

## BIRDS ON LUNDY, 1996

By

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### Introduction

The 1996 bird records for Lundy have gained from the inclusion of some passed on from the Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society's county files, not having been entered in the Society's log book on the island. For much of the year the recording coverage on the island has been pleasingly thorough. However at times, notably some weeks in August and September when plenty of migrants would be expected, observers have been sadly lacking or the value of records has been greatly diminished by the use of ticks rather than numbers in the log. The data in the tables following the systematic list need to be interpreted with this in mind.

The number of records of unusual species lost because confirming details have not been given is higher than normal. The list of species requiring descriptions has increased in 1997, to bring Lundy more closely in line with mainland Devon, so there is now even more need for observers to be rigorous in checking the procedures.

#### Birds of 1996

January saw the continuing presence of 1995's Eider as well as some more regular winter species such as Jack Snipe and Snow Bunting. February was overshadowed by the *Sea Empress* oil spillage off Milford Haven and the arrival of some of its victims including auks, Red-throated Divers and Red-necked Grebes.

The first summer migrants appeared in March, with Wheatear first as usual, then a notably early Cuckoo followed by Chiffchaff, hirundines and Ring Ouzel on more typical dates and finally an early Willow Warbler. Early April was brightened by a Hoopoe and in the second half of the month the summer arrivals continued with the first of such species as Pied Flycatcher, Yellow Wagtail, Grasshopper and Sedge Warblers, Redstart and finally Swift. At the same time Swallow passage was reaching its peak on 19th and a splendid white Gyrfalcon gave many observers close views the next day. The other rarity of the month was a Red-rumped Swallow on 26th. Hobby and Wryneck, at about the same time, were also good to see. Wheatears and Willow Warblers passed through in large numbers during the last week of April and first week of May, on schedule, but House Martins, peaking in the last week of April, were earlier and scarcer than usual.

On 5th May a Golden Oriole appeared, along with high numbers of common migrants. In the same week Dotterel, Hobby and Little Egret also put in appearances. Garganey and Short-toed Lark were mid-month highlights. Some species more typical of winter stayed very late, with Redwing and Fieldfare seen in May and a Great Northern Diver delaying even longer, till June. A second Little Egret appeared on 30th May.

The first week of June rounded off the spring migration with a good selection of scarce species including a singing Common Rosefinch and the second Short-toed Lark, Golden Oriole and Dotterel of the year.

Among the breeding species, Stonechats continued to prosper while on the cliffs there was mixed news, with seabird survey work by David Price giving evidence of long-term increases for some species, notably Fulmar, and decline for others including Kittiwake.

Late June, July and August had little to enliven them, two Mute Swans on the sea in July being the most unusual record. Much of September also lacked news, mainly because it lacked observers, but a Montagu's Harrier was seen on 3rd and the last ten days produced waders including Knot and Little Stint, several species such as Richard's

Pipit, Lapland Bunting and Snow Bunting normally expected somewhat later, and the autumn's peak numbers of Willow Warblers.

1st October saw the first of several Red-breasted Flycatchers, and thousands of Swallows on the move. The period from 19th to 23rd was also good for migration, with the autumn's highest numbers of Goldcrest, Redwing, Starling and Siskin, as well as the autumn's only Yellow-browed Warbler. The month overall was characterised by large numbers of Siskins, few, late-arriving Redwings and Fieldfares and several summer species such as Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher staying much later than usual. Scarcer species included a Common Rosefinch, Long-eared Owl and finally the bird of the year, Lundy's first Radde's Warbler.

November and December were very quiet though a big flock of Woodpigeon put in an unexpected appearance and winter thrushes and Blackcaps were noted.

### 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.*

Two birds (oiled), 25th and 26th February, then one on four days, 27th April to 8th May.

#### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.*

One, 15th, 16th and 25th February. Then one was seen on five days from 24th May to 7th June. There have been occasional late spring records in the past but the only previous June record was in 1992.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*.

*Vagrant. Four previous records, in August 1957, February '91, March '93 and February '95.*

Two were seen in the Landing Bay area from 16th February, rising to four on 25th, at least two of which were oiled. One oiled bird remained until 23rd March (R. Bower, E. Parkes, A. Foss).

#### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*.

*Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.*

Present from the beginning of the year to late August. Sixty were seen on a complete island count on 27th February. The Seabird Survey in early June found 203 apparently occupied nests, the highest total ever recorded for the island. (See D. Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report.)

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*.

*Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.*

Only recorded between 14th April and 14th July. The highest count was only 300, on 8th July. Birds responded to taped calls from two burrows on Puffin Slope in June, during daylight hours, suggesting that they were incubating. Eighty-four were ringed at night.

#### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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

The only sight records were of two on 27th and two on 30th May. Fifty-seven were

ringed at night in June.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

After two on 4th February, birds were reported offshore on many days from 4th April to 31st October. Most counts were in single figures. Peaks included fifty on 27th May and fifty-five on 25th October.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

One on 6th March, then eighteen records of up to nine birds between 28th March and the end of May. Occasional ones and twos in the next three months were followed by ten reports of up to seventeen, 21st September to 23rd October.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

The Seabird Survey in early June located thirty-eight apparently occupied nests (see D: Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report). Highest counts outside the breeding season included fifteen on 27th February, twelve on 17th October.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*.

*Vagrant. Four previous records, in April 1957, September '89, October '93 and January '95.*

Singles were seen on 6th May, flying north past Jenny's Cove, (R. J. Campey) and at Rat Island on 30th May (M. K. Ahmed & J. R. Diamond).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.*

Scarcer than usual: in spring, two on 16th and one on 27th April, then in autumn just one, on 30th September.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*.

*Three previous records, in September 1959, June '76 and November '87.*

Two were seen in the Landing Bay, then flew north but later were on the sea a mile to the east, 13th July (A. Rowland *et al.*).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*.

*Vagrant. Five previous dated records, four of them in spring.*

Ten flew southeast past the south of the island, 20th June (E. Parkes). The species is occurring on the island increasingly frequently, in line with the increasing numbers in mainland Britain.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in winter.*

Two on 28th and one on 31st January. One on 1st and 2nd September, earlier in the autumn than usual. Four on 22nd September, then in October, one on 5th and two on 24th.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

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

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*.

*Vagrant. Six previous records, all in March and April 1958 and '59.*

A male was on Ponsbury, 13th May (R. J. Campey).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*.

*Vagrant. The nine island records have been in March, April, November and December.*

The female present at the end of 1995 remained until 7th January 1996.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*.

*Occasional visitor, seen more regularly in recent years.*

One, 25th and 26th February.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 29th October.

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*.

*Vagrant. Eleven previous records, mainly in spring.*

A ring-tailed bird, probably an adult female, was seen hunting in the Pondsby area, 3rd September (J. R. Diamond).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

*Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on twelve days from 27th April to 2nd June, with at least two individuals being involved. Then a female on 8th July and just two later records, on 17th October and 8th November.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

One, 21st September. An unidentified buzzard *Buteo/Pernis* sp. was seen on 30th May.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

Two throughout January, then singles reported intermittently over the next six months. Subsequent numbers were two in August, four in September and four in October, with birds seen on most days. A female was then seen occasionally to the end of the year.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Two on 18th March were followed by a series of records of a female from 4th to 31st May: much later than usual in spring. In autumn, a female was seen on most days from 10th October to 1st November.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Singles on 25th April, 6th May and 2nd and 4th October.

**Gyr Falcon** *Falco rusticolus*.

*Vagrant. Five previous records, but only two in the past fifty years, in 1972 and '86. Three have been in March, one in April and one in November. All have been of the white, high-arctic type.*

A white bird was present on 20th April, seen flying over all parts of the island and catching a Wheatear at Threequarter Wall (J. Avon, J. Hutchinson *et al.*). This record has been accepted by the B.B. Rarities Committee.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Present throughout the year, with maximum counts of three between April and October, more sporadic records involving one or two in other months.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*.

*Vagrant, mainly in spring, with twelve records this century to 1983. More frequent since 1988.*

One, 15th June.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

One, 26th September, then one or two most days, 14th October to 2nd November, with three on 19th October.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

*Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.*

Recorded throughout the year. A complete island survey located twenty-four on 27th February. Sixteen were seen on 7th April and fourteen on 8th June. Eighteen pairs were recorded during the seabird survey work in early June. Most other reports were in single figures.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Two, 30th January, then records on five days, 14th May to 21st June, involving two on 24th May and four other singles. In autumn, singles on 1st and 22nd September.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two singles, on 3rd May and 6th June.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional visitor in all other months.*

After four on 24th March, nine records of up to three birds, 16th April to 25th June. Thirteen autumn records, 2nd September to 29th October, mainly involved single birds, but there were six on 30th September and five on 13th October.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occasional winter visitor.*

Singles on 1st May and 22nd September.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Reported in all months except February and November. Peak counts were eight in January and March, six in April and May, nine on 29th October, eight on 30th December. Otherwise records were sporadic, mainly referring to ones and twos.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 22nd September.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant. One spring record.*

One, 21st and 22nd September.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.*

One, 24th and 25th February; two, 18th April.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.*

One, 29th February, then twelve spring records, 30th April to 24th May, peaking at six on 17th May. Few in autumn: one on 3rd August and two on 21st to 23rd September.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late September to March.*

Four, 29th January, with two seen subsequently on three days to 11th February.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

*Regular migrant and visitor, mainly August to April.*

Singles reported sporadically through January, March and April, with three on 27th January and two on 13th and 23rd March. In autumn, recorded from 31st August to 31st October, with peaks of seven on 21st September and four on 17th October.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Singles, 5th to 12th January and 13th March. Six arrived on 29th October, with one or two seen on the next three days, then one, 30th November.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Seen on fifteen days, 25th April to 20th May, with a peak of four on 27th April. The only other report was of one on 19th June. See Table 1.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

Seen sporadically from the beginning of the year to 13th November. Peak numbers included six in January, seven in February, fifteen on 10th July, eleven on 14th August. Most other observations were of one or two birds.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa nebularia*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 1st October.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 16th, 17th and 28th April, 26th and 28th September.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 12th August.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 4th and 5th May. One, 4th August.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Three, 5th May, with one on the next two days. One, 24th August.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

Singles on six days in January and February, then two on 27th February. One, 26th April, two, 4th May, and one on 28th and 29th October.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*.

*Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.*

Two, 30th July.

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*.

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

Two, 20th June, one, 15th July.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Reported as present from early February to the end of the year. The breeding population was estimated at 328 pairs during the seabird survey work in early June, indicating that the steady increase since the 1950's, when numbers were at their lowest, is continuing. Peak counts outside the breeding season included forty-eight on 25th September, 100 on 13th October and 450 on 25th October.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

*Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.*

Present all year. Breeding population estimated at 750 pairs during the seabird survey work. Difficulties in assessing this species accurately, given the inaccessibility of some sites, mean that no clear conclusions can be drawn as to the long-term population trends; this estimate is higher than the 1992 total but lower than the perhaps more thorough count of 1986. Few counts outside the breeding season, the highest being seventy on 13th October.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*.

*Breeding. Present all year but usually few in winter.*

Present all year. Breeding population estimated at twenty-three pairs during the

seabird survey work: similar to the 1992 count. Few counts outside the breeding season, the highest being seventy on the 13th October.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Seen regularly from early March to late August. 390 apparently occupied nests were found during seabird survey work, indicating a continuing decline, but less marked in the last four years than previous to 1992. (See D. Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report.) Four observations of up to four birds, 26th October to the end of November.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to September.*

Singles, 30th March (unusually early) and 11th April.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to October.*

In April, singles on 1st, 2nd and 7th (all unusually early), then two on 12th and 20th; one, 30th June.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*.

*Rare migrant and summer visitor.*

Singles, 5th May and 30th June.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

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

Seen sporadically from the beginning of the year, then regularly through the breeding season to 1st August. Oiled birds from the *Sea Empress* disaster were present in the last week of February and early March. The Seabird Survey recorded 1921 birds in breeding colonies. This is a reduction of 700 compared with 1992, with the *Sea Empress* oil spillage possibly having some influence. (See D. Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report.)

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

Seen sporadically from the beginning of the year, then regularly through the breeding season to late July, with four later birds on 13th August, and two offshore records in late October. As in the case of Guillemots, oiled birds were present after the *Sea Empress* disaster. The Seabird Survey recorded 959 birds at breeding sites, the highest total since 1981 (see D. Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report). With regular visiting of breeding sites usually not starting until late March, the Lundy breeding population may have been relatively unaffected by oiling, compared with the much earlier-arriving Guillemots.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Recorded from 7th April to 4th August. The seabird survey recorded fifteen birds in early June (see D. Price, Surveys of Breeding Seabirds on Lundy, in this report). Peak local counts, between 30th June and 17th July, included seventeen off Gannets' Rock, fifteen at Long Roost, six at St Mark's Stone, one at Jenny's Cove and six at the Battery. Since each count was on a different date, overlap in the birds involved is possible.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 23rd August, then in October two on 22nd, one on 24th and 30th.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

*Presumed breeding in most years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.*

Recorded sporadically from late March to mid-November. Highest counts were

seven on 28th April, four or less in the following six months, then in November an influx of fifty on 8th, with ten seen subsequently on 14th.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years. Most numerous in spring and autumn.*

Present throughout the year. Peak counts included six in January, nine in May, June and October, eight in November, with up to four in other months. See Table 1.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

*Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.*

Seen on twenty days, 4th May to 18th June, with a maximum of five on 30th May.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Presumed breeding in most years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

After a very early bird on 13th March, singles were reported on twenty-nine days from 19th April to 14th June.

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*.

*Vagrant. Twelve previous records, eight of them in late autumn.*

One was seen in Millcombe on 18th October (S. Wing).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 21st October and 11th November.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Recorded on most days, 26th April to 24th July. Peak counts included 100 on 28th April, fifty on 5th May, forty-four on 13th June and seventy on 18th June. See Table 1.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 9th and 10th April.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*.

*Uncommon migrant, more regular in autumn than spring.*

One, 26th to 30th April.

**Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

*Vagrant. Nine previous records, four in May and five in autumn.*

One was seen at Quarter Wall on 17th May (R. J. Campey). A second was near Threequarter Wall from 3rd to 5th June (L. Lock).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Present all year. Breeding season counts revealed twenty-three singing birds on 8th May, eighteen occupied territories south of Threequarter Wall on 12th June. High autumn counts included ninety on 22nd September and 100 on 23rd October.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.*

Seen on most days from 22nd March to 16th May, with peak counts of thirty on 17th and fifty on 27th April, fifty on 5th and forty on 14th May. Singles on seven days in late May and June, then up to twelve daily, 6th to 10th July. Sporadic records from 2nd August to 9th October peaked at twenty-one on 2nd September, thirty on 22nd September, and fifty on 2nd October. See Table 1.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.*

The first was seen on 23rd March. Main spring passage was from mid-April to late May, with highest numbers 800 on 19th April, 400 on 5th May. Most June and July counts were in single figures. Two breeding attempts were made, with one successful; it is not clear whether one pair laid two clutches or two pairs were involved. In August there was some evidence of passage, the peak figure being fifty on 10th. September



peak: 750 on 22nd. Heavy passage in early October included 3000 on 1st, 2000 on 2nd, 1000 on 6th. The last was seen on 2nd November. See Table 1.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*.

*Vagrant. Four previous records, in March 1952, October '80, October '87 and May '89.*

One was seen in the Terrace area, 26th April (J. R. Diamond). This record has been accepted by the B. B. Rarities Committee.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

After two on 23rd March, subsequent spring records were from 17th April to 24th June. Peak numbers were fifty on 27th and 28th April, thirty on several May dates, forty on 5th June. No evidence of breeding. After a few reports of up to three between 22nd July and 13th August, patchy recording in the next two months included peaks of twenty on 22nd September, 100 on 7th October. A late bird remained until 31st October. See Table 1.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One at Pondsby and elsewhere in the south of the island, 23rd and 24th September (T. Jones and A. Vickery).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

In spring, seen on most days from 26th April to 11th May. Highest numbers were eleven on the first day and eight on 5th May. Scattered autumn records, from 31st August to 27th September, included five on 1st September and three on 23rd.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Present all year. Fifty were counted on 13th June. Heaviest autumn movements included 1000 on 22nd and 1500 on 31st September.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. In mid-June, eight territories were located.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

In spring, eleven records, 18th April to 13th May, peaking at four birds on 6th May. One bird on 18th April was of the Blue-headed race *M. f. flava*. In autumn, fourteen records, 31st August to 4th October, including eleven on 1st September.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Singles on 7th March, 4th, 5th and 26th May, 27th August to 1st September, then records on sixteen days from 22nd September to 26th October, including four on 2nd and three on 12th October.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*.

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

After one on 3rd and 4th January, recorded on most days, 6th March to 8th November. Spring maximum was twenty on 11th and 12th April. Four breeding pairs were noted in May. Autumn peaks were twenty, 5th to 11th August, forty, 21st September, thirty, 24th and 25th September and 1st October. Birds of the continental race *M. a. alba* were seen in late April (maximum two) and from late August to early October (maximum fifteen).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Eleven territories found in mid-June. Highest count thirty-one on 17th October.

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Twenty pairs estimated in early May.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*.

*Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.*

Present all year. Four pairs located in early May. Autumn records generally in the region of twenty, with some passage in October suggested by thirty-six on 17th and sixty on 23rd.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 12th to 15th April and 5th June.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.*

Singles, 24th February and 24th June. In autumn, present on most days from 13th October to 8th November, usually involving two to four birds but increasing to twenty-four on 23rd and seven on 29th October.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: thirteen records of up to three birds, 20th April to 15th May. Autumn: fifteen records, 11th September to 22nd October, maximum five on 25th September. See Table 1.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

After early singles on 6th and 23rd March, twenty further spring records, 20th April to 7th June. Peak counts were in May, eight on 5th and four on 27th. Two on 31st July, then thirteen further autumn records, 1st September to 2nd October, maximum eight on 22nd September. See Table 1.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Recorded in all months, though only as occasional singles in January, February and December. In early June, seven pairs were located, mainly on the East Side. One nest with eggs was found and at least three other pairs were feeding young. A breeding population seems to have become firmly established since 1990, after a break of nearly thirty years. Highest autumn count: twelve on 31st August.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Recorded on most days from 6th March to 30th October. Spring peaks were 100 on 29th April, 150 on 5th May. Ten territories were located in June, mainly along the West Side. Autumn counts included twenty on 11th and forty on 25th August, twenty-two on 25th September. See Table 1.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

One, 23rd March, then singles on thirteen days, 28th April to 16th May. In autumn, one on 1st October, then five records, 22nd to 29th October including six birds on 26th.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. No complete counts until autumn, when numbers peaked at fifty on 3rd October and thirty-five on 14th October, suggesting some passage.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Recorded on many days from the beginning of the year to 15th March, including 100 on 27th January and 3rd and 4th February. Then one was reported on the very late dates of 29th April, 4th May and 23rd May. In autumn, the first were not seen until

14th October and numbers were very low, with all reports involving ten or less apart from twenty-two on 29th October. 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 throughout the year. Ten were seen on 26th February. Three pairs were reported in early May, with at least one pair feeding young. The highest autumn count was fifteen on 2nd October, with three other October records in double figures.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Recorded on many days from the beginning of the year to 13th March, the highest counts being fifty on 27th January and sixty on 3rd February. Later, singles were seen on 23rd and 28th March and 29th April, then two on 7th May, one remaining for the following two days. In autumn, birds were present from 11th October onwards with peak movements of 200 on 22nd and 29th October and 14th November. See Table 2.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*.

*Uncommon visitor, seen at all times of year except late summer but most regular as a late autumn migrant.*

One, 29th October, and two the following day.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

*Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.*

Spring: eleven records, 20th April to 7th May, counts peaking at three on 29th April and 3rd May. Autumn: in September, one on 12th and four on 22nd.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twenty-five records between 20th April and 21st May, peaking at 100 on 5th and 13th May; then four further singles to 2nd June. Autumn: just two reported on 22nd September and one on 25th.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on 8th and 13th May, 2nd June, 2nd September, then on five days from 22nd September to 1st October and on 22nd and 23rd October.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*.

*Rare autumn migrant.*

One, 14th to 17th October.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seven records, 5th to 15th May, with counts of ten on 11th to 13th. Autumn: one or two on four days, 7th to 17th October.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twenty-three records, 20th April and 25th May, with an influx of fifty on 5th May but otherwise counts of fifteen or less. Then one or two reported sporadically until 26th June. Autumn: twelve records, 31st August to 4th October, the most being fifteen on 22nd September. Two very late birds were then seen in October, one on 22nd and 23rd and another from 25th to 31st. See Table 2.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: seventeen records, 25th April to 6th June, peaking at ten on 4th and 5th May. Autumn: sixteen records, 31st August to 1st November, involving up to three birds except on the earliest date when there were five.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Spring: twenty-four records, 19th April to 18th May, with peaks of fifteen on 1st May, twenty-five on 5th and fifteen on 10th. Then six further singles to 10th June. Autumn: seen on most days from 22nd September to 2nd November, with counts of ten or less apart from twelve on 30th September and fifteen on 22nd October. Later, six were seen on 11th November. See Table 2.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One, 22nd October.

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*.

*Vagrant from Siberia. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One was caught and ringed in Millcombe, 30th October (R. A. Duncan, A. M. Taylor *et al.*). This record was accepted by the B. B. Rarities Committee.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Singles, 1st and 5th May, then two on 11th May.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

After the first on 22nd March, sporadic records until late April, with numbers rising to twenty on 27th, then again on 11th, 13th and 15th May. From early June, ones and twos were reported occasionally until seventeen on 31st August. Major autumn peaks included seventy on 22nd September, fifty on 23rd October. Last recorded on 2nd November. See Table 2.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: recorded on most days from 30th March to 7th June. Main passage, with 100 reported on five days, between 26th April and 5th May. Autumn: seen on many days from 20th July to 4th October, with high counts of forty on 21st August, fifty on 2nd September, 140 on 22nd September. Later in October, one or two were seen on several days, with the last on 30th. See Table 2.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring: recorded on many days from 23rd March to 15th May, highest numbers being twenty-five on 6th April, twelve on 8th May. Later singles, 29th May, 7th June, 9th July. Autumn: seen from 31st August to 13th November, with daily records through October peaking at fifty on 1st, 100 on 17th, ninety on 21st and fifty on 30th. See Table 2.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*

Spring: five singles, 11th May to 2nd June. Autumn: one or two on seventeen days, 1st September to 31st October.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

*Breeding in recent years. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Reported on many days from 23rd April to 5th October. Spring peaks: thirty on 11th and 30th May and 1st June. One pair bred successfully in Millcombe. Autumn peaks: nineteen on 31st August, forty on 22nd September. After 5th October, one or two were seen on ten days, the last remaining until 1st November: very late for this species. See Table 2.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

Two, 30th September, with one remaining on 1st and 2nd October. Two, 23rd October, then one ringed on 30th and a different bird ringed on 31st October.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: one, 17th April, and three on 20th; in May, one or two on eight days, 1st to 11th, then singles on 28th to 30th. Autumn: in August, three on 19th, two on 21st and three on 31st. Then one or two on nineteen days, until 24th October.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

One, 4th April.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

Three, 10th March, then one on four days in May, 9th to 27th.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.*

One on many days from 4th May to 18th June, with two reported on 10th May.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*.

*Uncommon visitor, usually between July and October.*

One, 31st July.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant.*

A male, 4th May, then a female, 5th June.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*.

*Rare visitor, with most records in winter.*

One, 5th and 26th May. Surprisingly, these are the first reports since 1984 (apart from a corpse, which could have floated to the island, in 1991).

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Two, 5th and 22nd March.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Maximum count twenty-seven on 19th October.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Maximum count fifteen on 12th October.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. On 16th June, a flock of 260 was present. Autumn influxes involved between 500 and 1000 birds on five days, 17th to 25th October, and 600 on 8th November.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Counts on 7th January and 14th November both reached 110 birds.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*.

*Uncommon visitor, most frequently seen in early summer.*

Singles, 26th February and 5th May. Four records in the last three years compares favourably with four in the fifteen years before that.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Counts in January reached fifteen, in March twenty. Seven territories were located in early June. Autumn movements involving between 100 and 300 birds were recorded on six days, 17th to 30th October.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Twelve records, 17th October to 13th November, including twelve birds on 1st November. The other counts were six or less.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

One seen regularly in the first half of January. Five records of one or two birds, 7th April to 5th May, then one on 3rd August. Autumn records spanned 6th October to 13th November, with birds present on twenty-one days, peaking at thirteen on 1st November.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon winter and summer visitor. Has bred occasionally.*

Present in all months except February. Occasional ones and twos recorded in January and March. Spring: seen on most days from 15th April to 17th May, peaking at twelve on 30th April. Up to three were seen through June and July, rising to five in mid-August; a pair with three juveniles was reported on 1st September, so breeding may have occurred on the island. Autumn: peak counts were fifteen on 23rd September and thirteen on 1st November, with up to twelve present on intervening days. Then four scattered observations of up to seven, to the end of the year.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

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

Present on most days from 2nd October to 2nd November. Peak counts: 100 on 19th and eighty on 31st October. Daily totals averaged forty over the second half of the month.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Recorded from 23rd March to 31st October. High counts included sixty on 17th and 18th April, between 100 and 110 on several days in August and September, 160 on 15th October.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

A series of records from 7th to 14th May peaked at eight on 9th. The only autumn record was one on 29th October.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

A singing male, 4th June, and a first-year bird, 2nd October.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 22nd and 23rd October.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

Two, 27th September, then one on 30th September and 2nd October.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

*Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.*

In January, one on 2nd, two on 4th. Autumn: eighteen records from 26th September to 29th October, with a maximum of six on 1st and 4th October. Four were seen on 14th December.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional summer and winter visitor.*

Two, 6th April, with one the following day.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional summer and winter visitor.*

Singles on 29th March, 19th April, 12th June, then nine records of one or two birds between 27th September and 22nd October.

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

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* 1, 12th June

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* 1, 23rd June

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* 1, 10th December

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* 1, 7th to 24th August

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* 1, 30th April

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus cachinnans* 1, 1st October

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae* 1, 31st October

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* 1, 4th to 6th June

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whimbrel				0.0 0.6	1.2 0.7 0.0	0.1 0.0						
Collared Dove	P P P	P P P	P P P	P P 2.2	3.2 2.4 4.3	P 0.9 1.9	0.5 1.6 1.3	0.6 0.1 0.6	1.3 2.4	2.5 5.6 3.5	0.5 0.8 0.8	P P P
Swift				0.0 18	11 7.7 3.8	1.6 18 0.9	1.7 4.2 0.1					
Sand Martin			0.0 3.5	1.5 11 12	16 9.8 0.4	0.2 0.1	4.6 0.0	0.1 0.2 1.3	3.7 6.6	7.8 0.0		
Swallow			0.0 0.7	2.1 210 210	84 64 22	13 5.1 4.3	3.7 2.1 2.3	9.8 P P	8.4 2.3 200	750 17 38	0.4 0.0	
House Martin			0.0 0.3	0.0 2.1 17	16 12 9	5.7 2.9 0.7	0.0 0.6	0.2	0.1 2.9	20 0.8 0.5		
Redstart				0.0 0.2 0.2	0.7 1.1				0.0 0.1 0.9	0.4 0.3 0.1		
Whinchat			0.1 0.1	0.0 0.1 0.2	1.5 0.7 0.7	0.2 0.0	0.0 0.2		0.4 2.1	0.2 0.0		
Wheatear			0.1 0.6 4.1	6.2 16 29	58 48 0.0	P P 1.1	P P P	P P 6.1	4.7 0.1 10.1	5.1 1.1 1.3		

**Table 1:** Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1996

(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	1.5 1.9	42 18 7.3	2.6 0.4 0.0	0.0 0.1	0.1 0.1					0.0 1.9 11	0.2 1.0 0.0	P P P
Redwing	4.7 10	23 5.1 4.1	1.4 0.1 0.3	0.0 0.1	0.4 0.0					0.0 12 51	1.2 30 0.0	P P P
Whitethroat				0.0 1.0 3.4	7.8 6.4 0.6	0.4 0.1 0.6		0.0 0.8	0.2 3.1	0.4 0.7		
Blackcap				0.0 0.6 1.8	11 3.5 0.1	0.5 0.0			0.0 2.7	2.7 2.7 5	0.4 0.6 0.0	
Chiffchaff			0.0 0.5	0.6 0.2 7.3	6.9 14 2.5	1.9 0.6 0.5	0.3 0.2 0.0	0.1 1.5	1.9 17	16 7.7 17	0.7 0.0	
Willow Warbler			0.0 0.2	1.0 4.5 41	39 8.9 1.0	0.3 0.0	0.0 0.2 1.4	P 2.2 5.1	5.8 1.5 23	2.0 0.4 0.3		
Goldcrest				2.5 0.5 3.3	5.3 0.9 0.1	0.1 0.0	0.1 0.0	0.0 0.1	0.3 6.4	28 27 24	0.5 0.1 0.1	
Spotted Flycatcher				0.0 0.7	4.3 9.5 10	5.1 0.2 0.0	0.5 P P	P 3.1 3.3	3.4 1.0 9.8	0.8 0.5 0.5	0.1 0.0	

**Table 2:** Thrushes, Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1996.

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