

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS, 1984

The sequence and nomenclature follow that of *A Species List of British and Irish Birds* (revised 1978 to follow the Voous sequence), published by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. One flew north on 26th March, only the fourth for Lundy. The last previous was in 1967.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. One of these very rare vagrants was seen on 19th February.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Seen casually in small numbers up to sixteen.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Breeds. Principal counts were of a thousand during April, May and June.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. Seen regularly in small numbers with 7th June fifteen, 14th June 40 plus. In autumn 24th September thirty-one, 27th September 59. On 29th September one crash landed and was found to have been shot and was transferred to the mainland.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Movements up to eleven northwards in April and May. A peak of twenty-four southwards in autumn on 25th September.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present as usual and on 22nd September eighteen were counted.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*. A vagrant to Lundy and one on 6th May is only the second.

Brent Goose *Branta Bernicla*. A rare vagrant to Lundy and the eighth passed on 24th September.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. A scarce visitor and one male appeared on 24th February.

Teal *Anas crecca*. Two on the 12th November and one on 5th December.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Six on 22nd September of this rare visitor.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. A pair on 10th February, only the tenth record for Lundy.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*. One on 20th April was a first for Lundy. First seen by RJC at 7.45 flying down channel it was mobbed over Landing Bay by Herring Gulls. After apparently going to roost at Millcombe disturbance caused it to circle over the Ugly, was watched outside the Tavern by many observers, circled upwards near Tibbetts and was lost to view. Most of the few British records have been in spring moving northwards from wintering in West Africa.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. One on 2nd October, one on 27th and 29th October was a female. A very rare migrant to Lundy.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. A fairly rare migrant to Lundy, one female stayed from 14th to 21st April and a male on 22nd April.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. Now a rare visitor to Lundy and one stayed from 16th to 27th January and one from 7th to 12th April.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*. A very rare vagrant to Lundy. One flew overhead on 17th May passing NW.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Seen all year with three staying from 17th September to the end of the year.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. This very rare migrant appeared as singles on 3rd April, 15th May, during September and October but four on 7th October.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. One of these very rare visitors came on 28th April.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. Now an infrequent visitor. One male on 27th April and 3rd May and another on 26th July but two on 27th September.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. One on passage on 11th March and one on 24th March.

Corncrake *Crex crex*. One of these occasional visitors was found on 25th and 26th June.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. One of these rare spring visitors stayed from 17th to 21st May.

Coot *Fulica atra*. A rare vagrant and one was found on 7th October north of Landing Bay.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*. Present as usual with twelve on 17th January, on 19th September six, 24th September nine, October to December up to three.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. A rare spring migrant but one was found on 19th May and three on 23rd. In autumn on 11th August one flew north calling.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*. A rare spring and autumn migrant. 21st April two, 28th April one. In autumn six on 23rd August and three on 27th were important records.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. 16th January one, 1st February two, singles in April and May, 27th August five, 10th September 4, 11th September six, 9th October three.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Up to fifteen in January, eighteen in February and 50 at end of March, twenty in November and ten in December.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Two of these very rare migrants to Lundy appeared on 3rd September.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. One wintering on 17th January and 1st February and one on 23rd March.

Dunlin *Calidris alba*. Singles on 30th April, 1st and 2nd May, 14th May seven, 24th to 29th May six, singles in September and November.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*. One of these rare migrants came in spring on 29th March. In autumn two on 23rd November and one on 13th December.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. A few in January, 12th February ten, 16th February fifteen, 21st March five, ten during November and fifteen during December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. Rather rare in spring and singles on 7th January, twice in February and 29th March were unusual, 14th November three was the only other record.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. On 20th January Keith Mortimer found a Bar-tailed Godwit which is a first for January. On 27th April thirteen were counted, 28th April four, 4th May three of this unusual species.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. 18th April the first early arrival, 22nd April two, 27th April nine, 6th to 20th May six. No autumn records this year.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Not numerous at first but increased to nine and then twenty-nine on 24th February, up to ten during March and April, 4th June four, a peak of 44 on 3rd July, 27th September twenty-six, 3rd November 21, 4th November eleven.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. One of these scarce visitors on 20th January to 22nd January and 21st April one were the only records.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. A rare spring migrant but two were found on 22nd April and one on 22nd April. In autumn one was recorded on 26th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. Rare in spring, one at Pondsburry on 13th May and one in autumn on 26th September.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. 22nd April the first two then singles all May. One on 3rd September was the only autumn record.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. One on 17th January was the only record of this scarce visitor.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*. Two of these very rare vagrants were seen on 23rd September by Tim Davis and Olive Mason close inshore off North Light. 25th September one.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Only a few. 22nd July two, 24th July one, 27th July one juvenile.

Common Gull *Larus canus*. Two of these uncommon visitors were seen on 17th September.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Breeding, no census.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Breeding, no census.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. Only the third record for Lundy, the second was on 12th and 16th April 1983.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Breeding, no census.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. 7th January two, 8th January 50, 22nd March 50, not more than eight in September.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. Two only on 25th and 26th April. This species has now been recorded annually since 1971.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. One only of this rare autumn migrant on 1st September.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. One of these very rare vagrants on 25th September was a juvenile. Six 'comic' terns seen on 25th September were considered to be this species.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. Breeding in large number as usual and on 18th June vast numbers were seen. Two 'Bridled' were found.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. Breeding in good numbers up to 100 during March with 150 on 28th. Vast numbers at Jenny's on 18th June. Still six on 1st November.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. Breeding. 29th March twelve, 8th April twelve, 18th June twenty-five, 19th July ten, 25th September one.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. One of this species rare to Lundy came on 26th February with singles on 10th March, 19th and 25th March and 3rd April. Singles also on 15th September and 7th and 8th November.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. Present as usual in every month with up to five frequent from January to July and two from August to the end of the year.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. A regular visitor, the first one on 10th March increasing to five in April and May 17th ten, 19th May twelve, 1st June seventeen, 22nd June six and 7th October one.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. The first one on 24th April, 27th April five, 9th May three, 1st June seven, 14th June four, 24th August two, 15th October last one.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. The first one on 18th April, one male and one female on 22nd April, four seen during May, one at least during June, a juvenile was seen on 5th and 6th August.

Little Owl *Athene noctus*. On 1st June one was calling outside the Tavern and later at Millcombe. This is the fourth for Lundy.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. A scarce migrant with singles on 9th April, 10th and 11th May, 1st June and 3rd November.

Swift *Apus apus*. The first two on 26th April, 19th May a 'pandemonium' of 100, 11th June 60.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. A rare spring migrant and singles on 24th April, 25th April, 4th May and 5th May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. A rare single on 27th April.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactylla*. The fifth for Lundy stayed from 31st May to 3rd June.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Bred as usual, on 12th February fifteen, 26th February twenty, 14th October 100, 21st October thirty, still six in December.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. First on 29th March, 70 in April, 30 in May, 29th October two, last one on 30th October.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. 2nd April first, 300 on 27th April, over 300 on 9th October and the last one on 12th November.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*. The second only for Devon came on 11th September. The previous one was on 27th March 1952 between Goat Island and the Battery.

House Martin *Delachon urbica*. The first three on 15th April rising to 70 on 18th May and 100 on 30th May. On 4th June 200, 6th June 150. Two on 15th October and a late one on 6th November.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. A scarce migrant, two on 18th April, five on 19th April. Two on 2nd May, five on 9th September.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. Plentiful as usual with 100 in March, 150 in April, 200 on 1st October and 300 on 14th October.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. The 5th record for Lundy was of one found by Chris Dee by the main track near Tibbets on 28th and 29th September.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. A resident and one was noted on 1st January, five on 9th September and one on 28th October were found in the latter part of the year.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. The first on 14th April was quite early, two on 2nd June the last for spring. In autumn four on 6th and 7th September and the last two on 16th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. A very scarce migrant and visitor and one was present all February and two during March. Two in September but six on 25th September was the peak and two were still about on 18th October.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. Two in February increasing to ten were the most for the spring, nine on 27th August, fifteen on 5th September and thirty on 7th September rose to 100 'alba' on 1st October.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba carrellia*. Three on 17th April, six on 24th April, one until 9th June, 5th August one only, but ten on 6th September and ten on 29th September.

Wren *Troglodytes Troglodytes*. Resident and breeding. 23 September nine were the most seen.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Resident and breeding as usual. Five seen on 23rd September.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Resident and breeding as usual. On 6th September a notable increase to forty.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. A very rare visitor and one on 17th/18th October was trapped and ringed.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A rare migrant but one on 10th April, two on 19th April were females. In autumn four on 30th October but twelve on 4th November was the peak with one staying from 9th to 14th December.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. The first early on 3rd April rising to three on 18th April. No autumn movement was noticed this year.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. First seen on 21st April, one 28th April, and 1st May was a male. 13th May two, 25th May five, 7th June two, 27th August and 5th September two, 16th September three.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. 1st March one female, 8th to 20th March three, 21st March ten, 19th May one and 24th July two the only records.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. The first three on 20th March, three males on 21st to 29th March.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*. One on 3rd June, a fine male was found by KAM and seen by others for four hours. Only the second to be found on Lundy.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. The first male came on 12th April, the last one was recorded from 5th to 13th October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Resident as usual, the most seen were seventeen on 11th and 12th December.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. Four in January and February, fifteen on 4th November and seventeen on 9th December were the best counts.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. Up to six in January, February and March, 1st March 100 was the peak. In December three on 11th.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. 27th January ten, 29th February 40, 1st March 100, 3rd November 400, 4th November 300, 9th December twenty-four.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. 27th April to 10th May, one. Scarce as usual.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. 14th April the first one, 1st May one, 5th May two. None in autumn.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. 11th May the first one and 25th May 25 maximum. No autumn records.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*. One on 17th September is third for Lundy.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. One on 23rd September and one on 15th October, the only records of this rare migrant to Lundy. A late bird it was also seen on 16th October.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. Two of these rare autumn migrants appeared, one from 20th to 22nd September and the other on 4th October. The dates are within the normal period of time.

Melodius Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. One stayed from 16th to 26th September at the usual date range for the species.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia corruca*. This scarce migrant has a tendency to appear in spring and a single bird was found on 28th April.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. The first two did not come to Lundy until 2nd May increasing to three with the last for spring on 2nd June. 24th August six, two during September and until 17th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. The first one on 12th May increased to three by 8th June. A single on 4th November was the only autumn record.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. A female on 15th April was the first migrant followed by a male and increased to five on 19th and six on 16th May. In autumn five during September, 12th October fifteen, 12th November the last four.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*. An autumn migrant as usual and singles on 27th and 28th September, 10th and 11th October on similar dates to those in the previous year.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. A single of these rare migrants on 14th April on an early date was followed by singles until 18th May. None appeared in autumn.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. The first early migrant on 5th March was followed by small numbers of less than ten in April and May. In autumn usually ten but 2nd November thirty was followed by two or three regularly and was still recorded at the end of December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Numerous in spring with 9th April 35, 11th April 80, 20th April 500, 19th May fifteen. 16th September fifteen, 10th October ten, 18th October three were the last.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. One on 29th February, 13th April twenty, 19th April thirty, 18th October 50, 4th November twenty.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*. One wintering on 24th to 26th January, singles during March. 15th April two but none later this year.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. 15th May two, 19th May twelve, 4th June 50 was the peak. In autumn singles until 28th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*. A very rare autumn migrant and one was seen 28th September and 4th October. A different bird was seen on 14th October making three birds in all.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Three of these visitors on 19th April increased to four on 20th April followed by three on 13th May and two on 19th May then one on 7th and 8th June. In autumn 24th August eleven, 27th August ten, 7th September fifteen, 8th September 25, 23rd October three, 2nd October four, 19th October last one very late.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*. 7th January one, a very unusual date for this species, rare on Lundy.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. 1st and 10th January one. Two frequent during February, 10th March two, 26th March one.

Great Tit *Parus major*. 27th January one, 10th March one, 20th March one.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. A rare spring migrant and one appeared on 21st April and stayed until 2nd May, a male was seen on 10th May.

Magpie *Pica pica*. Two of these occasional visitors came in the spring from 14th to 17th April.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. An irregular spring migrant and three on 3rd January increased to ten on 20th January, five during February but 50 on 29th March and 12th April equals the Lundy record of 1948.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. A very scarce spring migrant and one on 23rd February, 6th March two and 7th March two.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*. Bred as usual. 2nd March twenty was the highest number counted.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*. One of this sub-species of the Carrion Crow was noted from 10th to 14th June.

Raven *Corvus corax*. Resident as usual. On 5th September fifteen were counted.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Bred as usual but counts not as high as in the previous year the highest was 300 on 3rd November.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Bred as usual, fourteen being noticed on 23rd September.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. A scarce spring visitor and 19th May two, 31st May still one.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. A scarce spring visitor and ten present in February. A movement of 200 on 10th November was the highest autumn movement.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. One male on 29th February and one female on 9th April.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Not more than two in April and May. In autumn 31st October twenty was the highest count.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Up to five during January and February. 19th April six, 2nd to 7th November two.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. One of these scarce spring migrants on 19th April. In autumn ten on 31st October rose to fifteen on 4th November.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. 29th March five, 9th April fifty, 29th September 77 was the peak, seven still in December.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*. A very rare migrant, one on 25th April and one 8th September.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. On 8th September a single of this very rare visitor was seen by RJC near the terrace trap. It flew southwards along the sidelands and was not seen again.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. A very rare migrant and a female on 10th May, a male on 5th June was heard singing on 13th June.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. A rare migrant and only one was seen on 19th April.

Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata*. This wanderer from northern Canada paid a first visit to Lundy on 10th October where it was found by Bill Oddie in St. Helen's copse. It was trapped and ringed.

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponica*. A scarce migrant and unusual in spring and so the single on 25th April and 11th May is important. 17th to 19th September one, 29th September three and 14th October one.

Snow Bunting *Plactrophenax nivalis*. One on 29th March was followed by a male on 18th April, rare in spring. In autumn the first on 2nd October, 9th November eight, 10th November five.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. Unusually the records of all the singles were in spring this year on 6th March, 8th April, 24th May.

Oortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. Scarce in spring. 28th and 29th April one.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. An extremely rare migrant. One in spring on 20th to 25th April. One in autumn from 7th to 13th October, a different bird on 14th October.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*. One heard calling in Tent field was found later in Lighthouse field only the second for Lundy, the first was in 1982.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. A scarce visitor and one on 2nd May was a male and another on 5th September was a male also.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*. Only one this year on 10th to 16th May.

Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. The first for Lundy and only 12th for Britain. It was on the Airfield and soon surrounded by twenty observers. A vagrant from southern Canada it was migrating towards South America. It stayed from 23rd to 26th September and was well seen.

The following two records have not been included as the evidence is insufficient.

Cory's Shearwater 20th September.

Red-rumped Swallow 11th September.

The Bird List for 1984 has been compiled from observations by the following observers.

M. GLOVER
K. GRANT
A. G. GOALER
P. DE GROOT
P. HANNAH
D. G. C. HARPER
D. HAVARD
J. A. HIGH

K. CHAPMAN
A. CLEEVE
M. DAVIES
S. DAVIES
E. DAVIES
P. DAVIS
C. W. DEE
M. E. DURHAM

J. ARCHER
S. ARNOLD
C. C. and B. BAILLIE
M. BAILEY
P. BELLERS
R. K. BIRCHER
M. and S. BLAKEY
R. and M. CAMPEY *et al.*

S. M. HOLLIDAY
T. JONES
D. M. KESTELL
S. KING
M. KING
G. MADGE
C. A. MASON
C. MATTHEWS

S. J. MAYHOW
K. and M. MORTIMER
BILL ODDIE
N. ODDIN
TONY PARSONS
M. and H. RENNES
I. D. SMITH
P. STERRY

A. J. and S. STEVENS
S. F. TANNER
A. M. TAYLOR *et al.*
A. R. and S. J. TROUT
A. J. VICKERY
N. WARREN
J. D. WILSON
S. WING
G. WRAPSON

BIRD RINGING IN 1984

A. M. TAYLOR

The number of ringers visiting Lundy increased considerably in 1984 and coverage was provided for 6 weeks in spring and 7 weeks in autumn. Sadly, Keith Mortimer left the island so there is no longer even a trainee ringer resident there. We are most grateful to him for all his work in connection with ringing, and to Mary Gade who has kindly taken over the job of looking after the ringing equipment and records from him.

Unfortunately the increase in the number of ringers has not been entirely beneficial; a super-abundance in autumn led to occasions when it was felt that the number of nets being used was excessive, and becoming intrusive as far as non-ringers on the island were concerned. For this reason, all ringers should now contact Tony Taylor *before making any booking*, because we have decided that the number of ringers on the island at any one time should be limited.

1851 birds of 57 species were ringed. The first of these figures is the highest for at least 20 years. Two species — Blackpoll Warbler and Merlin — were added to the island's ringing list. Other uncommon species caught included Lundy's third Marsh Warbler, single Icterine and Melodious Warblers, three Red-breasted Flycatchers (after only five in the previous 37 years) and two Little Buntings (only one previously). The common species with particularly high totals for the year included Swallow, Robin, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Goldcrest. Details of 1984 totals are given in the list below, which also includes grand totals for all species since ringing started on Lundy in 1947.

When grand totals were last given five years ago, an analysis was included showing relative changes in numbers of each species ringed (excluding seabirds), to give an indication of population changes. This has been repeated, comparing 1979-83 with the 1947-78 averages.

As before, many common species show no significant change. These include Wren, Blackbird, Redstart, Robin (slight suggestion of increase), Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Meadow Pipit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch. Species showing major increases are Swallow, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Firecrest, Dunnock and House Sparrow. Some of these could be due to changes in the emphasis of ringing effort, such as different siting of mist-nets and increased late autumn coverage. However high Goldcrest and Firecrest numbers probably reflect the absence of severe weather in recent winters. Marked decreases are shown for Skylark, Pied Wagtail, Starling and Linnets, but these are likely to reflect lack of summer ringing coverage since a large proportion of birds ringed in former years were pulli or recently fledged young. Other more ominous decreases were shown by Sand Martin, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Pied Flycatcher. These are likely to reflect deteriorating conditions in African wintering quarters. Grasshopper Warblers would have been greatly reduced also if it had not been for a single major influx in spring 1982. (A simultaneous influx of Sedge Warblers failed to make up their deficits). There were also decreases in Blue Tit, Song Thrush and Stonechat numbers.

After last year's comments about declining numbers of recoveries and controls, 1984 produced a better selection including long-term Swift and Greenfinch records and fast-moving migrating Swallow and Warblers. Details of these and two late 1983 records are given below.