

BIRD RINGING IN 2010

by

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After 2009's exceptional ringing coverage and numbers of birds ringed, 2010 saw a return to more normal levels. The most remarkable feature of the year was the variety of birds caught: 62 species, making it the best since 1997. Migrant birds were ringed during one week in spring and five in autumn. There was additional coverage of one week in February and one in June, and Manx Shearwaters were the focus of attention during two weeks in early autumn. In all, 2,494 birds were ringed.

More than 500 migrant Chaffinches were ringed in late autumn, and Blackcap numbers also topped 500, as a result of good passage in both spring and autumn. A total of 190 Manx Shearwaters were ringed, mainly due to another record year for chicks. Other species with totals over 100 were Swallow, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackbird. After 24 Stonechats were ringed in 2009, the drop to just a single bird in 2010 is a concern; it is likely that mortality was high in the intervening cold winter. In contrast, recent worries about the island's Dunnock population have eased, with ringing providing evidence of reasonable winter survival and a good breeding season. Numbers of autumn migrant Goldcrests also increased, after a very poor showing in 2009, suggesting better breeding productivity in Britain.

Among the unusual species ringed, there were eight for which Lundy's 1947-2010 grand totals are still in single figures: Merlin, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nightingale, Red-flanked Bluetail, Mistle Thrush, Western Bonelli's Warbler, Hawfinch and Lapland Bunting. Also notable were four Treetreepers and two Common Rosefinches. A full list of the year's ringing totals appears overleaf.

An interesting selection of recoveries and controls includes a Manx Shearwater which was ringed at the colony on Copeland, off Northern Ireland, in 2005 but has almost certainly settled as a Lundy breeder. Now that shearwaters are breeding successfully on Lundy, their numbers are building up so fast that some immigration must be involved; this individual, probably ringed when it was a young pre-breeder, gives the first hint of their origins.

While Lundy's Lesser Black-backed Gulls are regularly seen wintering in Portugal, the 15-year-old Herring Gull found there is exceptional. A Chiffchaff and a Blackcap, both ringed on autumn migration, also went to Portugal. In contrast, a Firecrest and a Redwing wintered in the British Isles and probably became victims of severe weather: they were found dead in Cornwall and Ireland respectively. Details of these and other recoveries are listed on page 49.

We are most grateful to Mrs Headlam, who has donated her late husband's mist-net poles and other ringing equipment to the LFS, and to Lucy James and the John Cameron memorial fund for their gifts of equipment.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2010

Manx Shearwater	(169)	190	Blackbird	(4)	107
Merlin		1	Fieldfare		3
Water Rail		2	Song Thrush		47
Snipe		1	Redwing		55
Woodcock		1	Mistle Thrush		1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	(27)	27	Spotted Flycatcher		2
Herring Gull	(19)	19	Robin		37
Great Black-backed Gull	(1)	1	Nightingale		1
Guillemot		3	Red-flanked Bluetail		1
Razorbill		1	Redstart		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker		1	Whinchat		2
Goldcrest		51	Stonechat		1
Firecrest		9	Wheatear		2
Coal Tit		4	Pied Flycatcher		1
Skylark		1	Dunnock		16
Swallow		161	House Sparrow		5
House Martin		1	Pied Wagtail		3
Yellow-browed Warbler		3	Meadow Pipit		85
Western Bonelli's Warbler		1	Rock Pipit		1
Chiffchaff		149	Chaffinch		585
Willow Warbler		157	Brambling		5
Blackcap		504	Greenfinch		2
Garden Warbler		10	Goldfinch		74
Lesser Whitethroat		4	Siskin		24
Whitethroat		23	Linnet		22
Grasshopper Warbler		8	Lesser Redpoll		3
Sedge Warbler		26	Common Rosefinch		2
Reed Warbler		4	Hawfinch		1
Treecreeper		4	Snow Bunting		1
Wren		15	Lapland Bunting		1
Starling		20			
Ring Ouzel		1	Total		2,494

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

LUNDY RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS 2010

Manx Shearwater EL68296. Ringed as an adult on Copeland Island, County Down, Northern Ireland, 31.7.05. Controlled on Lundy, 29.8.10. (1855 days; 395 km; bearing 172°).

Lesser Black-backed Gull GP95655 (with colour-ring). Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 29.6.95. Seen (metal ring read) at Portimao, Algarve, **Portugal** (37° 08' N, 8° 32' W), on 11 and 13.1.10 (5310 days; 1588 km; 192°). A similar colour-ringed bird was also seen at Portimao on 1 and 2.1.10 but, with the metal ring number not known, it is possible it was a different individual, ringed on Lundy in the same summer.

Lesser Black-backed Gull GP955xx (with colour-ring). Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 25-27.6.95. Seen (metal ring partially read) at Portimao, Algarve, **Portugal** (37° 08' N, 8° 32' W), on 14.10.10 (5312 days; 1588 km; 192°).

Lesser Black-backed Gull Blue colour-ring L, left leg. Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 25-29.6.95. Seen at Portimao, Algarve, **Portugal** (37° 08' N, 8° 32' W), on 5 and 25.9.09 (4926 days; 1588 km; 192°).

Herring Gull GP95527. Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 25.6.95. Found dead (road casualty) at Alcochete, Setubal, **Portugal** (38° 44' N, 9° 0' W), on 26.9.10. (5572 days; 1423 km; 194°).

Herring Gull GN29624. Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 18.6.10. Found dead on Lundy, 19.10.10. (123 days).

Herring Gull GN29628. Ringed as a chick on Lundy, 18.6.10. Found dead (not fresh) on Lundy, 9.8.10. (52 days).

Firecrest CVJ628. Ringed as a first-year male on Lundy, 18.9.09. Found dead at Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall, 9.12.10. (447 days; 132 km; 208°).

Yellow-browed Warbler DER417. Ringed as a full-grown bird on Lundy, 22.10.10. Found dead (killed by Merlin) on Lundy, 22.10.10.

Chiffchaff DER272. Ringed as a first-year bird on Lundy, 18.9.10. Controlled at Cruzinha, Faro, **Portugal** (37° 07' N, 8° 38' W), on 8.11.10. (51 days; 1593 km; 192°).

Blackcap L556016. Ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 16.10.10. Found freshly dead at Loule, Boliquieme, Faro, **Portugal** (37° 09' N, 8° 08' W), on 8.11.10. (21 days; 1582 km; 190°).

Redwing RF31057. Ringed as an adult on Lundy, 29.10.08. Found dead at Furbo, Galway, **Ireland**, 10.1.10. (438 days; 385 km; 307°).