

EDITORIAL

Dear Member,

Another year gone by and another LFS Annual Report, the Society's 61st and my first as editor. In his three years as editor of these reports, Colin McShane encouraged contributions on topics other than birds, which, during Colin's tenure and in this issue, once again dominate the proceedings. That said, Colin's pleas appear to have been heeded since the number of pages devoted to wildlife reports other than birds has increased from 16 to an impressive 31. This reflects some serious work by a number of members dedicated to their particular areas of interest.

One such was entomologist Mark Telfer who, in May, spent time recording, among other things, beetles. His list of finds (27 different species) included one – *Melanophthalma distinguenda* – apparently not recorded on Lundy for more than 40 years. Mark is also handy with a camera and the result of a close encounter with a Cuckoo graces the colour plate section (which for the second year running has been sponsored by our printer, Short Run Press).

A considerable amount of work was undertaken, too, on the island's moths, both of the day-flying and nocturnal variety. In all, 104 different species were identified. Many of the common names given to moths are both imaginative and intriguing: Flounced Rustic and Rusty-dot Pearl being just two.

The island's plant life got a thorough going over in 2011 as well, as evidenced by the long list of botanical records contributed by Bob Hodgson, BSBI Recorder for North Devon, from just two days' recording. Among 184 different plants recorded to the 1km square level, Bob was rewarded with a first for Lundy – English Eyebright, found in two places (see p.87). In between Bob's visits in May and August, Alan and Sandra Rowland recorded 75 species in late June/early July.

In addition to the regular reports, there are three articles focusing on specific topics: Isabel Winney and Yu-Hsun Hsu report on the latest findings in the long-running research into the island's House Sparrow population (p.98); Tim Ball and Nick and Gill Tardivel describe a tough few days for autumn migrating Swallows (p.100); and Robin Freeman and colleagues summarise a third year's GPS tracking work on Lundy's Manx Shearwaters (p.104) by the team from Oxford University Zoological Department.

It is hugely gratifying each January to open the previous year's logbook and to read the many contributions – be they on birds, mammals, plants or insects – made by so many people, members and non-members alike. In urging everyone to enter their wildlife observations in the logbook, I would like to take up Colin's cudgel and encourage more articles from members on their own individual studies.

Lastly, many thanks to Paul Sterry of Nature Photographers Ltd for the excellent montage of Lundy planktonic life which introduces the colour plate section, and to all those who have contributed the rich diversity of photographs in this year's report.

I hope you will enjoy the offerings in the pages that follow as much as I did in producing this report.

TIM DAVIS
May 2012