

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2008

By

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Introduction

Altogether 142* species were seen during 2008, including Lundy (and Devon's) first Paddyfield Warbler in late October. There were many other highlights – involving birds both rare and common – some of which are picked out in the 'Seasonal summary' below, while all are detailed in the Systematic List.

*This total excludes records of Booted Warbler and Western Bonelli's Warbler which are currently still being assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

Seasonal summary

Winter (January/February & November/December)

The birding year got off to an unusual start on New Year's Day with a Blackcap outside Pig's Paradise. Also seen on 1 Jan were small numbers of auks ashore on the breeding ledges in Jenny's Cove. There were regular Great Northern Diver records – possibly all referring to the same long-staying bird – from mid-January onwards. Rough weather at the end of January brought hundreds of Kittiwakes offshore and may also have been responsible for a high count of 87 Fulmars. Single Stock Doves appeared on 14 January and 23 February, two Stonechats on 15 January, a Short-eared Owl was near Pondsburry on 22 January and a Reed Bunting was seen on 6 February. There were nine Snipe and three Lapwings on 19 February, while the next few days saw influxes of Stonechats and Meadow Pipits, signalling the start of spring migration.

At the end of the year, as autumn migration tailed off, a young Rough-legged Buzzard that appeared on 10 November remained into December, but was not reported after 7th. Daily counts by Grant Sherman showed that large numbers of Guillemots (but not Razorbills) were already back on the breeding ledges by mid-November, with 400 on 12th and 650 on 17th, rising to over 900 in mid-December. Of a flock of eight Long-tailed Tits that arrived on 12 November, two or three remained until the end of the year and into 2009. In addition to these hardy individuals, the year closed with two Great Northern Divers, a Teal on 17 December, two Firecrests and a Chiffchaff from 22nd to 24th, two Purple Sandpipers on Boxing Day, a small post-Christmas influx of Lapwings and Golden Plovers, and an impressive 1,000 Kittiwakes on 28 December. Other late December birds included Merlin, Sparrowhawk, Water Rail, Snipe, Woodcock, Curlew, Redwing and Stonechat. Seasonally apt, a Snow Bunting **WAS** seen on three days during the month, including New Year's Eve.

Spring migration

Arrival of spring migrants in the first half of March included Grey Wagtail (4th), White Wagtail (6th), Wheatear (13th), Sand Martin (14th), Chiffchaff (15th), Firecrest (15th), Black Redstart (16th) and Swallow (16th). An estimated 200 Meadow Pipits were present on 5th & 6th, and at least 20 Stonechats on 16th, the same day as a modest fall of 50+ Chiffchaffs. Twenty Swallows were seen on 27th, but the main movements of this symbol of summer occurred between mid-April and mid-May, when 3,000 or more were recorded on four dates, with a high of 5,000 on 26 Apr. Wheatear numbers peaked at 50 on 28 April.

The first Willow Warblers were recorded on 6 April, their movements peaking in late April and early May, with a maximum of 400 on 27 April. Blackcaps were also first noted on 6 April, reaching 50 on three dates in the last week of the month, then 100 on 2 May. The latter date saw a varied fall of other migrants, including 40 Wheatears, 20 Sedge Warblers, 20 Garden Warblers, 20 Whitethroats, 100 Willow Warblers, a few Grasshopper and Reed Warblers, a Redstart, a Lesser Whitethroat, a Wood Warbler, two Spotted Flycatchers and a Pied Flycatcher.

Whimbrels were scarce, with only scattered sightings of up to three birds between 20 April and 20 May. Cuckoos were not recorded at all in April and on just a handful of dates in May and June, including two on 1 June (perhaps the parents of a juvenile seen in August). There were also poor showings by Turtle Dove, Tree Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Redstart and Pied Flycatcher, all of which are amber or red-listed Species of Conservation Concern in the UK. Another summer migrant that has shown an alarming drop in its UK breeding population is Spotted Flycatcher and though 45 were counted on 17 May, numbers were generally low. Also reaching a peak in the second half of May were northward movements of Swifts (75 on 19th) and House Martins (a record 3,600 estimated on 20th).

Rarer spring migrants included a Greylag Goose (8-14 April), Arctic Tern (22 April), Dartford Warbler (22 April), Blue-headed Wagtail (27 April), Golden Oriole (29 April to 5 May), Honey Buzzard (3-7 May & 20 May), Tufted Duck (9-14 May), Nightjar (17 May), Short-toed Lark (19 May) and Common Rosefinch (9 & 10 June).

Breeding

Details of the four-yearly census of breeding seabirds that took place in 2008 are presented in the paper by David Price elsewhere in this *Annual Report* and summarised in the Systematic List below. Suffice to say that Manx Shearwaters continue to go from strength to strength, with an estimated population of over 1,000 pairs; Guillemot and Razorbill numbers were at their highest levels for some years; at least two pairs of Puffins bred successfully; and the Kittiwake population, though still way down on former times, appeared not to have declined further since 2004. These findings all give cause for optimism, though there are suggestions that Fulmars and Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls may be doing less well than formerly.

With regard to landbirds, efforts were made to prove breeding success for the ongoing BTO Atlas. Among species for which breeding was confirmed were: Mallard, Peregrine, Water Rail (at least three broods at two sites), Cuckoo (first confirmation of breeding since 1999), Skylark, Swallow (three nest sites), Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit,

Pied Wagtail, Wren, Robin, Stonechat, Wheatear, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Carrion Crow, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch and Linnet.

In addition, Dunnock and Raven are presumed to have bred successfully but no observations of recently fledged young or of adults carrying food to nest sites were entered in the LFS Logbook or Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society database, showing the value of recording such observations of 'common' species.

Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler song was recorded in June, but there was no further evidence of breeding. Similarly, Goldfinch song was heard in May and three birds were seen in June, but there was no other indication of a nesting attempt.

Autumn migration

'Autumn' movements in the bird world are actually well under way by the end of July when many young birds disperse quite long distances from the areas where they fledged. This was vividly demonstrated by a 'fall' of at least 200 Willow Warblers encountered by the Bird Report editors on a day-trip to the island on 26 July. A juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen on the same day, looking somewhat out of place as it flew from one granite boulder to the next on the walls of the Tillage Field. This turned out to be the first of a string of sightings. Earlier in the month, a pair of Tufted Ducks, the male in its drab 'eclipse' plumage stopped off at Pondsburry from 16th to 18th.

There were five Whinchats on 4 August, two Black Terns were seen about a kilometre east of the island on 30th, while a small arrival of migrants on 31st included ten Spotted Flycatchers, seven Pied Flycatchers, a Redstart and a Wryneck, which was caught and ringed.

There was a modest influx on 16 September, including two Yellow Wagtails, up to 20 Pied and four White Wagtails, a Grasshopper Warbler, two Sedge Warblers, a Reed Warbler, 50 Blackcaps, three Garden Warblers, five Whitethroats, 32 Chiffchaffs, 30 Goldcrests, 17 Spotted Flycatchers and 15 Pied Flycatchers. Generally, though, the numbers of departing summer migrants reported were low to moderate, with no really significant falls – perhaps reflecting the second consecutive poor summer weatherwise. Larger movements of Swallows included 3,000 passing through in one hour on 18 September and 1,000 on 12 October, while the last record of the year was of four on 13 November.

The first Firecrest of the autumn was seen on 4 September, with frequent records from mid-month until late October. Among the other more unusual species in September were Osprey (4th), Crossbill (5th and 26th-28th), Pectoral Sandpiper (10th-12th), Wryneck (13th-17th), Western Bonelli's Warbler (14th – only the second for Lundy if accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee, BBRC), Icterine Warbler (15th-20th), Tawny Pipit (14th-17th), Oortolan Bunting (16th), Lapland Bunting (25th – the first of records on ten dates during the autumn), Common Rosefinch (26th until early October), Bluethroat (28th), Booted Warbler (28th – a Lundy 'first' if accepted by BBRC) and Yellow-browed Warbler (28th – the first of 20 or more during the autumn).

Incoming winter migrants were represented by Redwings that appeared in the last week of September and were then seen most days until the middle of November, while Fieldfares did not get going until the last week of October (with the exception of

a singleton on 13th & 14th). Thrush movements peaked in the last few days of October and early November, with 70 Blackbirds on 31 October and 200 Redwings on 6 November. The visible finch migration, like that of thrushes, was less spectacular than in 2007, but a thousand or more Chaffinches were seen on four dates in late October, with a maximum of 3,500 on 25th. Bramblings were correspondingly thin on the ground, with counts reaching double digits on 17 October only.

All tit species are uncommon on Lundy, but one or two Coal Tits were seen in mid-October, while up to eight Long-tailed Tits arrived in mid-November, a few of these remaining through the winter, the first time this species is known to have overwintered on the island.

Other less common or rare birds recorded in October included: Scarlet Rosefinch (the bird from late September remained to 4th, with another on 24th), Lapland Bunting (six dates from 1st-22nd), Grey Phalarope (6th), Yellow-browed Warbler (many dates from 6th-29th, with a maximum of up to 8 on 17th), Richard's Pipit (13th, 15th, 18th & 30th), Balearic Shearwater (15th, 20th & 23rd), Red-throated Pipit (22nd), Long-eared Owl (28th) and Lundy's first Paddyfield Warbler, seen by a handful of lucky birdwatchers along the Lower East Side, near St Helen's Combe, on 29th.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Nomenclature and sequence

These follow *The British List* (7th edition, 2006, with amendments applied by the British Ornithologists' Union – BOU – in 2007 and 2008). Where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (e.g. European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name.

Tables

The figures given in the month-by-month tables included for many species are taken from the LFS Logbook and give the highest daily count during the month and, in some cases, the number of days on which the species was recorded. It is important to keep in mind that these figures are strongly influenced by the extent and intensity of coverage by birdwatchers, which waxes and wanes during the year, usually peaking during the main spring and autumn migration periods. Coverage is often patchy in midsummer and midwinter and this is reflected in some of the counts, which have been square-bracketed in the tables, indicating they are unlikely to be representative of the overall numbers present.

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Paddyfield Warbler) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' (e.g. Richard's Pipit), or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Rough-legged Buzzard), are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, there are 'Lundy vagrants', species that are common on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Magpie). Records of Lundy vagrants are assessed by the Lundy Bird Recorders.

In all cases, records of species that are rare – whether at national, county or island level – must be accepted by the relevant committee or recorder as being adequately documented. This helps to ensure that the ornithological records kept by different bodies, including the LFS, form a coherent whole, and that high standards of assessment are shared and applied. The unpredictable nature of birdwatching means that even the most experienced and knowledgeable observers are sometimes unable to clinch the identity of a suspected rarity; perhaps it was not seen for long enough, was too far away, or the weather was too bad for crucial plumage details to be picked out. In other cases, the distinguishing features are so subtle that photographs and/or examination of the bird in the hand may be required. The assessment of a rarity record as 'not proven' should be seen in the light of such challenges; it does not necessarily mean that those assessing the record believe the observer was mistaken.

Observers are asked to ensure that supporting notes for all records of rare species are entered in the LFS Logbook (which contains guidelines on what information to provide) as soon as possible after the sighting has been made. Please take care to include your name(s) and contact details – legibly! Photographs and video clips are especially welcome and these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at info@birdsoflundy.org.uk. Finders of nationally rare birds are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure details are submitted to BBRC.

Observers' names are included below (where given in the LFS Logbook or in rarity accounts submitted direct to BBRC and DBRC) for all accepted 2008 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants.

Birds seen during boat crossings

Apart from the exceptional 2008 record of two Marsh Harriers about halfway between Lundy and the mainland, sightings during boat crossings have only been included when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. Observers are encouraged to submit other 'crossing records', particularly those for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to the Devon Bird Recorder (email address: devon-birdrecorder@lycos.com).

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

Regularly updated news, photos and video-clips of birds seen on Lundy are maintained by Richard Campey at www.lundybirds.org.uk – all contributions will be welcomed by Richard.

Updates to the species texts published in *The Birds of Lundy* (Davis & Jones, 2007) are posted periodically at www.birdsoflundy.org.uk. Click on the blue box at the bottom of the menu bar to receive emails announcing text updates.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted first and foremost to the island residents and visitors, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the LFS Logbook and to the database maintained by the Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society (DBWPS); this report is a distillation of thousands of hours' observation by many dozens of individuals.

Special thanks go to Richard Campey, with whom we liaise closely on the latest news sent for posting on his lundybirds.org.uk website, and to Nicola Saunders, Sophie Wheatley and their colleagues from the island wardening team. We also express our sincere appreciation to the Devon Birds Records Committee, and especially the Devon Bird Recorder, Mike Langman, for his dependably painstaking and good-humoured correspondence with us on the assessment of rarity records. Julia Harris, DBWPS database manager, provided a data file of all 2008 Lundy records and we have worked with Peter Reay, editor of the *Devon Bird Report*, to ensure consistency of the 2008 Devon and Lundy publications. Others who have helped us in various ways include Ian Cleasby, Mark Darlaston, Nigel Hudson, Richard Hunkin, James Leonard, David Price, Grant Sherman and Mike Tyler.

Last but by no means least, we are delighted to add our acknowledgement of the many years' outstanding service to the LFS and Lundy ornithology given by Tony Taylor as Bird Recorder until 2007, ably supported by his wife Ann (who for many years compiled summaries for the *Annual Report* of the 'non-bird' natural history records from the LFS Logbook). Tony has helped us to resolve various questions that have cropped up in the preparation of this year's report and continues to coordinate bird ringing on the island.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Lundy vagrant.

One in the Tillage Field and at Pondsbury from 8–14 Apr constitutes the ninth record for Lundy.

Wigeon *Anas penelope* [Eurasian Wigeon]
Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn; occasional winter visitor.
A male and female were on Pondsbury on 13 & 14 Apr.

Teal *Anas crecca* [Eurasian Teal]
Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer.
Two on 29 Jan and 5 Feb were followed by six birds on 15 & 16 Apr. In autumn, there were singles on eleven dates between 8 Oct and 11 Nov, with two present on 12 & 13 Oct and 10 & 11 Nov. At the end of the year, one was seen on 17 Dec.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Resident breeding flock of feral origin; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.

Mallard: maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	9	5	8	9	7	9	15	18	19	12	10

The first broods of ducklings were reported on 14 Apr, when 11 were seen in the village and eight at Pondsbury. Further broods were seen in May (maximum daily count 15 on 14th) and Jun (maximum daily count 12 on 7th). Up to six young were seen in Jul.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula**Lundy vagrant.*

A pair was present on Pondsbury from 9–14 May (G. Sherman & S. Leavy), and another pair, showing partial eclipse plumage, was on Pondsbury from 16–18 Jul (L. Cleary). These constitute the 18th and 19th LFS records for the island and the first since Feb 2004. The late-spring and midsummer timings are typical.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* [Great Northern Loon]*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.*

A single bird (possibly involving one long-staying immature) was recorded on 12 dates in Jan, six dates in Feb, 12 dates in Mar, four dates in Apr and four in May (last sighting on 29th). The first autumn record was of a single bird on 14 Oct and then on four further dates to 25th. Sporadic sightings continued in Nov and Dec with singles on four dates from 10-26 Nov, followed by two on 22 & 23 Dec and one on 24th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* [Northern Fulmar]*Common breeder; recorded in all months, mainly from January to September.*

Fulmar: maximum one-day count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
87	90	50	120	[35]	[20]	nc	40	20	12	100	50

The counts of 87 on 30 Jan and 90 on 19 Feb were both high totals for outside the breeding season. Fulmars were poorly recorded in the LFS Logbook during the summer months (hence the figures in square brackets in the table above). However, the four-yearly census of breeding seabirds, coordinated by the RSPB and Natural England, revealed a total of 170 apparently occupied nest sites, suggesting a small decline from 178 in 2004, but a 12% decline since the population peaked at 203 apparently occupied nest sites in 1996 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus**Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from late March to September; occasional records in October.*

The first record of the year was of a single bird on 2 Apr, with the last autumn record, of two birds, on 26 Oct. There was an entry in the logbook for one on 16 Dec but there was no supporting information to indicate that Balearic Shearwater (recently proven to occur in Devon waters in all months of the year) had been ruled out. This would have constituted the first December Manx Shearwater record.

Manx Shearwater: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	50	200	200	nc	[1]	12	12	0	1

The species was poorly recorded in the LFS Logbook during mid to late summer, with no entries at all for Jul and only two sightings, both of single birds, reported in Aug. The highest counts of the year – at just 200 – were much lower than normal, perhaps due to the cool, very wet summer being a deterrent to seawatching. A census in late May – based on the responses of chicks in burrows to recordings of adult shearwater calls – resulted in an estimated population of 1,081 breeding pairs. The number of burrows had increased by 250% since a comparable survey conducted in 2001,

providing further evidence that Lundy's 'rat-free' status is greatly benefiting the shearwater population (David Price *et al.*/RSPB). Between 30 Aug and 7 Sep, 72 juvenile birds were ringed, along with 41 adults.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Lundy vagrant.

At least three and possibly up to five off the East Side on 15 Oct (S.L. Cooper, R.M. Patient); up to six on 20 Oct, with three singles passing South End seen from the Ugly (I. Lakin & K. Rylands) and three singles past the North Light (T. Bedford, J. Diamond, T. Jones); and three flew WSW off The Castle on 23 Oct (T. Bedford, J. Diamond, T. Jones). Records accepted by the Devon County Recorder.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* [European Storm Petrel]

Uncommon passage migrant; possibly breeds – recorded on the island at night in small numbers during the breeding season.

The only records from the island itself were of two on 16 Apr and one on 27 Apr, location/circumstances unreported.

Gannet *Morus bassanus* [Northern Gannet]

Common offshore from spring to autumn; less frequent in winter; formerly bred.

Gannet: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	5	20	30	15	3	60	100	100	15	3

Typically, the highest numbers were seen after the breeding season in early autumn, though with no daily count exceeding 100, totals were on the low side.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* [Great Cormorant]

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

After two on 7 Feb, the first spring movement was a flock of seven heading north on 16 Mar. The main southward movement began in late summer when a single flock of 28 was seen on 31 Aug. The last autumn record was of one on 5 Nov. As usual, most sightings were during the spring and autumn migration periods, when singles and small flocks were seen flying over or past the island.

Cormorant: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	2	8	6	2	2	5	28	12	37	1	0

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* [European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

Under-recorded for much of the year, with few counts in excess of 20, even though the 2008 breeding seabird census found 63 apparently occupied nests, exactly the same number recorded in the previous census in 2004 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB). The highest count of the year was at the end of the breeding season, when 100 were recorded on 28 Aug.

Shag: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	16	20	12	40	30	6	100	50	21	62	16

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Lundy vagrant (though the number of records is increasing).

One on 1 May and two on 30 May represent the 21st and 22nd records for the island (details of locations and observers were not recorded).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; recorded throughout the year but most regular during late summer and early autumn.

Recorded on only 15 days, though in all months from Apr to Oct, with a maximum of five on 28 Jul.

Grey Heron: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	0	0	1	1	1	5	1	3	2	0	0	
0	0	0	1	1	1	3	4	4	1	0	0	

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* [European Honey-buzzard]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

Recorded on four dates in May: one over Millcombe on 3rd and 4th (D. Clifton, G. Middleton, R. Skeates *et al.*) and one, presumed the same (though possibly a different bird, as not reported in the intervening two days) over the East Side heading out to sea on 7th (T.E. Baldwin). On 20 May, one flew in over the Landing Bay from the south-east and circled briefly over Millcombe before heading back towards the mainland, in a south-easterly direction, past the South Light (T. Davis, J. Diamond, T. Jones). Both of these records have been accepted by DBRC. They constitute the 6th and 7th records for Lundy.

2006: The record of a Honey Buzzard published in the 2006 *LFS Annual Report* was subsequently determined by DBRC as 'not proven'.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aruginosus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.

No records from the island itself, but two migrants (one thought to be an adult female, the other a juvenile) flying south were seen from MS *Oldenburg* about half-way between Lundy and the mainland on 18 Sep (J. Adams, E. Davis).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* [Northern Harrier]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Three or four autumn migrants passed through between late Sep and mid-Oct: one of unspecified age and sex on 17 Sep was perhaps the male seen the following day, while a female or immature ('ringtail') was seen on 24 Sep, with another on 17 Oct.

Harrier sp.

An unidentified 'ringtail' harrier was quartering over Pondsbury on 29 Apr. While Hen Harriers are much more regular on the island than Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*, which is uncommon nationally and a vagrant to Lundy, neither species can be ruled out in late Apr, when both are moving north.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nissus* [Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; has bred at least once.

Single birds recorded on 26 days, with two on 7 Feb and 8 Oct. The logbook entries for the first half of the year suggest that sightings may have involved one long-staying female.

Sparrowhawk: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1
1	4	3	2	4	3	1	0	2	6	0	1

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus* [Roughleg]

Lundy vagrant.

First recorded on 9 Nov, a first-winter bird was seen regularly at various locations along the East and West Sides in the northern half of the island until 29 Nov (D. Beavans, J.W. Leonard *et al.*). There were two final reports on 6 & 7 Dec. It was photographed, being mobbed by Ravens, by island resident Stuart Leavy on 11 Nov. This record has been accepted by DBRC and is only the seventh for Lundy, the last being in Oct 1997.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage migrant.

One drifted south down the East Side on 4 Sep (R.J. Taylor) and a first-year bird was seen flying up and down the East Side on 4 Oct, at one point landing briefly on a tree in St Helen's Copse, before being chased off by mobbing gulls (P. Abbott, E. Davis, K. Hale *et al.*). Continuing the increasing trend of recent years, this is the third consecutive year in which this iconic bird of prey has been seen on Lundy during either spring or autumn migration.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* [Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; breeds occasionally.

Present throughout the year in small numbers, but no evidence of breeding. Sightings were virtually daily in Sep and Oct.

Kestrel: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	2	0
8	5	9	7	12	7	7	11	26	22	10	0

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; very rare in summer.

Merlin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	1
0	1	5	5	0	0	0	0	3	29	11	3

Records in 2008 suggest a light spring passage and a strong southward migration in Oct. Six were present on 14 Oct – a Lundy record – with four daily from 20–22 Oct.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* [Eurasian Hobby]*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Single spring migrants were seen on 7 & 8 May and 1 Jun, while in autumn, single birds passed through on 16 Sep and 10 & 26 Oct. A very late bird was reported on the unlikely date of 5 Nov, though with no supporting information to show that other falcons (Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine) had been ruled out.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* [Peregrine Falcon]*Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.*

Up to six territorial pairs, plus additional non-breeding birds. Three pairs each reared two chicks. An individual carrying a metal ring on its right leg and a yellow ring marked with black 'H2' on its left leg was photographed along the Lower East Side Path by Nicola Saunders (Lundy Warden) on 11 Apr. The bird had been ringed as a chick, hatched on 28 May 2006, on the north coast of the Cornish mainland between St Ives and Portreath (R. Hunkin, pers. comm.). This is the first direct evidence of dispersal to Lundy by a known mainland-bred Peregrine.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus**Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; first confirmed breeding in 2007.*

Breeding was confirmed for the second year running when one medium-sized chick was seen with an adult, and at least one other chick was heard calling, in Lower Millcombe on 4 Jun. One was at Quarter Wall Pond in late May and one was heard calling at Pondsburry during the first week of Jun, so it is possible that more than one pair bred. On 4 Sep, an adult and a chick were seen in Lower Millcombe, together with an older juvenile, showing that at least two broods were reared. On the same day, chicks were heard at Pondsburry. That none was recorded during the first two months of the year probably reflects a dearth of observations, rather than a lack of birds.

Water Rail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	2
0	0	2	5	14	4	0	2	18	25	4	4

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* [Eurasian Oystercatcher]*Common breeder and passage migrant; recorded throughout the year but scarcer in late autumn and winter.*

Present throughout the year with an estimate of 18 territorial pairs during the breeding seabird census in late May – exactly the same number as in 2004 – with the majority of territories north of the Battery on the West Side and north of Halfway Wall on the East Side. Other pairs included those on Miller's Cake, Rat Island and Dead Cow Point. There were no noticeable movements of passage migrants, such as the flock of 50 seen in May 2007.

Oystercatcher: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom) (as recorded in the LFS Logbook/DBWPS database)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	16	20	12	15	20	19	8	20	15	11	15
8	10	26	18	23	19	4	10	11	13	2	5

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [Common Ringed Plover]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter records.

The only spring migrants recorded were on 16 Mar, 30 Apr and 8, 16 & 18 May. All of these were single birds, except for two on 8 May. Autumn passage began with one on 26 Jul. None was reported in Aug, but single birds were recorded on seven dates between 4 & 28 Sep, with three on 9 Sep and two on 27 Sep. Later migrants were singles on 2 & 12 Oct.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [European Golden Plover]

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; irregular winter visitor.

The only record during the first winter period was of a single bird on 31 Jan, while the sole spring migrants were two just north of the western end of Quarter Wall on 7 May; a very poor showing. One on 19 Jun could have been a failed breeder already returning south, though autumn passage proper was marked by one on 31 Aug, followed by reports on six dates in Sep (maximum 14 on 28th), 14 dates in Oct (maximum six on 21st) and one on 12 Nov. In the final week of the year, singles on 27 & 28 Dec and two on 30th arrived at the same time as several Lapwings, coinciding with the start of a prolonged cold spell.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

Two reported on 7 May was the only record for the year.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [Northern Lapwing]

Uncommon passage migrant. Formerly a common breeder, spring and autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor, but major decline in recent years.

2008 looked to be shaping up as one of the poorest years ever for this once commonplace bird on Lundy, with no first winter-period, spring or breeding-season records and a dismal early autumn passage of just two on 26 Sep and singles on 10 & 29 Oct. However, there was a spate of sightings in late autumn and early winter, with a flock of 40 on 31 Oct, followed by records of one to three birds on nine days in Nov and five days in Dec (mainly in the last week of the year, when a small arrival of Lapwings and Golden Plovers coincided with cold weather on the mainland). The count of 40 in Oct was the highest total recorded on Lundy since 62 were seen in late Dec 2000.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

One remarkably tame juvenile was seen around the village from 26 Aug to 7 Sep. It was so unconcerned about people that it presented a tripping hazard!

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn; has occurred in winter.

Two northward-bound migrants stopped off on the island during the second half of May, one at Pondsburry on 16th and one by the main track just north of Quarter Wall on 27th. The latter bird, in summer plumage, was photographed by Lundy Warden, Nicola Saunders. These are only the 11th and 12th spring records for the island. In addition, one was seen in flight alongside *MS Oldenburg* about 15 minutes prior to the boat's arrival in the Landing Bay on 2 Sep.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon autumn migrant; two spring records.

One by Quarter Wall gate from 13-15 Sep and one on 14 Oct.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One was seen and photographed just south of Halfway Wall from 10-12 Sep (C. Flower, S. Leavy, G. Sherman). About 20 individuals of this North American breeding species have now occurred on Lundy since the first in 1950; the last was in Sep 2004. This record has been accepted by DBRC.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; occasional winter visitor.

Two seen on 26 Dec constituted the only record of the year.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; very rare in winter.

Spring passage involved singles on 27 & 30 Apr and on 1, 5, 14 & 15 May. This was followed by a notable influx of 15 on 16 May – a high count for spring – with seven present on 17th. Autumn migration was sparse, with single birds only, from 6-8 Aug, on 7, 8 & 14 Sep, on 8, 16, 21, 30 & 31 Oct and on 4 Nov.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly late Sep to Mar.

One on 22 Oct was the only record of the year.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* [Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The highest count of the year was during the first winter period when nine were present on 19 Feb. Very few were reported during spring migration and though seen more often in autumn, the maximum daily count did not exceed five.

Snipe: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
3	9	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	5	1	4	
1	6	2	2	0	0	0	1	8	25	5	5	

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* [Eurasian Woodcock]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly Oct to Mar.

A single bird on 26 Jan near Gannets' Combe and one north of Tibbett's the following day were the only records during the first nine months of the year. Typically, most sightings were after mid-Oct, with singles on 19, 30 & 31 Oct, two on 12 Nov and further singles on 13 Nov and 22 & 23 Dec.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; declining.

The first spring migrants were two on 19 Apr, followed by 3 on 24 Apr. Thereafter, only single birds were reported, on a further 11 dates from 27 Apr to 20 May. In autumn, one was seen on 4 Aug, with three on 2 Sep and 1 on 4 Sep, and further records of three at North End on both 22 & 27 Oct.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* [Eurasian Curlew]

Common spring and autumn migrant in declining numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.

An extremely poor showing, with only two records for the first five months of the year and a maximum of just three, on 16 & 23 Oct.

Curlew: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
0	0	0	1	1	5	2	0	1	5	1	1

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

There were no spring records, and the only autumn migrants were singles on 14 & 16 Sep.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* [Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One on 7 Sep was the only sighting of the year.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* [Red Phalarope]

Lundy vagrant.

One feeding close inshore in the lee of Rat Island was watched from the jetty on 6 Oct (R.J. Campey). This constitutes the 12th sighting since organised bird recording was established by the LFS in 1947, and the first since Oct 2005.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* [Parasitic Jaeger]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

Following the record count of 11 on 15 Oct 2007, 2008 was another exceptional year for this species, with records on thirteen dates between 15 Sep and 21 Oct. Most involved ones and twos, but ten were seen on 14 Oct, with seven the following day.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

One heading south on 30 Aug was followed by records on four dates in mid-Oct: one on 14th, two on 15th, one on 17th and one on 20th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* [Black-legged Kittiwake]

Common but declining breeding species; uncommon from Sep to Jan.

Between 300 and 900 were recorded daily from 24-30 Jan, with the maximum count of 900 recorded on the last date.

Kittiwake: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
900	400	300	200	250	160	200	210	62	300	250	1000

The seabird census in late May recorded a total of 151 apparently occupied nests, representing a slight increase over the 148 counted in 2004 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB). While these figures appear mildly encouraging, productivity studies suggest that breeding success remains relatively poor (Nicola Saunders, pers. comm.) and it is too

early to conclude that the long-term decline in Lundy's breeding population of this delightful pelagic gull (once numbered in the thousands) has bottomed out.

Colour-ring sighting: A Kittiwake bearing a green colour-ring, inscribed 'AV' in white lettering, nested in the colony below Threequarter Wall Buttress in 2007 and 2008. Information available at the time of writing suggests it was ringed at Hjelmsøya, near North Cape, Norway, on 2 Jul 2004.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]

Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.

A single bird was seen on 23 Jul. One on 13 Oct was followed by six the next day, with a further five single birds on 9, 10, 17, 18 & 21 Nov.

Common Gull *Larus canus* [Mew Gull]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly September to April.

A 1st-summer bird was seen on 8 & 11 May, with further singles present on 12 & 19 Oct.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common breeding species and passage migrant; uncommon in winter.

The seabird census in late May recorded 263 apparently occupied territories, on the face of it a significant drop of 41% since 2004, though Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls received less intensive coverage during the 2008 survey due to poor weather, which meant the census team had to concentrate its limited resources on covering the main target species, such as auks and Kittiwake (David Price *et al.*/RSPB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	34	100	200	200	(25)	nc	15	6	6	4	1

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common breeding species; present all year but fewer in winter.

The seabird census in late May recorded 534 apparently occupied territories, an apparent reduction of 25% since 2004, but see the comment under Lesser Black-backed Gull regarding weather-related differences in coverage between 2004 and 2008 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB).

Herring Gull: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
300	240	500	300	200	100	nc	50	10	50	70	500

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Breeds; present in all months, but fewer in winter.

The seabird census in late May recorded 57 pairs, virtually unchanged from the 58 pairs counted in 2004 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB). Most of Lundy's breeding birds leave the island during winter, so the counts of 100 in Jan and Feb may represent hard weather influxes.

Great Black-backed Gull: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100	100	50	25	40	[10]	nc	[12]	30	58	37	64

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Lundy vagrant.

Although not seen from the island, two were watched from the MS *Oldenburg* as they fed with Common Terns about a kilometre east of Lundy on 30 Aug (N. Croton, A.M. & R.J. Taylor).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon migrant, April to October.

At least 50 were seen from MS *Oldenburg* during the crossing from Ilfracombe, including a group of 20 feeding just east of Lundy, together with two Black Terns on 30 Aug. (N. Croton, A.M. & R.J. Taylor). Also seen on the return crossing on 6 Sep. Tony Taylor writes: "*Both [on 30 Aug & 6 Sep] flocks gathered close to the boat and then wheeled upwards and away, bunched together tightly. I reckoned in retrospect, given their direction etc, that they were using the hot air from the funnel and engine room to gain height.*"

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Rare autumn migrant; only one definite spring record prior to 2008.

Two flying north were seen from the MS *Oldenburg* just as the boat was entering the Landing Bay on 22 Apr (C. McShane). This record has been accepted by the Devon County Recorder and constitutes only the second spring record for Lundy.

Guillemot *Uria aalge* [Common Murre]

Common breeder, but in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from Aug to Oct, then occasional sightings to Jan.

The seabird census in late May recorded 3,302 individuals, representing a substantial increase of 42% since 2004 and the highest level since the current survey began in 1981 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB).

Guillemot: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
300	200	500	500	800	600	300	0	0	58	650	915

Colour-ring sighting: 14 May – an individual seen at St Philip's Stone bearing a metal ring on its right leg and a blue darvic ring with white lettering '74A' on its left leg had been ringed as a chick on the small Swedish island of Stora Karlsö (in the Baltic Sea a few kilometres off south-west Gotland) in Jul 2002. While unusual, this movement is by no means unprecedented. The *BTO Migration Atlas* (Wernham *et al.*, 2002) reports

69 foreign-ringed Guillemots recovered in Britain, including a chick ringed in the Baltic that later bred on Skomer (off mainland Pembrokeshire)

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeder, though in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between Aug and Feb.

The seabird census in late May recorded 1,045 individuals, representing an increase of 24% since 2004 and the highest level since the current survey began in 1981 (David Price *et al.*/RSPB).

Razorbill: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2	25	50	200	300	200	100	0	4	48	60	50	

Puffin *Fratercula arctica* [Atlantic Puffin]

Uncommon breeding species; formerly bred in large numbers; very rare between mid-Aug and early Apr.

The first of the year was on 8 Apr, when one was seen on the water near St Philip's Stone. The highest daily count of 16 individuals occurred on both 4 and 29 Jun.

Puffin: maximum count for each month (as recorded in the LFS Logbook)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	0	0	5	11	16	13	4	0	0	0	0	

Most records came from St Philip's Stone and Jenny's Cove (see below for details of breeding) but birds, either singly or in small groups, were seen on the water in several other areas, including the South End, Pilot's Quay, North East Point and Gannets' Bay. It is likely that some of these groups included both breeding and non-breeding birds. As there was no simultaneous census of all sites, it is not possible to estimate with any accuracy the total numbers involved. While Saunders & Wheatley (see their paper in this *Annual Report*) suggest a maximum population of 40 (including both breeders and non-breeders), they recognise that this might well be an overestimate.

There were five active burrows during the breeding season at St Philip's Stone and birds were also seen at burrows at two sites in Jenny's Cove – the first time that Puffins have been seen ashore here since 2000, when a pair was observed mating. Chicks were seen at two of the burrows at St Philip's Stone – proof of breeding success here for the second year running – and adults were seen carrying fish into two of the other burrows at this site. An adult was seen carrying food at Jenny's Cove on 7 Jul but it is not known whether any breeding attempt here was successful. The last sighting of the season was of four on 1 Aug.

Grant Sherman captured digital video images of one of the chicks at St Philips Stone and these can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHNobZABcf4.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers.

Feral Pigeon: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	2	1	6	10	2	3	9	2	0	0
0	0	1	1	14	18	1	2	11	3	0	0

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

Three records of single birds, on 14 Jan, 23 Feb and 17 Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* [Common Wood Pigeon]

Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; sporadic in winter.

Woodpigeon: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	4	4	5	5	2	3	2	151	1	0
0	0	6	12	20	9	2	4	8	2	1	0

Song was heard from Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse in mid-May but there was no proof of breeding. The count of 151 on 31 Oct is the second highest recorded on Lundy (after 400 on 1 Nov 1975).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* [Eurasian Collared Dove]

Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has bred; has overwintered.

The first record of the year was of two on 7 May. Thereafter, seen regularly until 12 Jun, with peak counts of 14 on 16 & 17 May and 1 Jun. Following one on 12 Jun, there were no further records until a single bird was seen daily from 18-22 Oct – the only autumn occurrence. Song was heard in Millcombe and in the village in mid-May but there was no evidence of breeding.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* [European Turtle Dove]

Increasingly scarce migrant, still regular in spring but rare in autumn.

In line with this species' poor showing in recent years, the maximum daily count did not exceed one during spring passage. Following the first of the year, which was ringed on 27 Apr, there were ten records of single birds on ten dates between 5 & 20 May inclusive, with further individuals on 1 & 7 Jun. There were no autumn records.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* [Common Cuckoo]

Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding not confirmed between 2000 and 2007.

The first of the year was one on 26 & 27 Apr, with further singles on 14, 16, 17, 22 & 23 May and 4 Jun. Two were seen being mobbed by Meadow Pipits on 1 Jun. A juvenile was seen on 8 Aug – the first confirmation of breeding since 1999.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Lundy vagrant.

One was trapped and ringed in Milcombe on 28 Oct (R.A. Duncan *et al.*). There have been 19 previous records, most recently in May and Oct 2007. The majority, like this year's bird, have occurred in late autumn.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

One near Pondsbury on 22 Jan. One probable seen in South West Field and Tent Field on 23 & 29 Nov. Other 'possible' sightings were recorded on 7 Sep and 2 & 5 Nov.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* [European Nightjar]

Lundy vagrant; formerly more frequent and may have bred.

17 May – one disturbed from its roost on a rock among rhododendrons along the Lower East Side Path, just south of the Terrace, during the late morning, quickly flew out of sight. It was seen briefly in flight over rhododendrons in the same general area at dusk on the same day, having perhaps been attracted to Nightjar song and calls being played from a notebook computer (J.R. Diamond, T.A. Jones).

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]

Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

The first spring migrants were four on the typical date of 26 Apr. The highest count during spring passage was 75 on 19 May. In Jun the maximum was just 12 on 8th and 24th, while in Jul there were records on only three days, with a peak of two on 26th, no doubt reflecting the dismal weather. Fifty on 7 Aug was more respectable. The final sighting of the year was one on 13 Sep.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* [Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-year bird around the walls of the Tillage Field and later in the village area on 31 Aug was trapped and ringed (N. Croton, A.M. & R.J Taylor *et al.*). A second bird was in Millcombe on 13, 14 & 17 Sep (A. Williams).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Lundy vagrant.

A juvenile was seen along Quarter Wall on the evening of 25 Jul and along the wall dividing St Helen's and Tillage Fields on the afternoon of 26th. On 27 Jul a juvenile that appeared to have a broken wing was seen on the Upper East Side Path – the remains of a Great Spotted Woodpecker, thought to have been a juvenile, were found there on 31 Jul. Surprisingly, a second juvenile was seen at various locations along the East Side on five dates between 4 & 11 Aug, followed by the same or another juvenile on four dates between 20 & 26 Sep. The Jul sightings were the first for Lundy in that month. 2008 makes a run of five consecutive years, from 2004 onwards, in which Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been seen on the island. Assuming a minimum of two individuals in 2008, these constitute the 16th and 17th records overall.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* [Greater Short-toed Lark]*Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.*

One along the main track at the North End, between John O'Groats and the head of Gannets' Combe on 19 May (T.J. Davis, J.R. Diamond, T.A. Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC – the 17th occurrence on Lundy.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis* [Sky Lark]*Common breeder; common spring and autumn migrant; sporadic in winter with influxes during exceptionally cold weather.*

Under-recorded during the breeding season, with no estimate of number or nesting pairs. A nest with two chicks was found south of Old Light on 30 May.

Skylark: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	10	60	20	20	[5]	nc	6	15	20	7	0
4	10	16	17	21	22	5	7	16	26	2	0

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia**Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.*

The first spring migrant arrived on 14 Mar. Passage peaked at 1,000 on 16 Apr – the highest spring count on record – with 500 on 26th. Following a cool, wet summer, autumn passage was sparse, with a maximum of 160 on 7 Sep. The last sighting of the year was one on 12 Oct.

Sand Martin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	5	1,000	12	0	8	1	160	2	0	0
0	0	5	18	7	0	1	1	20	2	0	0

Swallow *Hirundo rustica* [Barn Swallow]*Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in very small numbers from time to time.*

The first spring migrant was logged on 16 Mar, with a further seven on 19 Mar, then seen daily from 26th to the end of the month. Recorded on most dates from 6 Apr to early Jul. Spring passage reached a peak of 5,000 on 26 Apr (equalling the second-highest one-day total on record – 6,000 were estimated on 26 Apr 2005), with 3,000 on 16 & 27 Apr and 20 May. Counts exceeded 1,000 on seven other dates in Apr and May. Autumn passage peaked at 3,000 on 18 Sep, the only other four-figure count being 1,000 on 12 Oct. The last birds of the year were four on 13 Nov.

Swallow: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	20	5,000	3,000	20	12	60	3,000	1,000	6	0
0	0	8	20	24	19	5	14	26	29	6	0

Prospecting birds were seen around the Church porch and Pig's Paradise on 19 May, and again in the Church Porch and at the gas store in Lower Millcombe in early Jun.

Nests were built in the gas store, the Church porch and fire-engine shed, with fledged young around the village on 26 Jul. A nest with very small young, presumably a second brood, was in the fire-engine shed on 31 Aug, and four young fledged from the Church porch in the first week of Sep, also a probable second brood.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum* [Common House Martin]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional during summer and has bred.

The first of the year was seen on 11 Apr, with spring migration peaking between 16 May (260) and 20 May (3,600 – the previous highest daily count was 1,500 on 13 May 2004). One was seen collecting mud outside the Black Shed on 16 May and two were apparently prospecting under eaves by the Tavern, as well as Old House and the Barn, on 3 Jun, but there was no evidence of breeding. Autumn migration was very poor with a maximum of just 100 on 8 Oct. The last sighting of the year was of two on 6 Nov.

House Martin: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	0	0	25	3,600	12	1	8	40	100	6	0	
0	0	0	9	20	18	1	3	15	12	4	0	

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

Singles calling in flight were seen and heard over the East Side on 13 Oct (R.M. Patient) and at the Castle on 15 Oct (S.L. Cooper). The same or another bird was seen near the Airfield, then flying south, on 18 Oct (C.A. Holt *et al.*). Finally, one was seen in the Lighthouse Field and campsite on 30 Oct (A. Jayne, J. Smith). Based on these records, at least two and as many as four individuals were involved (it is not uncommon for Richard's Pipits to overfly the island or stop off for only a few minutes, whilst other individuals may remain for several days). Records accepted by DBRC.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

One was seen near North Light from 14-17 Sep (A. Williams). This record, accepted by DBRC, constitutes the 11th for Lundy and the first since Sep 2003.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

First recorded in spring on 23 Apr. The maximum count in spring was just two on 25 & 26 Apr. Autumn movements were recorded between 31 Aug and 9 Oct, with a maximum of 14 on 14 Sep.

Tree Pipit: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	0	0	2	1	0	0	6	14	1	0	0	
0	0	0	7	4	0	0	1	12	1	0	0	

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeds; common passage migrant in spring and autumn; scarce or absent in winter.

During spring passage the maximum count of 200 was logged on 5, 6 & 16 Mar. Autumn movements peaked in late Sep and the first half of Oct, with a maximum of 400 on 17 Oct.

Meadow Pipit: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	6	200	50	50	30	nc	40	250	400	25	6

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

One, calling in flight, was seen and heard over the Upper East Side Path and Brick Field on 22 Oct (T.J. Davis, T.A. Jones). This constitutes the seventh Lundy record and the first since 1997. This record has been accepted by DBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* [Eurasian Rock Pipit]

Common breeding resident; extent of migratory or dispersive movements involving Lundy unknown.

Under-recorded as usual. An adult was seen feeding recently fledged young in the Landing Bay on 26 Jul.

Rock Pipit: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	4	2	1	3	6	0	1	5	11	2	2

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Uncommon spring migrant; common early autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional in summer. Formerly more numerous, particularly in autumn.

A very poor spring passage with only four records between 27 Apr and 18 May. On 27 Apr a male of the nominate subspecies, 'Blue-headed Wagtail' *M. f. flava*, was seen in St Helen's Field (R. Doble *et al.*). A slightly better showing in autumn – recorded between 30 Aug and 17 Oct, with a maximum of four on 4 Sep.

Yellow Wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	0	1*	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	–
–	–	0	1	3	0	0	2	12	1	0	–

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional summer records; rare in winter.

After two on 15 Jan, a negligible spring passage. More numerous, as usual, in autumn between 11 Sep and 27 Oct, with a maximum of 11 on 14 Sep.

Grey Wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	0	0
1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	0	0

Pied / White Wagtail *Motacilla a. yarrellii* / *M. a. alba* [White Wagtail]

Pied Wagtails nest most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant, but rare in midwinter. White Wagtails occur annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

In mid-May a pair was present around Quarter Wall Cottages (the male was seen carrying either food or nest material) and a second pair was prospecting around Lower Millcombe, with perhaps another pair in the village. A pair was nesting at Castle Cottage in early Jun. Recently fledged young were seen feeding – and being fed – on the old tennis court lawn below Old House South on 25 Jun, and a pair were collecting food and flying to a nest hole in the beer garden on 26 Jul.

Pied / White Wagtail: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	6	8	10	6	5	7	24	15	2	0

'White' Wagtails *M. a. alba* were recorded on 7 Mar (1), 27 Apr (2), 14 May (3), 17 & 18 May (1), 16 Sep (4), 18 Sep (2), 29 Sep (1) and 12 Oct (1).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* [Winter Wren]

Common breeding resident.

Forty-six singing males (two more than the previous high of 44 territory-holding males in 2004) were recorded during an all-island count by James Diamond during mid-May. Breeding success under-recorded; a pair carrying food to fledglings in St John's Valley on 16 Jun was the only such report. A new record was also set in autumn with an all-island count, again by James, of 75 on 22 Oct.

Wren: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	7	4	5	46	4	1	6	30	75	23	5

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common breeding resident in apparently declining numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn.

A maximum of four singing males in mid-May; on the Terrace, in rhododendrons just south of Quarter Wall Copse, in Millcombe and along the Beach Road below Hanmers.

Dunnock: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	2	2	4	3	0	1	2	6	3	1

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* [European Robin]

Common breeding resident present in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant in small numbers.

Four singing males were recorded in mid-May: on the Terrace, in Millcombe (two) and in rhododendron just north of Quarter Wall Copse. A juvenile was seen in Millcombe on 26 Jul. Autumn maxima were 23 on 27 Sep, rising to 32 on 14 Oct.

Robin: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	8	4	4	3	1	4	23	32	13	5

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica**Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.*

A probable juvenile of undetermined race was found skulking in rushes around Pondsbury on 28 Sep (E. Davis, B. Heasman, I. Lakin *et al.*) and what was presumably the same bird was seen at Quarter Wall on 1 Oct (E. Davis). Record accepted by DBRC – the ninth occurrence on Lundy and the first in autumn since 1964. More recent sightings have all been in May, including the last in 2004.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros**Common late-autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.*

First and last in spring: one on 16 Mar and one on 10 May. The first autumn occurrence was one on 11 Oct, thereafter seen on 11 further dates to 13 Nov, with a maximum of two on 12 Nov. In Dec one was seen on four dates between 24th and 28th.

Black Redstart: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	8	4	4

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* [Common Redstart]*Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring records were of singles only, on five dates between 20 Apr and 13 May. In autumn seen on six dates only from 31 Aug to 11 Oct, with a maximum of three on 13 Sep.

Redstart: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	4	1	0	0

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra**Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn; occasional records in midsummer.*

In spring, first seen on 9 May, with a maximum of three on 17th; last on 20 May. In autumn recorded between 4 Aug and 16 Oct, with a maximum of six on 27 Sep.

Whinchat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	6	3	0	0
0	0	0	0	8	0	0	2	10	9	0	0

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* [Eurasian Stonechat]

Breeds occasionally; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; irregular in winter.

The highest count in spring was 20 on 16 Mar (the highest ever for the month after 14 on 16 Mar 2006). In autumn 16 were present on 26 Sep, with 12 on 11 Oct.

Stonechat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	20	2	1	4	0	4	16	12	5	2
1	4	13	5	2	4	0	2	8	29	13	15

A male was seen carrying food on the west sidelands between Old Light and Battery Point, 15 & 17 May, and an adult and juvenile were seen on 19 Jun.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* [Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first arrival in spring was one on 13 Mar, with eight on 18th & 25th. In Apr there were 40 on 27th and 50 on 28th, with 40 also on 2 May. Autumn passage peaked in Sep with 35 on 18th. The last record of the year was of five on 14 Oct.

Wheatear: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	8	50	40	20	12	20	35	10	0	0

About 20 singing males were holding territory in mid-May. A male was feeding a fledgling at North Light on 6 Jun, and a juvenile was seen near the stile above Benjamin's Chair on 7 Jun.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

The first spring bird was a male on 6 Apr, with singles on a further seven dates in Apr, the last on 30th, and two (male & female) on 27th. None thereafter until autumn when just one was seen, on 19 Oct, constituting an extremely poor showing for this species.

Ring Ouzel: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Blackbird *Turdus merula* [Common Blackbird]

Common breeding resident; irregular spring migrant and common late-autumn migrant; occasional winter influxes during hard weather.

In spring, none was recorded carrying food or visiting a nest site and there was very little song in May apart from one sub-singing male in Millcombe and one singing on the Terrace. Two females in Millcombe showed no signs of breeding behaviour. Nevertheless, an adult male was seen carrying food in Millcombe on 5 Jun. Peak counts during autumn migration were 70 on 31 Oct, 40 on 1 & 2 Nov, followed by 50 on 6 & 7 Nov.

Blackbird: maximum count for each month												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
3	3	4	5	7	2	3	1	6	70	50	7	

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common migrant in early spring and, especially, late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.

Only seen on two days early in the year, with a maximum of 24 on 11 Mar. The first in autumn was a single bird on 13 Oct, with movements peaking at 27 on 28th. The last sighting of the year was of three on 26 Nov.

Fieldfare: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	1	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	12	0	
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	12	0	

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Resident in small numbers, breeding in most years; common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather.

In mid-May one was seen daily in Millcombe but there was no sign of breeding. However, an adult was carrying food in Millcombe on 2 Jun and feeding a fledgling there on 5 Jun. One was heard singing on the Terrace on 17 May. Autumn passage peak counts were 30 on 31 Oct, followed by 20 on 1 Nov. Thereafter no count exceeded four, dropping to two by the year's end.

Song Thrush: maximum count for each month												
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
0	1	1	1	2	2	0	2	6	30	20	2	

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.

Seen on only three dates early in the year, with a maximum of six on 11 Mar. In autumn recorded between 25 Sep and 28 Dec. Migration peaked from 28 Oct to 7 Nov with counts of 285 on 28 Oct and 200 on 6 Nov. There were counts of more than 100 on six days altogether. A small movement of 50 birds passed through on 25 Nov, with smaller numbers in Dec.

Redwing: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	285	200	5
0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	23	17	4

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant; rare summer and winter visitor.

Not recorded until 28 Oct when two were present. Thereafter singles on 29 Oct and 12 Nov.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* [Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

Spring records started with one on 24 Apr, peaking at seven on 27 Apr and the last a single on 8 May. In autumn recorded in Sep only, between 16th and 29th, with a maximum of three on 27th.

Grasshopper Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	5	0	0	0

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring.

The first in spring was one on 23 Apr, with peak counts of ten on 24 & 27 Apr, 20 on 2 May, ten on 16 May and 15 on 17 May. Single territory-holding males were singing in St John's Valley in mid-May and at Pondsbyrly in Jun, but there was no evidence of breeding. While five birds seen on 26 Jul were clearly migrants, alongside a substantial fall of Willow Warblers, there was very little recorded evidence of autumn passage, with no sightings at all in the logbook for Aug and records on just four days in Sep, the last for the year being two on 17 Sep.

Sedge Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	10	20	2	5	0	2	0	0	0
0	0	0	8	17	7	1	0	4	0	0	0

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

British vagrant. Breeds eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia and China; winters South Asia. 63 British records to the end of 2006.

One was watched at close range along the East Side, just north of St Helen's Combe on 29 Oct (J. Smith, A. Jayne, R.A. Duncan, T. Palmer, R.J. Taylor). An excellent set of photographs and video clips was taken and the bird was trapped and ringed, when it was aged as an adult. Record accepted by BBRC – the first for Lundy and Devon.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* [Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Recorded in spring on nine dates between 25 Apr and 17 May. All records involved single birds, except for two on 27 Apr and 2 & 9 May. Autumn passage involved sightings on six dates from 13-28 Sep, mainly of single birds except for two on 27th & 28th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

A first- winter bird was watched in bracken along the East Side on 15 & 16 Sep, then in Millcombe on 19th & 20th (A. Williams). Record accepted by DBRC – the first for Lundy since Sep 2005.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* [Eurasian Blackcap]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter.

A male seen outside Quarters/Pig's Paradise on 1 Jan was presumably the same individual as that seen in Dec 2007. One was present on 18 Mar but the main spring arrival occurred, as usual, in Apr. Four were seen on 6 Apr, with movements gathering pace late in the month when 50 were recorded on 24th, 26th and 27th. The peak spring count was of 100 on 2 May. A female controlled on 25 Apr had been ringed in southernmost Spain on 6 Nov 2007 near San Roque, Cádiz, Andalucía. The last of three Jun sightings was on 21st and there were no records at all in Jul or Aug. Following the first migrant of autumn – a single bird on 2 Sep – Blackcaps were seen virtually daily until the end of Oct, with the highest counts being 50 on 16 Sep, 36 the following day and 28 on 13 Oct. The last record of the year was of one on 16 Nov.

Blackcap: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	1	50	100	1	0	0	50	28	1	0
1	0	1	16	14	3	0	0	24	29	3	0

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.

Spring passage migrants were recorded on 15 dates between 22 Apr and 22 May, with a maximum of 20 on 2 May coinciding with a large arrival of Blackcaps, Whitethroats, Sedge Warblers, Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs. During autumn migration there were records on 23 dates between 8 Sep and 27 Oct, with a maximum of five on 17 Oct.

Garden Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	20	0	0	0	4	5	0	0
0	0	0	5	10	0	0	0	14	9	0	0

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; one recent breeding record.

In spring, ones and twos recorded on ten dates from 22 Apr to 22 May. In autumn there were reports of singles on three days only, between 14 and 17 Oct, very possibly all relating to the same bird.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* [Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; formerly bred in small numbers

Numbers were modest in spring, with records on 20 dates from 20 Apr to 20 May and the maximum being just 20 on 30 Apr, 2 May and 17 May. A very poor autumn passage with records in Sep only, between 2nd and 27th, with a maximum of five on 13th and 16th.

Whitethroat: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
0	0	0	8	12	0	0	0	14	0	0	0

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Lundy vagrant.

A male in St John's Valley on 22 Apr constitutes the seventh record for Lundy (the last was in Oct 2005) and the third in spring (the others were in Mar 1963 and Apr 1988).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

Another very good year for this beautiful leaf-warbler that breeds across Siberia and migrates to winter mainly in south-east Asia. Recorded on 14 days between 28 Sep and 29 Oct, with a maximum of at least five and probably up to eight present on 17 Oct. Nine different birds were trapped and ringed during the autumn and it is likely that at least 20 different individuals passed through the island. As usual, most were seen in Millcombe/St John's Valley, but others were near Gannets' Combe, along the Terrace/Quarries and in St Helen's Combe. These records, contributed by many observers, have been accepted by DBRC.

Information for observers: From 2009, DBRC no longer requires fully detailed descriptions of Yellow-browed Warblers seen in Sep or Oct. However, supporting notes must still be sufficient to show that possible confusion with other *Phylloscopus* species has been ruled out. DBRC also continues to require full descriptions for Yellow-browed Warblers reported from Nov to Aug, inclusive. It will help the Bird Report editors in preparing summaries for future *LFS Annual Reports*, and in liaising with DBRC, if all observers would be disciplined in entering brief notes in the LFS Logbook whenever Yellow-browed Warblers are reported. These should cover: date, location, number of birds present, name(s) of observer(s), a contact email address/phone number and a few lines to show that potential 'confusion species' have been eliminated.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; declining.

The first of the spring was a single bird on 2 May. Thereafter seen on a further four dates up to 17 May, with two present on 3rd and 17th. One was reported on the unusual date of 1 Jul, and while no details were provided in the logbook and the species itself is not rare on Lundy, this would constitute the earliest 'autumn' sighting by more than a fortnight. The only subsequent record was of one on 14 Sep.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; breeds sporadically.

The first spring record was of one on 15 Mar, followed by a high count of 50 the following day. Fifty were also recorded on 8 Apr, with 30 on 27 Apr and 20 on 2 & 5 May. After 8 May only single-digit counts were logged and though song was heard in Millcombe daily in late May and early Jun, there was no evidence of breeding and no reported occurrences after 18 Jun until one on 30 Aug marked the start of autumn passage. Migration continued through Sep and Oct, with maximum counts of 32 on 16 Sep and 47 on 17 Sep. There were two Nov records of one on 11th and two on 18th, followed by daily sightings of a single bird from 22-24 Dec.

Chiffchaff: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	50	50	20	5	0	1	47	15	2	1
0	0	9	16	18	10	0	2	20	30	2	3

Single birds showing characteristics of the Fennoscandian race *P. c. abietinus* were seen in Gannets' Combe on 12 Oct (A.L. Cooper) and along the East Side between Quarter Wall Copse and St Helen's Copse from 19 to 21 Oct (C.A. Holt *et al.*), with at least two birds present in the same area from 22-24 Oct (T. Bedford *et al.*). One showing characteristics of the Siberian race *P. c. tristis* was also seen along the East Side on 21 & 22 Oct (C.A. Holt, K. Rylands *et al.*). Details of the latter bird have been submitted to BBRC, which is conducting a review of the status of *P. c. tristis* in Britain.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus*

Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; has bred.

Spring migration commenced with three on 6 Apr and extended well into May, with peak counts of 400 on 27 Apr, 250 on 30 Apr and 200 on 1 May. Singing males were apparently holding territory along the Terrace, at Quarter Wall Copse, and in Millcombe in mid-May where song continued to be heard until 12 Jun (when two to

three singing males were present) and one was heard calling on 16 Jun. There was no evidence of breeding, however. A count of 200, mostly young birds, on 26 Jul represented an early start to return movements and this turned out to be the maximum count for the autumn, with the next highest being 30 on 3 Aug, 20 on 31 Aug and 20 on 7 Sep. The last record of the year was of a single bird on 7 Nov.

Willow Warbler: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	400	200	1	200	30	20	1	2	0
0	0	0	18	15	5	1	6	19	4	2	0

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.

A light spring passage saw scattered records between 14 Mar and 18 May, with a maximum of eight on 4 Apr. Nigel Dalby reported one in the shop on 31 Mar! Autumn movements began with two birds on 31 Aug and Goldcrests were seen almost daily during Sep, Oct and the first half of Nov, with peak counts of 110 on 8 Sep, 100 on 29 Sep, 200 on 16 Oct, 500 on 17 Oct, 140 on 28 Oct and 126 on 29th. The last sighting of the year was of one on 18 Nov.

Goldcrest: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	4	8	3	0	0	2	110	500	12	0
0	0	5	15	11	0	0	2	26	31	11	0

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.

In spring, singles on 15 Mar and 14 Apr only. Autumn passage commenced with one on 4 Sep. Thereafter regular sightings from 14 Sep to the end of Oct, with records on 32 dates. Peak counts were of four on 28 Sep and 1, 13 & 15 Oct, and five on 12 Oct. There was one Nov sighting, a single bird on 12th. Finally, one to two birds were present from 22-24 Dec.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.

The first spring migrant was recorded on 26 Apr (one), with a peak of 45 on 17 May. The last sighting was on 10 Jun. There were no records between 10 Jun and the end of Jul, so it is thought unlikely that breeding took place. The first returning migrants were two on 26 Jul, followed by small numbers in early Aug. Thereafter movements were recorded between 30 Aug and 17 Oct, with maximum counts of ten on 31 Aug and 8 Sep, and 17 on 16 Sep. The last of the year was a single bird on 17 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	45	2	2	10	17	2	0	0
0	0	0	4	17	5	1	5	21	7	0	0

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* [Eurasian Pied Flycatcher]

Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; occasional records in midsummer.

There were two records in Apr, both of single males, on 20th and 24th. These were followed by sightings on three dates in May, with a maximum of three on the last spring date of 9 May. There were no further reports until one on 30 Aug, followed by records on 24 dates up to and including 15 Oct. Peak counts were of 7 on 31 Aug, ten from 13-15 Sep, 15 on 16 Sep and 12 on 17 Sep.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* [Long-tailed Bushtit]

Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; two previous winter records.

Eight arrived on 12 Nov, with sightings on a further six days up to and including 19 Nov, involving from three to seven individuals. In Dec, three were seen on 24th and two on 27th. At least two remained into 2009, the first time the species has overwintered on Lundy, though there have been two previous one-day mid-winter records, in Dec 1995 and Jan 1984.

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater*

Uncommon autumn migrant; very rare spring migrant; occasional in winter.

One was seen on 17 Oct, joined by a second bird on 18th & 19th, with a final sighting of a single bird on 21st. All records were from either Millcombe or Quarter Wall Copse.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* [Eurasian Treecreeper]

Uncommon late summer and autumn visitor; very rare outside this period.

One was recorded on 14, 15 & 27 Sep – very possibly involving a single individual.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* [Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

28 Apr to 5 May – one seen in Millcombe on the evening of 28 Apr was caught and ringed the following day when it was found to be an immature male (C. McShane *et al.*). It was retrapped on 2 May and (presumably the same bird) was still present on 5 May (J. Horton, P. Simpson). Between initial capture and retrapping, the bird's weight increased from a poor 54 g to a rather more healthy 64 g. A photograph of the bird in the hand is included in the 2008 LFS Logbook – record accepted by DBRC. An immature male was also seen in Millcombe on 22 May (M. Shakespeare) record accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* [Western Jackdaw]

Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.

One spring record of a single bird feeding in the Tillage Field on 23 Apr. A small corvid being chased by two Carrion Crows near the lambing shed on 2 Nov was thought possibly to have been a Jackdaw.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone**Breeds; present throughout the year.*

The highest count of the year was 57 on 28 Feb. There were at least three active nests in mid-May: in Millcombe, at Quarter Wall Copse and in the small copse below Hammers. Young were calling loudly from the nest in Quarter Wall Copse. Other territorial pairs were seen right around the island perimeter and a flock of 15 to 20 non-breeders were loafing around the Airfield.

Carrion Crow: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	57	45	25	38	26	13	15	50	54	42	40

Raven *Corvus corax* [Northern Raven]*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

Four pairs of adults were seen in mid-May, but no young were recorded.

Raven: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	5	5	4	9	4	nc	8	10	9	7	10

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* [Common Starling]*Resident; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant, often in large numbers*

The spring maximum of 130 was on 6 Mar; autumn maximum of 470 on 30 Oct. About ten active nests were found in mid-May: six by the farm buildings/Barton Cottages with others at the Laundry, Black Shed, Church and Old Light. Juveniles were seen on 26 Jul, indicating successful breeding.

Starling: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	45	130	30	15	25	25	35	50	470	400	200

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus**Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; possible immigration obscured by resident population.*

The first chicks of the year fledged from a nestbox in the lambing shed on 16 May; to have four chicks surviving to fledging this early in the season was an unusual occurrence. The adult population was estimated to be between 80 and 100 individuals at most, with definite records of at least 44 different individuals (Ian Cleasby). A female was still feeding fledglings on 5 Sep.

House Sparrow: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	12	22	15	20	15	nc	20	30	33	28	15

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs**Resident, breeding annually in small numbers. Common, at times abundant, on autumn passage; noticeable spring passage rarely recorded; winter influxes in some years.*

A female with nesting material was seen in the pine trees in upper Millcombe in mid-May, with four singing males in Millcombe (two), Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace. Fledged young were seen in Millcombe and on the Terrace between 31 May

and 3 Jun. A fledgling was being fed in Millcombe on 5 Jun, and there was a nest with young in rhododendrons near Quarter Wall Copse on 9 Jun. Autumn migration started slowly with up to 20 daily during the second half of Sep, rising to 40 in early Oct, then 100 on 13th. Passage peaked from 17th when 1,000 were recorded, followed by 700 on 21st & 22nd, 1,500 on 23rd, 3,000 on 24th and the highest count of the year – 5,000 – on 25th. Then between 100 and 200 birds on most days until 150 on 2 Nov. Thereafter no more than 50 for the remainder of the month, leaving the resident population in Dec.

Chaffinch: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	25	25	5	10	5	6	3	20	5,000	187	10

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon spring migrant; annual autumn migrant in variable numbers; occasional in winter.

Two (male & female) on 18 Mar, feeding with Chaffinches in Millcombe, was the only late-winter or spring record. In autumn the first was reported on 9 Oct, with records on a further 12 days to the end of the month and maximum of 20 on 25th. In Nov, recorded on ten dates between 3rd and 26th, with a maximum of just two on three of these dates (19th, 24th and 26th).

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Uncommon spring migrant in small numbers; common autumn migrant; occasional visitor in summer and winter.

One on 16 Mar and two on 4 May were the only late-winter or spring records. In autumn recorded on 13 dates between 8 Oct and 4 Nov, with a maximum of 15 on 25 Oct. At the end of the year, one was seen on 28 Dec.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* [European Goldfinch]

Breeds occasionally; common spring and autumn migrant; irregular in summer and winter.

The highest count during spring passage was 24 on 27 Apr. A singing male was heard in Millcombe in mid-May and up to three birds were present in Jun, but there was no evidence of breeding. The highest count during autumn passage was 103 on 5 Oct.

Goldfinch: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	6	6	24	13	4	0	0	95	103	40	2
8	6	6	15	19	12	0	0	8	31	13	2

Siskin *Carduelis spinus* [Eurasian Siskin]

Late autumn migrant in greatly varying numbers; very rare in spring.

The first record for the year was not until May, a single bird on 5th, followed by further singles on 7th & 8th, rising to three on 9th. There were no further records until autumn migration, when Siskins were seen between 4 Sep and 1 Nov. Peak passage occurred during the second half of Oct with 100 on 24th and 150 on 25th.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* [Common Linnet]

Common breeder; irregular spring and autumn migrant; more numerous in autumn; occasional in winter.

The only sighting prior to the commencement of spring passage in Apr was of 15 on 20 Feb. The highest spring count was 64 on 24 Apr, many of these residents apparently holding territories. Family parties of recently fledged young – some still being fed – were seen in St John's Valley and elsewhere on 26 Jul. The autumn maximum of 300 occurred on 17 Sep. None was seen after 3 Nov.

Linnet: maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	15	0	64	50	30	50	100	300	50	6	0

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers, but more frequent than formerly; rare in winter.

There were records on 12 dates in spring, between 26 Apr and 1 Jun, with a maximum of eight on 6 & 9 May, equalling the previous highest spring count for the island. During autumn migration there were sightings on 21 dates from 25 Sep to 29 Oct, with the highest counts being 11 on 28 Sep and 14 on 29 Sep – the second-highest daily total recorded on Lundy (the highest was 25 on 9 Oct 1997).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* [Red Crossbill]

Rare summer and autumn migrant, occurring highly irregularly, but in large numbers during 'invasion' years.

Recorded on seven dates in autumn, between 5 Sep and 29 Oct, with a maximum of five on 28 Sep. The first of these was a juvenile that flew down the East Side calling before landing in pines on the southern side of Millcombe. It flew out from the island several times, but returned on each occasion, at one point perching on the ridge of the Church roof! (Tony Taylor, pers. comm.)

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Nationally scarce migrant and Devon rarity.

A first-summer male was seen in Millcombe close to Government House on 9 Jun and between Brambles and Millcombe House on 10th, when it was also heard singing (A. Jayne). This is the first spring record for Lundy since 4 Jun 1999, when one was singing in Millcombe. In autumn one was seen regularly in the Millcombe and St John's area from 26 Sep to 4 Oct (R. Campey, B. Heasman, I. Lakin *et al.*) and another was seen briefly in Millcombe on 24 Oct (I. Lakin, K. Rylands). Records accepted by DBRC.

Bullfinch *Phyrrula pyrrhula* [Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant; recent evidence of possible breeding; one winter record.

A female seen on 9 May was followed by a single female in lower Millcombe on 6 Oct, with a further sighting of a single bird (sex not specified) on 21 Oct.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant.

A single bird was present from 19-21 Oct in Millcombe and the lower part of St John's Valley, where it was often to be seen on the ground feeding on seed put out by visiting birders.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* [Lapland Longspur]

Uncommon but regular autumn migrant; rare spring migrant; very rare in winter.

The first of the year was recorded on 25 Sep. Thereafter there were occurrences at scattered locations on a further nine dates until 22 Oct. Most records involved single birds, but two were reported on 27 & 28 Sep and 22 Oct (T. Bedford, R.J. Campey, A.L. Cooper *et al.*).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Uncommon but regular autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; rare in midwinter.

As for Lapland Bunting, the only occurrences were during the latter part of the year, with six records between 3 Oct and 7 Dec. There were also two late Dec records, on 24th and 31st. All sightings were of single birds only.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first- winter bird was seen in Millcombe on 16 Sep (A. Williams), the first since Aug 2005. Record accepted by BBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* [Common Reed Bunting]

Regular autumn migrant in very small numbers; rare and increasingly irregular spring migrant; very rare in winter.

In a poor year overall for this species, there were records on just six dates in autumn between 3 Oct and 6 Nov, all involving single birds only. However, one on 6 Feb was the first winter record for many years.

ADDITIONAL 2008 REPORTS OF NATIONAL RARITIES FOR WHICH BBRC DECISIONS PENDING

As of 25 Aug 2009, the following reports of nationally rare species were still being assessed by BBRC:

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

British vagrant. Breeds across central Eurasia, especially Russia, migrating to winter mainly in South Asia. 108 British records to the end of 2006.

One in the rushes around Pondsbury on 28 Sep. Full details have been submitted to BBRC. If accepted this will constitute the first record for Lundy.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

British vagrant. Breeds in south-east Europe and western Asia, wintering in sub-Saharan Africa. 84 British records to the end of 2006.

One watched for about half-an-hour in lower Millcombe on 14 Sep. Full details have been submitted to BBRC. If accepted, this will constitute only the second occurrence on Lundy (the first was on 9 Apr 1976).

ADDITIONAL 2008 REPORTS OF NATIONAL OR DEVON RARITIES ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN

The following reports have been excluded from the Systematic List:

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

An adult male was reported along the Lower East Side Path, just south of the Terrace Trap, on 12 May. Details were submitted to BBRC but the Committee considered the record as not proven. If accepted, this would have been a 'first' for Lundy.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

One was reported from St John's Valley on 27 Sep. A detailed description was entered in the LFS Logbook and a copy of this was submitted to DBRC. However, the Committee considered the record as not proven.

ADDITIONAL 2008 REPORTS OF LUNDY RARITIES LACKING SUPPORTING DETAILS

The following reports have been excluded from the Systematic List:

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* [Eurasian Dotterel]

One reported on 7 Sep. This record is excluded as no supporting information or observer's name and contact details were included in the LFS Logbook.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* [Eurasian Tree Sparrow]

One was reported from Barton Cottages on 3 Aug, but the brief notes entered in the LFS Logbook were insufficient to eliminate possible confusion with House Sparrow.

The Bird Report editors would be delighted to receive further information enabling either of these records to be more fully assessed.