

BIRD RINGING IN 1997

By

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Ringers were on the island catching migrants for three weeks in April and May and four and a half weeks in September and October. John Hutchinson continued his work on Skylarks and also caught some Manx Shearwaters in summer. In all, 2780 birds of sixty-three species were ringed. This species figure is the highest of the 1990s and the number of birds ringed is close to the highest. A list of the year's species totals is given below. Rarity highlights include Veery, Subalpine Warbler, Barred Warbler and Golden Oriole.

Conditions in spring and early autumn allowed ringing totals for Swallow and Willow Warbler to reach three figures and those for Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher were encouragingly high too. In October, the Meadow Pipit, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Goldcrest totals also passed the 100 mark, with the last species going on to reach 336. Siskins, like the Goldcrests, vary greatly in autumn numbers from year to year and presumably they had a good breeding season, on the evidence of 109 ringed in late October. The final week of October was dominated by migrant Chaffinches, taking their 1997 total to 644. This means that nearly 2000 have been ringed on Lundy in the past five years, so that the lack of recoveries and controls from them suggested that they were migrants from an area of low-density human population. News has now reached us of one controlled in spring in northwest Denmark, the time and place hinting that it was on its way further north into Scandinavia. In contrast, only three Fieldfares have been ringed on Lundy in the last five years, so the chances of any of them being seen again were extremely low. Nevertheless, one was found in Norway in May '97. Siskins make extensive use of food put out for them in gardens, so the proportion with rings is comparatively high, leading to Lundy controls to and from Belgium and Norway, as well as Berkshire.

By April, English Robins are likely to have set up breeding territories, so the one moving from Cornwall to Lundy late in the month was probably heading much further north, where this species, like the Chaffinches, is migratory.

Other controls and recoveries include a Reed Warbler from Belgium, a six-year-old Lundy Lapwing found in Cornwall, a Dunlin in Lincolnshire, still going strong at more than nine years old, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in Morocco. Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels made typical movements between Lundy, southwest Wales, Cornwall and the Scillies. Details of these and other recoveries are given below.

Many thanks to Steve Wing, who undertook the task of transferring the year's ringing data onto computer. This not only makes analysis of the Lundy information easier but also means we can contribute more towards answering questions relevant to conservation and other aspects of biology nationally.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS, 1997

Manx Shearwater	73	Subalpine Warbler	1
Storm Petrel	2	Barred Warbler	1
Sparrowhawk	1	Lesser Whitethroat	2
Kestrel	1	Whitethroat	56
Lapwing	2 (2)	Garden Warbler	13
Dunlin	1	Blackcap	100
Snipe	1	Yellow-browed Warbler	1
Woodpigeon	2	Wood Warbler	2
Collared Dove	2	Chiffchaff	154
Cuckoo	1	Willow Warbler	112
Skylark	72 (48)	Goldcrest	336
Sand Martin	10	Firecrest	1
Swallow	177	Spotted Flycatcher	66
House Martin	6	Pied Flycatcher	10
Tree Pipit	1	Coal Tit	7
Meadow Pipit	179 (5)	Blue Tit	6
Grey Wagtail	1	Great Tit	1
Pied Wagtail	4 (4)	Golden Oriole	1
Wren	8	Starling	15 (5)
Dunnock	9	House Sparrow	6
Robin	24	Chaffinch	644
Redstart	7	Brambling	13
Whinchat	10	Greenfinch	73
Stonechat	5	Goldfinch	14
Wheatear	80	Siskin	109
Veery	1	Linnet	66
Blackbird	88 (4)	Redpoll	5
Song Thrush	28	Crossbill	14
Redwing	62	Scarlet Rosefinch	1
Grasshopper Warbler	3	Bullfinch	4
Sedge Warbler	80	Reed Bunting	1
Reed Warbler	4		
		Total	2780

Figures in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 1997

FC37618 **Manx Shearwater**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 23.7.92. Controlled on Annet, Scilly Isles, 30.6.93 (186km; bearing 220°; 342 days), then retrapped on Annet, 12.8.97 (1846 days).

FC85330 **Manx Shearwater**. Ringed as a pullus on Skomer Island, Dyfed, Wales, 30.8.94. Controlled on Lundy, 18.5.97. (77km; 145°; 992 days).

FR97890 **Manx Shearwater**. Ringed as a pullus on Skomer Island, Dyfed, Wales, 5.8.94. Controlled on Lundy, 3.7.97. (77km; 145°; 1063 days).

2267531 **Storm Petrel**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 13.6.96. Controlled at Strumble Head, Dyfed, 19.7.96. (100km; 344°; 36 days).

2267560 **Storm Petrel**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 25.6.96. Controlled at Pendeen Lighthouse, Cornwall, 7.7.97. (134km; 212°; 377 days).

2267568 **Storm Petrel**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 27.6.96. Controlled at Pendeen Watch, Cornwall, 8.7.97. (133km; 212°; 376 days).

2452898 **Storm Petrel**. Ringed as a full grown bird at Rumps Point, Polzeath, Cornwall, 21.7.96. Controlled on Lundy, 3.7.97. (67km; 15°; 347 days).

DA25741 **Lapwing**. Ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 20.5.91. Found dead at Treago Farm, Crantock, Newquay, Cornwall, 8.1.97. (91km; 200°; 2060 days).

BB84680 **Dunlin**. Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 10.5.89. Controlled at Butterwick, Lincolnshire, 20.7.97. (381km; 58°; 2993 days).

6Y4622 **Wren**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 27.4.96. Found dead on Lundy, 12.11.96. (199 days).

K616090 **Robin**. Ringed as a second year bird at Nanjizal, Land's End, Cornwall, 10.4.96. Controlled on Lundy, 27.4.96. (144km; 30°; 17 days).

RK24722 **Fieldfare**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 30.10.93. Found dead, killed by cat, at Notodden, Telemark, NORWAY, 15.5.97. (1279km; 43°; 1293 days).

K484774 **Sedge Warbler**. Ringed as an adult bird at Ballycotton, Cork, EIRE, 3.8.96. Controlled on Lundy, 1.5.97. (244km; 108°; 271 days).

Bruxelles 5662060 **Reed Warbler**. Ringed as a first year bird at Lapscheure, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM, 6.9.96. Controlled on Lundy, 23.9.96. (558km; 269°; 17 days).

5D7088 **Goldcrest**. Ringed as a first year male at Eskmeals, Bootle, Cumbria, 21.9.97. Controlled on Lundy, 2.10.97. (360km; 193°; 11 days).

J509136 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 29.10.93. Controlled at Vester Vandet So, Thisted, Jylland, DENMARK, 16.5.97. (1078km; 53°; 1295 days).

VR61336 **Greenfinch**. Ringed as a juvenile male at Hilborough, Norfolk, 20.7.97. Controlled on Lundy, 30.10.97. (399km; 247°; 102 days).

J636255 **Siskin**. Ringed as a second year female at Wash Common, Newbury, Berkshire, 6.4.94. Controlled on Lundy, 29.10.97. (232km; 264°; 1302 days).

K986117 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 1.11.96. Controlled at Awirs, Liege, BELGIUM, 30.3.97. (708km; 95°; 149 days).

Stavanger H584584 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year female at Slevdalsvatnet, Farsund, Vest-Agder, NORWAY, 30.10.95. Controlled on Lundy, 1.11.96. (1057km; 223°; 368 days).

In addition, birds colour-ringed as pulli on Lundy have been seen as follows:

Herring Gull: one ringed in summer 1996, seen at the Taw estuary, Devon, 1.3.97.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: one ringed in summer 1995, seen at Agadir, MOROCCO, 10.3.97.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: one ringed in summer 1996, seen at Radipole, Weymouth, Dorset, 23.2.97.