

## BIRDS ON LUNDY 1997

By

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### Introduction

Thanks to the many visitors contributing valuable information to the L.F.S. log book, with Robert Marshall and Liza Cole helping to provide continuity through the season, bird recording coverage from mid April onwards was generally good. Until then, recording of common migrants on a daily basis was disappointingly unspecific, with many species given ticks rather than numbers in the log book, even when the number is likely to have been one. Even the roughest of estimates conveys an order of magnitude. As always, variations in the level of coverage from week to week need to be borne in mind when interpreting the species accounts and tables below.

#### Birds of 1997

January and February were generally very quiet, but three Blackcaps on 13th January were noteworthy. The first summer migrants arrived in mid March, with Wheatear and Sand Martin predictably earliest, but unusually Chiffchaffs were not seen until after the first Willow Warbler. At the end of the month, a good series of spring rarities began with Chough, Hoopoe and the island's first Red Kite for more than twenty-five years. This was topped in April by the first post-war Stone Curlew, as well as Wryneck and Black Kite. Common migrants were largely left uncounted early in the month, but Whitethroats arrived from 9th. The first Whimbrel, Cuckoo and Grasshopper, Reed and Sedge Warblers were later, from 21st to 23rd. On 27th and 29th, large numbers of hirundines moved north.

May started with the spring's highest numbers of Swallows, Wheatears and several species of warbler on 1st, as well as the first Turtle Dove and Spotted Flycatcher. On 6th, winter seemed to have returned when a Redwing and a Waxwing arrived, but Swallow were passing through again in large numbers on 13th and Spotted Flycatchers reached their peak on 22nd. Rarities continued to appear through May, with Red-throated Pipit, two Subalpine Warblers and, amazingly, a Veery. This was only the fourth ever seen in Britain and yet it was Lundy's second. Not in the same league, but very unusual nevertheless, was a Marsh Warbler. Golden Orioles and Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes also put in appearances. A Scarlet Rosefinch rounded off a good spring, singing in Millcombe in early June.

During the summer, Song Thrush and Spotted Flycatcher continued their recent run of breeding records and they were joined by Willow Warbler. Lapwing and Puffin numbers remained at their current low ebb.

Post-breeding movements began with a major influx of Crossbills that started in late June and continued through July. July also produced a second Woodchat Shrike and a male Black-headed Bunting. On 7th August, waders were on the move, with Greenshank, Green

Sandpipers and Wood Sandpipers seen at Pondsbury. The following day, large numbers of Sedge and Willow Warblers arrived.

In September, days of heavy passage included 10th for Swallows and Sand Martins, 22nd for Siskins and 25th for Swallows and House Martins, as well as the first autumn Fieldfare. Unusual species were two Icterine Warblers, Wryneck and Osprey. In the first four days of October, Swallow migration continued strongly, together with Meadow Pipits and Goldcrests in large numbers. Rarer species at this time were Yellow-browed Warbler and two Scarlet Rosefinches. Coal, Great and Blue Tits arrived in above-average numbers. By mid-October, a wintry flavour was evident, with Snow Buntings and Redwings on the move and a group of Greylag Geese present. Rarities later in the month were a Rough-legged Buzzard, a Pallas's Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher, at the same time as the peak numbers of Redwings and Chaffinches, the last Sand and House Martins and a very late Spotted Flycatcher.

The last of the Swallows passed through on 1st November, when Fieldfare numbers were at their highest. Thereafter the winter thrushes were joined by a few late-lingering Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs. The only diver of the year was a Great Northern, present from 18th November.

## 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.

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

*Occasional visitor; mainly October to March.*

One, 18 Nov and 9 and 30 Dec.

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

*Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.*

No unusual records or full breeding counts reported.

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

*Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.*

Recorded on many days, 1 Apr-1 Aug; peaks: 500, 12 May; 700 north, 18 Jun; 1000, 7 and 9 Jul. Then six, 27 Aug; two, 12 Oct.

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

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

Two ringed at night, 19 Jun. Four offshore, 4 Sep.

### **Gannet** *Sula bassana*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

Recorded on many days, 1 Apr - 3 Nov; peaks: seventy, 20 May; 200, 2 and 10 Oct. Then four reports of up to thirty-four, 21 Nov - 14 Dec.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Recorded on thirty-three days, 30 Mar - 3 Nov. Peaks: twenty-three, 30 Mar; eleven, 7 Apr; twenty north, 30 Apr; six or less for next four months; sixteen, 22 Sep; eighteen, 2 Oct; thirteen south, 9 Oct; eleven, 31 Oct.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

Present all year. No breeding counts reported. Highest count outside breeding season: twenty-two, 14 Oct.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor; most commonly in late summer.*

Spring: one, 2 May; five, 18 and 19 Jun, one staying till 23 Jun. Autumn: Singles, 4 Aug, 12 and 19 Oct.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*.

*Vagrant. Seven previous records, mainly between February and May, the most recent being in 1979.*

Four flew north over the church, 12 Oct (N. Hedges, D. Liley, L. Muirhead).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*.

*Vagrant. Six previous dated records, five of them in spring.*

Two on Pondsburry, 16 Apr, one remaining till 18 Apr (T. Chamberlain *et al*).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*.

*Vagrant. Eight previous records, three in spring, three in autumn, two in January.*

Two, 17 Apr.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor; mainly in winter.*

Four, 6 Jan, one staying till 9 Jan. Two, 2 Oct.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to twelve resident birds.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*.

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

One, 5 Aug. Four, 30 Oct. Four, 12 Dec.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*.

*Vagrant. Two previous accepted records, in April 1984 and May '89.*

One flew north, being mobbed by gulls, over the camping field, 27 Apr (W. Barker, J. Cameron, P. Ten Hoeve *et al*). This record has been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, in April 1929 and October '71.*

One was seen soaring over the Landing Beach and Castle area, being mobbed by gulls, 22 Mar (L. Cole). With the Welsh and introduced English populations increasing, wanderers outside the breeding areas are becoming commoner.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

A female, 15 May.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

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

Spring: singles, 4 and 27 Apr. Autumn: thirteen records, 18 Sep - 3 Nov, all singles except two on 25 Oct; then one, 14 Dec.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

One seen regularly, 24 Oct to end of year.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*.

*Vagrant. Five seen previously, four of them in late autumn.*

A first year bird was seen frequently, mainly along the east side of the island, 22-31 Oct (R. Marshall *et al* ).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*.

*Vagrant. Nine 20th century records, all since 1974, six of them in spring, one in July and two in autumn.*

One flew north along the west side, 29 Sep (H. Jones, R. Marshall).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

At least one seen intermittently in all months. Peak counts: two, Apr and May; five, Jul; two, Aug; six, Oct; four, Nov.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Spring: one, 8 Apr; a female, 12-31 May, with a male, 22 May. Autumn: nineteen records, 12 Oct - 12 Nov, singles except two on 14, 22 and 25 Oct and three on 29 Oct. Then a male, 14 Dec.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Spring: one, 22 May. Autumn: singles, 20 Sep and 9-16 Oct.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Present throughout the year. Peak counts: three, Apr; five, Jun; six, Jul; four, Aug; three, Sep-Nov.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

Two, 25 Jan; singles on five days in Oct.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

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

Recorded throughout the year. Peak counts: seven, 13 Jan; seventeen, 17 Feb; twenty-one, 29 Jun; fifteen, 23 Sep.

**Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, March 1938, May '39, October '39.*

One was seen at Northeast Point, 10 Apr (C., D. and T. Clifton).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Singles, 24 Jun, 8 and 24 Aug and six days, 5 Sep - 14 Oct.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 29 Aug.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Six, 14 Jan and 7 Mar. Up to three on ten days, 22 Mar - 7 Jul. Recorded on seventeen days, 10 Sep - 31 Oct, numbers mainly in single figures but with twenty-four on 2 Oct.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Recorded on many days, 1 Apr - 6 Jul, maximum four. Recorded on fifteen days, 21 Sep - 1 Nov, maximum eighteen on 23 Oct. Then one, 21 Nov, and four, 18 Dec. A decline in the Lundy breeding population has been evident in recent years, as it has on a national scale.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One juvenile, 26 Aug.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*.

*Uncommon autumn migrant. One previous spring record.*

One, 13 May.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*.

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

Spring: eleven records, 17 Apr - 25 May, maximum three. Autumn: fourteen records, 4 Aug - 30 Oct, all singles except five on 25 Aug.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

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

Singles, 8 Aug and 13 Oct.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Ten records, 3 Feb - 17 Apr; maximum: two, 2 Apr. Twenty-seven records, 8 Aug - 1 Nov; maximum: ten, 11 Sep.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Singles on 25, 26 and 31 Oct.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*.

*Rare migrant and winter visitor.*

One, 27 May.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: ten records, 22 Apr-20 May; maximum: ten, 1 May. Autumn: singles, 1, 4 and 18 Aug and two, 30 Aug. (see Table 1).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

Up to three on six days in Jan. One seen regularly, 27 Apr - 27 May, with two on 1 May. Sporadic records, 15 Jun - 31 Oct, mainly involving one or two birds but rising to eight, 3 Jul, and four, 11 Sep.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 22 Jul, 25 Aug, and 3 Nov.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two, 1 May, and one, 2 May. One, 7 and 8 Aug.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Singles, 20 Jul, 4 Aug and 11 Sep. Three, 7 Aug.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Two, 7 and 8 Aug. One, 9 Aug.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: singles, 13 Apr, 1 May. Autumn: three, 1 Jul, then up to three on four days, 6-27 Aug.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

Singles, 18 and 23 May and 22 Jul. Two, 27 Aug.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

*Rare migrant, mainly autumn.*

One, 10 Sep, over the Stanley Bank.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*.

*Rare visitor; mainly in summer and autumn.*

One, 27 Aug. One over the Stanley Bank, 10 Sep.

**Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, September 1958 and July '92.*

An adult was seen over the Stanley Bank, feeding close to a fishing boat and being chased by an Arctic Skua, 10 Sep (C. Walford).

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

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

Two, 4 Apr. One, 29 Jun.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*.

*Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.*

One, 13 and 17 Jul.

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

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded throughout the year. No breeding numbers reported. Autumn maximum: twenty, 12 Oct.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

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

Present but largely uncounted. Peak counts outside breeding season: 500, 10 Feb; 400, 13 Dec.

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

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

Present but largely uncounted. Autumn maximum: seventy, 30 Oct.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Reported in all months except September. Counts included 400, 10 Feb; 500, 13 Dec.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to September.*

Two, 16 and 17 Aug, eight, 4 Sep, and two, 7 Oct.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*.

*Rare migrant.*

One, 4 Sep.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

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

Recorded regularly, 28 Jan - 1 Aug. No complete breeding counts reported. Up to three on four days in early Oct. Oiled birds reported in Feb and on three days in Dec.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

One, 11 Feb. Reported regularly, 7 Mar - 14 Jul. No breeding counts recorded. Up to six in Oct and Dec.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Present 8 Apr - 21 Jul. Davey's surveys showed a maximum of thirty on 9 Jun (this volume).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles on four days, 19-30 Oct, and two, 26 Oct.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

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

Reported in all months except Jan. Peak counts: ten, 12 Apr, seven, 15 Jun.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

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

Present all year. Peak counts: eleven, 15 May, fifteen, 16 Jun, eight, 28 Sep. (see Table 1).

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

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

Spring: twenty-two records, 1 May - 28 Jun, mainly ones and twos, with three on 6 and 15 May. Autumn: one, 19 Sep.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twenty-one records of one or two birds, 23 Apr - 5 Jun, then one, 30 Jun.

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

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 30 and 31 Mar, 2 and 16 Apr, 29 Jul and 26 Nov.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Recorded on forty-two days, 16 Apr - 27 Aug. Peak counts: fifty, 1 May; thirty, 18 May, 21 Jul and 16 Aug. Then one, 21 Sep. (see Table 1).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 31 Mar-2 Apr.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*.

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

Singles, 11 and 12 Apr, 20-28 Sep.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 9 Apr.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Reported as present all year, without numbers being recorded except in autumn, when peak counts were sixty on 4 and 31 Oct.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

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

Spring: seen on most days, 14 Mar - 3 Jun; maximum: 300, 29 Apr. Up to four on nine days, 17 Jun - 13 Jul, with a movement of forty-five on 30 Jun. Autumn: twenty-five records, 9 Aug - 29 Oct; maximum: 100, 10 Sep. (see Table 1).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

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

Spring: recorded on most days, 18 Mar-30 Jun; maximum 1000 on 27 and 29 Apr, 1 and 13 May. Four reports of up to six in July. Autumn: seen on most days, 4 Aug - 1 Nov; peak counts: 1500, 10 Sep; 10,000, 25 Sep; 1000, 4 Oct. (see Table 1).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*



Spring: recorded on most days, 30 Mar - 21 Jun; peak counts: 100, 18 Apr; 200, 29 Apr. Autumn: one or two on five days, 12 Jul - 9 Aug; then seen on most days, 10 Sep - 31 Oct; maximum: 500, 25 Sep. (see Table 1).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on most days, 27 Apr - 22 May; maximum: six, 2 and 12 May. Autumn: fifteen records, 28 Jul - 12 Oct; maximum six, 25 Aug.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Present all year. Autumn peak: 1000, 2 and 4 Oct.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest count: ten, 10 Oct.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*.

*Vagrant. Four previous records, three of them in spring.*

One was seen on Ackland's Moor, 5 May (R. Campey). This record has been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: sixteen records, 18 Apr - 1 Jun, all of one or two birds except five on 14 May. Birds of the blue-headed race *M. f. flava* were seen on 14 May and 1 Jun. A later bird on 17 Jun was identified as from the grey-headed race *M. f. thunbergi*. Autumn: recorded on most days, 9 Sep - 2 Oct; maximum: four, 28 Sep.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring: one, 8 Mar; two, 11 Jun. Autumn: eight records, 9 Aug - 1 Nov, with four birds on the first date, ones and twos subsequently.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen on most days, 24 Feb - 31 Oct. Spring maximum: ten, 1 May. A pair reared at least one brood successfully. Autumn maximum: twenty, 22 Sep. Birds of the continental race *M. a. alba* were reported on 1 and 15 May, 1 Jun, 20 and 22 Sep.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*.

*Vagrant. One previous record, November 1990.*

One was seen in Millcombe, 6 May (R. Campey). This is an unusual date for the species, which is normally a late autumn immigrant to Britain, but there were others elsewhere in England at this time.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty, 30 Oct.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count: thirteen, 24 May.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*.

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

Present all year. Highest reported count: twenty-three, 9 Oct.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

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

Spring: singles, 3 Feb, 10 Mar, 8 Apr. Autumn: singles, 26, 29 and 30 Oct; two, 1 Nov; one, 2 Dec.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: nine records, 9 Apr - 7 May; maximum: three, 1 May. Autumn: one, 14 Aug; eleven records, 21 Sep - 10 Oct; maximum: three, 23 and 28 Sep and 4 Oct. A late male arrived 29 Oct. (see Table 1).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

Spring: five, 1 May, then three singles to 14 May. Autumn: recorded on most days, 16 Aug - 14 Oct; maximum: eight, 21 Sep. (see Table 1).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Spring: four records, 30 Mar - 22 Apr; maximum: two, 13 Apr. Two, 30 Jun. Autumn: recorded on most days, 12 Sep - 11 Nov; maximum: six, 9 Oct.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Present on most days, 12 Mar - 31 Oct. Spring maximum: 100, 18 Apr and 1 May. Autumn maximum: twenty-eight, 24 Aug. (see Table 1).

**Veery** *Catharus fuscescens*.

*Vagrant. One previous record, in October 1987.*

One was trapped in Millcombe and then watched in the same area later in the day, 14 May (R. Campey, M. Gade, S. Wing *et al* ). Details have been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee and if accepted it will be Britain's fourth record of this North American species, and the first in spring.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: seven singles, 1 - 22 Apr. Autumn: eight records, 10 Sep - 26 Oct; maximum: two, on four days in Sep.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. Autumn maximum: 140, 26 Oct.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Four, 14 Jan. Autumn: One, 25 Sep - 4 Oct; then recorded on most days, 12 Oct - 26 Nov; main arrivals: sixty-three, 26 Oct; seventy-eight, 1 Nov; sixty-eight, 16 Nov. Five, 14 Dec. (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 all year, numbers mainly five or less. One pair bred. Autumn peaks: twenty-six, 26 Oct; fifteen, 1 Nov.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Up to four birds on five days, 8 Jan - 20 Feb. A late spring bird was seen, 6 - 14 May. Autumn: recorded on most days, 9 Oct - 26 Nov, with peak counts: 250, 13 Oct; 200, 19 and 26 Oct; 225, 29 Oct; 126, 7 Nov. Up to three on three days, 14 - 21 Dec. (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.*

Spring: one, 16 Apr. Autumn: eleven records of up to three birds, 13 Oct - 2 Nov.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

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

Spring: seven records, 22 Apr - 2 May; maximum: three, 1 May. Autumn: up to four on three days, 21 Jul - 8 Aug; four singles, 21 Sep - 1 Oct.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on most days, 21 Apr - 26 May; peak counts: thirty, 1 May; twenty-five, 14 May. Autumn: twenty records, 21 Jul - 7 Oct, including fifty, 8 Aug, then twenty, 9 Aug; all other counts four or less.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, all in autumn.*

One was seen and heard singing at Stoneycroft, 26 May (R. Campey).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two, 23 Apr; one, 17 May. Autumn: five singles, 16 Aug - 26 Oct.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*.

*Rare migrant, usually in autumn.*

Two were in Millcombe, 8-14 Sep, one staying until 16 Sep (R. Marshall, C. Stewart).

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*.

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

A male was caught in Millcombe, 2 May (J. Cameron, D. Clifton, C McShane). A second male sang in Millcombe, 15 and 16 Jun (D. Nevitt). These records have been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*.

*Rare autumn migrant*

One was in Millcombe, 7-19 Oct, ringed on 14 Oct (J. Babbington, I. Lakin, D. Liley, *et al* ).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two, 14 May, then three singles to 23 May. Autumn: singles on five days, 3-10 Oct.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: recorded on many days, 9 Apr - 15 Jun; all counts were ten or less except fifty, 1 May, and fifteen, 7 May. Autumn: recorded on many days, 8 Aug - 3 Oct; maximum: twelve, 30 Aug and 10 Sep. (see Table 2).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: recorded on twenty-two days, 26 Apr - 11 Jun; maximum: four, 14 May. Autumn: one, 22 Aug, then twenty-two records, 18 Sep - 31 Oct; maximum: four, 22 Sep, 4 and 19 Oct.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Three wintering birds, 13 Jan. Spring: recorded on many days, 31 Mar - 21 Jun; peaks: eleven, 10 Apr; ten, 27 Apr. Autumn: recorded on many days, 24 Aug - 16 Nov; peaks: twelve, 22 Sep; fourteen, 26 Oct; seventeen, 29 Oct. (see Table 2).

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, in November 1993 and October '94.*

One was seen on the Terrace, 31 Oct (J. Allen, R. Duncan, J. Smith *et al.*).

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One was trapped in Millcombe, 3 Oct (S. Wing). A second was seen in Quarter Wall Copse, 14 Oct (D. Curtis, J. Diamond).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: seven records, 2-22 May; maximum: three, 13 and 14 May. Autumn: singles, 11 and 22 Sep.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: first reported on 20 Mar but numbers not given until late Apr; maximum: fifty, 1 May. Summer: up to three reported, late May - mid Sep. Autumn: recorded on most days, mid Sep - 31 Oct; maximum: fifteen, 25 and 28 Sep and 4 Oct. Up to three still present through November and one, 12 and 14 Dec. (see Table 2).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: first reported on 18 Mar but numbers not given until late Apr; maximum: 100, 1 May. Summer: bred; up to three present from late May to early Jul, with fledged young being fed in late Jul. Autumn: recorded on most days to 26 Sep, with one later bird, 4 Oct; peaks: 1000, 8 Aug, and 400, 9 Aug, with thirty or more on seven other Aug days. (see Table 2).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring: present, numbers not recorded, mid Mar; six records of one or two birds, 4 Apr - 6 May. Autumn: up to three seen on five days, 6 Aug - 1 Sep; recorded daily, 5 Sep - 1 Nov; peaks: 300, 2 Oct; 100, 12 Oct. Up to seven on eight later dates, to 21 Dec. (see Table 2).

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*

Spring: two, 22 Apr. Autumn: seven records of one or two birds, 21 Sep - 1 Nov.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

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

Spring: recorded daily, 1-27 May; maximum: 100, 22 May. Summer: one pair bred; up to four reported through Jun and Jul, with nine on 15 Jun. Autumn: recorded on most days, 1 Aug - 4 Oct; peaks: fifty, 9 Aug; thirty, 10 Sep. A late bird was seen on 31 Oct. (see Table 2).

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One, 31 Oct.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: sixteen records, 9 Apr - 26 May; maximum: three, 1 May. Autumn: recorded on most days, 8 Aug - 14 Oct; maximum: fifty, 16-18 Aug.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*.

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

Spring: one, 17 and 21 Apr. Autumn: recorded on most days, 2-27 Oct; maximum: twelve, 4 Oct. Then one seen regularly until 26 Nov.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*.

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

Present from 12 Oct, with fourteen on 13 Oct. Up to five later in Oct, then up to three until 21 Dec.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*.

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

Three arrived on 12 Oct, one staying until 22 Nov.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant.*

A female was ringed on 12 May and joined by a male on 15 May. Then one, 26 and 27 May.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One male, 15 May.

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

A female was at Quarter Wall, 15 and 16 May (A. Jayne *et al*). A second female was on the East Side, 8 Jul (R. Marshall).

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*.

*Bred until late nineteenth century. Vagrant since then, with singles in October 1949,*

February '52, February and June '90 and May '94.

One was seen on the East Side, 29 Mar (M. Sayer).

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Two, 8 Apr, one, 2-9 May and one, 7 Jul.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Highest counts: fifteen, 16 Apr and 12 Oct.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Highest count: twelve, 27 Jun and 21 Sep.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Peak autumn counts: 360, 29 Oct, and 350, 12 Nov.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Peak count: thirty-five, on several days in Oct.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Peak autumn count: 500, 24 Oct.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Spring: two, 3-6 Apr; one, 17 Apr. Autumn: up to nine, daily, 25 Oct - 1 Nov. One on four later dates, to 22 Nov.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Spring: one on many days, 6 Apr - 9 May, then up to three daily to 24 May. Two, 9 Jul. Autumn: recorded on most days, 9 Oct - 11 Nov; peak counts: thirty, 13 Oct, and twenty-five, 31 Oct. Two on three later dates, to 12 Dec.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

Recorded on most days, 4 Apr - 7 Nov. Spring maximum: eight, on several days in May. Autumn peaks: nineteen, 13 Oct, and thirty-four, 6 Nov. Two later records of two birds, to 22 Nov.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

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

After the first arrived on the early date of 1 Sep, recorded on most days to 12 Nov. Peak counts: thirty-five, 9 Oct; forty-five, 30 Oct. Up to three on three later dates, to 20 Dec.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Present, 22 Mar - 14 Dec. Peak counts: 250, 17 Aug; 200, 22 Sep.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: up to three on three days, 14-22 May. Autumn: eighteen records, 19 Sep - 12 Nov; maximum: twenty-five, 9 Oct. One seen on 11 and 12 Oct showed characteristics of the race *A. f. rostrata*.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*.

*Uncommon summer and autumn visitor.*

An "invasion" year. Recorded on many days, 22 Jun - 31 Jul. Main influxes: twenty-one, 23 Jun, and twenty-five, 19 Jul. Then one, 25 Sep, and twelve, 14 Oct.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One was singing in Millcombe, 4 Jun (R. Marshall). Two were in Millcombe, 3 Oct, and one, later ringed, stayed until 12 Oct (M. Gade, R. Marshall, S. Wing *et al.*).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 10 Apr; two, 24 - 31 Oct and 18 Dec; one, 10 and 21 Dec.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*.

*Rare visitor; April to November.*

One, 21 May.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

Singles, 27 Sep, 12-14 Oct and 12 Nov; two, 7 Nov.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

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

Eight records, 8 Oct - 1 Nov; maximum: seven, 14 Oct.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*.

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

Singles, 25 and 31 Oct.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Singles on six days, 3 Oct - 16 Nov, and three, 14 Oct.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records, in September 1957 and May 1993.*

A male was on the main track near Pondsbury, 15 and 16 Jul (J. Hutchinson, R. Marshall). This record has been submitted to the B.B. Rarities Committee.

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

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*.

23 and 24 Jun.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*.

27 Jul - 8 Aug.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*.

26 May; 27 Aug.

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*.

22 Sep.

**Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris*.

6 Oct.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*.

31 Jul.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whimbrel				0.6	1.7 0.4			0.2 0.1 0.2				
Collared Dove	P P P	P P P	P P P	1.8 2.1 P	2.6 4.5 3.5	1.3 4.5 1.9	1.6 0.6 0.3	0.8 1.7 2.1	3.2 3.9 3.6	2.6 4.1 3.5	1.0 1.0 0.8	0.8 0.2
Swift				0.1 0.2	5.1 5.7 8.2	0.8 0.9 0.7	0.6 3.9 3.2	1.8 7.4 0.4	0.1			
Sand Martin			P P	P 2.9 48	4.9 14 3.5	1.3 0.4 5.2	0.4 0.4	1.0 0.6 2.7	26 4.0 2.4	0.6 0.3 0.1		
Swallow			P P	P 73 220	190 320 97	8.8 7.4 11	0.5 0.9 0.3	1.5 6.5 3.5	170 6.2 1400	280 95 48	5	
House Martin			1.1	P 19 24	23 23 25	4.3 0.9 0.1	0.4 0.1	0.2	0.2 0.1 77	3.2 2.7 1.5		
Redstart				0.2 0.1 0.5	0.6			0.1	1.5	0.6 0.1		
Whinchat					0.6 0.2			0.2 0.5	0.7 2.4 2.6	1.1 0.4		
Wheatear			P P	P 35 P	46 12 6.6	P P 2.6	P P P	5.5 1.2 6.4	4.2 6.7 9.8	1.3 1.4 0.5		

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1997

(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	0.4								0.4	0.3 1.7 32	26 18 2.8	1.9 0.6
Redwing	P P	0.8			0.1 0.3					0.1 69 140	41 16 11	0.4 0.1
Whitethroat				0.2 0.5	9.7 2.5 3.0	0.9 0.4		0.2 0.7 2.7	1.5 0.6 1.1	0.1		
Blackcap	0.3		P	2.0 1.1 1.8	3.2 1.1 0.2	0.3 0.8 0.1		0.4	0.7 0.5 3.0	4.3 1.4 5.6	0.5 0.9	
Chiffchaff			P P	P 2.8 1.0	14 5.2 3.1	0.8 1.3 1.3	0.4 0.1 0.2	0.2 0.5	0.5 1.2 7.2	5.4 2.9 3.8	0.4 0.5 0.6	0.2
Willow Warbler			P P	P 3.3 8.8	21 2.5 2.4	0.6 0.4 0.3	0.6 0.4 11	150 12 15	4.7 2.7 1.1	0.1		
Golderest			P P	0.3 0.1	0.4			0.3 0.5	1.5 7.8 8.1	74 36 12	2.1 1.1 1.1	0.1 0.2
Spotted Flycatcher					3.6 13 23	0.6 1.5 1.1	0.8 0.6 1.2	7.3 7.7 7.3	6.5 5.2 5.7	0.4 0.1		

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1997.

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