

BIRD RINGING IN 1987

By
A. M. TAYLOR

Ringers were on the island for less of the year than in 1986, providing coverage for five weeks in spring, five days in July and six weeks in autumn. Nevertheless the total of 3022 birds ringed was even higher than the previous year's excellent catch. Nearly a third of them were Goldcrests caught in autumn, many as a result of tape-luring. This species' total of 984 was nearly half its 1947-86 grand total. This reflects a major influx following a successful breeding season but direct comparisons with previous years cannot be made because of the influence of tape-luring. Similarly record House Martin numbers (more than the previous grand total) and low Swallow numbers represent a switch in tape-luring attention rather than population changes. Increasing catches of Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels reflect concerted efforts to find out more about their status on Lundy. Among other common species, totals for Song Thrush, Whitethroat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Chaffinch were higher than in most recent years, while chats and flycatchers were scarce.

The pick of the rarities were Swainson's Thrush, Veery (the second to be ringed in Britain), Subalpine Warbler and Golden Oriole, all new to the Lundy ringing list. Other unusual catches included the second Merlin to be ringed on the island, the seventh and eighth Woodcocks, three Wrynecks, one Icterine, two Melodious and two Yellow-browed Warblers, a Red-breasted Flycatcher and three Snow Buntings (bringing their grand total to five). Fieldfares are surprisingly rarely caught, considering their high autumn numbers, and the 1987 bird was only the fifteenth in 41 years. A complete list of ringing totals is given below.

1987 produced a good number of recoveries and controls. The current Manx Shearwater studies produced three, including a four-year-old from Skomer and Lundy's first from Bardsey. The year's efforts led to the first recovery of a Lundy-ringed Storm Petrel, on the Scillies. The Kestrel found at Plymouth was the first of that species from Lundy too. Foreign recoveries included a Redstart discovered breeding in Norway and Blackcaps found dead in France and West Germany. Three Willow Warblers and a Swallow showed northwest/southeast movements within the British Isles. Full details are given below.

RINGING TOTALS 1987

Manx Shearwater	167	Sedge Warbler	24
Storm Petrel	33	Reed Warbler	5
Merlin	1	Icterine Warbler	1
Water Rail	2	Melodious Warbler	2
Dunlin	1	Subalpine Warbler*	1
Snipe	2	Lesser Whitethroat	2
Woodcock	2	Whitethroat	28
Wryneck	3	Garden Warbler	65
Skylark	10	Blackcap	170
Sand Martin	1	Yellow-browed Warbler	2
Swallow	93	Wood Warbler	3
House Martin	63	Chiffchaff	220
Tree Pipit	2	Willow Warbler	522
Meadow Pipit	51	Goldcrest	984
Grey Wagtail	2	Firecrest	10
Pied Wagtail	1	Spotted Flycatcher	29
Wren	28	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1
Dunnock	55	Pied Flycatcher	17
Robin	55	Blue Tit	1
Black Redstart	1	Treecreeper	1
Redstart	8	Golden Oriole*	1
Stonechat	1	Starling	2
Wheatear	2	House Sparrow	18
Swainson's Thrush*	1	Chaffinch	98
Veery*	1	Greenfinch	1
Ring Ouzel	3	Goldfinch	7
Blackbird	126(4)	Siskin	1
Fieldfare	1	Linnet	34
Song Thrush	45	Bullfinch	1
Redwing	4	Snow Bunting	3
Grasshopper Warbler	3		
		Total	3022

*Added to the Lundy ringing list in 1987.
 Figures in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1987

- FR49236 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as pullus on Skomer, Dyfed, 27.8.83. Controlled on Lundy, 16.7.87. (77km; bearing 144°; 1419 days).
- FC23569 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Bardsey, Gwynedd, 28.5.87. Controlled on Lundy, 16.7.87. (178km; 177°; 49 days).
- FC24301 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 1.6.87. Found dead at Gauter Point, Bideford Bay, Devon, 20.7.87. (30km; 104°; 49 days).
- 2153439 Storm Petrel. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 4.6.87. Found dead on St Martins, Scilly Isles, 15.7.87. (175km; 221°; 41 days).
- EF98286 Kestrel. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy, 16.9.86. Found dead at Plymouth Hoe, Devon, 1.1.87. (94km; 158°; 107 days).
- E347557 Swallow. Ringed as juvenile on Lundy, 12.10.87. Controlled at St Albans Head, Dorset, 19.10.87. (195km; 109°; 7 days).
- C892121 Redstart. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 17.9.86. Controlled as breeding bird at Heroy, More og Romsdal, Norway, 26.6.87. (1382km; 27°; 282 days).
- XH99213 Blackbird. Ringed as juvenile male on Lundy, 23.9.82. Found dead (predated) on Lundy, 16.1.87. (1576 days).
- XH55008 Blackbird. Ringed as juvenile male on Lundy, 13.9.85. Found dead on Lundy, 9.1.87. (542 days).
- C551279 Blackcap. Ringed as full grown male on Lundy, 28.4.85. Found dead at St Martin, Ile de Re, Charente-Maritime, France, 1.4.87. (585km; 161°; 703 days).
- C892913 Blackcap. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 5.10.86. Found dead at Muehlheim am Main, Darmstadt, F.R. Germany, 20.4.87. (958km; 97°; 197 days).
- 9H1382 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown bird at Hengistbury Head, Dorset, 25.4.85. Controlled on Lundy, 16.4.87. (210km; 284°; 721 days).
- 3J2902 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown bird on Great Saltee, Wexford, Eire, 4.5.85. Controlled on Lundy, 26.4.87. (172km; 128°; 722 days).
- 8K1633 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown male at Portland Bill, Dorset, 17.8.85. Controlled on Lundy, 7.4.87. (171km; 295°; 598 days).
- 5P4035 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year female on Lundy, 15.9.87. Found dead at Bideford, Devon, 16.9.87. (36km; 118°; 1 day).