

BIRDS IN 2022

Nomenclature

This follows The British List (10th edition, summarised version dated December 2022) maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). Where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (in this case European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name.

The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken from the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS logbook and give the monthly maxima and, in most cases, the number of days on which the species was reported. It should be noted that some of these counts may not be truly representative of the numbers of birds present and are at least partly reflective of variations in observer coverage.

National and Devon rarities

Records of any species considered to be a national rarity should be sent to the British Birds Rarities Committee at www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting. Records of county rarities (see www.devonbirds.org/recording for a list of Devon A & B species and a downloadable recording form) should be sent to the Devon Bird Recorder at recorder@devonbirds.org.

Lundy rarities

Any species not listed in Section 1 of the logbook and which is not recognised as a national or Devon rarity is classed as a 'Lundy rarity'. These are species that are mostly common enough on the nearby mainland but extremely unusual for the island. They include all grebes, swans and geese; many ducks, waders and terns; most owls; all woodpeckers; Dipper; all tits other than Coal Tit; Jay, Magpie, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. Such records are assessed by Lundy Bird Observatory.

Observers are asked to enter supporting notes for all records of rare species in the joint Lundy Bird Observatory/Lundy Field Society logbook (which contains guidelines on what information to provide) as soon as possible after the sighting has been made. Please take care to ensure that your name(s) and contact details are included – and legible! Photographs and video-clips are especially welcome; these can be emailed to Lundy Bird Observatory at birdobs@lundyisland.co.uk.

All accepted records of national and Lundy rarities are published in the Lundy Bird Observatory's annual report and the annual *Devon Bird Report*. A summary of the birding year will be published in the annual report of the Lundy Field Society.

In all cases, records of species that are rare – whether at national, county or island level – must be accepted by the relevant committee or assessor as being adequately documented. This helps to ensure that the ornithological records kept by different bodies form a coherent whole, and that high standards of assessment are shared and applied. The unpredictable nature of birdwatching means that even the most experienced and knowledgeable observers are sometimes unable to clinch the identity of a suspected rarity; perhaps it was not seen for long enough, was too far away, or the weather was too bad for crucial plumage details to be picked out. In other cases, the distinguishing features are so subtle that photographs and/or examination of the bird in the hand may be required. The assessment of a rarity record as 'not proven' should be seen in this context; it does not necessarily mean that those assessing the record think the observer was mistaken.

Observers' names are included below for all accepted records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants, as well as for some other reports of particular interest.



▲ Dunlin, Middle Park Pond, 16th May (photo: Richard Campey).

Birds seen during boat crossings

Sightings during boat crossings are generally only included in the main list when it is clear that the birds in question were close to the island. There is a separate listing at the end of the report for other crossing records of particular interest. Observers are strongly encouraged to submit records for the coastal waters of the North Devon mainland, including the Taw & Torridge Estuary, to the Devon Bird Recorder (recorder@devonbirds.org).

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

The website www.birdsoflundy.org.uk linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2022. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from more than 75 years of intensive study by the Lundy Field Society (LFS) and the newly re-accredited Lundy Bird Observatory. Complementing this long-term archive is an online blog www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk which is maintained by Lundy Bird Observatory and volunteers. Photos can be emailed to birdobs@lundyisland.co.uk.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to island residents and visitors alike, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS logbook. This 2022 Bird Report (as well as other LFS wildlife reports) is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals. Particular thanks go to the island Conservation Team (Rosie Ellis, Stuart Cossey and Matt Stritch, and 2022 volunteers Rachel Bedwin, Laura Pirateque, Zachariah Wait, Olan O'Reilly, Tom Wright and Angus Croudace).

Devon Birds, particularly County Bird Recorder Kevin Rylands and Data Manager Karen Sims, are thanked for providing copies of BTO BirdTrack data and other Lundy records submitted to Devon Birds, and for working closely with the Lundy Bird Observatory on the assessment of rarity records to help ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS.

Others who have contributed in various ways include Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Chris & Carol Baillie, Antony 'AJ' Bellamy, Sam Bosanquet, Paul Bullock, Richard Campey, Greg Conway, Paul Dean, Chris & Mandy Dee, Darrin Dowding, Rob Duncan, Jamie Dunning, Paul & Jacqueline Holt, Andy Jayne, David Kightley, Paul St Pierre, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Neil Trout, Nik Ward, Mark & Julia Webber, Joanne Wilby, and Tim Worfolk.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS IN 2022

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Lundy vagrant.

Two in Barton Field on 9 Apr were the first since 2017 (Stuart Cossey, Jamie Dunning). Possibly the same pair flew over MS *Oldenburg* as it departed on 12 Apr (Tony Taylor, Sam Prettyman). Two flew out to sea off the West Side on 10 Jun (Stuart Cossey).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Lundy vagrant.

One flew over Tent Field calling on 10 Apr. It circled with Herring Gulls before leaving the island (Stuart Cossey). This constitutes the 12th island record.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Lundy vagrant.

One photographed in Tillage Field on 15 Dec (Matt Stritch). It remained into 2023 being seen frequently in various fields around the south of the island before settling in Barton Field. This is only the 11th Lundy record.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One that arrived on 21 Dec 2021 was still present on Ackland's Moor on 1 Jan but was not seen subsequently (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

The adult that arrived on 23 Dec 2021 was last seen on Ackland's Moor on 1 Jan, still in the company of the Pink-footed Goose (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

[Common Shelduck]

Lundy vagrant.

There were five records this year, the most since 1985 and first since 2018. Two immatures were seen at Benjamin's Chair on 26 Apr before flying east (Stuart Cossey). There were two records in May: an adult off Mouse Island on the morning of 4th (Jamie Dunning) was seen again in the afternoon circling the Landing Bay before heading off high to the south (Rob Duncan); and two were seen flying west high over South West Field on 18 May (Stuart Cossey). Four flew south out of the Landing Bay as MS *Oldenburg* arrived on 2 Jun and two were present again in the Landing Bay on 3rd (Stuart Cossey).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Lundy vagrant.

A juvenile was on Ponsbury on 3 Aug (Stuart Cossey) – only the ninth Lundy record and the first since Apr 2007.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

[Eurasian Wigeon]

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

A female first seen on Quarter Wall Pond on 23 Oct (Angus Croudace) was then seen on Ponsbury up to 8 Nov.

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 highest pre-breeding count was 20 on 10 Mar. The first ducklings were seen on 27 Apr. At least seven different broods were seen between Apr and Jun, though numbers of ducklings dwindled rapidly and only one large juvenile was present on Pondsburly on 3 Jul.

Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	19	20	16	11	10	21	19	17	17	16	16

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 and 2020-2021. Breeding appeared to be unsuccessful in 2019. The highest count during the first winter period was 13 on 16 Mar. Two displaying males were present in Mar and a male and up to three females were seen in Apr. Eight ducklings were seen on 28 May, two remaining on 15 Jun. A single female was present up to Sep, with the second winter period maximum being nine on 16 Dec.

Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	11	13	4	2	1	1	1	3	2	5	9

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant.

One record of 12 flying past South West Point on 24 Sep (Stuart Cossey).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Lundy vagrant; not previously recorded.

A female on Christie's Quay was photographed by members of Devon Birds as they arrived for a day trip on 22 May. It was later seen and photographed on Rat Island (Stuart Cossey, Jamie Dunning, Paul Holt). Although this species has an increasing breeding population in Devon it still came as quite a surprise when one turned up on Lundy.



▲ Teal on Quarter Wall Pond in January
(photo: Stuart Cossey).



▲ Mandarin Duck near Rat Island, 22nd May
(photo: Stuart Cossey).



◀ Swift over South West Point,
15th September (photo: Tom Wright).

Swift *Apus apus* [Common Swift]

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

The first were two on 27 Apr and the last a single bird over South West Point on 17 Sep. Recorded on 64 days, the highest counts were 90 on 10 Aug and 50 on 21 Jun. The large flock in Aug was swirling around the church, with some appearing to be prospecting for nest sites.

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	18	50	12	90	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	14	13	23	8	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).

Birds were recorded on only 14 dates compared to 22 in 2021. The first of the year was calling by Old Light on 1 May (Laura Pirateque, Zach Wait). One or more single males were seen regularly along the East Side and in Millcombe during May. The last bird was one on 12 Aug.

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.

The vast majority of records were confirmed as Racing Pigeons, coinciding with the main spring and summer release months. The highest count was 14 on 14 May. Up to 11 were frequently seen around the Village from the end of Jun to mid-Jul.

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	14	11	11	5	9	–	1	–
–	–	2	8	28	26	24	11	5	–	1	–

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

Recorded in seven months, Jan–Apr and Aug–Nov. One was in Millcombe on 14 Jan and probably the same bird was seen up to 29 Jan. Other spring records were singles on 25 & 28 Feb, 16, 20, 22 & 23 Mar and 22 Apr. Two were seen briefly on 26 & 27 Mar, one remaining to 2 Apr. After two on 11 Aug the next record wasn't until two were over South West Field on 18 Oct. One was seen in the same area the next day, the second bird possibly having fallen foul of a Peregrine. The last of the year flew over Ackland's Moor on 4 Nov.

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.

Up to four were seen in Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse in Jan and Feb. New birds arrived from Mar, with a high count of 17 on 5 Apr. Signs of breeding were recorded with males singing in Millcombe in Apr & May. Breeding was confirmed, with a chick ringed by Government House on 10 Jun and a juvenile seen in Millcombe, also in Jun. Numbers started to drop again in Oct, with a maximum of just two in Nov/Dec and only five records for the whole of Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	4	10	17	11	8	7	9	10	8	2	2
23	20	31	30	31	27	30	30	27	27	16	5

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.

One in the Village on 19 Jan was the first winter record since 2000. There were records on 43 days, of which more than half were in May. Most records related to single birds, with the highest count of four on 3 May. A male was heard singing in Millcombe, though there were no signs of breeding. Perhaps the most notable record was a single bird seen on one of the Cheeses at Jenny's Cove on 14 Apr before it was chased off by a Peregrine.

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	3	4	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
1	—	3	9	23	4	2	1	—	—	—	—

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

[Common Quail]

Rare migrant; bred in the nineteenth century.

One was flushed off the track in South West Field during low cloud and rain on 24 Jun (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and again in 2015, 2019-2021; no proof of breeding in 2014 or 2016-2018.

There were regular winter records in Jan and Feb, with four in Millcombe and two in St Helen's Copse on 6 Feb. Records dropped off over the summer. 'Song' was heard at Quarter Wall on 16 May and calls at Pondsby on 13 Jun. However, no further indications of breeding were detected and the absence of records in Jul and Aug suggest that breeding did not occur in 2022. Passage migrants started arriving on 19 Sep and were regularly heard in Millcombe during Oct, though records dwindled again towards the end of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	6	2	2	2	1	—	—	2	5	2	2
23	17	9	4	3	1	—	—	5	23	9	3

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

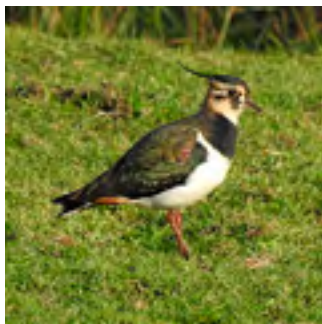
[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

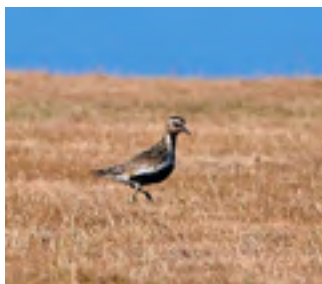
A full island count of 58 on 30 Jan included a number of pairs already starting to defend territories. The first chicks were seen on Rat Island in Jun and four large young were noted along the East Side on 1 Jul. Post-breeding and wintering flocks were seen near Brazen Ward and at North Light.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
58	30	17	15	39	13	23	30	24	26	10	19
23	25	26	30	31	26	29	23	13	19	10	5



▲ Lapwing in Barton Field, 17th December (photo: Stuart Cossey).



▲ Golden Plover on the Airfield on 22nd July (photo: Zac Wait).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

One in Barton Field on 26 Jan remained until 2 Feb (Stuart Cossey). There were no further records until one on 29 Aug (John Lambert). Two flew over Rocket Pole on 19 Oct (Angus Croudace), whilst six in Tillage Field the following morning were presumably among seven that flew over the Village during the evening of 20 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright). Other autumn records included singles on 17 & 25 Sep, 23 Oct and 4 & 12 Nov. Cold-weather arrivals were recorded with four on 9 Dec (Sophie Fisher) and again between 14 & 20 Dec. The highest counts were 80 on 16 Dec and 101 on 17 Dec (Matt Stritch, Stuart Cossey).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

There were records on eight dates in Jan, including a flock of 12 flying over Ackland's Moor on 25th and 13 over Ackland's Moor on 28th. Spring passage included two on 16 Mar and six flying north on 22 Mar. Single birds were recorded in Apr, May, Jul, Aug & Nov, including a summer-plumaged bird on the Airfield on 22 Jul. Up to four were recorded on 23 dates in Sep & Oct. One was ringed on the Airfield on the evening of 15 Sep. A cold-weather arrival occurred in Dec: five were seen on 1st, with singles on 9th, 10th & 14th. A total of 18 on 15 Dec increased to 47 on 16th and 49 were on the Airfield between 17th & 19th, with 32 still present on 20 Dec, dropping to five on 22nd and one on 30th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	—	6	1	1	—	1	1	4	4	1	49
8	—	3	1	5	—	1	2	9	14	3	12

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.

One was heard flying over Ackland's Moor on 25 Mar (Stuart Cossey). This constitutes the first record since 2012.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

There was an unusual winter record when one flew over the Village calling on 22 Jan. There were only three spring records, all of single birds, on 23 & 27 Apr and 18 May. The first autumn migrants passed through in Aug and there were 22 records of single birds including one that stayed around Tent Field from 9 to 13 Sep. Two small flocks were logged: three on 16 Aug and seven on 2 Sep. The last was one heard in flight on 20 Oct.

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

As usual, more regular in spring with 18 records, the first of which concerned two on Rat Island on 21 Apr. Small numbers were often seen feeding around Benjamin's Chair later in the month. The highest counts were four on 23 & 29 Apr and six on 1 May. There were only eight autumn records with the first returning bird on 30 Jul; all were singles flying over apart from four on 24 Aug.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

Four spring records with singles seen on 29 Apr and 13 & 17 May and two on 1 May. There were nine autumn records of single birds, the first on 8 Jul, whilst two flew over on 27 Jul & 24 Aug. The final sighting was of one on 17 Sep.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica**Rare spring and autumn passage migrant; has occurred in winter.*

One was in Devil's Kitchen during the afternoon of 30 Apr (Frances Stuart). What was probably the same individual was then in Barton Field with a Greenshank from 4 to 7 May (Rob Duncan, David Kightley), in High Street Field with a Whimbrel on 8 May, over Millcombe on 9 May, and again in High Street Field later that day (Stuart Cossey).



▲ Bar-tailed Godwit, Barton Field, 4th May (photo: Rosie Ellis).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa**Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.*

One flew southeast near Halfway Wall with four Whimbrel on 21 Aug (Alan McCarthy, Jenny Coomes). A juvenile was photographed at Pondsburry during stormy weather on 3 Oct (Darrin Dowding, Paul Bullock).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Recorded on five dates in late summer and autumn. The first was on 25 Jul when a single calling bird flew over the Landing Bay. Two flew past South West Point on 31 Aug, followed by two over Millcombe on 4 Sep and a single calling bird on 6 Sep (all records Stuart Cossey). The last of the year was one on Rat Island with three Oystercatchers on 21 Oct (Paul Holt).

Sanderling *Calidris alba**Rare passage migrant, with all recent records in either May or September; has occurred in winter. One was at Pondsburry on 12 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee).*



▲ Dunlin at Quarter Wall Pond, 14th September (photo: Mandy Dee).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

There were 11 records during the first six months of the year. Singles were seen on 20 & 23 Mar, 10 & 25 Apr, 14 & 15 May and 3 & 5 Jun. Higher counts comprised two on 16 May, four on 2 May and six on 4 Jun. The majority of records occurred between Jul & Oct, with singles on 24 dates. Two were seen on 9, 13 & 15 Sep and three on 20 Oct. The highest counts were five on 27 Aug and 12 on 11 Sep.



▲ Purple Sandpiper at Brazen Ward in December (photo: Paul Dean).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare spring and autumn migrant; very rare in winter.

One was roosting at Brazen Ward at high tide on 15 May (Zach Wait *et al.*). There were two winter records: one on Rat Island on 8 Nov (Stuart Cossey) and two at Brazen Ward on 20 Dec (Paul Dean).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* [Eurasian Woodcock]

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

The first was a single bird roosting in the Casbah on 28 Jan. Another was seen on 7 Feb. The latest ever spring record was on 13 May when one flew over Pondsburry pursued and taken by a Peregrine (Tim Jones, Tim Davis, Stuart Cossey). There were autumn records on 12 dates from 11 Oct to 28 Dec. These mainly concerned single birds but there were three on 16 Nov and 1 Dec and two on 28 Dec.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

There were 11 records of single birds between Jan and Mar, the majority being flushed from around Pondsburry. One was seen on the relatively late date of 4 Apr. The first returning bird was seen on 19 Oct and singles were also recorded on 8, 17 & 18 Dec.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

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

Ninety-three were recorded between Jan and May. The first was a single bird on 1 Jan. High counts included eight on 31 Jan, 14 on 1 Feb and 12 on 11 Feb. The first returning individual was on 1 Aug. A total of 161 individuals were logged between Aug & Dec. Higher counts included five on 17 Sep, 19 Oct, 15 Nov and 3 Dec, six on 8 Dec, and seven 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
8	14	3	2	1	–	–	4	5	5	5	7
10	9	15	6	1	–	–	14	21	20	8	14

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.

There were six records of single birds in Apr and May, with the first on 23 Apr. The first southbound birds were seen on 21 & 22 Jul, with a further six recorded in Aug, including two on 18th. The majority of records were from the vicinity of the Landing Bay and Rat Island.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

The first of the year were three on the morning of 29 Jul, including two on Rocket Pole Pond (Stuart Cossey) and one by Quarter Wall (Neil Trout). These were followed by two flying away from Pondsbyr calling on 14 Aug, a single bird at Pondsbyr on 29 Aug and a further two there on 31 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were six records, all during the late-summer migration season. One was at Pondsbyr on 8 Jul; two flew low over the Village calling in low cloud on 30 Jul; and single birds called as they flew over Ackland's Moor on 15 Aug, Millcombe on 30 Aug, and South West Point on 31 Aug. The last flew over calling on 6 Sep (all records Stuart Cossey).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Very rare autumn migrant.

One was heard calling in the Landing Bay during the early evening of 30 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* [Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One first seen at Brambles Pond on 2 May flew off calling. It remained in Barton Field until 7 May (Rob Duncan, David Kightley *et al.*). The only other record concerned one on 22 Aug heard calling over the Landing Bay (Stuart Cossey).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* [Red Phalarope]

Lundy vagrant.

A single bird was rafting with Kittiwakes off Jenny's Cove on 12 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee *et al.*) – the 15th Lundy record and first record for Apr. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



▲ Greenshank, Barton Field on 4th May (photo: Rosie Ellis).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

Flocks of over 1,000 were counted off the East Side on 15 dates in Jan and early Feb. Nesting material was being gathered from Jenny's Cove in May and the first eggs were seen on 2 Jun, hatching around 24 Jun. The majority of chicks had fledged by 8 Aug. At the Aztec Bay productivity study plot, 105 nesting attempts were made, with 66 chicks fledging from 50 nests. Productivity was calculated at 0.63, an increase of 0.45 from 2021. A colour-ringed individual was sighted on a nest at Aztec Bay on 13 Jul, the same bird observed there on 3 Jun 2021, having been hatched and ringed in Brittany, France. Autumn numbers peaked at 1,550 on 21 Oct, with three other counts of over 500 in Oct & Nov.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2,000	3,500	451	140	327	40	195	94	13	1,550	600	23

*There was no breeding census of Kittiwakes in 2022 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*

Lundy vagrant.

An adult in winter plumage flying west past South West Point on 27 Sep in strong northwesterly winds (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by DBRC, only the sixth for Lundy, the last being in Aug 2020.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

The first were seven with a large number of Kittiwakes off the East Side on 2 Feb, followed by five on 22 Mar. There were no further records until three on 4 Jun. A juvenile was in the Landing Bay from 8 to 11 Sep. The last sightings of the year were single birds flying low over the island in thick fog on 19 & 26 Dec.

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

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

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Lundy vagrant.

Three of these tiny gulls were seen off the East Side with Kittiwakes in Feb for the third year in a row. The first was a first-winter bird on 2 Feb (Stuart Cossey), followed by two first-winter birds on 5 Feb (Tim Jones).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.

Two off the Quarries on 31 Jan were the first of the year. Five were logged on 2 Feb and one on 3 Feb. The first of late-summer and autumn passage were two on 19 Jul. There were three further records of single birds in Aug & Oct. A flock of five were off the Terrace and one flew over the Landing Bay on 21 Oct.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

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

The most frequent and numerous of the smaller non-breeding gulls during the year, large numbers were recorded with Kittiwakes off the East Side at the beginning of the year. A total of 110 was logged for Jan & Feb combined, with the biggest counts being 12 on 14 Jan and 18 Feb, 15 on 31 Jan and 44 on 2 Feb. Single birds were seen in Aug. A flock of 10 on 21 Oct was the highest autumn count. A single bird was foraging in Barton Field on 18 Dec during cold weather.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	44	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	10	–	1
5	7	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	7	–	1

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Lundy vagrant.

A first-winter bird was seen on Ackland's Moor on 19 Feb during stormy weather (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May yielded a count of 74 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A complete census of the island's colonies during May identified 43 breeding pairs, three fewer than the last full count in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*). Multiple pairs were recorded raising young.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
75	24	20	16	74	39	25	14	20	85	21	48

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.

Large numbers overwintered in the farm fields often gathering at sheep feeding times. A second-winter bird colour-ringed on the Isle of Man in May 2019 was seen on 4 Jan; the first sighting away from the Isle of Man. A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May produced a count of 537 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A complete census of the island's colonies during May found 315 breeding pairs, 86 more than the survey in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*), the difference probably explained by the timing of the respective surveys rather than an improvement in the species' status on Lundy. The 2018 census was conducted slightly later in the season when some breeding attempts may already have ended and when vegetation growth could have made some nests harder to locate. Many juvenile birds were seen across the island in autumn. Unfortunately, a juvenile Herring Gull found dead on the island tested positive for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
786	500	212	316	537	381	261	400	16	35	54	152

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis****Lundy vagrant.***

There were three records this year: a first-winter bird with Herring Gulls in Tillage Field on 4 Mar, a juvenile on 17 Aug also in Tillage Field, and an adult in High Street Field on 9 Nov (Stuart Cossey).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

A walk of the island perimeter on 19 May produced a total of 223 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A complete census of the island's colonies during May counted 119 breeding pairs, 13 fewer pairs than the census in 2018 (Paul St Pierre, Antony Bellamy *et al.*). There were multiple pairs raising chicks in known colonies. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls ringed as chicks on Lundy were reported on their wintering grounds on the Portuguese coast (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	24	65	43	223	97	91	100	26	27	88	9

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant April to October.

One flew across the Landing Bay on 12 Apr and another flew past Rat Island on 11 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

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

Five were off the East Side on 15 Oct (Tim Jones, Greg Conway) with three in the same area on 19 Oct (Tim Worfok).

Great Skua (= Bonxie) *Stercorarius skua*

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

One harassing Gannets off South West Point on 19 Oct was the only record (Stuart Cossey), likely reflecting the high death toll inflicted by outbreaks of avian influenza at breeding colonies in Scotland and elsewhere during the summer of 2022.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

There were eight records of single birds between Aug & Oct. The first was seen from MS *Oldenburg* as she passed South West Point during rough weather on 30 Aug. The highest count was three seen from the Ugly on 21 Oct.

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.

The earliest high count was 1,150 at Jenny's Cove on 30 Jan. Up to 10,000 were recorded on 24 Apr. The first egg was seen at St Mark's Stone on 15 May, with the first chick appearing on 29 May. Birds started to fledge from 23 Jun. A total of 56 chicks fledged from 138 nest sites within the productivity survey plot at St Mark's Stone, 82 fewer fledged chicks than in 2021.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,150	600	5,600	10,000	6,901	500	500	1	5	85	1	57

*There was no full breeding census of Guillemots in 2022 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole. From January to February and September to November, up to 2,000 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; scarcer between August and February, with most remaining well offshore.

The first few were seen on land on 30 Jan with 660 around Jenny's Cove. The highest count of the year was 3,000 on 24 Apr. Razorbills are not currently covered by productivity plot monitoring. However, the first chicks were noted on 4 Jun.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
660	327	2,320	3,000	2,237	600	270	–	1	118	5	–

*There was no full breeding census of Razorbills in 2022 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole. From January to February and September to November, up to 2000 unidentified auks were periodically counted offshore; these will doubtless have comprised a mix of both Guillemots and Razorbills.



► *Razorbill, St. Mark's Stone on 24th April*
(photo: Stuart Cossey).

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 record of the year was of eight on the water at Jenny's Cove on 12 Mar and subsequently on land on 15 Mar. The highest count of the year was 485 on 11 Jul. By the end of Jun, 128 burrows were seen to be active in the Jenny's Cove study plot. The last record was of a single bird off Jenny's Cove on 5 Aug.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	185	124	340	200	485	1	–	–	–	–

*There was no full breeding census of Puffins in 2022 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.

There were nine records from Jan to Mar. Singles were seen on 29 & 31 Jan, 1, 3, 10 & 17 Feb and 12 Mar. Two were present on 2 Feb and three on 22 Mar. The only autumn record was of one off North End on 3 Aug.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Common Loon]

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

At least one bird overwintered in the Landing Bay in late 2021 and early 2022, with two being seen on 1 Jan. The highest count was three in the Landing Bay on 19 Feb and again in autumn on 24 & 25 Nov. The last of the year was one in the Landing Bay 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	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	2
10	15	8	8	–	–	–	–	–	1	10	9

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

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

The first records involved calls heard at a known breeding colony along the East Side on 15 & 16 May. At least five were counted at known colonies during the evenings of 9 & 13 Jun. At least two were seen at night at a colony on the West Side on 23 Aug. Due to biosecurity measures to minimize potential risks from avian influenza, only one mist-netting trip was made, on 31 Jul, when 20 birds were trapped near North Light, including three that had already been ringed away from Lundy (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, but scarce between mid-September and mid-November and almost absent during October when moulting at sea.

Large numbers started to be seen in Jan as birds headed back to nesting sites, the highest count being 465 on 30 Jan. The first chicks were seen on 15 Jul at Gannets' Rock. The number of breeding attempts at this site declined further to 27 (cf. 34 in 2021, 36 in 2020). Fourteen chicks fledged, giving a productivity value of 0.52. There were very few post-breeding records, with the highest count at the end of the year being 17 on 8 Dec.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
465	141	45	63	272	50	11	20	18	2	1	17

*There was no full-island breeding census of Fulmars in 2022 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.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Lundy vagrant

One flew past South West Point on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

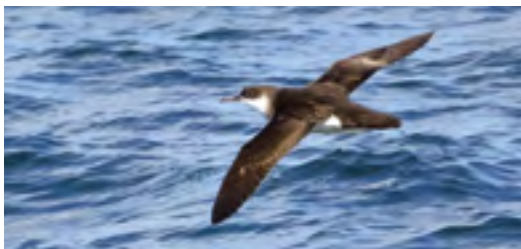
The first was recorded on land on 19 Mar when one was calling from a burrow near Old Light. The highest counts included 600 on 19 Apr, 1,200 on 17 May, 700 on 13 Jun and 2,000 on 1 Jul. The last three of the year flew past Rat Island on 10 Nov. Only 161 Manx Shearwaters were ringed this year due to biosecurity measures to minimize potential risks from avian influenza during the main Aug/Sep shearwater chick ringing season (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94, for

further details). The artificial nestboxes were well used, with eight out of 11 pairs successfully raising and fledging chicks.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	20	600	1,200	700	2,000	42	7	12	3	–

*There was no full-island breeding census of Manx Shearwaters in 2022 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.



► *Manx Shearwater from the Oldenburg on 10th May (photo: Richard Campey).*

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.

One flew past the Castle with Manx Shearwaters on 24 Jul. Another flew past Rat Island on 10 Nov, also accompanied by Manx Shearwaters (Stuart Cossey).

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).

The highest count early in the year was 90 on 22 Jan. The majority of records were post-breeding with a maximum of 150 on 26 Oct. The nearest breeding colony to Lundy, on the Pembrokeshire island of Grassholm (about 83 km WNW), was severely impacted by an outbreak of avian influenza during the summer of 2022, with at least 5,000 confirmed deaths. This may well be reflected in decreased numbers around Lundy during spring and summer 2023.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
90	34	15	18	55	30	60	45	57	150	59	30
19	13	16	23	27	17	16	21	14	27	17	7

Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*

[European Shag]

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

An all-island count on 19 May found 108 birds (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The largest post-breeding count was 240 on 28 Jul, which included many juvenile birds.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
48	66	50	68	108	15	240	95	13	13	9	5

*There was no breeding census of Shags in 2022 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.

The first of the year was a juvenile which was often seen fishing in Rocket Pole Pond from 1 to 3 Jan. The first pre-breeding passage started in Mar. The highest count of the year was 10 on 18 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	5	5	3	5	10	3	7	4	3	–
3	–	7	4	5	4	6	5	5	3	1	–

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; most regular from midsummer to early autumn.

Seven flying north past Jenny's Cove on 19 Mar was the first record of the year. A single bird was then seen from 21 to 23 Mar. There were 28 other records, including five on 21 Jun, five on 5 Jul and four on 1 Aug.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce passage migrant.

There were three records during the year. The first bird flew over the Castle on 22 Jul (Chris & Sharron Blackmore). One was roosting in Millcombe on 5 Nov and was also seen in the Landing Bay up to 8 Nov (Jane Sharkey, Stuart Cossey). One flew east from the Landing Bay on 2 Dec (Max Khoo).

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

[European Honey Buzzard]

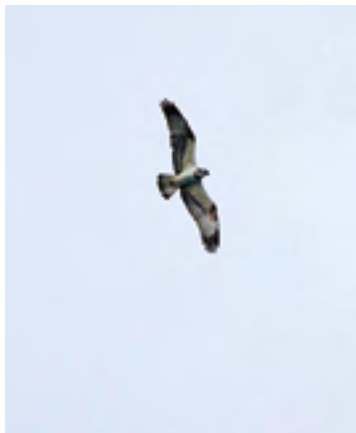
Lundy vagrant.

One flew over the island harassed by Herring Gulls on 2 Jun (Stuart Cossey). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Lundy vagrant.

One toured the island on 8 May after first being seen over South West Field (Stuart Cossey, Rob Duncan, LFS Work Party). Another drifted north over South West Point on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne).

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Scarce but now annual passage migrant.

There were four records, the first flying over Millcombe on 25 Apr (Stuart Cossey). The other spring record concerned one over Rat Island and along the East Side on 27 May (Stuart Cossey, Paul & Jackie Holt). One flew south past Gannets' Rock on 2 Sep (Zach Wait). The most interesting record came on 13 Sep when a bird seen heading south towards Lundy from Pennard Cliffs on the Gower Peninsula, South Wales, at 10:30 hrs (Richard Dann) was seen just two hours later off the Castle (Chris Dee *et al.*) and over the arriving MS *Oldenburg* (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace).

◀ *Osprey from the arriving Oldenburg, Landing Bay*
(photo: Tom Wright).

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.

There were no records until one on 10 Mar followed by sightings on a further 12 days between Mar and Jun. The first autumn bird occurred on 12 Aug, with passage peaking at six individuals on 28 Sep. A single bird overwintered into 2023, with the last 2022 sighting 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
–	–	1	1	1	1	–	2	6	3	3	2
–	–	3	8	1	1	–	17	26	30	22	13

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

Rare passage migrant, both in spring and during late summer and autumn.

Three records. A female/immature bird flew over Quarter Wall towards Pondsburry on 17 Apr (Stuart Cossey, Zach Wait). Another female/immature bird was seen gaining height above Tibbett's Hill before heading west on 18 May (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). A female/immature individual flew south over Barton Field on 8 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

A first-year male flew out to sea off the West Side on 18 Oct (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Another first-year bird seen along the West Side on 23 Oct (Paul Holt) was subsequently seen repeatedly in the Gannets' Combe and Quarter Wall areas up to 18 Nov (Angus Croudace, Stuart Cossey *et al.*).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* [Common Buzzard]

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

One flew east over the Village on 29 Aug (Stuart Cossey *et al.*). A pale individual was present from 15 to 24 Dec (Matt Stritch, Stuart Cossey, Paul Dean).

► Buzzard over Hanmers, 21st December
(photo: Paul Dean).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; occasional breeder.

The first sighting was of a female hunting Starlings around St Helen's Church on 13 Jan. There was a successful breeding attempt this year with two chicks fledged from a nest along the West Side. A maximum of four were seen in Oct but whether these were passage migrants or the lingering family group was unclear. The final record was of one on 24 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	2	2	3	3	2	3	4	3	1
1	1	8	19	25	21	24	25	27	28	26	7



▲ Merlin near Halfway Wall on 17th October
(photo: Tom Wright).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

A female overwintered and was seen regularly until Apr. There were a few passage birds in spring, including a male over North End on 10 Apr and two birds on 27 May. A female/immature flew over Quarter Wall on the unusual date of 11 Jul – only the third Jul record for the island (Stuart Cossey). The first autumn sighting was on 5 Sep, with a peak count of three on 17 Oct. Another overwintering female/immature, seen regularly in Dec, remained into 2023.

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	2	–	1	–	1	3	1	1
12	11	10	14	3	–	1	–	8	25	8	12

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

There were seven spring sightings, all in May. The first bird was over Millcombe on 11 May (Richard Campey). One flew southeast over the Tavern Garden on 15 May (Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones). What seems likely to have been the same individual was seen three times on 16 May off VC Quarry and the Terrace and over the Battlements (Stuart Cossey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones) and again over Millcombe on 17 May (AJ Bellamy). One flew north over Ackland's Moor on 28 May (Rebecca Taylor, Richard Taylor). The sole autumn record concerned one on the relatively late dates of 19 & 20 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace). It was first seen during the evening of 19th and roosted overnight in Millcombe before leaving to the south early on 20th (Tom Wright, Greg Conway).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

An estimated seven pairs attempted breeding. Adults feeding young were noted along the East Side on 19 May. At least three pairs successfully fledged young, with juveniles seen on 29 Jun and 3 Jul.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	3	8	8	10	6	8	4	3	5	3	4

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

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

[Western Barn Owl]

Lundy vagrant.

One was heard calling over the Village on 13 Nov (Stuart Cossey) – only the 10th record for the island and the first since 1981. Four of the previous nine records were also in Nov.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Lundy vagrant.

One was flushed from the top of Millcombe on 18 Nov and flew below Brambles after being mobbed by Carrion Crows (Stuart Cossey). It was ringed in St John's Valley during the evening, enabling it to be confirmed as a first-year female. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

► *Long-eared Owl after being ringed in Millcombe, 18th November (photo: J. Sharkey).*



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Two records. One flushed close to the Stonecrusher on the morning of 14 Sep flew south off Benjamin's Chair (Stuart Cossey). Another was seen by the Old Light building conservation team on the main track to Tibbetts during the evenings of 21 & 22 Sep (Charlie Smith, Rachel Thompson).

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

Five records. The first of the year was one on the Terrace on 12 Sep (Stuart Cossey). This was followed by one near Ponsbury on 14 Sep (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace); one in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) from 18 Sep to 21 Sep, joined briefly by a second bird on 21st (David Oddy *et al.*); and one was in and around gorse clumps by the Rocket Pole on 10 & 11 Oct (Tom Wright, Angus Croudace *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

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

A female was present in the vicinity of the Terrace and Quarter Wall Copse from 29 Mar to 18 Apr (Neil Trout, Stuart Cossey, Laura Pirateque). One flew east over the Village on 19 Oct (Tim Worfolk).



▲ *Wryneck near Ponsbury, 14th September (photo: Tom Wright).*

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

An elusive female-type bird was present in Millcombe from 24 to 27 May (Paul Holt, Jamie Dunning, Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

A single bird first seen in Brick Field on 22 Oct (Paul Holt) remained until the end of the year and into 2023 feeding in the Village and the East Side fields.

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

Three records, all of single birds. The first was seen over the Village on 14 Mar by the LFS Working Party and was later seen in Brick Field. One flew in over Castle Hill on 19 Apr and another flew south over the Landing Bay on 10 Jul (Stuart Cossey).

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

The highest count of the year was 47 on 11 Apr. Successful breeding was confirmed with young fledged from Millcombe, Miller's Cake and South-West Point.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	28	28	47	33	17	23	29	20	36	26	24

**Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix****Lundy vagrant, primarily in spring.*

There were sightings of single birds in Lighthouse Field on 2 May (Rachel Bedwin, Laura Piratique) and in Lighthouse/ Aerogenerator Fields on 12 May (Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC as referring to one individual, though the possibility that two different birds were involved can't be excluded.

◄ Hooded Crow on upper Lighthouse Field,
12th May (photo: Richard Campey).

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year; occasional influxes from the mainland.

The highest count of the year was 21 on both 17 Sep and 16 Oct. The first fledglings were four seen near Stoneycroft on 24 May.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	11	20	10	15	20	19	14	21	21	14	14

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

The first returning birds of the year were logged on 4 Jan, with birds starting to sing from 12 Jan. The highest count of spring was 50 on 22 Mar. An estimated 50 territories were present across the island. There was good passage in autumn with 170 counted on 13 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
12	23	50	29	34	30	18	6	13	170	20	4
19	17	31	30	31	28	30	26	23	30	22	6

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first was seen on 10 Mar with records every month thereafter until 17 Oct. Numbers were low all year with no triple-digit counts. The highest spring count was 57 on 14 Apr. A flock of 71 were around the Church on 2 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
–	–	5	57	32	10	7	12	71	5	–	–
–	–	11	20	26	7	4	14	11	5	–	–



▲ Swallow chicks in the porch of St. Helen's Church (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first of the year were seven on 15 Mar. There were low numbers through Mar until 109 on 10 Apr, 100 on 25 Apr, 4,200 on 27 Apr, 1,020 on 29 Apr and 150 on 30 Apr. The high counts continued into May with 200 on 1st, 4,000 on 2nd and 250 on 3rd, followed by 300 on 13th, 1,000 on 14th and 320 on 19th. Three pairs bred: a pair successfully fledged eight chicks from two broods in the Church Porch; a pair in the porch of Old House North failed at the egg stage but went on to fledge four chicks from the Gas Store; and another pair successfully fledged two chicks from the Casbah. The start of post-breeding dispersal was noted from mid-Jul with 24 on 18th. Sixty-five were counted on 24 Aug but the first high counts of the autumn came in Sep with 500 on 13th, 280 on 14th and 350 on 19th. The most notable passage came on 23 Sep when 12,000 were estimated have flown over the Castle in four hours, averaging a rate of 110 a minute. There

were still a few notable days of passage into Oct, with 300 on 8th and 600 on both 11th & 13th. The final bird of the year was seen at Jenny's Cove on 12 & 13 Nov, and by the Church on 14 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
–	–	7	4,200	4,000	35	24	65	12,000	600	1	–
–	–	7	26	31	28	30	31	29	29	4	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

The first bird of the year passed through on 20 Mar. Passage was quiet until a count of 75 on 27 Apr. There were three dates in May with over 100 logged: 150 on 13th, 200 on 14th and 120 on 19th. In autumn, higher counts included 100 on 23 Sep, 200 on 8 & 11 Oct, and 300 on 13 Oct. The last was one on 18 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	75	200	35	1	13	100	300	–	–
–	–	4	19	30	28	1	7	11	11	–	–

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.

Three records were all in May: a male singing by Millcombe Pond on the morning of 15th (Tim Jones, Jamie Dunning *et al.*); another on the same day in Gannets' Combe (Paul St Pierre); and possibly one of these birds watched feeding below the Terrace on 16th (Tim Davis).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

There were 18 records on 12 dates in autumn between 14 Sep and 12 Nov. The first was one in the Secret Garden (lower Millcombe) on 14 Sep (Stuart Cossey). Two were recorded on 19 Sep, one along the Terrace (Angus Croudace) and another in Millcombe (Tom Wright). One was with a Treecreeper by Quarry Pond on 3 Oct (Darrin Dowding, Paul Bullock). One was found in Millcombe on 9 Oct (Matthew Broadbent). Three were trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 11 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Nik Ward, Tom Wright). Two were still present on 12 Oct (Angus Croudace). One was in Millcombe on 18 Oct (Greg Conway). Two were recorded in Millcombe on 20 Oct (Greg Conway, Tim Davis *et al.*). Another was by Stoneycroft on 21 Oct (David Lindo) and two were seen feeding together in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 22 Oct (Chris Baillie, Tim Jones, Paul Holt). One was seen below Government House on 25 Oct (Chris Baillie). The final bird of the year was seen along the Terrace on 12 Nov (Stuart Cossey). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* [Pallas's Leaf Warbler]
Nationally scarce migrant.

One was trapped and ringed in the Secret Garden on 4 Nov (Chris Dee, Stuart Cossey) – the seventh record for Lundy and the fifth individual to be ringed. Record accepted by DBRC.

◀ *Pallas's Warbler after being ringed in Millcombe, 3rd November*
(photo: Stuart Cossey).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first of spring were three on 21 Mar. The highest spring count was 100+ on 1 May. There was a push north from 15 to 17 Apr with 40, 60 and 50 counted respectively. The last sign of spring movement was one on 7 Jun. Although song was heard from Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse in May and early Jun, there was no evidence that breeding was attempted. The first returning migrant was seen on 1 Jul, followed by further scattered ones and twos before 22 were logged on 20 Jul, followed by peaks (all counts over 50) of 72 on 26 Jul, and in Aug 400 on 1st, 62 on 12th, 120 on 14th, 115 on 2 Sep. The last of the year was one on 28 Oct.



▲ Willow Warbler, Millcombe, 24th May
(photo: Richard Campey).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	6	60	100	2	72	400	115	2	–	–
–	–	10	28	25	4	14	31	18	8	–	–

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; occasional breeder.

Single birds were seen on 18 & 20 Jan. Up to two were then seen regularly from 27 Jan to 11 Feb. The first presumed spring migrant proper was one on 8 Mar. There were 13 spring-passage days with double-digit counts, including 30 on 24 Mar, 20 on 14 Apr and 30 on 16 Apr. Multiple males were heard singing in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse. However, the only confirmed breeding pair was in Millcombe when an adult was seen with food on 30 Jun and four fledged chicks were being fed on 9 Jul. Noticeable autumn passage got under way on 14 Sep with a sudden fall of 45 birds after no records for two weeks. This proved to be the highest count of the year, with few noted in the rest of Sep and Oct. The final bird of the year was seen on 7 Dec.

Two individuals with plumage and calls typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were noted. The first was calling by Millcombe Pond on 9 Jan (Stuart Cossey). The other was first seen around the Village allotments on 29 Nov (Jamie Dunning *et al.*) and then seen and heard below Government House on 30 Nov (Stuart Cossey). Records 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
2	3	30	30	10	6	7	10	45	15	5	1
8	16	24	28	30	25	25	14	12	25	19	3

Western / Eastern Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* / *orientalis*

British vagrant.

One was photographed along the track to Old Light on 25 Apr during strong easterly winds (Stuart Cossey). Features and conditions suggested Eastern Bonelli's Warbler, *P. orientalis*. Record subject to acceptance by BBRC.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically.
The first record was of two birds on 15 Apr. The highest counts in spring were 25 on 29 Apr and 30 on 30 Apr. The last migrants were six seen on 19 May. A singing male and two calling young birds in Quarter Wall Copse on 8 Jun confirmed breeding this year. Returning birds started arriving from 20 Jul. As usual, numbers were a lot lower than in spring with an autumn peak of 10 on 1 Aug. The last bird of the year was one on 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
–	–	–	30	16	3	4	10	4	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	19	2	5	18	4	–	–	–

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Common Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were records on 11 days in spring between 24 Apr and 13 Jun. The highest count was three on 30 Apr. Only two were recorded in autumn, single birds on 2 & 10 Sep.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Lundy vagrant.

One was ringed in Millcombe on 10 Oct (Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace) – the seventh record for Lundy and the sixth individual to be ringed.



▲ Cetti's Warbler after being ringed in Millcombe, 10th October (photo: Tom Wright).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

Spring migrants were recorded on 14 dates from 14 Apr to 14 May, with a maximum of five on 16 Apr. Of eight autumn migrants, the first returning bird was noted on 20 Jul and the last record was of two on 14 Sep.

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 2018–2021 inclusive.

The first record was of a female on 17 Mar. Numbers quickly built with 40 on 3 Apr and a peak of 150 on 16 Apr. A female was nest building in Millcombe on 20 May and a male was singing in Quarter Wall Copse on 8 Jun. However, breeding appears to have been unsuccessful as there was no sign of any fledglings in Jun or Jul. The first returning bird was one on 20 Jul. Counts didn't reach double figures until 17 on 9 Sep. A large fall of 200 occurred on 14 Sep, with birds seemingly in every bush. There was a further fall of 100 on 24 Sep. Migration continued into Oct with a high of 40 on 14th. The last birds of the year were two males and a female ringed on 30 Nov. A Blackcap ringed in Denmark in 2020 was trapped on Lundy on 14 Apr (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94).



▲ Blackcap in Millcombe, 25th March
(photo: Stuart Cossey).

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	150	30	10	1	3	200	40	10	–
–	–	12	26	27	6	3	8	26	29	16	–

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin**Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.*

Spring-passage migrants were recorded on nine dates from 29 Apr to 19 May. All were single birds except for two on 14 May. Following a report of two on the unusual date of 4 Jul, there were records on a further nine dates during autumn passage, from 13 Aug to 25 Sep, with a peak count of four on 14 Sep.

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

There were records on ten dates in spring, from 20 Apr to 8 May. All concerned singles birds, except for two ringed in Millcombe on 1 May. A singing male was below Government House on 24 Apr. The only autumn record was of a single bird on 15 Sep.

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; occasional breeder.

The first was a female below the Ugly on 11 Apr. Numbers started to build towards the end of the month with 12 on 30 Apr. Birds continued to pass through in May during which there were five territorial males: three in Millcombe, one on the Terrace and another at Quarter Wall Copse. Two young were seen by the Ugly and four below Millcombe House in Jun, proving at least two pairs successfully fledged young. With local pairs still present, it was difficult to detect the start

of autumn migration. However, there were frequent sightings from 7 Aug and numbers peaked at 30 on 14 Sep. The last of the year was one on 25 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	12	8	6	3	6	30	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	31	21	9	21	11	–	–	–

Eastern / Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans* / *iberiae*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A male, thought to be Eastern Subalpine Warbler *C. cantillans*, was seen along Quarter Wall on 26 Apr (Stuart Cossey). Record accepted by BBRC as Eastern / Western Subalpine Warbler.



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* [Common Firecrest]
Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.

The first spring migrants were a female from 18 to 21 Mar, followed by a male on 24 Mar. There were only two other spring records: singles on 3 Apr and 7 May. As usual, autumn passage was much more pronounced with records on 32 dates from 29 Aug to 27 Oct. The highest counts were three on 9 Sep and 11, 12 & 14 Oct.

◀ Firecrest, Quarries, 29th August (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.
At least four overwintered from 2021. Higher counts included four on 2 Jan and five on 29 Jan and 2 & 4 Feb. Spring passage was rather sparse, with a maximum of six on 24 Mar. The final bird of spring was seen from 9 to 11 May, but there was no sign of any breeding activity. The first returning bird was recorded on 24 Aug. Records peaked in Oct with 100 counted across the island on 2nd; the next highest count was 50 on 8 Oct. At least one spent the winter in Millcombe, last being logged on 30 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	5	6	5	1	–	–	2	30	100	8	2
23	19	18	5	3	–	–	3	26	31	26	9

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.

Peak counts were 59 on 19 May and 52 on 14 Oct. Intensive surveying throughout May indicated an estimated 100 singing males.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	29	27	18	59	18	22	23	17	52	17	16



▲ Treecreeper in Millcombe, 1st October (photo: Tom Wright).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

Recorded on nine dates: one in spring and eight in autumn. The first was in Millcombe on 26 Apr (Stuart Cossey). One was ringed on 17 Sep and seen again the next day (Chris Dee, Angus Croudace *et al.*). Singles were in Millcombe on 2 Oct (Matt Stritch) and on five dates from 10 to 15 Oct (Tom Wright, Chris Dee *et al.*). The latter bird was trapped and ringed on 12th.



Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

An adult first seen by Old Light on 6 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor) was then seen around Old Light and Barton Field on 7 & 8 Jun. A juvenile bird roosting in the Black Shed on the evening of 15 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*) was then seen with the Starling flock around the Village and Church on 13 dates up to 10 Oct. Records accepted by DBRC. A further record of an adult around the Brick Field pigsty on 21 Jun (Matt Stritch, Rachel Bedwin) remains subject to acceptance by DBRC.

◀ Rose-coloured Starling, Old Light, 8th June (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

The highest count over the first winter period and into spring was 380 on 12 Jan. At least 60 active nest sites were located within the Village and at Old Light (Stuart Cossey). The first fledged young were seen on 18 May and second broods started at the beginning of Jun. Autumn passage counts peaked at 1,140 on 29 Nov. Other high counts included 600 on 28 Oct and 26 Nov. After 360 on 1 Dec, the resident flock accounted for more typical winter counts of around 110.

Maximum count for each month (top)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
380	220	205	145	140	150	121	190	300	600	1,140	360



▲ Male Ring Ouzel near Old Hospital, 8th November (photo: Mandy Dee).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Recorded on seven spring dates from 28 Mar to 30 Apr. All records were of single birds except for two males on 29 Mar and two females on 9 Apr. The first returning bird was seen at VC Quarry on 2 Sep (Stuart Cossey) – the earliest autumn record for many years, though late-Aug records were regular when the English and Welsh breeding populations were much higher than currently. The highest count of the year was 20 on 20 Oct, coinciding with a large influx of Fieldfare and Redwing, whilst the last was a single bird 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
–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	20	1	–
–	–	2	5	–	–	–	–	3	14	1	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

The highest counts during the first winter period were 30 on 29 Jan, 38 on 2 Feb and 33 on 8 Feb. The first fledglings were seen from 9 May. A full island survey in May resulted in an estimate of 25 breeding pairs. Despite the large influxes of other thrushes in Oct, peak Blackbird arrivals didn't occur until Nov, when 59 were logged on 19th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	38	28	15	38	17	16	9	15	23	59	23

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. The first sightings of the year were three on 5 Jan. After no records in Feb, there were records on 13 days in Mar and Apr. Four on 4 Apr was the last spring record, coinciding with low cloud across the island. The first autumn migrant was one on 18 Oct, the vanguard of a major influx over the next two days, coinciding with strong easterly winds, with numbers estimated at 2,000 on 19th Oct and a record 4,000 on 20th. There was a cold-weather arrival of a flock of 64 on 15 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	–	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	4,000	39	64
6	–	11	2	–	–	–	–	–	14	20	11

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

A small flock of up to 13 stayed on the island over the winter and were often seen leaving roost in Millcombe. The last spring sighting was a flock of 66 in Millcombe during low cloud on 4 Apr. One on 27 Sep was the first of autumn. Passage peaked at 1,500 on 19 Oct. There were a few other high counts including 166 on 4 Nov, 160 on 13 Nov and 229 on 17 Nov. A small cold weather arrival of 57 birds occurred on 17 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	16	12	66	–	–	–	–	1	1,500	229	57
31	17	21	2	–	–	–	–	2	22	25	20

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.

A number of birds overwintered and there was a small late-winter influx, peaking at 19 on 2 Feb. A persistent male sang in Millcombe almost every day between Apr and Jul, although no breeding evidence was recorded. Autumn passage began in Oct, peaking at 23 on 20th. Up to three continued to be recorded into 2023.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	19	8	5	1	1	1	1	1	23	7	10
31	25	30	28	31	25	13	1	1	21	21	21

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Ones and twos were recorded on ten dates in spring and seven in autumn. The first of the year was on 21 & 22 Mar, followed by another from 27 Mar to 2 Apr. Two flew over Millcombe on 4 Apr. A single bird was seen on 27 Apr. There were no further records until one on 19 & 20 Oct. Two flew over on 4 Nov with another two on 13th. A single bird then remained until 15 Nov, the last of the year.

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; breeding attempt failed in 2020.

The first of the year was a single bird on 30 Apr. The main spring arrival was in the second half of May, peaking at 20 on 19th. Up to two were noted until 9 Jun before the first returning birds were seen on 3 Jul. Regular sightings commenced from 9 Aug, with a maximum count of 20 on 14 Sep. The last of the year was seen on the late date of 20 Oct (Tim Davis *et al.*).

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	20	2	2	13	20	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	23	8	2	20	12	5	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

A winter influx brought 16 birds on 30 Jan and 20 on 2 Feb. At least five pairs had fledged young in Millcombe – the first young were seen in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 17 May – with singing birds also present at St Helen's Copse, Quarter Wall Copse, the Terrace and Gannets' Combe. One was seen with nest material by Brambles Villa on 8 Apr. There was a noticeable influx of autumn migrants on 25 Sep with 30 counted across the island. Thirty were also counted on 14 Oct, with 24 on both 16 & 17 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	20	12	10	9	9	10	12	30	30	16	10

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-winter bird was found at the top of Millcombe on 27 Oct (Chris Baillie, Stuart Cossey, Tom Wright, Angus Croudace). Record accepted by DBRC.



▲ Red-breasted Flycatcher, Millcombe, 27th October (photo: Stuart Cossey).



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* [European Pied Flycatcher]
Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; occasional records in midsummer.

The first of the year was a male on the Terrace on 17 Apr. The highest count in spring was three (two males and a female) in Millcombe on 26 Apr. The last spring record was of one on 19 May. A returning bird was recorded on 22 Jul, with the highest counts of six on 14 Aug and 11 Sep. The last of the year was one on 11 Oct.

◀ *Pied Flycatcher in Millcombe, 18th September (photo: Paul Dean).*

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	–	1	6	6	1	–	–
–	–	–	5	2	–	1	17	15	3	–	–

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

British vagrant.

An elusive female was seen briefly along the East Side Path between Mousehole & Trap and Gannets' Combe on 13 May (Tim Jones, Tim Davis), coinciding with a notable influx to Britain. Record accepted by DBRC.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common late-autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; ones and twos occur irregularly in winter.

The first of the year was a female on 25 Feb. Records on nine days from 19 to 29 Mar peaked at eight on 24 Mar. Late-spring birds included singles on 21, 27 & 28 May and 5 Jun. Unusually early returning birds, both singles, were reported on 22 Aug and 23 Sep, the latter a male just north of Threequarter Wall. The highest counts of autumn were four on 20 Oct and 12 Nov. The last of the year was one on 29 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	8	2	1	1	–	1	1	4	4	–
–	1	9	2	3	1	–	1	1	12	13	–



▲ *Black Redstart in Landing Bay, 13th November (photo: Stuart Cossey).*



▲ Redstart, Millcombe, 25th April (photo: Stuart Cossey).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

There were records on nine dates in spring from 3 Apr to 19 May. All involved single birds apart from two, a male and female, in upper Millcombe on 25 & 26 Apr. The first autumn migrant arrived on 6 Aug. The highest count was again of just two birds, on 2 Sep and 10 Oct.

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

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

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

There were only five spring records, all of single birds, from 24 Apr to 20 May. There was a notable autumn passage with records on 22 days between 13 Aug and 24 Oct; the highest count was of 12 on 14 Sep. Three long-staying birds were seen together across the island from 2 to 6 Sep. The last of the year was in South West Field on the late date of 24 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	1	–	–	3	12	1	–	–
–	–	–	1	4	–	–	5	14	2	–	–

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

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

Two overwintering birds were seen on 1 Jan. Local breeding birds appear to have arrived mainly in Apr, with 18 counted on 17th. Up to 19 territories were found during May, including eight pairs



▲ Juvenile Stonechat on the Terrace, 16th May (photo: Richard Campey).

feeding young. Second broods were started by 22 Jun, with a pair still feeding young on 7 Aug. There was an autumn influx of 30 on 13 Oct. The last record of the year was of two on 15 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
6	6	8	18	20	11	12	14	12	30	4	2
22	15	30	29	31	29	29	29	27	27	21	3

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first migrants of spring were two that arrived on 8 Mar. The first double-digit count was 19 on 22 Mar. An influx of 93 occurred on 24 Apr, whilst 140 – the highest count of the year – were logged on 27 Apr. Within the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project study area the breeding population was estimated at 55 pairs (see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.94 for further details). The whole-island population was estimated at 129 breeding pairs. The first young were seen in the first week of Jun. A series of autumn arrivals occurred between 12 & 17 Sep, peaking at 63 on 14th. The last of the year was one on 17 Oct.

Birds showing plumage characteristics of 'Greenland Wheatear' *O. o. leucorhoa* were noted in May and Sep. Of the 63 seen on 14 Sep, the majority appeared to be of the Greenland race. Ringing records of Greenland race birds included one on 25 May (Richard & Rebecca Taylor) and seven between 12 & 15 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*).

Request. Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring sightings in the Lundy Bird Observatory/LFS logbook. Photos of colour-ringed birds are particularly valuable; please send to birdobs@lundyisland.co.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
–	–	20	140	61	50	50	31	63	3	–	–
–	–	21	27	31	28	30	29	21	7	–	–



▲ Male House Sparrow, Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
125	100	80	70	80	70	95	99	55	54	50	60

Sophie Wilkins reports on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme

2022 marked the 21st year of the Lundy House Sparrow Project's regular monitoring on the island. The summer fieldwork was, once again, headed up by Jamie Dunning (Imperial College) who arrived on Lundy at the end of April. He was supported by field assistants specially trained to help with our efforts to thoroughly monitor the breeding season. Thanks to their hard work we are able to maintain an accurate pedigree for the population, colour-mark individual birds to allow them to be identified without recapture, and record parental provisioning behaviours.

The season started slowly, with the first chicks hatching on 9th May, nearly a month later than in 2021. Through the nesting season a total of 70 broods were found and a total of 129 chicks hatched, with 88 ringed as nestlings. This is a decline from the previous year where 185 nestlings, across 115 broods, were ringed. The differences may be explained by the cold snap experienced in February 2022 and the delayed start to the season.

This trend remained evident when we returned, as usual, in November to ring and take DNA samples from adult birds. This trip also gave us the opportunity to catch any unringed adults born in 2021. However, only 10 birds were caught during the time we were on the island. This is far fewer than the previous year's 108 captures during the same period and is a record low for the project. This decline has been attributed to the presence of a Sparrowhawk wintering on the island, encouraging the House Sparrows to be more cautious and less likely to be out in the open. However, thanks to the efforts of LFS ringers, an additional 41 unringed birds were captured between August and October, along with 66 retraps.

At the end of the year we welcomed a new PhD student, Yuheng Sun (University of Groningen), who will be studying the effects of ageing within House Sparrows and who will be starting off our 2023 field season.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

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

The highest day counts of the year were 21 on 13 Apr and 18 on 17 Oct. It is likely that these high counts coincided with a small passage of birds from the mainland. There were an estimated 11 breeding pairs, some of which had second broods, with many young seen in Jun and Jul.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	13	13	21	14	9	12	6	10	18	9	6

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.

The first Yellow Wagtail of the year flew over calling on 12 Apr. There were records on 17 days in Apr and May, with a high count of four on 15 May. In Sep and Oct there were records on 25 days, most of which related to birds flying over calling. The highest count was three on 12 Oct, with the last bird on 23 Oct.

A male of the continental race Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava* first seen in Barton Field on 24 Apr stayed until 26 Apr. Another was seen in Barton Field on 15 & 16 May and again on 21 & 22 May. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

► *Blue-headed Wagtail in Barton Field, 16th June*
(photo: Richard Campey).

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

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

Single, mostly flyover birds were recorded on nine days between Mar & May. There were three records of early dispersal in Jul & Aug. The main autumn movement was in Sep and Oct with a maximum of six on 13 Oct. There were records on three days in Nov, the latest of these on 12th.

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	5	6	1	–
–	–	3	2	4	–	2	1	17	17	3	–



▲ Pied Wagtail, 17th April (photo: Mandy Dee).

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.

A small number were seen through Jan & Feb with the main spring passage peaking at the end of Mar. Twenty-nine were counted on 21 Mar, of which 25 were confirmed as Pied Wagtails. Up to five breeding pairs were present, with fledged young seen by Millcombe Pond, Brick Field pigsty, Quarter Wall, the Village and by the Lambing Shed. Noticeable movement was seen again from the end of Aug. The highest autumn-passage count was 43 on 13 Oct, of which eight were confirmed as Pied Wagtails.

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
2(2)	2 (2)	29 (25)	17 (13)	9 (8)	10 (10)	13 (13)	20 (1)	21 (0)	43 (8)	4 (3)	1 (1)
7	8	31	30	31	29	29	30	27	26	13	5

Confirmed White Wagtails were recorded on 35 days during spring passage, from 20 Mar to 10 Jun, with a maximum of 9 on 22 Mar, and on 23 dates in autumn, from 29 Jul to 27 Nov, with a maximum of 6 on 27 Aug. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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
–	–	9	5	3	1	3	6	2	5	1	–
–	–	12	6	14	3	1	3	3	11	5	–

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

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

As usual, numbers were low over winter, with spring passage commencing at the end of Feb. The highest spring count was of 155 on 20 Mar. Birds were on territory in Mar with singing males noted across South West Field, Ackland's Moor and north of Quarter Wall. The first juveniles were fledged in Jun. After a late-summer lull, autumn passage peaked at 600 on 13 Oct. There were five other counts of over 150 birds.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	66	155	122	102	100	120	63	200	600	30	15

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

There were records on 11 days in spring. Mostly involving ones and twos, there was a high count of three on 1 May. One was heard flying over Millcombe on the early 'autumn' date of 13 Jul (Sam Bosanquet). Peak counts were made on 18 Aug (11), 28 Aug (9) and 2 Sep (10). The last record of the year was of one briefly in Millcombe before flying south calling on 9 Oct (Tom Wright).

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	3	–	1	11	10	1	–	–
–	–	1	6	4	–	1	15	14	1	–	–

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[European Rock Pipit]

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

The highest count of the year was 51 during a walk of the island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The breeding population on Lundy is difficult to assess given the location of most nest sites low down along the coast. A second count from the island perimeter on 19 May yielded 39 individuals (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). The first fledglings were seen in the Landing Bay in Jun. A post-breeding flock was present on the slopes above North Light in autumn, peaking at 40 on 16 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
51	16	11	8	39	15	3	7	6	40	11	13

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.

Small numbers were present during the first half of the year, with only slight spring-passage movement detected. Three pairs all fledged young in Millcombe, with an unpaired male present in Quarter Wall Copse. The first notable autumn movement was 30 on 11 Oct. Passage peaked at 2,000 on 18 Oct with a second peak of 1,036 on 12 Nov. During Oct & Nov there were 11 days when counts exceeded 300 individuals.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	17	12	15	7	45	6	5	17	2,000	1,036	40

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

The first of the year was one heard over Rocket Pole Pond on 12 Jan. Four flew north along the East Side on 11 Feb. There followed an exceptional spring passage for the island, with records on 18 days between 15 Mar and 8 Apr, including high counts of 33 on 20 Mar and 40 on 21 Mar. Autumn passage was more typical, with records on 21 days from 11 Oct to 19 Nov, peaking at seven on 19 Oct.



▲ *Male Brambling on the West Side, 20th March*
(photo: Stuart Cossey).

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	40	4	–	–	–	–	–	7	4	–
1	1	14	4	–	–	–	–	–	8	13	–

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*
Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

Five records, four in spring and one in autumn. The first was a female ringed in Millcombe on 18 Apr (Chris Dee); one on 21 Apr was likely the same bird (Stuart Cossey). Another was first seen flying over Millcombe, where it roosted, on the evening of 30 Apr (Rob Duncan, Jamie Dunning). A female was ringed on 2 May and retrapped the following day having put on 2 grams (Rob Duncan, David Kightley). One was seen in upper Millcombe on 13 May (Tim Jones). The only autumn record was of a juvenile in Millcombe on 19 Sep (Stuart Cossey, Chris Dee *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Bullfinch *Phyrrhula phyrrhula* [Eurasian Bullfinch]
Rare spring migrant; very rare autumn migrant.

An elusive female was recorded four times in Millcombe between 16 & 24 Jan, and what may have been the same bird again on 5, 6 & 8 Feb (Stuart Cossey, Tim Jones). Another was seen on 24 Mar (Chris Baillie). Two females were ringed on 3 Apr, with a single female then recorded on 4 & 7 Apr (Chris Dee, Stuart Cossey). There was a single autumn record with one heard calling in Millcombe on 19 Oct, confirmed as a male on 20th and heard again on 24th (Stuart Cossey, David Lindo).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrina*
Nationally scarce migrant.

Two records, both of first-winter birds in Sep. The first was in the Secret Garden (lower Millcombe) on 9th (Stuart Cossey, Megan Hollywood Harry). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC. The second was ringed in Millcombe on 23rd (Chris Dee *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

Single birds were seen on six days in spring: 11 & 28 Feb, 9, 26 & 29 Apr and 1 Jun. Two were seen on 15 Feb and 5 Jun and one on 12 Aug. There were records on seven days in Oct, including five on 11th.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

There was some unusual movement through the island early in the year, with 24 counted on 12 Jan, 73 on 11 Feb and 26 on 26 Feb, though Linnets were largely absent on most other days in both months. Sightings became more frequent from Mar as breeding birds started taking up territories. Passage birds were still present in May making counting breeding birds difficult. Pairs were noted wherever there is gorse. Fledged young were noted in St John's Valley, Rocket Pole area, Ackland's Moor and Quarter Wall during Jun. Post-breeding flocks began to build in Jul with counts of more than 100 on 6th (104), 26th (121), 27th (214) and 28th (111). A flock of around 140 individuals at Quarter Wall on 29 Aug contributed to the monthly high of 212. Good numbers continued through Sep (max 125 on 2nd) and into Oct (max 122 on 13th). There were very few records in Nov (max 24 on 12th) and just one sighting in Dec, a single bird on 4th.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	73	45	79	150	76	214	212	125	122	24	1
5	10	27	28	31	28	30	31	29	28	4	1

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers; rare in winter.*

The first of the year were three flying over Millcombe on 12 Jan, followed by a single bird on 8 Apr, two on 12 May and further singles on 13 May and 7 Jun. In autumn there were records on 14 days between 2 Sep and 19 Nov, including two on 3 Sep and 22 & 23 Oct and three on 9 Nov.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

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

A flock of five flew over Millcombe calling on 28 Aug (Stuart Cossey).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Up to three birds overwintered into Jan. The first signs of spring passage came towards the end of Mar, with numbers peaking at 38 on 14 Apr. Although difficult to assess, the breeding population was estimated at around 10 pairs including three pairs that successfully fledged young in Millcombe. Post-breeding dispersal started from the end of Jul and peaked at 52 on 13 Oct. The last sighting of the year was of two on 6 Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	5	21	38	25	22	23	40	35	52	6	2
30	12	24	29	31	28	30	31	27	28	22	4

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

Unusually, birds were noted in every month. Small numbers were recorded from Jan to Sep, with a maximum of three on 25 Mar. The first double-figure count was 17 on 6 Oct, peaking at 200 on 13 Oct. There were high counts of 128 on 8 Nov, 178 on 12 Nov and 100 on 13 Nov. Fewer than 10 were recorded on all other dates in Nov. A single bird was seen on 20 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	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	200	178	1
2	1	3	6	3	4	1	2	2	23	15	1

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Three records. One flew over with Skylarks on 12 Jan (Stuart Cossey). One flew over the Airfield calling on 13 Oct (Tim Davis, Tim Jones). Another flew over South West Field calling on 30 Nov (Stuart Cossey). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

Four records. One was near Threequarter Wall on 2 Feb, with another heard in flight over Rocket Pole on 5 Apr. A female was present around Quarter Wall and the Old Hospital from 1 to 8 May. The first two autumn migrants arrived on 15 Oct and were followed by small numbers on a further 12 dates up to 3 Nov. The highest count was eight on 22 Oct. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



▲ Snow Bunting on the Main Track, 16th October (photo: Tom Wright).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular visitor and bred in the first half of the twentieth century.

Unusually, two records. A male was by Brick Field pigsty on 23 Jun before flying north (Stuart Cossey). Another flew southwest over the Church calling on 16 Oct (Greg Conway).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was feeding with Linnets by the Stonecrusher on 12 Sep before flying off north alarm calling (Ben Rousseau, Joe Parker *et al.*). Record subject to acceptance by DBRC.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was calling and flying around Millcombe on 24 Oct (Paul Holt). Record accepted by DBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A single, possibly overwintering bird was in gorse above Pondsburry on 9 & 16 Jan. A male and two females were present in the same area on 21 Jan. Up to two were still present by Pondsburry until 10 Mar. One was above Gannets' Combe on 27 Mar. There were no autumn sightings until Oct, with three on 11th and passage peaking at 12 on 16th. The last of the year was one 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
3	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	1	1
4	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	5	1

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*

British vagrant. Two previous Lundy records, in October 1958 and October 1967.

A superb adult male was found below Government House during the afternoon of 8 Oct (Angus Croudace, Tom Wright, Stuart Cossey *et al.*). It was later relocated in the early evening by the Gas Store. Unfortunately, clear skies overnight seemed to aid onward passage and there was no sign of the bird the next day. Record accepted by BBRC; the third for Lundy.



▲ Baltimore Oriole in Millcombe, 8th October (photo: Tom Wright).

References

- Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007.** *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon EX34 9TB
- Cossey, S. 2022.** *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2022*. Lundy, Bristol Channel EX39 2LY.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated owing to a lack of supporting details in the logbook. Further information that would enable either of these reports to be confirmed is welcome and can be sent to birdobs@lundy.co.uk.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* – one on Terrace on 17 Apr.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* – singles by Quarter Wall on 18 Apr and over the Castle on 13 Aug.

2022 RECORDS ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN

Booted / Sykes Warbler *Iduna caligata / rama*

British vagrant

One unidentified *Iduna* warbler seen briefly on the Terrace on 29 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

British vagrant.

One seen in a wet flush along the West Side on 3 Jun was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Lundy vagrant; formerly a regular migrant in small numbers and a sporadic breeder.

One flying north from South Light with six House Sparrows on 7 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One flushed off Tibbett's Hill and flying west on 27 Oct was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

British vagrant.

One flying over the Stonecrusher calling on 18 Nov was assessed as 'not proven' by DBRC.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens*

British vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One heard over the Lodge garden and then seen in Barton Field on 2 Dec 2021 was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC. One flushed near 'Pointless Wall' (between the Airfield and Quarter Wall) on 25 Nov was assessed as 'not proven' by BBRC.

BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the systematic list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below. Records for the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary should be submitted to recorder@devonbirds.org.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Seven on the crossing to Lundy on 5 Apr (Jamie Dunning, Paul St Pierre).

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

One on the crossing to Lundy on 28 Apr (Jamie Dunning).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Five on the crossing from Ilfracombe to Lundy on 8 Sep (Stuart Cossey).



▲ Raven on Barton Field wall, 7th December (photo: Andrea May).