

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2022

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LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2022

President

Vacant

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	(2022-2025)
Chris Pawson	(2021-2024)
John Tyrer	(co-opted)
Chris Webster	(2021-2024)

Co-options

John Hedger – Annual Report Editor
Robert Irving – Lundy Marine Protected Area
Advisory Group Representative
John Tyrer – Photo Library

Non-Committee posts

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

◀ *Plumose anemones covering the pilings under the Lundy jetty (photo: Rosie Ellis).*

WELCOME

John Hedger (Editor)

2022 was another successful year for the LFS, mirrored by this Annual Report being one of the longest (but I hope still interesting) for a few years and with a distinctly marine flavour. After this page you will find the customary review of the society's activities during the year from our Secretary Michael Williams followed by membership news from Sandra Rowland, the state of our finances in the Treasurer's report from Chris Dee and a report on grants awarded in 2022 by the LFS by Jenny George. We also have inputs from our Lundy partners. Derek Green's Island Report offers an intriguing insider's view of the triumphs achieved and disasters avoided in managing the island, including the arrival of the eccentrically named 'Blue Thunder' and some really difficult times keeping the *Oldenburg* afloat, as well as the island power and water on. He also gives us some important news about Lundy's application to become a Bird Observatory. Rosie Ellis then reviews the conservation team activities and is especially appreciative of the help given by the visiting LFS Conservation Break volunteers. It seems appropriate that her account is followed by an obituary for one of the stalwarts of past working parties, Dave Preece, written by Trevor Dobie.

Things marine then feature, with the usual report by Robert Irving on the Lundy Marine Protected Area being followed by a detailed account, also by Robert, of the highly successful Lundy Marine Festival held in summer 2022, a one-off event supported in part by the LFS. Many of the organisms found by divers and rock-poolers during the festival are featured in the summary of marine biological records by Keith Hiscock in the records section of the report. A very beautiful Sea Slug stars on our cover.

The records start, with the birds ably written by Assistant Warden Stuart Cossey. The marine, freshwater and terrestrial records follow in the usual sequence. Much of this information comes from the entries you make in the LFS Logbook located in the tavern, the pages of which are photographed every year by Tim Davis and sent out to the specialist compilers to abstract records. Please continue to help by making entries, every observation counts but don't forget to add your name! Finally keep taking wildlife photographs; last year's request for illustrations for the Annual Report had a great response and some appear in this issue, thanks to all of you who submitted your photos.



This annual report sees the return of a subject absent for many years: Lundy Geology*, with an interesting account of the mineralogy of the granite waste at Quarries by LFS member David Ifold. Where to put it in the text was a puzzle, before biological records seemed logical but to preserve the traditional text sequence it comes after the usual back marker, the fungi report. One of David's photographs features on the back cover.

▲ 2022 LFS
Logbook cover in
January 2023 after
a year's service
(photo: Tim Davis).

Many thanks to all the contributors and record compilers. Well done. I am also grateful to Robin Padian for his excellent work laying out the report, and to Alan Rowland, Michael Williams, Tim Davis and Tim Jones for proof-reading the text, as well as to Mandy Dee for invaluable work on the photographs. Readers will see that this report no longer includes the LFS Constitution, which can still be found on the LFS website. The Lundy maps are also absent but are currently being redrafted and will re-appear next year.

*perhaps somebody can tell me the date of the last AR that contained any geology?

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Michael Williams

In some respects, 2022 was a quiet year for the Society but then when you read about the five conservation working holidays during the year, you may appreciate it has been a productive and busy one! But before I get on to that, a summary of some of the committee's business. Frances Stuart stood down from the committee at last year's AGM. Frances continues as our Safeguarding Officer and is supporting the revision of the Society's Health & Safety policy. Our thanks to Frances for her work. John Tyrer is working on preparing a library of contemporary and historical images of Lundy. Richard Breese and André Coutanche are also working up a proposal for a film archive which has the potential to support future research and possible grant making opportunities. Although the purposes may not be fully developed at this time, it presents an opportunity to bring together video content, anticipating that opportunities to use it may arise in the future. It would provide a route to preserve Lundy films digitally in a strategic way for the long term.

Two grant enquiries were made in 2022 but unfortunately did not result in applications. As a result the Committee agreed to raise grant funding from £500 to £1000 and to remove the application deadline. Financial support was given to the Marine Festival and the Society contributed to the provision of new weather station equipment on Lundy. The Rodley legacy funded the restoration of the Heligoland Bird Trap, and the equipment for the WiFi in the church. The WiFi is being well used and is especially valuable to visitors when stranded on the island. A generous donation from the family of the late Charles Ellis was gratefully received. This has been used to fund £200 of new book purchases for the LFS Library and will support a student's attendance at a conference in Scotland where she is presenting the results of her study of Lundy's Manx Shearwaters. Preparations are underway for a LFS Day Trip to Lundy in June 2023 and in 2024 we are planning a Field Studies break to attract new wildlife recorders for Lundy and support succession planning. Chris Pawson is leading on this with support from Trevor Dobie.

As I mentioned, there were five working holidays during 2022. The first in early March was at the request of the Lundy Warden and consisted of just six volunteers. The purpose of this early date was for the transplanting of saplings from nursery areas to their permanent positions. New young trees were imported and used to infill areas in St John's Valley and around Quarters Pond. Old fencing was removed, plus the usual ongoing tasks given to working groups. For the second working party, also in March, fencing, walling, Rhododendron searching, and the usual tasks were offered plus an unusual request to valet the Lundy Land Rover, and all were completed. The third group in May was a full party with a good mixture of experienced and new members. Again, fencing, walling, gully cleaning, Rhododendron seedling searches were all on the menu and the job of shifting several tons of spoil and digging a bypass trench for power cables in the corner of Tent Field, towards Benjamin's Chair, occupied a lot of their time. The log store was repositioned from the farmyard to The Linhay in preparation for a new power generator. The area around the diesel fuel tanks was weeded and upgraded to install some steps for easier access.

There were two conservation breaks in October. Thirteen people participated in the first week with the usual mix of walling, gully clearing, tree maintenance and Rhododendron seedling searching being enjoyed, plus the unusual treat of digging a trench for replacement heating pipes for the staff quarters before the winter cold set in. Work continued on the Terrace Heligoland Trap. Thirteen people also attended the fifth and final trip of the year. Tasks included the installation of a gate near the old incinerator site to replace a stile, clearing some of the vegetation from Millcombe Pond and building nest boxes for Starlings. Our grateful thanks to everyone who joined the working

holidays. We think this is the first time that the LFS has sent as many as five groups to Lundy in a single year and we should record our thanks to Trevor Dobie who works very hard taking bookings and managing the staffing of each trip, which he has been doing for over 15 years!

Members of the LFS committee have assisted the Lundy Conservation Team in developing an application for Lundy to be re-admitted to the UK and Ireland Bird Observatories Network, after an absence of 50 years. It has included transitioning responsibilities for bird recording and negotiating funding arrangements for bird ringing - an aspect of the bird observatory operations for which the LFS will continue to provide some financial support. 2022 saw a record number of Manx Shearwater nest boxes occupied and a record eight chicks fledged from them. The other good news story concerned the Wheatear colour-ringing project, with the results leading to record estimates of 55 pairs in the study area and 129 pairs for the whole island. Adult survival between the 2021 and 2022 breeding seasons was at least 53%. The long-term study of breeding House Sparrows continued as normal, but in the autumn work on Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels had to be curtailed because of the risks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza spreading.

Numbers of migrants ringed were down compared to the 2021 figures, because of less suitable weather for mist-netting and fewer weeks being covered by visiting ringers, particularly in autumn. In all, 2716 birds were ringed in 2022. The highest species total was for Blackcaps, which topped the list for the sixth year running with 753 birds caught. The task of digitising all available Lundy ringing and recapture records, from 1972 onwards, was completed in October. Details of about 120,000 records are now available for research purposes, via the British Trust for Ornithology's web-based DemOn system.

The very dry conditions left Lundy looking really parched for the duration of the hot sunny spell. The effect this had on the flora was seen later in the season when some species had a second flush of flowering and were seen in full bloom much later than normal. An example of this was the Wood Vetch growing near the bottom of the beach road which was in fine condition in the middle of October when the bracken had already started to turn brown. Our Lundy Cabbage surveyors Alan & Sandra Rowland report a warmer and wetter winter and spring caused a slightly earlier flowering than normal which affected numbers recorded during the regular survey week. Although estimates of flowering plants declined from an unusual high of over 8000 plants in 2021 to under 3000 (down 66%), this represents a typical average annual estimate. This is an example of a natural cycle rather than a sudden decline. John Hedger and Mandy Dee were able to make several visits to study fungi during the year, with the main island-wide survey being carried out in November, aided by several helpers and a group of students from Imperial College. Two fungus forays were held and were well attended.

A memorial service for our late President, Diana Keast, was held in St Helen's church in June. Your Honorary Secretary had the privilege of giving the eulogy. Diana lived a long and full life – her association with Lundy lasted for 96 years – and her obituary was printed in the 2021 Annual Report. We also record the passing of Dave Preece in December. Dave was a long-standing regular attender of LFS working holidays and rarely missed the AGM. He loved everything about Lundy and treasured the certificate we presented to him in 2019 for attending conservation breaks for 25 years. A fuller obituary for Dave written by Trevor Dobie can be found later in the Annual Report. I happened to be on Lundy when the Queen died in September. I was able to help with flag flying protocol and tolling of the bells to mark her passing. For me, it was one of those

moments in life when you remember exactly where you were and what you were doing when the news broke. We also raised the flag for the Proclamation of King Charles III and you can read my full account of an unusual few days in the recent Discovering Lundy bulletin.

Looking forward, we anticipate a new volume of the LFS Journal to be published in 2023 and Chris Webster is preparing a new archaeology book with support from André Coutanche, Mandy Yates and Alan Rowland. John Hedger edited his first Annual Report in 2022 and Belinda Cox continues to produce the engaging Discovering Lundy bulletin. Our thanks to them both.

Finally, at the very end of the year, it was announced that Dr Keith Hiscock had been awarded an MBE for services to marine conservation in the King's New Year Honours. Starting from Lundy, Keith has been a pioneer of using diving for underwater marine biology in the UK and using the knowledge gained to promote marine conservation. His MBE is so richly deserved and I'm sure you'll join me in passing on congratulations to Keith.

I hope you'll now agree that it has been far from a quiet year -with a huge amount achieved for such a small society. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a successful 2023.



Dr Keith Hiscock MBE receiving from LFS Chair Alan Rowland a framed illustration of his younger self, drawn by John Dyke (photo: Belinda Cox).

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sandra Rowland

As always, I would like to thank everyone for continuing to support the Society, whether it is by paying an annual subscription or making a donation; large or small your donations are very much appreciated by the Society. I have received several notes or cards from members paying their subscription or making a donation by cheque, I do enjoy hearing from you all, and also from members who keep in touch via email.

Subscriptions

I am delighted 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 2nd January, and that I can provide the Society's bank account details to anyone wishing to set up a standing order. I sent out over 60 subscription reminder letters or emails in 2022. Almost half subsequently paid, 10 decided not to renew and the 23 members who did not respond have had their details removed from the database, to comply with GDPR.

Membership News

Sadly eight of our members passed away last year.
They are:-

Mr Kevin Welsh
Col Bob Gilliat
Mrs Ann Gardner
Mr Ron Salter
Mr Chas Wood
Mrs Jean Wade
Mr Dave Preece
Mr Cyril Matthews

Membership Count

At the end of 2022 the membership count showed 479 addresses on the database, equating to **630 members** (counting only 2 for each family membership). The breakdown follows:-

Individual	267
Family	151
Student	3
Organisations	4
Corporate	1
Life	42
Ex Officio	7
Honorary	4
Total	479 (630)

New Members

Membership continues to increase with 69 new members joining the Society last year, we welcome them all, and hope they will remain members for many years to come. In order to comply with GDPR I can only list those who have given me permission to print their names and main interest. New members 2022 in order of joining are:-

Name(s)	Interests
Paul and Rita Bascombe	Lundy
Helen Kemm	Birdlife
Sheena Duller	Fungi
Dean Jones	Flora & Fauna
Robert Carl Smith	Shipwrecks
Paul and Tracy Britten	Walking & Wildlife
Alice Simon	Lundy
Peter Hamlin	Feral Stock
David Stuart	Conservation Breaks
Richard Yeo	History and Natural history
Karen Cole	Birds, flowers and plants
Charles Povey	Natural History
Christopher & Carol Knatt	Conservation breaks
Julian & Caroline Skelton	Conservation/birds/seaweed
Ian Sinclair and Pamela Kerr	Flora and Bats
Paul Reddick	Lundy
Lorraine Kindley	All things Lundy
Sandra Robbens	Wildlife and Birds
Ken Ebsworthy	Birds and all Lundy
Ann Hislop and Stephen Gill	Lundy
Philippa Thomas	Conservation Breaks
Myra Allen	General interests
Nick & Claire Withers	Natural history
Elena Varale	Conservation Breaks
Rick Yeo	Everything Lundy
Helen & David Wakely	Birds and Plants
Katherine Priestley & Andrew Dixon	Sea birds and History
Bryony & Frank McDermott	Letterboxing, Birds, History
Diane Shepherd	Working Holidays
Rory & Sally Akam	Bird Ringing
Stephen Coldrick	Soay Sheep
Brian Milligan	Bird Ringing
Paul Dean & Nicki Hattingh	Photography flora & fauna
Tara McEvoy-Wilding	Marine PA and moths
Karen Reilly	Wildlife, birds, flora,
Zdena Best & Anne Bayliss	History, conservation work, wildlife
Roger Lock	Whole island, history, nature
Stephen & Elizabeth Dosman	Lundy
Dianne Brabham	Marine environment
Susan Hoddell	Conservation Breaks
Sarah Bower	Bird watching
Jonathan and Kath Singleton	Nature Conservation
Ruth Plumridge	Conservation Breaks
Kristin Reed	Wildlife
Keith Hatch	Conservation Breaks
Theresa Jones	Lundy
Andrea Mabbutt	Freshwater ponds
Dr Miles Thompson and Lhosa Daly	Seals, Fungi,
Joe Sutherland and Will McCallum	Marine conservation

Change of Address

Please do 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Dee

The accounts presented here show a surplus for the year of £16,790 which includes £13,974, being the final tranche of the generous bequest from the estate of Patricia Rodley. The remaining surplus of £2,816 is largely the result of increased membership and the lack of expenditure on the usually biennial Journal.

As reported last year, 20% of individual legacies or donations exceeding £1,000 is allocated to a 'project fund', and the remainder invested. We now have £35,200 set aside for investment, but with the poor performance of share-based investment funds in the financial crisis, we have been reluctant to add to the existing investment fund. We plan to reassess this position in 2023. To ensure that the day-to-day operation of the society is covered by subscription income, other donations (excluding the regular Jennetts Trust income) are now also diverted to the 'project fund', which at the end of the year stood at £11,242. Money from this fund has, this year, contributed to the terrace Heligoland trap refurbishment, a replacement weather station for the island, an LCD projector for the tavern wheelhouse and additions to the LFS library.

Without increasing rates, membership income has grown by 5%, but donations have decreased slightly. Included in the donations is a total of £135 from Amazon Smile, which will sadly cease to operate in February 2023. 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 is included in these accounts and the 2021/22 claim will be included in the 2023 accounts.

Sales of *The Harman Family's Lundy* and *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life* in 2022 have been included in Sundry sales, along with sales of past Annual Reports and other donated publications and Lundy ephemera. We were also pleased to sell some of the remaining stock of *Protecting Lundy's Marine Life: 40 Years of Science and Conservation* through the Lundy General Stores during the 2022 Marine Festival. We continue to sell *Lundy Fungi* through the website and Lundy General Stores, which is also our primary outlet for Colouring Books. The stock shown as assets includes the value at cost of these two publications at the end of the year.

One research grant was claimed this year with a small amount being carried over for sample analysis in 2023. Also included in the grants figure is £2,500 in support of the Marine Festival and £650 toward the St.Helen's Centre WiFi equipment. The remainder of the LFS contribution of £1,650 towards the refurbishment of the terrace Heligoland trap, is shown as project expenditure. Funding of Conservation Breaks has returned to more normal levels, with five breaks being run. We continue to see a high number of cancellations, some related to the Covid pandemic, and as a result £240 of lost deposits were treated as donations.

Two new ventures are being funded from the Project Fund; an LFS day trip by MS *Oldenburg* on 4 June 2023, and a field course in April 2024 to attempt to expand the number of wildlife recorders. The deposit for the day trip and the accommodation booking for the field course are shown as assets.

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-imbursed the LFS for ring usage above that. The new assistant warden has been able

to ring birds independently and the LFS has covered the costs of rings used by him, as we did for the previous warden. No significant ring purchase was made during the year, although an order will need to be placed early in 2023. The net value of our contribution to bird ringing in 2022 was £585.

The 2022 expenditure shown for our regular publications – Bulletin and Annual Report – includes typesetting, printing and distribution costs. We are grateful to the Lundy Company and the Ilfracombe 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 2022

Income	2022	2021
	£	£
Subscriptions	10,973	10,423
Donations	1,777	1,923
Jennetts Trust	2,040	2,040
Legacies	13,974	52,000
Gift Aid	1,445	-
Conservation break deposits	820	590
Book sales – <i>Lundy Fungi</i>	403	328
Book sales – <i>Colouring Book</i>	201	54
Sundry sales	1,573	679
Postage	17	17
Bird ringing	311	1,216
Interest	26	3
Stock value increase	-	448
Total income	33,560	69,721
Deduct expenditure	16,770	10,455
Surplus for the year	16,790	59,266

Expenditure	2022	2021
	£	£
Bulletin	946	763
Report	3,507	3,106
Website	43	52
Publicity	-	201
Bird ringing	164	1,802
Grants	3,529	1,018
Conservation breaks	4,629	2,214
Projects	1,682	897
AGM expenses	490	38
Postage	131	170
Stationery	40	93
LFS Library	226	-
Stock value reduction	1,293	-
Sundries	90	101
Total expenditure	16,770	10,455

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
Stock – books	2,797	3,348	3,702	5,234
Stock – bird rings	1,803	2,545	1,743	
2023 day trip charter deposit	435	-		
2024 field course booking with Landmark	2,054	-		
NS&I account	384	384	381	381
Current account	59,846	43,387	31,523	3,239
Reserve account (project fund)	11,242	10,679	9	9
Subtotal	78,561	60,343	42,966	29,580
Less				
Advance subscriptions	761	963	882	597
Advance conservation break deposits	2,240	610	450	350
Net current assets	75,560	58,770	23,604	28,588
Other assets				
LionTrust Sustainable Fund	44,100	44,100	20,000	20,000
Total assets	119,660	102,870	43,604	48,588
Reserves				
Brought forward	58,770	23,604	28,588	41,704
Transfer to specific reserve	-	-24,100	-	-20,000
Surplus for the year	16,790	59,266	(4,984)	6,884
General Reserves	75,560	58,770	23,604	28,588
Specific reserve	44,100	44,100	20,000	20,000
Total reserves	119,660	102,870	43,604	48,588

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 £44,294.

Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2022

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2022, 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
10 February 2023



▲ Oldenburg at sunset outside Sharpness dry dock (photo: Derek Green).

ISLAND REPORT

Derek Green (General Manager, The Lundy Company)

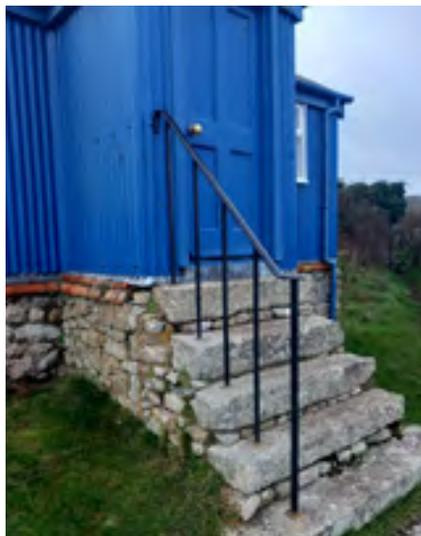
2022 will undoubtedly be remembered as the year we returned to a 'new normal' following the pandemic. Just as we were beginning to think that things would revert to pre-pandemic times, world events changed everything almost overnight with the war in Ukraine, which would ultimately go on to have an impact on everyone, one way or another. Spiraling energy costs coupled with a shortage of materials and vital components, so readily available before Covid, impacted the Island as well as many of our trusted suppliers, and we had to tighten our belts an extra notch.

The *Oldenburg's* dry dock became the focus of the 2022-2023 winter after the ship sustained damage at Sharpness. What should have been a relatively straight forward five weeks docking turned into a six-month refit of the engine room. Works were extensive, both main engines requiring a complete overhaul, both auxiliary generators were overhauled along with the engine management system and all other electrical components had to be replaced or refurbished. The ship is due to return to service in spring 2023 and we will miss the beginning of the sailing season. To transport staying visitors to and from the island the winter helicopter service has been extended and local supply vessels, the *Goliath* and *Grima*, have been providing regular stores and fuel runs to the island. Visitors to Lundy last year may recall *Goliath* carrying out refurbishment to the island jetty.

2022 was otherwise a successful year for the island with high numbers of day trippers (11,064); staying visitors numbered 5561. The winter helicopter service was busy transferring 1608 passengers. The total visitor attendance for the year was 18,200 despite four cancelled sailings and eight "splash and dash" sailings during long prevailing of easterly winds. The island's letting properties had an exceptional year with occupancy reaching a record 91.5%

and it is pleasing to see the Vestry becoming a popular addition. It was reassuring that the Landmark Trust and Lundy were rated the best holiday cottage company by 'Which' magazine when considering how much customers felt well looked after during and after the pandemic.

It was another busy year maintenance-wise with numerous repairs following the February storms. We also completed a long-standing project to install handrails to the Square, Barn, Old School ('The Blue Bung') and Little St John's to help with access. The new handrails were hand forged in wrought iron. Carefully installed by Ben Protheroe and his team of blacksmiths from Somerset, it feels like they've been island colleagues forever. During the autumn, Tibbetts had a makeover, with new electrical wiring throughout. Even though it's 'off grid' there are 12-volt pumps, batteries and a small solar panel, discreetly hidden, to make everything work. One of the biggest projects of the year was the installation of 'Blue Thunder', our new emergency generator which had to be transported over in sections and rebuilt due to its bulk and weight. Sitting under a new roof in the farmyard, and capable of powering the whole island, the new generator has already proved its worth as we suffered ongoing problems with the main generator sets.



▲ The new forged rails on the steps up to the Old School (photo: Derek Green).

It was a busy year on the farm with 'operation clear up' continuing and over 2kms of fencing replaced by mainland contractors. The island's high level stewardship scheme was extended for a further five years which ensures that Lundy is managed to the highest possible standard and which provides vital income to the island. We were delighted to welcome the new foals Kestrel and Benson to the pony herd.

Staff-wise we had very few changes but were delighted to welcome First Officer Tom Irving to the bridge of the *Oldenburg*, summer volunteer Meaghan Kendall joined us for the winter and long-standing summer seasonal booking assistant Kate Bennett retired from Ilfracombe Shore Office. With grant funding and government subsidy declining for the farm following Brexit we were delighted to welcome Theresa Jones as our dedicated Lundy fundraiser. Theresa will be reviewing all of our fundraising initiatives and I am sure she will be a regular island visitor for years to come. The Marisco had an exceptional year following the challenge of the pandemic and it was great to see the tavern menu and atmosphere returning to normal. Head chef Teresa Davis, front of house manager Alice Waterfield and barman Ash Garfoot have done an exceptional job of bringing things back to normal. The shore office team had a busy year with fine summer weather and, on top of managing both Ilfracombe and Bideford, took to flying the flag across the region and at the Royal Cornwall Show.

During the year, the island hosted several events, notably the memorial service for Diana Keast, last owner of Lundy who passed away at the grand age of 99. The postponed Marine Festival was resurrected and successfully ran over the summer, providing the opportunity to replace our diving air compressor in the beach building, just in time for hordes of divers to arrive looking for air!



▲ HRH Princess Anne talking to Warden Rosie Ellis after landing by helicopter in July (photo: Derek Green).



▲ Lundy staff in front of the Royal Helicopter (photo: Helicopter Pilot of the Royal Flight).

July brought a flying visit by Princess Anne, in her capacity as patron of Trinity House, to inspect the North and South lights. She took some time to meet some of the islanders en route, flying in to land on the airstrip in the Royal Helicopter. The island once again hosted two half marathon runs for hardy trail runners which proved successful, if a bit on the warm side, and this has become a regular feature in our calendar, although we are going to restrict the event to a single run per year in future. The fashion of cold-water swimming arrived on the Island with several of the team leading the way all year round (brrr!) and several visitors joining the fun.

Weather always impacts Lundy and 2022 was no exception with a series of storms followed by a long dry summer proving a challenge for everyone, most of all the farm, with vital winter fodder ruined and water supplies critically low. Plans for our new water tanks progressed and will be a welcome addition in 2023.



Early in 2023 we were delighted to regain the status of Bird Observatory following several years work by the conservation team and volunteers along with support from members of the LFS. To manage the new observatory a committee has been formed which includes the General Manager, Island Manager, Warden, Chris Dee, Tim Jones, Terry Burke and the island's bird warden. Plans are afoot for a new website, and I am sure that the observatory will grow from strength to strength. Special thanks to Dean Jones, Stuart Cossey and everyone involved in obtaining the status once again.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue to replace the island's power supply with renewables and increase the size of the water reservoir, along with a long list of improvements across the island. We very much appreciate the ongoing support of the Lundy Field Society and its members and look forward to welcoming you back to Lundy this coming year.

◀ Rob Waterfield in front of the new air compressor in the diving shed (photo: Derek Green).



▲ Robert Irving accepting a Marine Festival commemorative award made from the old Dive Compressor from Derek Green in the St Helen's Centre on 10th September (photo: Rosie Ellis).

CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Rosie Ellis (Lundy Warden)

What a year! Our first whole, full, 'new normal' since my arrival on the island in summer 2019. With our usual nesting seabird, seal and rocky shore surveys continuing, we also included a daily morning bird census and were joined by the RSPB for some extensive gull surveys. Added to which there was the no small undertaking of the Marine Festival!

There is lots more to follow about the Marine Festival in this Annual Report so all I will say here is a massive thank you to Robert Irving and everyone else involved; hopefully we have created a few more lifelong Lundyites.

Researcher Meaghan (A.K.A. American Meaghan) is still on Lundy and we have two new LFS members in Tara (who is due back on island in 2023 for some MSc research) and Daisy. It was especially great to see the church a hubbub of activity for research and education with the laboratory set up for the BioBlitz and M.Sc. Students utilising the Wi-Fi to write up their research projects. Many thanks to St Helen's Parochial Church Council, the Heritage National Lottery Fund and indeed the LFS for supporting the St Helen's Centre project which concluded this year. The legacy will continue with the Lundy Company and St Helen's PCC working together to deliver the schools programme and much more.



▲ Checking the biosecurity grid with Jacky Pearson on 1st May following potential rat sighting (photo: Rosie Ellis).

On the practical side of conservation, we finally had all our LFS conservation breaks go ahead! Thanks to all who helped, finally getting the Heligoland Trap stitched together and, of course, a lot of miscellaneous digging, tackling some disappointingly healthy-looking Rhododendron, and braving leeches whilst digging out Millcombe Pond, now the most pondlike I have ever seen it! The Heligoland Trap is now up and running with a Cuckoo ringed in 2023.

We have also had a lot of moving about of the wood store and the ranger store, now referred to as “the old ranger store”, and our new base up at the lambing shed with more space! The old ranger store move was to pave the way for more space to process our wild meat whilst the wood store shift was to accommodate the

shiny new emergency generator, which came in very handy this winter. A few will notice more pedestrian gates replacing stiles where possible to help the island become more accessible, very handy for guided walks!

At the beginning of 2022 we were joined by Steve Smallridge, his assistant Stan and their amazing fencing machine. Many thanks to them for their dedication and determination, auguring through granite in minutes what would have taken us days to dig and drill thorough. After a few weeks, nearly 2000m of fencing was finished with the help of the LFS work parties. A big thankyou to the fantastic Assistant Ranger, Rachel, for her help this season. I am sure those who met her will be pleased to learn she is now enjoying Snowdonia.

During a very hot, dry summer the water was clearly the place to be. We had some fantastic snorkel safaris, with Lightbulb Sea Squirts my new favourite. Volunteers Zach and Laura spent some sweltering days up at Jenny’s Cove, surveying and helping visitors use a telescope to see the Puffins without disturbing them. With news of avian influenza decimating breeding bird colonies elsewhere, we were lucky most of our cliff nesting birds escaped without any signs of it: Kittiwakes, Guillemots, and Manx Shearwaters all had a good season. I am sure LFS members will be pleased to hear that the Manx Shearwater village built using LFS funds had a fantastic take up this year with 12 families moving in. We look forward to the full Manx Shearwater survey in June 2023 to see how our colony is progressing.

Later in the year, however, our fears were confirmed when a Herring Gull tested positive for the virus, and it was very sad to see ill and dead Gannets washing up in the landing bay. We are stepping up monitoring of our large gulls in 2023 and continue monitoring for any signs in the breeding colonies. If you see an ill or dead bird on the island please do not touch it. Inform the conservation team so we can dispose of it safely to reduce the spread of infection and inform authorities tracking the impact of the disease.

On a lighter note, press requests came in thick and fast in 2022. Just when I thought becoming Lundy Warden would be the pinnacle of my career I was proved wrong when I received a Blue Peter badge! We have also had writers from *The Times*, been named one of TIME magazine’s World’s Greatest Places, welcomed the ‘Trees a Crowd’ podcast, been featured in *Breathe*



▲ *Daisy and Sand Eels in the Landing Bay (photo: Rosie Ellis).*

magazine, and we were on BBC Radio Devon twice! Keep an eye out for the BBC's "Wild Isles" series (now on i-player) who filmed footage of conservation success stories on Lundy.

After a spring and summer full of schools, swims, photography walks, and crafting it was time to welcome our autumn visitors. If anyone was watching ship tracker in September they may well have seen an unexpected 'Round the Island and back to Bideford' cruise by the *Oldenburg* which our volunteers Tom and Angus and I were on. Quite the introduction to the island for our guests but we were all rewarded with great views of an Osprey. Tom and Angus surpassed themselves with the twitch of the year, the strikingly beautiful Baltimore Oriole.

Thanks to Stuart Cossey and all our volunteers and ringers over the years, including my predecessor Dean Jones, we were finally re-accredited as an official Bird Observatory by the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology). A huge achievement - and a commitment for the years to come.

It's been a busy 2022 for all the islanders and the conservation team. As ever, many thanks to all our volunteers however you help, whether for a guided walk, a week, or the whole season; we could not do it without you!

OBITUARY

DAVID PREECE (1944-2022)



▲ *Dave Preece in typically robust made on a working party clearing Rhododendrons in September 2010 (photo: Trevor Dobie).*

In early December 2022, we heard the very sad news that Dave Preece had passed away after a long illness.

Dave was a Life Member of the Lundy Field Society after joining in 1996, and had visited Lundy on numerous occasions, mostly participating on LFS working parties and often as the group leader and sometimes with his son Robert. He was a wonderful fount of knowledge and always willing to help with decision making. When tackling any task, Dave could be relied upon to have a suggestion (or two) which were invaluable.

Dave made many, many friends when he was on Lundy, both with staff, other LFS volunteers and visitors. He acquired the nickname, *Brummie Dave*, when, on one working party, there were two chaps named Dave. One was a taxi driver; *Taxi Dave* was his name for the week, and it was decided that *Brummie Dave* was appropriate for Dave Preece, due to his obvious Birmingham accent. On his 60th birthday, Dave persuaded some climbers to help him climb Devil's Slide, a feat which he was very proud to share with people.

Dave suffered several mishaps on working parties, including a slip on the steps to Quarry Pond on departure day, resulting in a broken arm, not diagnosed until several days later! On another occasion, Dave slipped on granite on the East Sidelands when the group were clearing up after a day of Rhody bashing. It was wet and cold, so Dave did not look at any possible body damage until he returned to the Barn. It then became obvious that he had badly injured his arm and when the Warden, Beccy MacDonald, saw it she arranged for the Ilfracombe lifeboat to transfer Dave to hospital. On his very next visit, Dave organised a 'Shave Dave' night where any implement could be used to shave his face and head, with a donation to the RNLI given in return. £395 was raised, and Dave presented it to the Ilfracombe Lifeboat crew soon after.

His skull and crossbones, or a recycled flag of England, were often raised on a suitable rock or fence.

Dave ceased attending working parties, very reluctantly, a few years ago. He held the distinction of completing 25 years of continuous volunteering trips, often more than once each year. The LFS Chair Alan Rowland presented Dave with a framed certificate at the 2019 Society AGM at Crediton to mark the occasion, of which Dave was rightly very proud. His funeral and cremation were attended by several past and present LFS members, including a previous Lundy Warden and a Ranger, and some fellow volunteers.

Brummie Dave will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but his memory will live on.

Trevor Dobie

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.

The spring meeting of the Group was, once again, held on-line via the video conferencing platform Zoom, kindly hosted by Derek Green, on 4th April. The autumn meeting took place in person at Ilfracombe Dive Club on 3rd October. Robert Irving, in his role as Secretary to the Group, reported on what had been discussed to the two Lundy Management Forum meetings on 5th April and 5th October 2022.

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

Reports from the island

Items of particular interest to group members, presented by General Manager Derek Green and the Warden, Rosie Ellis, included the following:-

- The jetty underwent an upgrade in the winter of 2021/22, with many of the wooden fenders being replaced and all the fixtures and fittings (including three emergency ladders) being replaced too. A commercial dive team was required to complete certain aspects of the work, which cost in the region of £100k. A new diving compressor was installed in the Boat Building at the foot of the jetty in June.
- Rosie, who was congratulated on becoming the new Warden last November following the departure of Dean Jones, reported that a survey of the Grey Seal population in early April revealed a total of 186 individuals being counted – a high number for this time of year. Later in the year, an autumn count of seal pups recorded 42 in total – last year (2021) a record number of 62 were recorded. Re-surveying of the intertidal cup corals in the Devil's Kitchen in the spring showed significant increases in the numbers of Scarlet and Gold Star corals *Balanophyllia regia* and of Devonshire cup corals *Caryophyllia smithii*. A new sea water temperature logger had been installed at the end of the jetty and a second unit was ready to be installed on the wreck of the MV *Robert*.
- The Marine Festival had kept Rosie busy, off and on, for much of the summer as mentioned later in this report. Other subjects raised during the October meeting included avian flu and revisiting the Code of Conduct leaflet, particularly in light of seal disturbance.

News from Natural England

Sophie Hare had taken over the role of overseeing Lundy's SAC and MCZ from Mel Parker towards the end of 2021. Following support from Natural England for MSc students to include fieldwork at Lundy, several studies took place during the summer months. Meaghan Kendall (University of Exeter) investigated the disturbance to hauled-out seals by visiting charter boats. Another study by Jordan Williams (University of Plymouth) looked at the presence of dolphins and porpoises

around the island during July; a third by Cherry Leung (Exeter) looked at the impact of non-native algae on native algal species; and a fourth (Exeter) investigated how the island deals with its litter. The Natural England dive team had hoped to undertake the condition monitoring of circalittoral rock and vertical rock communities within the SAC in early September. However, poor weather meant that they only dived at the island on one day (at Brazen Ward and at the Knoll Pins), with the rest of their time spent diving out of Ilfracombe at sites within the Bideford to Foreland Point MCZ. A condition assessment for the Lundy SAC is due to be completed in the near future.

Following a period of consultation regarding the establishment of a first tranche of Highly Protected Marine Areas around the country (of which Lundy's No Take Zone could be considered a forerunner), by October it was announced by Defra that five sites were being proposed, with just three of these (all offshore sites) being designated by the end of the year. As part of the consultation process, a recommendation that the NTZ at Lundy be extended was proposed by Keith Hiscock, but this was not taken up.

Natural England were pleased to have been able to sponsor the Marine Festival this summer, allowing for the production of a new display about the 50 years of the Lundy MPA, and a reprinting of the Lundy Marine Wildlife Guides, first issued in 2011.

News from D&SIFCA

There was little news to report on IFCA matters relating to the Lundy MPA during the year. The only relevant issue related to a review of commercial diving permits for collecting scallops. Although the collection of scallops is banned from the island's NTZ, it is still permitted outside the NTZ. Scallop collecting by hand is far less destructive to the seabed than using dredges. Interestingly, and rather alarmingly, recreational divers are allowed a maximum take of 25 scallops per day, whereas a permit for commercial divers allows a maximum of 2,400 per day!

News from Historic England

The licensing system for divers to visit either of the island's two protected wrecks was explained to charter skippers and to others, following some confusion which had arisen linked with the reporting system currently in place. Licensees were categorized as being either 'principal' (such as the Lundy Company), to whom 'additional' licensees registered with the principal licensee should notify the names of divers visiting the wrecks; or simply as independent 'additional' licensees', whose divers had to be named to HE directly. The reporting process could be submitted after dive(s) had taken place at either site. Over the course of the summer, 33 dives had taken place on the *Iona II* between 15th June and 22nd August 2022; with 6 dives undertaken on the Gull Rock site between 9th June and 8th July.

Historic England were pleased to have been able to sponsor the Marine Festival this summer by hosting four Protected Wreck days (hosted by the Nautical Archaeology Society); funding a photogrammetry project which provided 3D images of both Protected Wreck sites; reissuing a guidebook about the *Iona II* and writing a new leaflet about the HMS *Montagu*.

News from the N. Devon Biosphere

The Marine Wildlife Aware Accreditation Scheme run by the North Devon Biosphere was relaunched on-line on 4th March 2022. This course, which has been classroom-based in the past, has been designed and run by former Lundy Warden Beccy MacDonald-Lofts. It is based on the national WiSE accreditation scheme (www.wisescheme.org). During the Group's second meeting in October, it was pointed out that the on-line version of the accreditation scheme was

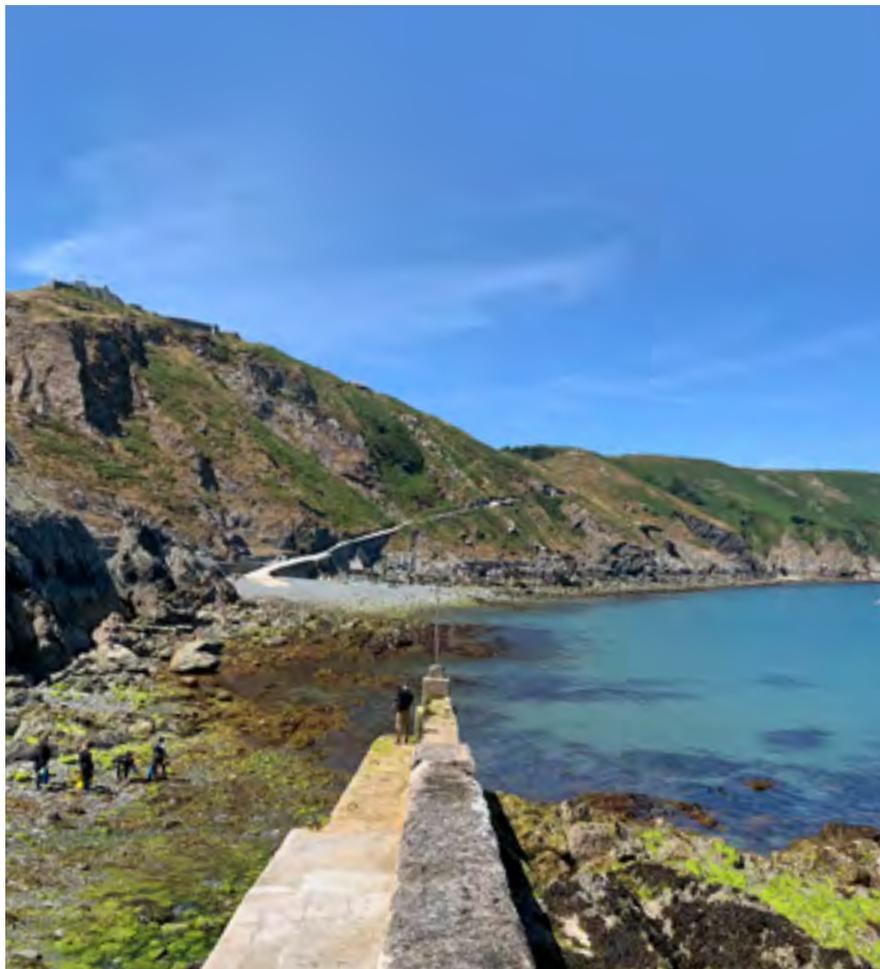
not working properly, so the information it contained was not accessible. Derek Green agreed to pass this feedback back to the Biosphere team.

Your Input

If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, I would be happy to raise them on your behalf: robert@sea-scope.co.uk

The Lundy Marine Festival

An account of the Marine Festival written by Robert is a special feature in this year's Annual Report and follows this LMPAAG report (Ed.).



▲ *Filming the Snorkel Safari at the Old Jetty during the Marine Festival (photo: Rosie Ellis).*

THE LUNDY MARINE FESTIVAL 2022

Robert Irving (Marine Festival Co-ordinator)

After narrowly avoiding a false start to the Marine Festival in 2020 (thankfully, the nationwide lockdown following the outbreak of Covid-19 happened *just before* we were about to launch the festival's website), it finally got underway a couple of years later on Thursday 14th July 2022, once pandemic restrictions on movement and mixing had been fully relaxed, and ran for eight weeks until 10th September. The pausing of the event in 2020 was fortuitous really, as 2022 marked the Marine Protected Area's 50th year (Lundy is the oldest MPA in the country), so there was an appropriate excuse to celebrate this milestone.

There were several other reasons for holding an event to mark the occasion which, largely because of its duration, was given the title of 'Festival'. To start with, we wanted to highlight the existence of the Marine Protected Area (MPA), which many of those visiting the island for the first time are unaware of; we wanted to make the most of the opportunity to undertake a number of citizen science projects to assist with the on-going management of the MPA; we also wanted to raise awareness of marine conservation in general; and lastly, we wanted to leave behind a worthwhile legacy once the festival was over, so that the interest and knowledge which the festival had generated would not be lost.

This report sets out what was achieved during the festival.

Sponsors and Supporters

We were delighted with the support given by a wide range of sponsors and supporters to the festival (their logos are illustrated). Of particular note was funding from **Natural England** which contributed towards running the marine bioblitz, producing the new MPA display panels and re-publishing the marine wildlife guides which originally came out in 2011; from **Historic England**, whose funding covered the costs of hosting four Protected Wreck Days (run by the Nautical Archaeology Society); from the **National Trust** and the **Lundy Field Society** who kindly provided funds to cover general operation costs; from the **Blue Marine Foundation** for funding studies of the No Take Zone and of recording fish life; from **North Devon Biosphere** who provided funds to cover the Splash In! photographic competition; and from **the Lundy Company** for providing equipment, purchase discounts, staff time and general assistance.

Logos of the main sponsors of the Marine Festival.



Logos of supporting organisations for the Marine Festival.



Informing people about the MPA & the festival

To tell people that a Marine Festival was taking place at Lundy and why it was happening, it was important to 'get the message out there'. There were various means by which this was done. At the start of the year, an A2 colour poster was printed as well as a 3-way folded A4 colour leaflet. The distribution of both included the Tourist Offices in Ilfracombe, Bideford and Braunton as well as to appropriate departments at the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth. One of the main purposes of both vehicles was to advertise the website, by the inclusion of an easy-to-access QR code as well as the website address. There then followed several written articles targeted at specific magazines, such as the LFS's *Discovering Lundy* bulletin; *Scuba* magazine (distributed to all British Sub-Aqua Club members); the *Marine Conservation Society's* magazine; and the *Marine Biologist* magazine of the Marine Biological Association. Nearer the launch date, two large banners were produced advertising the website which were hung on the guard rails of the upper deck of the *Oldenburg*

It was the website though that was the 'go to' place for finding out about the Marine Festival (though note that it has now been taken down). The site featured information about the festival, the latest news, how to get involved, what was happening when, booking details and downloadable recording forms. It also provided an opportunity to explain a bit about the Marine Protected Area – why it exists, what it signifies and how it is managed.



▲ Lundy Marine Festival Banner on the upper deck of the Oldenburg on 14th July (photo: Robert Irving).



▲ The pop-up marine lab in the St Helen's Centre Lundy on the 15th July (photo: Robert Irving).

On the island itself, the St Helen's Centre proved an excellent educational and information hub. The Church now has a dual role of being a place of worship and contemplation as well as a space where environmental group activities can take place under cover. The Centre was pleasingly busy during the first week of the festival, being utilised as a 'pop-up' marine laboratory with microscopes and sorting trays aplenty. It also was home to two displays for the duration of the festival, one focussed on the 50 year history of the Marine Protected Area and the other featuring photographs of over 90 marine creatures found in British waters, on loan from Dr Paul Naylor. Down at the jetty there were also two aquarium tanks housing local shore life, kindly lent by the Ilfracombe Aquarium. Another way of 'getting the message across' was by means of a board game (housed in the Tavern) which the festival Co-ordinator had invented covering the MPA's 50-year history, utilising facts which had been recorded during over 70 meetings of the MPA's Advisory Group.

A final means of communicating the marine conservation message was by direct contact. Early on during the planning process, it was realised by the island authorities that extra assistance would be required to help run the festival on the island. A job description for a volunteer helper with marine biological expertise was advertised over the winter which resulted in not just one person being appointed as a Marine Festival Warden but two! Daisy Eagleton-Laing and Tara McEvoy-Wilding, both in their second year as undergraduates at the University of Exeter, fitted the bill excellently and proved invaluable in making direct contact with visitors and in ensuring that the programme of events ran smoothly.

Getting visitors involved: (1) land-based activities

Under the heading of 'projects', the hosting of a marine bioblitz was a priority, involving the recording of as many species as possible from intertidal and subtidal areas within a given period of time. Normally this would be over a day or two at a weekend, but this becomes considerably more difficult when an offshore island is the focal point. Instead, we invited various marine biological enthusiasts over to stay on the island for the first week of the festival. Their stay coincided with

excellent weather, good spring tides (thus revealing an area of the lower shore normally under water) and calm seas. Most participants (21 of the 31 who submitted records) were members of the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society, who had chosen Lundy as the destination for their annual field trip. They were joined by members of North Devon Coastwise and the Lundy Field Society. Those with less knowledge of what they were seeing on the shore were able to make use of a specially commissioned version of the iNaturalist app, which allowed photographs of species to be identified by experts on-line.

There was also a small team from the Darwin Tree of Life project on the island during this first week. Their marine team is split between the Natural History Museum in London and the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth. The Tree of Life project is aiming to collect DNA samples from every living organism in Britain and Ireland and they had decided to come to Lundy to bolster their collection of some less common marine species.

The first two weeks of the festival also saw a project involving cetacean spotting from the cliff tops, led by Chris and Sharron Blackmore of the Sea Watch Foundation. They welcomed volunteer spotters joining them at the Castle Parade, where the arc of view takes in the southern half of the east coast, the tidal race beyond Rat Island and the south coast too.

Later on in the festival, four Protected Wreck Days were organised by the Nautical Archaeology Society. These were to feature a dive on the wreck of the paddle steamer *Iona II* and also one on the wreck of HMS *Montagu*, although adverse weather conditions meant visiting this second site had to be abandoned at the last minute. Participants were given a talk about each wreck, together with interpretive material explaining the history and importance of each and a laminated guide-map to take with them under water on their dive.

The established programme of guided coastal walks (frequently led by one of the very able Lundy Ambassadors team) which take place on *Oldenburg* sailing days, were incorporated into the Marine Festival's own programme. Apparently, Ambassadors had been asked to 'swot up' on information about the MPA so as to be able to answer questions asked during the walks concerning the island's nearshore waters. In addition, on non-*Oldenburg* sailing days, rockpool rambles and snorkel safaris took place, typically in the vicinity of Devil's Kitchen and around the jetty.

We were keen to ensure that participation in the marine bioblitz was not solely restricted to knowledgeable enthusiasts but also to those who may not know much about the seaweeds and intertidal animals found on the shore. Besides having experts on hand to be able to answer questions and to point out certain species, our way of opening this up was using a dedicated identification mobile phone app called iNaturalist. The Marine Biological Association, who would be making use of all of the records which were made during the bioblitz by adding them to their DASSH portal (an archive of marine species and habitats data), kindly designed a festival-specific front-end to this app. The app allows for any photograph taken of an unnamed species to be uploaded and identified by on-line experts, thus allowing not only for the species to be identified but also for its GPS position to be recorded – "Simplest!", as a famous meerkat might say. Fortunately, there is now much better mobile phone coverage on the island and the St Helen's Centre also provides internet access.

Getting visitors involved: (2) underwater activities

In order to encourage sports divers to get involved with diving at Lundy, a range of citizen science projects were included in the programme of events. Divers were able to self-allocate a level of marine biological competence on the website and then chose which project(s) to take part in. Disappointingly, the take-up of many of the volunteer diving projects was low. It is thought this might have been because most of the dive boat days available were mid-week rather than at

weekends when more divers might have been available. However, we did get some data back from a few of the projects.

There was also the *Splash In!* photo competition for budding photographers to enter and, for those either unable, or simply not keen, to get themselves wet, there were Virtual Reality headsets available in the St Helen's Centre to see what it would be like to be in the water at Lundy. The favourite film viewed was diving with seals off the east coast. The headsets allow one to look up and down and from side to side, all the time being totally surrounded by water and experiencing having seals come right up to you! The headsets certainly proved a big attraction for the landlubber visitors.

Informing people about marine life and marine conservation issues

A series of talks given by invited experts in their respective fields was considered to be an appropriate way of stimulating discussion. Thus, on each of nine Friday evenings during the festival, an illustrated talk was presented in the St Helen's Centre followed by a question and answer session. Each speaker arrived on a Thursday sailing and departed on a Saturday sailing, giving them a chance to explore the island a little and to stay overnight in one of the festival tents. The talks regularly welcomed between 30-50 people, though sadly the intention to share the talks with a much wider audience by means of a live broadcast via the internet did not materialise for various unsurmountable technical reasons.

A number of merchandise items relating to the festival were on sale in the Island Shop. These included marine life guides; jigsaw postcards of five charismatic species; a booklet about the wreck of the *Iona II*; and a Q & A card game entitled *What am I?* All income from the sale of these items has gone towards meeting the costs of their production.

Summary results of scientific projects

Marine Bioblitz (intertidal): The search for species was undertaken at nine intertidal sites. These were: Devil's Kitchen, Rat Island (N & S), Three Caves Bay (between the west side of Devil's Kitchen and Mermaid's Pool), Lametry, North Landing Bay, Quarry Beach, Brazen Ward and Gannets' Bay. Access difficulties and time restrictions prevented sites along the south, west and north coasts from being inspected. 638 records were obtained from these sites, amounting to 307 species (including algae, marine lichens, a cyanobacterium, invertebrates and fishes), with 218 marine taxa being recorded from Devil's Kitchen alone.

(Subtidal): Four dive sites (Knoll Pins, Brazen Ward, Battery Point and Jenny's Cove) were visited on 18th & 19th July 2023 by 10 diving pairs, undertaking 20 dives in total. 214 taxa were recorded from these dives, 60 of which were also recorded from the intertidal searches.

A total of 478 marine taxa were recorded from both intertidal and subtidal sites. This number included 160 taxa of marine algae (seaweeds), 293 marine invertebrate taxa and 12 species of fishes. In all, 1239 records were collated (638 from shores and 601 from dives). All records have been published in the Porcupine MNHS Bulletin (Moore and others, 2023) and entered onto the Marine Recorder database. They will become available on the national on-line NBN Atlas in due course.

Darwin Tree of Life project: By the end of their week's stay, the DToL team were delighted to have collected 67 species on their 'hit list' which, following processing of tissue samples, led to 24 species being submitted to the Sanger Institute for DNA cataloguing.



▲ A rockpool ramble in Devil's Kitchen in August, part of the Marine Festival (photographer unknown).

Recording non-native species: Keith Hiscock led on this project. He specifically recorded a total of eight non-native species from both intertidal and subtidal sites, although some more were added from the records of other participants in the Bioblitz (see also his account of notable marine species records, in the Marine Records section of this Annual Report). His records were of: **Harpoon Weed** *Asparagopsis armata* [native to southern Australia and New Zealand]; **Oyster Thief** *Colpomenia peregrina* [native to the NE Pacific]; **Wireweed** *Sargassum muticum* [native to the NW Pacific]; **Pom-pom Weed** *Caulocanthus okumarae* [native to the NW Pacific]; **Harvey's Siphon Weed** *Melanothamnus harveyi* [native to the NW Atlantic]; **Siphoned Japan Weed** *Dasysiphonia japonica* [native to the western Pacific]; **Red Ripple Bryozoan** *Watersipora subatra*; and the **Australasian Barnacle** *Australominus modestus* [native to Australia and New Zealand]. He also noted that **Pacific Oysters** *Magallana gigas* [native to Japan and much of SE Asia] were no longer present around Hell's Gates, having been removed soon after being first detected there in the summer of 2020.

Cetacean surveillance: In comparison to previous years, relatively few cetaceans were spotted during the second half of July (9th-23rd) in 2022, when targeted watches for them were undertaken. Most records came from Chris and Sharron Blackmore, together with Jordan Williams who was undertaking a study of cetacean sightings at Lundy for her Plymouth University MSc dissertation. The seven effort-related watches (five from Castle Parade and two from SW Point) amounted to 13 hours 40 minutes and recorded 18 **Harbour Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena* sightings (of 43 animals in total) and one sighting of **Common Dolphin** *Delphinus delphis* (of six animals).

One additional point of interest was the attachment of an underwater remote acoustic recording device (known as an F-POD) to the wreck of the MV *Robert* off the island's east coast. This device, made by Chelonia and brought to the island by Joe Dennet of Research Development UK, will form part of a network of underwater listening stations all around the SW peninsula being used for long-term monitoring of all cetacean species. Fortunately, the data acquired will be available to the island's Conservation Team as well as for the more extensive regional study.



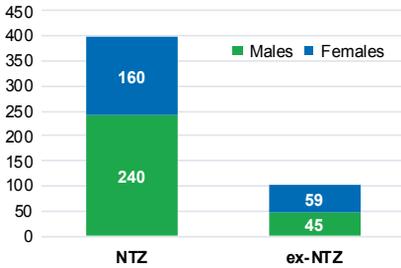
▲ Extracting a lobster from a pot during the survey of shellfish in the No Take Zone (photo: Robert Irving).

Monitoring of shellfish populations within No Take Zone (NTZ): The No Take Zone off the island's east coast (just 3.3 km² in area) was the first such statutory zone in the country to exclude all types of fishing when it was set up in 2003. A study investigating the effectiveness of the NTZ with regard to shellfish populations (specifically **Common Lobster** *Homarus gammarus*, **Edible Crab** *Cancer pagurus*, **Velvet Swimming Crab** *Necora puber* and **Spiny Spider Crab** *Maja brachydactyla*) was undertaken between the end of June and the end of August, with financial backing from the Blue Marine Foundation. The study involved 50 pots (as five strings of ten pots each) being set and lifted within 24 hours at sites both inside and outside of the NTZ. All crustacea caught in the pots were measured and a proportion weighed, before being returned to the sea. An identical study was also undertaken by a team from the University of Plymouth from mid-May to mid-June (commissioned by the North Devon Biosphere) using the same boat and gear, allowing for the results of each study to be combined.

The results of the festival study showed that there are as many as four times as many lobsters within the NTZ than there are elsewhere in the MPA, a figure which rises to 6.6 times if only larger lobsters of a legally landable size (≥ 90 mm carapace length) are considered (Figure 1). The average size of the lobsters within the NTZ was also found to be larger (by 4%) than those outside the NTZ.

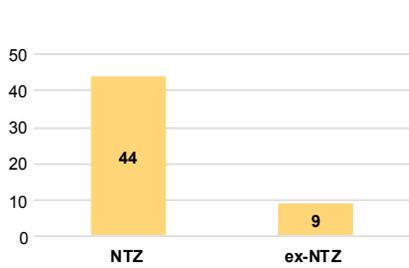
Of all lobsters caught (504 individuals), 53 (or 10%) showed signs of limb loss or damage (Figure 2). Of those exhibiting such damage, 44 (83%) were caught within the NTZ and 9 (17%) were caught outside the NTZ. Within the NTZ, 31 (70%) of the damaged individuals were male and 30% were female. Lobsters are known to fight for both territories and for mates, so this result might have been expected. As with other crustaceans, lobsters can regrow limbs, although this may take several moults to achieve.

Lobster: number caught.



▲ Figure 1. Proportion of all lobsters caught from inside and outside the NTZ, by sex.

Lobster: number with missing limbs.

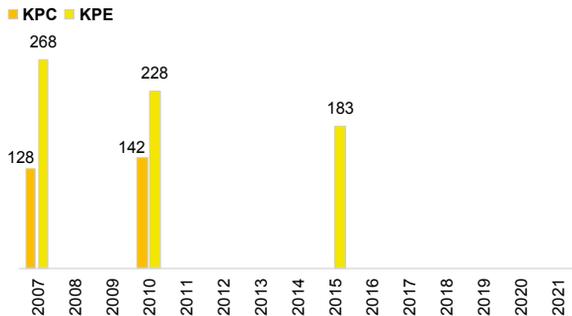


▲ Figure 2. Proportion of lobsters with missing limbs caught inside (NTZ) and outside the no take zone (ex NTZ).

The results of the catches of Edible Crabs, Spiny Spider Crabs and of Velvet Swimming Crabs showed that far more individuals of all these species were caught outside the NTZ than within it. It is tempting to think this may be because of the higher number lobsters present within the NTZ having the effect of keeping other crustacean species away from the NTZ, though it may also be in part due to different habitat preferences. A full report of this study has been submitted to the Blue Marine Foundation (Irving, 2022).

Sunset Cup Coral re-assessment study: The **Sunset Cup Coral** *Leptopsammia pruvoti* is a bright yellow-and-orange, nationally rare, solitary coral which is found in small numbers on vertical rock faces off the island’s east coast. It is regarded as one of the must-see species for underwater naturalists visiting the Marine Protected Area. However, since assessments of the Lundy populations of these cup corals began in the mid-1970s, their numbers have been steadily declining, so much so that only about 25% of the population first monitored in the mid-1970s now remains. The cause of this gradual decline is not obvious. *L. pruvoti* is a Mediterranean species which is at the northern edge of its range at Lundy, so its numbers are expected to be more susceptible to environmental pressures than to populations which occur further south within its range.

Number of corals by year: 2007 – 2022.



▲ The number of *L. pruvoti* corals counted from defined photographic areas at the two monitoring sites of Knoll Pins Cave (KPC) and Knoll Pins East (KPE) over 15 years.



▲ Sunset Cup Corals with diver at the Knoll Pins (photo: Paul Naylor).

The results from re-photographing two sites at the Knoll Pins in June 2022 have shown that the number of adult *L. pruvoti* corals continues to decline. The one positive outcome of the study was that the proportion of recently settled corals (new recruits) was found to have increased. A full report of this study has been submitted to Natural England (who commissioned the project), which is available to download (Irving, 2023a).

Volunteer diver projects

- 1. Maximum depths of seaweeds:** The maximum depths at which particular species of seaweed can grow is determined by the clarity of the water and hence the amount of light reaching the plant. Different species are adapted to different tolerances of light levels, so the depths at which these species are found can provide an indication of water clarity/turbidity over the long term. The data points of particular interest are the deepest occurrence of kelp (particularly *Laminaria hyperborea*) and of foliose reds (typically *Haraldiophyllum bonnemaisonii*). It was found that the maximum depth recorded for *L. hyperborea* off Battery Point was 6.8 m. (below chart datum) and the maximum depth of *H. bonnemaisonii* at the Knoll Pins was 20.6 m. (bcd). The latter record can be compared to measurements taken in 2010 (24.5 m) and in 1985 (22.0 m).
- 2. Condition of Sea Fans:** The Pink Sea-fan *Eunicella verrucosa* is a nationally protected species. The Lundy population suffered from an outbreak of a bacterial disease at the turn of the last century which led to many specimens dying. Reports on their condition from dives undertaken during the festival indicate that the recovery of the population is proving to be very gradual, with overall numbers still fewer than they were before the outbreak occurred. More are now being used by Bull Huss (a small shark species) to attach their eggs, when compared to before the disease outbreak.
- 3. Viewpoint photography on the *Iona II*:** Divers visiting the protected wreck of the paddle steamer *Iona II* were asked to take photographs from certain vantage points on the wreck to provide a record of its gradual decay. The resulting photos have been submitted to Historic England. A report on diving activities associated with the island's two protected wrecks has been submitted to Historic England (Irving *et al.*, 2023b).

Using BRUVS to record fish life: BRUVS stands for Baited Remote Underwater Video System.

The 'system' involves two small video cameras (Go-Pro was the make we used) fixed to a metal frame which has bait attached at the end of a pole. The cameras are directed at the bait (in our case Mackerel) and are set to record while the frame sits on the seabed. The festival was lent three such BRUVS frames for two days of recording fish life within the MPA. Those frames set within shallow seaweed-dominated areas recorded mostly wrasse species, **Goldsinny** *Ctenolabrus rupestris*, **Ballan** *Labrus bergylta* and **Cuckoo** *Labrus mixtus* (though note that these species were not interested in the bait), while those in deeper water or on sediment areas recorded **Conger Eel** *Conger conger* and three species of small sharks (**Small-spotted Catshark** *Scyliorhinus canicula*, **Bull Huss** *Scyliorhinus stellaris* and **Smoothhound** *Mustelus* sp.) which were attracted by the bait. A total of 13 fishes were recorded, though longer recording time in other habitats is required for a more comprehensive list of species to be produced (see Irving, 2022).

Legacy values

A full report about the whole Marine Festival has been written which includes its planning, execution and the assimilation of results (Irving, 2023b). Digital copies are available free of charge from the author upon request (robert@sea-scope.co.uk). The report provides a detailed record of the whole Marine Festival from concept to completion and may help guide anyone who may be tempted to run such a venture again at some point in the future.

A short (approx. 40 minute) film about the No Take Zone is being completed as this article is being written. It has been funded by the Blue Marine Foundation. With Highly Protected Marine Areas now being introduced by the Government, it is hoped it can be used to encourage other coastal communities to set them up elsewhere around the UK coast.

The usefulness of the volunteer Marine Festival Wardens over the summer has persuaded the island authorities to advertise for a volunteer Marine Warden post for the summer of 2023.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank all those who participated in the Marine Festival, but especially those who freely gave of their time and their expertise to make the experience for others more rewarding. In particular, my thanks go to: Patrick Adkins, Gareth Alvarez, Andrew and Ben Bengey, Greg Brown, Tim Clements, Sammy Davison, Daisy Eagleton-Laing, Rosie Ellis, Chris Fletcher, Bob Foster-Smith, Shaun Galliver, Derek Green, Lyndsey Green, Summer Grundy, Keith Hiscock, Geoff Huelin, Finn and Issy Irving, Inez Januszczyk, Cat Joniver, Peta Knott, Tara McEvoy-Wilding, Claire Moody, Jon Moore, Paul Naylor, Michael Pitts, Lawrence Raybone, Jon Slayer, Jean-Luc Solandt, Zach Wait, Claire Wallerstein, Rob and Sue Waterfield, Rob Wells and Rob Whitney.

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▲ Starlings near St. Helen's Church, 7th December (photo: Andrea May).

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2022

Stuart Cossey (Assistant Warden)

REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 159 species (pending three outstanding rarity decisions) were recorded during 2022. Highlights included:

- Record spring counts of Brambling in March
- Big counts of 400 Willow Warbler in August and 12,000 Swallow in September
- Earliest autumn record for Ring Ouzel on 2nd September
- Adult male Baltimore Oriole on 8th October
- Record count of 4,000 Fieldfare in October
- Five species of goose recorded during the year

Note: Due to failure of the island's weather station, no data on temperature are available beyond the month of July.

JANUARY – Max temp 13.3°C, min -1.6°C, mean 7.5°C. Rainfall 83.1 mm. 60 species recorded

The month started with strong southwesterly and westerly winds, with a brief change to the north on 4th & 5th. Dense fog on 10th cleared with light winds for the rest of the week bringing some early spring-like conditions. Towards the end of the month fog was frequent but it remained relatively mild.

A few migrants were noted from 4th including **Skylark**, **Siskin** and **Fieldfare**. **Goldcrests** and **Woodpigeons** were present throughout January with numbers building towards the end of

the month. A **Cormorant** was seen around Rocket Pole Pond until 3rd. A **Merlin** was frequently seen hunting around the south of the island and a **Kestrel** arrived on 13th. On Pondsburry the number of **Teal** remained at around 10 with a maximum of 12. The 12th and 13th also saw some early migration, with a **Brambling**, three **Lesser Redpolls**, 24 **Linnets**, 380 **Starlings** and five **Golden Plovers**, as well as a **Lapland Bunting** that flew over the Village with **Skylarks**. A total of 36 **Golden Plovers** were recorded, including 13 flying over Ackland's Moor on 28th. A **Ringed Plover** flew over the Village on 14th. Coinciding with a small arrival of **Woodpigeons**, a **Stock Dove** was seen on 14th and another, or the same bird, was still in Millcombe on 22nd, 26th, 28th & 29th. An elusive female **Bullfinch** was heard between 16th & 24th. A **Collared Dove** in the Farmyard on 19th was the first winter record since 2000. A total of 58 **Oystercatchers** were counted during a perimeter walk of the whole island on 31st. **Snipe** were often flushed from wet areas and **Jack Snipe** were seen on 5th, 26th & 31st. There were eight records of **Chiffchaff** during the month. **Reed Buntings** were frequently seen in the gorse south of Pondsburry, including a male and two females on 21st. First seen on 26th, a **Lapwing** was in Barton Field until the end of the month. Bizarrely, the only **Woodcock** seen this month was roosting in the Casbah on 28th. **Water Rails** were occasionally heard calling from around Millcombe Pond and Smelly Gully. Large feeding flocks of gulls and other seabirds were frequently seen off the East Side, with up to 2,000 **Kittiwakes** and occasional **Mediterranean** and **Common Gulls**. **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and **Fulmars** were all seen on the cliffs along the West Side preparing for a busy breeding season. At least two **Great Northern Divers** were seen in the Landing Bay throughout the month and the first **Red-throated Diver** was seen on 31st.

Rarities and scarcities

The **Pink-footed Goose** and **White-fronted Goose** first seen on 23rd December 2021 were still present in High Street Field on New Year's Day but not subsequently. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** was heard calling in the Secret Garden on 9th.

FEBRUARY – Max temp 11.4°C, min 2.7°C, mean 8.5°C. Rainfall 115.6 mm. 57 species recorded

The beginning of the month was mostly dry and bright with moderate winds. Strong winds from the west started on 4th, continuing for much of the month, although there were a few quieter days from 7th and the 9th started with fog. Severe weather warnings were in place for the week of 14th to 20th and Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin whipped across the island in quick succession, bringing gusts of up to 86mph before the weather station broke! The 25th to 27th were dry and bright.

Mild mornings encouraged the first **Song Thrush**, **Robin**, **Duncock** and **Chaffinch** to start singing in Millcombe. Up to 11 **Teal** and 19 **Mallards** were logged, along with up to three **Woodpigeons** on most days. A **Stock Dove** was seen on 25th & 28th. A total of 14 **Snipe** were counted on 1st, most of which were on a wet flush in South West Field. There were also three records of **Jack Snipe**, on 4th, 11th & 17th. A **Woodcock** was flushed along Quarter Wall on 7th. The **Lapwing** from January stayed until 2nd. The **Merlin** continued to hunt around the south of the island up to 17th and was observed hunting migrating **Skylarks** as well as the resident **Starlings**. **Kittiwake** numbers continued to build off the East Side, with a maximum count of 3,500 before dropping back to 500 on 11th. Several smaller gull species were present amongst them, including totals of 71 **Common Gulls**, nine **Black-headed Gulls** and six **Mediterranean Gulls**. At least three **Great Northern Divers** were in the Landing Bay and **Red-throated Divers** were noted up to 17th. **Chiffchaff** (max three) and **Goldcrest** (max five) were recorded almost daily. A female **Black Redstart** was on the slope below Benjamin's Chair on 25th. Some finch movement was noted, with four **Bramblings** north and 73 **Linnets** over on 11th. Four **Greenfinches** were logged, with one on 11th, two on 15th and one on 28th. A **Bullfinch** was heard again in Millcombe on 6th & 8th.

A single **Siskin** was heard on 17th. **Meadow Pipit** migration started towards the end of the month with 52 counted on 26th and 66 on 27th. The first **Snow Bunting** of the year was beyond Threequarter Wall on 2nd and **Reed Buntings** continued to be seen in the gorse south of Pondsbury on 8th & 11th.

Rarities and scarcities

A single **Little Gull** was seen with **Kittiwakes** off the East Side on 2nd and then two the following day. After the mid-month storms, a 2nd calendar-year **Iceland Gull** was on Ackland's Moor on 19th.

MARCH – Max temp 14.1°C, min 2.3°C, mean 9.2°C Rainfall 52.6 mm. 76 species recorded

Wind from the north and east brought a cold but clear first week. Winds picked up from the 8th with occasional showers and drizzle. Easterly winds continued until the end of the month and it remained bright and mild.

Spring passage got into full swing with the first arrivals of trans-Saharan migrants being two **Wheatears** on 8th. A **Chiffchaff** on 8th was likely the first new arrival, following the departure of wintering birds before the end of February. **Sand Martins** were first seen on 10th and then on ten further dates, peaking at five on 27th. The first **Swallows** appeared on 15th building to 25 by the end of the month. The first **Puffins** arrived on 12th with eight in Jenny's Cove and the first on land were recorded on 22nd. **Manx Shearwaters** were not far behind with a bird calling from a burrow below Old Light on 19th. A **House Martin** was seen at North Light on 20th, with three other single birds passing through towards the end of the month. The first **Blackcap** occurred on 17th with **Willow Warblers** arriving from 21st. A female **Firecrest** was present on three days from 18th, followed by a male on 24th. **Meadow Pipit** migration was notable on 10th & 20th with more than 100 on both dates. The first **Tree Pipit** was heard on 27th. The first six **White Wagtails** were seen on 20th followed by nine across the island on both 22nd & 23rd. A **Mistle Thrush** seen on 21st hung around until the end of the month. The first **Ring Ouzels** of the year were all males, with singles on 28th and two on 29th. The most notable arrival was a fall of **Bramblings** on 20th & 21st with record spring counts of 33 and 40 across the island. The first small flocks of **Siskin** were seen on 24th, 25th & 27th. A female **Bullfinch** was in Millcombe on 27th. Single **Reed Buntings** were recorded on 10th & 27th.

A high count of 13 **Teal** was made on 16th, and of 20 **Mallards** on 10th. **Wood pigeons** were recorded every day, flocks of 10 being seen on 16th & 31st. **Stock Doves** were noted on ten dates, with two present on 26th & 27th. Six **Golden Plovers** flew north on 22nd, while the first **Dunlin** of the year were seen along the West Side on 20th & 23rd. At least two **Jack Snipe** and three **Snipe** were counted on multiple occasions. Five **Black-headed Gulls** were off North End and the Terrace on 22nd. Fewer **Kittiwakes** were seen, the biggest count being 451 on 20th. The last **Red-throated Divers** of the winter were seen on 22nd, including one off Rat Island and another two off North Light. A flock of seven **Grey Herons** headed north past Jenny's Cove on 19th, another individual stopping off on the island from 21st to 23rd. A male **Kestrel** arrived on 16th and remained to breed. A female **Merlin** was seen on ten dates and a **Sparrowhawk** was logged on three dates. A **Rook** was heard calling over the Village on 14th. **Skylarks** started song-flighting whilst others were seen moving south, the highest count being 50 on 22nd.

Rarities and scarcities

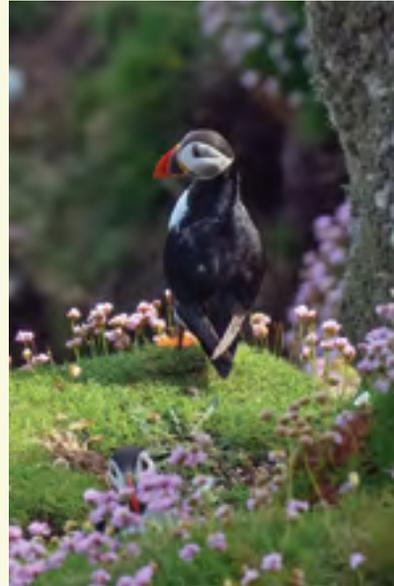
A 2nd calendar-year **Yellow-legged Gull** was in Tillage Field with **Herring Gulls** on 4th. A female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on the Terrace and in Quarter Wall Copse on 29th & 30th. A **Grey Plover** flew over Ackland's Moor calling on 25th.

FIRST DATES FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

March	8 th	Wheatear, Chiffchaff
	9 th	Grey Wagtail
	10 th	Sand Martin
	12 th	Puffin
	15 th	Swallow
	17 th	Blackcap
	19 th	Grey Heron, Manx Shearwater
	20 th	Dunlin, House Martin, White Wagtail
	21 st	Willow Warbler
	24 th	Siskin
27 th	Tree Pipit	
28 th	Ring Ouzel	
April	3 rd	Redstart
	11 th	Whitethroat
	12 th	Sandwich Tern, Yellow Wagtail
	14 th	Grasshopper Warbler
	15 th	Sedge Warbler
	17 th	Pied Flycatcher
	20 th	Whimbrel, Lesser Whitethroat
	23 rd	Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper
	24 th	Reed Warbler, Whinchat
	25 th	Osprey
27 th	Swift	
29 th	Curlew, Garden Warbler	
30 th	Spotted Flycatcher	
May	1 st	Cuckoo
	11 th	Hobby

LAST DATES FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

March	22 nd	Red-throated Diver
	27 th	Reed Bunting
April	4 th	Jack Snipe, Fieldfare
	8 th	Brambling
	12 th	Redwing
	30 th	Great Northern Diver
May	1 st	Snipe
	7 th	Firecrest
	8 th	Snow Bunting
	11 th	Goldcrest
	13 th	Woodcock
	27 th	Merlin



▲ Puffin, Jenny's Cove, 15th June
(photo: Richard Campey).

▼ Firecrest, Millcombe
(photo: Richard Campey).



APRIL – Max temp 16.2°C, min 1.9°C, mean 9.4°C. Rainfall 15.5 mm. 105 species recorded

Strong winds from the northeast and west at the start of the month. Rain was recorded on 4th and some hail on 6th. Poor visibility on 13th preceded light winds from the south. Towards the end of the month the winds picked up from the east.

Migration continued to gather pace with some very busy days, especially in Millcombe. A **Firecrest** and five **Goldcrests** were seen on 3rd, with single **Goldcrests** present on another four dates. The first **Redstart** was a male seen by the Ugly on 3rd. Four **Bramblings** were also seen on 3rd with a single bird up to 8th. Two female **Bullfinches** were ringed on 3rd and one was seen on 4th, followed by a male on 7th. Low cloud on 4th brought in some migrant thrushes, among them 66 **Redwings** (including a flock of 40) seen across the island, four **Fieldfares** and two **Mistle Thrushes**. A count of 17 **Woodpigeons** on 5th was the highest of the month. A **Snow Bunting** was heard flying over Rocket Pole on 5th. **Chaffinches** were confirmed breeding in Millcombe when mating was witnessed on 5th. A total of nine **Cormorants** heading north during the month included a flock of five on 9th. A **Grey Heron** flew north on 10th. Some 30 **Willow Warblers** and 40 **Blackcaps** were seen on 3rd before an arrival of 60 **Willow Warblers**, 30 **Chiffchaffs** and 150 **Blackcaps** occurred on 16th. At least two **Merlins** were noted – a male on 10th and a female on 13 dates. There were a few days of strong **Meadow Pipit** migration until just the breeding birds remained. The highest totals were 75 on 10th, 122 on 11th and 91 on 12th. Along with the **Meadow Pipits**, a total of six individual **Tree Pipits** were recorded flying over. The first **Whitethroat** was seen in Millcombe on 11th. The last **Redwing** of the spring was a single bird on 12th. Also on this date a **Sandwich Tern** flew across the Landing Bay, whilst a **Yellow Wagtail** over Quarter Wall was also the first of the year. A further three were recorded during the month, including a male **Blue-headed Wagtail** from 24th to 26th. After fog on 13th, the first three **Grasshopper Warblers** of the year were heard reeling. The first **Sedge Warbler** was ringed, along with 24 **Willow Warblers** and 57 **Blackcaps** mist-netted in Millcombe on 14th. A **Water Rail** was singing by Quarter Wall on 15th. Eighteen **Stonechats** were logged on 17th, probably a mix of resident breeders and passage birds. Six **Pied Flycatchers** included a male on the Terrace on 17th, while a male and two females were in Millcombe on 26th. A **Rook** flew over Castle Hill on 19th.

The number of **Swallows** moving north increased towards the end of the month. Highest counts were 4,200 on 27th and 1,020 on 29th. The peak **Sand Martin** count was 57 on 14th, whilst 75 **House Martins** passed through on 27th, the same date as the first **Swifts** were seen. Three firsts of the year were a **Lesser Whitethroat** on 20th, a **Reed Warbler** at Pondsbury on 24th and a **Garden Warbler** on 29th. Numbers of **Blackcap** picked up again, with 50 on 26th & 30th. A **Treecreeper** was in Millcombe on 26th. A single **Whinchat** was present on 24th. Six **Redstarts** included a male and female together on 25th & 26th. **Wheatear** arrivals picked up towards the end of the month with 93 on 24th and 140 on 27th. **Grey Wagtails** were seen on 25th & 27th and **White Wagtails** were seen regularly, including five on 11th. Frequent passage flocks of **Goldfinch** and **Linnet** reached maxima of 38 on 14th & 15th, and 79 on 24th, respectively, along with six separate **Siskins** and a single **Lesser Redpoll**. **Collared Doves** were seen on multiple dates and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** arrived on 30th.

As well as passerines, waders were on the move, with a **Jack Snipe** on 4th and a **Golden Plover** on 10th, followed by a **Sanderling** on Pondsbury on 12th. The first **Whimbrels**, two on Rat Island, were seen on 20th with a further 17 records during the month, mostly in the vicinity of Benjamin's Chair. Single **Dunlin** were seen on 10th & 25th. **Ringed Plovers** were noted on 23rd & 27th, a **Common Sandpiper** was in the Landing Bay on 23rd, 29th & 30th, a **Curlew** flew over the Church on 29th and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was in Devil's Kitchen on 30th.



▲ *Peregrine, East Side, 19th June (photo: Richard Campey).*

Of the breeding birds, the first **Mallard** ducklings (12 in Barton Field) were seen on 29th, while a male and two female **Teal** were present at Pondsburry. Seabird numbers steadily built as they returned to their breeding areas. At least 10,000 **Guillemots**, 3,000 **Razorbills** and 124 **Puffins** were counted on 24th. A **Great Northern Diver** remained in the Landing Bay. A **Sparrowhawk** and a pair of **Kestrels** were seen regularly, while the highest count of **Peregrine** was eight on 24th. **Skylarks** were in full voice across the island, particularly in South West Field and on Ackland's Moor.

Rarities and scarcities

The female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen again along the Terrace on 7th & 18th. Two **Canada Geese** were in Barton Field on 9th and another two (or possibly the same pair) flew over *Oldenburg* as it departed on 12th. A **Barnacle Goose** – the 12th island record – flew over Benjamin's Chair on 10th. A **Grey Phalarope** was spotted with **Kittiwakes** in Jenny's Cove on 12th. A female **Hawfinch** was ringed on 18th and seen again in Millcombe on 21st. An immature **Marsh Harrier** was over Ackland's Moor on 17th and an **Osprey** flew north over Millcombe on 25th. A **Bonelli's Warbler** species, thought more likely to be Eastern, was on the wall by Old Light on 25th (a record subject to acceptance by BBRC). A male **Eastern** or **Western Subalpine Warbler** was then seen by Quarter Wall on 26th. (This record was not accepted to species level by BBRC). Two immature **Shelducks** were ashore at Benjamin's Chair on 26th before flying east. Another **Hawfinch** flew over Millcombe on 30th.

MAY – Max temp 17.8°C, min 6.9°C, mean 12.0°C. Rainfall 51.1 mm. 95 species recorded

A mostly dry month though often overcast and with some heavy rain on 10th. Moderate winds from the west and northwest shifted to the east on 15th. Light to moderate southwesterly winds returned from 17th until 27th. The wind was from the northeast for the end of the month.

The month brought a good mix of migratory and breeding species. Despite the many breeding attempts made by **Mallards**, as is common on Lundy most ducklings did not reach fledging age. Eight **Teal** ducklings were on Pondsburry on 28th. The numbers of **Guillemots** and **Razorbills** on ledges dropped as pairs split up to feed hungry chicks. A full island count on 19th recorded 6,901 **Guillemots** and 2,237 **Razorbills**, whilst 340 **Puffins** were counted on 20th. **Storm Petrels** were calling during the day at a known breeding colony on 15th & 16th. The **Kestrels** were seen most days, as were the island's **Peregrine** pairs, with a high count of 10. There were good numbers of **Stonechat** as the first broods of young fledged and family groups were seen around the island. The majority of **Goldfinches** and **Linnets** were by now breeding birds, though some were still moving north, as perhaps were a few **Meadow Pipits** and **Wheatears**.



▲ Female Blackcap, Millcombe, 17th June (photo: Richard Campey).

One or two **Siskins** were present early in the month, and a female **Snow Bunting** was around from 1st to 8th, mostly seen by Quarter Wall. **Collared Doves** were frequently recorded with a high count of four on 3rd. There were multiple busy days of hirundine passage, with peaks of 4,000 **Swallows** on 2nd and 1,000 on 14th. **Sand Martins** and **House Martins** were recorded just as frequently, though in much lower numbers (max 32 and 200) respectively. A single **Sparrowhawk** was seen on 3rd. After 100 **Willow Warblers** on 1st, the daily count dropped to between one and five from 6th. **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap** numbers were low, with maximum counts of ten **Chiffchaff** and 30 **Blackcap** on 3rd. **Sedge Warblers** were more regular; 16 were counted on 3rd and at least one was seen between the 6th & 19th. One or two **Reed Warblers** were logged in the first half of the month. A high of three **Grasshopper Warblers** were present on 1st, with one or two **Garden Warblers** recorded on eight dates and similar numbers of **Lesser Whitethroats** seen on four days. A female **Firecrest** was ringed in Millcombe on 7th and a **Goldcrest** was present from 9th to 11th. At least one **Whitethroat** was seen every day, with a high count of eight on 16th. **Swifts** were recorded on 14 dates, the highest count being 18 on 11th. **Whinchats** were present on four days. Two **Lesser Redpolls** were seen on 12th and one the following day. Nine sightings of **Cuckoo** were made, mostly along the East Side, though no breeding evidence was noted. Two **Merlins** were seen on 27th. Two **Wood Warblers** on 15th included a male singing in Millcombe. A **Common Gull** was in the Landing Bay on 16th. **Tree Pipits** reached a high of three on 1st. There was a push of **Yellow Wagtails** from 13th, including two **Blue-headed Wagtails**, most seen in Barton Field, while **Grey Wagtails** were recorded on four days up to the 14th. Continental **White Wagtails** were logged on 14 dates. **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen on 23 dates, peaking at 20 on 19th, with single **Pied Flycatchers** on 1st & 19th. Meanwhile, sightings of **Redstarts** were made on just three days up to the 19th, followed by single **Black Redstarts** on three days later in the month.

It was another varied month for waders. Other than the breeding **Oystercatchers**, a single **Golden Plover** was seen between 13th & 20th and a **Ringed Plover** on 18th. Six **Whimbrels**,

two **Curlwews** and a **Snipe** were seen on 1st. **Whimbrels** were then seen on a further nine dates. **Dunlin** peaked at four on 2nd. An exceptionally late **Woodcock** flying over Pondsburry on 13th pursued by a **Peregrine** unfortunately did not survive the chase.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Greenshank** was present from 2nd to 7th, often seen with a **Bar-tailed Godwit** which stayed till 9th. A female **Hawfinch** was ringed on 2nd and retrapped on 3rd, with another bird present on 13th, the same day that a female **Bluethroat** was seen briefly on the Lower East Side Path south of Gannets' Combe. During high tide on 15th a **Purple Sandpiper** was on rocks at Brazen Ward. **Shelducks** were seen on 4th (one) and 18th (two). Single **Hooded Crows** were seen on 2nd & 12th. An entirely unanticipated 'first' for the island occurred on 22nd when a female **Mandarin Duck** appeared in the Landing Bay. An elusive **Golden Oriole** was in Millcombe between 24th & 27th.

It was a good month for birds of prey. A **Red Kite** toured the island on 8th. There were multiple **Hobby** sightings involving birds quickly passing through, including three on 16th. A **Marsh Harrier** flew over on 18th and an **Osprey** on 27th.

JUNE – Max temp 22.8°C, min 8.4°C, mean 14.2°C. Rainfall 40.8 mm. 67 species recorded

A hot, calm and dry to start to the month followed by easterly winds on 4th & 5th bringing rain. Moderate winds from the north and west for the rest of the month, picking up from 25th.

Usually a quieter month for migration, there were still a few species passing through the island. **Swifts** were recorded on 13 dates with the largest counts of 50 and 38 on 21st & 23rd respectively. There was some apparent interest in nesting with many individuals inspecting St Helen's Church. A **Cuckoo** was seen on 12th and another on 27th & 28th. Single **Dunlin** were logged on 3rd & 5th and six were counted during rain and strong winds on 4th. Hirundines were still trickling through, although the totals logged for **Sand Martin** and **House Martin** were fewer than 20 each for the whole month. The peak **Swallow** count was 35 on 13th, though our small breeding population accounted for the majority seen on most days. **Spotted Flycatchers** continued to pass through until 9th. A single **Black Redstart** was seen on 5th.

Three **Black-headed Gulls** were noted on 4th and a single bird flew over the Landing Bay on 30th. Seabirds were still present in large numbers, especially **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and **Puffins**. **Cormorant** and **Grey Heron** were both noted on four dates, with flocks of five **Cormorants** on 3rd and five **Grey Herons** on 21st. A **Sparrowhawk** flew over the Village on 7th. The **Kestrel** pair on the West Side were frequently seen carrying Pygmy Shrews towards the nest site and two fledged chicks were seen by the Battery on 30th.

The last singing **Willow Warbler** of the spring was heard on 7th. Three singing **Chiffchaffs** were recorded on 9th, with a maximum of six individuals on 1st & 5th. A **Sedge Warbler** was seen on 3rd, whilst a singing male and two calling birds at Quarter Wall Copse on 8th suggests a possible breeding attempt. Single **Reed Warblers** were heard on 3rd & 13th. Ten **Blackcaps** were logged on 10th – an unusually late double-digit count – with mostly single birds recorded on other days. Three pairs of **Whitethroat** were busy feeding young in Millcombe.

Starlings, **Blackbirds**, **Skylarks** and **Meadow Pipits** were all busy raising young. A male **Song Thrush** continued to sing nearly every day in Millcombe, though there was no sign of any potential mate and so no indication of breeding. The majority of **Wheatears** were on territory, high counts for the month being 50 on 3rd and 40 on three other days. At least three pairs of **Pied Wagtail** were visiting nest sites around the Village. In addition to the island's breeding

Chaffinches, **Goldfinches** and **Linnets**, a **Greenfinch** was logged on 1st and two were seen on 5th. Two **Siskins** were present on 3rd, followed by singles on 23rd & 24th and two on 25th. A **Lesser Redpoll** was seen on 7th.

Rarities and scarcities

Four **Shelducks** flew out of the Landing Bay as *Oldenburg* arrived on 2nd and two were seen again on 3rd. A **Honey-buzzard** flew over Ackland's Moor on 2nd mobbed by **Herring Gulls** (a record subject to acceptance by DBRC). A stunning male **Rose-coloured Starling** first seen by Old Light on 6th remained until 8th; another was seen briefly by the Pigsty on 21st. Two **Canada Geese** flew out to sea off the West Side on 10th. A **Yellowhammer** was at the Pigsty on 23rd. During stormy weather on 24th a **Quail** was flushed from beside a path in South West Field.

JULY – Max temp 32.1°C, min 9.6°C, mean 16.9°C. Rainfall 26.3 mm. 72 species recorded

Most of the month was clear, calm and hot. Temperatures were regularly over 20°C. The wind picked up on 24th bringing some light rain. The final week was humid with most days overcast or with low cloud and fog.

Migration started to pick up again this month, with **Swifts** recorded on 23 dates, the biggest flocks, both of 12, on 4th & 11th. Five **Grey Herons** passed through on 5th, with singles logged on five other dates. A **Siskin** was recorded on 1st and single **Collared Doves** on 2nd & 8th. Two **Spotted Flycatchers** were recorded on 3rd. **Grey Wagtails** flew over calling on 5th & 11th and a **Tree Pipit** flew over on 13th. A **Rook** flew south on 10th. A **Merlin** on 11th was an unexpected summer record and only the third July occurrence for the island. **Cormorants** were recorded on six dates, including 10 on 18th. A **Little Egret** was photographed flying over the Castle on 22nd. The first returning **Pied Flycatcher** appeared on 22nd. A total of 14 **Sand Martins** were logged, including a flock of seven on 22nd. A single **Cuckoo** was seen on 21st and a single **House Martin** flew through on 30th.

Warblers started arriving again from the beginning of the month, with a **Willow Warbler** on 1st and two **Garden Warblers** on 4th. A large fall of **Willow Warblers** occurred on 26th with at least 72 during the morning census. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard on 20th and single **Blackcaps** on three days late in the month. The first south-bound **Sedge Warbler** was noted on 20th.

Wader numbers started to increase as birds moved south away from Arctic breeding grounds. A **Golden Plover** was logged on 22nd after a brief downpour and a **Whimbrel** was calling in the Landing Bay on 30th. Single **Curlews** were recorded on four dates, with two on 27th, and single **Dunlins** occurred on 26th & 29th. A **Common Sandpiper** was around Rat Island on 21st & 22nd. Many of the island's seabirds, particularly auks, were starting to head back out to sea. Only three **Puffins** were seen on 31st.

Young **Peregrines** were frequently heard calling and seen testing their hunting skills. Whilst our breeding **Swallows** were still raising young, the first returning migrant birds began to pass through from 16th. The lone male **Song Thrush** was last recorded on 17th. Post-breeding flocks of **Linnets** were building up towards the end of the month, reaching 214 on 27th.

Rarities and scarcities

A single **Turnstone** flew over the Landing Bay on 25th. Two **Green Sandpipers** were flushed from Rocket Pole Pond on the morning of the 29th; one was then seen on Quarter Wall Pond and calling around Pondsby. A **Redshank** was on Pondsby on 8th and two flew over calling in low cloud on the morning of the 30th. During a seawatch on 24th a **Balearic Shearwater** flew past the island.

BREEDING SPECIES IN 2022

The following 36 species were confirmed as successfully fledging young:

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

In addition, confirmed breeding attempts were made by **Blackcap** and **Teal** but no young are known to have fledged. **Storm Petrel** almost certainly bred near North Light, Brazen Ward and at the Battery.



▲ *Razorbill, Jenny's Cove (photo: Richard Campey).*

AUGUST – Rainfall 69.9 mm. 91 species recorded

The first week was bright and warm with light winds from the north and northeast. Winds continued from the northeast up to 15th, often picking up in the afternoon. Thereafter, the wind turned to the southwest for a time and most days were overcast with rain and low cloud. More settled weather returned towards the end of the month, though winds from the north and northeast built in strength. The 26th brought low cloud and dense fog.

Migration for some species was in full flow. A flock of 90 **Swifts** on 10th was the highest count of the year. Four **Grey Herons** arrived on 1st, two seen regularly until 8th, with two also logged on 22nd & 30th. Forty **Goldfinches** were counted on 7th, and two **Siskins** were logged on 4th & 14th. Thirteen **House Martins** on 9th was the highest count of the month, with records on only six other days. **Sand Martins** were more frequent, with counts of 10 or more on five days. After a gap of a few weeks, flycatchers started moving again with a single **Pied Flycatcher** and **Spotted Flycatcher** on 9th; the highest counts of the latter were 13 on 24th, while Pied Flycatchers peaked at six on 14th. Two **Stock Doves** were present on 11th and the last **Cuckoo** was seen on 12th. A single **Greenfinch** was logged on 12th. A **Sparrowhawk** arrived on 12th and stayed until the end of the month, with a second bird on three days. Single **Redstarts** were recorded on 6th, 9th and 31st, with a single **Black Redstart** on 22nd. Autumn **Whinchats** peaked at three (on 29th) after the first returning bird on 13th. A **Grey Wagtail** flew over and the first five **White Wagtails** arrived on 25th. **Wood pigeons** reached nine on 25th and a single **Collared Dove** was recorded on 28th. A total of 212 **Linnet** was logged on 29th, the same day that a **Buzzard** flew over the Village.

Waders were noticeably on the move, with 15 species recorded, including a few Lundy scarcities. After a single **Golden Plover** on 9th & 10th, a **Lapwing** was seen on 29th. Although 15 **Ringed Plovers** were logged during the month, the only flock concerned three on 16th. Single **Whimbrels** passed through on five dates, with four on 21st, whilst lone **Curlews** were logged on three days, with two (accompanied by a Whimbrel) on 24th. **Dunlins** too, on nine days, were all single birds apart from a flock of five on 27th. **Snipe** were regular in wet areas, with a max of four on 10th. **Common Sandpiper** were recorded on five dates, max two on 18th.

The right conditions overnight produced an incredible fall of 400 **Willow Warblers** on 1st, but only four were seen the next day. Whilst numbers varied between 15 and 40 daily thereafter, there were peaks of 62 on 12th and 120 on 14th. Numbers of all other warblers remained low. **Chiffchaff** numbers peaked at 10 on 24th. Ten **Sedge Warblers** were present on 1st, followed by ones and twos for the remainder of the month, whilst scattered records of **Garden Warbler** and **Blackcap** were also in low single digits. Single **Grasshopper Warblers** occurred on two days, rising to two on 27th. The first dates for autumnal crests were 15th for **Goldcrest** and 29th for **Firecrest**, both species peaking at two on 31st.

At one point it was getting difficult to distinguish between local breeding birds and new arrivals. **Whitethroats** were still being seen frequently in Millcombe but these would have been a mix of locally breeding birds and migrants. **Swallows** were seen every day as the breeding birds were feeding young and migrants were heading south; the highest count was 65 on 24th. **Stonechats** had a good breeding season and there were peaks of 13 and 14 on 10th & 12th respectively. Meanwhile, **Wheatear** numbers were dropping as the resident breeders departed and birds from further north were yet to pass through. The only **Chaffinches** present were the local breeders, though there were signs of other finch species (principally **Goldfinch** and **Linnet**) moving through. With many of Lundy's **Peregrines** leaving the island after the departure of the seabirds, only four were logged during the month.

Winds from the north provided good conditions for seawatching. A **Red-throated Diver** was off North End on 3rd, where a **Puffin** was seen on 5th and single **Guillemots** were seen on 14th & 31st. An **Arctic Skua** was seen from *Oldenburg* as it passed South West Point on 30th. Three **Black-headed Gulls**, a **Common Gull**, a **Mediterranean Gull** and two **Manx Shearwaters** flew past the island on 31st. A **Sandwich Tern** passed Rat Island on 11th. Small groups of **Cormorants** included three on 9th & 19th.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Garganey** on Pondsbury on 3rd was the first since 2007. A female/immature **Marsh Harrier** flew over Barton Field on 8th and a juvenile **Yellow-legged Gull** was in Tillage Field on 17th. A flock of five **Crossbills** flew over Millcombe calling on 28th. Among a few scarce waders were a **Greenshank** calling in the Landing Bay on 22nd and a **Wood Sandpiper**, also calling in the Landing Bay, on 30th. A **Black-tailed Godwit** flew over Halfway Wall with four **Whimbrel** on 21st. During a seawatch from South West Point on 31st, two **Turnstones** and a **Redshank** flew north, while Pondsbury was the place for **Green Sandpipers**, with two there on 14th, one on 29th and another two on 31st.

SEPTEMBER – Rainfall 94.4 mm. 90 species recorded

The 1st of the month was calm before strong southwesterly winds and overnight rain set in. Strong winds continued from the southwest until 13th when they shifted to the east. The wind dropped on 14th, coming from the north. Settled weather continued until 22nd followed by further strong southwesterly winds and scattered showers. After a brief calmer interlude, the month ended with continuous strong winds from the southwest and heavy rain.

September marked the last sightings for a few summer visitors, whilst other species were still passing through in high numbers. The earliest autumn **Ring Ouzel** for many years was in VC Quarry on 2nd, with one or two birds mid-month. Finch passage was slow with little change in the number of breeding species. The highest counts of **Goldfinch** and **Linnets** were both on 2nd with 35 and 125 respectively. Two **Lesser Redpolls** were noted on 3rd. Ten **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen on 2nd, and numbers peaked at 20 on 14th. **Pied Flycatchers** were seen on 15 dates, peaking at six on 11th. Two **Redstarts** were present on 2nd, the young male seen again on 4th, with single birds on two further days mid-month. A female **Merlin** was about on eight dates from 5th. At least one **Sparrowhawk** was logged nearly every day, with up to six on 28th. The **Kestrel** family were also seen on and off throughout the month. **Whinchats** were remarkably frequent. After one on 1st, a group of three were seen across the island up to the 6th. There were high counts of four on 12th & 18th and 12 on 14th. A female **Teal** was present on Pondsbury from the 4th, increasing to three on 23rd. A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed by the Stonecrusher on the morning of 14th and flew towards Benjamin's Chair. **Wheatear** numbers increased when the winds shifted towards the east on 12th, peaking at 63 on 14th but dropping back to single figures after 17th. The number of **Woodpigeons** peaked at 10 on 12th. The last **Swifts** of the year were singles on 15th & 17th. A **Treecreeper** was ringed in Millcombe on 17th and seen again next day. There were a few big days of hirundine passage, with a max of 71 **Sand Martins** on 2nd, 100 **House Martins** on 23rd, the same date as the peak count of approximately 12,000 **Swallows** passing over the Castle in two hours. Three **Siskins** and a **Lesser Redpoll** were logged on 18th. The first **Water Rails** since June were heard back in Millcombe on 19th. Another **Short-eared Owl** was near Pondsbury during the evenings of 21st & 22nd. A **Black Redstart** was seen on 23rd. It is often difficult to differentiate between 'local' and passage **Stonechats**, though a count of 12 on 23rd and 10 on 24th were likely to have included migrants. A flock of 12 **Common Scoter** flew past South West Point on 24th. An influx of **Robins** occurred on 25th, with 30 counted in Millcombe and along the East Side. The first **Redwing** of autumn arrived in Millcombe on 27th.

The 14th was an excellent day for passerine migration with 200 **Blackcaps**, 30 **Willow Warblers**, 45 **Chiffchaffs**, 30 **Whitethroats**, four **Garden Warblers**, two **Grasshopper Warblers**, a **Sedge Warbler** and the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the year. There were also 20 **Spotted Flycatchers**, a **Pied Flycatcher**, 12 **Whinchats** and 63 **Wheatears**.

The highest count of **Willow Warblers** was 115 on 2nd, whereas the highest count of **Whitethroat** was just four on the same day. Two **Yellow-browed Warblers** were present on 19th, one in Millcombe and one on the Terrace. A single **Grasshopper Warbler** and four **Sedge Warblers** were logged on 2nd. The last **Sedge Warbler** of the year was on 23rd. Single **Reed Warblers** were seen on 2nd & 19th and the only **Lesser Whitethroat** of autumn was seen on 15th. Following the fall on 14th, **Blackcap** numbers dropped to 33 on 15th, 29 on 16th and 34 on 17th but there was another big arrival on 25th with 100 logged. Single **Garden Warblers** were seen on 12th, 21st & 25th. Crests were also passing through, with a high count of 30 **Goldcrests** on 25th and on average at least three per day. Three **Firecrests** were present on 9th, two on 4th & 12th and one on 11 other dates.

There was some excellent passage of pipits and wagtails. The first two **Yellow Wagtails** of the autumn flew over South West Field on 2nd, with one or two on 11 further dates. **Grey Wagtails** were also frequent, with a maximum of five on 21st. The highest counts of **Pied / White Wagtails** were on 1st & 2nd with 21 and 18 respectively. **White Wagtails** were seen on 4th, 5th & 23rd. **Meadow Pipit** migration was strongest towards the end of the month, with high counts of 140 on 14th, 200 on 23rd and 150 on 25th. Ten **Tree Pipits** passed through on 2nd, with records on five subsequent days.

Wader passage slowed during the month. A flock of seven **Ringed Plovers** flew over South West Field on 2nd. Three **Golden Plovers** were seen on 12th & 15th, with singles on six further days and four on 26th. A single **Ringed Plover** was flying around Tent Field and the Village from 9th to 13th. Single **Lapwings** were recorded on 17th & 25th. The only **Whimbrel** was one on 21st. Single **Curlews** were recorded on 11th & 17th. At least one **Dunlin** was present every day from 9th to 17th, a flock of 12 on 11th the highest count. **Snipe** were still frequent, seen on 21 days, with a peak of five on 17th.

At sea, a first-year **Black-headed Gull** was in the Landing Bay from 8th to 11th. Three **Arctic Skuas** were seen during the month; one flew close by *Oldenburg*, just ten minutes out from Lundy, on 8th and others were logged on 15th & 22nd. A few small groups of **auks** were seen during seawatches, a maximum of 32 being counted on 26th. A few **Manx Shearwaters** also flew past, including seven on 24th.

Rarities and scarcities

Two calling **Turnstones** flew over Millcombe on 4th. Another **Turnstone** and a **Redshank** were heard flying over on 6th. An **Osprey** flew past Gannets' Rock on 2nd. A juvenile **Common Rosefinch** was briefly in Millcombe on 9th. On 13th an **Osprey** was seen heading past the Castle and over *Oldenburg*. The first **Wryneck** of autumn was on the Terrace on 12th. On the same date an **Ortolan Bunting** was flushed by the Stonecrusher (a record subject to acceptance by DBRC). Further **Wrynecks** turned up near Pondsburry on 14th and in Smelly Gully from 18th to 20th, the latter being joined by a second individual on 21st. A juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** was first seen roosting with **Common Starlings** in the Black Shed on the evening of the 15th, remaining until 24th. A juvenile **Hawfinch** was in Millcombe on 19th. A second juvenile **Common Rosefinch** was ringed in Millcombe on 23rd. During a seawatch on 27th an adult winter **Sabine's Gull** flew past South West Point.

OCTOBER – Rainfall 77.2 mm. 98 species recorded

A very mild month with occasional rain showers quickly moving through. Strong southwesterly winds continued for most of the month with only a few calmer days, these including 8th, 11th, 13th & 20th. Strong easterlies on 18th & 19th quickly reverted to the southwest on 21st.

October is typically the month of the first arrivals of wintering birds from Scandinavia but also the final sightings of our summer migrants. A **Treecreeper** first seen in Millcombe on 2nd stayed until the 15th. **Goldcrests** were seen every day, including high counts of 100 on 2nd, 50 on 8th and 41 on 26th. **Yellow-browed Warblers** were recorded regularly, with singles on five dates and two on three dates; three were ringed on 11th. There were three records of single **Pied Flycatchers** in the first half of the month. A **Spotted Flycatcher** was present on four days, the last of the year in Millcombe on 20th. A single **Tree Pipit** was heard on 9th. The family of **Kestrels** was still present, with all four being recorded on 9th. Two **Redstarts** were seen on 10th and another on 13th. **Black Redstarts** were recorded from the 11th, with a peak of four on 20th. Notable **Skylark** passage occurred on 13th & 18th, with 170 and 70 birds respectively. **Firecrests** were logged on 16 days, with a maximum count of three on 11th, 12th and 14th. **Blackcaps** were recorded most days with up to 40 on 14th. Fly-over **Yellow Wagtails** were logged on 12 dates, including three on 12th. The maximum **Woodpigeon** count reached eight on 14th. Two **Stock Doves** arrived on 18th, one still present on 19th. There were also a few more days of notable hirundine migration, with 600 **Swallows** logged on 11th & 13th and 300 **House Martins** on 13th, while of 12 **Sand Martins** logged during the month, five flew through on 11th. At least two **Sparrowhawks** were seen on most days, with up to three from 15th. A few late **Whinchats** turned up on 16th & 21st, coinciding with arrivals of **Stonechats**, including 30 on 13th. **Merlins** were being seen frequently, with a high count of three on 17th. **Meadow Pipits** peaked at 600 on 13th and 400 on 18th. **Grey Wagtails** and unidentified **Pied / White Wagtails** were frequently heard flying over, with maxima of six Greys and 35 Pied / White Wagtails on 13th. Twenty **White Wagtails** were confirmed during the month. Of two ringtail **Hen Harriers**, one flew south out to sea on 18th while the other arrived on 23rd and stayed until the end of the month. Two **Grey Herons** were logged on 12th & 24th, followed by one on 29th. A **Jackdaw** first seen in Brick Field on 22nd remained to the end of the month. A **Wigeon** on Pondsburry from 23rd also stayed to the end of the month. The last **Willow Warbler** was seen on 28th, the day on which **Starlings** began arriving in large numbers, peaking at 600 on 28th.

There was a significant arrival of winter thrushes on 19th & 20th in strong easterly winds, with 2,000 **Fieldfares**, 1,500 **Redwings**, four **Ring Ouzels** and a **Mistle Thrush** logged on 19th. A record 4,000 **Fieldfares** were present on 20th, along with 700 **Redwings**, 20 **Ring Ouzels** and a **Mistle Thrush**. There were also small influxes of **Blackbirds** and **Song Thrushes** and a further **Mistle Thrush** was present on 24th.

Finches and buntings were also on the move, with 2,000 **Chaffinches** counted on 18th and 1,200 on 20th – an obvious gear-shift from just eight at the beginning of the month! A few **Bramblings** arrived with the Chaffinches, the first being in Millcombe on 11th. **Reed Buntings** also started arriving from 11th, with a peak of 12 on 16th. **Siskins** were increasingly frequent and numerous, with 200 logged on 13th, the same day that a single **Lapland Bunting** was heard. A **Bullfinch** was heard and seen briefly on 19th, 20th & 24th. There were 14 records of **Greenfinch** including five on 11th and three on 13th, while **Goldfinches** peaked at 52 on 13th. **Linnet** counts trended downwards, from 122 on 13th to just one or two from 26th. Ten **Lesser Redpolls** were recorded, most later in the month, and there was a long-staying group of **Snow Buntings** from 15th to 23rd with a maximum of eight on 22nd.

Small numbers of migrant waders continued to pass through. Two **Lapwings** on 19th rose to seven the next day. **Golden Plovers** were recorded on 14 dates, including four on 8th & 17th. Single **Ringed Plovers** were seen on three days. Three **Dunlins** flew over on 20th, a single **Jack Snipe** was at Pondsby on 19th, with a monthly high of five **Snipe** the same day. The first **Woodcock** of the autumn was flushed on 11th.

Flocks of **Kittiwakes** built up off the East Side towards the end of the month, peaking at 1,550 on 21st. Other small gulls arriving with them included a **Black-headed Gull** on 15th & 16th and six **Mediterranean Gulls** on 21st followed by singles on 17th & 29th. Four **Common Gulls** were logged on seven dates, peaking at 10 on 21st. Other seabirds included seven **Arctic Skuas**, with three on 21st, and a **Great Skua** on 19th. Unidentified 'commic' terns were seen off the East Side on 15th (five) and 19th (three). A **Great Northern Diver** flew past North Light on 16th, **Manx Shearwaters** were still passing by, with a peak of 12 on 15th, and 150 **Gannets** were logged on 26th, the highest count of the year. Four **Cormorants** passed by on both 8th & 18th, with a single bird on 11th.

Rarities and scarcities

A juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** was on Pondsby on 3rd. Another juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** turned up on 6th, remaining until 10th. A **Sooty Shearwater** flew past off the Castle and a **Red Kite** flew over on 8th. Also on 8th a stunning adult male **Baltimore Oriole** was found in Millcombe, undoubtedly the rarity highlight of the year. A **Cetti's Warbler** was ringed in Millcombe and an elusive **Wryneck** was by the Rocket Pole on 10th & 11th. A **Yellowhammer** flew over the Church calling on 16th. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew south over the Village on 19th. A late **Hobby** first seen on the evening of 19th roosted in Millcombe and was seen the next morning before continuing south. A **Turnstone** was with three **Oystercatchers** on Rat Island on 21st. A **Little Bunting** was in Millcombe on 24th, followed by a first-winter **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 27th.



▲ *Baltimore Oriole, Millcombe, 8th October (photo: Angus Croudace).*

LAST DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS

August	5 th	Puffin
	12 th	Cuckoo
	13 th	Osprey
September	14 th	Grasshopper Warbler
	17 th	Swift
	19 th	Reed Warbler
	23 rd	Sedge Warbler
	25 th	Whitethroat, Garden Warbler
October	9 th	Tree Pipit
	11 th	Pied Flycatcher
	13 th	Redstart
	17 th	Sand Martin, Wheatear
	18 th	House Martin
	20 th	Hobby, Spotted Flycatcher
	23 rd	Yellow Wagtail
	24 th	Whinchat
November	28 th	Willow Warbler
	4 th	Ring Ouzel
	10 th	Manx Shearwater
	12 th	Grey Wagtail
	14 th	Swallow
December	27 th	White Wagtail
	30 th	Blackcap
	7 th	Chiffchaff

FIRST DATES FOR AUTUMN MIGRANTS/WINTER VISITORS

July	8 th	Redshank, Curlew
	11 th	Merlin
	21 st	Common Sandpiper
	22 nd	Golden Plover
	25 th	Turnstone
	29 th	Green Sandpiper
August	30 th	Whimbrel
	1 st	Snipe, Ringed Plover
	15 th	Goldcrest
September	22 nd	Black Redstart
	29 th	Firecrest, Lapwing
	14 th	Short-eared Owl, Yellow-browed Warbler
October	27 th	Redwing
	11 th	Brambling, Reed Bunting, Woodcock
	12 th	Lapland Bunting
	15 th	Snow Bunting
	16 th	Great Northern Diver
	18 th	Fieldfare
	19 th	Jack Snipe



▲ Male Blackcap, Millcombe
(photo: Richard Campey).

▼ Whimbrel, Tent Field, 27th April
(photo: Laura Piratique).



NOVEMBER – Rainfall 246.3 mm. 71 species recorded

Strong winds for the majority of the month, mostly from the west, with short-lived calmer interludes with winds mainly from the north and northeast. Frequent showers, usually passing through in bands, but occasional days with low cloud and constant heavy rain. Still fairly mild for the time of year but a noticeable drop in overnight temperatures, particularly towards the end of the month.

Migration was finally slowing down. The **Wigeon** first seen in October was still present up to 8th, whilst the **Jackdaw** remained throughout the month. **Meadow Pipits** were noticeably fewer as they vacated the island for the winter, with 30 on 2nd & 3rd being the highest counts. In comparison, the number of **Rock Pipits** being seen increased as they moved up onto the plateau during rough weather. **Goldcrests** remained frequent, with a maximum of eight on 3rd. A single **Snow Bunting** was near North End on 3rd and a **Reed Bunting** was at Pondsbury on 3rd, 4th & 8th. The last **Ring Ouzel** of the year was seen on 4th, the same day as a lone **Stock Dove** flew over. The peak **Fieldfare** count was just 39 on 4th. Two **Mistle Thrushes** were logged on 4th, followed by singles on 5th & 6th. Of two late **Swallows**, one was sitting in Brick Field with **Starlings** on 1st and the other was present from 12th to 14th. **Grey Wagtails** were seen on 3rd & 4th, with the last on 12th. There was a small movement of **Skylarks**, including 20 on 12th. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** was on the Terrace on 12th. **Chaffinches** were still passing through in good numbers, with the highest count of 1,036 on 12th. Also on 12th were the peak counts of four **Bramblings**, 178 **Siskins** and 24 **Linnetts**. There were three counts of around 300 **Chaffinches** on 1st, 6th & 19th. **Goldfinches** peaked at just six on 15th while three **Lesser Redpolls** on 9th were followed by two records of single birds. **Chiffchaffs** were logged on 19 dates, including a high of five on 13th & 15th. A female **Reed Bunting** was by Quarter Wall on 15th & 16th. **Black Redstarts** were regular around the coast, being recorded on 13 days, with a peak of four on 12th. Three **Pied Wagtails** were present on 13th & 14th, with singles on three other dates. Single **White Wagtails** were confirmed on five dates. **Blackcaps** were seen regularly until 17th, with a high count of 10 on 12th; the last birds of the year were three ringed in Millcombe on 30th. **Redwings** continued to pass through, with 229 on 17th the highest count. An arrival of **Blackbirds** on 19th saw 59 in Millcombe and along the East Side. Up to three **Sparrowhawks** and three **Kestrels** were still being seen frequently across the south of the island, and a single **Merlin** was logged on eight dates. The juvenile **Hen Harrier** was seen foraging in the vicinity of Quarter Wall until 18th. The highest count of **Teal** on Pondsbury was five on 23rd. Large numbers of migrating **Starlings** passed through, with 600 on 26th and 1,140 on 29th. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** (of the race *tristis*) was seen on 29th & 30th. A **Lapland Bunting** was heard flying over on 30th.

A few waders were still passing through, among them a **Lapwing** on 4th & 12th and single **Golden Plovers** on 4th, 15th & 28th. **Woodcocks** were logged on four dates, including three on 16th. The highest count of **Snipe** was five on 15th.

There was limited movement of seabirds. Counts of **Kittiwake** flocks off the East Side included 600 on 9th. A late **Manx Shearwater** flew past on 2nd, followed by three on 10th. A single passing **Fulmar** was logged on 27th.

Rarities and scarcities

A few unexpected rarities turned up, including the island's seventh **Pallas's Warbler**, ringed in Millcombe on 3rd. A **Purple Sandpiper** was on Rat Island on 8th and an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen on 9th. A **Balearic Shearwater** flew past Rat Island with three **Manx Shearwaters** on 10th. A **Barn Owl** was heard screeching as it flew over the Village on 13th, whilst a **Long-eared Owl** was seen and later ringed in Millcombe on 18th.



▲ *Great Northern Diver, Landing Bay, 24th November (photo: Stuart Cossey).*

DECEMBER – Rainfall 134.4mm. 53 species recorded

Very cold at the beginning of the month with freezing temperatures due to winds from the north. Stronger winds from the west and southwest from the 17th brought milder conditions. Frequent rain and low cloud towards the end of the month.

December on Lundy is usually one of quieter months as autumn migration finally comes to an end and inclement weather conditions typically prevail. There was a week of cold weather movement as birds arrived to escape snow on the mainland. **Woodcocks** were recorded on four dates, including three on 1st and two on 28th. A **Reed Bunting** was heard flying over on 1st. The number of **Snipe** peaked at seven on 2nd. A **Little Egret** flew out of the Landing Bay on 2nd. A single **Linnet** was seen on 4th. Small numbers of **Skylarks** were seen up to 6th, followed by singles on 16th & 22nd. The last **Chiffchaff** of the year was in Millcombe on 7th. Seven **Goldfinches** were logged on 7th, two on 4th & 6th and singles on 1st & 6th. At least one **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel** and **Merlin** continued to be seen across the island. A **Buzzard** visited from 15th to 24th, whilst the long-staying **Jackdaw** was still present around the Village until the end of the year. The highest counts of winter thrushes were during the cold weather mid-month: 64 **Fieldfares** on 15th and 57 **Redwings** and 10 **Song Thrushes** on 17th. **Teal** counts at Pondsburry peaked at nine on 16th and highs of 101 **Lapwings** and 49 **Golden Plovers** were recorded on 17th. One or two **Goldcrests** – likely overwintering individuals – were in Millcombe all month. The last **Stonechat** was seen on 15th and a **Pied Wagtail** was around Barton Field between 17th & 24th. **Chaffinches** were present all month, including a flock of 40 passing through, along with a **Siskin**, on the unusual date of 20th.

Single **Common** and **Black-headed Gulls** flew low over the island during strong winds on 18th & 19th respectively. Numbers of large gulls increased towards the end of the month with around 100 **Herring Gulls** in Lighthouse or Brick Fields. Forty-eight **Great Black-backed Gulls** were counted on 19th and 45 on 28th. A few seabirds were briefly seen back on the breeding ledges, including 17 **Fulmars** and 57 **Guillemots** on 8th. One or two **Great Northern Divers** were seen periodically in the Landing Bay all month.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Greylag Goose** first photographed in Brick Field on 15th was then seen on and off until the end of the year. Two **Purple Sandpipers** were found at Brazen Ward on 20th.

BIRDS IN 2022

Nomenclature

This follows The British List (10th edition, summarised version dated December 2022) maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). Where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (in this case European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name.

The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken from the Lundy Bird Observatory/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.

National and Devon rarities

Records of any species considered to be a national rarity should be sent to the British Birds Rarities Committee at www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting. Records of county rarities (see www.devonbirds.org/recording for a list of Devon A & B species and a downloadable recording form) should be sent to the Devon Bird Recorder at recorder@devonbirds.org.

Lundy rarities

Any species not listed in Section 1 of the logbook and which is not recognised as a national or Devon rarity is classed as a 'Lundy rarity'. These are species that are mostly common enough on the nearby mainland but extremely unusual for the island. They include all grebes, swans and geese; many ducks, waders and terns; most owls; all woodpeckers; Dipper; all tits other than Coal Tit; Jay, Magpie, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. Such records are assessed by Lundy Bird Observatory.

Observers are asked to enter supporting notes for all records of rare species in the joint Lundy Bird Observatory/Lundy Field Society 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; these can be emailed to Lundy Bird Observatory at birdobs@lundyisland.co.uk.

All accepted records of national and Lundy rarities are published in the Lundy Bird Observatory's annual report and the annual *Devon Bird Report*. A summary of the birding year will be published in the annual report of the Lundy Field Society.

In all cases, records of species that are rare – whether at national, county or island level – must be accepted by the relevant committee or assessor as being adequately documented. This helps to ensure that the ornithological records kept by different bodies 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' names are included below 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.



▲ Dunlin, Middle Park Pond, 16th May (photo: Richard Campey).

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).

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

The website www.birdsoflundy.org.uk linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2022. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from more than 75 years of intensive study by the Lundy Field Society (LFS) and the newly re-accredited Lundy Bird Observatory. Complementing this long-term archive is an online blog www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk which is maintained by Lundy Bird Observatory and volunteers. Photos can be emailed to birdobs@lundyisland.co.uk.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to island residents and visitors alike, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS logbook. This 2022 Bird Report (as well as other LFS wildlife reports) is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals. Particular thanks go to the island Conservation Team (Rosie Ellis, Stuart Cossey and Matt Stritch, and 2022 volunteers Rachel Bedwin, Laura Pirateque, Zachariah Wait, Olan O'Reilly, Tom Wright and Angus Croudace).

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Others who have contributed in various ways include Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Chris & Carol Baillie, Antony 'AJ' Bellamy, Sam Bosanquet, Paul Bullock, Richard Campey, Greg Conway, Paul Dean, Chris & Mandy Dee, Darrin Dowding, Rob Duncan, Jamie Dunning, Paul & Jacqueline Holt, Andy Jayne, David Kightley, Paul St Pierre, Philip & Helen Lymbury, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Neil Trout, Nik Ward, Mark & Julia Webber, Joanne Wilby, and Tim Worfolk.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS IN 2022

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Lundy vagrant.

Two in Barton Field on 9 Apr were the first since 2017 (Stuart Cossey, Jamie Dunning). Possibly the same pair flew over MS *Oldenburg* as it departed on 12 Apr (Tony Taylor, Sam Prettyman). Two flew out to sea off the West Side on 10 Jun (Stuart Cossey).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Lundy vagrant.

One flew over Tent Field calling on 10 Apr. It circled with Herring Gulls before leaving the island (Stuart Cossey). This constitutes the 12th island record.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Lundy vagrant.

One photographed in Tillage Field on 15 Dec (Matt Stritch). It remained into 2023 being seen frequently in various fields around the south of the island before settling in Barton Field. This is only the 11th Lundy record.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One that arrived on 21 Dec 2021 was still present on Ackland's Moor on 1 Jan but was not seen subsequently (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

The adult that arrived on 23 Dec 2021 was last seen on Ackland's Moor on 1 Jan, still in the company of the Pink-footed Goose (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

[Common Shelduck]

Lundy vagrant.

There were five records this year, the most since 1985 and first since 2018. Two immatures were seen at Benjamin's Chair on 26 Apr before flying east (Stuart Cossey). There were two records in May: an adult off Mouse Island on the morning of 4th (Jamie Dunning) was seen again in the afternoon circling the Landing Bay before heading off high to the south (Rob Duncan); and two were seen flying west high over South West Field on 18 May (Stuart Cossey). Four flew south out of the Landing Bay as MS *Oldenburg* arrived on 2 Jun and two were present again in the Landing Bay on 3rd (Stuart Cossey).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Lundy vagrant.

A juvenile was on Pondsburry on 3 Aug (Stuart Cossey) – only the ninth Lundy record and the first since Apr 2007.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

A female first seen on Quarter Wall Pond on 23 Oct (Angus Croudace) was then seen on Pondsburry up to 8 Nov.

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 20 on 10 Mar. The first ducklings were seen on 27 Apr. At least seven different broods were seen between Apr and Jun, though numbers of ducklings dwindled rapidly and only one large juvenile was present on Pondsbury on 3 Jul.

Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	19	20	16	11	10	21	19	17	17	16	16

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 2020-2021. Breeding appeared to be unsuccessful in 2019.

The highest count during the first winter period was 13 on 16 Mar. Two displaying males were present in Mar and a male and up to three females were seen in Apr. Eight ducklings were seen on 28 May, two remaining on 15 Jun. A single female was present up to Sep, with the second winter period maximum being nine on 16 Dec.

Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	11	13	4	2	1	1	1	3	2	5	9

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant.

One record of 12 flying past South West Point on 24 Sep (Stuart Cossey).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Lundy vagrant; not previously recorded.

A female on Christie’s Quay was photographed by members of Devon Birds as they arrived for a day trip on 22 May. It was later seen and photographed on Rat Island (Stuart Cossey, Jamie Dunning, Paul Holt). Although this species has an increasing breeding population in Devon it still came as quite a surprise when one turned up on Lundy.



▲ Teal on Quarter Wall Pond in January (photo: Stuart Cossey).



▲ Mandarin Duck near Rat Island, 22nd May (photo: Stuart Cossey).



◀ *Swift over South West Point, 15th September (photo: Tom Wright).*

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]

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

The first were two on 27 Apr and the last a single bird over South West Point on 17 Sep. Recorded on 64 days, the highest counts were 90 on 10 Aug and 50 on 21 Jun. The large flock in Aug was swirling around the church, with some appearing to be prospecting for nest sites.

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	18	50	12	90	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	14	13	23	8	2	–	–	–

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* [Common Cuckoo]

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

Birds were recorded on only 14 dates compared to 22 in 2021. The first of the year was calling by Old Light on 1 May (Laura Pirateque, Zach Wait). One or more single males were seen regularly along the East Side and in Millcombe during May. The last bird was one on 12 Aug.

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.

The vast majority of records were confirmed as Racing Pigeons, coinciding with the main spring and summer release months. The highest count was 14 on 14 May. Up to 11 were frequently seen around the Village from the end of Jun to mid-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
–	–	1	1	14	11	11	5	9	–	1	–
–	–	2	8	28	26	24	11	5	–	1	–

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

Recorded in seven months, Jan–Apr and Aug–Nov. One was in Millcombe on 14 Jan and probably the same bird was seen up to 29 Jan. Other spring records were singles on 25 & 28 Feb, 16, 20, 22 & 23 Mar and 22 Apr. Two were seen briefly on 26 & 27 Mar, one remaining to 2 Apr. After two on 11 Aug the next record wasn't until two were over South West Field on 18 Oct. One was seen in the same area the next day, the second bird possibly having fallen foul of a Peregrine. The last of the year flew over Ackland's Moor on 4 Nov.

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.

Up to four were seen in Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse in Jan and Feb. New birds arrived from Mar, with a high count of 17 on 5 Apr. Signs of breeding were recorded with males singing in Millcombe in Apr & May. Breeding was confirmed, with a chick ringed by Government House on 10 Jun and a juvenile seen in Millcombe, also in Jun. Numbers started to drop again in Oct, with a maximum of just two in Nov/Dec and only five records for the whole of 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
4	4	10	17	11	8	7	9	10	8	2	2
23	20	31	30	31	27	30	30	27	27	16	5

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.

One in the Village on 19 Jan was the first winter record since 2000. There were records on 43 days, of which more than half were in May. Most records related to single birds, with the highest count of four on 3 May. A male was heard singing in Millcombe, though there were no signs of breeding. Perhaps the most notable record was a single bird seen on one of the Cheeses at Jenny's Cove on 14 Apr before it was chased off by a Peregrine.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	2	3	4	3	1	1	–	–	–	–
1	–	3	9	23	4	2	1	–	–	–	–

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

[Common Quail]

Rare migrant; bred in the nineteenth century.

One was flushed off the track in South West Field during low cloud and rain on 24 Jun (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and again in 2015, 2019-2021; no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016-2018.

There were regular winter records in Jan and Feb, with four in Millcombe and two in St Helen's Copse on 6 Feb. Records dropped off over the summer. 'Song' was heard at Quarter Wall on 16 May and calls at Pondsbury on 13 Jun. However, no further indications of breeding were detected and the absence of records in Jul and Aug suggest that breeding did not occur in 2022. Passage migrants started arriving on 19 Sep and were regularly heard in Millcombe during Oct, though records dwindled again towards 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
3	6	2	2	2	1	–	–	2	5	2	2
23	17	9	4	3	1	–	–	5	23	9	3

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

A full island count of 58 on 30 Jan included a number of pairs already starting to defend territories. The first chicks were seen on Rat Island in Jun and four large young were noted along the East Side on 1 Jul. Post-breeding and wintering flocks were seen near Brazen Ward and at North Light.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
58	30	17	15	39	13	23	30	24	26	10	19
23	25	26	30	31	26	29	23	13	19	10	5



▲ Lapwing in Barton Field, 17th December (photo: Stuart Cossey).



▲ Golden Plover on the Airfield on 22nd July (photo: Zac Wait).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

One in Barton Field on 26 Jan remained until 2 Feb (Stuart Cossey). There were no further records until one on 29 Aug (John Lambert). Two flew over Rocket Pole on 19 Oct (Angus Croudace), whilst six in Tillage Field the following morning were presumably among seven that flew over the Village during the evening of 20 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright). Other autumn records included singles on 17 & 25 Sep, 23 Oct and 4 & 12 Nov. Cold-weather arrivals were recorded with four on 9 Dec (Sophie Fisher) and again between 14 & 20 Dec. The highest counts were 80 on 16 Dec and 101 on 17 Dec (Matt Stritch, Stuart Cossey).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

There were records on eight dates in Jan, including a flock of 12 flying over Ackland's Moor on 25th and 13 over Ackland's Moor on 28th. Spring passage included two on 16 Mar and six flying north on 22 Mar. Single birds were recorded in Apr, May, Jul, Aug & Nov, including a summer-plumaged bird on the Airfield on 22 Jul. Up to four were recorded on 23 dates in Sep & Oct. One was ringed on the Airfield on the evening of 15 Sep. A cold-weather arrival occurred in Dec: five were seen on 1st, with singles on 9th, 10th & 14th. A total of 18 on 15 Dec increased to 47 on 16th and 49 were on the Airfield between 17th & 19th, with 32 still present on 20 Dec, dropping to five on 22nd and one on 30th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	–	6	1	1	–	1	1	4	4	1	49
8	–	3	1	5	–	1	2	9	14	3	12

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola**Rare spring and autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.*

One was heard flying over Ackland's Moor on 25 Mar (Stuart Cossey). This constitutes the first record since 2012.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

There was an unusual winter record when one flew over the Village calling on 22 Jan. There were only three spring records, all of single birds, on 23 & 27 Apr and 18 May. The first autumn migrants passed through in Aug and there were 22 records of single birds including one that stayed around Tent Field from 9 to 13 Sep. Two small flocks were logged: three on 16 Aug and seven on 2 Sep. The last was one heard in flight on 20 Oct.

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

As usual, more regular in spring with 18 records, the first of which concerned two on Rat Island on 21 Apr. Small numbers were often seen feeding around Benjamin's Chair later in the month. The highest counts were four on 23 & 29 Apr and six on 1 May. There were only eight autumn records with the first returning bird on 30 Jul; all were singles flying over apart from four on 24 Aug.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

Four spring records with singles seen on 29 Apr and 13 & 17 May and two on 1 May. There were nine autumn records of single birds, the first on 8 Jul, whilst two flew over on 27 Jul & 24 Aug. The final sighting was of one on 17 Sep.

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

One was in Devil's Kitchen during the afternoon of 30 Apr (Frances Stuart). What was probably the same individual was then in Barton Field with a Greenshank from 4 to 7 May (Rob Duncan, David Kightley), in High Street Field with a Whimbrel on 8 May, over Millcombe on 9 May, and again in High Street Field later that day (Stuart Cossey).



▲ Bar-tailed Godwit, Barton Field, 4th May (photo: Rosie Ellis).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa**Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.*

One flew southeast near Halfway Wall with four Whimbrel on 21 Aug (Alan McCarthy, Jenny Coomes). A juvenile was photographed at Pondsburry during stormy weather on 3 Oct (Darrin Dowding, Paul Bullock).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Recorded on five dates in late summer and autumn. The first was on 25 Jul when a single calling bird flew over the Landing Bay. Two flew past South West Point on 31 Aug, followed by two over Millcombe on 4 Sep and a single calling bird on 6 Sep (all records Stuart Cossey). The last of the year was one on Rat Island with three Oystercatchers on 21 Oct (Paul Holt).

Sanderling *Calidris alba**Rare passage migrant, with all recent records in either May or September; has occurred in winter. One was at Pondsburry on 12 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee).*



▲ Dunlin at Quarter Wall Pond, 14th September (photo: Mandy Dee).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

There were 11 records during the first six months of the year. Singles were seen on 20 & 23 Mar, 10 & 25 Apr, 14 & 15 May and 3 & 5 Jun. Higher counts comprised two on 16 May, four on 2 May and six on 4 Jun. The majority of records occurred between Jul & Oct, with singles on 24 dates. Two were seen on 9, 13 & 15 Sep and three on 20 Oct. The highest counts were five on 27 Aug and 12 on 11 Sep.



▲ Purple Sandpiper at Brazen Ward in December (photo: Paul Dean).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

One was roosting at Brazen Ward at high tide on 15 May (Zach Wait *et al.*). There were two winter records: one on Rat Island on 8 Nov (Stuart Cossey) and two at Brazen Ward on 20 Dec (Paul Dean).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* [Eurasian Woodcock]

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

The first was a single bird roosting in the Casbah on 28 Jan. Another was seen on 7 Feb. The latest ever spring record was on 13 May when one flew over Pondsburry pursued and taken by a Peregrine (Tim Jones, Tim Davis, Stuart Cossey). There were autumn records on 12 dates from 11 Oct to 28 Dec. These mainly concerned single birds but there were three on 16 Nov and 1 Dec and two on 28 Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

There were 11 records of single birds between Jan and Mar, the majority being flushed from around Pondsburry. One was seen on the relatively late date of 4 Apr. The first returning bird was seen on 19 Oct and singles were also recorded on 8, 17 & 18 Dec.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

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

Ninety-three were recorded between Jan and May. The first was a single bird on 1 Jan. High counts included eight on 31 Jan, 14 on 1 Feb and 12 on 11 Feb. The first returning individual was on 1 Aug. A total of 161 individuals were logged between Aug & Dec. Higher counts included five on 17 Sep, 19 Oct, 15 Nov and 3 Dec, six on 8 Dec, and seven on 2 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	14	3	2	1	–	–	4	5	5	5	7
10	9	15	6	1	–	–	14	21	20	8	14

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.

There were six records of single birds in Apr and May, with the first on 23 Apr. The first southbound birds were seen on 21 & 22 Jul, with a further six recorded in Aug, including two on 18th. The majority of records were from the vicinity of the Landing Bay and Rat Island.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

The first of the year were three on the morning of 29 Jul, including two on Rocket Pole Pond (Stuart Cossey) and one by Quarter Wall (Neil Trout). These were followed by two flying away from Pondsby calling on 14 Aug, a single bird at Pondsby on 29 Aug and a further two there on 31 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were six records, all during the late-summer migration season. One was at Pondsby on 8 Jul; two flew low over the Village calling in low cloud on 30 Jul; and single birds called as they flew over Ackland's Moor on 15 Aug, Millcombe on 30 Aug, and South West Point on 31 Aug. The last flew over calling on 6 Sep (all records Stuart Cossey).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very rare autumn migrant.

One was heard calling in the Landing Bay during the early evening of 30 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* [Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One first seen at Brambles Pond on 2 May flew off calling. It remained in Barton Field until 7 May (Rob Duncan, David Kightley *et al.*). The only other record concerned one on 22 Aug heard calling over the Landing Bay (Stuart Cossey).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* [Red Phalarope]

Lundy vagrant.

A single bird was rafting with Kittiwakes off Jenny's Cove on 12 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee *et al.*) – the 15th Lundy record and first record for Apr. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



▲ Greenshank, Barton Field on 4th May (photo: Rosie Ellis).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

Flocks of over 1,000 were counted off the East Side on 15 dates in Jan and early Feb. Nesting material was being gathered from Jenny's Cove in May and the first eggs were seen on 2 Jun, hatching around 24 Jun. The majority of chicks had fledged by 8 Aug. At the Aztec Bay productivity study plot, 105 nesting attempts were made, with 66 chicks fledging from 50 nests. Productivity was calculated at 0.63, an increase of 0.45 from 2021. A colour-ringed individual was sighted on a nest at Aztec Bay on 13 Jul, the same bird observed there on 3 Jun 2021, having been hatched and ringed in Brittany, France. Autumn numbers peaked at 1,550 on 21 Oct, with three other counts of over 500 in Oct & Nov.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2,000	3,500	451	140	327	40	195	94	13	1,550	600	23

*There was no breeding census of Kittiwakes in 2022 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini**Lundy vagrant.*

An adult in winter plumage flying west past South West Point on 27 Sep in strong northwesterly winds (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by DBRC, only the sixth for Lundy, the last being in Aug 2020.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly July to October; occasional cold-weather influxes. The first were seven with a large number of Kittiwakes off the East Side on 2 Feb, followed by five on 22 Mar. There were no further records until three on 4 Jun. A juvenile was in the Landing Bay from 8 to 11 Sep. The last sightings of the year were single birds flying low over the island in thick fog on 19 & 26 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	1	–	–	3	4	3	1	1	–	1
–	3	1	–	–	2	2	3	3	2	–	2

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus**Lundy vagrant.*

Three of these tiny gulls were seen off the East Side with Kittiwakes in Feb for the third year in a row. The first was a first-winter bird on 2 Feb (Stuart Cossey), followed by two first-winter birds on 5 Feb (Tim Jones).

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

Two off the Quarries on 31 Jan were the first of the year. Five were logged on 2 Feb and one on 3 Feb. The first of late-summer and autumn passage were two on 19 Jul. There were three further records of single birds in Aug & Oct. A flock of five were off the Terrace and one flew over the Landing Bay on 21 Oct.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

The most frequent and numerous of the smaller non-breeding gulls during the year, large numbers were recorded with Kittiwakes off the East Side at the beginning of the year. A total of 110 was logged for Jan & Feb combined, with the biggest counts being 12 on 14 Jan and 18 Feb, 15 on 31 Jan and 44 on 2 Feb. Single birds were seen in Aug. A flock of 10 on 21 Oct was the highest autumn count. A single bird was foraging in Barton Field on 18 Dec during cold weather.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	44	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	10	–	1
5	7	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	7	–	1

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Lundy vagrant.

A first-winter bird was seen on Ackland's Moor on 19 Feb during stormy weather (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May yielded a count of 74 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A complete census of the island's colonies during May identified 43 breeding pairs, three fewer than the last full count in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*). Multiple pairs were recorded raising young.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
75	24	20	16	74	39	25	14	20	85	21	48

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

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

Large numbers overwintered in the farm fields often gathering at sheep feeding times. A second-winter bird colour-ringed on the Isle of Man in May 2019 was seen on 4 Jan; the first sighting away from the Isle of Man. A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May produced a count of 537 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A complete census of the island's colonies during May found 315 breeding pairs, 86 more than the survey in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*), the difference probably explained by the timing of the respective surveys rather than an improvement in the species' status on Lundy. The 2018 census was conducted slightly later in the season when some breeding attempts may already have ended and when vegetation growth could have made some nests harder to locate. Many juvenile birds were seen across the island in autumn. Unfortunately, a juvenile Herring Gull found dead on the island tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
786	500	212	316	537	381	261	400	16	35	54	152

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis**Lundy vagrant.*

There were three records this year: a first-winter bird with Herring Gulls in Tillage Field on 4 Mar, a juvenile on 17 Aug also in Tillage Field, and an adult in High Street Field on 9 Nov (Stuart Cossey).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus**Common but declining breeding species; common passage migrant; generally uncommon in winter.*

A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May produced a total of 223 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones).

A complete census of the island's colonies during May counted 119 breeding pairs, 13 fewer pairs than the census in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*). There were multiple pairs raising chicks in known colonies. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls ringed as chicks on Lundy were reported on their wintering grounds on the Portuguese coast (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	24	65	43	223	97	91	100	26	27	88	9

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis**Uncommon passage migrant April to October.*

One flew across the Landing Bay on 12 Apr and another flew past Rat Island on 11 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

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

Five were off the East Side on 15 Oct (Tim Jones, Greg Conway) with three in the same area on 19 Oct (Tim Norfolk).

Great Skua (= Bonxie) *Stercorarius skua**Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.*

One harassing Gannets off South West Point on 19 Oct was the only record (Stuart Cossey), likely reflecting the high death toll inflicted by outbreaks of avian influenza at breeding colonies in Scotland and elsewhere during the summer of 2022.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

There were eight records of single birds between Aug & Oct. The first was seen from MS *Oldenburg* as she passed South West Point during rough weather on 30 Aug. The highest count was three seen from the Ugly on 21 Oct.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Guillemot, Common Murre]

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

The earliest high count was 1,150 at Jenny's Cove on 30 Jan. Up to 10,000 were recorded on 24 Apr. The first egg was seen at St Mark's Stone on 15 May, with the first chick appearing on 29 May. Birds started to fledge from 23 Jun. A total of 56 chicks fledged from 138 nest sites within the productivity survey plot at St Mark's Stone, 82 fewer fledged chicks than in 2021.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,150	600	5,600	10,000	6,901	500	500	1	5	85	1	57

*There was no full breeding census of Guillemots in 2022 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole. From January to February and September to November, up to 2,000 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.

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 few were seen on land on 30 Jan with 660 around Jenny's Cove. The highest count of the year was 3,000 on 24 Apr. Razorbills are not currently covered by productivity plot monitoring. However, the first chicks were noted on 4 Jun.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
660	327	2,320	3,000	2,237	600	270	–	1	118	5	–

*There was no full breeding census of Razorbills in 2022 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole. From January to February and September to November, up to 2000 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.



► *Razorbill, St. Mark's Stone on 24th April*
(photo: Stuart Cossey).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

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

The first record of the year was of eight on the water at Jenny's Cove on 12 Mar and subsequently on land on 15 Mar. The highest count of the year was 485 on 11 Jul. By the end of Jun, 128 burrows were seen to be active in the Jenny's Cove study plot. The last record was of a single bird off Jenny's Cove on 5 Aug.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	185	124	340	200	485	1	–	–	–	–

*There was no full breeding census of Puffins in 2022 and the breeding season counts included in the table do not necessarily reflect the total breeding population.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were nine records from Jan to Mar. Singles were seen on 29 & 31 Jan, 1, 3, 10 & 17 Feb and 12 Mar. Two were present on 2 Feb and three on 22 Mar. The only autumn record was of one off North End on 3 Aug.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Common Loon]

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

At least one bird overwintered in the Landing Bay in late 2021 and early 2022, with two being seen on 1 Jan. The highest count was three in the Landing Bay on 19 Feb and again in autumn on 24 & 25 Nov. The last of the year was one in the Landing Bay on 31 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	2
10	15	8	8	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	9

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

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

The first records involved calls heard at a known breeding colony along the East Side on 15 & 16 May. At least five were counted at known colonies during the evenings of 9 & 13 Jun. At least two were seen at night at a colony on the West Side on 23 Aug. Due to biosecurity measures to minimize potential risks from avian influenza, only one mist-netting trip was made, on 31 Jul, when 20 birds were trapped near North Light, including three that had already been ringed away from Lundy (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, but scarce between mid-September and mid-November and almost absent during October when moulting at sea.

Large numbers started to be seen in Jan as birds headed back to nesting sites, the highest count being 465 on 30 Jan. The first chicks were seen on 15 Jul at Gannets' Rock. The number of breeding attempts at this site declined further to 27 (cf. 34 in 2021, 36 in 2020). Fourteen chicks fledged, giving a productivity value of 0.52. There were very few post-breeding records, with the highest count at the end of the year being 17 on 8 Dec.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
465	141	45	63	272	50	11	20	18	2	1	17

*There was no full-island breeding census of Fulmars in 2022 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Lundy vagrant

One flew past South West Point on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first was recorded on land on 19 Mar when one was calling from a burrow near Old Light. The highest counts included 600 on 19 Apr, 1,200 on 17 May, 700 on 13 Jun and 2,000 on 1 Jul. The last three of the year flew past Rat Island on 10 Nov. Only 161 Manx Shearwaters were ringed this year due to biosecurity measures to minimize potential risks from avian influenza during the main Aug/Sep shearwater chick ringing season (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94, for

further details). The artificial nestboxes were well used, with eight out of 11 pairs successfully raising and fledging chicks.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	20	600	1,200	700	2,000	42	7	12	3	–

*There was no full-island breeding census of Manx Shearwaters in 2022 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.



► *Manx Shearwater from the Oldenburg on 10th May (photo: Richard Campey).*

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.

One flew past the Castle with Manx Shearwaters on 24 Jul. Another flew past Rat Island on 10 Nov, also accompanied by Manx Shearwaters (Stuart Cossey).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

The highest count early in the year was 90 on 22 Jan. The majority of records were post-breeding with a maximum of 150 on 26 Oct. The nearest breeding colony to Lundy, on the Pembrokeshire island of Grassholm (about 83 km WNW), was severely impacted by an outbreak of avian influenza during the summer of 2022, with at least 5,000 confirmed deaths. This may well be reflected in decreased numbers around Lundy during spring and summer 2023.

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	34	15	18	55	30	60	45	57	150	59	30
19	13	16	23	27	17	16	21	14	27	17	7

Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*

[European Shag]

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

An all-island count on 19 May found 108 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The largest post-breeding count was 240 on 28 Jul, which included many juvenile birds.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
48	66	50	68	108	15	240	95	13	13	9	5

*There was no breeding census of Shags in 2022 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

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

The first of the year was a juvenile which was often seen fishing in Rocket Pole Pond from 1 to 3 Jan. The first pre-breeding passage started in Mar. The highest count of the year was 10 on 18 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
1	–	5	5	3	5	10	3	7	4	3	–
3	–	7	4	5	4	6	5	5	3	1	–

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; most regular from midsummer to early autumn.

Seven flying north past Jenny's Cove on 19 Mar was the first record of the year. A single bird was then seen from 21 to 23 Mar. There were 28 other records, including five on 21 Jun, five on 5 Jul and four on 1 Aug.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were three records during the year. The first bird flew over the Castle on 22 Jul (Chris & Sharron Blackmore). One was roosting in Millcombe on 5 Nov and was also seen in the Landing Bay up to 8 Nov (Jane Sharkey, Stuart Cossey). One flew east from the Landing Bay on 2 Dec (Max Khoo).

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

[European Honey Buzzard]

Lundy vagrant.

One flew over the island harassed by Herring Gulls on 2 Jun (Stuart Cossey). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Lundy vagrant.

One toured the island on 8 May after first being seen over South West Field (Stuart Cossey, Rob Duncan, LFS Work Party). Another drifted north over South West Point on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne).

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Scarce but now annual passage migrant.

There were four records, the first flying over Millcombe on 25 Apr (Stuart Cossey). The other spring record concerned one over Rat Island and along the East Side on 27 May (Stuart Cossey, Paul & Jackie Holt). One flew south past Gannets' Rock on 2 Sep (Zach Wait). The most interesting record came on 13 Sep when a bird seen heading south towards Lundy from Pennard Cliffs on the Gower Peninsula, South Wales, at 10:30 hrs (Richard Dann) was seen just two hours later off the Castle (Chris Dee *et al.*) and over the arriving MS *Oldenburg* (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace).

◀ *Osprey from the arriving Oldenburg, Landing Bay (photo: Tom Wright).*

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.

There were no records until one on 10 Mar followed by sightings on a further 12 days between Mar and Jun. The first autumn bird occurred on 12 Aug, with passage peaking at six individuals on 28 Sep. A single bird overwintered into 2023, with the last 2022 sighting on 31 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	1	1	–	2	6	3	3	2
–	–	3	8	1	1	–	17	26	30	22	13

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

Rare passage migrant, both in spring and during late summer and autumn.

Three records. A female/immature bird flew over Quarter Wall towards Pondsbury on 17 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Zach Wait). Another female/immature bird was seen gaining height above Tibbett's Hill before heading west on 18 May (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A female/immature individual flew south over Barton Field on 8 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

A first-year male flew out to sea off the West Side on 18 Oct (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Another first-year bird seen along the West Side on 23 Oct (Paul Holt) was subsequently seen repeatedly in the Gannets' Combe and Quarter Wall areas up to 18 Nov (Angus Croudace, Stuart Cossey *et al.*).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* [Common Buzzard]

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

One flew east over the Village on 29 Aug (Stuart Cossey *et al.*). A pale individual was present from 15 to 24 Dec (Matt Stritch, Stuart Cossey, Paul Dean).

► *Buzzard over Hanmers, 21st December (photo: Paul Dean).*

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; occasional breeder.

The first sighting was of a female hunting Starlings around St Helen's Church on 13 Jan. There was a successful breeding attempt this year with two chicks fledged from a nest along the West Side. A maximum of four were seen in Oct but whether these were passage migrants or the lingering family group was unclear. The final record was of one on 24 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	1
1	1	8	19	25	21	24	25	27	28	26	7



▲ Merlin near Halfway Wall on 17th October
(photo: Tom Wright).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

A female overwintered and was seen regularly until Apr. There were a few passage birds in spring, including a male over North End on 10 Apr and two birds on 27 May. A female/immature flew over Quarter Wall on the unusual date of 11 Jul – only the third Jul record for the island (Stuart Cossey). The first autumn sighting was on 5 Sep, with a peak count of three on 17 Oct. Another overwintering female/immature, seen regularly in Dec, remained into 2023.

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	–	1	–	1	3	1	1
12	11	10	14	3	–	1	–	8	25	8	12

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

There were seven spring sightings, all in May. The first bird was over Millcombe on 11 May (Richard Campey). One flew southeast over the Tavern Garden on 15 May (Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones). What seems likely to have been the same individual was seen three times on 16 May off VC Quarry and the Terrace and over the Battlements (Stuart Cossey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones) and again over Millcombe on 17 May (AJ Bellamy). One flew north over Ackland's Moor on 28 May (Rebecca Taylor, Richard Taylor). The sole autumn record concerned one on the relatively late dates of 19 & 20 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace). It was first seen during the evening of 19th and roosted overnight in Millcombe before leaving to the south early on 20th (Tom Wright, Greg Conway).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

An estimated seven pairs attempted breeding. Adults feeding young were noted along the East Side on 19 May. At least three pairs successfully fledged young, with juveniles seen on 29 Jun and 3 Jul.

Maximum count for each month

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

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

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

[Western Barn Owl]

Lundy vagrant.

One was heard calling over the Village on 13 Nov (Stuart Cossey) – only the 10th record for the island and the first since 1981. Four of the previous nine records were also in Nov.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Lundy vagrant.

One was flushed from the top of Millcombe on 18 Nov and flew below Brambles after being mobbed by Carrion Crows (Stuart Cossey). It was ringed in St John's Valley during the evening, enabling it to be confirmed as a first-year female. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

► *Long-eared Owl after being ringed in Millcombe, 18th November (photo: J. Sharkey).*



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Two records. One flushed close to the Stonecrusher on the morning of 14 Sep flew south off Benjamin's Chair (Stuart Cossey). Another was seen by the Old Light building conservation team on the main track to Tibbetts during the evenings of 21 & 22 Sep (Charlie Smith, Rachel Thompson).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

Five records. The first of the year was one on the Terrace on 12 Sep (Stuart Cossey). This was followed by one near Ponsbury on 14 Sep (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace); one in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) from 18 Sep to 21 Sep, joined briefly by a second bird on 21st (David Oddy *et al.*); and one was in and around gorse clumps by the Rocket Pole on 10 & 11 Oct (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

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

A female was present in the vicinity of the Terrace and Quarter Wall Copse from 29 Mar to 18 Apr (Neil Trout, Stuart Cossey, Laura Pirateque). One flew east over the Village on 19 Oct (Tim Worfolk).



▲ *Wryneck near Ponsbury, 14th September (photo: Tom Wright).*

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

An elusive female-type bird was present in Millcombe from 24 to 27 May (Paul Holt, Jamie Dunning, Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

A single bird first seen in Brick Field on 22 Oct (Paul Holt) remained until the end of the year and into 2023 feeding in the Village and the East Side fields.

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

Three records, all of single birds. The first was seen over the Village on 14 Mar by the LFS Working Party and was later seen in Brick Field. One flew in over Castle Hill on 19 Apr and another flew south over the Landing Bay on 10 Jul (Stuart Cossey).

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

The highest count of the year was 47 on 11 Apr. Successful breeding was confirmed with young fledged from Millcombe, Miller's Cake and South-West Point.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	28	28	47	33	17	23	29	20	36	26	24

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix**Lundy vagrant, primarily in spring.*

There were sightings of single birds in Lighthouse Field on 2 May (Rachel Bedwin, Laura Piratique) and in Lighthouse/ Aerogenerator Fields on 12 May (Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC as referring to one individual, though the possibility that two different birds were involved can't be excluded.

◀ Hooded Crow on upper Lighthouse Field, 12th May (photo: Richard Campey).

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

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

The highest count of the year was 21 on both 17 Sep and 16 Oct. The first fledglings were four seen near Stoneycroft on 24 May.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	11	20	10	15	20	19	14	21	21	14	14

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

The first returning birds of the year were logged on 4 Jan, with birds starting to sing from 12 Jan. The highest count of spring was 50 on 22 Mar. An estimated 50 territories were present across the island. There was good passage in autumn with 170 counted on 13 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
12	23	50	29	34	30	18	6	13	170	20	4
19	17	31	30	31	28	30	26	23	30	22	6

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first was seen on 10 Mar with records every month thereafter until 17 Oct. Numbers were low all year with no triple-digit counts. The highest spring count was 57 on 14 Apr. A flock of 71 were around the Church on 2 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
–	–	5	57	32	10	7	12	71	5	–	–
–	–	11	20	26	7	4	14	11	5	–	–



▲ Swallow chicks in the porch of St. Helen's Church (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first of the year were seven on 15 Mar. There were low numbers through Mar until 109 on 10 Apr, 100 on 25 Apr, 4,200 on 27 Apr, 1,020 on 29 Apr and 150 on 30 Apr. The high counts continued into May with 200 on 1st, 4,000 on 2nd and 250 on 3rd, followed by 300 on 13th, 1,000 on 14th and 320 on 19th. Three pairs bred: a pair successfully fledged eight chicks from two broods in the Church Porch; a pair in the porch of Old House North failed at the egg stage but went on to fledge four chicks from the Gas Store; and another pair successfully fledged two chicks from the Casbah. The start of post-breeding dispersal was noted from mid-Jul with 24 on 18th. Sixty-five were counted on 24 Aug but the first high counts of the autumn came in Sep with 500 on 13th, 280 on 14th and 350 on 19th. The most notable passage came on 23 Sep when 12,000 were estimated have flown over the Castle in four hours, averaging a rate of 110 a minute. There

were still a few notable days of passage into Oct, with 300 on 8th and 600 on both 11th & 13th. The final bird of the year was seen at Jenny's Cove on 12 & 13 Nov, and by the Church on 14 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	4,200	4,000	35	24	65	12,000	600	1	–
–	–	7	26	31	28	30	31	29	29	4	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

The first bird of the year passed through on 20 Mar. Passage was quiet until a count of 75 on 27 Apr. There were three dates in May with over 100 logged: 150 on 13th, 200 on 14th and 120 on 19th. In autumn, higher counts included 100 on 23 Sep, 200 on 8 & 11 Oct, and 300 on 13 Oct. The last was one on 18 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	75	200	35	1	13	100	300	–	–
–	–	4	19	30	28	1	7	11	11	–	–

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.

Three records were all in May: a male singing by Millcombe Pond on the morning of 15th (Tim Jones, Jamie Dunning *et al.*); another on the same day in Gannets' Combe (Paul St Pierre); and possibly one of these birds watched feeding below the Terrace on 16th (Tim Davis).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

There were 18 records on 12 dates in autumn between 14 Sep and 12 Nov. The first was one in the Secret Garden (lower Millcombe) on 14 Sep (Stuart Cossey). Two were recorded on 19 Sep, one along the Terrace (Angus Croudace) and another in Millcombe (Tom Wright). One was with a Treecreeper by Quarry Pond on 3 Oct (Darrin Dowding, Paul Bullock). One was found in Millcombe on 9 Oct (Matthew Broadbent). Three were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 11 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Nik Ward, Tom Wright). Two were still present on 12 Oct (Angus Croudace). One was in Millcombe on 18 Oct (Greg Conway). Two were recorded in Millcombe on 20 Oct (Greg Conway, Tim Davis *et al.*). Another was by Stoneycroft on 21 Oct (David Lindo) and two were seen feeding together in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 22 Oct (Chris Baillie, Tim Jones, Paul Holt). One was seen below Government House on 25 Oct (Chris Baillie). The final bird of the year was seen along the Terrace on 12 Nov (Stuart Cossey). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* [Pallas's Leaf Warbler]
Nationally scarce migrant.

One was trapped and ringed in the Secret Garden on 4 Nov (Chris Dee, Stuart Cossey) – the seventh record for Lundy and the fifth individual to be ringed. Record accepted by DBRC.

◀ *Pallas's Warbler after being ringed in Millcombe, 3rd November (photo: Stuart Cossey).*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first of spring were three on 21 Mar. The highest spring count was 100+ on 1 May. There was a push north from 15 to 17 Apr with 40, 60 and 50 counted respectively. The last sign of spring movement was one on 7 Jun. Although song was heard from Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse in May and early Jun, there was no evidence that breeding was attempted. The first returning migrant was seen on 1 Jul, followed by further scattered ones and twos before 22 were logged on 20 Jul, followed by peaks (all counts over 50) of 72 on 26 Jul, and in Aug 400 on 1st, 62 on 12th, 120 on 14th, 115 on 2 Sep. The last of the year was one on 28 Oct.



▲ Willow Warbler, Millcombe, 24th 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
–	–	6	60	100	2	72	400	115	2	–	–
–	–	10	28	25	4	14	31	18	8	–	–

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; occasional breeder. Single birds were seen on 18 & 20 Jan. Up to two were then seen regularly from 27 Jan to 11 Feb. The first presumed spring migrant proper was one on 8 Mar. There were 13 spring-passage days with double-digit counts, including 30 on 24 Mar, 20 on 14 Apr and 30 on 16 Apr. Multiple males were heard singing in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse. However, the only confirmed breeding pair was in Millcombe when an adult was seen with food on 30 Jun and four fledged chicks were being fed on 9 Jul. Noticeable autumn passage got under way on 14 Sep with a sudden fall of 45 birds after no records for two weeks. This proved to be the highest count of the year, with few noted in the rest of Sep and Oct. The final bird of the year was seen on 7 Dec.

Two individuals with plumage and calls typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were noted. The first was calling by Millcombe Pond on 9 Jan (Stuart Cossey). The other was first seen around the Village allotments on 29 Nov (Jamie Dunning *et al.*) and then seen and heard below Government House on 30 Nov (Stuart Cossey). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	30	30	10	6	7	10	45	15	5	1
8	16	24	28	30	25	25	14	12	25	19	3

Western / Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli / orientalis*

British vagrant.

One was photographed along the track to Old Light on 25 Apr during strong easterly winds (Stuart Cossey). Features and conditions suggested Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, *P. orientalis*. Record subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically. The first record was of two birds on 15 Apr. The highest counts in spring were 25 on 29 Apr and 30 on 30 Apr. The last migrants were six seen on 19 May. A singing male and two calling young birds in Quarter Wall Copse on 8 Jun confirmed breeding this year. Returning birds started arriving from 20 Jul. As usual, numbers were a lot lower than in spring with an autumn peak of 10 on 1 Aug. The last bird of the year was one on 23 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	30	16	3	4	10	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	19	2	5	18	4	–	–	–

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Common Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were records on 11 days in spring between 24 Apr and 13 Jun. The highest count was three on 30 Apr. Only two were recorded in autumn, single birds on 2 & 10 Sep.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Lundy vagrant.

One was ringed in Millcombe on 10 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace) – the seventh record for Lundy and the sixth individual to be ringed.



▲ Cetti's Warbler after being ringed in Millcombe, 10th October (photo: Tom Wright).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

Spring migrants were recorded on 14 dates from 14 Apr to 14 May, with a maximum of five on 16 Apr. Of eight autumn migrants, the first returning bird was noted on 20 Jul and the last record was of two on 14 Sep.

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 2018–2021 inclusive.

The first record was of a female on 17 Mar. Numbers quickly built with 40 on 3 Apr and a peak of 150 on 16 Apr. A female was nest building in Millcombe on 20 May and a male was singing in Quarter Wall Copse on 8 Jun. However, breeding appears to have been unsuccessful as there was no sign of any fledglings in Jun or Jul. The first returning bird was one on 20 Jul. Counts didn't reach double figures until 17 on 9 Sep. A large fall of 200 occurred on 14 Sep, with birds seemingly in every bush. There was a further fall of 100 on 24 Sep. Migration continued into Oct with a high of 40 on 14th. The last birds of the year were two males and a female ringed on 30 Nov. A Blackcap ringed in Denmark in 2020 was trapped on Lundy on 14 Apr (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).



▲ Blackcap in Millcombe, 25th March
(photo: 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
–	–	6	150	30	10	1	3	200	40	10	–
–	–	12	26	27	6	3	8	26	29	16	–

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin**Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring-passage migrants were recorded on nine dates from 29 Apr to 19 May. All were single birds except for two on 14 May. Following a report of two on the unusual date of 4 Jul, there were records on a further nine dates during autumn passage, from 13 Aug to 25 Sep, with a peak count of four on 14 Sep.

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

There were records on ten dates in spring, from 20 Apr to 8 May. All concerned singles birds, except for two ringed in Millcombe on 1 May. A singing male was below Government House on 24 Apr. The only autumn record was of a single bird on 15 Sep.

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; occasional breeder.

The first was a female below the Ugly on 11 Apr. Numbers started to build towards the end of the month with 12 on 30 Apr. Birds continued to pass through in May during which there were five territorial males: three in Millcombe, one on the Terrace and another at Quarter Wall Copse. Two young were seen by the Ugly and four below Millcombe House in Jun, proving at least two pairs successfully fledged young. With local pairs still present, it was difficult to detect the start

of autumn migration. However, there were frequent sightings from 7 Aug and numbers peaked at 30 on 14 Sep. The last of the year was one on 25 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	12	8	6	3	6	30	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	31	21	9	21	11	–	–	–

Eastern / Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans / iberiae*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A male, thought to be Eastern Subalpine Warbler *C. cantillans*, was seen along Quarter Wall on 26 Apr (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by BBRC as Eastern / Western Subalpine Warbler.



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* [Common Firecrest]
Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.

The first spring migrants were a female from 18 to 21 Mar, followed by a male on 24 Mar. There were only two other spring records: singles on 3 Apr and 7 May. As usual, autumn passage was much more pronounced with records on 32 dates from 29 Aug to 27 Oct. The highest counts were three on 9 Sep and 11, 12 & 14 Oct.

◀ *Firecrest, Quarries, 29th August (photo: Stuart Cossey).*

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter. At least four overwintered from 2021. Higher counts included four on 2 Jan and five on 29 Jan and 2 & 4 Feb. Spring passage was rather sparse, with a maximum of six on 24 Mar. The final bird of spring was seen from 9 to 11 May, but there was no sign of any breeding activity. The first returning bird was recorded on 24 Aug. Records peaked in Oct with 100 counted across the island on 2nd; the next highest count was 50 on 8 Oct. At least one spent the winter in Millcombe, last being logged on 30 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
5	5	6	5	1	–	–	2	30	100	8	2
23	19	18	5	3	–	–	3	26	31	26	9

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.

Peak counts were 59 on 19 May and 52 on 14 Oct. Intensive surveying throughout May indicated an estimated 100 singing males.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	29	27	18	59	18	22	23	17	52	17	16



▲ Treecreeper in Millcombe, 1st October (photo: Tom Wright).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

Recorded on nine dates: one in spring and eight in autumn. The first was in Millcombe on 26 Apr (Stuart Cossey). One was ringed on 17 Sep and seen again the next day (Chris Dee, Angus Croudace *et al.*). Singles were in Millcombe on 2 Oct (Matt Stritch) and on five dates from 10 to 15 Oct (Tom Wright, Chris Dee *et al.*). The latter bird was trapped and ringed on 12th.



Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

An adult first seen by Old Light on 6 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor) was then seen around Old Light and Barton Field on 7 & 8 Jun. A juvenile bird roosting in the Black Shed on the evening of 15 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*) was then seen with the Starling flock around the Village and Church on 13 dates up to 10 Oct. Records accepted by DBRC. A further record of an adult around the Brick Field pigsty on 21 Jun (Matt Stritch, Rachel Bedwin) remains subject to acceptance by DBRC.

◀ Rose-coloured Starling, Old Light, 8th June (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

The highest count over the first winter period and into spring was 380 on 12 Jan. At least 60 active nest sites were located within the Village and at Old Light (Stuart Cossey). The first fledged young were seen on 18 May and second broods started at the beginning of Jun. Autumn passage counts peaked at 1,140 on 29 Nov. Other high counts included 600 on 28 Oct and 26 Nov. After 360 on 1 Dec, the resident flock accounted for more typical winter counts of around 110.

Maximum count for each month (top)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
380	220	205	145	140	150	121	190	300	600	1,140	360



▲ Male Ring Ouzel near Old Hospital, 8th November (photo: Mandy Dee).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Recorded on seven spring dates from 28 Mar to 30 Apr. All records were of single birds except for two males on 29 Mar and two females on 9 Apr. The first returning bird was seen at VC Quarry on 2 Sep (Stuart Cossey) – the earliest autumn record for many years, though late-Aug records were regular when the English and Welsh breeding populations were much higher than currently. The highest count of the year was 20 on 20 Oct, coinciding with a large influx of Fieldfare and Redwing, whilst the last was a single bird on 4 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	20	1	–
–	–	2	5	–	–	–	–	3	14	1	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

The highest counts during the first winter period were 30 on 29 Jan, 38 on 2 Feb and 33 on 8 Feb. The first fledglings were seen from 9 May. A full island survey in May resulted in an estimate of 25 breeding pairs. Despite the large influxes of other thrushes in Oct, peak Blackbird arrivals didn't occur until Nov, when 59 were logged on 19th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	38	28	15	38	17	16	9	15	23	59	23

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. The first sightings of the year were three on 5 Jan. After no records in Feb, there were records on 13 days in Mar and Apr. Four on 4 Apr was the last spring record, coinciding with low cloud across the island. The first autumn migrant was one on 18 Oct, the vanguard of a major influx over the next two days, coinciding with strong easterly winds, with numbers estimated at 2,000 on 19th Oct and a record 4,000 on 20th. There was a cold-weather arrival of a flock of 64 on 15 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	4,000	39	64
6	–	11	2	–	–	–	–	–	14	20	11

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

A small flock of up to 13 stayed on the island over the winter and were often seen leaving roost in Millcombe. The last spring sighting was a flock of 66 in Millcombe during low cloud on 4 Apr. One on 27 Sep was the first of autumn. Passage peaked at 1,500 on 19 Oct. There were a few other high counts including 166 on 4 Nov, 160 on 13 Nov and 229 on 17 Nov. A small cold weather arrival of 57 birds occurred on 17 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
22	16	12	66	–	–	–	–	1	1,500	229	57
31	17	21	2	–	–	–	–	2	22	25	20

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.

A number of birds overwintered and there was a small late-winter influx, peaking at 19 on 2 Feb. A persistent male sang in Millcombe almost every day between Apr and Jul, although no breeding evidence was recorded. Autumn passage began in Oct, peaking at 23 on 20th. Up to three continued to be recorded into 2023.

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	19	8	5	1	1	1	1	1	23	7	10
31	25	30	28	31	25	13	1	1	21	21	21

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Ones and twos were recorded on ten dates in spring and seven in autumn. The first of the year was on 21 & 22 Mar, followed by another from 27 Mar to 2 Apr. Two flew over Millcombe on 4 Apr. A single bird was seen on 27 Apr. There were no further records until one on 19 & 20 Oct. Two flew over on 4 Nov with another two on 13th. A single bird then remained until 15 Nov, the last of the year.

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.

The first of the year was a single bird on 30 Apr. The main spring arrival was in the second half of May, peaking at 20 on 19th. Up to two were noted until 9 Jun before the first returning birds were seen on 3 Jul. Regular sightings commenced from 9 Aug, with a maximum count of 20 on 14 Sep. The last of the year was seen on the late date of 20 Oct (Tim Davis *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
–	–	–	1	20	2	2	13	20	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	23	8	2	20	12	5	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

A winter influx brought 16 birds on 30 Jan and 20 on 2 Feb. At least five pairs had fledged young in Millcombe – the first young were seen in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 17 May – with singing birds also present at St Helen's Copse, Quarter Wall Copse, the Terrace and Gannets' Combe. One was seen with nest material by Brambles Villa on 8 Apr. There was a noticeable influx of autumn migrants on 25 Sep with 30 counted across the island. Thirty were also counted on 14 Oct, with 24 on both 16 & 17 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	20	12	10	9	9	10	12	30	30	16	10

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-winter bird was found at the top of Millcombe on 27 Oct (Chris Baillie, Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace). Record accepted by DBRC.



▲ Red-breasted Flycatcher, Millcombe, 27th October (photo: Stuart Cossey).



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* [European Pied Flycatcher]
Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; occasional records in midsummer.

The first of the year was a male on the Terrace on 17 Apr. The highest count in spring was three (two males and a female) in Millcombe on 26 Apr. The last spring record was of one on 19 May. A returning bird was recorded on 22 Jul, with the highest counts of six on 14 Aug and 11 Sep. The last of the year was one on 11 Oct.

◀ *Pied Flycatcher in Millcombe, 18th September (photo: Paul Dean).*

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	1	–	1	6	6	1	–	–
–	–	–	5	2	–	1	17	15	3	–	–

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

British vagrant.

An elusive female was seen briefly along the East Side Path between Mousehole & Trap and Gannets' Combe on 13 May (Tim Jones, Tim Davis), coinciding with a notable influx to Britain. Record accepted by DBRC.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

The first of the year was a female on 25 Feb. Records on nine days from 19 to 29 Mar peaked at eight on 24 Mar. Late-spring birds included singles on 21, 27 & 28 May and 5 Jun. Unusually early returning birds, both singles, were reported on 22 Aug and 23 Sep, the latter a male just north of Threequarter Wall. The highest counts of autumn were four on 20 Oct and 12 Nov. The last of the year was one on 29 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	8	2	1	1	–	1	1	4	4	–
–	1	9	2	3	1	–	1	1	12	13	–



▲ *Black Redstart in Landing Bay, 13th November (photo: Stuart Cossey).*



▲ Redstart, Millcombe, 25th April (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

There were records on nine dates in spring from 3 Apr to 19 May. All involved single birds apart from two, a male and female, in upper Millcombe on 25 & 26 Apr. The first autumn migrant arrived on 6 Aug. The highest count was again of just two birds, on 2 Sep and 10 Oct.

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

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

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

There were only five spring records, all of single birds, from 24 Apr to 20 May. There was a notable autumn passage with records on 22 days between 13 Aug and 24 Oct; the highest count was of 12 on 14 Sep. Three long-staying birds were seen together across the island from 2 to 6 Sep. The last of the year was in South West Field on the late date of 24 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	3	12	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	4	–	–	5	14	2	–	–

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

Two overwintering birds were seen on 1 Jan. Local breeding birds appear to have arrived mainly in Apr, with 18 counted on 17th. Up to 19 territories were found during May, including eight pairs



▲ Juvenile Stonechat on the Terrace, 16th May (photo: Richard Campey).

feeding young. Second broods were started by 22 Jun, with a pair still feeding young on 7 Aug. There was an autumn influx of 30 on 13 Oct. The last record of the year was of two on 15 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
6	6	8	18	20	11	12	14	12	30	4	2
22	15	30	29	31	29	29	29	27	27	21	3

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first migrants of spring were two that arrived on 8 Mar. The first double-digit count was 19 on 22 Mar. An influx of 93 occurred on 24 Apr, whilst 140 – the highest count of the year – were logged on 27 Apr. Within the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project study area the breeding population was estimated at 55 pairs (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94 for further details). The whole-island population was estimated at 129 breeding pairs. The first young were seen in the first week of Jun. A series of autumn arrivals occurred between 12 & 17 Sep, peaking at 63 on 14th. The last of the year was one on 17 Oct.

Birds showing plumage characteristics of 'Greenland Wheatear' *O. o. leucorhoa* were noted in May and Sep. Of the 63 seen on 14 Sep, the majority appeared to be of the Greenland race. Ringing records of Greenland race birds included one on 25 May (Richard & Rebecca Taylor) and seven between 12 & 15 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*).

Request. Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring sightings in the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS logbook. Photos of colour-ringed birds are particularly valuable; please send to birdobs@lundyisland.co.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
–	–	20	140	61	50	50	31	63	3	–	–
–	–	21	27	31	28	30	29	21	7	–	–



▲ *Male House Sparrow, Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).*

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

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

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
125	100	80	70	80	70	95	99	55	54	50	60

Sophie Wilkins reports on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme

2022 marked the 21st year of the Lundy House Sparrow Project’s regular monitoring on the island. The summer fieldwork was, once again, headed up by Jamie Dunning (Imperial College) who arrived on Lundy at the end of April. He was supported by field assistants specially trained to help with our efforts to thoroughly monitor the breeding season. Thanks to their hard work we are able to maintain an accurate pedigree for the population, colour-mark individual birds to allow them to be identified without recapture, and record parental provisioning behaviours.

The season started slowly, with the first chicks hatching on 9th May, nearly a month later than in 2021. Through the nesting season a total of 70 broods were found and a total of 129 chicks hatched, with 88 ringed as nestlings. This is a decline from the previous year where 185 nestlings, across 115 broods, were ringed. The differences may be explained by the cold snap experienced in February 2022 and the delayed start to the season.

This trend remained evident when we returned, as usual, in November to ring and take DNA samples from adult birds. This trip also gave us the opportunity to catch any unringed adults born in 2021. However, only 10 birds were caught during the time we were on the island. This is far fewer than the previous year’s 108 captures during the same period and is a record low for the project. This decline has been attributed to the presence of a Sparrowhawk wintering on the island, encouraging the House Sparrows to be more cautious and less likely to be out in the open. However, thanks to the efforts of LFS ringers, an additional 41 unringed birds were captured between August and October, along with 66 retraps.

At the end of the year we welcomed a new PhD student, Yuheng Sun (University of Groningen), who will be studying the effects of ageing within House Sparrows and who will be starting off our 2023 field season.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

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

The highest day counts of the year were 21 on 13 Apr and 18 on 17 Oct. It is likely that these high counts coincided with a small passage of birds from the mainland. There were an estimated 11 breeding pairs, some of which had second broods, with many young seen in Jun and Jul.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	13	13	21	14	9	12	6	10	18	9	6

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.

The first Yellow Wagtail of the year flew over calling on 12 Apr. There were records on 17 days in Apr and May, with a high count of four on 15 May. In Sep and Oct there were records on 25 days, most of which related to birds flying over calling. The highest count was three on 12 Oct, with the last bird on 23 Oct.

A male of the continental race Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava* first seen in Barton Field on 24 Apr stayed until 26 Apr. Another was seen in Barton Field on 15 & 16 May and again on 21 & 22 May. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

► Blue-headed Wagtail in Barton Field, 16th June (photo: Richard Campey).



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Single, mostly flyover birds were recorded on nine days between Mar & May. There were three records of early dispersal in Jul & Aug. The main autumn movement was in Sep and Oct with a maximum of six on 13 Oct. There were records on three days in Nov, the latest of these on 12th.

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	5	6	1	–
–	–	3	2	4	–	2	1	17	17	3	–



▲ Pied Wagtail, 17th April (photo: Mandy Dee).

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.

A small number were seen through Jan & Feb with the main spring passage peaking at the end of Mar. Twenty-nine were counted on 21 Mar, of which 25 were confirmed as Pied Wagtails. Up to five breeding pairs were present, with fledged young seen by Millcombe Pond, Brick Field pigsty, Quarter Wall, the Village and by the Lambing Shed. Noticeable movement was seen again from the end of Aug. The highest autumn-passage count was 43 on 13 Oct, of which eight were confirmed as Pied Wagtails.

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
2(2)	2 (2)	29 (25)	17 (13)	9 (8)	10 (10)	13 (13)	20 (1)	21 (0)	43 (8)	4 (3)	1 (1)
7	8	31	30	31	29	29	30	27	26	13	5

Confirmed White Wagtails were recorded on 35 days during spring passage, from 20 Mar to 10 Jun, with a maximum of 9 on 22 Mar, and on 23 dates in autumn, from 29 Jul to 27 Nov, with a maximum of 6 on 27 Aug. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	9	5	3	1	3	6	2	5	1	–
–	–	12	6	14	3	1	3	3	11	5	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

As usual, numbers were low over winter, with spring passage commencing at the end of Feb. The highest spring count was of 155 on 20 Mar. Birds were on territory in Mar with singing males noted across South West Field, Ackland's Moor and north of Quarter Wall. The first juveniles were fledged in Jun. After a late-summer lull, autumn passage peaked at 600 on 13 Oct. There were five other counts of over 150 birds.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	66	155	122	102	100	120	63	200	600	30	15

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were records on 11 days in spring. Mostly involving ones and twos, there was a high count of three on 1 May. One was heard flying over Millcombe on the early 'autumn' date of 13 Jul (Sam Bosanquet). Peak counts were made on 18 Aug (11), 28 Aug (9) and 2 Sep (10). The last record of the year was of one briefly in Millcombe before flying south calling on 9 Oct (Tom Wright).

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	11	10	1	–	–
–	–	1	6	4	–	1	15	14	1	–	–

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[European Rock Pipit]

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

The highest count of the year was 51 during a walk of the island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The breeding population on Lundy is difficult to assess given the location of most nest sites low down along the coast. A second count from the island perimeter on 19 May yielded 39 individuals (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The first fledglings were seen in the Landing Bay in Jun. A post-breeding flock was present on the slopes above North Light in autumn, peaking at 40 on 16 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
51	16	11	8	39	15	3	7	6	40	11	13

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.

Small numbers were present during the first half of the year, with only slight spring-passage movement detected. Three pairs all fledged young in Millcombe, with an unpaired male present in Quarter Wall Copse. The first notable autumn movement was 30 on 11 Oct. Passage peaked at 2,000 on 18 Oct with a second peak of 1,036 on 12 Nov. During Oct & Nov there were 11 days when counts exceeded 300 individuals.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	17	12	15	7	45	6	5	17	2,000	1,036	40

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

The first of the year was one heard over Rocket Pole Pond on 12 Jan. Four flew north along the East Side on 11 Feb. There followed an exceptional spring passage for the island, with records on 18 days between 15 Mar and 8 Apr, including high counts of 33 on 20 Mar and 40 on 21 Mar. Autumn passage was more typical, with records on 21 days from 11 Oct to 19 Nov, peaking at seven on 19 Oct.



▲ *Male Brambling on the West Side, 20th March*
(photo: 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	4	40	4	–	–	–	–	–	7	4	–
1	1	14	4	–	–	–	–	–	8	13	–

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

Five records, four in spring and one in autumn. The first was a female ringed in Millcombe on 18 Apr (Chris Dee); one on 21 Apr was likely the same bird (Stuart Cossey). Another was first seen flying over Millcombe, where it roosted, on the evening of 30 Apr (Rob Duncan, Jamie Dunning). A female was ringed on 2 May and retrapped the following day having put on 2 grams (Rob Duncan, David Kightley). One was seen in upper Millcombe on 13 May (Tim Jones). The only autumn record was of a juvenile in Millcombe on 19 Sep (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Bullfinch *Phyrrhula phyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant.

An elusive female was recorded four times in Millcombe between 16 & 24 Jan, and what may have been the same bird again on 5, 6 & 8 Feb (Stuart Cossey, Tim Jones). Another was seen on 24 Mar (Chris Baillie). Two females were ringed on 3 Apr, with a single female then recorded on 4 & 7 Apr (Chris Dee, Stuart Cossey). There was a single autumn record with one heard calling in Millcombe on 19 Oct, confirmed as a male on 20th and heard again on 24th (Stuart Cossey, David Lindo).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrina*

Nationally scarce migrant.

Two records, both of first-winter birds in Sep. The first was in the Secret Garden (lower Millcombe) on 9th (Stuart Cossey, Megan Hollywood Harry). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC. The second was ringed in Millcombe on 23rd (Chris Dee *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

Single birds were seen on six days in spring: 11 & 28 Feb, 9, 26 & 29 Apr and 1 Jun. Two were seen on 15 Feb and 5 Jun and one on 12 Aug. There were records on seven days in Oct, including five on 11th.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

There was some unusual movement through the island early in the year, with 24 counted on 12 Jan, 73 on 11 Feb and 26 on 26 Feb, though Linnets were largely absent on most other days in both months. Sightings became more frequent from Mar as breeding birds started taking up territories. Passage birds were still present in May making counting breeding birds difficult. Pairs were noted wherever there is gorse. Fledged young were noted in St John's Valley, Rocket Pole area, Ackland's Moor and Quarter Wall during Jun. Post-breeding flocks began to build in Jul with counts of more than 100 on 6th (104), 26th (121), 27th (214) and 28th (111). A flock of around 140 individuals at Quarter Wall on 29 Aug contributed to the monthly high of 212. Good numbers continued through Sep (max 125 on 2nd) and into Oct (max 122 on 13th). There were very few records in Nov (max 24 on 12th) and just one sighting in Dec, a single bird on 4th.

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	73	45	79	150	76	214	212	125	122	24	1
5	10	27	28	31	28	30	31	29	28	4	1

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers; rare in winter.*

The first of the year were three flying over Millcombe on 12 Jan, followed by a single bird on 8 Apr, two on 12 May and further singles on 13 May and 7 Jun. In autumn there were records on 14 days between 2 Sep and 19 Nov, including two on 3 Sep and 22 & 23 Oct and three on 9 Nov.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

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

A flock of five flew over Millcombe calling on 28 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Up to three birds overwintered into Jan. The first signs of spring passage came towards the end of Mar, with numbers peaking at 38 on 14 Apr. Although difficult to assess, the breeding population was estimated at around 10 pairs including three pairs that successfully fledged young in Millcombe. Post-breeding dispersal started from the end of Jul and peaked at 52 on 13 Oct. The last sighting of the year was of two on 6 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
4	5	21	38	25	22	23	40	35	52	6	2
30	12	24	29	31	28	30	31	27	28	22	4

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

Unusually, birds were noted in every month. Small numbers were recorded from Jan to Sep, with a maximum of three on 25 Mar. The first double-figure count was 17 on 6 Oct, peaking at 200 on 13 Oct. There were high counts of 128 on 8 Nov, 178 on 12 Nov and 100 on 13 Nov. Fewer than 10 were recorded on all other dates in Nov. A single bird was seen on 20 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	200	178	1
2	1	3	6	3	4	1	2	2	23	15	1

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Three records. One flew over with Skylarks on 12 Jan (Stuart Cossey). One flew over the Airfield calling on 13 Oct (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Another flew over South West Field calling on 30 Nov (Stuart Cossey). 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.*

Four records. One was near Threequarter Wall on 2 Feb, with another heard in flight over Rocket Pole on 5 Apr. A female was present around Quarter Wall and the Old Hospital from 1 to 8 May. The first two autumn migrants arrived on 15 Oct and were followed by small numbers on a further 12 dates up to 3 Nov. The highest count was eight on 22 Oct. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



▲ Snow Bunting on the Main Track, 16th October (photo: Tom Wright).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular visitor and bred in the first half of the twentieth century.
Unusually, two records. A male was by Brick Field pigsty on 23 Jun before flying north (Stuart Cossey). Another flew southwest over the Church calling on 16 Oct (Greg Conway).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was feeding with Linnets by the Stonecrusher on 12 Sep before flying off north alarm calling (Ben Rousseau, Joe Parker *et al.*). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was calling and flying around Millcombe on 24 Oct (Paul Holt). Record accepted by DBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A single, possibly overwintering bird was in gorse above Pondsbury on 9 & 16 Jan. A male and two females were present in the same area on 21 Jan. Up to two were still present by Pondsbury until 10 Mar. One was above Gannets' Combe on 27 Mar. There were no autumn sightings until Oct, with three on 11th and passage peaking at 12 on 16th. The last of the year was one on 1 Dec.

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

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

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

British vagrant. Two previous Lundy records, in October 1958 and October 1967.

A superb adult male was found below Government House during the afternoon of 8 Oct (Angus Croudace, Tom Wright, Stuart Cossey *et al.*). It was later relocated in the early evening by the Gas Store. Unfortunately, clear skies overnight seemed to aid onward passage and there was no sign of the bird the next day. Record accepted by BBRC; the third for Lundy.



▲ Baltimore Oriole in Millcombe, 8th October (photo: Tom Wright).

References

- Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007.** *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon EX34 9TB
- Cossey, S. 2022.** *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2022*. Lundy, Bristol Channel EX39 2LY.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated owing to a lack of supporting details in the logbook. Further information that would enable either of these reports to be confirmed is welcome and can be sent to birdobs@lundy.co.uk.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* – one on Terrace on 17 Apr.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – singles by Quarter Wall on 18 Apr and over the Castle on 13 Aug.

2022 RECORDS ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN

Booted / Sykes Warbler *Iduna caligata / rama*

British vagrant

One unidentified *Iduna* warbler seen briefly on the Terrace on 29 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

British vagrant.

One seen in a wet flush along the West Side on 3 Jun was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular migrant in small numbers and a sporadic breeder.

One flying north from South Light with six House Sparrows on 7 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One flushed off Tibbett's Hill and flying west on 27 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

British vagrant.

One flying over the Stonecrusher calling on 18 Nov was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One heard over the Lodge garden and then seen in Barton Field on 2 Dec 2021 was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC. One flushed near 'Pointless Wall' (between the Airfield and Quarter Wall) on 25 Nov was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the systematic list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below. Records for the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary should be submitted to recorder@devonbirds.org.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Seven on the crossing to Lundy on 5 Apr (Jamie Dunning, Paul St Pierre).

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

One on the crossing to Lundy on 28 Apr (Jamie Dunning).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Five on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 8 Sep (Stuart Cossey).



▲ Raven on Barton Field wall, 7th December (photo: Andrea May).

BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY IN 2022

Tony Taylor

Unlike the previous two years, in 2022 there were no Covid-19 restrictions to affect bird ringing on Lundy. However, ringing restrictions imposed in response to another pandemic, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), affected work on Lundy's seabirds. Just one night of Storm Petrel ringing was possible before the restrictions, and autumn Manx Shearwater ringing was also curtailed.

The year's ringing total of 2716 was little more than half that of 2021, but HPAI was not the main cause of this reduction. Numbers of spring migrants and of shearwaters were somewhat lower, but autumn migrants showed the largest drop, falling by about a thousand. Adverse weather conditions played a part in reducing migrant ringing. They caused the low spring numbers, despite an increase in the time for which ringers were operating (up from three weeks to nearly five); then in autumn their effect was combined with a reduction in ringing coverage (down from seven weeks to four) to reduce that season's ringing total very significantly.

As in the previous five years, Blackcaps topped the species totals, with 753 ringed. Numbers of Manx Shearwaters (161), Swallows (202), Chiffchaffs (144), Willow Warblers (387), Sedge Warblers (101), and House Sparrows (140) also reached three figures. The most unusual catches included a Golden Plover, only the fourth to be ringed on Lundy; a Long-eared Owl and a Pallas's Warbler were each the fifth of their species; a Cetti's Warbler was the sixth; and two Hawfinches were the tenth and eleventh. The most notable of the other species were three Yellow-browed Warblers, two Treecreepers and a Common Rosefinch.

Among the regular migrants, Blackcaps have maintained their remarkable long-term increase. Between 1981 and 2000 they made up about 6% of annual catches, in the following decade this figure averaged about 9% and since 2011 it has averaged 21%. Willow Warbler remains the species ringed in the greatest numbers since 1947, but their equivalent percentages, over the same periods as the Blackcap figures above, have been 18%, 12% and 11%. Blackcaps have been able to adapt their relatively short-range migration strategies in response to warmer



▲ Hawfinch, Millcombe (photographer unknown).



▲ Pallas's Warbler, Millcombe (photo: Stuart Cossey).

winters and the increasing amounts of food provided in gardens, while Willow Warblers are long-range migrants finding it harder and harder to cross the Sahara, which is widening as its southern fringes become drier.

The ringing projects on Wheatears, Starlings and House Sparrows have continued. Though some useful work was also achieved on Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels, both projects were affected by the restrictions put in place because of HPAI.

Apart from the ringing itself, the rebuilding of the Terrace Heligoland trap has continued, and it should be operational sometime in 2023. Many thanks to all those who have worked on this. The digitisation of all the surviving Lundy ringing records, from 1972 to the present, has been completed, so they are available to anyone wishing to analyse them for research purposes (see 'Digitisation of Lundy Ringing Records', which follows this account). Both achievements strengthened Lundy's case when the Bird Observatories Council considered the island's application for official recognition as a Bird Observatory, in February 2023.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

Of twenty Storm Petrels caught on the night of 31st July, three were controls. They had been ringed as adults in North Wales, Cornwall and on Skokholm Island, five, six and two years ago respectively. Three gulls had also survived well. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, ringed as chicks on Lundy, were reported when their ring numbers were read in the field in their winter quarters on the Portuguese coast. They were still thriving, one at twelve and the other at 22 years of age. And a Herring Gull, colour-ringed as a chick on the Isle of Man in 2019, was recorded visiting Lundy in January. In contrast a Shag, ringed as a chick in Pembrokeshire in 2021, was found dead on Lundy just seven months later. Sadly a high proportion of birds die during their first winter, when they are too inexperienced to survive the harsh conditions.

Among the migrant Passerines, a Sedge Warbler ringed on the Atlantic coast of France in 2019 and a Blackcap ringed in Denmark in 2020 were highlights. The Sedge Warbler was ringed as an adult, so had made at least eight crossings of the Sahara. A Wheatear had not moved far when it was re-sighted, but was still of great interest (see the report on the Wheatear RAS project, below).

A Willow Warbler and a Reed Warbler were ringed in Southwest England and caught on Lundy in a subsequent season. This is consistent with them moving to and from a breeding area somewhere further north or northwest. A Blackcap ringed on Lundy in spring was recaptured in Devon two months later. Perhaps it had overshoot its intended breeding site while migrating at night, then backtracked to reach its target.

A Robin ringed on Lundy in autumn was found in Buckinghamshire in spring. This could have been a continental bird that wintered in Southwest Britain or Ireland and was heading back to breed in Northern Europe, having avoided the harsher winter weather there.

Of two wandering Goldfinches, one came from South Wales to Lundy, the other went from Lundy to Ireland. Two Siskins ringed on Lundy in October 2021 were found early in 2022, one in Surrey and one in Powys. Both species show much variation in their movements, with some individuals hardly moving, some dispersing over short distances and others making more significant migrations or irruptive movements. So with these individuals one cannot be sure of their places of origin or ultimate destinations, and an overall picture can only be gained by looking at many ringing recoveries.

Full details of all ringing recoveries and controls are given on later in this report.

MANX SHEARWATERS

The shearwater ringing totals for 2022 were 76 adults and 85 chicks. In addition, there were 56 recaptures, involving 51 different individuals, of adults carrying rings from previous years. Early in the breeding season, 37 birds were ringed on several visits to the colonies in the Benjamin's Chair area and north of Old Light. Later there was potential for ringing many more, as shown by the fact that 121 birds were caught over just two nights in late August, but sadly the following day a Herring Gull suffering from HPAI was found on the island, so the rest of the season's planned shearwater ringing was abandoned because of the risks of the disease spreading.

Monitoring of the nestboxes was possible until then, and so spanned almost all the breeding season. The results were very encouraging, with eight chicks ringed and successfully reared. Two of these were in boxes that had not been used previously. Three pairs laid eggs but their breeding attempts failed. One was a new pair in a previously unused box, one pair had been present in 2021 without laying, and in the third case one of the adults was new. So these all involved relatively inexperienced birds. In a twelfth box, a chick was encountered once, but the adults had extended the burrow beyond the back of the box so that activity in the nest could not be monitored.

Among the breeding adults, fourteen out of fifteen of the birds encountered in 2021 returned in 2022, giving a survival rate of at least 93%. Of the eggs laid, 75% produced fledged young. Considering the comparatively young age of the adults involved, both of these figures are very encouraging.

One bird recaptured in 2022 clearly stands out: a bird ringed as a chick in a nestbox in 2021 was re-trapped in late May 2022. Extensive past studies on the Pembrokeshire islands suggest that most young birds do not return to colonies until they are three or more years of age, with a minority returning at two, and one-year-olds remaining in the species' wintering areas in the South Atlantic for their first full summer. So this individual is highly unusual. There are occasional records of Manx Shearwaters seen off British shores in winter, so could this bird have remained in the Northern Hemisphere throughout its first year, or did it migrate north at an exceptionally young age?

Apart from this individual, the other six birds ringed as chicks are the pick of the recaptures, because of their high scientific value as birds of known age. They were ringed in 2013, 2016 (2), 2018 (2) and 2019. The three oldest of these had already been seen in intervening years, but the others were re-encountered for the first time.

The remaining 44 recaptured birds were originally ringed as adults, and included 10 from the years 2011-2015, 22 from 2016-2020 and 12 from 2021. As always, these encounters all contribute towards a greater understanding of the biology of the species.

STORM PETRELS

As mentioned above, a productive ringing session on the East Side at the end of July produced 17 new birds and three controls. This catch was at a site where ringing has not been tried before, but where there have been indications of breeding. It was made without using sound lures, which tend to draw in passing non-breeders, so the size of the catch was very encouraging. Full details of the three controls are given below.

Sadly the further petrel ringing planned for late August was not possible because of the arrival of HPAI on the island, so the information gained in 2022 on this enigmatic species' status on Lundy was more limited than had been hoped. Even so, it will add to the body of accumulated data on the species, and help to give a clearer picture in the long term.

WHEATEARS

In contrast to 2021, the weather through the 2022 Wheatear breeding season was generally favourable. Most pairs appear to have laid eggs around the end of April, and gone on to fledge good numbers of young. This meant that fieldwork for the BTO's Recapturing Adults for Survival (RAS) project was very productive.

Most of the catching and colour-ringing of adult Wheatears, and looking for birds colour-ringed in previous seasons, was carried out between 17 May and 7 June. By the end of this period the great majority of breeding adults in the RAS study area were ringed. Of these, 56 were newly ringed in 2022 and 39 were re-sighted birds, ringed in previous seasons. The re-sightings included one bird originally ringed in 2016 and two from 2017. These are impressive survivors, with the 2016 bird having made at least 14 crossings of the Sahara on its way to and from its wintering grounds. Another notable bird was originally ringed in 2018 as a nestling, then not re-encountered until it was trapped in 2022.

When breeding is over, some colour-ringed adults are known to remain on Lundy in July and August to moult, but the scarcity of such records suggests that others may move away. There is now firm evidence of this, as a male colour-ringed on 28 May 2022 had moved to Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, by 1 July, when it was in the early stages of its full annual moult. It was last seen there on 9 August, with its moult almost complete.

In the study area 51 females were ringed or re-sighted and four remained un-ringed in 2022, so the breeding population was estimated at 55 pairs. With the 2020 and 2021 seasons' fieldwork disrupted by Covid, reliable estimates could not be made in those years, but the 2017-19 figures were 53, 53 and 54 pairs. So it seems that the population has more or less reached full capacity in terms of the number of territories the study area can hold, and that breeding and survival rates are sufficient to maintain those numbers at present.

The provisional figure for the survival of adults between the 2021 and '22 breeding seasons is 53%, a little lower than the 57% average for 2013-19.



▲ Colour-ringed Wheatear, Castle Hill, 19th May (photo: Tony Taylor).

Tim Davis and Tim Jones carried out a survey of all species round Lundy's coast on 19 May 2022. Using their Wheatear counts to extrapolate from the study area data, the whole island population is estimated at 129 pairs. Estimates for 2017-'19 were 121, 114 and 118, and this year's total is the highest ever recorded. While this is extremely encouraging, it cannot be taken as firm evidence of a significant population increase, because of the uncertainties introduced by the extrapolation process.

Many thanks to the Lundy Conservation team, to Tim Jones and Tim Davis, and a number of other visitors, who have contributed photographs and sightings of ringed Wheatears to the study.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS, 1947-2022

Species	2022 Full grown	2022 Chicks	2022 Total	1947-2022 Total
Greylag Goose				1
Mallard				41
Quail				1
Fulmar				147
Manx Shearwater	76	85	161	5861
Storm Petrel	17		17	491
Cormorant				46
Shag				1187
Little Grebe				1
Sparrowhawk				19
Buzzard				7
Water Rail				55
Spotted Crake				1
Corncrake				5
Moorhen				1
Oystercatcher				37
Golden Plover	1		1	4
Dotterel				6
Ringed Plover				3
Lapwing				211
Whimbrel				21
Curlew				34
Bar-tailed Godwit				1
Turnstone				3
Knot				4
Curlew Sandpiper				2
Dunlin				82
Little Stint				6
Least Sandpiper				2
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				2
Pectoral Sandpiper				6
Semipalmated Sandpiper				1
Common Sandpiper				1
Green Sandpiper				1
Greenshank				2
Wood Sandpiper				1
Jack Snipe				13
Woodcock				18
Snipe	3		3	49

Species	2022 Full grown	2022 Chicks	2022 Total	1947-2022 Total
Puffin				10
Razorbill				1238
Guillemot				2704
Kittiwake				2535
Lesser Black-backed Gull				457
Herring Gull				2949
Great Black-backed Gull				132
Stock Dove				1
Woodpigeon	2		2	24
Collared Dove				22
Turtle Dove				13
Cuckoo				43
Long-eared Owl	1		1	5
Short-eared Owl				2
Nightjar				2
Swift				14
Hoopoe				1
Wryneck				25
Great Spotted Woodpecker				12
Kestrel				29
Merlin				6
Peregrine				11
Red-eyed Vireo				6
Golden Oriole				7
Red-backed Shrike				10
Great Grey Shrike				1
Woodchat Shrike				11
Jackdaw				2
Carrion Crow		1		23
Raven				47
Goldcrest	87		87	11600
Firecrest	6		6	303
Blue Tit				124
Great Tit				35
Coal Tit				79
Skylark	13		13	635
Short-toed Lark				1
Sand Martin	10		10	256
Swallow	196	6	202	13189
House Martin	4		4	462
Cetti's Warbler	1		1	6

Species	2022 Full grown	2022 Chicks	2022 Total	1947-2022 Total
Long-tailed Tit				26
Greenish Warbler				2
Arctic Warbler				2
Pallas's Warbler	1		1	5
Yellow-browed Warbler	3		3	112
Radde's Warbler				1
Western Bonelli's Warbler				2
Bonelli's Warbler sp.				1
Wood Warbler				50
Chiffchaff	144		144	7144
Willow Warbler	387		387	17889
Blackcap	753		753	12490
Garden Warbler	6		6	888
Barred Warbler				11
Lesser Whitethroat	7		7	146
Ruppell's Warbler				1
Sardinian Warbler				1
Subalpine Warbler				13
Whitethroat	37		37	3470
Dartford Warbler				1
Grasshopper Warbler	9		9	490
Booted Warbler				1
Icterine Warbler				19
Melodious Warbler				33
Aquatic Warbler				1
Sedge Warbler	101		101	2882
Paddyfield Warbler				1
Blyth's Reed Warbler				2
Marsh Warbler				3
Reed Warbler	8		8	163
Treecreeper	2		2	34
Wren	42		42	1486
Starling	38	32	70	1454
Rose-coloured Starling				1
White's Thrush				1
Swainson's Thrush				2
Grey-cheeked Thrush				1
Veery				2
Ring Ouzel				43
Blackbird	47		47	4789
Fieldfare				34

Species	2022 Full grown	2022 Chicks	2022 Total	1947-2022 Total
Song Thrush	9		9	1125
Redwing	51		51	1532
Mistle Thrush				7
American Robin				1
Spotted Flycatcher	12		12	1420
Robin	52		52	2281
Thrush Nightingale				1
Nightingale				11
Bluethroat				3
Red-flanked Bluetail				2
Red-breasted Flycatcher				23
Pied Flycatcher	7		7	797
Black Redstart				44
Redstart	2		2	402
Whinchat	1		1	120
Stonechat	13		13	319
Wheatear	70	5	75	1002
Desert Wheatear				1
Duncock	18		18	1050
House Sparrow	52	88	140	1159
Tree Sparrow				5
Yellow Wagtail				5
Citrine Wagtail				1
Grey Wagtail	1		1	73
Pied Wagtail	1		1	194
Richard's Pipit				1
Olive-backed Pipit				1
Tree Pipit	1		1	86
Meadow Pipit	57		57	5279
Red-throated Pipit				1
Rock Pipit	4		4	32
Brambling	1		1	152
Chaffinch	39		39	9359
Hawfinch	2		2	11
Common Rosefinch	1		1	35
Bullfinch	2		2	33
Greenfinch				575
Linnet	22		22	1744
Lesser Redpoll				96
Common Redpoll				4
Crossbill				38

Species	2022 Full grown	2022 Chicks	2022 Total	1947-2022 Total
Goldfinch	62		62	1544
Siskin	17		17	2051
Snow Bunting				11
Lapland Bunting				8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				1
Eastern Towhee				1
Ortolan Bunting				6
Yellowhammer				1
Reed Bunting				12
Yellow-breasted Bunting				1
Little Bunting				8
Rustic Bunting				3
Baltimore Oriole				2
Common Yellowthroat				1
Blackpoll Warbler				1
Yellow-rumped Warbler				1
Total	2499	217	2716	131780
Number of species			52	*177
* Western and sp. Bonelli's Warblers treated as one.				



▲ Mist-net in Lower Millcombe, 17th April (photo: Mandy Dee).

RINGING RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 2022

Storm Petrel 2569909 – ringed as an adult at Porth Ysgaden, Gwynedd, 10.7.17. Controlled on Lundy, 31.7.22 (duration: 1847 days; distance: 191 km; direction: S, 181°).

Storm Petrel 2714440 – ringed as an adult at Hot Point, The Lizard, Cornwall, 5.6.16. Controlled on Lundy, 31.7.22 (2247 days; 141 km; NNE, 16°).

Storm Petrel 2746631 – ringed as an adult on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, 11.7.20. Controlled on Lundy, 31.7.22 (750 days; 72 km; SE, 144°).

Shag 1484736 – ringed as a chick on Midland Island, Pembrokeshire, 7.6.21. Found freshly dead on Lundy, 1.1.22 (208 days; 77 km; SE, 146°).

Herring Gull GY06303, with black colour-ring, engraved in yellow T2YZ – ringed as a chick on the Calf of Man, Isle of Man, 3.7.19. Re-sighted on Lundy, 4.1.22 (916 days; 321 km; S, 179°). Previously re-sighted on the Isle of Man, 27.10.19 and 10.10.21.

Lesser Black-backed Gull GP95670 – ringed as a chick on Lundy, 23.6.1996. Seen (metal ring read in field), at Praia de Mira, Aveiro, Coimbra, **Portugal**, 1.11.22 (9627 days; 1233 km; SSW, 195°).

Lesser Black-backed Gull GN29633 – ringed as a chick on Lundy, 18.6.10. Seen (metal ring read in field), at Praia de Mira, Aveiro, Coimbra, **Portugal**, 31.10.22 (4518 days; 1233 km; SSW, 195°).

Willow Warbler NNY071 – ringed as a juvenile at Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall, 21.7.21. Controlled on Lundy, 10.4.22 (263 days; 143 km; NNE, 31°).

Sedge Warbler Paris 8702105 – ringed as an adult at Bahine, Guerande, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE, 2.8.19. Controlled on Lundy, 8.5.22 (1010 days; 460 km; NNW, 340°).

Reed Warbler AVF4870 – ringed as a first-year bird at Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 11.8.20. Controlled on Lundy, 4.5.22 (631 days; 180 km; NE, 40°).

Blackcap Copenhagen CX37116 – ringed as a first-year male at Blavand Fuglestation, Blavand, Ribe, DENMARK, 7.10.20. Controlled on Lundy, 14.4.22 (554 days; 975 km; WSW, 241°).

Blackcap AHX2038 – ringed as a second-year female on Lundy, 2.5.22. Controlled at Challacombe Farm, Postbridge, Devon, 9.7.22 (68 days; 86 km; SE, 138°).

Robin ANL4054 – ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 5.9.21. Found dead (killed by cat) at Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire, 14.3.22 (190 days; 278 km; E, 81°).

Wheatear AXH2316 – ringed as an adult male on Lundy, 28.5.22. Seen (identified by colour-rings) on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, 1, 7 and 17.7.22, and 9.8.22 (34, 40, 50 and 73 days; 74 km; NW, 325°).

Goldfinch ADY4106 – ringed as a second-year male at Oxwich Marsh, Swansea, 2.4.22. Controlled on Lundy, 15.4.22 (13 days; 57 km; SW, 218°).

Goldfinch ANL3184 – ringed as a second-year male on Lundy, 18.4.21. Controlled at Mount St Joseph, Offaly, IRELAND, 9.4.22 (356 days; 297 km; NW, 313°).

Siskin APR5251 – ringed as a first-year male on Lundy, 24.10.21. Found dead at Byfleet, Surrey, 16.3.22 (143 days; 292 km; E, 87°).

Siskin APR5390 – ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 27.10.21. Controlled at Hill Farm, Abermule, Powys, 30.1.22 (95 days; 184 km; NNE, 32°).

DIGITISATION OF LUNDY BIRD RINGING RECORDS

Tony Taylor (ammataylor@yahoo.co.uk)

The UK's national bird ringing scheme is administered by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). For many years ringers filled in and submitted paper forms, recording data on each ring used. Then in 1995 the BTO introduced B-RING (for BBC microcomputers), followed in 2000 by IPMR (for Microsoft Windows). These were programs which allowed ringers to record data digitally and then email them to the BTO. In 2016 they introduced DemOn, an online, web-based system that allows ringers to input their data directly to the BTO's Oracle database. This saves time for their staff and also allows ringers and researchers easy access to the stored past records.

Though ringing has been carried out on Lundy since 1947, detailed records of the birds ringed on the island only survive from 1972 onwards. A water leak in Jack's Store damaged almost all of the field notebooks used before 1979, and unfortunately they were thrown away. However, Nick Dymond, the Lundy Bird Observatory warden in 1972 and '73, had set up binder files designed to take standard BTO recording sheets. Ringing details for each bird, sorted according to species, were copied into these from field notebooks. These files were not affected by the flood and continued to be used until 1999. From October 1979 onwards, the primary records, written in the field as each bird is processed, have been in a series of the BTO's standard ringing notebooks which are printed with columns for ring number, species, date, biometrics, etc.

So there is one record for each bird ringed on Lundy from 1972 to 1979 (the species logs), and two from October 1979 to 1999 (species logs and BTO ringing notebooks). The Observatory data from 1972-73 appear reliable in general, and after 1979 it is possible to check the ringing notebooks against the species files to help resolve queries arising from occasional recording or copying mistakes. In the years between these two periods the documentation was less accurate, and in a few cases it has been impossible to resolve issues such as the same ring number being entered for two different species.

DemOn has many built-in checks, to minimise errors. So the digitisation process is very useful in verifying the records, for example in immediately flagging up ring numbers that are entered as if they are new birds but are in fact on recaptures. Once the data are entered, DemOn can also be used to sort records into ring number sequence, making it much easier to find any gaps and investigate possible explanations for a ring being unlisted.

There are no surviving records of recaptures prior to 1979, but from then on the notebooks include this valuable information, which can be used to work out important demographic statistics such as survival rates. Other pre-1979 gaps are the ringing records for Swallows and Willow Warblers. The sheets for Willow Warblers were removed from the relevant species log by a visiting ringer so that analysis could be carried out, but they were then lost. Those for Swallows were removed to make room for more sheets when the files became full. They were kept as a separate bundle with the files, but later disappeared.

When the BTO started the transition from submitting data on paper forms to using digital data files, Steve Wing kindly offered to digitise Lundy ringing data, and did this annually in the years 1997 to '99. From 2000 Tony Taylor took over the task, with help from other visiting ringers including Chris Dee and Tim Ball.

The digitisation of pre-1997 Lundy records began because it facilitated analysis of information such as biometrics for a given species. So all available data on Manx Shearwater, Chaffinch,

Blackbird and then Goldcrest were submitted to the BTO via IPMR or DemOn, and scientific papers were published on these. More recently the prospect of Lundy once more becoming a Bird Observatory prompted the digitisation of all other species, to increase the chances of the application being successful. This task was completed in October 2022.

The result, at the end of 2022, is that 108,756 records of birds newly ringed on Lundy, and 11,912 recaptures, are available in DemOn. The wealth of information on age, sex and biometrics can be used to answer many questions relating to survival rates, migration and other aspects of birds' lives. These answers in turn are vital when devising effective conservation strategies.

When the records for each year were completed, the species totals were checked against the ones published in the relevant LFS Annual Report. In several cases these showed discrepancies, and further investigation revealed records that had been missed in the digitisation process or errors in the published totals. Table 1 gives details of these errors. The 2022 Bird Ringing Report, which precedes this account, includes a revised list of the grand totals for *all* species ringed on Lundy.

Table 1: Corrections to Ringing Totals

Year	Species	Total in relevant Annual Report	Corrected species total	Corrected annual total for all species	Reason for change
1955-71	Bonelli's Warbler sp	0	1	[Grand total 1947-71 =23,022]	One ringed in 1954. Missing from all Annual Reports thereafter in which grand totals are included.
1973	Chiffchaff	46	44		Two birds were recorded twice in the species log
1973	Goldcrest	72	71		Same ring number recorded for a Goldcrest and a Chiffchaff in species logs. Chiffchaff data fitted better.
1973	Stonechat	6	3	1797	Only 3 in species log. (The standard gap was not left between 1972 and '73 data, so the three 1972 records were probably mistakenly counted again in '73.)
1974	All				Note: all rings used were personal, not LFS.
1975	Sparrowhawk	3	1		Only one in species log. Likely misprint in Ann Rep, as total of all species is given as 1075, but total if the 3 had been intended would have been 1077. ('3' was perhaps taken from Water Rail on next line.)
1975	Goldcrest	195	196	1076	In the species log, one record was inserted between the printed lines. Probably missed when counting the total.

Table 1 continued: Corrections to Ringing Totals

Year	Species	Total in relevant Annual Report	Corrected species total	Corrected annual total for all species	Reason for change
1976	Peregrine	0	1	594	Peregrine was deliberately omitted to keep their newly re-established breeding on Lundy unpublicised. Activities of egg collectors, and falconers operating illegally, were a concern at the time.
1977	Blackbird	60	61		61 records in the species log.
1977	Goldcrest	12	13		13 records in the species log.
1977	Chiffchaff	20	22		22 records in the species log.
1977	Redwing	4	3	498	3 records in the species log. (One entry on a fourth line, started but crossed out, perhaps mistakenly included.)
1978	Peregrine	0	1	443	See 1976 comment.
1981	Dunnock	22	21		21 in ringing notebook.
1981	Grey Wagtail	1	2	606	2 in ringing notebook.
1982	Dunnock	17	16	1148	One record mistakenly included in the Ann Rep total was an unflagged recapture in the ringing notebook.
1983	Goldcrest	347	348	1349	348 records in ringing notebook.
1984	Robin	127	126	1850	One record mistakenly included in the Ann Rep total was an unflagged recapture in the ringing notebook.
1987	Blackbird	126	125	3021	One record included in the Ann Rep total was recaptured in a later year. The ring was found to have been added mistakenly on the other leg of a previously-ringed bird.
1989	Oystercatcher	2	0	3430	Not in any surviving records, and there are no appropriate rings series, in use at the time, in which there are gaps that could be ascribed to these birds.
1996	Blackbird	36	37	2335	37 records in ringing notebook.
2018	Blackbird	14	15		One record not entered in ringing notebook.
2018	Starling	0	2	2727	Two records not entered in ringing notebook.
2020	Starling	48	50	1977	Two records not entered in ringing notebook.

OTHER BIOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM LUNDY

The following reports have been compiled by the recorders for each group of organisms. Most of the records have been taken from the pages of the LFS Logbook not devoted to birds and we thank all those who have taken the time and trouble to enter their observations of animals, plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi whilst on Lundy. We have not attempted to verify all the records, but unusual or interesting observations will have been checked with the originators. Most of the information will also eventually appear on the LFS website and on the various national databases.

Please keep entering your 2023 sightings in the Logbook and sending us photographs which can be used to illustrate the 2023 AR!

MARINE RECORDS

Compiled by Keith Hiscock

Most records entered to the LFS logbook in 2022 were of cetaceans. The majority of records of seashore and seabed species listed in this report are from Porcupine Marine Natural History Society (PMNHS) members and made during the marine bioblitz on Lundy on 14-19 July. A full list of species recorded is given in PMNHS Bulletin 19 (Moore, 2023; Brazier, 2023; Bunker & Harries, 2023; Darbyshire, 2023; Hiscock, 2023). Many of the recorded species are well-known from Lundy shores but some records (the ones included here) are of species not previously recorded from Lundy, some that show increases or decreases in abundance or some that are non-native species whose abundance from year-to-year is significant to track. There were 478 taxa of marine species recorded during the PMNHS surveys.

Names of taxa given here are the most recent (at May 2023). For authorities for each species and to check against changes to names, go to www.marinespecies.org.

ALGAE

RHODOPHYTA

Pale Patch Laver *Pyropia leucosticta*

Noted during PMNHS surveys and recorded here as it is now known to be a non-native species. The species was recorded by Leslie and Clare Harvey in the 1940s.

Sea Noodle *Nemalion elminthoides*

(was *N. helminthoides*)

Noted as abundant on the mid to upper shore at Devil's Kitchen in Brazier (2023). Described as generally distributed around Britain but mostly as small plants. Described as 'locally abundant' in Irvine (1973) at locations all around the island and likely that it is a 'Lundy speciality'.

► *Rocks dominated by the non-native Harpoon Weed* *Asparagopsis armata* with separated plants of non-native *Wireweed* *Sargassum muticum* under the Jetty on 17th July (photo: Keith Hiscock).



Harpoon Weed *Asparagopsis armata*

Only small amounts in pools in Devil's Kitchen in 2022 but abundant under the Jetty (including patches of the *Falkenbergia* stage) and on the adjacent lower shore.



Okamura's Pom-Pom Weed *Caulacanthus okamurae*

Observed and reported for the first time at Lundy in 2021 (see the LFS Annual Report for 2021) and was present again in Devil's Kitchen but also at Gannets' Bay. The species is variable in abundance from year-to-year.

◀ *Iridescence in Gastroclonium ovatum at Devil's Kitchen (photo: Anne Bunker).*



▲ *Dasysiphonia japonica (photo: Paul Brazier) from the Knoll Pins and Melanothamnus harvei from Ladies Beach (photo: Keith Hiscock): both non-native species not previously recorded from Lundy.*

Red Grape Weed *Gastroclonium ovatum*

A widely distributed algae but notable here for the observation of a very few individuals with iridescent longitudinal lines down the grape-shaped ends of the fronds at Devil's Kitchen. There appear to be no records in the literature of the species being iridescent (Bunker & Harries, 2023).

Siphoned Japan Weed *Dasysiphonia japonica*

Collected from the Knoll Pins on 26 July where it was entwined as drift material in the hydroid *Hydrallmania falcata* and in shallow water at Brazen Ward. Identified by Paul Brazier. A non-native species not previously recorded from Lundy.

Harvey's Siphon Weed *Melanothamnus harveyi*

Collected from Ladies Beach by Joanna Harley attached to *Callophyllis laciniata* and identified by Paul Brazier. A non-native species not previously recorded from Lundy.

OCHROPHYTA

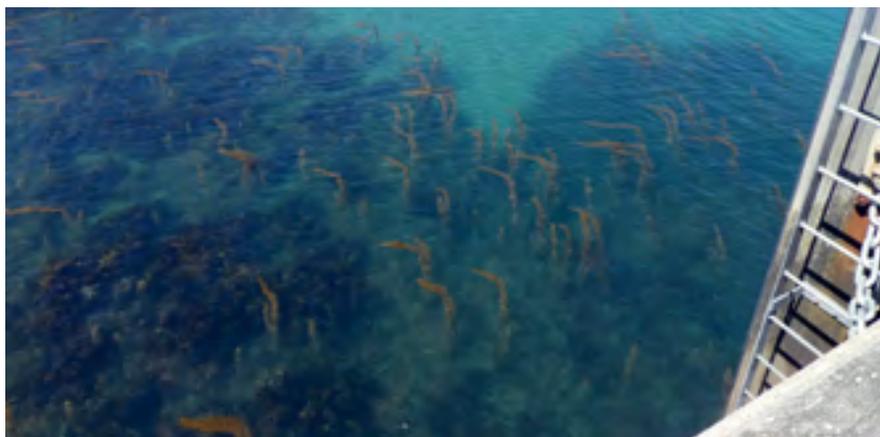
Brown Tuning Fork Weed *Bifurcaria bifurcata*

Notable here because it was not recorded at Lundy in the late 1940s and early 1950s by Leslie and Clare Harvey (Harvey, 1952) or by Tregelles (1937) but was by Irvine *et al.* (1972). It is a

warmer water species that has possibly extended its range since the 1940s. The PMNHS team visited the upper midshore rockpool on the offshore rock south of the Lametor peninsula and observed that the percentage cover of the species (mean of three estimates) was 28%, about that measured in 1984 of 27% (Hiscock, 1984).

Bushy Rainbow Wrack *Ericaria selaginoides* (was *Cystoseira tamariscifolia*)

There has been one clump in a pool at Devil's Kitchen for many years but no others in the Landing Bay and Rat Island area despite apparently suitable habitats being present. The Devil's Kitchen plant was 'infested' with a *Ceramium* species in July. The species was found to be more abundant in pools south of the Lametor Peninsula during 2022. In discussion with phycologists on the Marine Festival surveys, it was wondered if, for a likely long-lived species, there may have been collecting in the distant past and lack of recruitment.



▲ Wireweed, *Sargassum muticum* - the light brown plants - photographed from a viewpoint on the jetty at low water on 15th July (photo: Keith Hiscock).

Wireweed *Sargassum muticum*

A non-native species recorded at Lundy for the first time in 1999. Recorded in 2022 around Rat Island and in the Landing Bay and in pools south of the Lametor peninsula. Generally sparse plants but could be visually dominant. Viewpoint photographs and rough counts of the number of plants visible floating at low water on either side of the jetty on 15 July revealed about 95 on each side.

CHLOROPHYTA

Green Sponge Fingers *Codium fragile* subsp. *fragile*.

A non-native subspecies not previously recorded from Lundy but recorded in PMNHS surveys.

Cherry Leung (Exeter University) undertook a study during 2022 of the possible Impact of non-native algae on native species focussing on the Devil's Kitchen, Victoria Beach and Quarry Beach. No non-native algae were recorded at Quarry Beach. Only one pool studied at Devil's Kitchen had Harpoon Weed *Asparagopsis armata* present and so the variety of species that could be studied was limited. Cherry Leung reports: "Statistical analysis has revealed the presence of *Sargassum muticum* and *Caulacanthus okamurae* had no effect on species richness, diversity and community composition of the native intertidal algal community" (pers. comm. to Keith Hiscock).

MARINE INVERTEBRATES

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. There were very few observations of 'jellyfish' entered to the logbook in 2022 but that is, in part, because Dean Jones (Lundy Warden until 2021) was particularly interested in the group.

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

A hydrozoan *Neoturris* sp.

Example of one of the gelatinous plankton species to look-out for and record. Photographed adjacent to the Jetty on 2 June by Patrick Davies.

It seems from anecdotal information that there were the usual (see the Annual Report for 2021) gelatinous plankton seen in the Landing Bay in 2022 but there were notably no records of Barrel Jellyfish (*Rhizostoma octopus*) in the logbook: a species that occurs in high numbers in some years.

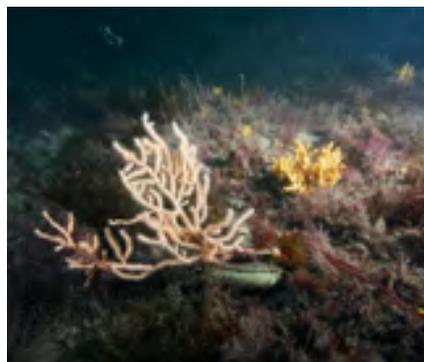
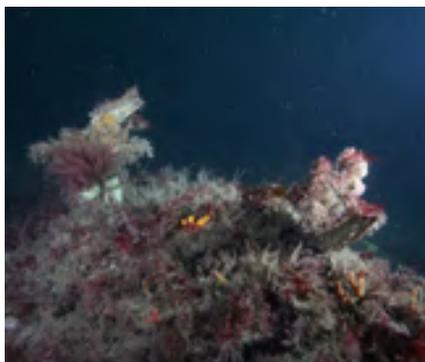


▲ One of the gelatinous plankton species frequently seen in the Landing Bay: *Neoturris* sp. (photo: Patrick Davies).

CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA

Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa*

Although once common around Lundy, numbers are now much reduced. Bullimore (2023) noted "... it was quite a shock to see quite how degraded the overwhelming majority of fans were. I only saw and photographed a small handful of healthy unfouled fans across the four sites we dived."



▲ Pink sea fans, *Eunicella verrucosa* continue to be in much lower numbers than in the 1970s to 1990s. Both images are from Brazen Ward on 16th July. On the left, still-attached skeletons probably from the disease event in the early 2000s now fouled with bryozoans and hydroids etc. and providing an attachment point for the egg cases of Bull Huss *Scyliorhinus stellaris*. On the right, a healthy sea fan but with entangled drift algae and Bull Huss egg case (photos: Keith Hiscock).



Sunset Cup Coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti*
Colonies of this Nationally Rare species at the Knoll Pins were re-surveyed using photographic quadrats on 26 June. Numbers appeared relatively stable compared to the last few years and there were significant numbers of small individual present. A report has been prepared (Irving, 2023).

◀ One of the photographic quadrats used to create a mosaic of images of colonies on the Sunset Cup Coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* at the Knoll Pins. The quadrat is 36 x 24 cm (photo: Keith Hiscock).

NEMERTEA

Nemerteans were especially recorded by Patrick Adkins during the PMNHS surveys and all records are listed below.

Siphonenteron bilineatum. Ladies' Beach.

Lineus viridis. Ladies' Beach.

Micrura purpurea. Gannets' Bay.

*Emplectonema gracile**. Gannets' Bay.

Riseriellus occultus. Devil's Kitchen.

Cephalothrix linearis. Jetty Beach.

Lineus viridis. Jetty Beach

*Lineus ruber**. Lametry Bay (High shore under shale and rocks). Notable as, although a widespread species, it was present in high abundance in shale at the top of the beach in Lametry Bay.

*Oerstedtia dorsalis**. A very common species noted from several shore sites aespacially Devil's Kitchen.

*Recorded by Leslie Harvey in Anon. (1951).

POLYCHAETA

Darbyshire (2023) gives a historical overview of polychaete studies at Lundy and reports that, during the PMNHS surveys, 53 species were recorded from intertidal sites with another 10 species recorded exclusively from subtidal samples. That number was considered to be 'not bad for a few days' work' when compared to previous listings. Although the number of locations that could be visited was restricted by access issues, 15 new taxa (22% of the PMNHS trip's list of polychaetes) were added to the lists of intertidal taxa known from Lundy as well as nine taxa (14% of the total list) that had not been recorded anywhere around Lundy before. An account is given in Darbyshire (2023) and a summary list is given below.

Polychaete species newly recorded from Lundy during the PMNHS surveys in July 2022 (from Darbyshire, 2023)

New records for intertidal areas (recorded elsewhere around Lundy). *Harmothoe clavigera*, *H. fragilis*, *H. impar*, *Malmgrenia mcintoshi*, *Pholoe inornata*, *Sthenelais boa*, *Mysta picta*, *Syllis gracilis*, *Nudisyllis ?pulligera*, *Marphysa sanguinea*, *Ophryotrocha* sp., *Dipolydora flava*, *Mediomastus fragilis*, *Sabellaria spinulosa*, *Bispira volutacornis*, *Circeis spirillum*.

New records for Lundy. *Phyllodoce mucosa*, *Glycera fallax*, *Schistomeringos neglecta*, *Boccardia polybranchia*, *B. proboscidea*, *Oesterdia dorsalis*, *Malacoceros vulgaris*, *Dipolydora saintjosephi*, *Pseudofabricia aberrans*, *Parasabella langerhansi*.

Darbyshire observes that the muddy shale gravel in areas of The Gates was a particularly diverse habitat for polychaetes. The silty shale crevices there also yielded the Rock Worm *Marphysa sanguinea*: a large worm not previously recorded from the intertidal at Lundy but likely present previously and not found because of its cryptic habitat. The observation of the fan worm *Bispira volutacornis* is notable as it is a conspicuous species (even when only visible as the muddy tubes) and not previously reported from intertidal habitats at Lundy. Another 'not rare' species that was recorded for the first time at Lundy was *Phyllodoce mucosa* which is commonly recorded on sandy shores, a very restricted habitat at Lundy. The two *Boccardia* species recorded for the first time at Lundy are notable. They occurred together in the same crevices in Devil's Kitchen. *B. proboscidea* is a non-native species present in Britain since at least 1998 and that can become quite dominant in some habitats, displacing some native species.



▲ *Rock Worm Marphysa sanguinea* photographed here in south Devon but found in similar habitats (silty crevices) in shale rocks at Lundy (photo: Teresa Darbyshire).

Filigree Worm *Filigrana implexa* was noted as heavily fouling many colonies of the bryozoan *Pentapora foliacea*.



▲ *The Filigree Worm Filigrana implexa* fouling a colony of *Ross Pentapora foliacea* off Battery Point (photo: Blaise Bullimore).

MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA

Celtic Sea Slug *Onchidella celtica*. On ridges at the middle of the shore at Devil's Kitchen (Jon Moore). Particularly notable that the population originally found in 2020 by Rosie Ellis is still present in large numbers. The shore habitat at Lundy is unusual for this species which is nationally scarce and usually found on 'surf beaches'.

MOLLUSCA: BIVALVIA

[No notable records but extensive searches found no Pacific Oysters *Magallana gigas* first recorded at Lundy in 2020.]

MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA: NUDIBRANCHIA

Moore (2023) observed that, during the PMNHS surveys in July, "only 14 species of nudibranch were recorded, which is not a lot for such a popular group". Brown & Hunnam (1977) record 43 nudibranch taxa from Lundy. Nevertheless, one record (of *Discodoris rosi*) is particularly notable). It was found off Battery Point making it the northernmost sighting of this species in Britain as well as a new record for Lundy (Sarah Bowen, David Kipling). *It also features as the cover picture on this annual report (ed.)*.

BRYOZOA

A branching bryozoan

Filicrisia geniculata

This small cryptic bryozoan was found tangled amongst kelp holdfasts at Devil's Kitchen. It is a new record for Lundy (Paul Brazier).

Red Ripple Bryozoan

Watersipora subatra

A non-native species first found at Lundy in May 2021 in the cave behind the arch on the north side of Rat Island. In 2022, it was found in extensive patches at 'Anemone Cave' about 20 m west of the 2021 location and under boulders on the north side of Rat Island.



▲ An extensive patch of non-native Red Ripple Bryozoan *Watersipora subatra* outside of 'Anemone Cave' on 15th July – a significant spread in extent and cover since 2021 (photo: Keith Hiscock).

CRUSTACEA: CIRRIPIEDIA

Australasian or Darwin's Barnacle *Austrominius modestus*

Although recorded since at least 1977 at Lundy, this non-native species has been difficult to relocate in recent years. Recorded in the region of the Landing Bay and at Quarry Bay during PMNHS surveys.

CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA

Montagu's or Furrowed Crab *Xantho hydrophilus*

Although noted by Leslie Harvey in Anon. (1951), this species seems to be becoming much more abundant at Lundy and more generally throughout south-west Britain.

CHORDATA: ASCIDIACEA

A Pinhead Sea Squirt

Pycnoclavella producta

Not previously recorded from Lundy and ranks as 'nationally scarce' in Britain. Reported as commonly seen by ascidian specialists David Kipling and Sarah Bowen during PMNHS diving surveys.

[**Yellow-Tipped Sea Squirt** *Corella eumyota*
This species is a non-native that was especially looked for but not recorded during the PMNHS surveys. It was noted in the logbook from early August in an anonymous but extensive list of shore species. Confirmation of the record is needed before it can be accepted.]



▲ *Pycnoclavella producta*: an inconspicuous sea squirt but commonly seen during PMNHS diving surveys (Sarah Bowen and David Kipling) (photo: David Kipling).

Moore (2023) noted in the report of the PMNHS surveys that sea squirts were generally infrequent around the island with only 17 taxa recorded from the west coast dives (there were 19 in total recorded) which was described as a 'moderate haul' with more being expected in the presence of ascidian specialists (Sarah Bowen and David Kipling). Most species were Rare and only two were recorded as more than Occasional. However, *Pycnoclavella producta* (a new record for Lundy) was described as Common whilst *Perophora listeri* was Frequent. A particular observation was that no species of *Polycarpa* (a widespread genus) were observed. The Marine Recorder database suggests a similar paucity of sea squirts from previous Lundy surveys. Furthermore, Lane (1977), in the 'Lundy Marine Fauna' series, recorded (including the records from Harvey, 1952) 25 species of ascidians from 20 locations between 1970 and 1975. He noted "The ascidians of Lundy form a diverse component of the marine fauna in terms of numbers of species and the habitats they occupy, but only rarely can certain species be considered abundant. Records for many species consist of single specimens only." It seems that Lundy is not a very favourable location for sea squirts.

CHORDATA: PISCES

Sunfish *Mola mola*

One seen approximately 20 m offshore from Quarry Beach on 10 November (J. Morgan).

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna *Thunnus thynnus*

One observed leaping out of the water off Battery Point on 22 August (Anon.). (Atlantic Bluefin Tuna have steadily returned to south-west waters and in large numbers in some areas since about 2015.)

[**European eel** *Anguilla anguilla*

Reported from Three Quarter Wall Bay on 8 July and suggested to be about 1 m long. This was an anonymous entry to the logbook and needs validation but eels are occasionally found at Lundy.]

CHORDATA: MAMMALIA WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES (CETACEANS)

The most frequently seen cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin. Both species were seen throughout 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. About a 100 were seen travelling northwards off the east coast on 19 September (Anon.), matching the size of a similar pod seen in July 2020, but overall, numbers reported were smaller than in 2020. There was one sighting of a Bottle Nose Dolphin (none in 2021 and one in 2020). The one sighting of a Minke Whale on the passage to/ from the island compares with two seen in 2021 and one in 2020.

MARINELife record sightings of cetaceans on ferry trips between Ilfracombe/Bideford and Lundy. The number of sightings are reported on their website - <https://www.marine-life.org.uk/survey-reports/categories/ilfracombe-bideford-lundy>.

Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* MARINELife sighting from the *Oldenburg* on 14 May.



▲ *The carcass of a Risso's Dolphin in the Landing Bay on 23rd June (photo: Rosie Ellis).*

Risso's Dolphin *Grampus griseus*

On 23 June, report of a dead Risso's dolphin washed-up in the Landing Bay (Anon.). Further investigations and measurements by Lundy Warden Rosie Ellis confirmed the identification. The carcass was just under 3m long and most of the skin was gone/sun-bleached.

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

There were seven days on which there were logbook entries for Common Dolphin. Most records were for less than five together but 20 off the SW Point on 13 September and a maximum count of about 100 off the east coast travelling north on 19 September (Anon.). 50-100 common dolphins observed from the *Oldenburg* returning to Ilfracombe on 24 May (Emma Sheehan). MARINELife report up to 10+ (including sightings of 'dolphin') on 11 of 25 crossings where observations were made.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

One about 100m off the Jetty on 9 August (Stuart Crossey). MARINELife report five seen on the crossing on 7 May.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

There were 19 days on which there were logbook entries for Harbour Porpoise, mostly single or two individuals. On 11 May, four were reported off the castle (Tim Jones). Chris and Sharron Blackmore made timed observations mainly from Castle Parade from 11-16 July with a highest count of four. MARINELife report porpoise on 19 of 25 crossings where observations were made.

Thanks to all of those that reported sightings.

Atlantic Grey Seals *Halichoerus grypus*

A full account is given in the article by Rosie Ellis, Angus Croudace, Daisy Laing, Tara McEnvoy Wilding and Zach Wait in this Report.

[Common Seal *Phoca vitulina*

Two common seals were reported at the jetty on 31 December. The record was anonymous. (Young grey seals can look like Common Seals and, without verification, this observation remains uncertain.)]

GENERAL NOTE

Observations of subtidal species by Keith Hiscock suggest a continued reduced abundance of many anthozoan (sea anemones, corals, soft corals) compared to the period from 1970 to the mid-1980s. Only Sunset Cup-corals *Leptopsammia pruvoti* and Pink Sea Fans *Eunicella verrucosa* have been regularly monitored since the early 1990s (and have declined in abundance) but other species such as the Southern Cup Coral *Caryophyllia inornata*, the Weymouth Carpet Coral *Hoplangia durotrix* and the Red Sea Fingers *Alcyonium glomeratum* appeared to have also declined in abundance. However, long-lived and slow growing branching sponges appear to be present in similar abundance since early surveys. An accurate account of the status of often rare or scarce and long-lived species requires more targeted monitoring.

One notable difference in the appearance and likely health of many branching species is the great increase in the abundance of egg cases of Bull Huss, *Scyliorhinus stellatus*, entangled around those species (Observations over the past approximately five years and Bullimore, 2023).

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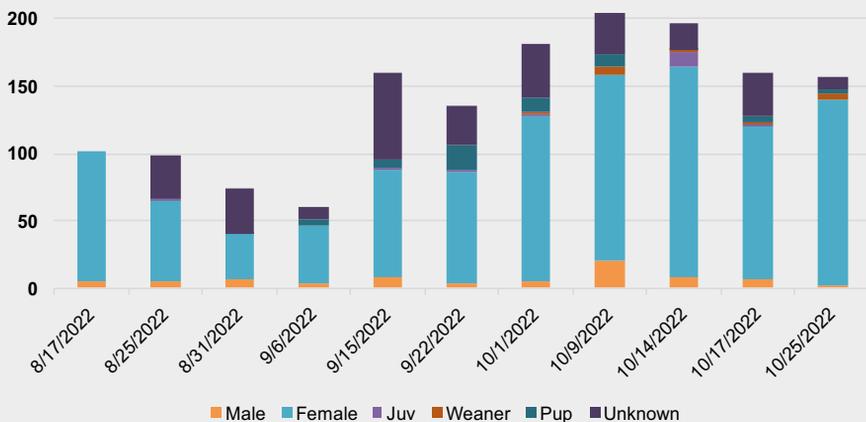
ATLANTIC GREY SEAL *HALICHOERUS GRYPUS* POPULATION AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES IN 2022

Rosie Ellis (Warden, Lundy Island).

The Atlantic Grey seal population has been monitored annually on Lundy since 2011, and to a varying degree beforehand. Previously, the surveys were carried out by the Conservation Team throughout the breeding season 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. 2022 saw a return to 2020 seal numbers, after a record-breaking year in 2021, with the highest count of 206 individuals and 54 pups. Although reports of disturbance documented during surveys were lower than in 2021, research commissioned by Natural England did document many instances in the Gannet's Bay area.

The highest count of seals within the survey period (mid-August to late October; Figure 1) was from a full island survey on the 9th of October, 206 (137 females, 21 males, 6 weaners, 9 pups and 31 animals of undetermined sex). This is reduced from the record high count in 2021 of 244 despite including the west coast of the island, rather than just the usual east coast observation points (shown on the map of the island). This year's survey did not include the caves where many seals pup at this time of year, for example the boat survey of 2020 which found 4 pups in one cave alone.

Although the 16% drop from the highest count of 2021 was considerable, conclusions on actual population abundance changes should be made cautiously because the wind and sea state heavily affected the location and detectability of individuals in 2022. As in previous surveys, most animals around the island within each survey were assessed as females. The distinction between male/female/juvenile and unknown can be highly subjective and varies between recorders. This may be one reason why male numbers appeared to be considerably lower than in 2021. As stated in previous reports, the distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather



▲ Figure 1. Numbers of Grey Seals seen on each survey date.



▲ Female Atlantic Grey Seal at the North Light landing platform, September (photo: Paul Dean).



▲ Atlantic Grey Seal entangled in rope, September (photo: Paul Dean).

and sea state. The lowest count of 60 this year (6th September) coincided with a low tide of only 2.75m with the sea reported as choppy despite the SW wind direction. The highest number of animals hauled out in the 46 sub-sections within the survey period was again from Three-quarter Wall Bay-where 52 individuals were counted on two occasions. There was a reports of a Seal entangled in rope in September (pictured).

Approximately 54 pups were recorded on Lundy this year. This is down from last year's record breaking 62 but still above the 2020 figure of 50. The first report of a pup was on the west coast near the Battery, in section BAT (see the map) by Islanders Rob and Sue Waterfield, who were kayaking on the 14th of August 2022. In 2021 the first sighting was on the 21st of August. The first mother and pup photographs in 2022 were taken on the 23rd of August on Ladies Beach by Rosie Ellis. The size of the photographed pup together with the west coast sighting makes it probable that the first pupping

on the island was around the 10th of August. Easterlies during the pupping season and rough seas (see the photo) caused shifts of white coat pups and deaths, with 10 sightings of dead pups. In some instances this may have been the same dead pup being shifted by tides, so caution should be used before suggesting a rise in mortality rates. Nevertheless, reported pup fatalities were up from last year despite fewer pup sightings and closer to 18% than last year's 10%. The last live white-coat pup sighting was on the 25th of October in Devil's Kitchen, giving a pupping season comparable to last year's (21st August-October 21st).



▲ Easterly winds and high tides in Landing Bay on the 13th of September (Photo: Rosie Ellis).

Many thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication: Tara McEnvoy Wilding, Daisy Laing Angus Croudace and Tom Wright (pictured).



▲ The Grey Seal count volunteers, Tara McEnvoy Wilding, Daisy Laing (left), Angus Croudace and Tom Wright (right) (Photo: Rosie Ellis).

Entanglement

Three records of entanglement were recorded in 2022 (3 in 2021, 8 in 2020, 3 in 2019, and 6 in 2018), although none were detected during the surveys themselves. Unfortunately, despite the distress caused to the seal, there is nothing the conservation team can do to free seals in these circumstances. The team does do regular beach cleans on accessible beaches to attempt to prevent entanglement in the first place. The island has also gained plastic free status, is balloon free and does not sell the open flying ring toys which often cause of entanglement.

Disturbance

Of the 11 surveys, two recorded dive boats present and no documented disturbance on the 11 surveys themselves. The easterlies did push a number of pups and weaners into the Landing Bay, the designated "recreational zone" of the MCZ, bringing increased chances of disturbance.

The marine festival has generated connections with Natural England, the University of Plymouth and the University of Exeter with the island supporting four Masters students this summer.

One researcher focused on disturbance comparison around dive boat site Gannets Bay (GB) and the quieter bay of Mouse Hole and Trap (MHT) (Appendix 1). Throughout 52 hours of surveying, mostly targeted for when snorkel boats were in the area, 259 individuals were flushed. Flushing was also observed by seal watching boats (Kendall, 2022). The report clearly shows seals shifting away from GB in favour of MHT when dive boats are present. It also shows that our snapshot of each bay during the seal survey undertaken by the conservation team is not sufficient to determine the level of disturbance. Kendall's report focused on snorkel trips and did not cover seal boat trips and dive trips. The snorkel safaris run by the conservation team in the Landing Bay did not flush any individuals, but one September session was stopped when a male in the sea was exhibiting snorting behaviour. The snorkelers left the water and were all given refunds; the male and a female seal went on to mate.

The new North Devon Marine Wildlife Aware Accreditation scheme is now live. Certification can be gained by completing training modules and associated quizzes on a Google Classroom (see www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/accreditation-scheme to enrol). On the 9th March 2023 two in person courses were held (one in Bideford, one in Ilfracombe) for North Devon Marine Wildlife Aware Accreditation with funding from UNESCO Biosphere. project.

Engagement

During the three times a week "Above and below the waves" wildlife talk and guided walks, the public were educated about our marine wildlife and issues of disturbance. As a part of our Marine Festival, we were also joined by Rob Wells for a talk about the seals of the southwest as a whole. Many thanks to Rob and all our Ambassador volunteers that help with our walks and talks.

A huge thank you to all who submitted seal counts and disturbance records in 2022. Special thanks to Angus Croudace for his hard work, determination and skill to find every last pup.

Finally, a massive thank you to Sue Sayer, Kate Williams, 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 endless kindness and passion for these wonderful marine mammals. Further congratulations to Sue Sayer for her well-deserved MBE, announced in 2023's New Year's Honours List.

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FRESHWATER AND TERRESTRIAL RECORDS



▲ *Mirror Carp* (*Cyprinus carpio*) from *Rocket Pole Pond* showing the characteristic reduced mirror-like scales (photo: Jennifer George).

FRESHWATER FISHES

Jennifer George

There have only been a few records of the Lundy freshwater fish in 2022. The three ponds that contain fish, Quarry Pond, Rocket Pole Pond and Pondsburry did not dry out during the summer drought as the other Lundy ponds did, although the water levels were lower during this time.

Golden Orfe, *Leuciscus idus*, were observed in Quarry Pond in March and June, with 18 adults being the maximum number seen at any one time. Juvenile fish were present in both months. The Rocket Pole Pond continues to support the **Mirror Carp**, *Cyprinus carpio*, population, which had been observed spawning in early June 2021 by Dean Jones. In early June six carp were observed and in early July ten carp were seen.

More observations of the numbers of fish are needed throughout the year, which should be recorded in the LFS Logbook; Lundy visitors and staff **please note!**

(Thanks to the Fish Observers in 2022, Alan and Sandra Rowland, James Harding-Morris, Kevin Flack, Liz Davies).

REPTILES, LAND MAMMALS AND BATS

Compiled by Chris Dee

Introduced Reptiles

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms *Anguis fragilis* of uncertain origin are present. Although previously thought to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland in November 2010, there are suggestions that they were present as early as 2000.

In 2022, there were records between 13 April and 26 August. Most previous records have been confined to Millcombe and St John's Valley, where the initial introduction was thought to have occurred, but this year they were also reported from the Lower East Side Path, Quarter Wall, the Terrace, the track to Quarry Beach Old Light, Ponsbury, and most surprisingly in the Tavern.

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, the Church, Government House, Old House South, the Tavern, the Lodge, Stoneycroft, Old Light Lower, Old Light Cottage and Tibbetts. The species is also found away from human habitation and there have been sightings at the Landing Bay, Castle Hill, Benjamin's Chair, South West Field, Tent Field, Camping Field, Upper East Side Path, Quarter Wall, Ackland's Moor, the Battery and Jenny's Cove. One was also found dead at Gannets' Coombe.

Bats

Bats are occasionally observed on Lundy and are usually assumed to be one of the native pipistrelle species; Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*. Sightings of probable Common Pipistrelle were reported in Millcombe and around the village on 22 and 23 March (M Baillie), and on 26 July (two individuals), 7 and 11 August (S Cossey). Increasingly frequently, bats are also reported from the Terrace and Quarry Pond. An unidentified bat was seen there on 13 and 17 March (J Wilby & V Day) and a Common Pipistrelle on 11 August (S Cossey).

Feral Land Mammals-Ungulates

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. During COVID – 19 restrictions it was not possible to undertake the planned culls and numbers of all species remain higher than planned. Scheduled culls returned to normal in 2022 and were carried out in March, September and October, although activities in March were hindered by severe weather. 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.

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*

A count of 40 was reported on 30 Jan (T Davis, T Jones, S Cossey). The stock count in March estimated a population of 90 individuals, comprising 50 hinds, 25 stags and 15 yearlings (P Hamlyn). Unusually, 15 were in South West Field on 14 April, with a further 31 in their more typically haunt on the East Side on the same date (M Dee). Other significant counts were 39 in Tillage Field on 18 May (T Jones, T Davis, P St Pierre) and 52 on the West Side the following day (T Jones & T Davis). Up to 11 were seen in the Tent Field in July (C & S Blackmore).



▲ *Rutting Sika Stags in autumn 2022 (photo: Joanne Wilby).*

The Conservation Team estimated the post-breeding population to be more than 130. A cull in April reduced the population by 16 (8 hinds and 8 stags), and two pricketts were culled in October.

Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count in March estimated a population of 220 (P Hamlyn). The first lamb was reported on 14 March (LFS work party members) and there were counts of 159 on 13 April (unknown observer), 147 on 22 May (P & J Holt), 163 on 22 August (R Ellis) and 150 on 12 November (R Turner). The Conservation Team estimated the post-breeding population to be more than 300. Thirty-nine rams and 16 Ewes were culled in September and a further 26 rams and 19 ewes were removed in October.

Goat *Capra aegagrus*

The March stock count found 51 individuals (P Hamlyn). There were significant counts of 35 on 30 January (T Davis, T Jones, S Cossey), 25 on the West Side on 19 May (T Jones & T Davis) and 27 across the island on 15 September (C Dee, R Akam, J Parker). Goats continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe and St John's Valley. Nevertheless, three were reported at the South End on 14 Apr (M Dee) and five were on South Light on 22 July. The culls in March, September and October reduced the population by 13 billies and nine nannies.

Feral Land Mammals – Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Rabbit numbers remain low because of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease or Myxomatosis) although there are signs of a slow recovery. Individuals or small groups were reported from eleven locations across the island: from Castle Hill to the North End and on both the east and west coasts. The highest count was of seven in Tillage Field in darkness on 12 September using a thermal imager (C Dee & J Parker). All records of this formerly common species are welcome to allow its current status to be assessed.

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Jennifer George

In 2022 most freshwater invertebrate records emanate from the ongoing research of Alan Rowland who has been continuing his monitoring of St John's Stream, Millcombe Stream and Cascade, Brambles and Millcombe Ponds.



▲ Dry Acklands's Moor Pond on 14th June (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The almost dry Quarterwall Pond in June (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The dry Quarters Pond in early July (photo: Alan Rowland).

Ponds

The Summer drought of 2022 led to many of the Lundy ponds and streams drying up from the beginning of June, and into July for several weeks. The photos show the dried-up large pond at Quarter Wall, the completely dry Acklands's Moor Pond and the Quarters Pond at the end of June. The deeper ponds, Pondsburry, Quarry Pond, and the Rocket Pole Pond retained water throughout but at lower levels.

St John's & Millcombe Streams

Invertebrates can survive periods of drought by aestivating amongst the roots of water plants and burrowing in the bottom mud. This was demonstrated by Alan's research on the streams that showed that many of the species he recorded in March (total: 24 species) were present in November (total: 22 species) when water was again present. Several species were found in both streams. The **flatworm**, *Phagocata vitta* and the **oligochaete worms** *Lumbriculus variegatus* and *Tubifex sp.* were found in March and November. The ubiquitous **Water Louse**, *Proasellus meridianus*, that occurs in many of the Lundy freshwaters was again found frequently. The **Jenkins Spire Shell**, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, occurred in large numbers, as in 2021, particularly in St John's Stream near Square Cottage (257 counted) and in the Millcombe Cascade (191 counted).

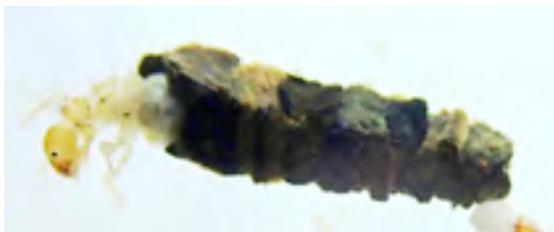
The main insects that occurred in both streams were the **midge**, **moth fly** and **caddis fly** larvae. Ceratopogonidae (Biting midge), Chironomidae (Non-biting midge), Dixidae (Meniscus midge) were well represented with one or two specimens of the Psychodidae (moth fly) larva also occurring. The **Meniscus Midge** larva, *Dixa sp.* rests in a characteristic U-shaped position just below the water surface at the meniscus, and often can be found

amongst water plants. (see photo). The filter-feeding larva has numerous dark bristles on the head and tail region and can swim freely in the water. The **caddis fly larva**, *Wormaldia occipitalis* which uses nets to catch its food and the cased caddis *Micropterna sequax* were found in small numbers in both streams in November.

Several invertebrates seemed to be confined to the St John's Stream. The black **flatworm**, *Polycelis nigra*, was found in small numbers near Square Cottage, where the **Pea Mussel**, *Pisidium personatum*, also occurred. This stream also contained the Crustacean **Harpacticoid copepods** and **Seed Shrimps**, Ostracoda. Insects were represented by larvae of the **Trickle Fly** (Thaumaleidae) and the cased **Caddis fly** larvae, *Beraea maurus*, and *Crunoecia irrorata*. These two species are often found together in small streams. *Crunoecia* is the first record of this larva in Lundy freshwaters and initially builds a circular case of sand grains and later changes to construct a case of plant material quadrangular in section (see photo).



▲ The Meniscus Midge larva, *Dixa* sp. in its characteristic U-shaped position (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The Caddis fly larva *Crunoecia irrorata* in its quadrangular case of plant material (photo: Alan Rowland).

In the Millcombe Stream and Cascade **Horsehair Worms**, *Nematomorpha*, were found in November with the **Square-tailed Worm**, *Eiseniella tetraedra*. The **Wandering Pondsnail**, *Lymnaea peregra* occurred in both March and November. Insects were represented by larvae of the **Blackfly**, *Simulium*, which uses cephalic fans to catch food particles flowing past in the water. **Mosquito** larvae, (Culicidae) and **Cranefly** larvae, (Tipulidae) were also found. The net-spinning **Caddis fly** larva, *Diplectrona felix*, occurred both in the stream above the confluence and in the Cascade. A beetle, the **Water Scavenger**, *Laccobius bipunctatus*, was found in the stream in November.

Brambles and Millcombe Ponds

Brambles Pond which was excavated by the Lundy Conservation team in October 2019 is showing a diverse invertebrate fauna and seems to have survived the summer drought. Both ponds have several representatives of flatworms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects. Species commonly



▲ Empty pupal cases of the caddis fly *Limnephilus vittatus* found lying on the dry mud of Ackland's Moor Pond on 14th July (photo: Alan Rowland).

found in St John's and Millcombe streams, such as the **Seed Shrimps**, Ostracoda, **Jenkins Spire Snail**, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, and the **Wandering Snail**, *Lymnaea peregra*, also occur in these two ponds. A notable find in Millcombe Pond in March was the **flatworm** *Planaria torva* that is a new record for Lundy.

The Lundy freshwater invertebrate fauna experienced one of the worst droughts in recent years but seems to have survived remarkably well. An interesting find at the end of June by Alan Rowland was several empty pupal cases of the caddis fly *Limnephilus vittatus* lying on the dry mud in Ackland's Moor Pond (illustrated).

During November 2021 & March 2022 the freshwater research was expanded into a detailed study of aquatic fungi, Hyphomycetes, in many of the Lundy streams. Further details can be found in a research paper by John Hedger and Alan Rowland in the forthcoming LFS Journal, Vol.8.

(Alan Rowland would like to thank Dr. Ian Wallace for the identification of the newly recorded caddis fly larva, *Crunoecia irrorata* and the confirmation of the other caddis larvae found. Also his thanks to Keiron Brown who confirmed the identity of the Square-tailed worm, *Eiseniella tetraeda*).

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Unless otherwise stated, all Phylum sections were compiled by Alan Rowland

The majority of these records have been extracted from the LFS logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern where those visiting Lundy have shared their findings. Some sightings were not used as the recorder left neither name nor contact information to enable us to verify them. These records are supplemented by observations submitted to iRecord by other visitors to Lundy.

Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

Most species were recorded in the wooded Millcombe valley where **Brown** *Cepaea nemoralis*, **White-lipped** *Cepaea hortensis*, **Two-toothed Door** *Clausilia bidentata* and **Garden**



◀ **Two-toothed Door Snail**, *Clausilia bidentata*, Millcombe (photo: Alan Rowland).



▶ **Black Slug**, *Arion ater* agg., Millcombe (photo: Alan Rowland).

Cornu aspersum **Snails** were all recorded between June and October. The **Black Slug** *Arion ater* agg. and the **Common Chrysalis Snail** *Lauria cylindracea* were seen on the Beach Road in March and June respectively where they were both common.

Arachnidae (Spiders, Harvestmen, Mites and Ticks)

Compiled by Mark West

There are 158 species on the Lundy list; 65 of which were first reported back in 1929. There have been no new species identified since 2016.

There were just two records for the year. A **Woodlouse Spider** (family Dysderidae) was found at the Battery in June and a **Cellar Spider** (family Pholcidae) at Little St John's in July. Sam Bosanquet also found a small number of **Gall Mite** (*Eriophyes similis*) galls on Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) leaves in Millcombe in July.

We would certainly encourage more reporting of Arachnids, all records are welcome.

Isopoda (Woodlice)

Two species were reported: **Common Wood Lice**, *Oniscus asellus* were seen on the Beach Road (two on 22 March and at The Old Hospital (one on 10 June) as well as **Pill Woodlice** *Armadillidium vulgare* on the Beach Road (two on 22 March) at Little St John's (one on 1 July) and at the Old Hospital (three on 4 July).



▲ Pill Millipede *Glomeris marginata* from the East Side paths (photo: Alan Rowland).

Myriapoda (Centipedes and Millipedes)

Pill Millipedes *Glomeris marginata* were recorded between 15 May and 12 June on the Upper and Lower East Side Paths, (singles on 1 July and 26 May) along with three above Brazen Ward on 12 June and another above Montagu Steps on 15 May.

Two Variegated Centipedes

Lithobius variegatus were recorded on the Beach Road on 22 March.

Sea View was the location of all the species of Isopoda and Myriapoda recorded on the Beach Road when stones were turned on 22 March.



► Variegated Centipede, *Lithobius variegatus*, Beach Road (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ *Minute second instar nymphs of the Gorse Shieldbug (Piezodorus lituratus) amidst spines of the host plant (photo: Alan Rowland).*



▲ *Frog hopper (Philaneus spumarius) (photo: Alan Rowland).*

Hemiptera/Heteroptera (True Bugs)

Only nine records were made of two species, all of which are regular sightings, **Frog hopper** (*Philaneus spumarius*) seen on 25 June and 28 July and seven sightings of **Gorse Shieldbugs** (*Piezodorus lituratus*) between St John's Valley and Quarter Wall on the East Side. All stages of life were recorded ranging from early 2 and 4 instars 26 June and adults from March to November when dead specimens infected with the fungus *Beauveria bassiana* were recorded.

Coleoptera (Beetles)

All the usual large and easily identified beetles were reported this year. However *Chrysolina banksii* and *Poecilus* sp. had their second only records. In taxonomic order, the following sightings were extracted from the logbook.

Carabidae (Ground beetles)

There were four records of six individuals of **Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris* in May and June round the south end of the island. A large black **Rove Beetle** *Carabus nemoralis* was recorded and photographed by Rob Petley-Jones in April at the North End. A *Poecilus* sp. was recorded on the 28 June at Quarter Wall west side. It was the second record of this genus. The existing sighting was of *P. versicolor* in September 2018.

Staphylinidae (Rove beetles)

In November and December *Ocyopus olens* Devil's Coach Horse was recorded twice, a singleton and a pair of individuals in November and December respectively. The well marked black and brown with yellow spots *Staphylinus erythropterus* was sighted at the Battery in July.

Geotrupidae (Dor beetles)

All our usual dor beetles were recorded. *Typhaeus typhoeus* **Minotaur Beetle** was seen all over the island between February and June with 12 sightings of 13 beetles. Another species *Geotrupes stercorosus* was only seen twice in March and June. There were two records of *Geotrupes spiniger* in March and in June, both times they were spotted flying and seen to alight on horse dung where they commenced digging. The common **Woodland Dor Beetle** *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* featured in 11 records of 13 individuals between March and October.



▲ Rove Beetle, *Carabus nemoralis*, at the North End (photo: Rob Petley-Jones).



▲ *Paecilus* sp., west side of Quarter Wall (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ Minotaur Beetle, *Typhaeus typhoeus*, (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ Rosechafer, *Cetonia aurata* (photo: Alan Rowland).

Scarbaediae (Scarab beetles)

The most common and easily seen of all our beetles, *Cetonia aurata*, **Rosechafer** featured in 24 records of 56 individuals all over the island between May and July.

Cantaridae (Soldier beetles)

Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*, despite its name, was not as common as in previous years with only two records of eight individuals in July.



▲ Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva* (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ *Chrysolina banksii* (photo: Tim Worfolk).



▲ *Vine Weevil Otiorynchus sulcatus*
(photo: Alan Rowland).

Tenebrionidae (Darkling beetles)

A group of 10 **Sulphur Beetles** *Cteniopus sulphureus* were counted on Wild Thyme around Castle Hill in July.

Meloidae (Oil beetles)

There were sightings of three individual **Oil Beetles** in February and April. The first sighting, on 22nd February was only identified as an Oil beetle *Meloe* sp. The second on 26th April was identified as a **Black Oil Beetle** *Meloe proscarabaeus*. The third also in April was reported as **Violet Oil Beetle** *Meloe violaceus*. All previous sightings of Oil Beetles on Lundy have been either undetermined or of Black Oil beetles. No contact details were given to verify this sighting, so without evidence, it will have to remain *Meloe* sp.

Chrysomelidae (Seed and leaf beetles)

On 14th October, Tim Worfolk submitted a record of *Chrysolina banksii* to iRecord seen on the Lower East Side Path. The only other record of this beetle was in 1985! This is the Coleoptera highlight for 2022. Although common on the mainland, none have been reported on Lundy for 37 years. It remains to be seen whether they are commonly seen and thought not worthy of reporting or are genuinely rare. The **Heather Beetle** *Lochmaea suturalis* was recorded once along the West Side in March. Finally, the minute beetles **Lundy Cabbage Weevil** *Psylliodes luridipennis* ever present on Lundy Cabbage but not often reported were seen in June.

Curculionidae (True weevils)

An individual **Vine Weevil** *Otiorynchus sulcatus* was found inside the Marisco Tavern.

Diptera (True flies)

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Once again there was little Diptera recording on Lundy in 2022: 32 of the 36 records received were made by Sam Bosanquet (SB) during a visit in July. These included five new species for the island. Mark Wilson (MW) provided records of two new **Gall Midges** (Cecidomyiidae) from a visit in June. Denise Wawman identified the **Louse Flies** (Hippoboscidae) *Ornithomyia avicularia* and *O. chloropus*, collected from Lundy House Sparrows and Starlings in 2021, and considers the previously published record of *O. fringillina* potentially dubious because it predates a species split. She also identified *O. biloba* new to the island from a collection made in 2022, which represents a new species for Lundy and one of fewer than 10 British records. The island Diptera total now stands at 483 species.

In summary, new (*) and notable Diptera species for the island in 2022 were:-

- * *Coremacera marginata* (Sciomyzidae): 1 swept from leggy heather at Goat Path 12 July (SB).
- * *Dasineura plicatrix* (Cecidomyiidae): galls noted on bramble in several locations from beach road to the Village (MW).
- * *Dasineura tubicoloides* (Cecidomyiidae): several galls on broom near The Ugly 13 July (SB).
- * *Dasysyrphus albostrigatus* (Syrphidae): three in Millcombe 13 July (SB), last recorded on Lundy in 1982.
- * *Empis livida* (Empidae): one swept from edge of Quarry Pond 13 July (SB).
- * *Palloptera umbellatarum* (Pallopteridae): one swept from vegetation in Millcombe 12 July (SB), last recorded on Lundy in 1972.
- * *Phytomyza anthracina* (Agromyzidae): mines on nettle in Millcombe 13 July (SB).
- * *Phytomyza pseudoreptans* (Agromyzidae): mines on nettle in Millcombe 13 July (SB).
- * *Platycheirus rosarum* (Syrphidae): 2 swept from edge of Quarry Pond 13 July (SB)
- * *Rhopalomyia millefolii* (Cecidomyiidae): gall noted on yarrow in the Village (MW).

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps & Ants)

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Just 19 records of Bees, Wasps and Ants were made on the island in 2022, and two thirds of them were of Bumblebees! Among these were six **Tree Bumblebee** *Bombus hypnorum* in Millcombe on 21 June. The other five more notable records comprised one **Gall Wasp** (Cynipidae), one leaf-mining **Sawfly** (Tenthredinidae), one **Parasitic Wasp** (Ichneumonidae), one **Groove Bee** (Halictidae), and some winged **Yellow Meadow Ants** photographed by Alan Rowland (AR). Mike Fox checked six ant specimens from 2021 including two that SB had provisionally identified as new for Lundy. Unfortunately, both were both misidentified: the *Lasius psammophilus* was actually *L. alienus* and the *Myrmica rubra* was just *M. ruginodis*. These records have been corrected on iRecord, along with a record of *M. scabrinodis* that had been misidentified as *M. ruginodis*. The island Hymenoptera total now stands at 255 species, with two deletions and one addition.



▲ Yellow Meadow Ants, *Lasius flavus* preparing for mating flight, St John's Valley (photo: Alan Rowland).

New (*) and notable 2022 records were:-

**Diastrophus rubi* (Cynipidae): galls on bramble in Millcombe 13 July (SB).

Fenusia dohnmii (Tenthredinidae): mines on alder in Millcombe 13 July (SB).

Heteropelma amictum (Ichneumonidae): one netted in Millcombe 14 July (SB).

Lasioglossum albipes (Halictidae): one on flowers on Goat Path 12 the July (SB).

Lasius flavus (Formicidae): preparing to fly in St John's Valley 4 July (AR).

Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

There were 18 records comprising two damselfly species and three dragonfly species.

Common Blue *Enallagma cyathigerum* and **Blue-tailed** *Ischnura elegans* **Damselflies** were seen at their usual haunts of Pondsburry and Quarter Wall Pond. **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* was seen at both Pondsburry and at Halfway Wall. **Emperor Dragonflies** *Anax imperator* are now more frequently seen, from the Castle to Pondsburry and all places between, with eight sightings of 13 individuals.

The first sighting of **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* was in 2021. It was recorded for the second year running, again at Pondsburry, but this time in September by Mandy Yates.

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

Two adult caddisflies were caught; one, *Stenophylax permistus*, was recovered from the moth trap in April by Stuart Cossey and is a frequent moth trap visitor. The other was picked up by James Harding-Morris at the edge of Millcombe Cascade in June. This was sent for determination but, being a female, could only be definitely allocated within three species *Tinodes rostocki*, *T. dives* or *T. unicolor*. Only *T. assimilis* has previously been recorded.

Eight species of larvae were recorded in 2022 and are discussed in the account of Freshwater Invertebrates.

All the expert compilers wish to record their thanks to the submitters of records for making available their observations, in particular: -

Lesley & Terry Armstrong, Chris & Carol Baillie, Angus Croudace, Sam Bosanquet, Rosemary Buckland, P Bullock, Richard Campey, L Chapman, Stuart Cossey, Marie Jo & André Coutanche, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Paul Dean, Z Ellam, John Gowers, K Hollaway, P& J Holt, David Jones & Rebecca Henley, Rob Petley-Jones, Malcolm Lee, Andy McGeeney, James Harding-Morris, Laura Pirateque, David Rowe, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Neil Trout, Tim Smith, Tim Squire, Ann & Tony Taylor, D. Thomas, Zach Wait, Mark Wilson, Tim Norfolk, Tom Wright, Amanda Yates, Nick from UWE, and all those who wrote their sightings in the log book but omitted to give their names.



▲ *Black-tailed Skimmer* *Orthetrum cancellatum* (photo: Mandy Yates).



▲ Speckled Bush Cricket, female (photo: Malcom Lee).



▲ Speckled Bush Cricket, male (photo: Malcom Lee).

Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Malcom Lee

There are few orthoptera records for 2022 in the log book. However in 2022 I was able to get on the island for a few days in early July and in early September. Unfortunately, the very hot summer of 2022 meant that grasshoppers had virtually gone over by my second visit.

Speckled Bush-Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*: With the use of a bat detector during my September visit, this species was recorded in numbers all along the eastern side of the island from the slopes above the Landing Bay, including the brambles at South Light, all along to Three Quarter Wall (the extent of my survey), and in Millcombe Valley. There are records from 1950 of this species as far north as Gannets' Rock and I hope to confirm its continuing presence in my August visit. The detector confirmed its absence from the Village, with those on the brambles as you go through the Blue Gate to Government House being the closest. An additional record came from Sam Bosanquet who swept a 2nd instar nymph by the path at South Light on 14th July.

Common Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*: In July, two nymphs were recorded above Gannets' Rock, two nymphs on the steps down to the Battery, and a single nymph in the heather south of Rocket Pole Pond. In September, adults were recorded in several locations along the Lower East Side path from Millcombe to Quarter Wall Copse. On the Upper East Side path, singletons were recorded just north of Tibbetts, and just south of Halfway Wall. Along the West Side Path, adults were found by the Battery, Earthquake, Jenny's Cove, and Middle Park. Elsewhere, three adults were found on the warm south-facing slope below the flagpole in Millcombe Valley, with a single adult on the west side of Ackland's Moor, and another just above Quarter Wall in Pondsburly.

Common Earwig *Forficula auricularia*: A single adult of this much under-recorded species was found inside a Hogweed stem on the path below Government House.

Butterflies Lepidoptera

Compiled by Anthony John

Eighteen species of butterfly were seen on Lundy in 2022 (*cf.* 15 in 2021), including five scarcer species. Sadly, the continuing decline of some of our commonest butterflies continues, as can be seen from the table below. According to Butterfly Conservation: “76% of butterflies have declined in abundance or distribution since 1976”. In 2022 there were fewer butterfly-days of **Large White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Red Admiral**, Peacock and **Small Tortoiseshell**. Several species were very scarce; **Ringlets** were recorded on just three days (one on 20th June, three on 1st and four on 3rd July); single Peacocks were recorded on only seven days; and Small Tortoiseshells were recorded on ten days, all but one of them singles. There were single **Graylings** in June on 11th and 14th, with five on 29th; then on five dates in July, and three on 1st and two on 3rd August, a total of 22 ‘butterfly-days’. It should be noted that there were several periods of up to ten days in 2022 during the main butterfly months of July (16th - 20th), August (9th – 19th) and September (1st – 9th) when there were no or very few records of butterflies.

Five scarcer butterflies were recorded in 2022:

Clouded yellow. Six singles on 11th July, 4th August, 26th September, and 2nd, 11th and 24th October.

Brimstone. Five singles on 18th April, 9th, 17th and 18th May, and 3rd July.

Holly Blue. Seen on 12th and 24th May, 3rd August, and 5th, 6th, 10th and 19th September.

Speckled wood. Singles on 29th June and 1st July.

Wall brown. Three singles on 19th, 21st and 24th May.

There were no records of Orange-tip, Gatekeeper or Comma in 2022.

First & last dates, maxima and number of butterfly-days for common butterflies in 2022

Species	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date	Butterfly-days 2022	Butterfly-days 2021	Butterfly-days 2020
Large White	19 Apr	3 Oct	10 on 4 Aug.	57	97	116
Small White	18 Mar	12 Nov	30 on 13 Jul.	130	32	182
Green-veined White	19 Apr	4 Aug	19 on 11 May.	103	158	214
Small Heath	12 May	12 Sep	37 on 31 May.	375	408	237
Ringlet	20 Jun	3 Jul	4 on 3 Jul.	7	8	21
Meadow Brown	3 Jun	21 Aug	62 on 29 Jul.	671	954	1243
Red Admiral	20 Mar	4 Nov	45 on 13 Oct.	407	812	801
Painted Lady	15 May	4 Nov	130 on 6 Jun.	308	52	27
Peacock	21 Mar	26 Oct	-	7	14	32
Small Tortoiseshell	20 Mar	15 Jul	2 on 22 Mar	11	31	104
Small Copper	20 Apr	20 Oct	4 on 23 Jun.	32	22	30
Common Blue	8 May	8 Oct	11 on 4 Aug.	60	97	48



▲ *Speckled Wood* in St. John's/Millcombe area, May (photo: Andrea May).



▲ *Small Copper* (photo: Mandy Dee).

Moths Lepidoptera

Compiled by Anthony John

In 2022 220 species of moths were recorded on Lundy (cf. 208 in 2021), including 25 new for the island (13 micro-moths plus one new genus, and 11 new macro-moths). The Heath Trap was deployed on 95 occasions, mostly in Millcombe: March 1, April 1, May 15, June 13, July 20, August 17, September 13, October 12, and November 3. The vast majority of records were generated by Stuart Cossey, to whom many thanks.

Moths new to Lundy in 2022, all in checklist order:

Micro-moths (13 + 1 genus): *Oegoconia* sp., *Gracillaria syringella*, *Agonopterix ciliella*, *Mirificarna mulinella*, *Coleophora trochilella*, **Beautiful Plume** *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*, **Red-barred Tortrix** *Ditula angustiorana*, **Light Brown Apple Moth** *Epiphyas postvittata*, *Orthotaenia undulana*, *Crociosema plebejana*, *Lathronympha strigana*, *Cryptoblables bistriga*, *Euzophera cinerosella*, **European Corn-borer** *Ostrinia nubilalis*.

Macro-moths (11): **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica*, **Oblique Carpet** *Orthonama vittata*, **Galium Carpet** *Epirrhoe galiata*, **Common Wave** *Cabera exanthemata*, **Small Fan-foot** *Herminia grisealis*, **Ear Moth** *Amphipoea oculea*, **Large Wainscot** *Rhizedra lutosa*, **Clouded Drab** *Orthosia incerta*, **Feathered Gothic** *Tholera decimalis*, **Archer's Dart** *Agrostis vestigialis*, **Dotted Clay** *Xestia baja*.

Many moths new for Lundy were recorded in the Millcombe Heath Trap (MHT) during the year; these are marked with an asterisk*. In **May** Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittata** was trapped on 9th, Galium Carpet *Epirrhoe galiata** on 13th, and Clouded Drab *Orthosia incerta** on 18th; elsewhere, *Mirificarna mulinella** was trapped at Benjamin's Chair on 30th. However, sadly there are some significant problems! On 20 May the MHT recorded that nine of the species were caught as 'wings only – 'shrew in trap!' Wrens are also an issue!

In **June** another *Mirificarna mulinella** was in the MHT on 14th, *Orthotaenia undulana** on 14th and 15th, and *Cryptoblables bistriga** and *Euzophera cinerosella** both on 24th. On 1st June 'hundreds'

of burnet moth caterpillars, pupae and moths were present at the South Light. Apart from this observation, few burnet moths were noted. A single **Five-spot Burnet** *Zygaena filipendulae* was seen on 14th and 29th June; **Six-spot Burnet** *Zygaena trifolii decreta* were noted on 1st June (ten) and 21st July (six); and 30 unidentified burnet moths were recorded on 11th July, with six on 26th. After the first three records for Lundy in 2021, **Privet Hawk-moths** *Sphinx ligustri* were again recorded on three occasions in June and July 2022. Perhaps they colonised the island?

In **July** two new micros and five macros were recorded. The use of a pheromone lure on steps down to the Battery on 4th revealed 'abundant' **Thrift Clearwings** *Pyropteron muscaeformis*; many were attracted within 30 seconds of dropping the lure. European Corn-borer *Ostrinia nubilalis** was new on the 5th, and Red-barred Tortrix *Ditula angustiorana** on 8th and 11th. On 14th July a Common Wave *Cabera exanthemata** was in the MHT and the larval case of *Coleophora trochilella** was found at the Castle. A Small Fan-foot *Herminia grisealis** was in the Lodge garden on 18th; on 22nd a **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica** was in the trap, a Dotted Clay *Xestia baja** on 23rd, and Ear Moth *Amphipoea oculatea** in the Lodge garden on 30th.

In **August** a **Feathered Gothic** *Tholera decimalis** was photographed by Alice Waterfield on the bar of the Marisco Tavern at night on 3rd; later that month the MHT recorded *Gracillaria syringella** on 15th and *Lathronympha strigana** and **Oblique Carpet** *Orthonama vittata**, on 16th. All four species are new for Lundy. *Nothris congressariella* and **Devonshire Wainscot** *Mythimna putrescens*, both Nationally Rare/Scarce species, were recorded, the latter on 11 dates in July and August. **Seventy-one Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux* and 43 **Hoary Footman** *Eilema caniola* were in the MHT on 14th August; further Hoary Footman were trapped on 18th (39) and 21st (42).

In **September** **Archer's Dart** *Agrostis vestigialis** was noted on 2nd, and *Agonopterix ciliella** on 20th; on 24th a **Beautiful Plume** *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**, was seen at Brambles Villa and **Large Wainscots** *Rhizodra lutosa** were trapped on 28th and 11th October.

It was a good year for **Convolvulus Hawk-moths** *Agrius convolvuli*, with six recorded; two on lilies by Paradise Row on 2nd August and one there on 19th; two in September (singles on 6th and on 17th) and a late one on 29th October. One interesting entry in the Lundy Log read: "Hundreds of **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* were seen across the island as I walked from Old Light up to 3/4 wall on the west side, then back along the east side on 2nd September; clearly a major fall had taken place on the island the previous night." After the first **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* was seen on 16th April (dead in the Tavern), they were seen every month until November. These were part of 2022's national record-breaking arrival of this species, four times higher than the next best year.

First and last dates, maxima and number of 'moth-days' for selected day-flying moths in 2022

Species	Recorded on	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date	'Moth-days' 2022
Emperor Moth	5 days	3 Apr	7 May	6 on 2 days	15
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	54 days	16 Apr	18 Nov	6 on 22 Jun	100
Silver Y	13 days	3 Jun	24 Oct	4 on 3 Jun	19
Fox Moth caterpillars	17 days	13 May	25 Oct	7 on 17 Oct	43

Eleven species of migrants were noted in 2022 (cf. seven in 2021): **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella*, **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis*, *Palpita vitrealis* (second island record),

Rush Veneer, Convolvulus Hawk-moth, Hummingbird Hawk-moth, Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*, Silver Y *Autographa gamma*, Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera*, Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia*, and Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*.

Observers: Lesley and Terry Armstrong, Sam Bosanquet, Joe Burford-Redgrove, Richard B., Pel Chapman, Andrew Cleave, Stuart Cossey, Angus Croudace, Tim Davis, John Gowers, Tim Jones, Malcolm Lee, Tara McEvoy-Wilding, Laura Pirateque, David Rowe, Alan Rowland, Paul St Pierre, Tim Smith, Tim Squire, Alice Waterfield, Erin Waller, Zach Wait, Tim Norfolk and Tom Wright.

▼ Clockwise from top left: Striped Hawkmoth, Pale Tussock, Bordered Straw, Garden Tiger, Oblique Carpet, Peppered Moth (all photos by Stuart Cossey).



FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Andrew Cleave

The summer of 2022 will be remembered for the prolonged spell of hot dry weather and the resultant parched look of parts of the island. These conditions held back the flowering season for some species, and there was a noticeable second flush of flowering later in the autumn when cool, wet conditions returned. It is thought there will be no long-term consequences from the temporary drought conditions. Some species seem to be very well suited to these conditions and continue to flower whilst others suffer. **Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana* has conspicuous bright blue flowers on long stalks and narrow, hairy leaves. In good conditions it can reach about 50cm tall, but in certain exposed sites on Lundy it can be much smaller and compact such as the example photographed by Andrea May on the cliffs below South Light. Even in extreme conditions plants usually remain green and continue to flower when other species are suffering. This year it was one of the few species to continue to flower well during the height of the drought and could be found in some of the most exposed parts of the west coast.



▲ *Sheep's Bit* *Jasione montana* growing on the cliffs below South Light (photo: Andrea May).

Before the dry conditions set in several small and inconspicuous species were flowering well on paths and tracks. **Heath Pearlwort** *Sagina subulata* always does well on the Quarry Terrace and this year its small white flowers were very conspicuous but it soon died off once dry conditions set in. **Swinecress** *Coronopus squamatus* is also common on paths and tracks, but usually overlooked, and this species appeared abundant early in the season but again disappeared during the dry spell.

One of Lundy's special ferns is **Hay-scented Buckler Fern** *Dryopteris aemula* which is more common on the island than in similar situations on the mainland. When other plants around it were starting to show the effects of the drought the distinctive fronds of this species remained green and it became very obvious how abundant this fern is, especially on the east side of Lundy (illustrated). A scarce fern on Lundy, but not elsewhere, is the inconspicuous **Wall Rue**, *Asplenium ruta-muraria* which is now firmly established on the wall opposite Barton Cottages and may well be growing as yet undiscovered on other similar sites elsewhere.

Wood Vetch *Ervillea sylvatica* had a second flush of flowers in mid-October creating a magnificent display on either side of the beach road, several months later than its usually flowering time, and this very attractive plant seems to be establishing itself in some new sites further along the road (illustrated).



▲ Hay-scented Buckler Fern *Dryopteris aemula* by the Lower East Side Path (photo: Andrew Cleave).



▲ Wall Rue, *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, growing on the wall opposite Barton Cottages (photo: Andrew Cleave).

We had reports of two new flowering plant species for Lundy from the east side in July. *Hieracium sabaudum* is one of the leafy Hawkweed species which flowers in the late summer and can be distinguished by its flat-topped umbel of yellow flowers and stiff white hairs at the base of the stem. This was reported from a site on the east side near the Quarries, growing on rocks, which is a typical habitat for this species.

A hybrid Dock *Rumex x dufftii* was reported from a site close to Millcombe House. This is a cross between two common species of Dock: **Wood Dock** *Rumex sanguineus* and **Broad-leaved Dock** *Rumex obtusifolius*, both of which occur close by in Millcombe Valley.

Thanks to J. Armishaw, A and S. Rowland, S. Cossey, R. Ellis for their records. **We need more so please enter any flowering plants and fern species which you find in the logbook in the Tavern!**



▲ Wood Vetch *Ervilia sylvatica* in flower by the side of Beach Road in October (photo: Andrew Cleave).

BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS)

Sam Bosanquet

The only bryophytes recorded on the island in 2022 were a few I noted around the Castle and in upper Millcombe during a visit in July. These included *Didymodon australasiae* collected from the Castle courtyard: the second Lundy record following a collection made at Old Light in 2006. The island's tally of bryophytes remains at 226 taxa (2 hornworts, 64 liverworts and 160 mosses).

LICHENS

Sam Bosanquet

Only a few lichens were recorded on the island in 2022, mostly during my July visit. *Dimerella lutea*, new for Lundy, was one of 12 epiphytic lichen species noted on a Sycamore by Millcombe House, and the lichenicolous fungus *Lichenocodium lichenicola* was collected, new for Lundy, on *Physcia adscendens* near The Ugly. Alan Rowland photographed a **Beard Lichen** *Usnea cf flammea* (*Usnea* are difficult to identify at the best of times, and impossible from photographs) and **Sea Ivory** *Ramalina siliquosa* at Quarter Wall. The log contains a noteworthy epiphytic record of **Golden Hair Lichen** *Teloschistes flavicans*, found on a branch of Sycamore in Upper Millcombe by Mandy Yates (see illustration). All previously known colonies of *T. flavicans* on Lundy are on coastal rocks and heather, but it does occasionally grow as an epiphyte in Britain and is regularly found epiphytically in Macaronesia.



▲ Golden Hair Lichen *Teloschistes flavicans* growing on a Sycamore branch in Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).

FUNGI AND SLIME MOULDS

Mandy Dee and John Hedger

A good year for fungi and slime mould recording on Lundy, with 429 individual records of 273 species, of which 51 are new (including two slime moulds *Dictydiaethelium plumbeum* and *Perichaena vermicularis*). These records take our Lundy species total to 808. The 2022 list can be found on the LFS Website, along with our Master List.

The year got off to a promising start with early records of **Jelly Ear** *Auricularia auricula-judae* by B. Needis on 3rd March, and **Common Conecap** *Conocybe tenera* by Claire Mitchell on 13th March. John Hedger visited Lundy from the 14th-18th March and was able to record 42 species of fungi of which nine were new records for Lundy. All of the new records were microfungi needing hand lens and microscope for identification and most were found on dead stems of herbaceous plants and sedges. However, two new records of parasitic Rust fungi (Pucciniomycetes) on living plants (**Wood Sage Rust** and **Cat's Ear Rust**) raised the Lundy species total for this group of fungi to sixteen.

Later in the year, in June, an exciting new record from the related group of plant-parasitic fungi, the Smuts, was made by LFS member Mark Wilson who found the minute black spore-filled pustules of **Sedge Smut** (*Anthracoidea arenariae*) on **Sand Sedge** (*Carex arenaria*) plants growing between Jenny's Cove and The Earthquake in June (illustrated). There are only a dozen or so recent (post 1960) records of this fungus for the UK mainland (Woods *et al* 2018) and it doubles the Lundy species total for the Smuts, the existing record being Anther Smut of Red Campion in Millcombe. Other species of these plant parasites await discovery on Lundy, most probable being Anther Smut of Sea Campion, though searches of the West Side cliff colonies have proved fruitless to date. Sam Bosanquet also found a parasitic first for Lundy in his July visit, the minute *Lichenoconium lichenicola*, which as its name implies is a parasite of Lichens (see the Lichen Report).



▲ Black pustules of Sedge Smut *Anthracoidea arenariae* on seed heads of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, between Jenny's Cove and The Earthquake (photo: Mark Wilson).

An early autumn visit by Mandy Dee from 10th-24th September recorded 38 species, including a second record of the **Orange Pingpong Bat Fungus**, also called **Orange Porecap**, *Favolaschia claudopus*. Newly arrived in the UK from tropical climes in the last decade, it was at first thought to be the species *F. calocera*, and our first record was so identified. It has since been established that all the new UK records are of the very similar species *F. claudopus*. This is a very striking, but minute, orange fungus which grows in clusters on rotting twigs and branches in Millcombe throughout the autumn and is definitely one to look out for. Millcombe also held a couple of nice fruit bodies of **Tuberous Polypore** *Polyporus tuberaster*, growing on a fallen log; it has been recorded once before, in Millcombe, way back in October 1992, but may fruit every year and just not get recorded.



▲ *Orange Porecap* *Favolaschia claudopus* fruiting in September on a dead Sycamore twig in Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Tuberous Polypore* *Polyporus tuberosus* fruiting on wood in Millcombe in September (photo: Mandy Dee).

One of the most interesting habitats in early autumn is the miniature ‘forests’ of **Creeping Willow** (*Salix repens*) in Punchbowl Valley. Here we get annual records of woodland species which start to appear in September such as the pretty orange-pink **Coral Brittle Gill** *Russula velenovskyi*, and also species which like damp soil, such as this year’s second record of the red tinged **Riverine Bolete** *Xerocomellus ripariellus*.

During October we had some great records from visitors, the best of which was a first for Lundy by Shaun Barnes of the striking **Golden Bootleg** *Phaeolepiota aurea*, on 5th October. Also recorded in the log was a **False Puffball slime mould** *Reticularia lycoperdon* seen on a tree in Millcombe by Joanne Wilby on 22nd October.

The main autumn recording visit by Mandy Dee (30th October to 6th November) and John Hedger (30th October to 13th November) saw the whole island searched, and most of the records for the year arise from this visit. The well-grazed grasslands are often covered in colourful waxcaps in late autumn, depending on moisture levels and grazing status. Lighthouse Field, just beyond the campsite, was very productive and gave us a second record for **Felted Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus canescens*. Where you get the colourful waxcaps, you also get the drab and difficult **Pinkgills**, but we were able to identify two new records *Entoloma sericatum* and *Entoloma turci*. Yellow coloured club fungi were, as usual very common in grassland, but checking the spore shape is the only way to identify the different species. Lots of clubs were checked, and we recorded



▲ *Golden Bootleg* *Phaeolepiota aurea* on Quarry Terrace in October (photo: Shaun Barnes).



▲ *Riverine Bolete* *Xerocomellus ripariellus* fruiting in September under Creeping Willow in Punchbowl Valley (photo: Mandy Dee).

Handsome Club *Clavulinopsis laeticolor* for the second time.

There were two new grassland **Bonnet** species, *Mycena luteovariegata* and *Mycena olivaceomarginata* var. *contraria*, and a further two wood and litter rotting species were found in Millcombe – **Clustered Bonnet** *Mycena inclinata*, **Bulbous Bonnet** *Mycena stylobates* and the minute twig inhabiting white bonnet, *Mycena tenerrima* **Frosty Bonnet**, cap diameter only 2-3mm!. This takes us to a total of 31 Bonnet species recorded on Lundy, which is an impressive flurry of new records, in part due to the recently published identification guide to the Bonnets by Aronson & Lassoë (2016).

The **Bell** family are unremarkable small orangey brown gill fungi, easily overlooked, so it was impressive to get three new records this year. *Galerina mniophila* was growing out of the bank alongside the main track just below Bramble Villas, **Hairy Bell** *Galerina atkinsoniana* was growing in peaty soil near Pondsbury, and *Galerina minima* was found on peat at the North End. The recent books by Geoffrey Kibby (2017,2020,2021) have helped identification of species in *Galerina* and other difficult genera.

We were joined in November by fellow enthusiasts Richard and Christine Penney, who were extremely helpful with the grassland surveying, especially of **Waxcaps**. They also did a thorough search of the Creeping Willow around Pondsbury, finding two interesting Brittlegills: a first record of **Floury Brittlegill** *Russula farinipes*, and a second record of **Geranium Brittlegill** *Russula fellea*. Other new records from the Creeping Willow were **Golden Banded Webcap** *Cortinarius saniosus*, *Hebeloma danicum* and **Alder Milkcap** *Lactarius obscuratus*. Stuart Cossey, the Assistant Warden also did some sterling recording throughout the year, with the highlight being a photograph of a probable first record of the bright orange cup fungus *Melastiza chateri* growing in Southwest Field, which we hope to re-find next year to confirm with microscopy. He got a second record for **Blistered Cup** *Peziza vesiculosa* on 23rd November and found the uncommon and very beautiful bright orange-red **Vermilion Waxcap** *Hygrocybe miniata* in Sphagnum in the North Quarry.



▲ *Mycena tenerrima* fruiting in November on a dead Sycamore twig, Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Galerina mniophila* fruiting in moss by Brambles Villa, November (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Vermilion Waxcap* *Hygrocybe miniata* fruiting in November in Sphagnum, North Quarry (photo: John Hedger).

Although we don't have much woodland on Lundy, we still managed to get more new records of wood-rotting fungi. Quarter Wall Copse and the minute St.Helen's Copse never cease to surprise and new finds included the **Powderpuff Bracket** *Postia ptychogaster*, **Orange Jelly Spot** *Dacrymyces chrysospermus*, **Warlock's Butter** *Exidia nigricans*, **Woolly Oyster** *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata* and **Lumpy Bracket** *Trametes gibbosa*. Even well-studied Millcombe woodland yielded **Conifer Blueing Bracket** *Postia caesia* on the Pines -previously we have only found **Hardwood Blueing Bracket** *Postia subcaesia* on dead Sycamore.

Four newly recorded fungi from Lundy woodlands



▲ **Woolly Oyster** *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata* fruiting in November on a dead Rowan trunk, Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Powderpuff Bracket** *Postia ptychogaster* fruiting in November on a dead Sycamore branch, St Helen's Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Lumpy Bracket** *Trametes gibbosa* fruiting in November on a dead Birch trunk in Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Orange Jelly-Spot** *Dacrymyces chrysospermus* fruiting on a dead Turkey Oak branch in November, Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Fungus Foray group in Lighthouse Field on the 10th November (photo: Mandy Dee).

An oddity of the two November forays we organised for the island was a strange parasitic fungus *Marquandomyces marquandii*, causing a lilac colouration of the otherwise white gills of a **Snowy Waxcap**, well-spotted on the second foray by LFS member Diane Stewart. Alan Rowland found another parasitic fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, an insect pathogen which was producing masses of powdery spores from its dead host, a Gorse Shield Bug on 10th November – a second record.

In the last week of November, a group of enthusiastic students from Imperial College led by Julia Schroeder arrived on the island as part of their taught MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation course. They were there to study the House Sparrows, but also did an intensive survey of the grassland species of fungi, using the LFS publication **Lundy Fungi** (Hedger & George 2018) as their guide. They went out on two days; on one they surveyed the Airfield, and on the other the area around Rocket Pole Pond. Overall, they found a total of 47 species of fungi, including 13 **Waxcaps**, the best find being the uncommon, but beautiful, **Pink Waxcap**, *Porpolomopsis (Hygrocybe) caliptriformis*. The students gave a public talk about 'Sparrows and Fungi' in the St Helen's Centre; the combination of subject matter must be a world first!



▲ A group of M.Sc students from Imperial College using 'Lundy Fungi' during their field course (photo: Julia Schroeder).

Final record of the year was from the log book in the tavern: **Porcelain Fungus** *Mucidula mucida* growing on a Turkey Oak in Millcombe, and recorded by Paul Dean on 22nd December. Occasional records from the log book are very valuable as they give us insights into the fungal coverage at times when there aren't dedicated surveyors on the Island, so please do keep your eye open, check your sightings in Lundy Fungi and/or other field guides available in the tavern, and write your records in the log book, along with where they were seen, and what they were growing on. Don't forget to add your name so we can acknowledge you!

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GEOLOGICAL RECORDS

Recent Mineralogical visits to Lundy Island

David Ifold

Although relatively close to the granites of southwest England the granite of Lundy shares little more than a geographical connection and the basic minerals of feldspar, quartz and mica that make up granites. It is not surprising that Lundy granite weathers to make tor like features similar to that of southwest England.

The granite outcrops that start as Dartmoor and follow the spine of Cornwall are variously dated to 300-275 million years ago (mya) whilst Lundy granite is much more recent with dates of either 59.8 or 58.4 mya +/- 0.4mya. Lundy is the most southerly British outcrop of any igneous rock within The British Tertiary Igneous Province. Some of the Irish granites are of a similar age and their 'exotic' mineralogy can be very similar to that of Lundy.

Over the last few years, Dean Woodfin-Jones and more recently Rosie Ellis, have kindly agreed to controlled visits to study the mineralogy of the waste material below the quarries on the eastern side of the island. The Victorian quarry workers extracted stone and 'dressed' it ready for shipping off the island. Blocks of an unsuitable shape or with flaws were discarded down the slopes toward the sea. It is this material that has been studied and there is no need to touch the lichen covered natural geology of the island.

The visits have shown that what has previously recorded (McLintock & Hall 1912) from the vughs, (small cavities within the granite), is largely correct. The minerals **Feldspar**, **Quartz** (Clear, Smokey and Cairngorm), **Beryl**, **Topaz**, **Fluorspar**, **Mica** and **Garnet** can all be collected as crystallized examples although unless very small they are often damaged. Interestingly, an off-white to cream coloured anhedral mineral that fluoresces under long wave ultraviolet light has been detected occurring with feldspar and it is very likely to be confirmed as **Apatite**. The occurrence of Beryl and Topaz in vughs in the Lundy granite is of particular interest as the occurrence is very similar to that in the similar aged granites of the Mourne Mountains where a prolific location called Diamond Rocks is known.

In the accompanying picture a single hexagonal crystal of greenish Beryl with bevelled edges at the top sits at the centre. A small crystal of lilac coloured Fluorspar is to the left of the Beryl. To the right of the Beryl is a crystal of Quartz with frosted faces. To the left of the Beryl are shattered crystals of Feldspar. The back cover of this report features a picture of a radiating spray of Beryl crystals 41mm across sitting amongst poorly developed Feldspar crystals.

Specimens of the mineral Beryl have been given to Dr. Norman Moles of Brighton University for his research project looking at trace element chemistry of Beryl from locations within the North Atlantic Tertiary Igneous Province. It is hoped that visits will continue in the near future and that the list of Lundy minerals can be increased.

Reference

McLintock, W. F. P. & Hall, T.C. F. 1912. On Topaz & Beryl from the granite of Lundy Island.
Mineralogical Magazine **16**, 294-301.



▲ A hexagonal crystal of Beryl surrounded by other minerals in a vugh within Lundy granite (photo: David Ifold).

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- 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
- 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
- For information about Lundy's birds visit: www.birdsoflundy.org.uk

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Millcombe Steps (photo by Mandy Dee).

Back cover:

Radiating Beryl Crystals in Lundy Granite. Microphotography by David Ifold.

Front cover:

The sea slug *Discodoris rosi* off Battery Point.

Photographed during the Marine Festival by David Kipling & Sarah Bowen.

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