

Bullfinch. One male on 29th and 30th March. Female from 7th to 20th April with a male on 17th to 19th, and one male on 14th June.

Chaffinch. Present in small numbers up to thirty. About three pairs bred. Autumn numbers never more than twelve during July, August and September.

Brambling. One female on 29th March, and one male on 3rd to 6th April.

Yellowhammer. Two on 23rd March and one female on 6th April and 11th May.

Corn Bunting. One singing in the Brick Field on 29th April.

Red-headed Bunting. One male present from 4th July to 8th August at Quarter Wall, then Pondsburry, and eventually residing in the oats. Not seen again until 14th to 18th September although this could possibly have been a different bird.

Ortolan Bunting. 13th to 27th September with a maximum of six on the 25th.

Reed Bunting. Single male on 5th to 21st May.

Lapland Bunting. One on 13th and 14th September.

Snow Bunting. Two on 14th and 27th September.

House Sparrow. Three on 31st March to 2nd April.

BIRDS RECORDED IN 1966

One hundred and forty species were recorded during the year, including three new to the Lundy list.

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*). One in the landing bay 20th-22nd October.

Storm Petrel (*Hydrobales pelagicus*). None were seen from the Island, but there were several records of birds seen on the crossing.

Manx Shearwater (*Procellaria puffinus*). First seen off-shore on March 13th and then more frequently as the spring progressed, with a maximum of two hundred plus off Puffin Slope in late May. The remains of several young birds were found near a Great Black-backed Gull's nest during August.

Fulmar (*Fulmaris glacialis*). Birds were on the cliffs when the Observatory opened and breeding took place at the usual Gannets' Rock and Jenny's Cove sites and also a new colony at Long Ruse. A blue bird was one of a pair on Gannets' which failed to breed.

Gannet (*Sula bassana*). Birds seen off-shore in all months with a maximum of one hundred plus off the Battery on 9th August. Juvenile birds seen swimming along the east side during the autumn were almost certainly part of the dispersal of young from Grassholm.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carlo*). Very few spring and only three autumn records of this now lost breeding bird, with twenty-seven on 2nd October the highest number recorded.

Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). No significant change in numbers and the breeding season was a successful one including the rare occurrence of a nest with six eggs.

Heron (*Ardea cinerea*). Well recorded this year. Three on August 18th the most seen together.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Regularly up to nine recorded and three pairs bred but with little success; only three of the twenty ducklings hatched reached the free flying stage.

Teal (*Anas crecca*). Two March 19th until April 3rd the only spring record. Regularly during the autumn with five on October 28th.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). A drake on Quarter Wall pond on March 18th only the second Observatory record.

Common Scoter. (*Melanitta nigra*). Twenty-two seen on the crossing March 8th.

Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*). One on the crossing April 30th.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*). One August 28th-30th the first Observatory record. The only previous record for the Island in fact came from the Heaven diaries which tell of a bird found dying on 25th January, 1881.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). Six in Middle Park from the 29th October until November 2nd.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). A single bird present throughout the year.

Hen Harrier (*Circus pygargus*). A ring-tail on March 17th and a male on October 24th the only records.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). An adult was watched catching butterflies over the Ugly on August 22nd.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*). Single birds April 9th-10th, 25th-26th; May 16th; September 29th-30th; October 24th-30th; and two on October 31st.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). Single birds on March 31st and many days in September and October.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). Recorded throughout the season with the highest numbers noted after the end of August, the most being five on several days in September. No proof of breeding.

Partridge (*Perdix perdix*). Five birds, three males and two females, were brought to the Island and released by Mr. A. Harman on August 14th, and seem to be doing quite well.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*). Up to ten recorded daily. Several pairs bred and at least five young were reared.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*). Two birds which wintered on the Island stayed until late April. The first record for the autumn was on August 25th, then almost daily until the Observatory closed, with up to four on a number of occasions in October.

Spotted Crake (*Porzana pusilla*). A brief glimpse of a crake flushed near Pondsburry on August 19th suggested this species.

Corncrake (*Crex crex*). One March 11th, three days earlier than any previous British record. Another recorded on April 16th.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*). One in lower Millcombe on October 5th and the 14th-15th.

Coot (*Fulica atra*). A single bird seen August 13th was unfortunately found dead the next day.

Oystercatcher (*Haemalopus ostralegus*). Present throughout the season with about twelve pairs breeding. No large flocks recorded.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). A further increase in the breeding population this year to about eighteen pairs was very gratifying after the large reduction in numbers during the hard winter of 1962/63. Fourteen nests were found but about one third of the eggs proved to be infertile. Twelve young reached the free flying stage. The largest flock of the year was only fifty-three on October 16th.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). Single birds April 27th and May 29th-30th were the only spring records. First autumn record August 14th, then on eleven days before the end of the month with three on the 15th-17th. Two birds which arrived in late September remained until October 5th.

Grey Plover (*Charadrius squatarola*). One on August 6th.

Golden Plover (*Charadrius apricarius*). Spring passage between March 8th and May 22nd with a maximum of sixty-six in early April. Autumn movement slight with a maximum of twenty-six on October 2nd.

Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*). Well recorded this year. One on April 27th was joined the next day by another. Five in the Middle Park on May 7th-10th. The only autumn record was of one trapped on August 7th which remained until the 22nd.

Turnstone (*Arenaris interpres*). Two on April 14th and three on May 8th were the only spring records. Recorded in autumn between August 7th and September 7th with a maximum of three on September 3rd.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*). Spring records of up to six in March and April and one May 7th. First autumn record July 16th, then almost daily throughout August and September with a maximum of thirteen on August 18th.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnoryptes minimus*). Single birds on April 4th, 27th and 30th. Recorded in autumn between September 1st and October 8th with a maximum of four on September 30th.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). One on March 11th. Several records of single birds in October with two on the 30th.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*). Recorded in every month with a maximum of fifty-six on July 1st. One pair bred, the nest being found to the north of Pondsburry with four eggs which hatched on May 22nd. Three chicks were subsequently found and ringed.

Common Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleucos*). Recorded in spring between April 12th and the 18th with never more than three birds on any one day. The only autumn record was of a single bird on August 3rd.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*). Single birds on the following dates: April 18th-28th, May 4th and 21st, July 25th-28th, August 2nd and August 15th-26th.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*). One flew south-west over the Island calling on the evening of August 28th.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). One August 17th-21st. Four August 22nd and one trapped and ringed August 25th which remained until the 31st.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*). One on September 12th.

Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*). One trapped September 8th in company with a semi-palmated sandpiper. One caught by dazzling on the night of September 14th. The second and third Lundy records and the first to be ringed in Britain.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*). One on April 16th. Up to five on fourteen days in May. One July 22nd, then up to four almost daily until October 8th.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris testacea*). Two with a flock of Golden Plover on October 28th.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*). One trapped September 8th. The first record for Lundy and only the second to be ringed in Britain.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). One seen on crossing from Lundy on 30th April by R. F. Coomber.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). A further increase in the numbers attempting to breed and despite shooting a few pairs and pricking about sixty eggs, the population continues to increase. Present throughout the year with flocks of up to ninety recorded during the autumn.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). Recorded daily from March 8th until August 25th when numbers started to decrease slightly. Last recorded October 8th. Breeding population still increasing.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*). Many breeding birds found on their sites by early March. First eggs found April 26th. Numbers have continued to increase to a now far too large breeding population of over three thousand five hundred pairs.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*). One seen on crossing from Lundy on 30th April by R. F. Coomber.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). Four on March 17th. A few records of single birds in April, May and June with three on July 17-18th. Up to ten recorded daily from August 19th-23rd and one September 27th.

Kittiwake (*Riss tridactyla*). The breeding population continues to hold its own. The season was a successful one. Colonies deserted by mid-August. Birds seen offshore until September 20th.

Common or Arctic Terns (*Sterna hirundo* or *Sterna paradisea*). Ten April 13th, three July 1st and two August 9th. A single bird on April 18th was identified as a Common Tern.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*). First seen March 14th. A count was not attempted this year but the breeding season did not appear to be a very successful one. No large numbers after mid-August but a few were seen offshore during October and November.

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*). First recorded at breeding ledges in mid-March. First eggs on May 24th. No birds seen after August 10th.

Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). Not recorded until April 19th when eight were seen. Last record August 7th. The breeding population is now reduced to about sixty pairs.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*). Single birds on April 28th and May 1st were the only records.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*). Recorded in numbers up to nineteen during spring and summer. Four pairs probably bred and two nests, one with eggs, were found in early May. The main movement was during August and September, involving numbers of up to twenty-six daily.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaxto*). A single bird on April 26th heralded the arrival of thirteen on May 1st, the largest number ever recorded on the Island. One pair remained throughout the summer but no proof of breeding was found. A single bird arrived September 27th and stayed until October 4th.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). As usual the main influx took place in the spring when, from mid-May to the end of June, flocks of up to fourteen were seen. Autumn movement was slight with only one or two birds in late August and early September and two on October 4th-7th.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*). First recorded April 20th, then up to three almost daily until the end of August. Last recorded September 8th.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*). One trapped July 28th.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Two in early March were the only spring records. One to two birds seen frequently during September and October. One caught by the Warden whilst out rabbiting on the night of November 2nd.

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). One May 29th.

Swift (*Apus apus*). First recorded April 23rd. Peak spring movement May 29th-June 4th with up to forty daily. Maximum autumn movement thirty plus August 16th. Last recorded August 31st.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*). One April 30th-May 1st and one May 8th when the remains of a dead bird were also found.

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*). One trapped near Quarter Wall September 20th.

Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*). One in the Brick Field October 14th.

Skylark (*Atauda arvensis*). Little evidence of spring passage—about forty pairs bred. Autumn movement noted during October and November with flocks of up to sixty.

Swallow (*Hirundo lustica*). First seen March 30th, then almost daily until October. Maximum passage—spring four hundred plus April 25th, autumn three hundred and fifty September 16th. One pair built and lined a nest at the Old Light but failed to lay. Last recorded October 29th.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*). First recorded April 1st with small numbers passing through during the rest of the month. A little more movement was recorded during May and June with a maximum of thirty plus May 26th-30th. The meagre autumn movement reached a sudden peak of thirty-five on September 27th. A few birds were seen during October, the last two being on October 31st.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*). First seen March 15th with numbers up to thirty plus by the end of the month. Movement continuing until June 5th with a peak of one hundred plus on April 25th. Recorded regularly between July 16th and September 25th. Peaks of movement on August 15th when eighty were present and September 17th-18th with approximately two hundred and one hundred plus.

Raven (*Corvus corax*). On the increase. At least nine pairs bred. A number of large flocks recorded with twenty-four on March 25th being the most seen together.

Carriion Crow (*Corvus corone*). Seven or eight pairs bred. Maximum recorded in the early part of the year—twenty-five March 10th. In the autumn some movement in late September with thirty-one the most recorded.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*). Two in late March and early April the only record this year.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*). Two mid-March to early April and two October 29th were the only records.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*). Recorded between September 19th and the end of October, with never more than two on one day, although four different individuals were caught and ringed during this period.

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*). One October 28th.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). No change in breeding status observed. Slight increase in numbers during October.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*). One March 8th-11th. Up to three recorded daily in October.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*). Some movement in March and April when up to fifty-two were recorded daily. Autumn movement started September 30th with the population fluctuating throughout October and reaching a maximum of seventy-five on October 20th.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*). Up to four in March and April and one May 23rd and June 16th were the only records during the breeding season. A much larger autumn passage than usual, with a maxima of seventy on October 16th and thirty-five November 2nd.

Redwing (*Turdus musicus*). Very few spring records. Up to five in March, two on four days in April and one May 1st. First autumn birds were five September 29th, increasing to two hundred and fifty on October 16th. The number then fluctuated between twenty-five and eighty until the Observatory closed.

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*). First recorded March 28th then seen fairly regularly until April 7th when twenty-three were counted, the last of which remained until April 30th. Autumn passage started on September 8th, then almost daily until the end of October with a maximum of eleven October 15th.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). No change in breeding status observed. Very little spring passage recorded except for an increase to forty plus on March 17th. Autumn passage first noted September 22nd. Movement then recorded until early November with a maximum of one hundred and ten October 9th.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). About four pairs bred. First recorded March 11th. Passage movement continuing until April 30th with a maximum of forty on April 16th. Main autumn movement during the last two weeks of August with a maximum of thirty-five on August 30th. Last recorded October 23rd.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*). Single birds on March 11th-13th and May 2nd the only spring records. Movement more in evidence during the autumn. Recorded almost daily between September 11th and October 28th, with a maximum of eight on October 4th.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*). A single bird between April 14th and May 6th and two May 12th the only spring records. First autumn record August 14th, then recorded daily until October 6th with a maximum of ten on September 19th-20th. Last recorded—three on October 15th, one remaining until the 16th.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*). More spring movement than usual recorded between April 5th and May 21st with a maximum of fourteen on April 17th. First autumn record August 20th, then recorded most days until October 16th, with a maximum of seven September 24th and October 4th.

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*). One March 16th-20th and two April 16th the only spring records. In autumn, one recorded October 15th and four October 16th.

Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). One trapped August 20th. A second unringed bird seen August 23rd.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). Breeding numbers well maintained. An increase in late September and early October indicated a possible movement, with the highest counts up to eighteen.

Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*). A very good spring passage starting on April 11th and ending April 30th with a maximum of nineteen on the 16th. First autumn record July 24th, then up to ten recorded between August 7th and August 29th. Last recorded September 14th.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*). One trapped on September 14th. An unidentified acrocephalus on September 30th was most probably this species.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*). First recorded April 15th. Movement continued until June 7th with a maximum of twenty-one on May 12th. Return passage commenced with one on July 21st followed by small numbers until August 6th when eighteen were present. Movement then decreased until the 14th, building up to a peak of twenty by the 23rd. Four recorded on August 31st were the last for the year.

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*). One on August 27th. Single unidentified hippolais warblers, most probably this species recorded on August 18th-21st, August 21st and 27th, with two on the 22nd.

Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*). One in the Hotel gardens on September 11th.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*). An exceptional year for this species. Spring passage between March 28th and April 29th with a maximum of twenty-one on April 16th. First autumn record August 18th, then only records of single birds until October 1st when five were present. Movement then continued until early November, with a maximum of twelve on October 31st. Although the number present on any one day was not particularly high, over forty birds were ringed during this period.

Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*). One on October 3rd.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*). Recorded on only two days in the spring, these being two on April 25th and three on April 29th. A few birds most days in the autumn between August 17th and October 23rd, with a maximum of seven on October 9th.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*). One or two pairs bred. First spring arrivals were two on April 9th. Movement then continued until late May, with a maxima of twenty-two on April 16th and May 12th. Autumn passage between July 26th and October 9th, with a maximum of seventy plus on August 24th.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*). The only records were of single birds on May 1st and August 5th-6th.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). First recorded April 5th. Main spring passage mid-April with peaks on the 8th and 16th when three hundred plus were present. Return passage started on July 29th. Main movement during August with a maxima of fifty on the 6th and 20th, and two hundred on the 23rd. Last recorded October 2nd.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). Spring records between March 8th and May 11th, with a maximum of one hundred and fifty plus on April 8th. First autumn record was on August 21st. Peak passage early October with a maximum of fifty on October 2nd. Last recorded November 2nd.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*). One on August 18th and 23rd and two on August 19th and 22nd.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*). Spring movement between March 8th and 25th when up to eighteen were present. Three records involving up to two birds during April. Autumn passage between 13th September and 2nd November, with a maximum of eighteen on October 16th.

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*). One on October 15th-30th, one trapped on the 23rd.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*). First spring record on the 11th May when twenty-three arrived. Movement continued until June 14th with a maximum of thirty plus on May 26th. Autumn passage from August 1st to October 23rd with a maximum of forty-five on August 20th.

Pied Flycatcher (*Muscicapa hypoleuca*). The only spring records were two April 16th and single birds on the 18th, 25th and 27th-28th. Main autumn movement August 16th until September 1st with a maxima of thirty-five on the 20th, sixty on the 21st and twenty-five on the 24th. Movement continued with up to eight daily during September. Recorded during October until the 23rd, with five on the 10th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*) One October 20th-22nd.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*). About five or six pairs bred. Numbers increased slightly during autumn but this may have been due to breeding success, not movement.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*). Spring passage and return of summer residents in March. No change in breeding status observed. Main autumn movement September 3rd-19th with a maxima of one hundred on the 3rd, one hundred and twenty on the 4th and 5th and one hundred on the 19th.

Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*). One September 18th-20th. Two September 21st-22nd increasing to three on the 23rd. An unprecedented number of this Asian breeding species reached Britain during the autumn.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*). One on November 2nd.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*). Recorded in spring from April 9th until May 11th with a maximum of eight on April 16th. Autumn movement between August 15th and October 24th with eight on August 30th the most recorded.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*). Breeding population of about twenty pairs. No movement noted.

Pied and White Wagtails (*Motacilla alba*). One pair bred successfully at the fourth attempt, rearing three young. Spring passage March 8th until April 9th. Autumn movement between August 21st and October 23rd with a maximum of six on September 16th. White Wagtails—*motacilla alba alba*—were identified March 10th-13th; April 13th two; April 24th-25th one; May 5th one. In autumn September 10th two; September 18th-22nd one.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*). Single birds on March 13th, April 6th, April 10th and May 5th. Two on September 10th, one on five days between September 18th-30th and one October 4th-9th.

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*). An immature bird trapped on August 22nd.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Recorded daily throughout the year. Large numbers in March and April with a maximum of three hundred and fifty between March 13th-27th. About fourteen pairs bred. Autumn movement between August 4th and November 2nd with a maximum of two hundred and forty on September 25th.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*). Single birds on May 27th and June 22nd. Seen on all but two days from October 20th until November 2nd with a maximum of seven on October 24th.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*). Seen on all but two days from April 10th-29th with a maxima of seven on the 15th and 20th. Five May 10th and up to two between May 23rd and the 27th. One June 22nd and September 24th-25th. Recorded almost daily from October 2nd to November 3rd with a maximum of thirty on October 19th.

Siskin (*Caduelis spinus*). One on October 21st. A few heard calling amongst flocks of mixed Finches in late October.

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*). A single bird on four days in March. Recorded daily from April 2nd until October 31st with a maxima of thirty-seven on April 16th, between thirty and seventy from July 29th-September 11th, eighty on September 12th-13th and one hundred and twenty on September 28th-30th.

Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*). Single birds on March 12th and April 2nd.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). A female on April 5th.

Scarlet Grosbeak (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). One trapped on September 7th.

Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*). One July 3rd increasing to eleven on the 5th-6th. Six on July 7th-11th, three remaining until the 15th. Three 21st and 27th, five 28th-30th, one August 14th and 20th, two August 28th and one September 1st-2nd and the 24th.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*). About seven pairs bred. No spring passage noted. First noticeable autumn movement September 29th. Passage continuing until November 5th with a maximum of three hundred and fifty on October 21st.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). Two April 10th and 15th and one April 16th the only spring records. In autumn numbers occurred with all the big Chaffinch movements from October 21st and one or two were often seen until the end of the season. Peak number was sixteen on October 21st.

Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*). A female trapped on June 7th remained until June 11th. A new bird for Lundy and Britain.

Red-headed Bunting (*Emberiza bruniceps*). An adult male on August 23rd.

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*). A single bird on August 23rd and 25th, two August 28th-30th, one August 31st and one September 19th-21st.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*). Two October 20th, one remaining until November 2nd.

Lapland Bunting (*Calcarius lapponicus*). Two on October 3rd, one on the 4th and two on the 7th.

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). A single bird on October 7th-28th.
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). One on June 30th.

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*). An adult male June 9th-12th. The first record for Lundy and Britain.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). One on May 26th.

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*) and SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER (*Calidris pusilla*). **LUNDY 8.9.66.**

At 1120 hrs on 8th September 1966, J. A. Ginnever saw two small waders fly from the Lighthouse field pond, coming down again near the church. He thought they were stints and came back to tell me.

We found the birds feeding around a small pond near the church, one was very small, being a rich brown colour, the other a little larger, paler and greyer and I immediately noticed that the smaller brown bird had green legs, but on close examination was obviously not a Temmincks stint (*Calidris Temminckii*), being very finely proportioned with a small angular looking head, and a very fine dark bill, slightly decurved at the tip. Its legs were exceptionally thin and spindley. All this suggested to me that the bird was a Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*).

At this point I had a good look at the other bird, which I had thought was a Little Stint (*Calidris minula*) and noticed that it was very long legged and had a short thick bill, much thicker than the bill of any stint I had ever seen, but because it was coming on to rain and birds seemed very tame, we decided to try and catch them, easily flushing them into a mist net.

On returning to the Observatory and taking the larger of the two birds out of the bag it was found to have very dark green legs, not black as they had appeared in the field, and its toes were partially webbed, and further examination proved the bird to be a Semi-palmated sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).

The following descriptions were taken from the birds in the hand:—

LEAST SANDPIPER (*Calidris minutilla*). **LUNDY 8.9.66.**

- Head.** *Forehead.* Buff-white central feathers, edge grey-brown.
Crown. Blackish-brown edged chestnut-buff.
Nape. Grey-brown edged grey-buff.
Ear coverts. Greyish edged buff with fine darker streaks.
Lores. Greyish-brown with faint buff-white superciliary being more conspicuous behind eye.
- Upper-parts.** *Hind-neck.* Grey-brown edged grey-buff.
Mantle and back. Mantle blackish-brown, edged orange-buff and white forming two V's, the outer more faint than the inner one.
Rump. Blackish-brown centre, sides white.
Upper tail coverts. Blackish-brown centre, feathers edged chestnut-buff, sides white.
- Wing.** *Primaries.* Blackish-brown with a faint white edge on outer web of inner primaries.
Secondaries. Blackish-brown, very faintly tipped white but more white on inner ones.
Primary coverts. Blackish-brown tipped white.
Greater coverts. Grey-brown tipped white.
Median coverts. Dark brown with dark shafts tipped buffish-orange and white.
Lesser coverts. Blackish-brown faintly tipped buffish-orange.
Scapulars. Blackish, inner ones tipped chestnut-buff and white.
Tertials. Light brown, tipped and edged light chestnut brown.
Longest ones tipped chestnut-buff and white.
Bastard wing. Greyish-black faintly tipped white.