

BIRDS ON LUNDY, 2006

By

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

In 2006, thorough coverage of the island by experienced observers was maintained through most of the main migration times. There were also records for a higher proportion of the rest of the year than has been the case in the recent past, thanks in part to the efforts of James Leonard.

In the great majority of cases, the standard of recording has been high. However, there remain some ways in which potentially valuable information is being lost and where solutions are straightforward. For most of the regular species, a tick in the logbook is meaningless, while even the roughest of estimates of the numbers seen is useful. For unusual species, some records have to be rejected because the required details (listed in the logbook), even those as basic as the observer's name and a means of contact, are not included with the description. When describing unusual species, the underlying consideration always needs to be the other species that could lead to confusion. In addition to focussing on any plumage, structural and behavioural differences, it is valuable to consider whether the season and location are likely. To find this background information, the recently published book 'The Birds of Lundy', by Tim Davis and Tim Jones, is an enormous asset. When records of non-rarities are out of season or unusual in some other way, a note in Section 3 of the logbook, giving brief details of the circumstances, would be appreciated.

There have been some difficulties and delays in the assessment of rarities records for this report. Where they have been accepted at the time of writing, this is stated in the report. For others, the likely situation is stated and any subsequent changes will be listed in a future report. This report also contains several additional records that were omitted from previous years' reports.

Birds of 2006

In January and February the numbers of birds, and of people to record them, were typically low, with regular winter visitors including a Wigeon, up to ten Snipe, a Dunlin, Woodcock and two Purple Sandpipers. Sadly more noteworthy because of their recent steep declines in numbers were two Curlew and two Lapwing. Two pairs of Stonechats and up to six Song Thrushes, two Goldcrests and four Goldfinches stayed to brave the island's exposed conditions, as did the Great Spotted Woodpecker that had arrived the previous autumn. Hardy visitors from the far north included two Little Auks seen on 29 January and a Snow Bunting on 23 February.

The first summer migrants seen were Wheatear and Chiffchaff on 14 March, though over the next three days there were still plenty of reminders of winter, with four

Fieldfare and eighty Redwing, three Red-throated and one Great Northern Diver, a Short-eared Owl and a Snow Bunting. Also on the move were Stonechats, with a peak of fourteen, and a Black Redstart. Then the final week of March produced the first Sandwich Terns, Sand Martins, Swallows and House Martins.

In the first half of April, small numbers of summer migrants continued to arrive, including the first Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Garden Warbler. On 16th, the first Yellow Wagtails, Ring Ouzel and Grasshopper Warbler coincided with the last Redwing of spring. The next day brought the first large numbers of passage birds, including 160 Sand Martins, 700 Swallows and 100 Willow Warblers, with a Firecrest as a bonus. These were followed by spring peak numbers of 34 Wheatears on 20th, 1,000 Swallows on 21st, then 500 Willow Warblers and 25 Goldfinches on 23rd. Accompanying these major movements was the usual supporting cast of the first Tree Pipits, flycatchers, Redstarts, Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats, and some less frequent migrants including Reed Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. Swift numbers were very low, with ten on 28th being the highest count of the spring. Other visitors included Coal, Blue and Great Tits, a late Brambling, four Redpolls, two Bullfinches and a Siskin, with a Honey Buzzard on 28th as the icing on the cake.

In May, migrant numbers were generally very low, with several days of continuing Swallow passage but few House Martins or Swifts and highest counts of just five Chiffchaffs and ten Willow Warblers. Seven Whitethroats and seventeen Spotted Flycatchers arrived on 13th and an exceptionally late Fieldfare was reported on 20th. Larger birds included a Hen Harrier on several days, three Cuckoos on 3rd, Jackdaw on 7th, Little Egret on 10th, two Turnstones on 14th and a late Red-throated Diver on 19th. The star bird of the spring was a male Green-winged Teal seen on Pondsburry for several days from 9th: a first for Lundy, from across the Atlantic.

Over the next three months there were few reports of non-breeding species until late August, though two records of Quail in June were noteworthy and Grey Herons, as very early breeders on the mainland, were already dispersing, reaching a peak of five on 24 June. With few freshwater fish available on the island, one was seen eating ducklings. In July, three Lapwings, a Great Skua and occasional Spotted and Pied Flycatchers were reported, though there was no evidence that Spotted Flycatchers had bred. Song Thrushes also seem to have ended their recent run of breeding records but Swallows, Pied Wagtails, Stonechats and Goldfinches maintained theirs. Manx Shearwaters continued to consolidate their recent establishment of a successful breeding colony, while Puffins clung on without providing firm evidence of their current breeding status. With thousands of Manx Shearwaters feeding offshore at times through the summer, the potential for attracting in more first-time breeders is enormous.

The first clear signs of autumn migration came in the second half of August, with Sedge Warblers from 15th and Whitethroats from 23rd, followed by Tree Pipits, Whinchats, Grasshopper Warblers and Willow Warblers in the last week. The most notable species at this time was a Crossbill on 22nd. Then the first half of September brought a continuing trickle of Sedge Warblers, Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers, with a Wood Warbler on 8th, 500 Swallows and 100 Sand Martins, along with eight Sandwich Terns, three Whinchats and six Pied Flycatchers, on 12th and then 3,000 Swallows and hundreds of Sand and House Martins on 16th. Unusual species seen in September included Kingfisher, Corncrake (sadly dead) and a juvenile Woodchat Shrike.

The first ten days of October saw hundreds of Swallows moving south, along with 100 Goldcrests and six Snow Buntings on 3rd, 60 Goldcrests and four Reed Warblers on 9th and then on the following day six Firecrests, three Redpolls and 30 Siskins, in what was generally a poor autumn for this species. During this period there were the first of three Yellow-browed Warblers and several Lapland Buntings, a Red-breasted Flycatcher, a Spotted Crake and up to five Balearic Shearwaters. Also seen offshore were Sandwich, Common and Arctic Terns and Common Scoters, while a flock of Pink-footed Geese arrived for an extended stay on the island. The middle of the month produced the first Chaffinch movements, the first Redwing of autumn, a Short-eared Owl and a Treecreeper. A Wryneck on 11th, Osprey on 18th and Richard's Pipit on 21st were notable, but the most unusual birds of the autumn were a Subalpine Warbler that was admired in Millcombe over eleven days by many observers, later joined there by the island's second-ever Cetti's Warbler, which also showed well for such a notoriously skulking species.

In the second half of October there were up to five Woodcock, ten Golden Plover and a Jack Snipe, and evidence of Robin and Song Thrush passage, as well as more obvious movements of Redwings, Blackcaps and Starlings. On 27th a spectacular 11,000 Chaffinches moved south, but with very few of the Bramblings and other finches that sometimes accompany them. Notably late migrants in the final week of the month were Pied Flycatchers, Willow Warbler, Redstart and Whinchat. Swallow and House Martin lingered into early November, when there were continuing movements of Blackcap and Goldcrest, and hundreds of Fieldfare, Redwing and Chaffinch on 10th, this time with five Bramblings. November also brought a Great Northern Diver, Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl and six Purple Sandpipers, while December produced a few Redwings, Fieldfares and Goldcrests, as well as flocks of eight Goldfinches and twenty Lapwings to brighten up the end of the year.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Note: in addition to species that are classed as national or county rarities, which require satisfactory substantiating details to be submitted to the relevant committees if records are to be accepted, there are others classed as 'Lundy rarities'. These are species that are common in mainland Britain but very unusual on the island. For further details, see the island log book. Records of them are only accepted if they have been fully documented in the logbook or submitted to the Bird List Editor. Observers' names are included below for all species that are national, Devon or Lundy rarities.

Records of birds seen during boat crossings have only been included when it is clear from the logbook that they were seen close to Lundy. Others have been forwarded for inclusion in the Devon Bird Report.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, in Jan 1940 (2), Dec '49, Oct '59, Oct '60, Nov '60 (2) and Oct 2004.

A single bird that arrived on 20 Oct was joined by a further six later in the day (T. Davis, T. Jones, I. Lakin *et al.*). Birds remained on the island until 5 Dec, with the original flock of seven increasing to ten on 22 Oct, then decreasing to nine on 27th

and eight on 26 Nov. They were most commonly seen in Brick and Tillage Fields and Middle Park.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*.

Occasional visitor, mainly in autumn and winter.

One on 9, 11 and 15 Feb.

Teal *Anas crecca*.

Regular visitor, mainly in winter.

A female was with the Green-winged Teal on Pondsburry, 9 to 14 May. There were records totalling 49 bird-days from 30 Sep to 27 Oct, with four on 14 Oct and three on eight other Oct days. Then one, 26 Dec.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*.

Vagrant from North America. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

A male was on Pondsburry from 9 to 14 May (A.W. and J.F. John, G. Sherman *et al.*). A male Teal reported on 7 and 8 May may have been the same bird. This record has been accepted by the Devon rarities committee.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

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

Up to twelve resident birds before the breeding season, then 26 in August declining to about fifteen in late Dec.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*.

Occasional visitor, seen more regularly in recent years.

Three, 12 Oct.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*.

Very rare visitor, with most records in spring.

One was heard calling on the west side on 8 Jun (A. Cooper) and one flushed on the east side on 12 Jun (S. Compton, J. Craven, R. and R. Key).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*.

Occasional visitor, mainly February to May.

Two on 16 Mar and three the following day. An immature bird was seen in the Landing Bay on 19 May.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*.

Occasional visitor, mainly October to March.

One, 14 and 15 Mar, then singles on 10, 17 and 28 Nov.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*.

Breeding. Infrequent from October to February.

No full breeding counts reported. Recorded on many days from 16 Jan to 15 Sep, with a maximum count of 170 on 12 Apr. Occasional reports of up to 30 birds from 17 Oct to the end of the year.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*.

Vagrant. Four previous records, in Aug 1970, Sep '73, Aug '87 and Oct 2002.

One was seen flying WSW off South Light on 19 Oct (I. Lakin).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

Breeding. Common between April and September.

After one on 17 Mar and three on 25 Mar, birds were recorded on many days from 15 Apr to 19 Sep. Peak counts included 1,000 on 15 Apr and 17 Jun; four counts of between 1,500 and 3,000 birds, 19 to 24 Jun; 5,000 on 21 Jul; and three counts of 1,500 to 4,000 birds on 14 to 16 Aug. Breeding was confirmed, with chicks found outside burrows south of the Battery between 26 Aug and 17 Sep. It was considered that at least 22 different birds were involved. It is likely that breeding also continued on the east side but the colony there was not visited at night.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, in Jul 1959 and Oct 2005 (five), involving birds seen from the island. (There have been several other reports of birds seen during boat crossings but these have not necessarily been in waters close to Lundy.)

Five were seen feeding off the east side on 7 Oct, with at least two also present on 8th and one on 12th (A. and S. Cooper, J. Oates *et al.*). One was off the east side on 25 Oct (J. Allen, M. James *et al.*). Three were feeding off the east side on 7 and 8 Nov (E. Davis and J. Diamond).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*.

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

Two were seen on 13 May, then seven, east of Rat Island, on 16 Jul and singles on 26 Aug and 12 Sep.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*.

Common offshore, particularly in summer and autumn.

Birds were reported on many days from 26 Jan to 29 Dec. Counts were in single figures until late Apr, with later peaks of 40 on 18 May, 80 on 21 Jul, 100 on 14 Aug, 80 on 10 Sep, 130 on 10 Oct and 150 on 26 Oct.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

31 records between 31 Jan and 25 May, totalling 105 bird-days, with peaks of twelve on 29 Mar and 9 Apr. Several of these records were of birds flying north. The species has not been known to breed on the island since 1959 but there were unconfirmed reports of two on nests in May. After singles on 10 and 22 Jun and 27 Jul, there were seventeen autumn records from 22 Aug to 13 Nov, totalling 123 bird-days. Peaks included eighteen flying south on 27 Aug, seventeen south on 29 Aug and 27 on 20 Oct.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*.

Breeding, present throughout the year.

No breeding counts reported. Recorded in all months. Monthly maxima included 35 in Feb, 45 in Apr, 40 in Jun, 120 in Aug, 45 in Sep and 40 in Oct and Nov.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Formerly a vagrant, with one in Apr 1957. Now becoming a more regular visitor, with fourteen records, mainly in autumn, since Sep '89. This reflects the dramatic increase in British records and the establishment of British breeding colonies.

One on 10 and 11 May and one at Quarry Pond on 17 Jun.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Occasional visitor, most commonly in late summer.

Singles on 26 Feb and 6 and 8 May. One was seen on ten days from 2 to 21 Jun, then two on 22nd and five on 24th. In Aug, singles on 12th and 24th and three on 16th, then further singles on 8, 12 and 24 Oct.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

Vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

None in 2006, but one was seen from Lundy on 19 Oct 2002, flying towards Devon (S. Cooper). This was accepted as a Devon record but was not included in the relevant Lundy Field Society Bird Report.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*.

Vagrant. Five previous records, in Jul 1975, Oct '81, Sep '83 (2), Oct '87 and May 2004.

One was seen over the south of the island on 27 Apr (C. McShane).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

Occasional spring and autumn migrant.

One was seen on five days from 5 to 15 May, one on 3 Oct and one on 6 to 8 Nov.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

Uncommon, mainly occurring as a spring and autumn migrant.

Singles, 22 and 23 Mar, then on twelve days from 24 Apr to 3 Jun. Autumn: 33 records, from 15 Aug to 10 Nov, mainly of singles but with two reports of two birds in Aug, two on 18 and 19 Oct and three on 26 Oct. Then one on 6 Dec.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Uncommon visitor.

Singles, 26 Apr, 14 May, 3 Jun, 20 and 27 Jul, 1 Aug, 8 to 10 and 16 Sep and 1 Oct.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*.

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

A juvenile was seen on the east side on 18 Oct (I. Lakin, K. Rylands).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*.

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

Seen regularly throughout the year, with a maximum of two in most months but just one in Feb, Mar and Dec and up to eight in Sep and six in Oct.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*.

Uncommon migrant, mainly in autumn.

There were fourteen records of single birds in the first three months of the year, and two birds seen on 17 Mar. Then, in Apr and May, records totalled 29 bird-days, with many reports referring to a female bird but four when a male was present as well. There were further singles on 16 and 17 Jun, 30 Jul and 24 Sep before a series of records from 8 Oct to 29 Nov totalling 56 bird-days, with peaks of four on 18 Oct and

three on 20 and 26 Oct and 9 Nov. One or two were seen on five days from 20 to 27 Dec.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Rare visitor in spring and early autumn.

An early-arriving individual was seen on 4 Apr.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*.

Recorded in all months in recent years. One or more pairs have bred regularly since 1978, after being absent since the 1950s.

Reported on many days throughout the year. There were monthly maxima of five or six from Apr to Jul and seven in Oct, with two to four in the remaining months.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*.

Usually present in small numbers from September to April.

Eleven records, 1 Jan to 9 May, mainly involved single birds but there were two on 14 Mar. Then recorded on many days from 8 Sep to 18 Nov, with three to five birds on seven days from 12 to 27 Oct, otherwise one or two. One on 24 and 25 Dec.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*.

Vagrant. Eight previous records, five of them in spring.

One was found in a weak condition above Quarry Beach on 10 Oct (P. Rothwell).

Corncrake *Crex crex*.

Formerly a regular spring migrant, rare in summer and autumn. Now very rare, most recently recorded in May 1989, Sep '99, Oct 2000, Sep '03 and Sep '04.

The remains of a dead bird were found at St Helen's Copse on 9 Sep (S. Barnes).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.

Rare visitor. Has bred.

Two were seen on 23 May.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*.

Breeding. Usually present all year but scarcer in winter.

Recorded in all months. Two pairs seen with young. High counts included twelve on 26 Jan, sixteen on 15 Mar, twenty on 18 May, fourteen on 16 Aug, twenty on 27 Sep and sixteen on 3 and 18 Oct.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Singles on 15 Feb, 29 Aug, 1 Sep and 26 Oct, and two on 4 Oct.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

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

Nine on 1 Feb, then singles on 15 Mar, 7 Jun and 17 Jul. Nineteen records from 30 Sep to 10 Nov totalled 41 bird-days, with a peak of ten on 20 Oct. Then one on 24 and four on 26 Dec.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

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

Two on 7 and 8 Feb, with one staying a further two days. Singles on 16 Mar and 2 Jul, then three on 16 Jul. Singles, 9 Sep and 13 and 19 Oct, then two on 24 Oct and one on 25th. Three on 2 and 3 Nov were followed by one on 8th. A flock of twenty was seen on 20 Dec, then two on 25th and one on 26th.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor.

Two on 15 Feb, four on 25 Mar and six on 18 Nov.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant, occasional in winter.

Singles, 5 Jan and 8 and 25 May, with two on 12 and 23 May. Two on 17 Aug, then singles on 23 Aug and 18 Oct.

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, mainly late September to March.

One, 21 Oct.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

Regular migrant and visitor, mainly August to April.

21 records from 5 Jan to 21 Mar, totalling 56 bird-days and including ten on 20 Jan. One on 22 Apr and two on 31 May. Two on 9 Sep were followed by 21 records from 3 Oct to 9 Nov, totalling 57 bird-days and including twenty on 19 Oct. Three on 28 Nov.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*.

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

Singles on 7, 16 and 27 Jan, 2 Feb and 22 Mar. Autumn: ten records, 9 Oct to 10 Nov, mainly involving single birds but with two on 16 Oct and 6 Nov and five on 19 Oct.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: nine records totalling twelve bird-days, 23 Apr to 15 May. None in autumn.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*.

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

Two on 26 Jan and 2 to 4 Feb. Spring: singles on 22 and 26 Apr, with two on 24th. Autumn: one on 21 and 22 Aug, then three on 13 and 18 Oct. One, 26 Dec.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One, 17 Apr.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant.

Singles, 4 Aug and 12 and 21 Oct.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

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

Two on 14 May and one on 29 Nov.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*.

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn.

Singles, 7 and 10 Oct.

Great Skua *Catharacta skua*.

Rare visitor, mainly in summer and autumn.

Singles, 16 and 23 Jul.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*.

Uncommon visitor throughout the year.

Singles on 16 and 30 Mar, then four on 31 Mar. Two adults and a juvenile were seen on 23 May, then singles on 26 Jun and 10 and 21 Oct. Two, 8 Nov.

Common Gull *Larus canus*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly August to April.

Singles, 28 Jan and 16 Mar, then two on 17 Mar. In autumn, singles on 7, 17 and 26 Oct, with three on 25 Oct.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded from 16 Jan to 2 Dec, with one later bird on 28 Dec. The highest count was 450 on 4 May.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*.

Breeding. Present all year but fewer in winter.

Present in all months. Counts included 850 on 25 May and 200 on 15 and 28 Nov and 29 Dec.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Breeding. Present all year but usually few in winter.

Present in all months. Highest count: 50 on 18 Oct.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*.

Breeding. Scarce in winter.

Recorded in all months except Sep. High counts included 200 on 11 Feb, 225 on 25 May, 250 on 19 and 21 Jun, 350 on 26 Oct, 500 on 18 Nov and 750 on 28 Dec.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to September.

This was an exceptionally good year for records of the species on Lundy. Three were seen on 25 Mar, with one on four further days to 2 Apr. Then eight arrived on 12 Sep, five on 7 Oct and one on 9 Oct.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

Uncommon migrant and visitor, April to October.

Two on 7 Oct, then one on the next two days.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

Rare migrant and summer visitor.

One on 7 Oct, then two on 11 Oct.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*.

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

Reported regularly from 16 Jan to 28 Jul, with counts including 800 on 18 Jan and 1,950 on 25 May. Then recorded offshore sporadically from 9 Sep to the end of the year, with peaks of 80 on 12 Oct and 40 on 26 Dec.

Razorbill *Alca torda*.

Breeding. Uncommon between August and February.

Reported regularly from 20 Jan to 19 Jul, with a maximum count of 400 on 22 Jun. Then recorded offshore sporadically from 7 Oct to the end of the year, with peaks of 30 on 12 Oct, 350 on 26 Oct, 75 on 9 Nov and 40 on 28 Dec.

Little Auk *Alle alle*.

Vagrant. Six previous records, Sep 1926, Jun '50 (dead), Nov '58, Dec '79, Nov '90 and Nov 2000.

Two were seen on the sea in the Devil's Kitchen, later flying off west, on 29 Jan (R. Campey).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*.

Present in small numbers, April to August. Major decline in the last sixty years. Only occasional evidence of breeding since the 1970s.

Recorded from 7 Apr to 28 Jul. The highest count was fifteen on 22 Jun. Several burrows were in use at St Philip's Stone but there was no conclusive evidence of breeding.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: singles on 23 and 24 Apr and 23 May. Autumn: two on 23 Jul, then singles on 15, 17 and 28 Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*.

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

Recorded in all months except Dec. There were high counts of eleven on 15 Mar, seven on 5 Apr and nine on 9 Sep which may have involved passage birds. Other monthly maxima were five in May and Jun, and four or fewer in the remaining months.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*.

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

There were nineteen records, totalling 36 bird-days, from 17 Apr to 26 Jun, with a peak of five on 16 May. Then one on 2 Sep.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*.

Migrant, regular in spring but scarce in autumn.

Spring: thirteen records, totalling 32 bird-days, from 11 May to 13 Jun, with a peak of five on 15 May. No autumn records.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

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

Spring: seven records from 1 to 24 May, all of single birds apart from three seen on 3 May. Autumn: one on 26 Aug.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Singles, 30 May (unusually late for a spring bird), 17 and 18 Oct and 8 and 9 Nov.

Swift *Apus apus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant and summer visitor.

24 records from 24 Apr to 16 Jul totalled 92 bird-days. High counts included ten on 28 Apr, eight on 29 May and twenty on 15 Jun. Later, there was one on 4 Aug, two on 1 Sep and one on 12 Sep.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.

Rare visitor, mainly in autumn.

One was seen flying past Brazen Ward on 7 Sep (D. Claridge)

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*.

Uncommon migrant, more regular in autumn than spring.

One was seen on the upper east side path and later caught and ringed in St John's Valley, 11 Oct (R.J. Fowling, J. Walshe).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*.

Vagrant. Thirteen previous records, four in spring and nine in autumn.

A female, present from 6 Oct to 11 Dec 2005 and ringed on 17 Oct (L. James, J. Walshe *et al.*), was omitted from the 2005 LFS Bird Report in error. The same bird remained on the island until 15 May 2006: it was retrapped in Apr, when its ring number was checked. It showed characteristics of the continental race *D. m. major*.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

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

Recorded in all months except Dec. Highest reported numbers were 50 on 29 Mar and 55 on 9 Oct.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*.

Common spring and autumn migrant, with occasional summer records.

Spring: seen on 28 days from 27 Mar to 30 May, with records totalling 562 bird-days. Peak counts were 100 on 15 Apr and 160 on 17 Apr. Autumn: seen on seventeen days from 27 Aug to 16 Sep, with records totalling 476 bird-days. Peak counts were 100 on 12 Sep and 300 on 16 Sep. Later, five were seen on 11 Oct and singles on 13 and 18 Oct.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*.

Sporadic breeding. Spring and autumn migrant in large numbers.

Spring: first seen on 28 Mar, with a peak count of 1,000 on 21 Apr and 500 or more on five other days in the second half of Apr. Later, there were 300 on 14 May. Birds were present throughout the summer and at least two pairs bred, with late broods fledging in the first week of Sep. Autumn: passage started with 100 on 9 Aug, then between 4 Sep and 10 Oct there were thirteen further counts of 100 or more, including 500 on 12 Sep, 3,000 on 16 Sep and 250 on 3 and 10 Oct. Daily records continued until 22 Oct. There were two late birds on 5 Nov.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: after an early bird seen on 21 and 22 Mar, there were records on many days from 30 Mar to 26 Jun. Peak counts included 50 on 21 Apr, 60 on 28 Apr and 40 on 31 May. Autumn: just seventeen records from 27 Aug to 20 Oct, with all counts being five or fewer, apart from 300 on 16 Sep. There was one late bird on 7 Nov.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*.

Uncommon autumn migrant.

One was seen flying south on 21 Oct (T. Bedford, R. Campey, T. Jones *et al.*).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: two on 22 Apr were followed by singles on four days to 29 Apr. Autumn: six records from 27 Aug to 11 Sep involved four singles, with two birds on 29 Aug and 1 Sep. One later bird was seen on 10 Oct.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*.

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

Reported in all months. Records included 150 on 16 Mar, 1,300 on 10 Oct and nine other counts between 100 and 375 in the period from 1 to 20 Oct.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*.

Breeding. Resident.

Seen in all months, with maximum counts of nineteen on 25 Feb and twenty on 26 Oct.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: five records, totalling seven bird-days, between 16 Apr and 9 May. Autumn: eleven records, between 1 Sep and 21 Oct, involved three birds on 10 Sep and eight on 12 Sep, the others all being of single birds.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*.

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

Spring: five records, from 23 Mar to 10 Apr, with four birds on the last date; otherwise singles. Autumn: sixteen records, from 22 Sep to 9 Nov, totalled 24 bird-days, with a peak of four on 18 Oct.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*.

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

Seen on most days from 11 Mar to 28 Oct. Spring: high counts included twenty on 29 Mar, thirty on 23 and 24 Apr and twenty on 26 Apr. Continental or Icelandic birds of the subspecies *M. a. alba* were reported on eight days, including eight birds on 21 Apr. Breeding was confirmed, with young being fed in Jun and Aug. Autumn: almost all counts were in single figures and could refer to the island breeding population. The only noticeably higher count was 22 on 10 Oct. There were late singles on 4 and 12 Nov.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*.

Vagrant. Three previous dated records, in Nov 1990, May '97 and Oct 2004. None in 2006, but a previous record was omitted from the relevant LFS Bird Report in error: one was in the village area on 30 Jan 2005 (J. Leonard et al.).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

Breeding. Resident.

Present all year. Highest count: 37 on 18 Oct.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*.

Breeding. Resident.

Presumed present all year, though none were reported in Aug or Sep. Highest count: nine on 20 Oct.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Breeding. Resident, with occasional migrants mainly in autumn.

Present all year. Autumn: twelve counts of twenty or more, between 2 Oct and 10 Nov, with a peak of 46 on 20 Oct.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Occasional in winter.

Spring: one on three days from 15 to 19 Mar, then singles on 27 Apr and 7 May and on four days from 14 to 20 May. Autumn: singles on 27 and 29 Oct and 10 Nov.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*.

Spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: singles on 20 and 22 Apr. Autumn: singles on three days from 12 to 15 Sep, then a late bird on 30 Oct.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

Uncommon spring migrant. More regular in autumn.

None in spring. Autumn: seventeen records from 27 Aug to 30 Oct, all referring to singles apart from three on 12 Sep and two on 14 Oct.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*.

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

Present throughout the year. Most counts were between one and four, but there was an early spring influx rising to fourteen on 16 Mar. Two pairs were confirmed as breeding, one with eggs and the other feeding young on 25 May.

Counts of fourteen on 28 Aug and twelve on 12 Sep appeared to involve resident family parties. The highest autumn count was seventeen on 7 Oct.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*.

Breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Present on most days from 14 Mar to 21 Oct. Spring peaks included 34 on 20 Apr, 25 on 23 Apr and twenty on 27 Apr. A count of 40 on 22 Jun presumably included many of the island's breeding pairs and their first-brood juveniles. The highest autumn counts were seventeen on 14 Sep and fifteen on 15 and 20 Sep.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: singles on 16 and 23 Apr. Autumn: there were nine records, totalling 31 bird-days, between 15 and 25 Oct, with a peak of seven on 20 Oct. Later, there was a single bird on 7 Nov.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*.

Resident, breeding. Common late autumn migrant.

Present all year. Highest counts were about twenty from Jan to Apr, 30 in Oct. Late autumn numbers peaked at 37 on 8 Nov.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*.

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

One on 23 Feb was followed by four on 15 Mar, three on 17 Mar and a very late spring bird reported on 20 May. Autumn: there were 21 records from 21 Oct to 19 Nov, totalling about 1,000 bird-days, with peaks of 185 on 7 Nov and 400 on 10 Nov. Later there was one on 28 Nov, three on 20 Dec and eight on 23 Dec.

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 except Dec. Up to six were seen in Jan and Mar, and five in Apr, but no evidence of breeding was reported and there were only occasional reports of one or two birds from Jun to mid Oct. From 16 Oct to 17 Nov, there were records on most days, totalling 181 bird-days, with a peak of 41 on 24 Oct.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*.

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

Spring: nine records from 14 to 23 Mar included 80 on 15th, with four or fewer on the other days. Then singles on 4 and 16 Apr. Autumn: seen on most days from 16 Oct to 20 Nov, including arrivals of 200 on 22 Oct, 180 on 24 Oct, 286 on 27 Oct and 400 on 10 Nov. There were thirteen further records from 24 Nov to 26 Dec, mainly of single birds but including four on 20 Dec and two on 23 Dec.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

Uncommon visitor, seen at all times of year except late summer but most regular as a late autumn migrant.

Singles were seen on 21 May, 14 to 17 Oct and 9 and 10 Dec.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*.

Vagrant. One previous record, in Oct 2003.

One was in lower Millcombe from 20 to 26 Oct (T. Davis, T. Jones, J. Diamond *et al.*). It was caught and ringed on 23rd, when it was found to be a first-year female.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*.

Migrant, regular in spring but uncommon in autumn.

Spring: seven records, from 16 to 28 Apr, totalled 21 bird-days and included ten on 23 Apr. Autumn: two on 26 Aug.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*.

Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: twenty records, from 22 Apr to 23 May, totalled 57 bird-days and included twenty on 23 Apr. Autumn: six records from 15 Aug to 4 Sep included two birds on 30 Aug, the others being singles. Further singles were seen on 11, 13 and 21 Oct.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: two on 23 Apr, then singles on 25 and 29 Apr. Autumn: four on 9 Oct, then singles on 10, 14 and 24 Oct.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*.

Vagrant. Eleven previous accepted records, the first as recently as 1985. Ten have been in spring.

A first-year bird was caught and ringed in lower Millcombe on 10 Oct and remained there until 20 Oct (J. Diamond, J. Walshe *et al.*).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Has bred.

Spring: singles on 22 Apr and 15 May. Autumn: singles on 2 to 4, 8 and 24 Oct.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*.

Sporadic breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: there were twelve records from 20 Apr to 14 May, totalling 40 bird-days, with peaks of ten on 23 Apr and seven on 13 May. Then one on 9 and 11 Jun. Autumn: nine records of up to three birds, 23 Aug to 15 Sep.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring: seven records of single birds, 12 Apr to 9 May. Autumn: one or two on seven days, 6 to 20 Oct.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*.

Regular migrant, most numerous in autumn.

Spring: seen on most days from 9 Apr to 6 May, with four later singles to 31 May. Records totalled 132 bird-days, with peaks of eleven on 18 Apr, twelve on 20 Apr and twenty on 23 Apr. Autumn: after six records of up to four birds from 1 to 28 Sep, there were records on most days from 1 Oct to 18 Nov. In this main period, records totalled 314 bird-days, with peaks of 30 on 24 Oct, 44 on 27 Oct and nineteen on 6 Nov. There was one later bird, on 29 Nov.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*.

Uncommon autumn migrant

One was in St Helen's Copse on 8 Oct (S.L. Cooper). One was caught and ringed in lower Millcombe on 24 Oct (R.A. Duncan, A.M. Taylor *et al.*). Then one seen in lower Millcombe on 27 Oct was caught and ringed on 28th (J. Allen, M. James *et al.*).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

None in spring. Autumn: singles on 8 Sep and 9 Oct.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*.

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

Spring: after four early records of one or two birds between 15 Mar and 5 Apr, birds were seen on most days from 12 Apr to 19 May, with the main movements involving between 25 and 45 birds on five days from 16 to 28 Apr. Later there were a further twelve records of up to three birds, 28 May to 22 Jun. Autumn: there were seven records of one or two birds, 23 Aug to 25 Sep. Then recorded on many days from 30 Sep to 16 Nov, with peak counts of between eleven and thirteen birds on 13, 20, 24 and 26 Oct.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*.

Occasional breeding. Common spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: after one on 1 Apr, birds were seen on most days from 7 Apr to 15 May, with main arrivals of 100 on 17 Apr, 500 on 23 Apr and 100 on 27 Apr. There were later singles on 23 and 24 May and 21 Jun. Autumn: there were 24 records from 11 Aug to 17 Sep, with peak counts of fifteen on 27 and 29 Aug. Then seven further records, 6 to 28 Oct, totalled eleven bird-days, including four on 9th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*.

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

There were nine records of one or two birds, 27 Jan to 30 Mar. Then seen on eleven days, 12 to 28 Apr, with numbers rising to five on three days. Autumn: seen on many days from 29 Aug to 18 Nov, with peak counts of 100 on 3 Oct, 80 on 9 Oct and 70 on 20 Oct. Later there were five further records from 29 Nov to 28 Dec, rising to four birds on the last date.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*.

Uncommon migrant, most regular in autumn.

Spring: one, 17 Apr. Autumn: fourteen records totalling 31 bird-days, 7 to 26 Oct, with peaks of six on 10th and four on 17th. One later bird, on 10 Nov.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*.

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

Spring: twenty records totalling 55 bird-days, from 23 Apr to 1 Jun, with a peak count of seventeen on 13 May. Autumn: one was seen on 17 Jul, then there were 26 records from 15 Aug to 11 Oct, totalling 71 bird-days, with a peak of ten on 8 Sep.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*.

Uncommon autumn migrant. One spring record.

A first-year bird was in Millcombe from 5 to 10 Oct and was caught and ringed on 10th (J. Gooden, J. MacCallum-Stewart, J. Walshe *et al.*). This record has been accepted by the Devon rarities committee.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*.

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

Spring: two on 22 Apr. Autumn: after two on 23 and 24 Jul, one was seen on 7 Sep, then six on 12 Sep, with smaller numbers on the next three days, then one or two on twelve days, 2 to 24 Oct.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

Two, 24 Apr.

Great Tit *Parus major*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

One on seven days from 12 to 21 Apr, then two on 25 Apr.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Rare winter visitor.

Two on 22 Apr, with singles on three other days from 16 to 23 Apr.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*.

Uncommon visitor, mainly between July and October.

One, 18 and 19 Oct.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*.

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

A juvenile was seen in the St John's and Millcombe area on 12, 15 and 20 Sep (J.W. Leonard, M. Shakespeare, M. Twiggs *et al.*). This record has been accepted by the Devon rarities committee.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*.

Irregular spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor.

Two, 7 May.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. High counts included 33 on 28 Jan and 52 on 17 Oct.

Raven *Corvus corax*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. High counts included ten on 25 Feb and eleven on 18 Oct.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*.

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

Present all year. Counts included 130 on 30 Jan, 100 on 12 Feb, 160 on 15 Mar, then between 30 and 60 from Apr to Sep. Autumn movements included 230 on

15 Oct, 275 on 18 Oct, 300 on 25 Oct, 1,017 on 27 Oct and 400 on 10 Nov. December numbers were between 35 and 50.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*.

Breeding. Present throughout the year.

Present all year. The highest count was 112 on 8 Oct.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*.

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

Present all year. Peak spring numbers were seventeen on 15 Mar and sixteen on 21 Apr. Autumn movements were evident from 13 Oct to 19 Nov, with peaks including 220 on 13 Oct, 330 on 20 Oct, 300 on 23 Oct, a major southward passage of 11,000 on 27 Oct, then 400 on 7 Nov and 600 on 10 Nov. Numbers in late Nov were between ten and 30, and in Dec were ten or fewer.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*.

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

Spring: singles on 14 Mar and 24 Apr. Autumn: eight records totalling 21 bird-days, 22 Oct to 10 Nov, with a peak of five on the last date.

Serin *Serinus serinus*.

Vagrant. Five previous records, in Apr 1943, Jul '56, Nov '75, May '78 and Nov '94.

None in 2006. A record of two together, one an adult male, feeding with Linnets on the upper east side path on 26 Apr 2005 (J. Walshe), was omitted from the relevant LFS Bird Report in error.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*.

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

Singles on 28 Apr and 14 Jun, then two from 18 to 23 Jun, five on 23 Jul and one on 22 Aug. From 10 Oct to 10 Nov there were thirteen records totalling 56 bird-days, with a peak of thirteen on 18 Oct.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

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

After four on 6 Jan and three on 16 Jan, two were reported on seven days to 26 Mar. Then recorded on most days from 15 Apr to 20 May, with 25 on 23 Apr and twelve the next day but all other counts in single figures. Up to three were seen sporadically through the summer, rising to four on 20 Jul and five on 31 Aug. There were two reports in Aug of juveniles being fed, so a pair is likely to have bred on the island. Up to eight were seen through Sep. Numbers were higher from 4 to 30 Oct, with fourteen counts between twenty and 60 and an influx of 150 on 22 Oct. Highest counts in Nov and Dec were seven and eight.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*.

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

Spring: one on 26 Apr. Autumn: seen on eleven days from 9 Oct to 7 Nov, including 30 on 10 Oct, twenty on 13 Oct and ten on 27 Oct, with the remaining records being of one or two birds. Later, one on 6 Dec and two on 16 Dec.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*.

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

Reported on many days from 5 Apr to 26 Nov. Peak spring counts were 70 on 26 to 28 April. In autumn, the highest was 100 on 12 Sep.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring: four on 24 Apr, then singles on four days to 6 May. Autumn: singles on 29 Aug and 4 and 5 Sep, then seen daily from 8 to 17 Oct, with a peak of three on 10th. Further singles were seen on 23 Oct and 7 to 9 Nov.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*.

Uncommon summer and autumn visitor.

One, 22 Aug.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*.

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were eight records from 21 to 29 Apr, with one or two birds seen daily, but involving two males and a female. Then a male was seen on 9 May and a pair the next day.

Lapland Bunting *Calciarius lapponicus*.

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

One was in the Airfield area, 9 Oct (S.L. Cooper). One was in Southwest Field on 11 Oct (J. Oates) and 16 Oct (R. Campey). Then one by Quarter Wall on 18 Oct (J. Diamond *et al.*) and two on the Airfield on 20 and 21 Oct (T. Bedford, R. Campey and J. Diamond).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Uncommon spring and regular autumn migrant. Occasional winter visitor.

Singles were seen on 23 Feb, 16 and 30 Mar and 4 Apr. Autumn: twelve records totalling 28 bird-days from 2 Oct to 7 Nov, with peaks of six on 3 Oct, five on 13 Oct and four on 8 Nov.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*.

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

Two on 28 Mar, then eight autumn records from 3 Oct to 9 Nov, all referring to single birds apart from four on 20 Oct.

LUNDY RARITIES

Records rejected because they were not fully documented or descriptions were inconclusive.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One, 17.3.06

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

One, 13 and 14.3.06

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

One, 8.9.06

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

One, 28.3.06

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One, 27.3.06

Long-eared Owl <i>Asio otus</i>	One, 23.2.06
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	One, 14.4.06
Red-backed Shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	One, 3.5.06, and one, 21.5.06
Golden Oriole <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	One, 13.5.06
Little Bunting <i>Emberiza pusilla</i>	One, 17.10.06