

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2015

by

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 140 species were recorded during 2015.

Wildfowl

Only five species of Anatidae were reported on Lundy in 2015, four ducks – **Shelduck**, **Teal**, **Mallard** and **Common Scoter** – and a single representative of the goose family, a lone **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** which was seen on two days in September off the East Side. A highlight of the year was the successful breeding by Teal for the first time, a female raising four young on Pondsburry. Unlike most Mallard ducklings, which tend to fall prey to gulls and Peregrines, all four youngsters were still present in July, having acquired full juvenile plumage.

Divers, grebes and herons

The Landing Bay, not unusually, produced the year's records of divers. **Great Northern Divers** were seen in seven months, including three on the unusual date of 30 June; lone **Red-throated Divers** were seen on single dates in March and April; and a **Black-throated Diver** – Lundy's 12th record – stayed for two days in late November. Grebes are real rarities for Lundy and, as tends to be the norm, none were recorded in 2015. Sightings of **Little Egrets** on the other hand are increasing as their UK population continues to establish, with possibly as many as six birds passing through the island in May. Records of **Grey Herons** easily outstripped the previous year's 26 days, with single or occasionally two birds seen on 46 days between May and October, plus a late bird in early December.

Birds of prey (including owls)

The year's raptor species amounted to just seven (compared to ten the previous year). A single springtime **Hen Harrier** passed through in late April, while autumn brought a strong showing with records on nine days between mid October and late November. After a long-staying **Sparrowhawk** in the first half of June, the highest autumn count was five, all seen in view at the same time, leaving the island on 27 September. Formerly a breeding resident, single **Buzzards** on three dates in January, April and June, plus another on three days in September, was a good showing by this uncommon visitor. **Kestrels** were seen in every month but again did not breed; after a high of four in mid April, the highest count in autumn was seven in mid October. **Merlins** were seen on 33 days during the year, as usual peaking in October with four on 15th. All three records of **Hobby** fell within seven days in early June, while Lundy's **Peregrines** had a much better year than in 2014, with five young fledged. **Short-eared Owl** was, as in most years, the sole species of owl recorded, in 2015 seen from mid October to the first day of November.

Rails and waders

After an apparent blank year in 2014, **Water Rails** bred again in 2015 when a chick was heard calling at night near Quarter Wall Pond in early June, and a juvenile was seen there in August.

Ten was the highest day count following an influx of passage migrants in mid October. Among 17 wader species during the year, **Dotterel** (a juvenile on 2 October), two **Black-tailed Godwits** (24 March & 10 July, the former in summer plumage) and a juvenile **Ruff** (28 August) were the highlights. **Woodcocks** were notable for their scarcity, with single birds on three dates at the end of October and start of November after an initial two on 14 October. A spring high of 48 **Oystercatchers** on 9 April will have included a good number passage migrants as well as island breeders, while 20 on 4 November was an unusually high number for that month.

Seabirds

The first **Manx Shearwater** of the year was heard calling in the Landing Bay on 7 April. The long-term study of the island's shearwaters is continuing to yield some fascinating results, especially as the population grows. Among eight birds caught at the Old Light breeding colony in May was a bird ringed as a juvenile on Lundy in 2008. After two years of low double-digit counts of **Balearic Shearwaters**, 2015 produced just a single bird off South End on 15 September. **Storm Petrels** may be building on the success of confirmed breeding in 2014, with at least one singing for long periods at night in mid July. A count of 100 **Gannets** on 5 August was the year's high, while autumn passage **Cormorants** peaked at 24 on 15 September. **Shags** were recorded in every month (just one bird in December), the highest count (of 60) as usual in August, though well down on the 238 of the previous year, most likely a consequence of under-recording. Skua sightings included a **Pomarine** on 29 October and an impressive group of 15 **Bonxies** migrating north off the West Side on 15 May. A solitary **Black Guillemot** returned for the fourth successive year in the Landing Bay, from 2 April to 22 June. **Puffin** numbers reached a new peak since confirmation of successful rat eradication in 2004, when 250 birds were counted in Jenny's Cove (3 July); this figure doesn't include birds present in other areas during the same period. The maximum count of **Razorbills** during the year was 1,100 in May, while a March count of 1,697 **Guillemots** was the highest ever for that month, and also the highest for the year, though there was no full breeding-season census in 2015. Three **Sandwich Terns** (9 April) and two **Common Terns** (18 August) were two of only four records of terns. Among seven species of gulls reported, the undoubted highlight was Lundy's second record of **Mediterranean Gull**, 37 years after the first.

Passerines and near-passerines

Rarity highlights

Arguably the rarity highlight of the year was Lundy's second **Great Grey Shrike** which was seen on two days in mid October. It spent most of its (viewable) time in Millcombe, feeding on bumblebees. Other rare or unusual birds seen during the year were: **Hoopoe** (April/May), **Kingfisher** (an exceptional year with four records), **Wryneck** (April), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (September), **Golden Oriole** (May), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (September/October), **Dartford Warbler** (October), **Rose-coloured Starling** (June), **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (October), **Grey-headed Wagtail** (September), **Richard's Pipit** (September), **Hawfinch** (October), **Common Rosefinch** (May & September), **Bullfinch** (January, April & September), **Snow Bunting** (October), **Lapland Bunting** (September/October), **Ortolan Bunting** (September), **Little Bunting** (October) and **Rustic Bunting** (September/October).

Spring migration

Among the early long-distance arrivals, as usual, were **Wheatears**, the first on 7 March, with the highest count, of 200, on 26 & 27 April. First dates for ten species of warbler recorded during spring were: **Chiffchaff** (16 March, with a peak of 200 on 14 April), **Willow Warbler** (5 April, 300 on 8 & 14 April), **Blackcap** (5 April, 200 on 16 April), **Sedge Warbler** (10 April), **Grasshopper**

Warbler (11 April), **Whitethroat** (16 April), **Reed Warbler** (17 April), **Garden Warbler** (29 April), **Wood Warbler** (13 May, the only one recorded) and **Lesser Whitethroat** (one only, on 5 June). **Sand Martin** (8 March) and **Swallow** (3 April) turned up more or less on cue, while two **House Martins** on 10 March were much earlier than usual. Peak spring numbers for hirundines were 102 Sand Martins on 7 April, 130 House Martins on 15 April and 550 Swallows on 26 May. Among the thrushes, the first **Ring Ouzel** was seen on 6 April, while a single **Fieldfare** (5 April) and just one **Redwing** (15 April) belied their status as common spring migrants. First appearances by later-arriving migrants were **Cuckoo** (23 April), **Turtle Dove** (27 April) and **Spotted Flycatcher** (29 April). **Swift** numbers peaked at 20 on 13 June, but the first date, 15 April, was early for this normally later-arriving species. A **Blue Tit**, rare on Lundy in spring, put in an appearance on 10 April and left wearing a ring.

Breeding season

Successful breeding was confirmed for **Woodpigeon** (a pair in Millcombe), **Carrion Crow** (several family parties around the island), **Raven** (two family parties seen), **Skylark** (in what appeared to be a late season), **Swallow** (1–3 pairs), **Wren** (some 60 territories around the island), **Starling** (about 20 pairs), **Blackbird** (an estimated eight pairs), **Robin** (five pairs), **Stonechat** (one pair), **Wheatear** (about 100 pairs), **House Sparrow** (122 broods), **Pied Wagtail** (at least one pair), **Meadow Pipit** (many adults taking food to nest sites in June in what was appeared to be a late season), **Rock Pipit**, **Chaffinch** (up to four pairs), **Linnet** (several family parties seen) and **Goldfinch** (at least three pairs). Species that evaded efforts to obtain confirmed breeding included **Chiffchaff** (a presumed female seen gathering nesting material in lower Millcombe), **Dunnock** (two territories only). Yet again, **Blackcaps** could only be assigned to 'possible' breeding, a male holding territory and sub-singing in June.

Autumn migration

Sand Martin passage peaked at 60 on 17 September, while **Swallow** numbers reached 5,000 on 25 September, and **House Martins** 150 on 28 September. Two **Swifts** were unusually late migrants on 28 September. While **Goldcrests** peaked at 70 on 23 September, 2015 was a bumper year for **Firecrests** on Lundy, a strong and prolonged autumn passage evidenced by the record number of 19 birds trapped and ringed, and a day maximum of eight on 15 October. **Coal Tits** too put in a good showing, recorded on 23 days between early October and late November. **Willow Warblers** peaked at 27 on 15 September, closely followed by **Chiffchaffs** (25) on 23 September, while two **Wood Warblers** put in welcome appearances in mid September. The highest count of **Blackcaps** (175) occurred on 3 October. Four **Mistle Thrushes** on 14 October was the highest day count since five in 2010. A count of 11 **Whinchats** on 16 September was higher than in most recent years, while the autumn peak of Wheatears was a modest 50 on the same day. A fall of **White Wagtails** early on 16 September numbered at least 100 around the South End. **Meadow Pipit** passage was noticeable from early September, with day counts rising progressively from 80 on 2nd to 500 on 25th, and peaking at 650 on 12 October. Unfavourable weather conditions for a third successive autumn depressed finch passage, numbers of **Chaffinch** exceeding 100 on only four days, 300 on 26 October being the maximum. Other maxima were 50 **Goldfinches** (11 & 25 October), 45 **Siskins** (13 September) and seven **Bramblings** (28 October). Late migrants passing through in November included a single **Swallow** on 16th, a **Black Redstart** on 20th and two **Stonechats** on 26th.

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

The website www.birdsoflundy.org.uk linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2015. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from nearly 70 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.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Nomenclature and sequence

These follow *The British List* (summarised 8th edition, 30 March 2016) 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 (in this case European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name.

The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken from the LFS Logbook and give the monthly maxima and, in most 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 (particularly spring and autumn) when observer coverage is higher.

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species that are vagrants to Britain (there was one on Lundy in 2015: Rustic Bunting) 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. Red-breasted Flycatcher, Little Bunting) 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. Mediterranean Gull, Dartford Warbler), 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 2015 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 Devon Birds for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records, especially Julia Harris, Devon Birds database manager, who provided a file of all 2015 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, Rebecca Bates, Richard Campey, Dave Chown, Tim Cleeves, Chris Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Robert Foster, Andy Jayne, Andrew Jewels, Martin Kerby, Beccy Macdonald, Steve McAusland, Ryan Miller, Nick Papps, David & Elisabeth Price, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar, Grant Sherman, Luke Sutton, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor, Jon Turner, Nik Ward and Justin Zantboer.



Pied Wagtail, High Street, 18 October 2015. © Tim Jones

THE BIRDS OF 2015

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

[Brant Goose]

Lundy vagrant.

One Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*B. b. bernicla*) on the sea off the East Side below Quarter Wall on 26 Sep (Martin Kerby, Tim Cleeves) was still present, off the Sugar Loaf, on 29 Sep (Darren Dowding, Ryan Miller *et al.*). The 16th LFS record, 11 of which have been in autumn.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

[Common Shelduck]

Lundy vagrant.

A probable first-year male landed briefly on the sea off White Beach on 15 Apr. It flew off north-east after it was harassed by a Great Black-backed Gull but quickly disappeared into thick mist (Tim Jones).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

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

A male on 1 Jan (Neil Trout).

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; rare in summer. First record of breeding occurred in 2015.

The maximum during the first winter period was six on 23 & 27 Jan and 3 Mar. A pair was seen on 4 & 16 Apr, but there were no records at all in May and so it came as a huge surprise when a female and four ducklings were found on Pondsbury on 7 Jun (Tim Jones *et al.*), the first ever confirmation of breeding on Lundy. All five birds were still present in mid Jul, by which time the young had acquired full juvenile plumage (Tony Taylor). The maximum during the second winter period was five on 10 Sep, 14 Oct & 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
6	–	6	3	–	5*	5*	6	5	5	3	5
9	–	5	3	–	7	2	4	13	11	1	1

* = adult female plus four juveniles

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

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

The first ducklings of the year were seen on 27 Apr when about eight were on Pondsbury. A further brood, of 13 ducklings, was seen on 30th. A female with a relatively late brood of nine freshly hatched ducklings was near Quarters pond on 15 Jun.

Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	6	14	9	15	13	13	8	15	20	9	16

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant.

A female was in the Landing Bay on 25 Jul (Steve McAusland/MARINElife).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

Singles were in the Landing Bay on 4 Mar (Andy Jayne) and 21 Apr (Malcolm Shakespeare).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

[Arctic Loon]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One in the Landing Bay on 28 & 29 Nov (Philip & Helen Lymbery). This is the 12th LFS record and the first since Feb 2009. 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.

There were no records in Jan & Feb, but ones and twos were seen in the Landing Bay on six dates between 2 & 16 Mar. There were no records in Apr or May, but three were off the Landing Bay on the unusual date of 30 Jun (David Oddy). One flew south on 29 Oct and single birds were recorded 28–30 Nov (in the Landing Bay), 12 Dec and on four dates 23–28 Dec (location not given, but presumed to be the Landing Bay).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

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

Ninety-six birds were on the nesting ledges on the north-facing side of Gannets' Rock on 15 Apr (Tim Jones). As normal, numbers dwindled rapidly after mid Sep, with one at Jenny's Cove on 25 Oct (Grant Sherman) being the only record for that month. Seventy-one were sheltering in Lundy Roads on 18 Nov following severe gales on the night of 17th/18th.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
100	100	100	100	80	90	nc	78	14	1	71	50

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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; nc = present, but no count entered for the month in question.

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

The first record was of birds calling in the Landing Bay on 7 Apr. At least 350 were counted on 3 May (Ian Searle). At the Old Light breeding colony during the night of 22/23 May, 33 new birds were ringed and eight birds from previous years were retrapped. Two of the latter had been ringed as chicks on Lundy, in 2008 and 2013 respectively (Tony Taylor). An estimated 20 per minute were passing north along the East Side during the evening of 29 May (Tony Taylor). During MarineLIFE/RSPB survey work aimed at recording Balearic Shearwaters and Bottlenosed Dolphins on 18 Aug, dense rafts totalling up to an estimated 20,000 birds were off the East Side (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The last of the year was one on 31 Oct.

Teams of ringers led by David Price and Tony Taylor were again present to ring shearwaters in Sep, with 255 chicks and 126 adults ringed. Three of the chicks ringed were subsequently found dead, among hundreds of unringed birds, in southern Brazil as a result of severe weather. For more details see *Bird ringing in 2015*, p.58.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	200	350	300	500	20,000*	13	26	–	–

*Estimate in range 10,000 to 20,000 birds

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus**Lundy vagrant.*

A poor year in comparison with recent years, with just a single record: one flying west-south-

west past the South End seen from the Castle on 15 Sep (Tim Jones). Record 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.

At least one was singing for long periods between 23.00 hrs and 00.30 hrs on the night of 15/16 Jul in the main breeding colony of Manx Shearwaters between Old Light and Battery Point, close to where a well-grown chick was found in Oct 2014 (Beccy MacDonald, Tony Taylor). An adult was tape-lured and ringed in the same area on 9 Sep (Jeremy Barker).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

The peak number during the first winter period was 19 on New Year's Day, while the highest spring count was 51 on 11 May. At least three dead Gannets were found washed ashore during the spring; cause(s) unknown. The highest count of the year was of 100 on 5 Aug, when all of the birds seen were heading east off Shutter Rock. Ninety-five flew south on 29 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
19	–	3	6	51	10	75	100	70	95	12	2

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant; formerly bred.

Ten were reported on the early date of 10 Feb. The highest counts during autumn passage were 24 on 15 Sep and 23 on 7 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	2	7	6	4	–	9	24	23	7	–

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	5	8	30	35	34	21	60	26	29	10	1

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant.

There were records of ones and twos on at least four dates between 10 & 16 May as follows: one on rocks below North Light on 10th; one at Brazen Ward on 11th; two at Jenny's Cove on 13th; two flying NW away from the island off North End were lost to sight on 16th (Chris Baillie/A Rocha group, Tom Nunn *et al.*).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

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

An immature bird was present in the south of the island daily 26–30 May. It was first seen being mobbed by gulls around the Old Light on 26th. Further frequent harassment by gulls, corvids

and Peregrines was the likely cause of damage to the heron's flight feathers, which had resulted in an obvious gap by 28th. There were further records, perhaps of the same bird, 12–15 & 19 Jun (mainly at Quarry Pond), with a second flying high over the island and on towards the Pembrokeshire coast on 14th. Two were being mobbed by gulls on 24 Jun. Later in the summer and autumn there were records of ones and twos on the unusually high total of 35 dates between 1 Jul and 27 Oct, perhaps indicating the presence of one or more long-staying individuals. The last of the year was a single bird in the Lighthouse Field on 3 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	2	1	–	1
–	–	–	–	5	6	4	13	13	5	–	1

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

A female flew north-west low over the heathland near Quarter Wall Pond in foggy conditions on 25 Apr. During autumn passage 'ringtails' (including adult females and/or first-year birds, which have broadly similar plumage) were recorded on nine dates between 12 Oct and 26 Nov. One on 12 Oct, first seen over the Airfield at 10.00 hrs, later circled high over Castle Hill and left the island to the south-west at 12.30 hrs; two (thought to be an adult female and a first-year bird) ranged widely between Tibbetts and the Airfield on 15 & 16 Oct; one flew in to the South End, apparently off the sea, on 17 Oct; one was over Halfway Wall on 18 Oct; one was along the East Side on 27 & 28 Oct; and further singles were sighted near Pondsbury on 4 Nov and flying south along the West Side near Halfway Wall on 26 Nov. Most Hen Harriers seem to pass through Lundy rather quickly (as shown by the bird on 12 Oct), whereas others may linger for a day or two, occasionally longer, so it is impossible to say how many different individuals were involved in this autumn's relatively strong showing.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

A single female was seen regularly in the first half of Jun. The highest count of the year was of five on 27 Sep, which were all seen leaving the island for the mainland and all in view at the same time (John Horton).

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	1	1	1	1	5	3	1	–
1	–	5	12	3	8	4	3	17	18	1	–

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.

Singles were reported on 26 Jan, 17 Apr, 4 Jun (the latter at Quarter Wall Copse) and 13–15 Sep.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Common passage migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015: no proof of breeding in 2014.

Singles were heard calling at Pondsbury on 3 Mar and near the pond in lower Millcombe on 31 Mar. There were no records at all in Apr and only three in May, so it was a welcome surprise when a chick was heard calling from the wet flush running between Quarter Wall Pond and Quarry Pond on 8 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). An adult was seen in the same area on 14 Jun. A juvenile was at Quarter Wall on 27 Aug (Joshua Harris). Numbers remained low until a notable influx of autumn passage migrants in Oct, when 10 were recorded on 15th.

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	2	10	–	–
–	–	2	–	3	4	–	2	8	17	–	–

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

There was an exceptionally high spring count of 48 on 9 Apr, which must have included at least some passage migrants, as the island's entire breeding population is less than 20 pairs. Display flight was seen at North West Point on 17 May and a bird was sitting on a nest at Gannets' Bay on 7 Jun. It is assumed breeding was successful but there were no reports of young this year. Twenty were recorded on 4 Nov – an unusually high count for 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
13	11	16	48	12	30	20	8	8	15	20	1
7	2	12	17	24	18	15	8	17	7	5	1

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 and the breeding-season counts entered in the LFS Logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

In spring there were records of one and twos on six scattered dates between 26 Apr (two) and 12 Jun (one). In autumn, one on 27 Aug, five on 15 Sep and single birds on six dates in the second half of Sep, followed by records on nine dates from 2 to 17 Oct, including 10 on 12th.

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	5	10	–	–
–	–	–	2	3	1	–	1	7	9	–	–

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; Devon rarity.

A juvenile was on the Airfield on 2 Oct (Tim Cleeves, Martin Kerby). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

The only spring passage records concerned one on 7 Apr (Martyn Roper), one heard calling on 21 Apr (Malcolm Shakespeare) and three on the main track south of Quarter Wall gate on 8 May. The first autumn migrant was recorded on 12 Sep. Single birds were recorded on a further three dates in Sep.

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.

A single bird seen on New Year's Day and one in Brick Field on 27 May (Peter & Ann Dunn) were the only records during the first eight months of the year. Autumn brought one on 26 Sep and two on 27th, followed by one to three birds daily, 11–17 Oct, and final single birds on 27 & 28 Oct and 2 Nov .

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

During an apparently sparse spring passage, there were records on just nine dates between 15 Apr and 22 May, with a maximum count of four on 3 May. All other records were of ones and twos. During autumn passage there were four records of single birds 4–10 Aug.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred.

The first reported sighting of the year was not until the end of Apr, when one was seen on 27th. Thereafter, one on 3 May, two on 17 May and one on 8 Jun. Sparse autumn passage involved singles on 4 Jul, 9 & 16 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	2	1	1	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	2	1	1	–	2	–	–	–

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage migrant; one winter record (1973).

One in breeding plumage was at the pond outside Barton Cottages on 24 Mar (Kevin Welsh, Grant Sherman). One at Pondsburry on 10 Jul (Andrew Jewels).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Two flying north past Quarry Beach on 27 Aug (Joshua Harris) were followed by three flying west over the Tent Field on 2 Sep (J. & S. Buchanan) and one below North Light on 18 Sep (Tim Jones).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Rare passage migrant; has occurred in late winter.

A juvenile was on the pond outside Barton Cottages at 08.00 hrs (Beccy MacDonald) and in the Brick/Tillage Field area at 20.00 hrs (Ryan Burrell, Luke Sutton) on 28 Aug.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; apparent decline in recent years; very rare in winter.

During spring passage there were records on nine dates between 8 Apr and 27 May, with a maximum of five on 15 May, including two at the small reservoir impoundment in South West Field. In autumn there were two on 25 Jul and single birds on nine dates between 12 Aug and 20 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	5	–	2	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	5	–	1	3	6	–	–	–

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

One on Rat Island on 16 Apr (Paul Holt), two in the Landing Bay on 4 May (Ian Searle) and three the following day (Chris Bollen) were the only spring passage records. During return migration there were three in the Landing Bay on 6 Jul, singles at Brazen Ward and Old Light on 17 & 19 Jul, respectively, and one on 9 Sep.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

One flushed from freshwater pools on the plateau at North End flew off high to the north east on 19 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One on the pond in the Brick Field 15 Apr (Tim Jones) was seen in flight and landing at Pondsburry the following day (Paul Holt). One flew across the Landing Bay calling on 17 Sep (Tim Jones). One first seen at Rocket Pole Pond flew down St John's Valley towards the Landing Bay on 14 Oct (Ivan Lakin, Martyn Roper & Kevin Rylands).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly late September to March.

One on 23 Jan (Neil Trout). One flushed from South West Field on 2 Oct (Tim Cleeves, Martin Kerby) and also reported on 3 Oct, with another on 14 Oct (Kevin Rylands).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Not recorded during late winter or spring migration, so the first of the year was not until a very sparse autumn passage commenced with two on 14 Oct. The only other records were of single birds on 29 & 30 Oct and 4 Nov.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The late-winter/early-spring maximum was just seven, on 2 Mar, all of which were flushed between Quarter Wall and Pondsburry. A single bird was flushed from the pond in Middle Park, below Tibbetts, on the unusual date of 8 Jun. The highest count of the year was 12 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
–	1	7	1	–	1	1	–	4	12	2	1
–	1	6	2	–	1	1	–	9	16	4	2

Unidentified **snipe** species (*Jack Snipe Lynocyptes minimus* or *Snipe Gallinago gallinago*)

One on 27 Jan.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Lundy vagrant.

A juvenile flew south past Lametor at 08.05 hrs on 29 Oct (Justin Zantboer). Though not recorded from Lundy until 2010, there have been almost annual late-autumn sightings since then. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.

A loose group of 15 migrants flew north off the West Side on 15 May (Chris Baillie), alighting on the water for a short time. One was seen from the Ugly on 13 Oct (James Diamond) and one flew south past Lametor on 29 Oct (Justin Zantboer).

Unidentified **skua** species *Stercorarius* sp.

Two were harrying a flock of c.60 Kittiwakes feeding with Manx Shearwaters off the West Side on 3 Jul. One was harrying Kittiwakes off the East Side on 8 Aug (both records Martin Thorne/Morte Wildlife Group).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

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

The first of the year were 16 on 2 Apr, rising to 50 by 7th and 76 on 22 Apr (on the latter date there were 54 on the sea and six on land at Jenny's Cove, plus 15 on the sea and one on land at St Philip's Stone). At least two pairs were mating on the water on 17 Apr. The peak count in May was 74 on 10th. In Jun there were 90 on land at Jenny's Cove on 7th, while the peak count during the month was 110 on 10th. Jul brought the highest count for the year when up to 250 (200 on land and 50 on the water) were at Jenny's Cove on 3rd (Martin Thorne/Morte Wildlife Group). There were records on eight dates in Aug, the last of these a single bird on 12th, followed by a logbook entry on 16th of "2 from boat", which could have been some way from the island itself. Although most records were from the colonies at Jenny's Cove and St Philip's Stone, small numbers were also seen at Long Roost (including birds entering burrows) and on the water off Pilot's Quay, North Light and North East Point, all between late Jun and mid Jul. (See p.16 for Beccy MacDonald's note on the monitoring study of the Puffin colony at Jenny's Cove.)

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	75	74	110	250	5	–	–	–	–

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

Recorded for the fourth successive year. What is presumed to be the same returning individual was first seen back in the Landing Bay, off the jetty, on 2 Apr (Beccy MacDonald) – more than a month earlier than the previous earliest date. There were sightings on at least 20 further dates up to and including 2 Jun, followed by a gap to 13 Jun, a brief sighting at 07.30 hrs on 14 Jun and a final record of the bird swimming close inshore between the jetty and Rat Island on 22 Jun. All sightings were in the Landing Bay, especially in the vicinity of Miller's Cake. Tony Taylor's entry in the LFS logbook for 27 May reads: "*Black Guillemot on rocks below 'Smelly Gully', a.m. Walked half way up its favourite rock, which had a Lesser Black-backed Gull perched on top. Much aggressive posturing (standing very tall, with bill pointing down and open; wings slightly open) which had no effect. In the end, marched up towards the gull, which flew off. Black Guillemot settled down on peak of rock.*" Record accepted by DBRC.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common breeder, though in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between August and February.

At least seven were on land (Jenny's Cove and St Philip's Stone) on 27 Jan (with one possibly as early as 18 Jan). The first record of birds returning to the waters immediately around Lundy following post-breeding dispersal was of two on 11 Oct. Following strong winds during the night of 28/29 Oct, 417 flew south off South End during the morning of 29th.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	300	800	400	1,100	300	100	50	–	417	–	–

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Murre]

Common breeder, but in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from August to October, then occasional sightings to January.

On 8 Feb most Guillemots were in breeding plumage, while Razorbills were in all stages of moult.

The Mar maximum of 1,697 was the highest ever recorded in that month (Grant Sherman). At least two birds on Grant's study ledges at St Philip's Stone had eggs on 13 May, while the first confirmation of hatched chicks came on 12 Jun, with a total of 12 chicks hatched by 25 Jun. Monitoring by wardens of the Guillemot colony at St Mark's Stone yielded 88 active sites from which just 28 chicks (0.32) fledged. The first record of birds returning to breeding ledges after their post-breeding dispersal was of 35 at Jenny's Cove on 22 Oct; all were in winter plumage. Numbers rose to 298 on 25 Oct (when some individuals were starting to show signs of breeding plumage), 550 on 22 Nov and 964 on 13 Dec (Grant Sherman).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,450	1,470	1,697	1,647	600	1,568	800	1	1	298	550	964

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant, late March to early October.

Reported on four dates 7–14 Apr in the Landing Bay. All records were of single birds except three on 9th (Martyn Roper). The only autumn passage record involved one on 7 Sep.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage migrant, April to October.

Two from *Obsession II* off the East Side, shortly after leaving the Landing Bay on 18 Aug (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A first-winter bird was seen on 17 Oct.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

Common but declining breeding species; uncommon from September to January.

The maximum count during the first winter period was 700+ on 26 Jan. The first birds seen on land at the breeding ledges were 22 at the Grand Falls Zawn colony (site number F16), close to the western end of Threequarter Wall, plus one at Jenny's Cove (site number E11) on 18 Feb; other birds were rafting close to land and/or flying close to the ledges (Grant Sherman). The bird bearing a green colour-ring inscribed in white with 'AV', ringed on Lundy in Jun 1999, was recorded on 16 May attending the same nest in the colony below Threequarter Wall as in 2014 (Chris Baillie). A second colour-ringed bird (orange over white on the left leg, red ring on the right leg) was seen on 13 May at the same colony (Chris Baillie). There was a 'feeding frenzy' of at least 200 birds off the East Side on 8 Jun. Monitoring by wardens of the Grand Falls Zawn site found 98 active nests from which 46 chicks (0.47) fledged.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
700	100	250	200	150	220	60	64	4	115	11	40

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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*

Uncommon visitor throughout the year, mainly July to September; occasional cold-weather influxes.

There were six records during the year, all of single birds and all in the Landing Bay unless otherwise stated: a first-summer on 16 Apr; an adult in breeding plumage on 14 Jun; one (age not specified) on 10 Jul; an adult flew south down the East Side off North Light on 19 Sep; an adult on 17 Oct and a first-winter on 27 Oct.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Lundy vagrant.

An adult was in the Landing Bay on 18 Jul (Chris & Mandy Dee, Tony Taylor). Remarkably, this is only the second record of 'Med Gull' for Lundy, with the first as long ago as Aug 1978. Incidentally, one of the observers those 37 years ago was... Tony Taylor! Although Mediterranean Gulls have become a regular feature of mainland birding in recent years, including on the nearby North Devon coast, where three-digit counts were made in 2014 and 2015, this has not so far been reflected on Lundy; perhaps in part because relatively few birders visit the island during late summer, but that is not the whole story. Black-headed Gulls, with which Mediterranean Gulls commonly associate, have always been scarce on Lundy in spite of their abundance on the nearby mainland, so perhaps it is more the case that both species are very much birds of inshore waters, only passing Lundy in small numbers from time to time. Nevertheless, this is a remarkable record, not least because it seems so long overdue. Will it mark the opening of the floodgates, or will we wait until 2052 for the next one?!

Common Gull *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

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

A 2nd-calendar year bird was with Herring Gulls in the Brick Field on 5 May (Ian Searle). Four off the East Side on both 14 & 15 Oct consisted of different birds, with three adults and one first-winter on 14th, but three first-winters and one adult on 15th. One was in the same area on 16th & 17th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common but declining breeding species; passage migrant; uncommon in winter.

Although there was no breeding census in 2015, several observers commented that numbers appeared lower than in previous years. Counts of 288 on 28 Jan and 316 on 29th were unusually high for Lundy in winter. A bird ringed as a nestling on Lundy in 1995 was seen in France in Feb (for more details see *Bird ringing in 2015*, p.58).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
316	2	25	29	50	75	30	85	75	5	78	2

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

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

Bred successfully. Although there was no breeding census in 2015, several observers commented that numbers appeared lower than in previous years. The highest counts of the year were during the winter periods, with 366 on New Year's Day and 320 counted from Hammers on 23 Nov (Helen & Philip Lymbery).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
366	300	200	36	60	250	54	50	35	40	320	200

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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.

Presumed hybrid Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* x Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A gull showing characteristics of both Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen and photographed (see colour plate 10) in Jenny's Cove on 26 May (Richard Taylor).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Bred successfully. The highest count of the year was 40 on 22 Sep.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	35	10	6	7	20	21	35	40	20	17	2

*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2015 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.

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	4	15	2	–	3	1	–	–
2	–	–	2	20	15	9	–	1	4	–	–

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

Three records: one flushed from St Helen's Field on 4 Mar (Andy Jayne); one seen daily around the farm and Tillage Field pigsty, 13–16 Jun (Tim Davis, Tim Jones *et al.*); and one on 2 Jul (location not given).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

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

The first of the year was a single bird on 3 Apr, increasing during the month to four on 6th, six on 11th and seven on 30th. In May, song was heard in Millcombe on 19th and there were counts of seven adults on 15th and eight on 24th. There were further records of singing birds in Millcombe on 12 & 16 Jun. Successful breeding was confirmed when a fledgling was seen in Millcombe on 7 & 8 Jul (Alan & Sandra Rowland, Andrew Jewels). The highest autumn count was of seven on 13 Sep, while the last of the year were two on 29 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
–	–	–	7	8	6	3	5	7	3	4	–
–	–	–	18	27	20	11	17	23	8	4	–

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.

Passage migrants occurred as usual during spring and early summer, with records on 24 dates from 5 Apr (one) to 16 Jul (one) and a maximum of five on 23 May. Though song was heard in Millcombe on 11 Jun and 18 Jul, there was no sign of breeding behaviour. In autumn single birds were recorded on 25 Aug and 27 & 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
–	–	–	1	5	3	3	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	14	8	2	1	2	–	–	–

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

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

During spring migration single birds, involving probably only one or two long-staying individuals, were reported on 27 Apr (Quarter Wall gate) and on 15 dates 2–25 May, including singles in Millcombe on 3rd, 16–19th & 23rd. Two sightings on 11 May, around the farm at 15.00 hrs and in Millcombe half-an-hour later may have been of different birds.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

[Common Cuckoo]

Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding confirmed just twice since 1999 (in 2007 and 2012).

There were spring and early summer records on 13 dates between 23 Apr (one calling and perched on gate post by Blue Bung) and 16 Jun. Most involved single birds, but two were in St Helen's Copse on 30 Apr and there were two calling males (Millcombe/St John's Valley area) on 15 & 16 Jun. Observation of plumage suggested that these were second-year birds. The only autumn record was of a juvenile in Millcombe on 24 Aug; it seems likely that this was a passage migrant fledged elsewhere.

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

There were autumn passage records on eight dates between 16 Oct and 1 Nov (Mike Jackson, Ivan Lakin, Kevin Rylands *et al.*). Most sightings were of single birds, but two were reported on 20th & 21st. Locations included Ackland's Moor/Quarter Wall (16th & 31st), South West Field (18th) and Pondsby (29th).

Swift *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

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

The first spring migrant was a single bird on 15 Apr. Recorded regularly during May, the spring passage maximum was ten on 27th. The highest count of the year was 20 on 13 Jun. Two unusually late sightings both involved two birds: on 11 & 28 Sep respectively.

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	10	20	12	11	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	1	23	14	9	10	2	–	–	–

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One near Mousehole & Trap at 13.00 hrs on 12 Apr (Phil & Pat Johnson) was probably the same individual photographed feeding on the ground and seen in flight on the northern side of Gannets' Combe on 15 Apr (Tim Jones). One seen and photographed in and around Millcombe on 13 May (Chris & Carol Baillie, Lisa Ostenson *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

[Common Kingfisher]

Lundy vagrant.

A record year with four sightings, probably all relating to dispersing juveniles. One flew in and landed next to a rockpool at Brazen Ward on 25 Jun, staying for 30 seconds (unattributed). One flew past North Light landing stage and into Kittiwake Gully on 13 Sep (Sue & Rob Waterfield). One, calling in flight, flew south below North Light and disappeared from view towards the bottom of Puffin Slope on 18 Sep (Tim Jones). One flew past Pyramid Rock on 27 Sep (Sue & Rob Waterfield). The three Sep sightings could refer to a single long-staying bird. All previous 14 records (the last was in 2009) were of single birds in any one year, so 2015 was exceptional.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One trapped in Millcombe on 8 Apr was ringed and photographed (Rob Duncan, Martyn Roper). This bird was part of a significant influx to western England and Wales in early Apr. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major**Lundy vagrant.*

A juvenile, first seen near The Ugly on 9 Sep (Elisabeth Price) was trapped and ringed near Brambles the following day (Nik Ward *et al.*).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; has bred (most recently in 2005).

Recorded in all months except Jan, but there was again no evidence of breeding and there was only one record, of a single bird, in Jun. The highest spring count was four (2 males, 2 females) on 15 Apr. During the autumn seen virtually daily throughout Aug, Sep and Oct, with maxima of five on 23 Aug, six on 16 & 28 Sep and seven on 11 & 12 Oct. On 16 Sep, three migrant Kestrels were watched leaving the island to the south, at 08.50 hrs (two birds) and 12.35 hrs (one).

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	4	2	1	1	5	6	7	1	1
–	2	1	8	7	1	8	23	26	27	5	1

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

During spring passage recorded on ten dates from 31 Mar to 21 May. All records were of single birds with the exception of two on 15 Apr. Autumn migrants were recorded on 24 dates from 2 Sep (one) to 28 Oct (one), with a maximum of four on 15 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	2	1	–	–	–	1	4	–	–
–	–	1	4	5	–	–	–	8	16	–	–

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were three records of single birds, on 5, 8 & 11 Jun, though how many individuals were involved is unknown. On 8th one flew north over the Upper East Side Path, alongside the Tillage Field (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), while the sighting on 11th was at South Light (Jeremy & Jill Aldred).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

Luke Sutton, continuing his research (under licence) into the diet and feeding ecology of the island's breeding Peregrines, reported five territorial adult pairs and one adult present at a territory in Apr. Of these, two pairs fledged a total of five juveniles, with no observed breeding attempts in the other three territories. The mean distance between nest cliffs was 1.60 km, and based on a total land area of 445 ha, the mean number of hectares per adult pair was estimated at 89 ha. Prey species ranged in size from Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* (mean weight of adults 8 g) up to Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (mean weight of adults 1,210 g). The most common prey species recorded were Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus* and, unexpectedly, Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*, the majority being juveniles or first-winter immatures, with a small number of

adults also taken. (For more information see Luke's paper, 'Status of the Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* on Lundy: Breeding ecology and prey spectrum' in the *Journal of the LFS*, 5, published in 2016.)

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

What seems likely to have been the same female or immature male was in the St Helen's Copse area on 10 May (Brian Thompson *et al.*, Devon Birds day trip) and in Millcombe on 13 May (Chris Baillie/A Rocha group). The bird on 10th was photographed. Record accepted by DBRC.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Lundy vagrant and very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to mainland Devon.

One, first seen in flight over St John's Valley (James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*) and hovering at height near the Church in the early morning of 16 Oct, flew north-west over the village but could not be found again that day in spite of intensive searching. It was relocated in Millcombe, on the south-facing slopes of The Ugly, on the morning of 17th (Ivan Lakin, Kevin Rylands *et al.*) and showed well in the same area for the rest of the day (see colour plate 10), perching prominently on blackthorn to watch intently for passing bumble-bees, which it seized in flight. This bird was part of a significant and unusually early influx of Great Grey Shrikes to Britain, primarily along the east coast, with at least ten in Norfolk alone on 16th. This constitutes only the second occurrence for Lundy, the first dating back some 41 years when a first-year female was trapped and ringed on the Terrace on 22 Oct 1974. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

One on 10 May (P. Treen). One was at Brazen Ward and in the Brick/Tillage Fields on 27 May (Philip & Helen Lymbery). One on 6 Jun in the Tillage Field and later over the Airfield (Richard Campey).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

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

One calling as it circled high over the Village on 16 Apr (Tim Jones), one at Quarter Wall on 10 May and one on 30 May (location not given, B. Boyland/BirdTrack).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeds; present throughout the year.

During the first half of Jun family parties of recently fledged young, many still being fed by adults, were seen in many parts of the island, indicating another very successful breeding season. A brood of at least two young fledged from a nest in Millcombe had partially albino plumage, showing broad white wing bars in flight and causing much puzzlement amongst visitors as to their identity. The affected flight feathers apparently lacked physical durability and although both birds were still alive in October, they were by then looking extremely dishevelled. The highest count of the year came on 10 Oct when a flock of 75 gathered in the Lighthouse Field to take advantage of supplementary feed put out for the domestic sheep.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
64	46	42	35	49	49	33	14	45	75	45	18

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

Breeding confirmed; family parties with two and four young respectively were seen in the southern half of the island during the second week of Jun. A juvenile reported regularly from the East Side in the vicinity of Quarry Cottages during mid May to mid Jun had a length of unravelled rope strands caught around one leg (probably from material used to build or 'decorate' the nest in which the youngster had been hatched), though this did not appear to be impairing its ability to fly or feed.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	6	13	6	6	8	9	5	10	13	6	–

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus**Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.*

The first records of the year were of presumed spring passage migrants, with ones and twos on five dates 4–27 Mar. Movement peaked in Apr, with a max of 12 on 7th. The last spring bird was on 11 May. Autumn migrants were recorded between 17 Aug (one) and 29 Nov (two), with a maximum of 70 on 23 Sep and nine further counts of 25 or more during the second half of Sep and mid to late 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	12	1	–	–	1	70	45	2	–
–	–	5	16	2	–	–	2	25	19	3	–

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

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

Not recorded during either the first winter period or spring migration. A strong autumn passage was noted between 8 Sep (one) and 31 Oct (three). There were records on 40 days altogether, with peaks of four on 14 Sep, six on 15 Sep, four on 28 Sep, five on 12 Oct, eight on 15 Oct and four on 16 Oct. All other counts involved one to three birds. Nineteen (a record year) were ringed during the autumn.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

[Eurasian Blue Tit]

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

An adult female was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 10 Apr (Rob Duncan) – the first since 2012.

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

There were autumn records on the unusually high number of 23 dates between 4 Oct (three birds) and 22 Nov (two), with a maximum count of four on 14 Oct, though ringing information indicated that there were at least two long-staying individuals, rather than a continuous turnover of new arrivals. Observer coverage was very low during much of Nov (and the weather largely dreadful!), so whilst there was a long gap between sightings from 2 to 22 Nov, it is possible that birds were present throughout that period. The great majority were seen in Millcombe but one was at Quarter Wall Copse on both 15 Oct and 22 Nov. Three were ringed in early Oct (one on 3rd, two on 4th); all were identified as belonging to the British subspecies *P. a. britannicus* and all were first-year birds. Two of the three individuals were retrapped between 28 & 30 Oct.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

A flock of 87 birds were feeding in Lighthouse Field on 2 Mar, with at least 90 there on 4th and 95 on 5th. Breeding confirmed; many adults were carrying food to nest sites during the first half of Jun, but no fledged young were seen, suggesting a relatively late season (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The highest autumn-passage count was 40 on 12 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	11	95	50	30	57	14	5	30	40	1	4

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first of the spring flew over Castle Hill on 8 Mar (Grant Sherman, Shelley Southon). Another was seen on 18 Mar. Spring passage peaked in Apr, with maxima of 102 on 7th and 100 on 26th. A trickle of migration continued throughout May and well into Jun, concluding with one on 13th. Autumn passage was sparse (or under-recorded) to begin with, the only reports concerning singles on 17 Jul and 18 Aug, and three on 28 Aug. Numbers picked up in Sep, reaching a maximum of 60 on 17th, with 20 or more on four other dates. The last of the year was a single bird on 12 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	102	15	2	1	3	60	1	–	–
–	–	2	18	17	6	1	2	17	2	–	–

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

Common and at times abundant spring and autumn migrant; breeds in very small numbers in most years.

There were no records in Mar, with the first report of the year concerning 20 on 3 Apr. Spring passage was spread over a considerable period with counts of 500 on 15 Apr and 4 & 13 May, though it was not until 23 May that the peak of 600 occurred. Movements continued into mid Jun, with 65 on 7th and 15 on 15th. Three were found trapped at the top of the Old Light on 16 Jun (outcome unknown). Bad weather on 1 Jun seems to have accounted for two Swallows found dead in the Casbah the following day; their weights were well below the 18+ grams for healthy adults (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). Breeding confirmed; a pair nesting in the Church porch were collecting mud from Pig's Paradise on 12 Jun and the nest contained half-grown young on 16 Jul. A pair was prospecting inside the gas store in lower Millcombe in Jun and another pair was seen regularly around the village at the same time, but no further nests were discovered. The first notable influxes of autumn migrants were in the second half of Aug, when there were 50 on 16th. Numbers peaked in the last two weeks of Sep, with 1,000 on 16th, 3,000 on 17th, 5,000 on 25th and 1,500 on 26th, but fell away thereafter. The Oct maximum of 350 occurred on 12th and the last three-digit count of the year was 102 on 16 Oct. The final record, of a single bird flying over St Helen's Field, was 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
–	–	–	500	600	65	6	50	5,000	350	6	–
–	–	–	19	29	20	19	18	24	21	3	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

Two were reported on the unusually early date of 10 Mar. There were no further records until three on 3 Apr. The highest counts during spring migration were 130 on 15 Apr and 100 on 26 May. Small numbers continued to be seen daily until mid Jun and one occurred on the unusual date of 28 Jun. As for Swallow, the main autumn movements occurred towards the end of September, with peaks of 100 on 23rd and 150 on 28th. The Oct maximum of 50 occurred on 4th. The last of the year were four 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	130	100	18	–	20	150	50	4	
–	–	1	18	27	17	–	3	20	11	1	

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

Single birds were in St Helen's Copse at 11.00 hrs and in the willow clumps next to the Terrace Trap and south of the Quarry Beach cable-way between 12.30 and 14.00 hrs on 17 Sep (Dave Chown, Tim Jones). It is unclear whether one or two birds were involved. Two were feeding with crests and Coal Tits in upper Millcombe on 10 Oct (James Diamond, Tim Jones, Ivan Lakin *et al.*). One was in the sycamores above the gas store in lower Millcombe during the early morning of 15 Oct, with two in upper Millcombe during the evening of the same day (James Diamond, Tim Jones *et al.*). One was again around the gas store on 16 Oct (many observers). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant; declining.*

Spring migrants were reported on three dates in mid May: one on 13th (Millcombe, Chris Baillie/A Rocha group). The only autumn migrants were singles on 14 & 16 Sep, with two seen on 15th, all in Millcombe (Dave Chown, Tim Davis *et al.*)

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

The first spring migrants were one near Millcombe House on 16 Mar, followed by two on 27th. A large mixed fall of 1,000+ *Phylloscopus* warblers occurred on 6 Apr, while Chiffchaff numbers included at least 200 on 14 Apr, with 150 the following day, coinciding with significant influxes of Willow Warblers and Blackcaps. There were no double-digit counts after ten on 29 Apr. A very pale 'washed out'-looking bird was in Millcombe on 8 Jun. It showed almost no greenish or yellowish tones in its plumage, having largely khaki upperparts and whitish underparts, typical of Chiffchaffs from breeding populations in north-east Europe (Tim Jones). Potentially territory-holding males were singing in Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace during the second week of Jun. A female was collecting nesting material around the tree-planting enclosure in lower Millcombe on 16 Jun, but there was no subsequent evidence of successful breeding. Autumn migration was protracted, as usual, spanning the period mid Aug to early Nov. No large influxes were recorded, with only four daily counts of 20 or more, peaking at an extremely modest 25 on 23 Sep. The last report of the year concerned ten on 1 Nov. A bird ringed in The Netherlands in autumn 2014 was caught on Lundy in Apr (for more details see *Bird ringing in 2015*, p.58).

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	6	2	15	25	20	10	–
–	–	2	20	27	16	3	10	22	19	1	–

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochillus*

Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; breeds sporadically.

The first reported spring migrants were 18 on 5 Apr. A large fall of *Phylloscopus* warblers occurred on 6 Apr, with 300 passing through the Terrace area in two hours and an estimated 1,000+ present on the island as a whole – the ratio of Chiffchaffs to Willow Warblers unknown. The highest counts of Willow Warblers were 300 on 8 & 14 Apr, with between 50 and 200 birds on seven other days before the end of the month. Only single birds were recorded after mid May and though song was heard in Millcombe and (on one date) at Quarter Wall Copse in early Jun there was no evidence of breeding and the last of the spring/early summer was one on 14 Jun. The earliest report of autumn migrants was of 20 on 10 Aug. Passage continued during the latter part of Aug and through Sep, but numbers recorded were generally low, with only five double-digit counts, the highest of these being 27 on 15 Sep and 45 on 16th. The last of the year was a single bird along the Terrace on 19 Oct (Mike Jackson).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	300	6	1	–	20	45	1	–	–
–	–	–	19	12	6	–	9	21	3	–	–

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter. Has probably bred but so far unconfirmed.

The first spring migrants were four males and a female on 5 Apr. Numbers rose quickly to 60 on 8th and 100 on 14th, peaking at 200 on 16th when Paul Holt and Tony John reported them being “all over the place”, and with 50 or more on six other dates during the month, including 100 on 26th. By way of contrast, passage appears to have been negligible in May, with 15 on 4th by far the highest count. There were again some intriguing records in Jun, hinting at a possible breeding attempt in Millcombe, with a male on 4 & 5 Jun, a female on 8 Jun and a male sub-singing in the same area on 15 & 16 Jun. However, a small arrival of three strongly singing males on 14 Jun (Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse and Terrace) for one day only showed that a trickle of migration was continuing. There were no records after 16 Jun until one on 10 Aug. Autumn passage got properly underway in Sep with a maximum of 100 on 23rd and seven other daily counts of 25 or more, peaking in early Oct when there were 175 on 3rd. The last of the year was on the relatively early date of 31 Oct, doubtless reflecting a combination of poor weather and limited observer coverage in 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
–	–	–	200	15	3	–	1	100	175	–	–
–	–	–	19	18	5	–	1	24	19	–	–

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.

Spring migrants (all single birds) were recorded on just seven dates from 29 Apr to 4 Jun. Autumn migration was similarly poor, with single birds on eight dates in Sep between 6th and 24th. Unusually, there were no Oct records.

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	5	1	–	–	8	–	–	–

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

2014 record. One seen briefly on the Terrace on 2 Oct (Richard Campey). Record accepted by DBRC.]

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Uncommon but annual spring and autumn passage migrant; has bred (2002).

The only spring migrant recorded was one singing in Millcombe on 5 Jun (Steffi & Iain Beath), while the sole autumn migrant was one in Millcombe on 21 & 22 Sep, trapped and ringed on the first date (Chris Dee *et al.*).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.

Spring migrants were recorded on only 20 dates from Apr to Jun. The first were five on 16 Apr, while the highest count was ten on 26 & 29 Apr. Small numbers continued to be seen during May and the last of the spring was a female, a presumed late migrant, near the Terrace Trap on 14 Jun. In autumn, one on 10 Aug (coinciding with a small influx of other warblers) was followed by scattered records on 14 dates from 6 Sep (two) to 13 Oct (one), peaking at ten on 16 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
–	–	–	10	6	1	–	1	10	1	–	–
–	–	–	7	12	1	–	1	9	5	–	–

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Lundy vagrant.

A male, thought probably a first-winter bird, was watched at close range as it worked its way slowly east through scattered gorse bushes near Quarter Wall gate on 16 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*). It was found when visiting birdwatchers were scouring the island looking for the Great Grey Shrike that had been seen briefly that morning. This is the 8th record for Lundy and the first since Apr 2008.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

Spring passage was recorded on just six dates from 11 Apr (one ringed) to 30 Apr (one), with a maximum of five on 26th. The only reports of autumn migrants concerned single birds on 12 & 24 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
–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Spring migration was recorded on 25 dates between 10 Apr (one) and 16 Jun (one sub-singing at the mouth of 'Smelly Gully'), with maxima of ten on 29 Apr, 15 on 30 Apr and nine on 4 May. There was no indication of breeding. Autumn passage commenced with one on 9 Aug and two on 16th, followed by ones and twos on six scattered dates in Sep and a final individual on 2 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
–	–	–	15	9	1	–	2	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	8	13	1	–	2	6	1	–	–

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

During spring passage, single birds occurred on 17 Apr (near Government House), 17 & 18 May (trapped and ringed in lower Millcombe on 18th) and 22 May. In autumn there were single birds on 25 Sep (in bracken along Upper East Side Path), 28 Sep (trapped and ringed in Millcombe), 8 Oct (details unknown) and 15 Oct (Millcombe walled gardens).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

Single birds were on the Terrace on 13 Sep (Dave Chown; see colour plate 12) and in Millcombe on 1 & 2 Oct (trapped and ringed on 1st – John Horton).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident.

Twenty-two singing males were counted in Millcombe and along the Lower East Side Path on 15 Apr (Tim Jones). Based mainly on the mapping of singing males during the period 6–16 Jun, it was estimated that there were at least 60 territories on the island, concentrated mainly on the East Side, but with small numbers scattered along the West Side, South End and over the plateau. Birds were seen carrying nesting material and food to nest sites (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed when a party of fledglings was begging for food on 5 Jul (Andrew Jewels). The highest one-day count of the year was 47 on 13 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	2	5	22	11	28	8	7	25	47	3	3

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

The highest count during the first winter period and spring passage was 96 on 4 Mar. The May maximum of 36 on 14th is broadly consistent with an island breeding population of around 20 pairs, taking into account that some adults were likely to have been sitting on eggs or brooding small young. During the period 6–16 Jun adults were still taking food to nests in the Old Light, Black Shed, Church and abattoir, while young from other nests had already fledged (some continuing to be fed by their parents, others independent). The highest immediately post-breeding count was of 90 on 13 Jun, though there were still a few unfledged nests on that date (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The first major influx of autumn migration was 150 on 11 Oct, while the highest counts of the year were 500 the following day and 300 on 26 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
85	80	96	65	50	90	52	85	95	500	200	50

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-summer bird that had moulted from juvenile plumage into partial breeding plumage was photographed in Pigs' Paradise gardens and sitting on top of the Church on 14 Jun (Rebecca Bates, Robert Foster, Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring migrants were reported on six dates between 6 Apr (three) and 27 Apr (one), with a maximum of seven (two near Government House and five at Quarter Wall gate – Martyn Roper) on 8th. Autumn passage was noted on nine dates from 19 Sep (one) to 28 Oct (one), with maxima of five on 15 Oct and three the following day. All other records involved single birds.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	7	–	–	–	–	1	5	–	–
–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	3	6	–	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

The highest spring count of adults was just ten on 30 Apr. A count of 12 on 20 May included an unspecified number of fledged young. Observations between 9 & 16 Jun suggested a breeding population of at least eight pairs, including three or four in Millcombe/St John's Valley, others along the East Side between St Helen's Copse and Knight Templar Rock and one in a bramble clump next to the entrance to the South Light compound (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The only noticeable, albeit modest, autumn influxes occurred during the third and fourth weeks of Oct when numbers rose to a peak of 30 on 15th and 28th. The ring (only) of an adult female ringed on Lundy in Oct 2007 was found in a Peregrine nest in Wales in Dec (for more details see *Bird ringing in 2015*, p.58).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	2	10	12*	12	4	3	14	30	10	1

*Including an unspecified number of fledged young.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

The only reports during the late-winter and spring periods concerned singles on 15 Feb and 5 Apr, followed by six on 6 Apr. Autumn passage started with a sudden arrival of 125 on 14 Oct, followed by 175 on 15th, 130 on 16th and 100 on 18th. This proved a short-lived influx, with no other count exceeding 20 and most in single digits. The last report of the year was of 20 on 22 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	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	175	20	–
–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	12	4	–

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Occasional resident and sporadic breeder.

The only record during the first three months of the year was one on 6 Mar. There was evidence of light passage in Apr, with records of one to five birds on eight dates from 6th to 17th. There were no territory-holding birds. The first autumn migrant was one on 25 Sep, followed by records on a further 17 dates until the last on 29 Nov (one). The main movements were in mid to late Oct, with a maximum of 20 on 15th & 28th.

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	5	–	–	–	–	1	20	1	–
–	–	1	7	–	–	–	–	1	14	3	–

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

The only records during the late-winter and spring passage periods were singles on 4 Mar and 15 Apr. Autumn migrants were recorded on 18 dates between 8 Oct (two) and 26 Nov (one). Peak movements occurred in mid to late Oct, with highs of 500 on 14th, 600 on 15th and 400 on 16th, followed by a further arrival of 150 on 27th. All other counts were in single or low double-digit numbers.

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	–	–	–	–	–	600	20	–
–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	15	3	–

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

One on 8 Oct was followed by daily records from 11 to 16 Oct, with one on 11th, two on 12th, three on 13th, peaking at four on 14th before dropping back to two on 15th and one on 16th. Further single birds were recorded on 28 Oct and 23 Nov.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.

Spring migrants were recorded on 32 dates between 29 Apr (two) and 16 Jun (one), with a maximum of six on 13 & 16 May and 8 Jun. Birds were apparently holding territory in Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace on 28 May (Paul McGowan), but these were evidently passage migrants as there was no evidence of territorial birds when the same areas were watched intensively in mid Jun (Tim Jones). Autumn passage was noted on 37 dates from 3 Aug (no count given) to 1 Oct (three), with a peak of 20 on 16 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	6	6	–	4	20	3	–	–
–	–	–	1	20	12	–	11	25	1	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

The highest count for the late-winter/early spring period was six on 3 Mar. The spring maximum was ten on 15 Apr, perhaps indicating the presence of a few passage birds. A pair was brooding small young in a nest in Millcombe on 26 May. Fledged young were seen in Jun when the island's breeding population was estimated at five pairs (two in Millcombe, one in Quarter Wall Copse and two along the Terrace – Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The first notable autumn passage influx occurred in mid Sep, when 15 were logged on 13th, rising to 20 on 17th and 25 on 24th, with variable numbers on the intervening dates. Further arrivals were noted in mid Oct, when 29 on 12th was the highest count of the year. Additionally there were 17 on 13 Oct, 23 on 14th and 17 on 15th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	6	10	7	8	1	4	25	29	6	1

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-winter bird was watched at close range in Millcombe in an area between the Casbah, Government House and Millcombe House on 15 Oct (Tim Jones *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.

The only spring migrants were single birds on four dates 10–18 Apr, all females except for a male on 14th. The first post-breeding migrant appeared in the Battlements sycamores on 18 Aug. Thereafter, ones and twos occurred on 15 dates scattered throughout Sep, with a final individual 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	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	–	–	–	1	15	1	–	–

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

A female was at Benjamin's Chair on 2 Mar. In Apr there were further single females on 11th & 16th, and two on 15th (Terrace/Quarries and North Light). Single birds were recorded on 13 & 25 May, but without locations. Finally, during spring passage, a female was in Gannets' Combe on the unusually late date of 7 Jun (Tim Jones). Autumn passage was sparse, with records on 12 dates between 3 Oct (one) and 20 Nov (one), including six days during the last week of Oct when the maximum count of four occurred 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	2	1	1	–	–	–	4	3	–
–	–	1	3	2	1	–	–	–	9	3	–

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring migrants were recorded on 12 dates between 9 Apr (two males, in Millcombe and at Quarter Wall) and 23 May (one, sex not recorded), with maxima of four (all males) on 10 Apr, three (all females) on 16 Apr and three (one male, two females) on 4 May. After two on 2 Jul and a single bird on 3 & 4 Jul, autumn passage was negligible, with further records – all of single birds – on just four dates: 16 & 28 Sep and 10 & 29 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
–	–	–	4	3	–	2	–	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	9	3	–	3	–	2	2	–	–

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn; occasional records in midsummer.

The only spring migrants were single birds on 4 & 13 May. Autumn passage was confined to Sep and early Oct, with records on 20 dates between 6 Sep (one) and 14 Oct (one), the maximum of 11 occurring on 16 Sep. All other counts were of one to four birds.

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	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	17	3	–	–

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

Between one and three birds were seen 1–24 Mar, though detailed observations suggested a turnover of passage migrants rather than the presence of longer-staying, potentially territorial, birds. A pair were at Tibbetts on 6 Apr, a male was noted on 15 Apr and two birds were seen on 25 & 27 May (one on 25 May was an alarm-calling female just south of Pondsbury), but given the paucity of spring sightings it still came as a welcome surprise when, in Jun, breeding was confirmed for the first time since 2009: a pair with fledged young were on the heathland south of Pondsbury 9–15 Jun. Autumn migrants were recorded on 38 dates between 16 Sep (two) and 26 Nov (two), with a maximum of 12 on 25 Sep and 13 & 14 Oct. The only other double-digit count was ten on 16 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	2	2	4*	2	–	12	12	2	–
–	–	5	2	2	7	2	–	13	18	7	–

*including two fledged young

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first arrival of spring was a male on 7 Mar. After further males on 12 & 15 Mar, there was an influx of seven males on 17th, rising to ten males and a female on 18th. The first major influx was of 140 and 150 birds on 8 & 9 Apr, respectively, followed by a second peak at the end of the month, when there were an estimated 200 on both 26th & 27th. The two peaks are likely to reflect the arrival of local and other UK breeders at the beginning of Apr, followed by staging Greenland Wheatears – that breed as far north-west as Arctic Canada – nearly three weeks later. Two Greenland birds (confirmed by considerably longer wing-lengths and higher weights than local Wheatears) were trapped and ringed in South West Field on 28 May, with a third trapped in the same place on 30 May. One was still present on 2 Jun (Richard Taylor). Birds were singing in total darkness below Tibbetts at around 02.00 hrs and near Pondsbury at about 04.00 hrs on 29 May (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). Autumn passage was protracted and unremarkable, with the modest maximum of 50 occurring on 16 Sep. The final double-digit count was of ten on 9 Oct, while the last bird of the year was seen on 24 Oct.

Tony Taylor and Richard Taylor continued their colour-ringing study of Wheatears, marking 37 new birds in 2015, during which 32 birds ringed in 2013 or 2014 were resighted. The survival rate from 2014 to 2015 among the colour-ringed birds was 52%. The island's breeding population in 2015 was estimated at about 100 pairs.

Request. *Further birds will be colour-ringed in 2016 so please continue to record sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos are particularly appreciated.*

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	200	33	70	20	30	50	12	–	–
–	–	11	20	28	19	17	13	21	17	–	–

Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*

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

The highest count in spring was six on 15 Apr. During the period May–Jul, song was heard in Millcombe and St John’s Valley (two singing against each other on 28 May), from below the Terrace and at St Helen’s Copse. However there was no confirmation of breeding, or even evidence of nesting. Although first-year birds were trapped in the autumn, these could have dispersed or migrated from the mainland; a possibility underlined by the apparent influx of birds in Oct, when nine were logged on 14th, and seven on 15th & 28th. Thorough coverage of suitable habitat during Sep had yielded only single birds on just four dates.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	2	6	4	3	2	1	1	9	1	–

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, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology.

The 2015 breeding season was average in terms of starting time and number of fledglings ringed. The first egg was laid on 11 April. Surprisingly, the totals for pairs, broods and fledglings were reduced by 50%, 50% and 60% respectively, when compared to the breeding season of 2014. However, it’s important to keep in mind that the breeding season of 2014 involved the biggest population ever recorded. During 2015 we recorded a total of 122 broods and we ringed 227 fledglings from April to August. The main reason for the reduction in the number of breeding pairs in the summer of 2015 might have been the continuous presence of Sparrowhawks and Merlins during the previous winter. Many of the 2015 fledglings, as well as many of the adults, were caught in a subsequent winter trip (February 2016). During this winter trip, only 71 individuals were caught, a reduction of 17% compared to February 2015. For the 2016 breeding season, the team is due to arrive on 23 April. In view of the lower numbers recorded in winter 2015/2016, the breeding population in 2016 might be a bit smaller than in 2015, though it has proven very difficult to make reliable predictions in previous years and sparrows always try to surprise us. The sparrow project will keep you updated.

Maximum count for each month (from LFS logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
63	21	p*	14	8	46	15	20	50	16	25	20

* = present, but no count reported

NB. The counts recorded in the logbook are clearly lower in most cases than the actual population, as shown by Alfredo’s report.

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.

Single spring migrants were recorded on four dates: 21 & 27 Apr and 21 & 22 May. Autumn

migrants were recorded on 13 dates from 8 Sep (one) to 10 Oct (one), with a maximum of three on 14 & 15 Sep.

One of the birds present on the latter two dates (an adult male feeding around sheep in the Lighthouse Field) showed the characteristics of **Grey-headed Wagtail** *M. f. thunbergi*, which breeds in Scandinavia and western Russia (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

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

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

The only spring record was of one in the ditch near the cattle grid outside Square Cottage on the unusual date of 7 Jun. Autumn passage was noted on 27 dates from 10 Aug (one) to 30 Oct (one), with a maximum of five on 17 Sep and 2 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	5	5	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	11	15	–	–

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

[White Wagtail]

Pied Wagtail nests most years in small numbers, is a common spring and autumn migrant, but rare in midwinter. White Wagtail occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

The first of the year was a single bird on 2 Mar, followed by records on a further 12 dates in Mar, with a maximum of five on 31st. The spring passage maximum and the only spring count in double digits, was 13 on 15 Apr (though this included ten birds that could not be identified to race). Breeding confirmed: a pair seen regularly in May was collecting nesting material at the north end of the High Street on 28th, and an adult was feeding a fledged juvenile on 18 Jul. It is thought unlikely that more than one pair bred. During spring migration White Wagtails were recorded on nine dates 5–28 Apr, with a maximum of 12 on 14th; a late migrant occurred on 8 & 9 Jun. Autumn passage of both Pied and White Wagtails peaked in mid Sep; there were 50 Pies on 14th, while a fall of White Wagtails in the early morning of 16th numbered at least 100, concentrated mainly at the southern ends of the Tent Field and South West Field. Most had left the island by 10.00 hrs.

Maximum count for each month: (Pied Wagtail (top) & White Wagtail (bottom))

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	13*	6	2	2**	1	50	30	1	–
–	–	–	12	1	1	–	–	100	7	–	–

*Could include some White Wagtails

**One adult with one fledged young

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One on West Side north of Quarter Wall on 27 Sep, on Ackland's Moor on 28th and north of Quarter Wall again on 29th (Tim Cleaves, Martin Kerby). Record accepted by DBRC.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

The only spring records occurred in Apr when there were three on 15th and two on 16th (on both days all calling in flight as they headed north over the island), plus single birds ringed on 26th & 29th. Autumn migrants were recorded on 13 dates from 6 Sep (two) to 16 Oct (one), with a maximum of six on 8 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
–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	6	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	9	4	–	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

The first reported signs of spring migration were 20 on 18 Feb, followed by 40 the next day. A relatively light but steady passage brought 160 on 5 Mar, while the highest count in Apr was 170 on 14th. Many adults were taking food to nest sites during the second week of Jun and successful breeding was confirmed when a very recent fledgling was in St John's Valley on 15th. Noticeable autumn passage was recorded from early Sep, with numbers rising from 80 on 2nd to 110 on 11th, 200 on 13th & 16th, 250 on 24th and 500 on 25th. The highest count of the autumn was 650 on 12 Oct, but numbers dwindled from mid Oct, with 70 the maximum during the second half of the month and only a handful of birds reported in Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	40	160	170	30	55	20	30	500	650	3	6

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest count for the late-winter and early-spring period was 11 on 4 Mar. Successful breeding was confirmed when a fledgling was seen along the Beach Road on 7 Jul.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	11	2	7	4	6	–	6	10	2	–

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no late-winter or spring-passage records. Autumn migrants were recorded on just eight dates between 14 & 31 Oct, with a maximum of seven on 28th; all other counts were of one to five birds.

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 count for the late-winter and early-spring period was ten on 14 & 15 Mar and there were further counts of ten on both 28 Apr and 13 May, indicating that this was about the size of the small resident population at the start of the breeding season. There was no evidence of any spring passage. During 6–16 Jun at least two singing males were holding territory in Millcombe, where a pair was watched gleaning insects from sycamore leaves to take back to a nest site. Song was also heard from Hammers Copse and near St Helen's Copse, though these could have

been the Millcombe birds moving around. Additional pairs (including singing males) were at Quarter Wall Copse and the Terrace. For a third successive autumn, weather conditions in late Oct and early Nov were unfavourable for major daytime movements of finches over Lundy and there were just four dates – all in the last week of Oct – when Chaffinch numbers exceeded 100; the maximum of 300 occurred on 26th. A female Chaffinch, ringed on Lundy as a first-year bird in Oct 2009 and controlled (recaptured) near Stavanger, Norway in Apr 2012, was caught again at the same location in Norway on 23 Apr 2015 (see *Bird ringing in 2015*, p.58, for full details).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	4	10	10	10	9	2	12	15	300	10	1

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

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

A male was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 30 Oct (Rob Duncan *et al.*). Of three seen the following day, one came in off the sea and flew up Millcombe at 07.20 hrs, while two were together in lower Millcombe before flying off towards the South Light at 07.40 hrs (Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A female or first-summer male was in Millcombe on 29 & 30 May (Philip & Helen Lymbery, Paul McGowan). One calling in flight at least ten times over Millcombe and St John's Valley was heard from the northern flank of Castle Hill during the course of about ten minutes from 07.47 hrs during strong visible migration of Chaffinches and Redwings on 14 Oct (James Diamond & Tim Jones; also heard in Millcombe by Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). Records accepted by DBRC.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant; recent evidence of possible breeding; one winter record (1997).

A male was in Millcombe on 8 Jan (Jim Campbell). A pair were in Millcombe on 6 Apr, with a female trapped and ringed on 7th. An exceptional five birds – four females and a male – were in Millcombe on 8th, of which two females and the male were trapped and ringed. The influx continued with a male and a female trapped and ringed in St John's Valley on 9th (all records 6–9 Apr – Rob Duncan). A male was still in Millcombe on 14 Apr (Paul Holt) and one (sex not determined) was calling and seen briefly in flight on 15th (Tim Jones). A female was reported on 25 Apr, and finally one (sex not reported) was near Brambles on 13 May and heard there again on 14th & 15th. During autumn passage a female was in Millcombe walled gardens on 28 Sep (Ryan Miller).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

One on 5 May was the only spring record. The only autumn migrants were one on 26 Oct, two on 28th and two on 1 Nov.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

The first report of the year was of two on 5 Mar. Spring passage peaked in Apr, with a maximum of 125 on 15th. Successful breeding confirmed: several family parties were seen during the

second week of Jun, while a female carrying nesting material on 9 Jul was presumably embarking on a second brood. Post-breeding flocks built up to 150 by 28 Aug, while the peak of autumn passage brought 400 on 13 & 15 Sep, falling to 300 on 16th and 150 on 17th. The Oct maxima were 150 on 1st and 180 on 12th; the final triple-digit count of the year was 100 on 16 Oct, with only a handful remaining by the end of the month.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	125	50	80	30	150	400	180	1	1

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* [Common Redpoll]
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers, but more frequent than formerly; rare in winter.

There were no records until the autumn when migrants were logged on 16 dates between 19 Sep (one) and 23 Nov (one). The maxima were four on 25 Sep and six on 2 & 13 Oct. Many were only seen/heard calling in flight, so are technically 'redpoll sp.' but are assumed to have been Lesser Redpolls (all those seen well were identified as belonging to this species).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* [European Goldfinch]
Breeds occasionally; common spring and autumn migrant; irregular in summer and winter.

The first reports of the year concerned two on 5 Mar and one on 10th. There were no further records until two on 5 Apr, but records were regular after that, with spring passage appearing to peak at the end of Apr when there were 20 on three dates between 27th & 30th. At least six adults were in Millcombe most days during the period 6–16 Jun and a pair was nest-building between Government House and Millcombe House on 6th. Birds were also seen and heard regularly around Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace and further nesting territories were suspected (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed when an adult was feeding a juvenile near Blue Bung on 4 Jul and five juveniles were begging for food in Millcombe on 8 Jul (Andrew Jewels). Post-breeding dispersal and autumn passage was presumably ongoing during Aug & Sep, but there were no notable influxes until mid/late Oct when there were 50 on 11th & 25th and 45 on 16th.

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	20	15	15	8	22	20	50	10	–
–	–	2	18	27	20	14	18	24	20	13	–

Siskin *Spinus spinus* [Eurasian Siskin]
Late autumn migrant in greatly varying numbers; very rare in spring.

There were no records during the first eight months of the year. Though noticeable post-breeding movements were recorded along the coast of the nearby Devon mainland from late Jun, the first report of migrants on Lundy concerned four on 6 Sep. There were records on a further 37 dates until the last on 31 Oct (when 20 were logged). The maxima were 45 on 13 Sep and 21 on 14 Oct.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Uncommon but regular autumn migrant in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; rare in midwinter. Devon rarity.

A very poor year; the only record was of two on 8 Oct – one at North End and one at Quarter Wall gate (Julian Bowden & Tony Simpson). Record 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.

One seen and heard in flight over Middle Park on 19 Sep (Richard & Rebecca Taylor); two on 28 Sep – one flying over Old House, one in flight near the eastern end of Halfway Wall – and one on 2 Oct in the Brick Field (Tim Cleeves & Martin Kerby); and one flew south over Quarter Wall on 14 Oct (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

Three in the north-east corner of the Lighthouse Field near the boundary with Bull's Paradise and the lambing shed on 11 Sep (Dave Chown, Richard Taylor *et al.*) – see colour plate 11. Two remained on 12th and one on 13th & 16th. Two of the three originally present on 11th were aged – from photographs – as first-winter individuals; the third bird was aged as an adult. A first-winter bird was in the area close to the junction between Brick and Tillage Fields 25–28 Sep (Richard & Fran Castle, Andy Jayne *et al.*). Records accepted 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.

Only recorded during autumn passage in mid Oct when there were daily records from 12th to 17th, with counts rising from three on 12th–14th to four on 15th, five on 16th and six on 17th (at least four around Quarter Wall, one at Pondsby and one at Threequarter Wall – many observers). Finally, one was in Millcombe on 19 Oct.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

An elusive individual was at the western end of Quarter Wall on 14 & 16 Oct (Ivan Lakin & Kevin Rylands). Seen initially in flight and perched atop dead bracken on 14th, it was relocated on 16th when it was again seen in flight and perched on gorse, giving good views of its head pattern. Record accepted by DBRC.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica*

British vagrant.

A first-winter male was mist-netted in Millcombe (near Government House), ringed and photographed on 27 Sep (John Horton) – see colour plate 11. Not seen in the field after its release, it was assumed to have left the island but was relocated on 30 Sep along the wall dividing the Lighthouse Field and Tent Field between the old stone-crushing machine and the helipad (Ryan Miller *et al.*). It was still present in the same area on 1 Oct but could not be found the following day. This is the sixth record for the island but the first since Oct 1994. Record accepted by BBRC.

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 we do not cover the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary. Records for these areas should be submitted to the Devon Bird Recorder (recorder@devonbirds.org).

Diver species *Gavia* sp.

One, thought probably to be Red-throated Diver *G. stellata*, on 25 Apr. The timing roughly coincides with the record of a single Red-throated in the Landing Bay on 21 Apr (see main report).

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

One seen from MS *Oldenburg* at c.09.30 hrs on 4 Jul, approximately 30 minutes prior to landing on Lundy (Andrew Jewels). This is the first record for the waters close to Lundy since Aug 2002. Record accepted by DBRC.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One on 21 May approx. four miles south-east of Lundy (Martin Thorne/Morte Wildlife Group). Four were seen on the crossing from Lundy to Ilfracombe during the evening of 30 May (Tony Taylor).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One 15 minutes out from Lundy on 17 Oct (Kevin Rylands).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One about halfway across to Lundy on the crossing from Ilfracombe on 22 Sep (Andy Jayne).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Two seen from MS *Oldenburg* about 15 minutes prior to arrival in the Landing Bay on 25 Aug (Chris Baillie).

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

One on 30 Apr.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated for the reasons given. We would be delighted to receive further information that could enable any of these reports to be confirmed.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

A report of one seen from MS *Oldenburg* on 1 Aug lacked sufficient supporting details.

Cory's or Great Shearwaters *Calonectris borealis* or *Puffinus gravis*

A report of two large shearwaters, thought to be one of these two species, seen from MS *Oldenburg* on 7 Jul lacked supporting details.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A report of one off The Ugly on the unusual date of 30 Jun lacked any supporting details.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One on 12 Aug – no supporting information provided.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Singles reported on 23 Jan and 2 & 3 Oct – no supporting information provided.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* [Ruddy Turnstone]

One reported on 12 May but without any supporting details.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single bird reported on 3 Aug – no supporting information provided.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A single bird was reported on 3 Aug, and another from The Ugly on 13 Oct – no supporting information provided for either record.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

A report of one in the Landing Bay on 18 Nov lacked supporting details.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

One reported on 7 Sep but without any supporting information.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

A first-winter bird on 17 Oct – no supporting information provided.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

A report of one over Rat Island on 12 Sep lacked any supporting details.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One reported on 7 May but without any supporting details. Although the entry in the LFS Logbook states “photo taken”, none has been received. Hooded Crow is a category A Devon rarity that requires a full written description, or a photograph, to be accepted by DBRC.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

A report of one on the main track near Gannets' Rock on 31 Aug lacked any supporting details.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

A tick in the LFS logbook indicating the presence of this species on 17 Mar lacked any supporting information.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

A report of one hawking over Millcombe on 5 Jul lacked sufficient supporting details to rule out aberrant or hybrid Barn Swallow or House Martin.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Reports of two on both 16 & 18 May lacked supporting information.

Waxwing species *Bombycilla garrulus* or *B. cedorum*

A corpse found by island staff in Millcombe on the seemingly unlikely date of 5 Jun was reported as that of a Bohemian Waxwing *B. garrulus*, but no photograph or written description was taken and the corpse was not retained. Unseasonably mobile Atlantic weather brought three North American Cedar Waxwings *B. cedorum* to Britain and Ireland, including one on Scilly, and it actually seems more likely that a waxwing reaching Lundy in early Jun would have been Cedar Waxwing rather than Bohemian Waxwing. Regrettably, in the absence of any description or photograph, this can only remain a highly intriguing report and not a confirmed record of either species.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

A report of one in the pig-sty on 5 Jul lacked supporting details.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Reports of single birds on 3 & 6 Jul – highly unusual dates for this species – contained no further details so are excluded from the main report.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

A report of one near Halfway Wall on 23 Oct lacked supporting details.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

A Rock Pipit videoed in the Devil's Kitchen on 8 Apr was provisionally identified as belonging to the Scandinavian breeding subspecies *A. p. littoralis*, but more detailed examination of the clip (showing the upperparts only) concluded that it was a well-marked British Rock Pipit *A. p. petrosus*.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius*

A report of three at Quarry Pond on 4 Oct lacked supporting details.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

A report of one near the old stonecrusher on 30 Sep lacked any subsequent supporting details and seems likely to have been the Rustic Bunting relocated in the same area later that day.

DBRC DECISIONS ON RARITY RECORDS PENDING FROM 2014

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One reported on 2 Oct. Record considered not proven.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One reported on 25 Oct. Record considered not proven.