

BIRD RINGING IN 2003

By

TONY TAYLOR

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

INTRODUCTION

There were two weeks of ringing activities on the island in spring, covering late April and early May, then five weeks in autumn, in mid August, mid September to early October and the end of October.

1730 birds of 48 species were ringed in the year. Swallows, warblers and flycatchers dominated the catches in spring and August. In mid autumn, Meadow Pipits were tape-lured in large numbers, and Icterine Warbler and Scarlet Rosefinch were unexpected bonuses. At the end of October, thrushes, Blackcaps, Goldcrests and finches came to the fore and rarities included Pallas's Warbler and three species new to the island ringing list: Richard's Pipit, Desert Wheatear and Cetti's Warbler. A full list of the species totals is given below, together with the grand totals of all species ringed on Lundy.

Details of the recoveries and controls received during the year are also given below. Highlights include one Blackcap to Algeria and another from Belgium, and a Chaffinch found in Sweden.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS, 1947-2003

	2003	1947-2003
Little Grebe		1
Fulmar		147
Manx Shearwater		1095
Storm Petrel		228
Cormorant		46
Shag		1187
Greylag Goose		1
Mallard		40
Sparrowhawk		15
Buzzard		7
Kestrel		23

	2003	1947-2003
Merlin		3
Peregrine		10
Quail		1
Water Rail		41
Spotted Crake		1
Corncrake		5
Moorhen		1
Oystercatcher		37
Ringed Plover		3
Dotterel		6
Golden Plover		2
Lapwing		211
Knot		3
Semipalmated Sandpiper		1
Little Stint		6
Least Sandpiper		2
Pectoral Sandpiper		6
Curlew Sandpiper		2
Dunlin		82
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		2
Jack Snipe		11
Snipe		30
Woodcock		10
Bar-tailed Godwit		1
Whimbrel		21
Curlew		32
Greenshank		2
Green Sandpiper		1
Wood Sandpiper		1
Common Sandpiper		1
Turnstone		3
Lesser Black-backed Gull		429
Herring Gull		2930
Great Black-backed Gull		131
Kittiwake		2535
Guillemot		2701
Razorbill		1237
Puffin		10
Stock Dove		1
Woodpigeon	1	13
Collared Dove		21
Turtle Dove		12
Cuckoo		42
Long-eared Owl		3

	2003	1947-2003
Short-eared Owl		2
Nightjar		2
Swift		6
Hoopoe		1
Wryneck		17
Great Spotted Woodpecker		2
Short-toed Lark		1
Skylark		608
Sand Martin		136
Swallow	45	5620
House Martin	1	210
Richard's Pipit *	1	1
Olive-backed Pipit		1
Tree Pipit	1	62
Meadow Pipit	243	2662
Red-throated Pipit		1
Rock Pipit		13
Yellow Wagtail		4
Grey Wagtail		58
Pied Wagtail	2	163
Citrine Wagtail		1
Wren	28	919
Duncock	23	833
Robin	36	(5) 1568
Thrush Nightingale		1
Nightingale		8
Bluethroat		3
Black Redstart		35
Redstart	5	347
Whinchat		110
Stonechat	3	175
Northern Wheatear	1	426
Desert Wheatear *	1	1
Swainson's Thrush		2
Grey-cheeked Thrush		1
Veery		2
Ring Ouzel		35
Blackbird	201	3826
Fieldfare	4	26
Song Thrush	46	786
Redwing	84	728
Mistle Thrush		4
American Robin		1
Cetti's Warbler *	1	1

	2003	1947-2003
Grasshopper Warbler	1	339
Aquatic Warbler		1
Sedge Warbler	18	1957
Marsh Warbler		6
Reed Warbler	2	77
Icterine Warbler	1	17
Melodious Warbler		28
Dartford Warbler		1
Subalpine Warbler		5
Sardinian Warbler		1
Ruppell's Warbler		1
Barred Warbler		10
Lesser Whitethroat	2	92
Whitethroat	18	2897
Garden Warbler	8	752
Blackcap	164	3762
Greenish Warbler		2
Arctic Warbler		2
Pallas's Warbler	1	2
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	38
Radde's Warbler		1
Bonelli's Warbler		2
Wood Warbler	1	44
Chiffchaff	37	3789
Willow Warbler	125	12130
Goldcrest	179	7868
Firecrest	13	188
Spotted Flycatcher	7	1210
Red-breasted Flycatcher		20
Pied Flycatcher	4	713
Long-tailed Tit		13
Coal Tit	2	60
Blue Tit		122
Great Tit		35
Treecreeper	1	21
Golden Oriole		5
Red-backed Shrike		10
Great Grey Shrike		1
Woodchat Shrike		11
Jackdaw		2
Raven		47
Carrion Crow		20
Starling	6	1155

	2003	1947-2003
House Sparrow		541
Tree Sparrow		5
Red-eyed Vireo		5
Chaffinch	318	6122
Brambling	10	112
Greenfinch	16	460
Goldfinch	33	266
Siskin	1	935
Linnet	30	1382
Redpoll	2	36
Crossbill		38
Scarlet Rosefinch	1	17
Bullfinch	1	16
Hawfinch		3
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1
Blackpoll Warbler		1
Common Yellowthroat		1
Rufous-sided Towhee		1
Lapland Bunting		7
Snow Bunting		10
Yellowhammer		1
Ortolan Bunting		6
Rustic Bunting		2
Little Bunting		5
Yellow-breasted Bunting		1
Reed Bunting		7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1
Northern Oriole		2
Total	1730	80,243

(170 species)

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

* Added to the Lundy ringing list in 2003.

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 2003

FC27217 **Manx Shearwater**. Ringed as a full grown bird on Lundy, 25.6.98. Found dead (killed by Great Black-backed Gull) on Skokholm, Dyfed, 9.6.03. (74km; bearing 325°; 1810 days).

2580617 **Storm Petrel**. Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 25.7.00. Controlled on the Calf of Man, Isle of Man, 9.7.01. (321km; 359°; 349 days).

R108602 **Swallow**. Ringed as a juvenile at Arklow Marsh, Wicklow, EIRE, 17.9.02. Controlled on Lundy, 2.5.03. (208km; 151°; 227 days). Then found dead on Lundy, 6.6.03 (262 days).

R436565 **Robin**. Ringed as a first year bird on Lundy, 25.10.03. Found dead (in rat trap) on Lundy, 1.12.03. (37 days).

CF34911 **Blackbird**. Ringed as an adult male on Lundy, 21.10.01. Found freshly dead at Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon, 26.3.03. (71km; 157°; 521 days).

CF34953 **Blackbird**. Ringed as a juvenile male on Lundy, 29.9.02. Found dead (in rat trap) on Lundy, 15.3.03. (167 days).

P264158 **Blackcap**. Ringed as an adult female on Lundy, 29.4.00. Found dead (in violent wind storm) at Grande Kabylie, ALGERIA (36°15'N, 4 0'E) on 1.2.03. (1795km; 157°; 1008 days).

Bruxelles 8765463 **Blackcap**. Ringed as a first year male at Ingoogem, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM (50° 49'N, 3°26'E), 29.9.03. Controlled on Lundy, 28.10.03. (568km; 274 ; 29 days).

R009700 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 22.10.02. Found dead at West Town, Bideford, Devon, 15.3.03. (29km; 141°; 144 days).

R009559 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 22.10.02. Found dead (hit window) at Borlange, Kopparberg, SWEDEN (60°28'N, 15°27'E), 7.8.03. (1621km; 51°; 289 days).

R009250 **Siskin**. Ringed as an adult female on Lundy, 20.10.02. Found dead (in cold weather) at Matlock, Derbyshire, 3.2.03. (304km; 45°; 106 days).

In addition, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** colour-ringed as a pullus on Lundy has been seen as follows:

Ringed 23-27.6.96, seen at Matosinhos, Douro Litoral, PORTUGAL (41°11'N, 08°42'W), 11.11.03 and 15.11.03.