

BIRD RINGING IN 1989

By

A.M. TAYLOR

26, High Street, Spetisbury, Blandford, Dorset DT11 9DJ

Ringers were on the island for five weeks in spring, one in July and five in the autumn. With less September coverage than usual, autumn totals were unexceptional but very good spring numbers brought the year's ringing total to 3430. The Willow Warbler total was a record 897, caught mainly in spring. It was almost matched by the 842 Goldcrests - a total which, though a little lower than in 1987 and 1988, was still far in excess of the annual average of about 100. Other numerous species included Swallow (though lower than in the previous two years), Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat, both with exceptionally high spring totals, Meadow Pipit, Blackcap and Chiffchaff (the latter lower than in the previous three years).

Olive-backed Pipit was added to the Lundy ringing list. Other unusual species ringed included Corncrake, Barred Warbler, two Red-backed Shrikes, Woodchat Shrike and Oortolan Bunting.

Following the previous year's two Turtle Doves ringed, 1989 produced a further three, out of a grand total of only eleven since 1947. The two Snow Buntings caught brought their grand total to eight. Though Melodious and Yellow-browed Warblers are scarce in Britain, their totals were raised to twenty-five and thirty-one respectively, while, despite their commoner British status, the three Wood Warblers caught brought their total to twenty-five also. The twelve Lesser Whitethroats ringed were, like the Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats, an exceptional feature of the spring catches. An autumn netting session on the Landing Beach produced the third Lundy-ringed Turnstone, and seven Rock Pipits to add to the previous total of six.

A complete list of the 1989 ringing totals is given below, together with total numbers for all species since ringing started in 1947. A Goldcrest caught on 15th October took the total of birds ringed on Lundy past the 50,000 mark.

Recoveries and controls during the year included a Storm Petrel from Ireland, a Blackbird shot in France and a Sedge Warbler controlled there, three Willow Warblers involved in British west coast movements and a Goldcrest ringed on the Scillies which reached Lundy the following day. A complete list of recoveries and controls is given below.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS

	Ringed 1947-88	Ringed 1989	Recovered 1947-88
Little Grebe	1		
Fulmar	146		1
Manx Shearwater	665	13	15
Storm Petrel	78	22	1
Cormorant	46		10
Shag	1167		165
Greylag Goose	1		
Mallard	39		6
Sparrowhawk	13		
Buzzard	7		
Kestrel	15	1	1

	Ringed 1947-88	Ringed 1989	Recovered 1947-88
Merlin	2		
Peregrine	10		1
Quail	1		
Water Rail	36	1	
Spotted Crane	1		
Corncrake	4	1	
Moorhen	1		
Oystercatcher	37	2	2
Ringed Plover	3		
Dotterel	5		
Golden Plover	2		
Lapwing	190		
Knot	3		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1		
Little Stint	5		
Least Sandpiper	2		
Pectoral Sandpiper	6		
Curlew Sandpiper	2		
Dunlin	75	5	1
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	2		
Jack Snipe	11		
Snipe	28	1	
Woodcock	8		2
Bar-tailed Godwit	1		
Whimbrel	21		
Curlew	32		3
Greenshank	2		
Wood Sandpiper	1		
Common Sandpiper	1		
Turnstone	2	1	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	57		
Herring Gull	2754	1	48
Great Black-backed Gull	98		3
Kittiwake	2515		30
Guillemot	2701		94
Razorbill	1234		50
Puffin	10		
Stock Dove	1		
Woodpigeon	9		2
Collared Dove	8		
Turtle Dove	8	3	
Cuckoo	39		1
Long-eared Owl	2		
Short-eared Owl	2		
Nightjar	2		
Swift	5		
Hoopoe	1		
Wryneck	15		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2		
Short-toed Lark	1		
Skylark	173	7	
Sand Martin	80	3	
Swallow	3487	338	4
House Martin	142	1	

	Ringed 1947-88	Ringed 1989	Recovered 1947-88
Olive-backed Pipit *		1	
Tree Pipit	43	2	
Meadow Pipit	1199	154	3
Red-throated Pipit	1		
Rock Pipit	6	7	1
Yellow Wagtail	4		
Grey Wagtail	39	3	
Pied Wagtail	114	1	
Wren	600	33	
Dunnock	566	33	
Robin	1020	45	3
Thrush Nightingale	1		
Nightingale	7		
Bluethroat	3		
Black Redstart	31		
Redstart	257	10	2
Whinchat	77	8	
Stonechat	85	8	
Wheatear	174	7	
Swainson's Thrush	1		
Grey-cheeked Thrush	1		
Veery	1		
Ring Ouzel	27		
Blackbird	2556	50	23
Fieldfare	16		
Song Thrush	444	12	7
Redwing	237	31	2
Mistle Thrush	1		
American Robin	1		
Grasshopper Warbler	163	16	
Aquatic Warbler	1		
Sedge Warbler	810	134	2
Marsh Warbler	6		
Reed Warbler	39		
Icterine Warbler	14		
Melodious Warbler	24	1	
Dartford Warbler	1		
Subalpine Warbler	2		
Sardinian Warbler	1		
Ruppell's Warbler	1		
Barred Warbler	6	1	
Lesser Whitethroat	35	12	
Whitethroat	2187	118	7
Garden Warbler	554	24	
Blackcap	1401	196	5
Greenish Warbler	2		
Arctic Warbler	2		
Yellow-browed Warbler	29	2	
Bonelli's Warbler	1		
Wood Warbler	22	3	
Chiffchaff	2332	170	1

	Ringed 1947-88	Ringed 1989	Recovered 1947-88
Willow Warbler	6315	897	12
Goldcrest	4095	842	7
Firecrest	95	6	1
Spotted Flycatcher	942	23	3
Red-breasted Flycatcher	12		
Pied Flycatcher	614	20	4
Long-tailed Tit	2		
Coal Tit	45	2	
Blue Tit	110	1	
Great Tit	31		
Treecreeper	14	2	
Golden Oriole	1		
Red-backed Shrike	8	2	
Great Grey Shrike	1		
Woodchat Shrike	8	1	
Jackdaw	1		
Raven	47		2
Carrion Crow	17		
Starling	984	10	13
House Sparrow	206	27	2
Tree Sparrow	5		
Red-eyed Vireo	3		
Chaffinch	1277	40	3
Brambling	16	1	
Greenfinch	115	7	1
Goldfinch	70	13	
Siskin	138	13	
Linnet	675	40	2
Redpoll	12		
Crossbill	19		
Scarlet Rosefinch	10		
Bullfinch	10		
Hawfinch	2		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		
Blackpoll Warbler	1		
Common Yellowthroat	1		
Rufous-sided Towhee	1		
Lapland Bunting	6		
Snow Bunting	6	2	
Yellowhammer	1		
Ortolan Bunting	5	1	
Little Bunting	3		
Yellow-breasted Bunting	1		
Reed Bunting	2		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1		
Northern Oriole	2		
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	47,095	3,430	546

* Added to the Lundy ringing list in 1989.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1989

FC24419 Manx Shearwater. Ringed as full grown bird on Lundy, 6.4.88. Ring only found in earth excavated by Rabbit or Shearwater at burrow on Lundy, 21.7.89. (471 days).

2314530 Storm Petrel. Ringed as full grown bird at Loop Head, Co. Clare, EIRE, 26.6.88. Controlled on Lundy, 20.7.89. (391km; bearing 114°; 389 days).

B580883 Dunnock. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy, 22.9.84. Found freshly dead on Lundy, 6.9.89. (1810 days).

XH99439 Blackbird. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 9.10.84. Found freshly dead, taken by cat, on Lundy, 7.12.89. (1885 days).

XK55292 Blackbird. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 20.10.87. Found freshly dead on Lundy, 16.5.89. (574 days).

XN34290 Blackbird. Ringed as first year female on Lundy, 26.10.87. Shot at Sapignies, Pas-de-Calais, FRANCE, 12.11.89. (541km; 102°; 748 days).

XK55325 Blackbird. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 16.9.88. Found freshly dead, taken by cat, on Lundy, 2.5.89. (228 days).

XK55349 Blackbird. Ringed as adult female on Lundy, 17.10.88. Found dead at Camberley, Surrey, 11.3.89. (275km; 86°; 145 days).

F225773 Sedge Warbler. Ringed as adult bird on Lundy, 10.5.89. Controlled at St Seurin d'Uzet, Charente-Maritime, FRANCE, 12.8.89. (690km; 156°; 94 days).

6N0375 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown female at Balsarroch, Kirkcolum, Dumfries & Galloway, 8.8.88. Controlled on Lundy, 7.5.89. (425km; 176°; 272 days).

1V0445 Willow Warbler. Ringed as full grown female on Lundy, 24.4.89. Found dead on ship off Point Lynas, Anglesey (53°25'N 4°13'W), 30.4.89. (252km; 7°; 6 days).

1V0512 Willow Warbler. Ringed as first year bird on Lundy, 29.4.89. Found freshly dead, taken by cat, at Glen Roy, Lonan, Isle of Man, 22.6.89. (341km; 3°; 54 days).

9P6305 Goldcrest. Ringed as first year female on St Martins, Scilly Isles, 22.10.89. Controlled on Lundy, 23.10.89 (176km; 40°; 1 day).

E186791 Chaffinch. Ringed as full grown female at Hartland Point, Devon, 4.4.88. Controlled on Lundy, 8.10.89. (21km; 331°; 552 days).

E347792 Siskin. Ringed as first year male on Lundy, 21.9.88. Found freshly dead (road casualty) near Midmar, Aberdeenshire, 28.4.89. (679km; 12°; 219 days).