

# TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

*Compiled by Alan Rowland*

The majority of these records have been extracted from the Bird Observatory/LFS Log book stored 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. Additional records have been sent to me directly by those who left their properties on their last day and made observations but did not return to the Tavern to record them.

Not all records can be verified without descriptions or photographs and some require dissection. However some photographed species have been shared with national or regional experts who have verified or determined them.

A full list of all species seen during the year can be found on the LFS website at

<https://www.lundy.org.uk/records/2025>

Any new species records have been added to the All Time Species lists to be found here

<https://www.lundy.org.uk/resources/species-lists>

## **Mollusca** (Slugs and Snails)

*Alan Rowland*

The usual suite of snails was recorded – **Brown-lipped snail** *Cepaea nemoralis* on 11 to 16 March in Millcombe and on the Upper East Side Path in ones and twos, and one **Garden Snail** *Cornu aspersum* in Millcombe on 11 March, all by Alan and Sandra Rowland. Paul Godwin recorded two sightings of **Leopard Slugs** *Limax maximus* on 3 September at Halfway Wall and at the North End.

An anonymous surveyor from Kingston Maurward College and University wrote in the log book “*So many snails! Please get a snail ID book*”. I suspect most will have been of the *Cepaea* species reported here, which unfortunately are very diverse in colouring within the same species.

## **Arachnida** (Spiders, Harvestmen, Mites and Ticks)

*Mark West*

### **Spiders**

Among the species of spider recorded on Lundy in 2025, two are particularly noteworthy.

Neil Barnes, a regular visitor to Lundy, recorded a male **Purseweb spider** *Atypus affinis* on the east side of the island near Quarter Wall Copse in 2024, and a male around the same location in September 2025. Videos of the spiders were captured by Neil using a Samsung mobile phone, demonstrating the great standard of record imagery that can now be achieved with modern technology. The Purseweb spider is a nationally scarce, amber-listed species. Records held by iRecord show it to be predominantly reported from south-east England, with only scattered occurrences elsewhere in the country.

Purseweb spiders are specialised ambush predators instantly recognisable by their massive chelicerae, which move in a vertical plane, like pickaxes. Body length is up to nine mm, with the

chelicerae as long as the carapace. They are long lived (females may live for more than seven years) and rarely observed because most of their lives are spent inside a silk-lined, sock-like tube, the greater part of which lies buried underground, with only a short, well-camouflaged section projecting above the surface. Unsuspecting prey that make contact with this exposed section are detected by the spider, stabbed through the silk, and dragged inside to be consumed (Oxford and Smith, 2022).

Males may be seen above ground in late summer and early autumn as they search for females. Bristowe (1929) first recorded a colony on Rat Island, but the species was not reported from the mainland of Lundy until August 1996, when six 'burrows' were discovered on a sparsely vegetated, near-vertical, south-facing slope of a gully descending to the cliff top from Devil's Punch Bowl valley (Key, 1996).

An iRecord entry from September 2018 by Elise and Steve O'Donnell describes a Purseweb spider "wandering across a path on the east side of the island in the old quarry area near Felix Gade's hut", in "sparse vegetation cover" under "dry" conditions. The warm, dry microclimate created by such topography and ground cover on a south facing slope appears to be most favoured by this dramatic looking spider. As an amber list species, it is a candidate for close monitoring, so active checking of suitable areas, and recording of sightings with photographs is very much encouraged.



▲ Male Purseweb Spider *Atypus affinis* (photo: Neil Barnes)

The **Diving Bell Spider**, *Argyroneta aquatica* was the second noteworthy species found in 2025. This record is particularly poignant following the recent passing of Professor Jennifer George, a highly respected authority on Lundy's freshwater ecology and Vice-President of the Lundy Field Society.

In 2007, Jenny wrote: "*Argyroneta aquatica*, the water spider, first recorded by Galliford in 1953 and subsequently observed in 1979, 1986 and 1993, was again recorded in April 2005, when it was found among the Sphagnum on the south side of Pondsbury."

Jenny also noted that numbers were lower than in 1979, when the species had been relatively abundant. Although there is an iRecord record from Pondsbury in 2009 which was considered plausible, there had been no confirmed sightings for 20 years. By 2025, Jenny considered that the species may have been lost, with a possible root cause being the dredging of Pondsbury in late 1993 and 1994, when the west bund wall was constructed.



▲ Searching for *Argyroneta aquatica* – Pondsbury April 25 (photo: Sandie West)

Fortunately, National Aquatic Heteroptera Recorder, Kevin Rowley, confirmed the species was still present during his survey of Pondsburry in April 2025, and netting of the north-eastern corner by Mark West the week after Kevin's visit also proved successful, yielding a single specimen.

Diving Bell Spiders are unique in that they live almost entirely underwater, carrying air trapped by specialised body and leg hairs in a bubble around the abdomen. Air is stored within a silk structure attached to submerged vegetation, which functions as a diving bell. Except when moulting or when juveniles disperse, the only time the spider visits the surface is to replenish this air supply (Bee, Oxford and Smith, 2020).

Ambush hunting, feeding, and reproduction all take place beneath the water using the diving bell as a base. Interestingly, it is not a sealed air reservoir. It is both water- and gas-permeable and functions as a "physical gill", with oxygen and carbon dioxide continuously diffusing through its hydrophobic silk wall.

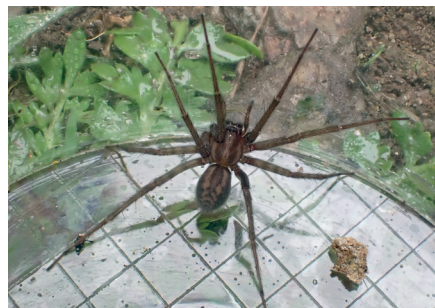
As the spider consumes oxygen within the bell, the partial pressure of O<sub>2</sub> inside becomes lower than in the surrounding water, creating a diffusion gradient that continually draws oxygen in from the water. Carbon dioxide produced by the spider diffuses in the opposite direction, allowing waste gas to be removed efficiently. Nitrogen, however, also diffuses outwards, causing the air volume to shrink, so the spider must periodically return to the surface to collect fresh air and reinflate the bell.

Seymour and Hetz (2011) demonstrated that this respiratory system is remarkably robust, allowing *Argyroneta aquatica* to meet its resting oxygen requirements even in high-temperature, stagnant water. This supports the view that changes affecting the physical and ecological structure of Pondsburry – such as past dredging – could have driven population decline rather than the direct effects of climate change on water temperature and oxygen levels for example. However, it also seems plausible that other factors, including climate-driven influences, may be contributing.



▲ Diving Bell Spider *Argyroneta aquatica* – Pondsburry April 25 (photo: Mark West)

Milano et al (2022) describe *A. aquatica* as increasingly affected by the decline and deterioration of freshwater habitats across Europe. The authors predict the population will decrease significantly and the distribution shift northwards as suitable conditions become more restricted. In this context, the Pondsburry population appears worthy of continued monitoring and further study.



Benson's Cave, at the south end of the island, is an excellent place for observing a wide variety of spiders and their webs. **Eratigena** and **Tegenaria House Spiders** were recorded during visits in April and October and there are numerous funnel webs, many with occupants, on the cave walls. *Tegenaria domestica*, is of particular note in the cave as it is uncommon

◄ Common House Spider *Tegenaria domestica* from Benson's Cave (photo: Mark West)

in the south-west, in contrast to *Eratigena saeva* (also found in the Tent Field), which is widespread in the region.

*Eratigena saeva* adults are large House Spiders, with fully grown females typically measuring 11–16 mm in body length, with a leg span (tip to tip) of approximately 45mm. The legs of males can be up to 1.5 times longer than the females (Oxford and Smith, 2018). At the other end of the size scale two Linyphiidae, a *Tenuiphantes* species and *Bathyphantes gracilis*, were found in Benson's Cave; these much smaller Money Spiders, generally have a body length of around 3–5 mm with an overall leg span of approximately 8–14 mm (thanks to Tylan Berry for the identification assistance).

In the 2024 LFS Annual Report, it was noted that the aptly named **Shaded Orb Weaver**, *Metellina merianae*, can be found in a wide range of locations that offer a suitable environment of climate, structure, and prey, and once again this species was found in orb webs at Benson's Cave and at the Earthquake. Orb webs of slightly different construction, without an open hole at the centre, are woven by the **Garden Spider** *Araneus diadematus*, and were recorded at Earthquake in April and between Halfway and Three-quarter walls on the west side in September.

Two very small spiders were recorded at Earthquake. A Xysticus species **Crab Spider** was found in dry sprigs of heather clinging to a rock ledge, while a juvenile **Cave Spider** *Meta menardi* was located deeper within the rocks, away from direct sunlight. In 2025, juvenile *Meta menardi* were also recorded in the shallow cave on the Beach Road, where egg sacs were present, and in the moth trap at Millcombe House (thank you to Joe Parker for the report). Adults were found in the Old Copper Mine in the north-west of the island (again seen by Joe Parker) and at the established site in the cave at the bottom of the Beach Road.



▲ Shaded Orb Weaver *Metellina merianae* at the Earthquake (photo: Mark West)



▲ Garden Spider *Araneus diadematus* at the Earthquake (photo: Mark West)



▲ Crab Spider *Xysticus* species at the Earthquake. For scale, compare the spider with the individual dry heather flowers in the foreground (photo: Mark West)



▲ Juvenile Cave Spider *Meta menardi* in the moth trap at Millcombe House (photo: Joe Parker)



▲ ▼ The changing colours and size of *Meta menardi* with age – Beach Road Cave. The lower photograph is of a fully mature adult (photos: Mark West)



The difference in size and colour of juvenile and adult Cave Spiders is really quite striking. Juveniles are very small with distinctive black and white markings, while fully grown adults are large – females have a body length of up 15mm – and deep brown, black and orange in colour.

*Pholcus phalangioides*, the **Daddy Long-legs Spider**, and *Zygiella x-notata*, the **Missing Section Orb Weaver** are closely associated with buildings. *Pholcus* were found in Castle Keep North (six), Old Light (one) and interestingly, by Tom Coldwell at the North End in April. Bristowe (1958) studied this species in detail and concluded that it favoured houses where the average annual temperature exceeded 10°C, or cellars with a relatively constant temperature of around 10°C, and that its survival was probably limited by extremes of cold. The individual recorded at the North End was presumably located within the North Light building, allowing it to survive the winter at this exposed location.

The Tent Field shower block proved a fruitful location for both *Pholcus phalangioides* and *Zygiella x-notata* in 2025. An egg sac with *Zygiella* spiderlings beginning to disperse was found and 20 *Pholcus* individuals were counted around the line between ceiling and walls in April. Where there was a clear line of sight between neighbours, the minimum distance between spiders was approximately 400 mm and notably consistent. A sufficient quantity of insect prey appears readily able to enter the block through the open windows to support the density of individuals observed at this spacing.

▼ Missing Sector Orb Weaver *Zygiella x-notata* (photo: Mark West)



Bristowe (1958) noted similar spacing behaviour during early dispersal. After hatching and the first moult, *Pholcus* juveniles were observed to be cannibalistic and to move progressively farther from the egg sac along the wall, spacing themselves in a manner that appeared almost territorial. More recently, Rypstra (1983) concluded that the distance between spiders in general is shaped by a balance between food availability and disturbance from nearby neighbours, resulting in regular spacing patterns without evidence of active territorial behaviour.



▲ Daddy Long-legs Spider *Pholcus phalangioides* – Castle Keep North (photo: Mark West)

## Harvestmen and Mites

In October, two *Nelima gothica* Harvestmen were found on the track to Castle while walking back from the Marisco Tavern in the dark (thank you to Megan Skinner for the identification assistance and the information that this species tends to be found in groups). A hunting **Clubiona Sac Spider** was found at the same time. **Large Red Velvet Mites** (Trombididae) were also recorded at two locations in 2025, at the North End in April and in the vicinity of the Castle in October.

## In Summary

Records for 2025 total 41, comprising 38 records of at least 16 species of spider, two records of mites and one of harvestmen. In several cases a single record comprises more than one individual observed at the same time. All species have been recorded before.

Identification of Arachnids can be challenging, and confirmation of many species is not possible without microscopic examination. *Pardosa* wolf spiders and *Clubiona* sac spiders, which can be encountered on Lundy, are good examples of spiders that cannot be readily identified to species level in the field. Needless to say, good photographs and videos by camera or telephone of body and leg conformation, showing shape, colouration and size are helpful, particularly if taken from above, as are macro shots showing the eye arrangement if the spider stays still for long enough! As always please do keep entering records in the logbook and sending in your photographs.



▲ Macro photographs taken with an Olympus TG-5 compact camera allowed identification of this *Pardosa nigriceps* Wolf Spider, a common species on Lundy (photo: Mark West)

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## Isopoda (Woodlice)

Alan Rowland

Alan Rowland recorded three **Ant Woodlice** *Platyarthus hofmaseggii* in an ants' nest on the Upper East Side Path on 10 March. Six **Pill Woodlice** *Armadillidium vulgare* were recorded by Elise O'Donnell on 12 May on the Lower

East Side Path. On 25 April Neil Barnes found a bird pellet near Widow's Tenement and on closer examination and subsequent determination (by Warren Maguire) identified a **Common Pygmy Woodlouse** *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. Aquatic Isopoda are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Ant Woodlice *Platyarthus hofmaseggii* (photo: Alan Rowland)

## Myriapoda (Centipedes and Millipedes)

Alan Rowland

On 25 April Neil Barnes found a bird pellet near Widow's Tenement and on closer examination and subsequent determination identified two **Spotted Snake Millipedes** of *Blanuiliid* species. Kingston Maurward College and University found two **Pill Millipedes** *Glomeris marginata* at Halfway Wall on 30 April.

► Spotted Snake Millipedes *Blanuiliid guttulatus* and Common Pygmy Woodlouse *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. (photo: Neil Barnes)



## Orthoptera/Belloidia (Grasshoppers and Crickets/Cockroaches)

Malcolm Lee

Among the Lundy sightings on iRecord was an entry for the Variable Cockroach (*Planuncus tingitanus*) when a nymph was found above Gannets' Combe (SS 135475) on 4 June by Miles Thompson, which would have been a new species for Lundy. The Variable Cockroach has been spreading northwards from around the Mediterranean area and was first recorded in the UK in 2011. After sending the image Miles had taken to Peter Sutton, the national Orthoptera recorder, he confirmed it was a nymph of the **Lesser Cockroach** (*Capraiellus panzeri* formerly *Ectobius panzeri*) as with all other previous cockroach reports from Lundy. Peter advised that nymphs of the Variable Cockroach and the Lesser Cockroach are very similar at first glance. However, the central pronotum of the Variable Cockroach is always shiny jet black, whereas the Lesser Cockroach has a pale triangular area, as in the images Miles had taken. In recent years, more detailed scrutiny of this often overlooked group of insects has identified several other new species of cockroach in the UK, all of which are very similar to our long established native cockroaches. Peter has recently completed the first detailed field guide to the British Orthoptera for some 40 years (Field Guide to the Grasshoppers and Allies of Great Britain and Ireland, published 19 February) and he dedicated much time to the cockroach chapter, which will hopefully reduce or eliminate identification errors. The only other detailed Orthoptera record was of a Field Grasshopper found just north east of the German Heinkel Crash site by Halfway Wall (SS 136457) on 13 September. If anyone has taken an image of a species of Orthoptera about which they are not sure, you may email it to me at [gullrockportgaverne@gmail.com](mailto:gullrockportgaverne@gmail.com) so I can take a look at it.

## Hemiptera/Heteroptera (True Bugs)

Alan Rowland

**Mirid Bugs** *Pithanus maerkelii* and *Heterotoma planicornis* were respectively recorded by Kian Hayles-Cotton in July on the Beach Road near Brambles, and by Sam Bosanquet in Millcombe; the latter is a new species for Lundy. Sam also recorded thousands of Aphids in Millcombe and around Brambles, comprising **Elder Aphids** (*Aphis sambuci*) and **Leaf-curling Plum Aphids** (*Brachycaudus helichrysi*), also new records for Lundy.

Neil Barnes came across a **Hawthorn Shieldbug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* on the path below Tibbetts on 6 and again on 7 October 2025. We identified this as a first for Lundy until he proudly told his friend Darrin Downing of his major find; Darrin promptly showed his picture of the same species photographed outside the toilet window at Castle Keep South on 5 October 2022. It would appear both have flown on favourable winds from the mainland where according to Richard Jones, author of the New Naturalist *Shieldbugs*, it is the most common Shieldbug (in the UK). If it has established on Lundy, searches of hedges and copses should produce more records. This adds a fifth Shieldbug to the Lundy list.

Aquatic Hemiptera adults and larvae are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*  
(photo: Neil Barnes)



▲ Ground beetle *Abax parallelepipedus*  
(photo: J&J Macbeth)



▲ Black Carrion or Snail beetle  
*Silpha tristis* (photo: Chris Blackmore)



▲ Gold-headed Rove Beetle *Ocypus aeneocephalus* (photo: Neil Barnes)

## Coleoptera (Beetles)

Alan Rowland

### Carabidae (Ground beetles)

A **Black Clock beetle** *Pterostichus niger* was seen by Jim Bishop in July in the Village.

Two sightings of the **Ground beetle** *Abax parallelepipedus* were made on 24 September at the North End by Jackie and James Macbeth and above Gannets' Bay by Ranscombe Lodge.

### Silphidae (Carrion beetles)

An adult and larva of **Black Carrion** or **Snail beetles** *Phosphuga atrata* were recorded by xylocopa enthusiast in May, of an adult in Millcombe Valley, and a larva by Chris Blackmore at the Castle in July. *Silpha tristis* was recorded by Victoria R Williams in July on the Beach Road. A **Black Sexton Beetle** *Necrophorus humator* was seen by Steve O'Donnell while moth trapping at Government House in May.

### Staphylinidae (Rove beetles)

Three records of single **Devil's Coachhorse beetles** *Ocypus olens* were made in September and October by T Coldwell, Ranscombe Lodge, both at the North End, and Shaun Barnes on the Lower East Side Path. A closely related species **Gold-headed Rove Beetle** *Ocypus aeneocephalus* was recorded by Neil Barnes in October.

### Geotrupidae (Dor beetles)

Three species have been reported. Many are recorded as **Dor** or **Dung beetles** which probably means they are the most common of the species *Geotrupes stercorarius*. There were 14 sightings of between one and three individuals ranging along the Lower East Side Path, to Tibbetts, the Terrace, Old Light, West Side, Battery and Old Light from the end of April to the beginning of September.

By contrast, the **Minotaur beetle** *Typhaeus typhoeus* was only reported five times between February and September ranging along the West Side, Acland's Moor and the North End. There were five sightings of the **Woodland Dor beetle** *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* in May and September with from one to three individuals mainly on the West Side by Kevin and Val Waterfall, Jackie and James Macbeth and Tom Coldwell.

### Scarabaeidae (Scarab beetles)

The **Rosechafer** *Cetonia aurata* is one of the most easily distinguished beetles on Lundy, and being large and slow flying is often reported. There were 22 sightings of ones and twos, and exceptionally five and six in July, from May to September ranging all over the island.

## Elateridae (Click Beetles)

A **Mottled Dingy-brown Click Beetle** *Agrypnus murinus* was found by Ranscombe Lodge in September on the Lower East Side.

## Cantharididae (Soldier Beetles)

**Common Red Soldier Beetles** *Rhagonycha fulva* were out in force in July when up to 40 were recorded all over the island.

## Tenebrionidae (Darkling Beetles)

Five **Sulphur Beetles** *Cteniopus sulphureus* were recorded on the Beach Road in July.

## Meloe (Oil beetles)

An unidentified **Oil Beetle** *Meloe* sp. was seen in Middle Park by Kevin Waterfall in September. The usual species seen on Lundy is the Black Oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*. Aquatic Coleoptera adults and larvae are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ *Physocephala rufipes* at Quarry Pond  
(photo: Sam Bosanquet)

# Diptera (True Flies)

Sam Bosanquet

Compared to 2024, there was a bit more Diptera recording on Lundy in 2025, with six records from iRecord, three from the logbook, and 35 made by SB during a visit in July. 22 of the records were of Hoverflies (Syrphidae; 12 species) with the remainder representing 10 other families of Diptera. Highlights among the 25 recorded species were:

- ***Dasineura pteridis*** (Cecidomyiidae): galls on Bracken near Hammers on 8 July (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Eloeophila maculata*** (Limoniidae): one in the gully below Brambles on 9 July (SB); the first Lundy record since 1972.
- ***Empis tessellata*** (Empididae): two at Quarry Pond on 10 July (SB); the first Lundy record since 1984.
- ***Lucilia caesar*** (Calliphoridae): two inside Brambles on 8 July checked microscopically (SB); the first Lundy record since 1987.
- ***Physocephala rufipes*** (Conopidae): one at Quarry Pond on 10 July (SB); still the only Conopid fly species recorded on Lundy.
- ***Phytomyza angelicae*** (Agromyzidae): mines on *Angelica sylvestris* in Millcombe on 8 July (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Sphaerophoria interrupta*** (Syrphidae): one at Brambles on 10 July identified microscopically (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Volucella zonaria*** (Syrphidae): in Millcombe on 4 August (Tony Taylor); the second Lundy record following one in 2024.

The island Diptera total therefore rises to 488 species, following three additions in 2025.

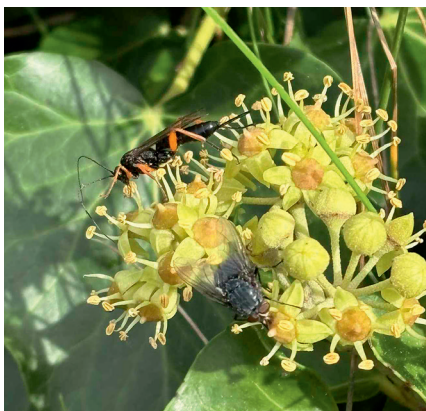
Larval stages of Diptera are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Mines of *Phytomyza angelicae* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)



▲ *Abia fasciata* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)



▲ *Pimpla rufipes* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)

## Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps and Ants)

Sam Bosanquet

Ten species of Hymenoptera were recorded on Lundy in 2025, with 10 records coming from the logbook, four submitted via email, and four made by SB during a visit in July. All of the logbook records were of bumblebees, but the emailed records comprised three *Ichneumon* species and an ant. There were also five records submitted via iRecord: four of common bumblebees and one of a bracken-feeding sawfly that was last noted on the island in 1996. The more notable records made during the year were:

***Abia fasciata*** (Cimbicidae): one in Millcombe on 9 July (SB); the second Lundy record of this honeysuckle-feeding Sawfly following one in 2021.

***Ancistrocerus scoticus*** (Vespidae): one nectaring on Thrift at North Light on 10 July (SB).

***Heteropelma amictum*** (Ichneumonidae): 30 scattered around Millcombe on 23 July (MY), a remarkably high number of this distinctive 'Giant Ichneumon Wasp'.

***Ichneumon bucculentus*** (Ichneumonidae): one photographed at The Battery on 16 October (Mark West), confirmed by internet experts and the first Lundy record.

***Pimpla rufipes*** (Ichneumonidae): one photographed in Millcombe on 11 October (Louise Cookson).

***Strongylogaster multifasciata*** (Tenthredinidae): photographed on 31 May (Xyocopa enthusiast), the first Lundy record since 1996.

With the addition of *Ichneumon bucculentus*, the island Hymenoptera total increases to 257 species.

## Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

Mandy Yates

The weather during Spring and Summer this year was far better in terms of the number of dry sunny days when compared to last year. This is reflected in the increased number of different Dragonfly species sighted, with five definite sightings of species this year compared to only two (**Emperor** and **Black-tailed Skimmer**) last year. The same two species of Damselflies from last year (**Common Blue Damselfly** and **Blue-tailed Damselfly**) were seen this year, with no additional extras.

## **Anisoptera** (Dragonflies)

### **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum*

The earliest recorded individual was seen on 23 May with the last on 25 August. There were five records for this species, all at Pondsburry. Tony Taylor saw and photographed a pair of **Black-tailed Skimmer** copulating on 23 May with a possible other individual also being present at that time.

### **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea*

There was one record of a **Southern Hawker**, seen in Millcombe Valley on 24 July.

### **Emperor** *Anax imperator*

There were only three records of **Emperor**, the first was seen on 24 July and the last one on 25 August. All were seen at Pondsburry, with one observer recording the presence of three at one time on 23 August.

### **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*

There were four records for **Common Darter** this year, with the first recorded on 27 July and the last on 25 August. Two was the highest number seen at any one time, on the 21 and 25 August. All were spotted at Pondsburry except for one individual seen at the Quarry Railway on 29 July.

### **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*

Migrant Hawker were seen five times on Lundy this year with the first recorded as being seen on 23 August and the last on 23 September. Sightings were from different places on the island including Millcombe Valley, St Helen's Copse, the Heligoland Trap and VC Quarry.

### **Unidentified Dragonflies**

There was a possible **Vagrant Emperor** or **Lesser Emperor** spotted twice on 23 August, once at Pondsburry and again on the main track. There were four unidentified individuals sighted on the Western slopes on October 11 described as being 'big and green', while another unidentified Dragonfly was also seen on the Western slopes on 14 October.



▲ Black-tailed Skimmer (photo: Tony Taylor)



▲ Common Darter (photo: Neil Barnes)



▲ Common Blue Damselfly (photo: Alan Rowland)

## Zygoptera (Damselflies)

### Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

There were five records for **Blue-tailed Damselfly** this year, with the first being seen on 23 July and the last recorded on 23 August. The most seen at any one time was seven individuals. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** were seen at Pondsbury, Quarter Wall Pond and Quarry Pond.

### Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

The first **Common Blue Damselfly** was recorded as seen on 23 July and the last was seen on 23 August. There were only four records for this year, with this species being recorded as present at Pondsbury, Quarter Wall Pond and Quarry Pond. The highest number of individuals seen at any one time was seven at Quarter Wall Pond and this included several pairs copulating. Nymphs of Odonata are reported in the Freshwater section.

## Neuroptera (Lacewings)

Alan Rowland

A new Order has been added to the listing this year. Sam Bosanquet recorded a **Green Lacewing** (*Chrysoperla lucasina*) and two other **Lacewings** (*Hemerobius marginatus*) in July.

## Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

Alan Rowland

Neil Barnes found ***Micropterna lateralis*** (subsequently determined by Stuart Crofts) at the Castle on 12 April.

Larval records can be found in the Freshwater Invertebrates section.



▲ *Micropterna lateralis* (photo: Neil Barnes)

# Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

## Butterflies

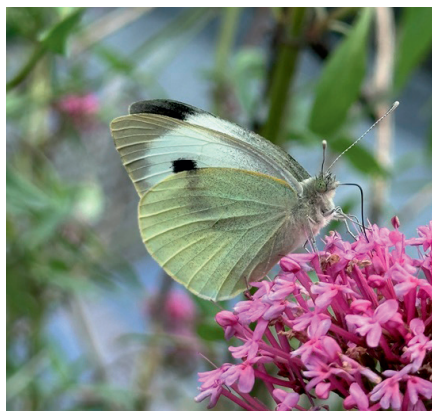
*Kristin Reed*

Seventeen species of butterfly were seen on Lundy in 2025. The first recorded sighting was of a single **Peacock** on March 20 and the last sighting being a **Red Admiral** on December 6. With the long hot and sunny Spring and Summer, 2025 was a better year generally than the year before for butterflies across the UK, though not an exceptional year.

Less frequently seen on Lundy, the **Clouded Yellow**, **Grayling**, **Ringlet** and **Gatekeeper** were recorded this year. **Clouded Yellow** were seen on six flying days in twos and singles. **Grayling** sightings peaked at six seen on July 18. No **Brimstone**, **Wall Brown** or **Holly Blue** were noted.

Records of abundance in 2025 were:

- 17 **Common Blue** on July 28
- 50 **Large White** on August 31
- 161 **Meadow Brown** on July 26
- 40 **Painted Lady** on August 31
- 126 **Red Admiral** on May 11
- 48 **Small White** on July 26



▲ Large White (photo: Martyn Davies)



▲ Meadow Brown (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Peacock (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Painted Lady (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Small Copper (photo: Helen Llewelyn)

## The Butterfly Transect.

Walking and recording of the transect took place most weeks in season this year carried out by staff, enthusiasts and visitors. On this route the **Small Copper** can be found, a butterfly that flourished in this hot summer with the later broods showing the delightful blue spot aberration named *Caeruleo punctata*. This variation features a row of small, bright blue spots on the outer edge of the hindwings and is very attractive. As a highly territorial species these **Small Copper** are easy to spot, basking on the bare ground, short grass or stones on the path.

Millcombe valley is a site with exciting opportunities to see a variety of butterflies. The **Small White**, **Large White** and **Green-veined White** nectar on the Valerian and Fuschia flowers in the valley. **Common Blue** can be found laying eggs on the Common Bird's-foot Trefoil on the pond margins.

**Red Admiral**, **Peacock** and the **Painted Lady** are seen nectaring on the flowers of mature Ivy growing on the garden walls.

If you are fortunate you may see a **Clouded Yellow** flying in up the valley to the grasslands above.

In June and July the middle section of the transect along the East path is awash with **Meadow Brown** and **Small Heath**.



▲ Pallid Grey (photo: David Rowe)

## Moths

David Rowe

In 2025 a total of 101 moths was recorded on Lundy, 71 macros and 30 micros. Three moths were new to Lundy, all micros: the **Pallid Grey** *Eudonia pallida* (though not at all rare on the mainland, it took a while to arrive on Lundy), along with the more unusual **Gorse Case-bearer** *Coleophora albicosta* and the diminutive **Spiked-rush borer** *Monachroa luicdella*.



The first moth larva to be recorded was a **Fox Moth** caterpillar *Macrothylacia rubi* on 12 March and the last a **Pale Tussock** *Calliteara pudibunda* at the Quarter Wall Wood on 10 October. The first adult was an **Emperor moth** *Saturnia pavonia* on 26 April and the last were an **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa* and an **Autumn Rustic** *Eugnorisma glareosa* on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Brazen Ward.

◀ Buff Arches (photo: David Rowe)



▲ Vapourer Moth caterpillar (photo: Neil Barnes)

The most spectacular moth of the year has to be a **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica* observed on 2 June at Bramble Villas, the second Lundy record. The most abundant moth was the **Six-spot Burnet** *Zygaena filipendulae*, with 46 total records, 30 occurring on 17 July. This is an encouraging recovery from a total of just 25 last year. This was followed by the **Brown Silver-line** *Petrophora chlorosata* with 30 records in total, 25 observed along the East Side on 15 June. The most disappointing species was the migrant **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*, just 19 records down from 136 last year.

### Observing Moths

On sunny, warm days day-flying moths such as the Brown Silver-line can be seen along the east coast among Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, and around Millcombe the distinctive Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* are commonly seen nectaring on flowering plants. In July on the grassy slopes between the Church and the Castle, emerging Burnet moths *Zygaena* sp. can be quite a spectacle. Synthetic pheromone lures can be very effective in attracting some moths: Emperor moths *Saturnia pavonia* and Thrift Clearwing *Pyropteron muscaeformis* are two Lundy species that can be attracted by these lures.



▲ Striped Hawk Moth (photo: Chris Pawson)

When observing night-flying species one needs to adopt special tricks to attract them. A moth trap takes advantage of their well-known habit of being attracted to light. This consists of a box



▲ Small Blood Vein (photo: David Rowe)

## THANKS

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

Alison Ash, Carol Baillie, Sue Bacon (et al), Belle Barchan, Neil Barnes, Phil Barnes, Shaun Barnes, Jim Bishop, Chris and Sharron Blackmore, Nick Blewden, Sam Bosanquet, Beth Breese, Eliseal Brighton (aka Lisa O'Donnell), George Burbridge, Karen Burney, Jamie Buxton-Gould, Tom Carr, Philip Chambers, Andrew Cleave, Dave and Chris Clifton, Alister Clunas, Tom Coldwell, Tim Colwell (et al), Sarah Conibear, Louise Cookson, Clive Couzens, Kian Hayles-Cotton, Bee Cox, Angus Croudace, Liz Crow, Monica Dévény, Helen Doel, Darrin Downing, Catalina Estrada, Charlotte Gardner, Anne Garnish, Alfie Gay, Paul Godwin, Tracy Gould, Dorothy Hall, Mark Harris, Rosemary Helen, Andy Higginson, Doug Hobbs, Andrew Jayne, Jesscee, Kingston Maurward College and University, PandS Knight, Ladymoth, Lisa Leaver, Carole Lee, Malcolm Lee, Linz67, Tara MacEvoy-Wilding, Jackie and James MacBeth (aka Ranscombe Lodge), Luke



or tub with a wide entrance and restricted exit and an ultraviolet light source, traditionally a mains-powered Mercury Vapour bulb. These bulbs are increasingly being superseded by a range of Actinic, Blacklight and LED bulbs, which can be powered from the mains, but also from lead-acid or lithium batteries. The trap is set up at dusk and the contents of the trap are recorded at first light – before the sparrows get up! – and the captive moths are then released back into the surrounding vegetation unharmed.

When on Lundy last June, warden Joe Parker kindly loaned me his moth trap. This used a 5W LED UV bulb powered by a lithium battery. This ultra modern set-up gave a compact, lightweight system and considering the relatively low light output, produced surprisingly good results.

Marriner, Sandra May, Brigitte Needs, Steve and Elise O'Donnell, Cathy and Mike Ovenden, Joe Parker, Chris Pawson, pcurious, E Pitt and V Holbrook, Roundways, David Rowe, Alan and Sandra Rowland, Kevin Rowley, Jo Smoldon, Russell Stagg, Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor, M Thompson, Elizabeth Toms, Jill Walker, Kevin and Val Waterfall, Mark West, Kathy Weston, Joanne Wilby, Victoria R Williams, Xyocopa enthusiast, Mandy Yates, and all those anonymous people who wrote their sightings in the log book but omitted to give their names

Thanks for determinations to Kevin Rowley, Tylan Berry, Megan Skinner

◀ Pied Tortrix (photo: David Rowe)