew south off Millcombe and settled on the water during the morning of 28 Oct (Justin Zantboer).

### **Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus***

[Pomarine Jaeger]

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

At least one dark-morph bird was seen from the Ugly at 13:20 hrs on 18 Oct (Tim Jones).

### **Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Two – a pale-morph adult and a dark-morph bird – were pursuing Kittiwakes off the East Side at Tibbetts on 26 Sep (Shaun Robson & Marie Smith). Two pale-morph birds seen off the East Side were flying west on 17 Oct. Two (one pale, one dark) moved south past Old Light at 09:28 hrs on 18 Oct (Andy Jayne), the same day as at least two dark-morph birds were off the East Side, seen from the Ugly, at 13:20 hrs (Tim Jones). A dark-morph bird was off the East Side on 20 Oct (Tim Jones).

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

One flying south and seen from the Ugly on 27 Oct was thought probably to be an Arctic Skua but was too distant to identify with binoculars only (Eleanor Grover).





**Common Guillemot *Uria aalge***

[Common Murre]

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

Higher counts from the late winter and spring included 1,320 on ledges between Jenny's Cove and St Mark's Stone on 23 Jan; 1,110 at Jenny's Cove on 4 Feb; 1,356 ashore at Jenny's Cove on 7 Mar; and c.2,500 on 7 May. The first egg of the season was noted at Jenny's Cove on 27 Apr (Eleanor Grover). Flooding of some ledges due to two days of unusually heavy rain at the end of May led to the loss of a number of eggs (e.g. 13 eggs lost in one section of the study plot at St Mark's Stone). The first chick was seen at the study plot on 31 May, with the first 'jumlplings' logged on 20 Jun. All but two young had left St Mark's Stone by 11 Jul. There was a record number of breeding attempts in the study plot – with some 232 apparently occupied sites, but productivity appeared to have been slightly down (Dean Jones). The RSPB-led survey of cliff-nesting seabirds in Jun recorded a spectacular total of 9,880 individuals – some 59% higher than during the last full survey in 2017 when 6,198 were counted.

**Maximum count for each month\***

| Jan   | Feb   | Mar   | Apr | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1,320 | 1,110 | 1,356 | 750 | 2,500 | 9,880 | 1,152 | 2   | 23  | 75  | 17  | 80  |

\*From Oct to Dec, up to 1,440 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Razorbills and Guillemots.



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

*Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; scarcer between August and February, with most remaining well offshore.*

The first seen ashore on the breeding cliffs were three at the southern end of Jenny's Cove on 4 Feb (Dean Jones), with the first large-scale occupancy being 400 on land at Jenny's Cove on 27 Feb (Dean Jones). The first egg of the season was noted at Jenny's Cove on 29 Apr (Eleanor Grover). As for Guillemot, the RSPB-led survey of cliff-nesting seabirds in Jun recorded a large increase since the last full survey in 2017: a total of 3,533 individuals in 2021 compared to 1,735 just four years previously, representing an astonishing doubling of numbers over that period.

| Maximum count for each month* |     |     |     |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan                           | Feb | Mar | Apr | May   | Jun   | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 35                            | 400 | 599 | 250 | 1,100 | 3,533 | 150 | 4   | 20  | 188 | 6   | 20  |

\*From Oct to Dec, up to 1,440 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Razorbills and Guillemots.

### **Unidentified auk species** *Uria/Alca* spp.

| Maximum count for each month |     |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Jan                          | Feb | Mar   | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct   | Nov | Dec |
| 600                          | 300 | 1,000 | 60  | 50  | –   | –   | –   | 6   | 1,440 | 300 | 300 |

### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

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

The first of the year were three on the water with other auks at Jenny's Cove on 6 Mar, with four the following day (Dean Jones). There were no further records until seven on 17 Mar (including the first on land at Jenny's Cove) and an impressive Mar count of 75 (of which 25 ashore) on 21<sup>st</sup>. Later maxima in spring included 167 (of which 121 ashore) at Jenny's Cove on 8 Apr, 104 on 17 May and 210 on 31 May. Observations of the productivity study slope at Jenny's Cove located 346 active burrows, up by 33% from 261 in 2020. Adults were first seen delivering fish to burrows on 26 May, the first 'puffling' was seen on 30 Jun (a day earlier than the first in 2020), and the last provisioning of chicks was logged on 29 Jul. Some 214 chicks were recorded in the productivity plot, giving an overall productivity value of 0.62 chicks per active burrow, up from 0.51 chicks per burrow in 2020 (Jones & Grover 2021). The all-island RSPB-led survey of cliff-nesting seabirds in Jun recorded a new post-rat eradication record total of 848 individuals, some 126% higher than the 375 counted during the last comparable survey in 2017. There were still at least 250 birds present on 22 Jul, but numbers fell rapidly after that and the last of the breeding season was one in Jenny's Cove on 1 Aug. In late autumn, three were seen off North End on the unusual date of 24 Nov (Stuart Cossey).

| Maximum count for each month |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan                          | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| –                            | –   | 75  | 167 | 210 | 848 | 625 | 1   | –   | –   | 3   | –   |

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

[Red-throated Loon]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.*

During the first winter period and early spring, recorded on 36 dates from 6 Jan (one) to 4 Apr (two), with maxima of 10 on 7 Jan and nine on 22 Feb. Interestingly, there had been no records in Nov/Dec 2020, so the early Jan 2021 records were the first of the winter. A similar pattern was evident in 2019/20 with just three scattered records in Nov/Dec followed by frequent records from Jan onwards.

*Left: Auk ledges in Jenny's Cove, 8<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

[Common Loon]

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

Wintering birds and spring-passage migrants were recorded on 25 dates between 2 Jan and 21 May. All records were of single birds, with the exception of two off the Terrace on 14 Mar. All were off the East Side between the Landing Bay and Halfway Wall Bay. In autumn, two were in the Landing Bay on 28 Oct (Justin Zantboer). These were followed by records on a further 17 dates to the end of the year, mainly of ones and twos, but there were three on 14 Dec and four on 19<sup>th</sup>. Two that flew in and settled in the Landing Bay on 8 Nov “*created quite a bow wave*” and could be heard from the Ugly as they called (Martin Thorne).

**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   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 2   | 2   | 4   |
| 8   | 5   | 7   | 1   | 4   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 3   | 7   | 12  |

**Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus***

[European Storm Petrel]

*Uncommon passage migrant; apparently increasing numbers during the breeding season; size of the breeding population currently estimated at 50 or more breeding pairs.*

Three together flew past Rat Island during the late afternoon of 21 May after two days of very wet and windy conditions, westerly gusts reaching 60 mph. Surveys located 16 birds on 2 Jul and a further 17 on 14 Jul (see below). One was ringed on the West Side during the night of 5/6 Sep and six were trapped at North End on 8 Sep (Dean Jones).

The Conservation Team visited North End on 2 Jul to look for occupied nest sites by playing recordings of Storm Petrel calls down suitable-looking entrance holes and crevices. A total of 13 birds responded, though more were present, evidenced by many distinctively smelly burrows! Excitingly, some of the responses came from areas where birds have not been found previously, including some of the old walls built by Trinity House over a century ago. As not all breeding ‘stormies’ respond to call playback, a statistical correction factor (calculated from research conducted at colonies elsewhere) has to be applied to derive a more accurate population estimate. Taking this adjustment into account, the last survey at North End, conducted by the RSPB in 2018, yielded an estimate of 11 apparently occupied sites (AOS). Applying the same methodology to this year’s survey produced an estimate of 31 AOS – nearly three times the 2018 figure. Also on 2 Jul, Chris Baillie made another exciting discovery whilst exploring boulder scree below the Battery at dusk. Here Chris saw a number of adults – six estimated, but possibly up to eight – in an area often considered as providing good potential nesting habitat. Occupancy was confirmed shortly afterwards by 17 responses to call playback on 14 Jul. Also taking into account the discovery in early Jun (by the RSPB seabird survey team) of a further new breeding site along the East Side, Lundy is now known to hold at least 50 breeding pairs of Storm Petrels – a superb result in a relatively short period of time following the eradication of rats. Extensive surveys conducted in 2010 failed to find any birds at all.

**Storm Petrel ringing in 2021 (contributed by Tony Taylor)**

After the successes of 2020, it was only possible to target Storm Petrels at the colony near North Light on two nights. These were in early Jul and Sep, either side of the dates that have been most productive in recent past years.

In Jul, five new birds were ringed and four others recaptured. Two had originally been ringed on Lundy, in 2019 and 2020. The others had both been ringed near Land’s End, Cornwall, in Aug 2018. In Sep, the North Light site produced another four new birds, one Lundy-ringed bird from 2019 and one ringed on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, in late Jul 2021. One further bird was caught and ringed in early Sep, while Manx Shearwaters were being targeted with a mist-net at their main colony north of the Old Light.



While the totals were low compared with 2020, these results add to our knowledge of the petrels visiting Lundy. Some are long-term regulars, probably breeding there, while others are wanderers from elsewhere, perhaps younger birds prospecting for future breeding sites.

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

[Northern Fulmar]

*Common breeder; recorded in all months, but scarce between mid-Sep and mid-Nov and almost absent during Oct moult at sea.*

The highest count from the first winter period was 120 on ledges on 16 Jan. There were 146 on 17 May, though no record of the area(s) covered by this count. There were 34 apparently occupied nest sites in the Gannets' Rock productivity study plot, where the first chicks were logged on 27 Jun and the first fledglings on 16 Aug. Productivity there was identical to the previous year at 0.47 chicks fledged per nest site – 16 chicks fledged from 34 active nest sites in 2021, compared with 17 chicks from 36 sites in 2020 (Jones & Grover 2021). The all-island RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of 265 apparently occupied nest sites – an increase of 17% since the last full survey in 2017 and the highest total yet recorded on Lundy, representing a rise of nearly 50% from pre-rat eradication numbers. After the first week of Sep there were singles only on 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, then a complete absence from 19 Sep to 9 Nov during the post-breeding moult period. Numbers rose during late autumn and early winter, reaching 20 on 17 Nov, 30 on 24 Nov, 39 on 14 Dec, and 87 on 26 Dec.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 120 | 64  | 66  | 62  | 146 | 69  | 68  | 20  | 7   | –   | 30  | 87  |

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

*Lundy vagrant*

One flew south towards Hartland Point during a seawatch from Montagu Steps on 10 Nov; another, or possibly the same individual, was seen about 25 minutes later. One was off South West Point on 15 Dec (all records Martin Thorne).

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

*Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from March to September; occasional records in Oct/Nov. Exceptional in winter.*

One was watched offshore from the Landing Bay, foraging among Kittiwakes, for about 15 minutes on the highly unusual date of 13 Jan (Dean Jones). The first arrivals of spring were in early Mar, with one off The Battery on 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by low single-digit counts until 15<sup>th</sup>, then 160

*Manx Shearwater, Lundy crossing, 11<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey).*





on 20<sup>th</sup> and 222 flying past Rat Island in 30 minutes during stormy weather on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup>. Birds were heard calling over the island during the evening of 30 Mar and an adult was calling repeatedly from its burrow along the western edge of South West Field during the afternoon of 14 Apr. Peak daytime counts later in the season included a raft of 500 off the West Side during the evening of 27 May. Adults were incubating eggs in six of the nestboxes at the Old Light colony on 1 Jun. The first chick was recorded on 16 Jun (estimated to be about a week old) and all six boxes held healthy chicks, of which five were still at the 'fluffy grey down' stage when checked again on 4 Aug. The year's highest number counted offshore in daylight hours was a modest 800 on 13 Aug but does not reflect the true size of the island's breeding population. One was off the Ugly on 18 Oct, followed by three on 21<sup>st</sup> and the last of the year, two on 8 Nov, were calling at night and coming close inshore just north of the western end of Quarter Wall (Eleanor Grover).

**Manx Shearwater ringing in 2021** (contributed by Tony Taylor)

With shearwater chicks being targeted for just one week in early September, the number ringed was 107, along with another four young birds that had made their first flight but not yet left the island. This is the lowest chick total since 2007, but reflects the relatively few nights spent in the colonies, and the fact that many had already fledged by that stage of the season.

In contrast, the total of 186 adults ringed in the year was impressive, largely thanks to several nights spent searching for them in June, when weather conditions were ideal for catching breeding adults as well as pre-breeders prospecting for nest sites. In addition, 76 birds that had been ringed on Lundy in previous years were recaptured. They included 47 originally ringed as adults, and 19 of these have now continued returning to Lundy for five years or more. The remaining 29 provided particularly valuable data as they had been ringed as chicks and so were of known age. The oldest of these hatched in 2013 but over half of them were from 2018 alone, reflecting the fact that most young shearwaters start looking for burrows and partners at three years of age.

Seven of the shearwater nestboxes were occupied. Six were used by the same pairs as in previous years, with all of these successfully rearing chicks. The seventh contained one of its previous occupants, with a new partner. Typically, a pair takes time to establish a strong bond before attempting breeding; these two birds did not lay but there is a strong likelihood they will do so in 2022. Though the sample size provided by the boxes is still small, the results so far suggest that adult survival rates and breeding success on Lundy are both very high.

See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.98.

| Maximum count for each month |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan                          | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 1                            | –   | 222 | 40  | 500 | 16  | 300 | 800 | 27  | 3   | 2   | –   |

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*  
*Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.*

Two, viewed from the Ugly, flew west past Rat Island, approximately five minutes apart, alongside numerous Manx Shearwaters, at around 07:30 hrs on 7 Aug, a day of strong westerly winds and heavy rain (Dean Jones). Four were off North Light on 11 Sep (Martin Thorne).

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

Higher counts during the first half of the year included 26 on 14 Jan and 30 on 9 & 31 May. By far the biggest counts of the year were 282 on 18 Oct and 332 on 20<sup>th</sup> – the latter during westerly gales and torrential showers. A count of 80 on 28 Dec was unusually high for so late in the year.

| Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan   | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 26  | 13  | 17  | 10  | 30  | 4   | 8   | 43  | 36  | 332 | 30  | 80  |
| 15  | 9   | 20  | 10  | 21  | 5   | 13  | 24  | 24  | 27  | 21  | 23  |

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

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

Spring migrants were logged on just ten dates from 23 Mar (three circling high over the Landing Bay) to 13 Jun (one), with a maximum of seven (flying north over the Jetty) on 25 Mar. A juvenile was recorded on 25 Jul. Southbound flocks of migrants were noted on three dates in Sep: 13 on 8<sup>th</sup>, eight on 11<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The last of the year was a single juvenile seen on Rocket Pole Pond on six dates from 25 to 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 |
| –   | –   | 7   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 13  | 3   | 5   | 1   |
| –   | –   | 2   | 5   | 1   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 6   | 10  | 4   | 6   |



*Juvenile Shag, Landing Bay, 11<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Richard Taylor).*

### **Shag** *Gulosus aristotelis*

[European Shag]

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

There were single-digit counts only in the first half of Jan, rising to 12 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 29<sup>th</sup>, then 41 on 10 Feb (including a raft of 33) as breeding birds arrived to take up their territories. Later in spring a raft of 105 was in the Landing Bay, sheltering from south-westerly gales, on 13 Mar. Birds were nest-building along the East Side on 23 Mar. The RSPB-led seabird survey in Jun found a total of 96 apparently occupied nests (aon). This represents a 74% increase since the last full survey in 2017, but is 14% below the 2013 total of 112 aon (the highest recorded in the current survey series, dating back to 1981). Fledglings were swimming around South West Point on 13 Jul. The highest post-breeding counts were 110 on 31 Jul and 100 on 4 Aug (compared to a maximum of 167 on 9 Aug 2020, perhaps suggesting poor breeding productivity in 2021). Numbers dwindled rapidly from late autumn, with 12 the highest count after early Nov.

| Maximum count for each month* |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan                           | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| 15                            | 41  | 105 | 49  | 27  | 47  | 110 | 100 | 51  | 50  | 20  | 12  |

### **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

#### *Lundy vagrant.*

One, first seen from Millcombe at about 10:00 hrs on 29 Oct, circled over the Landing Bay and was mobbed by a Great Black-backed Gull before dropping down out of sight somewhere between St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse. Justin Zantboer, the astonished but quick-thinking observer, managed to take a video-clip (albeit blurry and distant!) on his phone of what is only the second-ever occurrence for Lundy after one in May 1987. Record accepted by DBRC.

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

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

After singles on 12 May (being harried by gulls and corvids as it flew along the east coast) and 20 Jun there were late-summer and autumn sightings on 45 dates from 8 Jul (one) to 21 Nov (one), with the year's peak of three on 22 Sep and 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   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 3   | 1   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | 14  | 2   | 13  | 12  | 4   | –   |

### **Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

[Great Egret]

#### *Colonising UK breeder; Devon rarity. Only one previous Lundy record, in 2020.*

One flew south off the East Side mid-morning on 17 Oct and headed south-south-east over Rat Island and Surf Point before veering more south-westerly past South Light and the Castle and then heading towards the Cornish coast (Tim Jones *et al.*). This is only the second record for the island, following a group of three off South End on 8 Dec 2020. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

#### *Scarce passage migrant.*

Two were seen at the Devil's Kitchen on 29 Aug (Jamie Dunning). One flew past North Light on 12 Dec (Jaclyn Pearson).

### **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

#### *Scarce, but now almost annual passage migrant.*

One was seen in flight off Quarry Beach during the afternoon of 8 May, coming as a huge surprise on a day of persistent rain and blustery winds. It was initially picked up due to the cries of the many gulls and Carrion Crows mobbing it. With a Peregrine in tow as well, the bird headed for shore – only to experience a near miss with Lundy Warden Dean Jones standing on the path to Quarry Beach! – before heading back out to sea.

### **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.*

The first of the year were singles during spring passage on 20 Mar (a female over Millcombe), 31 Mar (a male) and 5 & 22 Apr, followed by one on the unusual date of 29 Jun. Autumn passage migrants were relatively thin on the ground, being recorded on 25 dates from 8 Sep (a single male) to 23 Nov, with two on 23 Sep and 14 Oct the only instances of more than one in a day.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 1   | 1   | –   | 1   | –   | –   | 2   | 2   | 1   | –   |
| –   | –   | 2   | 2   | –   | 1   | –   | –   | 7   | 13  | 5   | –   |

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

*Rare passage migrant in spring and during late summer and autumn.*

A female or immature first seen over Pondsburry on 24 Jul (M. Smith) remained on the island for some time, being logged periodically up to and including 12 Aug (multiple observers). It was mostly seen either around Pondsburry or quartering the slopes and combes in the north-east of the island. However, it travelled further south on 11 Aug, when it was photographed – perched on a recently deceased sheep on Ackland's Moor – by Marisco bar manager Ash Garfoot from his bathroom window in Old Light Cottage! Later in the autumn one flew in off the sea from the south-east, appearing to make landfall somewhere around the Terrace, at 08:50 hrs on 15 Oct. It was later quartering near Pondsburry at 11:05 hrs and then at various locations across the island, before thermalling and heading off for the Welsh coast in mid-afternoon (Paul Holt, Tim Jones *et al.*).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

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

Three autumn records of 'ring-tail' (female or immature) birds: one over Tent Field during the afternoon of 20 Sep (Chris Dee); one watched quartering and dropping into roost at Pondsburry on 5 Oct (J. Ross); and one in flight over Tillage and Brick Fields on 10 Oct (Paul Holt).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

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

A strikingly pale individual was seen daily from 7 to 15 Apr when it ranged widely over the southern half of the island (Rosie Ellis, Dean Jones *et al.*).

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

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

Singles (perhaps one and the same individual) were logged during spring passage on 12 May, flying out of Gannets' Combe (Michael Williams), and during the evening of 17 May, flushed from the Rocket Pole area (David Nadin). One was over the sidelands near Montagu Steps at about 09:00 hrs on 15 Dec (Stuart Cossey).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

During the afternoon of 27 Apr, two were on and around the Terrace, at times chasing each other, much to the delight of visiting day-trippers (names unknown) who later alerted Rob Duncan & David Kightley who were ringing in Millcombe. Island staff who shot along to the Terrace after sending off MS *Oldenburg* were treated to spectacular prolonged views of at least one Hoopoe that remained foraging in the area until dusk (Ben Arkless, Jo Farrow, Dean Jones & Matt Stritch). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

*Hoopoe, Terrace, 27<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*







*Wryneck, Terrace, 29<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 29 Aug (Jamie Dunning & Dean Jones). A very showy, unringed individual was photographed as it perched prominently on the Terrace Trap on 5 Sep (D. Doorly, Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

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

A female was trapped and ringed in Millcombe during the evening of 24 Apr (Rob Duncan, David Kightley *et al.*), remaining until 26<sup>th</sup> when it was seen in the courtyard Sycamore outside Old House North. A juvenile male turned up in the willows at 'Rüppell's Quarry' on 7 Sep (Dean Jones) and had moved to St Helen's Copse and then Millcombe by 8<sup>th</sup>, where it remained until 15<sup>th</sup>, being trapped and ringed on 14<sup>th</sup> (Chris Dee *et al.*). Half of Lundy's 34 records of this once exceptional rarity have been since 2010.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; has bred (most recently in 2005 & 2020).*

Not recorded until the second half of Apr, when single birds were logged on eight dates from 17<sup>th</sup> (a male hunting along South End) to 29<sup>th</sup>. Single male and female birds were present on several dates during the first half of May, then two (sexes unspecified) on 27 & 28 May. Only scattered singles were logged in Jun and there was never any evidence of a territory-holding pair. Later in the summer, six were logged on 26 Jul, including three along the West Side south of Halfway Wall, whilst the remains of a Kestrel predated by a Peregrine were found along the Lower East Side Path on 2 Aug. Five were hovering together over the Upper East Side Path on 5 Sep and three were logged on five other dates in Sep, but there were ones and twos only from Oct to Dec, the last of the year a single bird on 21 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   | 6   | 4   | 5   | 2   | 1   | 2   |
| –   | –   | –   | 8   | 13  | 8   | 16  | 21  | 27  | 17  | 2   | 6   |

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

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

There were no overwintering birds on the island. During spring passage, single birds were recorded on 18 dates from 24 Mar (one flushed at Quarter Wall) to 18 May. The first of autumn

passage was an adult male perched below the Terrace on 28 Aug, followed by singles on three scattered dates in Sep. The main autumn passage occurred as usual in Oct, though numbers were relatively low, involving ones and two only, except for three on 14<sup>th</sup>. One was seen regularly through Dec and into the start of Jan 2022, indicative of an overwintering bird. On 24 Dec it was repeatedly stooping on and harrying a Goldfinch, before finally catching the unfortunate passerine and flying off with its meal towards the Upper East Side Path (Stuart Cossey).

**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   |
| –   | –   | 3   | 9   | 6   | –   | –   | 1   | 3   | 22  | 15  | 14  |



**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.*

Three records: one flew past the island off South West Field during the afternoon of 29 May (Rebecca & Richard Taylor); an adult (*photo, above, by Philip Lymbery*) was hunting over Barton and St Helen's Fields at 09:50 hrs and near St Helen's Copse at 15:00 hrs on 23 Jul; and one flew south past Millcombe during the late morning of 8 Sep (Tony Taylor).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

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

There were five territory-holding pairs, of which three fledged a total of six young (Dean Jones). The highest count of the year was eight on 13 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2   | 4   | 7   | 6   | 6   | 3   | 5   | 5   | 4   | 8   | 5   | 5   |

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

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*

*British vagrant.*

Lundy's tenth Red-eyed Vireo, and the third during the last four years, was found by Jac Turner-Moss at about 08:30 hrs on 16 Oct, just above the walled gardens of Millcombe, where he was ringing alongside Rob Duncan. Just moments later, but before other nearby birders arrived, the bird dropped out of sight. Happily, after a few slightly anxious minutes' wait, it was relocated in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) by Tim Davis. It was then seen well by most observers, at times prominently perched in full sun, before again disappearing for a short time. It reappeared near Millcombe House before taking several long flights around the valley at around 10:15 hrs, moving between the tree nursery adjoining the 'Secret Garden', the tops of Turkey Oaks west of Brambles, and the Battlements Sycamores. Record accepted by BBRC.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An elusive sub-adult male was calling and singing in Millcombe in the early morning of 11 May. As more observers arrived and were able to watch and listen in different parts of the valley, it became clear that two birds were in fact present – the relatively greenish sub-adult seen earlier and a much brighter-yellow, more adult individual. Both birds remained in the vicinity of Millcombe and St Helen's Copse until 14<sup>th</sup>, with the brighter bird also seen on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones *et al.*). This is the fourth consecutive year that Golden Oriole has occurred on Lundy, with at least 16 individuals occurring in the past decade alone. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

[Red-billed Chough]

*Lundy vagrant; bred until the late nineteenth century.*

Two were seen over the Landing Bay by Richard Dann, standing on the Jetty, on 23 Oct. Hailing from the Welsh coast, Rich sees Choughs daily over his garden, but was amazingly lucky to run into two on Lundy at the start of his very first visit to the island! This is the first sighting since 2013. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

**Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

Single birds were logged on 13 dates from 1 Mar to 1 Apr, followed by two on 2 & 3 Apr and further singles 14, 15 & 17 Apr (Dean Jones *et al.*). All sightings were in the south of the island, mainly High Street Field and Ackland's Moor but also in Brick Field and the Campsite. In autumn, four were over the South End and Village on 9 Oct (Paul Holt). One was reported along the Goat Path (above the Beach Road) on 17 Dec (Kevin Waterfall).

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

Two, foraging with Carrion Crows in South West Field on 30 Mar, were followed by one in Tillage Field, also alongside Carrion Crows, on 26 Apr (both records Dean Jones).

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

The highest count prior to the breeding season was 43 on 3 Jan. Five were seen leaving the island on a northbound trajectory on 22 Mar, whilst a pair was nest-building in Millcombe on the same date. The first fledglings were logged on 2 Jun in Millcombe. Maximum post-breeding counts were between 22 and 29 from early Aug to late Dec, when 44 were logged on 28 Dec (Matt Stritch).

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 43  | 36  | 35  | 21  | 23  | 14  | 10  | 26  | 22  | 24  | 29  | 44  |

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year; occasional influxes from the mainland.*

A territorial pair at the South End were gathering nesting material in the first week of Feb. Nine were together over Millcombe on 10 Apr and nine, plus two young in the nest at South End, were also logged on 11 & 13 May. The South End chicks fledged on 22 May – an unusually late date for a traditionally early nester. Peak autumn counts were 14 on 17 Sep and 15 on 13 & 14 Oct, followed by 23 on 11 Nov – by far the highest count of the year.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6   | 7   | 7   | 9   | 9   | 8   | 11  | 9   | 14  | 15  | 23  | 11  |

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

A bird ringed on 15 Oct 2020 and which showed plumage characteristics suggesting that it might belong to the Irish-breeding race *P. a. hibernicus* (see *LFS Annual Report 2020*, p.66) overwintered on the island and was logged on 18 dates from 10 Jan to 12 Mar, mainly in Millcombe but also at Quarter Wall Copse on 17 Feb.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

*Lundy vagrant.*

An early spring migrant foraging in Barton Field on 27 Feb (*photo below by Dean Jones*) was only the second Feb record for Lundy, the first dating back nearly 70 years to 1952! Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

Single-digit counts were logged until an influx in the last week of Jan brought 22 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 18 on 25<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. The highest late-winter and early-spring counts were 44 on both 12 Feb and 7 Mar. Song was heard intermittently from 7 Jan. At least 52 breeding territories (singing males) were mapped out in 2021 (Dean Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed when chicks were being fed in Middle Park on 16 Jun. Autumn passage peaked in mid-Oct, with maxima of 70 on 13<sup>th</sup> and 65 on 16<sup>th</sup>, numbers dwindling rapidly thereafter with single-digit counts only from 18 Oct to the end of the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 22  | 44  | 44  | 26  | 43  | 50  | 17  | 9   | 27  | 70  | 9   | 3   |
| 17  | 27  | 30  | 30  | 31  | 30  | 30  | 24  | 22  | 28  | 19  | 15  |

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

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

One at Pondsburry on 26 Feb was the second-earliest ever for Lundy (after one on 24 Feb 2019). The next was not until a more seasonally punctual bird on 18 Mar, followed by three other single-digit counts to 25<sup>th</sup> but then an exceptionally high Mar count of 212 on 29<sup>th</sup>. The only other counts of 100 or more were 100 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 200 on 20<sup>th</sup> Apr, followed by 150 on 1 May. Fourteen on 30 Jun (the only record that month) seem likely to have been early-returning migrants, possibly failed breeders. These were followed by records on a further 30 dates, with maxima of 32 on 4 Aug, 25 on 26 Aug and 27 on 15 Sep, the last of the year being a single bird on 10 Oct.



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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | 1   | 212 | 200 | 150 | 14  | 5   | 32  | 27  | 1   | –   | –   |
| –   | 1   | 7   | 21  | 13  | 1   | 5   | 5   | 19  | 1   | –   | –   |

**Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first arrival of spring, a single bird flying low over the Village on 16 Mar, was followed by two on 17<sup>th</sup>, a further singleton on 27<sup>th</sup>, and then an exceptionally early three-digit total of 162 on 29 Mar – a record Mar count for Lundy. Higher counts in Apr were 232 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 400 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 5,000 on 25<sup>th</sup> (including 1,449 moving north past the western end of Threequarter Wall in an hour – Dean Jones & Zoë Barton), 600 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 400 on 29<sup>th</sup>. May kicked off with a surge estimated at 3,500 on 1<sup>st</sup>. The next highest count was 700 on 7<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, poor weather in the second week of May meant that many were struggling to feed – some were warmed up in the Lodge bathrooms and later released. Both Swallows and martins were grounded on the Landing Bay beach on 8<sup>th</sup> and several were found dead in the gas store and Casbah in Millcombe on and around 10<sup>th</sup>.

It was something of a relief when a returning pair took up their nesting territory in the Church porch once more from 14<sup>th</sup>. However, poor weather struck again on 20 May when passage hirundines were grounded on the Beach Road and along the tracks in Millcombe. The highest count in the second half of May was 140 on 27<sup>th</sup> and the final double-digit count of the season was 13 on 2 Jun. In all, three pairs made breeding attempts: in the Church porch where seemingly one young fledged, while a subsequent attempt there failed at the egg stage; another pair tried at Government House but failed; and another next to the Black Shed also failed and moved on. There was no indication of nesting at either Quarry Pond or the pigsty in 2021.

Small pulses of southbound migrants in Aug and early Sep increased to 53 on 10 Sep, followed by 145 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 253 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 1,500 on 16<sup>th</sup>, with further waves of 800 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 500 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 400 on 24<sup>th</sup>. Wet and windy weather once again saw many tired and bedraggled individuals perched on vegetation or sitting on the ground along the East Side on 30<sup>th</sup>. Movements continued throughout Oct, including five counts of 100 or more in the first half of the month (maximum 203 on 9<sup>th</sup>), and into early Nov when there were still five on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The last of the year was one on 6 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 162 | 5,000 | 3,500 | 13  | 11  | 28  | 1,500 | 203 | 5   | –   |
| –   | –   | 6   | 30    | 31    | 30  | 31  | 30  | 30    | 31  | 5   | –   |

**House Martin *Delichon urbicum***

[Common House Martin]

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

Following two over Tibbetts on 17 Mar and one on 31<sup>st</sup>, numbers were low during the first half of Apr, with a maximum of just 15, but rose to 40 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 400 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Migration peaked with an exceptional 1,500 on 1 May – the second highest total on record for the island after an estimated 3,600 on 20 May 2008. Passage continued throughout May, the next highest totals logged being 80 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 90 on 26<sup>th</sup> and 75 on 27<sup>th</sup> (but see Swallow account above for comments on the impact of adverse weather conditions during spring migration). A trickle of northbound movement continued during the first fortnight in Jun and there were a few scattered occurrences of ones and twos later in the summer. Autumn passage migrants were logged on 34 dates in Sep and Oct, with peaks of 40 on 8 Sep, 50 on 21 & 22 Sep, 55 on 1 Oct and 65 on 11 Oct. The last of the year were three on 26 Oct.

| Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom) |     |     |     |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan   | Feb | Mar | Apr | May   | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
| –   | –   | 2   | 400 | 1,500 | 13  | 2   | 2   | 50  | 65  | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 2   | 24  | 26    | 13  | 4   | 1   | 15  | 19  | –   | –   |

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

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

Two in Quarter Wall Copse on 18 Mar were only the fifth Mar occurrence for Lundy. They were watched foraging for a while before heading north towards the Terrace and out of sight. One in Millcombe from 21 to 31 Mar – in the same tree as a Treecreeper on 21<sup>st</sup> – was trapped and ringed on 30<sup>th</sup>. (All records Dean Jones.)

*Long-tailed Tit, Millcombe, 25<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



### **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.*

One photographed at Quarter Wall Copse on 14 May was feeding at ground level in unseasonably cool and damp conditions, slowly working its way north along the sidelands (Tim Jones). In autumn, single birds were logged on five dates from 1 to 9 Sep – in Millcombe on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (Jamie Dunning & Dean Jones) and in the Terrace willows on 7<sup>th</sup> (Eleanor Grover), with possibly the same bird in Quarter Wall Copse on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones, Paul Dietrich & Peter Ward).

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Reflecting a very poor autumn for this species in the UK and across Western Europe more generally, there were records on just seven dates from 11 to 22 Oct, all in or around Millcombe and St Helen's Copse. Two were present on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, with single birds on the other five dates (James Diamond *et al.*). Three were trapped and ringed (Rob Duncan *et al.*).

**Sulphur-bellied Warbler** *Phylloscopus griseolus*

*Not previously recorded in Britain; the Lundy record is only the second for the entire Western Palearctic, following one in Denmark in 2016.*

One first heard singing near Old Light during the early morning of 8 Jun (David Price) was later relocated in Millcombe, where it remained, singing periodically, until evening – long enough to be seen by several dozen birders from the mainland who had chartered boats for the occasion, but not long enough for the many others who planned to make the trip the next day. Following a clear and starry night, offering perfect conditions for onward migration, it quickly became clear on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> that this very special bird had departed. The full details of the bird's discovery, eventual identification as a first for Britain, and the other somewhat surreal events of the day can be found at: [www.birdguides.com/articles/rarity-finders-sulphur-bellied-warbler-in-devon](http://www.birdguides.com/articles/rarity-finders-sulphur-bellied-warbler-in-devon). Record subject to acceptance by BBRC and admittance to the British List by BOURC.

*Birdwatchers flocked to Lundy on 8<sup>th</sup> June to add Sulphur-bellied Warbler (inset) to their British lists (photos: Dean Jones).*







### **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

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

Spring passage commenced with one in St Helen's Copse on 18 Mar, followed by 10 on 30<sup>th</sup> and a notable Mar total of 36 on the last day of the month. Conversely, numbers were low in the first week of Apr before rising to modest peaks of 56 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 100 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 73 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 150 on 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Two very pale 'washed out' individuals trapped and ringed on 27 Apr were thought likely to be from a northern continental breeding population. Movements continued through the first half of May, with the final double-digit count (of 12) on 14<sup>th</sup>, after which there were sporadic records of up to four birds to the end of the month, followed by ones and twos in the first half of Jun. Song was heard regularly in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse in Jun but there was no suggestion of any breeding attempt. A trickle of migrants returning south towards the end of Jul (e.g. five on 20<sup>th</sup>) was followed by significant arrivals of 70 on 25<sup>th</sup> and 230 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout Aug and much of Sep, with further influxes including 73 on 1 Aug, 210 on 9 Aug, 70 on 27 Aug and 83 on 5 Sep. Another very pale, northern-type bird was photographed in Millcombe on 3 Sep (Dean Jones). A total of 20 on 18 Sep was rather high for relatively late in the season and proved to be the final double-digit count of the year. The last was a single bird ringed on 12 Oct and still present in Millcombe on 13<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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 36  | 150 | 25  | 2   | 230 | 210 | 83  | 1   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 3   | 26  | 20  | 4   | 31  | 28  | 23  | 6   | –   | –   |





*Chiffchaff, High Street, 18<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

During the first winter period, single birds were seen in Millcombe on 16 & 23 Jan. Spring passage got underway in early Mar with two on 3<sup>rd</sup> – of which one was around Millcombe Pond while the other was feeding with a flock of Meadow Pipits in Tillage Field! The first double-digit counts came during the second half of Mar, with maxima of 22 on 18<sup>th</sup> (some birds sporting conspicuous 'pollen horns') and 23 on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Movements continued throughout Apr but maximum counts were unusually low, peaking at just 19 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Two pairs made nesting attempts in Millcombe but only one pair fledged young. Adults were seen with nesting material on 26 May (likely a second nest after an earlier failure), delivering food to nestlings on 3 Jul and feeding a fledgling in the 'Secret Garden' (lower Millcombe) on 8 Jul. A later brood of three fledglings was being fed in Millcombe on 21 Aug. A trickle of autumn migrants was apparent in the first half of Sep but the first real influx was not until a fall of 100 on 18<sup>th</sup> (coinciding with an arrival of 150 Blackcaps). Numbers were unremarkable in Oct, peaking at 20 on 9<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 17<sup>th</sup>. The last double-digit count was 12 on 2 Nov but there were still six on 20<sup>th</sup> and five on 23<sup>rd</sup>. In Dec, single birds were logged in varied locations on seven days from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, with two present on 5<sup>th</sup>.

Presumed *tristis* Chiffchaffs were recorded in Millcombe in Oct on 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> (two, of which one trapped and ringed), 16<sup>th</sup> (two trapped and ringed) and 22<sup>nd</sup> (two trapped and ringed). Shed body feathers from three of those ringed were retained for DNA analysis. At the end of the year, a possible *tristis* was by Paradise Row on 21 Dec, with a definite, calling bird by Millcombe Pond on 24 Dec (both Stuart Cossey). Record of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff on 24 Dec accepted by Devon Bird Recorder (call required for acceptance). Acceptance of ringed individuals pending DNA results.

**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   | –   | 23  | 19  | 15  | 6   | 3   | 5   | 100 | 30  | 12  | 2   |
| 2   | –   | 21  | 29  | 30  | 30  | 22  | 12  | 23  | 29  | 24  | 8   |

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

*Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically. Spring-passage migrants were logged on 52 dates from 9 Apr (one at 'Rüppell's Quarry') to 18 Jun (one), with maxima of 17 on 30 Apr, 15 on 1 May and 19 on 6 May. Return passage kicked off with one on 21 Jul, followed by records on a further 26 dates to 28 Sep (one). The highest counts were all in Aug: eight on 1<sup>st</sup>, 17 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11 on 12<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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | 17  | 19  | 2   | 3   | 17  | 5   | –   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 13  | 21  | 18  | 4   | 16  | 7   | –   | –   | –   |

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring-passage migrants were logged on 17 dates from 19 Apr (a ringing control in Millcombe – see below) to 23 Jun (one), with a maximum of five on 30 May (two singing in Millcombe, one at St Helen's Copse and two along the Terrace) though most records were of ones and twos only. The individual trapped on 19 Apr had been ringed as a first-year bird in the Isles of Scilly in Jul 2019 (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.103, for full details). A distinctively greyish, 'washed out' individual photographed in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) on 15 May was perhaps of eastern origin. In autumn there were records on ten dates from 26 Aug (one) to 14 Oct (one); all of single birds, except for two on 27 Aug.

**Unidentified *Hippolais* warbler**

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A *Hippolais* warbler seen briefly in Millcombe on 2 Jun was thought probably to be an Icterine Warbler, but views were inconclusive and the bird shot off up the valley, never to be seen again (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

The first migrant of spring was 'reeling' from thick scrub below the Ugly at 10:30 hrs on 31 Mar – the earliest date yet for Lundy. Passage birds were recorded on 16 additional dates from 9 Apr (one trapped and ringed in Millcombe) to 6 May, with a maximum of four on 18 Apr (all reeling, of which two in Millcombe, with singles on the Terrace and at Quarter Wall Pond). The only autumn records were of single birds on 20 Aug (flushed in St John's Valley) and 3 Sep.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 1   | 4   | 3   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | –   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 1   | 13  | 3   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | –   | –   | –   |

**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 2018–2020 inclusive.*

The first spring migrant was a singing male in Millcombe on 18 Mar. There were three further records of one to three birds until 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by a remarkably large influx at the end of the month with 35 on 30<sup>th</sup> and a Mar record of 144 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Dean Jones commented at the time that these birds were "scattered across the island, mostly within Millcombe and along the east coast but also the west cliffs, fly-catching from drystone walls and in various nooks and crannies in the Village". Peak numbers in Apr included 68 on 13<sup>th</sup>, 200 on 18<sup>th</sup>, 230 on 20<sup>th</sup>, 165 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 70 on 29<sup>th</sup>. A bird trapped on 16 Apr had been ringed at Gibraltar in Sep 2020 (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.103, for full details). At least one pair managed to breed successfully: an adult was

feeding a fledgling in the 'Secret Garden' (lower Millcombe) on 1 Jul. The first signs of autumn passage came in the first week of Sep, with seven on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12 on 5<sup>th</sup>. These were followed by 30 on 11<sup>th</sup> and a fall of 150 on 18<sup>th</sup> (coinciding with an arrival of 100 Chiffchaffs), then further modest peaks of 50 on 11 & 14 Oct and 40 on 16<sup>th</sup>, after which numbers declined rapidly. There were single-digit counts only from 23 Oct on into Nov when one on 26<sup>th</sup> looked like being the last of the year. However, a single male turned up on feeders at Paradise Row on 20 & 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 144 | 230 | 30  | 4   | 4   | 3   | 150 | 50  | 6   | 1   |
| –   | –   | 6   | 30  | 27  | 30  | 24  | 18  | 26  | 28  | 13  | 2   |

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring-passage migrants were logged on 11 dates from 22 Apr (one in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) to 30 May (two), with a maximum of four on 9 May. Autumn migrants were recorded on 15 dates from 2 Aug (one) to 17 Oct (one). Most records involved single birds, but two were in Millcombe on 12 Aug and 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   | 4   | –   | –   | 2   | 1   | 2   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 3   | 8   | –   | –   | 3   | 5   | 7   | –   | –   |

**Barred Warbler** *Curucca nisoria*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One spent the day of 14 Nov feeding in the walled gardens of Millcombe, often out in the open and becoming more confiding as the day went on (Eleanor Grover). This constitutes the latest ever record for Lundy. Record accepted by DBRC.

*Barred Warbler, Millcombe, 14<sup>th</sup> November (photo: Eleanor Grover).*



**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

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

Spring migrants were recorded on 14 dates from 30 Apr (one) to 13 Jun (one), including singing males in St Helen's Copse on 6 & 7 May, in Millcombe on 19 May and at the Terrace on 13 Jun, but there was no suggestion of any breeding attempt. All other records were also of single birds, except for two on 10 & 15 May. The only record in autumn was of a single bird in Millcombe, 11-14 Oct. Trapped and ringed on 11<sup>th</sup>, it was considered likely to belong to one of the eastern races and shed body feathers were retained for DNA analysis.

**Western or Eastern Subalpine Warbler** *Curruca iberiae* or *C. cantillans*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A male was in the aspens close to the Gas Store in lower Millcombe during the early morning of 15 May (Tim Jones). It was seen only briefly and could not therefore be assigned definitively to species level. However, it was thought by the observer to most likely be an Eastern Subalpine Warbler. One was found in Millcombe (Steve Richards, when searching for the Sulphur-bellied Warbler) on 9 Jun and was seen again on 11<sup>th</sup> (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). Records subject to acceptance by BBRC.

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred, most recently in 2019-2021.*

The first of the year were two on 16 Apr (one trapped in Millcombe and one seen at Quarter Wall). Peak counts during spring passage were 16 on 29 Apr and 10 on 6 May – the only double-digit counts of the season. Movements continued through May and into early Jun (e.g. six on 2<sup>nd</sup>) but records became more sporadic during the second half of Jun. Nevertheless, they included a pair feeding fledglings near the 'Steps of Doom' on 24<sup>th</sup> – the third consecutive year of successful breeding on the island. The first small arrival of autumn migrants consisted of five on 26 Aug. Numbers peaked at 16 on 7 Sep, 10 on 8<sup>th</sup> and eight on 18<sup>th</sup>, whilst the last of the year was a single bird on the rather late date of 17 Oct.

*Whitethroat, Millcombe, 5<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey).*





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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | 16  | 10  | 6   | 2   | 5   | 16  | 1   |     |     |
| –   | –   | –   | 11  | 29  | 15  | 28  | 13  | 22  | 5   |     |     |

**Dartford Warbler** *Curruca undata*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was calling from gorse clumps at the western end of Quarter Wall about 75m west of the Airfield at 12:15 hrs on 17 Oct. It afforded brief flight views before dropping into bracken and appearing to move away south (James Diamond) – the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the island, of which five have been from 2015 onwards.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

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

The overwintering bird from Dec 2020 (see *LFS Annual Report 2020*, p.73) was logged regularly in Millcombe, and occasionally in Quarter Wall Copse, during Jan and Feb and was heard singing in Millcombe most days from 21 Feb. It remained until 19 Mar but seemed to move on at the same time as spring passage brought three newcomers to the island on 20<sup>th</sup>, of which two were trapped in Millcombe and one seen at Quarry Pond. There were no records at all in Apr but a single bird was logged daily in Millcombe, 5-7 May. In autumn, one frequenting Millcombe pines from 28 to 31 Aug was followed by a very sparse passage, with records on just 19 further dates from 5 Sep to 18 Nov. There were three on 12 Oct but otherwise 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 1   | 3   | –   | 1   | –   | –   | 1   | 1   | 3   | 2   | –   |
| 17  | 11  | 23  | –   | 3   | –   | –   | 4   | 3   | 7   | 9   | –   |

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

Spring-passage birds were noted on 42 dates from 17 Feb (one in Quarter Wall Copse) to 28 Apr (one), with the highest numbers recorded in the second half of Mar, peaking at 41 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Unusually late single birds were logged on 29 & 30 May and 14 Jun. The first autumn migrant was a single bird in Millcombe on 30 & 31 Aug. There was a trickle of passage throughout Sep, numbers only reaching double digits in the last week, rising to 16 on 29<sup>th</sup>, and it was not until 5 Oct that the first real influx occurred when 46 were logged, followed by 75 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 30 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Numbers declined further during the second half of Oct, and 13 on 2 Nov was the final double-digit count of the year, though up six remained throughout 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   | 41  | 5   | 1   | 1   | –   | 1   | 16  | 75  | 13  | 6   |
| –   | 3   | 21  | 18  | 2   | 1   | –   | 2   | 25  | 31  | 26  | 27  |

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

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

Monthly maxima for the first winter period and spring were broadly consistent with those in the autumn and second winter period, suggesting little overall change during the year. Peak counts were 31 on 14 May and 30 on 14 Oct. Birds were nest-building in Millcombe on 15 May, an adult was carrying food there on 10 Jun, and the first fledglings were seen on 23 Jun.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 14  | 12  | 15  | 15  | 31  | 11  | 20  | 20  | 15  | 30  | 23  | 16  |

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

One was foraging on Sycamores in Millcombe on 21 Mar, at one point in the same tree as a Long-tailed Tit (Dean Jones).



*Starling, Old Light, 1<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey) and (right) Rose-coloured Starling, Bull's Paradise, 14<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

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

[Rosy Starling]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An adult was around the Campsite, Bull's Paradise and the Lambing Shed area during the morning of 14 Jun, a day when the island was shrouded in fog. It flew off into the murk at about 11:00 hrs and was not seen again (Matt Stritch *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

*Common breeding resident; common migrant, particularly in late autumn when large influxes may occur.*

The highest count during the late winter and spring was 113 on 24 Feb. One was delivering nesting material to the roof of the General Stores on 16 Jan and ejected eggs were found behind the same building on 31 Mar. At least 53 active nests containing noisy chicks were located in the Village, around the Farm and at Old Light towards the end of Apr (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen at the Lambing Shed on 2 May, somewhat surprisingly a full 19 days earlier than the first of 2020. Adults were building a nest in the roof of the Laundry on 19 May, in preparation for a second brood, and fledglings were seen in the Laundry Garden on 15 Jun. The first noticeable influxes of autumn migrants came in mid-Oct with 345 on 11<sup>th</sup>, 500 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 400 on 17<sup>th</sup>, but these totals were dwarfed by 1,500 or more on 14 Nov. A notable mid-Dec count of 377 was logged on 16<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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| 90  | 113 | 83  | 102 | 70  | 60  | 61  | 107 | 72  | 500 | 1,500 | 377 |
| 10  | 10  | 7   | 5   | 11  | 6   | 16  | 18  | 20  | 31  | 29    | 31  |

## Report on a new project to colour-mark Lundy-breeding Starlings

*(contributed by Jamie Dunning, Imperial College London)*

Over the course of the Lundy Sparrow Project's many years of monitoring, the island's Starling population has been an ever-present sidenote, occupying the same broad niche, i.e. nesting inside the Village's farm buildings and ancient wall structures, and roosting under the warmth of the Lambing Shed lights. Like House Sparrow, Starling is a familiar species on and off Lundy, while also sadly declining. However, unlike the sparrows, which are unable to leave the island easily and with no new birds arriving – making the population 'closed' – the Starling has a much more fluid migratory ecology. During the winter, the approximately 60 or so breeding pairs are either joined, or replaced, by migratory flocks from northern Europe. These flocks may then recruit individuals from – or indeed be recruited into – the Lundy population. In 2021, with a grant from the LFS, Dean Jones and I began colour-ringing the Starling 'by-catch' from sparrow-trapping operations in the Village. Together with LFS ringers, we agreed a protocol to colour-ring only adult Starlings caught during the breeding season, thereby ensuring as far as possible that we were marking Lundy-breeders, rather than birds just passing through the island (although all individuals captured, regardless of age or time of year, will receive a standard BTO metal ring).

We ringed adults caught in whoosh-nets and mist-nets, but also chicks in nests, the latter located in almost every open building on the island. Several pairs had a second brood after successfully rearing their first brood, something we were able to confirm from the parents' rings. Some notable nest-sites included those inside a cardboard box (courtesy of Sophie Smith), on a plate left inside an open cupboard, inside a wellington boot, and inside an old rat trap!

We now hope to continue, alongside the LFS, to colour-mark Starlings in 2022 in order to learn more about the ecology of the population that breeds on Lundy. For this project to yield results we are relying on birders visiting the island to report colour-ringed Starlings. The rings are – in line with current island branding! – in Lundy blue with a three-letter alpha-numeric code in white; the first digit is always an 'L' (for Lundy). Sightings can be submitted to Lundy Warden Rosie Ellis, through the LFS logbook, or directly to [jamiedunning8@gmail.com](mailto:jamiedunning8@gmail.com).



*Female Starling with nesting material, and fledgling (photos: Dean Jones).*

### **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.* The highest count of the first winter period was 16 on 10 Jan. At least four were singing from Millcombe and St Helen's Copse on 22 Feb, but most of these proved to be wintering or passage birds. However, a lone territory-holding male sang his heart out in Millcombe throughout the spring and (more sporadically) well into Jul. Although two individuals were logged on 17 May and the singing male was seen together with a second bird, perched in a Sycamore in upper Millcombe on 27 May, there was no subsequent evidence of a pair, or any sign that a breeding attempt was made. Very grey-looking individuals at Quarter Wall on 14 Apr, and at VC Quarry on both 17 Apr and 17 May, were thought likely to be continental birds (Dean Jones). The first of autumn passage was logged on 23 Sep. Following records of up to three birds on five dates from 6 to 12 Oct, a large influx of 65 on 13 Oct coincided with a major arrival of Redwings. Numbers rose to 80 the next day, followed by 30 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 35 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 17<sup>th</sup>, with single figures only from then to the end of the year, apart from 11 on 2 Nov and 12 on 16 Dec.



*Song Thrush, Millcombe, 7<sup>th</sup> April (photo: 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 16  | 8   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 80  | 11  | 12  |
| 20  | 19  | 12  | 28  | 31  | 29  | 13  | 2   | 1   | 21  | 20  | 27  |

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

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

The only spring records were of a single bird logged on four dates from 16 to 22 Apr (feeding together with a Fieldfare in Barton Field on 16<sup>th</sup>), followed by a presumed second individual in Barton Field on 29 Apr. Thereafter, none until the first of the autumn, a single bird on 13 Sep. In a strong subsequent showing, there were two on 13 & 14 Oct, then further records of single birds on 18 dates from 16 Oct to 16 Dec (multiple observers). The number of individuals is unknown, though grouping of records suggests around six.

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

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

Higher counts during the first winter period and spring passage included 11 on 9 Jan and 26 on 21 Mar. The last were singles on 1 & 3 Apr (the latter on the West Side by the site of the 'Forgotten Heinkel') and 2 May (at the top of Millcombe). The first autumn migrant was a single bird on 11 Oct. This was followed by a huge influx of at least 1,000 at first light on 13 Oct. There were 300 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 200 on 16<sup>th</sup> and another sizeable arrival of 500 on 22 Oct, with further notable counts in Nov of 250 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and between 100 and 200 on six further dates to 24<sup>th</sup>. The Dec maximum of 56 was logged on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with small numbers remaining to the end of the year. A bird of the Icelandic race *T. i. coburni* was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 22 Oct. It was a particularly large and heavy, dark-plumaged individual with a wing-length of 124mm and weighed in at 72.7g – in spite of having a fat-score of zero. Most of the 36 other Redwings handled that day had weights below 60g (Rob Duncan).



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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct   | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| 11  | 2   | 26  | 1   | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   | 1,000 | 250 | 56  |
| 22  | 5   | 13  | 2   | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   | 20    | 29  | 31  |

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

Higher counts during the first winter period and spring passage included 16 on 16 Jan and 18 on 31 Mar. An aberrantly plumaged male, with one or two strikingly white tail feathers, was at VC Quarry on 4 Feb. In Millcombe the first song was heard on 16 Jan, a female was collecting nest material on 8 Apr, and a male was carrying food on 18 Apr. Coverage of most of the suitable breeding habitat on the island on 14 May yielded a count of 25 birds, including a singing male in gorse 150m south-south-west of Pondsburry, a pair in a gorse clump north of the Airfield near 'Pointless Wall', and a pair carrying food near the Terrace Trap on 14 May. Fledglings were seen in the Laundry Garden on 14 May and in lower Millcombe on 18 May. The first noticeable arrivals of autumn migrants in mid-Oct coincided with influxes of Redwings and Song Thrushes, but numbers were low, with a maximum of just 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. It was not until the second half of Nov that more substantial counts were logged, including 38 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 73 on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 35 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thirty-four on 19 Dec was by far the highest subsequent count.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 16  | 11  | 18  | 11  | 25  | 10  | 7   | 7   | 10  | 25  | 73  | 34  |

**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.*

There were no records during the first winter period. A trickle of spring migrants involved 11 on 20 Mar and four on 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by single birds on eight dates from 2 to 20 Apr. The first autumn migrant was calling in flight over St John's Valley on the rather late date of 22 Oct. Numbers were lower than in many recent years, with 97 on 8 Nov, 63 on 11<sup>th</sup> and 67 on 12<sup>th</sup> by far the highest counts logged – only four other days yielding more than 20. The Dec peak of 16 came on 2<sup>nd</sup>, with single-digit totals logged most days thereafter until the last two of the year on 24<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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| —   | —   | 11  | 1   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | 11  | 97  | 16  |
| —   | —   | 2   | 8   | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | 3   | 24  | 17  |

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

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

During spring passage, ones and twos were logged on 16 dates from 2 to 23 Apr – the first a fine male by the Lambing Shed. Other locations were VC Quarry; various places along the West Side, including Quarter Wall, the Earthquake, Jenny's Cove and Threequarter Wall; and Paradise Row, Stoneycroft and Benjamin's Chair in the south of the island. A male at Stoneycroft on 20 Apr was heard singing briefly. A disappointingly sparse autumn passage was one of the poorest of recent years, producing records on just six dates from 13 Oct to 2 Nov. Most were of single birds but there were three on 14 Oct (two along the East Side and one at Jenny's Cove) and two on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Right: Ring Ouzel, VC Quarry, 8<sup>th</sup> April (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; breeding attempt failed in 2020.*

Spring passage was noted on 27 dates from 27 Apr (one in Millcombe) to 22 Jun (one), the highest count being a lowly 10 on 10 May. All other spring counts were in single digits, 70% of them five birds or less. There was no evidence of a breeding attempt, though one was aggressively defending a territory at the southern end of Quarter Wall Copse on 4 Jun. Autumn migrants were logged on 47 dates, beginning with a single bird on 24 Aug. There was a significant arrival a couple of days later, comprising 24 on 26<sup>th</sup>, 35 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 19 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout the first three-and-a-half weeks of Sep, with a notable peak of 60 on 7<sup>th</sup> (mainly in Millcombe and along the East Side, but also on top of the island, including a group of seven feeding from the fencing around the water tanks), decreasing to 22 on 8 Sep and just one on 9<sup>th</sup>, but with further arrivals including 22 on 18<sup>th</sup>. There were sightings in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse on 13 days in Oct, mostly of single birds, including a long-staying individual, but with two present on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The last was an exceptionally late individual trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 27 Oct (Rob Duncan *et al.*)

#### 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  | 1   | –   | 35  | 60  | 2   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 2   | 21  | 4   | –   | 8   | 26  | 13  | –   | –   |

### Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Numbers logged during the first nine months of the year were consistent with the island's small breeding population. There was no detectable spring passage, though the fact that 10 on 10 Jan was the highest count until Sep might hint at the presence of winter visitors. One with nesting material was seen in Millcombe Wood on 13 Apr and adults were delivering food to nestlings in Millcombe on 15 May. The first fledglings were seen next to Millcombe Pond on 28 May. Hints of autumn passage in the second half of Sep, when there were 10 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, was followed by a significant mid-Oct influx (coinciding with arrivals of thrushes) that peaked at 50 on 14<sup>th</sup>, and between 20 and 40 logged on six other dates from 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Maximum count for each month

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 10  | 9   | 8   | 6   | 9   | 6   | 4   | 6   | 10  | 50  | 11  | 14  |



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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Following a wild night of torrential thundery showers with lightning and a westerly gale, it was something of a surprise when a first-winter Red-breasted Flycatcher turned up at about 09:30 hrs on 20 Oct, feeding along the sheltered northern edge of Millcombe Wood between the Casbah and Brambles. At times it perched prominently in the open, but more often moved rather elusively among the branches and bunches of Turkey Oak and Sycamore leaves. It spent much of the day in Millcombe but turned up in St Helen's Copse later in the afternoon (Tim Jones *et al.*). A second bird was seen in the walled gardens of Millcombe on 2 Nov (Eleanor Grover). Writing for the Lundy Birds blog at the time, Eleanor related: "*Checking through a group of feeding Chiffchaffs revealed a surprising find: not a warbler at all but a Red-breasted Flycatcher. Flitting about in the trees, it paused only to seemingly smirk at the camera being pointed at it, before dropping down into thicker branches and being lost from view. A delightful little bird, it appeared and then disappeared all in the space of the time it took to check the mist-nets and, unfortunately, was not resighted again.*" 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 first of spring was a male at the Quarries (specifically 'Rüppell's Quarry') on 9 Apr, followed by a further male on 17 Apr and two on 20 Apr. The only later spring records were of a female in Millcombe on 6 May and a male singing in Millcombe on the unusual date of 2 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor). Autumn passage got underway with a significant influx at the end of Aug, including eight on 25<sup>th</sup>, 20 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 10 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers were maintained into early Sep, with a further peak of 10 in Millcombe and scattered along the East Side on 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last of the year was in the willows at 'Rüppell's Quarry' on 14 Oct.

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

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

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

*Common late-autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; ones and twos occur irregularly in winter.*

A male at Benjamin's Chair and the nearby Tent Field on 9 & 10 Jan was followed by a female in the same area on 21 Jan, whilst the male reappeared there on 8 Feb. Single spring passage migrants were logged at various locations (including above the Battery, Punchbowl Valley, Jenny's Cove, the sidelands above Pyramid Rock, VC Quarry, Barton Field, Campsite, Paradise Row and Square Cottage) on 11 dates from 6 Mar to 30 May; the five records from 19 Apr to 30 May were all of females. The first of the autumn was on 11 Oct. There were records on a further eleven dates to 11 Nov, with a maximum of nine on 15 Oct (including four together at North Light), followed by one on scree above the Landing Bay on 13 Dec (Martin Thorne).

### **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

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

The first of spring were two males on 14 Apr (South West Field and Lower East Side Path). There were six further spring-passage records, all between 16 & 26 Apr, with a maximum of three (two males and a female at scattered locations) on 17<sup>th</sup>. Autumn migrants were logged on ten dates from 3 Sep (two) to 17 Oct (one, a male along the wall between the Lambing Shed and Stoneycroft, first seen on 15<sup>th</sup>), with a maximum of four on 8 Sep.



Male Whinchat, Quarter Wall, 28<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).

### **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Depressingly, spring migrants were limited to single birds on just three dates: 23 & 28 Apr (both at Quarter Wall) and 14 May (near Threequarter Wall). In autumn, singles on 25, 28 & 30 Aug were followed by better numbers in Sep than for most recent autumns, with 10 on 3<sup>rd</sup> (including four together near the Stonecrusher) and a peak of 12 (including six at Quarter Wall) on 4<sup>th</sup>. Finally, one was near Pondsburry on 14 Oct.

### **Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

A notable winter count of six on 23 Jan was followed by the first obvious influx of spring migrants when 13 were logged on 25 Feb, the next highest total being nine on 17 Mar. An adult was delivering food to chicks in South West Field on 15 Apr (Eleanor Grover) and four recently fledged young were seen near Pondsburry on 19 May (Ben Arkless & Dean Jones). A pair with at least one fledgling was above White Beach on 21 May and a second brood of fledglings was seen in the same area on 12 Jul. Elsewhere in mid-May there were territorial pairs at the Terrace and along the Lower East Side Path, plus singing males by Threequarter Wall gate and in Gannets' Combe (Tim Jones), but there was no further evidence of breeding at any of these sites. The first noticeable influx of autumn produced 15 on 5 Sep and numbers peaked at 30 on 14 & 15 Oct, with single-digit counts only from 18 Oct to the end of the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6   | 13  | 9   | 8   | 6   | 7   | 9   | 7   | 15  | 30  | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 10  | 20  | 15  | 23  | 22  | 24  | 19  | 27  | 30  | 20  | 23  |

### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

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

The first spring migrants were two males on 7 Mar, at Jenny's Cove and South West Field, respectively. Up to six were logged on six further dates to 25<sup>th</sup>, including the first female of the year at Jenny's Cove on 21<sup>st</sup>, after which there were larger arrivals of 11 on 27<sup>th</sup> (among them the first returning colour-ringed bird – a female) and 27 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Peak counts in Apr were all below 50, except for 58 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 62 on 26<sup>th</sup>. The maximum in May was 50 on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. Presumed Greenland Wheatears *O. o. leucorhoa* were logged on seven dates in Apr, from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, the maximum count being six between the Castle and Sunset Buttress on 14<sup>th</sup> (Tony Taylor). These



were followed by two trapped and ringed in South West Field on 29 May and further singles ringed on 30 May and 6 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). The first fledglings were logged along the West Side on 24 May and overall productivity seemed to be high. A Carrion Crow appeared to be hunting recently fledged chicks on the sidelands between South West Point and Montagu Steps on 7 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). The highest counts during autumn passage were logged in Sep, including 40 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a fall of 110 on 7<sup>th</sup> (by far the highest count of the year) and 70 on 11<sup>th</sup>. The final double-digit count of the year was 18 on 20 Sep, the last sighting of all a single bird on 20 Oct. A further presumed Greenland Wheatear was seen on 6 Oct (Chris Baillie).

### ***Wheatear colour-ringing in 2021*** (contributed by Tony Taylor)

With no Wheatears colour-ringed in 2020, the BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival project resumed with relatively few previously colour-ringed birds still in the breeding population and many unmarked birds to be captured and ringed. The timing of breeding for many pairs was also disrupted by spells of bad weather in spring, meaning that many pairs were not at the ideal stage for trapping during the usual three weeks of fieldwork in late May and early June. Even so, 48 birds were newly colour-ringed, and 19 birds ringed in 2019 or before were re-sighted. The results suggest a mean of 43% adult survival per year between 2019 and 2021, and the 2021 breeding population in the study area was estimated at 48 pairs. Both these figures are a little lower than in 2017-19, but they are minimum values, less reliable than usual because of the relatively large number of unringed birds that remained at the end of the season. In 2022 it should be possible to restore the very high levels of confidence that were achieved pre-pandemic. (See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.101.)

**Request.** Please 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | 27  | 58  | 50  | 45  | 32  | 25  | 110 | 6   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 11  | 29  | 31  | 28  | 28  | 25  | 28  | 13  | –   | –   |

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

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

A male was taking nest material into a nestbox in the farmyard on 16 Jan (Dean Jones). The first fledglings of the year were seen in the workshop on 1 May (Jamie Dunning). The highest count recorded in the LFS logbook was 120 on 1 Aug.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 51  | 43  | 30  | 32  | 20  | 14  | 40  | 120 | 42  | 80  | 130 | 90  |

### **House Sparrow studies in 2021** (contributed by Jamie Dunning, Imperial College London)

The 2021 field season was the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the Lundy Sparrow Project has monitored the House Sparrows breeding on the island. The project maintains a genetic pedigree, a genealogy connecting all of the sparrows which hatch on Lundy to their ancestors, since 2001. Pedigrees from wild populations (or systems) are valuable to evolutionary ecologists because they allow the study of the genetic mechanisms which shape the behaviour and ecology of the population, which can be applied well beyond Lundy and House Sparrows.

Following a difficult season in 2020, when the uncertainty around access and the ongoing Covid pandemic forced us to reduce our field effort, we arrived in April 2021 to nestboxes already lined with nesting material and horsehair, and a small number of pairs already with full clutches of

eggs. The aim of our field season was, as always, to colour-mark individual sparrows so that they can be identified in future without the need for recapture, and to collect genetic material to add another generation to our pedigree.

Between Janet Chik (University of Groningen), myself and a handful of specially trained field assistants, we monitored 115 broods, 34 pairs having a second brood, and 15 a third brood. From these we ringed 185 chicks (averaging 1.6 per brood; but note that not all broods were successful in rearing young that survived to the point of ringing at about 12 days old). We also managed to capture and ring 93 birds outside of nestboxes, a mix of unringed sparrows from 2020, as well as chicks from 'wild' nests, and 129 retraps of previously ringed birds.

A generous grant award from the Lundy Field Society in 2020 enabled us to replace some of the ancient sparrow nestboxes around the village. Our thanks also to Eleanor Grover, Ben Arkless and Adam Waters for their help in building boxes during stormy weather. In 2021 we also moved to using BTO metal rings obtained by the LFS, bringing our project in line with existing monitoring of other species on the island. LFS bird ringers also contributed by rounding up unringed sparrows in Millcombe (which had at least two pairs again).

During 2021, the Lundy Sparrow Project submitted a series of papers on measuring the fitness of individuals and on the social behaviour and sex lives of sparrows on Lundy. We also welcomed a new PhD student, Sophie Wilkins (University of Sheffield) to the island and the wider project. Sophie will be taking over fieldwork, and looking at the individual genetics of our sparrows, in the second half of the 2022 field season.

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

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

The highest counts during the spring were 12 on 23 Mar and 14 on 14 May. One trapped and ringed on 30 Mar was carrying quite a lot of fat and was thought to be a possible passage migrant (Dean Jones). Adults were seen removing faecal sacs from a nest site in 'Smelly Gully' on 15 May, the first fledglings logged there on 27 May. The autumn maximum was 15 on 14 Oct. The peak counts in both Jan and Dec were identical, indicating no overall change during the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 9   | 8   | 12  | 8   | 14  | 6   | 9   | 6   | 5   | 15  | 9   | 9   |

*Duncock in full song, Millcombe, 14<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).*



### 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.*

Following the first two on 15 Apr (a male by the Lambing Shed and a female in Tillage Field), spring passage migrants were logged on a further 20 dates until the last on 12 Jun. All of these were single birds, except for two on 7 & 14 May. A breeding-plumaged male in St Helen's Field on the unusual date of 21 Jul was a particularly early-returning migrant. More concerted autumn passage got going at the end of Aug, with records on four dates, peaking at five (of which four together in Brick Field) on 31<sup>st</sup>. Better numbers than in any recent year were logged throughout the first three weeks of Sep, with maxima of five on four dates from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 15 on 15<sup>th</sup> and seven on 20<sup>th</sup>. The last was one on 26 Sep.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| –   | –   | –   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 5   | 15  | –   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | –   | 9   | 11  | 1   | 1   | 4   | 20  | –   | –   | –   |

### Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Spring passage migrants (mostly calling flyover birds) were recorded on 13 dates from 21 Feb (one) to 23 Apr (one) with a maximum of four on 18 Mar. Autumn migration was noted from 5 Sep (three) to 30 Oct (one) with a maximum of eight on 14 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   | 4   | 1   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 3   | 8   | –   | –   |
| –   | 3   | 7   | 3   | –   | –   | –   | –   | 16  | 14  | –   | –   |

### 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 singles around or over the farm on 7 Jan and 5 Feb, spring passage commenced during the second half of Feb when between one and four birds were logged almost daily from 15<sup>th</sup>. Movements continued throughout Mar & Apr, with maxima (Pied, White and un-raced birds combined) of nine on 18 Mar (six Pied) and 12 on 19 Apr (10 Pied). One (Pied) was gathering nesting material in Barton Field on 11 May and the first fledglings were logged on 22 Jun on the wall by the pigsty along the main track. Autumn passage was evidenced by the arrival of White Wagtails from the end of Aug (see below), but numbers only reached double digits in the second week of Sep. The peak count (all races combined) was 33 on 16 Oct, of which the great majority were calling flyover birds. Ones and twos lingered throughout Nov & Dec.

#### 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) | 4(4) | 8(6) | 10(10) | 4(4) | 5(5) | 7(7) | 7(7) | 15(1) | 33(3) | 2(2) | 2(2) |
| 1    | 14   | 29   | 30     | 23   | 22   | 29   | 29   | 30    | 29    | 13   | 12   |

Confirmed White Wagtails were recorded on 21 days during spring passage, from 18 Mar (one above Benjamin's Chair) to 16 May (one), with a maximum of 3 on 21 Apr, and on eight days in autumn, from 31 Aug (one by the water tanks) to 1 Oct (one), with the maximum of two being logged on 3 & 10 Sep.



*Juvenile Meadow Pipit, Halfway Wall, 2<sup>nd</sup> July (photo: Dean Jones).*

### **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

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

Between one and three birds were logged regularly from the start of the year until the last week of Feb when an influx of spring migrants brought 42 on 21<sup>st</sup>, rising to 88 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Passage continued throughout Mar, with maxima of 105 on 7<sup>th</sup>, 138 on 17<sup>th</sup>, 243 on 20<sup>th</sup> (including a flock of 82 in Brick Field), and 167 on 21<sup>st</sup>, but dropping back to below 100 during the last week of the month. The highest Apr count was of 98 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bred successfully: the first display flight was noted below the Ugly on 22 Feb; a pair was nest-building above the Beach Road on 7 May; adults were carrying food near Quarter Wall on 15 Jun; and the first fledglings were seen at Halfway Wall on 20 Jun. In autumn the first three-figure count was 178 on 20 Sep, rising to a peak of 400 on 13 Oct and 350 the following day. Numbers fell rapidly after mid-Oct, with only four counts higher than 20 from 18 Oct to the end of the year, though records remained unusually frequent throughout Nov & Dec, perhaps reflecting the generally mild weather conditions.

#### **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   | 88  | 243 | 98  | 76  | 30  | 40  | 76  | 178 | 400 | 30  | 13  |
| 13  | 16  | 30  | 30  | 29  | 30  | 28  | 29  | 29  | 31  | 28  | 25  |

### **Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

A very early spring migrant was calling in flight over Millcombe mid-morning on 31 Mar (the same date as a notable influx of warblers and other spring migrants). Thereafter, spring passage was logged on a further 20 dates from 14 Apr (one over Castle Hill) to 15 Jun (one), with a maximum of four on 27 Apr (three of which were foraging together at Quarry Cottages in the evening). Autumn migrants were logged on 29 dates from 8 Aug (one) to 15 Oct (one), with maxima of six over the Millcombe and Village area on 28 Aug, eight on 3 Sep and nine on 8 Sep – the great majority during this period being calling birds passing overhead, though there was a flock of four in upper Millcombe on 8 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   | 1   | –   | 6   | 9   | 2   | –   | –   |
| –   | –   | 1   | 12  | 6   | 2   | –   | 10  | 17  | 2   | –   | –   |



**Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens***

*British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One was heard calling in flight over the Lodge garden and then seen feeding amongst rushes in Barton Field during the late afternoon of 2 Dec (Jamie Dunning, Eleanor Grover, Sophie Smith). Record subject to acceptance by BBRC.

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

[European Rock Pipit]

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

There were some notable counts in Jan, including 16 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 29 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 32 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 21 on 24<sup>th</sup>, mostly feeding in the farm fields, followed by 20 on 4 Feb and 14 on 17 Mar. Bred successfully; song-flight first noted on Lametor on 28 Jan. The peak autumn count was 26 on 15 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 32  | 20  | 14  | 7   | 13  | 7   | 15  | 3   | 8   | 26  | 12  | 10  |

**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.*

Counts throughout Jan, Feb and early Mar were consistently no higher than four, representing the island's tiny resident population. As is often the case, there was just the merest hint of spring passage: 12 flew north shortly after dawn on 15 Mar, with 13 logged the next day, followed by eight on 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, after which it was back down to the core breeding population until the autumn. Two pairs were thought to have nested, in Millcombe and in St Helen's Copse. Song was first heard in Millcombe on 25 Feb and a pair was feeding nestlings there on 7 May; however, the nest failed at the chick stage during the often cool, wet and windy conditions during the first half of the month. Probably the same pair was copulating by Millcombe House terrace on 11 May and nest building in the brambles below the terrace on the same day. Successful breeding was confirmed when two fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 20 Jun. The first signs of autumn passage were detectable from late Sep (10 on 24<sup>th</sup> but numbers were low in Oct, 400 on 17<sup>th</sup> by far the highest total logged. Passage was also unusually extended, and though numbers reached triple figures for the last time with 125 on 29 Oct, movements continued throughout Nov and much further into Dec than normal, with relatively late peaks of 78 on 22 Nov, 65 on 9 Dec and 26 on 24 Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4   | 4   | 13  | 5   | 6   | 4   | 7   | 5   | 10  | 400 | 78  | 65  |



**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no records during the first nine months of the year. The first autumn migrant, a male on 11 Oct, was the vanguard of an exceptionally strong passage, with records on a further 42 dates – far more than in any other recent year – until 9 Dec. Peak numbers were 10 on 23 Oct, 12 on 28 Oct, 41 on 10 Nov and three counts of between 19 and 23 birds from 19 to 22 Nov. Nine on 9 Dec (the last of the year) was an unusually high Dec count for Lundy.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A female, found in Millcombe on 9 Jun by visiting birders searching for the Sulphur-bellied Warbler, remained until 10<sup>th</sup> when it was in Turkey Oaks and Sycamores behind Bramble Villa (Dean Jones, Rebecca & Richard Taylor). At the end of the year, one calling from the edge of Millcombe Wood above Bramble Villa was seen briefly as it flew off on the exceptional date (for Lundy) of 22 Dec (Stuart Cossey). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

*Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant.*

Three records: a female was feeding on Blackthorn in Millcombe on 3 Apr (Dean Jones); in autumn, a female was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 21 Oct (Rob Duncan *et al.*); a vocal individual dropped into Millcombe on 28 Oct but difficult light conditions made it impossible to sex it (Justin Zantboer).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Two records. A first-summer male was first heard singing from Sycamores behind the gas store in lower Millcombe at around 08:00 hrs on 30 May (Dean Jones). After providing brief views through the canopy, the bird flew off up the valley following a run-in with a territorial pair of Goldfinches and went into stealth mode for the rest of the day. It wasn't seen again until the evening when it turned up miraculously in a whoosh-net fired by resident House Sparrow researcher Jamie Dunning, whilst targeting what he thought were half-a-dozen unringed sparrows in the Village at the Lodge garden – what a surprise he had when he started to extract the birds he'd caught! The rosefinch was duly ringed and released but was not seen subsequently in the field. A first-winter bird trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 5 Sep (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*) was seen on most days up to and including 12<sup>th</sup> when it was retrapped. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

The only record during the first nine months of the year was a single bird in Millcombe on 13 May. In autumn there were records on 17 dates from 1 Oct (two) to 9 Nov (one), with a maximum of eight on both 2 Oct and 2 Nov.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was at the 'turning circle' and perched on the nearby wall at Old Light during the late afternoon of 6 Oct (Chris Baillie) – the first for Lundy since one near the Castle on 28 October 2003. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

*Left: Brambling, Millcombe, 19<sup>th</sup> November (photo: Eleanor Grover).*

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

Singles on 21 Jan (on the fence-line of St Helen's Field) and 3 Feb were followed by the first signs of spring passage in late Feb when four were logged on 26<sup>th</sup>. A trickle of movement continued throughout Mar but it was not until the very end of the month that counts broke double digits with 11 on 30<sup>th</sup> and 17 on 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers increased rapidly in Apr, reaching peaks of 62 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 118 on 10<sup>th</sup>, with five other counts of 50 or more during the month. A further relatively late pulse of migration brought 105 on 2 May. Pairs were nest-building in the Millcombe/St John's Valley area on 16 May and the first fledgling was seen in Barton Field on 15 Jun. Post-breeding flocks began forming in Jul, with a peak of 119 on 26<sup>th</sup>, building to 230 on 1 Aug and 180 (including a single flock of 170 in Middle Park) on 27 Aug, but it was not until Sep that the highest counts of the year were recorded, with 300 on 14<sup>th</sup> and 372 on 20<sup>th</sup>. Numbers fell rapidly in the second half of Oct, with the Nov maximum of nine logged on 2<sup>nd</sup> and thereafter only three further records to the end of the year.

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 4   | 17  | 118 | 105 | 40  | 119 | 230 | 372 | 200 | 9   | 3   |
| 1   | 4   | 14  | 30  | 31  | 30  | 30  | 28  | 29  | 23  | 3   | 2   |

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

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

Spring passage migrants were recorded on 29 dates from 4 Apr to 4 Jun. The great majority of records were of one to three birds (including two on Sue Waterfield's feeders at Paradise Row on 9 Apr), with a maximum of four on 23 May. A male was singing from Turkey Oaks above the 'Secret Garden' on 10 May and, intriguingly, on 13<sup>th</sup> a female was seen holding what appeared to be nest material in her bill, whilst perched on Tent Field wall just west of Benjamin's Chair (both records Tim Jones); however, there was no further evidence of a breeding attempt being made. One appeared on the unusual date of 15 Jul. An exceptionally poor autumn yielded just two records of single birds, on 12 & 27 Oct.



*Lesser Redpoll, Barton Field, 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
(photo: Richard Campey).*

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

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| —   | —   | —   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 1   | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —   |
| —   | —   | —   | 8   | 25  | 2   | 1   | —   | —   | 2   | —   | —   |

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

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

Four records: one was flying around the Millcombe area on 30 May (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor); two were seen and heard in the valley on 28 Jun (Sam Bosanquet); one landed briefly in Millcombe pines on 24 Jul (Eleanor Grover); and in the autumn 12 flew south over upper Millcombe at 13:15 hrs on 17 Oct (James Diamond).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; irregular in summer and winter. Formerly an occasional breeder, has bred successfully in all years since 2014.*

Two on 2 Jan and a single bird on 12 Feb were followed by a trickle of spring migrants in the last week of Feb and the first two weeks of Mar, but passage did not really get going until after mid-Mar when there were 19 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 30<sup>th</sup>. Apr numbers peaked at a very modest 25 on 11<sup>th</sup> but it was early May before counts of 28 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29 on 4<sup>th</sup> provided the highest totals of the spring. The first fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 19 May. Numbers began building up post-breeding in Jul, reaching 30 on 28<sup>th</sup>, followed by 39 on 18 Aug. Migration built towards the end of Sep, peaking at 90 on 29<sup>th</sup> and again on 13 Oct. As for several other species (e.g. Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch), there were unusually frequent records in Dec, perhaps as a result of prevailing mild conditions.

**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   | 19  | 25  | 29  | 13  | 30  | 39  | 90  | 90  | 26  | 9   |
| 1   | 6   | 25  | 30  | 31  | 30  | 30  | 30  | 28  | 31  | 27  | 29  |

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

An unusual year with spring-passage migrants logged on 47 dates from 6 Mar (one over Millcombe) to 16 Jun (three), with maxima of six on 10 Apr and five on 17 Apr. Although birds were seen throughout the spring, with both males and females present at times, and a male was heard singing from Millcombe Wood on 16 Jun, there was no real indication of breeding. There was an unusual midsummer record of one on 4 Jul, then none until a major influx in autumn which brought an estimated 500 on 17 Oct, followed by another influx of at least 500 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Many of the mid-Oct arrivals that were trapped and ringed showed relatively low weights at first; the average weight of birds handled on 15 Oct was 10.8g, rising to 12.5g on 21 Oct (Rob Duncan). During a three-week stint from 7 to 29 Oct, Rob and his team ringed an amazing total of 535 Siskins, accounting for more than half of all birds ringed during that time! Records were frequent in Nov, though numbers later in the month never approached the 117 logged on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The only Dec records were singles on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<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   | 6   | 4   | 3   | 1   | –   | –   | 500 | 117 | 1   |
| –   | –   | 7   | 22  | 13  | 4   | 1   | –   | –   | 23  | 24  | 2   |

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Three long-staying birds were in High Street Field from 4 Feb, last seen together on 2 Mar, with two lingering until 5<sup>th</sup> and the last remaining individual logged on 6<sup>th</sup>. During its stay, one of the birds, which appeared to be an adult male, progressively developed more and more signs of breeding plumage. Remarkably, on 18 Feb, they were joined briefly by two additional birds which also showed quite well-developed breeding plumage, making a total of five. This series of records includes not only the highest-ever spring count for the island, but also the longest-staying known individuals. The first of autumn was a single bird at Quarter Wall on 11 Oct, followed by two on 13<sup>th</sup> (flushed at Rocket Pole, then flying towards the Airfield), two on 14<sup>th</sup> (South West Field and over North End, respectively) and further singles on 16<sup>th</sup> (over the main track), 17<sup>th</sup> (Airfield/Pondsbury area) and 23<sup>rd</sup> on Old Light track (multiple observers). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

A very confiding male logged on 17 dates from 7 Jan to 26 Feb spent most of its time foraging along either the main track between High Street gate and Quarter Wall gate, or on the track up to Old Light along the edge of South West Field. In autumn and early winter, recorded on 16 dates from 5 Oct (two along the main track near Widow's Tenement) to 23 Dec (one north of Halfway Wall), with maxima of six on 8 Oct (a flock calling flight over North End and heading east out to sea – Eleanor Grover). All other records were of ones and twos. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One found in St John's Valley during the early morning of 28 Apr (when the island was being battered by a blustery north-easterly) was relocated there in much calmer conditions on 30<sup>th</sup>, where it remained until 2 May (Dean Jones *et al.*). At the end of the year, one sheltering in the lee of Tillage Field wall on 5 Dec flew off calling towards the Upper East Side Path (Stuart Cossey). These are the first Lundy records since May 2009 and only the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> overall for the island – 17 of which have been in spring. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

*Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular visitor and bred in the first half of the twentieth century.*

A male (above, photographed by Dean Jones) was foraging on the main track next to the Lambing Shed in the early afternoon of 26 Apr (Dean Jones) – only the fifth record in the last ten years, the most recent of which was at Quarter Wall on 29 Apr 2017. Yellowhammers were once a breeding species on Lundy, up until the 1950s at least, and then recorded as migrants almost annually up until the 1970s. Since then, however, there have been widespread population declines due to changing agricultural practices on the mainland (more than 50% decline in the last 25 years), such that Yellowhammer is now a very rare visitor to the island.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was flushed from the edge of Barton Field with a loose feeding flock of Meadow Pipits on 20 Sep (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

### **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was photographed feeding outside Little St John's on 23 Oct (Trevor Dobie) – about the 20<sup>th</sup> for Lundy and the fourth in the last five years following other Oct birds in 2017, 2019 and 2020. Record accepted by DBRC.

### **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*

*British vagrant.*

An adult female or first-year male was found in Barton Field just before 14:00 hrs on 1 Jun (Tony Taylor). The bird continued to feed there for the best part of 40 minutes, allowing most of the resident and visiting birders on the island to see it. The bunting then flew off down the field and, despite some searching, was not relocated. The eighth Lundy record and the second spring record after one in May 2020. Record accepted by BBRC.



*Rustic Bunting, Barton Field, 1<sup>st</sup> June*  
(photo: Richard Taylor).

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

The only late-winter/spring-passage records were of two on three dates between 17 and 26 Feb (all in the vicinity of Quarter Wall and Pondsburys), one at Quarter Wall on 29 Mar, one in the Laundry Garden on 1 Apr, one in Millcombe on 9 Apr, and one photographed at Halfway Wall on 10 Apr (all records Dean Jones). In a meagre autumn and early winter showing, one was at Quarter Wall on 17 Oct (Andy Jayne), followed by ones and twos at Pondsburys on four dates from 25 Nov to 26 Dec (Stuart Cossey).

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

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

### **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)).

### **RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT**

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated owing to a lack of supporting details. To enable any of these reports to be confirmed, please forward further information to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* – a raft of 30 offshore on 9 Oct.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata* – one on 23 Oct.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* – singles on 21 & 25 Oct.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater* – three on 17 Sep.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* – one in Millcombe on 10 Sep.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* – a reportedly first-winter bird in Millcombe on 8 Oct.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* – one on gorse above Miller's Cake on 14 Nov.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis* – five on 11 Oct.

## ESCAPE

### **Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer*

Reports over the radio on 24 Aug of a bright yellow finch-like bird on the fence of the Lodge garden had members of the LFS Conservation Team running up the hill to investigate. By the time they got there, however, the mystery bird had disappeared. Luckily the finder, Paul Scofield, had managed to get some record shots (right) on his mobile phone. These turned out to reveal a



Yellow-crowned Bishop, a species native to many sub-Saharan countries of Africa, occurring also in parts of Spain and Portugal where escapes from captivity have established a feral population. This was almost certainly the same individual seen on the coast of the North Devon mainland at Heddon's Mouth, east of Combe Martin, on 31 Jul and again on 3 Aug. Although undoubtedly of captive origin, it is incredible that the Bishop made the jump across the sea to Lundy. Popping up again after the initial sighting, the bird remained until 7 Sep, frequenting South West Field, Lighthouse Field and Tent Field area, often providing an exotic splash of colour outside Quarters.

## BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the main list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below, but we do not cover the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary. Records for these areas should be submitted to the Devon Bird Recorder at [recorder@devonbirds.org](mailto:recorder@devonbirds.org).

### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

About 20 seen during the first half of the crossing from Ilfracombe on 12 Oct (Richard Campey, Tim Davis *et al.*). A drake was seen about 30 minutes out from the island en route from Ilfracombe on 26 Oct (Dan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer).

### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

One was circling the *Oldenburg* at sea level at 11:10 hrs, just over halfway across during the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 12 Oct (Richard Campey, Tim Davis *et al.*).

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

One flew over the *Oldenburg* shortly after departing Ilfracombe on 12 Oct (Richard Campey, Tim Davis *et al.*).

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

Seven passed close to the bow of the *Oldenburg* about halfway across from Bideford to Lundy on 11 Sep (Martin Thorne) – the same day that Martin later saw four off North Light and one was seen on the return crossing to Bideford (Tony Taylor).

## BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY

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

With the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic less severe than in 2020, it was possible to carry out plenty of work on all the long-term ringing projects currently under way on Lundy. In addition to the single-species studies, the ringing of migrant passerines in spring and autumn was very productive. The overall ringing total for the year was 4,446, the highest since 2009.

With LFS rings now being used for the ICL and Sheffield University House Sparrow Project, an offshoot has been a new colour-ringing study looking at the breeding biology of Lundy's Starlings, a species that is declining in the UK. Starlings and House Sparrows breed in similar habitats and Starlings are often caught incidentally when the sparrows are targeted, so much of the ringing work on both species can be carried out at the same time. Jamie Dunning has provided further details on these two projects in the Bird Report (see pp.80 and 86, respectively). Progress with the ongoing studies on Manx Shearwaters, Storm Petrels and Wheatears is discussed below.

While the increased use of LFS rings on House Sparrows and Starlings clearly contributed towards the year's high total, the numbers of migrant Blackcaps (1,148), Redwings (115) and Siskins (470) ringed broke these species' all-time records for Lundy. Taken together with Willow Warblers (574), they made up over half of all the birds ringed. Other species with three-figure totals were Manx Shearwater, Goldcrest, Swallow, Chiffchaff, Starling, House Sparrow and Meadow Pipit.

Unusual species ringed included a Wryneck and two Common Rosefinches. Others that are relatively common in the UK but rarely ringed on Lundy included a Swift, two Great Spotted Woodpeckers and a Long-tailed Tit. A full list of species totals is given below.

*Clockwise from top left: Grasshopper Warbler, Firecrest, male Blackcap and Sedge Warbler (photos: Dean Jones and Richard Taylor).*





The ongoing work that is helping Lundy progress towards achieving Bird Observatory status has continued: more of the historic ringing records have been digitised, and the old, storm-damaged structure of the Heligoland trap on the Terrace was dismantled by LFS Conservation Break teams in October, who then made a good start on replacing it.

Thanks to them for their efforts, to all the visiting ringers for a productive year's ringing, and to Tim Frayling for organising a significant grant from Natural England, paying for 1,000 Manx Shearwater rings and 500 Storm Petrel rings. And a huge thank-you to Dean Jones, who has contributed so much to Lundy ringing during his time on the island.

## RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

Three Storm Petrels controlled at the North End breeding colony are discussed below, in the separate section on this species. Other interesting movements of birds in 2021 have included a young Swallow that reached the Channel Islands the day after being ringed on Lundy, a Blackcap ringed on Gibraltar, a Blackbird ringed on Lundy in autumn 2019, found in Germany in May, and two birds that made surprising journeys within Great Britain, both going north in late autumn: a Blackcap to Orkney and a Chiffchaff to Pembrokeshire.

Another two birds from elsewhere were more predictable. Probably on southward migration when originally caught in previous autumns, a Willow Warbler ringed in Worcestershire and a Reed Warbler ringed on the Isles of Scilly were controlled on Lundy on their way back north in spring, both on the same day. A Lundy-ringed Willow Warbler continued northward in spring, only to meet an unfortunate end in the Outer Hebrides.

Several seabirds colour-ringed at colonies elsewhere were seen on Lundy. Those fully identified included the Guillemot ringed as a chick on Skomer Island in 2013, which returned to Jenny's Cove for the third year; unfortunately it failed in its breeding attempt. Three other colour-ringed Guillemots were also seen, but full details of the engraved numbers could not be seen so their origins could not be determined, though it is certain that they were not ringed on Lundy.

A twelve-year-old Kittiwake that bred successfully in Jenny's Cove had been ringed as a chick at a colony in Brittany. Another colour-ringed Kittiwake was seen in Jenny's Cove on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021, though not associated with a nest. Its colour combination could not be seen fully so information on the bird is less precise, but it also originated from Brittany and it hatched in 2013. A third Kittiwake, again with its colour-ring combination partially recorded, was loafing in Aztec Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021. Like the others it had been ringed at Pointe du Raz, but further details could not be determined.

Previously caught on Lundy, two of the many ringed birds recaptured in 2021 were of particular interest. A Goldfinch caught in August 2019 was on the island in April 2021, presumably having settled down as a local breeder, though it was originally ringed on Cape Clear Island in southwest Ireland in April 2019. A Snipe ringed on Lundy on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 was recaptured over four years later, on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This species does not breed on the island, but evidence from elsewhere shows they tend to establish winter territories and return to those same familiar areas in successive winters, as this bird seems to have done.

Full details of all ringing recoveries and controls are given on p.103.

## MANX SHEARWATERS

As in the years 2016-19, shearwater ringing effort in 2021 involved monitoring occupied nestboxes throughout the breeding season, catching breeding adults and prospecting pre-breeders in June, and then targeting fledging chicks in autumn. In all, 297 birds were newly ringed. This is lower than in eight of the last nine years, but recapture data from the nestboxes and the night-time work carried out in June proved particularly valuable.



*Manx Shearwater chick in a nestbox, West Side, 4<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*

The same seven nestboxes that were occupied in 2020 had pairs in them again in 2021. Twelve of the fourteen adults involved were the same individuals as before, and the five known established pairs all went on to raise a chick successfully.

A sixth pair was also successful, but as one of the 2020 pair was not encountered in the box that year, we cannot be certain both individuals were the same in both years. This is particularly unfortunate as in 2021 the second bird proved to be one ringed as a chick in 2016. One reason for installing the boxes was to discover more about the breeding biology of shearwaters in a newly-established, growing colony, for comparison with the long-established, stable colonies where previous research has been done. As happens in some other seabird species, such as Great Skua, the age of first breeding may be younger in new colonies. With this individual, we cannot be certain whether it first bred at four or five years of age.

The seventh pair, where a previous occupant of the box was joined by a new partner, did not lay an egg but spent plenty of time in the box together, establishing the strong pair-bond that is vital for success in a species that has a low reproduction rate but is very long-lived. Assuming they both survive to the 2022 season, they should lay then.

Since the boxes were installed, ringed birds occupying them have survived until the next breeding season on 25 out of the 26 possible opportunities. Though the sample size is not very large yet, this gives an impressive annual adult survival rate of 96%. Of eighteen eggs laid by these birds over the same period, fourteen (78%) have produced chicks that appear to have fledged successfully. Again this figure is encouragingly high, particularly bearing in mind that the birds involved are likely to be relatively young, inexperienced individuals in their first few years of breeding.

A total of 186 adult shearwaters were ringed during the year, mainly in early June when large numbers of pre-breeding birds were taking advantage of some very dark nights to come ashore looking for burrows and partners, while at the same time plenty of breeding adults were caught when entering or leaving their nest burrows. Another 76 birds ringed on Lundy in previous years were recaptured, providing valuable insights into their life histories.

All of these recaptures were in the main breeding colony between the Old Light and the Battery, where most of the ringing has been done in recent years. Among the 47 birds originally ringed as adults, there were recaptures from every year between 2011 and 2020, in numbers ranging

from two ringed in 2011 to eleven ringed in 2017. When allowance is made for the varying totals originally ringed at this site in each year, the proportions recaptured rise steadily from 2% of 2011 birds to 7% of 2020 birds, reflecting the number of intervening years for which they have survived and returned.

In many cases the 2021 data added to an already detailed history of the individual. As an example, one of the birds from 2011 was recaptured for the tenth time. However, at the other extreme, seven individuals were encountered for the first time since being ringed in 2012-15, emphasising that a lack of encounters does not necessarily mean a bird has died or moved away.

Another 29 recaptured birds were originally ringed as chicks or fledging young. This gives added significance to any data on them because their ages are known. One hatched in 2013, nine in 2016, three in 2017, 15 in 2018 and one in 2019. As noted above, a returning chick from 2016 is the first to have chosen to breed in a nestbox.

As with the adults, allowance needs to be made for the varying number of chicks ringed in the main colony in those years, to calculate the proportion of birds returning to their precise natal colony. This rises from 1% of those ringed in 2013 to 5% of the 2018 chicks, reflecting the fact that most young birds return to colonies at the age of three. This makes the one bird that hatched in 2019 and returned in 2021 unusual.

One week was spent catching chicks as they emerged from their burrows in early September. It became apparent that many had already fledged by then, and the number ringed was a modest 107, along with another four young birds that had made their first flight but not yet left the island. Comparatively few nights could be spent in the colony, and a late visit had been chosen to avoid the brightest phases of the moon, when chicks are reluctant to emerge from burrows. As a result, this was the lowest chick total since 2007, even though it was clear from visits earlier in the season that the population is thriving.

## **STORM PETRELS**

With no visiting ringers on Lundy in the key month of August, there were only two opportunities to ring Storm Petrels at the usual site near North Light, both falling outside the period when peak numbers are expected. So the numbers caught did not match the success of 2020.

In early July, five new birds were ringed and four others recaptured. Two of these were originally ringed at the North End, one in August 2019 and one in August 2020. The first of these was caught without the use of a sound lure, and had a fully-developed brood-patch when it was ringed, so it is likely to be a Lundy breeder, but the status of the second was less clear. Remarkably, the other two birds were both ringed at Gwennap Head, near Land's End, just a week apart in August 2018.

Another visit to the North End in early September produced four new birds and two recaptures. One of these had originally been caught there in August 2019, without the use of a sound lure and with a fully-developed brood-patch, making it another probable Lundy breeder. The other, ringed on Skomer Island seven weeks earlier, could have been a wandering pre-breeder.

One further bird was caught (using a sound lure) and ringed in early September during a visit to the Manx Shearwater colony north of Old Light.

These records contribute to a growing understanding of the Storm Petrels visiting Lundy, which are a mix of breeding birds, prospecting pre-breeders, and perhaps some birds that are based elsewhere but simply investigate the Lundy colony as they pass by. Full details of the three controlled birds are given below.



*Colour-ringed male Wheatear, Quarter Wall (photo: Dean Jones).*

## WHEATEARS

After a gap in 2020 because of Covid restrictions, ringing work for the long-term Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) study resumed in 2021. Inevitably after the enforced break there were comparatively few colour-ringed birds remaining in the breeding population, and two years' worth of unringed new recruits to trap and ring. The task was particularly challenging because weather conditions in spring and early summer disrupted some pairs' breeding seasons.

Early-arriving birds laid during a warm, settled spell, but then a deterioration in conditions resulted in other pairs delaying their start, and later storms appear to have led to some nest failures. These failed pairs were building replacement nests and re-laying at the same time as the first fledglings appeared. Wheatears are generally less visible and harder to catch during the laying, incubation and early chick stages, compared with those feeding large young, so significant numbers of adults remained unringed. In all, 27 females and 22 males were newly colour-ringed in 2021.

Nineteen birds ringed in previous seasons were re-sighted: fifteen females and just four males. The females were ringed in 2016 (3 birds), 2017 (3), 2018 (2) and 2019 (7), and the males in 2017 (1), 2018 (1) and 2019 (2). Past experience suggests that males can be less conspicuous than females at some stages of the breeding cycle, so in the long run their calculated survival rates are likely to be more similar than these numbers indicate, with some missed males being re-sighted in subsequent years.

The results show a mean of 43% adult survival per year over the two years between the 2019 and 2021 breeding seasons. This is lower than in the preceding five years, when the annual mean was 56% (range 46-63%), but it is a minimum figure, because of the disruption and uncertainties brought about by Covid in 2020 and difficult weather conditions in 2021.

The breeding population in the study area was estimated to be 48 pairs. With some colour-ringed birds known to be flying half a kilometre or more from their nest to find food, it is reasonable to assume that some of the unusually high proportion of unringed birds were doing the same. Without any means of individual identification, these could not be pinned down to a particular breeding territory. So there may have been situations where a presumed single territory was in fact occupied by two or more pairs, meaning that the population suggested above would be an underestimate.

If the 2022 season goes well, the reliability of the study's population estimates and survival rate calculations should be restored to the high levels achieved before Covid-19.



## LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2021

|                          |       |       |                                    |              |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Manx Shearwater          | (107) | 297   | Blackbird                          | 26           |
| Storm Petrel             |       | 10    | Fieldfare                          | 1            |
| Water Rail               |       | 1     | Song Thrush                        | 17           |
| Snipe                    |       | 4     | Redwing                            | 114          |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull |       | 1     | Spotted Flycatcher                 | 16           |
| Swift                    |       | 1     | Robin                              | 52           |
| Wryneck                  |       | 1     | Pied Flycatcher                    | 8            |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker |       | 2     | Redstart                           | 3            |
| Carrión Crow             |       | 1     | Stonechat                          | 20           |
| Goldcrest                |       | 162   | Wheatear                           | 53           |
| Firecrest                |       | 5     | Dunnock                            | 17           |
| Skylark                  |       | 1     | House Sparrow                      | (195) 314    |
| Sand Martin              |       | 2     | Grey Wagtail                       | 1            |
| Swallow                  |       | 186   | Tree Pipit                         | 1            |
| House Martin             |       | 9     | Meadow Pipit                       | 187          |
| Long-tailed Tit          |       | 1     | Brambling                          | 2            |
| Yellow-browed Warbler    |       | 5     | Chaffinch                          | 77           |
| Chiffchaff               |       | 241   | Bullfinch                          | 1            |
| Willow Warbler           |       | 574   | Common Rosefinch                   | 2            |
| Blackcap                 |       | 1,148 | Linnet                             | 23           |
| Garden Warbler           |       | 12    | Goldfinch                          | 80           |
| Lesser Whitethroat       |       | 1     | Siskin                             | 470          |
| Whitethroat              |       | 61    |                                    |              |
| Grasshopper Warbler      |       | 10    | <b>Total</b>                       | <b>4,446</b> |
| Sedge Warbler            |       | 78    | <b>Number of species</b>           | <b>50</b>    |
| Reed Warbler             |       | 7     |                                    |              |
| Wren                     |       | 39    | Numbers in brackets indicate pulli |              |
| Starling                 | (15)  | 101   | (included in the main totals)      |              |

### **Correction: Ringing Totals 2020**

Two ringing records that were not entered in the LFS ringing notebook or the BTO database came to light too late for inclusion in the 2020 LFS Annual Report. The total number of Starlings ringed should be 50 and the overall ringing total was 1,977.



## RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

**Storm Petrel** 2724001 – ringed as an adult on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, 20.7.21. Controlled on Lundy, 8.9.21 (**duration** 50 days; **distance** 74 km; **direction** SE, 145°).

**Storm Petrel** 2754512 – ringed as an adult at Gwennap Head, Porthgarra, Cornwall, 14.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 7.7.21 (1,058 days; 148 km; NNE, 29°).

**Storm Petrel** 2754518 – ringed as an adult at Gwennap Head, Porthgarra, Cornwall, 21.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 7.7.21 (1,051 days; 148 km; NNE, 29°).

**Kittiwake** Paris FX21721 (identified by colour rings) – ringed as a chick at Point du Raz, Plogof, Finistère, Brittany, FRANCE, in 2009. Seen at the Jenny's Cove breeding colony, Lundy, 18.7.21 to 10.8.21.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**, with white colour-ring, engraved NA5M – found in poor condition at Malaga, SPAIN, 28.11.19. Rehabilitated, then ringed and released on 17.2.20. Seen on Lundy, 26.3.21 (403 days; 1606 km; N, 0°).

**Guillemot** N05511, with red colour-ring, engraved 0114 – ringed as a chick on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, 8.7.13, was present on Lundy during the breeding season in 2021, on the same ledge as in the previous two years.

**Swallow** ANL4439 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 20.9.21. Controlled at Longis Bay, Alderney, CHANNEL ISLANDS, 21.9.21 (1 day; 240 km; SE, 133°).

**Willow Warbler** NLN559 – ringed as an adult on Lundy, 22.4.21. Found freshly dead (hit glass) at South Glen Dale, South Uist, Western Isles, 4.5.21 (12 days; 683 km; NNW, 346°).

**Willow Warbler** NBC633 – ringed a first-year bird at Kingshill Farm, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, 27.8.20. Controlled on Lundy, 19.4.21 (235 days; 194 km; WSW, 236°).

**Chiffchaff** NLN918 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 9.10.21. Controlled at Kilpaison March, Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire, 14.11.21 (36 days; 62 km; NNW, 335°).

**Reed Warbler** AVF4022 – ringed as a juvenile at Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 6.7.19. Controlled on Lundy, 19.4.21 (653 days; 180 km; NE, 40°).

**Blackcap** APN2214 – ringed as a first-year female at Middle Hill, GIBRALTAR, 29.9.20. Controlled on Lundy, 16 and 17.4.21 (199 and 200 days; 1670 km; N, 2°).

**Blackcap** ANL4786 – ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 11.10.21. Controlled at Denwick, Deerness, Orkney, 31.10.21 (20 days; 874 km; N, 9°).

**Blackbird** LE36666 – ringed as an adult female on Lundy, 23.10.19. Found freshly dead at Salzkotten, Brockenslee, Detmold, GERMANY, 21.5.21 (576 days; 926 km; E, 87°).

**Goldfinch** AVA4847 – ringed as an adult male on Cape Clear Island, Cork, IRELAND, 22.4.19. Recaptured on Lundy, 18.4.21 (727 days; 338 km; E, 96°). This bird was previously controlled on Lundy, 24.8.19.

*Far left: Blackcap, 24<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Rob Duncan) and Wryneck, 29<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones), both caught and ringed in Millcombe.*

## OTHER BIOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM LUNDY

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 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.

### WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES

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*Compiled by Keith Hiscock*

The most frequently seen cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin. Both species were seen through the year. Favoured locations for porpoise were the tide races off the south and north coasts and, for dolphins, open water off the east coast – although there may be bias because of where observers go. The much greater number of sightings of porpoise off the south-east coast may also be a reflection of where observations are made and, since tide-races are favoured locations, off the north-west corner (the Hen and Chickens) would be worth more attention. The size of pods of Common Dolphin did not reach the c.100 seen in July 2020 and, overall, numbers reported were smaller than in 2020. There were no sightings of Bottlenose Dolphin (only one in 2020). The two sightings of a Minke Whale near to the island contrast with one in 2020.

#### **[Possible] Pygmy Sperm Whale** *Kogia breviceps*

8 Oct – a sighting by Chris Baillie of an individual 3-4m long from the Castle. Although the description was very detailed, specialists consulted could not confirm the possible identification.

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

4 Apr – seen close inshore off Quarry Beach then swam south into the Landing Bay and around Rat Island. Appeared to be a young animal. (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

1 May – one seen surfacing offshore from Jenny's Cove by Exeter University students Ingrid Helgstad. Laila Akahtar, Yavanna Burnham & Claire Goughan des Palliers.

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

There were 16 logbook entries for Common Dolphin with a maximum count of about 50 offshore (west) of the Old light on 21 Feb (Dean Jones).

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

There were 17 logbook entries for Harbour Porpoise, mostly single or two individuals. Four were seen 1 km due east of Castle Parade on 29 Jul by Chris and Sharon Blackmore. Five adults and one calf were seen on 11 Oct in the tide race off Rat Island (Anon.).

Thanks to all of those who reported sightings.

### [SEALS]

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A detailed account of the studies carried out on the Lundy Grey Seals in 2021 can be found on p.109.]

### MARINE FISHES

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*Compiled by Keith Hiscock*

This report would include unusual or charismatic fish species whilst those that are 'always present' are not generally recorded in the logbook or here. However, there were very few fish records in 2021 reflecting the lack of activity by observers during Covid19 restrictions. In particular, it is worth noting that there were no recorded sightings of Basking Sharks (reflecting



*Rosie Ellis exploring the arch, Rat Island, 27<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Keith Hiscock).*

continued low numbers throughout south-west England) and no recorded sightings of Sunfish or Bluefin tuna.

## MARINE INVERTEBRATES

*Compiled by Keith Hiscock*

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 recorded many of the smaller species and 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.

There were notably fewer sightings of scyphozoan ('true') jellyfish in 2021 compared to 2020 and only three records of barrel jellyfish (commonly reported through the year in 2018 and 2019 and frequently present during 2020 especially in April. Overall, it seems likely that the sparsity of records was because of lack of observing.

### CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

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

2 Jul – present below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**A hydrozoan** *Neoturris pileata*

2 Jul – two below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

### CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

**Moon Jellyfish** *Aurelia aurita*

8 Aug – abundant below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).



**Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarckii*

4 Jun – two below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Barrel Jellyfish** *Rhizostoma octopus*

4 Apr – five along the east coast (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

9 Apr – one offshore of White Beach (Dean Jones).

14 Apr – one offshore of Halfway Wall Bay (Dean Jones).

**CTENOPHORA****Melon Comb Jelly** *Beroë cucumis*

4 Jun – a few below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

2 Jul – one below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Northern Comb Jelly** *Bolinopsis infundibulum*

4 Jun – abundant below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

2 Jul – small numbers below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Sea Gooseberry** *Pleurobrachia pileus*

2 Jul – small numbers below the Jetty (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**OCEAN SURFACE DRIFTERS AND STRANDINGS**

*Compiled by Keith Hiscock and Dean Jones*

**CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA****Portuguese Man O' War** *Physalia physalis*

11 Sep – one in the Landing Bay (Rosie Ellis).

**CRUSTACEA****Common Goose Barnacle** *Lepas anatifera*

14 Sep – c.50 on an old fishing crate with other goose barnacles (Dean Jones).

**A goose barnacle** *Lepas hillii*

14 Sep – c.15 on an old fishing crate with other goose barnacles (Dean Jones).

**A goose barnacle** *Lepas pectinata*

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 old fishing crate with other Lepadidae (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – seven washed-up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

**SEASHORE AND SEABED**

*Compiled by Keith Hiscock, with records from Dean Jones and Rosie Ellis*

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 2021) 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.

**ALGAE****Okamura's Pom-pom Weed** *Caulacanthus okamurae*

27 May – occasional at about mid tide level at Devil's Kitchen.

2021 seems to be the first year that this non-native species has been recorded at Lundy although it was likely present in some previous years. Widely scattered clumps on the shore to the south of Rat Island.



*Okamura's Pom-pom Weed, Devil's Kitchen, 27<sup>th</sup> May, (photo: Keith Hiscock).*

## **CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA**

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

Results from the 2021 survey of the two monitoring sites at Devil's Kitchen on 30<sup>th</sup> March showed a substantial increase in the number of Scarlet and Gold Star corals – with 33 more than in 2020. A total of 232 individuals were counted – the highest number of this species to be counted in both sites since the first surveys in 1984.

Again, the communities were made up of good numbers of large individuals, but this year there were also numerous small pin-head-sized corals, which weren't seen in 2020. This could mean that last year was good for recruitment of new, young corals to these sites – though perhaps the extent of algal growth and siltation could also have hidden a number of the smaller corals last year.

Two other sites containing small Scarlet and Gold Star Coral colonies were also counted and were found to be pretty much the same as last year: Site 3 was only down one coral and Site 4 (found by Rosie Ellis in 2020) was up by a single animal. Additionally, the Conservation Team also found some cup corals in one of the rockpool community sites (rockpool E) which are new to this pool; the first of these surveys was also carried out in 1984 (Dean Jones).

### **Devonshire Cup Coral *Caryophyllia smithii***

The number of Devonshire Cup Corals at the two monitoring sites was much the same as in 2020 (nine individuals again) and have remained pretty stable over these sites since those first surveys.

## **CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA**

### **Spiny Spider Crab *Maja brachydactyla***

25 & 27 Jul – aggregation in a bay north of Gannets' Rock. Up to four crabs deep in places and several had moulted (Mike Deaton & Mark Lavington).

Aggregations of this common species were reported from under the Jetty during 2020 when it was suggested that dense aggregations had been observed as far back as in 2017. That date can be 'pushed-back' to August 2010 when Chris Mandry reported (from the minutes of the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group) very large numbers north of the wreck of the *MV Robert*. The area they covered was approximately 4 m x 30 m. For the same year, Nicola Saunders [Warden] confirmed that large numbers of spider crabs had also been reported from the shallows of Devil's Kitchen and the Landing Beach.



*Grey Sea Slug, Devil's Kitchen, 30<sup>th</sup> March and (right) a berried female Montagu's Crab, Devil's Kitchen, 27<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Keith Hiscock).*

#### **Montagu's or Furrowed Crab *Xantho hydrophilus***

27 May – a berried female (Keith Hiscock). Although L.A. Harvey recorded the species as "not uncommon under stones all shores", it seems to be increasing in abundance in south-west England and is worth further monitoring.

#### **MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA: OSTREIDAE**

##### **Pacific Oyster *Magallana gigas***

12 Apr – photograph of a Pacific Oyster in Hell's Gates (Dean Jones). The status of this species is discussed further in the LMPAAG report on p.22.

#### **MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA: NUDIBRANCHIA**

##### **Grey Sea Slug *Jorunna tomentosa* agg.**

30 Mar – Photograph from the Landing Bay (Rosie Ellis). Not recorded by L.A. Harvey. Brown & Hunnam (1977) suggested that: "The ten species listed below [included *J. tomentosa*] are well known in recent years from nearby localities [but not Lundy] and could be expected in future collections from Lundy". [The genus needs more research, thus the 'agg.' following the species name (pers. comm. Bernard Picton).]

##### **Green moss snail *Palio nothus***

28 May – Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones). Not Recorded by L.A. Harvey.

#### **PLATYHELMINTHES: POLYCLADIDA**

##### **A flatworm *Leptoplana tremellaris***

30 Apr – under a boulder (Dean Jones). Recorded by L.A. Harvey as "common under stones".

#### **BRYOZOA**

##### **Red Ripple Bryozoan *Watersipora subatra***

27 May – Several colonies at the back of a small cave at about lower mid-shore level on the north side of Rat Island. A non-native species and the first record for Lundy (Keith Hiscock).

#### **References**

Reference to observations by L.A. Harvey in the late 1940s and early 1950s were collated from record cards and logbook entries.

**Brown, G.H. and Hunnam, P.J. 1977.** Lundy Marine Fauna: Opisthobranchia. *Report of the Lundy Field Society for 1976*: 27, 37-47.

## ATLANTIC GREY SEAL *HALICHOERUS GRYPUS* POPULATION AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES IN 2021

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Rosie Ellis, Lucy Mortlock, Chloe Woolfenden, Eleanor Grover and Dean Jones  
(warden@lundyisland.co.uk)

*A record-breaking year with 244 seals counted and 62 pups born with a minimum of six white coat fatalities, in line with last year's 10%. Entanglement was recorded in at least three instances, down from last year. Issues with disturbance were of increasing concern with vastly increased water sports as Covid-19 restrictions relaxed. Six instances of disturbance were witnessed during full island surveys with kayaks from 'Bluefin' flushing four sub-sites in one day, one unidentified boat disturbing but not flushing a pregnant female and a group of ten people causing flushing at Brazen Ward, presumably guests of the island itself. Any possible ill effects from this disturbance are not currently being seen in terms of overall numbers but could be causing a shift away from Brazen Ward, with reduced numbers hauled out here compared to lockdown years (24 in 2021 compared with 56 in 2020).*

The Atlantic Grey seal population has been monitored annually on Lundy since 2011 and to a varying degree beforehand. Previously, the surveys have been carried out by the Conservation Team throughout the breeding season in order to understand the distribution, population dynamics and productivity of this iconic Lundy mammal (Jones 2017). In 2016 the survey method was reviewed to enable the data collected at Lundy to contribute to wider seal population assessments, such as the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) national seal surveys.

The highest count of seals within the survey period was on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, 244 (124 females, 50 males, 31 Juveniles and 39 animals of undetermined sex). This constitutes the highest number of Atlantic Grey Seals to be recorded around Lundy's shores (the previous highest count was 239 animals in August 2011). This is 26 more animals than the highest count of 2020. The survey was conducted by Chloe Woolfenden, Dean Jones and Eleanor Grover, with three surveyors rather than the usual one or two possibly reducing the chance of seals being missed, and there may be an effect or increased survey effort. Even after taking this into account the population of Atlantic Grey seals on Lundy is thriving.

*Atlantic Grey Seals, Mousehole & Trap, 11<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*







*The Seal Team. Left to right: Lucy Mortlock, Matt Stritch, Chloe Woolfenden, Adam Waters, Rosie Ellis, Dean Jones and Eleanor Grover.*

Similar to the surveys of 2017-2020, the majority of animals around the island within each survey were females, with some of those, from observational notes, showing obvious signs of pregnancy in some of the popular haul-out areas, especially at the start of the land-based surveys. After the largest 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 the South West after conditioning themselves in Lundy waters. Unlike other years, there was no increase in males around the island by mid-September compared to the start of August. It had been hypothesised that males were possibly turning up later than females to patrol beaches and females in order to conceive next year's pups; however this year the highest male count was 50 on the record breaking 11<sup>th</sup> August count, with numbers falling throughout the year.

As stated in previous reports, the distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather and sea state. From observations at times when the winds came directly from the east, animals seemed to move off from some of the more popular haul-outs, e.g. Rat and Mouse Islands, and numbers observed were lower with a total of 74 animals visible on the 25<sup>th</sup> August during easterly winds.

The highest number of animals hauled out in the 46 sub-sections (Jones 2017) within the survey period was again from Threewall Bay; here 55 individuals were counted hauled out on the rocks within the bay during a day of light WNW winds.

A record-breaking 62 pups were recorded this year; 12 more than in 2020. The first pup was sighted on White Beach on 21<sup>st</sup> August, just under a month later than the first pup of 2020 and 2019, and more in line with first sighting dates of 2018 (18<sup>th</sup> August from Ladies Beach) and 2017 (8<sup>th</sup> August at White Beach). Unfortunately there were at least six dead pups sighted, the majority spotted at the beginning and end of the season. This is one pup fatality sighting higher than last year but roughly in line percentage wise (9.68%).

This however is still an underestimate of the overall productivity for Lundy, as there would be many more pups present hidden within the island's inaccessible sea caves throughout the season. No boat survey was conducted this year, which enabled an extra four pups to be counted in 2019.

The last white-coat pup to be recorded was on 21<sup>st</sup> October from the Landing Bay, 24 days earlier than the last of 2019, 17 days earlier than the last of 2018 and two days later than that of 2017, giving a relatively short but productive pupping season this year.

At least three records of entanglement were recorded in 2021 (8 in 2020, 3 in 2019 and 6 in 2018), one particularly bad one involving a gill net. Unfortunately, despite the distress caused to seals, there is nothing the Conservation Team can do to free seals in these circumstances.

Issues with disturbance were of increasing concern, with vastly increased water sports as Covid-19 restrictions relaxed. Six instances of disturbance were witnessed during full island surveys, with kayaks from *Bluefin* flushing four sub-sites in one day; one unidentified boat disturbing but not flushing a pregnant female; and a group of ten people causing flushing at Brazen Ward, presumably guests of the island itself. Any possible ill effects from this disturbance is not currently being seen in terms of overall numbers but could be causing a shift away from Brazen Ward, with reduced numbers hauled out here compared to lockdown years (24 in 2021, compared with 56 in 2020).

The new accreditation scheme is now live and certification can be gained by completing training modules and associated quizzes on a Google Classroom. To enrol see [www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/accreditation-scheme](http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/accreditation-scheme).

## Photo identification

A total of ten Lundy animals were re-identified from photographs taken in the 2021 season (some 110 animals were photographed by the Conservation Team in 2020), including seven breeding females and one beach-master from previous surveys. Additionally, two tagged animals were released after rehabilitation). More re-sightings will be added to this year's list as photo albums are reviewed throughout the year. For details and methods on seal photo identification, please refer to the Cornwall Seal Group and Research Trust website (CSGRT 2019).

## Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to all who submitted seal counts and disturbance records in 2021. Special thanks to for all their hard work, determination and skill in finding every last pup.

Finally, a massive thank you to Sue Sayer, Kate Williams, Marion Beaulieu, Rob Wells and all of the volunteers from the Cornwall Seal Group and Research Trust for all their amazing work with regards to training volunteers, taking and processing masses of photographs for the island's identification catalogue and for their general and endless kindness and passion for these wonderful marine mammals.

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## FRESHWATER FISHES

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Compiled by Jennifer George

Only two records of **Golden Orfe**, *Leuciscus idus*, in the Lundy Quarry pond were made in 2021. There were 17 Golden Orfe in July (Alan & Sandra Rowland) and 8 were seen there in October (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

In the Rocket Pole Pond in early June, Dean Jones observed **Mirror Carp**, *Cyprinus carpio*, spawning amongst the water plants (see photo). The yellow fertilized eggs are attached to plants and they hatch in 3-6 days. Young fish, if they are not cannibalised by older fish, reach maturity in 3-5 years.

As stated previously, there has been no detailed population study of the fish in the Lundy ponds except for some monitoring of the Mirror Carp in the Rocket Pole Pond.

It would be helpful if visitors and staff would record numbers of fish seen in the LFS Logbook, particularly in Quarry Pond where Golden Orfe and **Crucian Carp**, *Carassius carassius*, occur, and in Rocket Pole Pond where an apparently large population of Mirror Carp exists.



*Spawning Mirror Carp in  
Rocket Pole Pond, 5<sup>th</sup> June  
(photo: Dean Jones).*

## REPTILES, LAND MAMMALS AND BATS

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Compiled by Chris Dee

### Introduced Reptiles

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but **Slow-worms** *Anguis fragilis* of uncertain origin are present. Previously thought to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland in November 2010, new information has recently come to light to suggest that they were present as early as 2000. A search of records held by the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) has revealed that National Trust working parties reported Slow-worms on Lundy in 2000 and 2001. It has not been possible to track down the people who submitted these records, nor the precise dates or locations. The records are given the central grid reference of the island, which does not necessarily mean that they were found near Ponsbury. If any member of a National Trust party on Lundy between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2000 or in May or September 2001, has further information, we would be delighted to hear from you.

In 2021, there were records between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> September and a further late record on 24 November. Most previous records have been confined to Millcombe and St John's Valley,



*Slow-worm, 30<sup>th</sup> July (photo: Richard Twitchett).*

where the initial introduction was thought to have occurred, but this year they were also reported from the Old Light, Pondsburry, the Upper East Side Path and the Terrace.

To help track the spread of this species across Lundy, members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS Logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern.

### **Native Land Mammals**

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal, the **Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus* which is widely distributed across the island and can be found throughout the year. It is probably associated with most properties; this year it has been reported from the Castle properties, Bramble Villa East, Millcombe House, Hammers, Quarters, Big St Johns, The Old School and the Tavern. The species is also found away from human habitation and with visitor numbers returning to normal, there have been sightings at Aztec Bay on the west coast and Tibbetts Point and the Terrace on the east side.

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*. Single sightings of unidentified species were recorded on 16<sup>th</sup> May at Quarry Pond (B Arkless) and on 7<sup>th</sup> June in the village (Chris & Carol Baillie). Two Common Pipistrelles were also around the village on 3<sup>rd</sup> August on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> September, four or five Common Pipistrelles were seen and identified by bat detector feeding in Millcombe (P Atkin & I Sterns).

### **Introduced Land Mammals**

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. Due to COVID-19 restrictions it was not possible to undertake the planned island-wide stock count in March, nor was the April cull possible. Estimates from the Conservation Team have been provided, but numbers of all species remain high due to the reduced control measures. Culls were carried out in September and October and it is hoped that the regular schedule can be restored in 2022. The early spring surveys normally 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.

The stock level of **Sika Deer** *Cervus nippon* was estimated at 150 in March (Dean Jones, Rosie Ellis). Double-figure counts of up to 49 were reported from the Tillage Field in May and there



were up to 42 on the East Side in November. A planned cull in April could not take place but four stags were culled in October.



The stock level of **Soay Sheep** *Ovis aries* in March was estimated at 320-350 individuals (Dean Jones, Rosie Ellis). The first lamb (photo by Dean Jones) was reported on 21<sup>st</sup> March and the only other count in the log-book was of 130 in Middle Park on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Thirty-six rams and 16 ewes were culled in September and a further nine rams and 16 ewes were removed in October.

**Goats** *Capra aegagrus* continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. Nevertheless, 31 were reported

in South West Field on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct (Alan & Sandra Rowland). The estimated population in March was 55-65 (Dean Jones, Rosie Ellis) and 42 were counted in Middle Park and the North End on 17<sup>th</sup> May (Alan & Sandra Rowland). The culls in September and October reduced the population by five billies and four nannies.

**Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus* numbers remain low as a result of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease or Myxomatosis) although there are signs of a slow recovery. Individuals or small groups were reported from seven locations across the island; the enclosed fields near the village, Pilot's Quay, Devil's Slide, Gannets' Coombe, St Mark's slope, South West Point and the Terrace. All records of this formerly common species would be welcome to allow its status to be assessed.

## FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

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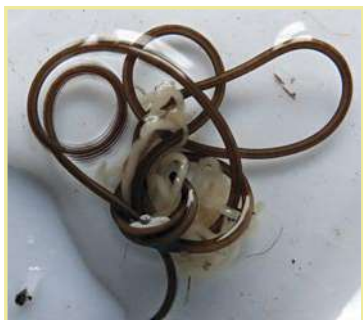
*Compiled by Jennifer George*

In 2021 all of the records of freshwater invertebrates, apart from one in the LFS Logbook, emanated from the research of Alan Rowland. He has been continuing his surveys of Brambles Pond, St John's Stream and the Millcombe streams, with also some recording from Pondsbury, Quarter Wall and Quarry Ponds. Thirty-five different species were identified from these freshwater habitats.

Brambles Pond which was excavated by the Lundy Conservation Team in October 2019 is beginning to develop a diverse community of organisms with worms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects all represented. The mollusc **Jenkins Spire Shell** *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* is the dominant organism present with over 300 being found in November. This species has obviously entered from St John's Stream where it is also very abundant. Three different **midge larvae**, the non-biting midge (Family Chironomidae), **Trickle Midge** (Family Thaumaleidae) and Meniscus midge (Family Dixidae) occur also in the pond. **Flatworms**, *Phagocata vitta*, and the small grey flatworm, *Bothriomesostoma personatum*, were also found.

St John's stream, Millcombe stream in the gardens, and the Millcombe cascade contained representatives from many different invertebrate groups. **Flatworms**, particularly *Phagocata vitta*, occurred in all three habitats, and the black *Polycelis nigra* and two very small Microturbellaria, *Microstomum* and *Rhynchomesostoma*, were found in St John's stream near Square Cottage.

**Horsehair** or **Hair worms**, Nematomorpha, were found in November in the cascade and Millcombe stream. One large individual was recorded on Millcombe path in January 2021 (LFS Logbook, Tess Footitt). These poorly known worms can reach up to 20cm in length but are often less than 1mm in



diameter. Adults enter shallow waters to breed. Females attach their eggs in strings of jelly to water plants (see photo) and their tiny larvae emerge and find their way into insect hosts which can be aquatic or terrestrial (often grasshoppers and beetles). The worms grow in the body of the host and when fully formed compel their host, if terrestrial, to seek out water (mechanism unknown). The adults then emerge, mate, females lay eggs and then they die.

*A female horsehair worm (Nematocera) with strings of jelly in which eggs are attached to water plants (photo: Alan Rowland).*

The segmented **Square-tailed Worm** *Eiseniella tetraedra* which occurred in the Millcombe stream and Cascade is a new record for Lundy. It lives in mud under plant roots or stones in fast flowing waters and has been found in Cornish rivers.

Other mollusc species besides the ubiquitous Jenkins Spire Shell, occur in the streams, e.g. the **Wandering Snail** *Lymnaea peregra* in the Millcombe cascade and Millcombe and St John's streams. The crustacean **Water Slater** *Proasellus meridianus* which is found in many of the Lundy freshwater habitats, occurred often in large numbers in the streams and Ostracod Seed Shrimps were found in St John's stream at Brambles and near Square Cottage.

Insect larvae were well represented in the streams and ponds in 2021. In July and early August there were several records in the Logbook of many adult dragon and damselflies flying around the ponds. The **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* was seen at the Quarter Wall and Quarry Ponds and many at Pondsburry where its larvae (nymphs) were found in the water. At Quarter Wall Pond the **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* was seen ovipositing in early July.

**Water Bugs**, Hemiptera, were not common in the streams, but the **Water Cricket** *Velia caprai* was found in the Millcombe cascade and St John's stream. However several water bugs were found in Pondsburry in July, for example the very small *Plea minutissima*, which swims on its back and is less powerful and more jerky than its smooth-swimming relative the **Water Boatman** *Notonecta glauca* that also was found.

A notable find by Alan Rowland in Pondsburry, and a new record for Lundy, was the **Water Stick Insect** *Ranatra linearis* (pictured below). This species, that can be 35 mm in length, has a long breathing tube and raptorial forelegs. It lurks motionless among water plants, waiting like a Praying Mantis, for its prey to swim by.

*Emperor Dragonfly ovipositing at Quarter Wall Pond and (right) Water Stick Insect Ranatra linearis showing the long breathing siphon and raptorial fore legs (photos: Alan Rowland).*



Caseless **caddis fly** larvae, *Diplectroma felix* and *Wormaldia occipitalis*, were found in the Millcombe cascade. Both larvae spin nets which they attach to stones to catch their food. St John's stream also harboured the net-spinning caddis *Plectrocnemia conspersa*.

A caddis larva with a case (Family Limnephilidae), *Micropterna sequax*, that had been recorded by Long in 1993, but not again until 2021, was found in the streams and cascade. This caddis normally constructs a curved case of small stones (see photo). However, one specimen had a case of plant material. The larvae graze on plants but some predation can occur. Adults can be seen from May to November and have been recorded on Lundy previously by Tony Parsons.



*The Caddis larva Micropterna sequax in its curved case of small stones (photo: Alan Rowland).*

**Beetles** (Coleoptera) of the diving beetle Dytiscidae family were found in larval form in St John's stream, whereas the adult Dytiscid, *Hydroporus*, were found in Brambles Pond. In July, the surface-dwelling Whirligig Beetle *Gyrinus* sp. was seen zooming around in circles on Quarter Wall Pond. They can dive in pursuit of prey and have their eyes divided into two parts, one for aerial and one for aquatic vision.

*A full list of all species can be found on the LFS website. Alan Rowland would like to record his thanks to Dr Ian Wallace who identified the Micropterna caddis larva and confirmed identification of the other caddis species found.*

## TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

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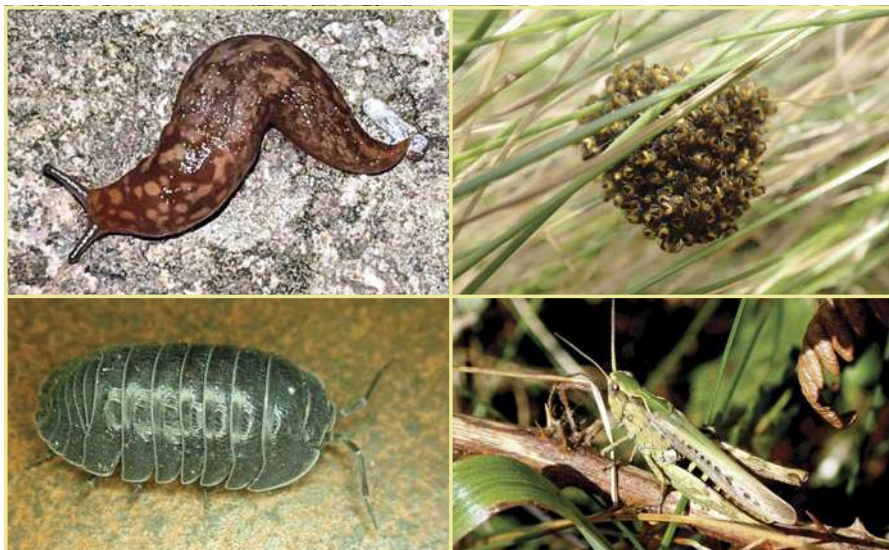
*Compiled by Alan Rowland, except where stated otherwise*

The number of records appears smaller than last year's list. The effects of Covid restrictions were compounded by the departure of our last Warden, Dean Jones. The combination of these two events has, and will no doubt, affect the breadth and quantity of invertebrate records.

The following records do however reflect those species seen regularly by those who visit Lundy, as well as including a few new records. Records are almost wholly from the LFS Logbook, but are supplemented by those entered online into iRecord which has 208 Lundy records from 2021.

### Slugs and Snails Gastropoda

Terrestrial slugs and snail were reported around the island but mainly in the village and Millcombe. No new species were reported but three species of snail: **Two-toothed Snail** *Clausilia bidentata*, **Garden Snail** *Cornu aspersum* and **Brown-lipped Snail** *Cepaea nemoralis* were reported together with four species of slug: **Black Slug** *Arion ater* agg., **Tree Slug** *Lehmanna marginata*, **Leopard Slug** *Limax maximus* (pictured opposite) and **Green Cellar Slug** *Limacus maculatus*.



Clockwise from top left: Leopard Slug (photo: Richard Breese), Garden Spiderlings, Field Grasshopper and Pill Woodlouse (photos: Alan Rowland).

### Spiders, Harvestmen and Mites Arachnidae

The usual species were reported during the year including a typical spiderling aggregation of immature **Garden Spiders** *Araneus diadematus* (pictured above) as well as adult **Cellar Spider** *Pholcus phalangioides* and **Nursery Web Spider** *Pisaura mirabilis*. Not so usual were the **Common Sun Jumper** *Heliophanus cupreus* and the second record of the **Two-clawed Hunting Spider** *Cheiracanthium erraticum* – the first record was by C A Howe in 1996.

### Woodlice, Millipedes and Centipedes Myriapoda

Woodlice and centipedes reported have all been previously recorded on the island and comprised; **Ant Woodlouse**, *Platyarthus hofmanseggii*, **Shiny Woodlouse**, *Oniscus asellus*, and **Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillidium vulgare* (pictured above), and three centipedes Western Yellow Centipede, *Haplophilus subterraneus*, *Cryptops hortensis* and **Banded Centipede**, *Lithobius variegatus* from various locations between May and October. Professor Twitchett and his son spent the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July on the island looking for centipedes and made a useful list of five species.

### Grasshoppers and Crickets Orthoptera

Compiled by Malcom Lee

Three species have been reported this year:

**Speckled Bush Cricket**, *Leptophyes punctatissima*. Steve Banner reported the following locations: Millcombe Valley, path down to Quarry Beach, and below Timekeeper's Hut, all on 9<sup>th</sup> August; Alan & Sandra Rowland reported one in Millcombe in July and another in October near Government House.

**Field Grasshopper** *Chorthippus brunneus* (pictured above). Steve Banner found large numbers by Quarter Wall Cottages, one at Threequarter Wall, and two at the Campsite, all on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Alan & Sandra Rowland also recorded this species on the Upper East Side Path on 25<sup>th</sup> August, as did Paul Holt by the letterbox above Quarry Pond on 11<sup>th</sup> October.





*Parallel-sided Beetle, Abax parallelepipedus* (photo: Kit & Jonny) and (right) the Carrion beetle *Silpha tristis* (photo: Alan Rowland).

**Common Earwig**, *Forficula auricularia*. Alan & Sandra Rowland reported this species from Jenny's Cove on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

### True Bugs Hemiptera

The common **Gorse Shieldbug** *Piezodorus lituratus* was recorded throughout the year as well as two occurrences of the less common (on Lundy at least) **Red-legged Shieldbug** *Pentatoma rufipes*. A **Meadow Froghopper** *Philaenus spumarius* was recorded again and a second recording of *Evacanthus interruptus*, a leafhopper only recorded before in 1993. This is a striking leafhopper which was unfortunately too quick for a photograph.

Other Hemiptera are reported under Freshwater Invertebrates, including one species new to Lundy, bringing the total up to 122 species.

### Beetles Coleoptera (see also under *Freshwater Invertebrates*)

Many of the usual species have been seen and recorded this year but two species new to Lundy have been identified.

Ground beetles were represented by **Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris* (quite a few sightings) and a single **Parallel-sided Beetle** *Abax parallelepipedus* (pictured above) by "Kit & Jonny" (surname not provided). Amongst the Carrion beetles, Dean Jones, again, recorded the **Shore Sexton Beetle** *Necrodes littoralis* twice; others were the usual **Black Snail Beetle** *Silpha atrata* and a new species for Lundy *S. tristis*. This was a sighting of a larva predating a Common Garden Snail (pictured above). The larva is uniquely identifiable. *Silpha* species larvae are entirely black except in the case of *S. tristis* which, as can be seen in the photo, has brown edges. Other Carrion beetles were mothtrap intruders *Nicrophorus humator* and *N. investigator*, both Sexton beetles.

Rove beetles were represented by a single sighting of one species, *Staphylinus erythropterus*.

The biggest group of sightings were the Dung or Dor beetles, a few **Minotaur Beetles** *Typhaeus typhoeus* in May and October with a single *Geotrupes spiniger* and many **Dor Beetles** *G. stercorarius* – totalling 30 entries throughout the year.

The Scarab beetles were, once again, comprised of twenty sightings of the charismatic **Rosechafer**, *Cetonia aurata*, between May and August and a single **Brown Chafer**, *Serica brunnea*.



*Psilothrix viridicoeruleus* (photo: Lisa Leaver), Wasp Beetle and (right) St Mark's Fly (photos: Alan Rowland).

The Exeter University field trip in May recorded *Psilothrix viridicoeruleus* (pictured above), a soft-winged flower beetle not sighted since 1961.

There was only one sighting of a Click beetle, one of our regulars, *Athous haemorrhoidalis*. In July the **Common Red Soldier Beetles** *Rhagonycha fulva* were out in force as were **Sulphur Beetles** *Cteniopos sulphureus*.

**Black Oil Beetles** *Meloe proscarabaeus* were seen again along the south coast from the Castle to Benjamin's Chair in April and May.

A few Weevils were recorded, both the **Vine Weevil** *Otiorhynchus sulcatus* and the endemic **Lundy Cabbage Leaf Weevil** *Ceutorhynchus contractus* var. *pallipes* during the Cabbage Count.

Seed and leaf beetles recorded were *Chrysolina banksii* and the star of the year the first ever Longhorn beetle, the **Wasp Beetle** *Clytus arietis*, not previously recorded on Lundy (see photo). This beetle lives for a couple of years as a larva in wood so may have been transported here in imported timber.

The sightings of two new species of beetle increased the total number of species recorded on Lundy to 425 and also increases the number of beetle families by one to 38.

## True Flies Diptera

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Again, no specialist dipterists recorded on Lundy in 2021, and 38 records of 19 species (plus a couple of flies only identified to genus) was a drop after the nearly 40 species recorded in 2020. **Hoverflies** (Syrphidae) led the way with eight species recorded and included *Meliscaeva auricollis* and *Paragus haemorrhous* which were last recorded on the island in 1997 and 1986 respectively. After 2020's bumper year for **Craneflies** (Tipulidae), just three species were recorded in 2021. As in 2020 there was a new **Soldier Fly** (Stratiomyidae) among the three species noted. **St Mark's Fly** *Bibio marci* (pictured above), which is so familiar on the mainland, appears to be new for Lundy, with sightings by two different recorders on 14<sup>th</sup> May. Two species of **Parasite Fly** (Tachinidae) included three sightings of the regular *Tachina grossa*, and the first Lundy record of *Epicampocera succincta*. New species for the island, including one late addition from 2020, were:

\**Bibio marci* (Bibionidae): Millcombe 14<sup>th</sup> May (AR).

\**Epicampocera succincta* (Tachinidae): collected near Brambles 29<sup>th</sup> June (SB).

\**Microchrysa flavicornis* (Stratiomyidae): swept from vegetation in Millcombe 27<sup>th</sup> June (SB).

\**Stenopteryx hirundinis* (Hippoboscidae): two from House Martin (different birds), Lundy Island, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Nik Ward (det. Denise Wawman).

The island Diptera total now stands at 475 species.

### Bees, Wasps & Ants Hymenoptera

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

The majority of the 29 records of Hymenoptera from Lundy in 2021 were of **Bumblebees** (Apidae), as was the case in 2020. Alan Rowland collected some wasp cocoons in October and sent them to Mark Shaw for identification; *Cotesia tibialis* (Braconidae) new for Lundy and *Lysibia nanus* (Ichneumonidae) emerged. Two **Sawflies** (Cimbicidae & Tenthredinidae) appear to be new for Lundy according to LFS records, although at least one of them is shown as present on the island on the NBN. After a blank year for Ants (Formicidae) in 2020, Sam Bosanquet collected a few during a visit in June resulting in records of four species of which two were new for the island. New species for the island were:

\**Abia fasciata* (Cimbicidae): Brambles 29<sup>th</sup> June (SB).

\**Cotesia tibialis* (Braconidae): emerged from cocoon collected at Quarterwall Pond 8<sup>th</sup> October (AR).

\**Fenusa dohrnii* (Tenthredinidae): mines on Alder in Secret Garden 30<sup>th</sup> July (DJ).

\**Lasius psammophilus* (Formicidae): collected from Beach Road 27<sup>th</sup> June (SB).

\**Myrmica rubra* (Formicidae): collected near Forgotten Heinkel 26<sup>th</sup> June (SB).

\**Odynerus spinipes* (Vespidae): Three Quarter Wall 7<sup>th</sup> June (C&CB)

The island Hymenoptera total now stands at 258 species.

### Dragonflies & Damselflies Odonata

Compiled by Tim Davis

Six species, including one new to Lundy, were recorded in 2021.

**Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – six records between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> August, at Pondsburry (max 15 on 7<sup>th</sup> July), Quarter Wall Pond and Rocket Pole Pond.

**Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans* – records on eight dates between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> August, at Pondsburry, Quarter Wall Pond and Rocket Pole Pond, with 20 adults and 20 nymphs at Pondsburry on 9<sup>th</sup> July, and a max of 78 adults there on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

*Male Emperor Dragonfly, Quarter Wall Pond, 30<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* – two records: one at Quarter Wall on 1<sup>st</sup> August and one quartering in upper Millcombe on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* – recorded on Lundy with increasing frequency; noted on 16 days between 15<sup>th</sup> June (one at Threequarter Wall) and 26<sup>th</sup> August (singles at Quarter Wall Pond and Rocket Pole Pond), with a max daily count of three on 7<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August. Other locations where seen were Pondsburry, Barton Pond, Quarters Pond, Quarry Pond, Brick Field Pond, Middle Park (presumably around the pond) and along the Terrace, the Upper East Side Path and the main track close to the Village. Females were ovipositing at Quarter Wall Pond on 8<sup>th</sup> July (one) and 4<sup>th</sup> August (two).

**Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* – records on four dates: one at Pondsburry, 9<sup>th</sup> July; singles along the Upper East Side Path and near Pondsburry, 26<sup>th</sup> July; two at Pondsburry, 2<sup>nd</sup> August; and a male over Brick Field Pond, 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* – Lundy's first records involved single males at Pondsburry on 5<sup>th</sup> July (Dean Jones) and 2<sup>nd</sup> August (Paul Holt).

### Caddis Flies Trichoptera

Four aquatic larvae of Trichoptera are reported in the *Freshwater Invertebrates* section (pp.114-115). Three of them are caseless caddis, Hydropsychidae, *Diplectrona felix*: no adults have been identified so far; Philopotamidae, *Wormaldia occipitalis*: adult recorded in 1986; Polycentropodidae, *Plectrocnemia conspersa*: no adults recorded so far, and one cased caddis, a Limnephilid, *Micropterna sequax*: an adult recorded in 1987. We depend on our moth recorders for 'moth trap intruders' to add to the paucity of adult caddis recorded on Lundy.

*Thanks are due to the people listed below who have submitted records in the logbook which have been extracted for this report and submitted to iRecord. Kit & Jonny, Jay Ashford, Chris & Carol Baillie, Steve Banner, Sam Bosanquet, D, H & N Boyer, Richard Breese, J Cayford, Katy Chapman, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Mandy Dee, Rosie Ellis, Jade Angeles Fitton, Tess Fotitt, Andrew Higginson, Kay Chapman & Lisa Leaver, Jacki, Nicole & Paul Holt, Dean Woodfin Jones & Zoe Barton, Zena Lyner, Stephen O'Donnell, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Richard & Rachel Taylor, Tony Taylor, Prof R J & K W Twitchett, and Carol Waring.*

*Male Black-tailed Skimmer, Pondsburry, 5<sup>th</sup> July (photo: Dean Jones).*







*Copulating Small Heath butterflies, Grayling and Common Blue (photos: Dean Jones).*

## Butterflies Lepidoptera

*Compiled by Anthony John*

2021 was a poor year for butterflies on Lundy. Although **Small Heath** and **Common Blue** were seen in better numbers compared with 2020, numbers of most other species were yet again down. It was another very poor year for **Small White**, **Peacock** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. There were no early butterfly records; the first was a Peacock seen on 17<sup>th</sup> March, and the last was a Small Tortoiseshell seen on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Just three species of scarcer butterflies were noted in 2021. **Grayling** were recorded on 14 days between 4<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August, maximum 15 on 14<sup>th</sup> July; single **Gatekeepers** were recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August; and **Holly Blues** were seen on two dates in April, one on 13<sup>th</sup>, and two on 16<sup>th</sup>. However, there were no records of Orange-tip, Clouded Yellow, Wall Brown, Speckled Wood or Comma in 2021.

**First & last dates, maxima and number of butterfly-days for common butterflies in 2021**

| Species             | First date | Last date | Maximum count & date  | Butterfly-days 2021 | Butterfly-days 2020 |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Large White         | 18 Apr     | 20 Sep    | 20 on 9 Sep           | 97                  | 116                 |
| Small White         | 13 Apr     | 15 Oct    | 8 on 2 Aug            | 32                  | 182                 |
| Green-veined White  | 16 Apr     | 11 Oct    | 12 on 6 Aug           | 158                 | 214                 |
| Small Heath         | 16 May     | 20 Sep    | 75 on 4 Jun           | 408                 | 237                 |
| Ringlet             | 5 Jul      | 4 Aug     | 2 on 16 Jul           | 8                   | 21                  |
| Meadow Brown        | 12 Jun     | 3 Sep     | 79 on 29 Jul          | 954                 | 1,243               |
| Red Admiral         | 31 Mar     | 17 Nov    | 40 on 20 Sep & 14 Oct | 812                 | 801                 |
| Painted Lady        | 24 May     | 17 Oct    | 7 on 15 Oct           | 52                  | 27                  |
| Peacock             | 17 Mar     | 14 Oct    | 2 on 3 dates          | 14                  | 32                  |
| Small Tortoiseshell | 31 Mar     | 24 Nov    | 5 on 4 Aug            | 31                  | 104                 |
| Small Copper        | 12 May     | 17 Oct    | 4 on 15 Oct           | 22                  | 30                  |
| Common Blue         | 30 Apr     | 12 Sep    | 10 on 7 Jun           | 97                  | 48                  |

## Moths Lepidoptera

Compiled by Anthony John

In 2021, 208 different species of moths were recorded on Lundy (cf. 227 in 2020), 71 'micro' moths and 137 'macro' moths. Twelve species and one genus were new for the island, seven micro-moths and six macro-moths (see below). The Heath trap was deployed on 24 dates in Millcombe, three in May, nine in June, four in both July and August, one in September and three in October; it was also used once in June in Paradise Row. Elsewhere traps were deployed occasionally at Old Light and Square Cottage.

Species new to Lundy in 2021 were (in checklist order) seven micro-moths: *Incurvaria oehlmanniella*, *Bryotropha terrella*, *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana*, Willow Tortrix *Epinotia cruciana*, *Gypsonoma dealbana*, *Donacaula forficella*, *Amphipoea* sp; six macro-moths: **Privet Hawkmoth** *Sphinx ligustri* (three records), **Small Dusty Wave** *Idaea seriata*, **Great Prominent** *Peridea anceps*, **Slender Brindle** *Apamea scolopacina*, **Purple Clay** *Diarsia brunnea* and **Double Square-spot** *Xestia triangulum*.

The following moths were recorded for only the second time on Lundy (in checklist order). Micro-moths: *Anacampsis populella* (first recorded in 2020), *Teleiopsis diffinis* (2011), *Batrachedra praeangusta* (2020), *Elachista atricomella* (2018), *Acleris hastiana* (2011), *Notocelia roborana* (1995) and **Garden Pebble** *Evergestis forficalis* (2018). Macro-moths: **Lunar Hornet Moth** *Sesia bembeciformis* (2020), **Red-green Carpet** *Chloroclysta siterata* (2006), **Tawny Speckled Pug** *Eupithecia icterata* (2018), **Grass Emerald** *Pseudoterpna pruinata* (2018), **Pinion-streaked Snout** *Schrankia costaeistrigalis* (2020); **Dark Spectacle** *Abrostola triplasia* (2020), **Burnished Brass** *Diachrysis chrysitis* (first recorded by Carpenter in 1943!), **Beautiful Golden Y** *Autographa pulchrina* (2010), **Red-line Quaker** *Agrochola lota* (2006) and **Tawny Shears** *Hadena perplexa* (2012).

On 16<sup>th</sup> May a **Great Prominent** (new for Lundy) was trapped at Old Light Lower. A **Bordered Straw** *Heliethris peltigera*, an immigrant moth, was seen at Brazen Ward on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Seven **Thrift Clearwing** moths *Synansphecia muscaeformis* were noted near North Light on 12<sup>th</sup> June. On 16<sup>th</sup> June a **Mullein Moth** *Cucullia verbasci* caterpillar was observed feeding on figwort in Millcombe. After the first island record on 16<sup>th</sup> June, a second **Privet Hawkmoth** was in the Millcombe Heath Trap (MHT) on 21<sup>st</sup>, together with 14 **Barrett's Marbled Coronet** *Hadena luteago*; this latter species is confined to the north and south coasts of Devon and Cornwall, coastal west Wales, the south coast of Ireland and the Channel Isles. Three Nationally Rare/scarcely species were recorded in the MHT in June: **Thyme Pug** *Eupithecia distinctaria*, **Devonshire Wainscot** *Leucania putrescens* and *Nothris congressariella*. It was a very poor year for **Humming-bird Hawk-moths** *Macroglossum stellatarum*, with only two singles in June. Two species caught in the MHT on 29<sup>th</sup> June – **Grass Emerald** and **Beautiful Golden Y** – were second records for Lundy.

An adult **Lunar Hornet Moth** was seen in 'Rüppell's Quarry' on 5<sup>th</sup> July (empty pupal cases were found nearby in 2020). Two days later c.50 *Glyphipterix thrasonella* were abundant along the edge of Pondsburry, together with three **Willow Tortrix** (new for Lundy), one of which was a rare unicolour form. Four **Brown China-marks** *Elophila nymphaeata* were noted at Pondsburry on 9<sup>th</sup> July. On 11<sup>th</sup> July the MHT caught *Bryotropha terrella* and **Double Square-spot**, both new for Lundy. The next day in 'Rüppell's

First & last dates & maxima for selected day-flying moths in 2021

| Day-flying moths        | Recorded on | First date | Last date | Maximum count & date |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Emperor Moth            | 7 days      | 16 Apr     | 6 Jun     | 3 on 17 Apr          |
| Humming-bird Hawk-moth  | 2 days      | 7 Jun      | 15 Jun    | 1 on 7 & 15 Jun      |
| Silver Y                | 28 days     | 30 Mar     | 17 Oct    | 7 on 15 & 16 Sep     |
| Fox Moth (caterpillars) | 33 days     | 3 Jun      | 25 Nov    | 25 on 14 Oct         |

Quarry' *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana* and *Gypsonoma dealbana* were observed, as well as *Incurvaria oehlmanniella* on the Upper East Side Path; all three micros are new to Lundy. A **White Plume Moth** *Pterophorus pentadactyla* observed in the Marisco Tavern on 28<sup>th</sup> July was only the third Lundy record.

**Six-spot Burnet Moths** *Zygaena filipendulae* were only recorded from 26-30<sup>th</sup> July, maximum 35 on 29<sup>th</sup> July; just two single **Five-spot Burnet Moths** *Zygaena trifolii* were seen in Millcombe and at Ackland's Moor in July. There were two very late records of **Mottled Beauty** *Alcis repandata* and **Buff Ermine** *Spilosoma luteum*, as well as the second island record of **Tawny Speckled Pug**, in the MHT on 6<sup>th</sup> September. There were second island records for two moths in mid-October in Millcombe – **Red-green Carpet** and **Red-line Quaker**.

Only seven species of migrant moths were recorded in 2021 (cf. 10 in 2020): **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella*, **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis*, **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella*, **Humming-bird Hawk-moth**, **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*, **Bordered Straw** and **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon*.

Thanks to the following observers who recorded butterflies and/or moths in 2021: Dean Jones, Ben Arkless, Andrew Cleave, Andrew & Nicola Cornick, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Mandy Dee, Bart Donato, Stephen O'Donnell, David Price, David Rowe, Alan & Sandra Rowland, and Alice Waterfield. Thanks are due to Dean Woodfin Jones for his tireless efforts to record every moth that moves on Lundy!

### Reference

Carpenter, G. D. H. 1943. New records of insects and woodlice from Lundy Island. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 79, 121-123.

Clockwise from top left: Mullein Moth caterpillar, Privet Hawk-moth, Grass Emerald, Burnished Brass (the first record since 1943), Brown China-mark (photos: Dean Jones) and Knot Grass (photo: Steve O'Donnell).







*The western slopes awash with sea pinks, 29<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*

## FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

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*Compiled by Andrew Cleave*

In another year of partial restrictions, visitor numbers were a bit patchy early in the season, but a number of interesting botanical records were entered in the LFS Logbook or sent to the Warden.

Records were submitted of all the common and showy species on the island, with the first **Lundy Cabbage** *Coincya wrightii* flowers noted in early May. However, there were also records submitted of what was called Lundy Cabbage spotted flowering in odd places and at the wrong time of year. These turned out to be records of **Perennial Wall-rocket** *Diplotaxis tenuifolia*, presumably a garden escape or perhaps a bird-seed alien. These plants have now been removed to prevent further spread.

An exploration of Montagu Steps produced some good records of coastal species tolerant of exposed conditions, such as **Common Scurvy-grass** *Cochlearia officinalis*, **Thrift** *Armeria maritima* **Buck's-horn Plantain** *Plantago coronopus*, **Rock Sea-spurrey** *Spergularia rupicola* and **English Stonecrop** *Sedum anglicum*. A combination of shallow soils, exposure and grazing produce the conditions in which these species can flourish; they also occur all along the exposed West Side, but are only recorded from accessible sites such as the Battery. Another species of this habitat which is frequently reported is **Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana* which sometimes grows in a very stunted form, looking unlike the illustrations in most floras. This was also reported from a number of locations, including Benjamin's Chair and the slopes above Pilot's Quay. The South Light compound was also very colourful with excellent displays of **Thyme** *Thymus polytrichus* and several species of clover, including **Knotted**





### Grasses Poaceae

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Heath Grass          | <i>Danthonia decumbens</i>      |
| Crested Dog's-tail   | <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>      |
| Tufted Hair-grass    | <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>    |
| Common Bent          | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>      |
| Creeping Bent        | <i>A. stolonifera</i>           |
| Brown Bent           | <i>A. vinealis</i>              |
| Silver Hair-grass,   | <i>Aira caryophylla</i>         |
| Early Hair-grass     | <i>A. praecox</i>               |
| Marsh Foxtail        | <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>   |
| Sweet Vernal Grass   | <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>    |
| False Oat-grass      | <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>    |
| Squirrel-tail Fescue | <i>Vulpia bromoides</i>         |
| Common Meadow-grass  | <i>Poa pratensis</i>            |
| Annual Meadow-grass  | <i>Poa annua</i>                |
| Rough Meadow-grass   | <i>Poa trivialis</i>            |
| Timothy Grass        | <i>Phleum pratense</i>          |
| Mat Grass            | <i>Nardus stricta</i>           |
| Common Cotton-grass  | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> |
| Purple Moor-grass    | <i>Molinia caerulea</i>         |
| Perennial Rye-grass  | <i>Lolium perenne</i>           |
| Yorkshire Fog        | <i>Holcus lanatus</i>           |
| Red Fescue           | <i>Festuca rubra</i>            |
| Common Couch         | <i>Elytrigia repens</i>         |
| Sea Fern-grass       | <i>Catapodium maritimum</i>     |
| Wood Small-reed      | <i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>   |
| Soft Brome           | <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>        |
|                      | ssp. <i>feronii</i>             |
| False Brome          | <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>  |

### Rushes Juncaceae

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sharp-flowered Rush | <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>   |
| Jointed Rush        | <i>Juncus articulatus</i>   |
| Toad Rush           | <i>Juncus bufonius</i>      |
| Compact Rush        | <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i> |
| Soft Rush           | <i>Juncus effusus</i>       |

### Wood-rushes Luzula

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Field Wood-rush | <i>Luzula campestris</i> |
| Heath Wood-rush | <i>Luzula multiflora</i> |

### Sedges Cyperaceae

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sand Sedge            | <i>Carex arenaria</i>    |
| Green-ribbed Sedge    | <i>Carex binervis</i>    |
| Spring Sedge          | <i>Carex caryophylla</i> |
| Common Yellow Sedge   | <i>Carex demissa</i>     |
| Star Sedge            | <i>Carex echinata</i>    |
| Glaucous Sedge        | <i>Carex flacca</i>      |
| Oval Sedge            | <i>Carex leporina</i>    |
| Prickly Sedge         | <i>Carex muricata</i>    |
| Common Sedge          | <i>Carex nigra</i>       |
| Carnation Sedge       | <i>Carex panicea</i>     |
| Greater Tussock Sedge | <i>Carex paniculata</i>  |
| Pill Sedge            | <i>Carex pilulifera</i>  |

### Spike-rushes and Club-rushes

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Many-stalked Spike-rush | <i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i> |
| Common Spike-rush       | <i>Eleocharis palustris</i>   |
| Floating Club-rush      | <i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>     |
| Bristle Club-rush       | <i>Isoplepis setacea</i>      |

*English Stonecrop (top) and Perennial Wall Rocket (photos: Alan Rowland).*



**Clover** *Trifolium striatum* which seems to be becoming scarce elsewhere on the island. Usually overlooked, two species of Mouse-ear were seen in abundance in the grassy areas at the South End and in the South Light compound: **Common Mouse-ear** *Cerastium fontanum* and **Sea Mouse-ear** *C. diffusum* were flowering well in mid-June.

Two new species of flowering plant were recorded for the island in June. A single plant of **Mugwort** *Artemisia vulgaris* was found near the church steps, and it is possible that this species may have previously occurred elsewhere on the island, such as on the grass verge near the covered yard. Also found near the church steps was one plant of **Fig-leaved Goosefoot** *Chenopodium ficifolium*. Sadly, both of these plants disappeared during a tidying-up session around the church late in the summer, but it is hoped that they may reappear close by. A management plan has been drawn up to care for the grassland surrounding the church which it is hoped will enhance the flora of this area.

Thanks to visits by Phil Collier and two Naturetrek groups, we were provided with quite detailed lists this year of grasses, sedges and rushes – see facing page.

*Small Adder's-tongue Fern*  
(photo: Andrew Cleave).



Records of ferns included a colony of **Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum* in short turf opposite the path to Tibbett's and other colonies near the Rocket Pole and in the usual sites in Middle Park. The colony of **Rusty-back Fern** *Asplenium ceterach* on the wall between the Blue Bung and St John's numbered 274 plants this year, although the small colony near Stoneycroft did not fare so well, having to compete with Brambles, Fuchsia and nettles. This species enjoys an open aspect and full sun, so any competition will harm it. The first unfurling fronds of **Royal Fern** *Osmunda regalis* were spotted in mid-May, and by June there were some splendid plants in the quarries. Lundy's rarest fern, **Wall Rue** *Asplenium ruta-muraria* is also still present with the newest colony on the wall opposite Barton Cottages increasing slightly. **Hard Fern** *Blechnum spicant* is also scarce on Lundy but two colonies persist, with the one in the quarries seemingly free from grazing pressure. **Hay-scented Buckler Fern** *Dryopteris aemula* did very well in 2021 with the small colonies near Jenny's Cove increasing slightly; the plants on the East Side always do well and are larger in stature, forming extensive colonies.

The problems with the invasive **Alexanders** *Smyrnium olustatum* in Millcombe continued as the plant was found in a few new locations, but the volunteer working parties continue to tackle some of the worst patches by cutting down the flowering stems early in the season. This is a very common species in coastal locations on the mainland and becomes dominant if not controlled. Lundy Cabbage would not compete well with this vigorous species if it were to spread beyond its current location under the trees in Millcombe and in Smelly Gully.

Thanks to the following who contributed records in the LFS Logbook: Zoë Barton, Phil Collier, Dean Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland, and Michael Williams.

## BRYOPHYTES (MOSSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS)

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Peter Martin visited Lundy in April 2021 and recorded 59 species of bryophyte over four days. The Nationally Scarce *Cephaloziella turneri* was a new species for the island, but even more remarkable was his collection of a *Didymodon* from the wall around Government House. He identified this as *D. tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus* (Martin 2021): an identification subsequently confirmed by European expert Jan Kucera. This was the first British record of this taxon, which is sometimes regarded as a distinct species, although there are 14 previous Lundy records of *D. tophaceus* and some of these may also represent subsp. *sicculus*. He also identified two new species for the island from specimens he collected in 2006: *Didymodon australasiae* and *Tortula atrovirens*. Sam Bosanquet's visit in June was focused on invertebrates, and only 13 bryophytes were recorded. However, these included *Bryum pallescens* new for the island, along with a second colony of *T. atrovirens*. The island's tally of bryophytes now stands at 226 taxa (2 hornworts, 64 liverworts and 160 mosses).

The list below covers the notable bryophytes recorded in 2021. The \* symbol indicates new taxa for Lundy.

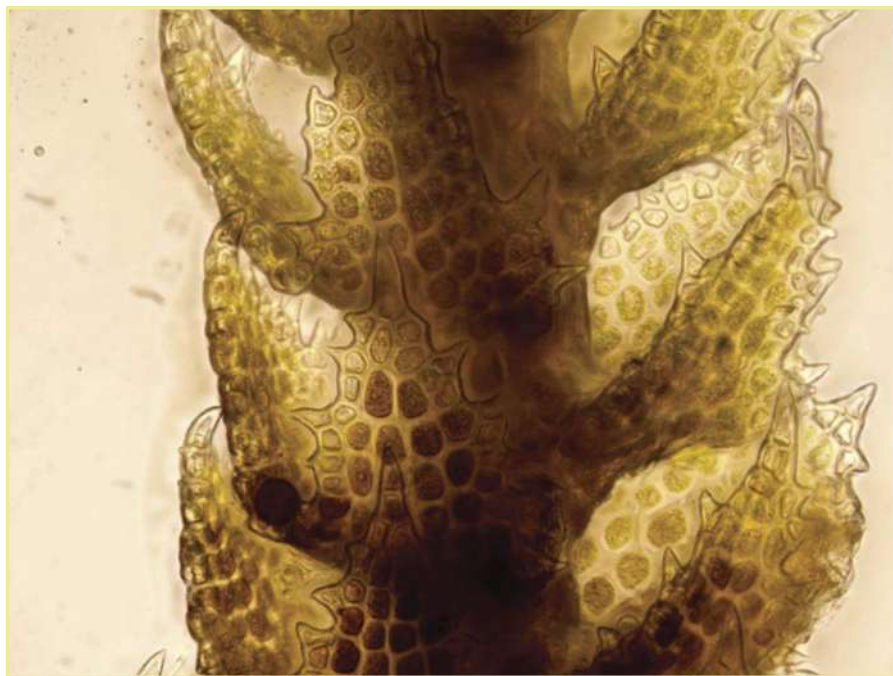
### Liverworts

\**Cephaloziella turneri*: collected from a sheltered rockface above Quarry Pond by Peter Martin. Most of the <15 British sites are on south-facing coasts in Cornwall and Pembrokeshire, although there is a population near Bude.

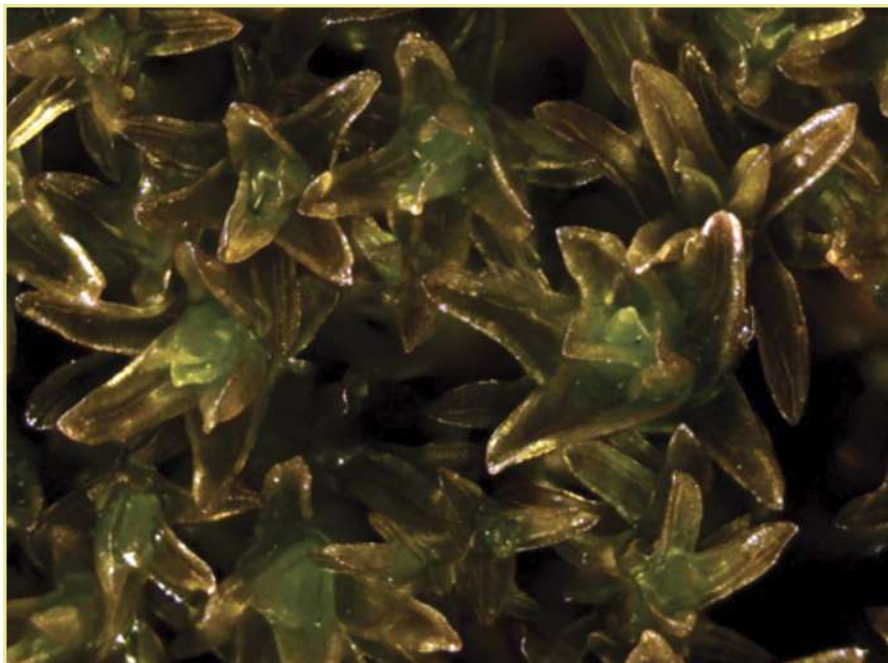
*Nardia scalaris*: noted on the bank of Punchbowl Stream: the 7<sup>th</sup> site for this liverwort on Lundy.

*Plagiochila punctata*: seen in Earthquake, its only Lundy site, in 2006 – predating its addition to the island list in 2020 – as well as in 2021.

*Cephaloziella turneri* (photo: Peter Martin).







*Didymodon tophaceus* ssp. *sicculus* (photo: Peter Martin).

## Mosses

*Barbula convoluta* var. *commutata*: noted in St John's Valley and by the Church, representing the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Lundy records.

\**Bryum pallescens*: material with old sporophytes was collected by Sam Bosanquet from damp ground at South Light and identified microscopically. This is a widely scattered moss that is often associated with metal-rich ground.

*Dicranum scottianum*: the Earthquake colony, close to the *Plagiochila punctata*, was noted again.

\**Didymodon australasiae*: collected from a crevice in the wall of Old Light by Peter Martin in 2006, but not found during subsequent recording. This non-native moss is widespread in south-western Britain.

\**Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus*: discovered new to Britain by Peter Martin on mortar gaps in the wall around Government House. Four previous Lundy records of *D. tophaceus* are from wall mortar, and these may also be subsp. *sicculus*, but five colonies on saline-influenced soil are more likely to be the widespread subsp. *tophaceus*.

*Didymodon vinealis*: seen at Government House and the Quarries: the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> island records.

*Entosthodon obtusus*: the sole known Lundy colony, found by Punchbowl Stream in 2017, was seen again in 2021.

*Pseudocrossidium revolutum*: colonies at the Old Hospital and the wall around Government House are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Lundy records.

\**Tortula atrovirens*: collected from near the Castle by Peter Martin in 2006 and found with sporophytes on a south-facing slope near South Light by Sam Bosanquet in 2021. Although Nationally Scarce, this species is locally frequent on the coast of Devon, Cornwall and Pembrokeshire.

## Reference

**Martin, P. 2021.** *Didymodon tophaceus* subsp. *sicculus* on Lundy, new to Britain. *Field Bryology* 126: 27-29.



## LICHENS

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Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

The only known colony of *Roccella fuciformis*, on the north side of the Mousehole & Trap tor was noted during a letterboxing visit by Sam Bosanquet. **Golden Hair Lichen** *Teloschistes flavicans* was seen by the Battery and elsewhere on the West Side. Records of distinctive rarities, such as these, and of commoner lichens, would be very welcome.



*Roccella fuciformis*, Mousehole & Trap  
(photo: Sam Bosanquet).

## FUNGI AND SLIME MOULDS

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Compiled by Mandy Dee and John Hedger

In spite of the problems of lockdown, 2021 actually proved to be a bumper year for fungi on Lundy, with 626 records made of 290 species of which 102 appear to be new to Lundy, so the current species total for fungi and slime moulds is 755. The 2021 list can be found on the Lundy Field Society website. The numbers were partly a reflection of the abundance of the larger fungi during our November survey, probably related to a decent dry summer followed by stimulating autumn rains and falling temperatures. However, the total is also there because we were able to beat lockdown by working remotely, like many others in the country in 2021! How it was done is explained later.

### Field collections

Records from the Island for the first half of 2021 were non-existent, as the ongoing effects of Covid meant many cancelled visits. On 25<sup>th</sup> August Alan Rowland recorded the annual fruiting of the large red and yellow mushroom *Tricholomopsis rutilans* (aptly named “**Plums and Custard**”) on the timber edging of the ‘Steps of Doom’ from Millcombe down to the East Side path. The first record of the impressive **Parasols** of *Macrolepiota procera* was on 3<sup>rd</sup> September by V & E Crane. A dry spell in late summer meant a late start to the grassland fungus season, with no waxcaps present on Mandy Dee’s early autumn survey in mid-September. There were plenty of **Pinkgills** around, and one new species, *Entoloma poliopus* var. *poliopus* which was recorded in long grass near Pondsbury. Poking around in the damp understorey of the wooded copses yielded three more new species for the island: **Beechmast Candlesnuff** *Xylaria carpophila*, **Roundspored Oysterling** *Crepidotus cesatii*, and **Bulbous Bonnet** *Mycena stylobates*. Chris Dee recorded **Coral Spot** *Nectria cinnabarina* on dead wood in St John’s Valley on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and Louise Bartlett found **Heath Navel** *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* on peaty soil on the Terraces on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

On an October visit, Alan Rowland spotted tiny black dots on a dead gorse branch, which John Hedger identified as a new record, *Menispora ciliata*. Much easier to identify was the second ever fruiting on Lundy of the **Giant Puffball** *Calvatia gigantea* (not seen on Lundy since 1970) growing in the nitrogen-rich ex-pig paddock next to the beer garden and identified by island staff. Alan also recorded the **Mealy Pinkgill** *Entoloma prunuloides* at the North End, and the **Coral Brittlegill** *Russula velenovskyi* growing

with Creeping Willow north of Quarter Wall. On 29<sup>th</sup> October, V & E Crane found one of the colourful **Parrot Waxcaps** *Gliophorus psittacinus* on the Terrace, and spotted the annual fruiting of the elegant translucent **Porcelain Fungus** *Mucidula mucida* (pictured on the back cover) which forms impressive clusters on the trunk of a tree in Millcombe every year.

By the start of John Hedger and Mandy Dee's usual early November recording visit, the rains had come and the island was covered with the bright colours of waxcaps and other grassland species, which were enjoyed by an enthusiastic foray group of LFS members and visitors (pictured below). An incredible 27 species of waxcap were recorded, including a possible first record for **Nitrous Waxcap** *Hygrocybe nitrata* near Pondsburry (awaiting DNA confirmation) and the second record for **Pink Waxcap**. An unusual orange waxcap was found which defied identification and is awaiting DNA sequencing by the Aberystwyth University mycologists. Five species of **Earthtongue** included a first record of *Geoglossum staerbeckii*, found near the Old Hospital. Along with the species seen in September, a total of 22 species of pinkgill included three new records: **Mousepee Pinkgill** *Entoloma incanum*, found on the Airfield; *Entoloma langei*, growing in the centre of South West Field; and *Entoloma mougeotii* in Punchbowl Valley. As well as the common **Yellow** and **Apricot Clubs**, there was a first record for **Straw Club** *Clavaria flavipes*, by Rocket Pole. Finally, a beautiful **Ivory Coral** *Ramariopsis kunzei* (pictured on p.134) was found growing near the Old Hospital.

The most exciting record of the entire year was the discovery of a group of medium-sized fruit bodies of a cream-coloured gill fungus with pointed caps growing on the Airfield. Superficially similar to waxcaps, they were markedly different in several ways and caused much head scratching. A sample was taken back and microscopy confirmed that they were not waxcaps but in fact an extremely rare upland grass species called *Porpoloma pes-caprae* (pictured on p.134). This will hopefully be confirmed later by DNA analysis by the University of Aberystwyth. Not only a first for Lundy, this species has not even been recorded in England, with just a few records from Wales and Scotland, and is therefore (in birding terms) a 'Mega'!

In total in 2021, 63 species of grassland fungi were recorded which count towards the island's high **CHEGD** score, a measure of assessing the conservation quality of unimproved grasslands. It is derived from species numbers of **Clavariaceae** (Club Fungi), **Hygrocybe** and related genera (Waxcaps), **Entolomaceae** (Pink Gills), **Geoglossaceae** (Earthtongues and *Dermoloma* species (Crazed Caps)).

Away from the grasslands there were plenty of other new records. Growing with the Creeping Willow in Punchbowl Valley were **Silky Webcap** *Cortinarius evermius* and a new species of the **Poisonpie** genus *Hebeloma*, *H. nigellum*. An unusual place to find new records was on top of an old silage bale

*Participants on the Fungus Foray held on 21<sup>st</sup> November grouped on the Airfield  
(thanks to an unknown photographer).*





*A solitary Earthtongue (*Geoglossum staerbeckii*) in short turf near the Old Hospital in November (photo: Mandy Dee).*

in the farmyard, where our lovely stonemasons Charlie Smith and Rachel Thompson found not one, but two! – **Grey Inkcap** *Coprinopsis cinerea* and **Blueleg Brownie** *Psilocybe cyanescens*.

Another interesting Lundy habitat is the Maritime Heath at the North End. A large colony of the rare **Grey Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus lacmus* is found there, centred around John O'Groats House, and this year's annual survey in the second week in November by Alan & Sandra Rowland and John Hedger counted 981 individual fruit bodies. The survey also turned up the first record of **Rooting Bonnet** *Mycena megalospora*, a fungus of wet peat which has a northern distribution in the UK.

There were even new records on dead wood. **Bleeding Conifer Crust** *Stereum sanguinolentum* was growing on rhododendron logs near the Quarries. *Nectria purtonii* and *Grandinia stenospora* were both found on dead gorse near the Quarry Cottages.

On a more unusual substrate, Sandra Rowland found a second record of the insect pathogen *Beauveria bassiana* on a dead Gorse Shield Bug in Millcombe. Even stranger were first records of fungi on fungi, for example the minute black dots of *Hansfordia pulvinata* (pictured on p.134) covering old fruit bodies of the **Field Puffball** *Lycoperdon pratense* near Quarter Wall gate on the West Side path.





*Blueleg Brownie (Psilocybe cyanescens) fruiting on an old silage bale near the Dairy in November (photo: Mandy Dee).*

John Hedger continued his recording into the second week of November, concentrating on fungi on dead leaves and stems of herbaceous plants and grasses. Most of the 17 new records were fruit bodies of minute cup and flask fungi needing a hand lens and microscope to spot them, the exception being the small hair-like **Redleg Club** *Typhula erythropus* found growing out of the stem bases of dead Cocksfoot grass in the field below the Tavern.

### Remote working

For this we used the postal service, but we obviously needed willing helpers on Lundy to collect samples and dispatch them to us: step in Rosie Ellis and Alan & Sandra Rowland. Seven new to Lundy microfungi were found on samples of wood and of Lundy Cabbage, collected under license by Alan and Sandra, sent by post to John Hedger, and kept in petri dishes lined with damp paper to promote fruiting. They also collected and sent samples of Rabbit bones, which on incubation produced six new records of 'bone-loving' fungi and one record of a **Slime Mould** (Myxomycete) *Didymium squamulosum*. The same technique was also used in early 2021 to record the microfungi on dung of Soay, domestic sheep, goat and deer, although this time the service was provided by Rosie Ellis, who kindly collected and posted the samples. The idea was the subject of a short article on 'Beating lockdown by using



Puffin Post' in the LFS Bulletin, with an account also posted on the LFS website (<http://www.lundy.org.uk/dung-fungi-on-lundy-during-lockdown>). The exercise was well worthwhile: 38 species of fungi were found, of which 26 were new records. Rosie also sent one sample of feathers (possibly from a corvid) which yielded Lundy's first record of a keratinophilic (hair and feather-loving) fungus!

### Foam samples from streams

More new records were also made in the year from an unexpected source, Lundy's streams. Many of the freshwater fungi which commonly grow on leaves and twigs in freshwater throughout the UK form very characteristic spores which can be branched, often with four branches (tetra- or eel-shaped (anguilliform)). Fortunately, the spores get trapped in foam clots on the water surface so samples give a good idea of the species of fungi present in the stream by using a microscope and an excellent key produced for the Freshwater Biological Association in the 1970s by the late Professor C.T. Ingold. We took advantage of some good flow in the streams along the West Side and East Side in November to find foam clots and preserve samples in 50% alcohol for microscopy, both on the island and on return to the mainland. The photograph (bottom left) shows an example of spores from foam in the Quarter Wall Copse stream. Fifteen species were found in this preliminary survey, of which eleven were new records for Lundy. The aim is to extend the search to more streams on the island in 2022, in cooperation with our freshwater experts Alan Rowland and Jenny George.

*Grateful thanks to those visitors and LFS members who entered records in the LFS Logbook and to the islanders who spotted fungi on their daily rounds. Please keep it up in 2022!*

*Clockwise from top left: *Hansfordia pulvinata* on an old fruit body of a Field Puffball; *Porpoloma pes-caprae* found on the Airfield; *Ramariopsis kunzei* in grass by the Old Hospital; photomicrograph (x400 magnification) of spores of aquatic fungi (and one Alder pollen grain) in foam from the stream at Quarter Wall Copse (photos: Mandy Dee and John Hedger).*



## 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)
- For information about Lundy's birds visit: [www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.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.

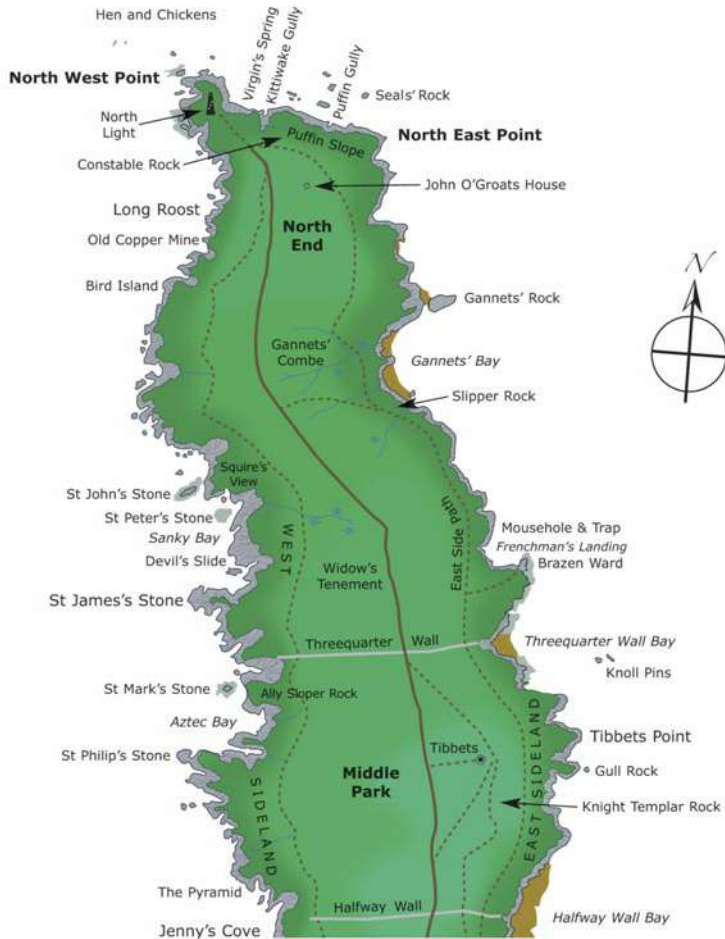


# Lundy South



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 |
| 2 Hanmer's  | 11 Campsite, Quarters (Pig's Paradise) & Quarters Pond | 19 Quarry Pond       |
| 3 St John's Valley, Old School & Big & Little St John's | 12 Shop, Museum & High Street                          | 20 Terrace Trap      |
| 4 Brambles Villa  | 13 Barton Cottages                                     | 21 Old Hospital      |
| 5 The Ugly  | 14 Rocket Pole, Rocket Pole Pond & Rocket Pole Marsh   | 22 VC Quarry         |
| 6 Millcombe House                                       | 15 Stoneycroft & Cemetery                              | 23 North Quarry      |
| 7 Government House                                      | 16 Water Tanks   | 24 Punchbowl Valley  |
| 8 St Helen's Church                                     | 17 Quarter Wall Cottages                               | 25 Logan Stone       |
| 9 Old House & Marisco Tavern                            |  |                      |



**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

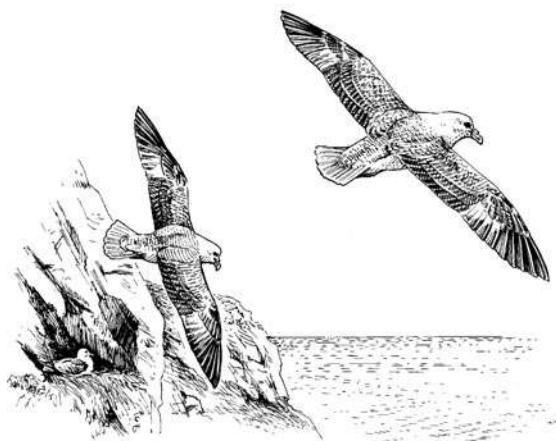
or securities as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may for the time being be required by law.

## **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.





Old Light, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (photo: Mandy Dee).





**Porcelain Fungus**, Millcombe, 16 November 2021 (photo: Mandy Dee) and  
**Lunar Hornet Moth**, Terrace, 5 July 2021 (photo: Dean Jones).

Cover: **Sulphur-bellied Warbler**, Millcombe, 8 June 2021  
(photo: Dean Jones).



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Annual Report No.71

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