



▲ Starlings near St. Helen's Church, 7th December (photo: Andrea May).

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2022

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REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 159 species (pending three outstanding rarity decisions) were recorded during 2022. Highlights included:

- Record spring counts of Brambling in March
- Big counts of 400 Willow Warbler in August and 12,000 Swallow in September
- Earliest autumn record for Ring Ouzel on 2nd September
- Adult male Baltimore Oriole on 8th October
- Record count of 4,000 Fieldfare in October
- Five species of goose recorded during the year

Note: Due to failure of the island's weather station, no data on temperature are available beyond the month of July.

JANUARY – Max temp 13.3°C, min -1.6°C, mean 7.5°C. Rainfall 83.1 mm. 60 species recorded

The month started with strong southwesterly and westerly winds, with a brief change to the north on 4th & 5th. Dense fog on 10th cleared with light winds for the rest of the week bringing some early spring-like conditions. Towards the end of the month fog was frequent but it remained relatively mild.

A few migrants were noted from 4th including **Skylark**, **Siskin** and **Fieldfare**. **Goldcrests** and **Woodpigeons** were present throughout January with numbers building towards the end of

the month. A **Cormorant** was seen around Rocket Pole Pond until 3rd. A **Merlin** was frequently seen hunting around the south of the island and a **Kestrel** arrived on 13th. On Pondsburry the number of **Teal** remained at around 10 with a maximum of 12. The 12th and 13th also saw some early migration, with a **Brambling**, three **Lesser Redpolls**, 24 **Linnets**, 380 **Starlings** and five **Golden Plovers**, as well as a **Lapland Bunting** that flew over the Village with **Skylarks**. A total of 36 **Golden Plovers** were recorded, including 13 flying over Ackland's Moor on 28th. A **Ringed Plover** flew over the Village on 14th. Coinciding with a small arrival of **Woodpigeons**, a **Stock Dove** was seen on 14th and another, or the same bird, was still in Millcombe on 22nd, 26th, 28th & 29th. An elusive female **Bullfinch** was heard between 16th & 24th. A **Collared Dove** in the Farmyard on 19th was the first winter record since 2000. A total of 58 **Oystercatchers** were counted during a perimeter walk of the whole island on 31st. **Snipe** were often flushed from wet areas and **Jack Snipe** were seen on 5th, 26th & 31st. There were eight records of **Chiffchaff** during the month. **Reed Buntings** were frequently seen in the gorse south of Pondsburry, including a male and two females on 21st. First seen on 26th, a **Lapwing** was in Barton Field until the end of the month. Bizarrely, the only **Woodcock** seen this month was roosting in the Casbah on 28th. **Water Rails** were occasionally heard calling from around Millcombe Pond and Smelly Gully. Large feeding flocks of gulls and other seabirds were frequently seen off the East Side, with up to 2,000 **Kittiwakes** and occasional **Mediterranean** and **Common Gulls**. **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and **Fulmars** were all seen on the cliffs along the West Side preparing for a busy breeding season. At least two **Great Northern Divers** were seen in the Landing Bay throughout the month and the first **Red-throated Diver** was seen on 31st.

Rarities and scarcities

The **Pink-footed Goose** and **White-fronted Goose** first seen on 23rd December 2021 were still present in High Street Field on New Year's Day but not subsequently. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** was heard calling in the Secret Garden on 9th.

FEBRUARY – Max temp 11.4°C, min 2.7°C, mean 8.5°C. Rainfall 115.6 mm. 57 species recorded

The beginning of the month was mostly dry and bright with moderate winds. Strong winds from the west started on 4th, continuing for much of the month, although there were a few quieter days from 7th and the 9th started with fog. Severe weather warnings were in place for the week of 14th to 20th and Storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin whipped across the island in quick succession, bringing gusts of up to 86mph before the weather station broke! The 25th to 27th were dry and bright.

Mild mornings encouraged the first **Song Thrush**, **Robin**, **Duncock** and **Chaffinch** to start singing in Millcombe. Up to 11 **Teal** and 19 **Mallards** were logged, along with up to three **Woodpigeons** on most days. A **Stock Dove** was seen on 25th & 28th. A total of 14 **Snipe** were counted on 1st, most of which were on a wet flush in South West Field. There were also three records of **Jack Snipe**, on 4th, 11th & 17th. A **Woodcock** was flushed along Quarter Wall on 7th. The **Lapwing** from January stayed until 2nd. The **Merlin** continued to hunt around the south of the island up to 17th and was observed hunting migrating **Skylarks** as well as the resident **Starlings**. **Kittiwake** numbers continued to build off the East Side, with a maximum count of 3,500 before dropping back to 500 on 11th. Several smaller gull species were present amongst them, including totals of 71 **Common Gulls**, nine **Black-headed Gulls** and six **Mediterranean Gulls**. At least three **Great Northern Divers** were in the Landing Bay and **Red-throated Divers** were noted up to 17th. **Chiffchaff** (max three) and **Goldcrest** (max five) were recorded almost daily. A female **Black Redstart** was on the slope below Benjamin's Chair on 25th. Some finch movement was noted, with four **Bramblings** north and 73 **Linnets** over on 11th. Four **Greenfinches** were logged, with one on 11th, two on 15th and one on 28th. A **Bullfinch** was heard again in Millcombe on 6th & 8th.

A single **Siskin** was heard on 17th. **Meadow Pipit** migration started towards the end of the month with 52 counted on 26th and 66 on 27th. The first **Snow Bunting** of the year was beyond Threequarter Wall on 2nd and **Reed Buntings** continued to be seen in the gorse south of Pondsburry on 8th & 11th.

Rarities and scarcities

A single **Little Gull** was seen with **Kittiwakes** off the East Side on 2nd and then two the following day. After the mid-month storms, a 2nd calendar-year **Iceland Gull** was on Ackland's Moor on 19th.

MARCH – Max temp 14.1°C, min 2.3°C, mean 9.2°C Rainfall 52.6 mm. 76 species recorded

Wind from the north and east brought a cold but clear first week. Winds picked up from the 8th with occasional showers and drizzle. Easterly winds continued until the end of the month and it remained bright and mild.

Spring passage got into full swing with the first arrivals of trans-Saharan migrants being two **Wheatears** on 8th. A **Chiffchaff** on 8th was likely the first new arrival, following the departure of wintering birds before the end of February. **Sand Martins** were first seen on 10th and then on ten further dates, peaking at five on 27th. The first **Swallows** appeared on 15th building to 25 by the end of the month. The first **Puffins** arrived on 12th with eight in Jenny's Cove and the first on land were recorded on 22nd. **Manx Shearwaters** were not far behind with a bird calling from a burrow below Old Light on 19th. A **House Martin** was seen at North Light on 20th, with three other single birds passing through towards the end of the month. The first **Blackcap** occurred on 17th with **Willow Warblers** arriving from 21st. A female **Firecrest** was present on three days from 18th, followed by a male on 24th. **Meadow Pipit** migration was notable on 10th & 20th with more than 100 on both dates. The first **Tree Pipit** was heard on 27th. The first six **White Wagtails** were seen on 20th followed by nine across the island on both 22nd & 23rd. A **Mistle Thrush** seen on 21st hung around until the end of the month. The first **Ring Ouzels** of the year were all males, with singles on 28th and two on 29th. The most notable arrival was a fall of **Bramblings** on 20th & 21st with record spring counts of 33 and 40 across the island. The first small flocks of **Siskin** were seen on 24th, 25th & 27th. A female **Bullfinch** was in Millcombe on 27th. Single **Reed Buntings** were recorded on 10th & 27th.

A high count of 13 **Teal** was made on 16th, and of 20 **Mallards** on 10th. **Woodpigeons** were recorded every day, flocks of 10 being seen on 16th & 31st. **Stock Doves** were noted on ten dates, with two present on 26th & 27th. Six **Golden Plovers** flew north on 22nd, while the first **Dunlin** of the year were seen along the West Side on 20th & 23rd. At least two **Jack Snipe** and three **Snipe** were counted on multiple occasions. Five **Black-headed Gulls** were off North End and the Terrace on 22nd. Fewer **Kittiwakes** were seen, the biggest count being 451 on 20th. The last **Red-throated Divers** of the winter were seen on 22nd, including one off Rat Island and another two off North Light. A flock of seven **Grey Herons** headed north past Jenny's Cove on 19th, another individual stopping off on the island from 21st to 23rd. A male **Kestrel** arrived on 16th and remained to breed. A female **Merlin** was seen on ten dates and a **Sparrowhawk** was logged on three dates. A **Rook** was heard calling over the Village on 14th. **Skylarks** started song-fighting whilst others were seen moving south, the highest count being 50 on 22nd.

Rarities and scarcities

A 2nd calendar-year **Yellow-legged Gull** was in Tillage Field with **Herring Gulls** on 4th. A female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on the Terrace and in Quarter Wall Copse on 29th & 30th. A **Grey Plover** flew over Ackland's Moor calling on 25th.

FIRST DATES FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

March	8 th	Wheatear, Chiffchaff
	9 th	Grey Wagtail
	10 th	Sand Martin
	12 th	Puffin
	15 th	Swallow
	17 th	Blackcap
	19 th	Grey Heron, Manx Shearwater
	20 th	Dunlin, House Martin, White Wagtail
	21 st	Willow Warbler
	24 th	Siskin
April	27 th	Tree Pipit
	28 th	Ring Ouzel
	3 rd	Redstart
	11 th	Whitethroat
	12 th	Sandwich Tern, Yellow Wagtail
	14 th	Grasshopper Warbler
	15 th	Sedge Warbler
	17 th	Pied Flycatcher
	20 th	Whimbrel, Lesser Whitethroat
	23 rd	Ringed Plover, Common Sandpiper
May	24 th	Reed Warbler, Whinchat
	25 th	Osprey
	27 th	Swift
	29 th	Curlew, Garden Warbler
	30 th	Spotted Flycatcher
	1 st	Cuckoo
	11 th	Hobby

LAST DATES FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

March	22 nd	Red-throated Diver
	27 th	Reed Bunting
April	4 th	Jack Snipe, Fieldfare
	8 th	Brambling
	12 th	Redwing
	30 th	Great Northern Diver
May	1 st	Snipe
	7 th	Firecrest
	8 th	Snow Bunting
	11 th	Goldcrest
	13 th	Woodcock
	27 th	Merlin



▲ Puffin, Jenny's Cove, 15th June
(photo: Richard Campey).

▼ Firecrest, Millcombe
(photo: Richard Campey).



APRIL – Max temp 16.2°C, min 1.9°C, mean 9.4°C. Rainfall 15.5 mm. 105 species recorded

Strong winds from the northeast and west at the start of the month. Rain was recorded on 4th and some hail on 6th. Poor visibility on 13th preceded light winds from the south. Towards the end of the month the winds picked up from the east.

Migration continued to gather pace with some very busy days, especially in Millcombe. A **Firecrest** and five **Goldcrests** were seen on 3rd, with single **Goldcrests** present on another four dates. The first **Redstart** was a male seen by the Ugly on 3rd. Four **Bramblings** were also seen on 3rd with a single bird up to 8th. Two female **Bullfinches** were ringed on 3rd and one was seen on 4th, followed by a male on 7th. Low cloud on 4th brought in some migrant thrushes, among them 66 **Redwings** (including a flock of 40) seen across the island, four **Fieldfares** and two **Mistle Thrushes**. A count of 17 **Woodpigeons** on 5th was the highest of the month. A **Snow Bunting** was heard flying over Rocket Pole on 5th. **Chaffinches** were confirmed breeding in Millcombe when mating was witnessed on 5th. A total of nine **Cormorants** heading north during the month included a flock of five on 9th. A **Grey Heron** flew north on 10th. Some 30 **Willow Warblers** and 40 **Blackcaps** were seen on 3rd before an arrival of 60 **Willow Warblers**, 30 **Chiffchaffs** and 150 **Blackcaps** occurred on 16th. At least two **Merlins** were noted – a male on 10th and a female on 13 dates. There were a few days of strong **Meadow Pipit** migration until just the breeding birds remained. The highest totals were 75 on 10th, 122 on 11th and 91 on 12th. Along with the **Meadow Pipits**, a total of six individual **Tree Pipits** were recorded flying over. The first **Whitethroat** was seen in Millcombe on 11th. The last **Redwing** of the spring was a single bird on 12th. Also on this date a **Sandwich Tern** flew across the Landing Bay, whilst a **Yellow Wagtail** over Quarter Wall was also the first of the year. A further three were recorded during the month, including a male **Blue-headed Wagtail** from 24th to 26th. After fog on 13th, the first three **Grasshopper Warblers** of the year were heard reeling. The first **Sedge Warbler** was ringed, along with 24 **Willow Warblers** and 57 **Blackcaps** mist-netted in Millcombe on 14th. A **Water Rail** was singing by Quarter Wall on 15th. Eighteen **Stonechats** were logged on 17th, probably a mix of resident breeders and passage birds. Six **Pied Flycatchers** included a male on the Terrace on 17th, while a male and two females were in Millcombe on 26th. A **Rook** flew over Castle Hill on 19th.

The number of **Swallows** moving north increased towards the end of the month. Highest counts were 4,200 on 27th and 1,020 on 29th. The peak **Sand Martin** count was 57 on 14th, whilst 75 **House Martins** passed through on 27th, the same date as the first **Swifts** were seen. Three firsts of the year were a **Lesser Whitethroat** on 20th, a **Reed Warbler** at Pondsburry on 24th and a **Garden Warbler** on 29th. Numbers of **Blackcap** picked up again, with 50 on 26th & 30th. A **Treecreeper** was in Millcombe on 26th. A single **Whinchat** was present on 24th. Six **Redstarts** included a male and female together on 25th & 26th. **Wheatear** arrivals picked up towards the end of the month with 93 on 24th and 140 on 27th. **Grey Wagtails** were seen on 25th & 27th and **White Wagtails** were seen regularly, including five on 11th. Frequent passage flocks of **Goldfinch** and **Linnet** reached maxima of 38 on 14th & 15th, and 79 on 24th, respectively, along with six separate **Siskins** and a single **Lesser Redpoll**. **Collared Doves** were seen on multiple dates and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** arrived on 30th.

As well as passerines, waders were on the move, with a **Jack Snipe** on 4th and a **Golden Plover** on 10th, followed by a **Sanderling** on Pondsburry on 12th. The first **Whimbrels**, two on Rat Island, were seen on 20th with a further 17 records during the month, mostly in the vicinity of Benjamin's Chair. Single **Dunlin** were seen on 10th & 25th. **Ringed Plovers** were noted on 23rd & 27th, a **Common Sandpiper** was in the Landing Bay on 23rd, 29th & 30th, a **Curlew** flew over the Church on 29th and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was in Devil's Kitchen on 30th.



▲ *Peregrine, East Side, 19th June (photo: Richard Campey).*

Of the breeding birds, the first **Mallard** ducklings (12 in Barton Field) were seen on 29th, while a male and two female **Teal** were present at Pondsburry. Seabird numbers steadily built as they returned to their breeding areas. At least 10,000 **Guillemots**, 3,000 **Razorbills** and 124 **Puffins** were counted on 24th. A **Great Northern Diver** remained in the Landing Bay. A **Sparrowhawk** and a pair of **Kestrels** were seen regularly, while the highest count of **Peregrine** was eight on 24th. **Skylarks** were in full voice across the island, particularly in South West Field and on Ackland's Moor.

Rarities and scarcities

The female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen again along the Terrace on 7th & 18th. Two **Canada Geese** were in Barton Field on 9th and another two (or possibly the same pair) flew over *Oldenburg* as it departed on 12th. A **Barnacle Goose** – the 12th island record – flew over Benjamin's Chair on 10th. A **Grey Phalarope** was spotted with **Kittiwakes** in Jenny's Cove on 12th. A female **Hawfinch** was ringed on 18th and seen again in Millcombe on 21st. An immature **Marsh Harrier** was over Ackland's Moor on 17th and an **Osprey** flew north over Millcombe on 25th. A **Bonelli's Warbler** species, thought more likely to be Eastern, was on the wall by Old Light on 25th (a record subject to acceptance by BBRC). A male **Eastern** or **Western Subalpine Warbler** was then seen by Quarter Wall on 26th. (This record was not accepted to species level by BBRC). Two immature **Shelducks** were ashore at Benjamin's Chair on 26th before flying east. Another **Hawfinch** flew over Millcombe on 30th.

MAY – Max temp 17.8°C, min 6.9°C, mean 12.0°C. Rainfall 51.1 mm. 95 species recorded

A mostly dry month though often overcast and with some heavy rain on 10th. Moderate winds from the west and northwest shifted to the east on 15th. Light to moderate southwesterly winds returned from 17th until 27th. The wind was from the northeast for the end of the month.

The month brought a good mix of migratory and breeding species. Despite the many breeding attempts made by **Mallards**, as is common on Lundy most ducklings did not reach fledging age. Eight **Teal** ducklings were on Pondsburry on 28th. The numbers of **Guillemots** and **Razorbills** on ledges dropped as pairs split up to feed hungry chicks. A full island count on 19th recorded 6,901 **Guillemots** and 2,237 **Razorbills**, whilst 340 **Puffins** were counted on 20th. **Storm Petrels** were calling during the day at a known breeding colony on 15th & 16th. The **Kestrels** were seen most days, as were the island's **Peregrine** pairs, with a high count of 10. There were good numbers of **Stonechat** as the first broods of young fledged and family groups were seen around the island. The majority of **Goldfinches** and **Linnets** were by now breeding birds, though some were still moving north, as perhaps were a few **Meadow Pipits** and **Wheatears**.



▲ Female Blackcap, Millcombe, 17th June (photo: Richard Campey).

One or two **Siskins** were present early in the month, and a female **Snow Bunting** was around from 1st to 8th, mostly seen by Quarter Wall. **Collared Doves** were frequently recorded with a high count of four on 3rd. There were multiple busy days of hirundine passage, with peaks of 4,000 **Swallows** on 2nd and 1,000 on 14th. **Sand Martins** and **House Martins** were recorded just as frequently, though in much lower numbers (max 32 and 200) respectively. A single **Sparrowhawk** was seen on 3rd. After 100 **Willow Warblers** on 1st, the daily count dropped to between one and five from 6th. **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap** numbers were low, with maximum counts of ten **Chiffchaff** and 30 **Blackcap** on 3rd. **Sedge Warblers** were more regular; 16 were counted on 3rd and at least one was seen between the 6th & 19th. One or two **Reed Warblers** were logged in the first half of the month. A high of three **Grasshopper Warblers** were present on 1st, with one or two **Garden Warblers** recorded on eight dates and similar numbers of **Lesser Whitethroats** seen on four days. A female **Firecrest** was ringed in Millcombe on 7th and a **Goldcrest** was present from 9th to 11th. At least one **Whitethroat** was seen every day, with a high count of eight on 16th. **Swifts** were recorded on 14 dates, the highest count being 18 on 11th. **Whinchats** were present on four days. Two **Lesser Redpolls** were seen on 12th and one the following day. Nine sightings of **Cuckoo** were made, mostly along the East Side, though no breeding evidence was noted. Two **Merlins** were seen on 27th. Two **Wood Warblers** on 15th included a male singing in Millcombe. A **Common Gull** was in the Landing Bay on 16th. **Tree Pipits** reached a high of three on 1st. There was a push of **Yellow Wagtails** from 13th, including two **Blue-headed Wagtails**, most seen in Barton Field, while **Grey Wagtails** were recorded on four days up to the 14th. Continental **White Wagtails** were logged on 14 dates. **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen on 23 dates, peaking at 20 on 19th, with single **Pied Flycatchers** on 1st & 19th. Meanwhile, sightings of **Redstarts** were made on just three days up to the 19th, followed by single **Black Redstarts** on three days later in the month.

It was another varied month for waders. Other than the breeding **Oystercatchers**, a single **Golden Plover** was seen between 13th & 20th and a **Ringed Plover** on 18th. Six **Whimbrels**,

two **Curlews** and a **Snipe** were seen on 1st. **Whimbrels** were then seen on a further nine dates. **Dunlin** peaked at four on 2nd. An exceptionally late **Woodcock** flying over Pondsby on 13th pursued by a **Peregrine** unfortunately did not survive the chase.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Greenshank** was present from 2nd to 7th, often seen with a **Bar-tailed Godwit** which stayed till 9th. A female **Hawfinch** was ringed on 2nd and retrapped on 3rd, with another bird present on 13th, the same day that a female **Bluethroat** was seen briefly on the Lower East Side Path south of Gannets' Combe. During high tide on 15th a **Purple Sandpiper** was on rocks at Brazen Ward. **Shelducks** were seen on 4th (one) and 18th (two). Single **Hooded Crows** were seen on 2nd & 12th. An entirely unanticipated 'first' for the island occurred on 22nd when a female **Mandarin Duck** appeared in the Landing Bay. An elusive **Golden Oriole** was in Millcombe between 24th & 27th.

It was a good month for birds of prey. A **Red Kite** toured the island on 8th. There were multiple **Hobby** sightings involving birds quickly passing through, including three on 16th. A **Marsh Harrier** flew over on 18th and an **Osprey** on 27th.

JUNE – Max temp 22.8°C, min 8.4°C, mean 14.2°C. Rainfall 40.8 mm. 67 species recorded

A hot, calm and dry to start to the month followed by easterly winds on 4th & 5th bringing rain. Moderate winds from the north and west for the rest of the month, picking up from 25th.

Usually a quieter month for migration, there were still a few species passing through the island. **Swifts** were recorded on 13 dates with the largest counts of 50 and 38 on 21st & 23rd respectively. There was some apparent interest in nesting with many individuals inspecting St Helen's Church. A **Cuckoo** was seen on 12th and another on 27th & 28th. Single **Dunlin** were logged on 3rd & 5th and six were counted during rain and strong winds on 4th. Hirundines were still trickling through, although the totals logged for **Sand Martin** and **House Martin** were fewer than 20 each for the whole month. The peak **Swallow** count was 35 on 13th, though our small breeding population accounted for the majority seen on most days. **Spotted Flycatchers** continued to pass through until 9th. A single **Black Redstart** was seen on 5th.

Three **Black-headed Gulls** were noted on 4th and a single bird flew over the Landing Bay on 30th. Seabirds were still present in large numbers, especially **Guillemots**, **Razorbills** and **Puffins**. **Cormorant** and **Grey Heron** were both noted on four dates, with flocks of five **Cormorants** on 3rd and five **Grey Herons** on 21st. A **Sparrowhawk** flew over the Village on 7th. The **Kestrel** pair on the West Side were frequently seen carrying Pygmy Shrews towards the nest site and two fledged chicks were seen by the Battery on 30th.

The last singing **Willow Warbler** of the spring was heard on 7th. Three singing **Chiffchaffs** were recorded on 9th, with a maximum of six individuals on 1st & 5th. A **Sedge Warbler** was seen on 3rd, whilst a singing male and two calling birds at Quarter Wall Copse on 8th suggests a possible breeding attempt. Single **Reed Warblers** were heard on 3rd & 13th. Ten **Blackcaps** were logged on 10th – an unusually late double-digit count – with mostly single birds recorded on other days. Three pairs of **Whitethroat** were busy feeding young in Millcombe.

Starlings, **Blackbirds**, **Skylarks** and **Meadow Pipits** were all busy raising young. A male **Song Thrush** continued to sing nearly every day in Millcombe, though there was no sign of any potential mate and so no indication of breeding. The majority of **Wheatears** were on territory, high counts for the month being 50 on 3rd and 40 on three other days. At least three pairs of **Pied Wagtail** were visiting nest sites around the Village. In addition to the island's breeding

Chaffinches, **Goldfinches** and **Linnetts**, a **Greenfinch** was logged on 1st and two were seen on 5th. Two **Siskins** were present on 3rd, followed by singles on 23rd & 24th and two on 25th. A **Lesser Redpoll** was seen on 7th.

Rarities and scarcities

Four **Shelducks** flew out of the Landing Bay as *Oldenburg* arrived on 2nd and two were seen again on 3rd. A **Honey-buzzard** flew over Ackland's Moor on 2nd mobbed by **Herring Gulls** (a record subject to acceptance by DBRC). A stunning male **Rose-coloured Starling** first seen by Old Light on 6th remained until 8th; another was seen briefly by the Pigsty on 21st. Two **Canada Geese** flew out to sea off the West Side on 10th. A **Yellowhammer** was at the Pigsty on 23rd. During stormy weather on 24th a **Quail** was flushed from beside a path in South West Field.

JULY – Max temp 32.1°C, min 9.6°C, mean 16.9°C. Rainfall 26.3 mm. 72 species recorded

Most of the month was clear, calm and hot. Temperatures were regularly over 20°C. The wind picked up on 24th bringing some light rain. The final week was humid with most days overcast or with low cloud and fog.

Migration started to pick up again this month, with **Swifts** recorded on 23 dates, the biggest flocks, both of 12, on 4th & 11th. Five **Grey Herons** passed through on 5th, with singles logged on five other dates. A **Siskin** was recorded on 1st and single **Collared Doves** on 2nd & 8th. Two **Spotted Flycatchers** were recorded on 3rd. **Grey Wagtails** flew over calling on 5th & 11th and a **Tree Pipit** flew over on 13th. A **Rook** flew south on 10th. A **Merlin** on 11th was an unexpected summer record and only the third July occurrence for the island. **Cormorants** were recorded on six dates, including 10 on 18th. A **Little Egret** was photographed flying over the Castle on 22nd. The first returning **Pied Flycatcher** appeared on 22nd. A total of 14 **Sand Martins** were logged, including a flock of seven on 22nd. A single **Cuckoo** was seen on 21st and a single **House Martin** flew through on 30th.

Warblers started arriving again from the beginning of the month, with a **Willow Warbler** on 1st and two **Garden Warblers** on 4th. A large fall of **Willow Warblers** occurred on 26th with at least 72 during the morning census. A **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard on 20th and single **Blackcaps** on three days late in the month. The first south-bound **Sedge Warbler** was noted on 20th.

Wader numbers started to increase as birds moved south away from Arctic breeding grounds. A **Golden Plover** was logged on 22nd after a brief downpour and a **Whimbrel** was calling in the Landing Bay on 30th. Single **Curlews** were recorded on four dates, with two on 27th, and single **Dunlins** occurred on 26th & 29th. A **Common Sandpiper** was around Rat Island on 21st & 22nd. Many of the island's seabirds, particularly auks, were starting to head back out to sea. Only three **Puffins** were seen on 31st.

Young **Peregrines** were frequently heard calling and seen testing their hunting skills. Whilst our breeding **Swallows** were still raising young, the first returning migrant birds began to pass through from 16th. The lone male **Song Thrush** was last recorded on 17th. Post-breeding flocks of **Linnetts** were building up towards the end of the month, reaching 214 on 27th.

Rarities and scarcities

A single **Turnstone** flew over the Landing Bay on 25th. Two **Green Sandpipers** were flushed from Rocket Pole Pond on the morning of the 29th; one was then seen on Quarter Wall Pond and calling around Pondsby. A **Redshank** was on Pondsby on 8th and two flew over calling in low cloud on the morning of the 30th. During a seawatch on 24th a **Balearic Shearwater** flew past the island.

BREEDING SPECIES IN 2022

The following 36 species were confirmed as successfully fledging young:

Mallard	Shag	Blackbird
Woodpigeon	Kestrel	Robin
Oystercatcher	Peregrine	Stonechat
Kittiwake	Carrion Crow	Wheatear
Great Black-backed Gull	Raven	House Sparrow
Herring Gull	Skylark	Duncock
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Swallow	Pied Wagtail
Guillemot	Chiffchaff	Meadow Pipit
Razorbill	Sedge Warbler	Rock Pipit
Puffin	Whitethroat	Chaffinch
Fulmar	Wren	Linnet
Manx Shearwater	Starling	Goldfinch

In addition, confirmed breeding attempts were made by **Blackcap** and **Teal** but no young are known to have fledged. **Storm Petrel** almost certainly bred near North Light, Brazen Ward and at the Battery.



▲ Razorbill, Jenny's Cove (photo: Richard Campey).

AUGUST – Rainfall 69.9 mm. 91 species recorded

The first week was bright and warm with light winds from the north and northeast. Winds continued from the northeast up to 15th, often picking up in the afternoon. Thereafter, the wind turned to the southwest for a time and most days were overcast with rain and low cloud. More settled weather returned towards the end of the month, though winds from the north and northeast built in strength. The 26th brought low cloud and dense fog.

Migration for some species was in full flow. A flock of 90 **Swifts** on 10th was the highest count of the year. Four **Grey Herons** arrived on 1st, two seen regularly until 8th, with two also logged on 22nd & 30th. Forty **Goldfinches** were counted on 7th, and two **Siskins** were logged on 4th & 14th. Thirteen **House Martins** on 9th was the highest count of the month, with records on only six other days. **Sand Martins** were more frequent, with counts of 10 or more on five days. After a gap of a few weeks, flycatchers started moving again with a single **Pied Flycatcher** and **Spotted Flycatcher** on 9th; the highest counts of the latter were 13 on 24th, while Pied Flycatchers peaked at six on 14th. Two **Stock Doves** were present on 11th and the last **Cuckoo** was seen on 12th. A single **Greenfinch** was logged on 12th. A **Sparrowhawk** arrived on 12th and stayed until the end of the month, with a second bird on three days. Single **Redstarts** were recorded on 6th, 9th and 31st, with a single **Black Redstart** on 22nd. Autumn **Whinchats** peaked at three (on 29th) after the first returning bird on 13th. A **Grey Wagtail** flew over and the first five **White Wagtails** arrived on 25th. **Woodpigeons** reached nine on 25th and a single **Collared Dove** was recorded on 28th. A total of 212 **Linnet** was logged on 29th, the same day that a **Buzzard** flew over the Village.

Waders were noticeably on the move, with 15 species recorded, including a few Lundy scarcities. After a single **Golden Plover** on 9th & 10th, a **Lapwing** was seen on 29th. Although 15 **Ringed Plovers** were logged during the month, the only flock concerned three on 16th. Single **Whimbrels** passed through on five dates, with four on 21st, whilst lone **Curlews** were logged on three days, with two (accompanied by a Whimbrel) on 24th. **Dunlins** too, on nine days, were all single birds apart from a flock of five on 27th. **Snipe** were regular in wet areas, with a max of four on 10th. **Common Sandpiper** were recorded on five dates, max two on 18th.

The right conditions overnight produced an incredible fall of 400 **Willow Warblers** on 1st, but only four were seen the next day. Whilst numbers varied between 15 and 40 daily thereafter, there were peaks of 62 on 12th and 120 on 14th. Numbers of all other warblers remained low. **Chiffchaff** numbers peaked at 10 on 24th. Ten **Sedge Warblers** were present on 1st, followed by ones and twos for the remainder of the month, whilst scattered records of **Garden Warbler** and **Blackcap** were also in low single digits. Single **Grasshopper Warblers** occurred on two days, rising to two on 27th. The first dates for autumnal crests were 15th for **Goldcrest** and 29th for **Firecrest**, both species peaking at two on 31st.

At one point it was getting difficult to distinguish between local breeding birds and new arrivals. **Whitethroats** were still being seen frequently in Millcombe but these would have been a mix of locally breeding birds and migrants. **Swallows** were seen every day as the breeding birds were feeding young and migrants were heading south; the highest count was 65 on 24th. **Stonechats** had a good breeding season and there were peaks of 13 and 14 on 10th & 12th respectively. Meanwhile, **Wheatear** numbers were dropping as the resident breeders departed and birds from further north were yet to pass through. The only **Chaffinches** present were the local breeders, though there were signs of other finch species (principally **Goldfinch** and **Linnet**) moving through. With many of Lundy's **Peregrines** leaving the island after the departure of the seabirds, only four were logged during the month.

Winds from the north provided good conditions for seawatching. A **Red-throated Diver** was off North End on 3rd, where a **Puffin** was seen on 5th and single **Guillemots** were seen on 14th & 31st. An **Arctic Skua** was seen from *Oldenburg* as it passed South West Point on 30th. Three **Black-headed Gulls**, a **Common Gull**, a **Mediterranean Gull** and two **Manx Shearwaters** flew past the island on 31st. A **Sandwich Tern** passed Rat Island on 11th. Small groups of **Cormorants** included three on 9th & 19th.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Garganey** on Pondsburry on 3rd was the first since 2007. A female/immature **Marsh Harrier** flew over Barton Field on 8th and a juvenile **Yellow-legged Gull** was in Tillage Field on 17th. A flock of five **Crossbills** flew over Millcombe calling on 28th. Among a few scarce waders were a **Greenshank** calling in the Landing Bay on 22nd and a **Wood Sandpiper**, also calling in the Landing Bay, on 30th. A **Black-tailed Godwit** flew over Halfway Wall with four **Whimbrel** on 21st. During a seawatch from South West Point on 31st, two **Turnstones** and a **Redshank** flew north, while Pondsburry was the place for **Green Sandpipers**, with two there on 14th, one on 29th and another two on 31st.

SEPTEMBER – Rainfall 94.4 mm. 90 species recorded

The 1st of the month was calm before strong southwesterly winds and overnight rain set in. Strong winds continued from the southwest until 13th when they shifted to the east. The wind dropped on 14th, coming from the north. Settled weather continued until 22nd followed by further strong southwesterly winds and scattered showers. After a brief calmer interlude, the month ended with continuous strong winds from the southwest and heavy rain.

September marked the last sightings for a few summer visitors, whilst other species were still passing through in high numbers. The earliest autumn **Ring Ouzel** for many years was in VC Quarry on 2nd, with one or two birds mid-month. Finch passage was slow with little change in the number of breeding species. The highest counts of **Goldfinch** and **Linnet** were both on 2nd with 35 and 125 respectively. Two **Lesser Redpolls** were noted on 3rd. Ten **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen on 2nd, and numbers peaked at 20 on 14th. **Pied Flycatchers** were seen on 15 dates, peaking at six on 11th. Two **Redstarts** were present on 2nd, the young male seen again on 4th, with single birds on two further days mid-month. A female **Merlin** was about on eight dates from 5th. At least one **Sparrowhawk** was logged nearly every day, with up to six on 28th. The **Kestrel** family were also seen on and off throughout the month. **Whinchats** were remarkably frequent. After one on 1st, a group of three were seen across the island up to the 6th. There were high counts of four on 12th & 18th and 12 on 14th. A female **Teal** was present on Pondsburry from the 4th, increasing to three on 23rd. A **Short-eared Owl** was flushed by the Stonecrusher on the morning of 14th and flew towards Benjamin's Chair. **Wheatear** numbers increased when the winds shifted towards the east on 12th, peaking at 63 on 14th but dropping back to single figures after 17th. The number of **Woodpigeons** peaked at 10 on 12th. The last **Swifts** of the year were singles on 15th & 17th. A **Treecreeper** was ringed in Millcombe on 17th and seen again next day. There were a few big days of hirundine passage, with a max of 71 **Sand Martins** on 2nd, 100 **House Martins** on 23rd, the same date as the peak count of approximately 12,000 **Swallows** passing over the Castle in two hours. Three **Siskins** and a **Lesser Redpoll** were logged on 18th. The first **Water Rails** since June were heard back in Millcombe on 19th. Another **Short-eared Owl** was near Pondsburry during the evenings of 21st & 22nd. A **Black Redstart** was seen on 23rd. It is often difficult to differentiate between 'local' and passage **Stonechats**, though a count of 12 on 23rd and 10 on 24th were likely to have included migrants. A flock of 12 **Common Scoter** flew past South West Point on 24th. An influx of **Robins** occurred on 25th, with 30 counted in Millcombe and along the East Side. The first **Redwing** of autumn arrived in Millcombe on 27th.

The 14th was an excellent day for passerine migration with 200 **Blackcaps**, 30 **Willow Warblers**, 45 **Chiffchaffs**, 30 **Whitethroats**, four **Garden Warblers**, two **Grasshopper Warblers**, a **Sedge Warbler** and the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** of the year. There were also 20 **Spotted Flycatchers**, a **Pied Flycatcher**, 12 **Whinchats** and 63 **Wheatears**.

The highest count of **Willow Warblers** was 115 on 2nd, whereas the highest count of **Whitethroat** was just four on the same day. Two **Yellow-browed Warblers** were present on 19th, one in Millcombe and one on the Terrace. A single **Grasshopper Warbler** and four **Sedge Warblers** were logged on 2nd. The last **Sedge Warbler** of the year was on 23rd. Single **Reed Warblers** were seen on 2nd & 19th and the only **Lesser Whitethroat** of autumn was seen on 15th. Following the fall on 14th, **Blackcap** numbers dropped to 33 on 15th, 29 on 16th and 34 on 17th but there was another big arrival on 25th with 100 logged. Single **Garden Warblers** were seen on 12th, 21st & 25th. Crests were also passing through, with a high count of 30 **Goldcrests** on 25th and on average at least three per day. Three **Firecrests** were present on 9th, two on 4th & 12th and one on 11 other dates.

There was some excellent passage of pipits and wagtails. The first two **Yellow Wagtails** of the autumn flew over South West Field on 2nd, with one or two on 11 further dates. **Grey Wagtails** were also frequent, with a maximum of five on 21st. The highest counts of **Pied / White Wagtails** were on 1st & 2nd with 21 and 18 respectively. **White Wagtails** were seen on 4th, 5th & 23rd. **Meadow Pipit** migration was strongest towards the end of the month, with high counts of 140 on 14th, 200 on 23rd and 150 on 25th. Ten **Tree Pipits** passed through on 2nd, with records on five subsequent days.

Wader passage slowed during the month. A flock of seven **Ringed Plovers** flew over South West Field on 2nd. Three **Golden Plovers** were seen on 12th & 15th, with singles on six further days and four on 26th. A single **Ringed Plover** was flying around Tent Field and the Village from 9th to 13th. Single **Lapwings** were recorded on 17th & 25th. The only **Whimbrel** was one on 21st. Single **Curlews** were recorded on 11th & 17th. At least one **Dunlin** was present every day from 9th to 17th, a flock of 12 on 11th the highest count. **Snipe** were still frequent, seen on 21 days, with a peak of five on 17th.

At sea, a first-year **Black-headed Gull** was in the Landing Bay from 8th to 11th. Three **Arctic Skuas** were seen during the month; one flew close by *Oldenburg*, just ten minutes out from Lundy, on 8th and others were logged on 15th & 22nd. A few small groups of **auks** were seen during seawatches, a maximum of 32 being counted on 26th. A few **Manx Shearwaters** also flew past, including seven on 24th.

Rarities and scarcities

Two calling **Turnstones** flew over Millcombe on 4th. Another **Turnstone** and a **Redshank** were heard flying over on 6th. An **Osprey** flew past Gannets' Rock on 2nd. A juvenile **Common Rosefinch** was briefly in Millcombe on 9th. On 13th an **Osprey** was seen heading past the Castle and over *Oldenburg*. The first **Wryneck** of autumn was on the Terrace on 12th. On the same date an **Ortolan Bunting** was flushed by the Stonecrusher (a record subject to acceptance by DBRC). Further **Wrynecks** turned up near Pondsburry on 14th and in Smelly Gully from 18th to 20th, the latter being joined by a second individual on 21st. A juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** was first seen roosting with **Common Starlings** in the Black Shed on the evening of the 15th, remaining until 24th. A juvenile **Hawfinch** was in Millcombe on 19th. A second juvenile **Common Rosefinch** was ringed in Millcombe on 23rd. During a seawatch on 27th an adult winter **Sabine's Gull** flew past South West Point.

OCTOBER – Rainfall 77.2 mm. 98 species recorded

A very mild month with occasional rain showers quickly moving through. Strong southwesterly winds continued for most of the month with only a few calmer days, these including 8th, 11th, 13th & 20th. Strong easterlies on 18th & 19th quickly reverted to the southwest on 21st.

October is typically the month of the first arrivals of wintering birds from Scandinavia but also the final sightings of our summer migrants. A **Treecreeper** first seen in Millcombe on 2nd stayed until the 15th. **Goldcrests** were seen every day, including high counts of 100 on 2nd, 50 on 8th and 41 on 26th. **Yellow-browed Warblers** were recorded regularly, with singles on five dates and two on three dates; three were ringed on 11th. There were three records of single **Pied Flycatchers** in the first half of the month. A **Spotted Flycatcher** was present on four days, the last of the year in Millcombe on 20th. A single **Tree Pipit** was heard on 9th. The family of **Kestrels** was still present, with all four being recorded on 9th. Two **Redstarts** were seen on 10th and another on 13th. **Black Redstarts** were recorded from the 11th, with a peak of four on 20th. Notable **Skylark** passage occurred on 13th & 18th, with 170 and 70 birds respectively. **Firecrests** were logged on 16 days, with a maximum count of three on 11th, 12th and 14th. **Blackcaps** were recorded most days with up to 40 on 14th. Fly-over **Yellow Wagtails** were logged on 12 dates, including three on 12th. The maximum **Woodpigeon** count reached eight on 14th. Two **Stock Doves** arrived on 18th, one still present on 19th. There were also a few more days of notable hirundine migration, with 600 **Swallows** logged on 11th & 13th and 300 **House Martins** on 13th, while of 12 **Sand Martins** logged during the month, five flew through on 11th. At least two **Sparrowhawks** were seen on most days, with up to three from 15th. A few late **Whinchats** turned up on 16th & 21st, coinciding with arrivals of **Stonechats**, including 30 on 13th. **Merlins** were being seen frequently, with a high count of three on 17th. **Meadow Pipits** peaked at 600 on 13th and 400 on 18th. **Grey Wagtails** and unidentified **Pied / White Wagtails** were frequently heard flying over, with maxima of six Greys and 35 Pied / White Wagtails on 13th. Twenty **White Wagtails** were confirmed during the month. Of two ringtail **Hen Harriers**, one flew south out to sea on 18th while the other arrived on 23rd and stayed until the end of the month. Two **Grey Herons** were logged on 12th & 24th, followed by one on 29th. A **Jackdaw** first seen in Brick Field on 22nd remained to the end of the month. A **Wigeon** on Pondsburry from 23rd also stayed to the end of the month. The last **Willow Warbler** was seen on 28th, the day on which **Starlings** began arriving in large numbers, peaking at 600 on 28th.

There was a significant arrival of winter thrushes on 19th & 20th in strong easterly winds, with 2,000 **Fieldfares**, 1,500 **Redwings**, four **Ring Ouzels** and a **Mistle Thrush** logged on 19th. A record 4,000 **Fieldfares** were present on 20th, along with 700 **Redwings**, 20 **Ring Ouzels** and a **Mistle Thrush**. There were also small influxes of **Blackbirds** and **Song Thrushes** and a further **Mistle Thrush** was present on 24th.

Finches and buntings were also on the move, with 2,000 **Chaffinches** counted on 18th and 1,200 on 20th – an obvious gear-shift from just eight at the beginning of the month! A few **Bramblings** arrived with the Chaffinches, the first being in Millcombe on 11th. **Reed Buntings** also started arriving from 11th, with a peak of 12 on 16th. **Siskins** were increasingly frequent and numerous, with 200 logged on 13th, the same day that a single **Lapland Bunting** was heard. A **Bullfinch** was heard and seen briefly on 19th, 20th & 24th. There were 14 records of **Greenfinch** including five on 11th and three on 13th, while **Goldfinches** peaked at 52 on 13th. **Linnet** counts trended downwards, from 122 on 13th to just one or two from 26th. Ten **Lesser Redpolls** were recorded, most later in the month, and there was a long-staying group of **Snow Buntings** from 15th to 23rd with a maximum of eight on 22nd.

Small numbers of migrant waders continued to pass through. Two **Lapwings** on 19th rose to seven the next day. **Golden Plovers** were recorded on 14 dates, including four on 8th & 17th. Single **Ringed Plovers** were seen on three days. Three **Dunlins** flew over on 20th, a single **Jack Snipe** was at Pondsbury on 19th, with a monthly high of five **Snipe** the same day. The first **Woodcock** of the autumn was flushed on 11th.

Flocks of **Kittiwakes** built up off the East Side towards the end of the month, peaking at 1,550 on 21st. Other small gulls arriving with them included a **Black-headed Gull** on 15th & 16th and six **Mediterranean Gulls** on 21st followed by singles on 17th & 29th. Four **Common Gulls** were logged on seven dates, peaking at 10 on 21st. Other seabirds included seven **Arctic Skuas**, with three on 21st, and a **Great Skua** on 19th. Unidentified ‘commic’ terns were seen off the East Side on 15th (five) and 19th (three). A **Great Northern Diver** flew past North Light on 16th, **Manx Shearwaters** were still passing by, with a peak of 12 on 15th, and 150 **Gannets** were logged on 26th, the highest count of the year. Four **Cormorants** passed by on both 8th & 18th, with a single bird on 11th.

Rarities and scarcities

A juvenile **Black-tailed Godwit** was on Pondsbury on 3rd. Another juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** turned up on 6th, remaining until 10th. A **Sooty Shearwater** flew past off the Castle and a **Red Kite** flew over on 8th. Also on 8th a stunning adult male **Baltimore Oriole** was found in Millcombe, undoubtedly the rarity highlight of the year. A **Cetti’s Warbler** was ringed in Millcombe and an elusive **Wryneck** was by the Rocket Pole on 10th & 11th. A **Yellowhammer** flew over the Church calling on 16th. A **Great Spotted Woodpecker** flew south over the Village on 19th. A late **Hobby** first seen on the evening of 19th roosted in Millcombe and was seen the next morning before continuing south. A **Turnstone** was with three **Oystercatchers** on Rat Island on 21st. A **Little Bunting** was in Millcombe on 24th, followed by a first-winter **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 27th.



▲ *Baltimore Oriole, Millcombe, 8th October (photo: Angus Croudace).*

LAST DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS

August	5 th	Puffin
	12 th	Cuckoo
September	13 th	Osprey
	14 th	Grasshopper Warbler
	17 th	Swift
	19 th	Reed Warbler
	23 rd	Sedge Warbler
October	25 th	Whitethroat, Garden Warbler
	9 th	Tree Pipit
	11 th	Pied Flycatcher
	13 th	Redstart
	17 th	Sand Martin, Wheatear
	18 th	House Martin
	20 th	Hobby, Spotted Flycatcher
	23 rd	Yellow Wagtail
	24 th	Whinchat
November	28 th	Willow Warbler
	4 th	Ring Ouzel
	10 th	Manx Shearwater
	12 th	Grey Wagtail
	14 th	Swallow
	27 th	White Wagtail
December	30 th	Blackcap
	7 th	Chiffchaff

FIRST DATES FOR AUTUMN MIGRANTS/WINTER VISITORS

July	8 th	Redshank, Curlew
	11 th	Merlin
	21 st	Common Sandpiper
	22 nd	Golden Plover
	25 th	Turnstone
	29 th	Green Sandpiper
August	30 th	Whimbrel
	1 st	Snipe, Ringed Plover
	15 th	Goldcrest
	22 nd	Black Redstart
September	29 th	Firecrest, Lapwing
	14 th	Short-eared Owl, Yellow-browed Warbler
	27 th	Redwing
October	11 th	Brambling, Reed Bunting, Woodcock
	12 th	Lapland Bunting
	15 th	Snow Bunting
	16 th	Great Northern Diver
	18 th	Fieldfare
	19 th	Jack Snipe



▲ Male Blackcap, Millcombe
(photo: Richard Campey).

▼ Whimbrel, Tent Field, 27th April
(photo: Laura Piratique).



NOVEMBER – Rainfall 246.3 mm. 71 species recorded

Strong winds for the majority of the month, mostly from the west, with short-lived calmer interludes with winds mainly from the north and northeast. Frequent showers, usually passing through in bands, but occasional days with low cloud and constant heavy rain. Still fairly mild for the time of year but a noticeable drop in overnight temperatures, particularly towards the end of the month.

Migration was finally slowing down. The **Wigeon** first seen in October was still present up to 8th, whilst the **Jackdaw** remained throughout the month. **Meadow Pipits** were noticeably fewer as they vacated the island for the winter, with 30 on 2nd & 3rd being the highest counts. In comparison, the number of **Rock Pipits** being seen increased as they moved up onto the plateau during rough weather. **Goldcrests** remained frequent, with a maximum of eight on 3rd. A single **Snow Bunting** was near North End on 3rd and a **Reed Bunting** was at Pondsburry on 3rd, 4th & 8th. The last **Ring Ouzel** of the year was seen on 4th, the same day as a lone **Stock Dove** flew over. The peak **Fieldfare** count was just 39 on 4th. Two **Mistle Thrushes** were logged on 4th, followed by singles on 5th & 6th. Of two late **Swallows**, one was sitting in Brick Field with **Starlings** on 1st and the other was present from 12th to 14th. **Grey Wagtails** were seen on 3rd & 4th, with the last on 12th. There was a small movement of **Skylarks**, including 20 on 12th. A **Yellow-browed Warbler** was on the Terrace on 12th. **Chaffinches** were still passing through in good numbers, with the highest count of 1,036 on 12th. Also on 12th were the peak counts of four **Bramblings**, 178 **Siskins** and 24 **Linnetts**. There were three counts of around 300 **Chaffinches** on 1st, 6th & 19th. **Goldfinches** peaked at just six on 15th while three **Lesser Redpolls** on 9th were followed by two records of single birds. **Chiffchaffs** were logged on 19 dates, including a high of five on 13th & 15th. A female **Reed Bunting** was by Quarter Wall on 15th & 16th. **Black Redstarts** were regular around the coast, being recorded on 13 days, with a peak of four on 12th. Three **Pied Wagtails** were present on 13th & 14th, with singles on three other dates. Single **White Wagtails** were confirmed on five dates. **Blackcaps** were seen regularly until 17th, with a high count of 10 on 12th; the last birds of the year were three ringed in Millcombe on 30th. **Redwings** continued to pass through, with 229 on 17th the highest count. An arrival of **Blackbirds** on 19th saw 59 in Millcombe and along the East Side. Up to three **Sparrowhawks** and three **Kestrels** were still being seen frequently across the south of the island, and a single **Merlin** was logged on eight dates. The juvenile **Hen Harrier** was seen foraging in the vicinity of Quarter Wall until 18th. The highest count of **Teal** on Pondsburry was five on 23rd. Large numbers of migrating **Starlings** passed through, with 600 on 26th and 1,140 on 29th. A **Siberian Chiffchaff** (of the race *tristis*) was seen on 29th & 30th. A **Lapland Bunting** was heard flying over on 30th.

A few waders were still passing through, among them a **Lapwing** on 4th & 12th and single **Golden Plovers** on 4th, 15th & 28th. **Woodcocks** were logged on four dates, including three on 16th. The highest count of **Snipe** was five on 15th.

There was limited movement of seabirds. Counts of **Kittiwake** flocks off the East Side included 600 on 9th. A late **Manx Shearwater** flew past on 2nd, followed by three on 10th. A single passing **Fulmar** was logged on 27th.

Rarities and scarcities

A few unexpected rarities turned up, including the island's seventh **Pallas's Warbler**, ringed in Millcombe on 3rd. A **Purple Sandpiper** was on Rat Island on 8th and an adult **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen on 9th. A **Balearic Shearwater** flew past Rat Island with three **Manx Shearwaters** on 10th. A **Barn Owl** was heard screeching as it flew over the Village on 13th, whilst a **Long-eared Owl** was seen and later ringed in Millcombe on 18th.



▲ Great Northern Diver, Landing Bay, 24th November (photo: Stuart Cossey).

DECEMBER – Rainfall 134.4mm. 53 species recorded

Very cold at the beginning of the month with freezing temperatures due to winds from the north. Stronger winds from the west and southwest from the 17th brought milder conditions. Frequent rain and low cloud towards the end of the month.

December on Lundy is usually one of quieter months as autumn migration finally comes to an end and inclement weather conditions typically prevail. There was a week of cold weather movement as birds arrived to escape snow on the mainland. **Woodcocks** were recorded on four dates, including three on 1st and two on 28th. A **Reed Bunting** was heard flying over on 1st. The number of **Snipe** peaked at seven on 2nd. A **Little Egret** flew out of the Landing Bay on 2nd. A single **Linnet** was seen on 4th. Small numbers of **Skylarks** were seen up to 6th, followed by singles on 16th & 22nd. The last **Chiffchaff** of the year was in Millcombe on 7th. Seven **Goldfinches** were logged on 7th, two on 4th & 6th and singles on 1st & 6th. At least one **Sparrowhawk**, **Kestrel** and **Merlin** continued to be seen across the island. A **Buzzard** visited from 15th to 24th, whilst the long-staying **Jackdaw** was still present around the Village until the end of the year. The highest counts of winter thrushes were during the cold weather mid-month: 64 **Fieldfares** on 15th and 57 **Redwings** and 10 **Song Thrushes** on 17th. **Teal** counts at Pondsburry peaked at nine on 16th and highs of 101 **Lapwings** and 49 **Golden Plovers** were recorded on 17th. One or two **Goldcrests** – likely overwintering individuals – were in Millcombe all month. The last **Stonechat** was seen on 15th and a **Pied Wagtail** was around Barton Field between 17th & 24th. **Chaffinches** were present all month, including a flock of 40 passing through, along with a **Siskin**, on the unusual date of 20th.

Single **Common** and **Black-headed Gulls** flew low over the island during strong winds on 18th & 19th respectively. Numbers of large gulls increased towards the end of the month with around 100 **Herring Gulls** in Lighthouse or Brick Fields. Forty-eight **Great Black-backed Gulls** were counted on 19th and 45 on 28th. A few seabirds were briefly seen back on the breeding ledges, including 17 **Fulmars** and 57 **Guillemots** on 8th. One or two **Great Northern Divers** were seen periodically in the Landing Bay all month.

Rarities and scarcities

A **Greylag Goose** first photographed in Brick Field on 15th was then seen on and off until the end of the year. Two **Purple Sandpipers** were found at Brazen Ward on 20th.