

## BIRDS ON LUNDY 1999

By

A. M. TAYLOR

26 High Street, Spetisbury, Blandford, Dorset, DT11 9DJ

### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

#### a. INTRODUCTION

The Systematic List below is based almost entirely on entries made in the L.F.S. log book on the island. Coverage has remained patchy, with accurate counts and careful use of the log in some weeks and, at the other extreme, no records at all in others. This needs to be remembered when the species accounts and tables are read. Many thanks to all the contributors to the log, who help to maintain a valuable long-term series of records despite the gaps. To ensure as full a record as possible and to ease the task of deciphering all the information, they are urged to check the log book instructions carefully, particularly on the use (preferably the non-use) of ticks in place of numbers and on the need for rarities descriptions.

#### b. BIRDS OF 1999

After January and February had passed quietly, the last eleven days of March saw plenty of early migrants on the move, with Chiffchaff closely followed by Sand Martin, Blackcap, Wheatear, Willow Warbler, House Martin and Swallow. With these came a Black Redstart, Ring Ouzel and Black-throated Diver. Between 9th and 11th April there were good movements of Swallow, Sand Martin, Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff and the next week brought the year's first Tree Pipit, Grasshopper, Reed and Garden Warblers and Whitethroat. In the last week of April, Swallow and Willow Warbler numbers were again high and the passage of several species including Swifts, Yellow Wagtails and Redstarts began, with scarcer species such as Osprey, Marsh Harrier, Dotterel and Corn Bunting appearing too. Wheatear numbers peaked on 30th.

May began with very high numbers of Grasshopper, Sedge, Garden and Willow Warblers and 2nd produced the first of only four spring Turtle Doves, as well as a Wryneck. On 5th, an Arctic Skua arrived and chased a Herring Gull over the island. Golden Orioles were seen regularly from 10th to early June, while a Tufted Duck from 12th May was more unexpected for Lundy. The highest spring totals of Swallow, House Martin and Spotted Flycatcher were on 16th, and for Swift on 25th.

Notable June records included a singing Scarlet Rosefinch, a Red-backed Shrike and a Kingfisher. Like the last of these, a Jay in July was unusual despite its resident breeding populations just across the water. Among the island's breeders, Lapwings apparently failed to maintain their former toe-hold but Cuckoos had success and a pair of Siskins

may have tried too.

Passage noted in early autumn included large numbers of Swifts and Willow Warblers on 30th July, Swallows and Sand Martins on 20th August and Willow Warblers on 27th. Dotterel and Hoopoe also appeared in the last week of August. September saw big movements of Swallows on several dates, Wheatears on 14th and Meadow Pipits on 26th. Rarities included Marsh Harrier and Wryneck on 5th and a long-staying Rose-coloured Starling from 22nd, followed by Red-breasted Flycatcher, Scarlet Rosefinch, Corncrake, Barred Warbler and Short-toed Lark, all in the last week. The first Lapland Bunting of the autumn arrived on 30th, while Snow Buntings, which had preceded it by a fortnight, went on to record some unusually high totals in October.

In the first week of October, the peak numbers of Goldcrests, the last significant passage of Swallows and the first autumn Fieldfares and Redwings were seen. The latter two species moved through in good numbers in the last week of October, as did Blackbirds, Chaffinches, Blackcaps and a surprisingly high total of House Martins for so late in the year. In the same week up to four Great Northern Divers, two Red-breasted Mergansers, a Scarlet Rosefinch and up to eight Firecrests appeared, adding variety, and a flock of Long-tailed Tits ventured out to the island.

In November, thirty Woodpigeons arrived on 11th, followed by large numbers of winter thrushes the next day, while the last of the summer migrants, very surprisingly a Willow Warbler, stayed until 15th.

#### 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.*

Singles, 31 Mar, 29 Sep and 7 Dec.

#### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*.

*Vagrant. Eight previous accepted records, four of them in early spring.*

One was off the east side, mainly in the Landing Bay area, 24 Mar to 9 Apr (R. Marshall).

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

*Occasional visitor; mainly October to March.*

Up to four daily, 23 to 29 Oct, then one, 9 Nov and 10 Dec.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*.

*Vagrant. Three previous records, in Oct 1970, May '71 and Sep '86.*

A juvenile was seen in the Landing Bay, 13 Aug (T. and K. Dobie, R. Marshall).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*.

*Breeding. Infrequent, October to February.*

No full breeding counts reported. First recorded on 13 Mar, when there were 100 at Gannets Rock. Seen regularly, 27 Mar to 10 Sep. Up to four offshore, 27 Sep to 4 Oct. Four records in December, including fifty at Gannets Rock on 20th.

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*.

*Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.*

Recorded on many days from 31 Mar to 16 Jul. Peak count 1000 offshore, 18 May. Up to three seen on three days, 27 Sep to 7 Oct.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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

Nine were ringed at night, 27 Jun, nine on 30 Jun, four on 19 Aug. One seen on 8 Sep.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*.

*Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.*

One or two on five dates in Jan and Feb. Recorded on most days from 28 Mar to 5 Jul, then sporadically until 9 Dec. Counts were mainly below twenty but 157 were seen on 17 May, fifty on 5 Jul, between 100 and 300 on five days from 26 Sep to 5 Oct and fifty on 23 Oct.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Twelve reports of up to ten birds, 27 Mar to 11 May, then six counts of up to six, 19 Aug to 10 Sep. Southward movements in late Sep included thirty-one birds on 25th, fifty-one on 26th, sixteen on 30th. Four counts of up to twenty-one in Oct, then up to three in early Dec.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

*Breeding, present throughout the year.*

No breeding counts reported. Recorded in all months. Maximum in autumn was fifty on 5 Sep.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*.

*Occasional visitor; most commonly in late summer.*

Singles on 3 and 10 Jun, two on 16 Jun, then singles, 22 Jun, 25 Jul, 11 and 12 Aug, 7 Oct. Two, 25 Oct, then one from 15 Dec, found dead on 18th.

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope*.

*Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.*

One, 14 Sep. One was seen on twelve days from 30 Sep to 21 Oct, joined by a male which stayed from 19 to 24 Oct.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*.

*Regular visitor, mainly in winter.*

One, 19 May, then four, 28 Jul, with three remaining on 30th. Singles, 18 and 20 Aug, 6 to 10 Sep, 21 and 22 Oct, 12 Nov.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to fourteen resident birds.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*.

*Vagrant. Of fourteen previous records, the majority have been in spring and early summer.*

A male was on Ponds bury, 12 to 14 May (L.Cole).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*.

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

Two, 21 May.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*.

*Vagrant. Six previous records, four of them in Oct.*

Two were seen flying north, 25 Oct (J. K. G. Allen).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*.

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

One was seen off the West Side, leaving to the northwest, 26 Apr (J. R. Diamond). An immature, also off the West Side, left to the southwest on 5 Sep (T. Davis and T. Jones).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*.

*Occasional spring and autumn migrant.*

A 'ringtail' bird was seen on 27 Sep and 4 and 5 Oct, with a male also present on 5 Oct.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*.

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

Singles, 21 Jan, then on seven days from 23 Mar to 27 Apr, and 2 Jun. Twenty-six records between 28 Jul and 9 Dec, all referring to singles apart from two on 19 Aug and 5 Oct, three on 7 Oct. Throughout the year, whenever the sex of a single bird was stated

it was female, so it is possible that one long-staying individual was involved.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*.

*Uncommon visitor.*

Singles, 26 to 30 Mar and 16 to 23 Oct.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*.

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

One flew over Millcombe, 26 Apr (R. Marshall).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

After singles on 22 Feb and 26 and 27 Mar, at least one was seen on many days from 11 Apr to 6 Jun, including four on 26 Apr and three on 15 May. Birds were again present on many days from 9 Jul to 23 Nov, with peak counts of five on 27 Aug and four on 5 Sep and 19 Oct.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Spring: singles, 15 and 29 Mar and then on seven days in Apr, the last on 30th. Autumn reported on seventeen days, 27 Sep to 4 Nov, with two birds on 18 Oct and 4 Nov and all other records referring to single birds.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*.

*Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.*

Singles were seen on twelve days from 27 Apr to 20 Jun, then on 30 Jul and 15 Aug.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*.

*Recorded in all months in recent years.*

Reported on many days from 15 Mar to 20 Dec, with peak counts of six in Apr and Sep, five in Oct, two in Nov and Dec and four in other months.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

One on five dates from 29 Jan to 31 Mar, then nineteen records from 20 Sep to 15 Nov, with two birds on five days from 18 Oct onwards while all other reports referred to singles.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*.

*Formerly a regular spring migrant, rare in summer and autumn. Now very rare, last recorded in May 1989.*

One was seen beside Pondsbury, 27 Sep (J. F. Babbington).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*.

*Rare visitor. Has bred.*

Records of one on 10 Apr and 2 and 19 May, perhaps referring to a single secretive bird.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*.

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

Recorded in all months except Dec. Maximum count eleven on 18 Apr.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: five singles, 25 Apr to 17 May, then two on the next two days. Autumn: two, 25 Aug, then singles on 31 Aug and 6, 20 and 30 Sep.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

A flock of ten was in South West Field on 25 Apr, then one on the Airfield on 30 Apr and a juvenile at the North End on 23 Aug.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Spring: fifteen records, 15 Apr to 30 May, peaking at three birds from 15 to 18 May. One on 24 Jun was followed by three from 11 to 14 Jul. Autumn: sixteen records, 19 Aug to 12 Nov, with peaks of nine on 30 Sep, six on 25 Oct.

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*.

*Formerly bred in small numbers and was a common spring and autumn migrant, less regular in winter. Major decline in recent years.*

Singles reported on eight days from 23 Mar to 7 May, then eight on 24 Jun and up to two on three days in Jul. No evidence of breeding. Twelve autumn records, 30 Sep to 15 Nov, with peaks of seven on 20 Oct and 15 Nov. Two, 15 Dec.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*.

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

Three, 21 Apr. One, 27 Sep. Two, 9 Dec.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*.

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

Spring: nine records, 27 Apr to 1 Jun, all of single birds apart from three on 30 Apr, six on 2 May. Autumn: eight singles, 10 Aug to 20 Oct.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*.

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

Singles on 21, 27 and 29 Oct.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*.

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

Spring: just one, 30 Apr and 1 May. Then four records from 12 Jul to 5 Aug, including six birds on 31 Jul. Autumn: twenty-five records, 2 Sep to 15 Nov, including nine on 6 Sep and six on 13 and 15 Nov. One, 20 Dec.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Eight records, 17 Oct to 15 Nov, peaking at five on 13 Nov. Then one, 9 Dec.

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

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

One, 30 Aug.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: seen on twenty-two days, 26 Apr to 26 May, with peak numbers of thirteen on 2 May and eight on 8 May. Autumn: just one, 16, 17 and 19 Aug. (See Table 1.)

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*.

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

One, 25 Jan. Spring: ten records, 1 to 17 May, mainly involving singles but with eight birds on 8 May. Occasional singles in late Jun and Jul, then three, 19 Aug, two, 5 Sep, and five records from 4 to 25 Oct, including eight birds on 4th.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One, 19 Aug.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 18 Apr and 20 Aug.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*.

*Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Singles, 30 Jul and 11, 19, 20 and 26 Aug.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Two, 5 Jul, and one, 19 Aug.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*.

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

One, 16 May. Two, 5 Sep. One, 14 Sep.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

*Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.*

One was seen chasing a Herring Gull over South West Field, 5 May. Autumn: singles, 13 and 27 Sep, 7 and 23 Oct, and two on 5 Oct.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*.

*Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.*

One, 16 Sep, and three, 5 Oct.

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

*Uncommon visitor throughout the year.*

One, 27 Apr. An unusually large group of twenty-three was off the North End on 5 Sep. Six, 6 Oct. One, 19 Oct and three the next day. One, 24 Oct.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*.

*Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.*

One, 17 Apr. Two, 5 Oct.

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

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded between 23 Mar and 10 Dec. No breeding numbers reported. Highest autumn count was ninety, 22 Oct.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*.

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

Present in all months. Counts included 150 on the top of the island, 8 Jan; 200, 5 Feb; 300, 13 Nov.

A **Yellow-legged Gull** of the race *L. a. michahellis* was at Pondsby on 15 May (R. Campey).

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

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

Present in all months. Highest count 170, 23 Oct.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*.

*Breeding. Scarce in winter.*

Recorded from 30 Mar to 20 Dec. No full breeding census but indications that numbers had declined and breeding success was low. Counts included 200 offshore on 23 Aug and fifty on 5 and 27 Oct and 8 Dec.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*.

*Rare migrant.*

Five off the East Side, 2 Oct.



**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*.

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

Reported from 28 Mar to 16 Jul, though it would be very unusual for breeding birds not to be on ledges much earlier and later than this. No breeding counts reported. Late in the year, up to four seen offshore on six days, 4 Oct to 9 Dec.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*.

*Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.*

Apart from one oiled bird present from 13 Mar, the species was reported regularly between 27 Mar and 16 Jul. Like Guillemots, breeding birds would be expected until early Aug. No breeding counts reported. Nine later records, 26 Sep to 16 Dec, included twenty offshore on 27 Oct and fifteen the next day but otherwise mainly involved ones and twos.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Recorded from 9 Apr to 26 Jul. Highest count was forty-nine on 24 Jun. This suggests an increase since 1997 and '98, and records of pairs mating and entering burrows regularly are also encouraging. Further details are given in a separate paper in this volume (p35).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring two, 16 Apr, one, 17 May. Autumn seen on twelve days, 15 Oct to 15 Nov, with a peak of three on 26 Oct. Then one, 10 Dec.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*.

*Probably breeds in most years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Sporadic in winter.*

Recorded frequently from 26 Mar to 29 Sep, with peak counts of nine on 8 Apr, four in May, two in Jun and Jul, three in Aug and four in Sep. Present again from 9 Nov to mid Dec, with thirty on 11 Nov, twenty-six on 15 Nov and sixteen on 5 Dec.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*.

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

Present all year. Apart from six on 2 Feb and 2 Apr, numbers reported in the first four months were generally four or less. There were up to nine in May, eleven in Jun, five in Jul, four in Sep, one from Oct onwards. (See Table 1.)

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*.

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

Spring: singles on 2 and 28 May, 3 and 7 Jun. Autumn: one, 5 Sep.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*.

*Presumed breeding. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twelve records, 25 Apr to 10 Jun, with two on 30 Apr but otherwise single birds. Eight singles, 15 Jul to 12 Aug, involved adult and juvenile birds, including a recently fledged bird being fed by a Meadow Pipit on 31 Jul.

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

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 28 Sep, 6, 7 and 24 Oct and 26 Nov.

**Swift** *Apus apus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.*

Seen on many days from 28 Apr to 27 Aug, with peak counts of 100 on 25 May, twenty-five on 12 Jul and 120 on 30 Jul. Most other counts were in single figures (See Table 1.)

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*.

*Rare visitor, mainly in autumn.*

One was seen at Lametry, 22 Jun.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One at Quarter Wall, 28 Aug.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*.

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

Singles, 2 May and 5 Sep.

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

*Vagrant. Eleven previous records, six in spring and five in autumn.*

One was at the Rocket Pole pond, 30 Sep (J. F. Babbington, A. M. Jewels et al.).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Recorded as present in all months. Highest reported numbers were twenty-eight, 25 Apr, fifty, 19 and 21 May, and twenty-eight, 28 Oct.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*.

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

Spring: seen on many days from 23 Mar to 25 May, with peak counts of 200, 27 Apr and 1 May, and 100 or more on four other dates, 26 Apr to 2 May. Occasional records of up to 6 in Jun and Jul. Autumn: reported on many days from 15 Aug to 6 Oct, with fifty on 20 Aug and 2 Sep but otherwise fifteen or less. (See Table 1.)

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*.

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

Spring: first seen on 29 Mar. Hundreds moved north on 10 and 11 Apr and counts of 100 or more were reported on eighteen days from 26 Apr to 26 May, including 500, 27 Apr, and 1000, 16 May. Small numbers present all summer, with young seen in late Jul, but no confirmation of breeding. Autumn: counts reached 200 on 4, 20 and 24 Sep and 7 Oct. Last recorded on 29 Oct. (See Table 1.)

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: small numbers were seen from 28 Mar until early May, then the main movements included eighty, 11 and 12 May, 500, 16 May, and 150, 25 May. Small numbers continued to be reported until 6 Jul. Autumn: recorded sporadically from 20 Aug to 27 Oct, peak counts being forty, 4 Sep, and fifty, 27 Oct. (See Table 1.)

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: fourteen records, 14 Apr to 28 May, all involving one or two birds except on 30 Apr, when four were seen. Autumn: eighteen records, 16 Aug to 5 Oct, with six on 16 Aug, seventeen on 19 Aug but otherwise six or fewer.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Reported in all months. Records included 100+, 27 Mar, 200, 5 Sep, and counts totalling 3000 between 25 Sep and 3 Oct, with 1000 on 26th.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Seen in all months, with maximum counts of ten on 25 Sep and 9 Dec.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: five records involving one or two birds, 25 Apr to 28 May. Autumn: twenty records, 10 Aug to 5 Oct, maximum three on 27 and 30 Aug.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring: two on 27 and four on 30 Mar were followed by three reports of singles to 29 Apr. Autumn: twenty-three records, 14 Aug to 15 Nov, including two birds on 25 Sep, then three on 6 and two on 28 Oct, all others being singles.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen on most days from 16 Mar to 30 Nov. Spring peak counts were twelve, 16 Mar, and fifteen, 28 Mar. Breeding adults were reported feeding young in late Jun and early Aug. Autumn peaks included fifteen, 5 Sep, twenty, 25 Sep, and fifteen the next day. One

or two continental birds of the subspecies *M. a. alba* were seen on six spring dates, 28 Mar to 1 May, and up to five on six dates, 30 Aug to 25 Sep.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count forty-three on 28 Oct.

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*.

*Breeding. Resident.*

Present all year. Highest reported count eighteen, 26 Sep.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*.

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

Present all year. Highest reported count twenty-nine, 28 Oct.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

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

Spring: singles, 27 and 31 Mar, then two, 30 Apr. Autumn: singles, 29 Jul and 28 to 30 Oct, with two on 31 Oct.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

*Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring seven records, 25 Apr to 16 May, maximum five on 30 Apr and 1 May. Autumn five records, 31 Aug to 28 Sep, maximum two on 26 and 28 Sep. (See Table 1.)

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*.

*Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.*

Spring: seven records, 26 Apr to 19 May, maximum eleven on 1 May. Autumn: twenty-two records, 19 Aug to 26 Oct, maximum three, 6 and 26 Sep. (See Table 1.)

**Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Thirteen scattered records of one or two birds, 15 Mar to 27 Aug. Seen regularly from 25 Sep to 13 Nov, maximum four on 16 and 22 Oct.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

*Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Present on most days from 26 Mar to 7 Oct. Spring: peaks 150 on 27, 28 and 30 Apr. Autumn: 100 reported on 14 Sep, with other counts all twenty or less. One late bird was seen on 25 Oct. (See Table 1.)

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: singles, 28 Mar, 26 and 30 Apr and 1 May. Autumn: singles, 3, 23 and 25 Oct and two on 26 Oct.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*.

*Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.*

Present all year. Late autumn movements peaked at ninety on 26 Oct and fifty on 17 Nov.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*.

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

Spring: five, 25 Mar, and two, 26 Mar. Autumn: present from 6 Oct to 17 Nov, with peak counts of 169, 26 Oct, and 145, 12 Nov. Singles, 5 and 15 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.*

Seen in all months. Up to three seen in Mar and early Apr. At least one pair bred, with young seen in early May and early Aug. Peak autumn migration count twenty-five, 26 Oct. Up to three still present in Dec.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Spring: three records, 23 to 26 Mar, including fifteen on 25. Autumn: reported from 6 Oct to 15 Nov, with peak counts of seventy on 6 Oct, 265 on 26 Oct and 160 on 12 Nov. One, 10 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: singles, 23 Mar and 1 May. Autumn: two, 25 Oct, then singles on four days to 15 Nov.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevi*.

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

Spring: seen on seven days, 17 Apr to 2 May, maximum thirty on 1 May. One, 17 Jun. Autumn: just one seen, 5 Oct.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

*Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twenty-five records, 17 Apr to 27 May, with peak counts of 250, 1 May, and forty, 19 May. Autumn: nine records, 29 Jul to 6 Sep, maximum sixteen on 30 Jul.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: two, 1 May. Autumn: five records, 5 to 25 Sep, maximum two, 7 Sep.

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*.

*Rare autumn migrant.*

One was seen in Millcombe, 29 Sep (J. F. Babbington).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: five singles, 25 Apr to 1 May. Autumn: one, 29 Oct, showed characteristics of the race *S. c. blythi*.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*.

*Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: twenty-seven records, 18 Apr to 1 Jun, maximum eighty, 1 May, with a further movement of twenty, 19 May. Autumn: thirteen records, 11 Aug to 5 Oct, with peak counts of seven, 27 Aug and five, 25 Sep. (See Table 2.)

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: eleven records, 18 Apr to 19 May, maximum fifty, 1 May, with all other counts four or less. Autumn twenty-one records, 18 Aug to 29 Oct, maximum ten on 25 Sep.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*.

*Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.*

Spring: recorded between 25 Mar and 2 Jun, almost daily from 14 Apr to 19 May, with peak counts of twenty-five, 25 Apr, and seventy, 1 May. Autumn: seen from 6 Sep to 15 Nov, with peak movements of twenty-five on 25 Sep and 6 Oct, forty, 25 Oct, and seventy, 28 Oct. (See Table 2).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring: three reported on 31 Mar were unusually early. Then singles, 12 and 26 Apr and 15 May. Autumn: one, 10 and 11 Sep.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: seen on most days from 21 Mar to 2 Jun. Peak counts 100 on 9 and 25 Apr. Scattered records of one or two through the summer. Autumn: seen on many days until 15 Nov. Movements included ten, 3 Aug, thirteen, 25 Sep, and seventeen, 28 Oct. (See Table 2).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

*Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring: reported from 26 Mar to 25 Jun. Most movement was between 7 Apr and 2 May, with peak counts 300, 9 and 25 Apr, and 400, 1 May, and six other counts of 100. Autumn: seen from 23 Jul to 5 Oct, with peak counts of 200 on 30 Jul, 1000 on 10 and 11 Aug, 200 on 16 Aug and 100 on 27 Aug. A late bird was present from 17 Oct to 15 Nov. (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 15 Mar to 2 Jun. Most numerous in the last week of Mar, maximum fifteen on 28 Mar. Autumn: reported from 30 Jul to mid Dec, with main arrivals of fifty on 25 and sixty on 28 Sep, 200 on 3 and sixty-seven on 25 Oct. 100 were present on 5 Dec. (See Table 2.)

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*.

*Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.*

Spring: one, 30 Apr and 1 May. Autumn: one on four days from 4 to 20 Sep, then seen on most days from 17 to 29 Oct with maximum eight on 28. Singles 13 and 14 Nov and 7 Dec.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*.

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

Seen on many days from 30 Apr to 26 Sep, with the main spring movement 14 to 25 May, peaking at fifty on 16. One or two through the summer but no breeding reported. Highest autumn count fifteen on 30 Aug. (See Table 2.)

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

*Uncommon autumn migrant.*

One, 25 Sep.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: twelve records, 17 Apr to 23 May, maximum nine, 1 May. Autumn: seen on many days from 19 Aug to 6 Oct, with peaks of ten, 30 Aug, and six, 25 Sep.

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

*Rare migrant, mainly in late autumn.*

One, 14 and 15 Jun, and a flock of eleven on 26 Oct.

**Coal Tit** *Parus ater*.

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

Seen on seven days, 16 to 29 Oct, maximum six on 26.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*.

*Uncommon visitor, usually between July and October.*

Two, 17 Jul, then one seen on eleven days to 24 Oct.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*.

*Uncommon spring migrant.*

Two, 10 to 14 May, then one seen on five days to 2 Jun.

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

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 14 May and 14 Jun.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*.

*Vagrant. One previous record, Sep 1965.*

One was seen at the Quarries, 17 Jul (K. Briffelt).

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*.

*Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

One, 23 Apr, and two, 24 Jun.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Maximum counts six until June, then nine in Jul rising to eighteen in late Oct.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Peak counts were eight in most months, nine in Sep.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Peak counts were fifty-nine in Jan, twenty-five in Apr, twenty in May, fifty in Aug and Sep. Autumn influxes included 240 on 17 Oct, 430 on 25 Oct, 1000 on 28 Oct and 200 on 13 Nov. Dec maximum 100.

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

*Vagrant. Five previous records accepted this century include three adults in summer and two autumn immature birds.*

A first-year bird was in the village area, 22 Sep to 4 Oct (R. Marshall et al.). This record has been accepted by the B. B. Rarities Committee.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*.

*Breeding. Present throughout the year.*

Present all year. Peak counts were twenty until April, then fifty on 4 Sep, sixty on 25 Sep, thirty-one on 25 Oct.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Peak spring count was thirty-two on 22 Mar. In autumn numbers were generally forty or more in Oct and early Nov, with hundreds daily, 24 to 27 Oct, maximum 955 on 26.



**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Spring: seven records of one or two, 20 Mar to 1 Apr. Autumn: eleven records, 17 Oct to 15 Nov, maximum eleven on 26 Oct.

**Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Spring: seven records of one or two birds, 25 Mar to 4 May. Autumn: seen on most days from 5 Oct to 15 Nov, maximum sixteen on 24 Oct.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

Spring: reported regularly from 15 Mar to 31 May, with peaks of thirteen on 16 Apr, eighteen on 26 Apr and fifteen on 1 May. Autumn: seen regularly from 26 Sep to 15 Nov, peaking at forty on 5 Oct and fifteen on 24 Oct.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*.

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

Singles on 27 Mar and 22 Apr were followed by an unusual series of records involving a pair from 29 Apr to 31 May. The female showed a large brood-patch when they were caught and ringed in Apr, so breeding may have been attempted. Autumn: seen regularly from 26 Sep to 29 Oct, maximum forty on 26 Oct. Five on 15 Nov.

**Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Not reported until 21 Mar. Then present until 15 Nov, with counts including 150 in mid May, 200 in late Aug and late Sep, 120 on 24 Oct. One, 8 Dec.

**Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Five on 29 Apr and two the next day were followed by reports of one or two on five dates to 22 Jun. Autumn: one, 5 Oct, six on 24 Oct with smaller numbers on the next five days. One, 10 Nov and five on 13 and 15 Nov.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

*Rare spring and autumn migrant.*

One was singing in Millcombe, 4 Jun (R. Marshall), and in autumn there were singles, also in Millcombe, on 25 Sep (D. and S. Churchill and M. Shakespeare) and 25 Oct (J. R. Diamond and R. A. Duncan).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Singles, 26 May and 17 and 25 Oct.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

Autumn: ten records, 30 Sep to 14 Nov, maximum three on 5 and 17 Oct.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

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

One, 14 Sep, then seen frequently from 28 Sep to 10 Nov, with peaks of twenty-eight on 6 Oct and twenty on 26 Oct. One, 7 Dec.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*.

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

Singles, 10 and 11 Apr and 28 Sep.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Eight records, 27 Sep to 13 Nov, with two birds on 5 Oct but otherwise singles.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*.

*Rare visitor; most often in spring.*

One was feeding in Tillage Field, 22 Apr (R. Marshall), and one at Quarter Wall, 15 May (A. Bevan, R. Campey, J. Hunt). These are the first records since 1984.

**LUNDY RARITIES**

Records rejected because they were undocumented or descriptions inconclusive.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*. One, 13 Sep.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*. Two, 27 Jun.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*. One, 27 May.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*. One, 29 Jun.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*. One, 16 Sep. One, 22 Sep.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*. One, 1 Oct. Two, 3 Oct. One, 7 Oct.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*. One, 28 Apr. One, 15 Sep.

	January			February			March			April			May			June			July			August			September			October			November			December		
Whimbrel											1.5	4.8	2.6	0.3								0.3														
Collared Dove		0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.8			1.0	1.9	2.1	2.6	3.1	5.4	2.3	1.8	3.7	3.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	3.0	2.6	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1		0.2	0.2	
Swift											0.3	0.9	1.5	9.5		0.5	2.3	4.8	2.9	12	1.6	1.7	1.0						0.1							
Sand Martin								8.1	5.6	0.7	69	32	2.0	2.2		0.9		0.3	0.3		7.9	1.7	5.4	0.7	2.0	0.8										
Swallow								1.0	17	6.7	220	52	200	44	3.7	3.4	1.8	0.3	1.2	1.7	5.6	11	2.7	40	25	49	48	6.1	15							
House Martin								1.0	3.0	0.6	5.4	9.0	82	24	6.1	4.7	1.1	0.2				0.1	1.1	4.8	1.0	1.5	1.8	6.0								
Redstart											0.9	0.6	0.1									0.1	0.1		0.5											
Whinchat											0.9	2.5	0.4									0.1		0.8	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.3							
Wheatear								2.3	1.7	2.9	66	24	16	9.2	1.3	4.1	1.1	0.9				1.9	6.7	2.1	5.5	10	8.6	3.8	0.1							

Table 1: Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 1999.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten day periods, throughout the year.)

	January			February			March			April			May			June			July			August			September			October			November			December		
Fieldfare								0.6																			0.7	14	30	3.7	65					
Redwing								1.5																			9.0	18	54	7.1	58					
White Throat									0.1	2.5	13	3.1	1.0	0.1								1.0	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1									
Blackcap								0.2	0.5	3.0	6.3	9.3	1.0	0.1	0.1										0.1	0.1	5.8	6.1	2.7	24	0.3	0.6				
Chiff-chaff								4.2	21	2.7	21	6.6	8.5	2.4	0.4	0.3	0.9		0.5			1.1	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.3	2.1	4.4	1.4	4.5	0.2	0.8				
Willow Warbler								0.4	38	30	86	52	1.9	2.7	0.5	0.1	0.4				33	100	180	14	4.1	1.0	4.2	1.0	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.5				
Goldcrest								0.3	5.7	0.4	1.4	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	0.1					0.1		0.6	0.7	2.6	2.6	22	70	7.0	20	1.4	4.6				
Spotted Flycatcher										0.3	0.8	15	2.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	3.5	2.5	3.4	0.6	0.1											

Table 2: Thrushes, Warblers, Goldcrest and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 1999.

(Figures show the number of birds recorded per day, averaged over ten day periods, throughout the year.)