

## LUNDY BIRDS 1974

Although handicapped by the lack of a warden during 1974, a valiant effort was made by some devoted observers in order to maintain as far as possible a reasonable coverage of the more important migration movements of spring and autumn and to keep at least a watchful eye on the breeding birds.

Over 30 species bred and in addition to the regular species there were a few pairs of Wheatears, single pairs of Pied Wagtail, Willow Warbler and Goldfinch breeding while House Martins built two half-finished nests on the Old Light but did not continue further and a single male Whitethroat, present in May and June, was seen carrying sheeps wool but breeding was thought to be unlikely.

Singing males of Garden Warbler, Chiff chaff and a second Willow Warbler stayed for a fortnight or more without any evidence of breeding. The Wood Warbler and Golden Oriole records were also of singing birds.

Spring migration was very well recorded as Tony Taylor of the Department of Zoology, Newcastle upon Tyne, kept up a daily census of all migrant species from 26th March until 25th July, by which date the early autumn returning birds were passing through. Highlights of the spring movements were a Glaucous Gull on 2nd April, a first definite Lundy record, a Montagu's Harrier in May and June, a Woodchat Shrike on 20th June and a notable flow of Goldcrests. An Osprey on 18th July would be an early returning bird. An adult Long-tailed Skua on 20th June was another surprise. August was very well covered owing to the presence of Chris. Baillie and Nigel Clark backed by Bob Britton later in the month who returned to the mainland in early September, with news of assortments of sandpipers, including a Baird's Sandpiper, the first for Devon as well as for Lundy, and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

September produced still another Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Lapland and Ortolan Buntings and another Woodchat Shrike but persistent westerly winds kept the normal autumn flow of passerines away to the east.

October was, however, not to be outdone and as well as a Twite, more Lapland and Ortolan Buntings, produced still another first for Lundy in a fine Great Grey Shrike which not only showed itself but went into the Terrace trap on 22nd October.

One hundred and twenty-eight species were recorded on the island during the year which is quite good considering the observer limitations but the addition of five new species to the Lundy list is excellence indeed and is a reassuring reward to the teamwork of the observers involved and to the value of maintaining the Casual Log which has proved invaluable in making up the Bird Report.