

BIRD RINGING IN 1995

By

A. M. TAYLOR

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

The ringing of migrants in spring was restricted to one week's coverage in April but in autumn a total of six weeks was achieved. In addition, John Hutchinson continued his Skylark work and at the end of June Cyril Matthews organised a successful week of seabird ringing. In all, 2054 birds of fifty species were ringed, including 524 Goldcrests - the highest total since 1990. The Meadow Pipit total of 262 was a record and three-figure totals were also achieved for Willow Warbler, Chaffinch and Blackcap. The eighty-four Lesser Black-backed Gulls ringed surpassed the grand total for the species over the previous forty-seven years. This reflects the great increase in the species' numbers since serious efforts were last made to ring seabirds, in the early 1970s.

The rarity of the year was Lundy's second Swainson's Thrush. Icterine and Barred Warblers, two Red-breasted Flycatchers and a Scarlet Rosefinch were also ringed. Dotterel and Woodcock, though seen regularly, were nevertheless unusual catches. Accompanying the high numbers of Goldcrests, thirteen Firecrests were ringed. A complete list of the year's totals is given on the next page.

Recoveries and controls of ringed birds during the year are also listed below. The highlights include a Blackcap controlled in southern Spain and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen in Portugal four months after being ringed and colour-ringed as chicks on Lundy. A Blackbird found in Wales and a Chaffinch in Lancashire emphasise the fact that these species migrate via Lundy from further north, as well as being familiar local residents.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 1995

Manx Shearwater	21	Sedge Warbler	15
Storm Petrel	18	Reed Warbler	6
Kestrel	1	Icterine Warbler	1
Dotterel	1	Barred Warbler	1
Woodcock	1	Lesser Whitethroat	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	84	Whitethroat	14
Herring Gull	16	Garden Warbler	4
Skylark	58	Blackcap	154
Swallow	16	Chiffchaff	80
Tree Pipit	2	Willow Warbler	237
Meadow Pipit	262	Goldcrest	524
Grey Wagtail	5	Firecrest	13
Pied Wagtail	9	Spotted Flycatcher	4
Wren	31	Red-breasted Flycatcher	2
Dunnock	22	Pied Flycatcher	5
Robin	30	Starling	6
Black Redstart	2	House Sparrow	4
Redstart	3	Chaffinch	184
Whinchat	1	Brambling	3
Stonechat	22	Greenfinch	20
Wheatear	13	Goldfinch	5
Swainson's Thrush	1	Linnet	72
Blackbird	38	Redpoll	1
Song Thrush	20	Scarlet Rosefinch	1
Redwing	19		
Grasshopper Warbler	1		
		TOTAL	2054

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1995

H772885 **Swallow**. Ringed as a juvenile bird on Lundy, 12.10.93. Controlled at Ballymacoda, Cork, EIRE, 9.8.95. (241km; 289°; 666 days).

H444162 **Swallow**. Ringed as a juvenile bird at Youghall, Cork, EIRE, 30.8.95. Controlled on Lundy, 20.9.95. (239km; 111°; 21 days).

RK24638 **Blackbird**. Ringed as an adult female on Lundy, 26.10.93. Found dead (killed by cat) at Ludchurch, Narberth, Dyfed, Wales, 27.2.95. (65km; 359°; 489 days).

H394396 **Blackcap**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 26.10.91. Controlled at Rio Guaro, Periana, Malaga, SPAIN, 18.3.95. (1584km; 179°; 1239 days).

4W7265 **Goldcrest**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 28.9.95. Controlled at Prawle Point, Devon, 15.10.95. (127km; 148°; 17 days).

4W7346 **Goldcrest**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 29.9.95. Controlled at Lannacombe Valley, Start Point, Devon, 4.11.95. (127km; 146°; 36 days).

J477793 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 26.10.93. Controlled at Alston Hall, Lancashire, 15.1.95. (324km; 26°; 446 days).

VP40948 **House Sparrow**. Ringed as a full grown female on Lundy, 27.10.94. Found dead (not fresh) on Lundy, 9.2.95. (105 days).

In addition, **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** colour-ringed as pulli on Lundy in summer 1995 have been seen in PORTUGAL as follows:

Two birds at Figuera da Foz, 23 and 24.10.95

One bird at Matozinhos, 26 and 27.10.95