

BIRD RINGING IN 1988

by
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Ringers were on the island for four weeks in spring and eight weeks in autumn and ringed 3,675 birds, continuing the upward trend of recent years. As last year, a very heavy autumn passage of Goldcrests contributed greatly towards this total, with over a thousand caught. Willow Warblers, mainly in spring, Chiffchaffs in spring and autumn and Swallows, Blackcaps and Chaffinches mainly in autumn were also caught in large numbers. In contrast to the Blackcaps, Whitethroat and Garden Warbler numbers were lower than in the previous few years. Among the species which are normally caught in small numbers, several produced good autumn catches that reflected unusually large influxes. These included 43 Siskins, a total second only to that of 1985; seven Yellow-browed Warblers, only exceeded in 1986; and six Treecreepers and 31 Coal Tits, with only eight and fourteen respectively ringed in the years 1947-1987.

A Dartford Warbler was ringed on Lundy for the first time and other major rarities caught included the island's second Subalpine Warbler and second and third Red-eyed Vireos. Other species that have rarely been ringed in the past included two Turtle Doves, two Scarlet Rosefinches, a Hawfinch and a Snow Bunting. A complete list of ringing totals is given below.

The autumn Goldcrests produced an excellent series of recoveries and controls, bearing in mind this species' normally very low rate of reporting. For the same reason a Firecrest control was of great interest. Other notable recoveries included a Woodcock in Russia, a fifteen-year-old Guillemot, and a Blackbird in France. A Snow Bunting seen on Lundy was traced to the Scottish Highlands through its combination of colour rings. Full details of the year's recoveries and controls are given below.

As always we are most grateful to Mary Gade for looking after our rings, nets and other equipment on the island. We also thank the various ringers, particularly Michael King and Cyril Matthews, who carried out much-needed maintenance and repair work on the Heligoland traps and John Alford who very kindly built new catching boxes for the traps.

RINGING TOTALS 1988

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------|------|
| Manx Shearwater | 23 | Garden Warbler | 44 |
| Sparrowhawk | 2 | Blackcap | 203 |
| Water Rail | 1 | Yellow-browed Warbler | 7 |
| Lapwing (pullus) | 1 | Chiffchaff | 279 |
| Dunlin | 3 | Willow Warbler | 621 |
| Turtle Dove | 2 | Goldcrest | 1098 |
| Skylark | 19 | Firecrest | 6 |
| Sand Martin | 4 | Spotted Flycatcher | 29 |
| Swallow | 604 | Pied Flycatcher | 24 |
| House Martin | 26 | Coal Tit | 31 |
| Tree Pipit | 5 | Blue Tit | 3 |
| Meadow Pipit | 63 | Great Tit | 6 |
| Grey Wagtail | 3 | Treecreeper | 6 |
| Wren | 30 | Starling | 2 |
| Duncock | 37 | House Sparrow | 16 |
| Robin | 61 | Red-eyed Vireo | 2 |
| Redstart | 18 | Chaffinch | 104 |
| Whinchat | 2 | Brambling | 1 |
| Wheatear | 1 | Greenfinch | 2 |
| Blackbird | 73 | Goldfinch | 7 |
| Fieldfare | 1 | Siskin | 43 |
| Song Thrush | 14 | Linnets | 89 |
| Redwing | 14 | Redpoll | 1 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 10 | Scarlet Rosefinch | 2 |
| Sedge Warbler | 15 | Bullfinch | 2 |
| Reed Warbler | 2 | Hawfinch | 1 |
| Dartford Warbler * | 1 | Snow Bunting | 1 |
| Subalpine Warbler | 1 | | ---- |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 1 | Total | 3675 |
| Whitethroat | 8 | | ---- |

* Added to the Lundy ringing list in 1988.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1988

FC24416 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 18.7.87. Found dead at Challaborough Beach, Kingsbridge, Devon, 27.7.88. (113km; bearing 151°; 375 days).

EF98288 Woodcock. Ringed as adult male on Lundy, 20.10.87. Shot at Abakanovo, Cherepovets District, Vologda, U.S.S.R. (59°8'N, 38°0'E), 30.4.88. (2839km; 72°; 193 days).

GP95588 Guillemot. Ringed as pullus on Lundy, 5.7.73. Found dead, oiled, at Branscombe, Devon, 20.1.88. (120km; 118°; 5312 days).

XN34284 Blackbird. Ringed as first year female on Lundy, 25.10.87. Found dead at Coudekerque-Branche, nr Dunkirk, Nord, France, 13.4.88. (492km; 92°; 171 days).

EO21815 Blackcap. Ringed as first year male at Great Corby, Carlisle, Cumbria, 1.7.86. Controlled on Lundy, 18.4.88 (432km; 197°; 657 days).

4N0879 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year female on Cape Clear Island, Cork, Eire, 1.9.87. Controlled on Lundy, 30.9.88. (337km; 95°; 395 days).

4R4042 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 16.9.88. Controlled at Hartland Point, Devon, 20.9.88. (21km; 151°; 4 days).

OR3491 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year female on Lundy, 16.9.88. Controlled at Mumbles, Swansea, Glamorgan, 29.10.88. (63km; 45; 43 days).

4R4494 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 30.9.88. Controlled at Bolberry Down, Malborough, Devon, 12.10.88. (119km; 151°; 12 days).

4R4956 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 20.10.88. Found dead at Brixham, Devon, 27.10.88. (118km; 136°; 7 days).

9R8202 Firecrest. Ringed as first year female at Beachy Head, Eastbourne, Sussex, 15.10.88. Controlled on Lundy, 26.10.88. (347km; 278°; 11 days).

E129002 Pied Flycatcher. Ringed as pullus female at Newbridge-on-Wye, Powys, 9.6.86. Controlled on Lundy, 26.4.87 (142km; 216°; 321 days).

VA85804 House Sparrow. Ringed as full grown female on Lundy, 16.10.86. Found dead on Lundy, 28.8.88. (682 days).

C316556 Chaffinch. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 28.9.84. Found dead on Lundy, 13.4.88 (1293 days).

A colour-ringed Snow Bunting seen on Lundy on 19.11.88 had been ringed at Corgarff, Aberdeenshire, between 29.1.88 and 16.3.88.