

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*. Two on 9th April and one on 10th were the only spring birds. On 24th October 50 arrived.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*. Singles on 17th September and 23rd to 24th October.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*. One on 17th, 26th and 30th May and one on 22nd October.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponica*. One on 18th September, one on 22nd October and four on 24th October.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Three on 1st September and singles on 14th and 21st October.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Present all year and bred as usual.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*. Two on 17th May, one to 10th and two from 7th to 12th June, one staying to 14th.

### RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii*. 6th to 13th September, 1974.

First seen at 18.15 hours on 6th September at Airfield by NAC at the south-east corner feeding with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. CCB and RWB were fetched and photographs taken but at that stage the observers were taking notes of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper thinking that the other bird might perhaps prove to be a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* although this seemed to be doubtful.

On consulting reference books in the evening and comparing notes it became clear that the black legs and size ruled out Pectoral Sandpiper and that all the details fitted with Baird's Sandpiper.

The next morning a search was made but storm force winds prevented close examination of a small sandpiper that might have been the bird but on the afternoon of 8th September it was found on south of Airfield and full notes taken and the identity firmly established.

Less dumpy than a Sanderling, it had longer primaries and constantly held its head down in a manner that gave the impression that it had a short neck. The brownish crown appeared to be slightly streaked, perhaps due to pale feather edges and these striations continued down the forehead to the bill and down the back of the head to merge into the neck pattern; an almost white supercilium separated the crown from a light grey-brown eyestripe which passed behind the eye to a buff patch behind which it curved downwards; the chin was white and ear coverts buff and some flecking behind the cheeks merged into the light grey-brown neck which had fine dark streaks which were heavier at the base of the neck.

The mantle and scapulars had a scaly appearance due to grey-brown feathering with light cream coloured edgings, some feathers being darker than others but close examination showed that this darker area was only at the ends of the feathers. The primaries were grey-brown, slightly darker than the secondaries but slightly lighter than the tail and they extended to beyond the tail; greater wing coverts grey-brown, lesser and median wing coverts darker.

The breast was a light buffish-grey with fine dark grey streaking with no defined line of demarcation from the very clean white belly.

The eyes were very dark with a very light grey narrow eye-ring. The legs very dark grey but appeared glack unless seen in bright sunlight and were much shorter than those of the adjacent Buff-breasted Sandpiper. The bill was only very slightly decurved, had a very slight thickening at the tip, was very black in colour and was longer than that of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper but shorter than the bill of Dunlin.

Smaller than the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, it recalled a stint in shape and it held its body horizontally when feeding and when flushed gave a 'preep preep' note with single 'preeps' in flight which was fast with fairly rapid wing beats and showed the fairly dark underwings.

The bird was also seen during its stay by G. Bathe, S. Tanner and M. Unwin and considerable notes were taken.

C. C. BAILLIE, R. W. BRITTON, N. A. CLARK.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee and is the first Lundy record.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 6th September, 1974.

First seen at 18.15 hours at Airfield by NAC who fetched CCB and RWB and photographs and full descriptions taken. Also seen by G. M. Bathe, N. J. Scriven and several others.

Larger in size than Dunlin but much smaller than Knot, it had a long neck for a small wader and a very small head, long legs, fairly rounded back and lifted the foot high at each stride.

The bill was short by comparison with other waders, dark but lighter at base and the legs an obvious bright orange-yellow and the eyes very dark and rather small.

The head and neck were light buff with fine dark streaks with a light russet mark in front of the right eye and a light brown eyestripe. The throat and sides of head and neck were a uniform pinkish buff colour with some flecking which was more intense at the back of the neck.

The breast was uniform pinkish buff, fading on belly until it was white behind the legs and on undertail coverts.

The mantle had a fine, dark mottle merging into that of the neck and the scapulars very dark with strongly contrasting light edges; primaries and secondaries not as dark as scapulars with light edgings.

C. C. BAILLIE, R. W. BRITTON, N. A. CLARK.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee and is the 7th occurrence on Lundy.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 7th September, 1974.

First seen at 17.30 hours in the south-eastern part of Airfield was found to differ from the one seen on 6th September.

Underparts pinkish buff but fading much more gradually towards the tail and only the undertail coverts were white, this colouring being paler than on the bird seen on the previous day with greater contrast between the edgings and centres of the scapulars. There was no rufous patch in front of the right eye of this bird.

C. C. BAILLIE, R. W. BRITTON, N. A. CLARK.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee and is the 8th occurrence on Lundy.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*. 14th to 16th September, 1974.

First seen by S. Tanner and M. Unwin near Three Quarter Wall, the bird was examined and found to differ from the birds seen on 6th and 7th September by the breast colouration which was very light grey-buff with an appearance of very fine grey streaking and a poorly defined bar across the breast. The breast colour continued under and faded towards the almost white undertail coverts.

C. C. BAILLIE, N. A. CLARK.

The record has been accepted by the Rarities Committee and is the 7th occurrence making a total of twelve individuals.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*. 20th June, 1974.

First seen at 18.00 hours perching on fence posts in the Quarter wall cottages area. It periodically dropped to the ground, apparently catching beetles and was watched for about twenty minutes and again at 21.00 hours when I took G. Glombek to see it.

Distinctly larger than a Meadow Pipit and smaller than a Starling both perched near to it; rather heavy headed with a short strong bill and a longish rounded tail. The underparts were off-white and a thick, or very dark brown, stripe ran from ear coverts through eye to bill and a dark band across the forehead separating a small pale area above the bill from pale orange-brown crown and nape (palest above the eye); mantle was dark greyish brown and was separated from the wings by very distinct white bars; wings very dark with a small creamy patch on lower edge of folded wing formed by the tips of the primary coverts.

The secondaries appeared to be the same colour as the mantle, wing coverts rather darker and rump patch white or pale grey; tail blackish with white outer edges. The bird was watched until dusk but was not seen again.

A. M. TAYLOR.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*. 21st to 23rd September, 1974.

First seen at 18.30 hours on 21st September at Millcombe House garden and it stayed in the Millcombe area until 25th September.

Slightly longer and more thick-set than a Pied Flycatcher, the only bird present for comparison, it was light grey underneath and darker on upperparts as it perched on twigs at the side of the lawn, taking insects up to its perch where it often flicked up its tail on landing.

The bill was fairly short, dark and slightly hooked, eye dark and fairly large, legs almost black, forehead light grey-brown, crown and nape and ear coverts were light grey with very close grey-brown barring and side of neck slightly barred chin very pale grey, breast light grey with extremely little barring, flanks light grey and slightly barred, very pale grey belly and light yellowish-grey undertail coverts.

The tail was grey with light edges and was slightly rounded, rump grey, mantle grey-grown with very little barring, scapulars lighter grey, wing coverts brown with light edges, primaries and secondaries grey-brown with light edges and a yellowish patch seemed to be just behind the primary coverts.

The bird, an immature, was seen by many observers during its stay.

C. C. BAILLIE, N. A. CLARK.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*. 2nd April, 1974.

A rarity on Lundy and the first definite Lundy record as two white-winged gulls in 1949 and 1952, either of this species or Iceland Gulls, were not specifically identified.

Seen on the east side of the island at about 15.00 hours as a large pale gull gliding slowly north a few feet above the top of the sheer part of the cliff passing at a range of less than 30 yards.

Apart from the primaries, which were paler than the rest of the bird, it was finely marked with brown all over, giving the impression of a pale pinkish-brown colour.

The bill was large and heavy, as in the Great Black-headed Gull, with a dark spot at the tip.

Seen near to many Herring Gulls and a few Great Black-backed Gulls in flight it was significantly larger than the Herring Gulls and at least as large as the Great Black-backed Gulls and appeared more heavily-built with rather broader wings.

An immature bird it was probably in its second summer plumage.

A. M. TAYLOR.

#### RECOVERIES OF RINGED BIRDS, 1974

Species	Ring No.	Age and date at ringing	Date and place of Recovery
Dunlin	BV 17.906	Pullus 8.9.72 23.7.74	Skjaoholmen, Nesseby, Norway.