

# BIRDS ON LUNDY 2016

by

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

Excluding two records of national rarities (Black-browed Albatross and Pallid Swift that remain under consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee), a provisional total of 140 species (about average for recent years) was recorded during 2016.

### Wildfowl

No swans or geese, but seven species of duck were recorded in 2016. The ever-present **Mallards** produced at least five broods of ducklings, few as usual surviving to maturity. **Teal** bred at Pondsburry for the second year in succession, two females successfully rearing at least four young. A pair of **Tufted Ducks** paid a fleeting visit in mid May. Two **Wigeon** put in a brief appearance in November, and briefer still in the same month was a male **Shoveler**, very much a Lundy vagrant, which stayed for possibly only a few hours. **Common Scoters** were recorded on three dates, including 14 on one day in late Oct. Without doubt the oddest of records was a male **Smew** in breeding plumage that appeared on Pondsburry on the decidedly peculiar date of 14 May. Only the second for Lundy, it was probably the same bird that turned up on the nearby Taw Estuary a week later.

### Divers, herons and grebes

This was one of those rare years when all three 'common' UK diver species were seen off Lundy's shores, with single records of lone **Black-throated** and **Red-throated Divers** in January and March respectively, and sightings of **Great Northern Diver** in February and the last three months of the year. **Little Egrets**, more frequent on Lundy these days, were seen on four dates, while one or two **Grey Herons** were recorded on 12 days from June to October. Grebes are extremely rare on Lundy, full stop. So when a **Red-necked Grebe**, first seen in the Landing Bay on 18 December, stayed on through the winter and indeed until May of the following year – by which time it had assumed its summer plumage – it provided many regular Lundy birders with their first sighting of a grebe from the island.

### Birds of prey (including owls)

Of the 10 species recorded this year, that which arguably causes the most excitement whenever it occurs is **Osprey**, singles of which graced the island on three days in spring and one in autumn, albeit fleetingly as they powered past the island on their way north or south. Particularly in spring, it is often a retinue of screaming gulls that gives an Osprey's presence away. Aside from regular passage visitors (**Hen Harrier**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Merlin**, **Hobby**) and resident birds (**Kestrel**, which may well have bred successfully, and **Peregrine**), a **Buzzard** was present for two days in May, and a **Marsh Harrier** – a rare passage migrant – passed through on 8 May. Single **Short-eared Owls** were seen on just four days, three times in spring and once in autumn.

## Rails and waders

**Water Rails** were recorded in seven months but the only record between April and July, of a single bird at Pondsburry, means there has been no proof of breeding for three of the last four years. Seventeen species of wader were recorded, **Oystercatchers** as usual the only breeding species. 'Increasingly uncommon' describes most of the once regularly occurring passage birds. **Curlew** for example, were seen on only eight days, with no sightings at all from July to the end of the year. Aside from a single (immature) **Dotterel** in September, the more unusual species were a single **Turnstone** in August, a **Knot** in September and a **Sanderling** seen in various places, including on top of the Tillage Field pig shed (!), during the first nine days of September. The only **Green Sandpiper** was heard, not seen, calling after dark on 8 September. Of the trio of wintering waders that are liable to startle observers by taking off almost from underfoot, **Jack Snipe** was noted on eight days in October and early November; **Snipe** numbers peaked at 17 on 17 December; and one unfortunate **Woodcock** was seen over Millcombe in the talons of a Peregrine!

## Seabirds

Tubenoses (shearwaters and petrels), cormorants, skuas, auks, terns and gulls were all represented during 2016. What would undoubtedly be Lundy's bird of the year, if accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC), was a record of a **Black-browed Albatross** on 17 October. **Fulmars** were seen in all months with highs of 152 in January and 153 in June. Peak counts of **Gannets** occurred as usual in the summer, with a maximum of 300, likely to be feeding birds from the colony on Grassholm, in July. **Manx Shearwaters** appear to be going from strength to strength, judging from the long-running ringing study centred on the Old Light colony. As usual, the highest offshore count came in August with an estimated 10,000 feeding off the North End on 29th. A total of 16 **Balearic Shearwaters** were recorded during seawatches between 24 September and 30 October, with a high of 11 off the East Side on 19 October.

**Arctic Skuas** were seen on seven days from August to October, while **Bonxies**, after singles on two days in May, were recorded on ten days between August and November, with a maximum of 12 – a new day record for Lundy – on 18 October. **Puffins** arrived 11 days earlier than in 2015, with 15 present on 22 March; the year's highest count was 234 during June, a total that would have included birds of pre-breeding age looking to establish future nesting burrows. A year before the next complete census of breeding seabirds (due in 2017), **Guillemots** and **Razorbills** appear to be doing well, recolonising former sites. A total of three **Sandwich Terns**, the only tern species of the year, were seen on two days in April, with the partial remains of one bird found near John O'Groats during July. Seven species of gull included higher than usual numbers of **Black-headed** and **Common Gulls** and only the third recorded occurrence of **Mediterranean Gull**. The latter peaked at 19 birds on 20 October, while all three species were part of a large mixed gathering of gulls and **Gannets** off the East Side on 2 November following a protracted period of easterly winds.

Counts of wintering **Kittiwakes** during the national Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS) in late January included 1,500 offshore on 28th. Meanwhile counts of 150 in both June and July may give some encouragement for an upturn in the species' fortunes when the 2017 breeding census comes around. Incomplete counts of both **Lesser Black-backed** and **Herring Gulls** during the nesting season seemed to indicate further declines in both species, a comment that may also apply to **Great Black-backed Gull**; a perimeter count in June revealed only 43 birds, including just four chicks.

## Passerines and near-passerines

During key periods of both spring and autumn migration, observer coverage was lower than normal and the LFS logbook contained very limited entries for some weeks (notably in mid-March, mid-April, mid-May and most of July and August). This needs to be kept in mind when reading the summaries below and interpreting the data in the Systematic List.

### *Rarities (national, Devon & Lundy)*

Taken together, these comprised: a putative **Pallid Swift** (October; at 17 November 2017 still under consideration by BBRC); **Kingfisher** (October); **Wryneck** (August/September); **Golden Oriole** (May/June); **Red-backed Shrike** 31 August; **Greenish Warbler** 5 June; **Pallas's Warbler** 25–28 October; **Yellow-browed Warbler** 9 October–4 November; **Blyth's Reed Warbler** 25 October; **Dipper** 30 September; **Red-breasted Flycatcher** 31 May; **Tree Sparrow** (29 May); probable **Richard's Pipit** 21 September; **Red-throated Pipit** 21 September & 18/19 December; **Common Rosefinch** 5–8 June, 15–17 September; **Snow Bunting** 18 October–1 November; **Lapland Bunting** 1–20 September; and **Ortolan Bunting** 8 & 14 September.

### *Spring migration*

All four regular dove and pigeon species (**Stock Dove**, **Woodpigeon**, **Collared Dove** and **Turtle Dove**) were recorded in July, with seven sightings of the increasingly rare Turtle Dove probably relating to just four birds. **Cuckoos** were present on 11 days between 21 April and 20 June. The first **Swift** of the year showed up on 3 May, 16 the next day proving to be the highest count of a generally poor year. A **Rook** was regularly in the Tillage Field from 1–10 June. After the first spring **Goldcrest** on 12 March, passage peaked at 11 birds on 3 April. A **Coal Tit**, first seen on 22 February, stayed to 27 April. Unusually, all three species of hirundine were first seen on 23 March (perhaps a reflection of low observer coverage earlier in the month), **Sand Martins** peaking at 100 on 2 April, **Swallows** reaching 200 on 22 May and **House Martins** 40 on 22 May. The first warblers of the year were two **Chiffchaffs** and two **Willow Warblers** on 22 March, the former peaking at 400 on 3 April, and the latter 150 on 8 & 19 April. A male **Blackcap** appeared on 23 March, migration peaking at 40 on 19 April, while single **Garden Warblers** were noted on just four days between 2 & 8 May. A solitary **Wood Warbler** turned up on 8 May, as did one of only two spring **Grasshopper Warblers**. **Whitethroats** peaked at a lowly three on 19 April, two **Lesser Whitethroats** were seen on 23 May, the first of seven records of **Sedge Warbler** occurred on 19 April, and **Reed Warbler** passage extended from 10 May to 8 June. Single **Ring Ouzels** were recorded on three dates, with two on 3 April, while a **Mistle Thrush**, a rare spring migrant, was seen on 22 March. Fourteen **Spotted Flycatchers** was the spring high, on 22 May, while a solitary male **Pied Flycatcher** was noted on 12 April. There were three records each of **Black Redstart** (singles between 28 March and 29 May) and **Redstart** (a total of four birds between 8 & 23 April). **Stonechats** passed through early, seen on 21 days in February and March, but on only five days in April and May and none remained to breed. The first **Wheatear** came on 10 March, with a peak of 100 on 20 April. A solitary **Yellow Wagtail** occurred on 7 June, single **Grey Wagtails** were seen on four days between 24 March and 20 April, **Pied Wagtail** passage peaked at 18 on 21 March, and six **White Wagtails** were noted on 8 April. Lastly, a lone **Crossbill** was watched flying around Millcombe on 5 June.

### *Breeding season*

Successful breeding was confirmed for **Carrion Crow** (family parties around the sidelands from South End to Threequarter Wall), **Raven** (three family parties), **Skylark** (an estimated minimum of 50 territories, with many adults carrying food), **Wren** (a minimum of 65 territories), **Starling** (numerous fledged young), **Blackbird** (three successful pairs and another eight males holding territory), **Robin** (at least three successful pairs), **Wheatear** (an estimated 110 pairs), **Dunnock** (a fledged juvenile), **House Sparrow** (146 broods), **Pied Wagtail** (two or three successful pairs),

**Meadow Pipit** (numerous adults carrying food or faecal sacs, seen island-wide from near South Light to just above North Light), **Chaffinch** (up to five territories, but confirmed breeding for only one), **Linnet** (juvenile birds in July), **Goldfinch** (at least three pairs; juveniles seen in August). After years of suspected breeding by **Blackcap**, success finally came in 2016 when a male was seen carrying food to two young in Millcombe – elevating the species to the list of confirmed Lundy breeding birds.

Unconfirmed breeders were **Swallow** (pairs nest-building in the Church porch and with an active nest in the Casbah), **Chiffchaff** (pair carrying nesting material) and **Whitethroat** (male carrying nesting material).

### **Autumn migration**

A single **Rook**, a rare autumn migrant, was present from 13–25 September. Peak passage of **Goldcrests** (100) occurred on 19 October, while **Firecrests** were seen on 20 days between 16 September and 13 November, peaking at five on 14 October. Fifty **Skylarks** were recorded on the first two days of November. The last **Sand Martin** (max 100 on 14 September) was one on 20 October. Counts of **Swallows** reached a high of 2,000 on 14 & 27 September, the last bird of the year being recorded on 13 November. **House Martin** numbers peaked at 65 on 7 September, the last two passing through on 28 October. Autumn **Chiffchaffs** were recorded from 23 August to 16 November with maxima of 35 on 19 & 20 September (a single bird was seen on three dates in mid December). **Willow Warblers** checked out with a last sighting on 10 October, the autumn peak of 75 occurring early, on 29 July. The last **Blackcap** of the year was a single on 15 November, following an autumn max of 50 on 19 September. A **Treecreeper** put in an appearance in Millcombe in the second half of September, with possibly two birds present on 10 October. An estimated 800 **Starlings**, including resident birds, was the highest autumn count, on 8 November. **Ring Ouzels** were seen on 12 days, including one at Dead Cow Point on 13 October. **Fieldfares** and **Redwings** both had October highs of 400, on 29th and 30th respectively. **Spotted Flycatchers** were logged from 23 August to 11 October, peaking at just six on 10 September, while **Pied Flycatchers** reached five on 2 September. Seven **Black Redstarts** on 1 November were preceded by single **Redstarts** on three days in August and September. A total of seven **Whinchats** on 30 August wasn't bettered later in the season, 11 **Stonechats** was the maximum count during a prolonged migration from mid-August well into December, while the last **Wheatear** of the year was of the Greenland race, on 27 October. **White Wagtails** peaked at seven on 7 September, three **Tree Pipits** on 21 September was the year's high count, and **Meadow Pipit** migration peaked at 450 on 30 September. Maximum day counts of finches were five **Bramblings** (2 November), 3,000 **Chaffinches** (25 October), 300 **Linnetts** (12 August), 35 **Goldfinches** (6 September) and 30 **Siskins** (25 October).

### **Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information**

The website [www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.uk) linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2016. Further updates will be added as new observations continue to build on the knowledge gained from 70 years of intensive study by the LFS.

Complementing this long-term archive is an online blog [www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk](http://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](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

### Nomenclature and sequence

These follow The British List (summarised 8th edition, 24 August 2017) 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 (e.g. in 2016: Red-throated Pipit) 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. Pallas's Warbler, Blyth's Reed Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher) 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](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk). Observers' names are included below for all accepted 2016 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](mailto:recorder@devonbirds.org)).

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the islanders and visitors 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, until 2016 Devon Birds database manager, who provided a file of all 2016 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, Helen Booker, Richard Campey, Clive Couzens, Chris & Mandy Dee, Rob Duncan, Malcolm Gibbs, Joshua Harris, Chas Holt, Paul Holt, Andy Jayne, Andrew Jewels, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Beccy MacDonald, David & Elisabeth Price, Martyn Roper, Steve Rosser, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Kevin Rylands, Alfredo Sánchez-Tojar, Grant Sherman, Aaron Sibma, Tim Smith, Luke Sutton, Jan Swan, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Jon Turner, Justin Walker, Nik Ward, Rob & Sue Waterfield, Tim Norfolk and Justin Zantboer.

## THE BIRDS OF 2016

**Wigeon** *Anas penelope* [Eurasian Wigeon]  
*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and occasional winter visitor.*  
Recorded on four dates in Nov, with two on 8th & 9th and singles on 10th & 16th (Richard & Rebecca Taylor *et al.*).

**Teal** *Anas crecca* [Eurasian Teal]  
*Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; scarce in summer but first breeding record in 2015; bred again in 2016.*

There were first winter period records on just two days in Jan and five widely scattered dates in Feb, giving no firm evidence of overwintering. Between five and 14 birds during the first six days of Mar suggested some early-spring movement through the island and perhaps the arrival of potential breeding birds. Four males and four females were on Pondsburry on 25 Mar, followed by two males and three females on 12 Apr, and two pairs on 21 Apr – the precursors to successful breeding for a second consecutive year. Females with broods of two and five ducklings were on Pondsburry on 27 May. Adults and young were then recorded almost daily to 9 Jun, after which there were two females and two young on 18 Jun and two females and four immatures on 31 Jul. Given the annual toll of Mallard ducklings taken by gulls and Peregrines, it is remarkable that most of the Teal ducklings managed to survive to fledging in both 2015 and 2016. During autumn passage and the second winter period, there were records on 38 dates from 28 Aug to 18 Dec, with a maximum of seven on 10 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
12	10	14	5	2*	3*	2*	2	3	3	7	6
2	5	13	3	6	8	1	1	15	6	13	3

\*Plus monthly maxima of seven ducklings on 27 May, six on 3 Jun and four on 31 Jul.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Resident breeding flock of feral origin; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.*  
Bred as usual, with the first brood, of 11 ducklings, seen on 15 Apr. Two broods, of one and two young, on Pondsburry on 28 May told the annual tale of successful breeding followed by a steady

loss of young to predators, probably a mix of gulls, corvids and Peregrines. Further broods, numbering 16 young in all, were on Pondsbury on 8 Jun, but these had dwindled to just one young bird by 18th. A female and eight small ducklings were on Brick Field Pond on 10 Jun. Numbers through the year were very much in line with recent years, with peaks of 18 fully grown birds in both winter periods (Jan & Dec) and 19 in Mar.

**Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	12	19	9*	15*	10*	6	9	14	13	17	18

\*Plus monthly maxima of 11 ducklings on 15 Apr, three on 28 May and 16 on 8 Jun.

**Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

[Northern Shoveler]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A male on Pondsbury late in the day on 2 Nov (James Diamond & Tim Davis) was the first since 2010 and the 13th LFS record.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One on Pondsbury on 16 May (LFS Working Party) was followed by a male and female on 18th and two males on 19th (Kevin Waterfall).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Three records: one by the jetty on 17 Oct (Jenny Sherman, Steve Pratt), 14 on 27 Oct and three on 1 Nov.

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A male in breeding plumage on Pondsbury on 14 May (Michael Maggs) was only the second for Lundy; the first, also a male, was seen in the Landing Bay by Felix Gade on 15 Sep 1933. The Lundy bird seems very likely to have been the same individual seen near Braunton on the North Devon mainland on 21 May. The curious date and unusual habitat give rise to thoughts of an escape from captivity, or a sick/injured wild bird, but this is entirely speculation. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor.*

One fishing near the outer mooring buoys in the Landing Bay, seen from the Jetty, on 23 Mar (Tony Taylor).

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

[Arctic Loon]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One off the East Side near the Landing Bay on 28 Jan (Tim Davis & Chris Dee). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

[Great Northern Loon]

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

One to two birds were off the East Side, between Quarry Beach and Rat Island, on seven days in Feb. Thereafter, no further sightings until two on 26 Oct, followed by single birds on 27th & 28th. There were four Nov records (4th to 11th), all of single birds except two on 8th, whilst single birds were also reported on four dates from 17 to 28 Dec. All of the Nov and Dec sightings potentially refer to a single wintering individual.

**Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

[Northern Fulmar]

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

Sixty were on nest sites on the north side of Gannets' Rock on 9 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A partial count by Peter Slader and Lee Bullingham-Taylor on 24 Jun between Needle Rock and The Pyramid revealed 93 birds.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
152	100	72	112	45	153	30	32	5	nc	40	137

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 of the year was of 40 birds feeding in the tide race off South West Point on 23 Mar. Several were heard calling off the South End on the night of 3 Apr. Tony Taylor reports that during the last week of May and first two weeks of Jun, ringers visited the Old Light colony six times. They ringed 98 new birds and caught one control (later established as having been ringed on the Welsh coast near Aberystwyth in 2013). Forty-one individuals ringed on Lundy in previous years were retrapped, 11 of which had originally been ringed as chicks, in 2007 (1), 2010 (1), 2012 (3) and 2013 (6). The remaining 30 retraps were all ringed as adults from 2009 onwards, with several of them having been recorded in most of the intervening years. Overall, numbers seemed high at the colony, and birds were very noisy over St John's Valley at night. So there were no immediate signs that adverse weather conditions associated with the strong El Niño of 2015 – including storms off the coast of southern Brazil & Uruguay that 'wrecked' many young, inexperienced Manx Shearwaters in Oct/Nov 2015, including at least three Lundy-ringed birds (see pages 58 & 59 of the 2015 *LFS Annual Report*) – had affected the population as a whole. However, the weights of birds with downy brood patches, which were assumed to be of pre-breeding age, were lower than on previous May/Jun visits, so they may have been in poorer condition than usual. It will be interesting to monitor the return rate of chicks hatched in 2015, which are due to come back to Lundy in the next two to three breeding seasons, having spent their early years at sea. There was no reduction in the weights of breeding shearwaters; some of them were very heavy (up to 500g) and were presumably well prepared for a long spell of incubation. A further ringing visit on the night of 26/27 Jun brought nine new birds and seven retraps from previous years, two of which had been ringed as chicks on Lundy in 2012 and 2014 (David Price *et al.*).

As usual, the peak offshore count occurred in Aug when an estimated 10,000 were feeding in the tide race off North Light on 29th (Martin Thorne). From 30 Aug to 9 Sep, 246 chicks and 19 adults were ringed, with a further 20 adults retrapped. Four fledglings were found in the Village, presumably attracted to lights at night. One of these had been ringed near Benjamin's Chair a few nights previously (Tony Taylor, Richard & Rebecca Taylor *et al.*). The last record of the year was of six on 28 Oct, when Chris & Carol Baillie reported calls off the East Side at 20.30hrs, followed by calling birds over the Old Light colony between 21.00hrs and 21.45hrs.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	40	10	10	100+	80	2,500	10,000	50+	50	–	–

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus**Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.*

Two during a seawatch from the Castle on 24 Sep (Andy Jayne); 11 off the East Side feeding with other seabirds on 19 Oct (Mark Darlston); two during a seawatch from the Castle on 28 Oct and one on 30th (Chris Baillie). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

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

One trapped at the Old Light colony on the night of 26/27 Jun was found to have a brood patch and presumed to be breeding (David Price *et al.*). At least three were seen at the Manx Shearwater colony adjacent to North Light between midnight and 01.00hrs on 26 Jun (Marco Thoma, Sarah Althaus, Judith Hüppi and Dominic Martin). Two were flying below the North Light railway at 23.00hrs on 2 Sep (Richard Taylor & C. Young). See also *Trial Survey Approaches for Lundy Storm Petrels*, page 103).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

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

There were only seven records between Jan and Mar, with a max of 17 on 27 Jan. Recorded frequently from Apr to mid-Nov, with peak counts of 300 on 30 Jul and 250 on 29 Oct. Ten on 6 Dec was the only double-digit count after mid-Nov.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	–	3	14	18	12	300	75	51	250	75	10

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, typically in flocks overflying the island; formerly bred; occasional in winter.*

After singles on 28 Jan and 16 Feb, the first spring-passage flock consisted of eight birds on 19 Mar. The peak spring count was 12 on 4 May. The first returning birds were a flock of six flying south along the East Side at sunrise on 22 Aug (Joshua Harris). A total of 37, in two flocks numbering 25 and 12, flew high over the Village on 30 Sep, during the LFS 70th Anniversary picnic held in the Tavern Garden. The Oct max of 11 occurred on 25th. The only record at the end of the year was of two on 6 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	8	2	12	1	–	6	37	11	–	2
1	1	4	5	9	1	–	1	18	11	–	2

**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
4	1	20	30	30	47	24	20	55	28	18	2

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 four records in autumn and early winter: one flying north along the East Side on 13 Sep (Andy Turner); one on White Beach on the afternoon of 3 Nov (James Diamond); one on the Landing Bay beach, from where it flew to settle out of sight behind Rat Island, on 13 Dec (Sue Waterfield & Mark Kelly); and two at North East Point in the early afternoon of 17 Dec that flew north out to sea (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

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

The first bird of the year appeared on 21 Jun and stayed for two days. Thereafter there were singles on 3 & 29 July, 28 Aug, 13 & 20 Sep, two on 18 & 23 Sep and a final single bird 3–5 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	1	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	4	3	–	–

**Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena****Lundy vagrant.*

One was photographed in the Landing Bay on 18 Dec (see colour plate 4; Philip & Helen Lymbery). An anonymous entry in the LFS logbook stated that the bird was still present on 23 Dec and further records from Feb to May 2017 almost certainly referred to one overwintering bird. This is only the sixth record for Lundy and the first since Feb/Mar 1996.

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

[Western Marsh Harrier]

*Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring; Devon rarity.*

A female or immature flew north along the West Side (seen from Quarter Wall) during the annual Devon Birds day trip to Lundy on 8 May (Jon Turner). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus***

[Hen Harrier &amp; Northern Harrier]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.*

A male on 14 Sep, first seen on the West Side, drifted eastwards low over St John's Valley (Andy Turner). One landed briefly in a tree in Millcombe on 15 Oct, and there were further sightings of a single bird on 18 & 24 Oct.

**Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

Single birds were recorded on three days during Jan & Feb; on 28 Jan a well-used 'plucking post' on the moss-covered branch of a willow in the small quarry just north of the Terrace, contained the wing of a Redwing and fresh remains of a Blackbird, perhaps indicating an overwintering bird. Male and female birds (singles in each case) were seen on five days during Apr. A single bird was present between 25 May and 3 Jun. Two were observed on 30 & 31 July and one the following day, with further August singles on 20th, 26th & 28th. A male was present on 19 Sep. Lone individuals were seen on seven days during Oct, with two on 9th. One was present on 1 & 3 Nov, and there was one Dec record, on 26th.

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

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

**Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

[Common Buzzard]

*Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident.*

One was over the Tavern Garden on 7 May and presumably the same bird was over the East Side on 8 May (Jon Turner).

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

[Western Osprey]

*Rare passage migrant and Devon rarity.*

There were three spring-passage records: one flew high over the island having arrived from the West Side at Ackland's Moor on 3 Apr (Martyn Roper); one was over the jetty on 5 Apr (Mark & Claire Tims); and one flew north over Quarter Wall on 5 May (Tim Smith). In autumn, one passed south along the West Side on 14 Sep (Andy Turner). This brings the total number of LFS records to 30, of which 20 have been in spring and 10 in autumn. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**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 or 2016.*

After a late-winter singleton on 29 Feb, the only spring sighting was of one at Pondsby on 27 May. There were no indications of breeding. The first of the autumn was a single bird (location unspecified) on 25 Aug. There were records on a further 41 dates from 1 Sep to 19 Nov, with maxima of five on 31 Oct and six on 8 Nov. The only reports in Dec were of one on 17th and two the following day.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	2	5	6	2
–	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	13	16	12	2

**Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

The third national BTO Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS) took place on Lundy – in high SW to W winds and heavy rain – between 23 & 28 Jan. That a total of 18 Oystercatchers were present on the island given the prevailing conditions is perhaps surprising; less remarkable was that every one of them was on the more sheltered East Side! The feeling among the two observers (Tim Davis & Chris Dee) was that the birds, mostly encountered in pairs, were from the island's breeding population, rather than winter visitors, and that those with West Side territories would move back to them as conditions eased. Successful breeding was confirmed when the first two chicks of the year were seen on Rat Island on 7 Jun. A flock of 24 birds was seen at Brazen Ward on the unusual date of 24 Jun, whilst high counts during July included 22 on 11th and at least 30 on 29th. The highest count of the year was of 50 at Brazen Ward on 19 Aug and though not specified, probably a mixture of adults and young of the year. As usual, numbers declined towards late autumn as most resident birds departed the island, leaving only a handful by the end of the year.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	6	14	16	10	24	30+	50	6	20+	10	5

There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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]

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

The first of the year were three late migrants on 29 May. Autumn passage birds occurred between 24 Aug and 4 Nov, mostly in ones and twos, peaking at five on 19 Oct. (See colour plate 2.)

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	3	3	–	1	2	5	3	–
–	–	–	–	1	6	–	4	7	8	4	–

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

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

A juvenile was at the North End on 18 Sep and then on the Airfield 20th to 22nd (Julian Bowden *et al.*, Andy Jayne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

In spring there were three near the Old Light on 10 & 11 May, followed by late migrants, all single birds, on 29 May and 6 & 7 Jun. There were only three autumn records, all in Sep: two on 5th and singles on 7th & 13th (see colour plate 2).

**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 decades.*

The only spring migrants were singles on 22 & 29 Mar. A solitary bird was seen on 10 Jul. In autumn, there were sightings on 11 days in Oct, with a max of eight on 30th, and on four days in Nov, peaking at four on 1st & 3rd. The only Dec record was of four on 18th.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus**Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

The first of the year, two passing through on 20 Apr, were followed by ones and twos on five other days to the end of the month. In May, sightings were made on 13 days, with a peak of four at North Light on 30th. The only autumn passage records involved single birds on 31 Jul and 6 Sep.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

*Increasingly uncommon spring migrant and now scarce autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor (the last in 2010); formerly bred.*

Sightings of Curlew on Lundy remain depressingly sparse, with single spring-passage birds recorded on just eight days between 21 Mar and 27 Jun (the latter possibly a returning failed or non-breeder). Thereafter no further 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	–	–	–	–	–	–
–	–	3	1	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

*Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.*

One, thought to be a juvenile, was on the track north of Threequarter Wall on 22 Aug.

**Knot *Calidris canutus***

[Red Knot]

*Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.*

Three were on White Beach on 15 Sep (A.J. Bellamy). This is the highest number recorded on Lundy in recent times; the only higher count being of four birds, half a century ago, in Sep 1967.

**Sanderling *Calidris alba****Rare migrant, mainly in autumn; has occurred in winter.*

One was seen in various parts of the island from 1 to 9 Sep. It was west of Brambles, presumably on the main track up St John's Valley (Connor Willmott) and on the main track near Threequarter Wall (D. Rudge) on 1st; feeding on the main track up from the Lambing Shed on 4th (see colour plate 3; Richard & Rebecca Taylor); on the Beach Road on 5th; and on the roof of the pig shed (!) in the Tillage Field on 9th (Steve Rosser).

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

Recorded on only five days in spring, the first of the year being three on 21 Apr (location not given), with a peak of nine at Threequarter Wall on 11 May. The first autumn bird turned up on the last day of August and was seen on six subsequent days up to 8 Sep. The last of the year was a singleton on 30 Sep. (See colour plate 3.)

**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	9	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	3	–	–	1	9	–	–	–

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos****Regular spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.*

Singles on 28 April and 8 May were the only spring sightings. During autumn passage there was one on 3 Aug, followed by two around the Landing Bay on 10 Aug.

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus****Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

A single record: one heard calling outside Quarters after dark on 8 Sep (Richard Taylor).

2015 correction (due to an editorial slip): the mention of one at Rocket Pole Pond on 14 Oct 2015 in fact referred to a Redshank (see below).

**Redshank *Tringa totanus***

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One off the East Side flew towards the Rocket Pole, calling continuously, on 6 Jul (Shaun Barnes *et al.*). One was on Mouse Island on 14 Aug (Grant Sherman & Shelley Southon).

2015 addition. One 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.*

Single birds were recorded on 9, 18 & 31 Oct, with ones and twos on five days in early Nov and a max of four on 1st. Most, as usual, were around Pondsburry, although the 31 Oct record involved a bird flushed from the Upper East Side Path (Richard Campey).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Singles on three days in late Mar and unusually in Apr (one flushed at Pondsbury on 4th) were most likely migrants passing through on their way back to breeding grounds. In autumn, recorded on 21 days between 19 Oct (two) and 19 Nov (one), with a max of eight on 11 Nov. The remains of two Peregrine-predated Woodcocks were found by Luke Sutton on 4 Apr, whilst Richard & Rebecca Taylor watched a Peregrine carrying a Woodcock over Millcombe and up the East Side on 8 Nov.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

During the first winter period there were records of a single bird on 28 Jan and one to two birds on four days in Feb. The max spring count was of 10 on 19 Mar, with singles on 26 Apr and 6 Jun the last two spring records. Peak counts in autumn were made during the first 10 days of Nov, with maxima of eight on 3rd and 10 on 7th & 9th. However the highest counts of the year came in mid-Dec when 17 were flushed from around Pondsbury on 17th, with 14 there on the following day (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

**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	10	2	–	1	–	2	2	4	10	17
1	4	13	5	–	1	–	2	5	17	11	9

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

Two records in Aug: one off Lametor on 10th (P.J. Ellam) and a dark-phase bird off South West Point on 30th (Martin Thorne). A pale-phase bird flew north-east, 500 m off Rat Island, on 10 Sep (Steve Rosser). There were four records in Oct: two on 16th and singles on 17th, 19th & 27th.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua**Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.*

Single birds were off the West Side on 22 May (Kevin Waterfall) and North End on 30 May (Martin Thorne). In Aug one on 27th was flying round South West Point at dusk, and one was in the same vicinity on 29th. As usual, Oct provided the majority of sightings, with records on nine days (16th to 31st), all of one or two birds except for a remarkable 12 off the East Side around to the South End on 18th, constituting a new record day-count for the island (Martin Thorne). The last of the year was a single watched flying north up the East Side on 10 Nov (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

**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 birds were 15 on 22 Mar, eleven days earlier than in 2015 – nine on the cliffs at Jenny's Cove and six on the sea at St Philip's Stone (Grant Sherman) – and 18 in Jenny's Cove the next day (Peter Minter). On 1 Apr, 40 were rafting in Jenny's Cove, with another 44 on land going in and out of burrows. On 18 May, 66 were in Jenny's Cove, 45 at St Philip's Stone and two on Puffin Slope at North End (Kevin Waterfall). A partial count by Peter Slader and Lee Bullingham-Taylor on 24 Jun between Needle Rock and The Pyramid resulted in a total of 234 birds. The last record for the year was of 20 on 31 Jul.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	18	127	75	234	98	–	–	–	–	–

**Razorbill *Alca torda***

*Common breeder, increasing in number, though still less numerous than formerly; uncommon between Aug and Feb.*

A partial count by Peter Slader and Lee Bullingham-Taylor on 24 Jun between Needle Rock and The Pyramid gave a total of 417 birds.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	40+	600	460	400	417	nc	–	4	10	235	30

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 = no count.

**Guillemot *Uria aalge***

[Common Murre]

*Common breeder, increasing in number, though still less numerous than formerly; uncommon from Aug to Oct; sporadic at breeding ledges in late autumn and winter.*

A partial count by Peter Slader and Lee Bullingham-Taylor on 24 Jun between Needle Rock and The Pyramid revealed 2,678 birds. Reporting on his visit from 21–28 Jun, David Price remarked: “Just eyeballing the cliffs, it seemed that Guillemots had spread everywhere. Whereas 15 years ago they were very much restricted to the inaccessible ledges on vertical faces, they are now scattered all over the cliffs and particularly in the broken rock and boulder edges just below the sidings. I could even see birds on the Devil’s Chimney (26 counted low down on the western side). Perhaps a historic moment – the site recolonised after 30 years! We last recorded occupancy in 1986, whereas from a black & white photograph taken in 1939 Richard Perry had some 400 on the stack. Are things going that way again? Hopefully so!”

A combined total of 280 were in Jenny’s Cove and off St Philip’s Stone on 18 Dec (Grant Sherman).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
119	706	1,986	2,191	1,415	2,678	123	6	–	80	–	280

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 Mar to early Oct.*

In spring, there were two on 4 Apr and another on 7 Apr, all moving north through Lundy Roads (Martyr Roper). The skull and bill of a Sandwich Tern were found to the south of John O’Groats on 5 Jul (Chris Eve *et al.*).

**Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

*Common but declining breeding species; uncommon from Sep to Jan.*

During the third national BTO Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey in Jan, offshore counts of 900 and 1,500 Kittiwakes were made on 25 & 28 Jan respectively. In autumn, there were 500 off the East Side on 9 Oct and 400 on 31st.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,500	100	85	81	70	150	150	400	4	500	100	–

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 Jul to Sep; occasional cold-weather influxes.*

Two flew over Threequarter Wall on the unusual date of 10 May, followed by one on 13 Jul and an adult and juvenile on 21 Jul. One or two were recorded on six days in Oct, with three on 31st, and on four days in Nov; on 2 Nov at least 25 were in a large mixed gathering of gulls off the East Side.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

Given that Lundy's second ever record was as recently as 2015, 2016 saw a remarkable, though brief, autumn influx to the island. Nineteen feeding offshore on 20 Oct were followed by further counts of six on 31 Oct, eight on 1 Nov, 14 on 2 Nov and four on 3 Nov – part of a vast feeding flock of gulls and Gannets off the East Side (Mark Darlaston *et al.*, Richard Campey *et al.*).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor; mainly Sep to Apr.*

Not recorded until 9 Oct, when an adult and six 1st-winter birds were seen flying into the Landing Bay (Andy Jewels & D. Evans). At least 20 were off the East Side on 20 Oct (Mark Darlaston *et al.*). The peak count was 25 in a large mixed gathering of gulls off the East Side on 2 Nov (Tim Davis, James Diamond & Richard Campey). The final sighting of 2016 came just a month after the first, with one on 9 Nov.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

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

Breeding confirmed, e.g. two chicks on Miller's Cake on 10 Jun.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	40	67	60	39	48	60	5	48	30	58	5

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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.*

The Jan count of 762 birds (see table) was made on 25th during the third national BTO Non-Estuarine Waterbird Survey. Virtually all were resting or feeding in the fields around the Village during a period of very strong westerly/south-westerly winds. Successful breeding was confirmed, e.g. 19 chicks on Miller's Cake and around South End on 10 Jun.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
762	150	300	240	38	148	100	nc	35	350	450	168

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 = no count.

**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

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

Most of the breeding birds leave the island during winter, but large influxes can occur during severe storms (e.g. 600 on 1 Dec 1972), so it was unsurprising when counts of 63 and 54 birds were made on 25 & 27 Jan, respectively, during a period of very high westerly/south-westerly winds.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
63	34	50+	30	nc	43**	10	24	24	24	10	20

\*There was no census of breeding numbers in 2016 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 = no count. \*\*Including four chicks.

**Feral Pigeon *Columba livia***

*Common visitor in small numbers, mainly between spring and autumn.*

On 11 Jun an estimated 50 flying north from the Quarries were intercepted above Halfway Wall by two Peregrines, which separated a single pigeon from the flock; the result was not observed (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

**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	50	-	1	3	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	10	19	-	4	13	-	-	-

**Stock Dove *Columba oenas***

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Four on 1 May constituted the sole occurrence in spring, while singles on 1, 3 & 4 Nov were the only autumn records.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus***

[Common Wood Pigeon]

*Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; sporadic in winter.* After just three records during the first winter period (two on 28 Jan, four on 21 Feb and an unspecified number on 26 Feb), occurrences in Mar were more frequent (particularly when compared with none in Mar 2015!), reaching a max of 10 birds on three days. Twelve were present for three consecutive days from 3 Apr, falling to a max of four (probably resident birds) during the second half of the month. Birds were present on most days through May and the first half of Jun before observer coverage fell away, with peak counts of 10 on 17 May and seven on 10 Jun. If breeding was attempted, there was no evidence of success. The peak count in autumn was eight on 13 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	4	10	12	10	6	5	2	8	4	3	-
1	2	14	17	28	16	3	9	28	11	4	-

**Collared Dove *Streptopelia decacto***

[Eurasian Collared Dove]

*Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has bred; has overwintered.*

The first of the year was a single bird on 5 Apr. One to three birds were recorded almost daily from 22 May to 13 Jun, with a max of seven on 7 Jun. Very unusually, one was seen at The Battery on 6 Jun. Although song was reported on 26 & 29 May, there was no evidence of

attempted breeding and records dried up after mid-Jun, with the exception of two on 26 Jun and one on 28 Jul. During the late summer and autumn there were single birds on 17 dates from 12 Aug to 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	5	7	1	1	1	1	–	–
–	–	–	2	12	10	1	6	10	1	–	–

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* [European Turtle Dove]  
*Increasingly scarce migrant, still regular in very small numbers in spring but rare in autumn.*

Recorded on seven days in spring. One on 4 May at the top of Puffin Slope was a welcome first of the year for a species that is fast becoming a rare sight on Lundy as its numbers continue to decline nationally. Another was by Government House on 5 May, probably the same bird seen in the vicinity of the Lighthouse Field (Tim Smith) on the same date. Other May records of single birds on 8th (Millcombe, John Turner), 9th (on track by Tillage Field) and 10th & 12th (Millcombe, Tim Smith) could conceivably all have related to one individual. Another by the dung heap in the Lighthouse Field on 28th seems likely to have been the same bird that flew up from the west sidings to land by the wall running up to the Old Light (Paul Holt, Richard & Rebecca Taylor). A solitary autumn migrant was seen on 10 Sep (location not specified).

**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).*

Recorded on 11 dates from 21 Apr to 20 Jun, but there was no evidence of breeding. After one or two males in Millcombe on 21 Apr, there were no further reports until 30 May, when one or two were seen at different times north of St Helen's Copse, above Benjamin's Chair and in Millcombe. Single birds were seen daily for the next five days, up to and including 4 Jun, all in the vicinity of Millcombe. One was on the Terrace on 8 Jun, whilst the final three records of the year were on 13th, 18th and 20th Jun, when one flew from Millcombe to St Helen's Copse, mobbed by Meadow Pipits and Carrion Crows.

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

In spring, there were singles on 20 Apr, north of Pondsbyr (Chris Dee *et al.*); on 29 May, flushed from rough grassland between Quarter Wall and Pondsbyr (Philip & Helen Lymbery); and on 30 May at Tibbetts Hill (Martin Thorne). One on 2 Oct (location unspecified) was the only autumn record.

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

The first of the spring was a single bird on 3 May, while the following day saw the highest count for the year with 16 logged. Numbers varied between one and six birds in Jun, with a max of 13 on 9th and the last of the spring migrants on 25th. Three sightings in Jul may already have been of returning migrants, while the last birds of the year were two on the later than usual date of 15 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
–	–	–	–	16	13	1	2	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	–	10	14	3	2	1	–	–	–

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*  
*Lundy vagrant*.

[Common Kingfisher]

One was seen in the vicinity of the Devil's Kitchen on 16 Aug (Alex Foy).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*  
*Nationally scarce migrant*.

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Recorded on eight dates in early autumn, from 31 Aug to 23 Sep. There were single birds in Millcombe on 31 Aug (Dave Jones, Rebecca & Richard Taylor) and 9 Sep (Rosie Hall, Rebecca & Richard Taylor), followed by two together, also in Millcombe, on 14 & 15 Sep. One of these remained until 17th, when it was trapped and ringed (A.J. Bellamy, Peter Slader, Nik Ward). Finally, singles were on the Lower East Side Path north of St Helen's Combe on 20 Sep (Andy Jayne), and on rocks south of The Cheeses on 23 Sep (Justin Walker & Jan Swan). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

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

For the third consecutive year, recorded in all months from Feb to Dec. Ones and twos were present on 10 days through Apr and there were four on 23rd. A pair was observed around the cliff above Quarry Beach (the site of the last successful breeding attempt in 2005) on 6 May, and both the male and female were seen in the Quarry Beach area over the following five days (Tim Smith). There were regular sightings, mainly of one or two birds, throughout the rest of May, Jun and Jul. Circumstantial evidence of successful breeding came on 20 Aug when Joshua Harris observed four Kestrels (a female, two juveniles and either another juvenile or a male) hunting around the rock buttresses below Tibbetts. There appears to have been an influx of autumn migrants from 7 Oct when six, seen from the Ugly, were in the air at the same time. The following day brought by far the highest count of the year, when 12 were logged. Numbers fell away again after mid-month, with ones and twos only, including the final record of the year on 19 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	1	4	3	4	3	4	3	12	2	2
–	1	2	11	22	19	17	14	20	20	7	4

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

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

There were late-winter and spring records on nine dates: 22 Feb, 6 Mar, six days from 27 Mar to 4 Apr, and 8 May. In autumn there were records on 25 days from 15 Sep to 17 Nov, with a max of four between Halfway and Threequarter Walls on 21 Oct (Mark Darlaston *et al.*). A large female on 27 Oct was considered a good candidate for the Icelandic race *F. c. subaeson* (Mark Darlaston, Adele Rennells), probably a rare annual visitor to Devon, though confirmation requires in-hand measurements (2016 *Devon Bird Report*).

**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	4	2	–
–	1	4	3	1	–	–	–	3	15	7	–

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One flew south past Old Light on 30 May (Philip & Helen Lymbery). One flew north over South West Field on 8 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). One on 10 Jun perched on a dead tree between the Ugly and St Helen's Combe before flying south (Tim Jones). A first-year bird was hunting Red Admirals and Meadow Pipits over the Brick & Tillage Fields on 8 Oct (Andrew Jewels *et al.*).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

*Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.*

Sightings entered in LFS Logbooks in recent years indicate that numbers of Peregrines on Lundy in the winter months (Jan–Feb and late Nov–Dec) fall to just one or two, occasionally three birds. This may be an artefact of reduced observer coverage at this time of year, but all-island counts from 25 to 28 January 2016 – a period of very high winds and thunderous rain squalls – revealed just one male and one female present on the island. That birds were returning to breeding territories in Mar became apparent in the second half of the month with counts of five on three days. Luke Sutton, in his third year of Peregrine studies on Lundy, reported a total of four young (two males and two females) fledged from five pairs. As is often the case, observer coverage was poor in summer. However, six were reported on 29 Aug, with mostly ones and twos from Sep to mid-Nov (five on 3 Nov), and between one and three on 11 days during Dec.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Singles were in Millcombe on 12 May (Tim Smith) and Quarter Wall Copse on 15 Jun (Malcolm Gibbs), the latter identified from a sound recording. Records accepted by DBRC. A record of one in Millcombe on 12 Jun remains under review by DBRC.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year bird was in Millcombe on 31 Aug (Dave Jones, Rebecca & Richard Taylor). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

One near Jenny's Cove on 31 Jul was the only record for the year.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus**Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant and winter visitor.*

One, first seen in the Tillage Field on 1 Jun, was recorded on six further dates up to 10 Jun (Paul Holt, Richard & Rebecca Taylor & Tony Taylor). In autumn, a single bird was seen on eight dates from 13 to 25 Sep (Andy Turner *et al.*), followed by the same or another on 11 Oct.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone**Breeds; present throughout the year.*

The highest spring count was 60 on 3 Apr. Among successful nests were those in Millcombe wood and Hanmers Copse. Many family parties of three to four young, almost all nearing independence, were seen in the first half of June (e.g. three fledglings being fed by adults along the wall between the Tent Field and South West Field on 10th). The post-breeding flock in the Brick/Tillage Field area built up from 24 on 7 Jun to 43 on 10th. The highest count of the year (made from the top of the Old Light) was 68 on 20 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
54	29	41	60	35	51	18	10	42	68	46	36

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

Family parties of adults with two, three and four young were recorded around the South End, North End/Long Roost and along the East Side (mainly between the north end of the Terrace and the Brick Field), in the first half of Jun. The highest count was 14 on 6 Oct.

### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	6	8	8	10	10	10	8	11	14	8	6

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

*Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.* There were first winter period records of single birds on 28 & 29 Jan and 26 Feb. Spring passage migrants were first recorded on 12 Mar, with peaks of 11 on 3 Apr and 10 on the unusually late date of 4 May. Autumn passage commenced with two on 31 Aug and continued for nearly three months, until the final report of the year on 20 Nov, also of two birds. Higher counts included 32 on 23 Sep, 63 on 28 Sep, 60 on 30 Sep, 35 on 25 Oct and 100 on 19 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	6	11	10	–	–	1	63	100	18	–
2	1	5	12	6	–	–	1	29	24	9	–

#### **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

*Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.* One was singing in lower Millcombe on 28 May (Tony Taylor). In autumn, passage migrants were recorded on 20 days between 16 Sep (two) and 13 Nov (one). The peak count was of five (all in Millcombe) on 14 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	5	2	–
–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	10	8	–

#### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

Records of a single bird in Millcombe on 19 dates from 22 Feb to 27 Apr are likely all to have been of the same overwintering individual: a bird trapped on 3 Apr had been ringed on 3 October 2015. It was “singing heartily” in Millcombe on 3 Mar (Neil Trout). There were no autumn records.

#### **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

A loose flock of 46 birds were feeding in the High Street field on 27 Jan. Many adults carrying food were seen during the period 7–11 Jun and a chick with some remnant down, though it had already left the nest, was found in Middle Park on 8th. A count of 54 on the same date included 32 singing males (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). In autumn, the highest counts were 45 on 30 Sep, 26 on 25 Oct and 50 on 1 & 2 Nov.

### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
46	30	58	100	26	54	9	2	45	26	50	5

#### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.*

Spring migrants were reported on 24 dates from 23 Mar (20 birds) to 3 Jun (one), with most records in Apr, including the peak counts of 100 on 2nd and 60 on 5th. Autumn passage was probably under-recorded, with the only logbook entries for Jul/Aug being singletons on 10 & 22

Aug. Things didn't pick up much in Sep, with the peak of 100 on 14th belying the fact that all other counts during the month were in single digits. There was a gap of almost a month between one on 22 Sep and the last record of the year – one on 20 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
–	–	20	100	30	1	–	1	100	1	–	–
–	–	5	14	4	1	–	2	9	1	–	–

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

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

Spring passage commenced in late Mar, with 16 on 23rd, and extended well into Jun. Peak day totals were unusually modest, with records of 100 on more on just five dates: 100 on 19 & 20 Apr and 15 & 17 May, and 200 on 22 May. A pair was nest building in the Church porch on 8 & 10 Jun (outcome unknown) and there was an occupied nest in the Casbah at the end of Jul (outcome also unknown). As usual, the main autumn passage occurred between mid-Sep and mid-Oct, with max day totals of 2,000 on 14 & 27 Sep and 830 on 2 Oct. The last of the year was a late singleton on 13 Nov. Timed sample counts of hirundine passage through the north of the island on 2 Oct indicated a rate of about 1,000 birds per hour, with the ratio of Swallows to House Martins estimated at 50:1 (Alan Rowland). A similar rate was recorded in St John's Valley on the same day (John Barber).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	16	100	200	15	6	12	2,000	830	1	–
–	–	7	22	31	21	9	4	29	25	1	–

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

Spring migrants were recorded on 47 dates from 23 Mar (five) to 21 Jun (two), but reported totals were low, peaking at just nine in Apr (on 20th) and 40 in May (on 22nd). Autumn passage was recorded on just 34 dates between 25 Aug (one) and 28 Oct (two), and peak counts were again modest, including 65 on 7 Sep and 50 on 14th. There were only four other double-digit counts.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	9	40	5	–	1	65	12	–	–
–	–	2	11	25	9	–	1	19	14	–	–

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

*Rare autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant; has overwintered once.*

Between one and seven birds were present in Millcombe, particularly around the Ugly, between 17 Mar and 12 Apr (numerous observers). There have been just six previous occurrences in spring, including two birds that overwintered in 2008/09. The highest 2016 counts – seven on 28 Mar (Joshua Harris) and six on 31st – exceed the previous spring-time record of five, set as long ago as Mar 1973. In autumn, three flew south over South West Point on 10 Oct (Kevin Waterfall).

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

[Greenish/Two-barred Warbler]

*British vagrant.*

A singing male was in the sycamores below Brambles on 5 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor) –

see colour plate 6. Record accepted by DBRC – only the fourth for Lundy, the last dating back to Aug 1978.

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

[Pallas's Leaf Warbler]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was feeding in gorse and on the ground close to the Rocket Pole on 25 Oct (Rob Duncan, Simon Slade, Justin Zantboer *et al.* – see colour plate 6). One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 27 Oct was still present (retrapped) on 28th and thought to be a different individual to that seen on 25th (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC – the fifth for the island, the last being in Oct 2003.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Recorded in autumn on nine dates from 9 Oct to 4 Nov. Two were in Millcombe on 9 & 10 Oct, and there were two in St Helen's Copse and one at Quarter Wall Copse on 10th (D. Evans *et al.*), followed by singles in Millcombe on 15th (Andrew Jewels) and 21st (Chris Baillie). Four were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Oct (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*), whilst two new (unringed) birds were in Millcombe on 28th, one of which was trapped and ringed (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). One unringed bird was in Millcombe on 29th (Chris Baillie) and finally, one was in lower Millcombe on 3 & 4 Nov (Richard Campey, James Diamond). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.*

One on 8 May, during the annual Devon Birds day-trip (Richard Swinbank), was the only record for the year.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

The first of the spring were two on 22 Mar and passage peaked at 400 on 3 Apr. In late May a male was singing in Quarter Wall Copse and two birds were singing in Millcombe, where a pair was seen carrying nesting material. Two males continued to hold territory in Millcombe 7–11 Jun and at least one presumed female was present. Further singing males were heard in Quarter Wall Copse on 8 Jun and St Helen's Copse on 9th & 10th. Whilst it seems likely that at least one breeding attempt was made, this remains unconfirmed. Autumn migrants were reported from 23 Aug (one) to 16 Nov (one) with maxima of 35 on 19 & 20 Sep and 15 on 9 & 10 Oct. Finally, a single bird was seen on three dates from 14 to 17 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	4	400	6	5	–	2	35	15	7	1
–	–	4	14	24	16	–	4	28	23	12	3

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first of the year were two on 22 Mar, rising to five on 30th. The highest spring passage count was a relatively modest 150 on both 8 & 19 Apr. In Jun, a single bird was singing on the Terrace on 5th, and another was singing near the Casbah on the afternoon of 10th but not present the next day. The first reported influxes of autumn passage were on 28–30 Jul, with counts of 18, 75 and 40, respectively. After an apparent lull in Aug, no doubt explained in part by low observer coverage, the highest Sep counts were 16 on 1st and 25 on 10th (no other counts broke single digits). The last of the year was one on 10 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
–	–	5	150	7	1	75	2	25	8	–	–
–	–	4	22	14	3	3	4	20	3	–	–

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter. Successful breeding confirmed for the first time in 2016, following a breeding attempt of unknown outcome in 2015.*

A single male on 23 Mar was the first report of the spring. Passage peaked during the first three weeks of April, with 30 on 4th & 12th and 40 on 19th. The max in May was 19 on 4th. On 11 Jun, a pair (both carrying rings) were gathering spiders' webs as nesting material from the 'Secret Garden' area of Millcombe and flying to their presumed nest site on the slope below Brambles East. The male was singing in short, intense bursts, 'wing shivering' and thought also to be courtship feeding the female (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A male was singing daily in Millcombe from 21–28 Jun (David Price), whilst a male carrying food and alarming, plus two juveniles, were in Millcombe during 28–30 Jul (Chris Baillie). These observations constitute the first-ever record of successful breeding on Lundy, following confirmation of a breeding attempt of unknown outcome in 2015. During autumn passage, the highest counts came in Sep, with 30 on 16th and 50 on 19th. The Oct 'peak' was unusually low for that month, at just 10 birds on 10th & 25th, and was actually exceeded by a Nov count of 13 on 2nd. The last of the year was a single bird on 15 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	40	19	3	3	1	50	10	13	–
–	–	1	17	17	14	2	2	25	25	12	–

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, usually in small numbers.*

Single birds on 2, 5, 7 & 8 May were the only records during spring passage. In autumn, there were further singletons on 16 & 18 Sep and 1 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	1	–	–
–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	2	1	–	–

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

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

Two in Millcombe on 23 May, and one the following day were the only records for the year.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.*

The first of the year was one on 19 Apr, with a further single on 23rd. The peak count in May was just three on 6th. A male was singing and carrying nesting material (sometimes simultaneously!) in St Helen's Copse on 10 & 11 Jun, but there was no sign of a second bird. Autumn migrants were reported on 13 dates between 9 Aug (one) and 22 Sep (four – the highest autumn count). Perhaps more than for any other species, the logbook entries for Whitethroat strongly hint at poor observer coverage and/or low reporting rates, for key periods during both spring and autumn passage. This needs to be kept in mind when interpreting data for other migrants.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	3	2	–	1	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	11	9	–	1	12	–	–	–

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Singles on 8 May (at Quarter Wall), 24 May and 19 Sep (locations unspecified) were the only records for the year – one of the poorest (or least well-recorded) years ever.

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

The first spring passage migrants, two on 19 Apr, were followed by single birds on 28 Apr, 22, 25 & 30 May and 2 Jun. A male was singing in Millcombe on 6 Jun. Autumn migrants were noted on just seven dates between 29 Jul (one) and 27 Sep (one), with a max of only three on 25 Aug and 1 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	1	1	1	3	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	3	1	2	1	4	–	–	–

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Oct (Rob Duncan, Justin Zantboer *et al.*) was just the second for the Lundy, the first being as recently as Oct 2013. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Single birds were recorded daily 10–13 May, followed by two on 22nd (singing in Millcombe in the early morning), one on 23rd, one on 26th and singles on 2 & 8 Jun (in Millcombe and Quarters gardens respectively). In autumn, there were records of single birds on 13 dates from 31 Aug (one) to 14 Sep (two), with a max of three on 1st, 4th and 9th.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

In spring a single bird was reported on 17 & 19 Mar, being seen in a conifer behind Millcombe House on the latter date. In autumn, there were singles on four dates, 18 to 30 Sep (Andy Jayne *et al.*), whilst sightings at different times on 10 Oct, in Millcombe (Andrew Jewels) and Quarter Wall Copse (Kevin Waterfall), could possibly have involved two different individuals.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

*Common breeding resident.*

Peak day totals were 40 on 8 Jun and 47 on 10 Nov. However, 50 singing birds were holding territory from St John's Valley and Millcombe, along the East Side as far north as Gannets' Combe during the period 30 May to 2 Jun (Paul Holt), whilst a further 15 singing males were recorded from elsewhere around the island, including the North Light, north-east coast and parts of the West Side and South End (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), giving a minimum estimate of 65 territories. Taking into account those parts of the island not surveyed, it seems almost certain that the actual number of territories was in excess of 80. A nest in the Casbah, built on top of an old Swallow nest, contained young on 10 Jun and a pair was feeding young at the western end of Quarter Wall on 11th.

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	8	20	20	24	40	7	4	25	23	47	9

#### Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

The highest spring-passage count was of 120 on 20 Mar, whilst the post-fledging maximum was at least 110 at the Old Light on 6 Jun. Numerous fledged young were seen daily around the Village and farm between 7 & 11 Jun. During autumn migration, higher counts included 500 on 10 Oct, 600 on 30 Oct, 700 on 31 Oct, 550 on 1 Nov, 800 on 8 & 11 Nov and 600 on 15 Nov.

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	60	120	70	75	110	40	75	139	700	800	70

#### Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

[White-throated Dipper]

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was seen briefly in lower Millcombe on 30 Sep (Steve Howells & Tim Pett) – only the second record for Lundy after the first in Jun 2014.

#### Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

During spring passage there were records of one on 23 Mar, two on 3 Apr and a single male on 21 & 24 Apr, the latter at the Old Light. Autumn migrants were reported on 12 days between 13 Oct and 2 Nov; all records were of single birds, with the exception of two on 21 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	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	10	2	–

#### Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

There was no evidence of spring passage. Between 30 May and 2 Jun, males were holding territory in Millcombe (two) and St John's Valley (one), with eight further territorial males between St Helen's Combe and VC Quarry. Adults carrying food were seen in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse and the Terrace 8–11 Jun and an almost independent juv was in Millcombe on 9th & 10th. During autumn passage, higher counts (in chronological order) included 25 on 22 Oct, 36 on 24th, 23 on 31st, 50 on 1 & 2 Nov, 40 on 3rd and 50 on 8th.

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	8	12	12	11	3	8	14	36	50	7

#### Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

Spring migrants were recorded on five dates from 19 to 24 Mar, with a peak of 10 on 19th and there were three were in Barton Field on 22 May. The first of the autumn were nine on 7 Oct. These were followed by records on a further 40 days to 18 Dec, with higher counts (in chronological order) including 80 on 21 Oct, 100 on 22nd, 400 on 29th, 80 on 30th, 100 on

1 Nov, 150 on 2nd and 80 on 11th, constituting one of the better autumns for this species in recent years.

**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	–	3	–	–	–	–	400	150	16
–	–	5	–	1	–	–	–	–	18	18	5

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

*Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Resident and sporadic breeder prior to 2010.*

Singles were logged on 29 Jan & 29 Feb, on three dates 2–6 Mar, on 23 Mar, and on 2 & 12 Apr. There were no further records until one appeared on 29 & 30 Jul (Chris Baillie), most likely a result of post-breeding dispersal from the mainland. Otherwise, the first of the autumn was a single bird on 2 Sep. There were subsequent records on a further 37 dates to 18 Dec (one), with maxima of 10 on 19 Oct, 12 on 21st, 15 on 31st, 25 on 1 Nov, 30 on 2nd and 25 on 3rd.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	1	15	30	3
1	1	4	2	–	–	2	–	4	17	14	3

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

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

Spring migrants were recorded on five dates 19 to 25 Mar, with a max of 20 on 19th & 22nd. The first of the autumn were three on 7 Oct, followed by records on a further 42 dates to 27 Dec (one bird), with maxima (in chronological order) of 80 on 10 & 20 Oct, 300 on 21st & 22nd, 120 on 24th, 150 on 25th, 200 on 27th & 29th, 400 on 30th, 200 on 31st, 150 on 1 Nov, 135 on 2nd, 200 on 3rd and 256 on 8th. As for Fieldfare, this was one of the stronger autumn migrations of recent years.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	400	256	30
–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	21	16	6

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

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

One on Castle Hill, then flying north from Barton Field, during the early morning of 22 Mar (Tony Taylor) was the only spring record. In autumn, ones and twos on nine dates from 10 Oct to 8 Nov.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

*Common spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder.*

Spring passage was recorded on 22 days from 28 Apr (one) to 10 Jun (one), with a max of 14 on 22 May (Tim Smith). Autumn migrants were seen on 38 days from 23 Aug (one) to 11 Oct (two), with a max of just six on 10 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	14	2	–	2	6	4	–	–
–	–	–	1	15	6	–	2	29	7	–	–

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

[European Robin]

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

The highest late-winter and early spring counts were six on 15 Feb, 10 on 3 & 4 Mar, and 11 on 3 Apr, perhaps including a handful of migrants. At least five pairs were recorded in the south-east of the island, from Millcombe to VC Quarry, between 30 May and 2 Jun (Paul Holt). Two fledglings were in Millcombe on 6 Jun, with further recently fledged young seen there 28–30 Jul. Adults were alarming and carrying food on the Terrace on 8 Jun. Post-breeding dispersal and autumn passage brought 10 on 31 Aug, 15 on 2 Sep, 24 on 18 Sep, 40 on 19 Oct, 30 on 1 Nov and 20 on four further dates to 20th.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	6	10	11	4	6	2	10	24	40	30	4

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva****Nationally scarce migrant.*

A female or first-year male was in St Helen's Copse on 31 May (Paul Holt). Record accepted by DBRC – the first spring occurrence since Jun 2003.

**Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

A male on 12 Apr was the only record during spring passage. Autumn migrants were recorded on 23 dates from 25 Aug (one) to 30 Sep (one), with a max of five on 2 Sep.

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros****Common late-autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.*

There were just three spring records, over a protracted period: one on 28 Mar; one at The Cheeses, Jenny's Cove, on 19 Apr; and one on Sunset Buttriss, just north of the Old Light, on 29 May (Tony & Ann Taylor). Autumn passage brought records on 10 dates from 10 Oct (one in VC Quarry) to 17 Nov (one), with a max of seven on 1 Nov. One near the Church on 18 Dec (Philip & Helen Lymbery) may have been an overwintering bird.

**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	–	–	–	–	3	7	1
–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	7	3	1

**Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

[Common Redstart]

*Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

In spring, a singing male on 8 Apr, was followed by two birds on 16th and a male on 23rd (the latter on the Upper East Side Path, near Millcombe). Autumn migrants were recorded on just three dates, with single birds on 15 Aug and 15 & 25 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	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	3	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

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

There were no spring-passage records. Autumn migrants were recorded on 28 dates from 30 Aug (seven – the peak count) to 13 Nov (two). A relatively strong showing in Sep, included counts of five on 1st, 2nd & 7th, and four birds on five other dates.

**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	5	1	2	–
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	20	5	1	–

**Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola***

[European Stonechat]

*Breeds occasionally (most recently in 2015, following a five-year gap); uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.*

There were two (both males) on 28 Jan, followed by records on a further 22 dates from 11 Feb to 4 Apr. These largely involved ones and twos, but three were seen on 23 Feb (a male and female on the Airfield and a male at Threequarter Wall) and 4 Apr. There was a long gap until single birds were reported on 10, 29 & 30 May, then no further records until post-breeding dispersal brought two on 10 Aug. Autumn passage occurred mainly between mid-Sep and mid-Nov, with maxima of 11 on 30 Sep, nine on 31 Oct and eight on 1 & 2 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	2	3	1	–	–	2	11	9	8	4
1	11	10	1	4	–	–	1	13	24	10	6

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

[Northern Wheatear]

*Summer visitor; significant breeding population; common spring and autumn migrant.*

The first spring migrant was a single bird on 10 Mar, rising to 15 by 25th. The maximum spring passage counts were 100 on 20 Apr and 50 the following day. Tony Taylor and Richard Taylor continued their colour-ringing study of Wheatears (see colour plate 7), marking 48 new birds in 2016, and logging sightings of 29 birds ringed in previous years. The survival rate from 2015 to 2016 among the colour-ringed birds was 44% – see *Bird Ringing on Lundy in 2016*, page 63. The all-island breeding population in 2016 was estimated at 110 pairs. A female Greenland Wheatear *O. o. leucorhoa* on the west end of the Airfield on 5 Jun was caught and ringed (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). On 8 Sep, an adult female Greenland bird was caught by hand at 23:00hrs in the Old Light Manx Sheawater colony. Perhaps newly arrived, its weight was quite low, but after being kept overnight and ringed, it flew off strongly the following morning (Richard Taylor, Rosie Hall). The last bird of the year, on 27 Oct, was considered to be a first-winter male Greenland Wheatear (Chris Baillie).

Referring to the last week of Jun, David Price reported: “*The most noticeable and encouraging thing was the number of juvenile Wheatears around; they were just everywhere. Most pairs seemed to have four active and well-grown young. At the beginning of the week there were quite a lot of parents still feeding fledged young, but only a few days later it was quite difficult to find any adults. By the end of our week, the young were much more enterprising, exploring well away from their nesting areas, and I have a suspicion that quite a few of the adults may well have had enough of parental duties.*”

**Request.** *Further birds will be colour-ringed in 2017 and 2018 so please continue to record sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos are particularly appreciated and can be sent to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).*

**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	100+	33	50	40	13	20	9	–	–
–	–	11	20	30	25	13	4	26	11	–	–

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

*Breeding resident in small numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn.*

No counts reached double digits. The spring max was four on 6 Mar and 4 Apr. During late May and the first half of Jun, single birds were recorded in Millcombe and on the Terrace. Breeding was confirmed with a record of a recently fledged juvenile in late Jul. Autumn counts peaked at five on 13 Sep and seven on 20 Nov. Nine individuals were handled by ringers during the year.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	4	4	2	2	1	1	5	4	7	2

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

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

The following summary from ongoing research into Lundy's House Sparrow population has been contributed by PhD student Aaron Sibma of Sheffield University.

After a winter visit in February (when 71 individuals were caught), we expected the population to be lower in summer 2016, compared to 2015. However, with slightly higher numbers for both broods and fledglings, the summer of 2016 showed us that accurate population predictions for Lundy House Sparrows are difficult to make.

The breeding season started with the first egg being laid on 14 April, and ended relatively late with the first egg of the last brood being laid on 11 August. With 22 more broods than 2015, and 146 broods in total, producing 253 fledglings, the summer of 2016 can be classified as an average year.

The slightly higher numbers could be due to a lack of predators in winter. In 2014, when the population and the number of broods were relatively high, Sparrowhawks were often seen near the Village in winter. They are likely to have preyed on the sparrows, which resulted in a steep decline in numbers and broods in the subsequent breeding year. However, Sparrowhawks were not often seen in the winter of 2015/16, which could explain why the sparrows fared better in the summer of 2016.

Surprisingly, only 17 broods (48% fewer than in 2015) were recorded in the Lambing Shed, which is usually highly popular as it contains 40 nestboxes and provides shelter and food for the birds. However, we had to close all nestboxes in August 2015 due to the Lambing Shed being re-roofed, and could not open the boxes until February 2016. It is thought that a lot of nest prospecting and site selection happens in winter. Thus the lack of brood activity in the Lambing Shed in summer 2016 could be a consequence of the birds not being able to access available nestboxes there during the winter before the breeding season. Additionally, former nestbox owners probably left in search of nesting sites in other areas.

Our winter trip in November 2016 showed high numbers of sparrows. A total of 105 individuals were caught, compared to 71 in February.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	71	61	17	20	38	p*	24	60	40	105	51

\* = 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 Aaron's report.

An article published on the BirdGuides website on 4 Jun 2016 reported the findings of a 12-year study that followed 200 male and 194 female House Sparrows as they formed 313 unique monogamous pairs and hatched 863 broods on Lundy. Researchers found that males can judge whether a spouse is prone to infidelity, providing less food for their brood if their partner is unfaithful. The full paper is published as: Schroeder J, Hsu Y-H, Winney I, Simons M, Nakagawa S & Burke T. 2016. Predictably Philandering Females Prompt Poor Paternal Provisioning. *The American Naturalist* 188 Number 2.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* [Eurasian Tree Sparrow]  
*Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular migrant in small numbers and a sporadic breeder.*

One was feeding outside Brambles Villa on 29 May (see colour plate 7) and at the top of the High Street the following morning (Tony & Ann Taylor).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* [Western & Eastern Yellow Wagtail]  
*Uncommon spring migrant; regular early autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional in summer. Formerly more numerous, particularly in autumn.*

One on 7 Jun was the only spring record. Single autumn migrants were recorded on eight dates, from 11 Sep to 1 Oct.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*  
*Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional summer records; rare in winter.*

Single spring migrants were recorded on 24 Mar and 4, 5 & 20 Apr. In autumn, there were records on 21 dates from 25 Aug (one) to 28 Oct (one), including two on 18 Sep and three on 10 Oct. All other occurrences were of 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
–	–	1	1	–	–	–	1	2	3	–	–
–	–	1	3	–	–	–	2	13	6	–	–

**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.*

In the first winter period, one was seen on 10 Feb and two on 23 Feb. Following three on 6 Mar, spring passage was evident during the second half of the month, with maxima of 18 on 21st and 12 on 25th. Three pairs bred successfully: two pairs were carrying food near Quarters and near the Lambing Shed, respectively, between 7 & 11 Jun, and a third pair were carrying food at Quarry Cottages on 20 Jun. The highest autumn passage count was 25 on 14 Sep, followed by 15 on 30 Sep and 10 on 9 Oct.

White Wagtails were recorded on seven spring dates between 4 Apr (three) and 9 Jun (a single male), with a max of six on 8 Apr. In autumn, they were seen on 10 dates from 30 Aug (one) to 30 Sep (one), with a peak of seven on 7 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	18	20	6	6	2	3	25	10	2	–
–	–	–	6	1	1	–	1	7	–	–	–

Large pipit *Anthus* sp.

A large pipit, almost certainly a **Richard's Pipit** *Anthus richardi*, was seen and heard in flight over Castle Hill on 21 Sep (Andy Jayne), though Blyth's Pipit *A. godlewskii* could not be completely ruled out. Record accepted by DBRC as a large pipit, probably Richard's.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

The only records of the year were on five dates between 7 Sep (two) & 25 Sep (two), with a max of three on 21st.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

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

Up to three birds were present on three dates in late Jan. An apparent influx in mid-Feb, involving 50 on 14th, 30 on 15th and 36 on 16th, was presumably an early pulse of spring passage, but it took until the second half of Mar before numbers (or at least those entered in the logbook) picked up again, with 40 on 21st, rising to 85 on 24th. Numbers peaked in the first half of Apr, reaching 160 on 4th and 150 on 12th. Successful breeding was confirmed (e.g. an adult feeding fledged young at Quarter Wall on 21 May; numerous adults carrying food or faecal sacs, 7–11 Jun). An adult was watched "bashing a Grass Eggar imago apart above Benjamin's Chair" on 4 Jun (Richard Taylor). During autumn passage, the highest counts were 200 on 13, 18 & 23 Sep, 450 on 30 Sep, and 180 on 10 Oct.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	50	85	160	100	27	26	20	450	180	20	10

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

*British vagrant.*

One was calling in flight over the Airfield on 21 Sep (Andy Jayne) and one was around Castle Hill on 18 Dec and near the Church the following day (Philip & Helen Lymbery; see colour plate 8), constituting the first occurrence in winter for Lundy. Records accepted by BBRC.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

There was just one report of successful breeding (adults carrying food near North Light on 9 Jun), so this species retains its status of Lundy's least well-known and most under-recorded breeding bird – with the possible exception of Storm Petrel! Higher counts included 12 on 27 Jan, 11 on 23 Sep, 25 on 10 Oct and 17 on 17 Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	2	6	2	4	8	3	2	11	25	7	17

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

Two on 27 Apr were the only reported spring migrants. During autumn passage, recorded on seven dates from 26 Oct (four) to 11 Nov (one), with a max of five on 2 Nov.

**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.*

Between 30 May and 2 Jun Paul Holt recorded three females in Millcombe, including one on a nest, and single pairs in both St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse. A female was feeding young in Millcombe on 7 Jun. The highest autumn passage counts were 3,000 on 25 Oct (the only count of more than 1,000).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	8	9	7	5	3	2	15	3,000	350	6

**Common Rosefinch** *Erythrura erythrura*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-summer male was singing above the Terrace on 5 Jun and what was presumably the same individual was then singing in Millcombe and near the Tavern Garden on 7th, and in Millcombe again on 8th (Philip & Helen Lymbery, Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Later in the year, a first-winter bird in Millcombe, originally seen on 15 Sep, was trapped and ringed on 16th and seen again on 17th (A.J. Bellamy, Peter Slader, Nik Ward). Records accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

The only spring record concerned one on 8 May, whilst in autumn there were ones and twos on 14 dates from 1 to 20 Sep. Not recorded in Oct or Nov.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

The first of the year were five on 24 Mar, but spring passage went virtually unreported. Two pairs were collecting nest material in gorse south of Pondsbury on 17 May. The highest pre-fledging breeding-season count was 63 on 5 Jun, while the peak post-breeding totals were 300 on 12 Aug and 200 on 25th. Autumn passage brought a maximum of 260 on 23 Sep and the last of the year were five on 8 Nov.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	5	15	30	63	110	300	260	60	15	–

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

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

In spring there were two on 16 May, followed by three on 21st & 22nd, one on 23rd and singles on 1 & 7 Jun. In autumn, migrants were recorded on 19 dates from 31 Aug (two) to 8 Nov (five, the maximum count).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

*Rare summer and autumn migrant; occurring sporadically and sometimes in large numbers during 'invasion' years.*

One on 5 Jun was initially heard calling near Hanmers, then seen flying around Millcombe (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

*Has bred regularly in recent years; common spring and autumn migrant; irregular in winter.*

The first of the year were seven on 22 Mar, with 14 on 25th. The spring passage max was 25 on 5 Apr. Up to seven were around Millcombe between late May and mid-Jun. Song was heard frequently and breeding strongly suspected (e.g. adults apparently collecting food from high in the sycamores above the Casbah) but not confirmed until a female and three young (presumed second brood) were outside Brambles East on 13 Aug. The highest autumn counts were 35 on 6 Sep, 23 on 22 Sep, 25 on 21 Oct, and 14 on 1 Nov. In Dec, there were unusually high totals of 17 on 11th and 20 on 23rd.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	14	25	11	10	4	6	35	25	14	20
–	–	6	18	25	19	5	8	23	22	10	7

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

In spring, ones and twos were recorded on six dates from 23 Mar to 19 Apr, followed by a single male on 22 May. During autumn passage, recorded from 22 Sep (one) to 11 Nov (two), with max counts of 30 on 25 Oct and 26 on 30 Oct.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

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

Singles were recorded on three dates in autumn: a male above The Battery on 18 & 20 Oct (Mark Darlston *et al.*) and one in the Lighthouse Field on 1 Nov (Richard Campey, James Diamond *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Single autumn passage migrants were recorded on 1 & 4 Sep (Richard Taylor) and 19 & 20 Sep, with three on 18th (Andy Jayne). All but the individual on 4th, which was feeding on the main track near Pondsburry, were heard calling in flight, over the Tent/Lighthouse Fields, Old Light and Tillage Field respectively. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Singles were in Millcombe on 8 Sep (Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor) and 14 Sep, the latter a first-winter bird (A.J. Bellamy, Peter Slader, Nik Ward). 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.*

For the 14th time since LFS recording began in 1947, but only the third time since 1995, this amber-listed bird of conservation concern was not recorded on Lundy.]

## RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY BBRC

### **Black-browed Albatross** *Thalassarche melanophris*

*British vagrant.*

A record of one off the Landing Bay on 17 Oct. If accepted, this would be the first for Lundy.

### **Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

*British vagrant.*

A record of one over Millcombe on 25 Oct. If accepted this would constitute a first for Lundy and Devon – see the photograph on the back cover of the report.

## BBRC DECISIONS ON RARITY RECORDS ASSESSED AS ‘NOT PROVEN’

### **Double-crested Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax auritus*

One on 14 Oct 2016.

## 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](mailto:recorder@devonbirds.org)).

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

One seen from MS *Oldenburg*, 20 minutes out from Lundy, flying north (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

### **Cory’s Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*

A late bird seen from MS *Oldenburg* about halfway on the outward crossing on 18 October (Mark Darlaston).

### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One was seen from MS *Oldenburg* on 27 August (Martin Thorne).

### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A dark-phase bird seen from MS *Oldenburg* on 6 Sep (Steve Rosser), whilst a light-phase bird was seen on 8 Sep (Davy Still *et al.*).

## 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.

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

A logbook entry of three at Pondsburly on 30 Apr lacked supporting information.

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Logbook entries (ticks only) for 24–27 Jun lacked supporting information.

### **Cory’s Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*

One on 17/18 Oct lacked sufficient supporting information.

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

One on the sea with Gannets on 30 Aug lacked sufficient supporting information.

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A count of 25 on 23 Jun, somewhat late for a spring passage flock, lacked supporting details.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

An unprecedented count of 20+ on 29 Jul lacked any supporting details.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A report of one perched on an East Side ledge on 10 Oct lacked sufficient detail.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

A report of two on 18 May lacked supporting information.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Four on 30 Aug and logbook ticks indicating presence on each of the following two days lacked any supporting information.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

One on 30 Aug and logbook ticks indicating presence on each of the following two days lacked any supporting information.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

One reported on 27 Feb lacked sufficient supporting information.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

One on 6 Aug lacked any supporting information.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Records of single birds on the unusual dates of 19 & 28 Aug lacked any supporting information.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

A report of one on 18 May lacked supporting information.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

Records of single birds entered in the logbook on the highly unusual dates of 30 & 31 Jul lacked any supporting information.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A record of two in Millcombe on 17 May lacked supporting information.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

A report of one in Millcombe on 25 Mar lacked supporting information.

**Coal Tit** *Pariparus ater*

Records (tick only) for the period 18–22 May lacked any supporting information.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

One reported on or near the western end of Threequarter Wall on 13 Mar lacked any supporting information.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Singles reported on 24, 25 & 27 Jun lacked supporting information for what is now a very scarce bird on Lundy.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

A record of one on 1 Oct (via Birdguides) lacked any supporting information.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Records of three on 2 Nov and one on 16 Nov lacked supporting information.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calciarius lapponicus*

A logbook entry of four perched in trees in Upper Millcombe on 8 Oct lacked supporting information.