



▲ Willow warbler, April 2025 (photo: Tony Taylor).

Digitisation of Lundy Bird Ringing records: update

Tony Taylor

A short paper in the LFS Annual Report 2022 documented the digitisation of all available ringing records from the years 1972 to 2022, by entering them into the BTO's Oracle database using their DemOn system (Taylor, 2022).

It was noted in the paper that details of all Swallows and Willow Warblers ringed between 1972 and 1979 were missing. However, in autumn 2024 the relevant sheets from the species logs were located and sent to the Lundy Bird Observatory. The records have now been added to the Oracle database, making them easily available for analysis.

One discrepancy was found between the annual ringing totals published in relevant LFS Annual Reports and the recently located records: the Report for 1973 lists two Swallows as having been ringed that year, but there are none in the species log sheets. Every number in the relevant sequences of rings in use at that time is accounted for, so these birds cannot have been omitted accidentally from the species logs: the error has to be in the printed totals list. Possibly the two Swallows ringed in 1972 were included again in 1973 by mistake.

This means that the total for all species ringed in 1973 becomes 1795, and any subsequent grand totals published up to and including 2022, for Swallows and for all species combined, are also too high by two.

Many thanks to Michael O'Donnell, who realised the significance of the record sheets when he found them, and sent them to the Observatory.

Reference

Taylor, AM (2022) *Digitisation of Lundy Bird Ringing Records*. Lundy Field Society Annual Report 72:104-106