

## BIRD RINGING IN 1983

A. M. TAYLOR

Ringers visiting Lundy in 1983 included Richard Campey, Martin Davies, John High, Tony Taylor and groups organised by Michael King and Colin McShane. They provided coverage for three and a half weeks in spring and six weeks in autumn — a little less than in 1982 but better than 1979-81. Keith Mortimer helped at all times and continued his ringing training.

1348 birds of 51 species were ringed. Untypically, no new species were added to the list, Icterine and Yellow-browed Warblers being the most unusual; Kestrel, Nightingale, Wood Warbler, Coal Tit and Treecreeper, although not rarities, have also been ringed on Lundy in very small numbers only.

The spring was rather unproductive, with only 219 birds caught compared with 443 in the same period in 1982. In contrast, the second half of September and a week at the end of October produced very good numbers. This is reflected in the ringing totals for *Phylloscopus* Warblers; in most years the number of Willow Warblers ringed is three or four times the number of Chiffchaffs but in 1983 Willow Warblers, moving in spring and early autumn, were restricted to 76 while Chiffchaffs, which migrate later in autumn, almost equalled them at 72. Goldcrests were exceptionally numerous: 347 is their highest-ever annual total and constitutes almost a quarter of their 1947-83 grand total. On a more modest scale, 19 is the highest-ever annual total for Redwings. Other species with larger totals than usual included Robin, Chaffinch and Linnet.

The number of recoveries and controls of ringed birds has been dropping steadily in recent years because seabirds, which used to make up the bulk of the records, have not been ringed in significant numbers since 1973 and the number of ringed individuals still alive has therefore been dwindling. Information has been received on only two recoveries/controls in 1983. Both were fast travellers. A Chiffchaff reached Lundy from Guernsey in two days and a Willow Warbler was controlled on Cape Clear Island, off S.W. Ireland, seven days after ringing on Lundy (both on their way north in spring). The Danish Pied Flycatcher mentioned in the 1982 report turned out to have reached Lundy from Bornholm (an island in the southern Baltic) in only twelve days. Details of another Pied Flycatcher, on Lundy in 1983, have not been received at the time of writing.

### RINGING TOTALS, 1983

Manx Shearwater	21	Wheatear	9	Firecrest	4
Kestrel	1	Ring Ousel	2	Spotted Flycatcher	53
Water Rail	1	Blackbird	104	Pied Flycatcher	12
Cuckoo	1	Song Thrush	4	Great Tit	1
Skylark	1	Redwing	19	Coal Tit	1
Sand Martin	4	Grasshopper Warbler	3	Blue Tit	5
Swallow	77	Sedge Warbler	8	Treecreeper	2
House Martin	4	Reed Warbler	2	Raven	1 (1)
Meadow Pipit	75	Icterine Warbler	1	Starling	13
Grey Wagtail	3	Lesser Whitethroat	3	House Sparrow	36
Pied/White Wagtail	11 (5)	Whitethroat	17	Chaffinch	80
Wren	20	Garden Warbler	18	Greenfinch	9
Duncock	27	Blackcap	91	Siskin	3
Robin	65	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	Linnet	25
Nightingale	1	Wood Warbler	1		
Redstart	7	Chiffchaff	72		1348
Whinchat	4	Willow Warbler	76		
Stonechat	1	Goldcrest	347		

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

### RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 1983

132653 (Jersey) Chiffchaff. Ringed as full grown at Vale Marais, Guernsey, 14.4.83. Controlled on Lundy 16.4.83. (239km; bearing 321°).

1H0190 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown on Lundy 13.4.83. Controlled on Cape Clear Island, Cork, Eire, 20.4.83. (338km; 275°).

Additional control in 1982:

9864479 (Copenhagen) Pied Flycatcher. Ringed as first year bird at Christianso, Bornholm, Denmark, 2.9.82. Controlled on Lundy 14.9.82. (1398km; 251°).