

## BIRD RINGING IN 2008

By

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### INTRODUCTION

Ringling coverage was the most extensive since 2000, with ringers on the island for two and a half weeks in spring and five and a half in autumn. For ten days in early autumn the focus was on Manx Shearwaters but at other times migrants dominated the catches. Despite the increased coverage, the year's total of 2430 birds ringed was unexceptional, with poor weather limiting bird and ringer activity in some weeks.

Migrant species with high totals included Swallow, Meadow Pipit, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Chaffinch. Of these, Blackcap and Willow Warbler were particularly notable. After a series of poor years, Goldcrests bounced back, topping the list with their highest total since 1990. Manx Shearwaters continued their recent rapid increase since the rat eradication programme. Among less common species, Yellow-browed Warblers reached double figures and Lesser Redpolls did even better than in 2007. Throughout Britain, Wood Warblers have been showing very worrying declines recently, so three caught this year, after just four in the previous ten years, are perhaps a hopeful sign. Of the 56 species ringed in 2008, several have only been caught in very small numbers on Lundy previously, including Knot, Turtle Dove, Long-eared Owl, Wryneck, Golden Oriole and Scarlet Rosefinch; and one – Paddyfield Warbler – is a first for Lundy and Devon. A full list of the year's ringling totals is given below.

2008 produced a long and interesting list of recoveries and controls. Three birds showed the value of colour-ringing, with a Peregrine from Cornwall and Guillemot from the Baltic being seen on Lundy, and a Lundy Lesser Black-backed Gull seen in Portugal. Four of the previous autumn's large catch of Siskins were found elsewhere within a few months, three in southern England and one in the Netherlands. Two other birds, ringed in the same week as the Siskins, were also found across the English Channel: a Blackbird in the Netherlands and a Chaffinch in France. The Chaffinch's movement was unusual for one ringed in Britain, as over a thousand have been found abroad but only one has ever been found further south. Among the species that regularly go south for winter, a Spanish-ringed Blackcap reached Lundy and a Sedge Warbler made the opposite journey. A Whitethroat and a Chiffchaff arriving on Lundy in spring seem to have overshot their intended targets, as both were re-caught further south a few days later. Details of all these and other movements are listed below.

## LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2008

Mallard	1	Mistle Thrush	1
Manx Shearwater	114 (72)	Grasshopper Warbler	15
Water Rail	2	Sedge Warbler	65
Knot	1	Paddyfield Warbler *	1
Collared Dove	1	Reed Warbler	9
Turtle Dove	1	Blackcap	255
Long-eared Owl	1	Garden Warbler	28
Wryneck	1	Lesser Whitethroat	11
Sand Martin	1	Whitethroat	49
Swallow	153	Yellow-browed Warbler	10
House Martin	2	Wood Warbler	3
Tree Pipit	1	Chiffchaff	153
Meadow Pipit	105	Willow Warbler	327
Pied Wagtail	2	Goldcrest	528
Wren	23	Firecrest	4
Dunnock	4	Spotted Flycatcher	30
Robin	33	Pied Flycatcher	2
Black Redstart	1	Coal Tit	1
Redstart	1	Golden Oriole	1
Whinchat	2	Starling	6
Stonechat	13	House Sparrow	1
Wheatear	6	Chaffinch	227
Blackbird	12	Brambling	5
Song Thrush	24	Greenfinch	2
Redwing	60	Goldfinch	83

Siskin	10	Scarlet Rosefinch	1
Linnet	23	Bullfinch	1
Lesser Redpoll	12	Reed Bunting	1
		Total	2430

Notes: -

- numbers in brackets are pulli included in main totals
- species marked \* added to the Lundy ringing list for the first time

## LUNDY RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS, 2008

Yellow colour-ring H2 **Peregrine**. Ringed as a chick near Godrevy Head, Cornwall, 28.6.06. Seen on Lundy, 11.4.08. (653 days)

GP95541 (with colour-ring). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**. Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 29.6.95. Seen (metal ring read) at Portimao, Algarve, **Portugal** (37° 08' N, 8° 32' W), on 3.10.08. (4845 days). A similar colour-ringed bird was also seen at Portimao on 25.10.08 but, without the metal ring number having been read, it is possible it was a different individual, ringed on Lundy in the same summer.

Blue colour-ring 74A **Guillemot**. Ringed as a chick on Stora Karlso, Gotland, **Sweden** (57° 17' N, 17° 58' E), 2.7.02. Seen on Lundy, 13.6.08. (2140 days; 1609 km; bearing 255°)

CW21961 **Blackbird**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 21.10.07. Found freshly dead (hit window) at Echt-Susteren, Limburg, **The Netherlands** (51° 5' N, 5° 53' E), 10.6.08. (233 days; 736 km; 91°)

T930767 **Sedge Warbler**. Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 22.4.06. Controlled at Laguna de la Nava, Fuentes de Nava, Palencia, **Spain** (42° 5' N, 4° 45' W), 6.4.08. (715 days; 1010 km; 181°).

ICONA N678134 **Blackcap**. Ringed as a full-grown female at Junta de los Rios, San Roque, Cadiz, **Spain** (36° 14' N, 5° 22' W), 6.11.07. Controlled on Lundy, 25.4.08. (171 days; 1661 km; 2°).

X226113 **Whitethroat**. Ringed as an adult female on Lundy, 7.5.08. Controlled at Lands End, Cornwall, 10.5.08. (3 days; 143 km; 212°).

BCE900 **Chiffchaff**. Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 3.5.08. Controlled at Hartland Point, Devon, 5.5.08. (2 days; 22 km; 151°).

3Z7473 **Willow Warbler**. Ringed as a first year female at Dodding's Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset, 18.8.07. Controlled on Lundy, 2.5.08. (258 days; 179 km; 286°).

BAT291 **Willow Warbler**. Ringed as a first year bird at Gibraltar Point, Skegness, Lincolnshire, 23.8.05. Controlled on Lundy, 5.5.08. (986 days; 402 km; 238°).

CBN108 **Willow Warbler**. Ringed as a first year female at Portland Bill, Dorset, 6.8.07. Controlled on Lundy, 28.4.08. (266 days; 172 km; 295°).

T733340 **Pied Flycatcher**. Ringed as a pullus at Llananno, Powys, 11.6.06. Controlled as an adult male on Lundy, 8.5.08. (697 days; 162 km; 215°).

T949551 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 7.9.07. Found dead (taken by cat) at Okehampton, Devon, 20.4.08. (226 days; 67 km; 137°).

V935134 **Chaffinch**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 26.10.07. Found dead (hit glass) at Le Chene, Saint-Colomban, Loire-Atlantique, **France** (47° 0' N, 1° 34' W), 17.2.08. (114 days; 515 km; 155°).

T949824 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 21.10.07. Controlled at Thetford, Norfolk, 14.4.08. (176 days ; 395 km; 70°).

V487601 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 20.10.07. Controlled at Five Bells, Watchet, Somerset, 26.3.08. (158 days ; 92 km; 91°).

V487662 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year female on Lundy, 20.10.07. Controlled at Bratton, Somerset, 20.2.08. (123 days ; 81 km; 88°).

V935175 **Siskin**. Ringed as a first year male on Lundy, 27.10.07. Found dead (hit window) at Tielekenshoeven, Rosmalen, Noord-Brabant, **Netherlands**, 29.1.08. (94 days; 698 km; 86°)