

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2003

By

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

The extent of good coverage of the island, by experienced observers, was greater during the main spring and autumn migration periods of 2003 than it has been in most recent years. The gaps, judging from use of the log book on the island, were the second week of May, three short spells in August and a week in mid-September. As always, this report is almost entirely based on the log book entries: many thanks to all those who take the trouble to enter records. A few potentially valuable items of information have been lost through occasional reluctance on the part of visitors to estimate the numbers of migrant species present, or through lack of rarities descriptions, but Ben Sampson has done sterling work in encouraging full recording.

Since most contributors and readers of this report are not on the island at the same time as each other, constructive feedback on its format and content is extremely sparse. Any such comments would be very gratefully received, so that its value can be enhanced in future years.

Birds of 2003

January and February saw visits from some typical winter species including two Great Northern Divers, a Short-eared Owl, a flock of Fieldfares and a Snow Bunting. March produced the first arrivals of summer migrants including Wheatears on 5th, Swallow on 12th and Chiffchaff, Sand Martin and Blackcap over the next five days. At the end of the month Chiffchaffs came through in force. In early April it was the turn of Willow Warblers, along with the first House Martins. In mid month the first of several Sandwich Terns passed through, and Sedge Warbler, Tree Pipit, Redstart and Pied Flycatcher arrived. Then in the final week Swallows and Wheatears dominated in terms of numbers, with a supporting cast of several warbler species, the first Swift, Spotted Flycatcher and Yellow Wagtails, and, less predictable, two Dotterel, a Shelduck, Hobby and Black-throated Diver.

Early May highlights included an Osprey, a singing Golden Oriole and a Hooded Crow, while Swallows, Martins, Spotted Flycatchers and Sedge Warblers were at their spring peaks. These were followed by a Quail and Short-toed Lark, then a last influx of Swallows and House Martins and a fine male Red-footed Falcon at the end of the month. Then, with most migrants already departed for their breeding areas, June delivered two Rose-coloured Starlings and, even less expected at this time of year, a Red-breasted Flycatcher. Among the species that stayed to breed, the most surprising was Lundy's first ever recorded pair of Lesser Whitethroats.

June and July saw the arrival of several species that tend to breed early and were already dispersing, including two groups of four Grey Herons. In August the first southward movements of Swallows and Willow Warblers were under way and a Melodious Warbler graced St John's Valley on the 15th.

The first half of September produced an interesting range of species, with Great Crested Grebe, Ortolan Buntings, another Rose-coloured Starling, Scarlet Rosefinch, Jay and - the rarest of the collection - a Red-rumped Swallow. A further Ortolan Bunting and Scarlet Rosefinch appeared later in the month, this time coinciding with Tawny Pipit, Corncrake and Icterine and Yellow-browed Warblers. Meanwhile, Willow Warblers, then Pied Flycatchers, Wheatears, Spotted Flycatchers, Meadow Pipits, Swallows and House Martins moved south in large numbers during the month. The final day produced the first real sign of winter when a Snow Bunting arrived.

In the first week of October, Swallows and martins continued to stream south, while the first Redwing of the season arrived and a Hobby, the only recorded Turtle Dove of the autumn and two Green Sandpipers added variety. In mid month, Fieldfares and a flock of Teal appeared from the north and the last of the year's Wheatears left. The last week produced some major movements, with Chaffinches making the headlines on the 28th, when an estimated 15,000 poured south, along with large numbers of other finches, thrushes and Starlings. A flock of 60 Woodpigeons also appeared at the end of October and, less conspicuously, up to six Firecrests and two Yellow-browed Warblers among the numerous Goldcrests and a Richard's Pipit among the Meadow Pipits. The last week of October was notable for more extreme rarities too, with a Desert Wheatear as the star, and a Pallas's Warbler and Lundy's first recorded Cetti's Warbler in supporting roles. Lapland Bunting, White-fronted Goose, Twite and Pochard also arrived.

In mid November, along with the winter thrushes and the lingering Cetti's Warbler and Pochard, there were still a few Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps to be seen, and very late House Martin and Dotterel, while up to three Short-eared Owls and two Hen Harriers patrolled the top of the island and two Great Northern Divers fished offshore. By the end of the year Ravens and some seabirds were already preparing for the next breeding season.

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.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*.

Vagrant. Nine previous accepted records, five of them in early spring.

One, off the East Side, 28 Apr to 5 May (J.R. Diamond).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.

Two, 15 Jan. One immature, 19 Apr. Two, 15 to 20 Nov. One on five days from 10 to 27 Dec and two on 28 Dec.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.

Vagrant. Four previous records, in Oct 1970, May '71, Sep '86 and Aug '99.

One in the Landing Bay, 7 Sep (R.J. Campey).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Breeding. Infrequent from October to February.

No full breeding counts reported. Reported as present in all months except Oct. Winter counts included 95 on 18 Nov and 70 on 9 and 11 Dec.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

Presumed breeding. Common between April and September.

Recorded on many days from 14 Apr to 10 Sep. Peak counts included 'thousands' off the North End on 30 Apr, 700 on 15 Jun.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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

Two, 29 Apr.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*.

Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.

Reported on many days from 29 Mar to the end of the year. Most counts before early Aug were in single figures but 30 were seen on 29 Apr. Later maxima were 50 on 18 Aug, 60 on 8 Sep, 60 on 26 Oct and fifteen on 17 Nov and 9 Dec.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

After one on 8 Feb, there were seventeen spring records between 9 Mar and 29 May. Most referred to one or two birds, with ten on 28 and five on 29 Apr, three on 4 and 5 May. Autumn: after eight records of up to three birds from 28 Jul, southerly movements included 30 on 27 Aug and 28 on 31 Aug, fourteen on 9, ten on 12, fifteen on 22 and 24, twelve on 27 Sep, eight on 27 Oct, then one or two on four dates in Nov and Dec.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Breeding, present throughout the year.

No breeding counts reported. Recorded in all months. Maximum autumn counts were eighty in Aug and Sep.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.

Many records, extending from 9 Mar to 31 Oct, may refer to a single long-staying individual. Four were reported on 21 Jun and 14 Jul, two on 3 Aug and 3 Sep.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*.

Rare visitor, mainly in late autumn.

One, flying south along the East Side, 24 Oct also present on 25 (V. Lea).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*.

Vagrant. Seven previous dated records, four of them in spring.

One was seen in various locations from Halfway Wall Bay southwards, 19 to 23 May (B. Sampson). A flock of eight was on the Landing Beach on 10 Jun (B. Sampson).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*.

Vagrant. Eleven previous records, six in spring, three in autumn, two in Jan.

One, 30 Apr.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.

One male on 23 Oct, three on 25 and 26 Oct, one on 1 Nov and 9 and 10 Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca*.

Regular visitor, mainly in winter.

Five records of up to five birds, 11 Jan to 20 Feb. One, 12 to 15 Mar. 23 records from 20 Sep to 31 Oct, maximum seven on 14 Oct.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to eight resident birds in Jan and Feb, 20 including ducklings in May and fourteen in Oct to Dec.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*.

Vagrant. Seven previous records, in Apr 1939, Feb '54, Sep '69, Dec '75, Sep '82, Jan '89 and Oct '92.

A female or immature was on Pondsbury, 30 Oct to 15 Nov (M. James, R.J. Taylor *et al.*).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*.

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

A male was on Pondsbury, 4 to 7 Jul.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*.

Occasional visitor.

One, 12 Jul.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

Vagrant. Up to twenty-one previous records, all but six being in spring.

One, thought to be a second-year male, was seen soaring over Pondsbury, then moving south, 26 May (M. Twiggs).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Occasional spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles, 4, 5 and 11 May. Autumn/winter: 21 records, perhaps all referring to the same long-staying female, 24 Oct to 23 Dec, with a second bird on 15 Nov.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles, 5, 9 and 30 Apr. Autumn: sixteen records, perhaps all referring to the same long-staying female, 9 Aug to 23 Sep, with a second bird on 2 Sep. Then singles on 6, 8 and 29 Oct and 15 Nov.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Uncommon visitor.

Singles, 13 Jan, 28 May and on seventeen days from 9 Sep to 30 Dec, with two birds on 12 Nov.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

Vagrant. Twelve 20th and 21st century records, all since 1974, with seven of them in spring, one in July and four in autumn.

One circled over Quarry Bay, then moved north, 2 May (J.R. Diamond).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

Seen on most days from 1 Apr to 31 Dec. Peak numbers were two from Apr to Jul, five in Aug and Sep, four in Oct, three in Nov and two in Dec

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, Oct 1972, Aug '75, Jun '77, May '78, Sep '85 and May '92.

A first-summer male was watched feeding in the Gannets Combe area, then moving south, on 30 May (J. Roberts, B. Sampson). This record has been accepted by the 'British Birds' Rarities Committee.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

Spring: a female, 29 Apr to 1 May. Autumn: singles on 7 and 17 Aug, then 27 further records, 7 Sep to 20 Nov, with two birds on four dates in Sep and Oct. One, 16 Dec.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.

Singles on 30 Apr and on five dates from 1 to 25 Oct - a later spread of autumn records than usual.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Recorded in all months in recent years.

Reported on many days throughout the year, with two breeding pairs in spring. Maximum counts of five in Apr, Jun and Oct, but at least two young were present in Jul.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*.

Very rare visitor, with most records in spring.

One was flushed from *Juncus* near Quarter Wall on 13 May (C. Crundwell).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

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

Six reports of singles, 12 Feb to 3 May. One, 9 Aug. Then seen on many days from 20 Sep to 20 Nov, with maximum counts of four in Sep and Nov, three in Oct. Five records of singles in Dec.

Corncrake *Crex crex*.

Formerly a regular spring migrant, rare in summer and autumn. Now very rare, most recently recorded in May 1989, Sep '99 and Oct 2000.

One was seen frequently in the lower part of Millcombe valley, 22 to 29 Sep (D.S. Flumm, A.R. Kitson *et al.*).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Rare visitor. Has bred.

One, 25 Oct.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.

Recorded in all months except Dec. Peak counts were twelve in Jun and Jul, fourteen in Sep.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: singles on 11, 12 and 23 Apr and 4 May. Autumn: one, 14 Aug, two, 27 Aug, and one, 23 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two, 29 Apr, one, 13 and 14 Oct, and one, 20 Nov. The last of these is an unusually late date.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Spring: one, 14 Apr, then nine records from 27 Apr to 6 May, with a peak of five on 28. One, 15 May. Autumn: seven on 26 Aug, then seen on 24 days from 20 Sep to 1 Nov, with maxima of six on 7 Oct, eleven on 21 Oct. One, 17 Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occasional winter visitor.

One, 9 Oct.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

Formerly bred in small numbers but now only sporadically. Was a common spring and autumn migrant, less regular in winter. Major decline in recent years.

Four records from 9 to 31 Jan, maximum nineteen on 9th. One or two seen on nine dates from 3 Mar to 12 Apr, then four on 17 Apr, then a pair seen regularly on Acklands Moor to 6 May. No further reports through the summer, so successful breeding unlikely. Autumn: seen on most days from 12 Oct to 1 Nov, reaching a maximum of seventeen on 25 and 26 Oct. Two on 8 Dec, then one on several days to 19 Dec.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

One, 30 May.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Two, 16 Jan, one, 15 Feb, one, 18 Nov, and three, 25 Nov.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.

Spring: no reports. Autumn: one, 17 Jul, then one or two on ten days from 20 Sep to 22 Oct.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor; mainly late September to March.

Eleven records, 8 Oct to 25 Dec, with two birds on 10 Oct and 6 Nov, three on 25 Dec, and all other records referring to singles.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Regular migrant and visitor; mainly August to April.

Twelve counts from 4 Jan to 3 May, the highest being seven on 16 Feb and four on 12 Mar. One, 28 Jul, then seen on many days from 26 Aug to 28 Dec, with peaks of seven on 21 Sep, ten on several dates in late Oct, ten on 7 Nov and six on 18 Dec.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Singles, 5 Jan and 12 Mar. Then twenty records, mainly of one or two birds, 16 Oct to 18 Dec, with six on 17 Dec.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*.

Rare migrant and winter visitor.

Two, 21 May, with one staying to 23rd.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles on five days, 23 Apr to 13 May. Autumn: six records, 14 Aug to 25 Sep, including seven on 9 Sep and four on 25 Sep. (See Table 1.)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

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

Singles, 11 Feb and 13 May, then six on 3 Jul, singles on 1 and 14 Aug, six on 24 Sep and one on 26 and 28 Oct.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 12 May, 14 Aug and 27 Sep.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 25 to 27 Aug and 21 Sep.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

Singles on 14 Aug and 26 Sep, then one on 3 and two on 4 Oct.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Two on 22 Aug and one on 26th.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

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

One on 24 Sep and two on 25 Nov.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

One, 27 Sep.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*.

Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.

One on 2 Sep, then two on 6th and one on 8th.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

Uncommon visitor throughout the year.

Two, 19 Mar, singles on 22 and 27 Sep, then two, 29 Sep.

Common Gull *Larus canus*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.

Three on 10 Aug, two on 26 Oct.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded between 11 Jan and 9 Dec. No breeding numbers reported. Highest autumn count was 136 on 12 Aug.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*.

Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.

Present in all months. The highest reported count was 100 on 13 Nov.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Breeding. Present all year but usually few in winter.

Present in all months. The highest reported counts were 40 in June and 60 on 26 Sep.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded in all months, but infrequently and with numbers mainly in single figures in Sep, Oct and Nov. A count of 246 was reported on 25 Mar.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, Apr to Sep.

Singles on 12 and 15 Apr, two on 17 Apr and one on 21 Apr.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, Apr to Oct.

Three, 9 Aug.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

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

Seen on breeding ledges from 5 Jan to 25 Jul. No breeding counts reported. One on 27 Sep, three on 12 Nov, then several reports in Dec, including 60 on 9th and 150 on 27th.

Razorbill *Alca torda*.

Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.

Reported from 15 Feb to 23 Jul. No breeding counts reported. Ten on 9 Dec and 40 on 27 Dec.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

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

Recorded from 6 Apr to 21 Jul. The highest count was nine.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one seen on ten days, 24 Apr to 11 May, with a second bird on 30 Apr. Autumn: one, 27 to 30 Oct, then three on 31 Oct. One, 13 Nov.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

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

Recorded throughout the year. The highest spring count was six on 22 and 30 Apr. At least one juvenile was seen, suggesting successful breeding on the island. In

late autumn, migrant flocks of between 40 and 60 were seen on four days from 25 to 29 Oct, and 40 on 16 Nov.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*.

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

Seen on many days from 11 Apr to 22 Jun, with most records involving one or two birds but four on 26 May, six on 13 Jun. One on five days from 15 Jul to 25 Aug, with a second on 11 Aug. Numbers lower and dates fewer than in recent previous years. (See Table 1)

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.

Spring: two on 4 May, then singles on five days to 13th and two on 28 May. Autumn: one, 4 Oct.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

Bred in the past. No evidence in recent years. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 25 Apr, five days in May and on 25 Jun.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Singles, 10 Jan, 13 Feb and 13 Mar, then on eight days from 6 Oct to 3 Dec, with three on 11 Nov.

Swift *Apus apus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.

Seen on many days from 27 Apr to 18 Aug, with peak counts of six on 30 Apr, eight on 28 May, fifteen on 15 Jun and 30 on 3 Aug. (See Table 1)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

Uncommon migrant, more regular in autumn than spring.

Singles, 9 to 12 Sep, 21 and 28 Sep and 1 to 7 Oct, with a second bird reported on 10 Sep.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*.

Vagrant. Twelve previous records, six in spring and six in autumn.

One was in the Halfway Wall area, 12 to 15 May (P.A.T. Clabburn, D.E. Rawlins *et al.*).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Recorded as present in all months except Dec. Highest reported numbers were 60 on 25 Sep and 31 Oct.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.

Spring: recorded on many days from 17 Mar to 21 Jun. High counts included 20 on 20 Mar and 2 and 6 May, 50 on 5 May. Autumn: seen on 25 days, 21 Jul to 21 Oct. The only counts in double figures were of 30 birds on 2 Sep and 3 Oct. (See Table 1.)

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

The first was seen on 12 Mar. After two more Mar records, birds were seen on almost all days when there were observers present from 4 Apr to 29 Oct. Peaks in spring passage included 200 on 26 Apr, 400 on 30 Apr, 1000 on 5 May and 250 on 27 May. At least one pair bred successfully. Autumn movements included 80 on 12 Sep, 150 on 22 Sep, 1000 on 26, 27 and 29 Sep and 3 Oct, 500 on 5 Oct and 150 on 8 Oct. (See Table 1.)

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, Mar 1952, Oct '80, Oct '87, May '89, Apr '96 and Oct 2001.

One was seen over the village on 12 Sep (R. Batch, R. & S. Campey). This record has been accepted by the 'British Birds' Rarities Committee.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Seen on many days from 5 Apr to 21 Oct. Peak numbers in spring were 50 on 30 Apr, 200 on 5 May, 50 on 14 May and 120 on 28 May. Main autumn movements were 80 on 27 Sep and 50 on 3 Oct. A late bird was seen on 18 and 19 Nov. (See Table 1.)

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

One, in the Airfield area on 29 and 30 Oct, was caught and ringed on 31st (L. Lock, R.J. Taylor *et al.*). (See plate at the front of the Annual Report.)

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*.

Vagrant. Nine previous records, all Sep to Nov, including five between 1983 and '89 but none since then.

One was in St Helen's Field on 21 Sep (T. Davis, T. Jones *et al.*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: five on 17 Apr, then one or two on six days from 26 Apr to 5 May. Autumn: nine records from 7 Sep to 6 Oct, mainly of singles but with three on 7 Sep and two on 21 Sep.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Reported in all months. Records included autumn movements of 1000 on 26 and 27 Sep and 700 on 30 Sep.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Breeding. Resident.

Seen in all months, with maximum counts of ten in Mar and Nov.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: seen daily from 30 Apr to 6 May, with three on 4th and 5th. One, 28 May. Autumn: ten records of up to three birds, 6 to 28 Sep. A very late bird on 1 Nov was thought to be of one of the eastern subspecies.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring: singles on 17 to 20 Mar, 31 Mar and 30 Apr. Autumn: 26 records, 2 Sep to 31 Oct, mainly of one or two birds but with four on 2 Oct. One later bird, on 19 Nov.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen in all months except Dec. Spring peaks were ten on 12 Mar and twelve on 28 Apr. Single birds of the continental subspecies *M. a. alba* were reported on seven days from 8 Apr to 23 May. One pair bred successfully. Peak autumn movements included 20 on 31 Aug, 25 on 12 Sep, 32 on 21 Sep and 25 on 2 Oct.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported count: 43 on 27 Oct.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest reported count: 20 on 26 Sep.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.

Present all year. Highest reported count: 35 on 13 Oct.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.

Spring: one on 5 Apr, two on 29 Apr and one on 3 Jun. Autumn: one on 9 Aug, one on 25 Oct, two on 15 Nov and one on 17 Nov.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: singles on nine days from 17 Apr to 3 May, with a second bird on 30 Apr. Then one on 26 May. Autumn: 24 records, 12 Aug to 11 Oct, peaking at four birds on 25 and 26 Sep. (See Table 1)

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.

Spring: five records, 30 Apr to 13 May, with maximum of three on 5 May. Autumn: eight were seen on 28 Jul and six on 31st, then 24 records between 1 Sep and 21 Oct, with peaks of sixteen on 7 Sep and eight on 21 Sep. (See Table 1.)

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Up to three birds were reported sporadically from Jan onwards, then up to six in May, including a pair with young in the Tibbetts area. They appear to have fledged a second brood in Jun. Autumn counts were up to five in Aug, six in Sep and 7 in Oct, decreasing to four in Nov with just two reports of singles in Dec.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

After the first three on 5 Mar, birds were present on most days from 13 Mar to 14 Oct. Peak spring counts included 50 on 20 Apr, 100 on 23 Apr and 40 on 5 and 9 May. Autumn maxima were 30 on 7 Sep, 60 on 21 Sep, 50 on 24 Sep and 3 Oct. (See Table 1.)

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*.

Vagrant from Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Not recorded previously on Lundy.

A first-year male was seen feeding in the area of the Devil's Limekiln on 26 Oct. It was trapped and ringed (A.M. Taylor, R.J. Taylor, J. Walshe *et al.*). This record has been accepted by the 'British Birds' Rarities Committee. (See plate at the front of the Annual Report.)

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: singles on 6, 17 and 18 Apr, then two on 20 Apr. Autumn: six records between 1 and 29 Oct, reaching a maximum of three birds on 13 Oct.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.

Present all year. Autumn migrants peaked at 410 on 28 Oct.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

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

One on 11 Jan, then 30 on 31 Jan, two on 18 Mar and three on 20 Mar. Autumn: seen on most days from 13 Oct to 21 Nov. Highest counts were 100 on 24 Oct, 130 on 28 Oct, 250 on 15 Nov and 500 on 21 Nov. One was seen on 5 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. Spring maximum was eight on 22 Apr. There were two singing males in the breeding season and fledged young seen in May. Peak numbers of autumn migrants were 30 on 24 Oct, 54 on 28 Oct and 45 on 21 Nov. Later numbers were generally in single figures but there were fifteen on 9 to 11 Dec.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Up to four on four days in Jan. Spring: one on 5 and 6 Apr. Autumn: seen on most days from 3 Oct to 20 Nov. Peak counts included 105 on 21 Oct, 300 on 24 Oct, 1200 on 28 Oct and 80 on 10 and 16 Nov. Up to 25 in early Dec and eight in the second half of the month. (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.

Autumn: fourteen records, 21 Oct to 15 Nov, maximum six on 5 Nov.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*.

Vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One was caught and ringed in St John's Valley on 27 Oct and seen again on 28 and 29 Oct and 12 Nov (R.J. Taylor, J. Walshe *et al.*). With the small British breeding population increasing, records of wandering birds reaching the island might be expected to become more frequent.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.

Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.

Spring: scarce, with singles on 26 Apr and 1 and 2 May only. Autumn: four on 14 Aug, then singles on 28 Aug, 23 Sep and 3 Oct, with two on 21 Sep.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on 23 days from 15 Apr to 28 May, with peaks of ten on 30 Apr and 20 on 6 May. Autumn: ten records of one or two birds, 10 Aug to 21 Sep.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: one on 1, 3 and 4 May, two on 5 May and one on 11 Jun. Autumn: singles on 14 Aug and 20 Sep.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*.

Rare migrant, usually in autumn.

One, in Millcombe on 22 Sep, was trapped and ringed on 24 Sep (T. Davis, T. Jones *et al.*).

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*.

Rare migrant, usually in autumn.

One was seen in St John's Valley on 15 and 16 Aug (R.A. Duncan, D. Stevens).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles reported on 6, 11 and 28 May. However, in mid Jun it was clear that a pair had been breeding in Millcombe, since they were seen feeding young. Just one report of one bird in Jul, but then seen feeding a second brood on 12 Aug, when a first-year bird, independent of its parents, was also present. Autumn: thirteen records of one or two birds, 20 Aug to 27 Sep.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: nineteen records, 17 Apr to 26 May, with peaks of twelve on 29 and 30 Apr, eight on 5 May. Autumn: up to five from 11 to 15 Aug, then seventeen records from 5 Sep to 6 Oct, all of single birds apart from five on 21 Sep and three on 27 and 28 Sep. (See Table 2).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: eight records between 27 Apr and 5 May, with a maximum of five on 1 May. Then singles on 11 and 16 Jun. Autumn: singles on 9 Aug and 5 Sep, then seen on most days from 20 Sep to 7 Oct, with a maximum of five on 27 Sep. Later singles on 27 and 29 Oct.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.

Spring: one on 17 Mar, then recorded on most days from 4 Apr to 6 May, with peaks of seven on 22 Apr, eight on 26 Apr and eighteen on 29 Apr, eight on 5 May, then later singles on 22, 27 and 28 May. Autumn: from 2 Sep to 20 Nov, recorded on almost all days when observers were present. Peak counts included fifteen on 11 Sep, 20 on 29 Sep, 47 on 27 Oct, rising to 80 the next day, and nine on 10 Nov. (See Table 2.)

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*.

Vagrant. Two previous records, Nov 1993 and Oct '94.

One was caught and ringed in Millcombe on 27 Oct (A. Plant, J. Walshe *et al.*).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

One was seen in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse from 23 to 26 Sep (D.S. Flumm, T. Jones *et al.*). Two were together in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse from 21 to 27 Oct, one staying to 30 Oct when it was caught and ringed (E. Davis, A. Plant, J. Smith *et al.*).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: five records of one or two birds, 26 Apr to 2 May. Autumn: one on 12 Sep.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: seen on most days from 15 Mar to 6 May but the only counts above ten were 30 on 24 Mar and 100 on 31 Mar. One or two were reported sporadically from 10 May to 21 Jun. Autumn: fifteen records of up to ten birds between 21 Jul and 12 Sep, then seen on most days from 20 Sep to 1 Nov, with peaks of 20 on 28 Sep, twelve on 6 Oct, eleven on 24 Oct, fifteen on 28 Oct. Five records of late singles, 12 to 20 Nov. A bird seen on 29 Oct showed characteristics of one of the eastern subspecies. (See Table 2.)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on many days from 31 Mar to 6 May, with peaks of 100 on 5 Apr, 50 on 17 Apr and 30 on 22 Apr. Five records later in May, including four seen on 28th, then one, 11 to 14 Jun. Autumn: one or two on three days from 22 to 28 Jul, then seen on most days when observers were present between 9 Aug and 10 Oct, with peaks of 28 on 12 Aug, 30 on 15 Aug and 40 on 6 Sep. Later, two were seen on 25 Oct

and one on 27 Oct. A bird seen on 22 Sep showed characteristics of an eastern subspecies, perhaps *P. t. acredula*. (See Table 2.)

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

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

Spring: nine records between 18 Mar and 18 Apr, mainly of one or two birds but rising to six on 5 Apr. Autumn: seen on most days when observers were present between 31 Aug and 20 Nov, with peaks of 70 on 10 Oct, 60 on 21 Oct and 70 on 27 Oct. One was seen on 23 Dec. (See Table 2)

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.

Autumn: six records from 9 Sep to 14 Oct, with two on 28 Sep but otherwise singles. Then seen daily from 25 Oct to 1 Nov, including five records of five or six birds. One on 13 Nov.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.

Breeding in most years recently. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: seen on many days from 29 Apr to 13 Jun, with main movements of 20 on 5 and 25 May. Autumn: seen on most days when observers were present between 10 Aug and 10 Oct, with peaks of twelve on 6 Sep, ten on 11 Sep and 30 on 21 Sep. A late bird was seen on 24 Oct. (See Table 2)

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

A female was in Millcombe on 11 Jun (A. Jayne). This is the first spring record of this species on Lundy.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: six records between 18 Apr and 4 May, with three birds on the last date, otherwise one or two. Autumn: seen on most days when observers were present between 12 Aug and 10 Oct, with 55 seen on 7 Sep but all other counts in single figures.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

Seven records of one or two birds from 3 to 15 Oct. Up to three daily, 24 Oct to 1 Nov, and then one seen sporadically until 20 Nov, when there were four.

Great Tit *Parus major*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

One, 29 Apr.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly between July and October.

One, 9 to 14 Aug, then one on four dates from 30 Aug to 12 Sep. One was ringed on 20 Sep and still present to the end of Oct, with a second bird joining it between 25 and 29 Sep. There were five later records of a single bird, the last on 20 Nov.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*.

Uncommon spring migrant.

One was singing on the terrace on 4 and 5 May, and one on 29 May.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*.

Vagrant. Two previous records, Sep 1965 and Jul '99.

One was in Millcombe on 9 Sep (R.J. Campey).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

One on 5 Apr.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. The highest count was 32 on 30 Sep. A **Hooded Crow** *C. c. cornix* was seen on 3 May.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*.

Uncommon spring migrant. Rare visitor at other times.

One, 14 and 15 Feb.

Raven *Corvus corax*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. The highest count was ten on 31 Oct. A bird was seen carrying nest-material on 23 Nov.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Counts included fifteen on 27 Apr, 45 on 10 Aug and 60 throughout late Sep. Peaks in autumn passage were 500 on 14 Oct, 1050 on 28 Oct, 550 on 31 Oct and 300 on 10 Nov.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*.

Vagrant. Ten twentieth and twenty-first century records have been accepted, involving seven adults in summer and four autumn immature birds.

An adult was seen in various places in the south-east of the island from 5 to 12 Jun. It was joined by another, probably a second-summer bird, on the last date (A. & P. Dunn, A. Jayne *et al.*). A juvenile was present, mainly in the village area, from 8 Sep to 22 Oct (T. Bedford, R.J. Campey *et al.*).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. The highest count was 150 on 13 Oct.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Numbers involving autumn migrants were over 100 on twelve days from 12 Oct to 1 Nov, including 200 on 22 Oct, 275 on 27 Oct, a major movement of 15,000 on 28 Oct and 650 on 31 Oct. Then 100 on 10 Nov.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Autumn: recorded on most days from 20 Oct to 20 Nov, with most counts in single figures but 50 on 27 and 28 Oct.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Two on 11 Aug, then four records of up to three from 24 Sep to 9 Oct. Fifteen were seen on 20 Oct, then up to eleven on most days to 1 Nov. Ten on 16 Nov.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

Spring: two on 2 Apr, then increasing numbers on many days to a peak of ten on 29 Apr, decreasing to two again by 18 May. One from 11 to 15 Jun. Two or three were reported sporadically from 28 Jul to 22 Sep, then records became frequent and numbers rose, with peaks including 23 on 27 Sep, 25 on 2 Oct, 40 on 10 Oct, 54 on 28 Oct and ten on 18 Nov. After 20 Nov just one bird was seen, on 25 Dec.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.

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

Spring: singles, 17 Mar and 30 Apr. Autumn: one or two on most days from 23 Sep to 21 Oct, then seen daily from 24 to 31 Oct, with 80 on 28 Oct and numbers in double figures on five other days. One, 16 to 20 Nov.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Recorded from 31 Mar to 19 Nov. Counts included 50 on 23 Apr, 117 on 13 Aug, 200 on 12 Sep, 300 on 21 Sep, 150 on 8 Oct and 52 on 30 Oct.

Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Singles on 6 Apr, 3 and 5 May, then two on 24 May and four on 26 May. Singles on 11 and 12 Aug, 27 Sep, then up to three from 24 to 31 Oct and four mid-Nov records including six on 16 Nov. One, 18 Dec.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*.

Very rare visitor, mainly in late autumn.

One was seen near the Castle on 28 Oct (L. Bacon, A. Copping, V. Lea).

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*.

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

One was in the village area on 8 and 9 Sep (T. Bedford and R.J. Campey). One was ringed and then remained in the Millcombe area, 18 to 27 Sep (S. Bodnar, T. Jones *et al.*).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

A female was seen sporadically from 17 Apr to 11 Jun, with a male on 20 May.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*.

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

One was seen near the Castle on 26 Oct (A.M. Taylor).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

A male was present from 27 Jan to 8 Feb. Autumn: one, 30 Sep and 1 Oct. One on five days, 24 Oct to 13 Nov, and two on 31 Oct.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citrinella.

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

One, 27 Oct.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*.

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

One was at the top of St John's Valley on 7 Sep (R.J. Campey). Four were feeding together near the helicopter landing pad on 13 Sep (T. Bedford, R.J. Campey). One was in the village area on 21 Sep (D.S. Flumm).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Singles on 26, 29 and 31 Oct and six on 27 Oct.

LUNDY RARITIES

Records rejected because they were undocumented or descriptions inconclusive.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*.

One, 5 Nov.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

One, 2 Oct.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

One, 10 Jun. One, 2 Oct.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.

One, 21 Sep.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

One, 11 Oct.

Chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*.

One, 5 Oct.

The Bird Report is given using the style and abbreviations that are standard in ornithological reports.

Table 1. Whimbrel, Collared Dove, Swift, Martins and Chats on Lundy, 2003.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Whimbrel				0.3	0.1 0.1			0.1 0.1	0.7 0.6			
Collared Dove				0.5 0.2	0.3 0.1 0.4	0.2 1.6 0.1	0.1	0.2 0.3 0.1				
Swift				0.8	1.5 0.7 1.2	0.4 3.7 0.4	0.4 0.4	3.3 0.1				
Sand Martin			3.0 0.2	0.2 0.2 2.9	11 1.0 0.6	0.2 2.1 0.9	1.6	0.2 0.2 0.4	4.2 0.5 2.4	3.1 0.1		
Swallow			0.1 0.4	2.9 P 130	250 21 72	B 14 2.0	4.1 B 7.1	16 25 4.4	22 14 440	360 17 6.5		
House Martin				0.2 0.2 11	41 5.7 26	1.2 3.3 1.0	0.5 0.1	1.2 0.5 1.8	1.4 0.6 26	6.2 0.2	0.2	
Redstart				0.3 0.7	0.2 0.2			0.3	0.6 0.2 2.1	0.3 0.1		
Whinchat				0.3 0.7	0.6 0.1		1.3		1.9 0.6 2.7	0.6 0.2 0.1		
Wheatear			0.3 4.1 0.7	0.8 7.7 24	29 6.3 B	2.8 1.7	0.9 1.2 1.4	0.8 1.9 4.2	8.0 2.0 28	7.7 0.2		

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

B: present, breeding. Numbers not reported.

Table 2. Thrushes, Warblers, Goldcrest and Spotted Flycatcher on Lundy, 2003.

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Fieldfare	0.1 2.8		0.5	0.2						6.2 52	3.7 39 5.0	0.1
Redwing	0.3 0.6			0.2						0.7 34 230	16 37	13 3.7 3.1
Whitethroat				0.1 2.9	3.3 0.5 0.5			0.1 1.6	0.3 0.2 1.7	0.4		
Blackcap			0.1	0.3 0.8 6.2	3.8 0.2 0.3				1.5 2.5 8.3	3.3 0.9 17	1.0 1.8	
Chiffchaff			0.4 14	0.4	2.1 0.6 0.2	0.2 0.6 0.2	2.2	0.2 0.4	0.9 0.7 7.6	2.3 1.1 5.8	0.2 0.5	
Willow Warbler			0.9	13 9.7 11	8.2 0.3 0.7	0.1 0.3	0.5?	2.7 13 2.0	8.4 2.0 2.3	0.7 0.3		
Goldcrest			0.4 0.2	1.0 0.2				0.2	3.5 2.3 16	19 8.3 39	0.9 5.3	0.1
Spotted Flycatcher				0.6	6.8 1.3 4.0	0.2 0.2		0.1 0.9 1.7	3.2 2.4 8.7	1.0 0.1		

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