

# THE BIRDS OF 2020

## Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

*Lundy vagrant.*

A flock of 25 flew south past North End, low over the sea, on 5 Oct (Rosie Ellis & Hope Simpson). These were followed by two adults (thought to be a pair) that settled on and around Pondsburry from 7 to 11 Oct (Shaun Barnes, Dean Jones *et al.*), where they were often to be found either on one of the small islands or feeding on the nearby grassland. These are the first Lundy records of this Arctic-breeding goose since 2002. The flock on 5 Oct equalled the previous highest count of 25 on 3 Nov 1968.

## White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Three adults (or possibly two adults and a third-calendar-year individual with reduced dark barring on the belly and a less prominent white forehead blaze) were on the Airfield and adjacent parts of Ackland's Moor from 26 Jan to 8 Feb (Dean Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

## Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

A male was on Pondsburry on 20 Feb, followed by a pair on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Martin Thorne). A first-winter male joined Mallard and Teal on Barton Pond from 15 to 17 Oct (Tim Jones *et al.*).

## 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.*

The first winter period maximum was 10 on 12 Feb. Bred successfully, with ducklings recorded between 10 Apr (10 at Barton Pond and 12 on Quarters Pond) and 19 May. The highest daily count of ducklings was 24 on 11 Apr. At the end of the year, the maximum of 13 was recorded on 29 Nov and 20 & 22 Dec (in all three cases composed of 4 males & 9 females).

### Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

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

## 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. Breeding appeared to be unsuccessful in 2019.*

The highest count during the first winter and early spring period was 21 (7m & 14f) on 22 Mar. Display was seen in spring but successful breeding was only confirmed late in the season, when a female with two ducklings, thought to be about a week old, were on Pondsburry on 8 Aug (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). This suggests that earlier nesting attempts probably failed. The only double-digit count for the second winter period was 14 (5m & 9f) on 22 Dec.

*Barnacle Geese, Pondsburry, 10<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Cuckoo, Halfway Wall, 27<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Max count of fully-grown birds for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	16	21	5	3	—	—	2	1	4	9	14
5	4	18	3	4	—	—	5	2	6	6	7

**Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra***

*Uncommon passage migrant.*

Only recorded during autumn passage, with sightings on five dates: a male on the water close-in to North Light on 9 Aug, a female in the same area on 16 Oct, then – all off the Landing Bay or Rat Island – two males on 28 Oct, a male on 12 Nov, and six (2m & 4f) on 22 Nov.

**Goosander *Mergus merganser***

[Common Merganser]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A female fishing for Mirror Carp on Rocket Pond on 22 Nov was still present on 23<sup>rd</sup> (Dean Jones). This was only the second record of this saw-billed duck for Lundy, the first seen 86 years previously, by Felix Gade, on 17 Dec 1934.

**Swift *Apus apus***

[Common Swift]

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

Recorded between 19 Apr (one over the sidelands near the Battery) and 3 Sep (one). Higher counts included 43 on 23 Jun, 62 on 25 Jun, 40 on 11 Jul, 28 on 21 Jul and 18 on 1 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
—	—	—	3	10	62	40	13	18	—	—	—
—	—	—	4	16	8	10	4	2	—	—	—

**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).*

Single birds were recorded on 16 dates, from 18 Apr (along the Terrace) to 23 Jul. Both males and females were seen in May, so it is possible that breeding occurred. A juvenile was seen below the Ugly on 15 Jul, but nothing hinted at it being a Lundy-reared individual as opposed to a dispersing/passage bird from the mainland.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	3	7	3	3	—	—	—	—	—

**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.*

Unusually few were recorded in 2020, presumably as a result of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions reducing the number and size of pigeon-racing events. The only double-digit count was of 10 on 12 Sep.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

*Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

In spring, single birds were seen on four dates from 3 to 22 Mar – including, on 8<sup>th</sup>, one perched on the Church Tower. The only subsequent record was of a late autumn migrant in Tillage Field on 1 Dec.

**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.*

Although ones and twos were logged intermittently throughout Jan, none was seen in Feb and it appears that the island's small breeding population did not arrive until Mar (e.g. six on 5<sup>th</sup>). One was perched, incongruously, on Goat Island on 3 Mar. The highest counts of the year were 16 on 18 May and 13 on 22 Sep. There were only five other double-digit counts. Successful breeding by a pair in the tree-planting enclosure below Government House was confirmed when fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 19 Jun (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
2	–	10	8	16	8	10	7	13	4	1	1
8	–	20	25	29	25	20	23	27	7	15	2

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

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

A singing male in Millcombe on 7 May (Dean Jones) was sadly the only record for the year.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

[Eurasian Collared Dove]

*Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has both bred and overwintered, though not recently.*

During spring migration there were records on 25 dates between 7 Apr (one in Millcombe) and 25 Jun (two), with a maximum of four on 8 May, and also including one with a Woodpigeon at Aztec Bay on 15 May. A single bird turned up on 20 & 21 Jul, whilst autumn migrants were limited to two birds on three dates 17–22 Sep and one on 4 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	4	2	1	–	2	–	1	–
–	–	–	2	17	6	2	–	3	–	1	–

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

*Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015 & 2019; no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016–2018.*

*Writing in the LFS logbook on 17 Feb, Dean Jones commented: "Water Rail on my front doormat this evening (Pig's 4). Poor wee dote must have been trying to escape the winds."* Although adults were seen and heard during the spring, including one calling from Quarter Wall Copse tree nursery on 26 May, successful breeding was only confirmed when persistent calls of at least one chick were heard from an extensive area of dense juncus cover just west of the intersection of Quarter Wall and 'Pointless Wall' (the incomplete wall that is bisected by the Airfield) on 11 Aug (Tim Jones). The highest autumn-passage count was five on 11 & 13 Oct, with most of these 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
2	1	4	2	2	1	–	1	2	5	4	2
5	2	12	23	17	2	–	1	8	25	17	7





*Lundy's first Sora Rail, Terrace, 12<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Sora Rail** *Porzana carolina*

[Sora]

*British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

A clearly tired but otherwise apparently healthy juvenile was captured by hand as it clambered through brambles near the Terrace Heligoland trap during the late afternoon of 12 Sep. It was seen again at around 11:30 hrs the next morning by visitors Sandie & Mark West along the Lower East Side Path, closer to Quarter Wall Copse than to the Terrace. It was also seen later that day, at around 16:00 hrs, by Conservation Team volunteer Ben Hanson, this time back on the Terrace. There was no sign of the bird on 14<sup>th</sup> or subsequently. Record accepted by BBRC.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

[Common Moorhen]

*Lundy vagrant.*

A passing nocturnal migrant was recorded calling in flight at 21:40 hrs on the night of 16-17 Oct (Tim Jones) – the first island record since Feb 2009.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was in the Landing Bay, close to Rat Island, where it was seen from the jetty and from *Obsession II*, on the afternoon of 7 Aug (Jamie Dunning & Rosie Ellis). This is only the seventh record for the island; the most recent previous occurrences being in Feb 2017 and Sep 2003.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Numbers built up in late winter and early spring as the island's breeding Oystercatchers returned to take up their territories. A ringed bird was seen within a group of seven below Millcombe on 19 Feb – a metal ring on the left leg and yellow over white colour-rings on the right leg (Martin Thorne). A minimum of 15 pairs bred (Dean Jones). The highest count of the year was about 60 using the high-tide roost at Brazen Ward on 26 Jul (Josh Harris), likely including staging passage migrants in addition to post-breeding aggregations of Lundy-nesting birds.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	20	15	28	31	60	20	12	15	8	3

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.*

The only spring-passage record was of a single bird on Ackland's Moor from 19 to 25 Mar (Dean Jones). In autumn there were singles near the Old Hospital on 15 Oct (Jamie Dunning) and in High Street Field on 6 & 7 Nov, followed by two there on 8 Nov (Dean Jones).

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Not recorded during the first winter period. The only spring migrants were singles on the Airfield on 20 May and in Middle Park on 9 Jun. In autumn there were records on 24 dates between 10 Aug (one over South End) and 8 Nov (three), with a max of 13 on 23 Sep. The only later occurrences were single birds on 1 & 25 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	13	2	3	1
–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	11	9	3	2

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

During spring passage, the only records were of single birds on 8, 16 & 22 Apr and two at South West Point on 13 May. Autumn migrants – most of which were calling 'fly-overs' – were recorded on 13 dates from 1 Aug to 30 Sep. Most of these were again single birds, but there were two on 6, 9 & 12 Sep and three on 10 Sep.

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferus*

*British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One was found near Stoneycroft during the late afternoon of 16 Mar (Neil Trout). The following is a transcript of Neil's entry in the LFS logbook: "16.20 to 16.40 hrs. Initially in Stoneycroft Meadow but flew to temporary pond on Ackland's Moor, beyond water tanks. From distance, thought to be a Ringed Plover but closer inspection allowed the following notes to be recorded: Bulky plover, larger than Ringed Plover with longer tail. Double wide, black breast bands with lower part of lower breast band more mottled. White breast band between the 2 black bands was a brighter white than the belly. Upperparts mid-brown to greyish brown. Legs greyish flesh. Bill black with length of half the head width. White supercilium flaring towards rear of ear coverts. White on lores extending onto side of face. Dark eye with thick black line between eyes, over loreal area. White collar broadening onto chin and upper breast. Call a 'Klee-oo'. Flight details too brief to note anything. 10x40 binoculars, down to 30 yards."

The following day (17<sup>th</sup>), Assistant Lundy Warden Rosie Ellis reported that the island plateau was shrouded in claggy low cloud, with "shockingly poor visibility" and the bird was not seen by those out peering through the murk (in spite of rumours on social media to the contrary). Neil's initial sighting therefore turned out to be both the first and the last. Record accepted by BBRC. There have been two previous BBRC-accepted records in Devon, and about three further historical (pre-BBRC) Devon records.

*Two of the six Dunlin in South West Field, 16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

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

There were two records of single birds during autumn passage. A juvenile was photographed in South West Field by Lundy Ranger Matt Stritch during the late afternoon of 27 Sep. One seen and heard calling in flight over the Terrace on 11 Oct appeared to come down in the vicinity of Quarry Cottages or Brick Field but could not be relocated (Zoë Barton, Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Spring migrants were recorded on 23 dates from 15 Apr (one below North Light) until 30 May (one), with maxima of 10 on 28 Apr and 11 on 30 Apr. Autumn passage was typically sparse, with single birds on 19 & 29 Jul, followed by two on 5 Aug and 2 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.*

The table tells another chapter in the sorry tale of this species of global conservation concern, with records on just seven dates during the year (23 Apr; 16, 22, 24 & 27 Jul; 14 Sep and 17 Oct), all involving single birds only.

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

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

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

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

There were just three late-summer and early-autumn records, all of birds seen and heard calling in flight: one off North Light on 9 Aug (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and single birds over the Village on both 1 Sep (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones) and 15 Sep (Dean Jones).

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

In spring there were six in South West Field on 16 Apr and 4 May, followed by two on 6 May and one on 7<sup>th</sup>. Autumn-passage migrants were logged on 13 dates from 19 Jul to 20 Sep, with all records involving ones and twos only.

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

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

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima**Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.*

Four were on rocks in the Devil's Kitchen/Hell's Gates area on 16 Feb, followed by two in the same general location on 19<sup>th</sup>, then two at Gannets' Bay on 23<sup>rd</sup> (all records Martin Thorne). During the second winter period one was photographed (very unusually) on grassland on the West Side on 11 Dec (Jonny Morgan).

*Purple Sandpiper, Rat Island, 16<sup>th</sup> February  
(photo: Martin Thorne).*



**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

During the first winter period and spring passage there were records of ones and twos on seven dates from 18 Jan to 31 Mar (the latter involving an unfortunate individual that was flushed from next to the Upper East Side Path above White Beach by escaped Highland Cattle, straight into the talons of a female Peregrine...). Following the first autumn migrant – a single bird on 16 Oct – Woodcocks were logged on a further nine dates to the end of the year (the last being two on 3 Dec), with a notable influx of seven on 5 Nov, following a clear night with light easterly winds.

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

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

**Jack Snipe** *Lymanocryptes minimus**Uncommon migrant and winter visitor, mainly late September to March.*

One was flushed from the side of the track between Rocket Pole Pond and South West Point on 7 Apr (Dean Jones). One was flushed on Ackland's Moor on 17 Sep (Richard Campey). Two were located by torchlight during nocturnal searches of the farm in-fields during the evenings of 15 & 16 Oct (Jamie Dunning & Dean Jones). Finally, there were singles at Pondsburry on 19 & 22 Dec (Neil Trout) and by Quarter Wall on 31 Dec (S. Aggot).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

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

Numbers logged were low during the first winter period and early spring, with a maximum of six on 3 Mar. The final sighting of spring was one on 14 Apr. In autumn, returning passage migrants were noted from 8 Aug (one flushed by a Grey Heron at Pondsburry), with numbers peaking at 16 on 11 Sep when a flock flew south high above the Terrace, and again on 15 Oct when most were picked out by torchlight during an evening search of the farm in-fields.

**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	2	6	1	–	–	–	3	16	16	3	11
3	4	7	2	–	–	–	4	14	10	7	7

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

[Red Phalarope]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

The fresh corpse of an adult was found along the Lower East Side Path above White Beach on 11 Feb (Mr & Mrs Vincent *per* Dean Jones). This followed a period of Atlantic gales when winds reached 70 mph on 9 Feb as Storm Ciara bore down on the island. It seems probable the bird was a victim of weather-related exhaustion and starvation. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**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.*

During spring passage there were singles on the Beach Road on 26 Apr and calling from White Beach on 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by two feeding on the edge of the Landing Bay on 9 May. Autumn migrants comprised recordings of flight calls from near Brambles on the nights of 8/9 & 9/10 Aug (Tim Jones) and two calling to each other in the darkness near North Light at 03:00 hrs on the night of 26/27 Aug (Dean Jones).

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

Single southbound migrants were logged on seven dates in late summer and early autumn: 20 & 30 Jul, 8, 9 & 31 Aug and 2 & 23 Sep. Of these, the individuals on 30 Jul and 8 & 9 Aug were detected by 'nocmigging' – the deployment of digital sound-recording equipment to capture nocturnal flight calls of migrant birds (Jamie Dunning, Tim Jones).



**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Two were on Rat Island on 29 Jul (Dean Jones), one flew from near the Jetty and around Rat Island on 1 Sep (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones) and one heard calling from below the Terrace on 15 Sep was eventually glimpsed on Quarry Beach (Richard Campey).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus**Rare autumn migrant.*

A calling bird flew high over Quarter Wall and Ackland's Moor during the late afternoon of 16 Sep (Dean Jones). It was still present on 17<sup>th</sup> when it was heard and seen in flight over the Airfield and later near Pondsby (Richard Campey).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Flight calls of a single bird were heard from the Tavern Garden, in the direction of South West Field, on 11 Aug (Tim Davis). One was calling in flight, low past the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony when nestboxes were being checked, on 24 Aug (Rosie Ellis & Dean Jones). One calling in flight over the mouth of Millcombe during the morning of 6 Sep was later found roosting on the north shore of Pondsby (Tim Jones *et al.*).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

The peak counts during the first winter period – and indeed the year – came at the end of Jan when there were 1,499 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 1,570 on 28<sup>th</sup> and a massive 2,766 on 29<sup>th</sup>, all birds feeding in large flocks off the East Side. There were further high counts of between 1,200 and 1,500 on four dates from 26 Feb to 6 Mar. The only four-digit count logged during the autumn and second winter period was 1,000 on 27 Oct, again involving flocks feeding off the East Side. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 242 adult birds, whilst the total number of nests located during the season was 308 – a reduction of 41 on the 2019 total. The first egg was seen at the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony on 15 May, whilst the first chicks were logged here and at the Aztec Bay colony on 13 Jun – although the great majority of adults were still incubating in mid-Jun. By the end of the month, 105 nests within the productivity study plots contained chicks. The first fledging was observed on 19 Jul. Final analyses showed that a total of 101 chicks fledged from the combined total of 152 apparently occupied nests (aon) at the Aztec Bay colony (124 aon) and Threequarter Wall Buttress colony (28 aon), representing 0.66 chicks fledged per active nest. Although this was higher than for any of the three previous seasons (0.59 in 2019, 0.46 in 2018 and 0.38 in 2017), quite a number of nests sited lower down the cliffs were lost due to storm-swell during unseasonable periods of westerly gales, with other losses resulting from predation by gulls, or falling from over-crowded and crumbling nests (Dean Jones).



*Kittiwake with the first chick of the year, Jenny's Cove, 13<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2,766	1,316	1,500	150	330	242	460	197	210	1,000	266	150

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 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.



**Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini***  
*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An adult in the Landing Bay on 26 Aug (Bart Donato, Tim Frayling & Dean Jones) was the first Lundy record of this delightful Arctic-breeding gull since Sep 1997 and only the fifth ever for the island. Its arrival followed in the wake of a deep depression that was centred over the Irish Sea at noon on 25 Aug, with severe westerly gales affecting Lundy. Record accepted by DBRC.

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

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

The significant increase in regular seawatching, especially during the late-autumn and winter months, thanks to the presence of a resident ornithologist in the form of Warden Dean Jones, has led to greatly improved information on the current status of the three scarcer small gulls in Lundy waters (namely Black-headed, Mediterranean and Common Gulls). In 2020, Black-headed was by far the least regular and least numerous of the three, with records on just 16 dates, compared with 50 for Mediterranean Gull and 48 for Common Gull, whilst the maximum counts for the three species were six, 29 and 93, respectively. The last Black-headed Gull of winter and early spring was an adult foraging in the Landing Bay on 27 Mar, whilst the first post-breeding bird was not logged until 4 Aug. The peak of six was on 5 Oct (all in the Landing Bay and off the East Side).

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

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

**Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus***

*Lundy vagrant.*

A first-winter bird was first seen foraging off the Terrace on 19 Jan. What was thought to be the same individual was then off the East Side on 28 Jan, closer in to the Landing Bay on 12 Feb, with foraging Kittiwakes off the southern tide race on 18 & 23 Feb, and then in the Landing Bay again on 26 Feb. An adult was in the Landing Bay, feeding with a small group of gulls just below the Ugly, on 19 Feb, close to the first-winter Little Gull in the southern tide race on 23 Feb, and again with the first-winter bird in the Landing Bay on 26 Feb (Dean Jones). These are the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> LFS records.



*1<sup>st</sup>-winter Mediterranean Gull off the Jetty,  
8<sup>th</sup> December (photo: Martin Thorne).*

**Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus***

*Uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.*

In just a few years the status of Mediterranean Gull in Lundy waters has transformed from that of extreme rarity to regular visitor. As noted in the account for Black-headed Gull (above), this is undoubtedly due in part to improved seawatching coverage throughout the year. However, continued expansion in range and numbers of European and British 'Med Gull' populations is probably the most significant driver of change. In 2020, the highest count during the first winter period was 14 on 25 Jan, whilst the last of the season was a single adult off the Landing bay on 7 Apr. In the latter part of the year there were records on 28 dates from 20 Aug (two juveniles) to 8 Dec (one), with a maximum of 29 on 20 Oct. The wings only of a first-winter bird were found on the cliff-tops above Long Roost on 19 Sep (Sam Bosanquet).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	4	2	1	–	–	–	2	3	29	10	1
13	2	6	1	–	–	–	1	3	11	11	2

**Common Gull *Larus canus***

[Mew Gull]

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

Recorded on 26 dates in the first winter period, with a maximum of 32 along the east coast on 24 Jan. The last of the season were eight on 31 Mar. The second winter period brought records on a further 22 dates, the first of these a single bird on 5 Oct, with a maximum of 93 on 18 Oct. See the Black-headed Gull account above for comments on improved information of the status of smaller gulls in Lundy waters.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	10	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	93	15	1
12	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	12	1

**Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus****Breeds; present in all months, but fewer in winter.*

A fourth-calendar-year bird wearing a red darvic colour-ring was seen at Ponsbury on 6 Apr but it was too distant for any inscription to be seen (Dean Jones). It appears highly likely that this individual had been ringed on the Pembrokeshire island of Skokholm, although there is an Irish scheme that also uses red colour-rings. An adult was incubating eggs on a nest below the Earthquake on 22 Apr. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 62 adult birds. Chicks from a nest at North East Point were close to fledging on 10 Jul.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
29	22	36	34	48	62	10	15	20	30	7	23

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 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.

**Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus****Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

An exceptional year by Lundy standards, with an unprecedented series of multiple sightings involving at least four individuals. A first-winter bird was in the Brick Field, Tillage Field and Ackland's Moor marsh area from 20 Feb to 1 Mar (Dean Jones). An adult on Ponsbury on 5 Mar flew off in the direction of Jenny's Cove (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). A first-winter bird at Jenny's Cove on 14 Mar was potentially the same individual seen in late Feb but also seems quite likely to have been a different bird (Dean Jones). A first-year bird was in Lower Lighthouse Field, roosting with a flock of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, on 14 Nov (Dean Jones). Finally, another first-winter bird on 11 & 12 Dec was first seen in Tillage Field (Dean Jones, Martin Thorne). These are the sixth to ninth records for the island, including the first for both Feb and Mar. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



*Immature Glaucous Gull, Brick Field,  
26<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones).*

**Iceland Gull *Larus galuoides****Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Seen from Hammers, a first-winter bird was watched flying past Rat Island on 28 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer). A first-winter bird – potentially the same as that seen in late Oct – was over Quarry Beach on 4 Nov (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). Records 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.*

An exceptional concentration of at least 1,500 were feeding off the East Side with Kittiwakes and other seabirds on 2 Mar. Adults were incubating eggs below the Earthquake on 22 Apr. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 602 adult birds, whilst the first fledglings were seen at Jenny's Cove on 10 Jul (Dean Jones). It was generally a poor year for the island's three breeding large-gull species, with very few fledged young seen.

#### Maximum count for each month\*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
470	447	1,500	470	415	602	150	105	26	500	214	334

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 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.

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

*Lundy vagrant.*

Increased year-round attention to gulls on Lundy, greater awareness among birders of key identification features for juveniles and immatures, and growing numbers of Yellow-legged Gulls reaching south-west Britain (particularly in late summer) combined to make 2020 an exceptional year for this species on the island. A third-calendar-year (= second-winter) bird in Tillage Field on 18 Feb and around Ackland's Moor marsh on 19<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones) was only the second record for the island, the previous occurrence being as far back as May 1999. Aug saw an unprecedented influx of juveniles, involving up to seven individuals, including three that arrived in the wake of south-westerly storms on 5<sup>th</sup>. Of these, one was seen from the Ugly during a morning seawatch (Dean Jones); the other two were moving along the west coast in the evening (Jamie Dunning). Later in the month there were single juveniles on 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (Dean Jones) and two together in the Landing Bay on 25<sup>th</sup>, sheltering from Storm Francis (Dean Jones).



*Second-winter Yellow-legged Gull over the Tillage Field, 18<sup>th</sup> February (photo: Dean Jones)*

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

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

Adult birds were incubating eggs in the small colony above Miller's Cake on 12 May. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of just 145 adult birds (Dean Jones).

#### Maximum count for each month\*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
52	37	61	110	141	145	45	33	20	10	24	10

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 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 passage migrant April to October.*

Single birds were in the Landing Bay on 6, 10 & 16 Apr (Dean Jones); the bird on 6<sup>th</sup> perched on one of the mooring buoys. There were three scattered late-summer and autumn records: two off North Light during a seawatch on 20 Aug (Dean Jones); one off the East Side on 15 & 16 Sep (Richard Campey); and one from MS *Oldenburg* on 8 Oct about 15 minutes out from the island (Alison & Nick Bliston).

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

Two were off the East Side on 5 Sep (Tim Jones), followed by one in the Landing Bay on 24 Sep (Dean Jones).

**Great Skua (Bonxie)** *Stercorarius skua*

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

Not recorded during the first seven months of the year. There were autumn-passage records on 10 dates from 1 Aug to 12 Nov. Most were single birds but there were two on both 26 Sep and 28 Oct. All but one were off the East Side – frequently harassing feeding Kittiwakes and other gulls – and picked out from various vantage points including the Ugly and the Terrace. The exception was one off the West Side on 26 Sep.

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

[Pomarine Jaeger]

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

One seen from MS *Oldenburg* a few minutes out from arrival in the Landing Bay on 5 Sep (Shaun Robson *et al.*) A pale-morph adult was seen in the Landing Bay during a seawatch from the Ugly on 24 Sep (Dean Jones).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.*

There were just four records, all in autumn, involving nine birds. Three dark-morph birds were off the Landing Bay on 26 Aug (Dean Jones). Two were kleptoparasitising Kittiwakes off the Landing Bay on 5 Sep, followed by three (one pale, one dark and one intermediate morph) in the same area on 7 Sep (Tim Jones, Shaun Robson *et al.*). A dark-morph bird was off the East Side on 1 Nov (Andy Jayne).

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

One off the Landing Bay on 7 Dec (Martin Thorne) was thought possibly to be a Pomarine Skua – probably the most likely species in Lundy waters on such a late date.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

[Common Guillemot, 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.*

Many were occupying the breeding ledges on 18 Jan, including 649 at Jenny's Cove, 226 at St Mark's Stone and 402 at Aztec Bay. The first chicks within the productivity study colony at St Mark's Stone were seen on 1 Jun, when an estimated 200 birds were continuing to incubate eggs. By 12 Jun a similar number of adults were looking after chicks and the majority of young had 'jumped' from the ledges by the end of the month. Overall productivity was good for the study colony: 165 chicks 'fledged' from 217 breeding pairs, representing 0.76 chicks per pair (*cf.* 0.69 in 2019 and 0.65 in 2018). The average number of adults at this site has increased six-fold since 1981, most likely as a result of the eradication of rats. An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 8,252 adult Guillemots (Dean Jones). Colour-ringed individual 'red 0114' (red ring with white numbering), originally marked on the Pembrokeshire island of Skomer in Jul 2013, was seen again in Jenny's Cove, occupying almost exactly the same spot on the breeding ledges as in 2019. First observed on 1 May, it was incubating an egg on 13 May & 4 Jun, then provisioning a chick on 13 Jun, rearing it successfully to the jumping stage (Dean Jones). Departure from the colonies was almost complete by mid-Jul; some 2,033 were counted between Jenny's Cove and Aztec Bay on 10 Jul, but only 64 were still present along the same stretch of coast on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,277	200	2,000	3,500	7,637	8,252	2,274	5	12	1**	4**	7**

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. \*\*From mid-Oct to the end of the year, up to 500 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.





*Razorbill, Aztec Bay, 20<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

#### **Razorbill *Alca torda***

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

An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 2,177 adult birds. The majority of chicks had departed the breeding colonies around Jenny's Cove by the end of Jun (Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
231	800	623	2,000	2,384	2,177	533	–	32	410	14**	70**

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. \*\*In Nov & Dec, up to 500 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Razorbills and Guillemots.

#### **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.*

The first of the year were 32 (28 at Jenny's Cove – of which eight were on land and 20 on the water – and four at St Philip's Stone) on 11 Mar. Numbers had reached 184 by 1 Apr and many were gathering nest material at Jenny's Cove on 23 Apr. Adults were first seen delivering fish to burrows in Jenny's Cove on 25 May, and over 70 burrows within the productivity study slope were being provisioned by 11 Jun. Final analysis showed that productivity was once again on the low side, with 133 chicks reared to 'fledging' from 261 apparently occupied burrows, representing 0.51 chicks per burrow (Dean Jones). An all-island count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 400 adult birds (Dean Jones), whilst the usual late-season peak of 402 was recorded on 1 Jul – the same date that the first 'puffling' was seen emerging from its burrow. The last of the year, a single bird, was seen off Rat Island on 5 Aug.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	37	184	397	400	402	1	–	–	–	–

\*There was no full breeding census in 2020 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.*

During the first winter period and early spring, recorded on 33 dates from 3 Jan (one) to 1 Apr (two). Both frequency and numbers peaked in Jan, with a maximum of 28 on 24<sup>th</sup>, and six other double-digit counts between 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. The Feb & Mar maxima were seven on 8<sup>th</sup> and nine on 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively. There were no records during the autumn or second winter period.

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

[Arctic Loon]

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

One was off the East Side on 23 Jan (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.*

During the first winter period and early spring, recorded on 44 dates from New Year's Day to 12 Apr, with a maximum of at least six on 17 Feb in ones and twos along the East Side between Quarry Beach and Rat Island (Martin Thorne). There were two late-spring records – both involving single birds, perhaps one and the same individual – on 19 & 24 May. During the autumn and second winter period, recorded on only 15 dates from 25 Sep (one, in full breeding plumage still, flying north off the east coast) to 28 Dec, including a maximum of three on 27 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6	2	1	1	–	–	–	1	1	2	3
12	17	8	7	2	–	–	–	1	4	7	3

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

*Uncommon passage migrant; apparently increasing numbers during the breeding season; size of the breeding population unknown.*

During the night of 16/17 Jul, 35 individuals were mist-netted near North Light. These included 31 new birds, three Lundy-ringed retraps, and one bird that had been ringed in North Wales in 2012 (Dean Jones & Jamie Dunning). Singles were over the tide race south of Rat Island on 25 Jul (Jamie Dunning) & 5 Aug (Dean Jones). At least six were calling from crevices in and immediately above the wall of Brazen Ward on the night of 3/4 Aug (Eleanor & Josh Harris). During the night of 7/8 Aug, ones and twos were seen at Jenny's Cove, the west end of Quarter Wall, between The Battery and Old Light, and at Pilot's Quay (Josh Harris). Another ringing session at North Light on the night of 10/11 Aug, led by Chris Dee, resulted in the trapping of 23 individuals, of which 18 were new, four had been ringed on Lundy in 2018 (two individuals), 2019 (one) and earlier in 2020 (one), whilst one had been ringed on Skokholm only a couple of weeks earlier, on 13 Jul. A number of the birds caught (all without the use of tape-luring) showed evidently full crops and were almost certainly feeding chicks in the vicinity. Finally, a further 50 birds were trapped at North Light on the night of 26/27 Aug (Tim Frayling, Dean Jones *et al.*). Among these were 30 new birds, 17 Lundy-ringed retraps, two individuals ringed on Skokholm in 2019 and 2020 (the latter the bird captured on Lundy on 10/11 Aug) and one ringed at Annagh Head, Co. Mayo, Ireland in 2014. See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88.

Tony Taylor adds: "In the three ringing sessions near North Light in Jul & Aug, a record 79 Storm Petrels were newly ringed and 29 other birds were recaptured. Four of these had been ringed elsewhere. While large numbers of non-breeding birds wander between colonies, there was plenty of evidence among the recaptures that a significant proportion of them are faithful to the catching area. Some were recaptured on more than one of the 2020 visits, and 16 had also been captured several times over the previous three years. The evidence all points towards a growing breeding population on Lundy."

**Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

[Northern Fulmar]

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

The highest pre-breeding count was 228 on 18 Jan. During the peak of the egg-laying and incubation periods there were two identical all-island counts of 191 adults on 30 May and 16 Jun. The first chicks were seen at Jenny's Cove on 6 Jul. In spite of good attendance at the breeding colony on the north-facing side of Gannets' Rock early in the season, the number of actual breeding attempts and overall success were again rather low, with 17 chicks fledging from 36 apparently occupied sites, a productivity value of 0.48 (cf. 0.48 in 2019; 0.39 in 2018). During the post-breeding moult, which takes place at sea, there were just six scattered records, all involving low single-digit counts, between mid-Sep and mid-Nov. The first significant number of the 'new' season was 48 on 22 Nov.

**Maximum count for each month\***

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
228	47	52	78	191	191	133	46**	40	1	48	2

\*There was no full island breeding census in 2020 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.

\*\*Including 11 chicks.

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

Many were heard coming into the island on the evening of 24 Mar and 82 were counted passing Rat Island in 30 minutes at 07:00 hrs on 5 Apr. Adults were incubating eggs in several of the LFS/RSPB-installed nestboxes in the Old Light colony on 14 May. These included bird EA10081 which has been using the same box since 2017. Checks on 11 Jul showed that of seven breeding attempts in the boxes, all were still active, with each box holding either a young chick or an adult continuing to incubate (Dean Jones). By far the highest counts of the year were 4,000 on 7 Jul, followed by 2,677 on 5 Aug and 2,542 on 20 Aug. There were no other four-digit counts. Following the departure of most breeding birds in Sep, a calling bird was recorded at night on 16/17 Oct and there were several unusually late records, including four on 8 Nov, one on 15 Nov and two on 11 & 16 Dec. Two Lundy-ringed adult shearwaters were reported from Bardsey and Skokholm during the year, while two chicks ringed on Lundy in late Aug in 2019 and 2020, respectively, were both found dead on the coast of Brazil in Oct 2020 (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

Tony Taylor has provided the following update on the long-running ringing study of the island's shearwaters: "*In late Aug and early Sep, two weeks were spent ringing Manx Shearwaters at night. A few further birds were caught earlier and later in the year, including during checks on nestboxes. In all, 67 adults were newly ringed and 27 birds ringed in previous years were recaptured. The number of chicks ringed was 245, along with seven other young birds that were in the process of fledging. Four of these fledglings were found in the village, probably after being attracted to artificial light in weather conditions that made orientation difficult during their first flights. A fifth fledgling was recaptured in the same circumstances, three days after it had been ringed as a chick below Sunset Buttress. The most significant of the recaptured adults included three originally ringed as adults in 2008, 2010 and 2011, and three ringed as chicks, two in 2013 and one in 2016. The nestboxes also provided valuable data, with five chicks reaching ringing age in them, from a record seven eggs laid. Of the parent birds, seven had been ringed in previous years and all were occupying the same boxes as before.*"

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	h*	82	16	100	4,000	2,677	24	2	4	4

\*many heard at night

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

Two flying west past Rat Island were seen from the Ugly on 20 Aug (Dean Jones). Although this was the second-earliest record for the island (after one on 26 Jul 2018) there were no further sightings,

marking 2020 as the first year since 2004 in which Balearic Shearwaters were not recorded in Lundy waters during Sep or Oct – in spite of regular seawatching by the Warden and other experienced observers. Interestingly, record numbers were seen off the south coast of South West England during the late summer.

### **Gannet *Morus bassanus***

[Northern Gannet]

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

There was a high late-winter count of 50 on 28 Jan. As is typical, both numbers and frequency were generally higher during the second half of the year; the peak count of 190 on 8 Aug was accounted for by a 'feeding frenzy' off the East Side, about a kilometre out from Tibbetts Point.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	5	20	11	25	25	30	190	30	30	43	41
23	13	16	13	22	14	16	23	23	25	23	12

### **Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

[European Shag]

*Common breeding species present throughout the year; numbers usually smaller in winter.*

Two chicks were seen in nests at Long Roost on 30 May. A count of cliff-nesting seabirds on 16 Jun yielded a total of 111 adult birds (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen at Long Roost on 10 Jul, alongside many other large, soon-to-fledge chicks waddling around nest sites. A raft of 71 birds was off the Quarries on 22 Jul, but the highest post-breeding counts were 167 on 9 Aug and 191 on 21 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
14	60	53	27	89	111	94	167	191	122	5	4

\*There was no breeding census in 2020 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.

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

[Great Cormorant]

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

Recorded in all months except Jun and Dec, with a peak of 12 on 12 Sep. One was on the water off Quarry Beach on 29 Jan. In Oct, a first-winter bird was regularly seen fishing at Rocket Pole Pond.

#### **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	5	2	3	–	5	8	12	4	6	–
2	3	10	1	3	–	1	2	6	11	1	–

### **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

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

One at Pondsburry on 29 May was the only record during the first six months of the year. In late summer and autumn there were records on 41 dates from 10 Jul (one in Barton Field) to 4 Nov (one), with a maximum of four on both 22 Jul and 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	–	4	1	4	2	1	–
–	–	–	–	1	–	14	11	10	5	1	–

*Cormorants, off Pilot's Quay, 7<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*





**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

[Great Egret]

*Colonising UK breeder; Devon rarity. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

Three birds (below) were photographed by Martin Thorne in flight as they passed South Light heading towards the North Devon mainland on 8 Dec. This is the first Lundy record of a species that has recently extended its breeding range to the UK, including 14 nests in the Somerset Levels alone in 2019. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

*Scarce, but now annual passage migrant.*

One over Brick Field on 28 Mar was wearing a blue darvic colour-ring (Dean Jones). Indications are that this bird had probably been ringed as a nestling in Scotland.

**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 twice, in 2011/12 and 2018/19.*

There were no records until spring passage when single birds were logged on 18 dates between 29 Mar and 1 Jun, with two present on 12 May. Following a single female on 19 Jul, autumn passage extended from 3 Sep to 28 Nov, with records on 52 dates: single birds on 37 days, two on 14 days and the maximum count of three on 17 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	1	2	1	1	–	3	2	2	–
–	–	2	11	4	1	1	–	20	17	15	–

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

[Northern Goshawk]

*Lundy vagrant.*

During the afternoon of 15 Sep, amidst deteriorating visibility due to gathering fog, a male flew in off the sea and perched briefly in VC Quarry (Richard Campey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

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

A male over Millcombe and Barton Field during the early morning of 27 Mar was quartering South West Field later in the morning (Dean Jones). On 5 Nov, a ringtail over Quarter Wall mid-morning was seen several times during the afternoon, then quartering Pondsby at dusk (Andy Jayne *et al.*).

### **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

On 16 Oct, a juvenile was seen in flight low over Ackland's Moor mid-morning, being harried by two Ravens, then later soaring off the East Side before heading south-east towards Hartland Point at 13:00 hrs (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). This exciting record – concerning the satellite-tagged and colour-ringed individual 'G471' released in August 2020 as part of the Isle of Wight reintroduction programme – comes some 140 years after the last known White-tailed Eagle to have occurred on Lundy was shot in about 1880. Record accepted by DBRC.

*Lundy's first White-tailed Eagle (inset) for more than a century flew over the island on 16<sup>th</sup> October. The tracking map (reproduced with permission of the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation) confirmed that G471 left the North Devon mainland at 10:20 hrs, some 35 minutes before it was first seen over the island. It flew out north of the island before returning to rest for a time near North Light, where it was seen by one of the Trinity House team working on the lighthouse as it flew below him! It later returned to the North Devon mainland where it roosted in cliffside woodland (photo: Dean Jones).*



### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* [Common Buzzard]

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

Single birds on 10 & 11 Apr (being harassed by a Raven over Quarter Wall on 10<sup>th</sup>, then seen over High Street Field on 11<sup>th</sup>) and 9 May (the latter a 'rather tatty' individual flying south over the Village and Millcombe) were the only records for the year.

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

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

There were just two records, both in autumn: one flushed near to the top of the 'Steps of Doom' (that run between the Ugly and the Lower East Side Path) on 8 Oct (Ken Ebsworthy), followed by one flushed by the feral livestock management team near Pondsbury on 22 Oct.

### **Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

[Eurasian Hoopoe]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One flushed from the main track next to Pondsbury during the late morning of 10 Apr showed very well for a few minutes before disappearing into the long sward above the Quarries (Dean Jones). It was seen again in the afternoon feeding back along the main track (Rosie Ellis). On 5 Nov, one was watched from the window of Castle Cottage as it fed on the short turf of Castle Parade before flying off over the perimeter wall, in line with South Light (Elizabeth & Jonathan Williams). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

One seen briefly along the Terrace on 22 Sep (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

*Rare passage migrant and post-breeding visitor; one overwintering record (2018/19).*

A male and female appeared in Millcombe on 15 Oct, with both still present on 18<sup>th</sup> and the male remaining until 20<sup>th</sup> (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). A male, thought to be a different individual to that seen in Oct, was first seen working its way along fence posts in Barton Field on 5 Nov, remaining until 6<sup>th</sup>, when it was in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

[Common Kestrel]

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

A single female was seen on three days in the second half of Jan, followed by a male in early Mar and a female later in the month. Two were logged on several days in Apr, but it was in May that the presence of a territorial pair was confirmed, and Jun when a nest site was discovered along the East Side. Two chicks fledged on 6 Jul – the first confirmation of successful breeding since 2005. Autumn passage peaked in Sep and Oct, with a maximum of four on 16 & 17 Oct. The last of the year was a single bird on 24 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	2	2	2	4	3	3	4	2	–
3	1	6	12	12	5	11	8	18	13	15	–

**Merlin *Falco columbarius***

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

There were no records during the first winter period. Single spring-passage birds were logged on eight dates from 16 Mar to 6 May. These included a male hunting Meadow Pipits in Barton Field on 4 Apr and a female with a Wheatear in its talons at the western end of Quarter Wall on 17 Apr. The first autumn migrant was on the early date of 28 Aug. Thereafter, passage birds were recorded on a further 37 dates, from 20 Sep (one) to 29 Nov (one), with a maximum of three on 13, 14 & 16 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	1	–	–	1	1	3	2	–
–	–	1	6	1	–	–	1	5	23	9	–

*Merlin, Barton Field, 23<sup>rd</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

[Eurasian Hobby]

*Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.*The only record for the year involved one hunting over Lighthouse Field on 10 Sep (Tony Taylor *et al.*).**Peregrine *Falco peregrinus***

[Peregrine Falcon]

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

A female was feeding on a drake Mallard in Barton Field on 22 Feb (Kevin Welsh). There were five occupied breeding territories. Eggs were being incubated from 15 Apr. Three pairs managed to fledge a total of five chicks, the first fledgling being noted on 1 Jul (Dean Jones).

**Maximum count for each month\***

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

**Request: Please report any sightings of colour-ringed Peregrines directly to the Warden, and 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 and Devon rarity.*

A juvenile was in the vicinity of Quarry Cottages, the Terrace and the track to Quarry Beach during the early afternoon of 12 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

There were three records during the peak May-Jun period for this species on Lundy, all involving single birds in Millcombe: a singing male on 8 & 9 May (Dean Jones *et al.*); a female or second-calendar-year male on 20 May (Dean Jones); and a sub-adult male on 18 Jun (Dean Jones). Records accepted by DBRC.

**Magpie *Pica pica***

[Eurasian Magpie]

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was seen briefly in Tent Field, between the Black Shed and the helipad, during the early afternoon of 5 Sep (Shaun Robson). This is the first record of this exceptionally rare bird for Lundy since May 1996!

**Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula***

[Western Jackdaw]

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

An exceptional spring for a species that normally occurs only two or three times each year, with records on 20 dates from 26 Feb to 25 May. One calling from Millcombe Wood on 26 Feb was followed by two over Millcombe on 27<sup>th</sup>, one in High Street Field on 13 & 14 Mar, one over Millcombe on 24 Mar, three on 26<sup>th</sup>, and two foraging in lower 'Aerogenerator Field' (Lighthouse Field) on 28 & 29 Mar. Fourteen parachuting into Tent Field on 30 Mar, seven in High St Field on 31<sup>st</sup> and 11 on the Church Tower on 1 Apr were the advance party for a mass arrival of 59 drifting in from the south-east and over Castle Hill at about 13:00 hrs on 2 Apr, resting briefly before continuing north at 15:00 hrs. There were 11 again on 3 & 4 Apr, one over the Village on 11<sup>th</sup>, two calling loudly over the Village on 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 in lower 'Aerogenerator Field' on 25<sup>th</sup>, in Tent Field on 26<sup>th</sup> and on the roof of Old House South on 27<sup>th</sup>, six over Jenny's Cove on 1 May and – finally – two calling from the roof of the Barn and later in High Street Field on 25 May (Dean Jones *et al.*). This is by far the most significant and sustained influx to the island of recent years. It is thought that the prolonged spells of settled weather in Apr may have been a contributory factor. The flock of 59 birds on 2 Apr exceeded the previous record spring count of 53, set way back in the early years of the LFS on 25 Apr 1948. However, the all-time record still stands at a colossal 250 on 20 Oct 1983.

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

One in upper Lighthouse Field on 20 Apr (Dean Jones).



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

Numbers were relatively high at the start of the year, with a count of 57 on 19 Jan, but the post-breeding maximum was just 43 on 7 Sep. Unusually low numbers were recorded from then until the end of the year, including an Oct peak of just 20 – a month when counts have typically been around 60 in many recent years. Poor breeding productivity and possible emigration from the island could explain the apparently reduced numbers. Potential underlying causes might include a shortage of food due to a very low rabbit population and a pandemic-related reduction in human visitors and their discarded food scraps. One was watched leaving the island from South West Point and flying towards Hartland Point on 12 Apr (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen along the East Side on 26 May.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
57	41	41	29	25	31	27	23	43	20	15	23

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix**Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

Two were with Carrion Crows and Jackdaws in High Street Field and on Ackland's Moor on 13 Mar, one remaining until 14<sup>th</sup> when it was seen in Brick Field (Dean Jones). Single birds were in Tent Field on 1 & 15 May (Dean Jones). With no sightings between 2 and 14 May, it seems probable that either two different birds were involved on 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> or the same individual visited the island twice but disappeared to the mainland in the intervening period. Records accepted by DBRC.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

*Breeds; present throughout the year.*

One was carrying nesting material along the East Side on 26 Jan. The highest count of the year was 20 on 8 Mar. There were four successful nests: at Benjamin's Chair, the cliffs just west of Old Light, Halfway Wall Bay and Long Roost. The first fledglings were seen at the South End on 12 May.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	6	20	9	14	8	7	12	14	13	11	9

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

A mid-Oct arrival brought daily records from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, including a peak of five on 15<sup>th</sup> (in Millcombe, St Helen's Combe, and in willows above Quarry Beach). There were two on 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, and singles on the remaining dates. The first bird to arrive, on 10<sup>th</sup>, showed plumage features consistent with the Irish-breeding race of Coal Tit *P. a. hibernicus*, having noticeably yellowish cheeks, a similar yellow wash on the underparts, and distinctly cinnamon flanks. However, no definite conclusions about the bird's origins can be drawn on plumage alone as there are known to be intergrades between Irish and British Coal Tits in the north-east of the island of Ireland. This particular individual, which was ringed in Millcombe on 15 Oct, was seen regularly in Millcombe through the rest of Oct and Nov, then more sporadically in Dec, but was still present at the end of the year and into early 2021.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

[Eurasian Blue Tit]

*Uncommon autumn migrant and rare spring migrant.*

Two were seen in the Ugly/St Helen's Copse area on 5 Oct (Shaun Barnes).

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea**Lundy vagrant.*

A very good autumn for this species, with records on three dates thought to involve four different birds: one flew south, calling as it went, over the Ugly and lower Millcombe, during the early morning of 16 Oct (Jamie Dunning, Dean Jones *et al.*), with what was considered to be a different individual seen and heard on the western fringes of Middle Park, just north of Halfway Wall, at 16:30 hrs the same day; one showed well, allowing itself to be photographed, above Benjamin's Chair on 22 Oct (Dean Jones); and one was calling in flight over Millcombe on 4 Nov (Dean Jones).



Woodlark, Benjamin's Chair, 22<sup>nd</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).

### Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

Scarce for a time immediately after New Year, song was first heard on 17 Jan and numbers reached 20 the following day. The highest count of the spring – indeed the year – was 69 on 1 Mar. Some 51 song territories were located during the breeding season and adults were first seen delivering food to chicks in the nest on 11 May in South West Field (Dean Jones). The autumn-passage peak was 35 on 14 Oct. After 21 on 22 Nov there were only five more scattered records of one to three birds until the end of the year (the last on 10 Dec), though there continued to be coverage of suitable habitat, indicating a real, rather than apparent absence.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	51	69	38	32	39	15	20	28	35	29	2
13	22	28	29	31	26	18	14	23	17	12	2

### Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

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

The first spring migrants were four on 18 Mar. Numbers were low until the fourth week of Apr when there were 120 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 130 on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 112 on 26<sup>th</sup>. By far the largest arrival was on 6 May when 478 were logged. The last of the spring were two on 10 Jun. Return passage was logged on 26 days from 19 Jul (five) to 13 Oct (one). Numbers were generally low, with only six double-digit counts, the highest of these being 61 on 10 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	130	478	2	5	6	61	1	–	–
–	–	5	21	18	1	5	4	15	2	–	–

### 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 spring were one over Quarter Wall on 23 Mar, followed by three the next day, but then a gap to 3 Apr. Maximum counts reached 34 in the first week of Apr, 122 in the second week, 312 in the third week and a first peak of 1,750 on 22 Apr (when 532 passed north off the West Side in the space of an hour). Thereafter, numbers fluctuated considerably, with counts in the tens or low hundreds interspersed with a further two very high counts: 1,916 on 6 May and 1,794 on 19 May. A handful of

birds were still moving north well into Jun (e.g. pulses of 11 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 9<sup>th</sup>). Three pairs nested: in the Church porch, next to the Black Shed, and in a natural site at Quarry Pond. Four young fledged from the Church porch on 4 Jul, whilst the other two pairs both fledged three young. A second brood was attempted in the Church Porch and young were being fed during the first half of Sep, but they failed to fledge successfully. There was some evidence of post-breeding dispersal in Aug (e.g. 15 on 8<sup>th</sup>) but it was well into Sep before the first real pulse of migration, when 305 were logged on 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by estimates of 1,000 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3,000 on 10<sup>th</sup>, 750 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 2,500 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Numbers fell away rapidly from the start of the fourth week in Oct, though there were still records on most days. Swallows were logged on the unusually high total of 15 dates in Nov, the last of the year being a single bird over lower Millcombe on 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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	1,750	1,916	15	7	15	3,000	200	4	–
–	–	2	27	31	29	30	25	30	27	15	–

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* [Common House Martin]  
*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional during summer and has bred.*

Unusually, it was a House Martin over the Terrace on 8 Mar (Kevin Waterfall) that provided the first hirundine record of the year – a distinction usually claimed by Sand Martin or Swallow. Following another lone individual on 24 Mar and single-digit counts during the first fortnight of Apr, the first real influxes were 38 on 15 Apr and 140 on 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, the largest arrivals were in May, when there were 341 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 471 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Autumn migration appeared rather sparse and there were only seven counts of 30 or more, of which 150 on 29 Sep was by far the highest. The last of the year was a single bird on 4 & 5 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	140	471	3	4	14	150	30	1	–
–	–	2	20	27	5	6	6	16	19	2	–

*Yellow-browed Warbler, Millcombe Pond, 12<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti**Lundy vagrant.*

One trapped and ringed in Millcombe during the early morning of 18 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dean Jones) was only the sixth to be recorded on Lundy.

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus**Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; has overwintered once (2008/09).*

One was working its way south, calling as it went, in the incongruous setting of the bracken and boulder-strewn sidelands above Jenny's Cove on 14 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.*

There were just three records during the year, comprising two during spring passage and one in autumn: two birds on 27 Apr (one in the Battlements sycamores and one along the Lower East Side Path above White Beach) and one in upper Millcombe on 28<sup>th</sup> – see cover photo (all Dean Jones); and one in Millcombe, feeding above the Casbah within a small mixed flock of Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Goldcrests, on 7 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

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

During autumn passage, logged on 21 dates from 19 Sep (one in sycamores above the Casbah, Millcombe) to 12 Nov (one in Quarter Wall Copse), with a maximum of five on 22 Oct (two in Millcombe, one in Quarter Wall Copse, one in the Terrace Trap willows, and one in Howard's Quarry – the small quarry with willows and blanket weed to the south of VC Quarry). Most other records concerned ones and twos only, but there were three on 12 Oct. Unusually there were several records of birds feeding on the ground. One was on the muddy margins of Millcombe Pond on 12 Oct, whilst another spent much of 14 Oct feeding in the lee of the main track wall alongside Tillage & Brick Fields. Another individual, also on 14<sup>th</sup>, was feeding on the ground, out in the open, on the sunny, sheltered edge of St Helen's Field above Millcombe, together with a Chiffchaff and several Goldcrests.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus**Very common spring and autumn migrant with occasional mass arrivals; breeds sporadically.*

The first of the spring were two on 24 Mar, one of which was in full song in Millcombe Wood. Numbers peaked at 90 on 8 Apr and there were other counts of 50 or more on 9 Apr (50), 11 Apr (53) and 26 Apr (57). One very pale bird, lacking yellow or green tones in its plumage, was seen in Millcombe on 18 Apr and considered likely to be from a northern European breeding population (Dean Jones). The last double-digit count of spring was 17 on 2 May. Although song was heard into Jun there was no evidence of any breeding attempt. Return passage was noted almost daily during the second half of Jul, including a small fall of 45 birds on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Movements peaked in Aug, with 110 on 6<sup>th</sup> representing the highest count of the season and of the whole year. The last was a single bird on 12 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	2	90	17	3	45	110	35	1	–	–
–	–	3	30	29	26	18	21	21	1	–	–

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita***[Common Chiffchaff]***Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; breeds sporadically.*

During the first winter period there were single birds on 10, 20, 24 & 29 Jan and 10 Feb. The first probable spring migrant was in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) on 10 Mar, but it was only from the relatively late date of 22<sup>nd</sup> onwards that passage really got under way. Thereafter there was an almost uninterrupted run of daily records throughout the rest of the spring, though there were only five double-digit counts, all between 24 Mar and 4 Apr, including the modest peak of 23 on 1 Apr. Song was heard throughout May and early Jun and a pair were seen copulating in Millcombe on 10 Jun. However, just one fledgling was being fed by adults in the same area on 14 Jul (Dean Jones), perhaps indicating that productivity had been adversely affected by poor weather earlier in the month. A second pair were feeding three fledglings in upper Millcombe on 20 Jul – again suggestive of poor productivity. Autumn



passage became evident from the end of the first week of Sep, reaching double digits on 10 Sep with 15, then peaking at 60 on 21<sup>st</sup>. Numbers in Oct were unusually low, with 15 on 12<sup>th</sup> being the highest count. At the end of the year there was a late pulse of six on 1 Dec, then further singles on 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. A first-year bird ringed on Lundy in Sep 2019 was caught on Bardsey on 27 Mar (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

Individuals with plumage and calls typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were seen in Millcombe on 1 Dec (one bird) and at several locations on 26 Nov (a small influx of four: two in Millcombe; one in the Terrace willows and on the sidelands above Quarry Beach; and one in the Village next to Quarters). A fifth bird, showing plumage and call characteristics possibly better matching 'Northern' Chiffchaff *P. c. abietinus* was also logged on 26 Nov, together at one point with one of the 'Siberian' Chiffchaffs below the Terrace (all records Dean Jones). In addition, an individual showing plumage and call characters of one of the grey northern or eastern races, possibly *P. c. abietinus*, was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 8 May (Dean Jones). MtDNA analysis of shed body feathers from an individual trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23 Oct indicated maternal lineage as *P. c. abietinus* (Prof. J. Martin Collinson & Thomas Shannon, University of Aberdeen *per* Dean Jones). A good candidate for *abietinus* was also foraging at Millcombe Pond on 6 Nov (Dean Jones). Records of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**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	10	23	6	5	6	4	60	15	6	6
4	1	11	27	26	24	13	13	28	27	19	4

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

*Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically.* During spring migration, logged on 27 dates from 9 Apr (one singing in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) to 29 May (one), with maxima of 19 on 26 Apr and 13 on 7 May. Return passage was noted on nine dates from 21 Jul (one at Quarters Pond) to 20 Sep (two), with maxima of 29 on 6 Aug and six on 10 Sep. The report *Bird Ringing on Lundy* (see p.88) contains details of an adult ringed in Ireland in 2016 that was trapped on Lundy on 8 May, and an adult ringed on Lundy on 26 Apr that was caught in France on 3 Aug.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
—	—	—	19	13	—	2	29	6	—	—	—
—	—	—	12	15	—	3	3	3	—	—	—

*Icterine Warbler, Millcombe, 5<sup>th</sup> September (photo: Richard Taylor) and (right) male Blackcap, Battery Slope, 16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Ones and twos were recorded on eight dates in spring from 19 Apr (one trapped in Millcombe, already wearing a BTO ring – see below) to 17 Jun (a singing bird in the ‘Secret Garden’, lower Millcombe). There were only two logged in autumn: single birds on 23 Aug and 10 Sep. The bird trapped on 19 Apr had been ringed as an adult near Land’s End in Jul 2019 (see also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year bird was watched (and photographed – see p.39) at close range in St John’s Valley during the morning of 6 Sep (Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC – the sixth occurrence for Lundy.

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-year bird was mist-netted in Millcombe (on the slope up to the Ugly) mid-morning on 31 Jul (Dean Jones). It was not seen in the field, either before capture or after release. Another was watched and photographed in willow scrub at the Terrace on 31 Aug (Dean Jones). Records accepted by DBRC.

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

One was feeding actively in lower Millcombe on 5 Sep (Richard Taylor *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

*Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.*

Spring passage migrants were logged on nine dates from 9 Apr (one reeling in St John’s Valley) to 6 May (one), with a maximum of four on 19 Apr (all reeling in Millcombe first thing). The only autumn records were single birds on 10 & 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
–	–	–	4	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	7	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

*Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in winter. Successful breeding confirmed for the first time in 2016, then again in 2018 & 2019.*

The first migrants in spring were two logged on 17 Mar. The highest counts were 75 on 9 Apr and 110 on 11<sup>th</sup>, with 16 additional double-digit counts during the month. A trickle of movement continued throughout May and most of Jun, whilst two pairs got down to the serious business of nesting in Millcombe, where fledglings were first seen on 24 Jun, in the upper part of the valley, followed by a different brood being fed in the Walled Gardens on 9 Jul. The outcome of a third breeding attempt in the tree nursery at Quarter Wall Copse is unknown (Dean Jones). This is the third year in a row of successful breeding, the first time that more than one pair has bred, and the first time that a breeding attempt outside Millcombe has been recorded. Autumn passage became evident from the fourth week of Aug, when 10 were logged on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Counts showed two distinct peaks, one in the first half of Sep (150 on 10<sup>th</sup>) and again in early Oct (100 on 3<sup>rd</sup>). The first of these probably coincides with the main departure of the British and Irish breeding population for Mediterranean and sub-Saharan wintering grounds, whilst the second peak is more likely to involve the arrival of Blackcaps that breed in central and north-west Europe and spend the winter in Britain and Ireland. The last of the year was a single bird on 30 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
–	–	5	110	10	5	5	14	150	100	32	–
–	–	7	30	31	28	20	16	30	27	11	–

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

*Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

In spring, logged on seven dates from 19 Apr (one in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) to 29 May. Most records were of single birds but there were two on 26 Apr and 7 May. Autumn migrants (all single birds) were noted on nine dates from 6 Aug to 4 Nov (trapped and ringed in Millcombe – Chris Dee). Although this is an unusually late date there have been records during the first week of Nov in seven previous years, most recently on 4 Nov 2011. The latest ever was on 27 Nov 1994.

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

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

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

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

Single spring passage migrants were logged on 18, 26 & 27 Apr and 10 & 29 May, the first of these along the Terrace. The bird on 26 Apr was trapped and ringed. The only autumn record was of an unusually late bird photographed at Quarter Wall Pond on 4 Nov (Andy Jayne), just a day after one of the island's latest ever Common Whitethroats (see below).

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

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

The first of the spring was a female in Millcombe on 13 Apr. Thereafter there were records on most days until the fourth week of Jun, with modest peaks of 14 on both 26 Apr and 7 May but no other double-digit counts. Singing males were holding territory in Jun (four singing on 4<sup>th</sup>) and Jul and a pair bred successfully on the sidelands above White Beach, feeding nestlings there on 16 Jun, with a further recently fledged brood being fed on the sidelands just south of Kaaksburg Bay on 24 Jul (Dean Jones). Return passage was noted from 31 Aug (five) until 23 Sep (one), with a maximum of just 10 on 10 Sep. There were no Oct records, so the appearance of a very late bird in Millcombe on 3 Nov (Andy Jayne & Dean Jones) came as quite a surprise, being only the second Nov record for the island (the first as long ago as 1959!).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	14	14	4	5	5	10	–	1	–
–	–	–	14	26	20	14	7	11	–	1	–

**Dartford Warbler** *Curruca undata*

*Lundy vagrant.*

One was in gorse, heather and bracken scrub about 200m south-south-west of Pondsby during the early afternoon of 10 Sep (Tim Jones *et al.* Photo below by Richard Taylor). One was seen briefly in gorse near the Rocket Pole on 20 Sep (Richard Campey). There is no way of knowing for sure if these sightings refer to one or two individuals, though it seems likely that two birds were involved. These constitute the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> records for the island.



**Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla***

[Common Firecrest]

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

In spring there were three on 14 Mar, followed by one on 24<sup>th</sup> (trapped and ringed in the 'Secret Garden', lower Millcombe) and two on 25<sup>th</sup>, then a single male in Millcombe on 5 & 6 Apr (ringed on 6<sup>th</sup>). Autumn migrants were noted from 19 Sep, with records on a further 60 dates to the end of the year, though one lingering into Dec (and on into Jan 2021) probably accounted for most, if not all, sightings after the third week of Nov. The highest counts were five on 20 & 21 Sep and four on 18 & 27 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	1	–	–	–	–	5	4	2	1
–	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	8	20	26	7

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

During the first winter period there were ones and twos on 26 dates from 2 Jan to 4 Mar, including one singing in Millcombe on 3 Jan. The first small arrival of spring migrants was five on 5 Mar, after which passage was noted on a further 41 dates, peaking at 18 on 24 Mar and concluding with one on 1 May. Autumn movements kicked off with singletons on 28 & 31 Aug, followed by 15 on 4 Sep. From then on, records were virtually daily until mid-Nov, peaking at 20 on 27 Sep, 40 on 5 Oct and 83 on 9 Oct – a very modest maximum compared with the mass arrivals that occur in some autumns. Numbers dwindled in the second half of Oct, when 16 on 22<sup>nd</sup> was the highest count, whilst Nov brought low single digits only, with frequency declining from mid-month. The last of the year were two 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
2	2	18	6	1	–	–	1	20	83	6	2
13	9	22	23	1	–	–	2	26	31	20	2

**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

[Eurasian Wren]

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

The highest count of the year, during a walk of the whole island perimeter, was 33 on 16 Jun (Dean Jones). Adults were carrying food to nestlings in Millcombe on 6 Jun and good numbers had fledged by 18<sup>th</sup>. An adult was carrying food near Brambles, for a presumed second brood, on 11 Aug. There was no island-wide count during the post-breeding period of late-summer and autumn when numbers are typically at their highest.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	12	17	15	17	33	10	20	23	20	16	9

**Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

*Uncommon late summer and autumn visitor; very rare outside this period.*One was in Millcombe from 7 to 11 Sep (Rebecca Taylor *et al.*).**Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus***

[Rosy Starling]

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

An adult, mixing with a small flock of juvenile Common Starlings, was around Millcombe early in the day on 21 Jun. It was rather flighty, providing only brief views on the wing, before it finally settled briefly in sycamores near Brambles, then disappeared towards the Village, not to be seen again (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

*Rose-coloured Starling, Millcombe, 21<sup>st</sup> June*  
(photo: Dean Jones).





**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

[Common Starling]

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

A count of 200 on 8 Mar suggested a modest movement of passage migrants through the island, but other counts in late winter and spring were in line with the estimated size of the island's breeding population. Adults were nest-building on 12 Apr and taking food to chicks in nests around the Village on 2 May. Some 56 active nests (the same total as in 2019) were located around the Church, Village and Old Light between 8 & 12 May, with most containing noisy chicks (Dean Jones). The first fledglings were seen in the farmyard on 21 May and a flock of 40 young had built up in Brick Field by 29<sup>th</sup>. Two or three late nests – potentially second broods for pairs that fledged chicks early in the season as all had held large, noisy chicks in May – contained young ready to fledge at the end of Jun (Dean Jones). The first notable arrival in autumn came on 14 Oct, when numbers reached 350, followed by 500 on both 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Counts fell away during the second half of Oct but surged during early Nov, with a huge influx of 4,000 on 4<sup>th</sup>, rising to 4,750 on 5<sup>th</sup>. The last instance of numbers clearly well in excess of the 'resident' population came on 22 Nov, when 326 were logged.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
134	129	200	100	108	70	97	77	200	500	4750	170
6	14	19	5	8	7	16	8	22	15	9	10

**White's Thrush *Zoothera aurea***

*British vagrant.*

A typically wary and elusive individual was seen in Millcombe during the early morning of 7 Oct but could not be relocated after about 08:30 hrs (Dean Jones). However, it was trapped and ringed on the morning of 9<sup>th</sup>, when it was aged as a first-year bird, though its wing length was in the overlap zone between male and female (Nik Ward). Thereafter, it was seen intermittently in Millcombe over the next two weeks, mainly frequenting the wooded area on the south side of the valley, though often seeming to 'disappear' for long periods and usually being seen briefly – either in flight or perched in dense cover – though a few lucky observers had more prolonged views of it perched. It was retrapped on 17<sup>th</sup> (Rob Duncan), when it was found to be in good health, having put on significant body fat, and seen feeding in the relative open near Government House on 22<sup>nd</sup>. There has been one previous Lundy record – a first-year male, also in Millcombe, that was first seen on 15 Oct 1952 and remained on the island until 8 Nov. Record accepted by BBRC.

*White's Thrush, mist-netted in Millcombe, 9<sup>th</sup> October (photo: Dean Jones).*





*Female Ring Ouzel near Old Light, 14<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

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

In spring, logged on 11 dates from 21 Mar to 22 Apr, with a maximum of four on 18 Apr. Return passage migrants were recorded on nine dates from 3 Oct (two) to 5 Nov (one), with a maximum of six on 15 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—
—	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	—

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

There were hints that a few spring migrants were passing through in early Mar when 21 were logged on 6<sup>th</sup>. One was carrying nesting material on 14 Mar. Ten breeding territories were identified (four in Millcombe, one in the Village, one in St Helen's tree nursery, one at Quarter Wall Copse, one at Quarter Wall and two along the Terrace). In addition, singing males were located at Gannets' Combe and Threequarter Wall Bay in May. All but one of the early-season pairs failed, most likely due to the very dry spring making it challenging for the adults to provision chicks with sufficient food. The exception was at Quarter Wall Copse, where two fledglings were seen on 29 May. Second-brood attempts, starting in Jun, were more successful, but most pairs only managed to rear one or two young to fledging (the first in Millcombe on 14 Jul) and these appeared to struggle to develop as quickly as usual. Some birds were still in juvenile plumage, only partially moulted, quite late into the autumn (Dean Jones). Although some autumn movement was probably already under way in Sep, the first real evidence of passage came in mid-Oct when 20 were logged on 7<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by major influxes of 90 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 80 on 16<sup>th</sup>. The majority on the latter date were new arrivals, watched dropping into the island at dawn, rather than birds simply remaining from 15<sup>th</sup>. Numbers were low during the remainder of Oct, but there were 33 on 4 Nov, followed by a further mass arrival of 128 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter, numbers dropped back once more, 24 on 30 Nov being the next highest count to the end of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	6	21	11	14	16	8	9	16	90	128	10

**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.*

Ones and twos were recorded on nine scattered dates in the first winter period and during spring passage, the last of these being one on 11 Apr. The first autumn migrants were five on 12 Oct, building rapidly to 20 on 14<sup>th</sup>, 130 on 15<sup>th</sup> and 200 on 16<sup>th</sup> (alongside significant influxes of Redwings and Blackbirds). Though passage continued to be logged regularly until 2 Dec, daily totals were on the low side, with the exception of 66 on 18 Oct and 69 on 5 Nov. The last of the year were four on 16 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	200	69	6
–	2	5	2	–	–	–	–	–	14	14	3

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

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

Following scattered singles in Jan there was clear evidence of a small spring passage through the island, with 19 records between 26 Feb (one) and 13 Apr (one), including a maximum of 16 on 2 Apr. One in Barton Field on 9 Apr showed plumage characteristics typical of the Icelandic race *T. i. coburni* (Dean Jones). In autumn, after single birds on 28 Sep and 5 Oct, logged almost daily from 7 Oct to 9 Nov, with maxima of 200 or more on six dates, the peak being 400 on 14 Oct. Sound recording during the nights of 11/12 Oct (from the Barn) and 13/14 Oct (from the Castle) detected 45 and 66 Redwing calls, respectively (James Diamond, Tim Jones). Passage continued more sporadically through Nov and into the first week or so of Dec. There were two further isolated records of three on 16 Dec and one on 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	8	16	–	–	–	–	1	400	234	14
5	1	8	10	–	–	–	–	1	21	21	8

**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. Bred sporadically prior to 2010.*

Ones and twos that probably overwintered on the island were recorded in Jan & Feb. These were followed by a very light but distinct spring passage, with up to four birds logged on 28 dates in Mar & Apr, the last of these being one singing in Millcombe on 28 Apr. Although song was heard regularly during fine weather in spring there was no evidence of any breeding territory, and Song Thrushes were sadly absent from May to Aug inclusive, the first autumn migrants being singles logged on 2 & 21 Sep. Passage was noted almost daily in Oct, but numbers were modest and it was not until the first week of Nov that the highest counts were recorded, with 24 on 4<sup>th</sup> and 35 on 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a notable winter count of 11 on 31 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	4	4	–	–	–	–	1	18	35	11
9	8	14	14	–	–	–	–	2	26	19	4

**Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***

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

The only spring record was of one in Barton Field on the late date of 22 May. Logged on five days in autumn: four on 14 Oct (singles in Millcombe and above Pilot's Quay, two on sidelands at Jenny's Cove); one on 15 Oct; two on 22 Oct (over Millcombe), four on 4 Nov (two flying high towards the mainland first thing, then one in Barton Field, and one with Fieldfares near the Old Hospital). A last singleton graced Millcombe on 6 Nov.





Spotted Flycatcher, Millcombe, 1<sup>st</sup> May (photo: Dean Jones).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

*Common but declining spring and autumn passage migrant on the UK 'red' list of birds of conservation concern; irregular breeder, last confirmed in 2017.*

Spring passage extended from 23 Apr (three in Millcombe) to at least 1 Jun (four), with peaks of 26 on 6 May and 12 the next day. All other counts were in single figures. A pair settled to nest in the Casbah (just south of Millcombe House) and were incubating four eggs at the end of Jun and feeding small nestlings by 6 Jul. Sadly, a spell of cool, wet and very windy weather at this time meant the adults were unable to find sufficient insect food and the chicks were found dead in the nest on 10 Jul. This was only the second confirmed breeding attempt of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, following a successful nest at Quarter Wall Copse in 2017. Return passage was evident from 6 Aug when there was an influx of 13. Numbers were generally low, the highest subsequent count being 10 on both 24 Aug and 1 Sep. Two were fly-catching from cliffs above Long Roost on 9 Aug. The last of the year, a single bird, was on the relatively early date of 23 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	26	4	2	13	10	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	19	23	7	10	16	–	–	–



**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

There were possible hints of spring passage in Mar when 12 were counted on 6<sup>th</sup>, though this would actually be well within the size of the island's breeding population in 2020. Nine breeding territories were located (four in Millcombe, one in St Helen's Copse, one above White Beach, two at Quarter Wall Copse and one on the Terrace). Adults were gathering nesting material in Millcombe on 3 Apr, collecting food in the Walled Gardens on 30 Apr, and the first fledglings were seen in the same area on 19 May (Dean Jones). A second brood of fledged young was being fed at Quarter Wall Copse on 15 Jul. A protracted period of post-juvenile dispersal and autumn passage was recorded from 31 Aug, when 12 were logged. Though numbers were very much up and down, further influxes included 15 on 11 Sep, 16 on 27 Sep, 22 on 30 Sep, 25 on 9 Oct, 40 on 12 Oct and six other counts of 20 or more in the second half of Oct, before declining during Nov. There was a notable midwinter count of 11 on 31 Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	4	12	7	5	7	6	12	22	40	16	11

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

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

First-winter birds were found in Quarter Wall Copse on 6 Oct (Paul & Jackie Holt, Dean Jones) and 18 Oct (Dean Jones). Plumage differences apparent in photographs confirmed these to be two different individuals. 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 only spring migrants were a male in Millcombe and female in the Terrace willows on 11 Apr, followed by a male at Jenny's Cove on 17 Apr, two females on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a male and a female bathing in the stream below the Casbah on 9 May. Autumn passage was logged on 22 dates from 9 Aug (one in Millcombe) to 23 Sep (one). The highest counts were six on 31 Aug and 10 on 1 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
—	—	—	2	2	—	—	6	10	—	—	—
—	—	—	3	1	—	—	5	17	—	—	—

*Red-breasted Flycatcher, Quarter Wall Copse, 6<sup>th</sup> October and (right) female Pied Flycatcher, High Street, 23<sup>rd</sup> April (photos: Dean Jones).*



**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

The only record during the first winter period was one on the camping field gate on 10 Jan. Spring migrants were seen on five days from 3 Mar (a female at Benjamin's Chair) to 7 Apr (a female on the Terrace), with a peak of three on 27 Mar (all females, along the West Side between Old Light and Jenny's Cove). Autumn passage was logged on 12 dates, from 19 Oct (one) to 1 Dec (one). The highest count was four on 22 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1
1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	1

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

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

In spring, ones and twos were recorded on 10 dates from 9 Apr (a male on a Barton Field fenceline) to 9 May. Autumn passage was particularly sparse, being logged on just seven dates from 7 Sep (one) to 23 Oct (one), with a peak of three 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
—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
—	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	5	2	—	—

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Perhaps the poorest year yet for this 'red-listed' species of UK conservation concern. In spring there were ones and twos on five days between 19 Apr (two in South West Field) and 8 May, whilst autumn passage brought single birds only on seven well-scattered dates from 9 Aug (one between the water tanks and Airfield) to 12 Oct.

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

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

*Male Whinchat, Old Light track, 22<sup>nd</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*



**Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola***

[European Stonechat]

*Breeds in small numbers but set back in hard winters; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.*

There was a remarkable fall of spring-passage migrants on 5 Mar when at least 36 were distributed around the island, including 12 concentrated in a small area of South West Field. Obvious passage continued until the middle of Mar, after which most observations appeared to involve Lundy's small breeding population. Four pairs successfully fledged chicks from nests sited next to the Beach Road, north of St Helen's Copse, along the Terrace and at Tibbetts. Three of these pairs were feeding young on 13 May and the fourth was feeding young on 23 May. A fledged second brood was being fed along the Lower East Side Path on 15 Jul (Dean Jones). Although there was likely a turnover of dispersing young in summer, autumn movement was only really apparent from the third week of Sep (a count of 12 on 21<sup>st</sup>). The highest totals came in Oct, with 22 on 8<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**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	4	36	3	6	8	7	7	12	26	8	1
7	8	23	18	20	15	13	8	22	24	12	2

**Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

[Northern Wheatear]

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

The first migrants of spring – two on 20 Mar followed by a single-digit trickle over the next six days – were a little later than in many recent years. The first more significant arrivals were 26 on 27 Mar, 18 on 1 Apr and 44 on 7 Apr. The peak during spring passage was 92 on 15 Apr, whereas the highest count of the year, 102 on 16 Jun, reflected the presence of family parties noted during a walk of the whole island perimeter (Dean Jones). Whilst some adults were still gathering nest material on 2 May, the first adults carrying food to nests were seen at the Quarries on 20 May, and the first fledgling (at Halfway Wall) was logged on 30<sup>th</sup>, with numerous fledged young present along the South End and West Side by 7 Jun (Dean Jones). During autumn migration an arrival of 60 on 12 Sep was by far the highest count of the season. The last record concerned a flurry of six on 21 Oct.

Birds showing plumage characteristics of 'Greenland Wheatear' *O. o. leucorhoa* were logged between 9 Apr and 10 May, with a maximum of at least eight on 23 Apr. One was also noted on 29 Sep (all records Dean Jones).

Tony Taylor has provided the following update on the long-running 'Retrapping Adults for Survival' (RAS) study of Lundy's breeding Wheatears: "*The usual three weeks of fieldwork in late May and early June were not possible because of the Covid lockdown. However, thanks to some dedicated searching by Dean Jones and other islanders, 34 different individuals colour-ringed in previous years were identified. These included 24 birds from 2019 and a further 10 from the preceding three years. Since fieldwork effort was not directly comparable with other years, the BTO was unable to calculate adult survival rates, but the records will still be very valuable in tracking the histories of the individuals involved.*"

**Request.** Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos of colour-ringed birds are particularly valuable 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
–	–	26	92	54	102	45	36	60	6	–	–
–	–	11	27	28	20	20	20	23	10	–	–

**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 (as entered in the LFS logbook)**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
59	57	38	42	55	70	39	69	50	36	–	41

The first fledglings of the year were seen on 14 May.

PhD researcher Jamie Dunning has contributed the following report on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme:

Our project monitoring the House Sparrows on Lundy turned 20 in 2020 (excluding the addition of historic back-data), and it is this long-term monitoring, as well as the population's geographic isolation, which makes the Lundy Sparrow Project so valuable to ecological research. These specific factors allow us to study the genetics of the population without the frequent introduction of new genetic information from immigration/emigration, as would be the case on the mainland. This genetic pedigree, which underpins much of our research, has allowed us to continually record the pairings, infidelities and divorces, births and deaths of more than 10,000 individual sparrows. Complete genetic pedigrees are rare in wild systems because they require continued monitoring without missing a single generation. However, while the Lundy project weathered the foot-and-mouth epidemic of 2001, fieldwork in 2020 presented a particular challenge owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

Lucy Winder and I arrived in mid-June to an island in lockdown, having already missed the first two waves of House Sparrow broods. Despite this, we monitored 35 broods up to August, from which 99 chicks fledged (although some of these birds were captured as post-fledglings). Given the late start, it is difficult to compare with data from previous years. In 2019 we ringed 217 chicks from 103 broods, so the number of broods in 2020 may have been slightly down.

As of autumn 2020, we began using LFS rings for the sparrows we catch, which we hope will unify our project with other bird monitoring on the island. Indeed this also means that it is easier for visiting LFS ringers to contribute to our colour-marking work, and their efforts probably helped us catch up on what we missed early on in the breeding season.

We returned in October and November to catch, colour-mark and DNA sample those birds that we missed as fledglings. Some of these individuals can be retrospectively allocated to natal broods, based on unique genetic information derived from the parents. Despite the increased effort, we caught far fewer birds (73, including 29 ringed prior to 2020) than during the previous year's winter trip (192), which may suggest a poor breeding season, or high mortality in the early autumn of 2020.

As the preceding few seasons were particularly good, it is not unexpected that the breeding population was smaller in 2020.

We now hope, without the uncertainty of spring 2020, that our 2021 field season will proceed more normally. The apparently small breeding population may mean that we missed fewer sparrows than we feared, and that those we did miss were subsequently caught, ringed and DNA-sampled in the autumn.

We would like to thank the Conservation Team on Lundy, the Landmark Trust and the LFS for their continued support, especially over the course of what was a difficult year for everyone. Here's to warm weather and more sparrows in 2021.

#### **Dunnock *Prunella modularis***

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

The highest day-total of the year was 14, logged on 2 & 6 Mar and again on 11, 12 & 30 Oct. Whilst these numbers could be accounted for by the island's breeding population alone, it is likely that some dispersing or passage birds move through the island in both spring and autumn. Twelve breeding territories were located – the highest for some years (five in Millcombe, two in St Helen's Combe, one above White Beach, one at Quarter Wall Copse, two along the Terrace and one at South Light). Several adults were feeding nestlings in 'Smelly Gully' (lower Millcombe) on 24 May and the first fledglings were seen there on 30<sup>th</sup>, with some pairs embarking on second broods before the end of Jun and feeding fledglings again in Millcombe on 14 Jul (Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	8	14	12	9	12	5	8	12	14	12	4



**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.*

Spring migrants were recorded on nine dates from 10 Apr (two males foraging around sheep in High Street Field) to 26 May (one), with a maximum of three on both 28 Apr and 6 May – and also including one, unusually, at Jenny's Cove on 22 Apr. Autumn singles were logged on seven dates from 31 Aug to 22 Sep.

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

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

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

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

The only spring-passage records were of single birds on four scattered dates between 8 & 27 Mar, followed by one in Millcombe on the unusual date of 27 May. A strong autumn passage was recorded on 46 dates from 29 Aug (one) to 30 Nov (one), with a maximum of seven on both 15 Sep and 21 Oct. During the two peak months there were 28 'bird-days' (used here to mean accumulative total of daily counts) in Sep and 51 bird-days in Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	–	1	–	–	1	7	7	1	–
–	–	4	–	1	–	–	1	14	26	5	–

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

[White Wagtail]

*Pied Wagtail: nests most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant; rare in midwinter.*

*White Wagtail: occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.*

After three scattered records in Jan and early Feb, spring passage commenced with a trickle of birds during the second half of Feb, peaked during the first half of Mar and continued at least until early May. The highest count of confirmed Pied Wagtails was 15 on 5 Mar, whilst the highest combined count of Pieds and untraced 'flyover' *albas* was 23 on 11 Mar. Three Pied Wagtail breeding territories were located (Millcombe, Village allotments and Lambing Shed). A male was collecting food for nestlings in the Village on 15 May and the first two fledglings were seen in Millcombe on 7 Jun. One pair located its second nest of the season in a compost bin at Paradise Row towards the end of Jun (Dean Jones). Autumn passage was evident from the tail-end of Aug and peaked during the first half of Sep. The highest day-total was 63 on 7 Sep, all unidentified *alba* wagtails, whilst the maximum number of confirmed Pied Wagtails was 21 on 18 Sep. The last of the year was one on 26 Nov.

**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(1)	5(5)	23(17)	114(10)	10(8)	10(10)	3(3)	9(5)	63(0)	15(10)	5(5)	–
2	7	27	27	30	17	20	25	30	19	7	–

Confirmed White Wagtails were recorded on 17 days during spring passage, from 20 Mar to 14 May, with a maximum of nine on 26 Apr (seven in Brick Field, two in Barton Field), and on 13 dates in autumn, from 31 Aug (one) to 7 Oct (one), with a maximum of five, in Barton Field, on 18 Sep.

**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
–	–	1	9	2	–	–	1	5	1	–	–
–	–	2	13	2	–	–	1	11	1	–	–



Male Yellow Wagtail, High Street Field, 10<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).

### Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

*Breeds; very common passage migrant in spring and autumn; uncommon in winter.*

As is usual, very few were present in Jan and the first half of Feb. The first obvious pulses of spring migrants were towards the end of Feb, including 16 on 21<sup>st</sup> and 36 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Passage peaked in the first half of Mar when there were five counts of 100 or more, the maximum being 214 on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Adults were gathering nesting material in South West Field on 16 Apr and continued to do so into early May, though chicks were already being fed in other nests in the same area on 8 May. The first fledglings were seen around the Quarries on 31 May, with second-brood fledglings noted from 22 Jul (Dean Jones). A steady but unspectacular autumn migration was most evident in mid-Sep when numbers exceeded 200 on four dates between 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, including the peak count of 400 on 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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	36	214	98	69	89	55	60	400	190	24	9
3	17	27	28	29	22	26	23	30	30	25	14

### Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

*Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

Spring passage was logged on 13 dates from 10 Apr (one over Millcombe) to 21 May; all records concerned ones and twos only. In autumn there were four on 9 Aug followed by a long gap until the next on 31 Aug. The highest count was eight on 10 Sep, whilst the last of the year was a single bird on 24 Sep.

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

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

### Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

*British vagrant.*

The calls of one in flight over Millcombe at about 08:00 hrs on 13 Nov were recorded using a mobile phone (Dean Jones). Record accepted by BBRC – the 12<sup>th</sup> record for the island, the most recent previous occurrence being on 26 & 27 Oct 2017.

### Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

The highest count during the first winter period (and for the whole year) was 39 on 18 Jan between South End and along the West Side up to North Light. Song flight was first noted on 22 Feb in the south-east of the island (Dean Jones). The spring peak was 33 on 5 Mar, whilst the autumn maximum was 18 on 16 Oct. Adults were carrying food to nestlings along the south and east sidelands on 20 May and fledged young were noted foraging in the pig pen on 13 Jun (Dean Jones).

#### Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
39	13	33	10	21	23	4	6	17	18	15	5

**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.*

Only single-digit counts were made during the first half of the year – consistent with the island's small resident breeding population and with no evident sign of any spring passage. Two pairs bred in Millcombe, where a female was gathering nesting material on 5 Apr and delivering food to nestlings on 15 May. The first fledglings appeared in Millcombe on 29 May. A third nest was located in Quarter Wall Copse (Dean Jones). Small post-breeding aggregations, likely involving some dispersal from the mainland, built up from the end of Aug and through Sep. Numbers reached the low 20s early in Oct, followed by a sudden mass arrival of 500 on 14<sup>th</sup>, but there were only four other three-figure counts during the rest of the month, all of 300 birds or fewer. A second wave saw numbers peak at 950 on 4 Nov and 400 the next day – the final three-figure count of the season – though small flocks continued to pass through until the end of the first week in Dec.

**Maximum count for each month**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	8	4	9	7	4	14	16	500	950	11

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

There were no records for the first winter period or during spring passage. The first autumn migrant was logged on the relatively early date of 23 Sep, followed by records on a further 13 days from 15 Oct (4) to 22 Nov (1), with a maximum of six on 4 Nov.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

*Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.*

A single female on 16 Apr was "resting on the allotment wall after a run-in with the Pied Wagtail pair. The bird was seen again later in the afternoon foraging in Millcombe Wood" (Dean Jones *et al.*). It reappeared on Sue Waterfield's feeders on 18 Apr. Two flew over Millcombe and then south over the Castle towards the mainland on the morning of 15 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

*Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant.*

In spring a female was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Mar and a pair were foraging in Millcombe on the highly unusual date of 31 May (Dean Jones). In autumn a male and female were in Millcombe on 27 Oct, the female being seen on four further dates up to and including 5 Nov (Dean Jones *et al.*). A male ringed on Lundy in Apr 2015 was found dead in mainland North Devon on 1 Dec (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.88).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

*Nationally scarce migrant.*

A brown, second-calendar-year male was singing for about 20 minutes in Millcombe during the early morning of 1 Jun (Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

Single birds on 13 Mar (a male in Millcombe) and 3 Apr (a female calling loudly from the Laundry garden privet) were the only records during spring passage. In autumn, migrants were logged on 14 dates from 3 Oct (4) to 4 Nov (1), with a maximum of six on 16 Oct.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

There were no records of overwintering birds. Spring passage started with one calling over Tillage Field on 7 Mar. There were further ones and twos after mid-month, but it was not until 23 Mar that more significant movements began, with double-digit counts logged on most days to the end of the month. Passage peaked in mid-Apr at 143 on 16<sup>th</sup>. Nest-building was first noted on 12 Apr but several pairs



*Female Crossbills, Millcombe, 19<sup>th</sup> June (photo: Dean Jones).*

were still gathering nesting material on 7 May. The first fledglings were logged on 2 Jun in South West Field (Dean Jones). Post-breeding flocks began to build up in late summer, with maxima of 96 on 15<sup>th</sup> Jul, 204 on 9 Aug and 250 on 11 Sep. Thereafter, autumn passage produced eight further three-figure counts to mid-Oct, the last of these being 123 on 16<sup>th</sup>, dropping away sharply to a trickle of single-digit counts from the end of Oct, through Nov and early Dec, to the last of the year, a single bird on 11 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
–	–	20	143	58	76	96	204	250	130	6	2
–	–	13	30	30	25	27	27	27	22	7	3

**Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret***

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

Unusually there was just one record of a single bird in spring, on 7 Apr. Autumn passage was logged on 28 dates from 10 Sep (one) to 8 Nov (one), with maxima of five on 21 & 23 Sep, six on 27 Sep and four on 5 Nov. There were no records for either winter period.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	6	3	4	–
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	8	15	5	–

**Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra***

[Red Crossbill]

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

One flew over Millcombe on 3 Jun, followed by two females, also in Millcombe on 19-21 Jun (Dean Jones). One was calling in flight over the Terrace on 21 Sep (Sam Bosanquet). In Oct nine flew south over Millcombe on 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by up to seven around the valley on 15<sup>th</sup> – including four perched in the Battlements sycamores (Dean Jones *et al.*), and finally a female in Millcombe on 22<sup>nd</sup> (Dean Jones).



**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Between one and three presumed overwintering birds were logged on scattered dates during Jan and Feb. Records were more frequent in late Feb and the first half of Mar, suggesting a trickle of spring passage, but it was not until the second half of Mar that a count of 19 on 17<sup>th</sup> confirmed movements were properly under way. Passage was steady but unspectacular, with no large numbers recorded. At least six breeding territories were located, including four in Millcombe and single pairs at Quarter Wall Copse and the Terrace (Dean Jones). A pair was gathering nesting material in Millcombe on 7 May, with the first fledglings seen there on 31<sup>st</sup>, and many fledged young noted on 7 Jun. Adults were again collecting nest-lining material in Millcombe, in preparation for a second brood, on 1 Jul. Numbers were consistent with the breeding population until autumn passage got going from mid-Sep. The highest counts were logged in Oct when there were four days with more than 100, the maximum being 183 on 15<sup>th</sup>. Only low single-digit counts were logged after the first week in Nov, with the exception of 11 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
2	3	19	24	38	21	20	28	74	183	18	11
8	8	26	30	31	27	30	27	28	28	26	11

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

There were only two records during the first eight months of the year: a single bird in Millcombe on 22 Apr and a male (on feeders at Paradise Row) on the unusual dates of 5 & 6 Jun. In autumn there was a markedly early and strong start to passage from 4 Sep, including 40 on 6<sup>th</sup> and 120 on 9<sup>th</sup>. Smaller movements were logged on most days during the remainder of Sep and throughout Oct (maximum 46 on 30<sup>th</sup>), then more sporadically in Nov, with the last a single bird 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
–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	120	46	10	1
–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	22	31	14	1

**Lapland Bunting** *Calciarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

One was in Brick Field on the exceptional date of 13 Feb (Dean Jones) – the only previous Feb record was in 1954! Autumn migrants were logged by multiple observers on 12 dates from 12 Sep (two in South West Field and one over the Terrace) to 5 Nov (one), with the majority between mid-Sep and mid-Oct. There was one further day-total of three, over Threequarter Wall on 8 Oct; all other records were of ones and twos only. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

There was a very unusual midwinter record of two, in flight over the Terrace, on 24 Jan (Dean Jones). Autumn passage was distinctly sparse, with records of single birds on just 12 dates from 17 Sep to 6 Dec at locations scattered across the island from Rocket Pole to North End (multiple observers). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 19 Oct (Rob Duncan, Dean Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

**Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica**British vagrant.*

A female was in Millcombe for a short period during the morning of 10 May (Dean Jones). Writing for the Lundy Birds blog at the time, Dean reported that: *"It was a rather quiet start in Millcombe first thing, with very few migrants moving up the Valley and into the mist-nets. As the forecast predicted, the wind picked*

up and the nets had to be furled. It was then – as I was tying up the last of the nets in the Secret Garden – that I heard a bird ‘zitting’ high up on the Sycamore in the heart of the garden. Luckily, I could just about see its head through the canopy and, as I raised my binoculars, I was immediately met with a beautiful chestnut-and-white face pattern – the markings of a female Rustic Bunting! The bird then flew around the Valley for a few minutes or so, perching briefly again in the trees next to Millcombe House before flying towards St John’s Valley and out of sight.” Record accepted by BBRC – the seventh for the island.

### Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

*Regular autumn migrant in very small numbers; rare and irregular spring migrant; very rare in winter.* There were four scattered records of single birds during the winter and early spring months, from 19 Jan (calling from gorse near the Old Hospital) to 23 Apr (a female in Millcombe). Thereafter, not recorded until autumn passage brought records on 12 dates from 20 Sep (one over Jenny’s Cove) to 8 Nov (one). There were three on 5 Nov (two at Quarter Wall and one at Rocket Pole); all other days involved ones and twos. The last of the year were two on the unusual date of 22 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	2	3	2
1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	7	4	1

### References

**Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007.** *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon EX34 9TB. [www.birdsoflundy.org.uk](http://www.birdsoflundy.org.uk)

**Jones, D.W. 2020.** *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2020*. Lundy, Bristol Channel, Devon EX39 2LY.

## 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 Devon Birds ([www.devonbirds.org](http://www.devonbirds.org)), preferably via BirdTrack.

### Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One on the crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 6 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). One on 23 Jul (Josh Harris *et al.*). One on the crossing to Bideford on 8 Aug (Josh Harris).

### Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Two on the crossing from Lundy to Bideford on 6 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

## ESCAPE

### Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

An escaped, notably rufous bird, wearing jesses, was perched on the allotment wall outside Paradise Row during the evening of 16 Apr. The following day it was seen at Jenny’s Cove in the afternoon “battling through the strong winds and hordes of upset gulls” (Dean Jones) and later flying over the Village (Sue Waterfield). Record accepted (as relating to an escaped bird) by Devon Bird Recorder.

*Escaped Black Kite, Paradise Row,  
16<sup>th</sup> April (photo: Dean Jones).*

