

BIRD RINGING IN 1982

A. M. TAYLOR

Ringers visiting Lundy in 1982 included Richard Campey, Martin Davies, John High, Brian Rabbitts, Tony Taylor, groups organised by Michael King and Colin McShane, and a party from the Severn Vale Ringing Group. Between them they provided coverage for four weeks in Spring and seven weeks in Autumn — more than in the previous few years — and ringed a total of 1149 birds of 49 species. Keith Mortimer helped at all times, continuing his ringing training.

Once again most of the unusual species were caught by Michael King's party in late September. They added Curlew Sandpiper and Yellow-breasted Bunting to the list as well as catching the third Ringed Plover, fourth and fifth Pectoral Sandpipers, sixth Barred Warbler and second Snow Bunting to be ringed on the island. Species with particularly high totals for the year include Wheatear (all in Autumn and mainly of the large Greenland race), with one-fifth of their 1947-81 grand total;

RINGING TOTALS, 1982

Manx Shearwater	2
Sparrowhawk	1
Ringed Plover	1
Lapwing	2 (2)
Pectoral Sandpiper	2
*Curlew Sandpiper	1
Dunlin	1
Kittiwake	1
Woodpigeon	1
Cuckoo	1
Swallow	75
Tree Pipit	6
Meadow Pipit	39
Grey Wagtail	4
Wren	12
Duncock	17
Robin	28
Black Redstart	1
Redstart	3
Whinchat	3
Wheatear	25
Ring Ousel	1
Blackbird	98
Song Thrush	8
Redwing	3
Grasshopper Warbler	19
Sedge Warbler	55
Reed Warbler	3
Icterine Warbler	1
Barred Warbler	1
Lesser Whitethroat	1
Whitethroat	65
Garden Warbler	41
Blackcap	35
Chiffchaff	74
Willow Warbler	353
Goldcrest	45
Firecrest	3
Spotted Flycatcher	44
Pied Flycatcher	31
Raven	4 (4)
Starling	1
House Sparrow	3
Chaffinch	20
Greenfinch	1
Goldfinch	2
Linnet	9
Snow Bunting	1
*Yellow-breasted Bunting	1
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	1149

* Added to the Lundy ringing list 1982.

Figures in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).

Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler, all of which featured prominently during Colin McShane's visit in May; and Flycatchers (Spotted in Spring and Autumn, Pied all in Autumn).

Among the Pied Flycatchers was one with a Danish ring, but details of the date and exact place of ringing have not been received yet. Other controls and recoveries for the year are listed below. They include a Meadow Pipit moving to Portugal in Autumn, a fast-moving Willow Warbler from Ireland and a Lundy-bred Kittiwake which has emigrated to France.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 1982

EF98114 Kittiwake. Ringed as pullus on Lundy 7.7.73. Observed breeding at Goulien, Finistere, France 17.4.82. Sexed as female on behaviour. Reared two young. (350km; bearing 125 degrees)

BO08302 Meadow Pipit. Ringed as full grown on Lundy 21.9.82. Found near Bucelas, Estremadura, Portugal 31.10.82 (1408km; 194 degrees)

5B4792 Willow Warbler. Ringed as first year bird at Out Head, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland 21.7.81. Controlled on Lundy 5.5.82. (589km; 192 degrees)

OA7409 Willow Warbler. Ringed as first year bird at Fornaght Bog, Dunmore East, Waterford, Eire 3.9.82. Controlled on Lundy 11.9.82. (194km; 125 degrees)

THE VEGETATION OF LUNDY ISLAND

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INTRODUCTION

Lundy has received much attention from botanists who have examined the distribution of specific plants e.g. the "Lundy Cabbage" (*Rhynchosinapis wrightii*) and *Rhododendron ponticum* (Marren, 1971 and 1972); the vegetation of particular areas, e.g. Pondsbury (George and Stone, 1979) or differences between the coasts (Gabbutt, 1952). Some effects of the larger animals on the flora have also been described (Gillham, 1955). Vascular plant records for Lundy have been summarised by Westcott (1969) and a map showing the distribution of eight broad vegetation types has been produced by C. G. Taylor (Dunn and Bristow, 1971).

This paper describes a recent survey which complements past work by sampling the vegetation systematically over the whole island. The results are analysed to reveal ecological groupings of species.

Lundy was probably once covered with some form of low scrub woodland, such as in parts of the western Scottish islands. There is evidence for the presence of pre-historic man on the island (Gardner, 1956). These early settlers cleared the scrub, as on the mainland of Devon and Cornwall, leading to the development of heather moorland (Hubbard, 1970). In 1752 the island was "overgrown with ferns and heath which made it impossible to go to the extreme [north] of the island", but by 1787 "many deer and goats were seen browsing at the northern end" (Loyd, 1925). The vegetation at the north end was destroyed by fire once in each of the last two centuries and most recently, in 1934 (Langham and Langham, 1970; Gillham, 1955). Parts of the island have been cultivated in the past, particularly at the south end around the settlement. During the Second World War about 200 ha, out of the total 445 ha, grew potatoes and oats (Rendall, 1979). Most of this land has since reverted to grassland. Sheep, ponies and cattle are kept on the island; there are also rabbits, goats and Sika deer. Grazing pressure is, therefore, high.