

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF THE BIRDS OF LUNDY DURING
THE PERIOD OF THE SOCIETY'S EXISTENCE

1947

Anas strepera, Gadwall.

1949

Emberiza hortulana, Ortolan Bunting, May 11th, August 29th.

Lanius senator, Woodchat Shrike, July 16th.

Regulus ignicapillus, Firecrest, March 11th, 12th, 15th, first reliable record.

Acrocephalus paludicola, Aquatic Warbler, September 15th (2).

Hippolais icterina, Icterine Warbler, August 28th (ringed), October 16th, 17th, 23rd, 26th.

Sylvia nisoria, Barred Warbler, October 10th.

Luscinia svecica, Bluethroat, September 14th, October 20th, 22nd.

Coracias garrulus, Roller, August 25th.

Dryobates major, Great Spotted Woodpecker, October 2nd, 4th, 5th.

Jynx torquilla, Wryneck, May 11th, September 3rd, 22nd, 23rd.

1950

Lullula arborea, Wood-Lark, October 18th.

Anthus campestris, Tawny Pipit, October 6th, 7th.

Certhia familiaris, Tree Creeper, July 18th, 27th, October 23rd (ringed).

Muscicapa parva, Red-Breasted Flycatcher, October 20th.

Puffinus p. mauretanicus, Balearic Shearwater (on crossing), September 6th.

Calidris melanotos, American Pectoral Sandpiper, October 12th.

Sterna sandwicensis, Sandwich Tern, April 10th, 11th.

1951

Emberiza bruniceps, Red-Headed Bunting, July 14th—20th, September 30th—October 3rd.

Emberiza pusilla, Little Bunting (2) (1 ringed), October 16th, 19th.

Hippolais polyglotta, Melodious Warbler, July 30th (ringed).

Sylvia undata, Dartford Warbler, October 28th.

Colymbus arcticus, Black-Throated Diver, November 1st.

1952

Porzana parva, Little Crane, September 12th—14th.

Calidris canuta, Knot, April 16th, August 13th.

Hirundo daurica, Red-Rumped Swallow, March 27th.

Turdus migratorius, American Robin, October 27th—November 8th (ringed).

Turdus dauma, White's Thrush, October 15th—November 8th (Previously, Chanter, 'doubtful').

1953

No new records.

1954

Tringa erythropus, Spotted Redshank, March 27th, 28th.
Phylloscopus bonelli, Bonelli's Warbler, September 1st.
Geothlypis trichas, Yellowthroat, November 4th.

1955

Aythya marila, Scaup, October 9th.
Phalaropus lobatus, Red-Necked Phalarope, November 11th.
Sylvia melanocephala, Sardinian Warbler, May 10th.

1956

Melanitta perspicillata, Surf Scoter, November 16.
Calidris minuta, Little Stint, August 31th, September 3rd, 4th,
26th (first authentic record).

In presenting this list of birds added to the Lundy record by members of the Society it is fitting to pay a tribute to the work of Mr F. W. Gade, who for many years before we came into existence spent much of his few leisure hours in observation of the island's birds and has been responsible in large measure for the impressive list which Peter Davis compiled and published early in 1956. The limitations of the single observer using only his spare moments, on an island so large and varied as Lundy, are only too clearly shown however by what he missed. It will be noted that the number of additions to the list has decreased progressively since 1949, the totals for successive years being 10, 7, 5, 5, 5, 0, 3, 3, 2. Add to this the following :

Of birds first recorded in 1949,

Ortolan Buntings have been seen in every subsequent year,
Woodchat shrikes have been recorded in 1952, 1953, 1956.
Firecrests have occurred in 1950, 1952, 1955, 1956,
Icterine Warblers were seen again in 1951, 1954, 1955,
Bluethroat and Wryneck both occurred in 1956.

Of those first seen in 1950,

Woodlarks have occurred every year since, except 1951,
Tree Creeper re-occurred in 1956,
Tawny Pipits were seen again in 1951,
Red Breasted Flycatchers were recorded again in 1951, 1954,
1955.

Of 1951's records,

Red-Headed Bunting occurred again in 1952, 1953, 1956,
Melodious Warbler was seen in 1954.

The inference is clear ; whereas some species, including most of the genuine rarities, may be casual wanderers driven off their normal migration routes by force of circumstances, others normally

pass up or down the west coast of Britain, and have been overlooked hitherto for want of a sufficiency of skilled observers on the spot at the right time of year. This is particularly true of the Ortolan Bunting, the absence of which from our annual list would now be notable, and would seem likely also to apply to the Woodchat Shrike, Firecrest, Icterine Warbler, Woodlark, Red-Breasted Flycatcher, and even, dare one suggest, to the Red-Headed Bunting.

For those to whom the collection of rarity records is an end, it seems probable that Lundy is unlikely now to offer more than two or three such annual tit-bits, and the number of blank years may well soon begin to exceed those of fruitfulness. To the student of migration however these recurrent records have the greatest interest coupled alas with frustration at the total inadequacy of ringing as a method of tracing the movements of these small passerines.

PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT — GANNETS' COMBE, LUNDY

BY KEITH S. GARDNER

The subject of this short paper is the prehistoric settlement above Gannets' Combe, Lundy. In its present condition it is composed of four granite-built huts and the foundations of field walls, although it is possible that at one time there were more huts to the north and that the rest of the North End was enclosed.

The two southernmost huts are the best preserved and are both of the same type, each being built into the enclosure wall or each with its doorway facing down the combe, i.e. away from the prevailing wind. Each is circular in plan with an internal diameter of about 9—10 feet, and each has a larger rectangular outhouse butting against it which was probably a storehouse or animal stall.

The walls are of simple construction—an inner wall of upright granite slabs backed with a bank of piled up earth or stones, two upright columns of granite forming the doorposts. It is probable that a conical roof of brushwood and turf, or perhaps reeds, rested on this foundation with its base embedded in the bank ; no upright supporting posts would be necessary in a hut of this size.

The field walls as they are to-day are probably only the foundation of some more formidable barrier, of wood or brushwood.

In the absence of any datable artifacts one has to rely solely on comparative site typology to form an opinion regarding its age. The nearest region with any settlement of this type is Dartmoor, and it is to Dartmoor that we shall have to turn to learn about these huts and their occupants.

Mr Raleigh Radford has shown (*Proceedings Prehistoric Society*, Vol. XVIII, Pt I, 1952), that the early settlement on the moor can be divided into three different classes as described below.