

# FAUNA AND FLORA RECORDS

## (for groups other than birds)

The following reports have been compiled by the recorders for each group of taxa. The records summarised have been taken mainly from the LFS logbook and are reproduced here in good faith. No attempt has been made to verify all of the records but unusual or particularly interesting entries will have been checked with the originators.

### WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES

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*Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones*

The most frequently reported cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin. Both species were seen through the year, with mostly two or three individuals on any one occasion. Favoured locations were the tide races off the south and north coasts. As in 2017 and 2018, the number of days with sightings from the island of Harbour Porpoise exceeded those of Common Dolphin (respectively 33 Harbour Porpoises in 2017, 25 in 2018 and 26 in 2019, and 14 Common Dolphins in 2017, 19 in 2018 and 14 in 2019). Bottlenose Dolphins appear to be infrequent visitors to Lundy (there is believed to be one pod of about 28 individuals in South West England: Ruth Williams, South West Bottlenose Dolphin Consortium, pers. comm.), with two sightings in 2016, one sighting of two individuals in 2017, no sightings in 2018 and, in 2019, one sighting from the island of nine individuals.

MARINElife place a Wildlife Officer on MS *Oldenburg* on trips to and from Lundy generally once a week and, in 2019, from early April to the end of October. They report cetaceans seen on passage. The records are not strictly 'at Lundy' but are relevant to report separately. There were 24 passages with observations in 2019, with: one to four Harbour Porpoises on seven passages; one to five Common Dolphins on each of 13 passages, but more than 25 on 22 Jun and 32 in two groups on 14 Sep; and five Bottlenose Dolphins on 18 May and two on 25 May.

#### **Minke Whale** *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

2 Aug – one off North End came from the north and was seen surfacing before its direction shifted to the west, after which it was seen to surface another four times (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

#### **Short-beaked Common Dolphin** *Delphinus delphis*

The first recorded observation was on 10 Jan when ten were seen feeding off the East Side (Dean Jones). On 18 Jun, large shoals of 'bait fish' were seen along the west coast, attracting thousands of seabirds and over 60 Common Dolphins, including many young individuals (Dean Jones). Otherwise, maximum numbers seen from the island on any one occasion were c.23 (in two pods) on 2 Aug (Dean

*Common Dolphins, 12<sup>th</sup> October (photographed from Oldenburg by Steve McAusland, MARINElife).*



Jones & Zoë Barton) and 25-30 off South West Point moving north on 28 Aug (Tony Taylor). A series of timed observations were made from Castle Parade by Chris and Sharron Blackmore between 8 & 20 Jul. In all, records were logged on 14 days, with the last on 17 October. Thanks also to Andrew Bengely, Siân Cann, Mandy Dee, Andy Jayne, M Jones, Tim Jones and Steve McAusland.

#### **Bottlenose Dolphin** *Tursiops truncatus*

12 Jun – nine were off the West Side, approximately between Quarter Wall and Threequarter Wall. “Some social interaction was apparent at the surface: ‘lobtailing’ with occasional upward tail flick, flipping some surface water into the air, several high leaps ... after initial interest, seabirds ignored the dolphins – maybe suggesting their activity was not related to feeding” (Chris & Carol Baillie).

#### **Harbour Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena*

Observations were logged on 26 days. There were records on five dates in Jan from various locations (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton), the next records in the middle two weeks of July when Chris and Sharron Blackmore made timed observations from Castle Parade and additional observations off the west coast. Porpoises were mostly present in small numbers but a pod of seven was observed off North End on 2 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). Sometimes seen with calves. The last record of the year was of two around the Hen & Chickens on 21 Dec. Thanks also to John-Paul Healey and Paul Thompson.

## **SEALS**

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*Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones*

#### **Grey Seal** *Haliocoerus grypus*

The following records are taken from the LFS logbook and a monitoring report, ‘Atlantic Grey Seal *Haliocoerus grypus* population and productivity studies in 2019’, prepared by Dean Jones.

There were 33 logbook observations of seals from 3 Feb to 19 Dec. Grey Seals are observed frequently and are considered always present. Records of high counts or behavioural observations were:

2 May – 37 on the East Side, “some ‘playing’ with two Barrel Jellyfish” (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

1 Jul – 154 counted on a round-the-island trip (Dean Jones).

3 Aug – many swimming near Pilot’s Quay/Half tide Rock, including one “playing with a pink/orange object that was probably fishing gear of some sort” (Cassandra Phillips).

4 Aug – 194 hauled out from Virgin’s Spring around to Surf Point (Dean Jones).

25 Aug – an “altercation between a juvenile gull trying to steal from a seal only to get pulled underwater and possibly losing part of its wing” (Martin Thorne).

Thanks also to Mike Amble, Chris & Sharron Blackmore, Liz Davies, Chris Dee, Kev Flack, John-Paul Healy, Paddy Keith, JME Morris, Denis Mullen, Brigitte Needs, Chris Pawson, S Saben, Jan Swan, Ann Taylor, Paul Thompson, Ruth Wilcode and M & I Woollacott.

From the monitoring report:

- The distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather and sea state. The highest number of animals hauled out from the 46 monitoring sub-sections was from the Mousehole and Trap area on 4 Aug – here 45 individuals were counted on the rocks immediately below the buttress. The rocks and small islets at Puffin Slope and Kittiwake Gully were found to be the most popular throughout the study period (a mean of 17 animals throughout the season).
- The highest count of seals on one day was 206 animals (125 females, 34 males, 29 juveniles, three weaners, seven white-coat pups and nine adults of unknown sex) on 15 Sep – 35 more animals than the mean highest counts since 2006.
- The first pup of 2019 occurred on 28 Jul in Gannets’ Bay (Rob & Sue Waterfield) – 21 days earlier than the first of 2018 (18 Aug at Ladies’ Beach).
- A total of 43 individual white-coat pups were recorded in 2019, 17 more pups than in both 2018 and 2017.

- Dead pups were seen floating offshore, some near cave entrances in the north-east, which if alive may not have been accounted for in 2019. The general impression was that the level of mortality of young pups was rather high, with a least 11 (26% of all pups) being found dead during the season.
- Three records of entanglement were recorded, involving three different animals (six in 2018) ensnared with discarded fishing equipment (one adult male, one adult female and one juvenile).

## MARINE FISHES

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*Keith Hiscock*

Unusual or charismatic fish species may be reported, including by inspection of photographs, but those that are 'always present' are not generally recorded in the logbook. The number of Basking Shark sightings continues to be low and corresponds to a reduction in sightings since 2013 throughout South West England. After no records in 2018 (there were low/no records at locations throughout the South West), the three records of Sunfish in 2019 are notable.

### **Basking Shark** *Cetorhinus maximus*

7 Jul – one between the jetty and Rat Island, viewed from Castle Parade (Sue Sharkie-Hurrell).

### **Sunfish** *Mola mola*

10 Jul – one c.150 m north-east of the Landing Beach seen in a 'lapping swim' north-east to just beyond the jetty (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

1 Aug – one near the jetty (Rob Waterfield and Mike Jones).

9 Aug – one off North End (Dean Jones).

### **Sea Stickleback (Fifteen-spined Stickleback)** *Spinachia spinachia*

4 May – two with nests observed on the jetty: one at the seaward end on one of the vertical pilings and another on one of the cross members (Tim Mountjoy). Sticklebacks are only occasionally observed and records of nests are rare.

### **Yarrell's Blenny** *Chirolophis ascanii*

1 Jun – one on the MV *Robert*, in a pipe. A northern species (Tim Mountjoy).

*A Sea Stickleback with the start of a nest entangled in green seaweed (photo: Tim Mountjoy).*



## MARINE INVERTEBRATES

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Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones

As in 2018, records of marine invertebrates have been separated into **Gelatinous plankton** and **Shore and seabed**. For 2019, a separate category for **Ocean surface drifters and strandings** has been initiated. For 'Shore and seabed', the 2018 Annual Report provides an account of species that are (and were in 2019) normally encountered during 'rockpool rambles' and 'snorkel safaris' and those that had been reported from subtidal habitats. Here, we feature records of unusual species, unusual abundances or of breeding and behaviour, and not of commonly occurring species.

### GELATINOUS PLANKTON

Planktonic invertebrate species that are gelatinous are described colloquially as 'jellyfish'. They include species from the Classes Hydrozoa and Scyphozoa in the Phylum Cnidaria and from the Phylum Ctenophora. Gelatinous plankton may be abundant at Lundy and some sting. The larger jellyfish are seen frequently, but Dean Jones recognises and records many of the smaller species, especially at times of snorkel safaris (so that their reporting does not necessarily identify the time of year or specific dates they are most abundant). However, many records are from late May and early June.

#### CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

##### **A siphonophore (string jelly)** *Nanomia cara*

3 Jun – abundant off the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

21 Jun – one string near the jetty (Dean Jones).

##### **Many-ribbed Jellyfish** *Aequorea* sp.

21 Jun – two in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

##### **A hydrozoan** *Neoturris pileata*

3 Jun – one near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

##### **A hydrozoan** *Neoturris* sp.

21 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

25 Jun – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

##### **A hydromedusa** ?*Clytia hemisphaerica*

20 Apr – one in a rockpool (Dean Jones).

#### CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

##### **Barrel Jellyfish** *Rhizostoma octopus*

Recorded on 16 days between 22 Mar and 8 Nov. Mostly individuals or a few from walks along the east coast but 10+ on 27 Mar off Quarry Beach (Malcolm Lee), 23 from the Landing Bay to Quarter Wall Bay on 19 Apr (Dean Jones) and 'loads about' on 21 Apr (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club Facebook). Thanks also to Chris & Sharron Blackmore, Siân Cann, Belinda Cox, Annette Dutton, Rosie Ellis, Samantha Nieto and E & S O'Donnell.

##### **Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarckii*

10 Apr – about 10 small in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

4 May – about 100 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

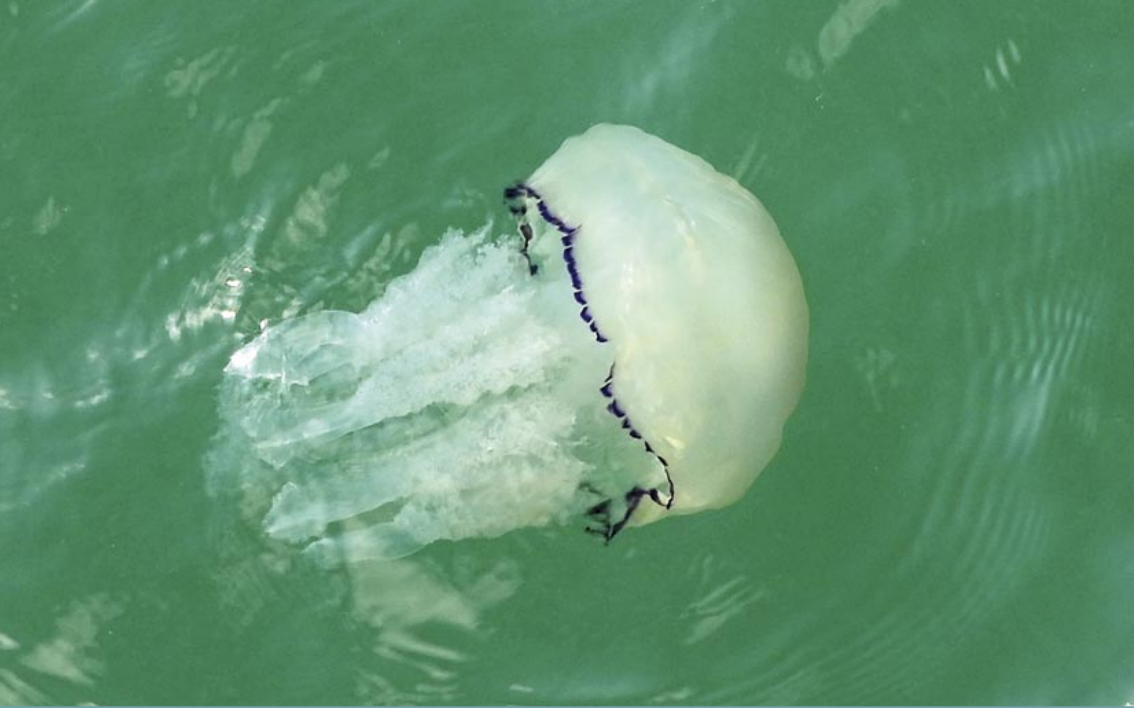
6 Jun – one with a small gadoid hiding in the tentacles (Dean Jones).

21 Jun – about 20 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – seven in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

##### **Moon Jellyfish** *Aurelia aurita*

23 Apr – a large individual (c.30 cm across) in the Landing Bay (Belinda Cox).



*Barrel Jellyfish, Landing Bay, 19<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Annette Dutton, MARINElife).*

21 Jun – about 60 near the jetty (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – about 100 seen from the jetty (Dean Jones).

**Compass Jellyfish** *Chrysaora hysoscella*

21 Jun – three north of Rat Island (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – 12 seen from the jetty (Dean Jones).

**CTENOPHORA**

**Melon Comb Jelly** *Beroë cucumis*

21 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

**Northern Comb Jelly** *Bolinopsis infundibulum*

3 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones).

**Sea Gooseberry** *Pleurobrachia pileus*

3 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 May – small numbers in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

**OCEAN SURFACE DRIFTERS AND STRANDINGS**

**CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA**

**By-the-wind Sailor** *Velevella velella*

8 Sep – three washed up next to Rat Island (Dean Jones) – see photo opposite.

15 Sep – present next to the jetty (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – nine washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

**Portuguese Man O' War** *Physalia physalis*

21 Oct – Ten washed up in the Landing Bay and one floating off Miller's Cake (Dean Jones).

## CRUSTACEA

### **Common Goose Barnacle** *Lepas anatifera*

17 Mar – six on a piece of polystyrene at the top of Jenny's Cove (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – about 150 on a washed-up buoy (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – 20 washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

### **Buoy Barnacle** *Dosima fascicularis*

15 Sep – a clump washed up on a piece of plastic next to the jetty (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – seven washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

## MOLLUSCA

### **Cuttlefish** *Sepia officinalis*

13 Jun – 'lots' of cuttlefish 'bones' washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones). [*Cuttlefish have, in the past, been rarely seen at Lundy.*]

## SEASHORE AND SEABED

Sightings on seashores and subtidal zones of unusual species or those that indicate breeding times.

## CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

### **A hydroid** *Candelabrum cocksii*

18 Sep – two at Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones). [*See the 2018 report for significance, although it seems that the species is being reported more frequently in recent years in South West England.*]

## CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA

### **Scarlet and Gold Star Coral** *Balanophyllia regia*

20 Apr – counts at the two monitoring sites on the lowest shore at Devil's Kitchen recorded c.48 at the eastern site and c.110 at the western site (c.32 and 72 respectively in 2018). At the lower midshore pool where slate had fallen away in the 2013/14 storms, c.19 were counted (20 in 2018). Also noted were a few pin-head sized corals at both lower shore sites. It was estimated that 90% of all the cup corals were more than 2 mm diameter (Dean Jones).

### **Devonshire Cup Coral** *Caryophyllia smithii*

20 Apr – seven at the eastern monitoring site and one at the western site (see above) (Dean Jones).

*By-the-wind Sailor, Rat Island, 8<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Dean Jones).*



## FRESHWATER FISH

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*Jennifer George*

The freshwater fish in the Lundy ponds are members of the carp family that were introduced by the island owner, Martin Coles Harman (1929-54) during the early years of his tenure. Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus*, Crucian Carp *Carassius carassius*, Mirror Carp *Cyprinus carpio carpio*, Tench *Tinca tinca* and Rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* have all been recorded in the larger ponds since the 1970s.

Today Golden Orfe can be seen in Quarry Pond and in May 2019, 57 were observed by Tim Jones and Tim Davis who recorded 20 golden adults and 37 juveniles. There is a fairly large population of Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond and in June 2019 a shoal of 30 fish was observed by Alan Rowland. Rudd have not been seen since September 2006 when about 100 were found in Quarterwall Pond. The pond was drying up during an autumn drought and Roger Fursdon transferred them to Rocket Pole Pond. The numbers surviving are unknown.

An interesting discovery of 39 dead European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* elvers in early April 2019 was made by Philip and Helen Lymbery outside Brambles Villa. The young eels were evidently trying to reach St John's Stream and possibly succumbed to the cold weather at that time. Eels and elvers have been observed in rock pools in the Devil's Kitchen area in past years and they obviously find their way up the island via St John's Stream. In September 2017, a mature eel was found in Millcombe Pond whilst it was being cleared out by the Lundy Conservation Team.

There has been practically no monitoring of the fish in the Lundy ponds, so it would be helpful if visitors and staff could enter numbers of any fish seen – particularly Golden Orfe in Quarry Pond and Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond – in the LFS logbook.

*Golden Orfe swimming amidst reflections on a bright sunny day in Quarry Pond in May 2018 and (inset) a Mirror Carp which was taken from Rocket Pole Pond in a net and photographed in a dish under water to show the unevenly spaced mirror-like scales that are characteristic of this species (Common Carp has a regular, evenly spaced scale pattern). The fish was returned alive to the pond. (Photos: Jennifer George).*



## INTRODUCED REPTILES / NATIVE & FERAL LAND MAMMALS / BATS

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*Chris Dee*

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms *Anguis fragilis* were first observed in the gardens in Millcombe in November 2010. They are believed to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland. There were no records in 2019, but the species is probably under-recorded and members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS logbook.

### **Native Land Mammals**

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal, Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*, which is widely distributed across the island and can be found throughout the year. It is probably associated with most properties and in 2019 was reported from Old Light Upper, Hammers, Bramble Villa East, Castle Cottage, Castle Keep South and Tibbetts. Away from human habitation there have been sightings at Ackland's Moor, the Ugly, Millcombe, Brick Field, Rocket Pole, Tent Field and the Terrace.

### **Feral Land Mammals**

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled in accordance with the island's terrestrial management plan. The annual island-wide stock count was undertaken from 26-28 March. These early spring surveys provide the best estimation of numbers, but extra counts by visitors are useful for the record.

#### **Sika Deer** *Cervus nippon*

The stock count estimated a population of 99 individuals, comprising four stags, 15 prickets, 65 hinds/yearlings and 15 calves (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). A cull in October reduced the population by one.

#### **Soay Sheep** *Ovis aries*

The stock count estimated 228 individuals, comprising 40 rams, 182 ewes and six lambs (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). A total of 93 individuals were removed by the cull in October.

#### **Goat** *Capra aegagrus*

Goats continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. The stock count found 30 individuals, comprising nine billies, 15 nannies and six kids (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). The cull in October reduced the population by four.

#### **Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Rabbit numbers remain low as a result of disease (Myxomatosis / Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease) but continue to show signs of a slow recovery, with only one dead animal noted. Individuals or small groups were reported from widespread locations across the island, including North End, Jenny's Cove, Pilot's Quay and Castle Hill.

### **Bats**

Bats are occasionally observed on Lundy and are usually assumed to be one of the native pipistrelle species: Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*. Only three sightings were reported: from the Village (Dean Jones) on 26 Jul, Millcombe (Rob Waterfield) on 11 Aug, and two in Millcombe (A J Bellamy, Peter Slader & Nik Ward) on 7 Sep.

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**Footnote.** A letter from Felix Gade to Martin Coles Harman dated 15 August 1930, found in archive material donated to the LFS by Diana Keast, expresses the view that the introduced Red Squirrels *Sciurus vulgaris* were no longer alive on Lundy.



## FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Jennifer George

Monitoring of the Lundy pond and stream invertebrates has been carried out by Alan Rowland, who in 2019 mainly studied the more temporary ponds – Government House Pond and Kistvaen Pond – as well as Millcombe Pond and St John's Stream at Brambles and Millcombe.

In October 2019 the pond adjacent to Brambles was re-established by the Lundy Conservation Team. A survey three weeks later in early November showed that at least three species had reached the pond, probably from St John's Stream: 25 Jenkins' Spire Snails *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, one Dytiscid diving beetle larva and one small worm of the family Naididae.

The offshore island form of the crustacean Water Slater *Proasellus meridianus* (photo A below) that occurs in many of the larger ponds on the island was also found in the smaller temporary ponds. It can obviously survive the seasonal drying-up of these ponds, probably by burrowing into the mud at the roots of the aquatic plants. It is closely related to the British terrestrial wood louse that inhabits dark damp places.



(A) Water Slater *Proasellus meridianus* – a bottom-dweller which crawls amongst debris and dead leaves. Here it is photographed in a dish to show the characteristic white colouration pattern on its head that distinguishes it from the more common mainland form *Proasellus aquaticus* (photo: Alan Rowland); (B) a caddis larva *Diplectrona felix* – a stream-dweller that has no case. It catches its food, mainly organic debris and plant material, in a silk net that it builds between stones in the bottom of the stream (photo: Alan Rowland); (C) an adult diving beetle of the Dytiscidae family. This large beetle is well adapted for swimming, with its streamlined body and legs fringed with strong swimming hairs. It is a voracious carnivore feeding on other invertebrates, tadpoles and even small fish (photo: John Clegg); (D) a Lesser Water Boatman *Corixa* sp. With its oar-like legs fringed with hairs, it is often found amongst water plants. Most species feed on algae and plant debris but some also feed on small invertebrates (photo: John Clegg).



*Brambles Pond in November 2019 (photo: Alan Rowland).*

Flatworms (Platyhelminthes) were found in the temporary ponds and St John's Stream. The Microturbellarian *Dalyellia viridis* was found in numbers in Kistvaen Pond; individuals have previously been found on just two occasions in Ackland's Moor Pond. This small flatworm has green algal cells, *Chlorella*, in its tissues, providing it with oxygen which obviously contributes to its survival in anaerobic conditions that can occur in temporary ponds. *Dalyellia* predates on small crustacean water fleas and copepods and chironomid midge larvae that also occur in Kistvaen Pond.

Large numbers of Jenkins' Spire Snail occurred in Government House Pond in the winter months and also in St John's Stream at Brambles. In his 1993 survey, Peter Long found this small mollusc in many of the streams on the island and it is no surprise that it was found in the re-established Brambles Pond in November.

Insects, particularly water bugs (Hemiptera), water beetles (Coleoptera) and non-biting midge larvae (Chironomidae), were fairly dominant in the 2019 surveys. Kistvaen Pond had the greatest diversity, with both Greater Water Boatman *Notonecta viridis* and Lesser Water Boatman *Corixa panzeri* found there in May and September. The dominant beetle, again in Kistvaen Pond, belonged to the Dytiscidae family of diving beetles, whose larvae were particularly prevalent from February through to September. An interesting find in February 2019 was the larva of the caddis fly *Diplectrona felix* (photo B opposite) with several discovered in St John's Stream at Millcombe and one larva in Millcombe Pond, probably washed in from the stream. This small caddis larva, which has no case and occurs in small streams on the mainland, had not previously been recorded in Lundy freshwaters. This caddis has a one-year life cycle, adults emerging in the summer months. The adult of the species does not appear to be attracted to light traps and probably will not be found in Lundy moth traps.

Further information on the invertebrates found in Lundy's temporary ponds and St John's Stream in 2019 can be found in the detailed spreadsheet available on the LFS website, and in a paper by Alan Rowland on Government House Pond and Kistvaen Pond in the recent LFS Journal, Volume 7, 2020.

## TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

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Alan Rowland

There were no visiting specialists submitting species lists in 2019, but nevertheless there were many and varied sightings throughout the year, with records in most months. We are also fortunate to have a Conservation Team on Lundy willing and able to recognise and record on all aspects of flora and fauna seen on the island.

The following records (with full details on the LFS website) have been extracted from the LFS logbook, with additional sightings copied from iRecord. We are increasingly seeing online records submitted via various portals; iRecord phone app, iNaturalist, UKBMS, iRecord Dragonfly app, as well as the web-based portal all accumulated into the iRecord website – there are 434 Lundy records for 2019 alone in iRecord.

An asterisk\* denotes a new SPECIES; two asterisks\*\* a new FAMILY and a new SPECIES; and three\*\*\* a new ORDER reported in 2019, although not necessarily new to Lundy.

### Horsehair Worms Nematomorpha

Following the first sighting of this species last year, more sightings were made and the classification narrowed down to *Gordius* sp. Five horsehair worms were recorded in November.

### Slugs and Snails Gastropoda

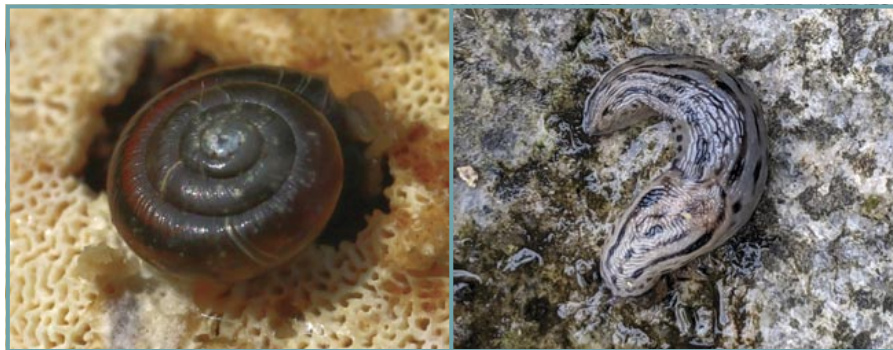
Six species of snail and two of slugs were reported. Mandy Dee extended the species list with Strawberry Snail *Trochulus striolatus*\*\* and a Discus Snail *Discus rotundatus*\*\*, while Alan & Sandra Rowland added Wall or Tree Snail *Balea perversa*\*\* and a whorl snail *Vertigo* sp.\*\* found in the newly excavated Brambles Pond area.

A consequence of submitting records to iRecord is that verification of species is carried out by experts in their field. What we have been reporting as Leopard Slugs *Lehmannia maixumus* are in fact either *L. maximus* or *L. marginata* Tree Slugs – a new species record for Lundy. I have had verification of historic records which show Tree Slugs occurring as early as 2013, with Tree Slug\* recorded by Richard Breese at North End in 2019.

### Spiders, Harvestmen and Mites Arachnidae

Only seven spiders of three different species were reported, all of which have occurred previously. Most properties will have hosted the spider-eating Cellar Spider *Pholcus phalangioides* and garden orb-we spiders which are prolific breeders, while Mandy Dee recorded a Zebra Spider *Salticus scenicus*.

*Strawberry Snail (photo: Mandy Dee) and Tree Slug (photo: Richard Breese).*





*Pill Millipede and (right) Bristletail (photos: Alan Rowland)*

### Woodlice, Centipedes and Millipedes Myriapoda

It was a poor year for these species, with only 10 Pill millipedes *Glomeris marginata* being reported between April and July.

### Bristletails Archaeognatha

There were four records of Bristletail *Petrobius maritimus*, reported from St John's Valley (May), the Quarries (August) and the Old Hospital (May and June), though they can be found throughout the year.

### Dragonflies and Damselflies Odonata

*Tim Davis*

Logbook entries were made on 28 dates from 1 Jun to 7 Oct, with a single record in Feb (25<sup>th</sup>). Seven species were noted: **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum*, **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans*, **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*, **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator*, **Vagrant Emperor** *Anax ephippiger*, **Red-veined Darter** *S. fonscolombii*, and **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*.

Damselflies were recorded at Quarter Wall Pond, Rocket Pole Pond and 'near' Pondsbury (no counts were made here during the year), with maxima of 18 Common Blue on 28 Jul and 39 Blue-tailed on 5 Jul, both from Quarter Wall Pond. Common Darters were noted between 3 Jul and 23 Oct, with a max of three on 21 Sep. Single Migrant Hawkers were seen on just four dates between 23 Aug and 7 Oct, in Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse, foraging above willows on the Terrace, and outside the Lundy General Stores! Emperor Dragonflies bred for the second year running, with ovipositing by two females noted at Quarter Wall Pond on 28 Jul. Warden Dean Jones enjoyed a brief encounter with Lundy's second Vagrant Emperor on 25 Feb at Benjamin's Chair, and also Lundy's second Red-veined Darter, a male, at Castle Parade on 3 Jul.

In addition, unidentified dragonflies were seen very briefly by Dean on two occasions: "A large dull brown-grey dragonfly with obvious bright blue saddle in off the sea near the Jetty" on 5 Jul, thought to be either a Vagrant Emperor or a Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope* (the latter would be new for Lundy); and two Aeshna (hawker) species seen flying in off the sea on 18 Sep.

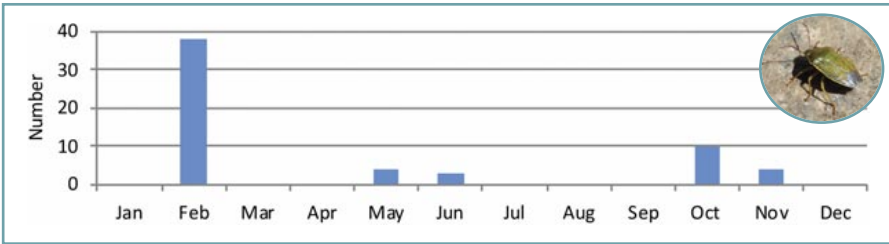
Other observers: Zoë Barton, Tim Davis, Kate Humble, Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Alex Sydenham, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Martin Thorne and Nick Upton.

### Grasshoppers and Crickets Orthoptera

None were reported.

### Bugs Hemiptera

The only true bug reported was Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*, of which 59 were seen between February and November (see graphic overleaf). The sightings in November were of dead shieldbugs, infected with *Sporothrix schenckii*, according to John Hedger.



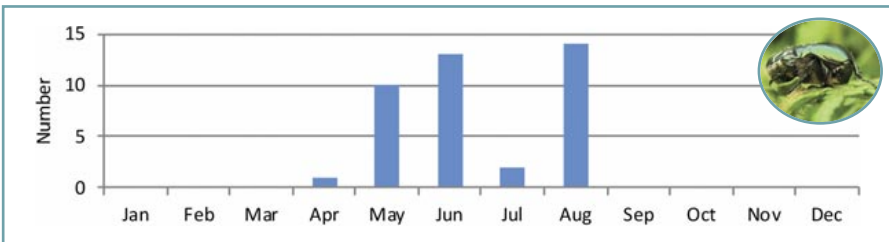
Gorse Shieldbug sightings in 2019 (photo: Alan Rowland).

## Beetles Coleoptera

Twenty-two species were recorded, but none new for Lundy. Once again, the five most common beetles featured highly in the observations reported in the logbook; histograms below for two of them show the spread of sightings. Included were Black Snail Beetle *Silpha atrata* and Pollen Beetle *Meligethes aeneus* but only two records of 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*, although Red Soldier Beetles *Rhagonycha fulva* were prolific. The other species were whirligig beetles *Gyrinus* sp., Bronze Carabid Beetle *Carabus nemoralis*, Shore Sexton Beetle *Necrodes littoralis*, Devil's Coach-horse *Ocyopus olens*, a rove beetle *Staphylinus erythropterus*, the dor beetles *Geotrupes spiniger* and *Anoplopterus stercorosus*, a click beetle *Athous haemorrhoidalis*, a darkling beetle *Isomira murina*, Sulphur Beetle *Cteniopius sulphureus*, Heather Beetle *Lochmaea suturalis* (for only the second time since 1998), Celery Leaf Beetle *Phaedon tumidulus* and a weevil *Sitona sulcifrons*.

### Rosechafer *Cetonia aurata*

A total of 40 were recorded between April and August, with a maximum of seven being seen on one day and a pair mating in June.



Rosechafer sightings in 2019 (photo: Dean Jones).

### Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris*

Recorded on four occasions in April and May, with a total of 11 on 12 May.

### Black Oil Beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*

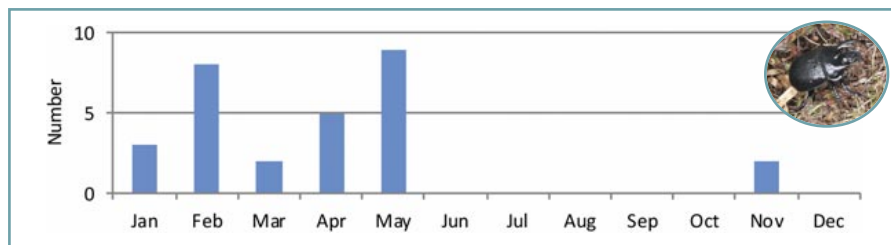
A total of 36 beetles were recorded in the logbook, all between February and May, with a maximum of five on 29 Apr. A pair were seen mating on 17 Feb on the Lower East Side Path and another pair on 23 Apr near the Devil's Limekiln; otherwise all sightings were around the Castle and along the South End. [To date, no Violet Oil Beetles *M. violaceus* have been confidently sighted, but if the species is found, a close-up photo of the rear of the pronotum is needed to determine the record.]

### Dor Beetle *Geotrupes stercorus*

There were sightings of 36 beetles between February and November, with a maximum of eight in June, but with the highest number of sightings (16) made in May. These totals are much lower than in 2018, perhaps due to reduced recorder effort.

### Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus*

Another easily identifiable beetle and well reported, with 27 records from November to May. Not as common as Dor Beetle, with fewer seen at any one time, the highest being four in February on the Terrace.



*Minotaur Beetle sightings in 2019 (photo: John Hedger).*

### True Flies Diptera

2019 was a Large Tachinid Fly *Tachina grossa* year, with 11 sightings of 33 flies in July and August, whereas only one Noon Day Fly *Mesembrina meridiana* was recorded. Three hoverfly species, Marmalade Hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*, Pied Hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastris* and a *Syrphus* sp. were also reported, along with dung flies Scathophagidae spp. and a new species of leaf-miner, *Chromatomyia aprilina*\*\*.

### Bees, Wasps and Ants Hymenoptera

Fewer bees were reported but there were records of Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum*, Buff-tailed Bee *B. terrestris*, Red-tailed Bumblebee *B. lapidarius* and Heather Bee *Colletes succinctus*. Wasps featured Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris*, Red-banded Sand Wasp *Ammophila sabulosa* (for the third year running), a new species, *Symmorphus picosus*\*\* and a Ruby-tailed Wasp Chrysididae sp. An additional sawfly was reported, Striped Alder Sawfly *Hemichroa crocea*\*\*. Ants are a fairly new addition to the Lundy list, with flying ants *Lasius* sp. swarming on 2 Aug and Yellow Meadow Ants *Lasius flavus*\*\* seen prospecting on cow dung in May.

Thanks to the following who submitted records in 2019: Bianca & Andrew, Kate L'Amiee, Richard Breese, Elliot Chandler, Andrew Cleave, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Chris & Mandy Dee, Kobe Garfoot, Ian & Tina Hartley, Dean Jones & Zoe Barton, Brigitte Needs, Steve & Eliza O'Donnell, S Pascos, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Jo Shepherd, Frances Stuart, Nick Upton, Paddy & Keith Taylor, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Sue Waterfield, Elizabeth Wilby and Steve Wing.

*A Syrphus hoverfly and (right) Marmalade Hoverfly (photos: Alan Rowland).*



*Painted Lady, Upper East Side Path,  
7<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Dean Jones).*



## Butterflies

Anthony John

Eighteen species of butterfly were recorded on Lundy in 2019, one less than in 2018.

The year started with an early record of a **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* in Millcombe on 13 Jan; the following month a **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* was near North Lighthouse on 21<sup>st</sup>, and in Millcombe a **Peacock** *Inachis io* was seen on 24<sup>th</sup> and a **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* on 28<sup>th</sup>; all of these dates are much earlier than in the previous three years. In April an **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* was seen on 1<sup>st</sup>, and the first **Small White** *Pieris rapae* and **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* appeared on 8<sup>th</sup>.

The summer of 2019 produced large numbers of two species, **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* and Painted Lady. For Meadow Brown in July there were 10 counts of 100 or more, three of which were over 200, and a peak of 251 on 7<sup>th</sup>; a further three counts of 100+ occurred in August. There were two influxes of Painted Ladies, the first in June on 24<sup>th</sup> (189 counted) and 25<sup>th</sup> (250). The second influx came in early August when 100 or more were counted on six days between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; 284 were counted on 1<sup>st</sup> and 601 the next day.

Six species of scarcer butterflies were seen on Lundy in 2019. Orange-tip (four records from April to June), **Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus* (two singles, 1 Aug and 1 Oct), **Speckled Wood** *Parage aegeria* (one on 27 Aug), **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus* (singles on 29 June, 7 Jul and possibly 3 Sep), **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele* (six records between 23 Jul and 1 Sep) and **Comma** *Polygona c-album* (eight records from 19 Aug to 18 Sep). There were no records of **Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera* or **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus*.

To sum up the year for butterflies, I will use the concept of 'butterfly-days'; to explain this term, ten Painted Lady butterflies seen on ten successive days would equate to 100 'butterfly-days'. In subsequent years by using this term it should be easier to compare numbers of butterflies seen in 2019 with those in future years. The total number of 'butterfly-days' for the 12 most common species were: Large White *Pieris brassicae* 144, Small White 77, Green-veined White 109, Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* 456, Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* 163, Meadow Brown 2,517, Red Admiral 1,092, Painted Lady 3,226, Peacock 29, Small Tortoiseshell 68, Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* 49, and Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* 69.

## Moths

Anthony John

During 2019, 134 species of moths were recorded on Lundy, 36 micro-moths and 98 macro-moths (238 species were recorded in 2018). Fifteen species were new for Lundy, 10 micro-moths and five macro-moths. Moth traps were deployed on 23 nights, in January (1), February (2), April (3), May (3), June (5), July (4), August (4) and October (1). Most traps were placed in Millcombe, other sites including Paradise Row and Benjamin's Chair; 18 of the 23 trap-nights were carried out by Dean Jones. During a visit by Exeter University in late April/May additional traps were placed at four locations over five nights. Daytime searches for day-flying moths were done on an ad-hoc basis.

The species new to Lundy, in checklist order, were: micro-moths: *Adela croesella*, *Tinea pallescentella*, *Ypsolopha mucronella*, *Diurnea fagella*, *Agonopterix yeatiana*, *Depressaria pulcherrimella*, *Caryocolum vicinella*, *Aphelia paleana*, *Aethes francillana* and *Scoparia subfusca*; macro-moths: Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*, Oak-tree Pug *Eupithecia dodoneata*, Mottled Umber *Erannis defoliaria*, Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* and Red Chestnut *Cerastis rubricosa*.

Early in January two new species were found – *Tinea pallescentella* and Mottled Umber – followed by another two additions to the list in February in a Skinner trap in Millcombe – *Ypsolopha mucronella* and *Diurnea fagella*. On 20 Apr an MV trap set outside the church produced *Agonopterix yeatiana* and Oak-tree Pug, both new to Lundy. During a visit by Exeter University researchers in late April/May to study the effect of artificial light on moth diversity, another two new species were added to the Lundy list – Red Chestnut and Vestal. They also recorded another Oak-tree Pug.

On 5 May at least 28 male Emperor Moths were noted at Pondsburry. Two instances of predation were reported: a male Emperor Moth was eaten by a Spotted Flycatcher on the Terrace on 10 May, and on 20 May a Swallow was seen catching and eating Emperor Moths on Tibbett's Hill. Over 100 Cocksfoot moths *Glyphipterix simpliciella* were seen in Millcombe on 22 May; they were also numerous on 24 May and 1 Jun. This is only the third year they have been reported on Lundy, following records in 1984 and 2018. On 22 Jun, *Adela croesella*, also new for Lundy, was seen on an umbellifer in Millcombe.

On 7 Jul a Skinner trap set at Benjamin's Chair resulted in 47 species, including four new species for Lundy – single *Depressaria pulcherrimella*, *Caryocolum vicinella*, *Scoparia subfusca* and two Small Marbled. There were also two nationally rare/scarce species – Thyme Pug *Eupithecia distinctaria* and

*Two micro-moths: Esperia sulphurella, Millcombe, 19<sup>th</sup> May and (right), new for Lundy, Tinea pallescentella, Paradise Row, 2<sup>nd</sup> January (photos: Dean Jones).*







Devonshire Wainscot *Mythimna putrescens* (five) – and three species that are rare/scarce on Lundy – Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (one previous record in 1986), White-point *Mythimna albipuncta* (one previous record in 2009) and Shoulder-striped Wainscot *Mythimna comma* (two previous records, in 2011 and 2018). Another Shoulder-striped Wainscot was caught at Paradise Row on 8 Jul. A further trap at Benjamin's Chair on 26 Jul revealed *Aethes francillana*, also new to Lundy.

Other than those mentioned above, several moths were recorded in 2019 for the second or third time on Lundy. There were second records for *Depressaria daucella* (first recorded in 1988), *Syndemis musculana* (2018), Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (2009) and Sword-grass *Xylena exsoleta* (2013). Recorded for the third time were Cocksfoot Moth (previously in 1984 and 2018), *Dolicharthria punctalis* (1988, 1995), Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides* (2009, 2018), Winter Moth *Operophtera brumata* (2007, 2018), Swallow-tailed Moth *Ourapteryx sambucaria* (1973, 2018), Herald *Scoliopteryx libatrix* (2010, 2018), Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (2017, 2018), Mullein *Cucullia verbasci* (2011, 2013), Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* (1968, 2015) and Early Grey *Xylocampa areola* (1998, 2015).

Twelve species of migrant moths were recorded. Diamond-backed Moths *Plutella xylostella* (from 4 Jan to 18 Sep), Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis*, Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*, Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (25 & 27 Aug, 14 Sep), Vestal (30 Apr), Small Marbled (7 Jul), Bordered Straw (5 Aug), Small Mottled Willow (7 Jul), White-point (7 Jul), Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (four dates from 26 Feb to 25 May 25). Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* was seen on 33 days from 31 May to 21 Oct, max three on two days in August. Silver Y *Autographa gamma* was seen on 27 days from 22 Apr to 20 Oct, max 29 on 2 Aug.

Thanks to all the following observers for their butterfly and moth observations in 2019: Derek Baggott, Chris & Carol Baillie, Zoë Barton, Aaron Cann, Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Louise Cookson, Tim Davis, Keith Dean, Paul Dean, Chris Dee, Mandy Dee, Nicki Hattings, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Paddy Keith, Pia Murrell, Steve O'Donnell, Brigitte Needs, Rosie Parsons, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Rachel Sylvia, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Emily Trapnell, Andy Trout, Nick Upton, Caitlin Worsley, Jenna & Dan, Rosie & Ed, Sue Waterfield, Steve Wing and Ellie Zantboer.

Particular thanks to Dean Jones for all his help with this Lepidoptera account.

*Convolvulus Hawk-moth, main track near Pondsbury, 27<sup>th</sup> August (photo: Richard Taylor).*



Clockwise from top left: Western Clover, South Light, May, Creeping Willow catkins, Lundy plateau, March, and Hare's-foot Clover, Millcombe, June (photos: Andrew Cleave).

## FLORA

Andrew Cleave

The first botanical records for the year came in mid-January with **Primroses** *Primula vulgaris* in flower in Quarter Wall Copse, and by early February a few **Daffodils** *Narcissus* sp. and **Snowdrops** *Galanthus* sp. had started to open up. Other early-flowering species found in a few sheltered spots in Millcombe were **Ivy-leaved Toadflax** *Cymbalaria muralis* and **Wall Pennywort** *Umbilicus rupestris*. Later in the month the first **Sea Campion** *Silene uniflora* flowers were found at Benjamin's Chair.

By the end of February the first **Lesser Celandines** *Ficaria verna* had opened and a few **Honeysuckle** *Lonicera periclymenum* flowers were found in sheltered spots. The beginning of March saw the first **Hawthorn** *Crataegus monogyna* flowers open and later in the month **Ground Ivy** *Glechoma hederacea* and **Herb Robert** *Geranium robertianum* were also blooming. By the end of March **Thrift** *Armeria maritima* and **Kidney Vetch** *Anthyllis vulneraria* were showing some colour on the slopes below the South Light. Some well-developed fronds of **Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum*, some showing developing sporangia, were found in the usual areas near Rocket Pole Pond, and on top of the island the **Creeping Willow** *Salix repens* was very colourful with a fine display of yellow catkins covering large areas. **Common Fumitory** *Fumaria officinalis* was found in flower on a sheltered wall in the Village.

In the first week of April **Common Lousewort** *Pedicularis sylvatica* appeared on the slopes below Rocket Pole Pond, and as the month progressed **Scarlet Pimpernel** *Anagallis arvensis* and **Spring**



The ever-growing Wood Vetch colony along the Beach Road in late May (photo: Andrew Cleave).

**Vetch** *Vicia lathyroides* were found near the Ugly, and **Common Milkwort** *Polygala vulgaris* appeared in several areas at the South End. **Lundy Cabbage** *Coincya wrightii* flowers put in their first appearance in Smelly Gully just before the end of April, and then increased greatly as spring progressed. By the end of April, all the expected spring species were flowering well, and some areas, like the slopes around the South Light, were very colourful.

In early May, **Western Clover** *Trifolium occidentale* was found again in the South Light compound, confirming a record from 2018. This is a new species for the Lundy flora, and is typical of exposed coastal sites like this. It also occurs further west on similar situations around the coasts of Devon and Cornwall and is particularly common on the Isles of Scilly. Lundy represents one of its easternmost stations in the UK. The close-cropped turf along the Quarry Terrace suits various small, procumbent species, including **Common Bird's-foot** *Ornithopus perpusillus* which was flowering well by the end of May. Also in May Tim Jones and Tim Davis carried out a count of Small Adder's-tongue Ferns growing just north of Halfway Wall. A 150-metre long transect, 1 metre wide, produced a count of 1,257 plants, giving an indication of just how abundant this species is on Lundy. This habitat also favours the inconspicuous **Allseed** *Radiola linoides*, which was noted in various sites on the north and west of the island during May and early June.

The ever-growing patch of **Wood Vetch** *Vicia sylvatica* (pictured above) near the bottom of the Beach Road started flowering near the end of May and continued to put on a good display for about two weeks. This species, which is a scarcity on the mainland, seems to thrive on the slopes on either side of the road and puts on a magnificent display. **Balm-leaved Figwort** *Scrophularia scorodonia* was reported from the Beach Road slopes and also many sites further along the East Side in areas cleared of Rhododendron in previous years. These open areas also favour **Heath Groundsel** *Senecio sylvaticaus*

which colonises quickly and is a great attraction to nectar-feeding insects. **Foxgloves** *Digitalis purpurea* (pictured below) put on a magnificent display this year, with some specimens towering well over two metres in height on the East Side.

**Hare's-foot Clover** *Trifolium arvense* and **Knotted Clover** *Trifolium striatum* appeared in early June, both favouring man-made habitats, especially the tops of walls and edges of paths around Millcombe. Two related species, insignificant and often overlooked, also did well in grassy areas around Millcombe and the Village; **Lesser Trefoil** *Trifolium dubium* and **Slender Trefoil** *Trifolium micranthum* are both very common in short grass such as Millcombe House lawn. The grassy verge in the Village, opposite the Barn, provided an excellent display of flowers, having been left uncut this year. **Knotted Hedgeparsley** *Torilis nodosa* appeared there for the first time, and a species of **Rocket** *Diplotaxis (tenuifolia)* possibly a bird-seed alien, also flowered well for a while. **Common Mallow** *Malva sylvestris* did well at this site and elsewhere around the south of the island. This verge was the last known site on Lundy for **White Horehound** *Marrubium vulgare*, last seen and photographed there in the late 1980s, so perhaps more sensitive management of these areas might encourage the return of some of the island's lost plants.

Another inhabitant of Lundy's many stone walls is **Sea Fern Grass** *Catapodium marinum* which is common, but overlooked, growing on most of the walls around the Village. **Skullcap** *Scutellaria galericulata* was found in flower near Quarter Wall Pond and at the top of Gannets' Combe where around 50 flowering spikes were counted. The colony of **Heath Spotted Orchids** *Dactylorhiza maculata* at Pondsburry seemed to be thriving, with many flowering spikes found in early June. Visitors walking up the Beach Road were treated to a good display of **Betony** *Betonica officinalis* on the steep slopes, with the less conspicuous **Wood Sage** *Teucrium scorodonia* also doing well at this site and at many other areas along the East Side. One of the last botanical records for the year was for **Twiggy Mullein** *Verbascum virgatum* still flowering at the end of September in the walled gardens. This West Country speciality is rather erratic in its appearance and being a biennial sometimes misses a year.

Contributors: Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis, Mandy Dee, Keith Dobie, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Steve O'Donnell, N Phillips, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Richard & Rebecca Taylor.

*Towering Foxgloves along the Lower East Side Path through St Helen's Combe in June (photo: Andrew Cleave).*





*Egg-shell Slime Mould and (right) Hairy Earthtongue  
(photos: Alan Rowland).*

## FUNGI

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Mandy Dee

The wet summer and mild, wet autumn meant that 2019 was a superb year for many species of fungi. We had 498 records, 40% up on 2018, with a total of 244 species recorded, an increase of 34% on the previous year. Fifty new species were added to the island list, along with an impressive 26 second records, which are equally useful as they confirm previous identifications.

January started well with a count of 23 fruit bodies of **Grey Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus lacmus* at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland). There were also early records of both **Dog Vomit Slime Mould** *Fuligo septica* and **Egg-shell Slime Mould** *Leocarpus fragilis*. **False Puffball** *Enteridium lycoperdon*, another slime mould, was recorded by Dean Jones outside Barton Cottages in April. There were, as usual, only a handful of records through the spring and summer, the most interesting being *Puccinia striiformis*, a new rust species found by Dean Jones on Soft Creeping Grass.

By late September the main fungus season was well underway, and a week of recording by Mandy Dee and John Hedger produced many new records. **Riverine Bolete** *Xerocomellus ripariellus* was found in the thickets of Creeping Willow near Pondsby. The bright orange **Chanterelle** *Cantharellus cibarius* was also found in that area, and is the first official record, although there is anecdotal evidence of previous fruit bodies. Close examination of the dead logs and branches in Millcombe revealed 12 new species, including the small black lumps of *Nemania confluens* on a dead sycamore branch.

Three new dung fungi were found, plus five species recorded for the second time, including *Cheilymenia fimicola*, a little orange disc with eyelash-type hairs around the rim, found on a cowpat in Punchbowl Valley. A Fungus Foray was run for visitors, and an impressive 32 species were found.

In October, Mandy Dee, visiting with the LFS Work Party, reported large numbers of waxcaps and pinkgills proliferating on the unimproved grasslands. She also found a new species, **Slender Parasol** *Macrolepiota mastoidea*, growing beside the main track in Millcombe. **Smoky Spindles** *Clavaria fumosa* was recorded for the second time, this time in Lighthouse Field where it was seen repeatedly through the rest of the autumn, so may be an increasingly frequent species.

By early November, when Mandy and John returned for another week of recording, the island's grasslands were covered with fungi, with even the narrow grassy verge on the track past the church hosting many interesting species, including waxcaps, clubs, corals and earthtongues. The annual Grey Waxcap survey of North End produced a count of 1,245 fruit bodies, well up on recent years. There were second records of both **Garlic Waxcap** *Hygrocybe helobia* and **Limestone Waxcap** *Hygrocybe calcephila*, both on the very short turf over the ruined buildings near Quarter Wall.



*Garlic Waxcap and (right) Nemania confluens (photos: Mandy Dee).*

Club fungi were in abundance, with **Yellow Club** *Clavulinopsis helvola* present in huge numbers in almost every area of grass. Yellow Club is very variable and there are several similar species, so microscopic analysis of likely specimens was undertaken, giving us a first record for **Handsome Club** *C. laeticolor*, as well as several specimens of **Apricot Club** *C. luteoalba*.

It was a fantastic year for the rare earthtongues, with detailed microscopy revealing two new species for the island, **Deceptive Earthtongue** *Geoglossum fallax* and *Geoglossum barlae*, found near Ponsbury. **Glutinous Earthtongue** *Glutinoglossum glutinosum*, **Hairy Earthtongue** *Trichoglossum hirsutum* and *Geoglossum cookeanum* were also recorded, with the little black tongues to be found in grass verges at Golden Pond, by the main track near Ponsbury, on Ackland's Moor and at Rocket Pole.

Other new records included the tiny **Hairy Parachute** *Crinipellis scabella*, found growing on a grass stem near the Castle. **Tawny Funnel** *Paralepista flaccida*, a large, gingery brown toadstool which is common on the mainland, appeared for the first time next to a path in South West Field. A cluster of large mushrooms in Lighthouse Field caused much head scratching before being identified as the **Salty Mushroom** *Agaricus bernardii*.

A second Fungus Foray was well-attended by visitors, who, despite the truly atrocious weather, were enthusiastic in helping to identify and record the amazing 36 species of fungi that were found in close proximity to the Village. John Hedger continued his long-running project, analysing fungi on incubated dung, and added another three species to the island's impressive list.

Thanks to the following observers for adding records to the logbook: Chris & Carol Baillie, Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Louise Cookson, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis, Chris Dee, Dean Woodfin Jones, Tim Jones, S O'Donnell, Alan & Sandra Rowland.



*The November Fungus Foray – well wrapped up against the atrocious weather! (photo: Mandy Dee).*