

## THE BIRDS OF 2019

### Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

[Common Quail]

*Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.*

One was flushed along the Lower East Path above White Beach during the late morning of 19 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones) – the first record since Jun 2014 and only the second in autumn since LFS records began in 1947. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

*Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.*

An exceptional year, with three autumn and early-winter records. A juvenile flew south-west over the Castle early in the morning of 12 Oct (Andy Jayne). Two adults landed on Pondsburry at 12:50 hrs on 6 Nov (Alan & Sandra Rowland); at 14.00 they were in Lighthouse Field (Chris Dee & Sue Waterfield) and an hour later were seen in flight again, having been disturbed by a Coastguard helicopter (Alan & Sandra Rowland). A flock of five adults flew along the East Side on 3 Dec (Rosie Ellis). These constitute the 16th to 18th LFS records, the last being in Oct 2012. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn; occasional winter visitor.*

Two (a male and female) were on Pondsburry on 1 Jan (Alan & Sandra Rowland, Robert Pell); the drake was still present on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A female was on Pondsburry on 12 & 13 Nov (Dean Jones, Martin Thorne).

### Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

*Resident breeding flock of feral origin, though numbers appear to have declined in recent years; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.*

Descendants of escaped domesticated Mallards in 1987 (Davis & Jones 2007) continue to survive despite the depredations of gulls and Peregrines, this year producing at least five broods, the first, of 12 ducklings, seen on Pondsburry on 26 Apr. The peak count of 12 birds recorded in each of the last three months of the year is about average for winter and – to date – has been sufficient to sustain the population, likely bolstered by occasional wild immigrant birds.

#### Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	10	5	8	11	9	9	10	9	12	12	12

### Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

*Regular migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. First breeding record in 2015, followed by successful breeding in 2016–2018, inclusive.*

Three males and four females, probably part of the small breeding population established in 2015, were on Pondsburry on 13 Jan and similar numbers were seen for much of the spring, with a maximum of 10 (4m, 6f) on 21 Feb. It is thought that nesting was again attempted, but there was no firm evidence and no ducklings were seen. On 21 Dec six males were performing courtship displays to 12 females on Pondsburry (Dean Jones).

#### 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	10	6	7	6	–	–	1	3	2	15	19
4	7	4	14	13	–	–	3	5	13	14	10

### Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

*Lundy vagrant.*

Two females were roosting on an island in Pondsburry on 15 Sep (Jan Swan).

### Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

*Lundy vagrant.*

An immature bird in the Landing Bay on 27 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*) was only the 10<sup>th</sup> LFS record and the first since three were seen on 15 Oct 2011.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra**Uncommon passage migrant.*

Seawatches from the Ugly produced six on 8 Jan, the first Lundy record for this month (Dean Jones), and two males and a female heading south on 15 Oct (Tim Jones). Two flew past North Light on 19 Sep (Martin Thorne).

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One over North Quarry and the Terrace at 14:50 hrs on 8 Jun – “A striking bird with ‘presence’ and a joy to see” (Chris & Carol Baillie). The seventh record for the island, the last being in Mar/Apr 2012. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

*Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor, though generally in small numbers.*

The first of the year were single birds on 29 & 30 Apr. Spring passage peaked at 50 birds on 12 May, with double-digit counts on four other days in the first half of the month. Subsequent double-digit counts occurred on 24 Jun (17), 25 Jun (15), 2 Jul (14), 3 Jul (11), 4 Jul (35) and 5 Jul (25). The last of the year were two on 14 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	50	17	35	3	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	16	10	9	4	4	–	–	–

**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).*

In spring, recorded on 25 dates between 22 Apr and 16 Jun. An adult male heard calling outside the Tavern on 22 Apr was the first of the year. Two were flying together from upper Millcombe around to the East Side on 10 May. A male was by the Airfield and a probable female at Halfway Wall on 16 May. A juvenile was seen in Millcombe on 11 Aug but there is no evidence to suggest that it was a Lundy-bred bird.

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia**Common visitor in small numbers, mainly from spring until autumn, the great majority of those reaching Lundy being lost and/or tired racing pigeons.***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	10	15	–	4	3	1	1	1
–	–	–	3	15	13	–	5	7	4	2	11

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas**Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Four records, including single birds on 20 Feb, 25 Mar & 17 Oct, whilst on 12 Apr one was feeding in Barton Field in the early morning, and one (potentially the same individual having second thoughts about leaving the island, or possibly a second bird) was seen coming in off the sea at North End at midday.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

*Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers, with occasional larger influxes; sporadic in winter.*

Two were in the incongruous setting of Long Roost on 13 May. One was carrying nesting material in Millcombe on 16 May and successful breeding was confirmed when two newly fledged young were in Millcombe on 10 Jun. A further two young, which fledged prematurely (perhaps due to the presence of two Sparrowhawks) from a rather late nest, were huddling together underneath one of the memorial benches in Millcombe on 12 Sep. The highest count of the year was 30 on 6 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	22	15	9	6	6	8	9	30	1	2
6	13	21	29	29	24	16	22	24	22	3	7

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

*Increasingly scarce migrant; now occasional in very small numbers in spring but rare in autumn.*

Three records: one around the Lambing Shed/Bull's Paradise consorting with a Collared Dove on 1 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) was present until 8 May, one on 14<sup>th</sup> (location not reported) and a late migrant on the Terrace on 31 May (Dean Jones).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

[Eurasian Collared Dove]

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

The highest count of the year was six on 15 May, including a group of five in Millcombe and one near Tibbetts. One was sitting on top of Lametor on 16 May. Although song was heard on several occasions, there was no evidence of any breeding attempt.

**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	6	2	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	1	–	8	11	6	–	1	1	–	–	–

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

*Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015: no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016-2018.*

Four records in Jan were of a single bird at Quarters Pond. An adult was calling from Quarters Pond very early in the morning of 6 May, along with "constant squeaky calls suggesting juvenile birds may be present" (Sam Bosanquet). Breeding was confirmed in the same location when an adult with small young were heard calling during the evening of 28 May (Tony Taylor). The highest count during the year was three, on seven dates between 12 & 23 Oct and again on 4 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	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	3
4	9	7	6	10	6	1	5	15	20	12	3

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Fifty-two birds – likely a mix of Lundy breeders and wintering/passage birds – were counted during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on 3 Feb. Several pairs were already defending breeding territories along the East Side on 6<sup>th</sup>, but there was no full island census of breeding sites or numbers. An adult with young were in the Landing Bay on 26 Jul.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	52	32	28	27	42	37	13	9	19	9	7

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; formerly recorded in much larger numbers. Bred regularly until 2000.*

Single Lapwings were seen on only five days (*cf.* 18 days in 2018): 2 & 6 Jan, 1 & 2 Feb and 1 Dec – the worst return since LFS records began in 1947 and illustrative of the decline nationally of this beautiful and once common plover.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Most records consisted of one or two birds, with only three counts of five or more: eight over the Airfield on 21 Feb, eight at North End on 2 May and five on 24 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
–	8	1	3	8	1	–	1	2	5	1	1
–	5	1	1	5	1	–	2	8	15	2	3

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

In spring, recorded on 12 days from 25 Mar to 23 May, comprising four days in late Mar (max two on 30<sup>th</sup>), one day in Apr (a single on 30<sup>th</sup>) and seven days in May (max eight in Middle Park on 14<sup>th</sup>). On autumn passage seen on 14 days from 9 Aug to 22 Sep, all records being of single birds, except for two on 9 Aug and 18 Sep.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

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

A female was at North End on 13 May (Tim Davis) and two were in Middle Park the following day (Alan & Sandra Rowland). A juvenile, first seen by the Old Hospital on 6 Oct (Paul Bullock *et al.*), remained in the general vicinity of Quarter Wall, being seen at Quarry Cottages and at the eastern end of the Airfield, until 13<sup>th</sup>. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus**Regular spring and autumn migrant in small and declining numbers.*

Spring passage birds were logged on 21 days from 15 Apr to 3 Jun. There were three on 23, 29 & 30 Apr & 1 May, and six on 27 Apr. All other records were of single birds. Autumn passage was noted on just three dates: one on 23 Aug, two on 25<sup>th</sup> and one on 1 Sep.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

*Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; occasional winter visitor; formerly bred (up to 1973) and was also a common passage migrant.*

Spring passage records were again sparse, birds seen on 11 days, the first on 23 Mar, with a maximum of four on 28 Apr. A very early autumn passage bird was heard calling over the Village on 26 Jul. One flew in off the sea over The Battery on 8 Aug. Notable flocks of 10 and 12 birds were over South West Field on 25 Aug (Martin Thorne), with a further nine seen heading south the following day (Richard Taylor). Although these are the highest island counts since Aug 1995, the wider context is one of continuing declines in British, Irish and continental/Fennoscandian breeding populations.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	4	1	–	1	22	–	–	–	–
–	–	6	4	1	–	1	4	–	–	–	–

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa**Rare passage migrant; one winter record.*

One, closely followed by a Dunlin, flew south past Rat Island on 9 Aug (Dean Jones). On 26 Aug one “loosely associated with seven Curlews” flew past Old Light calling (Richard Taylor).

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

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

Two immatures were “*hiding from the winds in the short heather at North End*” on 10 Aug (Dean Jones). One, calling loudly, flew low over Quarter Wall on 9 Sep (Dean Jones). One flew south along the East Side on 14 Sep (Dean Jones).

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



Dunlin, Brick Field Pond, 14<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).

Spring passage birds were logged on 15 days between 22 Apr (one) and 22 May (one), with unusually high counts in mid-May. Four in full summer plumage in company with two Ringed Plovers were feeding on bare ground by the West Side track above Devil's Slide on 13 May. Peak counts were more than 20 on 14 May in multiple locations including the Airfield, Pondsburry, Middle Park, Middle Park Pond and North End, and at least 30 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
–	–	–	6	30	–	1	1	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	11	–	2	3	3	–	–	–

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Three were in Tillage Field and on the Airfield during a late-night walk by Warden Dean Jones on 4 Jan. Six were reported by rabbit counters on the night of 8 Feb. Autumn passage appeared sparse, with records of ones and twos only on 11 dates from 23 Oct to 1 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
3	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	2
1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	1

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Records on six days, in autumn only: one flushed from the north-east corner of Pondsburry on 21 Sep (Dean Jones); singles on 11, 13 (at Pondsburry) & 20 Oct (one “flushed from *Molinia* just west of Pondsburry” – Sam Bosanquet); and singles on 27 & 29 Nov (Neil & Andy Trout).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor, generally in small numbers; occasional hard-weather influxes.*

In the first winter period eight were in Tillage and Brick Fields on the night of 4 Jan. Spring passage was negligible with records on just five days in Mar and Apr (max two). The peak count in autumn occurred mid-morning on 12 Oct when 14 were circling high over Pondsburry before pitching down to earth. The highest count of the year was 17 around Pondsburry on 26 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
8	3	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	14	3	17
4	7	2	3	–	–	–	–	2	18	12	9

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers (though the abundance of hard-to-view shoreline habitat must mean that many are missed); very rare in winter.*

A disappointing year with just two spring records: one at the Landing Bay on 25 Apr and one on 14 May in the Devil's Kitchen.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

*Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

One on 6 Sep: a bird heard calling as it flew along the East Side (Ivan Lakin) was also heard and seen by two other observers on top of the island.

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One was heard calling and seen in flight over the Ugly at 06:55 hrs on 14 May (Chris Dee, Tim Jones). The same or a different bird was heard and seen over Millcombe at 14.15 (Tim Davis). One was at Pondsby on the evening of 10 Aug (Nick Upton). One called repeatedly from the Landing Bay area at 07:00 hrs and again an hour later on 26 Aug (Tony Taylor).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two flew north over Middle Park on 14 May (Tim Jones). One was heard calling over the top of the island from Millcombe at 08:30 hrs on 26 Aug (Tony Taylor & Dean Jones); probably the same bird was later seen flying over Castle Hill heading towards South West Point at 10:10 hrs (Richard Taylor).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

*Common but declining breeding species; large flocks may occur offshore outside the breeding season.*

The highest count in the first winter period was an estimated 3,000 birds feeding and rafting off the East Side on 4 Feb – a record for the period since LFS began collecting data in 1947, though Perry (1940) reported in excess of 3,000 breeding pairs in 1939. In Feb 2019 the vast majority were adults, with less than 1% first-winter birds. High counts in late autumn and early winter included 500 on 27 Oct, while a movement of seabirds in the early morning of 1 Nov saw an estimated 750 Kittiwakes passing south-west off Rat Island. Some 600 were feeding off the south-east coast in the early afternoon of 30 Dec.

Monitoring at the Aztec Bay Kittiwake colony south of St Mark's Stone in 2019 showed a welcome marked increase in the number of occupied nests: 103 compared to 65 in 2018 and 87 in 2017 (Jones 2019). However, the decline in pairs nesting in the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony continued, with 29 pairs present compared to 41 in 2018 (from a recent maximum of 105 pairs in 2008; Jones 2019). A round-island boat trip on 5 Jul, though a little late in the season, permitted counts of areas that are not visible from land (e.g. caves at Threequarter Wall). This yielded a total of 347 apparently occupied nests: 148 in Jenny's Cove, 140 at Aztec Bay and 59 at Threequarter Wall (Dean Jones). Small chicks (age estimate 1-2 days) were seen at Aztec Bay on 12 Jun (Myra Bugesa & Kirtsy Neller, Middlesex University).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
631	3,000	88	200+	246	247	279	225	229	500	750	600

\*There was no full breeding census in 2019 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.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

Only three records during the first eight months of the year: an adult in upper Lighthouse Field on 1 Feb, a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar-year bird in the Landing Bay on 16 May and a notable flock of 12 off the East Side in poor weather on 23 Jun (Tim Smith). Autumn brought sightings on five dates, all involving single birds off the Landing Bay/East Side: a first-year bird on 21 Sep; an adult daily from 15 to 17 Oct; and an adult on 28 Nov – the last of the year.

### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A first-winter bird was feeding with Kittiwakes off the Landing Bay at 16:00 hrs on 29 Sep (Dean Jones) – the seventh LFS record, the last being one off North Light on 22 Oct 2013.

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

*Still uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.*

There were records on 19 days – itself a record. One to three birds were noted amongst Kittiwake flocks off the Landing Bay on eight days from 2 Jan to 9 Feb (Dean Jones). An adult in winter plumage was off North Light heading west on 18 Aug (Dean Jones). Two to four birds were again amongst rafts of feeding Kittiwakes off the East Side from 16 to 18 Oct (Martin Elcoate *et al.*). Two were close inshore off the East Side on 24 Oct (Chris Baillie). One to two (involving at least two adults and a first-winter bird) were foraging off the East Side on six days between 19 Nov & 4 Dec (Dean Jones).

### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

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

Recorded on nine days in Jan, max seven on 23<sup>rd</sup> and nine days in Feb, max 20 on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. In autumn, one to two birds on 16-18 Oct were followed by peak counts of six on 20 Nov and 20 on 4 Dec, with five on the last day of the year. Apart from three birds off North Light on 3 Feb, two off Aztec Bay (in Jenny's Cove) on 22 May, and the five birds on 31 Dec off the North End, all sightings were from the vicinity of the Landing Bay.

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

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

The highest count of the year was of 118 during a land-based circumnavigation of the entire island perimeter on 7 Feb. Forty-six were counted on a similar survey on 9 Jun. Breeding confirmed: birds were sitting on eggs on 12 Apr; fledglings were noted at The Battery on 10 Jul.

#### **Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	118	28	52	29	46	8	20	19	14	15	21

\*There was no breeding census in 2019 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.

### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

*Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.*

In late Dec, first-winter birds were in Brick Field on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Rosie Ellis & Dean Jones), on floodwater between Old Light and the water tanks on 26<sup>th</sup> (Philip & Helen Lymbery) and in flight past North Light on 31<sup>st</sup> (Dean Jones). Photos were taken on all three dates, but the level of detail shown is insufficient to confirm whether or not more than a single bird was involved. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

*Common but declining breeding species; present all year, and though generally fewer in winter, there may be significant influxes during storms and cold snaps.*

Breeding confirmed: adults were incubating eggs at Jenny's Cove on 30 Apr. The highest count of the year (781 on 9 Jun) was made during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones).

#### **Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
155	489	280	389	214	781	109	62	12	160	300	517

\*There was no breeding census in 2019 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, particularly for May & Jul.

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

*Common but declining breeding species; common passage migrant; generally uncommon in winter.*  
Breeding confirmed. One was gathering nesting material from the side of Smelly Gully on 2 May. The highest count of the year (243 on 9 Jun) was made during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones).

#### **Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	22	144	195	106	243	–	31	7	8	13	125

\*There was no breeding census in 2019 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, particularly for May & Jul.

### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

*Uncommon migrant, late March to early October.*

One was in the Landing Bay on 3 Apr (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

*Uncommon passage migrant April to October.*

The only record was of one during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones).

### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

*Lundy vagrant.*

The only record was of three adults during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

‘**Commic Tern**’ unidentified Common or Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo* or *S. paradisaea*

Five juveniles were seen from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones). One was off the East Side on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne).

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

*Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; has occurred in winter.*

Recorded off the East Side, typically amongst feeding gulls and auks, on seven dates in autumn from 29 Sep (one) to 24 Nov (two), with a maximum of three on 18 Oct (Dean Jones *et al.*)

### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

*Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant; has occurred in winter. Devon rarity.*

A single adult was seen during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones), and a juvenile was off the Terrace on 17 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Andy Jayne *et al.*). These are the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> records for Lundy. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

A light-morph bird on 17 May was harrying Kittiwakes off Rat Island before flying off westwards. There were only three autumn records, all between 29 Sep and 16 Oct: three (a dark-morph adult, a light-morph adult and a juvenile) were chasing Kittiwakes off the East Side on 29 Sep (Dean Jones); four dark-morph birds were off the East Side on 4 Oct (Dean Jones); and a light-morph bird was off the Landing Bay on 16 Oct (Martin Elcoate).

### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

[Common Murre]

*Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from August to October, then sporadic visitor, in highly variable numbers, to breeding ledges during late autumn and winter.*

The year's highest counts were of 4,543 birds on 12 Apr and 6,415 birds (excluding chicks) on 9 Jun, the latter during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed; chicks (estimated to be 2-3 days old) were first seen on 24 May at St Mark's Stone. Productivity was very good within this colony with an average of 0.69 chicks fledged from 141 breeding pairs. The first fledglings were recorded on 18 Jun and chick rearing continued up until 3 Jul



at least in this area (Dean Jones). A colour-ringed individual (red ring with white numbering 0114) was seen at Jenny's Cove on 26 Jun. It had been ringed as a nestling on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, in Jul 2013 (Dean Jones). In late autumn, 323 were occupying ledges in Jenny's Cove on 28 Nov (Neil & Andy Trout).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	3,126	858	4,543	424	6,415	293	6	2	8	323	201

\*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Razorbill *Alca torda***

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

A perimeter walk of the island's coast produced the year's highest count, of 2,396 birds, on 12 Apr (Dean Jones). The first chick was noted on 31 May.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
94	2,159	864	2,396	170	1,955	60	2	231	34	57	81

\*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Puffin *Fratercula arctica***

[Atlantic Puffin]

*Common and gradually increasing breeding species; formerly bred in considerably larger numbers; very rare between mid-August and early March.*

Birds were first recorded on the water at Jenny's Cove on 27 Feb (Dean Jones), 15 days earlier than 2018 and 17 days before the first of 2017. This constitutes the earliest ever record of Puffins for the island, being a week ahead of the previous record of 6 Mar 1983. The first confirmation of breeding was noted on 20 May (food being taken into a burrow in Jenny's Cove). The number of Puffins in a monitoring area at Jenny's Cove increased to 98 in 2019, compared with 40 in 2013, further underlining the success of the rat-eradication programme. Within this area, Puffins nest in very close proximity to numerous Razorbills, Guillemots, Fulmars and Kittiwakes, as well as a number of nesting Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which again successfully raised young in the heart of the Puffin colony, along with two pairs of Herring Gull (Jones 2019). The highest count of the year was of 468 on 7 Jul between The Battery and St Mark's Stone (Dean Jones). A few days later, on 11 Jul, 401 were counted at Jenny's Cove alone, comprising 264 on land and 137 on the water. The last Puffin sighting of the year was of 27 birds on 29 Jul.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	2	166	197	120	337	468	-	-	-	-	-

\*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table do not necessarily reflect the total breeding population.

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

[Red-throated Loon]

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Recorded in the Landing Bay or elsewhere off the East Side from 3 Jan to 6 Mar, with one to twelve birds on most days, but maxima of 14 on 3 Feb, 15 on 2 Feb and 2 Mar, and 22 on 18 Feb, an all-time record count for the island (Dean Jones *et al.*). During the second winter period, two flew south along the East Side on 28 Nov, one was off the Landing Bay on 2 Dec, and two were off Rat Island on 29 Dec (Dean Jones).

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

[Arctic Loon]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One was in the Landing Bay on 17 & 18 Jan in company with Red-throated Divers (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

[Common Loon]

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

Recorded on 32 days, the first one off North Light – an unusual location – on New Year's Day. One was flying north along the side of the island at plateau height on 17 May. Two were in the Landing Bay on 22 Dec – “*Lovely to hear the birds calling to each other between bouts of diving near the Sugar Loaf*” (Dean Jones). The highest count for the year was three on 23 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	3
4	9	5	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	12

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

*Uncommon passage migrant. First confirmation of breeding in 2014.*

One was seen at dusk on 26 May flying over the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony and 10 were mist-netted in this area during the breeding season (Tony Taylor *et al.*). On 14 Jun one was flushed from short heather at North End and watched flying out to sea over North East Point in strengthening wind (Tom Dickens). On the night of 23/24 Aug, 37 birds were trapped near North Light – 28 ‘new’ birds, seven Lundy-ringed retraps from 2017 and 2018, and two birds ringed elsewhere. On 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, at the same site, 24 more new birds were caught along with a further eight Lundy-ringed retraps and five ringed elsewhere – see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.86. Several birds on both nights had very full crops of food, suggesting they were feeding young.



*The fledgling Storm Petrel (pictured left) ringed in the Old Light shearwater colony on 5 Oct 2014 (the first confirmed breeding record of the species for Lundy) was trapped and released at a breeding colony in the Channel Islands on 27 Jul 2019 – see also p.86 (photo: Tony Taylor).*

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

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

The highest count of the year came in the first winter period, 227 on and around breeding ledges on 3 Feb. After 19 were logged on 1 Sep, typically the post-breeding period produced single-digit counts on just five days until 12 Nov, when a count of 100 marked the start of the birds' return to the ledges.

The overall island population is at an all-time high, with 227 breeding pairs in the last complete survey in 2017; this despite a gradual decline in Fulmars nesting on Gannets' Rock from 65 pairs in 1986 to 31 apparently occupied nests in 2019. In this, the sixth year of monitoring at the site (2007-10, 2018 & 2019), 15 chicks fledged from the 31 nests, representing a productivity value of 0.48 young per nest (compared with 0.39 in 2018; Jones 2019). The first chick, estimated to be 2-7 days old, was seen on 5 Jul (eight days earlier than the first in 2018).

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
91	227	142	205	79	195	30	70	19	7	100	184

\*There was no full island breeding census in 2019 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.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea**Lundy vagrant.*

One flew past Rat Island with Manx Shearwaters during a morning seawatch from the Ugly on 30 Aug (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

The first of the year were calling birds heard from Millcombe on the evening of 22 Mar. Maximum counts were at least 1,000 on 18 Jun, 2,538 on 30 Aug, 2,991 on 10 Aug and the year's peak of at least 3,000 on 2 Aug. Birds were heard (from the Village) calling at 23:00 hrs on 5 Oct. One was off the Landing Bay on 5 Dec: "Very surprised to see this bird so late in the year. Watched for some three minutes as it flew north along the east coast in typical shearwater fashion ... showing all black above and a very clean white underside (ruling out Balearic Shearwater)" (Dean Jones). There were three even later records: one on 21 Dec at the North End, "watched for around two minutes as it foraged close in to the North Light" (Dean Jones); one on 29 Dec, "watched in great detail for around an hour and a half, initially flying between gull flocks ... landing and then diving for a meal" (Dean Jones); and finally two sightings of a single bird on 31 Dec, off Rat Island in the morning and around the East Side in the early afternoon. It is interesting to speculate whether these exceptionally late records might have involved the same bird, perhaps one not in sufficient condition to make the long flight to winter in South American waters.

Summarising ongoing ringing studies of Lundy's breeding shearwaters, Tony Taylor reports that: "Breeding colonies visited at night were as busy and noisy as ever, but ringing totals were lower than in the previous eight years because of reduced coverage. Ninety-three adults were ringed in late May, early June and early September, and 141 chicks were also ringed. Another 62 previously ringed adults were recaptured. Breeding or pre-breeding adults were found occupying five nestboxes in early June. Three of these pairs had laid eggs and two reared chicks successfully." See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.85.

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	39	109	150	1,000	10	3,000+	12	5	6	1

### Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant. Devon rarity.

Four during a morning seawatch from the Ugly on 11 Oct (Andy Jayne, Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

Common offshore, especially from spring to autumn, with peak numbers usually in late summer and typically less frequent in winter; formerly bred (until early 1900s).

Recorded throughout the year, with a spring max of 28 on 30 Apr, a typical late-summer peak of 227 on 10 Aug, but unusually high late-autumn/early winter counts of 329 on 24 Nov and 105 on 2 Dec, perhaps associated with the persistently unsettled weather during the last quarter of 2019.

#### 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	5	6	28	15	41	16	227	50	54	329	105
18	8	15	18	24	16	10	21	15	23	16	18

### Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeding species present throughout the year, but numbers usually smaller in winter.

Shags can largely vacate the island in cold winters, but the generally mild conditions of early and late 2019 ensured their presence throughout. The high count of 50 on 16 Feb was probably a result of exceptionally mild weather stimulating Lundy breeders to return to the island earlier than normal. Breeding confirmed: one was prospecting for a nest site at Threequarter Wall Bay on 27 Feb; a bird was carrying nest material at Great Shutter Rock on 11 Apr; and fledglings were seen at Long Roost on 1 Jul. The post-fledging annual max of 172 was on 4 Aug.

#### Maximum count for each month (from the LFS logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	50	30	53	37	113	20	172	38	43	13	6

**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

[Great Cormorant]

*Regular spring and autumn migrant, typically in flocks overflying the island; formerly bred (until 1959); occasional in winter.*

Recorded on 42 days through the year, in every month except Jul, with a peak of 10 on 23 Jun. As usual, most frequent during spring and autumn passage. On 12 Oct, "an immature bird alighted on Pondsburry but only stayed for 2-3 minutes before flying off again... Presumably the same individual was touring the island on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. I was amazed to see it circle and then almost alight on Barton Pond and straight after almost alight on the roof of the Tavern before having second thoughts at the last moment!" (Andy Jayne). One was on Pondsburry on 2 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
3	2	9	4	6	10	–	6	4	8	3	1
1	1	6	4	3	4	–	5	1	14	2	1

**Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides***

*UK vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One, originally seen on the shoreline at Gannets' Bay on 23 May, reappeared around Rat Island on 28<sup>th</sup>, where it lingered until 31<sup>st</sup> (Dean Jones, Seb Loram, Luke Sutton *et al.*). This constitutes the first Lundy record of this beautiful migratory heron, which breeds in southern and eastern Europe and winters mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. Record accepted by BBRC. See p.83.

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

*Nationally scarce migrant and colonising UK breeder. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One perched on the south-facing side of Lametor in the early morning of 24 Mar (Dean Jones). This is the much-anticipated first Lundy record of a species that is currently extending its breeding range north and west across Europe, the first confirmed breeding in the UK having occurred on the Somerset Levels in 2008. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. See p.82.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

*Uncommon visitor; most regular from midsummer to early autumn.*

Recorded on the unusually high number of 55 days between 19 Jun (one mobbed by a Herring Gull over Pondsburry) and 15 Oct (two), with one or more long-staying individuals in Jun-Aug. Higher counts included three off North Light on 4 Aug and seven (six in flight over Quarter Wall, one resting in Brick Field) on 25 Aug. A flock of 19 birds flying south on 14 Sep exceeded the previous record day total of

*Grey Heron, Brick Field, 8<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*



16 on 25 Jul 1975. A long-staying bird arrived on 24 Sep and was seen in various places on the shoreline and the plateau until last recorded on 10 Oct. Two in flight off the East Side on 14 Oct, and possibly the same two the following day, were the last of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	–	–	2	1	7	19	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	6	6	19	13	11	–	–

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

*Scarce but increasing passage migrant.*

Three records, all in October: one on 10<sup>th</sup> flew north along the East Side (Tim Smith); one on Pondsbury on 24 Oct flew off west before turning to the south (Mark & Jo Harris); and one on 27<sup>th</sup> seen in flight near North End, landing periodically in pools on the main track before flying south (Trevor & Karen Dobie) was later feeding in flooded grassland by the water tanks, and seen again the following day in St John's Valley (Chris & Carol Baillie).



**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

*Scarce, but now annual passage migrant.*

One along the East Side on 18 Apr (photo: Pete Lambden). One arriving from the north-west, crossed the island and continued south down the East Side on 17 Sep (John Lane).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

*Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; bred at least once in the past (1922); occasional in winter; has overwintered.*

Although there were some lengthy gaps between sightings, it seems probable that multiple records of a single female in

Nov and Dec 2018 and from Jan to May 2019 (last sighting on 14<sup>th</sup>) refer to just one overwintering bird. There were no further records until a female on 31 Jul. Between then and the end of the year, birds were seen on 62 days, with a peak of three on 14, 16 & 22 Sep, and 14 Oct. The last was a male on 26 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	1	1	2	1	–	1	2	3	2	2	–
8	10	8	21	6	–	1	3	21	28	9	–

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

*Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.*

A female flew high over the Quarries and on out to sea south-east towards the mainland at 13:00 hrs on 1 Apr (Andrew Cleave & Michael Foord). On 15 May a female drifted over Millcombe at 08:55 hrs and was later seen over South End and Tillage/Brick Field (being mobbed by crows) and quartering over Pondsbury. It was last seen flying north over Threequarter Wall at 14:55 hrs (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Chris Pawson *et al.*).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

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

A female/ring-tailed bird was over Montagu Steps on 15 Oct (Belinda Cox & Mandy Dee). A ringtail on 17 Nov flying north along the West Side was initially seen at Punchbowl Valley (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Red Kite** *Milvus migrans*

*Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.*

Two circled over Ackland's Moor for at least 10 minutes at 10:40 hrs on 26 Mar before drifting off north (Andy Jayne, Pete Burkill & David Grey). One of these birds was also seen over the Village (M. Lee). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

[Common Buzzard]

*Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident (last nesting attempt in 1965).*

One flew south mobbed by Carrion Crows on 15 May (R & CJ Morrison). One flew in off the sea over Rat Island on 25 Jul (Dean Jones) and departed the island the next day (Alex Sydenham). One flew north over Millcombe, harried by Carrion Crows, on 10 Nov (J Richards).

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

One seen by rabbit counters whilst lamping on the night of 8 Feb. One on 18 Oct flew out over the Landing Bay from near Windy Corner, before turning back and concealing itself in vegetation below the Beach Road (Tim Davis).

**Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***

[Common Kingfisher]

*Lundy vagrant.*

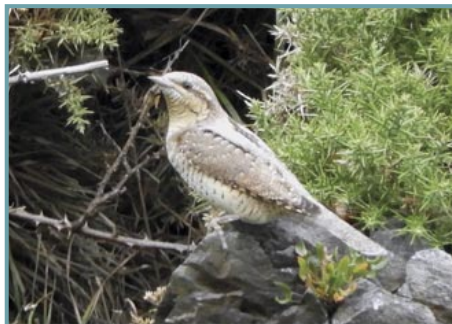
One "zoomed through Hell's Gate and disappeared round Rat Island" on 7 Oct (Martin Thorne) – the first record since Aug 2016.

**Wryneck *Jynx torquilla***

[Eurasian Wryneck]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was on the fence and track outside Brambles on 23 Aug before flying up into Millcombe Wood and out of sight (Tony Taylor *et al.*). Likely the same bird on 25 Aug flew out from Smelly Gully and up to the rocks behind the walled gardens where it hopped around for a few minutes before disappearing back into the gully (Dean Jones *et al.*). One perched in willows just south of the Terrace on 22 Sep (Derek Baggott & Ben Rousseau). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



*Wryneck, Millcombe, 25<sup>th</sup> August  
(photo: Dean Jones)*

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major****Rare passage migrant and post-breeding visitor; one overwintering record (2018/19).*

The long-staying female first seen in Millcombe on 16 Oct 2018 was still present on 4 Jan and was last recorded on 6 Feb (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

[Common Kestrel]

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

Two were displaying and calling over Millcombe and the Beach Road on 14 Feb (Alan Rowland) and a displaying pair, behaving extremely territorially, was seen near Old Light on 16 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). However, there was no subsequent evidence that a breeding attempt took place.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
8	4	5	12	20	7	8	11	15	21	12	5

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus****Nationally scarce migrant.*

A 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar-year male on 18 May was first seen in flight during the late morning between Quarter Wall and Pondsburry. It flew north as far as Gannets' Combe but then settled for around three hours in Middle Park, where it put on a superbly aerobatic display, feeding almost continuously on Emperor Moths, which it caught, dismembered and ate in flight, using the main track marker stones and gorse bushes near Tibbetts as lookout perches from which to launch its sorties (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones *et al.*). The falcon continued to feed until 14:20 hrs at which point it flew north over Threequarter

Wall, circled to gain height, and left the island to the north-west. The 8<sup>th</sup> Lundy record, the last being in May 2003. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

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

Recorded on 12 days in spring and 38 days in autumn, the first of the year a spring-passage female over the Terrace on 24 Mar (Dean Jones). Most records were of single birds, with two being the highest count on five dates, 15-18 Oct and 13 Nov. The last in autumn was a female on 2 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	1	1	–	1	1	2	2	1
–	–	1	6	3	2	–	1	4	20	11	2

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

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

Recorded in every month, with peak counts of six on 12 Apr and 16 May, and seven on 23 May and 4 Aug. At least four were recorded throughout the winter months (Jan-Mar & Nov-Dec) with breeding birds returning to territories by the end of Mar. There were five occupied breeding territories; adults were first seen incubating eggs on 12 Apr and three pairs managed to fledge a total of six chicks, with the first fledglings recorded on 24 Jun. Three chicks were fitted with blue colour-rings (the first time that Lundy Peregrines have been colour marked) on 6 Jun.

**Request:** *Kindly report any sightings of colour-ringed Peregrines directly to the Warden. Please help to protect the island's breeding birds by not revealing nest locations in the LFS logbook, on social media, or elsewhere.*

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

*Nationally scarce migrant. Devon rarity.*

A female was near St Helen's Copse on 6 Jun (Chris & Carol Baillie). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*

*UK vagrant.*

A first-year bird, initially seen in flight, settled on an exposed branch of an ash tree on the northern edge of Quarter Wall Copse for a couple minutes at about 13:30 hrs on 13 Oct. This afforded excellent telescope views from a range of 20 m before the bird dropped back and out of sight. It was relocated at about 15:00 hrs feeding in the canopy towards the south-east corner of the copse, loosely accompanied by a group of Goldcrests and Firecrests, and was last seen about 30 minutes later (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Martin Elcoate, Andy Jayne & Tim Jones). The 9<sup>th</sup> Lundy record and the second consecutive year after one in Millcombe in Oct 2018. Record accepted by BBRC.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A singing male in Millcombe on 21 Jun (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). Dean related the encounter in the LFS logbook: "I heard a brief call which sounded good for Golden Oriole. I made my way slowly and quietly to where the call had come from and the bird then burst into full song from the top of an old oak tree at the top of Millcombe. It sang here for about 20 minutes, allowing me to get some recordings on my phone, but then stopped singing and began moving through the canopy where I was able to see the bird periodically through the foliage." Record accepted by DBRC.

**Jackdaw** *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

One first seen in the upper Lighthouse Field on 2 Feb (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) was present until 7<sup>th</sup>, frequenting the Tillage and Brick Fields and also the pigsty. Three on the main track at Quarter Wall on 22 Oct took off and flew north (Sam Bosanquet).

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

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

One first reported on 4 Apr (Jo King) was outside Paradise Row on 6 Apr and feeding with Carrion Crows in Tent Field on 8<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones).

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

A pair were gathering nesting material near Government House on 18 Mar. Four were seen to leave the island in the direction of Hartland Point on 11 Apr. Breeding was confirmed on 11 May when juvenile birds were heard calling from a nest in Millcombe Wood. At least five other nest sites were located: St Helen's & Quarter Wall Copses, Castle/Hammers Copse, above Needle Rock, and Quarry Bay. The peak count for the year was 64 on 27 Sep.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	42	40	36	30	30	11	55	64	32	55	44

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One was in flight with six Carrion Crows heading north past the Church in the early morning of 5 May. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

One was carrying nesting material (sticks) towards Halfway Wall Bay on 1 Feb, and two days later both birds were seen carrying lining material to the nest. Adults were feeding young at the same site on 2 May and at a nest along the South End on 3 May. Other pairs nested on Goat Island and at Long Roost. A pair and two young were at St Philip's Stone on 13 May. The highest count of the year was 13 on 3 Feb.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	13	6	9	10*	11	5	8	12	9	8	6

\*Plus two juvenile birds

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

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

A very active and mobile singing male of the continental race *P. a. ater* was present in Millcombe from 1-5 May (Tim Jones *et al.*) and trapped and ringed on 2nd. On the last date the bird was observed over Brambles and Castle Hill at 06:45 hrs flying high towards the east, in the direction of the North Devon mainland, making a strange, shrill, very high-pitched call. On this occasion it turned around and dropped back down into Millcombe, but repeated this behaviour several times, apparently intent on leaving the island. It must have finally made a successful break for it as it was not seen later in the day. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One calling in flight near the Church at 12:45 hrs on 2 May (Rob Duncan & David Kightley) was seen and heard again on Castle Hill at 14:45 hrs (Richard Campey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

One was singing on New Year's Day (Robert Pell) and many breeding territories were taken up in Feb during unusually mild weather. Warden Dean Jones mapped 49 song territories during the breeding season. Successful breeding confirmed: an adult carrying food was seen near South West Point on 11 May and an adult was feeding a fledgling at Rocket Pole Pond on 1 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). The highest autumn-passage count was of 100 birds on 15 Oct.





Continental Coal Tit, Millcombe, 1<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey).

**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	40	39	53	39	65	15	7	18	100	7	10
9	19	11	27	22	19	6	12	16	22	12	9

**Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

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

The first of the year were two on the extraordinarily early date of 24 Feb, with a further singleton on 28<sup>th</sup>. After four on 5 Mar, spring migration really got under way in the second half of the month, with peaks of 51 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 55 on 26<sup>th</sup>. Passage was noted on 23 further days in Apr (max 25 on 11<sup>th</sup>) and May (max 10 on 1<sup>st</sup>) with a late straggler on 5 Jun. One or two on four days during Jul were perhaps failed breeders before more concerted autumn passage was noted from 18 Aug onwards. Peak movement occurred on 8 Sep when an estimated 500 birds were logged. After two on 18 & 19 Oct feeding along the East Side, a single on 22 Oct was the last of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	2	55	25	10	1	2	11	500	2	–	–
–	2	11	13	10	1	4	6	13	6	–	–

**Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first of the year were two over the Village during the late morning of 16 Feb, with another three elsewhere during the day, making this the earliest ever date for Swallow on Lundy. Spring passage peaked on 12 May when some 5,000 birds (considered to be a gross underestimate) were logged. A total of four pairs attempted to breed but only three managed to fledge chicks (Tillage/Brick Field pigsty, Quarry Pond and Church porch). The first fledglings were seen in the Church porch on 5 Jul and the same pair of adults were incubating a second brood by 25 Jul, but this and another pair that attempted a second brood both seemed to fail at the early egg stage. Autumn passage peaks of 1,195 and 3,200 came on 8 & 18 Sep respectively. The last of the season was one over the Village on the very late date of 24 Nov (Lucy Winder).

On 5 May, Sam Bosanquet noted: “A putative Swallow x House Martin hybrid circling over Government House with Swallows and House Martins – size and structure as Swallow with swept-back wings and forked tail, though streamers not as long as typical for Swallow; peach-coloured rump and dark throat.”

**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	30	2,170	5,000	18	10	66	3,200	250	2	–
–	1	7	24	30	26	13	23	26	23	4	–

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

A single bird over St Mark’s Stone on 24 Mar was the first of the year. As in most years, peak spring passage occurred in May with three-digit counts on six days between 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and an estimated 700 being the highest day-count on 12<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage peaked on 18 Sep with 500 passing through. Thereafter, the highest count was 20 on 1 Oct, with three on 24 Oct the last birds of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	6	40	700	20	4	1	500	20	–	–
–	–	4	13	28	14	4	3	16	16	–	–

**Cetti’s Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One in dense vegetation on the bund of Millcombe Pond on 14 Oct (Andy Jayne & Tim Jones) was seen briefly in the willow clump in St John’s Valley the following day (James Diamond *et al.*). Presumably the same bird was back at Millcombe Pond on 1 Nov (Chris Baillie), at the head of St Helen’s stream, where it reaches the Upper East Side Path, on 16 Nov, and again at Millcombe Pond on 17<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones). This is only the fifth record for Lundy.

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

*Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; has overwintered once (2008/09).*

One feeding in sycamores in Millcombe on 21 Oct (Dean Jones) was the first since Oct 2017.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

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

Spring sightings involved just two single birds, a male singing in Millcombe on 29 Apr (Dean Jones) and one trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 7 May (Rob Duncan & David Kightley). There were no autumn records.

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

Lundy’s first ever spring record of this delightful Siberian-breeding leaf warbler came from upper Millcombe on 20 Apr (Andy Trout). In autumn, there were sightings on eight dates from 10 to 23 Oct, with a maximum of five (all in Millcombe) on 15<sup>th</sup> (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). All other dates involved ones and twos. The only birds away from Millcombe were singles between the Terrace Trap willows and the Timekeeper’s Hut on 19<sup>th</sup> and at Quarter Wall Copse on 23<sup>rd</sup>. As usual the total number of individuals was difficult to assess, but there were at least ten. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first birds arrived in Millcombe on 22 Mar. There was a steady passage of birds through Apr with peaks of 45 on 8<sup>th</sup>, 50 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 60 on 21<sup>st</sup> and a spring maximum of 1,000 on 29<sup>th</sup>. After 35 on 2 May and 25 on 7<sup>th</sup>, numbers fell to between one and four birds on most days up to 25 Jun. Whilst song was heard in mid-May, on 2 & 4 Jun and again on 5 Jul, there was no evidence of attempted breeding. Autumn passage commenced in late Jul with at least 95 on 27<sup>th</sup>. Higher counts through Aug were 71 on 1<sup>st</sup> and the autumn maximum of 250 on 26<sup>th</sup>, whilst Sep brought a peak of 20 on both 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The last of the year was a single bird on 23 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	1,000	35	4	95	250	20	2	–	–
–	–	8	24	30	21	3	25	18	9	–	–

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

Between one and four overwintering birds were recorded during Jan and Feb, and into early Mar. An unusually high early spring count of 64 birds was made on 22 Mar, with the season's peak of 100 occurring on 29 Apr. Breeding was confirmed for three pairs: one was nest-building on the Terrace on 12 Jun (Chris Baillie); one was collecting food in the Terrace willows on 7 Jul (Dean Jones); and an adult was feeding chicks in sycamores near the Battlements on 24 Jul (Dean Jones); and an adult was feeding very young chicks in Smelly Gully on 11 Aug – almost certainly a second brood but far too soon to be the same pair that were feeding young at the end of Jul (Dean Jones). Between one and six birds were present on most days in Aug, with autumn passage peaks of 50 and 30 on 18 & 19 Sep respectively. Passage dribbled on into Nov, with six on 8<sup>th</sup>, and the last record for the year a single bird on 28 Nov.

Non-calling birds showing plumage typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were seen in Millcombe from 9 to 17 Jan inclusive (Dean Jones) and on 5 & 6 Apr (Jo King, Philip Lymbery), and in bracken at Threequarter Wall Bay on 15 Oct (Andy Jayne). In line with the current policy of Devon Birds, which only accepts as 'confirmed' records of calling 'Siberian' Chiffchaff, these three occurrences have been accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder as 'grey chiffchaffs' (unidentified *P. c. tristis/abietinus*).

**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	2	64	100	20	4	3	6	50	20	6	–
19	20	21	25	30	17	8	20	24	22	12	–

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

After one bird on 17 Apr, spring passage continued until 24 May, with highs of 25 on 7 May and 31 on 9 May. Four birds on 27 Jul marked the start of autumn movement, though there were records on only nine further days, with a maximum of seven on 26 Aug and the last of the year being one on 8 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	15	31	–	1	7	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	19	–	1	7	2	–	–	–

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Recorded on six days in spring: one on 25 Apr and three in Millcombe on 30 Apr; two in Millcombe on 1 May, with further singles that month on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Autumn passage migrants, all single birds, were reported on just three days: 25 & 26 Aug (both trapped and ringed in Millcombe) and 1 Sep, in elder below St Helen's Copse.

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina****Nationally scarce migrant.*

One in blackthorn scrub in upper Millcombe on 23 Aug (Dean Jones) was seen again in Millcombe on 25<sup>th</sup>, then trapped and ringed there on 26<sup>th</sup> (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia***

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

A much better showing this spring than in 2018, with birds present on 10 days (first on 15 Apr reeling in brambles next to Government House) and maxima of six on 21 Apr and three on 6 May, two of which were also reeling. In autumn, one "flushed from nettles along the High Street" on 18 Sep was the only record.

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

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

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

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

Two males and a female on 22 Mar were the first of the year. A fall of at least 300 on 20 Apr was by far the highest spring-passage count. A female collecting food in lower Millcombe on 15 Jun indicated a breeding attempt; successful breeding was confirmed when two fledglings were seen with an adult female below Brambles on 29 Jun. Peak counts in autumn were 70 on 18 Sep and 150 on 12 Oct (including 60 on the Terrace). The last of the year was a late autumn migrant – a single male on 1 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
–	–	5	300	30	3	5	8	70	150	6	1
–	–	9	27	28	15	7	19	26	25	10	1

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

A slightly better year than of late, with records on 15 days in spring and eight in autumn. A single bird was seen on 22 Apr, with the spring maximum of three occurring a few days later on 29<sup>th</sup>. In May one or two birds were recorded on 10 days between 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, and two, potentially failed breeders passing through, were present on 25 Jun. The first of five autumn-passage records of ones and twos was a single bird on 25 Aug; the last, another singleton, on 19 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	2	2	–	2	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	10	1	–	3	5	–	–	–

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

There were two autumn records, both of first-winter birds: one seen briefly in Millcombe on 10 Sep (Nik Ward) and one feeding in willow and blackberry scrub by the Terrace Trap on 17 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*) Records accepted by DBRC.



*Barred Warbler, Terrace, 17<sup>th</sup> October*  
(photo: Dean Jones).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

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

Four records, all of single birds. One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 19 Apr (Chris Dee) was probably the same bird seen on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. A male was seen and heard singing on the side of the Ugly and around the walled gardens in Millcombe on 15 May and was still present the next day (Tim Jones *et al.*). In autumn, one was in elder at the top of Smelly Gully on 2 Sep (Dean Jones) and one above the Terrace on 22 Oct (Sam Bosanquet) was still present on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Chris Baillie).

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

*Common migrant in spring and autumn; sporadic breeder.*

A female in ivy next to Government House Pond on 17 Apr was the first of the year, whilst the spring-passage peak of 45 occurred on 9 May. Successful breeding was confirmed on 29 Jun when a pair in upper Millcombe were seen feeding at least two chicks (David Lindo) – the first confirmation of breeding on the island since 1978. A second brood of at least three chicks was in the same area on 27 Jul (Dean

Jones). Regular records of one to four birds through much of Aug probably included a mix of Lundy-bred birds and southbound migrants. The highest autumn-passage count was 14 on 26 Aug, followed by six on 9 Sep. The last two of the year were on 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
–	–	–	3	45	5	5	14	6	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	27	23	8	15	15	–	–	–

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

*UK vagrant. Complex and not wholly resolved taxonomy. The official British List maintained by the BOU, and followed here, currently includes Subalpine Warbler as a single species S. cantillans. BBRC, however, distinguishes Eastern Subalpine Warbler and Western Subalpine Warbler. Following an international review published shortly before this report was finalised, it is likely that Eastern Subalpine Warbler (S. c. cantillans and S. c. albistriata) and Western Subalpine Warbler (S. iberiae) will soon be formally recognised as separate species within the British List.*

In a remarkable and unprecedented series of records for Lundy, Devon and the wider UK, five individuals occurred in Millcombe during a three-week period in spring, from 22 Apr to 11 May inclusive.

All were trapped and ringed, though two were initially seen in the field on the day of trapping. Thanks to DNA analysis of shed body feathers, initial assignment to race made by visual examination in the hand and observation in the field was confirmed for all five individuals. These comprised four Eastern Subalpine Warblers and one Western Subalpine Warbler, as follows: a 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar-year (c-y) male Eastern (race *cantillans*) on 22 Apr; a 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y female Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 30 Apr; a 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y male Western on 1 May and subsequently seen in the field on 5<sup>th</sup>; a 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y male Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 6 May; and finally a 2<sup>nd</sup> c-y female Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 11 May. Observers/ringers comprised Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Rob Duncan, Dean Jones, Tim Jones & David Kightley. Records accepted by BBRC.



*Eastern type Subalpine Warbler, Millcombe, 11<sup>th</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

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

In spring, single birds were recorded on six dates between 24 Mar and 7 Apr. The first of these was on the Terrace, with the others all in Millcombe. Autumn sightings occurred on 30 days between 16 Sep and 20 Nov with a max of five on 23 Sep, mainly in Millcombe, the East Side copses and along the Terrace.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	5	4	2	–
–	–	4	2	–	–	–	–	11	14	5	–

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded in all months except Jun and Jul, with birds present in both winter periods (max seven on 13 Jan, “scattered along the east coast and Millcombe” – Dean Jones). An early spring peak of 19 occurred on 24 Mar, otherwise one or two birds only were recorded through Apr up to 17 May. There was no indication of any breeding attempt. Autumn passage started in mid-Aug and day-totals reached seven by 25<sup>th</sup>. As usual the main movements were in Sep and Oct, when there were two three-digit counts: 180 on 23 Sep and 150 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
7	8	19	3	2	–	–	7	180	150	9	3
14	17	21	19	7	–	–	13	25	28	20	9

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

[Eurasian Wren]

*Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.*

The year's highest count (28) was on 2 May and comprised 21 singing males along the East Side, all heard from the Lower East Side Path (as far as the north end of the Quarries), with a further three in Millcombe and one along the Beach Road. An additional five were singing along the West Side on 13 May, indicative of the ability of this species to survive in demanding locations. The combined total of 33 song territories is still only a partial count as Wrens were also widely, if thinly, distributed in other suitable areas elsewhere on the sidelands and the plateau, from Lametor to North Light. The first confirmation of breeding in 2019 came on 28 May with an adult carrying food to a nest beside the Beach Road. An adult was carrying food to chicks (heard only) at the Earthquake on 9 Jun. The high Oct count probably reflects an influx of Wren-counting birders rather than an influx of Wrens!

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	17	22	20	28	20	6	12	12	25	20	7

**Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

In the more unlikely observations of the year, one was feeding amongst rocks at Jenny's Cove on 26 Mar (Andy Jayne). In autumn, one was in Millcombe Wood on 24 & 25 Sep. What is considered to have been a different bird was in Millcombe on 8 Oct and remained until 25 Oct (ringed on 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus***

[Rosy Starling]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A juvenile at the Tillage/Brick Field pigsty, seen briefly on 6 Oct (Ryan Miller), was relocated in the farmyard on 9 Oct, where it remained – focused on the food dispenser in the chicken run! – with forays to the Lambing Shed and Lighthouse Field, often showing at very close range to multiple observers until its last appearance on 21 Oct (Dean Jones). The 26<sup>th</sup> record for the island. Record accepted by DBRC.

**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

[Common Starling]

*Common breeding resident; common migrant, particularly in late autumn when large influxes may occur.*

Starlings were already gathering nesting material on 20 Feb, but colder conditions later in the spring seem to have caused this early start to stall. A nesting pair was flying in and out of the old stonecrusher in Tent Field on 12 May and an adult was gathering nesting material in St Helen's Field on 14 May. A total of 56 active nests were located on 10 Jun in the Village, Church and Old Light (Dean Jones). The first fledglings of the year were not seen until 22 Jun (some three weeks later than in 2018). The year's maximum count occurred on 17 Nov with a "single flock of 800-900 Starlings in off the South End first thing; the noise upon arrival was incredible. The entire flock then settled in Barton Field to feed – scaring the life out of the ponies! Birds were also arriving from the north in small but steady flocks – estimate at least 1,000+ birds overall – an incredible sight!" (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
160	240	150	200	128	60	61	130	100	500	1,000	135

**Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus***

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

The first of the year was a male near Old Light on 24 Mar. In autumn, recorded on 10 dates from 18 Sep to 23 Oct. An astonishing count of 25 scattered along the East Side between Millcombe and the north end of the Quarries (including two flying in off the sea) on 15 Oct was the highest ever for Lundy, the previous record being 20 on 2 & 3 Oct 1951.



Male Ring Ouzel, Old Light, 24<sup>th</sup> March (photo: Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	1	25	–	–
–	–	2	5	–	–	–	–	3	7	–	–

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

Numbers were consistent with the island's breeding population during the first winter period and there was little evidence of spring passage. Breeding was confirmed when a male was carrying food in Millcombe on 12 May, while the first fledglings of the year were noted there on 25 May. Altogether at least six pairs bred (three in Millcombe and singles at Paradise Row, Quarter Wall Copse and the Terrace). Additional territorial males were noted at St Helen's Copse, Halfway Wall Bay and Gannets' Combe. The first noticeable influx of autumn passage was 17 on 15 Oct, followed by 30 on 19<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nov brought further arrivals, including 21 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 41 – the highest count of the year – on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	8	10	15	16	9	6	5	5	40	41	9

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

*Regular migrant, generally in small numbers, in early spring; much more frequent and more numerous in late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.*

Belying its status as a regular spring migrant, there were just two spring records, both of single birds on 24 & 30 Apr. Autumn passage kicked off much as usual in mid-Oct with four on 15<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter recorded on most days until 4 Dec, with peaks of 107 on 21 Oct and at least 200 on 5 Nov the only triple-digit counts of the year. Three feeding in Barton Field on 20 Dec were the last of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	107	200	5
–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	12	21	4

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

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

Wintering birds were present in the first half of Jan, with a max of three on 10<sup>th</sup>. One on Ackland's Moor on 1 Feb was the only other winter record, with another single on the cusp of spring on 2 Mar. A strong but brief audible passage of between 100 and 200 Redwings occurred during a 25-minute spell of low cloud and mist at around 22:00 hrs on 22 Mar, with many birds calling from above the Village and lower Lighthouse Field (Dean Jones). Two on 30 Mar and one on 4 Apr were the last of an otherwise sparse spring passage. The first autumn birds were six perched with Starlings on the Barn on 30 Sep. Movements continued into early Dec, with peaks of 450 on 15 Oct, 250 on 23 Oct, 200 on 5 Nov and 77 on 17 Nov. Numbers dwindled thereafter and only single birds were logged in the last week of 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
3	1	200	1	–	–	–	–	6	450	200	7
5	1	5	1	–	–	–	–	1	20	24	10

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

*Regular migrant in small numbers in early spring; more numerous and more frequent in mid to late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Sporadic breeding resident prior to 2010.*

One to three birds were logged on 28 days up to the end of Feb, followed by a small spring passage of ones and twos between 16 Mar and 19 Apr. The next sighting was not until a single bird on 30 Sep, marking the start of autumn passage which extended until the first week of Dec. Sixty on 15 Oct was by far the highest count, with 24 on 16 Nov the only other 20+ figure. Seven arrived with small numbers of Fieldfare and Redwing in late Dec, with at least one still around on New Year's Eve.

#### **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	2	–	–	–	–	1	60	24	7
13	15	5	5	–	–	–	–	1	14	22	10

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Recorded on five days in autumn from 20 Oct to 22 Nov: two together in Millcombe on 20 Oct; one in Millcombe on 22 Oct; one feeding with Redwings in Barton Field on 16 Nov; two calling loudly in Millcombe on 17 Nov; and one in Millcombe on 22 Nov (all records Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*Common but declining spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder, last confirmed in 2017.*

Spring passage extended from 20 Apr (a single bird) to 2 Jun (four) with what must have been a startling but spectacular fall of 80 on 9 May – a sunny but windy morning after a stormy day on 8<sup>th</sup>. All other records were in single figures. One was seen eating a male Emperor Moth on the Terrace on 10 May. Ones and twos were recorded on scattered dates late in Jun, but there was no evidence of a breeding attempt. One was in the Terrace willows on 28 Jul and possibly the same individual was seen on 2 Aug. More sustained passage was noted from 20 Aug (two birds) to 20 Sep (two), with a peak of 20 on 18 Sep. Single late migrants were present on 30 Sep and 1, 6 & 15 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	80	4	1	12	20	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	23	13	1	8	15	3	–	–

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Present throughout the year with a spring peak of seven on three days to the end of Mar. There was no evidence of any significant spring passage. A pair were courtship feeding in Millcombe on 14 May; an adult was feeding chicks in a nest in Millcombe on 28 May; and the first fledged juvenile of the year



was noted in Millcombe on 12 Jun. Apart from double-digit counts on two days in Aug (11 on 25<sup>th</sup>) and Sep (10 on 25<sup>th</sup>), higher counts signalling the onset of autumn passage weren't logged until mid-Oct, with 23 on 13<sup>th</sup> and peaks of 30 on 15<sup>th</sup> and the year's high of 40 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Numbers fell away in the last week of Oct, with a Nov max of 14 on 13<sup>th</sup> and between one and six birds through to the end of Dec.

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	7	3	5	4	3	11	10	40	14	6



**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

[Common Nightingale]

*Rare spring and autumn migrant. Devon rarity.*

One was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 28 Apr (Rob Duncan *et al.*). A remarkably confiding individual (photo: Dean Jones) was at the top of Smelly Gully – in the same area as a Wryneck – and feeding on grass around Millcombe Pond on 25 Aug (Dean Jones *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

The first spring arrival was a male in St Helen's Copse on the early date of 2 Apr, probably the same bird as recorded on both of the following two days. Thereafter, migrants were recorded on eight days from 20 Apr to 25 May. All were single birds except for 3m & 2f on 20 Apr and two on 21 Apr. Autumn passage was recorded on 15 dates from 23 Aug (five) to 3 Oct (one), but largely concentrated into the first three weeks of this period, with a peak of 11 on 25 Aug and 10 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
–	–	–	5	1	–	–	11	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	6	5	–	–	6	6	3	–	–

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

Following the only record for the first winter period, at Benjamin's Chair on 2 Feb, spring passage was noted from 27 Feb (one at Jenny's Cove, coinciding with the first Puffins) to 14 May when a female was interacting with a female Common Redstart around Constable Rock. The highest counts were three on 24 Mar (all f) and 12 Apr (m & 2f). In autumn recorded on eight days between 23 Oct and 30 Nov, with a max of two on 24 & 25 Oct.

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

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

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

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

In spring there were records on 13 dates from 8 Apr (three, the max for the year) to 14 May. A male, perhaps a failed mainland breeder, was at Halfway Wall on the unusual date of 22 Jun. An extremely meagre autumn passage consisted of single birds on just three dates between 27 Aug and 23 Oct (the latter a female trapped and ringed in Millcombe).

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

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

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

There were just five spring records of this declining Afro-Palaearctic migrant: a female on 25 Apr near the Tent Field stonecrusher; two males at Quarter Wall/Brick Field on 30 Apr; single males on 7 & 9 May; and a male and a female in Middle Park/Threequarter Wall on 14 May. Autumn passage was similarly sparse with six on 26 Aug followed by singles on 9, 18, 20 & 21 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	2	–	–	6	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	3	–	–	1	4	–	–	–



**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

Wintering birds were recorded on three days in Jan, with three on 5<sup>th</sup> the first record of the year. The only real sign of spring passage was a count of nine on 21 Feb. Breeding was confirmed by a pair carrying food east of Pondsbury on 5 May and fledged young seen in the same area on 23 May. Confirmation of a second breeding pair came on 11 May when a male was seen carrying an Emperor Moth to a nest on the seaward side of the Beach Road; both adults and three fledglings were seen there on 27 May. A third pair with two newly fledged young were on the northern slope above Pondsbury on 23 May. Finally, on 26 Jul, a fourth brood of three fledglings were with a male below the rhododendron-brash tree-planting enclosure near St Helen's Combe. During autumn passage at least 10 were around Halfway Wall on 20 Oct, the peak count of 15 occurring on 16 Oct. Small numbers remained to the end of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	9	2	2	6	3	4	4	7	15	5	3
3	15	6	6	17	4	5	9	14	27	23	9

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

*Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.*

The sighting by Warden Dean Jones of a male at Jenny's Cove during the morning of 24 Feb was (by seven days) the earliest Lundy record for this species and one of the first seen in the whole of the UK in 2019. More typically, the next was on 17 Mar, followed on 24<sup>th</sup> by the highest count for the month, 37. The April max of 58 occurred on 12<sup>th</sup>. The first fledged chicks were being fed in Jenny's Cove on 30 May. Birds showing characteristics of 'Greenland' Wheatear *O. o. leucorhoa* were seen on 12 Apr (two) and 3 May (one), whilst a confirmed individual of this race was trapped on the West Side on 6 Jun. Autumn-passage peaks occurred on 26 Aug (70) and 9 Sep (36), with single-figure counts thereafter until the last bird of the year was noted at Halfway Wall on 20 Oct.

Summarising the continuing long-term BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) colour-ringing study of Lundy's Wheatears, Tony Taylor reports that 53% of the breeding birds recorded in 2018 survived their migration and returned to breed in 2019. This was slightly below the 2013-18 average return rate. Even so, there were a record 54 pairs in the study area (the south and west coasts between the Castle and Halfway Wall) and the population estimate for the whole island was 118 pairs – the second highest total recorded after 121 in 2017. A colour-ringed male, holding territory on the sidelands just south of Quarter Wall Copse, was originally ringed on Lundy in 2012 (with colour-rings added in 2015). See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.85.

**Request.** *Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring 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
–	1	37	58	39	70	30	70	36	4	–	–
–	1	10	27	19	15	10	16	16	13	–	–

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina**UK vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One, briefly, between the Beach Road and Hammers track on 18 Oct (Martin Elcoate). Seen in rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, the bird could not be relocated. Fortunately, some snatched photos, followed by Martin's forensic and doggedly patient marshalling of all the evidence, ultimately led to the clinching of a superb first for the island – see p.84. Record accepted by BBRC.

*Whinchat, Timekeeper's Hut, 9<sup>th</sup> May*  
(photo: Dean Jones).

### House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

*Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; only one confirmed instance of emigration to the mainland and no confirmed immigration.*

#### Maximum count for each month recorded in the LFS Logbook

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	45	20	85	45	35	50	30	40	55	20	91

Three birds were watched leaving the island to the south-east in the late afternoon of 16 Oct.

Lucy Winder reports on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme:

The 2019 breeding season started very late, with only eight broods in the entirety of May, just one of which contained chicks that survived to fledging. Mainland birds were easily on their second or even third brood by the start of June, whereas the Lundy breeding season had really only just begun to take off. We speculate this was because of cold night-time temperatures throughout May. The spell of warm weather in February 2019 caused many other species to begin breeding very early in the year. However, unlike many other passerines, House Sparrows are not reliant on particular seasonal events (such as tree masting) and therefore can afford to wait until conditions become more suitable.

The late season effectively meant that the Lundy sparrows skipped a brood. Typically, the island birds have three broods, with some higher-quality pairs rearing four, but most birds in 2019 had two broods, with only a handful having three. There was a total of 103 broods, compared to 175 in 2018. Ringing occurs when the chicks are 12 days old, with almost all birds reaching this age going on to fledge successfully. Some 217 nestlings were ringed in 2019, compared with 309 nestlings ringed in 2018, so productivity was much lower in 2019. However, the smaller number of fledged birds is not concerning, being due simply to the delayed start to nesting.

We caught 134 individual birds on our annual winter trip at the end of November, of which 60% were juveniles that had fledged in 2019, but only 15% were birds that fledged in 2018 (the remainder being at least two years old). Though it is normal to have a higher proportion of juveniles – because surviving the first winter is very challenging – the number of adults was particularly low. This is potentially indicative of a lower breeding population to come during the 2020 breeding season. In any wild population there are peaks and troughs in population size; the last few years prior to 2019 saw particularly large breeding populations, so the fall in the adult population recorded in late 2019 is by no means a cause for concern.

### Duncock *Prunella modularis*

*Breeding resident in small numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn.* 2019 was an encouraging year for Dunnocks on Lundy with good overwinter survival apparent and double-digit counts in seven months, peaking at 16 on both 19 Oct and 25 Dec. Breeding confirmed: at least four pairs in Millcombe, one at St Helen's Combe, one above White Beach, one near South Light, one below the Terrace and another at Quarter Wall Copse. Adults were feeding chicks at nests in Millcombe on 2 & 27 May and fledglings were seen on 7 Jun.

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	12	4	10	5	4	10	7	16	10	16

### Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

[Western Yellow Wagtail]

*The British race M. f. flavissima is an uncommon spring migrant, regular early autumn migrant in small numbers and occasional summer visitor. It was formerly much more numerous, particularly in autumn. The continental race M. f. flava 'Blue-headed Wagtail' occurs occasionally in spring; all other races are vagrants.*

A better showing this year, with records on 11 spring days and five autumn days. In spring, birds were noted on four successive days from 20 Apr, with a peak of two males and a female on 23<sup>rd</sup>, then in May between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by one along the sidelands below John O'Groats on 4 Jun. Southbound birds were noted on 24 & 25 Aug, 18 & 22 Sep (max 4 on the latter date) and 15 Oct.



Yellow Wagtail, Brick Field, 3<sup>rd</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey).

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

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

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Recorded in all months except Dec and Jan, with the usual peak in Sep and Oct, though no more than two birds on any day through the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	–
–	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	13	10	1	–

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

[White Wagtail]

*Pied Wagtail*: nests most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant; rare in mid-winter. *White Wagtail*: occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

Birds were present in all months, with the highest spring-passage count being 17 (of which 12 confirmed as Pied) on 22 Mar. Autumn-passage peaks were 23 on 25 Aug and 31 (mainly calling 'fly-overs') on 15 Oct. A pair of Pied Wagtails were gathering food for chicks in the farmyard on 3 Jul, while a second pair were feeding two young in Millcombe on 26 Jul.

**Maximum combined counts of Pied Wagtail & unidentified alba wagtail for each month, with proportion confirmed as Pied in bold (top); number of days recorded (bottom)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	8	17 ( <b>12</b> )	9 ( <b>3</b> )	6	2	3	23 ( <b>8</b> )	13 ( <b>2</b> )	31 ( <b>1</b> )	1	1
2	11	17	23	28	18	14	23	18	31	7	3

White Wagtails were recorded on 19 days during spring passage, from 23 Mar to 9 May, with a max of four on 21 Apr. There were just four autumn records, between 26 Aug (the seasonal max of five) and 22 Oct, though it is likely that a proportion of un-raced 'fly-over' birds on other dates, particularly in Aug/Sep, were White Wagtails.

**White Wagtail: 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	1	–	–	5	1	1	–	–
–	–	6	11	2	–	–	1	2	1	–	–

**Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi****Nationally scarce migrant.*

One flew south over the Airfield at 08:20 hrs on 15 Oct (Andy Jayne). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis****Breeds; very common passage migrant in spring and autumn; uncommon in winter.*

After a handful of wintering birds in Jan and early Feb, spring passage was already underway by mid-Feb, with peak counts of 200 and 247 occurring on 17 & 18 Mar. A pair were seen carrying nesting material in South West Field on 9 May, with birds delivering food to young in the Rocket Pole area on 20 May. Counts of 300 or more, marking the main period of autumn passage, occurred on 8 Sep (350), 26 Sep (325), 30 Sep (476), 12 Oct (600), 15 Oct (320) and 16 Oct (400). Numbers dwindled very rapidly from late Oct, with 12 on 27 Oct and 10 on 13 Nov being the last double-digit counts of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	41	247	118	80	69	54	184	476	600	10	3
4	18	16	29	24	16	10	15	24	29	17	6

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis****Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One calling loudly over Millcombe on 17 Apr was the first of the year. Spring-passage migrants were logged on a further 18 dates, peaking at four on 1 May, with the last a singleton on 1 Jun. Autumn movement was recorded on 12 dates from 25 Aug to 23 Sep, with four again the highest count, on both 25 & 27 Aug. Nearly all were birds calling in flight over Millcombe/St John's Valley, Castle Hill or South End.

**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	1	–	4	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	7	11	1	–	7	5	–	–	–

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

Successful breeding was noted on 23 May with an adult delivering food to young on the West Side on 23 May. Fledglings were seen north of Halfway Wall on 7 Jun. The highest counts of the year were of 30 on 28 Oct, and 35 on 28 Dec (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	20	24	14	7	15	1	5	4	30	15	35

**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.*

Given the low single-digits size of the breeding population, the small gathering of Chaffinch in Barton Field numbering 13 on 21 Apr was probably mostly composed of passage birds. A male, mimicking perfectly the contact call of a Great Spotted Woodpecker, was heard at Quarter Wall Copse and in Millcombe on 1 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A pair were seen copulating at the top of Smelly Gully on 5 May, with food being taken to chicks on 31<sup>st</sup> and a male carrying food in Millcombe on 7 Jun. There was no evidence of breeding elsewhere. Monthly numbers through the year reflected those of recent years, with the autumn-passage peak occurring as usual in late Oct, with maxima of 1,000 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 1,700 on 28<sup>th</sup>. Counts of 100 or more in November were 216 (6<sup>th</sup>), 193 (13<sup>th</sup>) and 184 (24<sup>th</sup>).

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	9	13	5	6	2	8	22	1,700	216	11



*Tree Pipit, Millcombe, 1<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Richard Campey).*

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

In spring, one flew north calling over Old Light in the early morning of 28 Mar, and a female was present on five days between 21 & 28 April. Autumn passage was logged on 28 dates from 18 Oct (one sitting on a fence wire near Blue Bung) to 2 Dec, peaking at 12 on 15 Nov – the only double-digit count of the year.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A typically wary individual was in Millcombe from 06:30 hrs to at least 10:45 hrs on 15 May (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). One flew down Millcombe towards the Castle at 09:00 hrs on 24 Oct, calling as it went. Presumably the same bird was over Millcombe flying towards the Ugly flagpole at approximately 11:30 hrs (Dean Jones, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

*Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant.*

A male in Millcombe during the late morning on 5 Jan was still present on 8<sup>th</sup> in the Secret Garden (Dean Jones). A female was in Millcombe on 23 & 24 Oct (Chris Baillie, Justin Zantboer *et al.*).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 21 Sep. A first-year bird seen briefly in Millcombe on 26 Sep (Mike Jackson) was thought likely to be the same individual, and the sighting of a ringed first-year bird in Millcombe on 2 Oct (Dean Jones) eventually confirmed the presence of a single long-stayer. An adult male perched briefly outside Brambles before disappearing down the valley on 22 Sep was presumed the same adult male trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Sep (Derek Baggott, Chris Dee *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

There were four spring records: a male in Millcombe on 6 Apr; single males on 21 & 29 Apr; and a single bird on 20 May. Two were by Millcombe Pond on the unusual date of 2 Jul. Autumn passage consisted of one to three birds on nine days between 11 & 23 Oct, followed by further singles on 16, 17 & 20 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 two on 13 Feb. Regular occurrences, involving both Lundy breeding birds and passage migrants, began with two on 22 Mar, rising to spring maxima of 95 on 21 Apr, 150 on 1 May, 143 the following day, and thereafter double-figure counts of 50 or more on six days up to 17 May. Breeding was confirmed when adults were seen collecting nesting material on 2 & 9 May, with fledglings already along the East Side on 31 May. Post-breeding flocks began to build up in Jul (e.g. 62 on 26<sup>th</sup>), augmented during Aug and Sep by migrants, with 100 or more noted on seven dates: 4 Aug (122), 15 Aug (108), 17 Aug (200 – the highest count of the year), 28 Aug (120), 8 Sep (122), 9 Sep (114) and 15 Sep (167). In the second winter period six were seen on Christmas 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
–	4	27	95	150	62	62	200	167	52	7	6
–	4	10	25	25	21	12	20	19	23	10	2

**Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret***

[Common Redpoll]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers; rare in winter.*

Recorded on 20 days in 2019 compared to 38 days in 2018, with 14 spring records (max three on 21 Apr and 1 May) and just six autumn records (max two on 19 Sep and 22 Oct).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	2	2	–	–
–	–	–	10	4	–	–	–	1	5	–	–

**Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

[Red Crossbill]

*Rare summer and autumn migrant, but occurring in large numbers during 'invasion' years.*

A male that flew in, calling, with three Chaffinches perched on top of a spruce tree in Millcombe on 15 Sep. It crossed to Millcombe Wood where it stayed for about 30 minutes before flying off to the south-east, calling strongly (Jan Swan, Keith Dean & Chris Dee).

**Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

[European Goldfinch]

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

Recorded in every month of the year. After an influx of 20 on 22 Mar, spring migration was quiet with just six counts of more than 20 birds until 35 on 28 Apr, and May peaks of 40 on 1<sup>st</sup> and 35 on 4<sup>th</sup>. Six pairs were estimated to have bred in Millcombe, with single pairs also at Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace. A pair was carrying nesting material in Millcombe on 5 May, and a juvenile was seen at Castle Parade on 7 Jul. Autumn passage was modest with no three-digit counts, the highest being 43 on 22 Sep and 40 on 6 & 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	7	20	35	40	19	23	25	43	40	6	6
8	7	16	26	27	22	13	25	24	27	20	14

**Siskin *Spinus spinus***

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

Unusually there were two late-winter/early-spring records: a single in Millcombe on 25 Feb and three on 27 Feb. These were followed by two on 27 Mar and records on 12 dates between 16 Apr and 14 May, all of single birds except for five on 28 Apr. Autumn passage, logged on 21 dates, commenced with one on 12 Oct and peaked at 130 on 15<sup>th</sup>, 90 on 16<sup>th</sup>, 70 on 17<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thereafter numbers fell away, the last two noted on 29 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	3	2	5	1	–	–	–	–	130	7	–
–	2	1	7	5	–	–	–	–	16	5	–



**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Singles calling in flight were logged on nine dates between 15 Sep and 1 Dec, with the majority between mid-Oct and mid-Nov (Chris Baillie, Sam Bosanquet, Richard Campey, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

In autumn recorded by multiple observers on approximately 40 dates from 27 Sep (one) to 2 Dec (one), the majority of sightings comprised of one to three birds, with a maximum of 14 – including a flock of 13 a little way north of the stile at the western end of Threequarter Wall – on 15 Oct. Locations were widespread, most frequently along the main track. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23 Oct (Rob Duncan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC; the 19<sup>th</sup> for Lundy, the last being in Oct 2015.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala**UK vagrant.*

A superb adult male was first seen on 26 Aug perched on the roof of Paradise Row, then feeding in adjacent allotments (Dean Jones *et al.*). It put in subsequent appearances on 30 & 31 Aug and on 2, 4 & 5 Sep, primarily on the main track next to Brick and Tillage Fields, but as far north as Tibbetts at one point on 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the fourth record for Lundy, the last being in mid-Jul 1997 (also a male, along the main track near Pondsburry). Record accepted by BBRC.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A female was “calling loudly from a gorse bush just south of Pondsburry” on 2 Jan, probably the same bird seen there on 6<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). A “stunning male in near full breeding plumage” was in Millcombe on 17 Mar (Dean Jones). Three were observed in the Pondsburry/Quarter Wall area on 13 Oct, two still present the following day when one was also calling in flight over Castle Hill. The year’s peak count of seven occurred on 15 Oct: one over Castle Hill, two in off the sea at the Terrace, one at Threequarter Wall and three at Quarter Wall. Five were between Quarter Wall Pond and Pondsburry on 17 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	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	7	5	–
2	2	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	13	1	–

**References**

**Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007.** *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon.

**Jones, D.W. 2019.** *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2019*. Lundy, Bristol Channel EX39 2LY

**Perry, R. 1940.** *Lundy, Isle of Puffins*, p.263. Lindsay Drummond Ltd, London.

**RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT**

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated owing to a lack of supporting details. Further information that may confirm any of these reports can be sent to [gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk](mailto:gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla* – one flying south off the Landing Bay on 5 Oct.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* – a male and two females on Pondsburry on 17 Sep.

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* – one on Pondsburry on 23 Apr.

**Red Kite** *Milvus migrans* – one near Tibbetts flying north on 29 Jul.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* – one at Jenny's Cove on 26 Aug.

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* – one reported "at Quarry" on 21 Apr.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* – two reported on the unusual date of 25 Jun.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* – one on 24 Jun.

**Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus* – one near the Laundry on 18 Jul.

## RECORDS ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

The record of a small wader, thought probably to be this species, seen at Halfway Wall on 30 Jul, was assessed by DBRC as 'not proven'.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

**2018.** A submission of one over the West Side, north of Tibbetts, on 1 Nov 2018 was assessed by DBRC as not proven.

## 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)).

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

One seen from MS *Oldenburg* on crossing to Lundy about 30 minutes out from the island (Mandy Dee, Tony Taylor).

**Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

[European Roller]

*UK vagrant.*

One perched in the rigging of a yacht sailing from Milford Haven to Lundy on 30 Jun flew off in the direction of the island when about three miles offshore. The observer, David Milledge, kindly emailed a report and photos to Dean Jones a few days later, but at this point the bird was probably long gone and there were certainly no sightings on/from the island itself. Record accepted by BBRC. To date, the only record of a Roller seen on Lundy was of one perched on the (then) telegraph wires at Castle Hill on 25 Aug 1949.



*Roller, off Lundy, 30<sup>th</sup> June  
(photo: David Milledge).*



*Pied Crow atop the Lundy General Stores, 23<sup>rd</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

**African Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

*Native to sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. Outside of its range considered as likely escapes from captivity or ship-assisted wanderers.*

A message from Dean Jones on 23 Apr brought news that a Pied Crow, one which had been wandering extensively around England and Wales for the previous 10 months – and which popped up eating sardines in a Clovelly garden after a 12-day sojourn in Cornwall – had made it to Lundy. The crow first appeared in East Yorkshire in June 2018, after which it was seen in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Essex, East Sussex, North Somerset, Pembrokeshire, Cornwall and the Devon mainland. On Lundy it was first seen next to Sue Waterfield's Paradise Row bird feeders shortly after midday, and subsequently by many staff and visitors throughout the afternoon in various parts of the Village, and as far afield as the Cemetery.

Records north of the Sahara, including those in Britain and elsewhere in Europe, are generally considered to be either the result of escapes from captivity, or due to birds hitching a ride on a passing ship. A December 2018 BirdGuides article about the individual concluded that the bird's origins "are still clearly up in the air ... This bird's presence has been widely discussed both in literature and online, and it's arguably surprising that an owner hasn't yet come forward to claim it. Perhaps its origins don't lie in Britain after all". The crow confounded predictions of an onward trip to South Wales, or even a return to East Yorkshire, instead choosing to return to the North Devon mainland, where it was seen in Morthoe on 25 Apr, then neighbouring Woolacombe on 26<sup>th</sup>, where it was still present on 29<sup>th</sup>, affording excellent views along the sea front.

For more about the Pied Crow, including a video-clip taken by Dean, visit the Lundybirds blog at <http://lundybirds.blogspot.com/2019/04/23rd-apr-pied-crow.html>.