

BIRD RINGING IN 1980

A. M. TAYLOR

An impressive total of 1600 birds of 59 species was ringed on the island in 1980. This is by far the highest total since 1973 — the last year in which there was a full-time warden. Spring and autumn coverage was much as in 1979, with ringers on the island for a fortnight in April, a week at the end of August, three weeks from late September to mid October and a week in late October — early November. The increase in numbers of birds ringed was therefore mainly due to the fact that large falls of migrants occurred at these times. In addition, Richard Campey made a valuable contribution in the summer: the ringing successes in April enabled him to complete his training for a 'C' licence and he made some useful catches before he left Lundy in July. The visiting ringers included Martin Davies, Michael King, Steve Sutcliffe and Tony Taylor. Michael King and Steve Sutcliffe both introduced small groups of fellow ringers to the island in the autumn. It is hoped that they found the experience sufficiently rewarding to become regular visitors and help to increase coverage further.

Common species for which the ringing totals were noticeably higher than usual were Swallow, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest. Among the year's ringing highlights were two Melodious Warblers, a Yellow-Yellow-browed Warbler, a Red-breasted Flycatcher and two Scarlet Rosefinches. Other species seldom ringed on the island included Storm Petrel, Woodcock, Treecreeper (2; previous grand total: 2), Nightingale, Reed Warbler (3) and Grey Wagtail (7; previous grand total: 4). Finally, two Long-tailed Tits provided a new species for the Lundy ringing list.

An analysis of trapping methods is given below. The majority of birds were caught in mist-nets in Millcombe. Michael King's party tried drag-netting in the fields at night and had considerable success in catching Meadow Pipits in this way.

<i>Method</i>	<i>Total caught</i>
Mist-nets	1192
Quarter Wall Trap	182
Terrace Trap	113
Drag-net	64
Fleyg	20
Chardonneret Trap	2
Wader Trap	1

The remaining 26 birds were ringed as pulli.

Fulmar	5	Sedge Warbler	3
Manx Shearwater	33	Reed Warbler	3
Storm Petrel	1	Melodious Warbler	2
Water Rail	1	Lesser Whitethroat	3
Lapwing	9 (9)	Whitethroat	19
Dunlin	2	Garden Warbler	43
Woodcock	1	Blackcap	95
Guillemot	1	Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Razorbill	13	Chiffchaff	101
Puffin	2	Willow Warbler	214
Turtle Dove	1	Goldcrest	197
Cuckoo	1	Firecrest	6
Skylark	3	Spotted Flycatcher	30
Swallow	238	Pied Flycatcher	12
House Martin	4	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1
Tree Pipit	4	*Long-tailed Tit	2
Meadow Pipit	90	Blue Tit	1
Grey Wagtail	7	Treecreeper	2
Pied Wagtail	1	Woodchat Shrike	1
Wren	32 (6)	Raven	6 (6)
Dunnock	36	Starling	65 (5)
Robin	45	House Sparrow	8
Nightingale	1	Chaffinch	65
Redstart	13	Greenfinch	2
Whinchat	5	Goldfinch	1
Stonechat	1	Siskin	3
Wheatear	8	Linnet	3
Blackbird	120	Scarlet Rosefinch	2
Song Thrush	15		
Redwing	14		1600
Grasshopper Warbler	2		

*Added to the Lundy ringing list in 1980. in the main totals).

Figures in brackets indicate pulli (also included in