

BIRDS RECORDED IN 1958

The Observatory was opened on March 29th, and observations continued until December 16th. Records previous to the opening of the Observatory are from the notes kindly supplied by John Ogilvie and Mr F. W. Gade.

The total number of species recorded this year was one hundred and thirty-eight which includes six new to the Lundy list.

2. Great Northern Diver (*Colymbus immer*).

Single seen almost daily between October 18th and November 25th. Two present October 29th to 31st.

14. [Storm Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*).]

Although no birds were seen, the characteristic smell of this species was noticed on several occasions in July and August from walls at two sites on the East side, and near the Castle. Despite several night searches no birds could be found but I am convinced that this species does visit the island.

16. Manx Shearwater (*Procellaria puffinus*).

First recorded April 3rd, last heard August 20th. Last seen offshore on October 20th when c. twenty were flying south past the landing bay.

No evidence of successful breeding.

26. Fulmar Petrel (*Fulmaris glacialis*).

Breeding restricted to the two main colonies this year. Last seen at colonies August 17th. Increased success at both colonies although a slight decrease in the number of pairs at Gannet's. It is believed that at least sixteen young flew this year : at least eight from the fourteen nests counted at Jenny's, and another eight from twelve nests on Gannet's rock. The 'blue' bird was still present at the latter colony.

27. Gannet (*Sula bassana*).

Seen offshore all months, greatest number seen c. 120 on October 10th, which included a flock of sixty fishing in the race off Rat Island. An increase in numbers usually coincided with bad weather.

28. Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

Seen in all months except December.

One pair again bred at the old site north of Quarry Beach, and the presence of a second pair suspected.

A party of nineteen flying south over the Island on September 20th was the only movement observed.

29. Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*).

Bred in similar numbers to last year, the season being slightly later than usual, but again a successful one.

30. Heron (*Ardea cinerea*).

Singles April 4th and 28th, May 22nd, July 24th to 26th, and 29th. Three July 30th, one on 31st. Singles again on August 7th and 10th.

45. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

One male recorded March 1st and April 24th, 25th and 28th to 30th. Later records were confused by the presence of introduced birds.

The pair of pinioned Mallard introduced last year bred successfully and hatched three broods, the last appearing on November 8th. Thirteen of the earlier broods were ringed and colour ringed, both to record their movements and to avoid confusion in the future. Ten free-flying birds were still present at the end of the season.

46. Teal (*Anas crecca*).

Singles on February 16th and March 11th. Twelve close inshore off the landing beach November 2nd. Two November 5th airfield, and a pair on Quarter-wall pond December 4th and 5th.

47. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*).

Single drake seen on Pondsburry, March 24th, 27th, 30th and 31st. A new species for the Observatory.

91. Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

One pair again attempted to breed. The nest containing two eggs was discovered on the cliffs below the Logan stone on May 23rd, but on June 26th the eggs were found to be broken with no signs of any chicks, and the nest was abandoned.

One or two birds seen throughout the year, one with a conspicuous white marking on its tail.

93. Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter nisus*).

One, October 18th. A 'possible' on other dates in early October.

99. Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).

One seen by Mary Squires in the Pondsburry area, April 30th. Good views were obtained. The only previous records are two from 1944.

100 or 102. [Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) **or Montagu's Harrier** (*C. pygargus*).]

A female Ring-tailed Harrier between Quarter-wall and Pondsburry on October 23rd. The late date suggests Hen Harrier rather than Montagu's.

102. Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*).

Single immature bird present in the Pondsburry area during the afternoon and evening of September 12th. The third record of this species since the Observatory opened.

105. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Did not breed this year.

One or two seen almost daily until April 14th, then only singles for the rest of the month, on six days in May, one in June, four in July and four occasions until August 29th when two were again present. One or two occasionally seen during September and October.

107. Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

No spring records.

Birds on autumn passage recorded more frequently than usual, as was also the case at Bardsey Observatory. One or two females present September 11th, 12th and 14th. Almost daily occurrence of one or two birds October 18th to November 21st, with three on October 20th. On several dates in November a pair were flying together and displaying over the Castle and Landing Beach area.

110. Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Two or three pairs bred, one nest on the cliffs south-west of the Old Light, and another north of the Sugar Loaf. Seen almost every day the Observatory was open.

117. Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*).

At least one present May 23rd to June 2nd, the first record since 1953. It appears that 1958 was a 'Quail year' for many parts of the country, the species being much more commonly recorded this year.

118. Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Greatest spring number six. One brood seen in the Tillage field August 20th. At least three males and five females present in October.

120. Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*).

One April 8th and 10th. One, and occasionally two, on seven dates between September 12th and November 26th.

125. Corncrake (*Crex crex*).

One on six days in April. One on September 1st, two on 16th, and one October 6th to 8th.

131. Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).

Present until the end of November, about twelve pairs breeding. No large flocks recorded this year.

133. Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Flocks of over one hundred on January 23rd and February 16th.

An increase in breeding population to about twelve pairs, two of which had territories south of the Old Light, the first time for several years. First territorial calling heard on March 5th.

Nest with three eggs found April 16th, and two other nests with one and two eggs on the following day. First chicks seen May 12th. First flocking observed on May 24th when fifteen were flying together. Most of the young were flying by June 20th, and a flock of twenty-four had formed by the 20th. This rose to *c.* forty on the 22nd and then decreased to twenty-five to thirty at which number it remained until early August when it decreased to *c.* twelve for the rest of the month.

For most of September there were only eight present, but numbers rose to fifteen on the 26th and then to twenty-two. Early October found twelve present, decreasing on the 18th to *c.* six. A few may have arrived late on the 23rd, and just after dawn on the following day the sky seemed full of them coming in from the north in small flocks, about 400 remaining on the island. This decreased to seventy-five on the 25th and numbers fluctuated between forty and ninety for the rest of the month. Similar movements were recorded at Skokholm and Bardsey in mid-October. The first few days of November saw the total diminish until there was only one left on the 4th. On the 16th twenty arrived and left by the 17th. Another movement brought the total to forty-eight on the 23rd, decreasing to two on the 26th. None seen after November 30th.

134. Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

One March 31st. Four on April 22nd. One May 4th. Singles flying south on August 21st, 22nd and 23rd, and again on September 10th. One at landing beach September 16th to 18th. Two present North End September 21st to 24th and one found dead at the North Light on September 22nd.

One mist-netted on September 17th the first ringed for the Observatory.

140. Golden Plover (*Charadrius apricarius*).

Eleven February 16th. Present on eight occasions in March, the maximum number being thirty-two on the 10th, 11th and 12th. Up to three on seven dates in April and six days in May, the last on the 22nd. First autumn record; two on September 3rd, then recorded frequently until October 30th. The largest flock was of thirteen on October 4th, nine of which remained for a further two days. Ten on October 30th. Single records for November 27th and 29th.

412. Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*).

One August 24th North End. At least two on September 8th on the high ground east of Pondsburry. This species also seems to have been more common in the west this year.

413. Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Three records. One April 14th. Four on October 5th, Mouse Island. One October 14th, Rat Island.

145. Snipe (*Capella gallinago*).

One February record of four on the 16th. Three singles in March, none in April, one on May 21st, and another July 22nd. Singles on the first two days in August, a flock of fourteen circling the airfield on the 10th before flying off to the south-west, and up to seven or eight during late August. One or two seen frequently during September. First October sighting on the 11th, and then up to three almost daily for the remainder of the season, with occasional increases, the largest being on November 4th with eleven present.

147. Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*).

One March 13th. Others on October 20th and 21st, and two on November 4th—all at Pondsburry.

148. Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*).

One, and occasionally two, recorded frequently between October 19th and November 29th.

150. Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

One pair bred. Nest found to the East of Pondsburry with four eggs, one of which disappeared when almost ready to hatch. The others hatched on May 28th, one chick being subsequently found and ringed near Half-way wall on June 12th.

Numbers started increasing from June 21st until there were thirty-eight present on the 30th. Numbers fluctuated during July the largest being fifty-seven on the 20th. In August there were forty-two on the 2nd which decreased to under twenty for the rest of the month. Daily records of up to thirteen in September, and up to five on fourteen days in October. One on November 4th was the last seen until December 16th when one was present in the Lighthouse Field.

Night trapping operations at Pondsburry resulted in three adult birds being ringed, one of which was subsequently recovered near Brest in France.

151. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

First spring record one on April 22nd, then regularly up to eight until May 28th. Singles June 6th and 7th. Four on July 22nd and small numbers almost daily until September 22nd, with a maximum of eight on the first two days in August, and at least seven on the 15th. One on the West side on December 9th was a very late record for this species.

155. Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

One in summer plumage on the airfield May 7th.

156. Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*).

One July 23rd and on five days in August (two on the 18th). One again on September 5th and 6th. All at Pondsburry or Quarter-wall pond.

157. Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*).

One September 4th flying with Golden Plover near Pondsburry.

159. Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*).

One April 22nd, 25th and 27th. Two on 28th.

Three singles during the last eight days of July. Seven on August 7th north of the landing beach. Five or less present on four further days in August, and nine days in September until the 23rd.

161. Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

One recorded on five occasions—April 20th and 21st, July 23rd, and August 4th and 9th.

165. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

One August 14th on Quarry beach, 20th and 21st near Pondsburry.

178. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

One April 12th and 13th. Six on May 6th and one on 7th and 25th. Autumn records of singles July 30th and August 5th and 6th. Up to five regularly between August 21st and September 17th. One September 28th and 30th, and October 1st and 11th. Birds of both races trapped in autumn (*C.a. alpina* and *C.a. schinzii*).

184. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

On September 9th four males and five females of this species flew in from the east and landed on the airfield and later flew off south—the third record for Lundy. On the 11th four males were again present, three near Jenny's Cove and the other on the airfield with Golden Plover. One male was still present at Jenny's on the 12th.

There was an unusually large movement of this species recorded along the west coast in September, Skokholm recording their maximum of sixteen on the 13th.

198. Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*).

About forty pairs bred—an increase despite some measures of 'control' being exercised. First egg seen April 23rd and first chick May 27th. Present throughout the year. Winter flock of about forty, mainly adults, in December.

199. Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*).

Over forty pairs bred, mainly on the North-East point. Recorded regularly between March 31st and mid-October. Two on October 22nd, and a very late record of two seen by Mr F. W. Gade on December 5th.

200. Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

First egg found April 27th, chicks May 26th. Breeding on the whole slightly later than usual. Dispersal started in late August. Wintering population of up to eighty birds.

201. Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

One immature November 8th, Lametry Cove.

208. Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*).

Five following the plough March 10th and 11th. One April 4th and 5th, May 10th. Two on May 17th. One on four days in July. Two August 18th, five on the 30th, and six on 31st. Six records in September and five in October (maximum of six on 19th). One on December 16th.

209. Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*).

One immature seen in Lametry Bay by R.H.D. and W.B.W. on September 28th. The first record for the observatory, coincided with records from other stations, one being reported from the Scillies on the 24th.

211. Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*).

Present on breeding ledges when the observatory opened. First egg seen May 9th. A much more successful breeding season this year—an average of almost one and a half young reared from each nest in all the main colonies, with the exception of the Shutter colony which was deserted at an early date, no young being reared there at all. Last seen at the colonies August 25th. Last record November 5th when four were seen off the North End.

217-218. Common and Arctic Terns (*Sterna hirundo* and *S. paradisea*).

Much commoner than usual in autumn. Six feeding near Rat Island on September 30th. About 140 feeding in the race off Rat Island during bad weather on October 5th—the largest number ever recorded for Lundy; c. ten present October 10th and 11th, and c. fifteen on the 12th.

224. Razorbill (*Alca torda*).

First egg seen May 10th—five days later than the mean date 1952 to 1957. No counting attempted this year, but the season did not appear to be a very successful one.

Last records offshore three on November 5th. Several oiled birds found in mid-October.

226. Little Auk (*Plautus alle*).

Two recorded off the North End on November 5th. The first record since June 1950, when one was found dead on the west coast.

227. Guillemot (*Uria aalge*).

First egg seen May 9th. Present on land until the end of July. Singles seen off North End October 22nd and 23rd, and November 5th.

Returned to cliff ledges on the exceptionally early date of December 14th, when about thirty or forty were present at the colonies on Long Ruse.

230. Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*).

First reported on land March 31st. It is possible that there was a slight increase in the breeding population this year, though no complete counts were attempted. The largest single flock counted was 150 plus on June 26th. Last seen at sea on crossing November 20th.

232. Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*).

One October 15th, 25th to 27th, 29th, and November 2nd.

234. Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

A flock of twelve on March 5th was the first record. Seen throughout April, May and June in numbers up to ten, rising slightly to twelve plus by the end of July. Up to twenty present in August and September. After mid-October only singles and occasionally two were recorded.

May well have bred along the East sidelands, a very likely nesting site above Ladies' Beach proving inaccessible.

235. Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*).

First recorded April 30th and then regularly during May and June, the maximum on one day being nine, June 2nd. Three on July 3rd last record until autumn. The return migration brought fewer records. A single on August 27th, up to four most days in the first two weeks of September, and a single on the 28th—the last record for the year.

237. Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

One seen intermittently from May 4th to June 21st. One July 3rd, two 4th, one 11th. Nine singles during August, two 26th. Up to three in September, until 18th.

247. Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*).

One April 8th. The second record for the Island.

249. Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

One September 19th, October 21st, 29th and 30th, and November 4th.

No less than four got up out of the long grass near Pondsburry on the evening of November 16th. Three December 2nd, one 3rd.

252. Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).

One May 11th flying over Millcombe.

Autumn records of singles on August 26th, September 9th and 16th, and October 4th and 5th. One was caught in the Terrace trap on September 9th, the first ringed for the Observatory.

255. Swift (*Apus apus*).

First record three on April 29th, about twenty on the 30th, not again until May 20th, then frequently in small numbers until August 17th, when c. 400 were present, feeding and moving south over the Island most of the day. Small numbers for the rest of August. Up to fifty during the first week in September. Last record six, September 27th.

261. Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*).

One April 21st near the Knight Templar rock. Two in Millcombe on May 20th and one near the Castle on the 22nd.

One September 8th to 11th and 14th—probably the same bird. This is only the second record of this species during the autumn, the other being on October 4th, 1949.

271. Wood Lark (*Lullula arborea*).

Two October 24th in the Hotel gardens.

272. Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

Flocks of *c.* 120 on January 17th and *c.* 100 on the 20th. First heard singing February 16th. No apparent change in breeding population. Main autumn passage peaks about September 28th and October 9th. Also flocks of *c.* 150 counted on November 24th and 25th. Numbers had decreased to *c.* ten when the Observatory closed.

274. Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

First seen March 28th, then up to five daily until April 18th when forty were present; about 200 on the 22nd, moving north. Fifty on 30th and seventy on May 2nd were the only other large flocks. Up to twenty present on other days. Seen almost daily until July 2nd. The largest number recorded in June being seven. One was seen on July 23rd, and up to five on nine days in August.

September saw an interesting movement. Flocks of between fifty and 100 were seen on eight days, and then on the 26th a vast number of birds, estimated at well over a thousand, were spread over the island feeding and resting on telegraph wires. Waves of birds were coming in from the east and south-east continually, and there was a general dispersal southerly towards evening. This appears to have been part of a widespread movement over the Irish Sea, recorded also at Skokholm and Great Saltee Observatories.

A later peak of *c.* 350 on October 1st again coincided with Skokholm observations, and 150 were recorded on the 12th. On other dates the usual total was of thirty to forty birds, dropping to ten or less towards the end of October. One or two on eight occasions in November, the last on 25th.

276. House Martin (*Delichon urbica*).

First recorded April 20th. Up to ten almost daily until May 2nd when *c.* seventy were seen. Up to twenty for the rest of May, and up to eight on fifteen days in June. One July 20th, fourteen August 10th, and up to twelve frequently in September, with about eighty on the 26th, coinciding with the peak of the Swallow movement. Recorded throughout October and last seen on November 1st, when six were present.

277. Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).

First recorded March 27th. Main movement on April 22nd when forty were present. Recorded intermittently in small numbers until June 2nd, and then regularly between July 20th and the last record on October 12th. Peaks of movement on August 31st, when sixty were present, September 6th and 8th—*c.* forty in each, and 26th, when over 100 were moving with the other Hirundines. The first one to be ringed on Lundy was taken in a mist-net on September 30th in Millcombe.

278. Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*).

A female in Millcombe, May 20th.

279. Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Two pairs bred successfully, at Ravens' Gully and south of Long Ruse, four and three young being raised. Those from the former site flew on April 25th.

Flocks of up to nine seen in the autumn.

280. Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*).

Largest spring flock seventeen. Several pairs bred. Flock of twenty-three in June increasing to thirty plus by the end of August, and c. sixty on two dates in September. Four seen coming in off the sea from the south on October 19th.

281. Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*).

One April 30th, near Pondsbury.

282. Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*).

One present on May 31st and June 1st, at first on the farm buildings, and later feeding among crows near Quarter-wall.

283. Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

One each on January 24th, February 20th and on March 9th and 10th, the only records this year.

288. Great Tit (*Parus major*).

One March 30th. Seen in numbers of up to five on nine days to April 20th, mainly on the west sidelands. No autumn records.

289. Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*).

Two or three pairs present throughout the winter, decreasing in numbers during April, and last seen on the 28th.

Autumn records of singles from October 18th to November 6th. One on December 4th.

290. Coal Tit (*Parus ater*).

Up to six throughout the winter, decreasing in April, and not seen after the 30th.

292. Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*).

One seen by F. W. Gade on 15th and 18th January. The first record of this species on Lundy.

294. Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*).

A flock of about twelve in Millcombe on October 17th, and five on the 27th which flew down from the north-west, alighted on the Old Light tower for a few minutes and then flew off high to the south-east.

298. Tree Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*).

One on September 27th feeding in Millcombe, the only record this year.

299. Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Breeding numbers as in previous seasons. Slight increase in numbers on October 18th the only evidence of migration.

301. Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*).

One on March, April 20th, and October 18th, 24th and 27th. Quite a large movement during mid-November. Maximum recorded c. twenty on the 15th—probably the most ever counted on the Island.

302. Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Some movement in late January. Twelve on March 12th, six on the 15th. Two singles in April—on the 10th and 13th.

Autumn movement started with about seventy on October 18th, and a maximum of 120 on the 24th. Population fluctuating in November, reaching a maximum of eighty on the 15th, and decreasing to below ten for the last week of the month, and into December.

303. Song Thrush (*Turdus ericetorum*).

Reported as being more numerous than usual during the winter and early spring, six or seven being present at the end of January.

Heard singing on February 9th. Although only recorded intermittently throughout the summer, it appears that one pair bred—two adults being seen carrying food on July 9th in Millcombe.

A much larger autumn passage than usual, mainly during the last fortnight of October, with maxima of seventy-five on the 23rd, and c. 100 on the 24th. Population of between twelve and twenty most of November, with an increase to c. seventy-five on the 17th.

304. Redwing (*Turdus musicus*).

Flock of 130 seen to fly in from the east on January 2nd and another influx noticed on the 20th. Four records in early April, the largest number (eight) being on the last date—the 10th.

The first autumn record, of one on October 14th, was a prelude to a large movement on the 18th involving 300 birds, and the total present increased to some 500 on the 19th. This population slowly decreased to c. twenty-five to thirty, until another peak of movement on November 15th when about 500 were counted flying south in small parties.

The population remained at between twenty and forty for the rest of the season.

307. Ring-Ousel (*Turdus torquatus*).

First record five, March 27th. One, and on one occasion two, on ten dates in April. Last spring bird on May 6th.

One on September 5th the first autumn record, followed by another one, and then three, before the end of the month. One again on four days in second half of October ; and the first two days of November brought two and one respectively.

308. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).

About fifty reported moving on March 1st, and a few on April 10th. Breeding population apparently higher than in the last few years, but counting is difficult.

A slight increase in numbers took place on September 30th, but the main movements did not start until October 17th, when there were about 100 present. Numbers then increased steadily and reached a maximum of c. 500 on the 24th. From the end of the month the population remained at fifty to sixty until a second peak of 250 was recorded on November 5th. The numbers remained at sixty to seventy-five, with a slight rise in early December.

311. Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

First seen on March 24th. Ten on the following two days. Movement apparent until the end of the month, and to a lesser extent in early May, but no large flocks recorded.

Breeding population again seven or eight pairs. Autumn migration first observed on September 9th, but again no large flocks except on the 16th when c. fifty were present. Last recorded October 12th.

317. Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

One February 2nd. Two on March 14th, and one on 28th. No further records until September 16th when two were present. Seen regularly from then on, in numbers of up to six in October, but no more than four afterwards.

318. Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Another species of which records were more plentiful this year. One March 17th, April 22nd and 30th, three May 25th, one 26th, one June 2nd.

One to three recorded almost daily in the latter half of August. Peaks of movement in September were c. fifteen on 4th and 5th, c. twenty-five on 14th, and c. fifteen on 16th. Numbers decreasing to one or two towards end of month. Three singles in October before last record on 7th.

320. Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

Five spring records between April 7th and May 1st.

One August 20th and 24th, September 4th, at least six on the 5th, and one or two regularly until the 27th.

321. Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*).

Not recorded in spring, and very few birds in autumn.

Up to three present on twelve days between October 22nd and November 5th, the only records.

325. Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).

Another very successful breeding season, judging from the number of juveniles ringed. About ten pairs bred.

The only sign of any movement was an increase in numbers on October 22nd.

327. Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*).

One or two on five occasions between April 20th and 28th. At least three on July 27th. Recorded on six dates in August and four in September most seen. Last record September 16th.

333. Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).

One trapped June 5th at Quarter-wall the only record this year.

337. Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*).

Up to four frequently between April 22nd and May 26th, with peaks of thirteen on May 10th, and ten on May 25th.

Four July 27th, and recorded most days until September 16th, with one late bird on the 27th. Maximum numbers—seventeen on August 14th, twenty-five on 21st, and fifteen September 16th, a relatively heavy passage for this species.

339. Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*).

One trapped in the Terrace trap on September 10th, the third record for the Island.

At least seventeen records of this species were reported in the country this year—an amazing total. Thirteen of these came from the Irish Sea Observatories.

343. Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

A female present when the Observatory opened. Seven April records (four on 23rd the most), a female May 30th and a male on June 3rd, constitute the spring records. One female was present on August 28th, another October 1st. There were three more records of up to three that month. One present most days in early November, last seen 15th.

346. Garden Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*).

One or two on four occasions May 22nd to 27th, and one June 5th to 9th. One or two again on eight days September 1st to 16th. Three present October 1st and 8th, and on 27th.

347. Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).

No evidence of breeding this year. First seen April 22nd. Some movement at end of April and beginning of May, but usually only one or two daily. Twenty appeared on May 16th, and 150 on May 25th, which had left by the next day. The population dwindled to one or two during June, and the only July record was of two on the 7th. Two were again present on August 7th and the species was recorded daily from the 16th, the August maximum being fifty, on the 21st. In September the numbers were small (under twenty-five) until the 16th, when we awoke to find the whole island covered with warblers. A conservative estimate put the number of Whitethroats present at over 1,000 in company with almost as many other warblers. This remarkable fall of warblers is discussed later. By the following day all had gone—only three Whitethroats were seen, and the species was only recorded on nine more days, the last date being October 13th.

354. Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

First spring record April 3rd. Main passage in second half of April, with peaks on 20th and 30th. A few definite Willow Warblers in May, one on June 3rd, and a single phylloscopid on the 5th.

Autumn records from July 23rd, with peaks August 13th to 14th, and 21st when forty Willow Warblers were present out of c. 150 'phylloscopids'. Some movement early September, and then the great 'fall' on 16th when c. 600 Willow-Chiffs were on the Island—about equal numbers of each species from the ringing totals.

Not definitely identified after September 18th.

355. Greenish Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*).

The first record for the Island was seen in Millcombe on November 2nd, and caught in a mist-net on 3rd. Detailed examination led to identification. Less than a dozen of this species having been recorded so far in this country. A second bird present on the Terraces on the following day, with a more conspicuous wing bar, was also probably of this species.

356. Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

A flock of about fifty 'phylloscopids' on March 27th were almost certainly all Chiffchaffs. The spring movement was similar to that of the Willow Warbler, with a very late bird singing in Millcombe on June 1st and 2nd. The first definite autumn record was on September 7th, and c. sixty were present on 9th. About 300 estimated

present on 16th. Intermittent movement in October, the maximum count being twenty-five on 9th. Present in numbers of up to ten well into November, the last one caught being on 9th, but 'phylloscopids' were present until 19th. A few birds believed to be of the northern (*abietinus*) variety were seen, but none were trapped.

357. Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*).

Two records, September 4th and 15th, both in Millcombe.

364. Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

One or two regularly in March and April, with six on 6th, and eight on April 17th. One May 26th.

Singles on August 23rd and 29th. One or two daily between September 16th and October 1st, when ten were recorded. Main period of movement October 18th to 24th, with a maximum of twenty. Four or less most dates in November until 21st.

365. Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*).

One October 25th and a male trapped 30th. Another single November 17th to 19th.

366. Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*).

Two April 30th. Next record May 8th. Daily between May 10th and June 10th, with peaks of twenty May 20th and 26th, and twenty-five on 25th. Single birds in Millcombe on July 6th, 10th and 22nd. Continuous records July 26th to October 3rd, except for four days. August movement showed peaks on 14th (c. twenty) and 21st (c. sixty). On September 1st c. 100 arrived during the day, in company with lesser numbers of 'phylloscopids'. The total was reduced to eight for two days, then fifty appeared on 4th, with a few smaller movements later, notably thirty-five on 16th. An unusually large passage for this species on Lundy.

368. Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*).

No definite spring records (a possible on May 26th).

Again an exceptionally large autumn passage, commencing with one August 18th, and one or two on five more dates in that month. Almost daily September and early October, last record being of two on 12th. Main movements October 4th, 5th, 6th and 10th, with twenty, twenty-five and twenty birds seen respectively.

370. Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*).

A female in Millcombe October 29th and 30th.

371. Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*).

No apparent change in breeding status. Only evidence of movement noticed was a slight increase in numbers on October 8th.

373. Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

Early movement observed January 18th, and March 27th and 28th. April peaks on 17th (a flock of fifty) and 30th, a flock of forty which remained a few days. Breeding population unchanged.

Some southerly movement noticed September 5th, and increases on 13th, 14th (they arrived when fog lifted in the afternoon), and 18th, and a further increase on October 6th, but no large flocks recorded. Three broods of young were ringed this year.

374. Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*).

One September 17th to 21st, and one October 4th. Both observed for long periods of time, the distinctive call, large size and upright stance making them a conspicuous bird among other Pipits. Detailed descriptions were taken of these, the second and third records for Lundy.

376. Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*).

In contrast with Meadow Pipits which showed a poor passage, the numbers of this species were well above the normal in autumn although there were none in spring. Recorded most days between August 19th and September 19th, with one on 24th. Maximum numbers twenty-five on 5th, and twenty on September 9th and 10th.

379. Rock Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*).

No evidence of movements or changes in breeding population of this species.

380. Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*).

An increase to at least four breeding pairs. One brood of nestlings was ringed at the Quarter-wall cottages, and other very young birds were noticed in the vicinity of the Old Light, Farm and Castle.

Recorded from the opening of the Observatory, the maximum spring total being seven. At least three White Wagtails (*M. a. alba*) were present on April 24th. On August 9th, seven flew in from the south-east, the first sign of autumn movement. Population increases noted on September 6th, 7th and 12th, and one White Wagtail was caught and ringed on 13th, during a further increase. Seven of this race were present September 18th and 19th. Gradual decrease in numbers observed until the last record on November 9th.

381. Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

Singles on April 10th and June 8th. Recorded on fourteen dates in the autumn between September 12th and October 23rd. Maximum number six, twice. Most of the birds seen were flying south over the Island.

382. Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).

Two 20th and one 23rd, the only April records. Six records early May, eight on 8th the most. Two birds were present on May 23rd, a male of the Blue-headed race (*M. f. flava*) and a female. These were joined by three more the following day, a male Yellow, and two more females. It appeared, by comparison, that the original female was also of the Blue-headed variety. Two Yellows were seen May 26th, and one on 30th. Autumn records almost daily from September 4th to October 4th, the largest flock being fourteen recorded on September 18th and 19th.

[**385. Lesser Grey Shrike** (*Lanius minor*).]

The description of an immature bird seen on September 14th, and believed to be of this species, has been sent to the editors of *British Birds*, but has not yet been accepted.

386. Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*).

One adult July 29th to 31st on the Terraces, and a juvenile in St Helen's field area August 30th and September 1st to 4th.

388. Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*).

Two records of juveniles, the first on September 1st on the Terraces, the other mist-netted and ringed September 15th, still present the following day. This was only the second bird of this species to be ringed on Lundy.

389. Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Flock of about 350, January 23rd. Almost daily in the first month the Observatory was open, the largest count being 190 on April 13th. Last spring record May 1st. One June 16th was the forerunner of a flock of c. twenty juveniles on 18th. Flocks of up to eighty on five more days in June and the first five days of July.

A single Starling was flying with the Lapwing flock on July 22nd and 23rd, and one August 2nd the only record for that month. Six records of up to ten in the first half of October, and daily records from 16th, the peak of movement being on 24th when about 1,000 were on the Island. 'A large number' were reported from the North Light that night, and c. 600 were still on the Island the next day. Usually at least 100 present daily throughout November and December, until the Observatory records ceased. A large flock of c. 1,500 flew southwards over the Island in the early morning of November 11th, landing for a few minutes on Acland's Moor before continuing.

391. Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).

One in Millcombe, April 7th.

392. Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*).

Two, January 18th. One on six dates in April and on May 26th. Autumn records commenced on October 22nd, with one or two on five days up to 30th. Seven records in November when up to four were present, and two each on 2nd and 3rd of December. Less frequent than in recent years.

393. Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Five on January 29th, one or two on four dates in March, and up to four on eleven dates in April and nine in May, the last spring record being on 26th. Recorded in autumn from October 6th, up to seven being seen on fifteen days that month, and up to three on most days in November. Daily in December until the observatory closed, up to seven being present.

394. Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*).

One April 22nd flying north over the Island. No autumn records.

395. Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*).

Flocks of up to fifteen almost daily in April. Breeding as usual. No large flocks until August when c. fifty were together. This flock gradually increased in size to eighty at the end of the month, and reached a peak of about 100 in September. Numbers decreased during October, and none were seen after November 5th.

396. Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*).

A female near Quarter-wall pond on May 6th—an unusual date for this species.

397. Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*).

One on March 10th, May 21st, and October 18th.

401. Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

A female April 23rd. Another female ringed on October 27th, the first of this species to be ringed on Lundy. One in Millcombe on October 29th, and another in the Tillage field on November 17th.

403. Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)

A female seen by B.K.W. on the Terraces on May 7th. The first record for Lundy.

404. Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*).

A flock of about twelve first seen in Millcombe late in the afternoon of July 2nd grew slowly in numbers until it contained thirty birds by 11th. There were about four red males in this flock, the majority being immature birds. This flock was part of a large

invasion of the species which became widespread in the South of England during July. On July 11th four were trapped in a Mist-net, the first ever for the Observatory. By a happy chance they happened to comprise an adult male and female, and an immature of each sex.

Last seen on the 21st.

407. Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Seven or eight pairs bred. Twenty-six present on April 14th, otherwise little sign of spring movement. Main autumn movements commenced October 18th, when c. 200 came in from the south-east and moved off north-west. On 24th about 800 were seen coming in from the east throughout the day, and about 500 remained the following day. Movement continued sporadically until November 5th when the population decreased to fifty which, apart from a short period around 17th when it reached 100, remained constant until the end of the season.

One retrapped in the hen-run on November 26th was originally ringed on October 24th, 1954, as an adult male—indicating that the bird was at least five years old.

408. Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

A male on February 10th, and four singles in the first ten days of April were all the spring records. Autumn records from October 24th with five singles that month, and another five in November. One present December 7th and 8th—altogether a very poor season for this species.

409. Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).

One March 15th and April 8th and 9th. A male May 26th, another August 6th.

416. Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*).

One juvenile with Chaffinches in the farm area on September 12th. A first-winter male was trapped (the first ringed on Lundy) on September 23rd.

421. Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).

One Pondsburby April 12th—the first record for five years.

422. Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*).

Six records of one or two from September 17th to the end of the month and at least nine present October 1st. One 10th, and up to seven daily between October 22nd and 31st. Three November 6th the latest seen.

423. Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).

A male March 4th, and a pair 16th. First autumn record one at North End October 1st. Up to ten present most days between 8th and 23rd, mainly in the Tillage field, but one or two at the North End. Two November 10th, and a late single on December 2nd.

424. House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Four records, singles on April 13th and 14th, and May 2nd, and four females together in the farm-yard on October 18th.

425. Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*).

A flock of twelve appeared on June 2nd, and stayed until 10th, and a single was present in the Tillage field on October 17th.

Only two previous records, both of singles, in the Observatory's history.

— **Baltimore Oriole** (*Icterus galbula*).

A female taken in the garden trap in the afternoon of October 2nd. The species has an extensive breeding range in Northern America, and normally winters in Central or the northern parts of South America. If this is accepted as a genuine record, it will be the first British record of the species.

RINGING IN 1958

Ringling covered the period from March 29th to December 8th. A total of 1,234 birds of 62 species were ringed, including eight species ringed for the first time on Lundy.

This total includes only 112 sea birds. These were left undisturbed until late in their breeding season, and then the poor weather and almost total lack of helpers made cliff work difficult.

Very few spring migrants were ringed due to the very light passage experienced here and at the other West Coast observatories. Catching operations were also hindered by the amount of repair work necessary on the permanent traps. The autumn movement however proved much more fruitful; and a good number of resident passerines were ringed. The best single day's total was on September 16th when 153 birds, mainly warblers, were trapped and ringed.

The success of the various traps was as follows (1957 figures in brackets) :

Terrace Trap 386 (423), Garden Trap 131 (286), Quarter Wall Trap 186 (62), Mist Net 358 (15), Other Methods 28.