

suppressed by civilized society could be given rein. It was then possible in some measure to begin to direct them from their primitive source to some valuable end. In such circumstances, curiosity could become science ; pugnacity, strength of purpose ; and gregariousness, loyalty. The more elemental the experience, the more easy the process seemed. The proof of this was established by the way the boys reacted to their living conditions. In 1952 we lived under canvas, with more than the usual inconveniences. But in spite of this it seemed to bring out splendid qualities in some boys, in whom they had never been detected. In 1954 we lived in one of the outbuildings of the Old Light. It was much more comfortable than camping, but less comfortable than home. It thus had neither the tough independence of the one existence nor the luxuries of the other. It was obvious from the start that the 1954 group were missing some subtle enjoyment which had been felt by all those who went on the 1952 expedition. They were less emancipated. Possibly the entire task of education is the emancipation and sublimation of crude instinct, and perhaps the undefinable quality in the pleasure which we all felt whilst on Lundy was the stimulus that the experience gave to this process.

## WILD AND FERAL MAMMALS

### *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. **Rabbit.**

No change in status has been observed.

### *Rattus rattus*. **Black Rat.**

Has not been seen this season.

### *Rattus norvegicus*. **Brown Rat.**

Still abundant in spite of efforts to distribute poison. Several have been seen suffering from some skin disease being hairless over much of their body. A young rat was seen on the Great Shutter on the night of August 4th-5th.

### *Dama dama*. **Fallow Deer.**

The single doe has not been seen since the beginning of August.

### *Sika nippon*. **Japanese Deer.**

The greatest number seen was sixty-nine in June. A young fawn was disturbed from the bracken on August 9th, it was alone and thought to be two or three days old. No other fawns were seen until October when they were well grown and running with the herds. The challenge wail of the stags was first heard on October 6th and continued at least up until the end of November, although in the latter half of the month it was normally only heard at night.

*Cervus elaphus*. **Red Deer.**

In the spring seven was the greatest number counted. From October 25th until the end of the season a herd of eight was seen almost daily. The herd consisted of an adult male, four hinds, one fawn and two immature males, usually on the outskirts of the herd.

*Capra hircus*. **Feral Goat.**

F. W. Gade counted forty-six in September. On May 27th out of a herd of thirty-two, six were kids.

**Soay Sheep.**

Sixty-four were the greatest number seen. The population is probably nearer ninety to one hundred.

*Halichoerus grypus*. **Grey Seal.**

According to the work of J. I. Davies the calf of the Grey Seal is on land for the greater part of the first fifteen to twenty-seven days of its life. Therefore as a preliminary to an investigation of the breeding status an examination was made of caves along the east coast as far north as Gannets' Rock and along the south coast. The only cave found in which there is a beach above the high water mark of ordinary tides, is Seals' Hole. So visits were made to this cave on the following dates:—

Date	No. of Seals inside cave	No. of Seals outside cave and sea
19/8/54	5 adults probably female 1 dead calf	—
28/8/54	—	—
13/9/54	2 adults probably female	—
17/9/54	8 adult female 1 immature animal	1 adult male
27/9/54	11 adult female 1 calf	1 adult ,,
12/10/54	6 adult ,, 1 calf	1 adult ,,
14/10/54	7 adult ,, 1 calf	
11/11/54	8 adult ,,	

SOME NOTES ON THE CALVES

The dead calf found on August 19th was *c.* 2 feet 9 inches long, covered with long white fur. The calf found on September 27th was *c.* 3 feet long, and covered with long silky, cream-coloured fur except immediately round the eyes and nose where it had moulted. The calf moved about 2 feet across the sand. The calf present on October 12th and 14th is believed to be the same one as recorded on September 27th. It was 3 feet 6 inches long, the white fur had moulted off the muzzle and face, also off the fore and hind limbs. It moved about quite easily over the sand. It was judged to be much heavier than when seen on September 27th.

On October 23rd a calf of the year was handled by J. Ogilvie on the Landing Beach. It was thought to be a male about 3 feet 6 inches long. It had grey fur with black spots.

The following are the numbers of seals seen during the latter half of the year :—

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Areas examined</i>	<i>Wind direction and force</i>
5/6/54	20	Gannets Rock area. N. of Tibbetts Pt	E. 2—W. 3
31/7/54	33	Gannets Rock area. The Needles. The Gates	W. 1
5/8/54	27	Surf Point. Gannets Rock area. North Light	
7/8/54	24	Gannets Rock area. Brazen Ward	W. 3—S. 6
17/8/54	25	Gannets Rock area. Seals Hole	SW. 6—4
15/10/54	4	Gannets Rock area. Brazen Ward	SW. 5—S. 6
16/10/54	4	N. of Rat Island	SSE. 6
12/11/54	2	Gannets Combe. Brazen Ward	WNW. 4
15/11/54	7	Brazen Ward. Gannets Combe	Light variable

All the visits were made during low tide when the seals haul out on to the rocks.

Although these figures are sadly incomplete as a census it does indicate a decrease in numbers during October and November. Possibly some of the seals present in summer breed elsewhere. Wind force and direction is given to demonstrate that change in population is probably not just due to weather conditions.

It is hoped if assistance is forthcoming, to mark any seal calves found next season and also to maintain a more complete census throughout the year.

