

Once again, as a result of the hot summer, there was an abundance of plankton and throughout July and August there were regular sightings of Basking Sharks; also we had a visit from a Pilot Whale and a large Sea Turtle was seen about one and a half miles off the North End. Several divers reported seeing a Sunfish in Gannets Bay — it was about two feet in diameter and stayed around for some weeks.

One visitor to Lundy which received an extraordinary amount of attention was the Ancient Murrelet, first seen on the day of the RSPB charter. Lundy then became the centre of the twitchers universe for the next three weeks. Over 4,500 people came to see the bird and about two thirds of them had the sort of view that I would consider to be a genuine sighting. With some of the others it was wishful thinking and some did not see it at all. This included one man who came over seven times and a group who came on the Oldenburg once and a helicopter twice still without seeing it.

The day after the first sighting was wet and raining. You can imagine my horror at seeing over 150 people running down steep sheep tracks on the sidelands above Jenny's Cove only yards from the cliff edge. My worry was more that an accident would involve a helicopter rescue, which would mean an end to Puffin breeding in Jenny's Cove, than for a casualty. It was obviously a great thrill to have such a rare bird on Lundy, but our regular breeding birds are, I feel, equally important.

In November we had a visit from a French film crew, who wanted to record the life of the residents. Unfortunately they came with preconceived ideas about our way of life and our reasons for wanting to live on an island, which we were not able to break down. We hope the film turns out all right, but there are a number of residents who are concerned that, in trying to please the French, we may be portrayed more as actors than islanders. One classic line an islander was asked to say was, "I like Daisy because she gives me milk!"

There are many projects where we are making steady progress and I hope that with the help of further Field Society working groups, we shall soon see off the rhododendron from all the areas north of the Quarries, complete the repair of the road to the North End, reclaim Middle Park from the bracken and start the repair of Threequarter Wall. From my point of view though, 1990 was a good year for Lundy.

A. GIBSON
April 1991

OBITUARY: JOHN OGILVIE

It was with regret that we heard of the sudden death of John Ogilvie in the Summer of 1990. John first went to work on Lundy in the 1950s and later became the island's farmer. A member and friend of the Lundy Field Society from its early days he was an excellent field naturalist and observer. John and his wife Penny served the island well, leaving it in the Autumn of 1988 to live in Bideford.

A.F.L.

WORKING PARTIES

For details of these, telephone (evenings) or write to:

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A most enjoyable way of visiting Lundy and working for the benefit of the Island.

P.B.F.C.