

## BIRDS ON LUNDY 1998

By

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### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### a INTRODUCTION

Many visitors to the island have continued to do valuable work in contributing detailed bird records in the L.F.S. log book. Among the islanders, Liza Cole and Robert Marshall have played vital roles in coordinating use of the log and adding their own records. The two problems of recent years - much more thorough coverage in some weeks than others, and at times the use of ticks rather than estimated numbers in the daily lists - remained in 1998 and need to be remembered when the Systematic List, below, is read some major arrivals of migrants may not have been noted.

#### b BIRDS OF 1998

January and February produced little of note, apart from a long staying Buzzard and an exceptionally early House Martin on 27th February. The first Sand Martins, Swallows, Wheatears, Ring Ouzel and Chiffchaffs were all seen on 15th to 19th March as well as very early Swifts, Whinchat and Redstart. Winter thrushes and Goldcrests were moving through at the same time, with the only Firecrest of Spring. On 23rd, unusually large numbers of Cormorants were passing. The first Blackcap and Willow Warbler appeared on 30th and 31st. In April there was little of note until the first Spotted Flycatcher on 18th. In the last six days of the month, there were big movements of Swallows and Willow Warblers and the first arrivals of Whimbrel, Pied Flycatcher and several warbler species. On 1st May, Swallows and Willow Warblers passed through in strength and the numbers of Grasshopper Warblers were particularly noticeable. The 8th and 9th May produced the highest spring numbers of Swallows, with Wheatears and Sedge Warblers in abundance too. A Little Ringed Plover also arrived - the first Lundy record of this species. It was followed by two other uncommon and attractive species, a Dotterel on 11th and Red-backed Shrike on 13th, but Golden Orioles failed to put in an appearance.

Lapwings continued to maintain a tenuous hold as a breeding species, while Collared Doves were confirmed breeding for the first time. In late June and early July, high numbers of Manx Shearwaters were offshore and Storm Petrels visited the island at night, but neither species gave away any information on their status as breeders. Early August produced three uncommon species a Scarlet Rosefinch, a Long-eared Owl and, the rarity highlight of the year, a Citrine Wagtail. At the same time large numbers of Willow Warblers were passing through. For the rest of August and early September there was a dearth of recorders, though a Dotterel was seen on 1st September. After a Wryneck on 15th, the last week of September produced plenty of action with large numbers of Meadow Pipits, Chiffchaffs and Goldcrests passing through, accompanied by a Spotted Crane, Richard's Pipit and Ortolan Bunting.

In the first week of October a Red-breasted Flycatcher arrived and the highest autumn numbers of Swallows were recorded. The second week produced a Woodlark, Yellow-browed Warbler and another Wryneck. Several common summer migrants which have lingered late in autumn in recent years did not do so in 1998. Wheatears, for instance, were not seen after 9th October. Stormy conditions late in the month brought in two Leach's Petrels and a Grey Phalarope. This weather held up late autumn migrants such as Fieldfares, Redwings and Chaffinches, which arrived in their highest numbers in November. Blackcap and Chiffchaff were still present on 28th November and a very late Swallow was seen on 3rd 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, 29 and 30 Oct.

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

*Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.*

Singles, 27 Oct and 8 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.*

Three, 28 Mar. Then seen on many days from 20 Apr to 19 Aug, with counts of 1000 to 1500 birds offshore, 22 to 25 Jun, and 3000, 6 Jul.

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

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

Up to fifteen on East Side, 22 to 25 Jun. Then twenty, 4 Aug.

#### **Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*.

*Vagrant. Two previous records June 1928, May '72 (2).*

Two in the Rat Island and Landing Bay area, during westerly gale, 27 Oct (R.A.Duncan, M.James).

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

Seen on most days from 2 Apr to 23 Nov. Most counts in single figures but twenty-six seen on 21 Apr, between ten and twenty on nine days from 28 Sep to 11 Nov, and fifty to 100 on 27 to 30 Oct.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Five flocks totalling eighty-four birds passed on 23 Mar. Eleven further spring records, all in single figures, to 27 May. Singles, 3 and 16 Aug. Twelve records, 3 Sep to 12 Nov, of up to five birds.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

No breeding counts reported. Present in all months. Maximum autumn count seventeen, 27 Sep.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.*

Spring four singles, 16 Mar to 30 May. Autumn two on 3 and 15 Aug; nine singles, 2 Aug to 29 Oct.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.*

One, 2 to 8 Oct.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in winter.*

One, 1 Oct, then eight on 6 Oct, one staying to 12 Oct.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to eight resident birds.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

One 'ringtail', 11 and 12 Nov.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

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

Spring singles, 27 Mar and on four days from 25 Apr to 6 May. Autumn seen on twenty-five days, 12 Sep to 9 Nov, with two on 29 Sep and 2 and 3 Oct; otherwise all singles.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

One seen regularly, 4 to 26 Jan, 16 to 31 Mar and 16 Apr to 12 May, with two on 28 Apr.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

Reported frequently between 18 Mar and 31 Nov. Up to two, Mar to Jul, then maxima of four in Aug, five in Sep, six in Oct, one in Nov.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 28 and 29 Jan. Spring eight records, 18 Mar to 10 May, all singles apart from two on 8 May. Autumn nine singles, 13 Sep to 30 Oct. One, 26 Dec.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Singles, 19 Apr and 6 Jun, then a first year bird, 3 to 12 Oct.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Present all year. Maximum of six reported in Apr and three or four in the following six months.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

One, 19 Mar. One or two on most days from 27 Sep to 31 Oct, with four on 29 Sep and 10 Oct. Then one or two on eleven days, 9 Nov to 23 Dec.

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*.

*Vagrant. Seven previous records, five of them in spring.*

One was at Pondsburry, 28 to 30 Sep (R.M.Patient *et al*).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

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

Recorded in all months except Dec. Maximum count eleven, 3 Aug.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*.

*Vagrant. Not recorded previously on Lundy.*

One was seen at the Rocket Pole on 8 May (R. Campey).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring one, 18 and 19 May. Autumn nine records, 28 Aug to 18 Oct; two birds on 2 Sep and three on 11 Sep, otherwise singles.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring one, 11 May. Autumn singles on 1 Sep (juvenile) and 2 Oct.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

One, 19 Jun. Then seen on ten days from 19 Sep to 14 Oct, with peak counts of seven on 2 and 9 Oct.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*.

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

Two, 21 and 22 Mar.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

One, 29 Jan. Up to three seen on most days from 22 Mar to 26 Jun; nest with eggs in Apr, chick in May. Autumn four, 27 Sep, then up to three until 8 Oct. One, 30 Nov.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 20 Mar.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in Autumn.*

One found dead, plucked by predator, 16 May.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*.

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

One, 26 Aug, then three, 28 Oct, with one remaining on 29th.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*.

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

Spring singles, 23 Mar, 22 and 23 Apr, 10 and 11 May. Autumn one, 2 Aug; two, 5 Aug; one, 1 Oct.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

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

One, 15 Mar.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Singles on seven days, 17 Feb to 28 Apr. One, 1 and 2 Aug. One or two on thirteen days from 14 Sep to 12 Oct, with six on 29 Sep. One, 27 Dec.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

One, 26 and 27 Oct.

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

*Rare migrant and winter visitor.*

Singles, 6 and 7 Jul, 13 Sep and 7 Oct.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*.

*Rare migrant and summer and winter visitor.*

One, 1 Sep.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring one or two on sixteen days, 25 Apr to 17 May. Autumn one, 24 Aug; eight, 1 Sep. Numbers have declined greatly in the past twenty years; the spring peak used to average twenty birds per day. (See Table 1).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

Singles, 10 Feb, 17 Mar, 3 and 25 Apr, 4 and 14 Jul. Three, 2 Aug, then five records, 14 Sep to 8 Oct, including eight birds on 30 Sep. One, 19 Nov. As for the previous species, the past twenty years have seen a major decline, from an average of about thirty birds per day at their peak in July.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 23 Mar.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 8 May, 26 Aug and 28 Sep

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One, 6 to 8 Aug.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring two, 21 Apr; one, 16 May. Autumn singles, 21 and 25 Aug and 28 Sep.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

Three, 28 Oct; and one the next day.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*.

*Vagrant. Ten previous records, mainly in Sep or Oct.*

One was seen off Rat Island on 30 Oct (J.K.Allen, R.A.Duncan, M.James *et al*).

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

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

One, 28 Sep; two, 7 Oct; four, 8 Oct; one, 28 Oct.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*.

*Uncommon visitor; mainly August to April.*

One, 3 Jun.

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

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded between 24 Feb and 30 Oct. 280 breeding pairs estimated, indicating a significant increase since 1986, when 178 were counted.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

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

Present all year. 480 breeding pairs estimated, indicating a major decline since 1986, when 1117 were counted.

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

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

Present all year. 20 breeding pairs estimated, indicating a major decline since 1986, when 66 were counted. 100 birds were at the North End on 10 Oct.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded in all months except Feb, Aug and Dec. Breeding population estimated to be at least 200 pairs. There were 390 apparently occupied nests in 1996.

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*.

*Uncommon migrant and visitor; April to September.*

One, 10 May.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

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

Recorded in all months except Feb, until 28 Jul. No complete breeding counts reported. The only later records were of two on 28 Oct and one the next day.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

One, 10 Feb. Reported regularly between 17 Mar and 17 Jul. No breeding counts recorded. In autumn, one, 19 Sep and up to twenty daily, 27 to 30 Oct.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Reported from 21 Apr to 21 Jul. Highest counts twenty on 12 Jun, ten in Jenny's Cove on 10 Jul, fourteen on 13 and 15 Jul.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two, 18 Mar; two, 10 and 11 Nov.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

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

Seen on most days from 16 Mar to 30 Jun, maximum ten on 19 May, with peaks of six in the other three months. Sixteen records of one or two birds between 6 Aug and 28 Dec.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

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

Present in all months except December, with up to four to the end of Apr, then rising to twenty on 24 May. A pair bred in the Black Shed the first confirmed breeding on the island. Autumn peaks were ten on 17 Aug and 2 Oct, declining to two in late Dec ( see Table 1).

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

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

Spring two, 9 May, then singles on five days to 5 Jun. No autumn records.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 20 Apr, then singles on five days, 8 to 27 May, with four on 9 May. A juvenile was seen from 3 to 6 Jul and further singles on 9 Aug and 2 Oct.

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

*Vagrant. Thirteen previous records, nine of them in late autumn.*

One was seen in Millcombe on 5 Aug (R.Marshall and R. Shaw).

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

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 9 Nov.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Spring one was reported on the exceptionally early date of 17 Mar, followed by ten the next day. Then twenty records between 28 Apr and 7 Jul, all in single figures apart from thirty on 19 May. Autumn singles, 12 Sep and 7 Oct. (See Table 1).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*.

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

Singles, 15 and 16 Sep and 11 Oct.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant. Also recorded in winter. Most past records were in the 1950's.*

One was seen in Millcombe on 8 Oct (J.F.Babbington). The four other records in the last twenty years have all been in Oct.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Reported as present on most days from 11 Jan to 22 Nov, without numbers being record-



ed except in late autumn, when the highest count was twenty-five on 9 Oct.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

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

Spring present on many days from 15 Mar to 19 May, peak counts being twenty on 29 and 31 Mar and 28 Apr. Two, 13 Jun. Autumn reported on eighteen days, 4 Aug to 11 Oct, peaking at five on 20 Aug and ten on 2 Oct. (See Table 1).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

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

Spring two, 19 Mar, then seen on most days from 30 Mar. Main movements were 300 on 27 Apr, 500 on 8 May and 300 on 10 May. Pairs bred at Government House and the Black Shed. Autumn seen on most days until 29 Oct. Twelve days with over 100 birds, 21 Sep to 15 Oct, peaking at 500 on 3 Oct. One late bird, 3 Dec. (See Table 1).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring one reported on 27 Feb was exceptionally early; up to four were seen on five days, 23 Mar to 6 Apr; then recorded on most days from 21 Apr to 30 Jun, with high counts of seventy on 19 and 24 May. Autumn three Aug records including twenty on 20th; then seen on most days from 14 Sep to 15 Oct, with highest count of twenty on 24 Sep. (See Table 1).

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One was in Brick Field, 28 and 29 Sep (S.L.Cooper).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring up to five on seven dates, 3 to 14 May. Autumn sixteen records of one or two birds, 15 Aug to 9 Oct.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Recorded in all months. Peak counts were 250 on 23 Mar and 400 on 3 Oct.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present, breeding confirmed. No full counts.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring ten records of up to three birds, 26 Apr to 26 May. One, on 19 and 23 May, was of the Blue-headed subspecies *M. f. flava*. Autumn one, 30 Aug, then six the next day; singles, 21 and 24 Sep.

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*.

*Vagrant from Eastern Europe and Asia. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

A first year bird was caught and ringed in St John's Valley, 6 Aug - a very early date for an autumn bird in Britain - (R.A.Duncan, D.B.Kightley *et al* ). This record has been accepted by the 'British Birds' Rarities Committee.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring singles, 19 Mar and 30 Apr. Autumn eight records of one or two birds, 28 Sep to 31 Oct.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen in all months except December. Spring highest count ten, 19 Mar. A pair bred at Quarry Pond. Autumn highest count eighteen, 11 Sep. One or two birds of the continental subspecies *M. a. alba* were seen on six days from 5 to 23 May and up to three on eight days from 21 Sep to 9 Oct.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count fifteen in late Sep.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count fifteen in late Sep.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*.

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

Present all year. Highest reported count twenty-three on 10 Oct.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

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

Spring two, 18 and 19 Mar; one, 31 Mar; two, 22 Apr; singles, 8 Apr and 19 May. Autumn one, 28 Sep, then one or two daily, 7 to 11 Nov.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring early singles, 17 and 18 Mar and 1 to 3 Apr, then five records, 22 Apr to 10 May, with six birds on 22 Apr. Autumn nine records of up to four birds, 24 Sep to 9 Oct. (See Table 1).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

Spring two, 18 Mar, then nine records of up to three birds, 27 Apr to 11 May. One, 24 Jun. Autumn up to four on seven days, 24 Sep to 7 Oct. (See Table 1).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*.

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

One seen on eight days, 18 Mar to 3 May, then two or three on three dates, 18 May to 24 Jun. Six records from 28 Sep to 9 Oct, peaking at nineteen birds on 29 Sep.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring present on most days from 15 Mar, with movements of fifty on 27 Apr and 1 and 4 May, rising to 100 on 9 May. Present, breeding, all summer. Autumn little evidence of migration, the highest count being fifteen on 24 Sep; the last record was on 9 Oct. (See Table 1).

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring one, 18 and 20 Mar. One was seen on the unusual dates of 14, 15 and 30 June. Autumn singles on five days, 1 to 8 Oct.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. Peak counts were about fifteen in Mar, Apr and Sep to Dec.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Spring six records, 17 to 25 Mar, with seven birds on 24th. Autumn three, 21 Sep; three, 18 Oct; eleven later records, 2 Nov to 3 Dec, with peaks of fifty on 3 and 4 Nov, seventy-four on 11 Nov and twenty-three on 30 Nov. (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. Spring highest count five on 1 Apr. Breeding not confirmed. Autumn highest counts sixteen, 9 Oct, ten, 18 Oct and 3 Nov; four or less in Dec.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Spring nine records, 16 to 31 Mar, including fifty-eight birds on 24 Mar. Autumn seen on many days from 6 Oct to 3 Dec, main movements being thirty-seven on 9 Oct, forty on 29 Oct, 100 on 2 Nov, 150 on 7 Nov, thirty-eight on 30 Nov. Three were seen on 23 Dec and one on 28th. (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.*

Singles on 17 Mar, 13 Jul, 7 and 8 Oct, 2 and 11 Nov.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*.

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

Spring eleven records, 20 Apr to 18 May, main arrivals being twenty on 1 May and fifteen on 9 May. Autumn singles, 4 to 6 Aug and 10 Sep; then seen on five days, 29 Sep to 7

Oct, with seven on 29 Sep and eight on 1 Oct.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring seen on most days from 26 Apr to 18 May, with main arrivals of twenty on 27 Apr, thirty on 1 May, 100 on 8 May and 300 on 9 May; then one, 27 May. Autumn five records of up to four birds, 1 to 8 Aug; singles on 29 and 30 Sep and 8 Oct.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring singles, 27 Apr and 9 May. Autumn singles, 7 and 8 Aug and 1, 7 and 9 Oct.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring three, 8 May; two, 9 May. Autumn none.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring seen on most days from 26 Apr to 19 May, peaking at thirty on 9 May. Autumn one or two on four days, 1 to 8 Aug; nine reports of one or two from 11 Sep to 7 Oct, and three on 1 Oct. (See Table 2).

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring one or two on eleven days, 27 Apr to 19 May. Autumn ten records, 11 Sep to 7 Oct, maximum six birds on 27 Sep.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Spring reported on most days from 30 Mar to 12 May, with main arrivals of twenty on 27 Apr and ten on 9 May. Autumn seen on most days from 11 Sep to 20 Oct, with peaks of eighteen on 29 Sep and fifteen on 7 Oct. Later, one or two birds were seen sporadically until 28 Nov. (See Table 2).

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One was seen on the Terrace on 9 Oct (J.F.Babbington and J.R.Diamond)

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring one or two on five days, 26 Apr to 11 May. Autumn none.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring seen on most days from 17 Mar to 29 May; main arrivals reported were thirty on 2 Apr, forty on 27 Apr, twenty-five on 9 May (though on several other days in Apr hundreds

of unidentified Chiffchaff/Willow Warblers were noted). One was present in late Jun. Autumn seen on most days from 21 Sep to 15 Oct, eighty arriving on 28 Sep and twenty-five on 3 Oct. Five later records of one or two birds, the last on 28 Nov. (See Table 2).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring seen on most days from 31 Mar to 18 May; main arrivals reported were sixty on 20 Apr, 1500 on 26 Apr, 100 on 1 and 9 May (see note on Chiffchaff in spring). One was present in late Jun. Autumn seen daily, 1 to 8 Aug, with between 100 and 200 on three days; then not recorded until Sep, with thirty on 21st; seven later records, the last on 11 Oct. (See Table 2).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring seen on many days from 4 Mar to 11 May; main arrivals were twenty-five on 19 Mar, ten on 29 Mar and 1 and 27 Apr. Autumn seen on many days from 5 Aug to 10 Nov, main arrivals being 100 on 11 Sep, 300 on 29 Sep and fifty on 15 Oct; later, four records of up to four birds, 27 Nov to 11 Dec. (See Table 2).

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*

Spring one, 18 Mar. Autumn three on 22 Aug were earlier than usual; more typically there were one or two birds on nine days, 26 Sep to 12 Oct; then one, 31 Oct.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

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

Spring seen on many days from 18 Apr to 3 Jun; main arrivals were thirty on 9 May and ten on 13 and 18 May. None noted in summer but a juvenile was present at the beginning of Aug. Autumn occasional records through Aug and early Sep, then seen on most days to 3 Oct; peak counts were twenty on 22 Aug, twenty-five on 28 Aug and ten on 21 Sep. (See Table 2).

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One was in Millcombe on 1 Oct (R.M. Patient *et al* ).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring seen on seven days, 25 Apr to 13 May, maximum four on 8 May; then one, 2 June. Autumn ten records, 11 Sep to 7 Oct, maximum six on 21 Sep.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in late autumn.*

One, 28 Mar.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*.

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

Two, 18 Oct.

**Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*.

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

One, 20 Mar.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*.

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

One, 16 Sep.

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

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One male, 13 and 14 May.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

Singles, 27 Apr and 14 Jun.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. Rare visitor at other times.*

One, 1 and 7 Apr, then two, 26 Apr, and three on 27 Apr and 7 May.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Counts included thirteen in late Apr but maximum only six in Sep and Oct.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Counts included eight, 30 Apr, and ten, 7 Oct.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Up to eighty in Mar. Peak autumn counts were 160, 7 Oct; 150, 7 Nov; 1200, 11 Nov; 800, 25 Nov.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Counts included twenty, 2 Apr and 24 May, and in autumn, fifty-five on 3 Oct - other Sep to Dec counts were in the twenty to thirty range, so migrant birds may have been passing through on that day.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Counts included twenty-six on 19 Mar, forty on 9 Oct, 150 on 2 Nov, 300 on 7 Nov, 250 on 11 Nov.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Spring fifteen, 2 Apr. Autumn none or two on nine dates, 19 Oct to 12 Nov.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Spring one, 19 Mar; then up to three seen on most days from 2 Apr to 8 May. Autumn nineteen records, 19 Sep to 12 Nov, with peaks of eleven on 9 Oct and 5 and 6 Nov.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

Singles, 19 and 29 Jan and 18 Feb. Spring seen on most days from 5 Apr to 17 May, with main arrivals of thirty on 5 May and fifteen on 9 May. Autumn ten records, 2 Oct to 12 Nov, with peaks of ten on 8 Oct and nine on 4 Nov.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

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

Spring nine records, 30 Apr to 21 May, all involving one or two birds except on 5 May when there were eight.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Recorded from 18 Mar to 7 Nov. Peak counts 200, 1 May; sixty, 6 Aug; 100, 11 and 24 Sep.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring up to five birds on eleven days, 4 to 21 May. Autumn up to three birds on five days, 8 to 29 Oct.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

A female or immature male was caught and ringed in St John's Valley on 8 Aug (R.A.Duncan).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 19 Mar; five, 31 Mar; one, 2 Apr.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

Singles on 2, 6 and 10 Oct, with two on 8 Oct.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

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

Spring one, 15 Mar. Autumn none, 1 and 2 Oct; two, 8 Oct; three, 30 Oct; one, 11 Nov.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*.

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

Singles, 10 May and 11 Sep.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

A first winter bird was seen at Dead Cow Point on 26 Sep (S.L.Cooper and R.M.Patient).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Spring one, 4 and 8 May. Autumn up to three seen daily, 6 to 10 Oct.

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

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*.

7 Aug.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*.

11 Sep.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*.

10 May

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*.

20 May to 9 Jun.

**Chough** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*.

4 Jun.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*.

12 Nov.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*.

14 Jul.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Whimbrel				0.7	0.9 0.4			0.1	0.8			
Collared Dove	P P P	P P P	0.3 1.1 1.4	2.5 0.3 1.8	3.7 2.4 4.7	0.5 0.8 0.4	P P	1.2 1.7 1.0	1.2 3.0 5.0	5.0 1.4 1.0	2.1 0.9	
Swift			1.2	0.3	2.1 3.5 0.5	0.2 1.2 1.2	0.7		0.1	0.1		
Sand Martin			2.4 7.8	1.2 0.6 5.3	2.2 0.8	0.3		0.6 0.8 0.3	0.1 0.7 1.1	1.7 0.1		
Swallow			0.2 1.4	1.2 3.1 5.5	120 19 P	P 2.1 P	P P 2.3	2.8 5.8 2.3	P 54 190	28 1.0		0.1
House Martin		0.1	0.7	0.3 0.1 2.8	4.4 17	11 0.4 1.3		3.0 0.5	0.1 0.8 6.5	5.4	0.6	
Redstart			0.2	0.3 0.9	0.4				1.2	0.5		
Whinchat			0.2	0.2	1.0 0.1	0.1			0.1 1.0	0.3		
Wheatear			1.6 3.3	1.5 0.9 2.2	43 2.6 P	P P 0.5	P P P	1.2 0.1 0.4	P P 6.3	2.5		

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1998.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fieldfare			0.6 1.7						0.3	0.3	11 7.4 3.4	1.2
Redwing			1.7 4.7	0.1						7.3 2.7 7.1	46 10 5.2	2.5 0.4
White-throat				0.7	7.8 0.9			0.5	0.1 0.5 0.7	0.5		
Blackcap			0.1	0.5 1.1 4.8	3.0 0.3 0.2				0.1 1.2 4.0	4.9 1.3 0.2	0.5 0.1	
Chiffchaff			2.4 2.6	3.1 20 14	7.2 0.8 0.8	0.1 0.6			0.1 P 3.8	0.2 0.1		
Willow Warbler			0.1	11 26 240	32 1.9 0.1	0.2	0.1	54	0.3 P 3.8	0.2 0.1		
Goldcrest			0.1 5.2 2.9	3.1 0.2 1.8	0.4 0.1		0.1	0.4 0.6 1.8	0.1 11 49	24 8.2 3.0	1.0 0.9	
Spotted Flycatcher				0.1 0.4	6.1 2.9 1.0	0.2		0.5 0.2 4.1	0.1 2.2 3.6	1.0		

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers, Goldcrest and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1998 •

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