

FRESHWATER AND TERRESTRIAL RECORDS



▲ *Mirror Carp* (*Cyprinus carpio*) from *Rocket Pole Pond* showing the characteristic reduced mirror-like scales (photo: Jennifer George).

FRESHWATER FISHES

Jennifer George

There have only been a few records of the Lundy freshwater fish in 2022. The three ponds that contain fish, Quarry Pond, Rocket Pole Pond and Pondsburry did not dry out during the summer drought as the other Lundy ponds did, although the water levels were lower during this time.

Golden Orfe, *Leuciscus idus*, were observed in Quarry Pond in March and June, with 18 adults being the maximum number seen at any one time. Juvenile fish were present in both months. The Rocket Pole Pond continues to support the **Mirror Carp**, *Cyprinus carpio*, population, which had been observed spawning in early June 2021 by Dean Jones. In early June six carp were observed and in early July ten carp were seen.

More observations of the numbers of fish are needed throughout the year, which should be recorded in the LFS Logbook; Lundy visitors and staff **please note!**

(Thanks to the Fish Observers in 2022, Alan and Sandra Rowland, James Harding-Morris, Kevin Flack, Liz Davies).

REPTILES, LAND MAMMALS AND BATS

Compiled by Chris Dee

Introduced Reptiles

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms *Anguis fragilis* of uncertain origin are present. Although previously thought to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland in November 2010, there are suggestions that they were present as early as 2000.

In 2022, there were records between 13 April and 26 August. Most previous records have been confined to Millcombe and St John's Valley, where the initial introduction was thought to have occurred, but this year they were also reported from the Lower East Side Path, Quarter Wall, the Terrace, the track to Quarry Beach Old Light, Ponsbury, and most surprisingly in the Tavern.

To help track the spread of this species across Lundy, members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS Logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern.

Native Land Mammals

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal, the Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus* which is widely distributed across the island and can be found throughout the year. It is probably associated with most properties; this year it has been reported from the Castle properties, Bramble Villa East, Millcombe House, Hammers, the Church, Government House, Old House South, the Tavern, the Lodge, Stoneycroft, Old Light Lower, Old Light Cottage and Tibbetts. The species is also found away from human habitation and there have been sightings at the Landing Bay, Castle Hill, Benjamin's Chair, South West Field, Tent Field, Camping Field, Upper East Side Path, Quarter Wall, Ackland's Moor, the Battery and Jenny's Cove. One was also found dead at Gannets' Coombe.

Bats

Bats are occasionally observed on Lundy and are usually assumed to be one of the native pipistrelle species; Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*. Sightings of probable Common Pipistrelle were reported in Millcombe and around the village on 22 and 23 March (M Baillie), and on 26 July (two individuals), 7 and 11 August (S Cossey). Increasingly frequently, bats are also reported from the Terrace and Quarry Pond. An unidentified bat was seen there on 13 and 17 March (J Wilby & V Day) and a Common Pipistrelle on 11 August (S Cossey).

Feral Land Mammals-Ungulates

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. During COVID – 19 restrictions it was not possible to undertake the planned culls and numbers of all species remain higher than planned. Scheduled culls returned to normal in 2022 and were carried out in March, September and October, although activities in March were hindered by severe weather. The early spring surveys normally provide the best estimation of numbers, but extra counts by visitors are useful for the record, particularly if some assessment of completeness of coverage is included.

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*

A count of 40 was reported on 30 Jan (T Davis, T Jones, S Cossey). The stock count in March estimated a population of 90 individuals, comprising 50 hinds, 25 stags and 15 yearlings (P Hamlyn). Unusually, 15 were in South West Field on 14 April, with a further 31 in their more typically haunt on the East Side on the same date (M Dee). Other significant counts were 39 in Tillage Field on 18 May (T Jones, T Davis, P St Pierre) and 52 on the West Side the following day (T Jones & T Davis). Up to 11 were seen in the Tent Field in July (C & S Blackmore).



▲ Rutting Sika Stags in autumn 2022 (photo: Joanne Wilby).

The Conservation Team estimated the post-breeding population to be more than 130. A cull in April reduced the population by 16 (8 hinds and 8 stags), and two prickets were culled in October.

Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count in March estimated a population of 220 (P Hamlyn). The first lamb was reported on 14 March (LFS work party members) and there were counts of 159 on 13 April (unknown observer), 147 on 22 May (P & J Holt), 163 on 22 August (R Ellis) and 150 on 12 November (R Turner). The Conservation Team estimated the post-breeding population to be more than 300. Thirty-nine rams and 16 Ewes were culled in September and a further 26 rams and 19 ewes were removed in October.

Goat *Capra aegagrus*

The March stock count found 51 individuals (P Hamlyn). There were significant counts of 35 on 30 January (T Davis, T Jones, S Cossey), 25 on the West Side on 19 May (T Jones & T Davis) and 27 across the island on 15 September (C Dee, R Akam, J Parker). Goats continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe and St John's Valley. Nevertheless, three were reported at the South End on 14 Apr (M Dee) and five were on South Light on 22 July. The culls in March, September and October reduced the population by 13 billies and nine nannies.

Feral Land Mammals – Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Rabbit numbers remain low because of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease or Myxomatosis) although there are signs of a slow recovery. Individuals or small groups were reported from eleven locations across the island: from Castle Hill to the North End and on both the east and west coasts. The highest count was of seven in Tillage Field in darkness on 12 September using a thermal imager (C Dee & J Parker). All records of this formerly common species are welcome to allow its current status to be assessed.

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Jennifer George

In 2022 most freshwater invertebrate records emanate from the ongoing research of Alan Rowland who has been continuing his monitoring of St John's Stream, Millcombe Stream and Cascade, Brambles and Millcombe Ponds.



▲ Dry Acklands's Moor Pond on 14th June (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The almost dry Quarterwall Pond in June (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The dry Quarters Pond in early July (photo: Alan Rowland).

Ponds

The Summer drought of 2022 led to many of the Lundy ponds and streams drying up from the beginning of June, and into July for several weeks. The photos show the dried-up large pond at Quarter Wall, the completely dry Acklands's Moor Pond and the Quarters Pond at the end of June. The deeper ponds, Pondsburry, Quarry Pond, and the Rocket Pole Pond retained water throughout but at lower levels.

St John's & Millcombe Streams

Invertebrates can survive periods of drought by aestivating amongst the roots of water plants and burrowing in the bottom mud. This was demonstrated by Alan's research on the streams that showed that many of the species he recorded in March (total: 24 species) were present in November (total: 22 species) when water was again present. Several species were found in both streams. The **flatworm**, *Phagocata vitta* and the **oligochaete worms** *Lumbriculus variegatus* and *Tubifex sp.* were found in March and November. The ubiquitous **Water Louse**, *Proasellus meridianus*, that occurs in many of the Lundy freshwaters was again found frequently. The **Jenkins Spire Shell**, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, occurred in large numbers, as in 2021, particularly in St John's Stream near Square Cottage (257 counted) and in the Millcombe Cascade (191 counted).

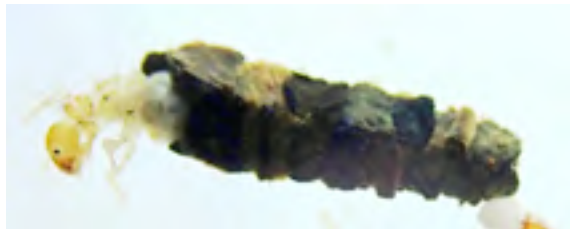
The main insects that occurred in both streams were the **midge**, **moth fly** and **caddis fly** larvae. Ceratopogonidae (Biting midge), Chironomidae (Non-biting midge), Dixidae (Meniscus midge) were well represented with one or two specimens of the Psychodidae (moth fly) larva also occurring. The **Meniscus Midge** larva, *Dixa sp.* rests in a characteristic U-shaped position just below the water surface at the meniscus, and often can be found

amongst water plants. (see photo). The filter-feeding larva has numerous dark bristles on the head and tail region and can swim freely in the water. The **caddis fly larva**, *Wormaldia occipitalis* which uses nets to catch its food and the cased caddis *Micropterna sequax* were found in small numbers in both streams in November.

Several invertebrates seemed to be confined to the St John's Stream. The black **flatworm**, *Polycelis nigra*, was found in small numbers near Square Cottage, where the **Pea Mussel**, *Pisidium personatum*, also occurred. This stream also contained the Crustacean **Harpacticoid copepods** and **Seed Shrimps**, Ostracoda. Insects were represented by larvae of the **Trickle Fly** (Thaumaleidae) and the cased **Caddis fly** larvae, *Beraea maurus*, and *Crunoecia irrorata*. These two species are often found together in small streams. *Crunoecia* is the first record of this larva in Lundy freshwaters and initially builds a circular case of sand grains and later changes to construct a case of plant material quadrangular in section (see photo).



▲ The Meniscus Midge larva, *Dixa* sp. in its characteristic U-shaped position (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ The Caddis fly larva *Crunoecia irrorata* in its quadrangular case of plant material (photo: Alan Rowland).

In the Millcombe Stream and Cascade **Horsehair Worms**, *Nematomorpha*, were found in November with the **Square-tailed Worm**, *Eiseniella tetraedra*. The **Wandering Pondsail**, *Lymnaea peregra* occurred in both March and November. Insects were represented by larvae of the **Blackfly**, *Simulium*, which uses cephalic fans to catch food particles flowing past in the water. **Mosquito** larvae, (Culicidae) and **Crane fly** larvae, (Tipulidae) were also found. The net-spinning **Caddis fly** larva, *Diplectrona felix*, occurred both in the stream above the confluence and in the Cascade. A beetle, the **Water Scavenger**, *Laccobius bipunctatus*, was found in the stream in November.

Brambles and Millcombe Ponds

Brambles Pond which was excavated by the Lundy Conservation team in October 2019 is showing a diverse invertebrate fauna and seems to have survived the summer drought. Both ponds have several representatives of flatworms, molluscs, crustaceans and insects. Species commonly



▲ Empty pupal cases of the caddis fly *Limnephilus vittatus* found lying on the dry mud of Ackland's Moor Pond on 14th July (photo: Alan Rowland).

found in St John's and Millcombe streams, such as the **Seed Shrimps**, Ostracoda, **Jenkins Spire Snail**, *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, and the **Wandering Snail**, *Lymnaea peregra*, also occur in these two ponds. A notable find in Millcombe Pond in March was the **flatworm** *Planaria torva* that is a new record for Lundy.

The Lundy freshwater invertebrate fauna experienced one of the worst droughts in recent years but seems to have survived remarkably well. An interesting find at the end of June by Alan Rowland was several empty pupal cases of the caddis fly *Limnephilus vittatus* lying on the dry mud in Ackland's Moor Pond (illustrated).

During November 2021 & March 2022 the freshwater research was expanded into a detailed study of aquatic fungi, Hyphomycetes, in many of the Lundy streams. Further details can be found in a research paper by John Hedger and Alan Rowland in the forthcoming LFS Journal, Vol.8.

(Alan Rowland would like to thank Dr. Ian Wallace for the identification of the newly recorded caddis fly larva, *Crunoecia irrorata* and the confirmation of the other caddis larvae found. Also his thanks to Keiron Brown who confirmed the identity of the Square-tailed worm, *Eiseniella tetraeda*).

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Unless otherwise stated, all Phylum sections were compiled by Alan Rowland

The majority of these records have been extracted from the LFS logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern where those visiting Lundy have shared their findings. Some sightings were not used as the recorder left neither name nor contact information to enable us to verify them. These records are supplemented by observations submitted to iRecord by other visitors to Lundy.

Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

Most species were recorded in the wooded Millcombe valley where **Brown** *Cepaea nemoralis*, **White-lipped** *Cepaea hortensis*, **Two-toothed Door** *Clausilia bidentata* and **Garden**



◀ Two-toothed Door Snail, *Clausilia bidentata*, Millcombe (photo: Alan Rowland).



▶ Black Slug, *Arion ater* agg., Millcombe (photo: Alan Rowland).

Cornu aspersum **Snails** were all recorded between June and October. The **Black Slug** *Arion ater* agg. and the **Common Chrysalis Snail** *Lauria cylindracea* were seen on the Beach Road in March and June respectively where they were both common.

Arachnidae (Spiders, Harvestmen, Mites and Ticks)

Compiled by Mark West

There are 158 species on the Lundy list; 65 of which were first reported back in 1929. There have been no new species identified since 2016.

There were just two records for the year. A **Woodlouse Spider** (family Dysderidae) was found at the Battery in June and a **Cellar Spider** (family Pholcidae) at Little St John's in July. Sam Bosanquet also found a small number of **Gall Mite** (*Eriophyes similis*) galls on Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) leaves in Millcombe in July.

We would certainly encourage more reporting of Arachnids, all records are welcome.

Isopoda (Woodlice)

Two species were reported: **Common Wood Lice**, *Oniscus asellus* were seen on the Beach Road (two on 22 March and at The Old Hospital (one on 10 June) as well as **Pill Woodlice** *Armadillidium vulgare* on the Beach Road (two on 22 March) at Little St John's (one on 1 July) and at the Old Hospital (three on 4 July).



▲ Pill Millipede *Glomeris marginata* from the East Side paths (photo: Alan Rowland).

Myriapoda (Centipedes and Millipedes)

Pill Millipedes *Glomeris marginata* were recorded between 15 May and 12 June on the Upper and Lower East Side Paths, (singles on 1 July and 26 May) along with three above Brazen Ward on 12 June and another above Montagu Steps on 15 May.

Two Variegated Centipedes

Lithobius variegatus were recorded on the Beach Road on 22 March.

Sea View was the location of all the species of Isopoda and Myriapoda recorded on the Beach Road when stones were turned on 22 March.



► Variegated Centipede, *Lithobius variegatus*, Beach Road (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ Minute second instar nymphs of the Gorse Shieldbug (*Piezodorus lituratus*) amidst spines of the host plant (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ Froghopper (*Philaneus spumarius*) (photo: Alan Rowland).

Hemiptera/Heteroptera (True Bugs)

Only nine records were made of two species, all of which are regular sightings, **Froghopper** (*Philaneus spumarius*) seen on 25 June and 28 July and seven sightings of **Gorse Shieldbugs** (*Piezodorus lituratus*) between St John's Valley and Quarter Wall on the East Side. All stages of life were recorded ranging from early 2 and 4 instars 26 June and adults from March to November when dead specimens infected with the fungus *Beauveria bassiana* were recorded.

Coleoptera (Beetles)

All the usual large and easily identified beetles were reported this year. However *Chrysolina banksii* and *Poecilus* sp. had their second only records. In taxonomic order, the following sightings were extracted from the logbook.

Carabidae (Ground beetles)

There were four records of six individuals of **Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris* in May and June round the south end of the island. A large black **Rove Beetle** *Carabus nemoralis* was recorded and photographed by Rob Petley-Jones in April at the North End. A *Poecilus* sp. was recorded on the 28 June at Quarter Wall west side. It was the second record of this genus. The existing sighting was of *P. versicolor* in September 2018.

Staphylinidae (Rove beetles)

In November and December *Ocypus olens* Devil's Coach Horse was recorded twice, a singleton and a pair of individuals in November and December respectively. The well marked black and brown with yellow spots *Staphylinus erythropterus* was sighted at the Battery in July.

Geotrupidae (Dor beetles)

All our usual dor beetles were recorded. *Typhaeus typhoeus* **Minotaur Beetle** was seen all over the island between February and June with 12 sightings of 13 beetles. Another species *Geotrupes stercorosus* was only seen twice in March and June. There were two records of *Geotrupes spiniger* in March and in June, both times they were spotted flying and seen to alight on horse dung where they commenced digging. The common **Woodland Dor Beetle** *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* featured in 11 records of 13 individuals between March and October.



▲ **Rove Beetle**, *Carabus nemoralis*, at the North End (photo: Rob Petley-Jones).



▲ **Paecilus sp.**, west side of Quarter Wall (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ **Minotaur Beetle**, *Typhaeus typhoeus*, (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ **Rosechafer**, *Cetonia aurata* (photo: Alan Rowland).

Scarbaediae (Scarab beetles)

The most common and easily seen of all our beetles, *Cetonia aurata*, **Rosechafer** featured in 24 records of 56 individuals all over the island between May and July.

Cantaridae (Soldier beetles)

Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagozycha fulva*, despite its name, was not as common as in previous years with only two records of eight individuals in July.



▲ **Common Red Soldier Beetle** *Rhagozycha fulva* (photo: Alan Rowland).



▲ *Chrysolina banksii* (photo: Tim Worfolk).



▲ *Vine Weevil Otiorynchus sulcatus*
(photo: Alan Rowland).

Tenebrionidae (Darkling beetles)

A group of 10 **Sulphur Beetles** *Ctenopus sulphureus* were counted on Wild Thyme around Castle Hill in July.

Meloidae (Oil beetles)

There were sightings of three individual **Oil Beetles** in February and April. The first sighting, on 22nd February was only identified as an Oil beetle *Meloe* sp. The second on 26th April was identified as a **Black Oil Beetle** *Meloe proscarabaeus*. The third also in April was reported as **Violet Oil Beetle** *Meloe violaceus*. All previous sightings of Oil Beetles on Lundy have been either undetermined or of Black Oil beetles. No contact details were given to verify this sighting, so without evidence, it will have to remain *Meloe* sp.

Chrysomelidae (Seed and leaf beetles)

On 14th October, Tim Worfolk submitted a record of *Chrysolina banksii* to iRecord seen on the Lower East Side Path. The only other record of this beetle was in 1985! This is the Coleoptera highlight for 2022. Although common on the mainland, none have been reported on Lundy for 37 years. It remains to be seen whether they are commonly seen and thought not worthy of reporting or are genuinely rare. The **Heather Beetle** *Lochmaea suturalis* was recorded once along the West Side in March. Finally, the minute beetles **Lundy Cabbage Weevil** *Psylliodes luridipennis* ever present on Lundy Cabbage but not often reported were seen in June.

Curculionidae (True weevils)

An individual **Vine Weevil** *Otiorynchus sulcatus* was found inside the Marisco Tavern.

Diptera (True flies)

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Once again there was little Diptera recording on Lundy in 2022: 32 of the 36 records received were made by Sam Bosanquet (SB) during a visit in July. These included five new species for the island. Mark Wilson (MW) provided records of two new **Gall Midges** (Cecidomyiidae) from a visit in June. Denise Wawman identified the **Louse Flies** (Hippoboscidae) *Ornithomyia avicularia* and *O. chloropus*, collected from Lundy House Sparrows and Starlings in 2021, and considers the previously published record of *O. fringillina* potentially dubious because it predates a species split. She also identified *O. biloba* new to the island from a collection made in 2022, which represents a new species for Lundy and one of fewer than 10 British records. The island Diptera total now stands at 483 species.

In summary, new (*) and notable Diptera species for the island in 2022 were:-

- * *Coremacera marginata* (Sciomyzidae): 1 swept from leggy heather at Goat Path 12 July (SB).
- * *Dasineura plicatrix* (Cecidomyiidae): galls noted on bramble in several locations from beach road to the Village (MW).
- * *Dasineura tubicoloides* (Cecidomyiidae): several galls on broom near The Ugly 13 July (SB).
- * *Dasysyrphus albostratus* (Syrphidae): three in Millcombe 13 July (SB), last recorded on Lundy in 1982.
- * *Empis livida* (Empidae): one swept from edge of Quarry Pond 13 July (SB).
- * *Palloptera umbellatarum* (Pallopteridae): one swept from vegetation in Millcombe 12 July (SB), last recorded on Lundy in 1972.
- * *Phytomyza anthracina* (Agromyzidae): mines on nettle in Millcombe 13 July (SB).
- * *Phytomyza pseudoreptans* (Agromyzidae): mines on nettle in Millcombe 13 July (SB).
- * *Platycheirus rosarum* (Syrphidae): 2 swept from edge of Quarry Pond 13 July (SB)
- * *Rhopalomyia millefolii* (Cecidomyiidae): gall noted on yarrow in the Village (MW).

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps & Ants)

Compiled by Sam Bosanquet

Just 19 records of Bees, Wasps and Ants were made on the island in 2022, and two thirds of them were of Bumblebees! Among these were six **Tree Bumblebee** *Bombus hypnorum* in Millcombe on 21 June. The other five more notable records comprised one **Gall Wasp** (Cynipidae), one leaf-mining **Sawfly** (Tenthredinidae), one **Parasitic Wasp** (Ichneumonidae), one **Groove Bee** (Halictidae), and some winged **Yellow Meadow Ants** photographed by Alan Rowland (AR). Mike Fox checked six ant specimens from 2021 including two that SB had provisionally identified as new for Lundy. Unfortunately, both were both misidentified: the *Lasius psammophilus* was actually *L. alienus* and the *Myrmica rubra* was just *M. ruginodis*. These records have been corrected on iRecord, along with a record of *M. scabrinodis* that had been misidentified as *M. ruginodis*. The island Hymenoptera total now stands at 255 species, with two deletions and one addition.



▲ Yellow Meadow Ants, *Lasius flavus* preparing for mating flight, St John's Valley (photo: Alan Rowland).

New (*) and notable 2022 records were:-

**Diastrophus rubi* (Cynipidae): galls on bramble in Millcombe 13 July (SB).

Fenusa dohrnii (Tenthredinidae): mines on alder in Millcombe 13 July (SB).

Heteropelma amictum (Ichneumonidae): one netted in Millcombe 14 July (SB).

Lasioglossum albipes (Halictidae): one on flowers on Goat Path 12 the July (SB).

Lasius flavus (Formicidae): preparing to fly in St John's Valley 4 July (AR).

Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

There were 18 records comprising two damselfly species and three dragonfly species.

Common Blue *Enallagma cyathigerum* and **Blue-tailed** *Ischnura elegans* **Damselflies** were seen at their usual haunts of Pondsburry and Quarter Wall Pond. **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* was seen at both Pondsburry and at Halfway Wall. **Emperor Dragonflies** *Anax imperator* are now more frequently seen, from the Castle to Pondsburry and all places between, with eight sightings of 13 individuals.

The first sighting of **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* was in 2021. It was recorded for the second year running, again at Pondsburry, but this time in September by Mandy Yates.

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

Two adult caddisflies were caught; one, *Stenophylax permistus*, was recovered from the moth trap in April by Stuart Cossey and is a frequent moth trap visitor. The other was picked up by James Harding-Morris at the edge of Millcombe Cascade in June. This was sent for determination but, being a female, could only be definitely allocated within three species *Tinodes rostocki*, *T. dives* or *T. unicolor*. Only *T. assimilis* has previously been recorded.

Eight species of larvae were recorded in 2022 and are discussed in the account of Freshwater Invertebrates.

All the expert compilers wish to record their thanks to the submitters of records for making available their observations, in particular: -

Lesley & Terry Armstrong, Chris & Carol Baillie, Angus Croudace, Sam Bosanquet, Rosemary Buckland, P Bullock, Richard Campey, L Chapman, Stuart Cossey, Marie Jo & André Coutanche, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Paul Dean, Z Ellam, John Gowers, K Hollaway, P& J Holt, David Jones & Rebecca Henley, Rob Petley-Jones, Malcolm Lee, Andy McGeeney, James Harding-Morris, Laura Pirateque, David Rowe, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Neil Trout, Tim Smith, Tim Squire, Ann & Tony Taylor, D. Thomas, Zach Wait, Mark Wilson, Tim Norfolk, Tom Wright, Amanda Yates, Nick from UWE, and all those who wrote their sightings in the log book but omitted to give their names.



▲ *Black-tailed Skimmer* *Orthetrum cancellatum* (photo: Mandy Yates).



▲ Speckled Bush Cricket, female (photo: Malcom Lee).



▲ Speckled Bush Cricket, male (photo: Malcom Lee).

Orthoptera (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Malcom Lee

There are few orthoptera records for 2022 in the log book. However in 2022 I was able to get on the island for a few days in early July and in early September. Unfortunately, the very hot summer of 2022 meant that grasshoppers had virtually gone over by my second visit.

Speckled Bush-Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*: With the use of a bat detector during my September visit, this species was recorded in numbers all along the eastern side of the island from the slopes above the Landing Bay, including the brambles at South Light, all along to Three Quarter Wall (the extent of my survey), and in Millcombe Valley. There are records from 1950 of this species as far north as Gannets' Rock and I hope to confirm its continuing presence in my August visit. The detector confirmed its absence from the Village, with those on the brambles as you go through the Blue Gate to Government House being the closest. An additional record came from Sam Bosanquet who swept a 2nd instar nymph by the path at South Light on 14th July.

Common Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*: In July, two nymphs were recorded above Gannets' Rock, two nymphs on the steps down to the Battery, and a single nymph in the heather south of Rocket Pole Pond. In September, adults were recorded in several locations along the Lower East Side path from Millcombe to Quarter Wall Copse. On the Upper East Side path, singletons were recorded just north of Tibbetts, and just south of Halfway Wall. Along the West Side Path, adults were found by the Battery, Earthquake, Jenny's Cove, and Middle Park. Elsewhere, three adults were found on the warm south-facing slope below the flagpole in Millcombe Valley, with a single adult on the west side of Ackland's Moor, and another just above Quarter Wall in Pondsburry.

Common Earwig *Forficula auricularia*: A single adult of this much under-recorded species was found inside a Hogweed stem on the path below Government House.

Butterflies Lepidoptera

Compiled by Anthony John

Eighteen species of butterfly were seen on Lundy in 2022 (*cf.* 15 in 2021), including five scarcer species. Sadly, the continuing decline of some of our commonest butterflies continues, as can be seen from the table below. According to Butterfly Conservation: “76% of butterflies have declined in abundance or distribution since 1976”. In 2022 there were fewer butterfly-days of **Large White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Red Admiral**, **Peacock** and **Small Tortoiseshell**. Several species were very scarce; **Ringlets** were recorded on just three days (one on 20th June, three on 1st and four on 3rd July); single **Peacocks** were recorded on only seven days; and **Small Tortoiseshells** were recorded on ten days, all but one of them singles. There were single **Graylings** in June on 11th and 14th, with five on 29th; then on five dates in July, and three on 1st and two on 3rd August, a total of 22 ‘butterfly-days’. It should be noted that there were several periods of up to ten days in 2022 during the main butterfly months of July (16th - 20th), August (9th – 19th) and September (1st – 9th) when there were no or very few records of butterflies.

Five scarcer butterflies were recorded in 2022:

Clouded yellow. Six singles on 11th July, 4th August, 26th September, and 2nd, 11th and 24th October.

Brimstone. Five singles on 18th April, 9th, 17th and 18th May, and 3rd July.

Holly Blue. Seen on 12th and 24th May, 3rd August, and 5th, 6th, 10th and 19th September.

Speckled wood. Singles on 29th June and 1st July.

Wall brown. Three singles on 19th, 21st and 24th May.

There were no records of Orange-tip, Gatekeeper or Comma in 2022.

First & last dates, maxima and number of butterfly-days for common butterflies in 2022

Species	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date	Butterfly-days 2022	Butterfly-days 2021	Butterfly-days 2020
Large White	19 Apr	3 Oct	10 on 4 Aug.	57	97	116
Small White	18 Mar	12 Nov	30 on 13 Jul.	130	32	182
Green-veined White	19 Apr	4 Aug	19 on 11 May.	103	158	214
Small Heath	12 May	12 Sep	37 on 31 May.	375	408	237
Ringlet	20 Jun	3 Jul	4 on 3 Jul.	7	8	21
Meadow Brown	3 Jun	21 Aug	62 on 29 Jul.	671	954	1243
Red Admiral	20 Mar	4 Nov	45 on 13 Oct.	407	812	801
Painted Lady	15 May	4 Nov	130 on 6 Jun.	308	52	27
Peacock	21 Mar	26 Oct	-	7	14	32
Small Tortoiseshell	20 Mar	15 Jul	2 on 22 Mar	11	31	104
Small Copper	20 Apr	20 Oct	4 on 23 Jun.	32	22	30
Common Blue	8 May	8 Oct	11 on 4 Aug.	60	97	48



▲ *Speckled Wood* in St. John's/Millcombe area, May (photo: Andrea May).



▲ *Small Copper* (photo: Mandy Dee).

Moths Lepidoptera

Compiled by Anthony John

In 2022 220 species of moths were recorded on Lundy (cf. 208 in 2021), including 25 new for the island (13 micro-moths plus one new genus, and 11 new macro-moths). The Heath Trap was deployed on 95 occasions, mostly in Millcombe: March 1, April 1, May 15, June 13, July 20, August 17, September 13, October 12, and November 3. The vast majority of records were generated by Stuart Cossey, to whom many thanks.

Moths new to Lundy in 2022, all in checklist order:

Micro-moths (13 + 1 genus): *Oegoconia* sp., *Gracillaria syringella*, *Agonopterix ciliella*, *Mirificarna mulinella*, *Coleophora trochilella*, **Beautiful Plume** *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*, **Red-barred Tortrix** *Ditula angustiorana*, **Light Brown Apple Moth** *Epiphyas postvittata*, *Orthotaenia undulana*, *Crocosema plebejana*, *Lathronympha strigana*, *Cryptoblabes bistriga*, *Euzophera cinerosella*, **European Corn-borer** *Ostrinia nubilalis*.

Macro-moths (11): **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica*, **Oblique Carpet** *Orthonama vittata*, **Galium Carpet** *Epirrhoe galiata*, **Common Wave** *Cabera exanthemata*, **Small Fan-foot** *Herminia grisealis*, **Ear Moth** *Amphipoea oclea*, **Large Wainscot** *Rhizedra lutosa*, **Clouded Drab** *Orthosia incerta*, **Feathered Gothic** *Tholera decimalis*, **Archer's Dart** *Agrostis vestigialis*, **Dotted Clay** *Xestia baja*.

Many moths new for Lundy were recorded in the Millcombe Heath Trap (MHT) during the year; these are marked with an asterisk*. In **May** **Light Brown Apple Moth** *Epiphyas postvittata** was trapped on 9th, **Galium Carpet** *Epirrhoe galiata** on 13th, and **Clouded Drab** *Orthosia incerta** on 18th; elsewhere, *Mirificarna mulinella** was trapped at Benjamin's Chair on 30th. However, sadly there are some significant problems! On 20 May the MHT recorded that nine of the species were caught as 'wings only' – 'shrew in trap!' Wrens are also an issue!

In **June** another *Mirificarna mulinella** was in the MHT on 14th, *Orthotaenia undulana** on 14th and 15th, and *Cryptoblabes bistriga** and *Euzophera cinerosella** both on 24th. On 1st June 'hundreds'

of burnet moth caterpillars, pupae and moths were present at the South Light. Apart from this observation, few burnet moths were noted. A single **Five-spot Burnet** *Zygaena filipendulae* was seen on 14th and 29th June; **Six-spot Burnet** *Zygaena trifolii decreta* were noted on 1st June (ten) and 21st July (six); and 30 unidentified burnet moths were recorded on 11th July, with six on 26th. After the first three records for Lundy in 2021, **Privet Hawk-moths** *Sphinx ligustri* were again recorded on three occasions in June and July 2022. Perhaps they colonised the island?

In **July** two new micros and five macros were recorded. The use of a pheromone lure on steps down to the Battery on 4th revealed 'abundant' **Thrift Clearwings** *Pyropteron muscaeformis*; many were attracted within 30 seconds of dropping the lure. European Corn-borer *Ostrinia nubilalis** was new on the 5th, and Red-barred Tortrix *Ditula angustiorana** on 8th and 11th. On 14th July a Common Wave *Cabera exanthemata** was in the MHT and the larval case of *Coleophora trochilella** was found at the Castle. A Small Fan-foot *Herminia grisealis** was in the Lodge garden on 18th; on 22nd a **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica** was in the trap, a Dotted Clay *Xestia baja** on 23rd, and Ear Moth *Amphipoea oculatea** in the Lodge garden on 30th.

In **August** a **Feathered Gothic** *Tholera decimalis** was photographed by Alice Waterfield on the bar of the Marisco Tavern at night on 3rd; later that month the MHT recorded *Gracillaria syringella** on 15th and *Lathronympha strigana** and **Oblique Carpet** *Orthonama vittata**, on 16th. All four species are new for Lundy. *Nothris congressariella* and **Devonshire Wainscot** *Mythimna putrescens*, both Nationally Rare/Scarce species, were recorded, the latter on 11 dates in July and August. **Seventy-one Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux* and 43 **Hoary Footman** *Eilema caniola* were in the MHT on 14th August; further Hoary Footman were trapped on 18th (39) and 21st (42).

In **September** **Archer's Dart** *Agrostis vestigialis** was noted on 2nd, and *Agonopterix ciliella** on 20th; on 24th a **Beautiful Plume** *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla**, was seen at Brambles Villa and **Large Wainscots** *Rhizodra lutosa** were trapped on 28th and 11th October.

It was a good year for **Convolvulus Hawk-moths** *Agrius convolvuli*, with six recorded; two on lilies by Paradise Row on 2nd August and one there on 19th; two in September (singles on 6th and on 17th) and a late one on 29th October. One interesting entry in the Lundy Log read: "Hundreds of **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* were seen across the island as I walked from Old Light up to 3/4 wall on the west side, then back along the east side on 2nd September; clearly a major fall had taken place on the island the previous night." After the first **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** *Macroglossum stellatarum* was seen on 16th April (dead in the Tavern), they were seen every month until November. These were part of 2022's national record-breaking arrival of this species, four times higher than the next best year.

First and last dates, maxima and number of 'moth-days' for selected day-flying moths in 2022

Species	Recorded on	First date	Last date	Maximum count & date	'Moth-days' 2022
Emperor Moth	5 days	3 Apr	7 May	6 on 2 days	15
Hummingbird Hawk-moth	54 days	16 Apr	18 Nov	6 on 22 Jun	100
Silver Y	13 days	3 Jun	24 Oct	4 on 3 Jun	19
Fox Moth caterpillars	17 days	13 May	25 Oct	7 on 17 Oct	43

Eleven species of migrants were noted in 2022 (cf. seven in 2021): **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella*, **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis*, *Palpita vitrealis* (second island record),

Rush Veneer, Convolvulus Hawk-moth, Hummingbird Hawk-moth, Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*, Silver Y *Autographa gamma*, Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera*, Pearly Underwing *Peridroma saucia*, and Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*.

Observers: Lesley and Terry Armstrong, Sam Bosanquet, Joe Burford-Redgrove, Richard B., Pel Chapman, Andrew Cleave, Stuart Cossey, Angus Croudace, Tim Davis, John Gowers, Tim Jones, Malcolm Lee, Tara McEvoy-Wilding, Laura Pirateque, David Rowe, Alan Rowland, Paul St Pierre, Tim Smith, Tim Squire, Alice Waterfield, Erin Waller, Zach Wait, Tim Worfolk and Tom Wright.

▼ Clockwise from top left: Striped Hawkmoth, Pale Tussock, Bordered Straw, Garden Tiger, Oblique Carpet, Peppered Moth (all photos by Stuart Cossey).



FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Andrew Cleave

The summer of 2022 will be remembered for the prolonged spell of hot dry weather and the resultant parched look of parts of the island. These conditions held back the flowering season for some species, and there was a noticeable second flush of flowering later in the autumn when cool, wet conditions returned. It is thought there will be no long-term consequences from the temporary drought conditions. Some species seem to be very well suited to these conditions and continue to flower whilst others suffer. **Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana* has conspicuous bright blue flowers on long stalks and narrow, hairy leaves. In good conditions it can reach about 50cm tall, but in certain exposed sites on Lundy it can be much smaller and compact such as the example photographed by Andrea May on the cliffs below South Light. Even in extreme conditions plants usually remain green and continue to flower when other species are suffering. This year it was one of the few species to continue to flower well during the height of the drought and could be found in some of the most exposed parts of the west coast.



▲ *Sheep's Bit* *Jasione montana* growing on the cliffs below South Light (photo: Andrea May).

Before the dry conditions set in several small and inconspicuous species were flowering well on paths and tracks. **Heath Pearlwort** *Sagina subulata* always does well on the Quarry Terrace and this year its small white flowers were very conspicuous but it soon died off once dry conditions set in. **Swinecress** *Coronopus squamatus* is also common on paths and tracks, but usually overlooked, and this species appeared abundant early in the season but again disappeared during the dry spell.

One of Lundy's special ferns is **Hay-scented Buckler Fern** *Dryopteris aemula* which is more common on the island than in similar situations on the mainland. When other plants around it were starting to show the effects of the drought the distinctive fronds of this species remained green and it became very obvious how abundant this fern is, especially on the east side of Lundy (illustrated). A scarce fern on Lundy, but not elsewhere, is the inconspicuous **Wall Rue**, *Asplenium ruta-muraria* which is now firmly established on the wall opposite Barton Cottages and may well be growing as yet undiscovered on other similar sites elsewhere.

Wood Vetch *Ervilia sylvatica* had a second flush of flowers in mid-October creating a magnificent display on either side of the beach road, several months later than its usually flowering time, and this very attractive plant seems to be establishing itself in some new sites further along the road (illustrated).



▲ Hay-scented Buckler Fern *Dryopteris aemula* by the Lower East Side Path (photo: Andrew Cleave).



▲ Wall Rue, *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, growing on the wall opposite Barton Cottages (photo: Andrew Cleave).

We had reports of two new flowering plant species for Lundy from the east side in July. *Hieracium sabaudum* is one of the leafy Hawkweed species which flowers in the late summer and can be distinguished by its flat-topped umbel of yellow flowers and stiff white hairs at the base of the stem. This was reported from a site on the east side near the Quarries, growing on rocks, which is a typical habitat for this species.

A hybrid Dock *Rumex x dufftii* was reported from a site close to Millcombe House. This is a cross between two common species of Dock: **Wood Dock** *Rumex sanguineus* and **Broad-leaved Dock** *Rumex obtusifolius*, both of which occur close by in Millcombe Valley.

Thanks to J. Armishaw, A and S. Rowland, S. Cossey, R. Ellis for their records. **We need more so please enter any flowering plants and fern species which you find in the logbook in the Tavern!**



▲ Wood Vetch *Ervilia sylvatica* in flower by the side of Beach Road in October (photo: Andrew Cleave).

BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS)

Sam Bosanquet

The only bryophytes recorded on the island in 2022 were a few I noted around the Castle and in upper Millcombe during a visit in July. These included *Didymodon australasiae* collected from the Castle courtyard: the second Lundy record following a collection made at Old Light in 2006. The island's tally of bryophytes remains at 226 taxa (2 hornworts, 64 liverworts and 160 mosses).

LICHENS

Sam Bosanquet

Only a few lichens were recorded on the island in 2022, mostly during my July visit. *Dimerella lutea*, new for Lundy, was one of 12 epiphytic lichen species noted on a Sycamore by Millcombe House, and the lichenicolous fungus *Lichenocodium lichenicola* was collected, new for Lundy, on *Physcia adscendens* near The Ugly. Alan Rowland photographed a **Beard Lichen** *Usnea cf flammea* (*Usnea* are difficult to identify at the best of times, and impossible from photographs) and **Sea Ivory** *Ramalina siliquosa* at Quarter Wall. The log contains a noteworthy epiphytic record of **Golden Hair Lichen** *Teloschistes flavicans*, found on a branch of Sycamore in Upper Millcombe by Mandy Yates (see illustration). All previously known colonies of *T. flavicans* on Lundy are on coastal rocks and heather, but it does occasionally grow as an epiphyte in Britain and is regularly found epiphytically in Macaronesia.



▲ Golden Hair Lichen *Teloschistes flavicans* growing on a Sycamore branch in Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).

FUNGI AND SLIME MOULDS

Mandy Dee and John Hedger

A good year for fungi and slime mould recording on Lundy, with 429 individual records of 273 species, of which 51 are new (including two slime moulds *Dictydiaethelium plumbeum* and *Perichaena vermicularis*). These records take our Lundy species total to 808. The 2022 list can be found on the LFS Website, along with our Master List.

The year got off to a promising start with early records of **Jelly Ear** *Auricularia auricula-judae* by B. Needis on 3rd March, and **Common Conecap** *Conocybe tenera* by Claire Mitchell on 13th March. John Hedger visited Lundy from the 14th-18th March and was able to record 42 species of fungi of which nine were new records for Lundy. All of the new records were microfungi needing hand lens and microscope for identification and most were found on dead stems of herbaceous plants and sedges. However, two new records of parasitic Rust fungi (Pucciniomycetes) on living plants (**Wood Sage Rust** and **Cat's Ear Rust**) raised the Lundy species total for this group of fungi to sixteen.

Later in the year, in June, an exciting new record from the related group of plant-parasitic fungi, the Smuts, was made by LFS member Mark Wilson who found the minute black spore-filled pustules of **Sedge Smut** (*Anthracoidea arenariae*) on **Sand Sedge** (*Carex arenaria*) plants growing between Jenny's Cove and The Earthquake in June (illustrated). There are only a dozen or so recent (post 1960) records of this fungus for the UK mainland (Woods *et al* 2018) and it doubles the Lundy species total for the Smuts, the existing record being Anther Smut of Red Campion in Millcombe. Other species of these plant parasites await discovery on Lundy, most probable being Anther Smut of Sea Campion, though searches of the West Side cliff colonies have proved fruitless to date. Sam Bosanquet also found a parasitic first for Lundy in his July visit, the minute *Lichenoconium lichenicola*, which as its name implies is a parasite of Lichens (see the Lichen Report).



▲ Black pustules of Sedge Smut *Anthracoidea arenariae* on seed heads of Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, between Jenny's Cove and The Earthquake (photo: Mark Wilson).

An early autumn visit by Mandy Dee from 10th-24th September recorded 38 species, including a second record of the **Orange Pingpong Bat Fungus**, also called **Orange Porecap**, *Favolaschia claudopus*. Newly arrived in the UK from tropical climes in the last decade, it was at first thought to be the species *F. calocera*, and our first record was so identified. It has since been established that all the new UK records are of the very similar species *F. claudopus*. This is a very striking, but minute, orange fungus which grows in clusters on rotting twigs and branches in Millcombe throughout the autumn and is definitely one to look out for. Millcombe also held a couple of nice fruit bodies of **Tuberous Polypore** *Polyporus tuberaster*, growing on a fallen log; it has been recorded once before, in Millcombe, way back in October 1992, but may fruit every year and just not get recorded.



▲ **Orange Porecap** *Favolaschia claudopus* fruiting in September on a dead Sycamore twig in Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ **Tuberous Polypore** *Polyporus tuberosus* fruiting on wood in Millcombe in September (photo: Mandy Dee).

One of the most interesting habitats in early autumn is the miniature ‘forests’ of **Creeping Willow** (*Salix repens*) in Punchbowl Valley. Here we get annual records of woodland species which start to appear in September such as the pretty orange-pink **Coral Brittlegill** *Russula velenovskyi*, and also species which like damp soil, such as this year’s second record of the red tinged **Riverine Bolete** *Xerocomellus ripariellus*.

During October we had some great records from visitors, the best of which was a first for Lundy by Shaun Barnes of the striking **Golden Bootleg** *Phaeolepiota aurea*, on 5th October. Also recorded in the log was a **False Puffball slime mould** *Reticularia lycoperdon* seen on a tree in Millcombe by Joanne Wilby on 22nd October.

The main autumn recording visit by Mandy Dee (30th October to 6th November) and John Hedger (30th October to 13th November) saw the whole island searched, and most of the records for the year arise from this visit. The well-grazed grasslands are often covered in colourful waxcaps in late autumn, depending on moisture levels and grazing status. Lighthouse Field, just beyond the campsite, was very productive and gave us a second record for **Felted Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus canescens*. Where you get the colourful waxcaps, you also get the drab and difficult **Pinkgills**, but we were able to identify two new records *Entoloma sericatum* and *Entoloma turci*. Yellow coloured club fungi were, as usual very common in grassland, but checking the spore shape is the only way to identify the different species. Lots of clubs were checked, and we recorded



▲ **Golden Bootleg** *Phaeolepiota aurea* on Quarry Terrace in October (photo: Shaun Barnes).



▲ **Riverine Bolete** *Xerocomellus ripariellus* fruiting in September under Creeping Willow in Punchbowl Valley (photo: Mandy Dee).

Handsome Club *Clavulinopsis laeticolor* for the second time.

There were two new grassland **Bonnet** species, *Mycena luteovariegata* and *Mycena olivaceomarginata* var. *contraria*, and a further two wood and litter rotting species were found in Millcombe – **Clustered Bonnet** *Mycena inclinata*, **Bulbous Bonnet** *Mycena stylobates* and the minute twig inhabiting white bonnet, *Mycena tenerrima* **Frosty Bonnet**, cap diameter only 2-3mm!. This takes us to a total of 31 Bonnet species recorded on Lundy, which is an impressive flurry of new records, in part due to the recently published identification guide to the Bonnets by Aronson & Lassoë (2016).

The **Bell** family are unremarkable small orangey brown gill fungi, easily overlooked, so it was impressive to get three new records this year. *Galerina mniophila* was growing out of the bank alongside the main track just below Bramble Villas, **Hairy Bell** *Galerina atkinsoniana* was growing in peaty soil near Pondsbury, and *Galerina minima* was found on peat at the North End. The recent books by Geoffrey Kibby (2017,2020,2021) have helped identification of species in *Galerina* and other difficult genera.

We were joined in November by fellow enthusiasts Richard and Christine Penney, who were extremely helpful with the grassland surveying, especially of **Waxcaps**. They also did a thorough search of the Creeping Willow around Pondsbury, finding two interesting Brittlegills: a first record of **Floury Brittlegill** *Russula farinipes*, and a second record of **Geranium Brittlegill** *Russula fellea*. Other new records from the Creeping Willow were **Golden Banded Webcap** *Cortinarius saniosus*, *Hebeloma danicum* and **Alder Milkcap** *Lactarius obscuratus*. Stuart Cossey, the Assistant Warden also did some sterling recording throughout the year, with the highlight being a photograph of a probable first record of the bright orange cup fungus *Melastiza chateri* growing in Southwest Field, which we hope to re-find next year to confirm with microscopy. He got a second record for **Blistered Cup** *Peziza vesiculosa* on 23rd November and found the uncommon and very beautiful bright orange-red **Vermilion Waxcap** *Hygrocybe miniata* in Sphagnum in the North Quarry.



▲ *Mycena tenerrima* fruiting in November on a dead Sycamore twig, Millcombe (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Galerina mniophila* fruiting in moss by Brambles Villa, November (photo: Mandy Dee).



▲ *Vermilion Waxcap* *Hygrocybe miniata* fruiting in November in Sphagnum, North Quarry (photo: John Hedger).

Although we don't have much woodland on Lundy, we still managed to get more new records of wood-rotting fungi. Quarter Wall Copse and the minute St.Helen's Copse never cease to surprise and new finds included the **Powderpuff Bracket** *Postia ptychogaster*, **Orange Jelly Spot** *Dacrymyces chrysospermus*, **Warlock's Butter** *Exidia nigricans*, **Woolly Oyster** *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata* and **Lumpy Bracket** *Trametes gibbosa*. Even well-studied Millcombe woodland yielded **Conifer Blueing Bracket** *Postia caesia* on the Pines -previously we have only found **Hardwood Blueing Bracket** *Postia subcaesia* on dead Sycamore.

Four newly recorded fungi from Lundy woodlands



▲ **Woolly Oyster** *Hohenbuehelia mastrucata* fruiting in November on a dead Rowan trunk, Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Powderpuff Bracket** *Postia ptychogaster* fruiting in November on a dead Sycamore branch, St Helen's Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Lumpy Bracket** *Trametes gibbosa* fruiting in November on a dead Birch trunk in Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ **Orange Jelly-Spot** *Dacrymyces chrysospermus* fruiting on a dead Turkey Oak branch in November, Quarter Wall Copse (photo: John Hedger).



▲ Fungus Foray group in Lighthouse Field on the 10th November (photo: Mandy Dee).

An oddity of the two November forays we organised for the island was a strange parasitic fungus *Marquandomyces marquandii*, causing a lilac colouration of the otherwise white gills of a **Snowy Waxcap**, well-spotted on the second foray by LFS member Diane Stewart. Alan Rowland found another parasitic fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, an insect pathogen which was producing masses of powdery spores from its dead host, a Gorse Shield Bug on 10th November – a second record.

In the last week of November, a group of enthusiastic students from Imperial College led by Julia Schroeder arrived on the island as part of their taught MSc Ecology, Evolution and Conservation course. They were there to study the House Sparrows, but also did an intensive survey of the grassland species of fungi, using the LFS publication **Lundy Fungi** (Hedger & George 2018) as their guide. They went out on two days; on one they surveyed the Airfield, and on the other the area around Rocket Pole Pond. Overall, they found a total of 47 species of fungi, including 13 **Waxcaps**, the best find being the uncommon, but beautiful, **Pink Waxcap**, *Porpolomopsis (Hygrocybe) caliptriformis*. The students gave a public talk about 'Sparrows and Fungi' in the St Helen's Centre; the combination of subject matter must be a world first!



▲ A group of M.Sc students from Imperial College using 'Lundy Fungi' during their field course (photo: Julia Schroeder).

Final record of the year was from the log book in the tavern: **Porcelain Fungus** *Mucidula mucida* growing on a Turkey Oak in Millcombe, and recorded by Paul Dean on 22nd December. Occasional records from the log book are very valuable as they give us insights into the fungal coverage at times when there aren't dedicated surveyors on the Island, so please do keep your eye open, check your sightings in Lundy Fungi and/or other field guides available in the tavern, and write your records in the log book, along with where they were seen, and what they were growing on. Don't forget to add your name so we can acknowledge you!

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