

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS, 1985

By
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Some additional records of birds seen in 1984 have been included. In particular, breeding population estimates for most of the land birds have been received from A. J. Parsons. Where no year is stated, the records refer to 1985.

In 1985 a list was drawn up and inserted in the Log Book on Lundy of those species which, though not national rarities, were considered so unusual on Lundy that descriptions of them would be required to substantiate records for inclusion in this report. Since not all observers may have realised that this change had taken place, records not accompanied by descriptions have been included below but marked (n.d.). Those with satisfactory descriptions (or which were examined in the hand) are marked (d.).

The sequence and nomenclature follow that of *The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (which follows the Voous sequence).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*. One from 1st to 4th April and two on 3rd and 5th December. There have been four previous records.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*. Single birds reported on 19th February (n.d.) and 30th December (n.d.).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*. Single birds were present on four days in March. One from 14th to 22nd May constituted a late but not unprecedented spring record. There were four winter records of single birds, from 12th November, and three were seen on 26th December.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*. One was reported on 31st March (n.d.). The only previous record was in August 1957.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*. One was reported on four days between 19th February and 5th March (n.d.). There have been nine previous records.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Present, breeding. No systematic census. Small numbers reported in all months outside the breeding season except November.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*. Presumed breeding. One bird in a burrow answered a tape recording of calls during the day, at the beginning of May. See note on Shearwaters on p.23 of this report. Offshore, the earliest record was of 30 on 3rd April, the latest was one on 2nd October. They were passing at 300 per hour on 30th May, early a.m., and at 200 per hour on 1st June.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*. One was seen on 7th September. Two were also reported on 20th January, but since Storm Petrels winter off South Africa while Leach's Petrels *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* occasionally occur in British waters in winter, their identity remains in doubt in the absence of a detailed description.

Gannet *Sula bassana*. Offshore regularly from 3rd April to 10th October with maxima of 114 on 30th May and 42 on 2nd October. One on 23rd December.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. 6 on 19th March were earlier than usual. Seven records in April and May, with maximum of 18 birds. Eight records in September and October, with maximum of 25 birds. One reported on 31st December was exceptionally late.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Present, breeding. No systematic census. Up to 5 present in winter.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. 1984: Single birds on several dates in June, July and September, with two on 5th July. An unidentified Heron was reported on 24th April. 1985: Seven records of single birds between 16th April and 28th November.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*. The record for 24th September 1984 was of two light phase birds.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*. A remarkable year with reports of singles on 21st-23rd January, 26th March and on Pondsbyury 27th-29th August, and two on 11th May (all n.d.). Only four previous records.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Four from 12th to 15th February and two on 20th February. A drake arrived on 31st December. January and February are the peak months for this species.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. One was reported on 11th January (n.d.). There have been three previous records.

Teal *Anas crecca*. One on 21st January, then three on 14th April with two remaining until 17th. Several autumn records, the earliest being one on 30th September, with seven on 19th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Singles present on four days in January, with five birds on 7th January.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*. A female was present in the Landing Bay from 22nd to 29th May (d.). This constitutes the third Lundy record, previous ones being of a drake in December 1938 and four together in October 1979.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. One was reported on 18th December (n.d.). This is a very late date, most birds having completed southward migration by November. There have been five previous records.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. A 'ring-tail' bird was present from 17th to 24th October. An unidentified Hen or Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* was also recorded on 11th June.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. Single observations in January and February were followed by further single birds paying brief visits in late April, late May, June, July and December. These records show a greater spread through the year than usual, April and August-October being the typical months.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. 1984: A scattering of records between 6th and 24th March probably related to a third bird.

1985: Two on 10th April and one on 28th May. A single bird, presumably resident on the island, was seen on many days from 4th September to the end of the year.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Occasional single birds from 21st March through spring and summer, with two on 27th May. Up to four seen daily in September and October, two staying through November and one to the end of the year.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*. A second-year female was seen on 6th September. This record, which is the fifth for the species on Lundy, has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. A female on 15th March was followed by several records in April including two on 14th and 18th. Final spring record on 1st May. In autumn the first was seen on 21st August and the last on 19th November. At least six birds seem to have been involved, some staying for several days. In the 1984 report, 15th May should have read 15th April.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*. 1984: Also one on 19th October.
1985: Three birds, all in spring: 11th and 26th-27th May, 11th June. A later showing than usual.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. A scattering of records from 24th March onwards, with a maximum of three on 29th September.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. 1984: Single birds were also seen on 9th and 10th February and 2nd November.

1985: There were scattered records, all of single birds, between 18th January and 8th March, and from 26th October onwards.

Corncrake *Crex crex*. 1984: The remains of a recently dead bird were found on 8th October.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. This is the first year in which the species has bred on the island, at least since 1922. A pair was seen with chicks on Pondsburry on 12th July and there were still two adults and two juveniles in late August. There were at least two birds present until 20th September and one to 22nd November.

Oystercatcher *Haemantopus ostralegus*. 1984: Present as potential breeders in six areas in May.

1985: Earliest record was on 20th February. In May, 8 birds were present including three pairs holding territories. Nine birds were reported in early October and three on 22nd December.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*. 1984: There were additional records of single birds in April, July, September and October.

1985: Three on 20th February were exceptionally early. These were followed in spring by two on 26th April and singles on 1st and 30th May. The autumn passage started in August with one on 28th and four on 29th. There were single birds on many days between 6th September and 21st October, with four on 1st October.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*. Two early birds together on 19th and 20th April were the only spring records. Single birds were seen on 26th and 30th September and 1st October.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. Up to seven present in January, rising to a peak of 40 on 22nd February. The maximum in March was again seven. Only recorded on three days in April, with three on 18th. Singles on 26th and 27th May and 8th June. The first autumn bird arrived on 25th August. The total number of bird-days recorded in September-December were 11, 51, 4, 3, with a peak of seven birds on 7th October.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. Single birds on 16th May and 9th October were the first since 1981.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Present, breeding: 9-11 pairs holding territories in May. Maximum counts at other times were of 200 on 21st January, 60 on 15th February, 40 on 24th March; no autumn records until 23rd September, then rising to 40 in late October with smaller numbers till the end of the year.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*. Three on 23rd February: an unusual date, almost all previous records having been in early autumn.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. One, present from 21st to 24th September, was caught and ringed. This was the first record since 1979.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*. One arrived on 20th August (d.). A second, caught and ringed, was present from 19th to 27th September. It is not clear whether a bird reported from 2nd to 4th October was the same or a third individual (n.d.).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*. One present from 1st to 5th October was caught and ringed. A second arrived on 19th October (n.d.). Eleven previous dated records.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*. The only record was of 4 on 29th December. This species is probably greatly under-recorded because of the inaccessibility of most of the rocky shores that it favours.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. Three on 13th February were followed by singles on 22nd February, 18th and 29th April and 3rd May, then ten records of one or two birds between 20th May and 5th June. There were scattered autumn sightings between 27th July and 1st November, with three birds on 7th August and 17th-18th October.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*. One was reported from 24th to 29th September (n.d.).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. 1984: One on 28th September.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*. 1984: There were totals of four spring and seven autumn records.

1985: Eight records of up to 3 birds in January and February, then single ones on 17th April, 28th September, 31st October, 20th and 26th December.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Up to 20 on most days in January, but over 100 on 18th. Numbers declined and records became less frequent through February (maximum 20), March (maximum 3), April (only six bird-days) and May (two singles). After three on 13th August, the next four months produced records totalling 56, 113, 125 and 92 bird-days, the maximum number being 30, which were flying in a flock and presumably migrating, on 1st November.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*. 1984: There were seven additional autumn records, all of single birds.

1985: On 20th January there was a major influx of 30 birds, many of which stayed for several days. Otherwise there were occasional single birds in the first three months and three on 24th March. Autumn arrivals started with three on 23rd October, thereafter one or two were seen on many days up to 2nd December and one on 31st December.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. One on 17th May was the first for ten years. It was later than all previous spring records.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*. 1984: The January record was of a flock of 24. There were also three on 12th September.

1985: Two on 18th and 24th January followed the first ever January record in the previous year. One on 15th September was the only autumn bird.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*. Present on most days between 17th April and 31st May, with numbers mainly in single figures, but higher, with a maximum of 22, between 28th April and 3rd May. Less numerous and less frequent in autumn, from 23rd July to 6th October, with maxima of 11 on 6th August and 7 on 4th September.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Flocks were present in late January and mid February, with maxima of 47 and 40 respectively. Scattered spring records of up to 3 birds, with the last on 13th May. Four July records included one of 100 on 28th but subsequent autumn numbers were low, the most being ten on 30th September. The last was on 28th October.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*. 1984: The first bird was from 20th-22nd March (not January). There was a third one on 28th May.

1985: There were singles on 16th March, 18th and 19th April, 25th and 31st July. These were followed by one or two birds on eight days in September and eight on 17th November.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. 1984: The first record was on 8th, not 22nd April, and the third was on 2nd, not 26th September.

1985: A typical showing, with four records, all of single birds, on 23rd May, 28th August and 7th and 15th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. One on 28th August and two on 29th were followed by one from 20th to 25th September.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*. 1984: There were also three on 18th April and singles on 1st and 24th September.

1985: Spring records totalled seven bird-days between 18th April and 12th May, followed by singles on 4th June and 7th July and two on 25th September.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*. 1984: Up to three were present between 4th and 24th September.

1985: One seen from 16th to 21st August, two on 29th August and four on 14th October. The species is, like Purple Sandpipers, probably greatly under-recorded.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*. One was reported on 4th and 5th December (n.d.). There have been nine previous dated records.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*. Single birds were seen on 5th and 13th September.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*. Single birds were seen on 31st July and 26th September. After only three sightings from the island before 1980, there have now been ten since then. The previous earliest date was 13th August.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. 1984: Three arrived on 18th May and two on 1st June. There were also singles on 26th and 27th September and 16th October. 1985: There were two on 20th and 21st January, singles on 6th and 29th August and two on 24th September.

Common Gull *Larus canus*. 1984: There were additional records of singles on 22nd July, 20th September and 31st October, with four on 1st November. 1985: A poor showing with just one on 24th April.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*. Breeding. No census. Unusually high totals of 100 and 124 were reported on 30th September and 4th October respectively.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*. Breeding. No census.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*. The date of the 1984 record was 26th April.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*. Breeding. No census.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. Breeding. No census. There were 250 feeding in the tide race off the South End on 3rd December.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. Present on five days in April, with two on 3rd. Five autumn records spread out between 4th September and 3rd October, with two birds on four of these occasions.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. 1984: One on 25th and two on 26th September (not 1st September). 1985: One on 3rd October.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*. Breeding. No census. There were 350 ashore on breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove on 24th December.

Razorbill *Alca torda*. Breeding. No census.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*. Presumed breeding. No census. First reported on 15th April but no comprehensive counts during the breeding season.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. Three arrived on 18th April and one stayed until 26th. There were singles on 26th May, 13th to 16th October and 30th and 31st December.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*. Presumed breeding. Recorded in all months except January and October, with a maximum of six on 27th May.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. The first bird arrived on 3rd April. Several daily from 17th April onwards, reaching a maximum of 17 on 16th May. After the end of June the only report was of two on 25th July, one of which stayed until 1st August. A juvenile bird was reported in late June, so breeding may have taken place. The species is not recorded as having bred on the island previously.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*. After one on 21st April, there were almost daily records from 15th May to 8th June with a maximum of six on 16th May. Single birds seen once in July, August and October and on three dates in September.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*. The first arrived on 19th April and there were frequent records of one or two until 14th June, the only higher number being five on 17th May. There were four autumn records, all single birds in September.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*. No spring records but a typical spread of autumn sightings with singles on 26th and 29th September, 25th October and 3rd November and two on 26th October.

Swift *Apus apus*. 1984: Maxima in May included 200 on 15th and continuous passage, uncounted, on 19th and 24th. Up to 60 in June and July but remarkably few in August. The last were seen on 4th September.

1985: The first was on 19th April and the biggest spring influx was of 200 on 23rd May. After a lull in July they started appearing regularly again in mid August but numbers remained below 20. The main movement finished on 4th September but there was one late bird on 24th September.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*. On 12th May one was watched by Brian Tollitt and Ian Martin as it fed from a fence in Tent Field. It was seen shortly afterwards by Mary Gade near Pondsburry. The record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee. There is one previous Lundy record, involving six birds which stayed for a week in May 1940.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*. One was seen on 13th and 15th May.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*. 1984: There were additional sightings of single birds on 30th April and 1st, 18th and 19th May.

1985: After the previous year's spring records, this species reverted to its more normal autumn appearances with one on 8th-10th September and two on 3rd October (one staying till 4th).

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*. One on 28th October was the first definite record since 1979. One was reported in 1980, but at least one of the observers involved now believes it to have been misidentified.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. 1984: Breeding population estimated at about 57 pairs.

1985: 27 breeding pairs estimated south of Threequarter Wall in May. Up to about twenty were present in January-March, November and December. Movements involving a hundred or more birds occurred on six days between 18th September and 7th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*. First recorded on 8th April (after the first swallows). After a peak of 200 on 18th April, recorded on most days until end of May but mainly in single figures. Recorded very sporadically in June, July and August. Peak numbers in September included 20 on 5th, 30 on 22nd and 25 on 24th. The last was seen on 11th October.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. 1984: Days of peak passage in September were 18th, with about 260 birds, 25th with 200, and 28th with estimates ranging from 2,000 to 5,000.

1985: The first two were seen on 3rd April. There was a steady trickle until 16th, when 800 arrived. Numbers remained high for several days. There were seven days in May with over 100 birds reported, the most being 300 on 23rd and 26th. After 50 on 2nd June, numbers remained in single figures for three months. A pair was feeding young on 27th June. Autumn passage began in earnest on 6th September and numbers over 100 were reported on 14 days between then and 12th October. Peaks were 7,000 on 24th September and 1,000 on 11th October. The last was seen on 4th November.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*. 1984: Present on many days in September, the highest number being 25 on 16th. The last was on 18th October, not 6th November.

1985: The first arrived on 16th April. Numbers rose quickly to 250 on 19th but were then in single figures on all except two days until 23rd May, when there were between 20 and 100 present for the following week. Records were then low and intermittent until 22nd September. There was steady passage over the next three weeks, with peaks of 40 on 26th September and 75 on 11th October. Only single birds were reported after 17th October, the last being on 2nd November.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*. One was reported on 30th September and 1st October (n.d.). There have been five previous records, all in autumn, but only two of these have been in the last 35 years.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Almost all spring passage birds came through in the 12 days following the first three on 16th April, with peaks of 12 on 18th and 14 on 24th. There were four records involving up to three birds in May. The autumn movement took place between 28th August and 7th October, most records being between 19th September and 1st October. Maximum of six on 26th September.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. 1984: A rough estimate suggested a breeding population of at least 48 pairs.

1985: Very small numbers present until about 50 on 24th February. The only spring counts were 500 on 24th March and 140 on 21st April. Breeding population south of Threequarter Wall estimated at 28 pairs. Autumn counts included 80 on 25th August, 200 on 2nd September and high numbers regularly between 18th September and 11th October, with a maximum of 400 on 24th September. Up to 50 were recorded in the rest of October and early November, with a few remaining to the end of the year.

Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. Resident, breeding. 1984: At least five pairs were present in May.

1985: At least eight territories were found in May. A bird of the Water Pipit subspecies *A.s.spinoletta* was reported on 14th April.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*. Recorded on 18 days between 5th April and 1st June, mainly as single birds but with up to four during the peak movement in mid May — a little later than usual. Recorded in autumn between 9th September and 20th October, mainly in the ten days from 23rd September, with a maximum of four. Again this is later than usual. Birds of the Blue-headed subspecies *M.f.flava* appeared on 19th and 20th May and 14th June.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*. Single birds on 26th February, 30th March to 5th April and 12th May, followed by an autumn passage between 4th September and 28th October with a peak of five on 18th September. This is the typical annual pattern for the species.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*. 1984: In May a pair was seen feeding young under a large boulder just above the high water mark on the Landing Beach.

1985: Seen regularly from 24th February onwards, with up to six on most days to the end of May but ten on 25th March and seven on 30th May. A pair was seen carrying food to young in early July. Autumn numbers began building up on 6th September, when there were 16, and reached a peak of 20 the following week. A steady movement continued till 18th October with peaks of 14 on 19th September and 13 on 29th September and 14th October. One or two stayed on until 1st November. About one in five spring birds (from 19th April to 31st May) and half of those in autumn were considered to be White Wagtails *M.a.alba*.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Resident, breeding. 1984: Thirteen singing males found in May.

1985: At least 21 breeding territories were located, all on the east side. 25 birds were present in late September and early October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Resident, breeding. 1984: Nine singing males found in May.

1985: At least seven breeding territories were located. 32 birds were found in early October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Resident, breeding. 1984: Six singing birds found in May.

1985: Eight were counted in January. Only three pairs located in May. The maximum autumn count was 27 on 4th October.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*. There were three records, 16th May, 13th September and 11th October (caught and ringed).

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*. One was trapped and ringed on 20th May. This is the fifth Lundy record, the last having been in 1964. All the previous ones have been in autumn.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. A male on 6th January was followed by two on 17th April (one staying till 18th) and a female from 20th to 23rd May. Six singles in autumn were spread between 23rd September and 7th November.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*. 1984: There were autumn records between 22nd August and 18th October, the maximum being 20 on 16th September. 1985: The spread of sightings was typical, with spring records involving 34 bird-days between 17th April and 17th May, the most being six on 19th April. Records in autumn fell between 30th August and 20th October with most in the final week of September, including 10 on 29th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*. One or two present on most days from 25th April to 30th May. Autumn records were from 29th August to 12th October, the peaks being six or seven from 24th September to 1st October and 10 on 8th October.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. 1984: Also present from 16th September to 14th October, mainly involving up to four but with an amazing influx of at least 70 on 10th October (not entirely unprecedented: there were 50 on 7th October 1973). There was a final late bird from 29th October to 1st November.

1985: Singles appeared on 27th February, 14th April and 3rd May. In autumn between one and four were recorded on most days from 20th September to the end of October. There were scattered sightings of one or two to the end of the year.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. 1984: The spring maximum was about 100 on 27th to 29th April. At least three young birds present in late July. Autumn peak numbers were 20 on 4th September, 37 on 28th September. The last was seen on 8th November.

1985: The first arrival was on 27th March. Then intermittent records of small numbers until 18th April, when 35 were seen, followed by slightly lower numbers to the end of the month. There was a lull until 25 on 11th May, then about ten from 19th to 30th May. At least five pairs appear to have stayed and bred. Significant numbers of passage birds seen throughout September, with peaks of 30 on 5th, 25 on 11th, 17 on 20th, 15 on 29th. Totals had declined to two on 5th October, with intermittent records of one or two from then till the last on 24th October. Birds of the large Greenland race were reported on 26th and 27th May and three on 26th September.

Gray-cheeked Thrush *Catharus minimus*. One was caught and ringed on 11th October. A description has been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee. If accepted, this will be the first record of this North American species on Lundy.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*. 1984: There were totals of seven bird-days in April and three in May, five in September and five in October.

1985: Spring records were sparse, with singles on 24th March, 3rd April and five days from 19th to 25th April. Also scarce in autumn, with singles on 19th and 29th September and two on each of 27th September and 28th October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Resident, breeding. 1984: 34 adult males were counted in May. Autumn maxima were 29 on 23rd September, 40 on 9th December and 30 on 15th December.

1985: Some increased numbers in January, including 55 on 21st, indicated the arrival of extra birds during cold-weather movements. At least 22 pairs were present in May. The highest autumn counts were 57 on 29th September, 71 on 2nd and 80 on 15th October, 50 on 27th and 28th November.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. 1984: There were 20 on 11th March and the last spring bird was seen on 22nd April. The first autumn arrival was on 1st October — earlier than usual — and the peak was 50 on 4th November.

1985: There were some significant arrivals associated with cold weather including 80 on 18th January increasing to 200 on 21st, then 50 on 9th February. After regular sightings to the end of February, scattered records continued through spring and a very late bird was last seen on 20th May. An early autumn bird arrived on 18th September but there were no others until mid October. Major influxes included 100 on 16th, 75 on 18th, 70 on 22nd, 50 on 27th October, and then 65 on 10th, 25 on 17th November. There were up to 30 in late December.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. 1984: Migrants were present for much of October and November, with a peak of 30 on 5th November.

1985: Birds present throughout January, with a maximum of 15, but becoming scarcer in February, with up to five. Three singles in March and two in April, followed by four on 19th April and one on 26th May. The first autumn record was on 18th September, with almost continuous presence from mid October to the end of the year. Peaks included 13 on 13th, 11 on 18th and eight on 28th October, six on 18th November and 15 on 28th December.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. Particularly numerous in January, with major arrivals including 100 on 6th rising to 400 on 9th, 80 on 14th, 100 on 19th and 21st. After a month of low numbers there were 100 again on 26th February. Then just three on 13th and two on 30th March — March is usually the peak month before October — and one on 8th April. After one on 28th September, autumn movements started in earnest on 14th October, with peak arrivals of 700 on 16th, 200 on 20th and 27th October. Numbers declined from 60 as November progressed but in the second half of December they were back up to 50 on several days.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. There were single birds on 25th April, 21st May and 13th and 27th October.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*. 1984: Autumn records included 11 on 28th and 2 on 29th September, one on 10th October.

1985: Recorded from 17th April to 15th May in spring, with peaks of four on 29th April and six on 4th and 6th May. The only autumn records were singles on 29th August and 25th September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. 1984: The first spring birds were three on 22nd April. There were singles on eight days in September.

1985: Two on 18th and one on 26th April, then birds on most days between 2nd and 22nd May, the main arrivals being 15 on 14th and ten on 17th. There were four single records in autumn, between 2nd September and 7th October.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*. This was a remarkable year in which three were caught and ringed, on 8th, 11th and 12th September. There have been only three previous records, all trapped, in autumn.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*. 1984: An additional bird was present on 26th and 27th September.

1985: Single birds were found on 11th June, 29th August and 8th, 26th and 27th September.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. One present from 7th to 12th October was caught and ringed.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*. Single birds were seen on 4th to 6th and 9th to 10th September.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*. A male was found at the Terrace trap on 3rd June by E. F. Davis. The record has been accepted by the B.B. Rareities Committee and is the first for Lundy of this vagrant from the Mediterranean.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*. 1984: One was seen on 29th September.

1985: One was found on 6th September, considerably earlier than any previous record.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*. 1984: There were additional single birds on 23rd April and five days in May, the last being on 28th.

1985: After the first on 2nd May there were up to four on 14th to 17th May. The only autumn record was on 8th September.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*. 1984: The first record was on 23rd April, with up to six present until the end of the month. There was a major arrival of 60 on 25th May and a late bird on 19th June.

1985: Apart from isolated single birds arriving on 18th April and 10th June, almost all spring passage was in May with 20 arriving on 2nd and another peak of eight on 14th to 16th. Between one and five on most other days. In autumn one arrived on 17th and two on 18th August, then there were up to five on nine days in September and the last on 8th and 9th October.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*. 1984: The first was on 21st April and the spring peak was six on 25th May. There were autumn records from 2nd September to 17th October in addition to the November bird, the peaks being 5 on 16th September and 10 on 10th October.

1985: Single birds on 25th April and 6th May were followed by the main spring arrival from 14th to 26th May, with a peak of 15 on 17th. Autumn records formed an almost continuous series from 5th September to 19th October with peaks of 15 on 12th, 8 on 19th and 20 on 25th September, 7 on 1st and 3rd and 5 on 12th October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*. 1984: There was a major arrival of 250 on 10th October.

1985: Spring records fell between 5th April, when there were seven, and 12th June. The biggest arrivals were 20 on 18th and 6 on 24th April, 5 on 2nd and 10 on 17th May. There were autumn records from 29th August to 26th November, most being between 13th September and 1st November with ten on 20th September and 15 on 7th, 30 on 21st and ten on 26th October.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*. One was trapped and ringed on 19th September and stayed until the 23rd. The record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee. There have been two previous records, in September 1959 and October 1981.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*. Single birds were seen on 27th September and 11th and 12th October. The September record equals the previous earliest, last year, and the only other September record was on 29th in 1983.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*. 1984: There were three autumn records: one on 5th August, two on 8th September and one on 14th October.

1985: There were five birds in spring: two on 18th and three on 22nd April. More numerous than usual in autumn with records on 13 days between 7th September and 5th October, the most being four on 24th September.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. 1984: There were arrivals of 50 birds on 6th, 10th and 20th April. The autumn maximum was 100 on 10th October.

1985: One wintering bird seen on three dates in January. The first spring migrant arrived on 24th March. Numbers remained low until 100 came on 7th April. Other peaks included 60 on 17th and 40 on 19th April. Thereafter until 6th June there were six or less on most days. Single birds seen intermittently throughout the summer. Main autumn movement between 9th September and 29th October, with 50 on 20th and 30 on 28th September, 10 on 7th and 12 on 19th October. Occasional later records culminated in seven birds on 23rd December.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Spring records were between 2nd April and 10th June, the major peaks being 180 on 18th April, an amazing 1,000 on 1st May and 75 on 14th May. Present again in late July, the first significant autumn arrival was 20 on 18th August. Almost all others came in September, the biggest influxes being 50 on 9th and 12th and 25 on 20th and 24th. Last bird seen on 12th October.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. 1984: The biggest autumn peaks were 400 on 10th and 150 on 13th October.

1985: Occasional records of up to three birds in the first three months. Numbers rose in April with peaks of 10 on 5th and 15 on 17th. Four May records, the last being one on 21st. One was seen on 8th July. Autumn records were spread from 29th August to 1st November, peaks being 50 on 13th and 60 on 20th September, 150 on 8th and 75 on 16th October. Four isolated later observations included five on 17th November and three on 24th December.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*. 1984: One or two on five dates between 19th September and 14th October.

1985: Single birds were seen on six days from 20th September to 31st October.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. 1984: One pair bred successfully. 50 on 27th August and an average of three a day in September, with 15 on 8th.

1985: An early bird on 16th April, then continuous records from 30th April to 8th June, maxima being 20 on 21st, 45 on 26th and 20 on 29th May. Ten came late, on 16th June. Bred successfully again. There may have been two pairs or two broods from one pair since fledged young were seen on 28th July in Millcombe and four recently fledged juveniles were on the Terrace in late August. The first clear autumn arrival was 18 on 4th September and the last bird was seen on 20th October. Numbers were in single figures most days but there were 40 on 12th and 25 on 25th September.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*. 1984: There were also two from 15th to 17th October and one on 27th October, making at least four birds in total.

1985: A very early one on 4th September was followed by records on 20 days between 20th September and 17th October. It is not clear how many individuals were involved but there were two on 25th and 28th September and 16th October and three on 29th September. Three were caught and ringed.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*. Recorded on 16 days between 10th April and 23rd May, mainly as singles but with three on 3rd and two on 12th May. An exceptionally late bird was seen on 12th June. Autumn records were from 17th August to 12th October, the major arrival being 55 on 29th August. Other peaks were 20 on 12th and 25 on 25th September.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*. Single birds on 1st to 4th October and 17th to 29th October increased to two on 30th October to 1st November.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. The only record was of four on 2nd December.

Great Tit *Parus major*. One on 26th and 27th April and two from 21st to 28th October, one staying till 1st November.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*. Singles were seen on 7th and 8th September and 25th to 28th September.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. One from 4th to 6th June and one on 14th June. There has been an average of two a year recently but these are rather later than usual.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*. One on 1st June, two juveniles on 17th August and one on 22nd and 23rd August.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. 1984: About 20 stayed until mid June. There were then singles from 29th August to 9th September and on 7th November.

1985: After isolated records of five on 9th and two on 23rd March, ten arrived on 6th April increasing to 19 on 9th. Four of these stayed until 28th April. There were then ten from 26th to 30th May.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. 1984: There was also one on 2nd May.

1985: One on 29th April was the only record.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*. Resident, breeding. Counts included 12 on 3rd January, 22 on 25th August, 26 on 29th September. In May there was a minimum of 15 adults and four broods were located.

Raven *Corvus corax*. 1984: Eight adults and seven juveniles were present in May.

1985: There was a minimum of 9 birds in May, including two juveniles, seven in August and five in September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. 1984: Seven occupied nests were found in May.

1985: Large numbers were present between 8th and 23rd January with a maximum of 700. Other counts included 100 in late February and 300 in mid March. 15 nests found in May. The peak autumn count was 400 on 16th October but there were estimated to be 1,000 on 19th and 24th December.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Resident, breeding. 1984: Seven nests found in May.
1985: Nine nests found in May. About 50 birds present in late August and 35 on 29th September.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*. One was caught in the Terrace trap and ringed on 5th October. The record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee and is the first of this North American species on Lundy.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. 1984: Four pairs located in May. The highest autumn numbers were 300 on 15th, 16th and 27th October.
1985: Present throughout the year, with numbers in single figures until late March when 15 were found. Five breeding territories found in May. At least 20 present in late August. Peak autumn numbers were 200 on 13th and 150 on 26th October declining to about 20 in mid November. 10 for most of December but 50 seen on 24th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. 1984: There were also two on 27th October.
1985: Present on most days from 16th October to 4th November with a maximum of five birds. One on 22nd November.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Several records of up to four birds in January and one on 16th March. A pair arrived in April and were seen feeding young on 27th June. Subsequently there were reports of up to five until eight were found on 29th September. Up to seven in early October and three at the end of the month. One on 11th November and several December records including seven on 22nd.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. 1984: One or two for much of October, with six on 14th.
1985: one on 1st January, then up to three recorded on 11 days in April and up to four on ten days in May. One or two seen on most days from 7th October to 1st November, but nine on 12th October. Singles on 11th to 13th and 30th November and 27th December.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. In an autumn of exceptional numbers in Britain, birds were on Lundy from 13th September to 20th October. Maxima were 26 on 18th September, 34 on 16th October rising to 100 on 21st, then 70 on 27th October and 40 on 3rd November.

Linnet *Acanthis cannabina*. Up to four present in late January and two in mid March. Numbers rose to 30 in April and at least 11 pairs are thought to have bred. The highest autumn numbers were in August with 250 on 10th and 200 on 29th. There were seven more records of over 100, the last being on 3rd October. After 20 on 25th October there were occasional records of up to five till the end of the year.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*. In spring, one on 24th April and two on 23rd May. There were five records of single birds between 4th October and 1st November, and two on 5th October.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. Six were seen on 10th July. The majority of past records have been in this month.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*. 1984: A pair was seen together on 11th June and the male remained until 15th. A female or immature was seen on 6th September.
1985: A juvenile trapped and ringed on 5th October was the only record.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. A female was caught and ringed on 19th October.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*. A female seen from 29th May to 1st June constituted the latest spring record. The first autumn record was one on 17th September. It was followed by up to three daily from 26th September to 1st October. There were then two on 14th October and one on five days from 27th October to 10th November.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*. In spring, three on 24th April. Two or three were seen on 10th to 13th October, followed by singles on 17th October and 1st November and two on 11th and 12th November.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. One on 2nd and 5th April and 16th May.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*. 1984: There was also one on 3rd September.

1985: One from 11th to 14th June. There have only been three previous spring records. In autumn there were six on 19th September and one on 28th September.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*. The date of the 1984 record was 28th September. It is still under consideration by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*. One was reported from 19th to 23rd October (n.d.). A second appeared on 2nd November and has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee. There have been five previous records, three of them in 1984.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. 1984: There were additional records of single birds on 29th April, 26th September and 9th and 31st October.

1985: One on 27th and 28th October, four on 31st October and one on 1st November.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*. On 27th October an immature female was trapped and ringed and was subsequently watched feeding on blackberries in Millcombe. This record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee and is the first for the species on Lundy.

It is encouraging that three times as many observers' names as usual were recorded in the Log Book on Lundy, but therefore, unfortunately, space does not allow a list to be included here.

This bird report has been written with the aim of including as much detail on numbers and dates as seems practical. Any comments on this approach — whether, for instance, it is too long-winded for readers to take in easily — will be greatly appreciated. Some form of table is already being considered for next year, in which common migrants would be listed and the number of bird-days recorded for each 10-day period of the year would be given for each species. This should give an easily digested indication of the timing and scale of migration.