

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2014

by

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 149 species were recorded during 2014.

Wildfowl & gamebirds

As usual, the only species recorded in every month was **Mallard**, which bred successfully once again, while small numbers of **Teal** occurred early and late in the year. Though recorded fairly regularly over the years, **Wigeon** and **Common Scoter** were very scarce in 2014, with just one record of the latter species, in August, which must surely reflect a lack of seawatching from the island at peak migration times for this quintessential 'seaduck'. Lundy vagrants included a pair of **Shelduck** in April, single **Tufted Duck** in May and October, and four **Pink-footed Geese** and a single **Canada Goose** (heard only) in October. A **Quail**, seen near Tibbetts, in June was the sole representative of the 'gamebird' family Phasianidae during the year.

Divers, grebes and herons

As is usually the case, there were scattered records of **Great Northern Divers**, mainly in the Landing Bay area, from January to March, and again from October to December. No other divers or grebes were recorded during the year. Mid-May brought the 30th LFS record of **Little Egret**, while an apparently good breeding season for **Grey Herons** on the mainland brought island records on 26 dates between June and October.

Birds of prey

Lundy's breeding **Peregrines** had a poor year, with only one youngster, a female, known to have fledged successfully. Spring and autumn brought the usual crop of migrant **Sparrowhawks**, **Kestrels** and **Merlins**, but though one or two Kestrels were seen in all months of the year (except January) there was no evidence of breeding. It was a good spring for scarce and vagrant raptors, with sightings of **Black Kite** (15 April), **Hen Harrier** (14 & 25 April), **Marsh Harrier** (25 April), **Buzzard** (8/9 March & 15 April) and **Osprey** (30 May), while late summer and early autumn brought a **Hen Harrier** (16 September) and an **Osprey** (14 August).

Rails and waders

For the first time since 2007, there was no confirmation that **Water Rails** bred on Lundy. Why the island's small breeding population should have died out (if that proves to be the case) is unclear, but there seems every chance that breeding could become re-established in the future. No other rail or crane species were recorded during the year.

With regard to waders, the accent was very much on diversity, with no fewer than 20 species recorded, though numbers were generally low. This is unsurprising given the limited availability of suitable habitat for most species, the relatively high degree of human disturbance of those areas and the presence of Peregrines and other potential predators. Among species rarely

recorded on Lundy were **Dotterel** (one on 16 September), **Ruff** (two on 10 September), **Little Stint** (one on 27 August), **Greenshank** (one on 24 September) and **Grey Phalarope** (one on 11 October). The highest count of **Snipe** was just seven, in December.

Seabirds

The ornithological highlight of the year came when a **Storm Petrel** chick was found on the West Side during the night of 5 October – the first proof of breeding on Lundy for this tiny and mysterious long-distance migrant. There was no formal census of breeding seabirds in 2014, but evidence from ringing visits suggests that the **Manx Shearwater** colony continues to expand, though the 2014 breeding season was later than in other recent years. **Puffins** also seem to be consolidating their recolonisation of the island, though there were indications that the severe Atlantic storms of winter 2013/14 had taken a toll of both **Puffins** and **Guillemots**. Nevertheless, **Puffins** bred successfully once again and there was a record post-breeding count (since rat eradication of 240 on 31 July, almost certainly including birds ‘visiting’ from other colonies). There was also a high post-breeding count of **Shags**, with 238 on 27 August. Among other seabirds, there were the usual records of non-breeding **Gannets** and **Cormorants**, while the annual burst of intensive seawatching in late autumn brought a crop of **skuas** and **Balearic Shearwaters**, many of these feeding among large flocks of **Kittiwakes** (up to 850) off the East Side. For the third year running a breeding-plumaged **Black Guillemot** was seen in the Landing Bay on a virtually daily basis from mid-May to early July, but there was no indication of it having a mate. Other scarce seabirds during the year included **Black-headed Gull** (surprisingly infrequent on Lundy, with scattered records in April, June/July & October), **Iceland Gull** (5 & 28 May), **Sandwich Tern** (3–20 April & 23 September) and **Common Tern** (14 August & 23 September).

Passerines and near-passerines

Rarity highlights

A new species was added to the Lundy bird list when a juvenile **Dipper** was seen – to the astonishment of its observers – in Millcombe on 9 June (see the write-up on p.64).

Other rarities, including several species that are common on the mainland but extremely unusual on Lundy, included: **Hoopoe** (March), **Wryneck** (September), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (October), **Golden Oriole** (May), **Woodchat Shrike** (May), **Jackdaw** (April & July), **Hooded Crow** (June), **Coal Tit** (April), **Short-toed Lark** (May), **Shore Lark** (June), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (September/October), **Barred Warbler*** (October), **Marsh Warbler** (June), **Waxwing** (October), **Treecreeper** (September), **Rose-coloured Starling** (June & August), **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (October), **Tree Sparrow** (August/September), **Red-throated Pipit*** (October), **Hawfinch** (May), **Common Rosefinch** (May & September), **Bullfinch** (April & August), **Snow Bunting** (March, October/November), **Lapland Bunting** (September/October), **Yellowhammer** (April) and **Little Bunting*** (October).

*records still subject to acceptance by Devon Birds Record Committee

Spring migration

As usual, returning trans-Saharan and Mediterranean migrants began to appear in March, including **Chiffchaff** and **Wheatear** on 12th, **Ring Ouzel** on 19th, **Willow Warbler** on 27th and **Sand Martin**, **Swallow** and **Blackcap** on 29th. More notable spring-passage counts included 1,000 **Swallows** on both 13 & 14 April, with an arrival of 200 **Chiffchaffs** and 400 **Willow Warblers** the following day. Traditionally later-arriving species that put in their first appearances during the second half of April were **Swift** on 17th, **Turtle Dove** on 18th, **Cuckoo** on 21st and **Spotted Flycatcher** on 22nd.

Breeding season

The breeding season saw the usual selection of landbirds again breeding successfully, with large numbers of **Skylarks**, **Meadow Pipits**, **Rock Pipits**, **Linnets**, **Wrens**, **House Sparrows** and a record-breaking 115 pairs of **Wheatears** (the latter population estimate derived as part of a colour-ringing programme in operation since 2013 – see p.92). Alongside the more abundant species were small numbers of breeding **Woodpigeons**, **Carrion Crows**, **Ravens**, **Swallows**, **Robins**, **Dunnocks**, **Blackbirds**, **Chaffinches** and **Goldfinches**. There was no evidence that either **Song Thrush** or **Stonechat** bred in 2014. Singing male **Chiffchaffs**, **Whitethroats** and a lone **Sedge Warbler** all held territories during the early summer but there was no evidence of actual breeding. There was again circumstantial evidence of **Blackcaps** nesting in Millcombe, but proof was once again elusive and this species has yet be added to the list of birds known to have bred on Lundy.

Autumn migration

Juvenile **Willow Warblers** were passing south through the island from the end of July and there was a small fall of warblers and flycatchers on 30 August. Generally anticyclonic conditions for much of September brought light winds and plenty of clear skies, providing excellent conditions for uninterrupted southbound passage of summer visitors, with little need for night migrants to make landfall on remote offshore islands. This meant that some visiting birders and ringers returned home with suntans but disappointingly empty notebooks. However, there was a significant fall of 250 **Blackcaps** on 25 September following patchy rain. Day-time migrants such as **Swallows** were rather more in evidence, with peaks of 1,000 on 22 & 29 September. October brought a change of weather pattern to a persistent south-westerly flow that continued largely uninterrupted into November, bringing very mild but often wet and windy conditions – the exact opposite of conditions for large numbers of winter migrants from the continent to reach western Britain. This meant that visible migration in October/November was very poor, with extremely low numbers of thrushes and finches except for one or two days at the end of October when there were all-too-brief peaks of 1,500 **Chaffinches** and 2,000 **Redwings** on 29th during a window of more settled weather.

Among the last lingering summer migrants were eight **Swallows** on 24 October, a **Reed Warbler** a day later, a **Willow Warbler** on 27th, a **Lesser Whitethroat** on 30th and a single **Wheatear** and **Whinchat** on 5 November.

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

The website www.birdsoflundy.org.uk linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* has been completely overhauled and now includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2014. Further updates will be added as new observations continually build on what is known, even after 60 years of intensive study by the LFS.

Complementing this long-term archive, is an online blog www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk through which visiting birdwatchers and ringers may contribute news of the latest sightings. This relies completely on voluntary contributions. If you would like to become a 'co-author' of the blog, meaning that you can post your own updates, please send an email to gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk. News can also be submitted to this address.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Nomenclature and sequence

These follow The British List (summarised 8th edition, 9 February 2015) maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). 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.

The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken mainly from the LFS Logbook and give the monthly maxima and, for some cases, the number of days on which the species was reported. It should be noted that some of these counts may not be truly representative of the numbers of birds present and are perhaps more reflective of periods when observer coverage is higher (particularly spring and autumn).

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species that are vagrants to Britain (there were none on Lundy in 2014) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Shore Lark, Woodchat Shrike, Barred Warbler) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, records of 'Lundy vagrants', species that are regularly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Dipper, Coal Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker), 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 this context; it does not necessarily mean that those assessing the record think 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 ensure that your name(s) and contact details are included – and legible! Photographs and video-clips are especially welcome and these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Observers' names are included below for all accepted 2014 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants, as well as for some other reports of particular interest.

Birds seen during boat crossings

Sightings during boat crossings are generally only included in the main list when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. There is a separate listing at the end of the report for other crossing records of interest. Observers are strongly encouraged to submit records for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to the Devon Bird Recorder (recorder@devonbirds.org).

Acknowledgements

As always we are grateful 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 Devon Birds; the annual Bird Report is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals.

Special thanks go to the Devon Bird Recorder, Steve Waite, for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records. Julia Harris, Devon Birds' database manager, provided a file of all 2014 Lundy records, including those submitted via BirdTrack, to help ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and the LFS. Others who have helped us in various ways include Chris & Carol Baillie, Tom Bedford, Paul Bolland, Helen Booker, Richard Campey, Stuart Darbyshire, Chris Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Joshua Harris, Andy Jayne, Tony John, Beccy Macdonald, Luke Phillips, David & Elisabeth Price, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar, Grant Sherman, Luke Sutton, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor, Jon Turner, Nik Ward and Isabel Winney.

THE BIRDS OF 2014

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

Four flew in from the south-south-east past the Castle at 08.00hrs on 22 Oct. The observers, on Castle Hill, watched the geese flying north, just offshore, along the East Side, eventually being lost to view as they rounded Tibbetts Point (Tom Bedford, James Diamond, Tim Jones). This is only the 11th LFS record but the third consecutive year in which Pinkfeet have been seen on the island. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Lundy vagrant.

One, calling in flight, heard from Millcombe at dusk on 28 Oct (Justin Zantboer). This is only the 16th LFS record in spite of the sizeable feral population on the nearby mainland.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

[Common Shelduck]

Lundy vagrant.

Two at Rocket Pole Pond on 23 Apr (Neil Trout) constituted the 22nd LFS record and the first since Apr 2009.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and occasional winter visitor.

An adult male was flushed from South West Field in the early morning of 13 May (Eden Davies). There were two drakes on 29 Dec, with one still present on 30th and 31st.

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer.

The first report of the year concerned a male and three females on Pondsbury on 18 Feb, followed by eight (sexes not recorded) on 1 Mar and ones and twos on six dates in the second half of Apr. The first of the autumn were in the second half of Sep, with one to three birds on seven dates. These were followed by regular sightings of ones and twos in Oct, with three on 6th and a max of four on 13th. At the end of the year there were three to six birds on five dates, 23–31 Dec.

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	8	2	–	–	–	–	3	4	–	6
–	1	1	6	–	–	–	–	7	11	–	5

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeding flock of feral origin; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.
 The highest spring count of adult birds was 15 (ten males, five females) on 25 Apr. The first ducklings of the year were a brood of 12 on 13 Apr (location not given), followed by five on Quarters Pond on 18th, 12 at the top of St John's Valley on 19th and 15 by the campsite on 21st. Eight adults (five males, three females) were recorded on 11 Jun, with broods of six and eight ducklings, both on Pondsburry, the same day. The number of ducklings reared to fledging is unknown. The highest count of adults during the year was 17 on 22 Oct, while 14 (six males and eight females) were present in late Dec. Very unusually, a pair was on the sea off the East Side near VC Quarry on 7 May (Andy Jayne). It would be interesting to hear from any reader who has seen Mallards on the sea around Lundy; this is the first instance of which we are aware.

Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	6	5	15	6	8	8	14	11	17	11	14

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Lundy vagrant.

A male was on the pond outside Barton Cottages on 12 May (Roger Fursdon, Grant Sherman). A female was on Pondsburry from 10 to 29 Oct (Tony Taylor *et al.*). These are the 22nd and 23rd LFS records, the last being in Oct 2012.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage visitor.

Five flew north off the East Side on 7 Aug (Tony Taylor).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

[Common Quail]

Rare migrant; bred in the nineteenth century.

One flushed near Tibbetts at 09.30hrs and just north of Threequarter Wall at 15.30hrs on 11 Jun (Joey Eccles, Laura Hayes, Andy Redford *et al.*). These reports came from separate groups of observers who had not communicated with one another during the day. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Great Northern Loon]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers, mainly October to March.

Singles on 26 Jan and 9 Feb (the latter in Gannets' Bay). Recorded daily 17–20 Mar, with a maximum of three on 18th. Thereafter, one on 27 Apr was the last of the spring. The first of the autumn was an adult bird (which the observers noted as "not looking too well") in the Landing Bay on 5 Oct, with further records of singles on four dates 17–25 Oct. At the end of the year there were two on 18 Dec, followed by a single bird on four dates, 19th to 23rd.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, mainly from January to September.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
present	–	50	130	48	present	present	30	8	5	50	100

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and/or submitted to BirdTrack and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from late March to September; occasional records in October.

The first of the year were six on 12 Apr. On four nights between 25 May and 2 Jun, Richard Taylor and Tony Taylor caught 159 adult shearwaters, 46 of which had been ringed on Lundy during previous trips, with the remainder being newly ringed birds. Tony commented: "*On the two darkest nights, the noise and activity were particularly impressive; the increase in numbers is clearly continuing.*" Writing in the log on 23 Aug, Martin Thorne noted: "*Manx Shearwaters in epic numbers off North Light. At one point in the afternoon maybe up to 3 or 4 thousand birds.*"

During the period 19 Aug to 4 Sep, David Price, Peter Slader, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor and Nik Ward visited shearwater colonies nightly, weather permitting, to ring both adults and young, to assess the emergence of young from burrows and, especially, to monitor the return as adults of birds originally ringed on Lundy as chicks. Altogether they captured 286 shearwaters, of which 211 were 'new' (98 chicks and 113 adults), while 75 were recaptures of birds ringed in previous years. They noted that the breeding season in 2014 appeared to be late in comparison with other years, with very few emerging chicks in evidence until Sep. Nik Ward and Beccy MacDonald undertook further colony visits on the nights of 9 & 10 Sep, ringing a further 24 birds (23 chicks and one adult).

Small numbers continued to be seen offshore well into autumn, including ten on 23 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	100	500	300	present	3,000+	200	10	–	–

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in mid to late autumn.

Six were off South End on 17 Sep (Andy Jayne). As has become the norm in recent years, intensive seawatching in October revealed small numbers passing the island but also feeding off the East Side. One flew past North End on 18 Oct, one was off the Castle on 20th and three were off North End again on 21st. From 22nd to 28th, between seven and ten were recorded daily, feeding actively with Kittiwakes and auks off the East Side, while four were off the South End on 26th (Chris Baillie, Tom Bedford, James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*). Finally, 14 were feeding off the East Side on 31 Oct (Rob Duncan *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

Uncommon passage migrant; recorded on the island at night in small numbers during the breeding season. First confirmation of breeding in 2014.

A visit by Tony John, Luke Phillips and Tony Taylor to the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony on the evening of 5 Oct to ring shearwater chicks revealed something altogether more unexpected, though much anticipated – a Storm Petrel chick! In a text message sent at the time, Tony reported: "*Luke noticed the stormy a few m from cliff edge. Ringed and photos. Full grown but some down on belly. On release shuffled down small burrow.*" This was the first ever proof of breeding by Storm Petrels on Lundy, though it had long been suspected that Stormies might be nesting (or at least attempting to do so). There must be a strong chance that this development, like the resurgence of shearwaters and Puffins and the island's seemingly burgeoning Wheatear

population, is linked to the eradication of rats under the Seabird Recovery Project. A red letter day that will go down in the annals of Lundy ornithology and conservation. (Read the full account by Tony Taylor on p.66.)

Other records: In spring, at least two were off North Light on 18 Apr and one was seen during the crossing on 5 May. In autumn, one was seen from MS *Oldenburg* during a 'round-the-island' trip on 11 Oct.

A Storm Petrel ringed as an adult on Lundy in 2009 was controlled in the Channel Islands in Jul (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014* on p.62 for full details).

Gannet *Morus bassanus* [Northern Gannet]
Common offshore from spring to autumn; less frequent in winter; formerly bred.

There were only four logbook entries (three for 27–30 Jan and one on 29 Mar) during the first three months of the year, but under-recording may have been a contributory factor to this apparent scarcity of birds. The second half of Oct brought the highest counts of the year with 150 on 21st, 100 on 23rd and 120 on 26th, though this period coincided with heightened seawatching effort.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	–	1	30	31	40	10	45	30	150	20	30

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* [Great Cormorant]
Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

During spring passage, higher counts included six on 17 Mar, eight on 31 Mar, ten on 19 & 20 Apr, 18 on 12 May, 17 on 20 May and 11 on 1 Jun. The largest migrating flock reported during autumn passage was 11 on 9 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	8	10	18	11	–	8	6	11	1	6

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* [European Shag]
Common breeder; uncommon from November to February.

The highest counts of the year were 238 on 27 Aug and 150 on 26 Oct.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	4	4	30	40	30	present	238	60	150	20	12

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Lundy vagrant (though the number of records is increasing).

Two flew low over the sea near the Battery on 19 May, the 30th LFS record. Two-thirds of the Little Egret records for Lundy have been during the last 15 years.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Uncommon visitor; recorded throughout the year but most regular during late summer and early autumn.

The first of the year was a single bird on 2 Apr. In Jun there were two over Pondsburry on 5th,

singles on 10th & 11th, three along the East Side on 13th and four on 20th, followed by singles on five dates 11–31 Jul. In autumn, there were two on 15 Sep, one lingering to the end of the month, followed by single birds on five scattered dates in Oct, plus three on 13 Oct.

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	–	4	1	–	2	3	–	–
–	–	–	1	–	5	5	–	10	6	–	–

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Nationally scarce migrant.

On 15 Apr a kite flew in from the south near Goat Island and continued north just offshore before turning inland over the Battery and heading north-east over the island plateau. Remarkably, it was seen and photographed – entirely independently – by two observers, Joshua Harris and Martyn Roper. Close examination of Joshua’s photos by Mike Langman and of Martyn’s photos by renowned raptor expert Dick Forsman (see June 2014 issue of *Birdwatch* magazine) dispelled lingering doubts about the species of kite involved and confirmed that the bird was an adult Black Kite. This showed the value of ‘record shot’ photos (even those taken at considerable distance and in tricky light, as was the case here) in pinning down the identification of a bird as big and apparently ‘obvious’ as a kite. Record accepted by DBRC. This is the fifth Black Kite for Lundy, the last being on 27 Apr 2010. (See colour plate 6.)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring; Devon rarity.

A soaring male, seen from Castle Hill, drifted north over the Rocket Pole being mobbed by a Raven at 09.45hrs on 25 Apr (Richard Campey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

[Northern Harrier]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

A second-summer male flew north over Quarter Wall at 13.30hrs on 14 Apr (Rob Duncan). A male flew over the old stonecrusher, near the junction of the Tent, Lighthouse and South West Fields, at 17.40hrs on 25 Apr (Richard Campey). An adult female, in flight just north of the Old Light on 16 Sep, crossed the Airfield and perched on a post (Stuart Darbyshire).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

One on 25 Jan. Thereafter, singles on four dates 4–24 Apr (the last of these noted as being a male), while further records of single birds on nine dates from 3–8 May and 26 May–1 Jun may all have referred to one long-staying female (given that all May logbook entries where a sex was specified were for females). After one on 12 Jul, migrants were seen regularly in Sep, with a max of three on 19th, and almost daily in Oct, with three again the highest count (on four dates from 11th to 31st). At the end of the year, single birds were logged on 11 well-scattered dates in Nov & Dec, the last on 29 Dec. There were two on 16 Nov.

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	–	–	4	1	1	1	–	3	3	2	1
1	–	–	1	8	1	1	–	23	30	6	6

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.

In spring, singles on 8 & 9 Mar and 15 Apr.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

Rare passage migrant and Devon rarity.

One being mobbed by gulls over Castle Hill flew north up the East Side on 30 May (Pete Clabburn, Charles Crundwell, Suzanne Long). One flying south just off the East Side on 14 August was watched from the Upper East Side Path alongside the Tillage Field. The bird continued south over Lameter and on towards Hartland Point, circling a couple of times to gain height over the open sea (Tim Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

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

One on 17 Feb was followed by four records of single birds during the second half of Mar, plus two on 29th. Thereafter, singles on 14 dates 8–30 Apr, plus three on 18th and sporadically through May to 1 Jun. Following a six-week gap, further singles occurred on 11 & 30 Jul and regularly in Aug. Thereafter, seen almost daily in Sep & Oct, with three on seven dates in Sep and on 24 Oct. There were two on 4 Nov but then only scattered records of single birds to the end of the year.

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	3	1	1	1	1	3*	3	2	1
–	1	5	15	6	1	2	15	27	26	5	4

*A logbook entry of what would be an exceptional eight birds on 18 Sep lacked supporting details and is therefore omitted.

Merlin *Falco columbarius**Common passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; very rare in summer.*

Spring passage migrants were noted between 14 Mar and 2 May, most records involving single birds, with the exception of two on 14 & 16 Apr. All those for which the sex was recorded (just over half of the sightings) were females, including the two birds seen on 14 Apr. The first autumn migrant was on 28 Sep, followed by three further singles during the first half of Oct. Recorded almost daily during the second half of Oct, with a maximum of four on 18th & 21st. After three in 5 Nov there were five further records of single birds, the last of these on 28 Dec.

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	4	3	1
–	–	2	11	2	–	–	–	1	17	3	5

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

With modest grant support from both the LFS and the Birds of Lundy Fund, Luke Sutton carried out fieldwork for a research project looking at Peregrine diet. In so doing he was also able to contribute to the national Peregrine survey coordinated by the BTO (see Luke's report on p.98). In terms of breeding productivity it appears to have been a below average year for Peregrines in South West England and South Wales, a situation that certainly pertained on Lundy, where just one chick was reared to fledging. It is thought that the stormy winter of 2013/14 might have resulted in adults being in suboptimal condition at the start of the breeding season, even though the actual nesting period coincided with mainly fine, settled conditions.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; breeding confirmed annually 2007–2013, but not proven in 2014.

Single birds were noted on four dates from 18 Feb to 3 Mar, with two on 19 Feb, these records coming from outside Brambles, near Government House and at Quarters Pond. Thereafter, there were singles on four dates in mid-Apr, plus two on 18 Apr, the latter in St John's Valley and near the camping field. Following singles on six scattered dates in May, there were no records at all in Jun, but ones and twos were present on eight dates in Jul. For the first time since 2007 breeding was not proven. Higher counts in late summer and autumn included three on 21 & 25 Aug, four on 25–27 Sep, six on four dates in Oct and seven on 26 Oct, the latter probably including passage migrants.

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	1	2	1	–	2	3	4	7	–	–
–	4	1	5	6	–	8	7	12	26	–	–

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

Common breeder and passage migrant; recorded throughout the year but scarcer in late autumn and winter.

There was no full breeding census in 2014. However, during the period 7–12 Jun, nesting pairs were located at Lametor, Goat Island, Puffin Slope, Gannets' Bay, Quarry Beach and the Landing Bay. All birds were thought still to be sitting on eggs, and while no chicks were reported later in the season, a juvenile was seen with two adults on Quarry Beach on 29 Jul.

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	2	7	12	12	14	12	11	7	3	2	5
4	6	7	26	26	13	15	21	15	7	1	5

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

The first reported sightings were not until mid-spring, when there were records on ten dates from 21 Apr to 13 May, with maxima of nine on 30 Apr and seven on 4 May. Thereafter, singles occurred on five dates from 28 May to 14 Jun. Tony Taylor noted that one at North End on 31 May appeared to be a bird from one of the northern breeding populations as "*all of the dark areas on underparts were blackish, apart from slightly browner areas on head, round eye etc*". The first of the autumn was one on 1 Sep, followed by records on a further 15 dates between 15 Sep & 29 Oct, with a maximum of six on 22 Sep.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	9	7	1	–	–	6	2	–	–
–	–	–	6	7	2	–	–	9	7	–	–

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.

Four in Brick Field on 18 Jun was the only record during the first six months of the year. In late summer and early autumn, singles were seen on 9 Jul and 30 Aug, followed by two in St Helen's Field on 15 Sep and one on 22nd. Thereafter, one on 5 & 18 Nov, two on 30 Nov and one on 31 Dec.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* [Common Ringed Plover]
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter records.
 Late-spring migrants were recorded on five dates from 26 May to 2 Jun, with a maximum of two (flying west along the South End) on 28th. During autumn passage there were three on 28 Aug, followed by singles on 7 & 10 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* [Eurasian Dotterel]
Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.
 On 16 Sep a juvenile was seen in flight near Old Light at 15.00hrs, then between the Rocket Pole and the Devil's Limekiln from 18.00hrs until dusk (Andy Jayne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; declining.
 During spring passage recorded on 15 dates from 14 Apr to 26 May, with a maximum of 12 – a flock flushed from rocks at North Light – on 9 May; the birds circled and flew south along the West Side. One southbound migrant below the Beach Road on 20 Jul was followed by further singles on three dates between 24 & 31 Aug.

Curlew *Numenius arquata* [Eurasian Curlew]
Common spring and autumn migrant in declining numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.
 Ones and twos were reported on seven dates between 17 Apr and 11 May (though given that this period is wholly within the dates covered by this year's spring migration of Whimbrels through the island, it is possible that some birds reported as Curlews were in fact Whimbrels). One flying south already on 9 Jun was perhaps a failed breeder. Further singles followed on 2, 11 & 12 Jul, 2 Aug, 8, 19 & 20 Sep and 6 & 19 Oct.

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	2	1	1	1	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	5	2	1	3	1	3	2	–	–

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Rare passage migrant; has occurred in winter.
 One was heard calling in flight over the campsite at approximately 23.30hrs on 6 Jul (Kevin Rylands). Two or three heard calling in flight over the village at 02.10hrs on 27 Aug (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor) were probably the same as three "straight-billed" waders reported by non-birdwatchers as having been near the Rocket Pole the previous evening.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [Ruddy Turnstone]
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor; signs of a decline in recent years.
 An adult still in breeding plumage and first seen on the shoreline of Rat Island flew off high to the north on 9 Aug (Tony Taylor). Two flew past MS *Oldenburg* on the approach to the Landing Bay on 16 Sep (Andy Jayne).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
Rare passage migrant; has occurred in late winter.
 Two at Pondsburry on 10 Sep (Nik Ward) were the first for the island since 2007.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

The first of the year were five on 19 Mar, followed by singles on 27 Apr and 12 & 30 May. In autumn, there were singles on three dates 20–28 Aug, followed by 20 on 31st, one on 20 Sep and singles on three dates 4–7 Oct.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Uncommon autumn migrant; two spring records.

A juvenile was on the pond in front of Barton Cottages on 27 Aug (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor) – see colour plate 6.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

[Red Phalarope]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One seen and photographed from MS *Oldenburg* during a round-the-island trip on 11 Oct (Steve McAusland/MARINElife) – the 13th LFS record and the first since Oct 2008. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

During spring passage there were two on 20 Apr and one on 30 May. The first returning southbound migrants were singles near the jetty on 8 Jul and calling along the West Side at about 23.30hrs on 11 Jul. These were followed by three on 4 Aug and one on 5th. One was also heard calling at night near the Battery on 8 Aug.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

The only reports concerned one at Pondsburry on 1 Jul (D.J. Glaves/*BirdTrack*), two on Quarter Wall Pond on 8 Aug and one calling in flight past the Village on 27 Aug (both Aug records Tony Taylor).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One, calling in flight, heard from Millcombe on 24 Sep (Jan Swan & Kathy Evans).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One in flight over the Landing Bay on 8 Aug (Tony Taylor).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Singles reported on 1 Mar & 19 Oct. The latter bird was flushed between Quarter Wall and Pondsburry (Richard Campey).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Singles were logged on 26 Jan and 28 Apr, and in autumn on five dates from 13 Oct to 12 Nov.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Apparently very scarce, though perhaps under-recorded, during the first half of the year. Following a handful of late-summer singletons, there were records of one to six birds on 30 dates in Sep/Oct. A report of 25 on 29 Sep is excluded from the table owing to a lack of supporting

information for what would be an exceptionally high count – particularly as the island was very dry at that time.

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	1	1	1	1	–	1	1	4	6	2	7
1	1	1	3	1	–	2	2	13	17	5	6

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Lundy vagrant.

On 23 Oct a 'spoonless' pale-phase adult was watched in flight over the Landing Bay and passing across the tide race off Rat Island before settling on the water beyond South Light, from where the falling tide carried it out of sight behind Castle Hill (Tim Jones). On 24 Oct a juvenile was seen off the East Side (James Diamond), with the same or another juvenile off Lametry on 25th (Chris Baillie). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

Recorded regularly during seawatches in the fourth week of October, with most harrying Kittiwakes off the East Side. After one on 21st, there were three on 22nd & 23rd, one on 24th and two on 25th.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Scarce spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

One off Shutter Rock on the unusual date of 19 Jun (Martin Thorne). In autumn, ones and twos were recorded on six dates between 20 and 26 Oct, mainly off the East Side. An unusually pale 'blonde' bird was seen on several days, suggesting that the same individuals were hanging around offshore to take advantage of a build-up in Kittiwake numbers.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

Increasing breeding species; formerly occurred in very large numbers but declined alarmingly in second half of 20th century; very rare between mid-Aug and the end of Mar.

The resurgence in Puffin numbers continued. A noticeable feature in recent years has been a tendency for the first birds to arrive earlier and the last birds to depart later in the season than was the case when the island's population had dwindled dangerously close to extinction. The improvement in the species' fortunes is thought to be linked to the eradication of rats under the Seabird Recovery Project.

The Jenny's Cove and St Philip's Stone breeding colonies were checked regularly in Mar, with the first sighting being of a single bird at Jenny's Cove on 19th, 20th and 24th. The next arrivals were three on 3 Apr, rising to eight on 9th, 11 on 15th, 31 on 18th and 51 on 30th (the latter count comprising 45 at Jenny's Cove and six at St Philip's Stone). The highest count in May was 60 on 6th, while 103 were recorded on 18 Jun. A count of 83 birds on 8 Jun was distributed as follows (southern part of the island not covered): 30 on land and eight on water at Jenny's Cove; 11 on land at St Philip's Stone; five on water off Gannets' Rock; one on water off Long Roost; six on land and 16 on water at Puffin Slope; four on water off North Light and two in flight off the Terrace. Two birds were going in and out of burrows at Long Roost, with three others on land at the same time, on 12 Jun.

An adult was entering a burrow with a fish at St Philip's Stone on 29 Jun. Single adults carrying fish were also seen at St Philip's Stone on 11 & 14 Jul. A metal-ringed Puffin was also observed

at this site. Puffin counts were lower at the St Philip's Stone colony in 2014 compared with 2013; possibly a consequence of adult mortality during winter storms (Grant Sherman).

Maximum counts included 144 on 2 Jul, 125 on 14th (of which 100 at Jenny's Cove and 25 at St Philip's Stone) and a new post-rat eradication record of 240 in Jenny's Cove alone (other suitable areas were not covered) on 30th. There were still at least 80 in Jenny's Cove on both 1 & 4 Aug and 75 on 5th, while of 11 seen on 8th, one entered a burrow. The last of the year were seven on the water off North East Point on 23 Aug (Martin Thorne).

Three first-winter Puffins that had been driven ashore on the mainland during the severe storms of winter 2013/14 were picked up and taken to the RSPCA's West Hatch rehabilitation centre near Taunton, where they recovered sufficient condition to be released back into the wild (amidst considerable media interest) at Gannets' Bay in early Apr.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	51	60	103	240	80	–	–	–	–

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One was seen regularly in the Landing Bay from 9 May to 8 Jul (Andy Jayne, Ed Richardson, Dave White *et al.*). This is the third consecutive year that Black Guillemots have been seen in the same area in late spring and early summer. The bird was often seen close inshore and at times loafing on the jetty, as in 2013. Record accepted by DBRC.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeder, though in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between Aug and Feb. Counts in Mar included 200 on 12th & 18th and 300 on 16th (Grant Sherman). After a complete absence of records during Aug, Sep and the first half of Oct, small numbers (up to 12) were seen 19–22 Oct, followed by 220 on 23rd, most of which were seen in flight off the East Side and/or feeding with Kittiwakes in the same area. An individual with an orange-yellow left foot was seen regularly at St Philip's Stone between 23 May and 3 Jul (Grant Sherman; see <http://lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/razorbill-with-one-orangeyellow-foot.html> for a photo of this striking bird).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100**	–	300	448	650	present	present	–	–	220	–	–

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Combined count of Guillemots and Razorbills

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Murre]

Common breeder, but in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from Aug to late Oct, then breeding colonies progressively reoccupied, dependent on prevailing weather conditions.

Counts in Mar included 408 on 12th, 1,292 on 16th and 859 on 18th (Grant Sherman). Grant continued his detailed study of the behaviour of breeding Guillemots on a ledge at St Philip's Stone, where he observed the first chick on 16 Jun and recorded the first fledging on 5/6 Jul. All except one chick had fledged by 14 Jul. While the complete breeding census of 2013 had shown an encouraging 25% increase on the numbers recorded by the previous census in 2008, counts in Grant's study area and anecdotal evidence from other parts of the island suggest that breeding numbers were down in 2014. This is likely to have been a consequence of the stormy

conditions during winter 2013/14 that wrecked thousands of Guillemots along the coast of western Britain. The last date at the end of the breeding season was 2 Aug (no count given), though there were no birds remaining at the St Mark's Stone colony by 21 Jul (Grant Sherman). Thereafter, one on 2 Sep and six on 10th and between one and three birds (all offshore) on five scattered dates during the first half of Oct, before the first two birds were back on the ledges at Jenny's Cove on 17 Oct (Grant Sherman), followed by 196 on 20 Oct (when at least 300 passed off the East Side). Numbers on the ledges reached 368 between Jenny's Cove and St Mark's Stone on 23 Oct, with 516 in the same area on 15 Nov, 928 on 23 Nov, 903 on 21 Dec and 1,174 on 30 Dec, though totals between these peak counts fluctuated considerably in response to prevailing weather/sea conditions (Grant Sherman). See p.17 for productivity data and p.62 for details of a colour-ringed bird that was ringed as a chick on Skomer in 2010 and seen on Lundy in Jun.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100**	1	1,292	1,368	1,355	100	present	present	6	500	928	1,175

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Combined count of Guillemots and Razorbills

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon migrant, late March to early October.

In Apr there were two in the Landing Bay on 3rd & 4th (Mike Jones, Beccy MacDonald), two heading west off North West Point on 17th (Martyn Roper) and one on 20th. One was seen from MS *Oldenburg* on its approach to the island on 23 Sep (Chris Dee & Andy Turner).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon migrant, April to October.

An adult was feeding in the Landing Bay on 14 Aug (Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland). One was seen from MS *Oldenburg* on its approach to the island on 23 Sep (Chris Dee & Andy Turner).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

Declining breeding species; passage migrant and winter visitor, sometimes in large numbers.

High counts included 200 on 25 & 27 Jan, 250 on 2 May and 300 feeding about half-a-mile off the Battery on 6 Jul. The individual bearing a green colour-ring with a white inscription 'AV' on its right leg was again nesting in the Aztec Lawn colony below Threequarter Wall, where it was watched alternating with its mate in early May (Chris Baillie) and had successfully hatched chicks by late Jun (Beccy MacDonald). This bird, ringed on Lundy in Jun 1999, was seen at the same colony in 2007, 2008 & 2013. See p.17 for results from productivity monitoring.

A significant build-up in numbers of feeding Kittiwakes occurred off the East Side during the fourth week of October, with 850 on 21st and between 350 and 600 daily until 26th. The Kittiwakes were joined by other gulls, auks and Balearic Shearwaters and were regularly subjected to the attentions of skuas. Depending on light conditions and state of the tide, the birds were sometimes clearly visible with the naked eye, while at other times a telescope was needed to pick them out.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	3	50	60	250	20	300	120	5	850	–	800

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* [Common Black-headed Gull]
Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.
 Singles were logged on 4 & 9 Apr, the former a first-summer individual. An adult flying north past the Tillage Field on 19 Jun was also at Pondsby on the same date, while further single birds were seen at various locations on five dates from 1–28 Jul. Those on 1, 7 & 12 Jul appeared to be adults; no ages were indicated for those on 22 & 28 Jul. The only record later in the year concerned an adult off the East Side on 21 October.

Common Gull *Larus canus* [Mew Gull]
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly September to April.
 Seven were logged on 17 Mar and 14 on 20 Mar.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Common but declining breeding species; common passage migrant; uncommon in winter.
 One seen from the *Jessica Hettie* close to the Knoll Pins on 3 Jun was eating a whole dead rabbit. Nestlings were seen north of Threequarter Wall on 8 Jun. A Lesser Black-back ringed as a chick on Lundy in 1999 was found dead in Warwickshire in Sep, while Lundy colour-ringed birds were seen in France and Portugal (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014*, p.62 for full details).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
51	–	50	127	80	95	50	200	100	80	3	6

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and/or submitted via BirdTrack and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* [European Herring Gull]
Common but declining breeding species; present all year but fewer in winter.
 On 22 Feb two were watched “*stamping their feet*” to bring worms to the surface of the former tennis court outside Old House South (Michael Williams). Nestlings were seen north of Threequarter Wall on 8 Jun. About 200 Herring Gulls were running around on Castle Hill catching flying ants on 7 Aug (Tony Taylor). Also feeding on the bounty were 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Wheatears, Pied Wagtails, Willow Warblers, House Sparrows and four Carrion Crows. A high count of 700 was made on 8 Aug.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
400	80	200	319	100	70	present	700	50	30	25	499

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and/or submitted via BirdTrack and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*
Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.
 One, probably a first-summer bird, flew south along the East Side, just offshore from Quarter Wall Copse, eventually disappearing from view over the Castle, on 5 May (Andy Jayne). A first-summer bird flew over South Light on 28 May (Philip & Helen Lymbery). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
Breeds; present in all months, but fewer in winter.
 One was eating a Manx Shearwater in the Landing Bay at about midday on 18 May. Nestlings

were seen north of Threequarter Wall on 8 Jun. One caught and swallowed a whole baby rabbit near the campsite on 13 Jul. A high count of 77 was made on 28 Sep.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	6	12	40	50	30	present	20	77	48	8	30

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2014 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers, particularly in spring and summer.

An unusually high count of 70 on 31 May presumably meant that one or more large flocks of racing pigeons passed through the island on that day.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	5	70	7	12	2	4	4	–	–
–	–	–	5	12	12	10	1	8	11	–	–

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

Probably breeds, or attempts to breed, in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers, with occasional influxes; sporadic in winter.

The first reported sighting of the year was a single bird on 18 Mar, with ones and twos seen on four other dates to the end of the month. Numbers and frequency increased during Apr, with a maximum of six on three dates from 13th to 25th, followed by the spring peak of seven on 7 May and 1 Jun. The latter count included one independent juvenile, providing confirmation of successful breeding. An adult was nest building in a small oak tree in upper Millcombe on 9 Jun and song was heard in Millcombe around the same date (outcome of that breeding attempt unknown). Seven were again logged on 8 Jul, while there were six on 19 Sep and four on 1 Oct. Ones and twos were seen on 11 dates 2–22 Oct, with one on 2 Nov the last of the year.

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	7	7	7	4	6	4	1	–
–	–	5	17	23	10	11	17	24	12	1	–

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.

As seems to be the norm, there was a distinct – albeit light – spring passage through the island, with ones and twos on 30 dates from 18 Apr to 16 Jun, plus three on 27 May. Song was heard in Millcombe in the first half of Jun but there was no evidence of breeding. In autumn, one was present on 28 & 29 Sep.

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	3	2	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	10	11	–	–	2	–	–	–

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

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

One on 18 Apr (High Street and campsite area) was followed by records of ones and twos on a

further 20 dates up to and including 13 Jun. In addition, three were seen on 25 May with a single Collared Dove in the Tillage Field pigsty. Most sightings were in Millcombe, around the Village or in the above-mentioned pigsty. More records this year but numbers remain very low.

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.

Recorded on five dates in spring: 21 Apr (one singing at the Cheeses and one in North Quarry), 13 May (one calling near Quarter Wall, in flight over Millcombe and at South End) and 20–22 Jun (one, Millcombe). Later in the summer, singles, presumably juveniles, were reported on 31 Jul and 21, 23 & 29 Aug. However, there was no evidence of breeding on the island in 2014.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

One was logged on 4 & 6 Jan, though without any supporting information. The remains of a Short-eared Owl were found on 19 Feb (Lyn Brennan) – perhaps the bird reported in Jan didn't find enough food to survive and/or got caught out by the rough weather. In autumn one was near the Old Hospital on 17 Oct. An owl seen on the West Side between the end of the Airfield and Old Light on 28 Dec was thought probably to be this species.

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]
Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

The first spring migrant was a single bird on 17 Apr, followed by three on 20th and at least one on 26th. Though passage continued throughout May, including 23 on 15th, numbers didn't peak until 12 Jun when at least 43 – apparently brought down by patchy morning fog banks – flew north off North End. The highest counts later in the summer were 19 on 2 Jul and 30 on 8 Aug. The last departing migrant logged was one on 28 Aug.

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	23	43	19	30	–	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	22	12	4	5	–	–	–	–

Hoopoe *Upupa epops* [Eurasian Hoopoe]
Nationally scarce migrant.

One was in Millcombe gardens during the early morning of 10 Mar and later that day at Benjamin's Chair, near the Church, in St Helen's Field and perched on the wall in front of Barton Cottages (Pete Lambden, Beccy MacDonald *et al.*). It remained on the island until 26 March, frequenting the areas mentioned above, as well as the track to the Castle. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. Two reportedly present on 18 Mar, but details lacking.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* [Eurasian Wryneck]
Nationally scarce migrant.

One along the Lower East Side Path about 200 m south of Quarter Wall Copse on 19 Sep stayed until 22nd (Andy Jayne), with the same or another in the same general area on 26 Sep (Chris Dee). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Lundy vagrant.

One was heard and then watched as it fed among the crevices in rocky outcrops above the Terrace between North Quarry and VC Quarry on 3 Oct (Keith Dean, Andy Turner). What was presumably the same bird was heard calling in Millcombe on 5 Oct (Luke Phillips, Tony Taylor).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Nationally scarce migrant.

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

One was in and around Millcombe on 24 & 25 May (Ian Hartley, Paul Holt, Richard Taylor). Record accepted by DBRC. What seems likely to have the same bird was reported on 18 & 21–23 May but no descriptions were submitted to DBRC.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Nationally scarce migrant.

A male at the North End on 12 May was found by David Collins, who noted: “*The bird was first seen in the vicinity of the ‘rail tracks’ which lead from the North Light to the top of the cove where the landing place is on the east shore. It then flew up towards the plateau and was seen perched on the little bridge just before you descend to the lighthouse. It was then observed feeding from rocks along the cliff-top on the east side before we lost it. It caught and ate a large beetle.*” Record accepted by DBRC. A male on 27 May, first seen near the Old Light and making its way south along the walls, was later perched on a fence to the west of the Church. On 28th it was seen in St John’s Valley, close to the Church again, and on the fence-line between the top of Millcombe and St Helen’s Field (where it was watched taking beetles and caterpillars). It was in the same area on 30th, while by 31st it had moved to the western end of Quarter Wall (Paul Holt, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

It is possible that all of these records refer to a single long-staying bird, but it seems more probable that two individuals were involved given the lengthy gap between sightings of what is a pretty conspicuous species.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.

[Western Jackdaw]

One on 27 Apr – on roof of Black Shed and later feeding in Tillage Field and St Helen’s Field (Richard Campey). Two around the Landing Bay on the unusual date of 8 Jul (Cambridge Conservation Volunteers).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Breeds; present throughout the year, but evidence of movement to & from the island.

The highest spring count was 50 on 24 Apr. On 28 May Tony Taylor found a cache of crow-predated eggs on the seaward rim of the Devil’s Limekiln. This included at least three Shag eggs, two gull eggs and 25 auk eggs, about half of which were Guillemot, several identified as Razorbill, and others too damaged for species-level identification. At least six broods of fledged young were seen at various locations during the period 7–12 Jun. There was an apparent influx during the second half of Oct, with four counts of more than 50 between 17th and 22nd, peaking at 62 on 20th. The same observers noticed a fall in numbers from 23rd, with 28 being the highest number from that date to the end of the month. Carrion Crow is usually thought of as a sedentary species, but these records point to significant movements to and from the island; something that has been picked up in some previous autumns, though the distances and directions involved, or how frequently crows fledged on Lundy disperse to the mainland (and vice versa) are unknown. The highest count of the year came on the last day of the year, with an exceptional 70 on 31 Dec (Neil Trout). This matches the previous all-time record high count, when an estimate of the island’s population gave a “*likely total in excess of 70 individuals*” in spring 2007.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	–	30	50	34	26	10	35	36	62	21	70

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix**Lundy vagrant, primarily in spring. Devon rarity.*

One was in and around the Brick Field 14–16 Jun (Adam Bainbridge, Shaun Barnes, Kevin Welsh *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

A family party with four, possibly five, fledged young was seen in the vicinity of Quarter Wall Copse on 6 May (Andy Jayne). Family parties with four, two and one well-grown young were seen during the period 7–12 Jun. Maximum of 13 on 20 Aug and 11 Sep.

Maximum count (including young of the year) for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	2	6	8	10	14	10	13	13	8	5	6

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter. Spring passage was noted between 8 Mar (one) and 29 May (one), with ones and twos on 18 further dates, plus three on 29 Apr. The first autumn migrant was one on 23 Aug, with records of up to three on most dates to the end of the month and of up to four on scattered dates during the first half of Sep. Influxes later in Sep brought 16 on 22nd, rising to 55, 75 and 50 on 24th–26th, before dropping back to single digits to close the month. During Oct, the highest counts were 50 on 5th and 25 on 10th and there were two counts of 20 later in the month. The last of the year was one on 4 Nov.

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	3	1	–	–	3	75	50	1	–
–	–	7	9	5	–	–	8	19	27	1	–

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

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

During spring passage there were five on 20 Mar and three the following day, plus a singing male near the Terrace Trap on 26 May (Paul Holt & Philip Lymbery). The first autumn migrants were in Sep, with two in Millcombe on 4th, one there on 5th, two on 25th and one on 27th. Unusually, none was recorded during the first half of Oct, but there were daily reports from 19th to 29th, involving single birds on ten dates and two on 20th & 29th. The last of the year was a single bird on 2 Nov.

2013 additions: Records of single birds on 12, 13 & 19 Apr were accidentally omitted from the 2013 bird report.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater**Uncommon autumn migrant; very rare spring migrant; occasional in winter.*

A single bird was reported daily in Millcombe 18–20 Apr (Martin Thorne).

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

[Greater Short-toed Lark]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was seen and photographed near Quarter Wall during the Devon Birds day-trip on 18 May (Phil Abbott, Jon Turner *et al.*) – see colour plate 6. Record accepted by DBRC.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

Common breeder; common spring and autumn migrant; sporadic in winter with influxes during exceptionally cold weather.

Two were singing in the vicinity of the Rocket Pole on 17 Feb. The highest count of the spring was 118 on 25 Apr. Adults were carrying food to nest sites during the period 7–12 Jun. On the latter date 43 adults were counted from the main track between the North End and the Village. A recently fledged chick was found on 11 Jul. Autumn passage was unremarkable, with low numbers throughout most of Sep & Oct. Counts only reached 20 or more on seven dates, with a modest maximum of 30 on both 28 Sep and 29 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	20	30	118	42	43	12	21	30	30	1	6

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

[Horned Lark]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

On 12 Jun a male in full breeding plumage was watched for about 45 minutes at North End as it perched on rocks, fed on the ground and sub-sang in the area between the top of the steps down to North Light and John O'Groats (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC. There have been only six previous Lundy records of Shore Lark, the last of these dating back to 22 May 1992. It is striking that four of the six have been in May or Jun, given that this species is usually thought of as a winter visitor to Britain.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first reported spring migrants were two on 29 Mar, with one the following day. Passage peaked during Apr, with maxima of 100 on 14th and 47 on 18th (all other counts were of 25 or fewer) but appeared to dwindle to a steady trickle in May, with the last of the spring being three on 12 Jun. The first southbound migrants were noted on 11 Jul (three) and small numbers continued to pass through for much of Aug & Sep, with a peak count of just 12 on 8 Sep. The last of the year was one on 19 Oct (the only individual recorded that month).

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	100	5	3	3	10	12	1	–	–
–	–	2	17	14	3	3	11	14	1	–	–

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in very small numbers from time to time.

Spring passage got under way with one on 29 Mar. Numbers increased rapidly, with maxima of 1,000 on both 13 & 14 Apr and between 500 and 800 on five other dates up to and including 2 May (when Chris Baillie counted 315 passing North Light in one hour in mid-afternoon). After 200 on 3 May, counts for the remainder of the month did not exceed double digits. The last migrants passed through during the first half of Jun, leaving just the island's small breeding population by the end of the month. During the period 7–12 Jun, nesting pairs were found in the gas store in lower Millcombe and in the Casbah. Birds were also seen around the Church porch and Pig's Paradise pigsty, but there was no evidence of active nests at either site at that time. A pair at the Casbah had young about a week old on 21 Aug; probably a second brood. Autumn migration got under way in Aug, with Sep peaks of 1,000 on 22nd & 29th, followed by 500 on 1 Oct and 800 on 7th. Numbers declined rapidly thereafter, with 150 on 12 Oct, 70 on 20th, 15 on 22nd and eight on 24th (the last of the year).

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	1,000	500	12	8	60	1,000	800	–	–
–	–	1	23	27	12	15	26	26	24	–	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

The first reported spring migrant was one on 13 Apr and movements continued through Apr & May. Peak counts included 60 on 17 Apr, 50 on 25 Apr and 30 on 30 May. Light passage was sustained until mid-Jun, after which there were no further reports until one on 31 Jul. A trickle of migrants in Aug and the first three weeks of Sep was followed later in Sep by 30 on 22nd, 125 on 26th and 110 on 29th. During Oct there were between one and ten birds on 14 dates, plus 15 on 12th. The last of the year were three flying around Old Light Cottage on 28 Oct and finally one on 4 Nov.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	60	30	8	1	5	125	15	1	–
–	–	–	15	25	9	1	6	20	13	1	–

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus**Nationally scarce migrant.*

Singles were in Millcombe on 21 Sep (Andy Jayne) and in the clump of willows next to the Terrace Heligoland Trap on 25 Sep (Kathy Evans). One in St Helen's Copse on 5 Oct seems likely to have been the bird trapped and ringed in Millcombe the following day (Luke Philips, Tony John & Tony Taylor). One in Millcombe on 28 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*), with a second bird on the Terrace (Chris Baillie). Five in Millcombe on 29 Oct, of which three were trapped and ringed (Rob Duncan *et al.*). One of the ringed birds was still present in Millcombe on 30th (Justin Zantboer). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

The only spring migrant reported was one feeding in sallows by the Terrace Heligoland Trap on 25 Apr (Richard Campey). There were no autumn records.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

The first spring migrant, a single bird, was noted on 12 Mar. Ones and twos were seen on three further dates to the end of the month. As expected, numbers and frequency increased rapidly in Apr, with maxima of 200 on 15th and 50 on 25th. Day totals of passage birds did not reach double digits after 30 on 29 Apr. During the period 7–12 Jun singing males were holding territory in Millcombe (two), St Helen's Copse (one) and Quarter Wall Copse (one). A count of ten on 28 Jun hints at the presence of fledged young, though there was no firm evidence of breeding reported. A trickle of southbound migration appeared to start up in the last days of Aug, when there were ten on 30th. However, numbers remained low until the end of Sep when there were 65 on 21st, 80 on 22nd, 50 on 25th and 60 on 26th. Movements continued throughout Oct but there were no significant falls, with a modest maximum of 30 on 20th. Following scattered records of one to four birds in Nov, the last of the year was one on 30 Dec.

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	200	7	10	2	10	80	30	4	1
–	–	4	20	25	12	10	19	24	28	8	1

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus*

Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; breeds occasionally.
 Spring passage got under way with four on 27, 30 & 31 Mar. Thereafter, recorded on most days in Apr, with a substantial fall of 400 on 15th, followed by 80 on 16th and 100 on 17th – the only other counts of more than 50 in a day. The last double-digit count of the spring was ten on 30 Apr, while the final migrants logged were single birds on 1 & 2 Jun. There was no evidence of breeding. Return passage got under way at the very end of Jul, with two on 29th and 34 the following day. Movement continued throughout Aug & Sep, with maxima of 40 on 30 Aug and 35 on 5 Sep, but there were only single-digit counts after 7 Sep. The last of the year were single birds on 2, 5 & 27 Oct. A bird ringed in northern Spain in Aug 2012 was trapped in Millcombe in Apr (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014*, p.63 for full details).

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	400	5	1	34	40	35	1	–	–
–	–	3	23	20	2	2	21	22	3	–	–

2012 correction: The reference in the 2012 bird report to a fall of Willow Warblers on 23 Jul was accidentally duplicated from 2011 records. An account of that day's observations correctly appeared in the 2011 report.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter. Likely to have bred but as yet without confirmation.

The first spring migrants were single males on 29 & 31 Mar. The main passage was in Apr, with maxima of 50 on 15th and 62 on 17th. Numbers fell away rapidly thereafter, the last double-digit count being 20 on 25 Apr. There was circumstantial evidence of a nesting attempt in Millcombe, where a single singing male was seen and heard regularly around the slope below Brambles in late May and early Jun, and a female seen occasionally in the same area on 9 & 10 Jun. The male was singing only briefly and intermittently, which together with the infrequent appearance of the female was strongly suggestive of a pair with a nest and eggs. A female was seen in the same area on 6 Jul. A trickle of migration got under way from mid-Aug, with the first notable influx being 40 on 30th. Numbers were generally low in Sep until a significant fall brought 250 on 25 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*), with 100 and 50 logged for the following two days. Good numbers continued to occur into Oct, with 40 on 2nd, 80 on 7th and 60 on 10th, but counts during the second half of the month were substantially lower, most being in single digits. The last of the year was a single bird on 24 Nov.

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	62	6	2	2	40	250	80	2	–
–	–	2	23	20	8	4	16	20	26	4	–

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.

During spring migration there were just four records of single birds between 27 Apr and 8 May. In autumn, the first migrants were two on 30 Aug, coinciding with an arrival of other warblers. These were followed by singles on five dates 5–26 Sep, two on 27 Sep and a last single bird on 6 Oct.

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	1	–	–	2	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	6	1	–	–

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was seen briefly on the Terrace on 2 Oct. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC. If accepted this would be the first record for the island since one was trapped and ringed on 12 Sep 2007.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca**Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; one recent breeding record.*

Not recorded in spring. In autumn there were records of ones and twos on 13 dates from 1 Sep to 30 Oct (single birds on 1, 19, 21, 25 & 30 Sep, two on 24 Sep, and singles on 1, 2, 4, 26–28 & 30 Oct). One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 30 Oct showed characters of 'Siberian Lesser Whitethroat' *S. c. blythi* (based on wing formula and pattern of white in the tail feathers). Feather samples were taken and sent for DNA analysis to confirm the preliminary identification from examination in the hand (Rob Duncan *et al.*). Results had not been received prior to publication of this report. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.

The first spring migrants were two on 16 Apr. Numbers reached six on 22nd and 11 on 25th but dwindled thereafter. A female was seen in Millcombe (on the southern slope of the Ugly) in late May and single territory-holding males were singing in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse during the period 7–12 Jun, but there was no conclusive evidence of breeding. One singing on the Terrace on 7 Jun was presumably a late migrant as it was not heard subsequently. There was a trickle of migration throughout Aug & Sep (one to three birds on 26 dates), plus a small influx of 12 on 30 Aug, coinciding with a small fall of other warblers. The last was one on 27 Sep.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	11	5	2	–	12	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	13	13	10	–	13	14	–	–	–

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

Spring migrants were noted on ten dates between 12 Apr (single male) and 30 Apr (single male), with a maximum of just three on 22nd. In autumn there were three on 26 Sep and one the following day.

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	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus**Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring.*

Spring migrants were seen between 14 Apr (one) and early Jun, with a maximum of 13 (all in Millcombe) on 29 Apr. A bird ringed in western France in Aug 2008 was controlled on Lundy in

Apr, while one ringed on Lundy on 30 Aug was controlled in northern France 12 days later (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014* on p.63 for full details). A singing male held territory in upper Millcombe in May, Jun and the first half of Jul but apparently failed to attract a mate, though two birds were logged on 3 Jun and 12 Jul. Autumn migrants were thin on the ground, with an Aug maximum of five on 30th, while two was the highest count in Sep, on both 21st & 27th.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	13	6	2	2	5	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	25	8	12	3	8	–	–	–

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One singing from 'Smelly Gully', lower Millcombe, on 3 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor). Record accepted by DBRC. This is only the fifth record for Lundy, the last being a singing male near Stoneycroft on 26 May 1997.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Single spring migrants were logged on 17 Apr (a probable adult male, trapped in St John's Valley, had been ringed in Cornwall as a first-year bird in Aug 2012 – see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014*, p.63 for full details) and 28 May (one singing briefly in the Lone Pine Gully area below the Beach Road – Tony Taylor). During autumn passage there were singles on 23 & 30 Aug (the first of these trapped and ringed in Millcombe) and 25 Oct. The latter was present in scrub hugging the cliffs at the mouth of St Helen's Combe and led its observers a merry dance as they attempted to pin down its identification.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

[Bohemian Waxwing]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

An adult male spent about an hour (from 09.00hrs) in upper Millcombe during the morning of 20 Oct, when it was watched and photographed at close range as it fed on berries. At one point it called and flew off strongly to the south-east, disappearing over the mouth of Millcombe and was thought probably to have left the island. However, it was relocated briefly at the mouth of St Helen's Combe at 10.30hrs, but could not be found later in the morning (Tom Bedford, Richard Campey, James Diamond & Tim Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. This is only the fifth LFS record, the previous four having been in Nov 1990, May 1997, Oct 2004 and Jan 2005.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

One in Millcombe on four dates 20–27 Sep was trapped and ringed on 27th (Chris Dee, Andy Jayne *et al.*) but found dead on the Beach Road on 2 Oct.

2013 addition: A record of a juvenile caught and ringed in Millcombe on 30 Aug (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor) was accidentally omitted from the 2013 bird report.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident.

Clearly under-recorded in Jan & Feb (see table) given that a count of 25 was made on 18 Mar,

by which time males would have been singing strongly. At least 20 pairs were seen taking food to nest sites, and/or emerging with faecal sacs, during the period 7–12 Jun, mainly in Millcombe and along the Lower East Side Path. The first fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 26 Jun. The highest daily total for the year was 58 on 1 Oct – the result of a complete count south of Halfway Wall made by Richard Campey. Bearing in mind that some non-calling birds hidden in vegetation and among rocks would inevitably have been missed, and that a count north of Halfway Wall would likely have yielded a further 20 or so birds, the island’s Wren population appears to be at a very healthy level.

A first-year Wren ringed on 23 Sep was found dead near Bridport, Dorset on 21 Oct; the first proof of movement of Wrens between Lundy and the mainland – or vice versa (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014* on p.63 for full details).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	25	27	18	30	10	20	20	58	11	14

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* [Common Starling]

Resident; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant, often in large numbers.

On 26 May Richard Taylor noted active Starling nests at Old Light (three), Barton Cottages and the main Workshop. Post-breeding numbers reached maxima of 80 on 9 Jun and 110 on 26 Aug. It was the last week of Oct before there were any really noticeable influxes of migrants, with 325 on 25th and 250 on 29th. The highest count of the year was 400 on 19 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan present	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	50	30	47	30	80	45	110	115	325	400	86

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* [Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

An adult was with Starlings in the vicinity of Quarter Wall and the Brick Field and later on a wall near the Lodge on 21 Jun (John & Silvia Buchanan, Duncan Matheson *et al.*). A juvenile was around the farmyard from 17 to 24 Aug (Grant Cozens, Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.* – see colour plate 6). Records accepted by DBRC.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* [White-throated Dipper]

Lundy vagrant. Not previously recorded on the island.

A juvenile was seen perched and in flight in Millcombe walled gardens on 9 Jun (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Martin Palmer). This is the first substantiated record for Lundy and perhaps one of the most unexpected sightings on the island of recent decades. (See p.64 for an account of this ‘first’ for Lundy.)

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

In spring, one on 19 Mar was followed by two on 31 Mar and a lone male on 15 Apr. In autumn there was one in Millcombe on 2 Oct, followed later that month by three on 10th, one on 15th, two on 26th and singles on 28th & 29th. The last of the year was a single bird on 4 Nov.

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	1	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	–
–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	6	1	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

There were at least five territory-holding males in Millcombe in late Apr and it is likely that there were further territories elsewhere along the East Side, south of Halfway Wall. A female was seen in brambles close to the South Light on 25 May – an unusual location during the breeding season. Successful breeding was confirmed when single very well-grown juveniles (clearly from fairly early broods) were seen below the Beach Road and in Millcombe in the first half of Jun. There was no real sign of the usual Oct influx of passage migrants until the very end of the month, when there were 20 on 29th, but numbers dwindled again over the next few days until a further small arrival brought 25 on 5 Nov; the last evidence of migration for the year. A Blackbird ringed on Lundy in Nov 2013 was found dead in south-west Sweden in Apr (see p.63 for full details).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	6	6	20	10	12	3	6	7	20	25	2

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

The only late-winter and spring records were one on 25 Mar and eight on 4 Apr. Persistently mild weather, dominated by south-westerly winds, meant that thrush migration was virtually absent during Oct, with Fieldfares recorded on just two dates during the month: a singleton on 22nd followed by 14 on 28th. Things did not improve in Nov & Dec, with records on only eight dates, all involving single-digit counts.

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	4	–	–	–	–	–	14	8	8
–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	4

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Occasional resident in small numbers, breeding sporadically; common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather.

Singles on 29 Jan and 18 Feb were the only records early in the year. For the fourth consecutive year there was no indication of breeding, though one was heard singing on 15 May; perhaps a late migrant. There were no further records until the end of Sep, when a single bird was seen daily 26th–30th. This was followed by scattered sightings of one to three birds on eight dates from 5 to 27 Oct. Something more like normal autumn migration occurred at the very end of the month, with five on 28th & 30th, and 20 on 29th, but this was not maintained into Nov when there were only two records, of one and two birds, early in the month. The year ended with singles on 28 & 29 Dec.

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	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	20	2	1
1	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	12	2	2

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

There were no late-winter or spring passage records, while autumn migration was very slow in getting going, with no significant movements until the fourth week of Oct owing to exceptionally

mild conditions and winds largely unfavourable to large-scale migration from the north and east. The vanguard was a single bird on 10 Oct, but there were no more until three on 20th. A modest overnight arrival and early-morning movement brought 70 on 22nd, but numbers dropped off again before 135 on 28th were followed by an impressive 2,000 on 29th, but only 100 on 30th, 50 on 31st and two on 1 Nov. Further small influxes brought 50 on 4 & 5 Nov and 27 on 18 Nov.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,000	50	2
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	13	5

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

During late winter/early spring, singles were logged on 18 Feb (in Millcombe) and 8 Mar. In autumn there were further records of single birds on 9 & 18 Oct.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; has bred irregularly, but not since 1997.

The first spring migrant was a single bird on 22 & 23 Apr. Thereafter, reported on 24 dates between 6 May (one) and 9 Jun (one), with a maximum of 11 on 25 May. The first southbound migrants were single birds on seven dates in the first three weeks of Aug. Numbers slowly picked up towards the end of the month, when 11 on 30th coincided with a small fall of warblers. Migration appeared to continue steadily throughout Sep, but with no major arrivals, the peak again being 11 on 11th. The last of the year was one on 26 Sep.

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	11	6	–	11	11	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	19	5	–	18	21	–	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

A count of 11 on 25 Apr hinted at the presence of a few spring migrants. A recently fledged juvenile was seen near the gas store in Millcombe on 27 May. During the period 7–12 Jun song was heard in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse, Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace, fledged young from two different broods were being fed in Millcombe, and young were also being fed at Quarter Wall Copse. Numbers began to increase in the last week of Aug as the first autumn migrants (or at least the first dispersing birds from nearby mainland areas) appeared. A noticeable influx at the end of Sep brought counts of 15, 20 and 34 on 25th–27th respectively, while an overnight exodus meant just seven were logged on 28th, followed by a further increase to 21 on 29th. There were several other double-digit counts during the first three weeks of Oct, including 21 on 1st and 20th, with notable influxes towards the end of the month yielding 32 on 22nd and 30 on 26th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	4	3	11	6	5	4	13	34	32	7	7

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One in Millcombe, in the vicinity of the Casbah, on 28 & 29 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

In spring, single males occurred on 15, 19, 22 & 23 Apr, with a female also present on 22nd. Further singletons were reported on 17, 18 & 27 May and 1 Jun (the latter a female). A male was reported on the unusual date of 27 Jul. One was in Millcombe on 8 Aug. Later autumn migrants were thin on the ground, with two on 4 & 22 Sep and one on 25th – the latter the last of the year.

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	1	1	1	1	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	3	1	1	1	3	–	–	–

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common late-autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.

Spring migrants were recorded on 12 dates between 17 Apr (two males) and 1 Jun (a single bird, sex not specified), with a maximum of three (sexes not specified) on 19 Apr. Very unusually there were no Oct records, which reflected a general dearth of migrants from the north and east during the month. Nov brought little change, with two on 5th the only record for the whole autumn. Early winter brought a female on 27 Dec and a male the following day.

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	2	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
–	–	–	6	5	1	–	–	–	–	2	2

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring migrants were recorded on 12 dates between 3 Apr (one, sex not indicated) and 18 Jun (one, sex not indicated), with a maximum of three (sexes not indicated) on 19 Apr. In autumn, the first was a single bird at Quarter Wall on 3 Aug, followed by one on 2 Sep and records of one and twos on 12 dates between 19 Sep and the last on 11 Oct.

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	1	1	–	1	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	7	4	1	–	1	12	1	–	–

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn.

The only report during spring migration was of two on 14 May. The first autumn migrants were singles on 20 & 26 Aug, followed by a significant influx in mid-Sep, with records on ten dates from 14th (one) to 29th (two), peaking at ten on 18th and eight on 19th. The last of the year were singles on 31 Oct and 1 & 5 Nov.

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	–	–	1	10	1	1	–
–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	10	1	2	–

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

A single bird was seen on three dates from 23 to 29 Jan. There were no further reports until three on 26 Feb, then two on 19 Mar and one the following day. Single males were seen 13–15 Apr and two males on 22 Apr. Finally, for spring, two (of unspecified sexes) were on the Terrace on 21 May. 2014 was the fifth consecutive year in which there was no evidence of Stonechats breeding on Lundy. Records for three dates in Jul (single bird on 9th, simply noted as present on 10th & 12th) seem likely to refer to post-breeding dispersal of birds from the mainland. Autumn migration appeared to get under way in the last ten days of Sep, with almost daily records from 19th, right through to the end of Oct, peaking at 12 on 21 Sep, ten on 1 Oct and six on 11 & 29 Oct. After three on 5 Nov, the only records later in the year were single males on three dates in Dec, the last of these on 29th.

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	3	2	2	2	–	1	–	12	10	3	1
3	1	2	4	1	–	3	–	10	24	3	3

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first spring migrant was one on 12 Mar, followed by one on 15th, two on 18th, four on 19th and seven on 20th. Light passage continued to be logged until mid-Apr, when numbers picked up with 40 on 13th, 35 on 16th, 100 on 17th and 60 on 25th. While migration continued during May, there were no further high counts. Individuals on 2 May, 31 May (two) and 1 Jun were noted as showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa*. Fledged juveniles were reported from 30 May. The colour-ringing project described in the 2013 *LFS Annual Report* (pp.80–84) was continued (see p.92 for a comprehensive update). Writing in the logbook for the period 24 May to 3 Jun, Tony Taylor noted: “20 of last year’s colour-ringed birds sighted*, 31 new birds ringed, plus 4 broods of chicks. All between Castle and Jenny’s Cove. Also one day spent covering the whole island, counting all birds, ringed and unringed. Preliminary analysis suggests an island population of about 90 pairs.” [*Taking into account additional sightings, 22 of the birds marked in 2013 were recorded during 2014.] Further statistical analysis when back on the mainland led Tony to revise this estimate upwards to 115 pairs. This is the highest breeding population ever recorded for the island; a success story that is likely to be at least partly due to the eradication of rats. Tony commented further: “My first thoughts tended towards the sceptical, but on the other hand we are still only talking about just over half the density on Ramsey [Pembrokeshire], where two full-time bird wardens monitor them closely through the breeding season.” Autumn migration was evident throughout Aug & Sep but no major influxes were noted. Numbers dwindled rapidly from the end of Sep, with ones and twos on just seven dates in Oct, plus four on 11th. The last of the year was one on 5 Nov.

Maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom); logbook data only – excludes population estimate derived from colour-ringing project

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	100	34	25	7	50	35	4	1	–
–	–	6	24	29	10	16	25	24	8	1	–

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

A pair was seen in brambles below the South Light on 25 May. During the period 7–12 Jun, singing

males were holding territory in three areas: near the mouth of Millcombe/top of the Beach Road (a pair was seen in this location), near Quarter Wall Copse and below the Terrace. However, no young were seen and there was no evidence of adults carrying food to nest sites or fledglings. During the whole of the late summer and early autumn post-breeding period, the highest daily count was just three. As often seems to be the case, perhaps due to modest movements of dispersing birds from the mainland, numbers were a little higher in Oct, with five logged on five dates between 1st and 23rd, then six on 24th & 25th. Seven different individuals were handled by ringers in 2014; three adults (two retraps from previous years) and four birds of the year.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	5	3	3	3	1	2	3	6	2	2

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; possible immigration obscured by resident population.

The following summary from ongoing research into Lundy’s House Sparrow population has been contributed by Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar and Leticia Lopera-Doblas, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology.

The 2014 breeding season started very early, with the first egg laid on 15 Mar – the earliest date since comprehensive monitoring began in 2000 (though monitoring in previous years generally did not begin as early as it did in 2014, which probably reduced the likelihood of recording any very early clutches). 2014 was also a record year in terms of fledglings ringed (553) and almost a record year in terms of number of broods recorded (241, the record being 248). A few birds bred up to four times, something very unusual in the Lundy population. By the end of Jul, only a handful of birds were risking new breeding attempts and by 19 Aug (the date that Alfredo left the island), only two pairs were still feeding chicks. Many of the 2014 fledglings as well as many of the adults were caught in two subsequent winter trips. In Dec 2014, 100 individuals were caught, followed by 85 in Feb 2015.

The highest field count of the year was 160 on 26 Aug, immediately after the breeding season. As in some previous years, a small number of individuals appeared to have learnt how to make a living from picking about under the tables inside the Tavern; three birds were watched doing this on 27 Oct.

Maximum count for each month (= figures entered in the LFS Logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
present	15	50	64	30	20	present	160	70	130	20	35

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

[Eurasian Tree Sparrow]

Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.

A remarkable influx occurred at the end of Aug, when three were seen near the helipad on 22nd, rising to 12 on 24th, with 11 remaining to 29th and the last nine lingering until 2 Sep, when seen just south of Old Light (Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). The mobile flock tended to frequent the main tracks between the Village and Old Light, and between the Village and Quarter Wall (see colour plate 6). The most recent previous Tree Sparrow record for the island was of a single bird on 29 Jul 2000 (though there was also an unconfirmed report of one in early Aug 2008), but it is necessary to go as far back as 1975 to find a count of more than 12 (namely 16 on 29 May that year). Given that there are no Tree Sparrows breeding on nearby parts of the mainland, the birds’ likely origin was a matter of debate. On one hand, their appearance coincided with a period of blustery NW winds, so perhaps they had come from the thriving breeding population in Ireland.

On the other hand, significant Tree Sparrow movements were reported along the east coast of England in late Aug and early Sep (e.g. 300 at Spurn on 31 Aug, 26 on the Farne Islands on 2 Sep), perhaps suggesting a northern British or even continental origin. Elsewhere, targeted conservation efforts in parts of southern England have resulted in locally high breeding productivity from nestbox schemes. Whatever the answer, the Lundy Tree Sparrows were a welcome late-summer surprise for those who saw them. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

[Western & Eastern Yellow Wagtail]

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

'British' Yellow Wagtails (*M. f. flavissima*) were recorded as follows: during spring passage ones and twos were noted on seven dates between 25 Apr (two) and 18 May (one); in autumn there were three on 24 Aug, with singles 25th to 27th, followed in Sep by singles on five dates (6th to 30th – the latter the last of the year), plus four on 17th.

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	2	–	–	3	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	3	–	–	4	6	–	–	–

In addition, a male of the Fennoscandian subspecies 'Grey-headed Wagtail' (*M. f. thunbergi*) was seen and photographed in St Helen's Field on 31 May (Pete Clabburn, Philip Lymbery, Chris Townend *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC. This is the fifth Lundy occurrence of Grey-headed Wagtail, the last being in Jun 1997.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

There were no records during spring passage, meaning that the first of the year was not until autumn passage commenced with a single bird on 31 Aug, followed by one to three on ten dates in Sep and ones and twos on ten dates in Oct.

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	3	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	10	–	–

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.

The first of the year were single Pied Wagtails (*M. a. yarrellii*) in the Brick Field on 18 Feb and again on 9 Mar. Thereafter, Pied Wagtails were reported almost daily from 15 Mar, with spring maxima of five on 20 Mar and seven on 4 Apr. During the period 7–12 Jun a pair was watched taking food to a nest site near Brambles and another nest site was suspected at an inaccessible location below St Helen's Combe. Two juvenile Pied Wagtails were seen in Tillage Field on 30 Jul, while an adult was feeding a juvenile in Millcombe on 12 Aug. Autumn passage maxima included nine on 27 Aug, 18 on 29 Sep and 19 on 22 Oct. The last report of the year concerned one on 9 Nov.

During spring passage, White Wagtails (*M. a. alba*) were noted on 14 dates between 14 Apr (two) and 31 May (one, St Helen's Field), with a maximum of 12 on 16 Apr. In autumn, White

Wagtails occurred on 18 dates from 23 Aug (one) to 30 Oct (three) with maxima of seven on 31 Aug and 15 (mostly in St Helen's Field) on 2 Sep. Records accepted Devon Bird Recorder.

Maximum count for each month (top row = Pied Wagtail; bottom row = White Wagtail)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	5	7	2	3	3	9	18	19	1	–
–	–	–	12	1	–	–	7	15	3	–	–

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

The only spring passage record came on 29 Apr, with two in Millcombe at 11.00hrs, then calling in flight over Tillage Field about an hour later (Richard Campey). In autumn there were records on eight dates between 24 Aug (three – the highest recorded count) and 29 Sep (one), the last of the year.

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	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	6	2	–	–	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

Small numbers were recorded early in the year, but there were no reports of noticeable spring passage until well into Apr, when 50 were logged heading north on 13th, 40 on 14th and 100 on 17th. Most daily counts exceeded 50 between then and the end of Apr, but many of these birds were likely to have been Lundy breeders. During the period 7–12 Jun two fledged young were seen (along the Lower East Side Path and on Ackland's Moor) but most pairs were still carrying food to nest sites. A nest containing five approximately eight-day-old chicks was found near the Rocket Pole on 11 Jun. Autumn passage began to be noticeable towards the end of Aug, but it was the second half of Sep before larger numbers were noted, including 200 on 16th & 18th, 300 on 21st, 440 on 27th and 500 on 29th. During Oct there were just four counts of 200 or more, peaking at 340 on 5th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	8	12	100	50	15	13	115	500	340	6	6

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One calling in flight, heading south with Meadow Pipits, over the slope between the Terrace and the Timekeeper's Hut on 2 Oct. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest spring count was 12 on 19 Apr. During the period 7–12 Jun, fledged juveniles were being fed by adults in the Landing Bay and pairs elsewhere were seen taking food to presumed nest sites or secreted young.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
present	2	7	12	8	6	2	10	6	4	3	2

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no records until Oct, when there were single birds on 21st & 22nd, two on 29th, four on 30th and one on 31st.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

[Common Chaffinch]

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

The highest spring count was ten on 18 May. On 9 & 11 Jun very recently fledged juveniles were being fed by adults in Millcombe, in the sycamores around the stream running down from Brambles. Song was heard from the Terrace in the first half of Jun and a nest with three chicks was found near the Heligoland Trap on 11 Jul. The young had apparently fledged successfully by 14th.

A female Chaffinch ringed on Lundy in Oct 2012 was controlled in southern Norway in early Apr (see *Lundy Recoveries and Controls 2014*, p.63 for full details), when it was likely still to have been on spring migration towards its breeding grounds.

Unusually mild conditions, with persistently adverse winds for migrants from northern Europe, meant that October finch migration was close to non-existent. Chaffinch counts remained stubbornly low, with numbers only exceeding 100 on six dates in the last week of Oct; the highest totals being 1,400 on 28th, 1,500 on 29th and 350 on 30th. Numbers had dwindled to 50 by 1 Nov, with 120 on 6 Nov being the only further obvious influx of migrants.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	9	9	10	6	4	8	10	1,500	120	2

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant. Devon rarity.

One was in Millcombe on 5 May (Andy Jayne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Common Rosefinch (Scarlet Rosefinch) *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

On 27 May one was heard calling and identified independently (on call alone) by two observers: first, in Millcombe, on the slopes of the Ugly and also further up the valley at 06.00hrs (Richard Taylor) and then near the campsite at 06.20hrs (Paul Holt). On 31 May a first-summer bird flew over Brambles before perching in the top of a sycamore and flying off towards Millcombe, calling as it went (Pete Clabburn, Charles Crundwell, P. Long). A juvenile was trapped and ringed on 10 Sep (Nik Ward). Records accepted by DBRC.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant; evidence of possible breeding in 2003/04; one winter record.

A female was trapped and ringed in St John's Valley on 15 Apr (Rob Duncan). One was calling persistently in lower Millcombe on 24 Aug (Richard Taylor & Tony Taylor).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers, though more frequent in autumn; occasional visitor in summer and winter.

One on 16 Mar was the only spring passage record. Later in the year two were reported calling from woodland on the East Side on 29 Aug, while there was one in Millcombe on 28 Oct.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

The first of the year were two on 23 Mar. Spring migration picked up in Apr, with the first noticeable influx being 30 on 13th, followed by seven other counts of 30 or more during the month, peaking at 49 on 25th. Fledged juveniles were seen from 9 Jun, when family parties were near the Rocket Pole and feeding on sorrel in the Tent Field. Post-breeding flocks began to build up in Jul, reaching 60 on 30th and increasing further to 210 on 27 Aug, while passage migrants swelled the ranks to 310 on 17 Sep, though numbers had dropped back to double-digits by the end of Sep. Seen almost daily during Oct; most counts were in the range of 20 to 40 birds, with the notable exception of 90 on 22nd. The last report of the year was of one on 18 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	49	40	30	60	210	310	90	3	–

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

[Common Redpoll]

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

One on 28 Apr was followed by further single birds on six dates from 3 to 11 May, then daily from 25 to 29 May, with two on 30th. In autumn, single passage migrants were recorded on 22 & 29 Oct.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

One on 28 Jan was the only report until spring passage got under way with two birds on 4 Apr. Small numbers were seen on most subsequent days in Apr and May, with maxima of nine 26–28 Apr and seven on 15 May. Successful breeding on the island was confirmed on 9 & 11 Jun, when recently fledged juveniles were watched being fed by adults in Millcombe, in the sycamores around the stream running down from Brambles. A pair was still feeding young (presumably a second brood) on 12 Aug. Post-breeding numbers reached 18 on 20 Aug. Influxes of passage migrants during the second half of Oct yielded peak totals of 53 on 19th and 150 on 29th. The last record of the year was of ten on 7 Nov.

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	–	–	9	7	11	10	18	20	150	16	–
1	–	–	20	27	12	16	19	23	29	3	–

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

During spring migration single birds were recorded on seven dates between 19 Mar and 26 May, with two (m & f) present on 16 May. After a first lone autumn migrant on 11 Oct, the last week of the month brought up to three birds on four dates, plus 40 on 28th and 21 on 29th.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

A single male in the Brick Field area on 9 & 10 Mar (Gerald Hiscock) was the only record for the late-winter and spring migration periods. A relatively poor autumn-passage showing brought records on 11 dates, 12 Oct to 19 Nov. These all involved single birds, with the exception of three along the main track between Quarter Wall and Threequarter Wall on 22 & 24 Oct and two just

south of Halfway Wall on 19 Nov. One was seen being chased by a Merlin over Rat Island and the Landing Bay on 20 Oct. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus* [Lapland Longspur]

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

The first of the year was heard and seen in flight over Tillage Field on 29 Sep (Richard Campey). In what was to prove a relatively poor autumn for this Lundy speciality, there were just four further records, all of single birds, on 8, 22, 23 & 29 Oct. Localities and observers as follows: between the main track and Pondsbury (8th – Tony John), Upper East Side Path near the junction of Brick & Tillage Fields (22nd – Tom Bedford & Richard Campey), the Heinkel wreck near Halfway Wall (23rd – James Diamond), and calling in flight over St John's Valley (29th – Justin Zantboer). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare winter visitor; formerly more numerous and has bred.

One, seen by the Lodge on 20 Apr (Alfredo Sanchez-Tojar, Charlie Smith, Issie Winney) may also have been present on 19th.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One flushed and heard calling in flight, eastern side of Castle Hill, near Hammers, 25 Oct. Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* [Common Reed Bunting]

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

One was reported on 26 Apr (L. Armstrong/*BirdTrack*). A male was in the marshy area around Quarters Pond and feeding on 'Alpen' (!) on the track near Brambles on 29 Apr (Terry Armstrong, Richard Campey, Ann Freeman). October brought a good crop of autumn passage migrants (at least by the standards of recent years), with records on nine dates from 7th to 28th. These mainly involved single birds, but there were two on 22nd & 26th and a notable six on 24th, including a flock of five in gorse towards the western end of Quarter Wall (James Diamond).

BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the main list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below, but records for the North Devon shoreline and the Taw & Torridge Estuary are not covered here and should be submitted to Devon Birds.

Teal *Anas crecca*

One on the crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 13 Sep (MARINELife).

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

One on the crossing from Lundy to Ilfracombe on 16 Sep (Stuart Darbyshire).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One on the crossing from Bideford on 5 May, about three-quarters of the way across. Four from MS *Oldenburg* on 24 May. One on the crossing from Ilfracombe on 7 Jun, about 20 minutes out from the jetty (Tim Davis).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

One about two miles out from the island on 17 Apr (Martin Thorne).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A flock of seven heading towards the mainland about halfway across from Bideford to Lundy on 3 May (MARINELife).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One from MS *Oldenburg* on 17 Apr. One on crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 3 May (MARINELife). One on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 16 Aug (MARINELife). One on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 9 Sep. Two on the crossing from Lundy to Ilfracombe on 23 Sep, about 30 minutes out from the island (Andy Jayne). One on the crossing from Bideford to Lundy on 11 Oct (MARINELife).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Small numbers seen regularly during crossings in May, Jun & Jul (MARINELife).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Fourteen about two-thirds of the way across to Lundy on 1 May (Chris Baillie). One on crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 13 Sep (MARINELife).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Several on crossing from Bideford to Lundy on 5 Apr (MARINELife); others reported during the spring were all in the vicinity of 'The Bar' at the mouth of the Taw & Torridge Estuaries. Two on 21 Jun (MARINELife). One resting on a raft of driftwood about ten miles from Lundy on 11 Sep (T. Smith). Three on crossing from Bideford to Lundy on 13 Sep (MARINELife).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

One on crossing from Bideford to Lundy on 5 Apr (MARINELife).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* or **Arctic Tern** *S. paradisaea*

Four on 17 May (MARINELife) and one on 24 May. One sitting on a floating plank on the crossing from Lundy to Ilfracombe on 19 Jul (MARINELife).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Small groups seen over the open sea on several crossings during both spring and autumn migration periods.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated for the reasons given. We would be delighted to receive further information (i.e. description of bird and additional details of location and circumstances) that could enable any of these reports to be confirmed.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One, St Helen's Field, 25 Aug. Nationally scarce migrant; requires full description for DBRC but no description provided.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One seen from Brazen Ward on 2 Jul. Requires notes for Devon Bird Recorder; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Singles on 17 & 18 Jun and 29 Aug. Unusual dates; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

One on 16 Aug. Unusual date; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

One on 22 May. Unusual date; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Great Skua *Stercorarias skua*

Singles reported on 19 & 20 Apr and 15 Jul. Unusual dates; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One reported from the Rocket Pole area on 19 Apr. Devon rarity; requires notes for Devon Bird Recorder; description lacking.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Seven reported on 11 May (Tim Smith/*BirdTrack*). Lundy rarity; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Three reported on 18 Apr, with two on 19th & 20th and one on 26th. Lundy rarity; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

One reported via *BirdGuides* on 18 Aug. Nationally scarce migrant; requires full description for DBRC. No supporting information received.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

One reported on 18 & 19 Mar. Lundy rarity; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One on 30 March. Unusual date; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Single birds (sexes not indicated) logged on 1, 15 & 18 Jun and 23 Aug. Unusual dates; no supporting information to show Common Redstart eliminated. No observer contact details provided.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

One reported via *BirdGuides* on 18 Aug. Nationally scarce migrant; requires full description for DBRC. No supporting information received.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

A male reported "on the East Side near the ruined houses" (presumably Quarry Cottages) on 1 Jul. Lundy rarity; no supporting information or observer contact details provided.