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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.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS

	Ringed		Recovered				
	1947-83	1984	1947-83	1984			
Dabchick	1				Grey Wagtail	19	2
Fulmar	146		1		Pied Wagtail	103	4
Manx Shearwater	410	3	11		Wren	428	31
Storm Petrel	16				Dunnock	309	53
Cormorant	46		10		Robin	671	127
Shag	1163		163		Thrush Nightingale	1	
Greylag Goose	1				Nightingale	5	1
Mallard	39		6		Blüthroast	2	
Sparrowhawk	9	1			Black Redstart	30	
Buzzard	7				Redstart	165	13
Kestrel	13				Whinchat	62	2
Merlin*		1			Stonechat	74	7
Peregrine	10		1		Wheatear	162	5
Quail	1				Ring Ousel	23	1
Water Rail	30				Blackbird	2059	81
Corncrake	4				Fieldfare	12	1
Moorhen	1				Song Thrush	341	16
Oystercatcher	37		2		Redwing	179	12
Ringed Plover	3				Mistle Thrush	1	
Dotterel	4				American Robin	1	
Golden Plover	2				Grasshopper	130	3
Lapwing	175	(pulli) 14			Warbler		
Knot	3				Aquatic Warbler	1	
Semipalmated	1				Sedge Warbler	711	15
Sandpiper					Marsh Warbler	2	1
Little Sting	4				Reed Warbler	24	3
Least Sandpiper	2				Icteric Warbler	11	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	5				Melodious Warbler	18	1
Curlew Sandpiper	1				Sardinian Warbler	1	
Dunlin	69	1	1		Ruppell's Warbler	1	
Buff-breasted	2				Barred Warbler	6	
Sandpiper					Lesser Whitethroat	25	1
Jack Snipe	11				Whitethroat	2111	7
Snipe	24				Garden Warbler	295	45
Woodcock	6		1		Blackcap	613	155
Bar-tailed Godwit	1				Greenish Warbler	2	1
Whimbrel	21				Arctic Warbler	1	
Curlew	32		3		Yellow-browed	9	
Greenshank	2				Warbler		
Wood Sandpiper	1				Bonelli's Warbler	1	
Common Sandpiper	1				Wood Warbler	11	3
Turnstone	2				Chiffchaff	1355	90
Lesser Black-backed	57				Willow Warbler	4257	171
Gull					Goldcrest	1503	280
Herring Gull	2754		48		Firecrest	64	2
Great Black-backed	98		3		Spotted Flycatcher	738	37
Gull					Red-breasted	5	3
Kittiwake	2515		30		Flycatcher		
Guillemot	2701		93		Pied Flycatcher	448	15
Razorbill	1234		50		Long-tailed Tit	2	3
Puffin	10				Coal Tit	14	
Stock Dove	1				Blue Tit	106	
Woodpigeon	9		2		Great Tit	22	
Collared Dove	7				Treecreeper	6	
Turtle Dove	5	1			Red-backed Shrike	7	
Cuckoo	38		1		Great Grey Shrike	1	
Long-eared Owl	2				Woodchat Shrike	8	
Short-eared Owl	2				Jackdaw	1	
Nightjar	2				Raven	47	
Sweet	3	1			Carrion Crow	17	2
Hoopoe	1				Starling	942	23
Wryneck	11				House Sparrow	105	33
Great Spotted	2				Tree Sparrow	5	
Woodpecker	1				Chaffinch	915	58
Short-toed Lark	1				Brambling	15	1
Skylark	119	17			Greenfinch	96	7
Sand Martin	54	6			Goldfinch	41	6
Swallow	1205	359			Siskin	43	2
House Martin	30	10			Linnet	412	41
Tree Pipit	28				Redpoll	8	1
Meadow Pipit	750	72	3		Crossbill	19	
Red-throated Pipit	1				Scarlet Rosefinch	7	
Rock Pipit	5	1	1		Bullfinch	6	1
Yellow Wagtail	3				Yellow-rumped	1	

Warbler			Ortolan Bunting	4		
Blackpoll Warbler*		1	Little Bunting	1	2	
Common	1		Yellow-breasted	1		
Yellowthroat	1		Bunting			
Rufus-sided Towhee	1		Reed Bunting	2		
Lapland Bunting	4		Northern Oriole	2		
Snow Bunting	2		TOTALS	33809	1851	503
Yellowhammer	1		* Added to the list in 1984.			

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 1984

SA67250 Swift. Ringed as full grown at Sinderland, Greater Manchester, 30.6.78. Controlled on Lundy 8.5.84. (293km; bearing 212°; duration 2139 days).

C316652 Swallow. Ringed as juvenile on Lundy, 28.9.84. Controlled at St. Albans Head, Dorset, 1.10.84. (195km; 109°; 3 days).

B580847 Robin. Ringed as 1st year bird on Lundy, 16.9.84. Found dead at Langland Bay, Swansea, S. Wales, 14.10.84. (64km; 46°; 28 days).

B589785 Blackcap. Ringed as adult female on Lundy, 7.5.84. Controlled on the Calf, Isle of Man, 11.5.84. (320km; 358°; 4 days).

3J3613 Chiffchaff. Ringed as adult at Portland Bill, Dorset, 11.4.84. Controlled on Lundy, 19.4.84. (171km; 295°; 8 days).

9H5733 Willow Warbler. Ringed on Isle of May, Fife, Scotland, 3.9.84. Controlled on Lundy, 16.9.84. (574km; 194°; 13 days).

BA25940 Greenfinch. Ringed on Lundy as full grown female, 27.10.81. Controlled at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 2.4.84. (278km; 79°; 888 days).

Additional records for 1983:

B241269 Spotted Flycatcher. Ringed on Lundy as 1st year bird, 10.9.83. Found shot at Ronda, Malaga, Spain, about 28.9.83. (1602km; 181°; 18 days).

B480569 Pied Flycatcher. Ringed near Llandoverly, Dyfed, Wales as nestling (female), 8.6.82. Controlled on Lundy, 2.5.83. (119km; 211°; 328 days).