

THE BIRDS OF LUNDY

by

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Our knowledge of the birds that both breed on and visit the Island has been increasing steadily ever since the earliest written records were created in the early 1870s. It particularly improved after the foundation of a Bird Observatory in 1947 and the employment of full-time Resident Wardens via funding from the Lundy Field Society.

This display shows a selection of both the breeding birds found on Lundy and the migrants that visit the Island. Peter Davis (Resident Warden), in his 1954 book put the number of species seen on Lundy at 218. This rose to 274 when J.N. Dymond compiled the second 'The Birds of Lundy' in 1980. The latest definitive update is currently being compiled with the latest total being 318 (332 if you include unsuccessful introductions, etc).

For the breeding birds we are at an exciting time, as we have already seen positive effects from the recent eradication of rats from the island (both puffins and Manx shearwaters have now successfully bred for the first time in many years). Other nesting birds seem to have also increased in numbers, e.g. wheatears and stonechats, although they would still be under predation pressure from the gulls and crows.

For many visiting bird watchers there is always the excitement of seeing migration, especially during the main migration periods of April/May and August through to November. There is also the possibility of seeing rare species that do not normally visit our shores. The island's location results in birds from both America and the Far East landing to rest before moving on to the mainland.

Please could all visitors to the island enter any bird watching records into the LFS log, which is in the Tavern. The more we know about the birds that breed on and visit the Island the more we can help them.