

BIRDS ON LUNDY 1995

By

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

In 1995 a more consistent series of bird records was maintained than in the previous couple of years, thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of visiting birdwatchers and of Emma Parkes, who has also done a valuable job in coordinating the use of the Society's log book on the island.

In recent years a few visiting observers have submitted Lundy records to the Devon recorder without apparently having discovered the L.F.S. log book in the Tavern and such records have not reached the Lundy Bird Reports. In 1996, closer ties are being established with the Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society, thanks to the presence of Andrew Jewels on the Devon Records Committee, and records are being exchanged. In 1997 there are likely to be some minor changes in the instructions for contributors to the Island log book, in order to bring our procedures more closely in line with the rest of Devon.

Birds of 1995

The start of the year brought rewards for the hardy observers who found a Little Egret in mid-January and Red-necked Grebe in February. The first Swallows and Wheatears arrived on 13th March, followed on 2nd April by an influx of Sand and House Martins, Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers and the first Hoopoe of the year. 8th and 9th April saw the first Pied Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtail as well as the highest spring numbers of Sand Martin and Pied Wagtails (many of them continental 'white' birds). The earliest Spotted Flycatcher was on 16th and Whitethroat on 25th but the first Cuckoo was not reported until 29th, by which time Wheatears were moving through at their peak numbers.

The first week in May produced four Dotterel, a second Hoopoe and a Red-backed Shrike. On 9th and 10th May there were good movements of Swallows and House Martins and in the same week several rarities appeared including Osprey, Bluethroat, Icterine and Subalpine Warblers and the island's first ever Willow Tit, as well as one or two Golden Orioles on most days. Later, this exciting selection of species was rounded off with a male Baillon's Crake (another Lundy first), a Marsh Harrier and a second Red-backed Shrike.

By this time breeding was well advanced for most species. There was evidence that this probably included three pairs of Stonechats: the most for more than thirty years.

The first major indication of autumn migration was an influx of Willow Warblers at the end of July, with more arriving in mid-August together with Sand Martins, Whitethroats and Grasshopper, Sedge and Reed Warblers. August also produced more unusual species than in most recent years, with a Marsh Harrier, a Melodious and two Icterine Warblers, Red-backed Shrike and Tree Sparrow.

Apart from an early Snow Bunting on 5th, the first half of September was quiet but in the second half the highest autumn numbers of various migrants including Swallow, House Martin and Goldcrest passed through. With them came a Spotted Crake, Dotterel and Barred Warbler.

October started with the Swallow passage continuing. 8th and 9th were eventful, with peak movements of species such as Wheatear and Chiffchaff, the last Pied Flycatcher and first Redwings of the autumn and an Ortolan Bunting, two Richard's Pipits and best of all a Red-eyed Vireo. On 19th even this was outshone by another transatlantic

vagrant, a Swainson's Thrush, caught and ringed in Millcombe. Other October highlights included Redpolls of the Greenland sub-species and a Scarlet Rosefinch. There were some interesting contrasts during the month: while Goldcrests were at their highest numbers since 1990, Siskins, also dependent on coniferous woodlands, were in unusually short supply, with just three autumn birds seen; from the east came the Red-breasted Flycatchers that have been regular in recent years, but no Yellow-browed Warblers; and of the northern thrushes, Redwings were plentiful, while Fieldfares were late and very scarce, perhaps not needing to move while food supplies further north were still abundant.

The year ended with the familiar mixture of small movements of thrushes, late Blackcaps and Snow Buntings, with extra interest provided by an Eider which stayed in the Landing Bay for the second half of December.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Note: 'Lundy Rarities'. These are species not classed as national rarities but which are very uncommon on the island. For further details, see the island log book. Records of them are only included below if they have been fully documented with satisfactory substantiating details in the log book or submitted to the Bird List Editor. Observers' names are included below for the species which are national or Lundy rarities.

Records of birds seen during boat crossings have only been included when it is clear from the log book that they were seen close to Lundy. Others have been forwarded for inclusion in the Devon Bird Report.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.

Occasional visitor, mainly February to May.

One in the Landing Bay, 3rd and 5th April. One on 22nd August, particularly early for an autumn record, followed by one on 30th September and two on 12th October.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.

One was in the Landing Bay, 1st to 10th January.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*.

Vagrant. Three previous records, in August 1957, February 1991 and March 1993.

One was seen in the Landing Bay, 19th to 23rd February (N. Trout).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.

Seen in all months except October and November. No unusual records or full breeding counts reported. Maximum count 100 on 27th April.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.

Seen or heard regularly from early May to late August. Maximum counts 100 on several May dates. In October, eleven on 1st and five on 25th.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

Occasional offshore in summer and autumn. Also recorded on the island at night in very small numbers.

Twenty were seen on 27th to 29th June.

Gannet *Sula bassana*.

Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.

Recorded in all months except March. Numbers mainly in single figures but there were several higher counts in May, peaking at 100 on the 13th, and in late September and October, including eighty on 23rd October.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

In spring, reported on fourteen days from 10th March to 17th June, mainly in ones

and two, but with twelve on 13th April and six on 25th April. Autumn records started early with two on 24th July. Then twenty-four records from early August to 4th November, all in single figures except twenty-three together on 14th August and fifteen the following day.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Breeding, present throughout the year.

Seen in all months. No breeding counts reported. Highest count forty-five on 8th August.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Vagrant. Three previous records, in April 1957, September '89 and October '93.

One was in fields in the village area on 16th and 17th January (F. Elson, E. Parkes, B. & R. Tudhapt).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.

In July, one on 7th, three on 17th and two on 20th. One on 16th and 17th October, and on many days from 4th November to 3rd December.

Teal *Anas crecca*.

Regular visitor, mainly in winter.

Up to three were seen on eleven days from 18th February to 16th April. Then one, 14th to 16th August, up to three from 19th to 22nd September and one, 4th November.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Occasional visitor, but wild birds difficult to differentiate from the resident ones of domestic origin.

Up to thirty resident birds. No evidence of arrivals from elsewhere.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*.

Vagrant. The eight previous records were in March, April or November.

A female was in the Landing Bay from 19th to 30th December (G.J. Nicholson & E. Parkes). This is the first record since 1979.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*.

Occasional visitor, seen more regularly in recent years.

One, 30th October, and nine flying south on 2nd November.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

Vagrant. Up to fourteen previous records, all but three being in spring.

A female was seen hunting over various parts of the island on 22nd and 23rd May (R. Campey *et al.*). A male was at Quarter Wall on 6th August, unusually early for an autumn bird (C. Blackler & J. Lo-Vel).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Occasional spring and autumn migrant.

A female was present from 17th to 23rd April and a ring-tailed bird on most days from 23rd October to 6th November.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 5th and 15th April and on six days from 22nd September to 18th October.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Uncommon visitor.

Singles on 16th, 17th and 23rd April, 22nd June and 8th July.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

Vagrant. Eight previous 20th century records, all since 1974.

One flew north over Pondsburry on 8th May (R. Campey). Three of the other recent records have also been in May.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

Regular visitor, mainly in spring and autumn. Has bred occasionally.

Reported in all months except February. Peak counts included three in April, four in July, August and September, and five in October.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

One on 15th January was followed by seven records between 8th March and 21st April, with two birds on 18th and 21st April. In autumn, one on 13th August and two on 7th September, then one or two on most days from 19th September to 2nd November.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.

Singles, 6th to 8th May and 23rd and 26th September.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Recorded in all months in recent years.

Reported in all months except January, maximum counts being four in April and September.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

Formerly present in small numbers from September to April, but a decline has become evident in recent years.

One, 12th to 14th March. Reported on eight days from 19th October to 19th November, including two on 30th and 31st October.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, five of them in Spring.

One, thought to be a first year bird, was at Pondsburry from 19th to 21st September (F. & R. Castle).

Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla*.

Vagrant. Not recorded on Lundy previously.

One was at Millcombe pond on 15th and 16th May (R. Campey).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.

Recorded throughout the year. Peak counts twenty-three on 22nd February, twenty on 13th March, and sixteen on 18th October. Most other counts were in single figures.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Seen on seven days in spring, from 11th April to 22nd May, maximum five on 11th May. Singles on four autumn dates from 6th August to 8th October and two together on 20th August.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Four on 5th and 6th May and singles on 21st and 28th September.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant. Occasional visitor in all other months.

In spring, ten records of up to six birds, 5th to 31st May. In autumn, one on 15th August was followed by ten records between 27th September and 31st October, mainly of one or two birds, but with eight on 5th October and eleven on 10th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant, less regular in winter.

Reported in all months except January. Counts were mainly in single figures but higher counts included fifteen on 8th May and nineteen on 1st July.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

One on 4th September.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*.

Uncommon autumn migrant. One spring record.

Three at Pondsburry on 3rd August were earlier in autumn than usual. One remained on 5th and 6th, then a single was seen on 30th August.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Singles were seen on 21st February and 14th April.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.

Seven spring records, 5th to 18th May, peaking at five on 16th. In early autumn, ten records from 4th August to 20th September, including five on 6th August. Then two on 13th and one on 30th November.

Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late September to March.

One was reported on the very early dates of 4th to 7th August, then singles on 5th and 8th September.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Regular migrant and visitor, mainly August to April.

One or two were seen occasionally between 1st February and 2nd May. After one on 24th June, more regular autumn records started on 31st July with up to two birds in August, three in September and three in October, then occasional later reports with peaks of five in November and two in December.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.

Migrant and visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.

One, 24th September, then single birds on seven dates from 29th October to 12th November, with two on 31st October.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

In spring, seen on most days from 26th April to 31st May, with peaks of six on 5th May and seven on 11th. The only autumn records were one on 16th July and twenty on 3rd August. See table 1.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, also visiting in all other months.

After fourteen on 12th January there were up to five from 24th to 28th April then occasional records from 22nd May to 2nd November with maxima of seven on 25th June, twenty-two on 15th August, seventeen on 16th September and fifteen on 11th October. Most other reports in this period were of one to three birds. Then one on 29th December.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

In spring, two on 11th April and one on 25th May. In autumn, singles on 17th July and 7th September, then two on 11th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

Singles on 2nd and 9th April.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glariola*

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

One was seen on 9th August.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Four singles in spring between 5th and 15th May. On return migration, two on 15th July and one on 31st July.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late August to early May.

Two on 5th May, then singles on four days from 17th to 30th May and one on 6th August.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*.

Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.

One on 25th October.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

Uncommon visitor throughout the year.

One, 23rd May, three, 27th to 29th June, then two moving south on 2nd November.

Common Gull *Larus canus*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.

One on 19th February.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded in all months. No breeding numbers reported. Highest counts were 220 on 21st February and 205 on 15th March.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*.

Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.

Present but largely uncounted. Up to 750 in late February and 200 in early October.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Breeding. Present all year but usually few in winter.

Present but largely uncounted. Up to 110 in late February and sixty-five in mid-October.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded from late February to early December. Counts included sixty in mid-March and seventy offshore on 25th October.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to September.

One, 5th April.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to October.

One, 12th April.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

Breeding. Usually absent from early August to October, then sporadic until January.

Present from mid-January to 8th August. No complete breeding counts reported. Up to seven reported on six dates from 11th October to the end of the year.

Razorbill *Alca torda*.

Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.

Eight reports of up to twenty birds in the first three months of the year. Recorded regularly between 4th April and 8th August. No breeding counts reported. In autumn, six offshore on 23rd October and twenty on 25th October.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

Breeding now doubtful. Present in small numbers, April to August. Major decline in the last fifty years.

Present from 23rd March to 23rd July. Highest count thirty-one on 23rd June. (See Griffiths, this volume).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Three, 3rd and 4th February and one, 11th March.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

Breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.

Recorded in all months except December. Numbers mainly between one and four but higher in May, when the maximum was seven on 4th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*.

Recorded in all months in recent years. Common in spring and autumn.

Present throughout the year, with up to four or five in most months but eight for much of May and rising to eleven on 22nd May. In December, eight on 17th. See table 1.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.

In May, seen on eleven days from 4th to 27th, with maximum seven on 22nd. Singles on six days in June and early July, then four on 14th July and one on 8th October.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

After one on 29th April, there were fifteen May reports, mainly of singles but rising to three on 22nd. Two singles in June, then fourteen records of one or two birds, 6th August to 4th September.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*.

Vagrant. Eleven previous records, seven of them in late autumn.

One was seen on the Terrace on 11th October (M.K. Ahmad & J.R. Diamond).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One on 14th October, then two on 15th and 17th. Singles, 25th November and 21st December.

Swift *Apus apus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.

Two early birds were reported on 25th March. Then seen on most days from 4th to 26th May, with a peak of thirty on 17th. Reported sporadically from late May to 16th August, with numbers in single figures. See table 1.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles were present from 2nd to 9th April and on 1st and 6th May.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

Breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers. Sporadic in winter.

Reported as present all year. High counts included thirty-four on 20th February and sixty on 20th October.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.

The first three birds arrived on 2nd April. Most spring birds were recorded in the following two weeks with smaller numbers in the first half of May. Peaks were 200 on 8th and 9th April and twenty on 10th and 11th May. Seen sporadically from then until 19th October, with most counts in single figures, but thirty-five on 17th August. See table 1.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

The first three spring birds arrived on 13th March, then one on 16th. Present almost daily from 3rd April to 30th October. Spring peaks were 100 on 1st May, 300 on 9th and 10th May, and 200 on 21st and 22nd May. At least one pair bred. Autumn maxima were 100 on five days between 17th and 23rd September and five days between 2nd and 9th October. See table 1.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

In spring, seen on most days from 2nd April to 19th June, high counts being 150 on 9th and 10th May and 100 daily from 27th May to 1st June. Singles were reported on nine days from late June to early September. There were fewer autumn records than usual, with birds seen on just seven days between 17th and 29th September, numbers peaking at twelve on 17th and fifty on 23rd. In October, one on 9th and two on 27th were the only records. See table 1.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

Two were seen feeding in St Helen's Field on 9th October, one remaining on 10th (A.M. Jewels, G.A. Oliver & M.S. Shakespeare).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: six singles, 5th to 30th May. Autumn: three on 18th August, then four subsequent singles to 11th October.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant. Scarce in winter.

Present throughout the year. Counts included fifteen on 19th February, fifty on 5th April, 100 on 14th August and autumn peaks of 200 on 23rd and 25th September, 500 from 8th to 10th October and 200 on 18th October.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. No complete counts.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: recorded on twenty dates from 8th April to 25th May, mainly involving single birds but with four on 11th May and two on 17th. One bird of the continental race *M. f. flava* was present between the latter two dates. Autumn: one, 5th July, then recorded on thirteen days from 15th September to 27th October, maximum six on 12th October.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional visitor in summer and winter.

Singles on four days between 4th and 14th March and on 31st May, 2nd July and 10th August. Then reported on many days from 9th September to 3rd November, including six on 15th September and up to three in early October.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.

Breeding in most years. Regular spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon in winter.

Present on most days from 8th February to 3rd November. The peak spring count was thirty on 9th and 10th April. At this time, many individuals were of the continental race *M. a. alba*, and up to three of this race were also present in the first half of May. Constant presence through the summer and juveniles seen in early July suggest breeding on the island. Peak autumn counts: twelve on 5th August, fourteen on 16th September, twelve on 8th October.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported counts: twenty-five on 19th February, forty-eight on 18th October.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty on 8th October.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.

Present all year. Highest reported count: forty-three on 20th October.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, four of them in autumn.

A male of the red-spotted race *L. s. svecica* was seen at Stoneycroft on 10th May (R. Campey).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.

Singles on 8th January and 20th February, then two on 4th April and further singles on 20th April and 6th and 18th May. Sixteen autumn records from 22nd September to 31st October involved up to three birds. One was seen on four days in December.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

An early spring bird was reported on 22nd March. Then singles on 11th April, seven of the first twelve days of May and on 7th and 28th June. In autumn, one on 17th and 18th August was followed by one or two on fifteen dates from 22nd September to 30th October. See table 1.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.

Spring: sixteen records, 25th April to 19th May, mainly involved single birds but peaked at six on 25th April and five on 15th May. Autumn: singles on 3rd, 6th and 13th to 16th August were followed by thirteen records of one or two birds, 16th September to 23rd October. See table 1.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.

Recorded in all months. Breeds occasionally. Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant.

Recorded throughout the year. Up to three seen sporadically in January and February, then a maximum of six in March. Three pairs bred, probably raising two or three broods each. Highest autumn counts were twenty-five on 9th and 10th October. After early November, only single birds were reported.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: first seen on 13th March, with main passage between 9th April and 15th May. Peak count: 100 on nine days from 25th April to 5th May. Autumn: peak counts were twenty-five on 13th August, fifteen on 2nd September and sixteen on 10th October. Latest date: 23rd October. See table 1.

Swainson's Thrush *Catharus ustulatus*.

Vagrant from North America. One previous Lundy record, in October 1987.

One was caught and ringed in Millcombe on 19th October (M. Gade, S. Wing et al.). This record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: up to two seen on four days, 10th to 14th April. Autumn: singles on 20th September and 18th and 22nd October.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.

Present all year. Peak counts included twenty-six on 23rd February and between thirty and forty-six on most days from 8th to 20th October.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn. Winter visitor during cold spells.

Spring: one, 21st March. Autumn: very few and late in arriving, with just seven records of up to ten birds, 22nd October to 18th November. Up to twenty on five days in the second half of December. See table 2.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

Regular breeding in recent years. Usually present throughout the year. Common migrant in early spring and late autumn.

Present in all months except December, with up to ten in February, March and April, and seven in May. The most reported in the next four months was three but these included a juvenile, indicating breeding. Autumn numbers were mainly in single figures but significant passage between 28th October and 2nd November included 200 on 29th October.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*.

Common early spring and late autumn migrant. Winter visitor during cold spells.

Up to three seen occasionally in February and up to ten in March. Singles on four days, 4th to 11th April. The first autumn birds arrived on 10th October, subsequent peaks being fifty on 22nd October, 1200 flying south on 29th October and 100 on 4th November. Subsequently, up to forty in November and December. See table 2.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.

Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.

Spring: two from 25th to 30th April, then singles, 2nd, 3rd and 14th May. Autumn: singles, 16th to 18th August, 30th August and 2nd September.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: Present daily from 4th to 23rd May, peaking at twenty on 13th. Autumn: one, 27th July, then nine records, 12th to 24th August, with six on 15th. Two, 20th September, followed by one on 25th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one, 8th May. Autumn: one on 16th and two on 18th August, then one, 9th to 14th October, with three on 13th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare migrant, usually in autumn.

One on 8th May and two, 19th to 22nd August.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.

Rare migrant, usually in autumn.

One, 16th August.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*.

Vagrant. Seven previous accepted records, the first as recently as 1985. Six have been in spring.

One, probably female, was seen feeding in Millcombe on 14th May (R. Campey).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*.

Rare autumn migrant.

One was caught and ringed on 29th September: the first record since 1989.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on thirteen days, 4th to 22nd May, maximum five on 15th. Autumn: one, 20th August, then ten October records between 8th and 31st, maximum three on 23rd.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one, 25th April. Then seen on most days from 4th May to 2nd June, with twelve on 6th and 7th May and ten on 13th to 15th. Further singles, 7th and 15th June. Autumn: six records, 8th to 20th August, including twenty-five on 15th. Then singles, 17th to 21st September and 11th to 15th October. See table 2.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: seen on most days from 5th to 28th May, maximum five on 15th. Autumn: one, 22nd August, then occasional singles, 11th September to 26th October, with three on 19th September and two on 9th October.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.

Spring: seen on most days from 9th April to 25th May, with highest counts of seven on 9th April, ten on 15th May. Autumn: seen on most days from 17th September to 4th November, with peaks of forty on 13th October, thirty on 22nd October and thirty on 1st November. Occasional later reports of up to three until 2nd December. See table 2.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: two, 25th April, and singles, 7th, 15th and 24th May. Autumn: in August, singles on 17th and 24th and two on 20th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter in recent years.

Spring: the main movement was between 2nd April and 23rd May with peaks of fifty on 9th April and 100 on 24th and 25th April. Small numbers were then seen sporadically throughout the summer. Autumn: seen on most days from 20th September to 4th November, with peaks of twenty on 29th September and twenty-five on 9th and 10th October. See table 2.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: present daily from 2nd April to 9th June, with peaks of 200 on 9th April, 100 on 24th and 25th April. One reported sporadically throughout the summer. Autumn: seen on most days from 24th July to 23rd September, with main arrivals of 150 on 31st July, seventy-five on 15th August and fifty on 2nd September. One or two seen on eight later dates, to 23rd October. See table 2.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter and summer visitor (has bred occasionally).

Sporadic records of one or two birds in every month except January and December. Spring arrivals included six on 14th and 24th March, nine on 9th April. A juvenile was seen in early July, so breeding may have occurred. Autumn movements were between 5th September and 4th November, the main peaks being 1500 on 29th September and 200 on 20th October. See table 2.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.

Spring: one, 19th April. Autumn: twelve records, 10th October to 1st November, mainly of ones and twos but rising to twelve on 13th October.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.

Breeding in recent years. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen daily from 2nd May to 2nd June, with peaks of thirty on 15th and 22nd May. One or two reported sporadically throughout the summer. Autumn: seen on many days from 13th August to 26th September, with peaks of twenty on 17th August and eight on 5th September. Later, occasional singles to 14th October. See table 2.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

In October, singles on 6th, 8th, 10th and 22nd, with two on 9th.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

Regular migrant, small numbers in spring and common in autumn.

Spring: eleven records, 8th April to 18th May, including five on 24th April.

Autumn: one, 24th July, then seen on most days from 9th to 25th August, including ten on 16th and 18th. Nine later records of one or two birds to 10th October.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*.

Rare migrant, mainly in late autumn.

One was reported on the unusual date of 14th June, then one on 9th December.

Willow Tit *Parus atricapillus*.

Vagrant. No previous Lundy records.

One was seen at Quarter Wall Copse on 11th May (R. Campey).

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

One, 2nd and 15th April and two on 24th April.

Great Tit *Parus major*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

One, 19th February.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*.

Uncommon visitor, usually between July and October.

Singles on 13th and 14th July, 7th September and 11th October, with two on 4th September.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

Uncommon spring migrant.

In May, two on 8th, 9th and 22nd, with singles on 10th, 12th, 21st and 23rd.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*.

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

One on 7th May was followed by a male on 2nd June and a female on 18th and 19th August.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Four on 20th October.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. Counts included twenty-one on 19th February and twenty-six on 8th October.

Raven *Corvus corax*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. Highest count seventeen on 6th September.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

Present all year. Fifty were present on 14th July. Peak autumn counts were 160 on 21st October and 300 on 29th October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. Fifty-eight were counted on 23rd February and 100 on 18th October.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*.

Uncommon visitor, most frequently seen in early summer. Becoming rarer.

One, 4th August.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*.

Vagrant from North America. Four previous Lundy records, in October 1985, September and October '88 and October '90.

One was seen at Quarter Wall Copse on 9th October (M.K. Ahmad & J.R. Diamond). This record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year. Late autumn migrant in large numbers.

Present all year. Peak autumn counts were 100 on 23rd October and eighty on 2nd November.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*.

Rare spring and common late autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Three, 19th to 21st February, then singles on 24th March and 16th April. Autumn: ten records, 21st October to 4th November, including six on 23rd October.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

Common late autumn migrant. Uncommon visitor through the rest of the year.

Three, 9th April, then two 10th to 23rd May, then one on three dates to 7th June. An adult and two juveniles were seen on 29th July. Autumn: seen on most days from 19th September to 2nd November, with numbers mainly in single figures but rising to twelve on 8th and 10th October. Then two, 9th December.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

Common spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon winter and summer visitor.

One, 20th to 26th February, then two, 10th and 11th March. Seen on many days from 2nd April to 30th May, with most counts in single figures but more from 25th April to 1st May, including thirty on 27th April. One, 10th to 12th July. Seen on many days from 19th September to 12th November, with maximum nine on 15th October. One, 3rd December.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.

Late autumn migrant, numbers varying greatly from year to year. Very rare in spring.

An exceptional series of spring records, with singles on 13th April, 26th April to 1st May and 20th May. Autumn: just two singles, on 18th October and 2nd November.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

Breeding. Irregular migrant, mainly in autumn. Uncommon winter visitor.

Two on 9th March, then seen on most days from 2nd April to 4th November. Counts included sixty on 27th April, 109 on 18th August and 100 on 2nd September. A late bird was seen on 3rd and 4th December.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two on 15th May. One, 10th to 13th October with a second on the last date. The first October bird was caught and ringed and measurements showed it to be of the Greenland race *A. f. rostrata*. The second bird appeared similar. One on 27th October.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

A first-year bird was in Millcombe on 22nd October.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles were seen on 22nd March, 17th June and 1st November.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*.

Regular autumn migrant in small numbers. Has also been recorded in winter and spring.

Fewer than in recent years: just one, on 25th October.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Two, 21st February. In autumn, singles on 5th and 6th September, then five days from 7th to 25th October. Twelve, 17th November, with two on the 18th. Eight, 21st December.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional summer and winter visitor.
One, 9th April.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*.

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

A first-year bird was in Millcombe from 8th to 12th October.

LUNDY RARITIES: Records rejected because they were undocumented or descriptions inconclusive.

Serin *Serinus serinus*. One, 2nd November.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Whimbrel | | | | 1.2 | 2.9 1.8 0.5 | | 0.1 | 2.0 | | | | |
| Collared Dove | 0.2 | 0.2 1.3 2.6 | 2.6 1.0 0.3 | 1.6 0.9 1.9 | 5.6 7.0 6.3 | 1.3 0.6 1.4 | 0.1 0.4 0.7 | 0.2 3.5 0.8 | 1.1 0.6 2.4 | 1.9 3.1 2.9 | 0.9 1.8 1.6 | 2.3 2.6 1.5 |
| Swift | | | 0.2 | 0.1 | 2.4 5.6 4.9 | 0.2 5.2 | P 1.8 0.3 | 0.1 0.4 | | | | |
| Sand Martin | | | | 47 0.9 0.1 | 6.6 4.5 1.6 | 2.0 0.1 | 0.5 | 4.6 | 0.5 0.5 | 0.2 0.1 | | |
| Swallow | | | 0.4 | 6.7 P 26 | 130 72 89 | P P 2.0 | 2.2 2.1 2.9 | 3.9 4.6 2.3 | 5.6 54 37 | 60 16 4.4 | | |
| House Martin | | | | 3.8 5.2 11 | 61 34 84 | 30 P 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 0.1 | 0.2 1.3 5.7 | 0.1 0.2 | | |
| Redstart | | | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 0.1 | 0.1 0.1 | | 0.2 | 0.8 | 0.9 0.2 | | |
| Whinchat | | | | 0.8 | 0.4 1.6 | | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 0.3 | 4.3 4.5 3.2 | | |
| Wheatear | | | 1.5 0.7 | 12 P 66 | 82 29 9.4 | 12 2.4 5.3 | 2.8 2.1 6.7 | 4.2 7.6 0.5 | 0.1 0.6 0.1 | 3.7 2.0 0.5 | | |

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1995.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods throughout the year. P = present: numbers unreported.)

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Fieldfare | | | 0.1 | | | | | | | 0.5 | 1.2 P | 0.4 2.7 |
| Redwing | | 0.7 0.1 0.3 | 0.2 2.4 | 0.3 0.1 | | | | | | 0.2 1.3 130 | 22 12 3.3 | 7.1 7.0 4.2 |
| Whitethroat | | | | 0.1 | 3.4 5.4 2.2 | 0.5 0.1 | | 0.1 3.0 | 0.2 0.1 | 0.3 | | |
| Blackcap | | | | 1.0 3.0 0.8 | 1.5 2.6 0.2 | | | | 0.3 3.6 | 3.8 8.5 9.4 | 5.3 P | 0.2 |
| Chiffchaff | | | | 20 P P | 11 2.6 2.4 | P 0.2 0.2 | 0.5 0.6 0.5 | 0.2 0.5 0.2 | 1.2 6.3 | 6.8 6.8 6.5 | 0.7 | |
| Willow Warbler | | | | 30 P P | 20 7.9 3.8 | P 0.3 0.1 | 0.6 0.4 1.9 | 7.4 38 1.8 | 17 4.3 0.6 | 0.3 0.3 0.4 | | |
| Goldcrest | | 0.1 0.2 0.4 | 1.8 1.0 | 2.1 0.6 0.2 | 0.9 1.8 1.1 | 0.2 0.1 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 5.6 5.1 260 | 40 67 13 | 3.2 P 0.1 | |
| Spotted Flycatcher | | | | 0.1 | 7.3 16 14 | 1.7 0.3 0.4 | 0.1 0.2 0.3 | 0.7 5.7 3.1 | 3.2 2.1 1.9 | 0.2 0.1 | | |

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1995.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten-day periods, throughout the year. P = present: numbers unreported.)