

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2018

(68th Report)

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2018

President:	DIANA KEAST	
Vice Presidents:	PROFESSOR JENNIFER GEORGE JOHN HARMAN DR KEITH HISCOCK	
Chairman:	ALAN ROWLAND	
Vice Chairman:	BELINDA COX	
Honorary Secretary:	MICHAEL WILLIAMS	
Honorary Treasurer:	ROGER CHAPPLE	
Honorary Membership Secretary:	SANDRA ROWLAND	
Committee:	ANDREW CLEAVE MBE ANDRÉ COUTANCHE CHRISTOPHER DEE PROFESSOR TOM DICKINS TREVOR DOBIE PROFESSOR JENNIFER GEORGE PROFESSOR JOHN HEDGER DR KEITH HISCOCK TIM JONES DR CHRIS PAWSON FRANCES STUART CHRIS WEBSTER	(2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2016–2019) (2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2016–2019) (2018–2021) (2018–2021) (2018–2021)
Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group Representative:	ROBERT IRVING	(co-opted)
Non-Committee posts:		
Island Representative:	GRANT SHERMAN	
Bird Ringing Coordinator:	TONY TAYLOR	



Mary Gade and Steve Wing on Lundy, 15 October 2015. © Tim Davis

*David George and John Hedger at the launch of 'Lundy Fungi',
27 September 2018. © Tim Jones*



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EDITORIAL

2018 was another successful year for Society members and visitors on Lundy making observations. But success has its challenges and the size (144 pages) of the 2017 report was a potential issue for packaging and a challenge for the postal franking machine. There is a temptation to list everything recorded in the logbook or from other sources. What we have tried to do this year is to briefly list the species that have continued to occur in much the same numbers and to catalogue those species that are unusual, special to Lundy or that are showing some trend or highlight in abundance or condition. There will be differences in the style of each section that reflect the type of observations that are made for a group of species: for instance, time of year first observed, abundance, mating behaviours etc. The most conspicuous change from previous reports is the way that colour images are now placed near to their relevant text.

'Harvesting' significant reports of Lundy's wildlife was greatly helped by your entries to the logbook held in the Tavern and removed at the end of each year to be photographed and those images made available to compilers of various sections. It is a continued frustration that possibly significant observations by divers get voiced only on their boat or in the pub ashore afterwards. Last year, I noted that Dean Jones had established a Facebook page (Lundy Marine Sightings) to accept those observations – a few posted observations (mainly the Lundy Conservation Team and Appledore Sub-Aqua Club) but many did not. Perhaps no-one is nudging them.

For the first time, I have used search facilities on iRecord and the National Biodiversity Network Atlas to look-up any records from 'Lundy' in 2018. Some did turn-up but validation procedures and backlogs mean that we are ahead of those entries appearing in time for the compilation of this report.

We didn't quite have time to squeeze-in a series of significant records (collected in 2017) to the Report for 2017 and they have been included in the article by Maxine Putnam in this report. There were 16 lichens recorded for the first time on Lundy.

Whatever you record, it is important to identify yourself including contact details – you may have found something very special!

Thanks to all who contribute reports that keep members up-to-date on the business of the Society and of significant developments on the island. Thanks to all who have recorded their observations, to the section compilers, to Tim Davis and Tim Jones for managing the Tavern logbook, to Dean Jones for extracting and listing many of the logbook records, to those who have written reports and articles. Thanks to the Lundy Shore Office team for undertaking the very significant task of franking and sending-out the report.

If you overhear someone speaking of a fascinating find, do ask them to make an entry in the logbook.

For those 'special' species or observations of behaviour, if you have good quality images that you would be willing to have used to illustrate future reports, please do send them.

KEITH HISCOCK
May 2019

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

My first AGM as Chair in March 2018 was a personal disaster. I was unable to attend due to illness and left Sandra to drive and deliver the bookstall on her own and was therefore unable to take the Chair following my election. Two days later I was in hospital with a viral blood infection which a course of penicillin soon sorted out. I have not looked back since and a couple of weeks later, I was on Lundy out in all weathers in ponds surveying and enjoying being fit and well enough to be out and about. Lundy is a tonic I can recommend.

The year has been quite busy for me and for your committee. Not only did some of us launch the much awaited and highly acclaimed book *Lundy Fungi* by John Hedger and David George on Lundy in September, but we have been working hard on policies and procedures to guide the Society. Our Privacy, Safeguarding and Investment policies are all available to view and download on our website. Others we have developed are a Health and Safety policy, a Commissioning and Procurement policy and a Payments to Trustees policy.

The major events of the year have been the publication of *Lundy Fungi* after a gestation period of 15 years! Hard and softback copies are available from Lundy shop or direct from LFS sales. We have also reissued an updated version of our Lundy Colouring Book – see if you can spot the differences apart from the new pink cover. The other major item was implementing the AGM decision to invest our surplus funds into an Endowment Fund. This has taken up a lot of our committee members' time but particularly that of our Treasurer, Roger Chapple. Our committee members have been busy too with development and circulation of our members' questionnaire – thanks to all of our members who responded. We are still working on the responses although we did implement some of them that related to the AGM, particularly in relation to timings and provision of lunch. Thanks are due to Tim Jones for all his hard work on the production of this ably, assisted with statistical analysis, by Chris Pawson and Tom Dickins.

All this on top of producing the 6th edition of our Journal full of peer reviewed papers circulated at or shortly after the 2018 AGM. Thanks to all the hard work put in by Jenny George and André Coutanche. The Bulletin too was published in February thanks to all the contributors and to Bee Cox for putting it together.

Your committee has been peripatetic this last year with meetings held as far east as Marlborough – hosted by Diana Keast our President, and as far south as Barnstaple, with University of the West of England in the middle. We do try to minimise the expense and travelling commitment to our committee members by moving our meetings.

ALAN ROWLAND
May 2019

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

Following the 2018 AGM, there were two changes in the Officers of the Society. Keith Hiscock retired after eleven years as Chairman (his second stint in this post) and Alan Rowland was elected to the role. His promotion from Vice Chairman left a vacancy that was filled by Belinda Cox. Alan also took the opportunity to hand on the archivist role to André Coutanche and Belinda has agreed to look after the AGM auctions. Keith has now taken on the editing of the Annual Report. His contribution to the Society and its administration has been significant not least in his marine work and representing the Society's interests at the Lundy Management Forum and the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group during his tenure.

The long awaited *Lundy Fungi* guide by John Hedger and David George was published in the autumn. It has been 15 years in the making and the resulting book has been well worth the wait, providing an accessible and informative field guide to Lundy's fungi. It was launched on Lundy in late September and a further launch will take place at the 2019 AGM. The sixth volume of the Journal was published to coincide with the AGM. The feedback about the quality and variety of the papers has been very positive, which is very encouraging, especially to our contributors and editors who put in the hard work to make it a valued publication.

The committee has been very productive over the year. Three meetings were held including one in September, hosted by our President, Diana Keast in Marlborough. Governance matters have occupied a good proportion of our time. The implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) resulted in an information audit of personal data held by the Society and a privacy policy was developed. We were fortunate that good practices were already in place so our response to the legislation has been light touch. Frances Stuart re-joined the committee and has brought with her expertise in safeguarding so we were able to adopt a safeguarding policy.

We have made good progress with setting up an endowment fund to invest our significant cash reserves in order to enable them to better serve our objectives. After considered discussions about risk and investing ethically to align with our objectives, an investment policy has been agreed and a fund manager identified. The fund itself is in the process of being established as I write. I must record my thanks to Tom Dickens for his advice in these areas and to our Treasurer, Roger Chapple, for ably steering the affordability discussions to a very satisfactory conclusion.

Other work by the committee included starting work on sorting the Trevor Miles archaeology archive which has been donated to the LFS, further discussions about succession planning, finding data storage for our growing electronic records of observations, and a membership survey. The survey had a tremendous response and we will be analysing the data during 2019. Thank you to everyone who responded!

Preliminary plans are being made to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the LFS in 2021. A Discover Lundy week is planned and, in a break from tradition, the AGM will take place on Lundy for the first time. The Landmark Trust have agreed to produce a special stamp issue for the anniversary and I'm sure there will be further ideas for activities developed over the intervening period.

Several LFS members have been involved in the Lundy Ambassadors scheme which has provided volunteers to support the island such as guided walks, family activities and outreach talks on the mainland. The scheme has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the church restoration project and has so far provided 79 days of volunteer time.

Two working parties were sent to Lundy during 2018. The first of the year set off on 23 February, just as the well predicted 'Beast from the East' was taking hold. The leader was Trevor Dobie and a full party of fourteen members attended. During the whole stay, the weather was extremely cold with strong easterly winds, culminating in a huge fall of snow towards the latter part of the week – very unusual for Lundy.

Many worthwhile tasks were completed, including rhododendron seedling searches across the plateau near Pondsburry, tree transplanting above Quarter Wall Copse, sanding and oiling many of the island's bench seats, fencing off the entrance to the Terrace Heligoland Trap, and collecting logs and firewood for the island's properties as the coal supply had been used up. The return to the mainland was delayed due to Storm Emma with departure occurring three days late.

In October, thirteen members made it to Lundy despite a one-day delay due to stormy weather. Jan Paul was a popular leader overseeing projects which included extending a tree nursery in Millcombe Garden, tidying footpaths around Millcombe, retrieving logs from the lower East Sidelands left over from the rhododendron felling, cleaning inside the Old Light and sorting the recycling.

Both working parties had a good mixture of new members and experienced volunteers, and many of them re-booked for 2019 as soon as they arrived home! Regular volunteer Dave Preece retired after attending working parties for 25 years. Our thanks to Dave for his exceptional contribution to Lundy's conservation work.

In other work, the new LFS website was launched at the AGM providing a much improved resource for Lundy information. Autumn fungi forays were led by John Hedger and Mandy Dee. We continue to contribute to the Lundy Management Forum and the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group.

Following completion of the building work on the church, work started on the interpretation panels, covering subjects including Lundy's wildlife and history. Your Hon Sec and Siân Cann, Lundy's Education Officer, put many hours of work into writing and reviewing the text, seeking photos and working to very tight deadlines to ensure the exhibition was ready for a visit of the Bishop of Exeter in June. This second phase of the project continues during 2019 with a community art project, producing banners for hanging in the church for which several members are involved in sewing and stitching.

I receive many and varied requests for information in a typical year and a couple of highlights for 2018 include providing some background information on the wreck of the HMS Montagu for archaeological investigations and supplying historic photos of the North Light to Trinity House who are preparing significant works to the lighthouse buildings.

Long-term bird ringing studies on Manx Shearwaters and Wheatears continued. A record 361 shearwater chicks were ringed, as well as 180 full-grown birds. 100 previously-ringed adult shearwaters were recaptured, providing a wealth of valuable information on their life histories.

Wheatears faced very difficult weather conditions as they returned in spring. Even so, at least 56% of the birds breeding in 2017 survived migration to and from their African winter quarters and bred on Lundy in 2018.

In spring and autumn, ringing groups spent eight weeks studying migrating birds. In all, 2,724 birds of 45 species were ringed during the year. Several groups presented demonstrations and talks to other visitors on the process and value of bird ringing.

Following the digitisation of many past ringing records, these have been added to the BTO's new online database. More than 60,000 Lundy records are now available to ringers on their website. A student from Imperial College London has chosen to analyse historic Lundy ringing data as a project for a Master's course.

Roger & Rosy Key and Steve Compton completed 25 years of surveying the Lundy Cabbage. The total number of Lundy Cabbage in flower in early June 2018 was about 4,700, 31% less than in 2017. This is 8% lower than the running average over the last 25 years. However, the estimate of total number of plants, including those not in flower, is at least 50,000, which around 60% more than in 2017 so the plant has not declined. The endemic Lundy Cabbage Weevil was very abundant. We record our thanks to Roger, Rosy and Steve for their remarkable contribution to the study of Lundy's endemic plant and we are pleased that Alan & Sandra Rowland have agreed to continue the survey from 2019.

2018 was a quiet year for marine studies and activities. The Society was pleased to support the purchase of temperature loggers to replace existing ones on the wreck of the MV Robert (for seabed measurements) and on the jetty (for shallow water measurements). Such measurements are important for interpreting change and in making links between wildlife events and water temperature.

The Society has been represented at workshops of the North Devon Marine Pioneer project and the WWF UK SEAS project. The Pioneer project was set up to show how to make the most of the natural capital of the coast and of the marine area out to 20 miles offshore. The area was chosen because of the concentration of new Marine Conservation Zones and of the existence of an established protected area at Lundy. In combination with the Pioneer project, the WWF UK SEAS project is investigating how to achieve well-managed Marine Protected Areas throughout the country using North Devon, including Lundy, as a trial area.

There were no grant applications in 2018 although we were able to provide funding for weather station equipment for the Lundy Conservation team and for head torches to support the Manx Shearwater surveys.

In May we learnt with much sadness of the death of Mary Gade, daughter of Felix and Rene Gade, who grew up on Lundy, having made her first crossing from Bideford at the tender age of just 18 days, and spent much of her adult life living and working on the island. She inherited her father's love of birds and over the years amassed what may very well remain the longest list of species seen on Lundy by any one person. She will be remembered with deep fondness by those in the Lundy birding community that knew her.

Roger Allen passed away in July. He had served as the Honorary Independent Examiner in recent years. Roger was an avid Lundy collector and had published a Lundy poetry book and a catalogue of postcards. He was also an artist, producing many watercolours of Lundy.

In the spring I was able to take a sabbatical from work and spend three months on Lundy, volunteering to work in the Tavern and with the housekeeping team. It was a really rewarding experience and the island team made me very welcome. I had several useful discussions with other committee members who were visiting and I met a good number of members who were very positive about the work that we do. The committee works very hard so it was very encouraging to hear this positive feedback.

With 95 people at the 2018 AGM, we had what is certainly the highest attendance in recent times and possibly the highest ever. In writing this report I realised how much had been achieved during the year and I feel sure the LFS is in a healthy place and has a strong future. Thank you for your support.

MICHAEL A. WILLIAMS
February 2019

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

2018 was another good year for the Society, with membership numbers increasing and many new members joining who were interested in Conservation Breaks.

Thank you as always to all members for paying their subscription in 2018 and supporting the Society in that way, and a huge thank you to those members who sent a donation along with their subs, these were greatly appreciated by the Society and helps us to fulfil the Society's aims.

Subscription and membership news

Subscriptions become due annually in January, and may I remind you that our preferred method of payment is by standing order, however if you prefer to pay by cheque please make your cheque payable to the LFS and post it to me at the address below, or if you would like to set up a standing order then also please contact me and I will send you the appropriate form.

A reminder that the subscription rate is currently £25 for individual members and £28 for family membership. A student membership is also available to members or potential members beginning a degree course, the reduced rate for students is £15, which we hope will encourage future members.

I sent 48 letters and emails out in the summer of 2018 to members who had not paid their annual subs. Half of those members replied and brought their subs up to date. Those who did not reply had their details removed from the database to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). I also had to remove details of a few members who, after being contacted several times, did not pay the correct subs, again in accordance with GDPR.

As I indicated earlier, membership of the Society continues to increase, membership at the end of 2018 stood at 467 (counting only 2 members per family membership). As well as sending publications to all members, the Society also sends to 16 institutions which includes the legal deposit libraries as well as other libraries, the RSPB, BTO and The Landmark Trust.

I'm sorry to say that the Society has been informed of four members who sadly passed away during 2018.

Mary Gade
Roger Allen
Alan Johnston
Martin Wade

We have also been informed that Dudley Isles passed away in 2018.

New Members

Thirty-eight new members joined the Society in 2017, we welcome them all. The list below shows the names of new members who have given permission for me to publish their names and their main interest in this publication, again in accordance with GDPR.

Helen Booker	Seabirds/birds
Andy Chittenden	Lundy
Jill George	
Rob Hutchings	Birds
Bob Medland	Bird Ringing
Stephen O'Donnell	Botany
Elizabeth Oram	Wildlife
Dr Chris Pawson	Behavioural Ecology
Prof. Cuthill & family	Natural History and Animal Behaviour
Antony Rees	Built Historic Environment
Ester Spears	Photography
Steven Symons	Wildlife and Marine
Denise Wawman	oths and Birds
Tim and Jill Walker	Flora and Ornithology
Lars Liwendahl	History of Lundy and Lundy Stamps
J. Poole and M. Mackinnon	
S. Evans and E. Angseesing	
Susan O'Grady	

Keep in touch

To ensure that you do not miss any of the Society's annual or biennial publications that are part of your membership benefits please inform me direct if you change your address. Likewise, please let us know if you change your email address so that you do not miss any information that the Secretary might send out. Please do visit our website at www.lundy.org.uk for up to date information and all the latest news, and where you may read or search our publications and also view our list of publications available for purchase. Remember to visit our Facebook page which will offer you more informal information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any membership queries:-

By post: Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall, EX23 9JR
Email: membership@lundy.org.uk

SANDRA ROWLAND
March 2019

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2018

INCOME	Year End 31/12/2017	Year End 31/12/2018
Subscriptions	£ 8,119.00	£ 7,995.00
AGM Auction	£ 454.50	£ 382.00
Donations	£ 2,063.47	£ 2,278.26
PLR/CAF	£ -	£ 2.55
Bird Ringing	£ 366.40	£ 236.80
Conservation Break Deposits	£ 512.00	£ 330.00
Gift Aid	£ 1,552.14	£ 1,256.56
Bulletin Donation and Advertising	£ 150.00	£ -
Sales	£ 707.23	£ 290.56
DL2016 Covers	£ 38.50	£ -
Car Stickers	£ -	£ 4.00
<i>Protecting Lundy's Marine Life</i>	£ 11.50	£ 90.00
<i>The Harman Family's Lundy</i>	£ 472.01	£ 734.55
<i>Island King</i>	£ 376.00	£ -
<i>Lundy Fungi</i>	£ -	£ 1,602.68
AGM Lunches Sold	£ 320.00	£ -
Jennett's Trust	£ 2,040.00	£ 2,040.00
Postage	£ 32.50	£ 54.13
Committee/Guest Lunches	£ 132.90	£ -
Wright Book Sales	£ 169.00	£ 466.76
Interest	£ 141.40	£ 218.63
Stock Movement	£ 114.03	£ 4,577.32
TOTAL INCOME	£ 17,772.58	£ 22,559.80
Deduct Expenditure	-£ 20,271.16	-£ 19,032.89
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-£ 2,498.58	£ 3,526.91

Note: All brought forward items are omitted and have been incorporated in the appropriate section of income and expenditure. Such items are displayed on the Balance Sheet. Similarly, 2017 brought forward items have been incorporated on the comparative 2017 figures.

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2018

EXPENDITURE	Year End 31/12/2017	Year End 31/12/2018
AGM Boniface Centre	£ 170.00	£ 176.00
AGM Catering	£ 580.00	£ 160.00
AGM Expenses	£ 63.22	£ 28.50
Bird Ringing	£ 1,010.25	£ 571.25
Annual Report	£ -	£ 1,941.00
Bulletin	£ 1,005.00	£ 903.50
Journal	£ -	£ 2,430.00
Grants	£ 801.33	£ 400.00
Conservation	£ 2,035.00	£ 1,568.00
Stationery	£ 69.79	£ 229.59
Postage	£ 392.20	£ 1,040.25
Pop Up Signs	£ 319.99	£ -
Website Expenses	£ 85.93	£ 170.85
Refunds	£ -	£ 25.00
Computer	£ 89.98	£ -
<i>Island King</i>	£ 165.00	£ -
St Helen's Centre Appeal	£ 10,000.00	£ -
Lundy Warden	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Committee/Guest Lunches and Expenses	£ 181.92	£ 78.00
Membership Leaflets	£ 153.00	£ -
LFS Library	£ 380.00	£ -
Non Grant Financial Support	£ -	£ 782.95
<i>Lundy Fungi</i>	£ -	£ 8,528.00
Expenditure Accrual for 2016 Annual Report	£ 1,768.55	£ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 20,271.16	£ 19,032.89

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2018

ASSETS	Year End 31/12/2017	Year End 31/12/2018
Stock	£ 1,590.00	£ 6,167.32
NS&I Account	£ 30,145.42	£ 30,364.04
Current Account	£ 8,541.33	£ 6,339.57
Reserve Account	<u>£ 9.08</u>	<u>£ 9.09</u>
	£ 40,285.83	£ 42,880.02
Debtor 2017: PayPal balance misc. sales	£ 126.43	£ -
Debtor 2018: <i>Lundy Fungi</i> Sales	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 173.00</u>
	£ 40,412.26	£ 43,053.02
LESS		
Advance Subscriptions	-£ 227.00	-£ 485.00
Advance Conservation Deposits	-£ 240.00	-£ 250.00
	<u>-£ 467.00</u>	<u>-£ 735.00</u>
TOTAL	£ 39,945.26	£ 42,318.02
Less Creditors - Annual Report 2016	-£ 1,768.55	
Less Creditors 2018:		
Postage		-£ 43.15
Bird Rings		-£ 571.25
	<u>£ 38,176.71</u>	<u>£ 41,703.62</u>
Balance b/f	£ 40,675.29	£ 38,176.71
Surplus/Deficit for year	<u>-£ 2,498.58</u>	<u>£ 3,526.91</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	£ 38,176.71	£ 41,703.62

The above tables are the summaries given at the Annual General Meeting in Crediton on 9th March 2019.

ROGER CHAPPLE
Honorary Treasurer
March 2019

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION FOR 2018

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2018, and can report that the figures presented to me by the Honorary Treasurer, in my opinion, represent fairly and accurately the overall financial situation of the Society for the financial year.'

R.A. Williams
Honorary Independent Examiner
6 February 2019

LUNDY GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

2018 will be remembered in Lundy's long history as a year of extreme weather, with the island suffering freezing rain and snow when the full force of the 'Beast from the East' arrived in March. By contrast, tropical conditions arrived in early summer, leading to one of the warmest and driest periods in living memory.

Despite the extremes of weather and the subsequent damage caused, it was a successful year for the island with MS *Oldenburg* completing 97 of her 99 scheduled sailings and the helicopter having to be used on just two days during the sailing season. The ship carried 17,079 passengers over the season, (in 2017, it was 16,870), keeping the crew busy. The ship also completed two river cruises, three Lundy charters and four relocation cruises from Bideford to Ilfracombe.

The winter helicopter service completed its 15th year of operations with 36 scheduled flying days of which three days were delayed due to weather. The helicopter carried 1,329 passengers, a slight increase on the previous year. With the closure of the winter café at Hartland Point, we opened a small refreshment café at the rear of the passenger 'lounge'. The total attendance for both ship and helicopter was 18,404 (in 2017 it was 18,153).

Other summer visitors included the Hebridean Princess and the Waverley, who we have since learned has sadly been taken out of service until funds are raised to replace her boilers. With the Balmoral remaining out of service and now the Waverley laid up, I hope it's not the end of an era in the Bristol Channel.



*The MS Oldenburg leaving Ilfracombe. The vessel reached her 60th year in 2018.
© Martin Thorne*

The *Oldenburg* sailed for Sharpness and her annual dry docking in November and, due to delays getting into the dock, finally left in late December. Eagle eyed members might spot that her after mast is missing whilst we fabricate a replacement during 2019. Maintenance costs remain high for the ship, which celebrated her 60th birthday in August. In total, we invested £189k in *Oldenburg* to keep her in service last year.

Work to improve facilities at Hartland is now complete with the arrival of our 'new' Ford Ranger fire truck complementing the service. The assortment of buildings provided well for the helicopter service and are a far cry from the early days of a small Portacabin and Portaloo (which used to blow over in the wind!) It always makes me smile when I read of new visitors writing about how basic the site is!

The islands maintenance programme took an unexpected turn after the arrival of the 'Beast From the East' which caused significant damage across the island. Over the space of several days during sub- zero conditions, damage was caused to the Beach Road, The Beach Building, The Jetty and Hammers amongst many other buildings. The wind was so strong that the flagpole on the ugly was snapped clean in half. It was timely and extremely fortunate that the roof of St Helens Church had recently been replaced and firmly secured to withstand such an onslaught. However, it is testament to the resilience of the the islanders and visitors alike to have endured the storm with good heart and sense of community to ensure that everyone was safe and kept as warm as possible during the freeze. The maintenance team quickly rose to the challenge and re-building works began almost immediately with the island getting back to normal after a few short weeks.



*One of the two cannons at
The Battery restored in 2018.
© Charlie Smith*

The Islands historic environment enjoyed further attention over the year following the award of a small grant from Historic England. The grant was stretched out with the help of regular stonemasons Charlie Smith and Rachel Thomson and a band of volunteers. With their help we undertook work on: the Isolation Hospital, Quarry Cottages, the staircase in the Old Light and notably, we were delighted to be able to finally restore the cannon at The Battery, thus completing works to the scheduled monument.



Repairing the walls of the Isolation Hospital.
© Charlie Smith

Some of the village utility buildings had a makeover with the 'Black Shed' and outhouses being re-clad and tidied up.

Lundy remained a popular destination for holidays with occupancy of our letting properties maintaining a healthy occupancy of 85% of all available days.

Further improvements were carried out across the island with the fitting of more new kitchens and bathrooms along with fresh flooring being laid to many properties.



The water treatment plant installed in 2018.
© Derek Green

Staff wise, Captain Mike Weston joined us on the bridge of the ship as First Officer and Rolf Newton took up the challenge of looking after the islands infrastructure in his new role of Island Engineer.

It was a steep learning curve for Rolf with his arrival coinciding with the installation the islands new water treatment plant to finally end the need to import bottled water and recycle approx. 32,000 plastic bottles annually.

The island farm had another good year with the arrival of a new foal in June. 'Lundy Mary' was born to mare Annie, poignantly named after Mary Squire nee Gade, who sadly passed away in 2018.

The island hosted a number of events over the year including the first ever Lundy 'trail run', a well organised and supported half marathon which took place on one of the hottest days of the summer.

250 enthusiastic runners arrived and spent two hours running around a carefully selected route to ensure that impact and disruption to the island and its wildlife were kept to a minimum. Keen ornithologist David Lindo ('The Urban Birder') covered the event for Radio 4 and I'm delighted that he's agreed to become an Ambassador for the island following his visit.

In May, Julie Welsh was invited to represent the island at Prince Charles 70th Birthday garden party along with other selected members of the Landmark staff representing each of the Trust's departments and regions.

On the 27th May, we were reminded of the combined force of the sea and Easterly wind when the yacht 'Millie D' was wrecked on the Landing Beach. Fortunately all on board escaped but it's a stark reminder of why so many life-rings adorn the walls of the Marisco Tavern.



Interpretation panels in the St Helens Centre.
© Siân Carr

The refurbishment of St Helens was completed and the church proudly opened its doors on the 30th June. The occasion was marked with a beautiful service taken by the Right Reverend Robert Atwell, Bishop of Exeter on a fine summer Sunday. As well as the refurbishment of the building, new interpretation panels were installed to help visitors understand more about the island history, wildlife, communities, and many other features along with the history of the church.

Mobility on Lundy was improved with the introduction of our 2nd 'Tramper' to assist less able staying visitors get around the island. Our thanks go to Rachel Johnson for tirelessly fundraising to provide the means to lease both vehicles.

Back on the mainland, the marketing team visited all of the notable events with our exhibition trailer across the summer, flying the flag for Lundy amongst the large number of visitors to the region enjoying the fine weather.

As we enter our 50th anniversary year, talks with the National Trust continue to renew the lease of the island. New Director General Hilary O'Grady and Dr Anna Keay visited Lundy in 2018 and held productive talks to help drive the complicated process forward.

Finally – I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the islanders, ship's crew and shore staff for their good work during a challenging year and the Field Society for their ongoing support and advice. We look forward to continuing to work in close partnership with you during the coming year.

All The Very Best,

DEREK GREEN
June 2019

CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

As I sit here in my cosy office, distracted by the sound of scuttling Pygmy Shrews navigating the wall space, I am trying my best to reflect upon the many delightful happenings throughout the year. Once again I am reminded of so many wonderful experiences, wildlife highs, meteorological delights and water level woes, as well as an odd shipwreck thrown in for good measure. We of course have also had many a celebration and meeting of friends in the Marisco but for me to cover ALL these events I would need my own personal annual report so instead I will paint the seasons for you all in brief.

Winter on the island this year was a harsh but exciting affair, and one that will be forever rooted in my memory. At times you could have mistaken Lundy for an island in the Svalbard archipelago as thick sheets of ice adorned the cliff sides and snow drifts towered over village gates. As Lundy luck goes this was of course the perfect time for two of our generators to pack it in, leaving most of the staff and visitors with no electricity or heating for a number of days, a challenging accompaniment to the lack of running water due to frozen pipes. Luckily we were all able to seek sanctuary in the warming embrace of a log fire and comforting hot spiced cider shared with great friends in the trusty Marisco Tavern. A delight that was also shared by the hardy frost bitten LFS work party volunteers, thirsty and cold from a busy afternoon making snowmen inside the Barn with snow breached through the wind-blasted windows. As horrible as it sounds it was truly awe-inspiring to see the island in this inhospitable manner reminding me that nature is truly in control here rather than us blue shirted Landmark folk.



*The Conservation Team in 2018.
Chris Jones, Siân Cann, Nick
Herbert, Dean Jones.
© Dean Jones*

These cold winter conditions then merged somewhat haphazardly into a very much anticipated spring. Strong, bitterly cold winds occurred spontaneously throughout the start of the season which unfortunately caught some of the island's early African and European migratory birds. Luckily for us (and the migrants) these cold spells were rather short lived and before we knew it the island was rewarded once again with longer days, floral scents, plankton blooms, and of course some smashing vagrant birds. This spring also brought with it some truly special events,



The west coast looking across Jenny's Cove on 18th March. © Dean Jones

in particular the onset of the sailing season on what was a very special year for our beloved MS *Oldenburg* – her 60th year of life!

Then summer approached and as if every droplet of moisture was used up in the winter flurries, barely a mizzle graced our now dry little isle, blistering the land and transforming some areas akin to that of a mini Serengeti. Superb conditions for the sandal-clad day tripper but not so much for some of the island's wildlife or the very sweaty ranger team adorned in full spray suits to treat Rhododendron on the sidelands. In spite of these harsh working conditions Nick Herbert and Chris Jones from the Ranger team and associated volunteers did a stellar job finding and treating 5682 plants in total throughout the year! It just goes to show that although we've been tackling Rhody on Lundy for a number of decades now, this resilient plant is still hanging on meaning there's still much to do with regards to this ambitious project. Special thanks also to Angus Tillotson and the rope team for helping us tackle plants on the East cliffs!

Out on the heat scorched ledges and slopes, most of our seabirds had another fairly productive year in particular our lively Puffins who managed to get a superb 129 Pufflings out of 235 active burrows! Unfortunately the same can't be said for our most of our gulls, where we have seen dramatic reductions in breeding numbers (e.g. Herring Gull numbers have dropped more than 70% on Lundy since 2000) coupled with a rather unproductive year for raising and fledging chicks, particularly Kittiwakes. Surveying the seabirds this year were our fantastic long-term warden volunteers, I'd like to take the opportunity to say a special thanks to Kathryn MacKinnon, Rob Andrew, Joshua Harris and Esther Fritzel-Armitage for all their help and enthusiasm with regards to this year's surveys! In addition to our monitoring, the summer on 2018 brought with it the highly awaited grand opening of the newly refurbished St Helen Church which now acts as the islands information and education hub, an ideal spot to help inspire and educate the next generation of Lundyites and Wildlife Conservationists, a very exciting new chapter of Lundy indeed!



Effects of a dry summer on the island's vegetation on 2nd May. © Pat Doody

Although we are always sad to see the summer go, the autumn brings with it great excitement, particularly for us birders as we start to dream and conjure up fantasies of rare birds in the field. This year was no exception and by October the island was blessed with some truly wonderful vagrants such as Green Warbler, American Robin and Red-eyed Vireo as well as some spectacular non-avian beasts like the colossal Convolvulus Hawkmoth. Autumn was a much more pleasant this year weather wise and although we did have some stormy days typical of the season, 2018 was nothing like the unyielding wrath of Ophelia and Brian from 2017, fabulous news for the islands new-born seal pups wriggling away on the foreshore, most of which were able to survive up to weaning. In fact 2018 turned out to be a superb season for these playful pinnipeds with record counts of animals come mid-August and at least 28 seal pups dotted around the islands conspicuous bays and coves!

By late November Lundy's coastline becomes much quieter as the bays become devoid of howling seal pups and the passage of migratory birds slows to a trickle. The pace of Lundy life also slows down a tad, though guided walks, illustrated talks and the island's biosecurity monitoring continues as always. This period allows us to fully reflect on the year gone by and plan for the year ahead but there are still amazing wildlife still to be seen for those willing to brave the cold, like this year's Basking Shark off Rat Island. Remember if you would like to contribute any marine records or photographs, we have the Lundy Marine Sightings Facebook page and/or the Lundy Field Society Logbook located in the Marisco Tavern; please do share your observations! This year, as always we were amazed at how quick the year has passed, 2019 is already looking to be a super busy and exciting year once again. A massive thank you to all in the LFS as always for your support, love and dedication to our little piece of heaven here in the Bristol Channel.

All the very best,

DEAN WOODFIN JONES
Lundy Warden
May 2019

REPORT OF THE LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP

The Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group (LMPAAG) provides a forum for the discussion of all matters relating to the island's waters and shores. The Group includes representatives from the Island (the Lundy Company/Landmark Trust), Natural England, the Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA), Historic England, the Marine Management Organisation, Torridge District Council, the Lundy Field Society, the Marine Biological Association, MARINELife, local nature conservation groups, commercial fishing interests, dive charter boat skippers, local dive clubs and local sailing clubs.

The Group meets twice a year: in 2018 it met on 18th April on board the MS *Oldenburg* moored alongside Bideford Quay; and on 2nd October at the Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club, Ilfracombe. The Lundy Field Society provides the secretariat for the LMPAAG. Through the Secretary, the Group brings matters of importance to the island's Management Forum (which also meets twice a year, usually immediately after the Advisory Group meetings), the decision-making body which manages both terrestrial and marine aspects of Lundy.

During the two meetings held in 2018, a variety of issues were brought to the attention of the Group and discussed. These are summarised below:

Installation of new underwater temperature loggers

New underwater data loggers had been purchased by the Warden (with assistance from the Lundy Field Society) to replace existing ones which were now over ten years old. These loggers will record seawater temperatures every 6 hours and can be left *in situ* for at least 12 months. In August 2018, one logger was attached to the wreck of the MV Robert off the island's east coast in about 20 m depth, and the other was attached in a few metres depth to the end of the jetty in the Landing Bay. Obtaining accurate measurements of seawater temperatures around the island will contribute towards understanding the physical parameters affecting the marine life within the MPA.

Updates from Devon & Severn IFCA

2018 saw the introduction of a new netting byelaw throughout the Devon and Severn district. Within the Lundy MPA, netting is now prohibited around all of the island (covering approximately 60% of the MPA area – essentially where bedrock constitutes the major part of the seabed), although it is still allowed closer to the MPA's outer boundary.

As a named featured species of the Marine Conservation Zone, the removal of spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas* by any fishing means (towed gear, potting and diving) is now prohibited within the MPA.

At the October meeting, we were informed that, as one of the conditions attached to the Mobile Fishing Permit, all boats undertaking this method of fishing had to be fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). This ruling had been in place for boats over 12 m in length, but smaller vessels (6.99 m to 11.99 m) were now required to have an Inshore VMS. These units were provided by the IFCA through funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Upon leaving harbour, a boat's position will be notified to the IFCA observation centre in Brixham every 3 minutes. This will allow for much greater accuracy of plotting a boat's position and in working out whether it is fishing or not.

Damaged scaffolding at Brazen Ward

At the end of February 2018, a strong easterly storm hit the island which had 'wrecked' the scaffold structure in place around the historical platform at Brazen Ward for repair works. Some of the scaffold structure had fallen onto the intertidal rocks and some into the subtidal. Whilst the accessible poles were removed fairly quickly, those in the subtidal were left until conditions would allow their safe removal. This, however, would not be a straightforward procedure as several had become wedged into crevices and their overall weight was considerable.

Marine archaeological update

The meeting in April 2018 was the last to be attended by Alison James, as she moves on from Historic England to join a marine archaeological consultancy. Alison had attended meetings of the Group for the past five years (as well as those of the Management Forum), which is all the more impressive knowing she travelled all the way down from the Peak District each time! During 2018, only a few divers managed to visit the *Iona II* protected wreck due to poor weather conditions. A survey of the HMS *Montagu* wreck site close to Shutter Point by Wessex Archaeology divers (assisted by divers from the Help for Heroes charity) did take place. This had been postponed from last autumn. The findings and recommendations of this survey will be known early next year.

Spiny lobsters

Spiny lobsters (also known as crawfish) *Palinurus elephas* were once reasonably common around the island, but their numbers decreased dramatically from the late 1970s into the 1980s making sightings of them a rare event. This is the only species identified as a protected 'feature' under the Marine Conservation Zone designation (2010) and the management aim is "to recover their numbers to a favourable condition". It's encouraging to hear that sightings of these impressive crustaceans by divers around the island are continuing to increase. Several had been seen on separate occasions off Battery Point off the west coast; off the Rattles on the south coast; and at the Knoll Pins on the east coast. Most individuals seen were small (less than about 20 cm in length). Dr Keith Hiscock of the Marine Biological Association explained to the Group that the recovery of the spiny lobsters after 40 years of low numbers was likely to have been linked to an influx of planktonic larvae being brought to the region. Numbers elsewhere in the south-west had also been reported to be on the increase.

The North Devon Marine Pioneer project

Chrissie Ingle (Project Manager) brought the Group up-to-date with the progress of the North Devon Marine Pioneer project. This 5-year demonstration project was set up to show how to make the most of the natural capital of the coast and of the marine area out to 20 miles offshore. The area was chosen because of the concentration of new MCZs and of the existence of an established protected area at Lundy. Partnering organizations in the project are: North Devon Biosphere Reserve, Marine Management Organisation, Devon & Severn IFCA, Natural England, Worldwide Fund for Nature, University of Plymouth, Plymouth Marine Laboratory and the Blue Marine Foundation. Input to the project will also come from the SWEEP programme (South-West Partnership for Environment and Economic Prosperity). The project had held a number of Workshops, at which several Advisory Group members had attended.

WWF UK-SEAS Project

Sarah Young from WWF came along to both meetings to keep the Group up-to-date with the UK SEAS project. The project, which is closely aligned to the Marine Pioneer project and is run in partnership with Natural England, is looking at how best to improve the management of Marine Protected Areas, using North Devon and the Outer Hebrides as example sites. The

primary donor to the 5-year project is Sky Ocean Rescue, and there are four main themes: (1) Improving governance of MPAs; (2) Investigating sustainable finance for MPAs; (3) Improving community awareness of local MPAs; and (4) Ensuring Government provides sufficient finance for MPAs. Further information about the project is available at www.ukseasproject.org.uk/north-devon.

Interested parties had been asked to complete an on-line questionnaire investigating what level of management was being achieved by each of the N. Devon MPAs. The outcome of the responses to the questionnaire will be presented in a standard format known as a 'compass card', which indicates where improvements to management can be made. The compass card for the Lundy MPA will be available early in 2019.

Input to MPA management by Sue Wells of the National Trust

This was the second and final year of Sue Wells' contract with the National Trust as their Marine Project Manager. Whilst having a national remit, she had been particularly interested to see how the Lundy MPA, the oldest MPA in the country, was being managed and how the MPA Advisory Group and the Management Forum worked together. Under her guidance, the Trust had taken a leading role in assessing the impact of anchoring and mooring within MPAs, and was pleased that the Royal Yachting Association would now be taking on this role. She had been particularly interested to see how the SeaFlex moorings at Lundy had worked – not that well it turns out, as modifications to their design were found to be necessary for charter skippers to be happy to use them.

If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, I would be happy to raise them on your behalf.

ROBERT IRVING
Honorary Secretary,
Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group
Robert@sea-scope.co.uk
April 2018

OBITUARY

ROGER EDWIN ALLEN 1937–2018



I first met Roger through the Lundy Collectors Club about 15 years ago. He became a great friend. He was mischievous, a great raconteur and loved Lundy and all its collectables dearly. The only thing we disagreed about was the two pictures above his desk; one of the Queen and the other of Margaret Thatcher both of whom he revered.

Roger was the middle of three sons and graduated from Leeds University. He began work with Barclays Bank and later became an inspector for Lloyds Bank. As a consequence, he travelled widely; Peru in 1971, British Honduras in 1978, Nicaragua 1978-1981 (where he witnessed the Sandanista revolution), Taiwan in 1984 and Singapore in 1986. Most of these overseas visits can be traced by the plentiful mail that he sent to record postal history.

He was not only a philatelist, but a member of the Cinderella Stamp Society – dedicated to non-postal stamps i.e. those not issued by any state postal service. This is where his affection for and devotion to Lundy started. His first visit to the island was in 1971 and his membership of the Lundy Field Society dates from the end of that year. He continued to visit annually until he could no longer travel after 2012 when his final visit was to the Discover Lundy 2012 event.

On his retirement, he moved to Bideford and as a retired banking employee was soon recruited as treasurer to St Mary's Church Appledore, the Maritime Museum as well as those many societies of which he was a member such as Rupert the Bear and the Lewis Carroll Society.

He was an inveterate collector of books, postcards, ephemera and particularly Lundyana. His home housed his extensive collections about which he wrote prodigiously.

He married his devoted wife Eva, who brought two sons to the marriage, in 1988 and spent their honeymoon in Blue Bung, his watercolour record of which hangs on the wall nearby as I write this.

During his last few years, he was vigorously trying to complete publication of his works. His watercolours and Lundy postcard catalogue date from this period. He has contributed articles for our publications and acted as Honorary Examiner of the LFS annual accounts. I (and Michael Williams and André Coutanche) collaborated with him to publish his penultimate booklet *Lundy Guidebooks* which I was fortunate enough to hand to him in person at the Lundy Collectors Club meeting in Bideford the day before he passed away on 2 July.

We will remember him by the large amount of published articles and books. He leaves a great legacy.

ALAN ROWLAND

Photograph of Roger by Alan Rowland

OBITUARY

A REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF MARY SQUIRE (né GADE) 1933–2019

We are indeed fortunate that much has been written of Mary's early life on Lundy, particularly by way of 'My Life of Lundy' by Felix, her father, which charts her life.

I first met Mary on the day of her father's funeral when she received great support from those in North Devon with whom her father had been associated and worked with in the latter days of his island life. At that time, the island, although under Landmark lease, still retained the feel and characteristics associated with Harman days. It was a privilege to visit their island, in their homes and to be treated as a friend.

Mary, I am sure, was the 'go to person' for the regularly changing agent and staff – she being once described, somewhat light heartedly, as Lundy's Anastasia. She had an amazing memory and could recall with humour, concern or pathos particular events in detail.



Mary was a strong personality who never lost her father's principle of the island's independence while the gradual increase of legislation resulting in ever reduced freedom was not easily accepted.

Her amusing recall of the Kaaksburg stranding, subsequent loss (fortunately without casualties) and eventual recovery of abandoned contents were well worth a complete volume of island history! Yet her compassion and feelings at the loss of an unknown member of a foreign fishing boat crew, who were ashore for just one evening, were there for all to see.

Her avian knowledge has often been remarked upon, the Society was indeed fortunate she acted as the LFS island representative when she gladly gave enthusiasm and encouragement to others. In the late 1970's, Mary had met Steve Wing on the island, together to become partners for the rest of her life.

The extensive works undertaken by Ernest Ireland under Landmark supervision during the winter of 1981-2 was a time for everyone to contribute and Mary became a surrogate mother to so many during the endeavours of the island staff, contractors and volunteers. A fitting tribute was erected by the entrance to Old House North recording their names, alas now gone and possibly forgotten.

The time came for Steve to leave the island in 1984 and Mary to follow in 1994, both eventually to take positions on Cape Clear, at the southern tip of Ireland. Steve became Warden at the Bird Observatory, most ably assisted by Mary. Mary's good and friendly nature resulted in both of them becoming rapidly involved in the everyday life of the Cape when many long lasting friendships were formed. No more so than an occasion of a surprise memorable birthday for Mary, when some of the Capers arranged a visit of the Irish with Steve and Mary to return to Lundy, ostensibly as both were island communities – a whirlwind three days including travel! The Cape could almost be said to be Lundy of old.

Towards the end of 2017, Mary felt unwell and after consulting a doctor was diagnosed with cancer. She maintained her cheerfulness though all the long trips from the Cape to hospital in Cork for treatment despite the gradual deterioration in her health. She and Steve returned to England where Mary sadly passed away with her family beside her on 20 May 2018. A very large gathering of family and friends attended a Remembrance and Celebration of her life in Barnstaple, where the service sheet held images of Lundy and Cape Clear, during which friends gave a short individual address from both islands.

It is fitting that we also remember at this time Mary's children, Peter, Jane and Annie, with Vince – her husband and the children's father – who passed away shortly afterwards in August.

ROGER CHAPPLE

Photograph of Mary by Steve Wing

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2018

by

Tim Davis & Tim Jones
Email: gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 146 species were recorded during 2018.

January

The year got off to a mild but very unsettled start, with severe gales and heavy rain, particularly during the passage of Storm Eleanor on 2nd/3rd. A more settled, but colder spell, with biting easterlies followed from 6th to 12th, but the rest of the month saw a return to an unsettled, generally mild, westerly pattern with fronts crossing the island at regular intervals.

One or two **Great Northern Divers** and up to eight **Red-throated Divers** were a feature of the Landing Bay and adjacent waters. Onshore, there were good numbers of wintering thrushes early in the month, including 21 **Song Thrushes**, 24 **Blackbirds** and 37 **Redwings** on 5th. On 22nd, a nocturnal search for birds feeding in the East Side fields yielded three **Woodcock**, eight **Snipe**, and a single **Jack Snipe**. A daytime count of the entire island perimeter on 30th produced totals of 279 **Fulmars** on ledges, five **Shags**, 27 **Oystercatchers**, 66 **Great Black-backed Gulls**, 720 **Herring Gulls**, 40 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, 1,115 **Guillemots**, 60 **Razorbills** and 23 **Rock Pipits**. Unusual species during the month comprised an adult **Iceland Gull** in Tillage Field on 19th, a single **Black-throated Diver** off North West Point on 24th, single **Common Gulls** on 24th & 29th, a female **Reed Bunting** at Pondsbury on 26th, a female **Firecrest** in lower Millcombe 27th-29th, regular sightings of an overwintering **Coal Tit** (following its arrival in Oct 2017), a female **Goldeneye** on 30th, and two **Black Redstarts** at Benjamin's Chair on 31st. Other species/counts of interest (maxima in brackets) included: **Teal** (seven), **Water Rail** (two), **Kittiwake** (320), **Robin** (15), **Skylark** (five – including one flying in off the sea at North Light on 30th) and **Meadow Pipit** (four), as well as single **Merlin** (four dates, 20th-30th), **Stonechat** (29th), **Pied Wagtail** (26th) and **Linnet** (5th).

February

The first week of February saw chilly but bright conditions, with northerly winds. The middle fortnight was often milder, with westerly and south-westerly winds, but from 26th a bitter easterly flow – the 'Beast from the East' – brought unusually low temperatures and heavy snowfall, which drifted in the easterly gales.

Prior to the sudden cold snap, early spring had been shaping up nicely in the bird world, with a pair of **Ravens** nest-building in Halfway Wall Bay on 1st, singing **Starlings** and territorial **House Sparrows** prominent around the Village on 2nd, and 10 singing **Skylarks** counted between South West Field and Halfway Wall on 17th. Notable records included further sightings of a single **Great Northern Diver** and multiple **Red-throated Divers** (max six on 12th, 16th & 17th), an adult **Iceland Gull** (perhaps the individual seen in Jan) around Rat/Mouse Islands on 16th/17th, a **Grey Wagtail** over South West Point on 21st, a **Jackdaw** in Barton Field on 22nd, three **Common Gulls** off North Light and a **Dunlin** at North End on 23rd, a ringtail **Hen Harrier** quartering near Pondsbury on 25th, and a **Black Redstart** at Benjamin's Chair on 27th.

The cold weather that ended the month triggered the arrival of avian refugees from the mainland. These included small numbers of **Lapwing** (max 26 on 26th) and **Golden Plover** (three on 28th), as well as a **Mistle Thrush** near the main track Heinkel wreck on 26th and at Benjamin's Chair on 28th.

March

The exceptionally cold easterly airstream continued for the first three days of the March, bringing further snow, severe gales (gusts exceeding 70 mph on 2nd) and daytime temperatures that remained stubbornly below freezing. From 4th it turned much milder for a time until mid-month, with some sunny, spring-like days interspersed with duller, wetter days. However, on 17th & 18th a second, but short-lived blast of cold air – the 'Minibeast from the East' – saw further snowfall and frosts. Less cold, but still unsettled weather quickly returned for the remainder of the month, low pressure dominating the scene.

Describing conditions on 2nd, Lundy Warden Dean Jones reported that fresh snowfall had added to the already towering snow drifts along the roads and thick blanket covering the plateau, whilst the ground had frozen solid, making it extremely difficult for many birds to find food. He continued: "*I did manage to get out of the wind somewhat on South West Point for a few hours. Here I witnessed numerous birds, mostly thrushes, desperately trying to leave the island for a more hospitable place to hide away from the rest of the storm. A total of 17 **Song Thrushes**, 12 **Redwings**, 14 **Skylarks** and a lone female **Stonechat** were seen moving south along the sideland and out to sea past Great Shutter Rock. Most of these birds, once out past the point, were immediately met with the strong easterlies, leading them to make a hasty retreat back to the island. A few **Song Thrushes** were not so lucky and were flung right out to sea, eventually disappearing from view – desperate times!*"

There were further small movements of **Lapwings** and **Golden Plovers** (the latter involving 10 on 1st), a lone **Grey Heron** on 3rd, a significant influx of **Redwings** (max 257 scattered across the island on 4th), and large numbers of gulls arrived to feed along the East Side. On 3rd, these included about 800 **Herring Gulls**, 152 mostly adult **Common Gulls** and 11 **Black-headed Gulls**. A flock of 12 **Red-throated Divers** off the Landing Bay on 6th was the highest count ever made from the island, whilst a **Black-throated Diver** on 7th & 9th was in almost full breeding plumage.



The lull between the two cold spells brought some more seasonable sightings, including arrivals of **Skylarks**, **Meadow Pipits** (42 on 5th, rising to 150+ on 11th), and **Pied Wagtails** (eight on 6th), a significant passage of **Stonechats** (24 on 7th) and the first two **Manx Shearwaters** of the year, flying past Rat Island on 5th. By 15th, the first **Puffin**, **Goldcrest**, **Sand Martin**, **Swallow**, **Chiffchaff** and **Wheatear** of the spring had all put in appearances (see table); quite a contrast to the start of the month!

A colour-ringed Wheatear in the snow on 18 March. © Dean Jones

The second cold snap, just after mid-month, unfortunately meant that freshly arrived migrants encountered extremely challenging feeding conditions for a time, as vividly illustrated by a female colour-ringed **Wheatear**, from Lundy's breeding population, photographed in the snow at Benjamin's Chair on 18th. Hopefully, the rapid return of less cold, though often far from spring-like, weather from 19th will have limited the number of casualties.

Towards the end of the month, notable sightings included a **Hooded Crow** between the Village and Quarter Wall from 20th to 28th, a **Firecrest** near the head of St Helen's Combe on 23rd, the first **Willow Warbler** of the year on 24th, 106 **Puffins** at Jenny's Cove on 26th, a lone **Jackdaw** around the farm on 25th & 26th, a female **Merlin** on 26th & 29th, a male **Brambling** in Millcombe from 26th to 31st – in song on the last date, a flock of nine **Cormorants** flying north on 29th, and a very active **Coal Tit** in Millcombe on 31st (which remained until 3 Apr).

First dates for spring migrants			
5th March	Manx Shearwater	22nd April	Whinchat
9th March	Goldcrest	28th April	Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher
12th March	Wheatear	29th April	Common Sandpiper
14th March	Puffin, Chiffchaff	30th April	Reed Warbler
15th March	Sand Martin, Swallow	3rd May	Wood Warbler
23rd March	Firecrest	20th May	Turtle Dove
24th March	Willow Warbler	21st May	Cuckoo
1st April	Blackcap, White Wagtail		
3rd April	House Martin		
4th April	Ring Ouzel		
7th April	Pied Flycatcher		
12th April	Grasshopper Warbler, Redstart		
13th April	Whitethroat		
20th April	Swift, Sedge Warbler, Nightingale, Tree Pipit		
21st April	Whimbrel		

Last dates for winter visitors			
		25th March	Red-throated Diver
		31st March	Woodcock, Brambling
		4th April	Redwing
		9th April	Fieldfare
		19th April	Great Northern Diver

April

April started unsettled and chilly at times, and this regime persisted for most of the first half of the month. There was a short-lived warm and settled spell after mid-month, which saw the highest April temperatures for England since 1949, but from 21st it turned progressively cooler, more unsettled and often windy again.

Much of the month was characterised by sluggish, 'stop-go', migration over a protracted period, with many normally common species appearing in low numbers, and/or peaking rather late. For example, there were just four counts of 50 or more **Willow Warblers**, **Whitethroats** peaked at only four, the highest **Wheatear** count was 48 and hirundine numbers were stubbornly low until the last week of April, when there were 1,000 **Swallows** on 25th – itself a relatively modest maximum compared with other springs, though **Sand Martins** didn't exceed 25 (on 26th).

Blackcaps were something of an exception, with periodic influxes from 4th onwards, peaking at 80 on 13th, and arrivals continuing during the remainder of the month.

Lundy scarcities comprised a **Treecreeper** and a female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** in Millcombe on 6th (the woodpecker remaining to 13th), a **Snow Bunting** along the main track near the pig sty on 12th, **Bullfinches** on multiple dates from 12th to 28th, a **Nightingale** in Millcombe on 20th, and a **Little Egret** over the Landing Bay on 24th. Other notable sightings included **White Wagtails** on seven dates from 1st to 25th, a female **Reed Bunting** at Pigs' Paradise on 4th, single **Siskins** on 5th & 21st, **Black Redstarts** on 6th & 10th, two **Stock Doves** on 7th, a **Ringed Plover** at North End on 13th, two **Great Northern Divers** in the Landing Bay on 19th, **Firecrests** on 20th, 21st & 25th, single **Lesser Redpolls** on 23rd & 30th, and a female **Greenfinch** on 28th.

May

The first day or two saw the continuation of unsettled, cool conditions, but building pressure brought warm, muggy weather and the island was blanketed in sea fog on some days. There was another cooler spell in mid-May, but the second half of the month was mostly fine and sunny, with easterly winds dominating.

The 3rd brought a singing **Wood Warbler** to Millcombe, where a **Chaffinch** was putting the finishing touches to a nest and **Blackbirds** were busily feeding small chicks. Strong hirundine passage on 4th involved at least 1,200 **Swallows** and 200 **Sand Martins**. A female **Yellow Wagtail** with the ponies in Barton Field on 8th was the first of the year. Small numbers of **Whimbrel** continued to pass through until 20th, with a peak of seven on 3rd, whilst other waders logged during the month included low single numbers of **Golden Plover**, **Ringed Plover**, **Dunlin**, **Curlew** and **Snipe**, as well as four **Purple Sandpipers** at Brazen Ward on 14th, a **Greenshank** calling in flight over South End on 17th, a stunningly beautiful female **Dotterel** near South West Point from 19th to 21st and an exceptional seven **Sanderling** below North Light on 27th. A **Lesser Redpoll** was singing from the roof of Government House on 7th and a male **Hawfinch** was seen from 8th to 10th, and again (though potentially a different individual) from 17th until the end of the month. A **Short-toed Lark** was found on the track up to Old Light on 13th and a pair of **Siskins** were in Millcombe on 14th. The relatively late date of 18th saw by far the best **Swallow** passage of the spring, with a conservative minimum of 3,000 moving through. A singing **Firecrest** was in Millcombe from 18th to 20th. Also recorded on 20th were an adult **Iceland Gull** off the West Side, and a **Turtle Dove** in Millcombe. In spite of bright light from a waxing moon, the Old Light **Manx Shearwater** colony was surprisingly busy on the night of 20th/21st. There were many calling birds and 21 individuals were captured, including eight ringed in previous years, of which two had been ringed as chicks in the same colony in 2014. A late(ish) **Osprey** flew north along the East Side on 23rd, a **Woodchat Shrike** at Quarter Wall on 24th remained until 28th, and a stunning breeding-plumaged male **Common Rosefinch** was singing in Millcombe on 25th. **Teal** were confirmed to have bred for the fourth consecutive year when a female with three ducklings appeared on Pondsby, also on 25th. The 27th brought two **Cuckoos** to the Millcombe area, a singing **Reed Warbler** (that remained in Millcombe into early June), a **Black Redstart** at The Battery, and the highest **Manx Shearwater** count of the year – 4,000 rafting off the East Side. May drew to a close with a **Hobby** at South End on 29th, a female **Bullfinch** from 29th until 2nd June, and a singing **Golden Oriole** in Millcombe on 31st, coinciding with an influx of 12 **Spotted Flycatchers**.

June

June was mostly fairly warm and quite settled until the 12th, with variable amounts of cloud and some scattered showers at times. There was an unsettled westerly spell from 13th to 20th, and it was notably windy on 14th, but rainfall amounts were small. High pressure brought dry, very sunny and increasingly hot weather by day from 21st onwards, though it was relatively cool by night.

Up to a dozen **Spotted Flycatchers** were still present on 1st and 2nd, together with a late male **Pied Flycatcher**. Other migrants recorded on 1st included a **Turtle Dove**, single **Reed** and **Sedge Warblers**, four singing **Blackcaps** (two Millcombe, one St Helen's, one Hammers/Castle Copse), four **Chiffchaffs** (of which three singing – two Millcombe, one at the Rocket Pole), 17 **Swallows**, three **House Martins**, two **Siskins** and a **Lesser Redpoll**. A ringtail **Montagu's Harrier** flew out to sea off North Light on 2nd and a male **Yellow Wagtail** was feeding with ponies in St Helen's Field. Two adult **Rose-coloured Starlings** were at Quarter Wall and around the Village on 3rd, whilst northbound passage of **hirundines** and **Swifts** continued. Teams from RSPB and Natural England began all-island censuses of **Manx Shearwater** burrows and nesting large gulls – **Herring**, **Lesser Black-backed**, and **Great Black-backed**. On 4th a **Hobby** drifted north over Millcombe, a **Mistle Thrush** was feeding near Halfway Wall, and a **Chiffchaff** was singing in the unusual setting of Gannets' Combe. An early-June survey of breeding **Starlings** revealed 39 active nests, but as some broods had already fledged, the population was certainly in excess of 40 breeding pairs – the highest of recent times. Mass **Starling** fledging had occurred by 6th, a date that also brought sightings of a female **Cuckoo** staking out **Meadow Pipit** nests at Quarter Wall, a female **Teal** with a brood of six small ducklings on Pondsby, and a colour-ringed **Oystercatcher** (from Pembrokeshire) in Gannets' Combe. A **Little Egret** was at Barton Pond on 7th and 8th. The period 8th to 14th saw the fledging of **Duncock**, **Pied Wagtail** and **House Sparrow** chicks in Millcombe, whilst the plateau was busy with family parties of **Skylarks**, **Wheatears** and **Meadow Pipits**. Dean Jones blogged that "*The island's **Guillemots** and **Razorbills** have all been very busy too, repeatedly heading out to sea in order to provision their adorable newly hatched chicks with a bounty of sand-eels and sprat. Wednesday 13th saw the Conservation Team head out to Jenny's Cove for a dawn to dusk **Puffin** survey aimed at identifying all the burrows with pufflings in them by noting instances of feeding by parent birds. Unfortunately, the last shift had to be cancelled due to the earlier-than-expected arrival of rain and strong winds, but despite this minor setback the team was able to identify at least 95 burrows which had fish delivered to them.*" An adult **Rose-coloured Starling** (possibly a new arrival) was seen regularly from 9th to 29th. The first **Kittiwake** chicks were seen on 15th, a ringtail **Hen Harrier** was quartering near Quarter Wall on 16th, two **Common Scoters** were on the sea near Gannets' Rock on 20th, and a long-staying female **Marsh Harrier** appeared on 21st, remaining until late July. A **Grey Heron** on 25th, followed by three on 26th and lone **Curlews** on 28th & 29th signalled the turning of the year and the beginning of post-breeding dispersal and migration...

July

The first half of July was mostly warm or hot, dry and sunny, especially so in the first week, with high pressure dominating. The second half was less settled but still with plenty of warm, dry and sunny weather, though there was a thundery breakdown towards the end of the month. Blogging about the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, Dean Jones reflected that, "*Sun-kissed would be the phrase I would use if I were to describe this period on Lundy. Only 10.6 ml of rain has fallen (all within four days) which has left the island rather parched. The*

lack of rain is really starting to show across the island, resulting in it looking more like a mini-Serengeti than an island in the Bristol Channel".

Small flocks of **Swifts** were much in evidence early in the month, with 29 screaming around the Church tower on 2nd and a similar number feeding over the East Side on 4th. The moulting female **Marsh Harrier** was last seen on 26th, ranging widely over the island during its month-long stay. Nocturnal surveys of potential **Storm Petrel** nesting habitat were conducted during the period 5th to 10th, revealing the presence of about 20 birds near North Light on the night of 6th/7th. A **Cuckoo** flew over Millcombe on 10th, with further sightings of a rufous-phase female from 20th to 26th. Successful breeding of **Blackcap** was confirmed on 17th, when an adult female was watched feeding a fledgling in the Secret Garden. **Grey Herons** were a particular feature of the second half of the month, with one to three birds noted on many dates. Further evidence of the gathering pace of migration was provided by the appearance of a **Whimbrel** over Rat Island on 18th, five **Common Sandpipers** in the Landing Bay on 20th, the first **Black-headed Gull** and **Common Gull** of the season on 22nd & 23rd respectively, two **Turnstones** seen from a kayak at South End on 24th, and an overnight fall of **Willow Warblers** on 25th, when 117 were counted in Millcombe alone.

August

The month began with a week of mostly warm, dry and sunny weather but the rest of the month was mostly unsettled with strong westerly winds, that brought prolonged bouts of misty low cloud and thoroughly wetting drizzle. Although the third week was often rather warm and humid it turned cooler towards the end of the month. On 26th, Rich & Rebecca Taylor reported that during a particularly misty and very wet day they *"mostly played Spot the Sea and, at times, Spot Brambles – from Little St John's!"*

The last **Puffin** of the 2018 season was seen in flight off Jenny's Cove on 4th. A **Buzzard** was soaring over North Light steps on 5th. Following fledging of young, a count of 205 **Shags**, the highest of the year, was made on 9th. Recently fledged **Goldfinches**, presumably from a second brood, were in Millcombe on 10th. There were **Pied Flycatchers** on nine dates, beginning with a singleton in Millcombe on 8th and culminating in an unusually high count (for Lundy) of 20 on 31st. Other migrants included a **Firecrest** on 18th, five **Goldcrests** (the first of the autumn) on 20th and seven **Tree Pipits** on 21st, whilst Dean Jones vividly described the excitement of a migrant influx on 23rd: *"An evening of clear skies coupled with sporadic rainfall and a light NW breeze provided the island with a fantastic fall of migrants come daybreak. It's mornings like this that all birders yearn for, possibly even more so for island birders, marooned on their little rocks unable to jaunt down the road or over to the next county"*. Totals comprised 128 **Willow Warblers**, nine **Whitethroats**, three **Garden Warblers** and 14 **Spotted Flycatchers**. The last week of August saw ringers arriving to focus on nocturnal trapping of **Manx Shearwaters** and **Storm Petrels**. Highlights included the capture of two French-ringed **Storm Petrels** and the ringing of good numbers of shearwater chicks and adults. Notable records by day included single **Dunlin** and **Jack Snipe** on 26th, a **Great Skua** over Rat Island, and 24 **Spotted Flycatchers** on 28th, two **Whimbrels** and five **Sedge Warblers** on 29th, a movement of hirundines comprising 135 **Swallows**, 25 **Sand Martins** and 15 **House Martins** on 30th, a flock of seven *alba* **wagtails** including at least two **White Wagtails** on 30th, and a **Ringed Plover**, three **Swifts**, and a **Yellow Wagtail** on 31st.

Breeding species in 2018

The following species were all confirmed as breeding successfully:

Mallard	Puffin	Robin
Teal	Woodpigeon	Stonechat
Fulmar	Peregrine	Wheatear
Manx Shearwater	Carrion Crow	House Sparrow
Shag	Raven	Dunnock
Oystercatcher	Skylark	Pied Wagtail
Kittiwake	Swallow	Meadow Pipit
Great Black-backed Gull	Chiffchaff	Rock Pipit
Herring Gull	Blackcap	Linnet
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Wren	Goldfinch
Guillemot	Starling	
Razorbill	Blackbird	

In addition, the following species may have bred:

Storm Petrel (apparently occupied burrows were found at North Light, but outcome of nesting attempts unknown)

Water Rail (song heard and territorial behaviour observed in late Mar, but no nest or young seen)

Kestrel (a female was seen regularly in spring and a male and a juvenile were together on the West Side on 13 Jul)

Whitethroat (a territory-holding male was present in Jun/Jul)

Chaffinch (a nest was built by an apparently unpaired bird in Millcombe and no young were seen)

September

The month began settled and rather warm, but there was a long spell of unsettled weather, with predominantly westerly winds, starting in the second week and lasting until 23rd. It was particularly wet and windy, with lashing rain and relentless gales, between 18th and 21st. The final week saw more settled, with cool, autumnal nights.

Night-time **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel** ringing continued to good effect during the first fortnight. There were 16 Pied Flycatchers on 1st, the last two **Swifts** of the year passed through on 2nd, whilst 12 **Spotted Flycatchers** and four **Whinchats** were present on 3rd. The 4th saw an arrival of 13 **Willow Warblers**, 33 **Blackcaps** and 10 **Whitethroats**, and there were further influxes of 30, 100 and 150 **Blackcaps** on 10th, 13th & 22nd respectively, accompanied on the last date by 45 **Chiffchaffs**. **Goldcrests** also became more prominent from the middle of the month, with counts of 25 on 14th & 21st and 35 on 24th. September generally sees hirundine passage at its peak and maximum counts of **Swallows** included 500 on 13th, 1,398 on 24th, 1,500 on 26th and 4,000 on 27th. **House Martins** were notably thin on the ground, however, with the exception of 117 on 24th and 200 on 27th. The month concluded with 1,000 **Meadow Pipits** on 28th, 60 **Chiffchaffs**, a further 70 **Blackcaps** and 330 **Linnetts** on 29th, and another influx of 40 **Goldcrests** on 30th There was a sprinkling of less common migrants throughout the month, among them **Great Northern Diver** (first of the autumn on 24th), **Grey Heron**,

Sparrowhawk, Ringed Plover, Curlew, Dunlin, Jack Snipe (one on 29th), **Greenshank** (one on 22nd), **Black-headed Gull, Short-eared Owl** (one on 26th), **Firecrest, Wood Warbler** (one on 5th), **Garden Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler** (last of year on 7th), **Reed Warbler, Ring Ouzel** (singles on 21st & 24th), **Mistle Thrush** (one on 29th), **Redstart, Yellow Wagtail, White Wagtail, Tree Pipit, Greenfinch, Reed Bunting** and **Snow Bunting** (one on 28th). True rarities included an **Ortolan Bunting** at Benjamin's Chair on 2nd, a **Golden Oriole** in Millcombe on 4th & 5th (only the second autumn record for the island), a juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** in Quarters chicken run on 6th, two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in the Brick Field/Airfield area from 9th to 12th, a **Pectoral Sandpiper**, initially in the Quarter Wall area and then at Quarters Pond, from 12th to 15th, a juvenile **Sanderling** at North End on 21st, a **Wryneck** along the Lower East Side Path on 22nd, a juvenile **Red-backed Shrike** in Millcombe on 26th & 27th, and a juvenile **Great Spotted Woodpecker** in Millcombe on 30th.

October

The month began with a week of mainly fine weather. Southerly winds brought unseasonably warm weather in the second week, and it was very wet and windy around 12th. After a quieter spell of weather with plenty of sunshine at times, it turned much colder from the 26th onwards with northerly and north-easterly winds, which brought with it an influx of thrushes and finches. The highest counts of the month for commoner migrants included: **Skylark** 50 on 24th, **Goldcrest** 56 on 17th, **Swallow** 130 on 3rd, **House Martin** 42 on 3rd, **Chiffchaff** 49 on 17th, **Blackcap** 110 on 16th, **Starling** 410 on 19th, **Blackbird** 200 on 30th, **Fieldfare** 40 on 29th & 30th, **Redwing** 290 on 29th, **Song Thrush** 16 on 19th, **Robin** 21 on 4th, **Stonechat** 21 on 17th, **alba wagtail** 33 on 1st, **Meadow Pipit** 700 on 3rd, and **Chaffinch** 1,410 moving south on 29th.

With its reputation for rarities, October is the month when birdwatchers across the British Isles are most likely to invoke the adages "*anything could turn up*" and "*expect the unexpected*". October 2018 certainly didn't disappoint on Lundy, with vagrants arriving from east and west. These included three nationally very rare species, all of which appeared in Millcombe over a three-week period: a **Green Warbler** (the first for Lundy and Devon) on 7th, a **Red-eyed Vireo** from 19th to 22nd, and an **American Robin** on 26th. The supporting cast included the juvenile **Great Spotted Woodpecker** until 7th, followed by a female, which arrived on 16th and remained for the rest of the 2018 and into 2019, a flock of four **Little Egrets** flying past the Landing Bay on 4th, at least 15 **Yellow-browed Warblers** between 4th and 26th, an **Osprey** over the Landing Bay on 4th, a **Melodious Warbler** on the Terrace on 5th, a **Common Rosefinch** in Millcombe on 20th, a **Pallas's Warbler** trapped in Millcombe on 25th (only the sixth for Lundy), and a flock of eight **Greenland White-fronted Geese** on the Airfield and elsewhere on 27th.

Also of note were a female **Common Scoter** in the Landing Bay on 2nd/3rd, 230 **Goldfinches** on 3rd, three **Firecrests** on 4th & 19th, a **Short-eared Owl** near Threequarter Wall on 8th, two **Mediterranean Gulls** in the Landing Bay on 9th, the first **Redwing** of the autumn on 10th, a **Turtle Dove** in with the pigs on 11th, 50 **Siskins** on 14th, the first **Brambling** of autumn, as well as two **Black-headed Gulls** and three **Common Gulls** on 15th, the first **Fieldfare** and a ringtail **Hen Harrier** 18th, a **Redshank** on 19th, a **Stock Dove** and a **Snow Bunting** on 20th, another **Hen Harrier** sighting and two **Mistle Thrushes** on 21st, a **Short-eared Owl** on 22nd & 23rd, a flock of 16 unidentified (Cattle or Little) **egrets** off North Light on 24th, a **Jackdaw** and four **Mediterranean Gulls** on 25th, 14 **Lesser Redpolls**, 30 **Common Gulls** and six unidentified **grey geese** off the East Side on 26th, three **Grey Herons** and two **Lapwings** on 27th, and 17 **Bramblings** on 29th.

Last dates for summer migrants

26th July	Cuckoo
4th August	Puffin
2nd September	Swift
4th September	Common Sandpiper
7th September	Sedge Warbler
26th September	Pied Flycatcher, Yellow Wagtail
1st October	Reed Warbler
4th October	Whitethroat
8th October	Spotted Flycatcher
12th October	Sand Martin
14th October	Tree Pipit
18th October	Grasshopper Warbler, Whinchat
19th October	Willow Warbler
26th October	House Martin, Garden Warbler
27th October	Swallow
11th November	Wheatear

13th November	Ring Ouzel
26th November	Blackcap
28th November	Manx Shearwater

First dates for autumn migrants/winter visitors

24th September	Great Northern Diver
25th September	Merlin
26th September	Siskin
28th September	Snow Bunting
1st October	Lesser Redpoll, Reed Bunting
10th October	Redwing
15th October	Black Redstart, Brambling
18th October	Fieldfare
24th October	Woodcock
2nd November	Lapland Bunting
13th November	Red-throated Diver

November

The month opened on a fairly chilly note, but the first half of November was otherwise changeable and mild with mainly southerly winds and rain at times. It turned more settled from the 15th, as a large Scandinavian anticyclone extended its influence across the UK, though strong and bitterly cold easterly winds dominated from 17th to 25th, before mild, wet and windy Atlantic conditions set in from 27th.

Most unexpected was the island's fifth **Little Owl**, near the head of St John's Valley at dusk on 10th. The female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was present throughout, mainly in Millcombe, whilst other unusual species included single **Snow Buntings** on 1st, 13th & 26th, a **Lapland Bunting** over Quarter Wall on 2nd, a **Hen Harrier** over Lametry Bay on 3rd and another near Tibbetts on 26th, a **Firecrest** along the Terrace on 12th, single **Mistle Thrushes** in Millcombe on 13th & 26th, two **Red-throated Divers** off Rat Island on 13th, an adult **Mediterranean Gull** and a **Great Skua** off the East Side on 13th (with two Great Skuas there on 14th), three **Lapwings** in Bull's Paradise on 19th, an adult **Dark-bellied Brent Goose** near Quarters on 20th, two **Common Gulls** off the Landing Bay on 21st, and a **Black-headed Gull** in the same area on 27th.

There were further influxes of thrushes and finches, including 500 **Chaffinches** on 10th, 50 **Redwings** on 16th and small numbers of **Bramblings** until the last two on 26th. An accompanying cast was provided by a scattering of typical late-autumn migrants and winter visitors, including **Teal**, **Great Northern Diver**, **Sparrowhawk**, **Water Rail**, **Golden Plover**, **Woodcock**, **Merlin**, **Skylark**, **Chiffchaff**, **Goldcrest**, **Starling**, **Black Redstart**, **Stonechat**,

Pied Wagtail and **Reed Bunting**, as well as the last **Manx Shearwater** and **Blackcap** of the year (see table).

December

The first third of the month continued the mild, wet and windy theme of late November. It turned briefly more settled and colder mid-month, but mild, wet weather soon returned. From Christmas Eve onwards it was somewhat quieter with high pressure more dominant, but a mild westerly flow ensured generally overcast conditions.

The prevailing weather made for difficult birding at a time of year when daylight is anyway at a premium, and this was reflected in a relative dearth of records. **Guillemots** and **Fulmars** were busy reoccupying the breeding ledges, whilst there were a few sightings of **Sparrowhawk**, **Water Rail**, **Woodcock**, **Snipe**, **Kestrel**, **Merlin**, **Goldcrest**, **Chaffinch**, **Goldfinch** and **Linnet**. After going AWOL for a time in November, the female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was relocated in St Helen's Copse on 10th and remained into 2019. Also notable for December were two **Lapwings** on 31st, **Common Gulls** off the East Side on 12th & 31st, two **Black-headed Gulls** there on 30th, and single **Chiffchaff** (several dates) and **Firecrest** (12th) in Millcombe.

Keeping in touch with Lundy bird news and information

The website www.birdsoflundy.org.uk linked to the 2007 publication *The Birds of Lundy* includes updates to the species accounts up to the end of 2018. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from more than 70 years of intensive study by the LFS.

Complementing this long-term archive is an online blog www.lundybirds.blogspot.co.uk through which visiting birdwatchers and ringers may contribute news of the latest sightings. This relies completely on voluntary contributions. If you would like to become a 'co-author' of the blog, meaning that you can post your own updates, please send an email to gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Nomenclature and sequence

These follow The British List (summarised 9th edition, updated version posted on the BOU website February 2019) maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). Where different from the species name in common usage (e.g. Robin), the international English name applied by the BOU (in this case European Robin) is given in square brackets after the scientific name. The numbers of birds given in the tables, where included, are taken from the LFS Logbook and give the monthly maxima and, in most cases, the number of days on which the species was reported. It should be noted that some of these counts may not be truly representative of the numbers of birds present and are perhaps more reflective of periods (particularly spring and autumn) when observer coverage is higher.

Assessment of records of rare birds

Records of species and sub-species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Green Warbler, American Robin) are assessed by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records of species classified as 'nationally scarce migrants' or which are otherwise rare in Devon (e.g. Golden

Oriole, Ortolan Bunting) are considered by the Devon Birds Records Committee (DBRC). In addition, records of 'Lundy rarities', species that are regularly encountered on the mainland but rare on the island (e.g. Mediterranean Gull, Treecreeper), are assessed by the Lundy Bird Recorders.

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

Observers are asked to ensure that supporting notes for all records of rare species are entered in the LFS Logbook (which contains guidelines on what information to provide) as soon as possible after the sighting has been made. Please take care to ensure that your name(s) and contact details are included – and legible! Photographs and video-clips are especially welcome and these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Observers' names are included below for all accepted 2016 records of species that are national rarities, nationally scarce migrants and/or Lundy vagrants, as well as for some other reports of particular interest.

Birds seen during boat crossings

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

Acknowledgements

As always we are grateful to the island residents and visitors, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the LFS Logbook and to the databases maintained by Devon Birds and the British Trust for Ornithology; the annual bird report is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals. However, we have once more to single out the outstanding contribution made by Dean Woodfin Jones, the resident Lundy Warden, together with his colleagues from the wardening and ranger teams, both staff and volunteers.

Special thanks go to Devon Birds for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records, especially Karen Sims, Devon Birds database manager, who provided a file of all 2017 Lundy records, including those submitted via *BirdTrack*, to help ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and the LFS. Others who have helped us in various ways include Jo Alexander, Chris & Carol Baillie, Helen Booker, Sam Bosanquet, Ross Bower, Richard Campey, Clive Couzens, Mark Darlaston, Paul Dean, Chris & Mandy Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Ken Ebsworthy, Tim Frayling, Joshua Harris, Chas Holt,

Paul Holt, Andy Jayne, Mike Langman, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Steve McAusland, Ryan Miller, David & Elisabeth Price, Martyn Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Kevin Rylands, Tony Sawbridge, Grant Sherman, Luke Sutton, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Chris Townend, Jon Turner, Nik Ward, Tim Worfolk and Justin Zantboer.

THE BIRDS OF 2018

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

[Brant Goose]

Lundy vagrant. Eighteen previous records; the last in Nov 2017.

An adult of the nominate Dark-bellied race *B. b. bernicla* was seen near Quarters on 20 Nov (Dean Jones) – the 19th LFS record.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

[Greater White-fronted Goose]

Lundy vagrant. Twenty-one previous records; the last in Oct 2017.

Eight birds of the Greenland-breeding subspecies *Anser albifrons flavirostris* were present on 27 Oct. First seen grazing on the Airfield at about 09.00, they were in flight over the Village at 13.30, then landing briefly in Tent Field before heading north again (Dean Jones *et al.*). The 22nd LFS record. See below for intriguing sightings of unidentified grey geese on 26 & 27 Oct. Record accepted by DBRC.

Unidentified grey geese *Anser* sp.

A distant flock of six grey geese, thought probably to be either Pink-footed or White-fronted, flew north off the East Side on 26 Oct (Andy Jayne). A flock of 15 grey geese flew north at about 08.30 on 27 Oct (Paul Holt).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident breeding flock of feral origin, though numbers appear to have declined in recent years; unknown numbers of wild birds occur from time to time.

The highest pre-breeding count was 13 (10f, 3m) on both 28 Jan and 1 Feb. Breeding was confirmed with the appearance of the first brood of ducklings (eight) on 26 Apr. Further new broods were seen on various dates into the early summer, including groups of six and seven small ducklings on 4 Jul.

Maximum monthly counts of fully grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	13	9	9	8	4	9	5	8	9	7	11

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. First breeding record in 2015; bred again in 2016 & 2017.

Small numbers were recorded throughout the year. The highest count of the pre-breeding period was eight (6f, 2m) on 26 Feb. Breeding was confirmed for the fourth consecutive year when a female with three ducklings were seen on Pondsbury on 25 May (Tony Taylor). A female and seven ducklings, thought to be a second family party, were there on 6 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), whilst on 24 Jul a female was attending three well-grown young at Pondsbury, alongside either another adult or a fully-grown immature bird from an earlier brood (Tim Davis). Later in the year, the maximum was six on 4 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	8	7	7	2+3y	1+7y	2+3y	5	2	4	6	3
5	7	7	10	4	2	3	4	7	11	10	5

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon passage migrant.

Two were on the sea just north of Gannets' Rock on 20 Jun (Kevin Waterfall). A first-year female in the Landing Bay on 2 & 3 Oct was seen to fly away strongly to the east-south-east on the morning of 3rd (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first winter and early spring period brought an unprecedented series of sightings, with records on at least 31 dates from 10 Jan (one) to 25 Mar (one), including maxima of eight on 11 Jan, six on 12, 16 & 17 Feb, twelve on 6 Mar and ten on 8 Mar. Four were still present on 16 Mar. Most were in the Landing Bay and around Rat Island, but others were seen from North End – max five on 23 Feb, South West Point – max four on 24 Feb, The Battery – two on 25 Feb, and off the East Side between the Terrace and Brazen Ward – singles on 21 & 25 Mar (Dean Jones, Martin Thorne *et al.*). Two were off Mouse Island, with a Great Northern Diver, on 13 Nov (Martin Thorne).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

[Arctic Loon]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

There were two records during the late winter and early spring: one feeding and preening just off North West Point on 24 Jan (Dean Jones); and one in the Landing Bay, in almost full breeding plumage, on 7 & 9 Mar (Dean Jones). These are the 15th to 16th LFS records. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



A Great Northern Diver Gavia immer, Landing Bay, 10 October.

© Philip Lymbery

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Common Loon]

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

During the late winter and early spring there were records on 24 dates from 6 Jan to 26 Mar. All of these concerned single birds, with the exception of two together in the Landing Bay on 29 Jan. Later in the spring two were in the Landing Bay on 19 Apr (Martin Thorne). In autumn and early winter there were records on 30 dates from 24 Sep to 31 Dec. Most again concerned single birds but there were two on 29 Sep and different individuals were seen on consecutive days in mid-Nov (15th/16th). An adult still largely in breeding plumage was present in the Landing Bay almost daily from 24 Sep to 8 Oct (Chris Dee *et al.*). During the early morning of 27 Sep it flew high across the island, from west to east and dropped down into the Landing Bay. It had presumably been roosting and/or feeding off the West Side.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	1
12	8	4	1	–	–	–	–	7	8	9	6

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

Uncommon passage migrant; recorded on the island at night in small numbers during the breeding season. First confirmation of breeding in 2014.

At least 20 sightings were made at North End on the night of 6/7 Jul. A call playback and response survey in this area yielded an estimate of 9 to 16 apparently occupied burrows (Helen Booker, Dean Jones *et al.*). Nine trapped at North End on the night of 27/28 Aug included six 'new' birds, one retrap that had been ringed on Lundy in 2017, one that had been ringed elsewhere in Britain, and one wearing a French ring – for details see *Ringing Report* p.86 (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). Birds were seen at night at Brazen Ward during Aug and early Sep (Josh Harris). In Sep, six were ringed at North Light on 2nd (Tony Taylor *et al.*), one flew past the Landing Bay on 3rd (Denise Wawman), two were seen in flight at Pilot's Quay during night-time shearwater ringing on 9th (Nik Ward *et al.*) and one was off North End during blustery conditions on 19th (Dean Jones).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

Common breeder; recorded in all months, mainly from January to September.

A total of 279 birds on ledges were counted during a walk of the entire island perimeter on 30 Jan. These were mostly on the north face of Gannets' Rock, at Long Roost and at Jenny's Cove, as well as the gullies between The Battery and Dead Cow Point (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Many pairs were incubating eggs by 18 May, when Carrion Crows were observed preying on an egg at Gannets' Bay (Dean Jones). In spite of good occupancy of Gannets' Rock at the start of the year, the number of breeding attempts and overall productivity for this site were surprisingly low; just 13 chicks fledged from 33 apparently occupied nests, representing productivity of just over 0.39 (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
279	60	185	167	70	65	48	56	5	1	20	52

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Common breeder and passage migrant; usually seen from March to September; occasional records in October/November.

The first of the year were two off Rat Island on 5 Mar, just as the 'Beast from the East' began to wane. Writing in the LFS Logbook on 26 Mar, Tony Taylor reported: "Lots of evidence of activity in main colony on W Side: newly excavated burrows, droppings at burrow entrances, new nest material in one of the nestboxes and three piles of shearwater feathers from predated birds." Ringers visiting the main colony north of Old Light on the night of 20/21 May reported birds calling in the air and from underground. Twenty-one were trapped, including eight ringed in previous years, two as chicks in 2014. The nestboxes in the same colony were checked on 23 May when it was found that one of 2017's successful pair was incubating an egg in the same box. The presence of the second adult from the 2017 pair was confirmed on 30 May. Overall during the year, a record 361 shearwater chicks were ringed, as well as 180 full-grown birds. One hundred previously ringed adult shearwaters were recaptured, providing a wealth of valuable information on their life histories.

As indicated in the 2017 Lundy Bird Report, Jun 2018 saw a team of surveyors from Natural England and RSPB returning to the island to complete the census of shearwater burrows begun last year. The team's painstaking efforts were rewarded when subsequent data analysis yielded an estimated breeding population of 5,504 pairs, representing an increase of some 55% since the 2013 survey and showing ongoing expansion of the Lundy colony to a new record level.

A sample ten-minute count at 17.35 on 25 May totalled 185 flying past Rat Island (Tony Taylor). An estimated 4,000 or more, gathered off the East Side at dusk on 27 May, were viewed from the Ugly: "The sea was black with tightly packed rafts, several hundred metres across" (Martin Thorne). Sample counts of offshore feeding movements during the summer included 421 passing north off St Mark's Stone in 30 mins on 2 Jul and 514 flying past Rat Island in just under an hour on 10 Aug (Dean Jones). The last of the year were three off the Landing Bay on 28 Nov (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	2	250	4,000	200	421	514	6	1	3	-

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant.

One off North End on 26 Jul (Dean Jones) was the earliest ever recorded from the island. One, also off North End, was just west of the Hen & Chickens on 19 Sep (Dean Jones).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; recorded throughout the year but most regular during late summer and early autumn.

One flew along the East Side during severe weather on 3 Mar. One on 25 Jun was followed by three the next day. On 14 Jul, two were at rest on top of Rat Island for 90 minutes before taking off and immediately being mobbed by gulls; both birds were in South West Field the next day. Three were seen on 16 & 17 Jul and there were regular sightings of one to three birds at Pondsbyr, Rocket Pole Pond, Quarry Pond and in flight over various parts of the island, until 27 Jul. Later in the summer and autumn singles occurred on three dates from 20-23 Aug, 1 & 28 Sep, and on four dates from 21-25 Oct, followed by three on 27th.

A Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*, Barton Field, 26 July.

© Dean Jones



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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	–	–	3	3	1	1	3	–	–
–	–	1	–	–	2	13	3	2	5	–	–

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant.

One flew south across the Landing Bay on 24 Apr (Helen & Philip Lymbery). One first seen on Barton Pond and flying over the High Street on 7 Jun (Mark Kelly *et al.*) was still present the following day. Four flew past the Landing Bay from the north-east, rounded Rat Island and continued south-west on 4 Oct (Carol & Chris Baillie). Although Little Egrets have been recorded virtually annually since 2007 (only 2012 being blank), this is the highest ever count for the island, the previous maximum being three on 16 May 2002.

Unidentified egret sp.

An unprecedented (for Lundy) flock of 16 egrets flew north-east off North Light on 24 Oct (Andy Jayne). Unfortunately, the birds were flying away from the island and it was not possible to pick out key identification details with certainty in order to differentiate between Little and Cattle Egret. From Andy's description, however, there appears to be a strong likelihood that these were Cattle Egrets, which would have been a 'first' for Lundy!

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

Common offshore from spring to autumn; less frequent in winter; formerly bred (until early 1900s).

Recorded throughout the year, with both numbers and frequency peaking in autumn. The highest spring count was 40 on 23 May, whilst the autumn maxima were 280 on 19 Sep and 100 on 26 Oct. There were no other three-digit counts during the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	7	12	14	40	50	12	81	280	100	79	8
11	6	15	22	24	17	10	20	28	28	23	5

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeder; uncommon from October to February.

A walk of the entire island perimeter on 30 Jan, involving scanning of both the shoreline and offshore waters, revealed just five birds (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). This gives an indication of the extent to which the breeding population vacates Lundy during the winter. Nests in the north-west of the island contained either small chicks or eggs on 23 May (Dean Jones). Twelve apparently occupied nests were located along the south and west coasts, between the Castle and Needle Rock, during the large gull survey on 3 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Breeding birds appeared to have fared well with most nests producing at least one chick; 19 chicks fledged from 15 monitored nest sites, representing productivity of just over 1.26 chicks per nest (Dean Jones). The first fledglings to be seen on the water were off Long Roost on 9 Jul (Dean Jones). The highest post-fledging total was 205, counted from *Obsession II* on 9 Aug.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	15	20	37	38	68	167	205	59	37	8	5

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

Regular spring and autumn migrant, typically in flocks overflying the island; formerly bred (until 1959); occasional in winter.

The only records during the first winter period were of one in almost full breeding plumage flying north off Tibbetts Point on 30 Jan, two off North Light on 23 Feb and two flying east past Rat Island on 4 Mar. Spring passage appeared to peak in late Mar and early Apr, with migrating flocks of nine on 29th, 10 on 31st and nine on 1st. Two – an ad and an immature – were sitting on Seal Rock on the unusual date of 2 Jun; an adult in breeding plumage was on Seal Rock and two different immature birds were in flight off the West Side on 4 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). An adult and two immatures flew south-west over Castle Hill and out towards the Cornish coast on 30 Jul (Tim Davis).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	10	12	2	3	3	2	5	3	4	–
1	1	4	7	4	4	1	2	11	3	5	–

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

Scarce, but now annual passage migrant.

One, seen from Old House South on 23 May, flew north along the East Side, mobbed by Ravens as it went. It was later over Threequarter Wall, still being mobbed by Ravens (Rob Andrew, Dean Jones *et al.*). The only autumn record concerned one over the Landing Bay during the early evening of 4 Oct (Darrin Dowding & Ken Ebsworthy).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

Common spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; bred at least once in the past (1922); occasional in winter.

What seems highly likely to have been a single, long-staying, non-breeding female was noted on at least 15 scattered dates from 4 Mar to 2 Jul. Two birds were reported on 25 May. The highest autumn-passage count was three on 30 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	2	1
–	–	2	4	4	5	1	4	24	26	18	3

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* [Western Marsh Harrier]
Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.

A long-staying female was present from 21 Jun to 26 Jul, during which time it ranged widely over the island (Jill French *et al.*).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

There were records of ringtails in five months of the year: a ringtail was quartering the Pondsby area and Airfield on 25 Feb (Martin Thorne); one was “perched on a mound halfway along Threequarter Wall” on 25 Mar (Darrin Dowding); a female was quartering north of Quarter Wall on 16 Jun (Pete Lambden); a ringtail was reported from various locations in the southern half of the island on nine dates from 18 Oct to 4 Nov (Andy Bell & Mandy Dee, Andy Jayne *et al.*); and a ringtail was quartering near Tibbetts on 26 Nov (Dean Jones).

Montagu’s Harrier *Circus pygargus*
Nationally scarce migrant

A ringtail soared briefly over North End before flying NNE out to sea over North Light (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Record accepted by DBRC.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*
Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One was seen over the West Side, north of Tibbetts, on 1 Nov (Ross & Helen Bower). This record remains under consideration by DBRC.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* [Common Buzzard]
Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident (last nesting attempt in 1965).

One was soaring over North Light steps on 5 Aug (Jane, Martin & Eleanor Harris).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers; bred annually 2007 to 2013 and in 2015: no proof of breeding in 2014, 2016 or 2017.

Notable records early in the year included: one in flight outside Brambles on 26 Jan; three different birds were in Millcombe on 1 Feb; two flushed near Quarter Wall Pond on 12 Feb; and four in Millcombe on 7 Mar. Once again there was no confirmation of breeding. However, two in ‘Smelly Gully’ (lower Millcombe) on 27 & 28 Mar appeared to be paired “staying very close together in the stream and when sheltering under brambles” (Tony Taylor), one was singing in St Helen’s Field at dusk on 28 Mar (Tony Taylor), and one was calling from Quarters Pond on 7 Jul. One to three birds were recorded almost daily from 7 Aug to the end of Oct, with a maximum of four on 31 Aug and 2 Sep, and small numbers continued to be noted irregularly to the end of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	4	4	5	1	–	1	4	4	3	3	3
9	5	16	22	2	–	8	22	26	24	11	2

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

A count of 27 was made during a walk of the entire island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), whilst the highest spring total was 33 on 13 Apr. There was no estimate of the size of the breeding population.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	17	19	33	22	25	27	20	15	18	7	19

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Formerly recorded in much larger numbers and bred regularly until 2000.

Following a single bird on 3 Feb, there was a small hard-weather influx at the end of that month and into early Mar, including 26 on 26 Feb (“a flock over the helipad settled in the lower Aerogenerator Field” – Pete Lambden), 20 on 27th (18 over Pondsbyrny and two near the water tanks – Zoë Barton & Dean Jones), nine on 28th, five on 1 Mar (including two on rocks off Shutter Point) and ones and twos on three other dates to 8th. During the immediate post-breeding period, there were three over the High Street on 29 Jun (Kevin Welsh) and one in Middle Park on 3 Jul. In autumn and early winter there were records on eight scattered dates from 29 Sep to 31 Dec, with a maximum of three on 29 Sep, 28 Oct and 19 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	26	5	–	–	3	1	–	3	3	3	2
–	4	4	–	–	1	1	–	1	4	2	1

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

There was a small but noticeable hard-weather influx associated with the ‘Beast from the East’, consisting of records on five dates between 28 Feb (three) and 6 Mar (three), and a maximum of 10 on 1st at South West Point. During spring passage single birds occurred on a further five scattered dates from 23 Mar to 23 May. In autumn and early winter, recorded on 24 dates from 12 Sep (one) to 24 Nov (one), with a maximum of 40 over the Airfield on 16 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	3	10	1	1	–	–	–	2	4	40	–
–	1	4	2	2	–	–	–	5	15	4	–

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

There were three spring-passage records: one at North End on 13 Apr; three at North End, plus one calling in flight, on 17 May; and one calling in flight as it passed north off the East Side on 24 May. In autumn, there were singles on four dates from 31 Aug to 9 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn migrant in small numbers; Devon rarity.

A very smart female was at South West Point from 19 to 21 May (Kim Brett, Barbara Harrington *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



A Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*,
South West Point, 19 May.

© Dean Jones

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

During spring passage recorded on 19 dates from 21 Apr (one) to 20 May (one), with maxima of seven on 3 May and eight on 5th. The first of autumn passage were two calling in flight over Rat Island on 18 Jul, followed by two on 29 Aug, three on 30th and singles on 5 & 25 Sep.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

One was in Lighthouse Field on 4 Mar. Other singles were reported on 24 May (flying north off the East Side), 20 Jun (off the West Side), 28 & 29 Jun (over the Village and in Middle Park) and 12 Jul, whilst three were calling in flight over upper Millcombe and the Village on 26 Jul, with one seen later circling high over the Lading Bay. Later on during autumn passage there was singles on 31 Aug and 1 & 26 Sep.

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

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

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

The only record was of two, along the shore of South End, seen from a kayak on 24 Jul (Dean Jones).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

[Red Knot]

Rare spring migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

The remains of a predated bird were found by the gate between South West Field and Tent Field on 30 Aug (Tony Taylor & Denise Wawman).



A Sanderling Calidris alba, North End, 21 September. © Dean Jones

A Dunlin Calidris alpina, 4 March. © Martin Thorne

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Rare migrant, mainly in autumn; has occurred in winter.

Seven were on rocks below North Light on 27 May (Martin Thorne). This is the highest number ever recorded in spring and the second highest count ever for the island (eight were seen on 29 Aug 1977). A juvenile was at North End on 21 Sep (Dean Jones).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

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

Cold weather was doubtless responsible for the appearance of singles on 23 Feb (on the track near the gantry above North Light) and at Millcombe Pond on 2 & 3 Mar. Spring passage brought records of ones and twos on 11 dates between 8 May (two) and 9 Jun (one on Kistvaen Pond). In autumn there were singles on 10 dates from 10 Aug to 19 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	1	–	2	1	–	1	1	1	–	–
–	1	2	–	10	1	–	6	3	1	–	–

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Rare passage migrant; occasional winter visitor.

Four birds, one of which was in full breeding plumage, allowed prolonged close-up views at Brazen Ward on 14 May (Dean Jones). This is a notable record for what has never been a

commonly reported species on Lundy, but sightings have been particularly few and far between in recent years, this being only the fifth occurrence of the last decade.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis*

Nationally scarce migrant. Fifteen previous records, most recently in September 2017.

Two juveniles frequented the main track end of the Airfield and Brick Field during the period 9-12 Sep. Although news of their presence was first widely reported on 11th, when they were seen by Gareth Bradbury, an entry in the LFS logbook showed that they had first been seen on 9th by Celia & Tony Sawbridge. Both birds were still in the same area on 12th (David & Elisabeth Price, Peter Slader & Nik Ward), but could not be found on 13th, following a fine, clear night with light north-west winds. The 16th LFS record. Record accepted by DBRC.



A Pectoral Sandpiper Calidris melanotos, Quarters Pond, 13 September.
© Dean Jones

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Nationally scarce migrant. About 23 previous records, most recently in September 2013.

A juvenile frequenting Quarter Wall and Brick Field Ponds on 12 Sep and during the morning of 13th (David & Elisabeth Price, Peter Slader, Nik Ward *et al.*) was relocated at Quarters Pond during the afternoon of 13th (Andrew Jewels *et al.*) and was again at Quarters Pond on 15th (Tony Sawbridge). Record accepted by DBRC.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

During the late winter and early spring, recorded on seven dates between 22 Jan (three) and 31 Mar (one). The three on 22 Jan were located by torchlight at night in Brick & Tillage Fields (Dean Jones). One was found freshly dead, probably the result of a Peregrine kill, in St John's Valley on 28 Mar (Tony Taylor). During the autumn and early winter there were records on 14 dates from 24 Oct (one) to 12 Dec (one), with a maximum of three on 30 Oct.

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

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

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

One was located by torchlight next to Quarter Wall Pond on 22 Jan (Dean Jones). Singles were flushed from the north-east corner of Pondsbury on 26 Aug (Rebecca & Richard Taylor) and 29 Sep (Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Martin Thorne). One was flushed just east of Pondsbury on 13 Nov Tony Taylor).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Counts of 22 were made on both 28 Jan (including nine in South West Field and seven at Pondsbury) and 27 Feb (flushed by the LFS Working Party searching for rhododendron seedlings between Quarter Wall and Pondsbury), but only small numbers (max four) were seen following the severe weather in early Mar. A moribund bird was found outside the Barn on 2 Mar. The last of the spring was one on 6 May, whilst the first returning migrant was also a single bird, on 27 Aug. The autumn peak was 10 on 19 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	22	4	4	1	–	–	1	5	10	4	5
5	10	9	6	1	–	–	2	8	19	11	5

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

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

One in the Landing Bay on 29 Apr (Martyn Roper) was the only spring record. Early-autumn passage brought records on six dates in Jul (6th to 28th), mostly ones and twos, but five were roosting together in the Landing Bay at high tide on 20th (Dean Jones). The only later sightings were singles on 24 Aug and 3 & 4 Sep.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

At least two heard calling in flight (but not seen) over the Pondsbury area on 19 Oct (Andy Jayne).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One was calling in flight over South End on 17 May (Dean Jones). One was also heard calling around the south of the island on 22 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*)

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

Notable counts in the early months of the year included 320 on 29 Jan (mainly off the East Side) and 411 on 21 Mar. Of 120 feeding off North Light on 28 Jan, only two were first-winter birds (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A red-legged individual was seen on an old nest in Jenny's Cove on 26 Apr (Dean Jones). Birds were busy nest-building at the Aztec Bay colony on 18 May, the first eggs were seen on 23 May and the first chicks on 15 Jun (Dean Jones, Kirsty Neller). A chick still in the nest was predated by a female Peregrine just north of Threequarter Wall on 13 Jul (Josh Harris). Of 100 in Jenny's Cove on 30 Jul, only five were seen to be juveniles. Productivity continued to fall within the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony, which had its worst

year on record since 2007. However, when coupled with the Aztec Bay site, productivity was actually higher than in 2017 at 0.46 chicks per breeding attempt (49 chicks fledged from 106 active nests), versus 0.38 in 2017 (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
320	47	411	50	450	228	193	27	92	200	181	380

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not necessarily representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

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

A small but notable influx coincided with the arrival of large numbers of Herring and Common Gulls during the early-Mar cold snap. There were three on 2nd (all adults, two off South West Point and one in the Landing Bay); 11 on 3rd (nine adults, two first-winter, all feeding in the Landing Bay with large numbers of other gulls); and two on 4th (one adult, one first-winter, both in the Landing Bay). The first returning passage birds were an adult off Rat Island on 22 Jul and three off North End on 25th (Dean Jones). Later in the autumn, all off Millcombe/Landing Bay, were two first-winter birds on 2 Sep (Tony Taylor *et al.*), a single adult on 23 Sep (Dean Jones), ones and twos on five dates 15-28 Oct, and adult on 27 Nov (Dean Jones).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Uncommon but increasing non-breeding visitor, mainly July to November.

Five records involving up to 11 birds: two first-winter birds in the Landing Bay seen from the decks of MS *Oldenburg* upon arrival on 9 Oct (Dean Jones, Jon Turner); two adults – one flying south-west past Rat Island and one flying north up the East Side – on 23 Oct (Andy Jayne); four (three adults and a first-year bird) off Millcombe on 25 Oct (Justin Zantboer *et al.*); two adults feeding off the Ugly on 28 Oct (Dean Jones); and an adult with Kittiwakes off the Landing Bay on 13 Nov (Tony Taylor).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

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

Singles on 24 & 29 Jan, 17 & 21 Feb were followed by three first-winter birds at North Light on 23 Feb (Martin Thorne). A major influx in early Mar coincided with the severe weather ushered in by the 'Beast from the East'. There were 15 on 2 Mar, including 12 off South West Point; an unprecedented 152 on 3rd, mostly adults, feeding off the East Side with large numbers of other gulls; but only three on 4th (Dean Jones). Towards the end of the spring-passage period a first-summer bird was off North Light on 27 May. Post-breeding migrants included single juveniles on 23 & 25 Jul, over Rat Island and off North End, respectively (Dean Jones) and a first-winter bird in the Landing Bay on 30 Sep (Tim Jones). There was a further notable influx towards the end of Oct, with daily observations 23rd to 28th, including 20 on 25th, 30 on 26th and 19 on 27th (many observers). These were followed by one on 15 Nov, two on 21 Nov, one on 12 Dec and three on 31 Dec, all in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

Sixty-six were counted during a circuit of the island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The first chicks of the year were noted at Great Shutter Rock on 19 May (Dean Jones).

The all-island breeding survey of large gulls produced a total of 51 apparently occupied nests (David Price, Peter Slader *et al.*), compared with 50 at the time of the previous census in 2013. Unlike Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls (see below), numbers of Great Black-backs appear to have been remarkably stable, with no major change during the past 15 years and, if anything, an increase over numbers recorded during the 1990s.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
66	15	33	40	63	22	30	24	51	44	11	11

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Lundy vagrant.

An adult bird among 72 Herring Gulls in Tillage Field on 19 Jan (Dean Jones) was likely the same bird present on Mouse Island on 16 & 17 Feb (Dean Jones & Martin Thorne). The ninth LFS record and the first since 2014. During the late spring, one was seen off the West Side on 20 May (Devon Birds day trip), swiftly adding the 10th LFS record. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

[European Herring Gull]

Common but declining breeding species; present all year, and though generally fewer in winter, there may be significant influxes during storms and cold snaps.

A count of 720 was made during a walk of the whole island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). An estimated 800 were present on 3 Mar, part of a significant influx of gulls that coincided with the arrival of the 'Beast from the East' (Dean Jones). The first chicks of the year were seen at North East Point on 29 May and estimated to be approximately a week old (Dean Jones). The all-island breeding survey of large gulls produced a total of 241 apparently occupied nests (David Price, Peter Slader *et al.*), compared with 428 at the time of the previous census in 2013. Numbers of breeding Herring Gulls have fallen by more than two-thirds since the current series of surveys began in 2000.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
720	197	800	400	479	159	321	59	15	18	105	300

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

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

Forty were counted during a walk of the whole island perimeter on 30 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). The first chicks of the year were seen at Jenny's Cove on 23 May, estimated to be approximately three days old (Dean Jones), whilst the first fledglings on the wing were seen near the Church on 30 Jun (Dean Jones, Mark Kelly). The all-island breeding survey of large gulls produced a total of 133 apparently occupied nests (David Price, Peter Slader *et al.*), compared with 242 at the time of the previous census in 2013. Numbers of breeding Lesser Black-backs have fallen by nearly 70% since the current series of surveys began in 2000.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	20	73	59	237	50	105	72	7	7	10	–

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant, late March to early October.

Two adults were with Kittiwakes and two adult Common Terns off the East Side on 23 Sep (Dean Jones).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage migrant April to October.

Two adults were with Kittiwakes and two Sandwich Terns off the East Side on 23 Sep (Dean Jones).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

One circled over Rat Island then headed north-east on 28 Aug (Tony Taylor *et al.*). One on 25 Oct was followed by five during a seawatch from the Ugly on 26 Oct (Andy Jayne) and one off the East Side the following day (Dean Jones). One was in the same general area on 13 & 14 Nov, with two present on 15th (Tony Taylor *et al.*).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

A dark-phase juvenile flew past MS *Oldenburg* about 10 minutes out from Lundy on the crossing from Ilfracombe on 25 Aug (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Martin Thorne). One was reported on 14 Oct.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[Common Guillemot, Common Murre]

Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon from August to October, then sporadic visitor, in highly variable numbers, to breeding ledges during late autumn and winter.

The total of 1,115 on 30 Jan comprised 961 ashore on ledges between Jenny’s Cove and St Mark’s Stone (Grant Sherman), a further 134 on ledges at North End, mostly at Long Roost (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), and 20 feeding off the north and east coasts. Grant Sherman counted 1,541 on his survey ledges between Jenny’s Cove and St Mark’s Stone on 17 Feb. An estimated 2,000 auks (Guillemots and Razorbills combined) were along the West Side, rafting and on ledges, on 4 Mar during the cold snap (Mandy Dee). Two predated eggs were found at North End on 13 Apr (K. Mackinnon *et al.*). About 50 chicks, thought to be three to four days old, were counted in the productivity plot on 10 Jun. Productivity was fairly good (though down slightly on 2017) at 0.65 – a total of 125 chicks fledged from 192 active nest sites (Dean Jones). Birds were on breeding ledges at St Mark’s Stone, St Philip’s Stone and Jenny’s Cove during the early morning of 13 Nov (Grant Sherman).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1,115	1,541	1,500	2,500	1,500	nc	490	–	11	70	810	450**

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole. nc = present but no count made.

**Auk spp (i.e. Guillemot & Razorbill combined)

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common and increasing breeder, though still in smaller numbers than formerly; uncommon between August and February.

Of 60 feeding off North Light on 28 Jan, all were in non-breeding plumage, in contrast to the 20 Guillemots feeding in the same area, all except one of which were in breeding plumage (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). An estimated 600 were along the West Side between Jenny's Cove and St Mark's Stone on 17 Feb; some on ledges, but most on the sea (Grant Sherman). Adults were feeding chicks in Jenny's Cove on 13 Jun (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
60	600	1,150	1,000	500	25	300	–	5	200	20	450**

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

**Auk spp (i.e. Guillemot & Razorbill combined)

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

[Atlantic Puffin]

Common and gradually increasing breeding species; formerly bred in considerably larger numbers; very rare between mid-August and early March.

The first of the year were 10 birds at Jenny's Cove on 14 Mar (Dean Jones). There was a notably high Mar count of 106 at Jenny's on 26th. Four were at Long Roost and others swimming off North End on 26 Apr (Sue Wells). A Puffin on the slope at Jenny's Cove was predated by a female Peregrine on 29 Apr (Rob Andrew, Kathryn Mackinnon). Thirty were off North Light on 27 May (Martin Thorne). The presence of pufflings was first noted on 29 May, when adults were watched carrying fish to burrows in Jenny's Cove (Kathryn MacKinnon). More than 60 pufflings were estimated to be present during a dawn-to-dusk survey of the productivity slope in Jenny's Cove on 13 Jun (Dean Jones *et al.*). The study plot at Jenny's Cove yielded an overall productivity figure of just under 0.55 chicks per active burrow, based on estimates of 129 chicks from 235 active burrows – the highest number of breeding attempts for this site since productivity studies began in 2013 (Dean Jones). The last of the year were 74 in Jenny's Cove on 31 Jul (Tim Davis) and a single bird in flight off Jenny's Cove on 4 Aug (Chloë Lofthouse & Karen Hobson).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	106	112	160	164	250	1	–	–	–	–

*There was no breeding census in 2018 and the breeding season counts entered in the LFS logbook and included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly from spring until autumn, the great majority of those reaching Lundy being lost and/or tired racing pigeons.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	6	6	8	8	1	12	–	–	–
–	–	–	7	14	12	6	1	7	–	–	–

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.

In spring there were singles on 22 Mar (Millcombe) and 6 Apr (flying past Quarry Cottages), followed by two on 7 Apr (feeding in Barton Field) – all recorded by Dean Jones. In autumn, one first seen in the Millcombe area on 20 Oct (Andy Jayne), was reported on seven further dates to 31 Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

[Common Wood Pigeon]

Probably breeds in most years; spring and autumn migrant in small numbers, with occasional larger influxes; sporadic in winter.

The first of the year was a single bird flying in off the sea near Benjamin's Chair on 21 Feb (Dean Jones). Perhaps the same individual on 23 Feb was followed by three on 4 Mar and six in Millcombe on 7 Mar, after which sightings were almost daily throughout the spring and summer, with maxima of 12 on 14 Mar and 10 on 17 & 22 Apr and 25 May. Two were singing in Millcombe on 31 Mar and 2 Jun, and successful breeding was confirmed when a fledgling was seen there on 20 Jun (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones), followed by a juvenile on 25 Aug (Rebecca & Richard Taylor).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	1	12	10	10	6	5	10	7	3	3	–
–	2	21	28	30	20	15	17	23	14	5	–

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

Increasingly scarce migrant, now occasional in very small numbers in spring but rare in autumn.

In spring there were records of single birds on at least eight dates (which could conceivably all relate to the same individual) between 20 May and 3 Jun: one feeding on the main track just north of Quarter Wall on 25 May (Ken & Joan Saul); one in the Lodge enclosure on 27 May (Tony Taylor); one at The Battery on 28 & 30 May (Tony Taylor); and in Millcombe and St John's Valley from 1 to 3 Jun – heard singing on 2nd (Tim Davis, Ivan Lakin *et al.*). The only autumn record was one by the Tillage/Brick Field pigsty on the late date of 11 Oct, during a period of strong southerly winds (Dean Jones).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

[Eurasian Collared Dove]

Regular migrant, usually in small numbers, especially in spring; summer resident in some years; has bred; has overwintered.

Passage migrants during the spring and early summer were noted on 39 dates between 31 Mar (one) and 2 Jul, with frequency peaking from mid-May to mid-Jun and numbers reaching maxima of eight on 20 May and seven on 25 May and 2 & 3 Jun. The remains of a recently plucked Peregrine kill were found on the sidelands east of the Devil's Limekiln on 23 May (Tony Taylor). In autumn there were singles on 23 & 29 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	2	8	7	1	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	1	7	19	11	1	–	2	–	–	–

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

[Common Cuckoo]

Uncommon and declining spring and autumn migrant; probably bred regularly in the past; breeding confirmed just twice since 1999 (in 2007 and 2012).

A male calling in Millcombe on 21 May was chased off by territorial Blackbirds (Dean Jones, Tony Taylor). A male calling in St Helen's Copse on 27 May flew into Millcombe (Rob Andrew). On 6 Jun a female sitting on Quarter Wall and staking out Meadow Pipit nests in the rushes in the north-west corner of Brick Field was seen to fly down to the ground and possibly lay an egg, and what was thought probably to be a second female was at Threequarter Wall (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). One heard calling at the top of Millcombe on 1 Jul (John Hutchinson). One flew over Millcombe on 10 Jul. A rufous-phase female was around the quarries on 20 Jul, at Gannets' Combe on 21st, in Millcombe on 22nd and on the Terrace on 26th (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Warren Shipman).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Lundy vagrant. Four previous records.

One was seen briefly at dusk, perched on a wall near the crossroads at the head of St John's Valley on 10 Nov (Richard Campey). It dropped onto the ground for a couple of seconds, before flying down the valley towards Brambles and was not seen again. This is only the fifth record for Lundy after singles in Jun 1933, Nov 1944, Jun 1955 and Jun 1984.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

There were no records for the first winter period or during spring passage. In autumn, there were singles close to Pondsbury on 26 Sep (Carol & Chris Baillie) and north of Threequarter Wall on 8 Oct (Matt Ridley). One was roosting in the dead rhododendron brash just north of St Helen's Copse on 23 Oct (Andy Jayne) and one was flushed from grassland near the Earthquake on 29 Oct. A probable Short-eared Owl was quartering South West Field at dusk on 22 Oct (Andy Jayne) and either a Short-eared or Long-eared Owl was flushed from scrub along the Terrace on 30 Oct (Trevor & Karen Dobie).



A flock of Common Swift Apus apus around the tower of the St Helen's Centre, 2 July.
© Dean Jones

Swift *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

The first record was of two low over the island plateau on 20 Apr (Dean Jones). On 10 Jun twelve were “seemingly prospecting for nest sites on the Church. Seen numerous times flying in close to parts of the tower and fluttering as if looking for a nice spot to land in the slats of the north face” (Dean Jones). Twenty-nine were wheeling around the Church tower on 2 Jul (Dean Jones). There was a small flurry of passage birds at the very end of Aug and start of Sep: one on 30th, four on 31st, six on 1st and two on 2nd – the last of the year.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	28	15	29	4	6	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	21	17	8	2	2	–	–	–

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was perched on gorse next to the Lower East Side Path just north of St Helen’s Copse on 22 Sep (Chris Dee, Justin Walker). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



A Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopos major, Millcombe, 13 November.
© Richard Campey



A Kestrel Falco tinnunculus, Quarters, 15 October.
© Dean Jones

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Rare passage migrant and post-breeding visitor.

A female in Millcombe 6-13 Apr (Zoë Barton, Dean Jones *et al.*) was also seen in the tree outside the Laundry on 7th. A juvenile was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 30 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*). It ranged widely along the East Side, as far north as VC Quarry, until it was last seen, back in Millcombe, on 7 Oct (many observers). A female found in Millcombe on 16 Oct (Richard Campey & Malcolm Davies) remained on the island until the end of the year and into 2019 (many observers). On 2 Nov it was seen visiting a nestbox in Millcombe on

several occasions during the morning, “going inside and working to make the entrance bigger” (Stéphane Jenser). The great majority of other sightings were also in Millcombe, but on 13 Nov and 10 & 19 Dec the woodpecker was in St Helen’s Copse, whilst on 23 Nov she visited the bird feeders outside 1 Paradise Row.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

Common visitor in small numbers, mainly in spring and autumn; has bred (most recently in 2005).

The first of the year were singles on 6 & 31 Mar. Though seen regularly during the late spring and early summer, all those birds for which a sex was recorded were female (including two on 7 Jun) and there was no evidence to suggest the presence of a pair. It was intriguing, then, that an adult male and a juvenile were seen together at St Mark’s Stone on 13 Jul (Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	1	2	2	2	3	4	6	6	5	1
–	–	2	3	11	11	13	19	27	29	21	2

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

During the first winter period and spring passage, noted on 23 dates from 20 Jan to 4 May. All of these records were of single birds, with the exception of two females near Threequarter Wall on 15 Mar (Dean Jones). An LFS Logbook entry for 27 Jan recounts the following encounter: “Below Millcombe, we watched an epic duel between a Merlin and a Skylark that lasted seven minutes. Amazed, watching them flying at speed through the trees on either side of the road. Again and again the Skylark managed to evade the Merlin, often by zooming vertically upwards. Twice the Merlin seemed to give up but decided to give it one more go. Eventually we heard the lark no more. We hoped for the best but feared the worst...” (P. Walker). In autumn and early winter, recorded on 45 dates from 25 Sep (a single female) to 14 Dec (one), with a peak of three on 23 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	2	1	1	–	–	–	2	3	2	1
4	3	6	9	1	–	–	–	6	24	13	2

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

[Eurasian Hobby]

Uncommon passage migrant in both spring and autumn.

One flew east below the slopes of Castle Hill on 29 May (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). One drifted north over Millcombe on 4 Jun (Tim Jones).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

Monthly maxima: Jan – four (3 ads, 1 imm on 30th); Feb – two (on 26th); Mar – sex (on 31st, when two near the Castle, one near Jenny’s Cove, and three at North End close to John O’Groats); Apr – seven (on 9th); May – four (on 6th, 18th & 28th); Jun – five (on 6th); Jul – four (on 2nd); Aug – four (on 30th); Sep – five (on 28th); Oct – six (on 4th & 24th); Nov – four

(on 1st); Dec – three (on 12th). The remains of an adult Kittiwake were found on a plucking ledge near North Light on 14 Jan (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones), whilst an adult Peregrine was plucking a freshly taken adult Kittiwake on the Sugar Loaf on 28 Jan. One was watched hunting Meadow Pipits (unsuccessfully) over the Village on 15 Mar. On 23 Apr, “two adolescent (2cy) *Peregrines* seen flying together along the east coast (possibly two females – large birds) until the Terrace area, then both birds flew out to sea and headed south calling loudly” (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). On 26 Apr there were “Numerous predation attempts on a Fulmar by a female *Peregrine* in Jenny’s Cove” (Dean Jones).

2018 was a poor year for Lundy’s *Peregrines*. Breeding attempts were noted at three, possibly four, sites, but no young were seen. Lundy Warden Dean Jones speculates that given the strong winds and low temperatures at the start of spring, and then very warm, humid weather for the majority of the summer, conditions may well have prevented the birds from getting into prime condition for breeding.

Away-day food-finding *Peregrines*?

Mark Darlston and Adele Rennells contributed the following observation of *Peregrines* while at Hartland Point on 16 Feb: “At 13:20 we watched an adult male *Peregrine* attacking a pair of adults (picking on the female more than the male). Fairly typical behaviour as they start to get more territorial with spring approaching, but usually it’s a single intruder. The male was from the local territory and we expected the pair to be from either the next site to the south, down the coast, or to the east. The local bird broke off and came back into a nearby cliff while the pair gained height in mutual soaring. They then set out purposely for Lundy in continual wing beating flight. I followed them through my scope (wound up to 50x) for some 15 minutes until they were tiny dots, then lost them as Lundy appeared in the background. It was a crisp day with very sharp visibility – the resolution was pretty amazing in that, through the scope, I could see sheep grazing and people walking on the top of Lundy, so I probably had followed them around three-quarters the way back before I lost them. A tentative estimate that a *Peregrine* would be doing 30-40mph in a straight purposeful flight like this would see them cover the 11 miles from Hartland Point to Lundy in a bit under 20 minutes. This shows the island isn’t that isolated from the mainland in terms of how the *Peregrine* flies. What is unusual, this wasn’t a single bird but a pair, pointing towards some pair-bond and perhaps a day’s foraging flight to the mainland when food is scarcer on Lundy in winter.”

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *Nationally scarce migrant.*

A juvenile was in upper Millcombe during the late afternoon and early evening of 26 Sep. It was seen briefly near Millcombe House on the morning of 27th, but not subsequently (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was at Quarter Wall, initially just east of the main track on 24 May (Ken & Joan Saul) and 25 May (Jo Alexander) but had moved to the western end of the wall by 27th (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*), where it was still present on 28th (Martin Thorne). Record accepted by DBRC.



A Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*,
Millcombe, 20 October.
© Dean Jones

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

UK vagrant. Seven previous records for the island.

One showed well in Millcombe on 19 Oct (Dean Jones, Zoë Barton *et al.*). What is presumed to be the same bird, but conceivably a second individual given the number of Nearctic landbirds appearing in Britain and Ireland during the second half of Oct 2018, was seen briefly near Brambles on 22 Oct (Andy Jayne). Record accepted by BBRC – the eighth Lundy record; the last in Sep 2005.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A male in Millcombe on 31 May was singing first thing and last seen flying high across the valley to the north at around 10.30 hrs (Tony Taylor *et al.*). A female or immature was in Millcombe on 4 & 5 Sep (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). This is only the second autumn record for Lundy, the first dating back as far as 11 Oct 1967. Records accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

Three late winter and early spring records: one in Barton Field on 22 Feb (Dean Jones); one with a roosting flock of Carrion Crows on 16 Mar (Dean Jones); and one in Tent Field on 25 Mar and in St Helen's Field the following day (Tony Taylor). The only autumn record was of one from 24 to 27 Oct (Andy Jayne, Grant Sherman *et al.*).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeds; present throughout the year.

The highest pre-breeding count was 41 on 24 Mar. Ten nests were located: at Castle (Hammers) Copse, St Helen's Copse, Millcombe Wood, Quarter Wall Copse, Quarry Beach, Gannets' Combe, Old Light, Dead Cow Point, along the West Side near the Heinkel site just south of the Earthquake, and at the western end of Threequarter Wall (Dean Jones). Successful breeding confirmed with a fledgling in South West Field on 31 May. The highest autumn count was 53 on 12 Sep.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	34	41	38	25	39	23	34	53	40	50	44

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* or Carrion x Hooded Crow hybrid

Hooded Crow is a Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One, initially seen on Ackland’s Moor on 20 Mar (Rob Waterfield), was at Quarter Wall the next day (Dean Jones). Presumably the same individual was in Tillage Field on 28 Mar (Grant & Shelley Sherman). Dean Jones noted: “*Obvious contrast in colouration of head and wings to the rest of the bird’s body but body colouration much darker than typical Hooded Crow.*”

DBRC considered that this individual may have been a hybrid, rather than a pure Hooded Crow.



Ravens Corvus corax, Brick Field, 13 November. © Richard Campey

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

On 30 Jan apparently territorial birds were seen at South End, Halfway Wall Bay, Gannets’ Combe and Long Roost. A pair was carrying sticks to a nest site in Halfway Wall Bay on 1 Feb, at one point chasing off an interloper, a first-year Raven with a brownish cast and missing flight feathers on the right wing – a distinctive bird seen at Long Roost and North End on 30 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). One was found dead between Quarter Wall and Pondsbury on 27 Feb (LFS Working Party). The corpse was checked over by Lundy Warden Dean Jones, who suspected it may have died in a territorial fight. Fledged young were seen near North West Point (four), and the pair at Halfway Wall Bay fledged two young, as did a pair in the south west of the island, near Goat Island. The highest count of the year was 20 on 29 Aug.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	20	10	10	9	12	14	20	11	13	6	7

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Uncommon autumn migrant and very rare spring migrant; occasional in winter.

One in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse from 26 Jan to 1 Feb (Tim Davis & Tim Jones *et al.*) was presumed to be the same individual present at the end of 2017. It was heard singing on 30 Jan. A very active bird, calling frequently, was in Millcombe on 31 Mar and 1 & 3 Apr (Dean Jones, Tony Taylor, Neil Trout). This appears most likely to have been a newly arrived migrant, it seeming improbable that the bird seen in late Jan would have avoided detection for two months.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

Very few were present on the island in Jan and the first half of Feb, with only four records of one to three birds in the first half of Jan and maxima of five on 30 Jan and seven on 1 Feb in spite of thorough searching of suitable habitat across the island. On 30 Jan, one was picked up (by telescope) flying in over the sea towards North Light from a considerable distance out. There was a noticeable arrival after mid-Feb, when counts included 18 on 17th (including two small, mobile flocks near the Castle and 10 singing birds) and 17 on 21st, increasing further into Mar, in spite (or possibly because) of the 'Beast from the East', with 14 clustered around South West Point on 2 Mar, 21 on 6th and 25 on 24th. The highest spring count was 37 on 28 Apr. In terms of breeding, 52 territories were located, based on the presence of singing males (Dean Jones). An adult was carrying food to a nest on Ackland's Moor on 27 May and fledged young were seen there on 31st. Twelve were singing north of Threequarter Wall on 2 Jun. A very young bird (wing and tail feathers still not fully developed) was seen on Castle Parade on 13 Jul. Autumn passage was modest, with 50 on 24 Oct by far the highest total. The final double-digit count of the year was 14 on 13 & 17 Nov and there were no further records after one on 26 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	18	25	37	30	36	21	8	30	50	14	–
11	11	18	23	25	19	12	13	21	21	18	–

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

[Greater Short-toed Lark]

Nationally scarce migrant.

On 13 May, one was on the track along the West Side approximately 100 m south of the Old Light at 15.20 and later on the track near the stonecrusher at 17.35. On the latter occasion it flew to the corner of Lighthouse Field nearest the Cemetery. It was seen again – and photographed – at 19.25 (Sam Bosanquet). Record accepted by DBRC.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first of a cold, late spring were three over Millcombe and St John's Valley on 15 Mar, but it was not until 7 Apr that counts reached double digits, with 15. Numbers remained low until passage peaked at 200 on 4 May and 51 on 6th, but fell away again thereafter, the next highest total being 26 on 18 May. The last were two on 22 Jun. The first of autumn were two at Pondsby on 31 Jul. Thereafter, recorded on a further 21 dates until the final sighting of the year, five on 12 Oct. Numbers were generally low, with 25 on 30 Aug, 50 on 1 Sep and 20 on 2 Sep by far the highest counts.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	3	25	200	2	2	25	50	5	–	–
–	–	1	15	20	3	1	6	13	2	–	–

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

[Barn Swallow]

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

The first of the spring were three on 15 Mar, but there were only two further records before the end of Mar and numbers remained low during the first three weeks of Apr, other than a modest influx of 61 on 7th. It was only at the end of the month and into early May when migration picked up, with 120 on 23 Apr, 1,000 on 25th, 600 on 26th and 1,200 on 4 May. However, there followed a further lull and it was not until the third week of May that numbers peaked at 3,000 on 18th – an unusually late date for such a high count – with 900 the next day. Movements continued into early Jun, when there were 45 on 2nd. Pairs were feeding young chicks in the Church tower and in the shed at the southern end of Government House on 10 Jun (Dean Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed when four fledglings, from a nest in the pigsty, were perched on a fence in Brick Field on 2 Jul and a fourth active nest was found at Quarry Pond on 20 Jul (Dean Jones). The first obvious migrants of autumn were 10 heading south over Lametor on 21 Aug, followed by an influx of 135 on 30 Aug. Numbers peaked in the last week of Sep, following a period of unsettled weather mid-month, with 1,400 on 24th, 1,500 on 26th and an estimated 4,000 on 27th. The last of the year was one on 27 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	1,000	3,000	45	9	135	4,000	130	–	–
–	–	3	24	31	21	19	18	28	19	–	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

Spring migration was late to get going and numbers were worryingly low. The first were four on 3 Apr but counts during the rest of the month only reached double digits on three dates, with a modest maximum of 40 on 13th. Numbers remained stubbornly low until the second half of May, when there were 124 on 18th and 100 on 19th, movements continuing well into Jun, the highest count being 21 on 2nd. After sporadic sightings of feeding or dispersing birds in Jul, autumn passage movements extended from the end of Aug until the end of Oct (one on 26th being the last), with numbers peaking at 200 on 27 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	40	124	21	12	15	200	42	–	–
–	–	–	17	27	11	4	4	16	12	–	–

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Lundy vagrant; three previous records.

One was seen briefly in Millcombe on 17 Oct (Richard Campey) – only the fourth record for Lundy, following singles in 2003, 2006 and 2009, all of which also occurred during the second half of Oct.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.

A singing male heard briefly in Millcombe on 3 May (Rob Duncan) was the only spring passage record, whilst the only autumn bird was one in Millcombe on 5 Sep (Josh Harris).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

There were records on 14 dates, 4 to 26 Oct, probably involving 15 or more individuals, with a maximum of four on 24th: two on 4 Oct, one in Millcombe and one in bracken along the East Side Path below Halfway Wall (Tim Davis & Tim Jones); one on 5 Oct in Millcombe, presumed the same as on 4th (Tim Jones); two on 11 Oct, one in Millcombe (Smelly Gully) and one on the Terrace (Dean Jones); one on 15 Oct in Millcombe (Andy Bell, Richard Campey & Malcolm Davies); three on 16 Oct, two in Millcombe and one along the Terrace (Richard Campey & Malcolm Davies); one on 17 Oct in Millcombe (Richard Campey & Malcolm Davies); one on 19 Oct in St Helen's Copse (Dean Jones); singles on 20, 21 & 22 Oct in Millcombe (Andy Jayne); four on 24 Oct in Millcombe, of which three trapped and ringed (Justin Zantboer *et al.*), and two in Quarter Wall Copse (Paul Holt); two on 25 Oct in Millcombe (Paul Holt, Justin Zantboer *et al.*); and one on 26 Oct in Millcombe (Paul Holt).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Oct (Rob Duncan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer *et al.*) – the sixth record for Lundy, the last being on 28 Oct 2016. Record accepted by DBRC.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first spring migrants were a single bird on 24 Mar, followed by four on 30th. Migration peaked as usual in Apr but numbers followed the same general pattern as for Chiffchaff, with small influxes spread throughout the month, suggesting that adverse conditions en route may have prevented rapid, mass movement north. The highest counts (of 50 or more) were 50 on 13th, 60 on 19th, 100 on 21st and 56 on 22nd. Movements tailed off rapidly after the first week of May and although a singing male was heard at the end of the month, it did not continue holding territory and there was no evidence of breeding. The first signs of returning migrants were three to nine birds daily 19–22 Jul, followed by an arrival of 117, including both adults and juveniles, on 25th. Passage continued throughout Aug and Sep, with a further fall of 128 on 23 Aug (the highest count of the season) following light overnight rainfall. The last of the year were two on 19 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	4	100	30	2	117	128	23	2	–	–
–	–	2	26	21	4	9	18	20	6	–	–



A Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*,
Millcombe, 14 November.
© Richard Campey

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in midsummer and winter; breeds sporadically.

The cold weather in March meant that spring migration was rather slow to get going. After two feedings around Millcombe Pond on the fairly average first date of 14 Mar, numbers during the rest of the month were lower than normal, with one to three birds only until eight on 30 Mar and 10 on 2 Apr. There was a small fall of 49 on 4 Apr and further modest arrivals were scattered throughout the rest of Apr, including 37 on 13th, 40 on 19th, 37 on 20th and 32 on 28th, followed by 21 on the relatively late date of 21 May. This all suggests a more protracted passage than normal, with birds moving north sporadically and in relatively small numbers, probably in response to adverse conditions on their migration route. Singing birds (presumed late migrants) were heard at the bottom of Gannets' Combe on 4 Jun and at the Old Light shearwater colony (!) on 5th. One was also singing at Jenny's Cove at 05.30 on 13 Jun. Singing males were also heard in more suitable breeding habitat in Millcombe, St. Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse during the first week of Jun. A pair was nest building in lower Millcombe on 6 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) and fledglings were seen in Smelly Gully on 20 Jun (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton), suggesting at least two breeding attempts were made. Autumn movements were noticeable from the second week of Sep and peaked at 60 on 29 Sep and 49 on 17 Oct. Single birds were noted on 14 dates in Nov & Dec, the last of these on New Year's Eve!

Calling individuals showing characteristics of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P.c. tristis* were in Millcombe on 24 Oct (Ellie & Justin Zantboer) and 27 Oct (Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. On the latter date, a probable 'Siberian' Chiffchaff was also seen near the Landing Shed (Dean Jones), but this bird unfortunately did not call – a feature required for acceptance by Devon Birds.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	8	49	21	8	6	5	60	49	1	1
–	–	8	25	30	20	14	12	25	26	8	6

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus*

UK vagrant. Breeds in parts of Turkey, the Caucasus and Iran, wintering in southern India and Sri Lanka. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One discovered in Millcombe on 7 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) was the first for Lundy and Devon and only the fifth to be recorded in the UK – see p.95. Record accepted by BBRC.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically. Spring passage was extremely sparse. Although there were records on 25 dates from 20 Apr (one) to 2 Jun (two), numbers failed to reach double digits, the maxima being just eight on 5 May and nine on 7th. All other counts were of one to four birds only. During autumn passage, recorded on 14 dates from 30 Jul (one) to 7 Sep (one), with the highest count being five on 29 & 30 Aug.

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

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

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring migrants were recorded on 13 scattered dates from 30 Apr to 19 Jun, including a singing male in Millcombe on five dates 27 May to 1 Jun and (presumably) a different singing male in Millcombe on 19 Jun. All records concerned single birds, with the exception of two in Millcombe on 19 May (Dean Jones). In autumn, single birds were recorded on seven dates from 28 Aug to 1 Oct. These included a bird trapped and ringed on 29 Sep and still present on 1 Oct.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was watched for about 10 minutes from the Terrace and Lower East Side Path on 5 Oct (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Initially perched on the willows near the Terrace Heligoland Trap, the bird worked its way along and up the sidelands towards Quarry Cottages, before diving back down towards the Terrace, where it could not be relocated. The first Lundy record since Sep 2012. Record accepted by DBRC.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

In one of the worst spring passages on record, single birds were seen on just five dates from 12 Apr (one 'reeling' from brambles behind the Secret Garden in lower Millcombe) to 13 May (the latter at North End). The only autumn records were of singles on 26 Sep (flushed from bracken below Hanmers) and the unusually late date of 18 Oct, when one was flushed at the western end of Quarter Wall (Andy Jayne).

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

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

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

[Eurasian Blackcap]

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in winter. Successful breeding confirmed for the first time in 2016, following a breeding attempt of unknown outcome in 2015.

Spring migration showed a pattern similar to that for the other commoner, habitually early warblers (Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler), namely a late start, then spread over a fairly protracted period, with few big arrivals. In recent years we have come to expect the first Blackcaps before the end of Mar, but the earliest in 2018 was a single male on 1 Apr. Some notable counts included 30 on 4th, 21 on 8th, 23 on 11th, 66 on 12th and 80 on 13th. Further influxes brought 60 on 19th and 30 from 28th to 30th, followed by 20 on 3 May, but movements tailed off into the second week of May. A pair was seen in Millcombe during the first week of Jun and song heard there and at St Helen’s and Quarter Wall Copses, but it was not until 17 Jul that breeding was confirmed when a female was feeding fledglings in the ‘Secret Garden’ in lower Millcombe (Dean Jones) – only the second record of successful breeding. The first significant influx of autumn passage involved 33 on 4 Sep, counts peaking at 150 on 22 Sep and 110 on 16 Oct. The last of the year was a single male on 26 Nov.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	80	30	4	3	3	150	110	9	–
–	–	–	27	26	14	8	15	25	30	14	–



A Garden Warbler Sylvia borin, Millcombe, 26 October.
© Dean Jones

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

The only spring passage records were of single birds on five dates from 28 Apr to 7 May, and two on 3 May. In autumn, recorded on six dates from 23 Aug to 26 Oct; all were single birds except for three on the first date.

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

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

[Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Uncommon but virtually annual spring and autumn passage migrant; has bred (2002).

Unusually, there were no records at all during 2018.]

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; has bred.

An extremely poor spring passage saw very low numbers of migrants, with never more than four in a day, scattered across a period from 13 Apr (a male at Threequarter Wall) to 25 May (two), followed by single birds, including a territory-holding but apparently unpaired male, up to the end of Jun and into early Jul. After scattered singles from 31 Jul to mid-Aug, the first real indication of autumn passage was an influx of nine on 23 Aug. The highest count was 10 on 4 Sep, whilst the last of the year was a single bird at the head of St Helen's Combe on 4 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	4	4	1	2	9	10	1	–	–
–	–	–	6	17	10	6	9	9	2	–	–

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

Uncommon spring passage migrant, more regular and more numerous in autumn; has wintered.

A female seen daily in the Smelly Gully area of lower Millcombe, 27 to 29 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones), was presumed to be the same individual as seen there in Dec 2017. During spring passage single birds were seen on 23 Mar, 20, 21 & 25 Apr (the bird on the latter date sexed as a female) and 18 to 20 May (a singing male in Millcombe). The first of the autumn, a single bird photographed in Millcombe on the early date of 18 Aug (Steve McAusland/MARINELife), was followed by records on a further 17 dates, including the last of the year, one on 12 Dec. The highest count was three on 27 Sep and 4 & 19 Oct.

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

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

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, most numerous in autumn; has bred; occasional in winter.

There were sightings of a single bird on 5, 27 & 28 Jan. A strong spring passage was noted on 48 dates from 9 Mar (one) to 23 May (one), peaking in the first half of Apr when higher counts included 18 on 4th, 22 on 5th, 20 on 9th and 25 on 13th, falling back to single digits thereafter. Autumn movements were recorded from the third week of Aug, with the arrival of five on 20th, and continued until the end of Nov. The highest counts were 40 on 30 Sep and 16 Oct, and 56

on 17 Oct. During Dec there were scattered records of one to four birds on four dates, including two on 31st.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	9	25	2	–	–	5	40	56	9	4
3	–	14	24	10	–	–	8	29	26	16	4

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.

A count of 37 was made during a walk of the whole island perimeter on 30 Jan. Unsurprisingly, the severe cold during Mar appears to have depleted the breeding population significantly, particularly along the East Side, where just 12 singing males were found from the north end of the quarries southward, including Millcombe/St John's, on 3 Jun. This area usually supports a much higher density of Wren territories (BTO BirdTrack data show that Wrens are much more easily detected in Jun than in Jan). Circumstantially, it appeared that birds with West Side territories might have fared better than those on the East Side (which would have been exposed to the full strength of the 'Beast from the East'); the number of singing Wrens along the West Side was not noticeably lower than normal (Tim Jones). Fledglings were seen in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 20 Jun (Dean Jones). The autumn peak of 30 on 24 Oct was also well down on many recent years and lower than the count of 37 in Oct 2017, which had also been a poor year for Wrens.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
37	14	5	13	11	24	7	14	17	30	13	12

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

One found in Millcombe during the mid-afternoon of 6 Apr (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones) was watched until 18.00 "as it busily picked its way through every bit of lichen and bryophyte throughout the valley looking for a meal". However, it could not be found the next day.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

Three records involving at least four individuals. Two adults (presumed male & female, as one was a distinctly brighter bird) were seen at Quarter Wall (main track gate) at 06.15 on 3 Jun. At 08.30 they were flying down St John's Valley and then perched on the Church before dropping down into the Tent Field, where they were still present 09.40-10.00, though by 10.00 the two birds appeared to have split up, with only the (presumed) female seen later in the day, e.g. Tillage Field pigsty at 18.30 (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Almost a week later, on 9 Jun, an adult was seen with Starlings near the Old Light during the morning by one of the Manx Shearwater survey team, then by Frances Stuart and Rebecca & Richard Taylor in the afternoon, when it was wheeling around Millcombe. This could have been one of the birds seen on 3rd, but perhaps more likely a new arrival, especially given the exceptional 'invasion' of this species into western Europe during June 2018. This individual remained on the island until 29 Jun. A juvenile was around the chicken run outside Quarters on 6 Sep (Rebecca & Rich Taylor, Tony Taylor *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

The highest count at the start of the year was 80 on 29 Jan, probably representing the size of the island's breeding population. Modest spring-passage influxes saw totals of 200 on 23 & 25 Mar and 150 on 4 Apr. A census of nests in the Village and at the Old Light complex, carried out between 31 May and 3 Jun (Tim Jones), produced a minimum of 39 active nests, all of which had young being fed. A couple of nests at least had already fledged, so it is safe to say that there were over 40 nests in 2018 – the highest total ever recorded, providing more circumstantial evidence of the benefits of rat eradication for hole-nesting landbirds (in addition to seabirds as the prime target beneficiaries). The highest count immediately post-breeding was 190 on 16 Jun. The first major influx of autumn brought 410 on 19 Oct. Other counts of ≥400 were 400 on 30 Oct and 16 & 19 Nov, and 600 (the autumn/early-winter peak) on 14 Nov.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80	60	200	150	50	190	57	210	200	410	600	300

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

Spring migrants were recorded on five dates from 4 to 29 Apr. A female on 4th was followed by two females (near the Timekeeper's Hut) on 6th, single males on 11th & 12th (the latter at Benjamin's Chair) and three birds (locations not given) on 29th. In autumn there were records on ten dates from 21 Sep to 13 Nov. All of these concerned single birds with the exception of two on 15 & 27 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	–
–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	2	7	1	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

In common with other thrushes (see below), good numbers were present at the start of the year, with a maximum of 26 on 27 Jan. However, there was less indication than for other thrush species of any significant arrival prompted by the cold snap of early Mar; 14 on 7th was the highest count of that period. Birds were seen with nesting material (sheep wool) in Millcombe on 15 Mar (Dean Jones). Observations during the spring suggested that the breeding population may have been about 10 pairs, including six in Millcombe, and single pairs at Quarters, Quarter Wall, North Quarry and near Tibbetts. Successful breeding was confirmed when adults were carrying food in Millcombe on 17 May (James Diamond) and fledglings were seen there on 19th (Dean Jones). A second clutch was being incubated at the Casbah (Millcombe) on 13 Jun; a pair were taking food to a nest in gorse bushes just west of Tibbetts on 6 Jun; another nest was located in gorse at the western end of Quarter Wall on 7 Jun; and an adult was feeding a fledgling in the Tavern garden on 6 Jun. There was no evidence of any real movement in Sep and though counts occasionally reached double digits in the first half of Oct, it was not until 16 Oct that a noticeable arrival of 45 birds occurred. A further influx at the end of the month brought

40 on 28 Oct, 65 on 29th and an exceptional 200 on 30th. Numbers in Nov were modest and, after 10 on 12 Dec, only low single digits were being recorded by the end of the year.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	12	22	12	18	16	8	8	9	200	22	10



A Fieldfare Turdus pilaris, Quarter Wall, 25 November.
© Dean Jones

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

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

Early in the year ones and twos occurred on five scattered dates from 5 Jan to 24 Feb, followed by a small influx coinciding with the cold snap of early Mar, with daily records 1st to 9th, including a max of 20 on 4th. Ones and twos were recorded on four subsequent dates to 9 Apr, the latter the remains of a predated bird near Halfway Wall. In autumn and early winter, recorded on 32 dates from 18 Oct (24) to 14 Dec (one), with a maximum of 40 on 29 & 30 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	20	1	–	–	–	–	–	40	34	35
2	5	12	1	–	–	–	–	–	14	15	3

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

At the start of the year, unusually high numbers remained on the island from the influxes of the previous autumn and early winter, with maxima of 37 on 5 Jan, 22 on 12 Feb and 25 on 22 Feb. A significant new influx coincided with the severe cold weather of early Mar, with 31 on 3rd, 257 on 4th (scattered across the whole island, though most in Brick, Tillage and St Helen's

Fields), 52 on 5th, 124 on 6th and 48 on 7th. Numbers were subsequently much lower, with observations on just six dates, including a peak of 11 on 28 Mar, until the last of the spring, a single bird on 4 Apr. The first of the autumn, a single bird on 10 Oct, was followed by records on a further 46 dates until the last of the year on 17 Dec. The highest counts were 290 on 29 Oct and 250 the following day.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
37	25	257	1	–	–	–	–	–	290	51	12
16	11	11	2	–	–	–	–	–	17	22	8

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common migrant in early spring and late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Occasional resident and sporadic breeder prior to 2010.

There were large numbers of winter visitors on the island at the beginning of the year, with peak counts of 21 on 5 Jan and 24 on 27th. Numbers dropped back in Feb but rose again during the ‘Beast from the East’ in early Mar, when 18 were counted on 2nd (of which 17 were at South West Point, apparently attempting to leave the island with other passerines) and 14 on 4th. From 14 Mar onwards only single birds were noted, with the exception of two on 12 Apr. The last was one on 8 May. Although winter visitors were singing in Millcombe at the end of Jan, there was no evidence of territory-holding birds later in the spring. The handful of records in Jul/Aug is thought to relate to one or more juveniles dispersing from the mainland. In autumn, only scattered singles were recorded until mid-Oct, but there were daily sightings from 15th to the end of the month, with peaks of 16 on 19th and 14 on 25th. Small numbers remained through Nov & Dec.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	12	18	2	1	–	1	2	1	16	7	4
16	11	15	4	2	–	1	5	3	22	14	5

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

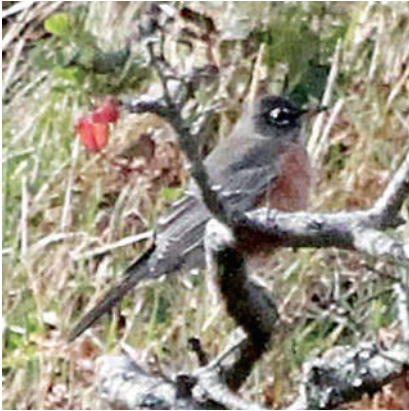
Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant; rare summer and winter visitor.

In late winter, single birds (probably one and the same individual) were seen near the Heinkel wreck on the plateau on 26 Feb (Trevor Dobie & Louise Cookson/LFS Working Party) and below Benjamin’s Chair on 28 Feb (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). One was feeding at the eastern end of Halfway Wall, close to the Logan Stone on 4 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). There were autumn records on nine dates from 29 Sep to 26 Nov, all involving single birds in the Millcombe area, except for two flying over the Village on 21 Oct (Dean Jones).

American Robin *Turdus migratorius*

UK vagrant.

A first-winter bird was watched and photographed in Millcombe for about 15 minutes on 26 Oct (Paul Holt). There have been three previous Lundy records, in 1952, 1962 and 1982, all between 27 Oct and 18 Nov. Record accepted by BBRC.



American Robin *Turdus migratorius*,
Millcombe, 26 October. © Paul Holt



A Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*,
Millcombe, 10 October. © Philip LyMBERy

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common but declining spring and autumn passage migrant; irregular breeder, last confirmed in 2017.

Spring migrants were recorded on 32 dates from 28 Apr (three) to 21 Jun (one), with a maximum of 12 on both 31 May and 2 Jun. In autumn, recorded on 37 dates from 13 Aug (one) to 8 Oct (one), with maxima of 24 on 28 Aug, 15 on 30 Aug, 12 on 3 Sep and a late influx of 11 on 26 Sep. Suitable habitat, including Quarter Wall Copse, where a pair nested successfully in 2017, was carefully checked, but there was no indication that breeding occurred in 2018.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	3	12	12	–	24	12	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	19	10	–	9	24	4	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Late winter and early spring counts showed a healthy island population with monthly maxima in double digits for Jan–Apr. However, the small numbers recorded during the breeding season suggest that some of these may have been winter visitors and/or passage migrants. There were at least four territories and two successful pairs during the breeding season. Two pairs bred in Millcombe: an adult was carrying food in Millcombe wood on 2 & 7 Jun; an adult carrying nesting material was seen on 6 Jun; and adults were feeding young at a nest on 20 Jun (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). The highest autumn passage counts were 27 on 30 Sep, 21 on 24 Sep & 4 Oct and 20 on 16 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	10	11	13	4	5	3	3	27	21	9	7

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

[Common Nightingale]

Lundy vagrant. Last recorded in Aug 2017.

One was in Millcombe on 20 Apr (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

Uncommon spring migrant; common autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; occasional records in midsummer.

Spring passage was noted on 10 dates from 7 Apr to 2 Jun. These were all single birds apart from two on 11 & 13 Apr. In autumn, recorded on 20 dates from 8 Aug (one) to 26 Sep (one), with a maximum of 20 on 31 Aug – by far the highest count of recent years and part of a significant arrival of passage Pied Flycatchers reported elsewhere in Britain. Numbers remained high from 1 to 3 Sep, with counts of 16, 15 & 11, respectively.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	2	1	1	–	20	16	–	–	–
–	–	–	7	1	2	–	9	11	–	–	–

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common late-autumn migrant, usually in small numbers; uncommon spring migrant; has overwintered.

In late winter two were below Benjamin's Chair on 31 Jan, followed by singles there on 15 & 27 Feb. Spring passage was recorded on six dates from 6 Apr to 27 May, with a maximum of two on 13 Apr. Scarce in autumn, with ones and twos on only 10 dates from 15 Oct to 15 Nov.

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

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

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

In spring there were records on seven dates from 12 Apr (five) to 20 May (two), with a maximum of six on 13 Apr. During autumn passage there were records on nine dates from 3 Sep to 16 Oct – all single birds with the exception of two on 1 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	6	2	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
–	–	–	5	2	–	–	–	5	4	–	–

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

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

Depressingly, for a species that appears to be getting scarcer on Lundy, there were just two spring records, both of single birds, on 22 Apr and 7 May. Autumn migrants were noted on only six dates from 2 Sep to 18 Oct, with a maximum of four on 3 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	5	1	-	-



A Stonechat Saxicola rubicola, Pondsbury, 14 November. © Richard Campey

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

Breeds occasionally (most recently in 2015, following a five-year gap); uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.

An exceptionally high spring-passage count of 24 (13 male and 11 females) was made on 7 Mar. A pair were feeding fledged young just north of St Helen's Copse on 21 Aug, the first confirmation of successful breeding since 2015 (Dean Jones *et al.*). The highest counts during autumn passage were 21 on 17 Oct and 14 the next day.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	24	8	2	3	3	4	9	21	5	1
1	10	16	13	9	3	9	9	12	24	8	1

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The first of the year was a male on Ackland's Moor on 12 Mar (Zoë Barton). However, the severe weather during Mar meant that returning migrants faced extremely challenging conditions, such that peak counts during spring passage were lower than normal – 38 on 9 Apr, 48 on 30 Apr and 36 on 18 May being the highest totals. Nevertheless, the ongoing colour-ringing study of the island's breeding population showed that at least 56% of the birds breeding in 2017 survived migration to and from their African winter quarters and bred on Lundy in 2018. The main study area (from the Castle, along the South End and West Side as far north as Halfway Wall) was estimated to have held 53 pairs in 2018, the same as in 2017, but the whole-island population estimate was down slightly at 114 pairs. Autumn passage was even thinner than in spring with only 11 double-digit counts from mid-Jul to the beginning of Nov. The Sep max of just 15 occurred on 13th, whilst the last of the year was a single bird, in Lighthouse Field, on the very late date of 11 Nov (Richard Campey).

Request. *Please continue to record any Wheatear colour-ring sightings in the LFS logbook. Photos are particularly appreciated and can be sent to gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.*

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	7	48	36	86	30	14	15	6	1	–
–	–	12	22	28	19	15	13	22	10	1	–

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident; present throughout the year; only one confirmed instance of emigration to the mainland and no confirmed immigration.

Maximum count for each month recorded in the LFS Logbook

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	70	20	50	20	50	36	170	160	40	17	50

Lucy Winder has contributed the following report on behalf of the Lundy Sparrow Project:

The first winter period of 2018 was very harsh, with the first snow on Lundy in 10 years. Though there was no obvious decline in sparrow numbers, we believe they were somewhat affected. The subsequent breeding season began quite late in comparison to previous years and though sparrows can have up to four broods a year, few had more than two. There were also few adults from the previous year's fledglings, suggesting that the young birds didn't fare very well in the cold. Those breeding in the lambing shed appeared to do a bit better, as birds there began breeding before elsewhere on the island (likely due to the shelter provided).

Overall however, the breeding season was largely successful. In total, there were 175 broods, a fairly average number compared to other years, but lower than in 2017 when 218 broods were recorded. Interestingly, the number of chicks didn't vary much between years. In 2018, 309 chicks were ringed (chicks are ringed when 12 days old and fledge when roughly 17 days old), whereas 317 chicks were ringed in 2017. This could be due

to parents raising larger broods in 2018 or a higher mortality rate of young chicks (fewer reaching the age of 12 days) in 2017.

The summer was a complete contrast to the cold winter, with some of the highest temperatures on record. It was incredibly dry, with hardly any rain in June and July. High temperatures can be an advantage to breeding birds, as the parents don't need to spend as much time brooding the young and can therefore spend more time foraging for food. Conversely, if temperatures are too high, the chicks can overheat, but as most of the nestboxes are shaded from the sun, this is unlikely to have been a major issue. The dry conditions did mean that insect numbers were likely reduced as the plants they feed on struggle without sufficient water. This was evident as we found a number of chicks that had choked (or were choking) on something they shouldn't have been fed. For example, a few chicks were found choking on moss, others on bits of straw or hay and some on horse hair. Though occasionally this does happen by accident when chicks find something in the nest, the number of instances in 2018 suggests that they were being fed these items by their parents – probably because the parents were struggling to find insects. This may be another factor causing the lower number of broods compared to 2017, though the overall population size appears not to have been affected.

We returned to Lundy in November 2018 to mist-net adult birds to replace lost colour-rings (used for identification); 146 individuals were caught over a period of a week. Approximately half were fledglings from the summer. It is normal to have such a high proportion of the year's chicks in the population at that time of year as most birds don't survive their first winter.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

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

One was carrying nesting material in Smelly Gully (lower Millcombe) on 4 May and an adult was taking food to chicks in upper Millcombe on 2 & 31 May. On 2 Jun there was a singing male near Brambles stream, a pair carrying food just below Smelly Gully dam and an adult feeding fledged young by Millcombe gates. Further singing males were noted just north of St Helen's Copse and just south of Quarter Wall Copse on 3 Jun. Altogether, there were three nests in Millcombe, one below the Terrace and a possible nest along the Lower East Side Path above White Beach (Dean Jones). There were hints of a small post-breeding or autumn passage influx, with counts reaching 11 on 24 Sep and 19 Oct.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	5	4	4	7	4	5	11	11	7	7

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

[Western Yellow Wagtail]

The British race M. f. flavissima is an uncommon spring migrant, regular early autumn migrant in small numbers and occasional summer visitor. It was formerly more numerous, particularly in autumn. The continental race M. f. flava 'Blue-headed Wagtail' occurs occasionally in spring; all other races are vagrants.

During spring migration there were records of ones and twos on four dates from 8 May to 2 Jun. Autumn records were equally scarce, with single birds on just five dates from 29 Aug to 26 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2	3	-	-	-

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

The only winter occurrences concerned one over South West Point on 17 Feb and likely the same bird reported on 19th. During spring and early summer, singles were recorded on two days in mid-Mar and on the unusual dates of 16 May and 2, 3 & 26 Jun, the last of these in Millcombe (Dean Jones). Autumn passage yielded records on 33 dates from 23 Aug (one) to 1 Nov (one), with a maximum of four on 24 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	3	4	1	-
-	2	2	-	1	3	-	3	12	17	1	-



Pied Wagtails Motacilla a. yarrellii, Millcombe, 20 June.
© Dean Jones

Pied / White Wagtail *Motacilla a. yarrellii* / *M. a. alba*

[White Wagtail]

Pied Wagtail: nests most years in small numbers; common spring and autumn migrant: rare in midwinter. White Wagtail: occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

After a single Pied Wagtail in flight over Tillage Field on 26 Jan, there were no further sightings until the end of Feb. The cold weather during much of Mar was presumably responsible for the unusually low numbers recorded during spring passage, with no count reaching double digits, the peak being eight on 6 Mar. A pair were carrying food to a nest near the stonecrusher on 5 Jun, whilst a second pair, also carrying food, were perched on Quarry Cottages and active

around Brick Field on 6 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A third pair bred successfully in Millcombe walled gardens (Dean Jones). Noticeable autumn movements began in the last week of Aug and continued through Sep and Oct, peaking at 23 on 29 Sep and 33 on 1 Oct. There were further scattered records in Nov and Dec, including, two on the unusual date of 31 Dec.

Small numbers of White Wagtails were recorded on 15 dates in spring, from 1 Apr to 25 May (max two on eight of these dates), and on seven occasions in autumn, from 23 Aug (one) to 1 Oct (one), with a maximum of four on 23 Sep.

Pied Wagtail, including unidentified *alba* wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	8	6	5	5	3	10	23	33	2	2
1	2	20	23	29	16	20	11	24	22	7	2

White Wagtail: maximum count for each month (top) and number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	2	2	–	–	2	4	1	–	–
–	–	–	7	8	–	–	2	4	1	–	–



A Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*,
Pondbury, 10 June.
© Dean Jones

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeds; very common passage migrant in spring and autumn; uncommon in winter. Following small numbers in Jan and Feb, spring passage got underway in Mar, in spite of the exceptionally cold conditions that prevailed during much of the month. Peak counts were 150 on 11th and 147 on 15th, although counts in Apr appeared lower than in many previous springs, with 119 on 13th being by far the highest. One was gathering nesting material below the Ugly

on 23 Apr, an adult was carrying food to young in a nest on Ackland's Moor on 27 May (Dean Jones) and the first fledged young were reported from South West Field on 31 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Presumed second broods were being fed in the nest at Quarter Wall and along the Upper East Side Path on 15 Jul (Dean Jones). No estimate was made of the size of the breeding population. Autumn passage peaked during the last week of Sep and the first week of Oct when there were three counts >500: 1,000 on 28 Sep, 650 on 29th and 700 on 3 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	8	150	119	42	80	79	100	1,000	700	17	7
7	10	16	24	26	18	13	12	26	26	16	4

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Spring passage was noted on eight dates from 20 Apr to 28 May, when all records concerned ones and twos only. The first returning migrants were three over Millcombe on 13 Aug, after which there were records on a further 18 dates until the last of the year, a single bird on 14 Oct. The highest count was seven on 21 Aug, of which six were seen and heard calling loudly as they moved south in a loose group, whilst one was perched at the top of Millcombe (Dean Jones).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	2	1	–	–	7	2	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	4	–	–	10	7	2	–	–

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

A count of the entire island perimeter on 26 Jan yielded a minimum total of 23 birds (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). Adults carrying food were seen on Rat Island and Lametor on 1 Jun, and 14 adults, including at least two carrying food, were counted from the Castle, around South West Point and the West Side as far as Dead Cow Point on 3 Jun (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). An adult was feeding a fledgling east of Benjamin's Chair on 7 Jun (Rebecca & Richard Taylor). The autumn maximum of 18 was recorded on 6 Oct and included a feeding flock of 15 (together with a Wheatear) taking advantage of the shelter from a stiff northerly afforded by the lower sidelands on the sunny, south-facing flank of Dead Cow Point (Tim Jones).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	15	9	9	16	19	5	9	9	18	5	7

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

[Common Chaffinch]

Resident, breeding annually in small numbers. Common, at times abundant, on autumn passage; noticeable spring passage rarely recorded; winter influxes in some years.

Late winter and early spring counts were in low single digits, with the exception of 10 on 20 &

21 Feb, nine on 22 Mar and 10 on 4 Apr. Song was heard in Millcombe on 5 Apr, but only one to three birds were recorded on all except one date from the last week of Apr until the last week of Sep, and there was no proof of breeding. An unpaired bird singing from the sycamore next to the dining room window of Millcombe House built a nest in a neighbouring sycamore just above the staff cottages. Curiously, this bird, which sang for about a week and was captured on video on 4 May, had extremely pale, female-like plumage, with just a hint of a pink flush in the centre of the breast (Zoë Barton & Dean Jones). An apparent female may have been carrying food to a nest site or fledgling in blackthorn on the south-east side of the Ugly on 6 Jun, but there was no sign of a male (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). In autumn and early winter the first signs of passage occurred during late Sep and the first half of Oct, with eight on 24 Sep, 10 on 27th and 14 on 7 Oct. The main movements took place in the last two weeks of Oct and included, 160 on 20th, 600 on 21st, 478 on 27th, 1,410 on 29th and 200 on 31st. Passage extended well into Nov, with peak counts of between 400 and 500 on 9th, 10th & 12th, 120 on 16th & 19th and double-digit counts as late as 26th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	9	10	3	4	2	3	10	1,410	500	3



*A Brambling Fringilla montifringilla,
Brick Field, 13 October.
© Richard Campey*

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon spring migrant; annual autumn migrant in variable numbers; occasional in winter.

A lone male in Millcombe from 26 to 31 Mar was heard singing on 31st; an event that appears to be a first for the island. This was the only occurrence until autumn passage, during which birds were recorded on 21 dates from 15 Oct (one) to 26 Nov (two), with maxima of 14 on 25 Oct and 17 on 29 Oct – a fairly good showing for Lundy.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

A male, first seen in a tree in the Laundry garden on 8 May (Zoë Barton) was in Millcombe, on feeders at Pig's Paradise and flying over the Tavern on 10th (Dean Jones *et al.*). What seems very likely to have been the same male (though this is by no means certain given the

large numbers present in the UK after the influx of autumn 2017) was seen in Millcombe on at least seven further dates from 17 May to 2 Jun (James Diamond, Dean Jones *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant.

There was a remarkable series of spring records between 28 Mar and 2 Jun. Single females were seen in Millcombe on 28 Mar, 12 & 21 Apr (Darrin Dowding, Rob Duncan, Martyn Roper *et al.*). A probable male was reported on 22 Apr (Rob Andrew); two females were seen together on 23rd and one was later ringed on the same date (Rob Duncan, David Kightley). One was heard calling in Millcombe, 25 to 27 Apr, and single females were seen there on 28th and 2 & 5 May – the bird on 2nd confirmed as being unringed (Rob Duncan, Dean Jones *et al.*). A single female was again noted in Millcombe daily from 29 May to 2 Jun (Dean Jones, Tony Taylor *et al.*). On 31st “it perched calling near Government House at c.17.00, flew high in a big loop over the Village and farm, calling constantly, before turning back and dropping into Millcombe again” (Tim Jones).



A Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrina*, Millcombe, 25 May.
© Richard Campey

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrina*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A singing male in full breeding plumage was in Millcombe on 25 May (Tony Taylor *et al.*). A first-winter bird was seen briefly in Millcombe on 20 Oct (Andy Jayne). Common Rosefinches have now been recorded on Lundy for 12 consecutive years. Records accepted by DBRC.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

The only spring record was of a single female on 28 Apr. In autumn, records on 22 dates from 4 Sep (one) to 29 Oct, with maxima of six on 29 Sep and three on six days during the first half of Oct.



A Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, Millcombe,
14 October. © Dean Jones



A Linnet *Linaria cannabina*, Halfway Wall,
3 March. © Dean Jones

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

Lundy's breeding population of Linnets is migratory and it is normal for there to be few, if any, records in Jan or Feb. The cold weather in Mar preceded a late start to spring passage, nine on 5 Apr being the first occurrence of more than the odd one or two. After that, numbers built up rapidly, reaching 50 on 6 & 9 Apr and 271 on 13th, the highest count of the spring. There was no estimate of the size of the breeding population and no records of fledged young were entered in the LFS logbook. However, four females carrying nesting material were seen on 6 May, a pair was courtship feeding near Brambles on 31 May and another pair was visiting a nest on Lametor, in scrub near the top of the steps up to South Light, on 1 Jun. Higher post-breeding counts included 99 on 25 Jul, 170 on 29 Aug, 147 on 9 Sep and 330 on 29 Sep, the latter being the autumn-passage maximum.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	2	2	271	48	50	99	170	330	235	20	2
2	1	13	23	28	15	18	14	26	26	15	2

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

[Common Redpoll]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant in variable numbers; rare in winter.

In spring, records on 17 dates from 23 Apr to 13 Jun, mostly involving single birds, with two on 4 & 18 May and 1 Jun. A male was singing from the roof of Government House on 7 May. There was an unusual summer record of one on 3 & 4 Jul, calling over the Village on the first date (Dean Jones). Autumn migrants were recorded on 19 dates from 1 Oct (five) to 15 Nov (one), with a peak of 14 on 26 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	2	2	1	–	–	14	1	–
–	–	–	2	12	3	2	–	–	18	1	–



*A Goldfinch fledgling Carduelis carduelis, Millcombe, 9 August.
© Dean Jones*

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Recorded in all months of the year. Ones and twos were seen regularly from Jan to Mar, and there were three on 26 Mar. After an influx of 30 on 13 Apr, spring migration was modest until the second half of the month, when there were four further counts of 30 or more, peaking at 38 on 26th. Two pairs bred in Millcombe, with a third in the willows next to the Terrace Trap (the remains of the latter nest were still visible in Feb 2019). Fledged young were seen in the Secret Garden (lower Millcombe) on 31 May (Dean Jones) and presumably the same pair was feeding three or four young in Millcombe Wood on 1 Jun. The main autumn passage occurred between the last week of Sep and middle of Oct, with counts reaching 100 or more on six dates during this period, including the maximum of 230 on 3 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	3	38	27	17	18	25	160	230	6	1
10	7	12	26	31	19	17	18	25	26	14	4

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

During spring passage, ones and twos were reported on six dates from 5 Apr to 1 Jun. There were no further sightings until autumn, when there were records on 27 dates from 26 Sep (one) to 18 Nov (two), with a maximum of 50 on 14 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	–	1	2	2	–	–	13	50	2	–
–	–	–	2	3	1	–	–	3	22	2	–

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Unusually, there were no Sep or Oct records, the only bird of the year being one flying over Quarter Wall and heading south across the Airfield on 2 Nov (Ross Bower). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. The near absence of Lapland Buntings in autumn 2018 may have been associated with a cold, late summer in Greenland and drought conditions in Scandinavia.

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

A poor season with just eight records, one in spring and seven in autumn, all of single birds. A very bold female, seen initially by Peter Lambden, spent the morning of 12 Apr feeding along the High Street track across from the pigsty and was present in the same area at 18.45 on 13th. The first autumn migrant was watched as it flew out over the sea from the Castle on 28 Sep (Tim Davis). This was followed by singles at the Rocket Pole and in flight near the Tillage Field pigsty on 20 Oct (Andy Jayne); at the Rocket Pole on 28 Oct (Paul Holt); along the cliff-tops near Old Light, then flying south over South West Field on 31 Oct (Ross Bower); on the track to the Castle on 1 Nov (Ross Bower); calling over Millcombe on 13 Nov (Tony Taylor *et al.*); and calling over Quarter Wall on 26 Nov (Dean Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One was on the track outside Quarters during the morning of 2 Sep, then briefly above Benjamin's Chair in the afternoon (Richard & Rebecca Taylor *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

[Common Reed Bunting]

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

A female was at Pondsbury on the unusual date of 26 Jan (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). One on 4 Apr was the only spring migrant. In autumn and early winter there were records on 18 dates from 1 Oct (one) to 26 Nov (two), with a maximum of eight on 17 & 19 Oct.



A female Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, Ponsbury, 15 November.
© Richard Campey

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	8	2	–
1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	15	3	–

DBRC DECISION PENDING

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

A record of one reported over the West Side, north of Tibbetts, on 1 Nov 2018 remains under consideration by DBRC.

BIRDS SEEN ON THE CROSSING TO OR FROM LUNDY

Records of birds seen close to the island are incorporated in the main list, above. Other reports of interest for the 'open sea' part of the crossing are given below, but we do not cover the North Devon shoreline or the Taw & Torridge Estuary. Records for these areas should be submitted to the Devon Bird Recorder (recorder@devonbirds.org).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

23 Oct – three males seen from MS *Oldenburg* en route to Lundy (Justin Zantboer *et al.*).

DBRC DECISIONS ON DEVON COUNTY RARITY RECORDS

Little Bunting *Emeriza pusilla lapponicus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

2017. A record of one seen on the Terrace on 17 Oct (Richard Campey) was accepted by DBRC.

BBRC DECISIONS ON UK RARITY RECORDS ASSESSED AS 'NOT PROVEN'

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

A submission of one off the Landing Bay on 17 Oct 2016 was considered by BBRC as 'not proven'.

BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY IN 2018

by

TONY TAYLOR

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Introduction

In total, 2724 birds were ringed in 2018. In spring, ringers were on the island catching migrants for a week in late March and two and a half weeks in late April and early May. Coverage focusing on Wheatears consisted of three weeks in late May and early June, then Manx Shearwaters were the primary target for two and a half weeks from late August to mid-September, when early autumn migrants were also ringed. Migrants were then the main focus for the following two weeks, and again for four days in late October and a week in mid-November. Even though ringing coverage was similar to that in 2017, catches were reduced by spells of poor weather early and late in the season.

As in 2017, Blackcap topped the totals list, with 563 ringed. Manx Shearwater work was very productive, with a record total of 521. Swallow (461), Chiffchaff (185), Willow Warbler (325) and Goldfinch (161) also reached three figures. Goldcrest numbers vary greatly between years, with survival rates and breeding success highly dependent on weather conditions, and their 2018 numbers were less than a quarter of 2017's.

Other noteworthy totals included 37 Storm Petrels, with increasing numbers thought to be colonising Lundy as breeders; and 21 Dunnocks, the highest number since 2003 and a welcome rise after a run of lean years for the local population. Longer-term population trends can be difficult to assess because of changes in ringing effort and catching techniques, but several species have shown alarming declines as a percentage of Lundy's annual catches. Comparing the earliest available complete records, from 1972-81, with those of 2009-18, Garden Warblers have dropped from 1.5 to 0.2%, Spotted Flycatchers from 2.8 to 0.3%, Pied Flycatchers from 1.5 to 0.1% and Redstarts from 0.7 to 0.1%. These figures support other evidence that long-distance summer migrants have been facing very difficult times. Over the same period the main winners have been Manx Shearwater (1.7 to 11.8%), Blackcap (3.3 to 16.5%) and Goldfinch (0.1 to 2.1%), reflecting local or national population increases.

Among the 45 species caught, the most unusual nationally was a Pallas's Warbler, the fourth to be ringed on Lundy, which was mist-netted in late October along with five Yellow-browed Warblers. In more local terms, the tenth Great Spotted Woodpecker and twelfth Reed Bunting to be ringed on Lundy were also noteworthy. A complete list of the year's ringing totals is shown in the table below.

Manx Shearwaters

Since rat eradication, regular shearwater ringers have become used to visiting the breeding colonies at night and gaining an immediate impression that numbers have risen since the previous year. 2018 was no exception, and the record numbers ringed included 361 chicks. Seven recently-fledged young and 153 adults were also newly ringed. A further 98 adults had been ringed previously, and these included ten originally ringed as chicks, the oldest of which was from 2009. The same ringed pair that raised a chick in a nest box in 2017 laid in it again,



*A Manx Shearwater chick – a record 361 chicks were ringed in 2018.
© Rebecca Taylor*

but sadly their breeding attempt failed this time. Other recaptured adults included one from 2008 and several birds from each year from 2010 onwards.

Two Lundy-ringed shearwaters were found alive and well at the Skokholm colony in Pembrokeshire. One had been ringed as a chick in 2007 and previously recorded on Skokholm in 2016; its age and repeated presence suggest it has become a Skokholm breeder. The other, ringed as a full-grown bird in 2013, could have been a prospecting pre-breeder at that time, so its natal colony is unknown.

Sadly two young birds were reported dead on beaches in southern Brazil. One was found just 44 days after being ringed on Lundy as a chick, so it had already achieved much in that short time, making its first flight, learning to fish and migrating to the South Atlantic, all without parental guidance. As reported for the three birds found in the same area in 2015, it probably encountered extreme weather conditions that it was too inexperienced to survive.

The second, a delayed report from 2017, had survived for a year after fledging. Its finding location is of interest because Manx Shearwaters do not visit colonies in their first two years, so little is known of their migrations in that time. It was also the subject of an autopsy by a Brazilian research group. It seems that the immediate cause of death was drowning, but that it had been weak because of an infection. There was also a short length of plastic cord in its stomach. These two birds highlight the fact that Lundy's shearwaters depend on global weather systems and the general health of vast areas of ocean for their survival, not just good local breeding conditions.

Wheatears

The long-term RAS (Retrapping Adults for Survival) project on Wheatears continued, with three weeks of trapping, ringing and observation of breeding birds in late May and early June, to study their rates of survival on migration and while wintering in West Africa. Thirty-one Wheatears were newly colour-ringed, and 56 birds colour-ringed in previous years were re-sighted.



A male Wheatear, colour-ringed for the long-term study of Lundy's breeding population.
© Rebecca Taylor.

Observers can sometimes fail to see a colour-ringed bird in one year but find it in subsequent ones. Two such Wheatears were ringed in 2015, not seen in the next two years but retrapped in 2018. So they must have been alive in 2016 and '17, and past survival estimates need to be re-calculated. These now work out at 62% from 2013 to '14, 56% from 2014 to '15, 46% from 2015 to '16 and 62% for 2016 to '17. The figure for 2017 to '18 currently stands at 55% but may need upward revision in the future.

There was a difficult start to the breeding season, with some early arrivals facing severe weather. A female, originally colour-ringed in 2014 and seen each year since, was photographed in snow in March but not seen after that. There was more variation in laying dates and changing of territories than usual. However, at least 53 breeding females were present in the study area and extrapolation from this figure gives an island population estimate of 114 pairs.

Thanks as always to all observers who reported colour-ringed birds before and after the main study period, adding to our knowledge of the birds' life histories. Any further records will be much appreciated.

Recoveries and Controls

In addition to the Manx Shearwaters described above, eleven other ringed birds showed movements to or from Lundy in 2018. Information has not yet been received on two French-ringed Storm Petrels caught on Lundy in August and September 2018, but news has finally arrived of a Spanish-ringed Blackcap controlled on Lundy in 2012: it had been ringed in its first autumn the year before, presumably while on migration.

As well as the French birds mentioned above, three more ringed Storm Petrels were caught. Remarkably, two were caught on the same night on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, and recaptured on Lundy, also on the same night, a few weeks later. Was this chance or do they have a long-term association? The third was ringed on the Pembrokeshire mainland just 5 km from Skokholm, in 2014.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull that was colour-ringed as a chick on Lundy in 1995 has been seen regularly on the southwest coast of France in past winters, and was back there early in 2018. Another colour-ring sighting concerned an Oystercatcher that was seen on Lundy in June but was in Pembrokeshire early and late in the year.

Well-travelled finches, ringed on Lundy during previous autumn migrations, included Chaffinches found in Sweden and Wales and a Siskin found in Germany, while a Goldfinch that may well have been raised on Lundy was in Dorset the following spring.

Details of all these birds are given below.

Manx Shearwater EF98315 – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 7.9.07. Controlled on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 10.4.18. (3868 days; distance: 74 km; bearing: NW, 325°). Previously controlled on Skokholm, 18.8.16.

Manx Shearwater EX74428 – ringed as a full-grown bird on Lundy, 6.6.13. Controlled on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 19.5.18. (1808 days; 74 km; NW, 325°).

Manx Shearwater EZ59699 – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 13.9.18. Found dead at Praia Caminho das Conchas, Sao Joao da Barra, BRAZIL, 27.10.18. (44 days; 8851 km; SSW, 204°).

Storm Petrel 2637071 – ringed as a full-grown bird at Wooltack Point, Marloes, Pembrokeshire, 1.7.14. Controlled on Lundy, 1.9.18. (1523 days; 72 km; SSE, 147°).

Storm Petrel 2740238 – ringed as a full-grown bird on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 19.7.18. Controlled on Lundy, 1.9.18. (44 days; 70 km; SE, 144°).

Storm Petrel 2740263 – ringed as a full-grown bird on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 19.7.18. Controlled on Lundy, 1.9.18. (44 days; 70 km; SE, 144°).

Oystercatcher FJ06160 – ringed as an adult (aged 2+ years) on the Gann Estuary, Dale, Pembrokeshire, 17.2.18. Identified by colour-rings at Gannets Bay, Lundy, 6.6.18. (109 days; 68 km; SSE, 149°). Also seen on the Gann Estuary on 2.4.18, 11.11.18 and 10.12.18.

Lesser Black-backed Gull colour-ring: blue, with white L, on left leg; metal on right – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 25-29.6.95. Seen at Courant de Mimizan, Landes, FRANCE, 7.1.18. (8228-8232 days; 814 km; SSE, 162°). Also seen at the same site on 25.1.18, 2.2.18, 13.2.18 and 18.2.18.

Chiffchaff KEH251 – ringed as a second-calendar-year bird on Lundy, 20.4.18. Controlled on Great Saltee Island, Wexford, IRELAND, 28.4.18. (8 days; 171 km; NW, 309°).

Willow Warbler KEH410 – ringed as a full-grown bird on Lundy, 22.4.18. Controlled on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, 26.4.18. (4 days; 74 km; NW, 325°).

Chaffinch D184039 – ringed as a first-year male on Lundy, 20.10.12. Found freshly dead at Kungsgarden, Sandviken, Gävleborg, SWEDEN, 25.4.18. (2013 days; 1686 km; NE, 52°).

Chaffinch Z420852 – ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 4.10.15. Found dead at Blaencelyn, Llandysul, Ceredigion, 22.7.18. (1022 days; 111 km; N, 9°).

Goldfinch S218151 – ringed as a juvenile bird on Lundy, 25.8.17, and retrapped there on 11 and 16.9.17. Controlled at Littlesea, Weymouth, Dorset, 13.4.18. (231 days; 165 km; ESE, 113°).

Siskin ABB7174 – ringed as a first-year male on Lundy, 26.10.17. Found freshly dead (hit glass) at Nortorf, Schleswig-Holstein, GERMANY, 10.3.18. (135 days; 1031 km; ENE, 72°).

Ringling / recovery details received in 2018

Manx Shearwater EZ36409 – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 4.9.16. Found freshly dead at Trapiche, Penha, Santa Catarina, BRAZIL, 30.8.17. (360 days; 9688 km; SSW, 207°).

Blackcap 1L27285 – ringed as a first-year male at Finca Castillejos, Guadalajara, SPAIN, 16.10.11. Controlled on Lundy, 28.9.12. (348 days; 1180 km; N, 354°).

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS 2018

Manx Shearwater	(361)	521	Yellow-browed Warbler	5
Storm Petrel		37	Chiffchaff	185
Sparrowhawk		1	Willow Warbler	325
Woodpigeon		1	Blackcap	563
Great Spotted Woodpecker		1	Garden Warbler	4
Goldcrest		96	Whitethroat	7
Firecrest		5	Sedge Warbler	26
Skylark	(3)	4	Reed Warbler	3
Sand Martin		2	Wren	11
Swallow		461	Blackbird	14
House Martin		7	Song Thrush	6
Pallas's Warbler		1		

Numbers in brackets indicate pulli (included in the main totals).

Number of species: 45

LUNDY STORM PETREL SURVEY, JULY 2018

Helen Booker, Tony Taylor, Andrea Ayres, Dean Woodfin Jones,
Susannah Bolton and Mark Bolton
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INTRODUCTION

In October 2014, the discovery of a juvenile Storm Petrel in the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony provided the vital and long-awaited evidence that Storm Petrels were breeding on Lundy (Taylor, 2015). Prior to this, surveys found no evidence of breeding (Price 2002, Booker & Townend 2010) though an assessment of suitable habitat identified a number of potential areas (Bolton, 2004).

The change in fortunes for Storm Petrels followed ten years after the last rats were eradicated from the island through the Lundy Seabird Recovery Project (Appleton *et al.*, 2006). Since the 2014 discovery, efforts have focused on the best ways to survey this species, which typically occupies small crevices under or amongst rocks and boulders. Much of this habitat on Lundy is difficult or impossible to access safely.

Infra-red cameras were trialled as a survey method at the Old Light shearwater colony in 2016, along with scanning at night using torches over suitable habitat elsewhere on the island (Booker and Bolton, 2017).

The 2018 survey aimed to build on these previous surveys and provide a more definitive population estimate to feed into the National Seabird Census (Seabirds Count). We visited the island between 5 and 10 July 2018, throughout which the weather was hot and dry, with clear skies day and night.

In this write-up, we have used the same survey section letter codes as is used in the cliff nesting and Manx Shearwater reports in previous LFS annual reports and journal entries.

METHODS

Nocturnal survey

We trialled further nocturnal survey using a set of identical torches and a thermal image camera (Pulsar Helion XQ38F thermal imaging scope), loaned by Natural England, to observe activity at night at the north end (section H), the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony (section C) and at Earthquake (section D). We investigated the south west coast (section B) to see if potential habitat was viewable using the thermal camera but the distances were too large.

At the Old Light shearwater colony, we conducted 20 two-minute scans with torches on 5 July between 23.00 and 00.00 (sunset was 21.28). At Earthquake, we conducted scans with torches on the same night between 00.30 and 00.50.

At the north end, we used both the thermal camera and torches to scan for birds on 6 and 8 July. We positioned ourselves along the old railway line and scanned down the slope towards the sea, again counting in two-minute slots. We also conducted a walk around survey on neighbouring Puffin Slope (also section H) in amongst the boulders, scanning with torches and trialling the thermal image camera.

At the end of fieldwork, torches were retained on the island for future survey work.

Playback survey

We conducted day-time playback surveys at safely accessible suitable habitat between 5 and 9 July 2018. We focussed on the natural coastal habitats, excluding the extensive network of dry stone walls, with the exception of a small suitable area on the east coast in section L3.

We trialled two devices for audio playback at the north end (section H). We used traditional hand-held cassette players for an initial survey on 6 July, using the same recording as all previous playback surveys on the island. We then repeated the section on 9 July using digital MP3 players (MIFA Bluetooth speaker with a micro SD card) that were set up to play the call for exactly 10 seconds followed by a 30 second pause and then a tone to indicate to the surveyor to move onto the next check. This meant that there was complete standardisation across device, call and waiting time, regardless of surveyor. We covered the area systematically, by traversing the slope in transects, maximum five metres apart, playing the call into all suitable holes under rocks. Where there was a mass of boulders to navigate, the call was played at approximately one metre intervals.

Playback surveys using the MP3 players were also conducted on 8 July at Pyramid Rock and at rocks at the north end of Pyramid slope (section F), Earthquake (section D) and at suitable areas of the east coast, notably the beach, quarry scree and suitable boulder areas (sections L1, L2 and a small area of L3).

RESULTS

Nocturnal survey

No birds were observed (or heard) other than at the north end, where we recorded considerable activity on the two nights we visited. Storm Petrels and Manx Shearwaters were clearly visible in both the torch beam and through the thermal image camera.

Specifically, on 6 July, using the torch, 15 two-minute scans between 23.25 and 00.05 produced a total of 19 sightings. Between 00.20 and 00.40, on a different section of the same slope, we recorded 7 sightings, and between 00.48 and 01.08 in the third and final section of the slope, we recorded one sighting. In addition, at 01.10 a Storm Petrel was heard calling near the location of an earlier playback response.

On 8 July, between 00.35 and 01.00, seven two-minute torch scans produced eight Storm Petrel sightings, and on the same night, two-minute scans with the thermal image camera between 00.35 and 00.55 produced 23 sightings in total, with a maximum of six birds in any two-minute slot.

Playback survey

Earthquake. The call was played at 29 locations on 8 July. No responses were heard.

Pyramid rock. The call was played at 17 locations on 8 July. No responses were heard. At the north end of Pyramid slope, the call was played at 26 locations, but no responses were heard.

East coast beach and quarries. At section L1, the call was played at 35 locations at two discrete boulder areas on 8 July. No responses were heard. On the same date, along a short section of stone wall, adjacent to the farm, in section L3, the call was played eight times at suitable spots,

but no responses were heard. Also on the same date, at section L2, the call was played at 67 locations from two transects providing full coverage of the boulder beach. No responses were heard. In the same section on the same date, the call was played at a total of 16 locations in suitable discrete boulder/scree patches, but no responses were heard.

North end. On 6 July, three playback responses were recorded from this section (the number of times the call was played was not recorded). The location of each response was noted and photographed. On 9 July, the call was played at 888 locations across 14 transects, covering all accessible suitable habitat. Three responses were heard, but from different locations than on 6 July. These were also recorded and photographed. In addition, calls were heard from four chicks from different locations.

Survey location maps and images are stored at the RSPB office in Exeter.

Population estimate

This survey has picked up evidence of storm petrels at the north end only, despite previous evidence of breeding at the Old Light Manx shearwater colony in 2014 (Taylor, 2015) and 2016 (Booker and Bolton, 2017). The nocturnal sightings at the north end are encouraging, showing activity across much of the slope, but they are difficult to use for estimating the population. The playback survey however, is the systematic, standard method for assessing population and so it is these data we have used to estimate the current breeding population.

The maximum number of responses from breeding adults on any one day was three, so this figure, plus the chicks was used in the estimate. Not all breeding birds will respond to a played call and an adjustment is needed to account for this and arrive at a population estimate. The published conversion factor applied to storm petrel colonies without calibrations of their own is 2.4, based on the median response rate of 0.42 (Mitchel *et al.*, 2004). For Lundy, this increases our three adult responses to seven, which on adding the four chicks, leads to a population estimate of 11 Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS). Using the maximum and minimum response rates (0.25 – 0.59) from the same publication, the Lundy population range becomes 9–16 AOS.

CONCLUSIONS

Our survey shows a storm petrel colony in its early stages of establishment at the north end of the island. It was encouraging to see several birds flying over the area at night, which when coupled with the playback survey, provides clear evidence of a small breeding population. We didn't record any storm petrel activity at the Old Light Manx shearwater colony, where evidence of breeding has been previously proven, however, birds were recorded there in 2016 on the infra-red cameras, so it is likely birds were present but missed on this occasion.

The scale of Lundy, its potential storm petrel habitat and difficult terrain, provides a challenge for survey effort, but if the pattern of recovery continues as it has for Manx shearwater and the auks (Booker *et al.*, 2019), focus areas and methods for future surveys will hopefully become clearer. Regular ringing effort also provides an insight into storm petrel activity and locations, which further adds to the picture, including 42 birds caught at the north end and two at the Old Light Manx shearwater colony in Autumn 2018 (Tony Taylor pers. comm.). Further regular survey effort using a combination of nocturnal searches (thermal image camera and torches) and day-time playback over the coming years will be important to track the recovery of storm petrels, both at the island's north end and in other suitable areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Landmark Trust for ferry and camping; to Natural England (Bart Donato) for loan of the thermal image camera, and to the Lundy Field Society for funding purchase of the torches. Thanks also to Toby Taylor for comments and sharing information on ringing.

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GREEN WARBLER – A NEW SPECIES FOR LUNDY (AND DEVON)

By

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Lundy's first Green Warbler in Millcombe Wood on 7 October 2018.

© Tim Jones

At around 09.10 on 7 October 2018, we were walking along the north side of Millcombe, when TimJ glimpsed a warbler with a prominent supercilium (eyebrow) and single wing-bar.

We also noted an orangey bill and generally bright plumage. We were particularly struck by the yellowish tones, but with no field experience of Green Warbler and only a little of Greenish, were unsure how yellow was 'too yellow'. We did mention to each other at this stage the possibility of Green Warbler, but were clearly too quick to dismiss the notion of something so preposterously rare!

On our return to Millcombe at midday and after about 25 minutes' searching, we found the bird feeding in Turkey oaks and sycamores on the opposite side of the valley, alongside Chiffchaffs and Goldcrests. We again watched it moving through the canopy at some speed, often against

the light, which made snatching record shots with a bridge camera quite a challenge (though we did manage a few of the bird's upperparts).

The bird was constantly moving ahead of us and dropped out of sight after about ten minutes. It was not until 14.30 that we caught up with it once more, but again it was moving away. At 15.25 it was in trees further down the valley, when it rested in the semi-open for a minute or two, enabling some better record shots to be taken, albeit of the head and underparts only. We last saw it at 15.45. Altogether we estimate that we watched it for about 40 minutes.

Posting two photos on the Lundy birding blog as 'Greenish Warbler' shortly afterwards quickly unleashed a Twitter storm that we were only partly able to keep up with from the island. It soon emerged that we had stumbled on the UK's fifth Green Warbler and a first for both Lundy and Devon! Unusually for any point in October, we were the only birders on the island; Warden Dean Jones was unfortunately away on holiday. The following morning, 34 'twitchers' in three Ilfracombe-based boats endured unpleasant trips across in blustery winds and drizzle. However, despite thorough searching, it soon became clear that the bird had flown overnight.

We would like to thank everyone, especially Devon birders Mike Langman and Chris Townend, who contributed to pinning down the bird's identification from afar – it was great having such support from the online birding community.

Main descriptive points: *Phylloscopus* warbler approximately the size of a Chiffchaff, with a notably prominent, orangey-looking bill held at a slightly upturned angle. Long yellowish-white supercilium. Single quite prominent whitish-yellow wing-bar. Yellow body feathering making a striking yellow mark near the carpal (elbow) joint. Upperparts rather bright greenish. Tertiaries narrowly tipped paler. Throat and face suffused with lemon yellow, very much like Wood Warbler. Rest of underparts more whitish but washed with yellow. Legs brownish when in decent light.

For a fuller account of the finding of the Green Warbler, see 'Discovering Lundy', No. 48, January 2019, pp. 37–39.

FAUNA AND FLORA RECORDS 2018

(for groups other than birds)

INTRODUCTION

The records reproduced here are compiled by the separate editors for each major group. The records are taken mainly from the LFS Logbook and are reproduced here in good faith. No attempt has been made to verify all of the records but unusual or particularly interesting records will have been checked with the originator.

KEITH HISCOCK

WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES (CETACEANS)

Compiled by: Keith Hiscock

Cetacean species were most often seen from the island when looking out to sea and from vessels near to Lundy. The most frequently seen cetaceans were Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin. Both species were seen through the year with mostly two or three individuals on any one occasion. Favoured locations were the tide races off the south and north coasts. Both dolphins and porpoises were often accompanied by Gannets that were feeding on the fish shoals that the dolphins had also located. As with 2017, the number of days with sightings from the island of Harbour Porpoise exceeded those of Common Dolphin (respectively 33 in 2017 and 25 in 2018 and 14 in 2017 and 19 in 2018). The three sightings (on 20 Apr, 25 Jun and 1 Oct) of solitary most likely Minke whales are notable and this species is being seen with increasing frequency off south-west England.

MARINElife place a Wildlife Officer on the MV *Oldenburg* on trips to and from Lundy generally once a week from the end of March to September and they report cetacean and seals seen on passage (Carol Farmer-Wright and Rick Morris, pers. comm.). The records are not strictly 'at Lundy' but are relevant to report separately. There were 23 trips in 2018 and observations for cetaceans are summarised below:

Harbour Porpoise	35
Common Dolphin	75
Bottlenose Dolphin	16
Minke Whale	1

There were 12 records of 'Dolphin'.

Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

20 Apr – one in the Landing Bay mid-morning (Dean Jones & Chris Dee).

25 Jun – a whale – possibly a Minke off the south coast (M & L Prior).

1 Oct – a whale – possibly a Minke off Rat Island (Tim Davis).

Short-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Present around Lundy throughout the year although the first recorded observation in 2018 was on 29 Mar. Maximum numbers seen from the island on any one occasion were c. 20 off The Ugly on 23 Jun and off the south coast on 25 Jun (matching the maximum number seen in 2017 off the North Light on 11 Oct). Observed on: 29 March (one on approach to Landing Bay); 2 Jun (eight off Puffin Slope); 23 Jun (c. 20 off The Ugly); 25 Jun (c. 20 off south coast); 29 Jun (one or two small groups north of Shutter Rock); 11 Jul (@ 0918 six, @ 0946 five, @ 1034 15

NE of Castle Parade (the same group observed from the 'Shelley N' and estimated 30 including calves and another group further out); 25 Jul (12+ adults and calves feeding off Rat Island for 20-25 mins); 26 Jul (c. 12 seen from the *Oldenburg*); 4 Aug (two off SW Point); 12 Sep (two off Quarry Beach); 21 Sep (two off North Light); 24 Sep (eight off NE Point); 27 Sep (c. six off Rat Is.); 28 Sep (four off Battery Point); 29 Sep (six off the Landing Bay); 3 Oct (three off Rat Island); 19 Oct (15+ off The Rattles); 21 Oct (two off Benjamin's Chair); 30 Dec (two off Rat Island).

Thanks to observers: Chris Baillie, Ben Bengy, Chris & Karen Blackmore, Tim Davis, Chris Dee, Jane Harris, Karen Hobson, Andy Jayne, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Chloë Lofthouse, B. Medland, Janet & John Miles, Robert Pell, M & L Prior, Alan & Sandra Smith.

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Present throughout the year. Observed on 24 Jan (one off N. End); 31 Jan (2-3 off S. Light); 22 Feb (Four off Sw Point); 23 Feb (eight off N. Light); 24 Mar (one feeding off SW Point); 25 Mar (two off SW Point); 29 Mar (one on the crossing to Lundy); 18 Apr (Four c. 4 miles from the island); 26 Apr (two from the *Oldenburg*); 27 Apr (two west of SW Point); 19 May (two off south end); 20 May (three off the SW end); 22 May (two on approach to Landing Bay, 14 west of Castle feeding actively); 26 May (two off N. end); 12 Jul (six off c. 300 m Castle Parade; two c. 500 m SE of SW Point); 13 Jul (one c. 500 m due south of Castle Parade); 15 Jul (one c. 800 m SW of SW Point at 1152 and two 500 m due south of Castle Parade at 1541); 16 Jul (two c. 600 m due south of Castle Parade and one at 1145, both sightings c. 600 m due south of Castle Parade); 21 Jul (Two); 14 Aug (three between Hen & Chickens); 17 Aug (at least eight off the North Light); 21 Sep (six + in a feeding frenzy off the North Light); 29 Sep (three off Rat Island and Lametry); 1 Oct (two off Rat Island); 2 Oct (one off North End and two off South Light); 3 Oct (Two off Rat Island); 15 Oct (two off North End); 14 Dec (two in the southern tide race). Thanks to observers: Chris Baillie, Rachel Birch, Chris & Karen Blackmore, Pete Exley, Dean Jones, Rachel Sylvia, Tony Taylor, Martin Thorne and Michael Williams.

SEALS

Compiled by: Keith Hiscock

Grey seal *Haliocoeris grypus*

The following records are from the logbook. A separate paper by Dean Jones describing the results of systematic surveys undertaken in 2018 appears on page 158. Grey seals are observed frequently and are considered always present. Those records which include counts or are of behavioural or injury observations or of pups are included here.

- 30 Jan – thirty-five seen including 25 on Gannets' Bay Beach of which one was melanistic (Tim Davis and Tim Jones).
- 17 Feb – twenty hauled-out on the Knoll Pins – photographs taken for the Cornwall Seal Group identification database (Michael Thorne).
- 21 Feb – adult seal eating a conger eel (*Conger conger*) that was over 2 m long off Pilots' Quay (Dean Jones and Zoë Barton).
- 26 Jul – nineteen on the rocky shore at Halfway Wall Bay (Tim Davis).
- 30 Jul – twenty on Mouse Island at low water and 13 at Halfway Wall Bay (Tim Davis).
- 9 Aug – sixty-one in the water along the east coast as far as the NE Point (Joshua Harris & Esther Fritzell-Armitage).
- 13 Aug – around 30 all along the east coast (Ali Sheppard).
- 15 Aug – twenty at Brazen Ward (Chis Breese).

9 Sep – seventy-nine between Millcombe and Gannets' Bay counted at low water (Nick Ward).
22 Oct – three injured bull seals between Brazen Ward and Mousehole & Trap (Dean Jones).

Common seal *Phoca vitulina*

11 Mar – one off the slipway (Landing Bay) (Alan Frank).

MARINE FISHES

Compiled by Keith Hiscock

Unusual or charismatic fish species may be reported, including by inspection of photographs, but those that are 'always present' are not generally recorded in the logbook. Some fish are noted from 'rockpool rambles' later. The number of Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus* sightings continues to be low and corresponds to a reduction in sightings since 2013 throughout south-west England. The absence of any reports of Sunfish *Mola mola* is notable.

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

4 Aug – Three in Jenny's Cove (Bob Wells).

14 Dec – One about 50 m north of Rat Island (Dean Jones).

Mullet (most likely **Thicklip Grey Mullet** *Chelon labrosus*)

6 Jul – with shoal of bass off Rat Island (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – shoal under the jetty (Dean Jones).

European Seabass *Dicentrarchus labrax*

6 Jul – Shoal of c. six off Rat Island (Dean Jones).

Yarrell's Blenny *Chirolophis ascanii*

4 Aug – one on the MV Robert, in a pipe. A northern species. (Mike Deaton from a photograph by Tim Mountjoy.)

Incidental records of fish occur with observations of feeding behaviour: for instance, of Conger Eels and a Ballan Wrasse being eaten by seals (see the seals section) and of Great Northern Diver(s) catching a Long-spined Sea Scorpion *Taurulus bubalis*, then a Red Gurnard *Chelidonichthys lucernus*, then a Dab *Limanda limanda* (as well as a few Shore Crabs *Carcinus maenas*) off the jetty on 18 Feb (Martin Thorne).

MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Compiled by Keith Hiscock

For 2018, records of marine invertebrates have been separated into 'Gelatinous plankton' and 'Shore and seabed' so that, in future, and for shore and seabed species, we can feature only those records that are of unusual species, unusual abundances or of breeding and behaviour and not of commonly occurring species.

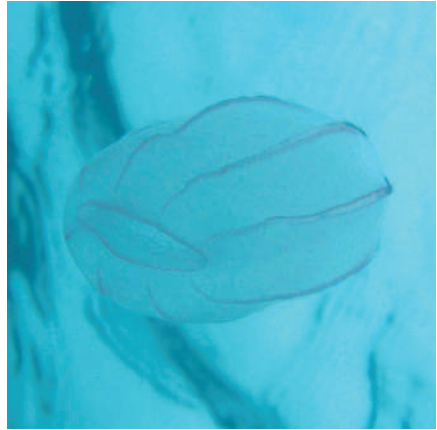
'GELATINOUS PLANKTON'

Planktonic invertebrate species that are gelatinous are described colloquially as 'jellyfish'. They include species from the Classes Hydrozoa and Scyphozoa in the Phylum Cnidaria and from the Phylum Ctenophora. Gelatinous plankton may be abundant at Lundy and some sting. The larger jellyfish are seen frequently but Dean Jones recognises and records many of the smaller

species and especially at times of snorkel safaris (so that their reporting does not necessarily identify the time of year or specific dates they are most abundant). However, many records are from late May and early June.



A Many-ribbed Jellyfish Aequorea forskalea in the Landing Bay. © Keith Hiscock



A Melon Comb Jelly Beroe cucumis in the Landing Bay. © Keith Hiscock

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

A siphonophore (string jelly) *Nanomia cara*

2 Jun – one string near to the jetty (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – two small strings near the jetty (Dean Jones).

Many-ribbed Jellyfish *Aequorea forskalea*

11 Jun – 12 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – three in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

A hydrozoan *Cosmetira pilosella*

11 Jun – east side of Rat Island (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

A hydrozoan *Neoturris* spp.

13 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

A hydromedusa ?*Clytia hemisphaerica*

10 Sep – 100+ in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

Barrel Jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus*

There were records of single individuals off the east coast on 30 Jan, 7 Mar, 20 Mar, 25 Mar, 13 Apr, 25 Apr, 6 May and 31 Dec. On 8 Apr, three were seen north of Quarry Bay and, on 9 Apr, four between Quarry Bay and Gull Rock. (D. Dowding, Louise and Steve Goodman, Dean Jones).

Blue Jellyfish *Cyanea lamarckii*

- 6 May – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 10 June – about 10 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 21 June – about 10 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 24 June – about 12 in the Landing Bay (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 25 June – significant numbers in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Moon Jellyfish *Aurelia aurita*

- 2 Jun – c. 70 large individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 11 Jun – c. 30 off Rat Island (Dean Jones).
- 13 Jun – c 50 individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 24 Jun – c 200 individuals near the jetty (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 25 Jun – thousands near the jetty (Dean Jones).

Compass Jellyfish *Chrysaora hysoscella*

- 6 May – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 2 Jun – two small individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 11 Jun – c 15 individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 13 Jun – c 30 individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 24 Jun – c 20 individuals near the jetty (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 25 June – significant numbers in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 9 Aug – two large individuals in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

CTENOPHORA**Melon Comb Jelly *Beroe cucumis***

- 4 Jun – five in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 11 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 13 Jun – countless individuals near the jetty (Dean Jones).
- 25 Jun – large numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones).

Northern Comb Jelly *Bolinopsis infundibulum*

- 13 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Sea Gooseberry *Pleurobrachia pileus*

- 6 May – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 2 Jun – two in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 11 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).
- 13 Jun – Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

SEASHORE AND SEABED (INCLUDING FISH)

There were frequent 'rockpool rambles' and 'snorkel safaris' in Devil's Kitchen during the spring and summer and the range of animal species recorded commonly included: Breadcrumb Sponge *Halichondria panicea*; Beadlet Anemones *Actinia equina*; Strawberry Anemones *Actinia fragacea*; Snakelocks Anemones *Anemonia viridis*; Broad-clawed Porcelain Crabs *Porcellana longicornis*; Shore Crabs *Carcinus maenas*; Velvet Swimming Crabs *Necora puber*; Montagu's / Furrowed Crab *Xantho hydrophilus* (some females with eggs on 3 May); Edible Crabs *Cancer pagurus*; Purple Topshell *Gibbula umbilicalis*; Toothed Topshell *Phorcus lineatus*; Dogwhelk *Nucella lapillus*; Flat Periwinkle *Littorina 'obtusata'* (aggregate); Limpets *Patella vulgata*, *P. aspera* and *P. depressa*; Cushion Stars *Asterina gibbosa*; Brittle Stars

Ophiothrix fragilis and *Ophiocoma nigra*; Blue-rayed Limpet *Patella pellucida*; Sea Urchins *Psammechinus miliaris*; Star Sea Squirts *Botryllus schlosseri*, Shanny's *Liphophrys pholis*, Shore Clingfish *Lepadogaster lepadogaster* (eggs noted on 3 May and well developed eggs on 10 Sep), and Worm Pipefish *Nerophis lumbriciformis*. (Dean Jones, Rob Andrews & Michael Williams. Further records by Sarah, Chris and Isobel West.)

Less common but regularly recorded were Gem anemones *Aulactinia verrucosa*, Dahlia anemones *Urticina felina*, Sandalled Anemones *Actinothoe sphyrodeta*, Devonshire Cup Corals *Caryophyllia smithii*, Scarlet and Gold Star Corals *Balanophyllia regia*, Spiny Spider Crabs *Maja brachydactyla*, Spiny Starfish *Marthasterias glacialis* (including a record of one being eaten by a gull on 21 Jul), Lightbulb Seasquirts *Clavelina lepadiformis* (first record 28 May – a seasonal species).

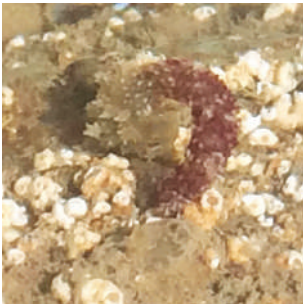
Several records have been reported from photographs and observations of snorkelers and divers. They include frequently observed species (Dahlia Anemone *Urticina felina*, Devonshire Cup-coral *Caryophyllia smithii*, Pink Sea-fan *Eunicella verrucosa*, Candy-striped Flatworm *Prostheceraeus vittatus* and a colonial seasquirt *Aplidium punctatum*). Species burrowing in the sediment of the Landing Bay were a Clock Face Anemone *Peachia cylindrica*, many siphons of Razor Clams *Ensis* sp. and the arm of burrowing brittle stars (Dean Jones). The observation of a Northern (Curled) octopus *Eloodne cirrhosa* was significant as they are very rarely seen at Lundy but there were increased numbers reported in south-west England at least in 2018. Divers also observed a continued increase in numbers of Crawfish (Spiny Lobsters) seen around the island (Mike Deaton).

A lost lobster pot washed in by storms was recovered from below the jetty. Species recorded were: Snakelocks Anemone *Anemonia viridis*, European (Blue) Lobsters (x3) *Homarus gammarus*, Long-legged Spider Crab *Macropodia rostrata* (x1), Leach's Spider Crab *Inachus phylangium*, numerous Long-clawed Porcelain Crabs *Pisidia longicornis*, a Spotted Cowrie *Trivia monacha*, Thick-lipped Dogwhelks *Hinia incassata*, a branching seamount *Bugula* sp., encrusting seasquirts *Diplosoma* sp. and *Botryllus schlosseri*.

[The above are species recorded and are not a complete description of the major species present.]

Sightings on seashores and the shallow subtidal of unusual species or that indicate breeding times were:

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA



The hydroid Candelabrum cocksii photographed under a boulder in Devil's Kitchen. © Dean Jones

A hydroid *Candelabrum cocksii*

02 May – present under a quartz boulder (Dean Jones). A particularly notable observation as the species has been recorded from only a few locations in south-west England. However, L.A. Harvey recorded it from kelp holdfasts (as *Myriothele cocksii*) from several shores at Lundy in the late 1940s.

CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA

Scarlet and Gold Star coral *Balanophyllia regia*.

31 March – counts at the two monitoring sites on the lowest shore at Devil's Kitchen recorded c. 32 at the eastern site and c. 72 at the western site. In the lower midshore pool where slate had fallen away in the 2013/14 storms, c. 20 were seen (Keith Hiscock, Dean Jones & Siân Scott).

CRUSTACEA: CIRRIPIEDIA

Goose barnacle *Lepas pectinata*

14 Feb – One attached to *Ascophyllum nodosum* washed-up on strandline (Dean Jones).

MOLLUSCA: OPISTHOBRANCHIA

02 May – Grey Sea Slug *Aeolidea papillosa*. Two together and, nearby, an eggmass under boulders (Dean Jones).

01 Jun – Grey Sea Slug *Aeolidea papillosa*. Eggs (Dean Jones).

Four-striped polycera *Polycera quadrilineata*

29 May – Swarms on *Membranipora membranacea* encrusting kelp fronds (Mike Deaton from a photograph by Tim Mountjoy).

MOLLUSCA: OCTOPODOIDEA

Curled octopus *Eledone cirrhosa*

14 Jul – Brazen Ward (Mark Lavington).



Northern or Curled Octopus *Eledone cirrhosa* in shallow water at Brazen Ward on 14 July, © Mark Lavington



A young Crawfish (Spiny Lobster) *Palinurus elephas* in a gully south of the island. © Mike Deaton

CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA

Crawfish or spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas*

2 Jun – South-end gullies. Six small individuals found in one gully at depths between 20 and 28 metres (Mike Deaton).

MARINE ALGAE

Compiled by Keith Hiscock

'Rockpool rambles' and 'snorkel safaris' have been the main source of records in 2018.



Wireweed Sargassum muticum in a rockpool at Devil's Kitchen on 3 Jun.
© Keith Hiscock.



Harpoon Weed Asparagopsis armata showing the 'harpoons' that hook into other algae. © Keith Hiscock.

Non-native algae recorded were Wireweed *Sargassum muticum*, Harpoon Weed *Asparagopsis armata* and Hook Weed *Bonnemaisonia hamifera*. Both *S. muticum* and the gametophyte (harpoon) stage of *A. armata* seemed less abundant in 2018 than in some previous years at Lundy (Keith Hiscock). Both species are easily identified and records of abundance each year would be welcome.

Rocky shores on the north side of Rat Island were dominated by fucoid algae (*Pelvetia canaliculata*, *Fucus spiralis*, *Ascophyllum nodosum*, *Fucus vesiculosus* and *F. serratus*) although they were generally sparse or patchy on the south side. There were areas of green algae *Enteromorpha* spp especially where there has been disturbance or freshwater runoff. The lower shore was populated by Thongweed *Himantalia elongata* and kelp *Laminaria digitata*. Rockpools were often rich in a wide variety of algae but there were no records in 2018. (Dean Jones, Rob Andrews & Michael Williams. Further records by Sarah, Chris and Isobel West.) Snorkel Safaris added a few species including Red Rags *Dilsea carnosa*, Sea Beech *Delesseria sanguinea* and Bushy Berry Wrack *Cystoseira baccata*.

The lost lobster pot mentioned above had *Membranoptera alata*, *Plocamium cartilaginium*, *Lomentaria articulata* and *Bonnemaisonia hamifera* attached (Dean Jones).

[The above are species recorded and are not a complete description of the major species present.]

FRESHWATER FISH

Compiled by Jenny George

Felix Gade in his book 'My Life on Lundy' mentioned that Martin Coles Harman introduced fish belonging to the Carp family (Family Cyprinidae), particularly Golden Orfe and Tench, to the Rocket Pole Pond, Quarry Pond and Pondsbury, during the early years of his tenure of the island (1929-54). There have been few monitoring studies of these introduced fish.

In 1977. Chris Baillie and Mick Rogers measured and aged 18 Crucian Carp from Quarry Pond that had been transferred there from Pondsbury when it dried up in 1976. The 18 Carp were returned to Pondsbury and, ten years later, Crucian Carp were observed there in 1986.

In 1981, a survey of Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond was carried out and over 100 fish were counted. Descendants of these fish are regularly fed by visitors today.

In September 2006, the Quarterwall Pond dried up and Roger Fursdon transferred over 100 fish, mainly Rudd, to the Rocket Pole Pond.

The mature eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, that was found by Alan Rowland and the LFS Working Party during clearance of the Millcombe Pond in September 2017, was most likely the fish found dead on the Millcombe path by Dean Jones in May 2018.

Although there are records, mainly Golden Orfe, in the LFS Logbook over the years, much more data of these fish are required.

Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus*

18 Feb – Quarry Pond (Martin Thorne).

13 May – 14 in Quarry Pond (David George).

4 Jun – 17 in Quarry Pond (Tim Jones).

Crucian Carp *Carassius carassius*

18 Feb – Quarry Pond (Martin Thorne).

Mirror Carp *Cyprinus carpio*

14 May – 10 + in Rocket Pole Pond (Jenny George).

Tench *Tinca tinca*

13 May – many small fish in Quarry Pond (David George).

INTRODUCED REPTILES

Compiled by Chris Dee

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms were first observed in the gardens in Millcombe in November 2010. They are believed to have been accidentally introduced in compost imported from the mainland.

Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*

Most records have been from Millcombe, but one was reported from the camping field in 2016, and in St John's Valley in 2017. In addition to two records in Millcombe in April and May, the following demonstrate a further substantial expansion in range.

15 May – 1 adult near Tibbetts (Tim & Liz Smith).

25 Jun – 1 along track to The Castle (M. & L. Prior).

Numbers and distribution are probably under-recorded and members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS Logbook kept in the Marisco Tavern.

NATIVE LAND MAMMALS

Compiled by Chris Dee

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal.

Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*

The Pygmy Shrew 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 Old Light Cottage, Old Light Lower, Quarters, the Marisco Tavern, Big St John's and The Castle. Away from human habitation there have been sightings at North Light, Gannet's Combe, Jenny's Cove, Barton Field, The Ugly, Millcombe, Rocket Pole and South-west Point. On 2 Mar one was seen on the surface of the lying snow on the West Side (Trevor Dobie, Kevin Williams, Keith Dobie).

BATS

Compiled by Chris Dee

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*. Such single sightings were reported this year from the Village (Tom Carr on 14 Apr), Upper Millcombe (Dean Jones on 29 Apr) and the South End (R. Yeo on 30 May), and three or four were seen at North Light on 29 Sep (Martin Thorne). A 'dark brown medium sized bat – bigger than a Pipistrelle' was reported flying over the Quarry Pond on 6 May (Steve O'Donnell). Droppings seen in the former copper mine below Benjamin's Chair in December were not examined closely, but were considered to be from a pipistrelle species and possibly a horseshoe bat species (L. Holmes). Droppings were also found adhering the walls of the Casbah in Millcombe, indicating a possible roost site (L. Holmes).

FERAL LAND MAMMALS

Compiled by Chris Dee

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled according to the terrestrial management plan.



Sika Deer Cervus nippon. © Richard Campey

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*

A cull in February removed 10 animals and the stock count in April estimated a population of 93 individuals, but this total has not been broken down by age and sex (various observers per Dean Jones). A further cull in October reduced the population by four.

Other notable counts of over 20 individuals were:

4 Jul – 17 in the Brick Field and four further north (John Hutchinson)

11 Dec – 68 on the East Side; 50 in Quarter Wall Copse and 18 near Brazen Ward (J. Pawley)

18 Dec – 24 at Quarter Wall Copse (C. Lee)

Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count in April estimated 202 individuals (various observers per Dean Jones), after a single animal was culled in February. No date is noted for the first lambs, but three dead lambs were reported on 19 Apr (Chris Dee). A further 62 individuals were removed by the cull in October.

Other notable counts were:

30 Jan – 142 (Tim Jones & Tim Davis).

6 Aug – 201 (Michael Williams).

25 Oct – 62 in Middle Park (P. Holt).

Goat *Capra aegagrus*

Goats are now actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. The stock count in April found 23 individuals (various observers per Dean Jones). The cull in October reduced the population by 11.

Other notable counts of over 20 individuals were:

6 Aug – 21 near The Devil's Slide (Michael Williams).

21 Oct – 29 on the West Side (Jane & Oliver Ronaldson).

11 Dec – 20+ at The Terrace (J. Pawley).

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Rabbit numbers remain low as a result of disease (Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease or Myxomatosis), but are beginning to show some signs of recovery and no diseased animals were reported. Individuals were reported from widespread locations across the island, including young at the west end of Quarter Wall and near the Church. Evidence in the form of droppings was reported from Brazen Ward, near Goat Island and between the Castle and Rocket Pole. The largest count was of five in Barton Field on 23 May (Chloë Lofthouse).

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Compiled by Jenny George

Most of the invertebrates listed here are from the research and monitoring of Alan Rowland who has been studying the freshwater organisms in several of the smaller, often temporary, ponds on the island since 2010: e.g. Government House Pond, Kistvaen Pond, ponds at Long Roost and Middle Park. Also, Millcombe Pond which was cleared of much of its vegetation by the LFS Working Party in September 2017 and the associated St. John's Stream that flows into it.

An interesting find this year, by Alan Rowland, was the aquatic larva of the Brown China Mark moth, (*Elophila nymphaeata*) in the Quarter Wall Pond. Although adults have been found, e.g. in 2017, this is the first record of a larva. The larva lives in a case made of two oval parts of a leaf (often *Potamogeton*) where they remain throughout Autumn and Winter. An article describing the find is on page xx.

Common and scientific names follow the *Freshwater Biological Association Guides* and the comprehensive *Collins Guide to Freshwater Life* by R. Fitter & R. Manuel (1986) and the *FBA Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates* by Michael Dobson *et al.* (2012). All records are by Alan Rowland except where credited otherwise.

FLATWORMS (Platyhelminthes)

Phagocata vitta

01 Apr – eight in St John's Stream, Millcombe.

01 Apr – two in Millcombe Pond.

02 Apr – 29; 25 Sep – 122; 31 Dec – 31 in Government House Pond.

Polycelis nigra

01 Apr – one in Millcombe Pond.

20 Jun – two in Middle Park Pond.

Dalyellia viridis

31 Mar – 16 in Kistvaen Pond.

SEGMENTED WORMS (*Oligochaeta*)

Lumbriculus variegatus

1 Apr – one; 25 Jun – one in Millcombe Pond.

2 Apr – 58; 25 Sep – 22 in Government House Pond.

19 Jun – three in Kistvaen Pond.

20 Jun – one in Middle Park Pond.

23 Jun – 18 in Long Roost Pond.

LEECHES (*Hirudinea*)

Helobdella stagnalis

1 Apr – one; 25 Jun – eight in Millcombe Pond.

20 Jun – one in Middle Park Pond.

***Haemopsis sanguisuga* (Horse Leech)**

13 May – one in water-filled ruts near Quarter Wall Pond (David George).

POND SNAILS (*Gastropoda*)

***Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (Jenkin's Spire Shell)**

1 Apr – 40 in St John's Stream, Millcombe.

1 Apr – 15; 25 Jun – 245 in Millcombe Pond.

2 Apr – 101; 25 Sep – 53; 31 Dec – 10 in Government House Pond.

***Lymnaea peregra* (Wandering snail)**

25 Jun – four in Millcombe Pond.

Galba (Lymnaea) truncatula

2 Apr – one in Government House Pond.

MUSSELS (*Bivalvia*)

***Pisidium personatum* (Pea Mussel)**

2 Apr – 58; 25 Sep- 76; 31 Dec- 62 in Government House Pond.

SHELLED ARTHROPODS (*Crustacea*)

***Ostracoda* (Clam Shrimps)**

31 Mar – one in Kistvaen Pond.

1 Apr – one in Millcombe Pond.

2 Apr – two in Government House Pond.

Family *Daphniidae* (Water Fleas)

31 Mar – one; 19 Jun; 23 Jun; 27 Sep; 31 Dec – abundant in Kistvaen Pond.

20 Jun – few in Middle Park Pond.

Cyclops sp. (Copepoda)

31 Mar – three; 19 Jun – three; 27 Sep – four females with egg sacs in Kistvaen Pond.
1 Apr – two females with egg sacs in Millcombe Pond.
20 Jun – three females with egg sacs in Middle Park Pond.

WATER SLATERS (Isopoda)

Proasellus meridianus

1 Apr – two; 25 Jun – two in Millcombe Pond.
2 Apr – four; 25 Sep – 29; 31 Dec – two in Government House Pond.
19 Jun – 210; 27 Sep – 40; 31 Dec – six in Kistvaen Pond.
20 Jun – one in Middle Park Pond.
30 Sep – 32 in Quarter Wall Pond.

INSECTS (Insecta)

EPHEMEROPTERA (Mayfly nymphs)

Family Baetidae

19 Jun – one; 27 Sep – one in Kistvaen Pond.

ODONATA (Damselfly nymphs)

A list of dragonflies and damselflies is included in the section on Terrestrial Invertebrates



*A damselfly nymph
Enallagma sp.
© John Clegg
(via Jenny George)*

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

02 Jun – one at Quarter Wall pond (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).
30 Sep – 44 in Quarter Wall Pond.

HEMIPTERA (Water Bugs)

Family Gerridae (Pond Skaters)

25 Jun – four on Millcombe Pond.

Family Corixidae (Lesser Water Boatmen)

31 Mar – young nymph stage in Kistvaen Pond.
19 Jun – two adults in Kistvaen Pond.
20 Jun – 25 in Middle Park Pond.

Family Notonectidae (Greater Water Boatmen)



A Water Boatman,
Notonecta sp.
© John Clegg
(via Jenny George)

A Water Boatman *Notonecta marmorea viridis*

15 May – four large adults taking in air at surface in Quarter Wall Pond (Jenny George).

A Water Boatman *Notonecta sp.*

19 Jun – 28 in Kistvaen Pond.

20 Jun – 10 in Middle Park Pond.

LEPIDOPTERA (Moths)

Elophila (Nymphula) nymphaeata (Brown China Mark Moth)

30 Sep – two larvae in Quarter Wall Pond.

TRICHOPTERA (Caddis Flies)

Diplectrona felix (caseless caddis)

1 Apr – one larva in St John's Stream, Millcombe.

Notidobia ciliaris (cased caddis)

25 Sep – one larva in Government House Pond.

DIPTERA (True flies)

Tipulidae (Crane flies)

1 Apr – one larva in St. John's Stream, Millcombe.

27 Sep – one larva in Kistvaen Pond.

Phylidorea ferruginea

25 Sep – One larva in Government House Pond. (Reared to pupal and adult stage to confirm identification).

Chironomidae (Non-biting midge larvae)

1 Apr – 11 in St John's Stream, Millcombe.
1 Apr – four; 25 Jun – one in Millcombe Pond.
2 Apr – 11; 31 Dec – four in Government House Pond.
19 Jun – 10; 31 Dec – one in Kistvaen Pond.
20 Jun – three in Middle Park Pond.
23 Jun – 43 in Long Roost Pond (25 in cases).
30 Sep – three in Quarter Wall Pond.

Dixidae (Meniscus midges)

25 Sep – one larva in Government House Pond.

Psychodidae (Moth flies)

2 Apr – one larva in Government House Pond.

Culicidae (Mosquitos)

13 Jun – one larva in Long Roost Pond.

COLEOPTERA (Water Beetles)

Dytiscidae (Diving beetles)

31 Mar – four adults & 19 larvae; 19 Jun – two adults & seven larvae; 27 Sep – four adults & four larvae; 31 Dec – eight adults & 11 larvae in Kistvaen Pond.
23 Jun – one adult in Long Roost Pond.
30 Sep – eight adults & 11 larvae in Quarter Wall Pond.

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Compiled by Alan Rowland

This year there were no visiting specialists submitting species lists, but nevertheless there have been many and varied sightings throughout the months, with records in most months. A training course hosted by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust provided some new and expert sightings of Hymenoptera. Bird pellets supplied to Linda Losito and Rob Cowley provided some records that have been extracted from iRecord (<https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/>).

A note from Roger Key that our sightings of the rove beetle *Staphylinus erythropterus* are most definitely **NOT** *S. caesarus* – which is a Red Data Book Species with very restricted range.

The Lundy Warden continues to expand the range of species that he searches out and successfully identifies greatly adding to the number and species recorded within this section.

An asterisk * denotes a species new to Lundy, two asterisks ** a family species new to Lundy, three *** an ORDER new to Lundy all reported this year. Although not necessarily new to Lundy they are the first reported occurrences.



A horsehair worm
in Millcombe.
© Joan Britten.

HORSEHAIR WORMS (Nematomorpha)

26 Dec – one seen in Millcombe (Joan Britten/Siân Scott). ***

SNAILS AND SLUGS (Gastropoda)

Snails

Brown-lipped Snail *Cepaea nemoralis*

18 Jun – one in the Quarries (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

21 Jun – six outside Little St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Garden Snail *Helix aspersa*

19 Jun – two at the top of St John's Valley (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

21 Jun – one outside Little St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Slugs

European Black Slug *Arion ater* agg.

26 Sep – one seen in Punchbowl Valley (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

3 Sep – two seen north of Three Quarter Wall (anon.).

2 Oct – one near Tibbetts, one near the Hospital, three on Upper East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Leopard Slug *Limax maximus*

29 Aug – one near Smelly Gully (Alan Rowland).

2 Oct – two seen on Upper East Side Path on granite (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

SPIDERS, HARVESTMEN AND MITES (Arachnidae)

Purse-web Spider *Atypus affinis* **

8 Nov – one seen near Felix Gade's Hut (Steve and Elise O'Donnell).

Cellar Spider *Pholcus phalangoides*

3 Apr – one seen in Big St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

26 Jun – one in Little St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).



A Crab Spider *Xysticus cristatus* on the Lower East Side Path. © Alan Rowland



A Cave Spider, *Meta menardi*, in Old Man's Cave. © Alan Rowland

Crab Spider *Xysticus cristatus*

16 Aug – one seen on Fleabane on Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Zebra Spider *Salticus sceniscus*

30 Mar – one seen in Big St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Nursery Spider *Pisaura mirabilis* *

20 Jun – one seen (with egg case) Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

Cave Spider *Meta menardi*

4 Sep – one in Old Man's Cave (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

28 Sep – one in Old Man's Cave (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Garden Spider *Araneus diadematus*

4 Sep – 20 along Upper East Side Path and Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

26 Sep – six near Rocket Pole (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

27 Sep – five in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

WOODLICE, CENTIPEDES AND MILLIPEDES (*Diploda*)

Common Striped Woodlouse *Philosca muscorum*

6 Mar – one seen in Millcombe (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Southern Pill Woodlouse *Armadillidium depressum*

30 Mar – one seen in Big St John's (Alan Rowland).

18 Jun – two in Big St John's (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Common Pill Woodlouse *Armadillidium vulgare*

30 Mar – one seen in Big St John's (Alan Rowland).

18 Jun – two in BSJ (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

BETLES (Coleoptera)

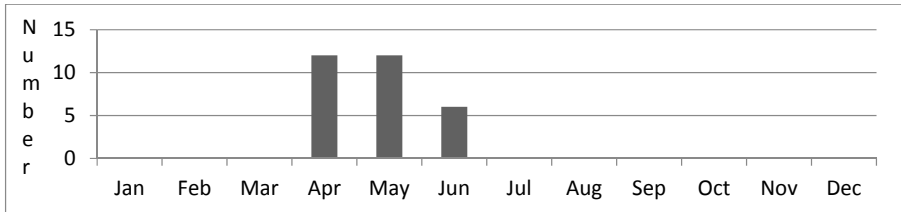
Whirligig Beetle *Gyrinidae* *

29 Jan – 12 seen in Ackland's Moor Pond (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

22 Jun – hundreds, Ackland's Moor Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris*

This species was recorded between April and June when up to ten were seen at the same time. Locations were from the South End along both sides of the island up to as far north as Brazen Ward.



Thanks to observers: Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, John Martin *et al.*, Sarah, Chris and Isobel West.

A ground beetle *Poecilus versicolor*

29 Sep – one seen in Middle Park West Side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Parallel-sided Ground Beetle *Abax parallelipus*

16 Aug – one seen near Kistvaen Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – one seen on Lower East Side Path between Millcombe and the Terrace (Alan Rowland).

27 Sep – one seen near Tent Field gate (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

28 Sep – one above the Battery (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Shore Sexton Beetle *Necrodes littoralis* *

18 Jul – three in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

A Burying beetle *Nicrophorus humator*

18 Jul – two in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

A Burying beetle *Nicrophorus investigator*

28 Jun – two caught in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

A Burying beetle *Nicrophorus vespilloides*

18 Jul – two in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

25 Jul – two in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

13 Aug – four in moth trap in The Casbah, Millcombe (Dean Jones).

20 Aug – two in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

Devil's Coach-horse *Ocypus olens*

3 Sep – one seen at North End (Richard and Rebecca Taylor).



The Rove Beetle
Staphylinus erythropterus,
sometimes confused with
the much rarer S. caesarus.
 © Alan Rowland

A Rove Beetle *Staphylinus erythropterus*

- 6 Jun – one near Quarry Pond (Roger Key).
- 20 Jun – one on Central Track (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 21 Jun – one at Gannets' Coombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Minotaur beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus*

- 30 Jan – one seen West end of Three Quarter Wall (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).
- 12 Mar – one seen west side Quarter wall (Zoë Barton).
- 30 Sep – one Upper East Side Path near Tillage Field (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
- 2 Oct – one near Tibbetts (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Dung beetle *Geotrupes* sp.

- 21 Feb – one seen Middle Park (Danielle Richards).



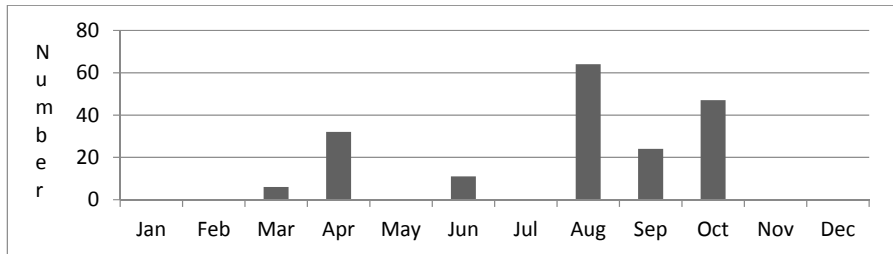
A Dor Beetle, Geotrupes stercorus.
 © Alan Rowland



A Rosechafer Cetonia aurata.
 © Alan Rowland

Dor beetle *Geotrupes stercorus*

This species has had a long season and records were made between March and October with a peak of 64 in August and lesser peaks in April and October.



Thanks to observers: Tony Barnes, Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Sarah, Chris and Isobel West.

Dor Beetle *Anoplotrupes stercorosus*

29 Sep – remains extracted from bird pellet found at Halfway Wall (Linda Losito).

A Scarab beetle *Aphodius (Acrossus) rufipes*

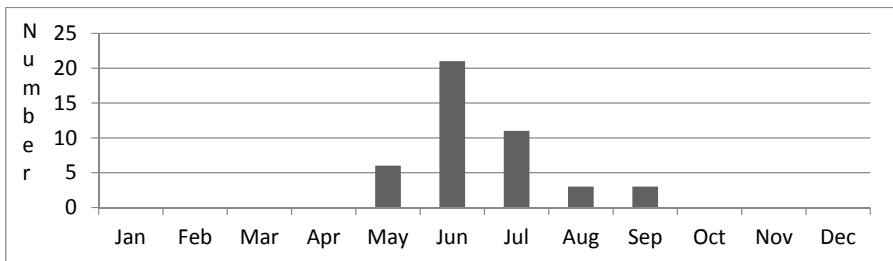
29 Sep – remains extracted from bird pellet found at Halfway Wall (Linda Losito).

A Dung Beetle *Aphodius fimetarius*

13 Mar – One on dung at the SW point – identified from *A. pedullus* by yellow flanks on pronotium. Dean Jones

Rosechafer *Cetonia aurata*

Roschafer were recorded between May and September, mainly single sightings but there were up to five sightings in May and four in July. They peaked in June with an aggregate total of 21 sightings.



Thanks to observers: Rob Andrew, Tim Davis, Tina & Ian Hartley, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Michael Williams, Chris, Sarah and Isobel West.

A Clambid beetle *Calyptomerus dubius* **

18 Sep – one seen in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

A Click beetle *Isomia murine* *

6 Jun – common in Millcombe (Roger Key).

A Click beetle *Athous haemorrhoidalis*

31 May – one seen on South End (Alan Rowland).

6 Jun – very many in Millcombe (Roger Key).

18 Jun – two along Upper East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

16 Aug – two seen on the Terrace, one near the Tavern, one seen near Benjamin’s Chair (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

17 Aug – eight seen between Brazen Ward and Mousehole and Trap (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Click beetle *Agrypnus murinus*

6 Jun – one seen in Millcombe (Roger Key).

Common Red Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*

27 Jun – three at South Light (Michael Williams).

28 Jun – one near Government House (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Common Furniture Beetle *Anobium punctum*

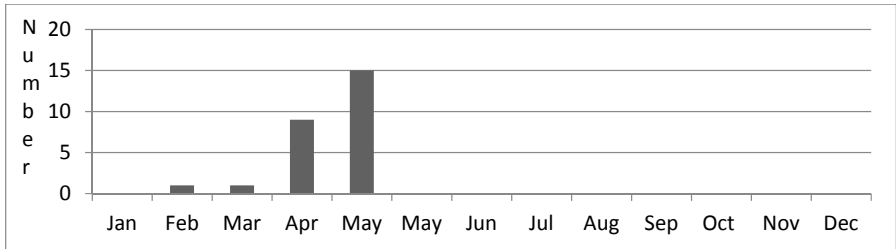
6 Jun – one seen Old Light Upper (Roger Key).

Sulphur Beetle *Ctenopus sulphureus*

18 Jul – seen on Thrift along Beach Road (Dean Jones).

Oil Beetle *Meloe* sp(p)

Species of this genus were recorded from as early as February up to May mainly in the southern end of the island with a mating pair seen in April and 12 Black Oil beetles *Meloe proscarabeus* on 05 May (Andrew Cleave).



Thanks to observers: Andrew Cleave, Dean Jones, Kathryn MacKinnon, Lynn Reynolds, Danielle Richards, Alan Rowland, Michael Williams, Siân Scott.

Black Oil Beetle *Meloe proscarabeus*

3 Apr – one seen between Castle and Benjamin’s Chair (Lynn Reynolds).

A leaf beetle *Chrysolina banksi*

28 Sep – one above the Battery (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Bloody-nosed Beetle *Timarcha tenebricosa*

2 Sep – one seen in Millcombe (Chris Minuala and Dean Jones).



The Heather beetle
Lochmaea suturalis.
© Mandy Dee

Heather beetle *Lochmaea suturalis*

18 Apr – several seen on the South West Point (Mandy Dee).

Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle *Psylliodes luridipennis*

6 Jun – one seen in Millcombe (Roger Key).

26 Jun – six on Beach Road (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Flea beetle *Psylliodes napi*

6 Jun – three seen in Millcombe (Roger Key).

Lundy Cabbage Weevil *Ceutorhynchus pallipes*

25 May – numerous seen on Lundy Cabbage (Dean Jones).

3 Jun – one seen on Lundy Cabbage (John Martin, Rob Large, Janet Lister, Ruth Crundwell, Roger & Rosie Key).

6 Jun – 100s seen in on Lundy Cabbage in Millcombe and over 40 on one plant (Roger Key).

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*

24 Jul – one seen in the Warden's Office (Dean Jones).

4 Sep – one in Millcombe pond area (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Wood-boring Weevil *Euophryum confine*

6 Jun – one seen Old Light Upper (Roger Key).

BUGS (Hemiptera)

Forest or Red-legged Shield Bug *Pentatoma rufipes*

13 Aug – one in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

16 Aug – one seen by the back door of Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

20 Aug – two in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*

22 Jun – one seen in Gorse at the top of Millcombe Valley (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – one carapace in Garden Spider web – Top of Millcombe Valley (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

25 Sep – seven seen alongside Millcombe path (Alan & Sandra Rowland, Tim Davis, Tim Jones).

27 Sep – three in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

1 Oct – one below The Ugly (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

TRUE FLIES (Diptera)



A Crane Fly Phylidorea ferruginea: a species not previously reported from Lundy.
© Alan Rowland

A Crane Fly *Phylidorea ferruginea* *

25 Sep – one hatched from pupal case found at Government House Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Crane Fly *Nephrotoma armatonius* **

4 Jul – one seen at Quarter Wall Copse (Dean Jones).



A Crane Fly *Tipula oloracea*
hatched from a pupal case from
the Kistvaen Pond.
© Alan Rowland

A Crane Fly *Tipula oloracea* *

27 Sep – one hatched from pupal case found at Kistvaen Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Black Fly *Simuliidae* sp. **

20 Jun – 100s Middle Park Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Marmalade Hover Fly *Episyrphus balteatus*

23 Jun – Three Quarter Wall West side (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

10 Jun – “Lots” seen in Millcombe ‘Secret Garden’ (Dean Jones).

A Hoverfly *Sphoerophonia scripta* **

4 Jul – one seen at Quarter Wall Copse (Dean Jones).

A Hover Fly *Eristalis petinax*

20 Jul – one seen on Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

A Hover Fly *Helophilus trivittatus*

12 Jun – one seen on Lametor (Dean Jones).

A Bumblebee mimic Hover Fly *Sericomyia superbiens* **

20 Jun – one seen Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

Blue Bottle Fly *Calliphora vomitoria calliphoridae* **

20 Jun – one seen on the Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

House Fly *Muscidae* sp.

18 Jul – one in moth trap in the Village infected with *Entomophthora* fungus (Dean Jones).

Yellow Dung Fly *Scathophaga stercoraria*

18 June – 50 on cattle dung in the Quarries (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Giant Tachinid Fly *Tachina grossa*

- 4 Jul – one seen on the Terrace (Dean Jones).
25 Jul – one seen in Millcombe 'Secret Garden' (Dean Jones).
19 Aug – one seen in Tavern (Dean Jones).
3 Sep – one seen in the Village (Helen Applebee).

Celery Fly *Euleia heraclei* **

- 25 Oct – leaf mines seen on Alexanders on Lower East Side Path (Dean Jones).

Honeysuckle Leaf-miner *Chromatomyia aprilina* **

- 20 Sep – leaf mines seen on Honeysuckle on the Terrace (Dean Jones).

Sun Fly *Dryomyzidae* sp.*

- 28 Apr – one seen near Benjamin's Chair (Rob Andrew).

Bumblebee parasite *Physocephala rufipes*

- 20 Jun – one seen Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

BEES, WASPS AND ANTS (Hymenoptera)

A lot of these records came from the expert tutelage of Kathryn Mackinnon of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust who delivered a training package to the conservation team on 17th May. A report on this event is included elsewhere in this publication and not duplicated here.

Turnip Saw Fly *Athalia rosae* *

- 4 Jul – one seen on Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

Bracken Sawfly *Strongylogaster multifasciata* *

- 20 Jun – one seen Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

An Ichneuemon wasp *Netelia* sp. *

- 9 Aug – 100s seen around the Tavern (Dean Jones).

An Ichneuemon wasp *Enicospilus ramidulus* *

- 13 Aug – one seen in moth trap in the Village (Dean Jones).

An Ichneuemon wasp *Heteropelma amictum* *

- 20 Jul – one seen on Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).
22 Jul – one seen in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

Plasterer Bees *Colletes* sp.

- 15 Jun – 100s seen nectaring on Ling at the North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
16 Jun – fifty seen on Ling Lower East Side Path north of Quarter Wall Copse (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
13 Jul – one seen at Three Quarter Wall (Dean Jones).
15 Jul – 100s seen feeding on Bramble in Millcombe and Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones and Zoë Barton).
20 Jul – 100s seen all over the island on Bramble (Dean Jones).
15 Aug – 100s seen nectaring on Heather North East Point area (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Garden Bumblebee *Bombus hortorum*

21 May – several seen in Millcombe (John & Joan Saul).

White-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum*

3 Apr – one seen near Quarry Cottages (Alan Rowland).

21 May – several seen in Millcombe (John & Joan Saul).

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum*

21 May – several seen in Millcombe (John & Joan Saul).

20 Jun – two around the Village, four outside Little St John's on White Clover (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

25 Jun – one in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Buff-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris*

17 Feb – one seen on Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

3 Apr – one Upper East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

16 Apr – three seen at Millcombe Pond (Michael Williams).

21 May – several seen in Millcombe (John & Joan Saul).

22 Jun – one at Jenny's Cove, one near Quarry Cottages (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

25 Jun – one at Barton's cottages, two in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

16 Aug – one seen on Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

27 Sep – three in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Red-banded Sand Wasp *Ammophila sabulosa*

21 Jun – one at Gannets' Coombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

28 Jun – one on Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Black Ant *Lassius niger*

22 Jun – 20 climbing Foxglove on Upper East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

A Potter Wasp *Ancistroceus* sp.

22 Jul – two seen nesting on the Jetty (Dean Jones).

A Wasp (*Vespula* sp.)

23 Jul – nest found Jenny's Cove (Dean Jones).

German Wasp *Vespula germanica*

16 Aug – 12 counted leaving a nest on the Lower East Side Path near Quarter Wall Copse (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – 50 in and out of the nest Lower East Side Path near Quarter Wall Copse (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – one in Millcombe Pond area (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

30 Sep – active nest Wall at top of Millcombe Valley.

1 Oct – active nest Lower East Side Path near St Helen's Copse (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

2 Oct – queen seen outside the nest (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Hornet *Vespa crabro* *

14 Oct – one seen in Village (Dean Jones).

NETWINGED INSECTS (Neuroptera)

Lacewing *Chrysopa* sp.

18 Jul – two in moth trap Village (Dean Jones).

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES (Odonata)

Compiled by Tim Davis

Five species were recorded during the year, between 2 Jun and 29 Sep. Damselflies were present at Pondsburg, Quarter Wall Pond, Quarry Pond, Rocket Pole Pond and in Punchbowl Valley.

DAMSELFLIES (Zygoptera)

Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*

There were records of occurrence on 21 days. The highest count was 346 adults made at Pondsburg on 24 Jul. Records of more than 10 were: 11 at Pondsburg on 21 Jun; 70 at Quarter Wall Pond on 10 Jul; 58 at Quarter Wall Pond on 15 Jul; 20 at Quarter Wall Pond on 24 Jul, and 40 at Pondsburg on 30 Aug.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*



*Blue-tailed
Damselflies at
Quarter Wall Pond.
© Alan Rowland*

There were records of occurrence on 16 days. The highest count was 60 adults made at Pondsburg on 24 Jul. Records of more than 10 were: 25 at Quarter Wall Pond on 4 Jul; 33 at Quarter Wall Pond on 10 Jul.

DRAGONFLIES (Anisoptera)

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

There were records of occurrence on 13 days between 25 Jul and 29 Sep, with three around Pondsburg on 13 Sep the only count higher than one.

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*



An Emperor Dragonfly ovipositing at Rocket Pole Pond.

© Martin Thorne

The Emperor Dragonfly was first recorded on Lundy in 1978, and in nine other years up to 2017 but without any evidence of breeding. This changed in 2018 when a female was photographed (by Martin Thorne) ovipositing at Rocket Pole Pond on 25 Aug (see colour plate): only the fifth species of Odonata known to have bred on the island to date (Davis, 2015). There were records of occurrence on seven days between 22 Jun and 30 Aug: all single individuals.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

Common Darters were noted on four days between 16 Jun and 24 Jul, with a maximum of three, along the Lower East Side Path, on 28 Jun.

Thanks to observers: Zoë Barton, Sam Bosanquet, Tim Davis, Josh Evans, Eleanor & Jane Harris, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Rob Preece, Alan Rowland, Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor and Martin Thorne.

Reference

Davis, T. 2015. Dragonflies on Lundy – a summary of occurrence during the LFS years. *LFS Annual Report* 65: 91-97.

CADDISFLIES (Trichoptera)

A Caddis Fly *Stenophylax permistus* ***

7 Jun – 12 in moth trap in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

A Caddis Fly *Plectonemia geniculata* ***

7 Jun – five in moth trap in Millcombe (Andrew Cleave).

GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS (Orthoptera)

Great Green Bush Cricket *Tettigonia viridissima* *

18 Aug – one seen on the Oldenburg tied up at the Jetty (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

20 Jun – one seen Upper East Side Path (Dean Jones).

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

16 Aug – twelve seen along Lower East Side Path, one on the South Coast, one by Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

1 Sep – one in Millcombe pond area (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – eight on Lower East Side Path (Millcombe to Terrace) (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

1 Sep – two seen at Benjamin’s Chair (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

1 Oct – one in Millcombe (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus* *

16 Aug – one seen on Lower East Side Path (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

4 Sep – three on Lower East Side Path (Millcombe – Terrace) (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

Bristletail *Petrobius maritimus*

27 Jun – one in Little St John’s (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

28 Jun – one in the St Helen’s Church (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

14 Aug – three seen in Benson’s Cave (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

17 Aug – three seen on Three Quarter Wall (Alan & Sandra Rowland).

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS (Lepidoptera)

Compiled by Anthony John

BUTTERFLIES

The warm dry weather of summer 2018 resulted in more records of most common species on Lundy, when compared with 2017; only Red Admiral and Peacock were recorded on fewer days. Nineteen species of butterflies were recorded in 2018 (16 species were seen in 2017). Scarcer species reported included Orange-tip, Clouded Yellow, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Comma, Holly Blue and Common Blue. However, there were no records of Wall.

Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Four records: in May, six on 12th, two on 13th and one on 19th; one on 7 Aug (an unlikely date, observers unknown). The previous records, all of them in April, were in 1997, 2014 and 2017.

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Recorded on 74 days (29 days in 2017) between 20 Apr and 3 Oct, with a max of 100 on 4 and 5 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			2	5	10	100	13	20	1		
			3	11	11	19	13	16	1		

Small White *Pieris rapae*

Recorded on 59 days (38 in 2017) between 13 May and 9 Oct, with a max of 20 on 24 Jul and 30 Aug.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				3	4	20	20	18	11		
				6	11	12	9	13	8		

Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Recorded on 59 days (46 in 2017) between 18 Apr and 3 Oct, with a max of 23 on 31 May.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			3	23	7	6	2	2	1		
			9	20	11	6	6	5	2		

Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Two records: singles on 11 Jun and 9 Oct.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Six records: one on 20 Apr; in autumn there were singles on 2, 23, 28, and 29 Sep and two on 27 Sep.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Recorded on 67 days (50 in 2017) between 21 May and 29 Sep, with a max of 120 on 6 Jun.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				40	120	6	25	20			
				8	26	8	14	11			

Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*

Recorded on 17 days (12 in 2017) between 16 Jun and 26 Jul, with a max of 37 on 6 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					6	37					
					4	13					

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

Recorded on 50 days (40 in 2017) between 6 Jun and 17 Aug, with a max of 426 on 4 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					391	426	10				
					22	19	9				

Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*

There was one, possibly two records; three possibles on 13 Jun, and 25+ on 2 Jul.

Grayling *Hipparchia semele*

Ten records on 11 days between 20 Jun and 31 Jul, with a max of nine on 25 Jul.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Recorded on 109 days (112 in 2017) between 9 Apr and 21 Nov, with a max of 18 on 27 May and 4 Jun.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	18	18	13	11	13	12	3	
			1	6	21	17	16	22	21	5	

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Recorded on 67 days (47 in 2017) between 26 Apr and 9 Oct, with a max of 40 on 30 Aug.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	5	6	4	40	14	3		
			2	6	13	12	15	18	1		

Peacock *Inachis io*

Recorded on 11 days (20 in 2017) between 16 Mar and 10 Sep, with a max of two on 17 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	1	1	1	2	1	1			
		2	2	1	1	2	2	1			

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Recorded on 39 days (24 in 2017) between 25 Mar and 15 Nov, with a max of 20 on 4 May.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	2	20	5	4	2	1	2	1	
		1	3	3	8	9	7	1	5	2	

Despite a better year on Lundy in 2018, results from Butterfly Conservation showed that the national population of the Small Tortoiseshell, once common and widespread, has collapsed by 75% since the 1970s.

Comma *Polygonia c-album*

There were singles on 29 Apr and 5 Sep.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Recorded on 50 days (19 in 2017) between 19 May and 30 Oct, with a max of seven on 20 Jul, 26 Sep and 9 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	6	7	5	7	7		
				2	6	9	5	14	14		

Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*

One record of one on 18 Apr.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Recorded on 25 days (10 in 2017) between 28 May and 13 Sep, with a max of three on 15, 20 and 24 Jul.

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

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

Number of records (days) of scarce butterflies on Lundy 2009-2018

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Orange Tip	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	4
Clouded Yellow	1	-	5	-	5	3	2	-	-	2
Wall	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Speckled Wood	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	6
Gatekeeper	10	3+	8	1	4	-	4	3	4	1 (2?)
Comma	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Holly Blue	2	6	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1
Common Blue	3+	6	2	-	-	-	1	2	10	25
Ringlet	2	3+	3	2	-	11	8	2	12	17
Peacock	9	4	3	2	1	15	16	6	20	11



Hummingbird Hawk-moth and Dark Sword-grass moths: migrants at Lundy in 2018.
Images © Helen Cole

As a result of greatly increased trapping effort, particularly by Dean Jones, at least 238 species of moths were recorded on Lundy during 2018, 86 species of 'micro' moths and 152 species of 'macro' moths (the latter include Common Swift, Thrift Clearwing and 6-spot & 5-spot Burnet moths). This compares with 125 species recorded in 2017. Seven species of migrant moths were recorded: Diamond-back Moth, Rusty-dot Pearl, Rush Veneer, Convolvulus Hawk-moth, Hummingbird Hawk-moth, Dark Sword-grass, and Silver Y.

A total of 28 light trap sessions were carried out in 2018, 24 with a Skinner trap and four with a Heath trap, in June (8), July (6), August (4), September (7), October (2), and December (1). Skinner traps were deployed at Paradise Row on ten occasions from 3 June to 31 August; at the Casbah in Millcombe on ten visits from 20 July to 30 December; and at Millcombe House on 5, 6 and 7 June. A Heath trap was operated at Brambles on 8, 9, 11 and 13 September and 18 October. Daytime searches for day-flying moths were done on an *ad hoc* basis.

Common and scientific names follow the *Checklist of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles* by D.J.L. Agassiz, S.D. Beavan & R.J. Heckford, published for the Royal Entomological Society in 2013. The numbers before the species names also follow this checklist. *A Provisional List of the Moths of Lundy, Devon*, compiled by S.D. Beavan and R.J. Heckford, was published in 2014 in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* (Volume 27, pp45-62); this is abbreviated to 'B & H' in the list below.

Due to the large number of species recorded, and constraints on space, precise details of records of common moths – those that occur on Lundy in most years – are not given; they are listed at the end. The species listed in detail below are those which are scarce or have been infrequently recorded on Lundy, are migrants, or were found in large numbers.

The following is a list of all those observers who sent in records of moths in 2018:

Rob Andrew, Zoë Barton, Alison Bunning, P. Callaway, Tom Carr, Andrew Cleave, Helen Cole, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Chris Dee, Josh Evans, Ash Garfoot, Richard Goodman, Ishbel Hayes, Val Hennelly, John Hutchison, Paul Holt, Dean Woodfin Jones, Mike Jones, Roger & Rosy Key et al., Peter Lambden, Chloë Lofthouse, Kathryn MacKinnon, Chris Manvala, David Price, Martin Roper, Alan & Sandra Rowland, John & Joan Saul, Sian Scott, Shelley Sherman, Frances Stuart, Tony & Ann Taylor, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Emily Trapnell, Sue Waterfield, Denise Wawman, Michael Williams, Lucy Wood.

MICRO-MOTHS (52 species listed)

4.045 *Stigmella aurella*

20 Sep – numerous leaf mines on bramble in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

11.012 **Common Bagworm** *Psyche casta*

8 Jun – numerous larval cases on rocks at Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).

12.027 **Case-bearing Clothes Moth** *Tinea pellionella* – not in B & H checklist

14 Jul – two at Pigs 4 (Dean Jones).

12.038 **Yellow-backed Clothes Moth** *Monopis obviella* – not in B & H checklist

25 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

12.039 **Pale-backed Clothes Moth** *Monopis crocipitella* – not in B & H checklist

25 Jun – six in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

12.048 **Fern Smut** *Psychoides filicivora* – not in B & H checklist

1 Jun – one in Millcombe Valley (Dean Jones).

15.010 *Caloptilia stigmatella*

20 Sep – numerous leaf mines on *Salix* on the Terrace (Dean Jones).

17.003 *Ypsolopha dentella* – last recorded in 1995

25 Jul – two in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

13 Aug – two in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

17.014 **Feathered Stem-moth** *Ochsenheimeria taurella* – not in B & H checklist

8 Jun – one on Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).

18.001 **Diamond-back Moth** *Plutella xylostella* – a migrant

Recorded regularly from 26 May (five at the Battery) to the last one on 31 Dec at the 'Steps of Doom' (Dean Jones).

19.002 **Speckled Fanner** *Glyphipterix thrasonella* – not in B & H checklist

13 Jul – 20+ flying around *Juncus* spp at Quarter Wall in afternoon (Dean Jones).

19.007 *Glyphipterix simplicella* – last recorded in 1984

21 May – one or more recorded, site unspecified (John & Joan Saul).

31 May – one in Millcombe Valley (Dean Jones).

28.009 **White-shouldered House-moth** *Endrosis sarcitrella* – not in B & H checklist
Recorded on eight occasions from 31 Mar at Pigs Paradise (Dean Jones & Zoe Barton) to the last one on 18 Oct at Brambles Villa (Ishbel Hayes & Helen Cole).

28.012 **Small Dingy Tubic** *Borkhausenia fuscescens* – not in B & H checklist
16 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

32.030 *Agnopterix nervosa* – last recorded by G.B. Longstaff in 1907; reported in Palmer, M.G. (1946) *The fauna and flora of the Ilfracombe District of North Devon*.
18 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

32.039 *Depressaria daucella*
9 & 11 Sep – singles at 6W actinic Heath trap at Bramble Villas (David Price).

35.010 *Aproaerema anthyllideta* – not in B & H checklist
27 Jun – one in in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

35.016 *Nothris congressariella* – B & H describe this as “Probably the most significant moth species that occurs on Lundy”; it feeds on balm-leaved figwort.
5 Jul – one in in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
13 Aug – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

37.106 *Coleophora paripenella* – last recorded in 1988
8 Jun – one on Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).
5 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

38.025 *Elachista atricomella* – not in B & H checklist
6 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

40.015 **Little Mompha** *Mompha raschkiella* – not in B & H checklist
4 Sep – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

41.002 *Blastobasis adustella* – not in B & H checklist
25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

(45.009 **Tansy Plume** *Gillmeria ochrodactyla*
27 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones). However, Beavan & Heckford's 2014 checklist suggests that this is unlikely, since the food plant, Tansy, does not occur on Lundy).

45.028 **Wood Sage Plume** *Capperia britanniodactylus*
25 May – a caterpillar on wood sage in Millcombe (John & Joan Saul).

48.001 **Nettle Tap** *Anthophila fabriciana*
26 Sep – ‘hundreds’ on Lower East Side path (Dean Jones).

49.024 **Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix** *Pandemis corylana* – last recorded in 1985
26 Aug – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

49.028 **Dark-barred Tortrix** *Syndemis musculana* – not in B & H checklist
8 Jun – one on Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).

49.059 *Tortrix viridana* – last recorded in 1993
7 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

49.065 **Strawberry Tortrix** *Acleris comariana* – not in B & H checklist
10 Sep – two in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

49.066 *Acleris laterana* – not in B & H checklist
8 Sep – one at 6W actinic Heath trap at Bramble Villas (David Price).



A Rhomboid Tortrix, Acleris rhombana, last recorded at Lundy in 1987.
© David Price

49.070 **Rhomboid Tortrix** *Acleris rhombana* – last recorded in 1987
13 Sep – one at 6W actinic Heath trap at Bramble Villas (David Price).

49.078 *Acleris aspersana* – last recorded by Longstaff; Palmer
4 Jul – one photographed on the Terrace (Dean Jones).

49.128 *Aethes rubigana* – last recorded in 1995
20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

49.157 *Hedya pruniana* – last recorded in 1988
31 May – two flushed near the Ugly (Dean Jones).

49.183 **Smokey-barred Marble** *Lobesia abscisana* – not in B & H checklist
14 Jul – one in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).
15 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

49.185 **Shore Marble** *Lobesia littoralis*

3 Jun – one at Benjamin's Chair (Dean Jones).

8 Jun – abundant on Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).

49.224 *Spilonota ocellana* – last recorded in 1990

5 Jul – one in Skinner trap in Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

49.305 *Rhyacionia buoliana* – last recorded in 1995

20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

49.367 *Pammene fasciana* – last recorded in 1990

27 Jun – one in Skinner trap in Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

62.015 *Delplanqueia dilutella* – not in B & H checklist

27 Jun – three in in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – one in in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

62.072 **Meal Moth** *Pyralis farinalis* – not in B & H checklist

18 Jul – one in Tavern toilets (Kathryn MacKinnon).

63.003 *Pyrausta cingulata* – last recorded in 1985

16 Jul – one at Pigs 4 (Dean Jones).

63.016 **Cinerosus Pearl** *Anania fuscali* – not in B & H checklist

31 May – one in Village (Dean Jones).

25 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

63.031 **Rusty-dot Pearl** *Udea ferrugalis* – a migrant

17 Jul – one at Millcombe House (Dean Jones).

63.034 *Udea prunalis* – last recorded in 1993

15 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones)

20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

63.052 **Rush Veneer** *Nomophila noctuella* – a migrant

9 Oct – one on Upper East Side path (Tim Davis, Tim Jones).

24 Oct – one below Castle (Paul Holt).

63.057 **Garden Pebble** *Evergestis forficalis* – not in B & H checklist

31 May – one in Tavern doorway (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

21 Aug – one in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).

63.066 *Scoparia pyralella*

31 May – one in Millcombe Valley (Dean Jones). Seven further moths were found in Skinner traps at Paradise Row or the Casbah between 5 Jul and 20 Aug (all Dean Jones).

63.073 *Eudonia truncicolella* – last recorded in 1993
 9 Sep – one on the Terrace (Dean Jones).

63.081 *Crambus pascuella* – last recorded in 1990
 10 Jun – one photographed at Northeast Point, near Gannet's Rock (Dean Jones).

63.114 **Brown China-mark** *Elophila nymphaeata* (for further details see article on p.xx)
 Up to five adults were seen on four dates between 19 and 29 Jun at Quarter Wall Pond and another in Sep at Quarry Pond (Alan & Sandra Rowland).
 7 Jun – two in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).
 29 Aug – one at Brick Field Pond (Richard Taylor).
 30 Aug – two at Pondsburry (Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

63.117 **Ringed China-mark** *Paroponyx stratiotata*
 16 Jul – one near Bramble Villas (Sam Bosanquet).

Macro-moths (53 species listed)

52.016 **Thrift Clearwing** *Pryopterion muscaeformis*
 8 Jun – one at Pyramid Slope (Dean Jones).
 9 Jun – one at Southwest Point (P. Callaway).

54.008 **Six-spot Burnet** *Zygaena filipendulae*
 Recorded on 22 days between 2 Jun and 25 Jul, with a max of 272 on 4 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					100	272					
					15	7					

54.010 **Five-spot Burnet** *Zygaena trifolii*
 Recorded on 12 days between 20 Jun and 30 Jul, with a max of 100 on 4 Jul.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					6	100					
					3	9					

54.008/54.010 **Burnet moth** spp. *Zygaena* spp.
 31 May – c.30 caterpillars and c.150 chrysalis at Castle Parade (Dean Jones).
 4 Jun – 314 chrysalis west of Benjamin's Chair (Rebecca Taylor).

65.008 **Peach Blossom** *Thyatira batis* – not in B & H checklist
 25 Jun – one in in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
 13 Aug – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

66.008 **Fox Moth** caterpillars *Macrothylacia rubi*
 Recorded on 54 days between 30 Mar and 17 Nov, with a max of 71 on 6 Oct.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	1	1	1	-	6	17	71	1	
		1	1	2	2	-	10	19	16	3	

68.001 Emperor Moth *Saturnia pavonia*

Adults were recorded on six days in May – two on 4th, a female on 7th, at least five on 13th, singles on 17th, 20th and 21st, the last two being males; single caterpillars were seen at Dead Cow Point on 4 Jul, and on the main track between Quarter and Halfway walls on 23 and 31 Jul and 6 Aug.

69.004 Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrilus convolvuli* – a migrant

11 Aug – one feeding on flowers at dusk at Paradise Row (Dean Jones, Zoe Barton).
 13 Aug – two feeding on flowers at dusk at Paradise Row, one flew past Tavern (Dean Jones, Zoe Barton).
 22 Aug – one in the Tavern (Ash Garfoot, Sian Scott).
 10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

69.010 Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* – a migrant

Recorded on 35 days between 7 Jun and 24 Oct, with a max of three on 10 Jul and 29 Sep.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					2	3	2	3	2		
					1	9	5	15	5		

70.009 Satin Wave *Idaea subsericeata* – last recorded in 1968 (B & H)

10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

70.040 Lead Belle *Scotopteryx mucronata* – not in B & H checklist

6 Jun – one flushed from bracken in Halfway Wall Bay (Dean Jones); one in Black Shed loos (Tim Jones, Tim Davis, Richard & Rebecca Taylor).

70.067 Streamer *Anticlea derivata* – not in B & H checklist

22 Apr – one in Black Shed loos (Zoë Barton).

70.074 July Highflier *Hydriomena furcata* – last recorded in 1995

18 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
 20 Jul – four in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

70.098 Dark Marbled Carpet *Dysstroma citrata* – last recorded in 2010 (B & H)

27 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

70.100 Green Carpet *Colostygia pectinataria* – last recorded in 2012 (B & H)

6 and 7 Jun – singles in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

70.106 Winter Moth *Operophtera brumata*

30 Dec – two in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

- 70.138 **Sandy Carpet** *Perizoma flavofasciata* – not in B & H checklist
 6 Jun – one in in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).
 20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
- 70.142 **V-pug** *Chloroclystis v-ata* – not in B & H checklist
 5 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
 18 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
- 70.144 **Green Pug** *Pasiphila rectangulata* – last recorded in 1995
 7 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).
- 70.147 **Slender Pug** *Eupithecia tenuiata* – last recorded in 1995
 5 Jul – two in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
- 70.155 **Netted Pug** *Eupithecia venosata* – not in B & H checklist
 7 Jun – one in light trap in Millcombe Valley (Andrew Cleave).
- 70.172 **Thyme Pug** *Eupithecia distinctaria* – last recorded in 1993
 25 & 27 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
- 70.179 **Ling Pug** *Eupithecia absinthiata* ssp. *goossensiata*. This is the smaller, greyer version of **Wormwood Pug** *E. absinthiata* found on heathland or moorland.
 25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).
- 70.187 **Tawny Speckled Pug** *Eupithecia icterata* – not in B & H checklist
 13 Aug – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
- 70.190 **Grey Pug** *Eupithecia subfuscata* – not in B & H checklist
 3 Jun – two in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
- 70.200 **Yellow-barred Brindle** *Acasis viretata* – not in B & H checklist
 27 May – one at Bramble Villas (Tony & Ann Taylor, Richard & Rebecca Taylor).
- 70.243 **Swallow-tailed Moth** *Ourapteryx sambucaria*
 27 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
 25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
- 70.282 **Early Moth** *Theria primaria* – not in B & H checklist
 31 Dec – one in Tavern toilets (Dean Jones).
- 70.287 **Annulet** *Charissa obscurata* – last recorded in 1993
 9 Aug – one in the Tavern doorway (Dean Jones).
 13 Aug – three in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).
 25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
 26 Aug – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
- 70.297 **Grass Emerald** *Pseudoterpna pruinata* – not in B & H checklist
 25 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
 15 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

71.020 **Pale Prominent** *Pterostoma palpina* – last recorded in 1995 (B & H)
13 Aug – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

72.001 **Herald** *Scoliopteryx libatrix* – last recorded in 2010 (B & H)
16 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

72.002 **Straw Dot** *Rivula sericealis* – not in B & H checklist
27 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).
10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

72.013 **Yellow-tail** *Euproctis similis* – last recorded in 1995
13 Jul – one in Tavern toilets (Zoë Barton, Emily Trapnell & Dean Jones).
15 Jul – one in Tavern doorway (Dean Jones).

72.035 **Rosy Footman** *Mittochrista miniata* – not in B & H checklist
23 Jul – one in Tavern toilets (Kathryn MacKinnon).
25 Jul – three in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

72.044 **Dingy Footman** *Eilema griseola* – not in B & H checklist
20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).
25 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).
20 Aug – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.015 **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma* – a migrant
Recorded on 66 days (21 in 2017) between 22 May and 19 Oct, with a max of 100 on 28 May.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				100	67	46	6	9	2		
				6	17	14	11	14	4		

73.047 **Coronet** *Craniophora ligustri* – not in B & H checklist
5 Jun – four in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).
6 Jun – eight in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).
7 Jun – 11 in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

73.061 **Anomalous** *Stilbia anomala* – last recorded in 1973
26 Aug – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.062 **Copper Underwing** *Amphipyra pyramidea* – last recorded in 1995
13 Aug – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).
10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.162 **Dark Arches** *Apamea monoglypha*
16 Jul – max. 66 in Skinner trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.216 **Dun-bar** *Cosmia trapezina* – last recorded in 1990
20 Jul – 11 in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.267 **Bright-line Brown-eye** *Lacanobia oleracea*

5 Jul – max. 69 in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.278 **Barrett's Marbled Coronet** *Conisania andalusica* – Nationally Scarce B. Confined to the coasts of Devon & Cornwall, southwest Wales and southern Ireland.

5 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

6 Jun – two in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones); one in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

7 Jun – three in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

28 Jun – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.290 **Brown-line Bright-eye** *Mythimna conigera* – not in B & H checklist

20 Jul – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.300 **L-album Wainscot** *Mythimna l-album*

9 Sep – one at 6W actinic Heath trap at Bramble Villas (David Price).

10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at the Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.301 **Shoulder-striped Wainscot** *Mythimna comma*

27 and 28 Jun – singles in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – two in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.303 **Devonshire Wainscot** *Leucania putrescens* – last recorded in 1993

28 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

15 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Windy's Pig Pen, Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

18 Jul – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.324 **Crescent Dart** *Agrotis trux* – a coastal species

18 Jul – max. 49 in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.327 **Dark Sword-grass** *Agrotis ipsilon* – a migrant

A good year. A total of 11 moths, all light-trapped, on ten dates between 3 Jun and 18 Oct; there were two moths in Jun, five in Jul, two in Aug, one in Sep and one in Oct.

73.328 **Flame** *Axylia putris* – last recorded in 1992

7 Jun – two in Skinner trap at Millcombe House (Andrew Cleave).

27 Jun – one in Skinner trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

73.343 **Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing** *Noctua fimbriata* – not in B & H checklist

18 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

10 Sep – one in Skinner trap at Casbah (Dean Jones).

73.346 **Least Yellow Underwing** *Noctua interjecta* – last recorded in 1986

11 Sep – one at 6W actinic Heath trap at Bramble Villas (David Price).

74.003 **Short-cloaked Moth** *Nola cucullatella* – last recorded in 2012 (B & H)

5 Jul – one in Skinner Trap at Paradise Row (Dean Jones).

The following common moths, most of which have been recorded on Lundy in recent years, were also recorded in 2018; they are listed by the order in the Beavan & Heckford (2014) checklist:

Micro-moths:

Aspilapteryx tringipennella, *Phyllonorycter messaniella*, *Hofmannophila pseudospretella*, *Agonopterix heracliana*, *Depressaria radiella*, *Coleophora discordella*, *Elachista argentella*, *Alucita hexadactyla*, *Emmelina monodactyla*, *Epermenia chaerophyllella*, *Pandemis cerasana*, *Acleris rhombana*, *A. variegana*, *Hysterophora maculosana*, *Agapeta hamana*, *Cochylis atricapitana*, *Celypha lacunana*, *Bactra lancealana*, *Eucosma cana*, *Notocelia uddmanniana*, *Cydia ulicetana*, *Aphomia sociella*, *Pempelia palumbella*, *Phycitodes saxicola*, *Endotricha flammealis*, *Anania coronata*, *A. hortulata*, *U. olivalis*, *Pleuroptya ruralis*, *Scoparia ambigualis*, *S. pyralella*, *Eudonia lacustrata*, *E. angustea*, *E. mercurella*, *Chrysoteuchia culmella*, *C. perlella*, *Agriphila tristella*, *A. straminella*, *A. geniculea*.

Macro-moths:

Common Swift, Chinese Character, Buff Arches, Lackey, Oak Eggar, Single-dotted Wave, Small Fan-footed Wave, Riband Wave, Mullein Wave, Small Blood-vein, Blood-vein, July Belle, Garden Carpet, Red Twin-spot Carpet, Silver-ground Carpet, Yellow Shell, Common Carpet, May Highflier, Purple Bar, Common Marbled Carpet, Rivulet, Small Rivulet, Double-striped Pug, Foxglove Pug, Narrow-winged Pug, Lime-speck Pug, Common Pug, Mottled Pug, Magpie Moth, Brown Silver-line, Brimstone Moth, Early Thorn, Scalloped Hazel, Scalloped Oak, Peppered Moth, Willow Beauty, Mottled Beauty, Clouded Silver, Light Emerald, Brussels Lace, Common Emerald, Buff-tip, Snout, Pale Tussock, Buff Ermine, White Ermine, Ruby Tiger, Garden Tiger, Cream-spot Tiger, Common Footman, Scarce Footman, Hoary Footman, Fan-foot, Spectacle, Knot Grass, Marbled Green, Uncertain, Rustic, Treble Lines, Angle Shades, Small Angle Shades, Rosy Rustic, Flounced Rustic, Small Wainscot, Dusky Brocade, Common Rustic, Rosy Minor, Cloaked Minor, Marbled Minor, Rufous Minor, Middle-barred Minor, Yellow-line Quaker, Lunar Underwing, Brindled Ochre, Feathered Ranunculus, Common Quaker, Antler Moth, Broom Moth, Shears, Lychnis, Marbled Coronet, Double Line, Common Wainscot, Smoky Wainscot, Clay, Square-spot Dart, Heart & Dart, Turnip Moth, Flame Shoulder, Ingrailed Clay, Small Square-spot, True Lover's Knot, Large Yellow Underwing, Lesser Yellow Underwing, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Autumnal Rustic, Least Black Arches.

Reference

Beavan, S. D. & Heckford, R. J. (2014) A provisional list of the moths of Lundy, Devon. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*, 27 45-62.

FLORA

Compiled by Andrew Cleave

Nomenclature follows Stace, C. 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press. See http://www.thewildflowersociety.com/wfs_list_of_all_plants/main_menu_2010.htm for Stace 3rd edition names.



White and Purple Common Vetch Vicia sativa.
© Ann Taylor



Knotted clover, Trifolium striatum, from the steps behind Millcombe House.
© Andrew Cleave

The first plant records for the year came early in January with a single **Red Campion** *Silene dioica* seen in flower at the top of Millcombe. **Primroses** *Primula vulgaris* were reported flowering in Quarter Wall Copse January 27th and **Snowdrops** *Galanthus nivalis* were seen on January 28th. Primroses were still flowering in late March and the first **Common Dog Violets** *Viola riviniana* were spotted on March 26th. **Sea Campion** *Silene uniflora* and **Lesser Celandine** *Ficaria verna* were found in flower on March 31st and the buds of **Thrift** *Armeria maritima* were showing some colour at the same time. In early April the first **Bluebells** *Endymion non-scripta* were seen in Millcombe and **Wild Thyme** *Thymus polytrichus* was beginning to flower along the east side path. Towards the end of the month **Tormentil** *Potentilla erecta*, **Round-leaved Crowfoot** *Ranunculus omiophyllus*, **Common Lousewort** *Pedicularis sylvatica*, **Sundew** *Drosera rotundifolia*, **Ox-eye Daisy** *Leucanthemum vulgare* and **Bird's-foot Trefoil** *Lotus corniculatus* were all in flower. The first **Lundy Cabbage** *Coincya wrightii* flowers were seen on May 5th on the Beach Road and **Kidney Vetch** *Anthyllis vulneraria* was seen above the Devil's Lime Kiln. Many more species were seen during the month, including **Common Vetch** *Vicia sativa*, **Rock Sea-spurrey** *Spergularia rupicola* and **Prickly Sow-thistle** *Sonchus asper*.

At the beginning of June records from the South Light compound included **Western Clover** *Trifolium occidentale*, (possibly a new record for Lundy) **English Stonecrop** *Sedum anglicum*, **Sea Carrot** *Daucus carota ssp gummifer*, **Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana* and **Lesser Trefoil** *Trifolium dubium*. An **Eyebright** species, *Euphrasia officinalis agg* was also recorded here. 20 flowering spikes of **Greater Broomrape** *Orobanche rapum-genistae* were found on **Prostrate Broom** *Cytisus scoparius ssp maritimus* just above the tide line in Quarry Bay and a further 9 spikes were seen in the VC Quarry. **Allseed** *Radiola linoides* was seen close by and also in several spots along the west sidelands. **Knotted Clover** *Trifolium striatum* was found beside the steps just above Millcombe House and **Hare's-foot Clover** *T. arvense* appeared again on the tops of walls in the village area. On the quarry terrace, despite rather dry conditions, there were many flowering plants of **Heath Pearlwort** *Sagina subulata* and extensive patches of **Common Bird's-foot** *Ornithopus perpusillus*. The colony of **Heath Spotted-orchids**

Dactylorhiza maculata produced 99 flowering spikes near Pondsbury, with good displays seen on June 7th and 8th. **Bog Asphodel** *Narthecium ossifragum* and **Bog Pimpernel** *Lysimachia tenella* were both coming into flower close by at the same time. **Greater Skullcap** *Scutellaria galericulata* was found just above Gannet's Coombe and **Lesser Skullcap** *S. minor* was growing in a very dwarfed form near Quarter Wall Cottages. The diminutive **Chaffweed** *L. minima* appeared again in the margins of Kistvaen Pond. A good colony of **Common Centaury** *Centaureum erythraea* was in full bloom on the slopes above Lamentor and **Common Mallow** *Malva sylvestris* was reported as doing very well in several sites around the south of the island.



Flowering spikes of Heath Spotted-orchids
Dactylorhiza maculata near Pondsbury.
© Andrew Cleave

A number of species associated with disturbed ground, gardens, paths and gateways were recorded, mainly in the village area, including **Common Knotgrass** *Polygonum aviculare*, **Black Nightshade**, *Solanum nigrum* **Swinecress** *Coronopus didymus*, **Knotted Hedgeparsley** *Torilis nodosa*, **Hedge Bindweed** *Calystegia sepium* and **Pineapple Weed** *Matricaria discoidea*.

The maritime or waved heath on top of the island looked splendid in its full summer colour with good displays of **Western Gorse** *Ulex gallii*, **Bell Heather** *Erica cinerea*, **Ling** *Calluna vulgaris* and **Cross-leaved Heath** *E. tetralix*. As the summer season progressed **Golden-rod** *Solidago virgaurea* started to flower below the quarry terrace. A patch of **Marsh Violet** *Viola palustris* was discovered in flower in the Punch Bowl Valley in early October.

A small number of grasses, sedges and rushes were recorded, including **Greater Tussock-sedge** *Carex paniculata* in St John's Valley and Gannet's Coombe, **Sand Sedge** *Carex arenaria*, abundant on top of the island, **Floating Club-rush** *Eleogiton fluitans* in several ponds and wet flushes, and **Toad Rush** *Juncus bufonius* on tracks on top of the island.

Records continued during the autumn and winter months with many species still showing a few flowers late in December.

Ferns were well recorded with many records of **Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum* from various sites, including Rocket Pole Pond and Middle Park. The very rare (for Lundy) **Wall Rue** *Asplenium ruta-muraria* was found in two locations and the main colony of **Rusty-back Fern** *Asplenium ceterach* continued to thrive near the Blue Bung. **Hay-scented Buckler Fern** *Dryopteris aemula*, unusually common on Lundy, was reported from many sites and there were also several records of **Royal Fern** *Osmunda regalis* growing from many rocky locations on the east side.

Thanks to the following observers for their contributions to the Log Book during the year:

Rob Andrew, Zoë Barton, Andrew Cleave, Mags Cousins, Tim Davis, Paul Holt, John Hutchinson, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Rob Large, John Martin, Alan Rowland, Sandra Rowland, Siân Scott, Shelley Sherman, Frances Stuart, Ann Taylor, Tony Taylor, Michael Williams – and some anonymous or illegible contributors!

FUNGI

Compiled by Mandy Dee

Scientific nomenclature follows *Index Fungorum*, available at www.indexfungorum.org

English names follow the British Mycological Society checklist, available at www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/library/english-names

The hot summer of 2018 affected the growth of fungal fruiting bodies, with many species appearing much later in the autumn than usual. Despite this, a total of 181 species were recorded in 2018, an increase from the previous year, of which 43 were new to Lundy (marked in the text with an asterisk *). Two week-long recording trips by Mandy Dee and John Hedger in September and November provided the bulk of the records, but there were a few welcome records from other observers, including a species new to Lundy.

One of the species new to Lundy, a member of the parasol family, *Macrolepiota excoriata*, was found by Alan Rowland growing beside the path to The Battery, showing that large new toadstools can still be discovered for the first time. Mandy Dee found what may prove to be the first of many Orange Ping-pong Bat fungi – a tiny specimen on a dead twig in Millcombe. This is a newly invading fungus currently only recorded in the south west of the UK, but spreading rapidly, and is so bright and easy to identify that I am sure it will be recorded again. John Hedger undertook a survey of dung fungi, both on fresh dung and incubated dung, of different herbivores, and added 12 new species to our records.

The Grey Waxcap survey plus the yearly Airfield survey of waxcaps and other grassland fungi were conducted in November. There were three Fungus Forays for visitors, in September, October, and November, run by John Hedger and Mandy Dee, all of which were well attended, and plenty of interesting fungi were found.

All records are, unless otherwise stated, by Mandy Dee and John Hedger

GILL FUNGI

AGARICACEAE – MUSHROOMS

Field Mushroom and **Horse Mushroom** were recorded regularly throughout the autumn, and there were three records of the pink-staining **Tufted Wood Mushroom** from the varied habitats of the airfield, St Helen's Copse, and the grassy areas around Pondsby. ***Agaricus cupreobrunneus*** was recorded 5 times, all north of Quarter Wall, including one record from amongst the heather at the North End, a typical habitat for this fungus.

AGARICACEAE – PARASOLS

The **Parasol** is the most well-known of this group, and are so large that they are an iconic sight on Lundy. They were recorded throughout the autumn from 22 August in South West Field to the latest record on 8 Oct on the Upper East Side Path (Ali Sheppard). Two new smaller species from this group were recorded for the first time.

Lepiota oreadiformis*

26 Sep – First record, in short grass, Benjamin's Chair (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Macrolepiota excoriata*

28 Sep – First record, by the steps to the Battery (Alan Rowland).

Strophariaceae – Brownies

(There were no records this year of the common Peat Brownie or Sulphur Tuft.)

Hypholoma ericaeoides*

1 Oct – First record in grass amongst Creeping Willow in Punchbowl Valley (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Hypholoma ericaeum

26 Sep – Punchbowl Valley.

28 Sep – found on the LFS foray in rough grass near Quarter Wall.

8 Nov – in wet peat in Punchbowl Valley.

Pholiota tuberculosa

10 Nov – on dead rhododendron stump on Lower East Side path (John Hedger).

Dung Roundhead *Stropharia semiglobata*

Recorded throughout the autumn, but also one useful spring record.

20 April – Lin Black.

PHYSALACRIACEAE



Porcelain Fungus

Oudemansiella mucida.

© Philip Lymbery

Porcelain Fungus / Beech Tuft *Oudemansiella mucida*

30 Sep – on a living tree in Millcombe.

BOLBITIACEAE – FIELDCAPS AND CONECAPS

Yellow Fieldcap *Bolbitius titubans*

20 Apr – in grass in the Village.

22 Aug – in grass in Millcombe .

Common Conecap was found throughout the autumn in grassy areas in the south of the island, but there was also one April record from Pondsbury. **Dung Conecap** was found in September, October, and November, on the pony dung.

LYOPHYLLACEAE

Pink Domecap *Calocybe carnea*

8 Nov – on grass at Jenny's Cove.

TRICHOLOMATACEAE

Mealy Meadowcap *Porpoloma metapodium*

26 Sep – in short turf at the Old Hospital.

6 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield survey.

ENTOLOMATACEAE – PINKGILLS

September saw the usual records from short turf of **Indigo**, **Blue-edged** and **Papillate Pinkgill**, although the latter was also found in November at the Earthquake. **Silky Pinkgill** was found throughout the autumn, favouring slightly longer grass. **Lilac Pinkgill** was recorded from its usual spot at the eastern end of the Airfield in November. Two new species were recorded.

Star Pinkgill *Entoloma conferendum*

20 Apr – (Lin Black).

1 Oct – in grass with Creeping Willow at Punchbowl Valley.

Crow Pinkgill – *Entoloma corvinum*

26 Sep – in short turf near Rocket Pole.

Sepia Pinkgill – *Entoloma jubatum**

29 Sep – A first record, found amongst the heather at the North End (John Hedger).

Entoloma longistriatum

8 Nov – in short turf, by the west coast of Middle Park.

Entoloma politum

8 Nov – a second record (first seen on 2003) under creeping willow at the south end of Punchbowl Valley.

*Entoloma versatile**

29 Sep – A first record, found amongst the heather at the North End (John Hedger).

PSATHYRELLACEAE – INKCAPS AND BRITTLESTEMS

Pleated inkcap was recorded three times through the autumn.

Fairy Inkcap *Coprinellus disseminatus*

30 Sep – On dead wood in Millcombe.

Coprinellus heptemerus

28 Sep – found on pony dung on the LFS foray at Quarter Wall.

1 Dec – on pony dung at Punchbowl Valley.

Coprinopsis stercorea

5 Nov – on pony dung at Quarter Wall.

Pale Brittlestem *Psathyrella candolleana*

25 Sep – on leaf litter in Millcombe.

Red Edge Brittlestem *Psathyrella corrugis*

9 Nov – behind the gas store in Millcombe (John Hedger).

CORTINARIACEAE – WEBCAPS AND POISONPIES

Saffron Webcap *Cortinarius croceus*

6 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield survey.

Marsh Webcap *Cortinarius uliginosus*

1 Oct – grass with creeping willow at Punchbowl Valley.

Poisonpie *Hebeloma* cf. *crustuliniforme* was found at several locations around Punchbowl Valley and Quarter Wall at the end of September and into October.

Veiled Poisonpie *Hebeloma mesophaeum*

26 Sep – in grass with creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley.

MARASMIACEAE – RUSTGILLS, TOUGHSHANKS, PARACHUTES

Spectacular Rustgill *Gymnopilus junonius*

1 Oct – Quarries (Alan Rowland).

Russet Toughshank *Gymnopus dryophilus*

8 Nov – in short turf by the main track near Pondsbyury.

10 Nov – under bracken on Lower East Side path (John Hedger).

Gymnopus impudicus

26 Sep – in grass with bracken at Ackland's Moor.

Fairy Ring Champignon *Marasmius oreades*

Found from August to November throughout the grassy areas of the island, with one record in April from South West Field.

Twig Parachute *Marasmius* (= *Marasmiellus*) *ramealis*

31 Jan – Second record, on a dead bramble stem in Millcombe (Dean Jones).

Butter Cap *Rhodocollybia butyracea*

10 Nov – under bracken on Lower East Side path (John Hedger).

HYMENOGASTRACEAE – BELLS, ALDERCAPS, MAGIC MUSHROOMS

Moss Bell *Galerina hypnorum*

10 Nov – in grass at Windy Corner (John Hedger).

Hairy Leg Bell *Galerina vittiformis*

10 Nov – in grass on the Lower East Side path (John Hedger).

Ochre Aldercap *Naucoria escharioides*

27 Sep – growing in numbers in its usual spot in the stream under the alders in Quarter Wall Copse.

Psilocybe coprophila

Extremely common on dung throughout the autumn, with one winter record on 25 February at Pondsbyury (Mandy Dee).

Magic mushroom, Liberty Cap *Psilocybe semilanceata*

Found throughout the autumn months in grasslands in the south.

HYGROPHORACEAE – WAXCAPS

Originally all *Hygrocybe* sp., some of these have now been split into different genera.

Golden, Scarlet, Parrot, Snowy, and Spangle Waxcaps were prolific on short turf through October and November, with the latter being the earliest to appear on 25 September. **Heath Waxcap** had a very good year, and was present in large numbers throughout the autumn on the Airfield, with 120 specimens recorded on the Airfield survey, as well as in its more normal habitat amongst the bracken. **Meadow, Crimson, and Cedarwood Waxcaps** were also recorded several times, but did not make an appearance until November.

Grey Waxcap *Cuphophyllus lacmus*

8 Nov – 52 recorded on the annual survey, in the heather at the North End, near John o' Groat's House.

Meadow Waxcap *Cuphophyllus pratensis*

6 and 7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield, found on the Airfield survey and LFS foray.

Orange Waxcap *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens*

7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield, found on the LFS foray.



*A Persistent Waxcap,
Hygrocybe autoconica.
© Mandy Dee*

Persistent Waxcap *Hygrocybe autoconica* syn *H. persistens*

26 Sep – in short turf at the Old Hospital.

18 Oct – in short turf at Quarter Wall Cottages, found on the LFS foray.

Goblet Waxcap *Hygrocybe cantharellus*

28 Sep – in rough grass past Quarter Wall, found on the LFS foray.

5 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield.

Butter Waxcap *Hygrocybe ceracea*

6 and 7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield, found on the airfield survey and LFS foray.

8 Nov – in short turf at Jenny's Cove.

Blackening Waxcap *Hygrocybe conica*

7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield, found on the LFS foray.

8 Nov – several in short turf beside the main track near Pondsburry, a regular site.

Vermillion Waxcap *Hygrocybe miniata*

26 Sep – in short turf at the Old Hospital.

Green Blackening Waxcap *Hygrocybe olivaceonigra*

6 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield survey.

Honey Waxcap *Hygrocybe reidii*

5 Nov – in short turf in Lighthouse Field.

6 Nov – in short turf during the Airfield survey.

Splendid Waxcap *Hygrocybe splendidissima*

7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield, found on the LFS foray.

Snowy Waxcap variety *Hygrocybe virginea* var. *ochraceopallida*

5 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield.

Heath Navel *Lichenomphalia umbellifera*

Found growing on damp peat in April, September, and November.

HYDNANGIACEAE

Deceiver *Laccaria laccata*

30 Sep – on leaf litter in Millcombe.

RUSSULACEAE – MILKCAPS AND BRITTLEGILLS



Orange Milkcap
Lactarius aurantiacus.
© Mandy Dee

Orange Milkcap *Lactarius aurantiacus*

26 Sep – In short grass with creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley.

28 Sep – in rough grass past Quarter Wall, found on the LFS foray.

Lactarius lacunarum

1 Oct – in grass with creeping willow in Punchbowl Valley (Tim Jones).

Fleecy Milkcap *Lactarius vellereus*

A single specimen at its usual site on the west side of Punchbowl Valley in September, but also recorded at a second location in the centre of the valley in October and November.

Purple Brittlegill *Russula atropurpurea*

Present in numbers in both Millcombe and St Helen's Copse in late September.

Geranium Brittlegill *Russula fellea*

1 Oct – in grass with creeping willow in Punchbowl Valley.

Ochre Brittlegill *Russula ochroleuca*

Recorded throughout the autumn from late August, in Millcombe and St Helen's Copse.



Coral Brittlegill *Russula velenovskyi*.

© Mandy Dee

Coral Brittlegill *Russula velenovskyi*

Three records in late September and early October, in its regular sites at Punchbowl Valley and the Quarter Wall area, growing near creeping willow.

MYCENACEAE – BONNETS AND ORANGE PORECAP

Drab Bonnet *Mycena aetites* was found three times during the autumn on the airfield and in Punchbowl Valley. **Common Bonnet** was recorded twice in November in the woodland areas.

Brownedge Bonnet was widespread on turf in November. Three new species were recorded this year.

Frosty Bonnet *Mycena adscendens*

7 Nov – Second record, on dead twigs on south side of Millcombe.

Mycena corynephora*

9 Nov – a new record, found on dead wood in Lower Millcombe (John Hedger).

Ivory Bonnet *Mycena flavoalba*

28 Sep – in rough grass past Quarter Wall, found on the LFS foray.

8 Nov – in grass near the main track at Pondsbury.

Black Milking Bonnet *Mycena galopus* var. *nigra*

8 Nov – in grass at the North End.

Mycena pseudopicta*

8 Nov – a new record, in short turf in Middle Park (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Lilac Bonnet *Mycena pura*

26 Sep – in grass with Bracken on Ackland's Moor (Lynne Perrini).

Orange Porecap, Orange Ping-pong Bat *Favolaschia calocera** (see image on back cover).

30 Sep – first record on a dead twig in Millcombe (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

PANAEOLACEAE – MOTTLEGILLS

Brown Haycap, Turf, Dewdrop, and Banded Mottlegills were all widespread on dung enriched grass throughout the autumn, with the first two also seen in April. **Petticoat Mottlegill** was found on the Airfield on both the October and November forays. **Egghead Mottlegill**, usually common, was only found once, on pony dung at Quarter Wall, on the September foray.

RICKENELLACEAE

Orange Moss Cap *Rickenella fibula*

8 Nov – on mossy soil next to the main track near Pondsbury.

Hygrophoropsidaceae

False Chanterelle had a very good year, and was prolific throughout the autumn in the central areas of the island.

Paxillaceae

Brown Rollrim *Paxillus involutus*

1 Oct – in grass with creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley.

SCHIZOPHYLLACEAE

Splitgill *Schizophyllum commune**

1 Mar – new record, on plastic-wrapped silage bales in the farm (Mandy Dee).

Subsequently found to be present throughout the autumn.

CLAVARIACEAE – PIPES, CORALS AND CLUBS

Yellow Club *Clavulinopsis helvola* was recorded in November at several sites.



Grey Coral *Clavulina cinerea*.
© Mandy Dee

Grey Coral *Clavulina cinerea**

27 Sep – recorded for the first time in leaf litter in Quarter Wall Copse (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Meadow Coral *Clavulinopsis corniculata*

6 Nov – in short turf by Bellevue Cottages.

Golden Spindles *Clavulinopsis fusiformis*

18 Oct – in short turf near Quarter Wall Pond.

AGARICACEAE – PUFFBALLS AND SCLERODERMATACEAE – EARTHBALLS

Meadow Puffball (*Lycoperdon pratense*) was recorded throughout the autumn, and there were three records each for **Brown Puffball** (*Bovista nigrescens*) and **Grey Puffball** (*B. plumbea*), all on the grassy areas across the whole of the southern half of the island.

Dusky Puffball *Lycoperdon nigrescens*

8 Nov – in grass with bracken on Ackland's Moor.

Grassland Puffball *Lycoperdon spadiceum*

7 Nov – in short turf on the Airfield. Found on the LFS foray.

Common Earthball *Scleroderma citrinum*

7 Nov – second record (not recorded since 1992) on ground under trees on the lower north side of Millcombe.

Scaly Earthball *Scleroderma verrucosum*

30 Sep – Millcombe.

BOLETACEAE – BOLETES



Cep Boletus edulis.
© John Hedger

Cep *Boletus edulis*

1 Oct – second record (first recorded officially in 2016) in grass with creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley.

Hortiboletus engelii syn. *Boletus declivatum*

1 Oct – in grass with creeping willow, Punchbowl Valley.

Xerocomellus cisalpinus

24 Sep – in leaf litter in Millcombe (Siân Cann).

BRACKETS AND CRUSTS, FOUND ON WOODY MATERIAL

Smoky Bracket was found throughout the autumn on dead wood in Millcombe. **Split Porecrust** and *Peniophora quercina* were both found in September in both Millcombe and St Helen's Copse. *Perenniporia ochroleuca* was present on the blackthorn in Millcombe, from August onwards. There were six new species.

*Athelia bombacina**

10 Nov – new record on old bracken stalks, Upper East Side (John Hedger).

*Athelia neuhoffii**

9 Nov – new record on dead wood in lower Millcombe (John Hedger).

*Botrybasidium candicans**

10 Nov – new record on rotten wood in Millcombe (John Hedger).

*Botrybasidium subcoronatum**

9 Nov – new record on a softwood pallet in upper St Johns. (John Hedger).

Brittle Cinder *Kretzschmaria deusta**

30 Sep – new record on dead beech in Millcombe (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Hyphoderma setigerum*

10 Nov – new record on rotten sycamore in St Helen's Copse (John Hedger).

Wrinkled Crust *Phlebia radiata*

27 Sep – on dead wood in St Helen's Copse.

Blueing Bracket *Postia subcaesia*

30 Sep – on dead turkey oak in Millcombe.

Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum*

27 Sep – on dead alder in Quarter Wall Copse.

Tomentella terrestris*

30 Sep – new record on dead wood in Millcombe (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolor*

7 Nov – on dead wood in Millcombe.

Trechispora farinacea

27 Sep – on dead wood in St Helen's Copse.

Waxy Crust *Vuilleminia comedens*

27 Sep – on dead wood in Quarter Wall Copse.

JELLY FUNGI, DISCS, AND OTHER FUNGI FOUND MOSTLY ON WOOD

Jelly Ear is present all year in both St Helen's Copse and Millcombe, growing on dead elder, but was only recorded once in each site this year, at the end of September.

King Alfred's Cakes, or **Cramp Balls**, are found exclusively on dead ash wood, and are present all year in Millcombe, with records this year in both April and November.

Coral Spot, **Candlesnuff Fungus**, and **Dead Moll's Fingers** were recorded throughout the autumn in St Helen's Copse and Millcombe, on dead branches.

Orbilina sarraziniana was found in Millcombe in September and Quarter Wall Copse in November.

Orange Peel Fungus *Aleuria aurantia**

5 Nov – a new record, on bare disturbed soil in front of St Helen's Church (Mandy Dee).

Lemon Disco *Bisporella citrina*

30 Sep – on dead wood in Millcombe.

Yellow Stagshorn *Calocera viscosa**

7 Nov – new record, on a rotted pine stump in Millcombe (Mandy Dee and John Hedger).

Common Jelly Spot *Dacrymyces stillatus*

7 Nov – on dead turkey oak in Millcombe.

Hypoxylon subticinense

10 Nov – on dead sycamore wood in St Helen's Copse (John Hedger).

Crystal Brain *Myxarium nucleatum*

7 Nov – on dead turkey oak twigs in Millcombe.

Pachyella sp.*

10 Nov – a new record, once id is conformed, on wet alder branches in Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

Spadicoides atra*

9 Nov – new record on softwood pallet at the top of St Johns (John Hedger).

Yellow Brain *Tremella mesenterica*

26 Sep – on gorse at Rocket Pole.

Virgariella atra*

10 Nov – new record on rotten turkey oak in Millcombe.

RUSTS, SMUTS, SPOTS, AND OTHER FUNGI FOUND ON HERBACEOUS MATERIAL

Buerenia inundata*

9 Nov – new record, parasitic on water celery in the stream in Millcombe Gardens. (John Hedger).

Colletotrichum sp.*

5 Nov – new record, still awaiting id, on sheep's fescue by Quarter Wall Pond (John Hedger).

Diaporthe pardalota*

10 Nov – new record on dead honeysuckle stems on the Beach Road (John Hedger).

Choke *Epichloe typhina*

8 June – on Yorkshire fog (Dean Jones and Alan Rowland).

Gnomonia cerastis*

9 Nov – new record on dead sycamore twigs in lower Millcombe (John Hedger).

Jalapriya toruloides

9 Nov – on nettle stems in Millcombe Gardens (John Hedger).

Periconia hispidula

9 Nov – on nettle stems in Millcombe Gardens (John Hedger).

Plagiostoma inclinata

9 Nov – second record on dead sycamore leaf stalks on the Beach Road.

Crown Rust *Puccinia coronata*

17 Oct – on creeping soft grass in Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger).

Ground Ivy Rust *Puccinia glechomatis**

27 Sep – new record, on ground ivy in Quarter Wall Copse (John Hedger).

Violet Rust *Puccinia violae*

10 Nov – on dog violet on the Beach Road (John Hedger).

Ramularia rosea*

1 Oct – new record of this leaf spot on creeping willow in Punchbowl Valley (John Hedger).

Sycamore Tarspot *Rhytisma acerinum*

27 Sep – on sycamore leaves in St Helen's Copse.

Septoria hydrocotyles*

1 Oct – new record, on water pennywort in Pondsby (John Hedger).

Ulocladium consortiale*

30 Sep – new record for this fungus found on old bone in Millcombe (John Hedger).

TINY DUNG FUNGI

Ascozonus leveilleanus*

10 Nov – new record, on soay sheep dung at the North End (John Hedger).

Coprotus lacteus*

10 Nov – new record, on soay sheep dung at the North End (John Hedger).

Coprotus granuliformis*

10 Nov – new record, on soay sheep dung at the North End (John Hedger).

Cheilymenia fimicola*

10 Nov – new record, on sheep dung on Ackland's Moor (John Hedger).

Cowpat Gem, Dung Disco *Cheilymenia granulate*

3 Apr – on dung on Upper East Side Path (Alan Rowland).

28 Sep – found on the LFS foray, on cow dung at Quarter Wall.

Iodophanus carneus

10 Nov – on rabbit dung near the Earthquake (John Hedger).

Saccobolus versicolor*

10 Nov – new record, on soay sheep dung at the North End (John Hedger).

Sporormiella intermedia

10 Nov – on soay sheep dung at the North End (John Hedger).

Trichobolus sphaerosporus*

10 Nov – new record on deer dung at Quarter Wall (John Hedger).

FUNGI ON INCUBATED DUNG

All grown by John Hedger on dung incubated for 4 days and identified on 30 September.

*Ascobolus immersus** – on rabbit dung.

*Gilmaniella humicola** – on rabbit dung.

*Lasiobolus ciliatus** – on old sheep dung.

Hat Thrower *Pilobolus kleinii* – on fresh sheep dung.

*Podospora decipiens** – on old sheep dung.

Sordaria fimicola – on old sheep dung.

*Sporormiella grandispora** – on rabbit dung.

*Sporormiella lageniformis** – on rabbit dung.

SLIME MOULDS

Arcyria denudata

30 Sep – on dead wood in Millcombe.

Trichia affinis

7 Nov – on both turkey oak and sycamore in Millcombe.

Trichia persimilis

30 Sep – on dead wood in Millcombe.

9 Nov – on rotten ash in Lower Millcombe.

Cribraria aurantiaca

7 Nov – on well-rotted Corsican pine stump in Millcombe.

ATLANTIC GREY SEAL *HALICHOERUS GRYPUS* POPULATION AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDIES IN 2018

By

Dean Woodfin Jones

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Seals hauled-out at Brazen Ward. © Mike Deaton

The Atlantic Grey seal population has been monitored annually on Lundy since 2011 and to a varying degree beforehand. Previously, the surveys have been carried out by the Conservation Team throughout the breeding season in order to understand the distribution, population dynamics and productivity of this iconic Lundy mammal (Jones, 2017). In 2016 the survey method was reviewed to enable the data collected at Lundy to contribute to wider seal population assessments, such as the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) national seal surveys. It was not possible to undertake observations by boat in 2018 and the surveys were carried out via land-based observations. During October and November, at the times of relevant tides, the island was exposed to strong easterly winds making it difficult to carry-out the quantitative section of the project.

The highest count of seals within the survey period was 223 animals (179 females, 22 males, seven juveniles and 15 animals of unknown sex) on August 14th: 47 more animals than the highest count of 2017 on July 30th. This is the second highest count of seals ever recorded on the island from any of the Warden led surveys (the highest was 239 animals on one day in August 2011).

Similar to the surveys of 2017, the majority of animals around the island within each survey were females with some of those, from observational notes, showing obvious signs of pregnancy in some of the popular haul out areas, especially at the start of the land-based surveys. After these high counts (188 of the 223 animals counted on August 14th were females) the numbers of females seals dropped slightly, possibly due to some of the pregnant females moving into the island's inaccessible coastal caves to pup or to other areas in the SW after conditioning themselves in Lundy waters (e.g. 148 on September 10th). Again similar to 2017 there was

an obvious increase in males around the island by mid-September compared to mid-August possibly turning up later than the females to patrol beaches and females in order to conceive next year's pups.

Unsurprisingly, the distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather and sea state. From observations at times when the winds came directly from either the north or south, animals seemed to disappear and move off from some of the more popular haul outs e.g. Rat and Mouse Island either to areas away from the island or to some of the caves or more sheltered bays on the island (e.g. Three-quarter Wall Bay). The highest number of animals recorded at one time from the 46 sub-sections within the survey period was from the area North of Gannets Rock on the September 13th – here 44 individuals were counted hauled out. On average however Three-Quarter Wall Bay and Brazen Ward were found to be the most popular throughout the study period (mean 48 animals throughout the survey period excluding the Knoll Pins).

A total of 28 pups were recorded within the 2018 season, 2 more pups than the 2017 totals. This however is an under-estimate of productivity as it total does not include other pups born in the inaccessible sea caves around Lundy's coast (e.g. Aztec Seal Hole north of St Mark's Stone). The first pup was seen on August 18th on Ladies Beach, 10 days earlier than the first recorded in 2017 (on White Beach). The last pup to be recorded within the survey period was



Photo identification match. LUN315 (originally photographed as LuF13) who gave birth to PUP03 on White Beach in 2018 was first recorded on 17/01/07 so has been visiting Lundy for a least 11 years.

from November 21st, 19 days after the last pup of 2017. The highest number of pups occurred on Ladies Beach this year – where 36% of the total numbers of pups seen were found (White Beach was more popular in 2017). Out of these 28 pups, we know that at least three of these animals did not survive to weaning.

Six records of entanglement were recorded during the 2018 season involving at least five different animals (four more animals than in 2017) being ensnared with discarded fishing equipment (one adult male and four juvenile animals).

Almost no disturbances were recorded during the land based surveys this year apart from one instance on September 19th when a number of seals were accidentally flushed off rocks by the surveyors whilst above the southern facing shore of Gannets Bay. This highlights that extra precaution must be taken when navigating this section of the coast, advised that the surveyors stay well clear of the edge of the cliff to avoid disturbance. There were other reports of disturbance resulting from visitors and boats getting too close to hauled-out seals.

A massive thank you to all who submitted their seal sightings and counts throughout 2018. Particular thanks to Joshua Harris and Esther Fritzel-Armitage (Volunteer Assistant Wardens 2018), Emily Trapnell, Mike Jones, Zoë Barton, Sian Cann, Andrew Bengey (Obsession II Charters) and Derek Green. Also huge thank you to the Cornwall Seal Group and Research Trust (Sue Sayer, Kate Williams and Marion Beaulieu) for all their time and enthusiasm in providing photo identification training with this year's Lundy volunteers and the Lundy Seal Photo Identification Catalogue.

Reference

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LICHEN SURVEY ON LUNDY IN JULY 2017

by

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In her book *Lundy Lichens*, published in 2007, Ann Allen observed “Lichens are very special on Lundy; over 350 different species have been recorded, one-fifth of the total lichen flora of Great Britain – an amazing diversity for such a small island”. Those records came mainly from surveys undertaken from 1995 to 1997 and published in LFS Annual Reports Volume 46 (1995) and 47 (1996).

In early July 2017 a party of naturalists led by John Jones spent four days on the island staying at Millcombe House. Members of the group had enjoyed regular visits to Skokholm Island off the coast of Pembrokeshire and some of them were keen to look at the lichens of Lundy. During our stay, we recorded about a third of the rich assemblage known from Lundy and ten species that have never been found previously on the island: a total of 120 taxa.

A notable feature of our visit was the renovation which was being carried out on St Helen's church. We were privileged to be permitted to climb to the very top of the tower and enjoy breath taking views in addition to hunting for lichens.

The following is the list of lichens found. Those that have not previously been recorded from the island are marked with an asterisk and their location given.



Teloschistes flavicans (a British Red Data Book species) photographed at the North End.
© Maxine Putnam

Acarospora fuscata

* *Acrocordia conoidea* ¹

* *Amandinea pelidna* ¹

Anaptychia ciliaris subsp. *mamillata*

Anaptychia runcinata

Anisomeridium bifforme

Anisomeridium polypori

Arthonia radiata

Arthonia varians

Aspicilia calcarea

Bacidia laurocerasi

Bacidia scopulicola

Buellia aethalea

Buellia subdisciformis

Caloplaca ceracea
 * *Caloplaca cerinella* ²
 * *Caloplaca cerinelloides* (NS)
Caloplaca citrina sensu lato
Caloplaca crenularia
Caloplaca flavescens
Caloplaca holocarpa sensu lato
 * *Caloplaca limonia* ^{1, 2}
Caloplaca littorea
 * *Caloplaca oasis* ⁵
Candelariella reflexa
Candelariella vitellina f. vitellina
Catillaria chalybeia var. chalybeia
Chrysothrix candelaris
Cladonia coniocraea
Cladonia furcata subsp. furcata
Cladonia portentosa
Cladonia subcervicornis
Collema crispum var. crispum
Diploicia canescens
Diplotomma alboatrum
Enterographa crassa
Flavoparmelia caperata
 * *Fuscopannaria nebulosi* ⁶
Gyalecta jenensis var. jenensis
Halecacia ralfsii
Hypogymnia physodes
Lecania aipospila
Lecania naegelii
Lecanora albescens
Lecanora campestris subsp. campestris
Lecanora chlarotera
Lecanora confusa
Lecanora dispersa
Lecanora expallens
Lecanora gangaleoides
Lecanora hagenii
Lecanora orosthea
Lecanora polytropa
Lecanora rupicola var. rupicola
Lecanora symmetrica
Lecidella asema
Lecidella elaeochroma f. elaeochroma
Lecidella scabra
 * *Lepraria finkii* ⁷
Lepraria incana sensu lato
Leprocaulon microscopicum
Melanelixia glabratula
Melanelixia subaurifera
Micarea prasina sensu lato
Moelleropsis nebulosi (NS)
Normandina pulchella
Ochrolechia parella

Opegrapha atra
Opegrapha calcarea
Opegrapha herbarum
Opegrapha vulgata
Parmelia omphalodes
Parmelia saxatilis
Parmelia sulcata
 * *Parmotrema crinitum* ⁸
Parmotrema perlatum
Parmotrema reticulatum
Peltigera rufescens
Pertusaria albescens var. albescens
Pertusaria amara f. amara
Pertusaria hymenea
Pertusaria pertusa
Pertusaria pseudocorallina
Phlyctis argena
Physcia adscendens
Physcia aipolia
Physcia leptalea
Physcia tenella
Porina aenea
Porpidia cinereoatra
Porpidia platycarpoides
Porpidia tuberculosa
Pyrenula chlorospila
Pyrrhospora quemea
 * *Racodium rupestre* ⁹
Ramalina canariensis
Ramalina cuspidata
Ramalina farinacea
Ramalina portuensis
Ramalina siliquosa
Rhizocarpon geographicum
Rhizocarpon richardii
Rinodina sophodes
 * *Sarcogyne regularis* ¹⁰
 * *Solenopsisora candicans* ¹
Syncesia myrticola
Teloschistes flavicans
Tephromela atra var. atra
Toninia aromatica
 * *Trapeliopsis flexuosa*
Usnea cornuta
Usnea flammea
Varicellaria lactea
Verrucaria nigrescens f. nigrescens
Verrucaria viridula
 * *Vouauxiella lichenicola* ¹¹
Xanthoria aureola
 * *Xanthoria calcicola* ¹
Xanthoria parietina
Xanthoria ucrainica

¹ On St Helen's church tower; ² On sycamore near Millcombe House; ³ On ash and sycamore near Millcombe House; ⁴ On Threequarter Wall; ⁵ On concrete; ⁶ On soil at North West Point (confirmed by Brain Coppins); ⁷ On soil in Millcombe Valley; ⁸ On moribund *Calluna* stems above The Battery; ⁹ On soil in an underhang near Millcombe House; ¹⁰ On wall opposite the shop; ¹¹ On *Lecanora chlarotera* near Millcombe House.

Reference

Allen, A. 2007. *Lundy lichens*. Published by the Lundy Field Society.

THE BROWN CHINA-MARK MOTH ON LUNDY

by

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Introduction

During a routine survey of Middle Park Pond (SS 13523 46172) on 1st July 2017, I noted what I thought were two moths that had accidentally landed on the water surface and were struggling to correct their error. On my return home to Morwenstow, I found the same species in my moth trap there on the morning of 8th July. After checking the specimen against my moth guide (Sterling & Parsons, 2012), I determined that all three were Brown China-mark Moths (Plate 1).



Plate 1. A Brown China-mark Moth from a moth trap.

© Alan Rowland

The finds at Lundy and at Morwenstow stimulated my interest in the species and led me to investigate further.

Brown China-mark Moth *Elophila nymphaeata* (Linnaeus, 1758) is a species of the Family Crambidae or grass-boring species of moths and in the Subfamily Pyraustidae which are leaf or stem miners. The adult moths (imagos) are slender-bodied insects with long fine legs bearing spurs with a forewing length of between 12 and 16mm. Their brown wings bear intricate white patterns that have been likened to marks on Chinese pottery. The *Elophila* genus is unique in that its larvae are entirely aquatic.

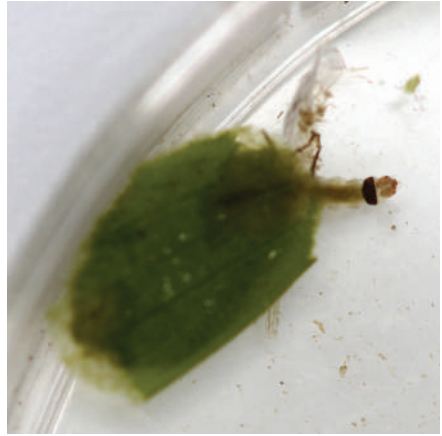
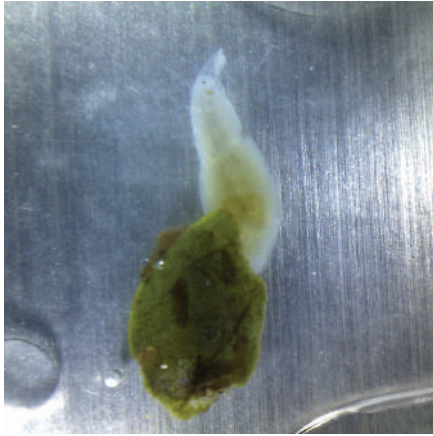


Plate 2. Two of the instars (developmental stages) of *Elophila nymphaeata*. An early instar in its case and a late instar showing case and caterpillar from Quarter Wall Pond.
© Alan Rowland

There are four instars. The first is small enough to mine between the epidermis of a leaf of its host plant. The three later instars construct a case from two oval pieces cut from the leaf and joined with silk. The larvae grow to about 7mm with a case of about 12mm. The species can be found throughout the United Kingdom near still or slow flowing water. Food plants include pondweeds, water plantains and reeds.

The species is single-brooded: Table 1 shows the typical annual life stages.

Table 1. Typical life stages of the Brown China-mark moth.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ovum												
Larva												
Pupa												
Imago												

Methods

Having sighted my first moths at Middle Park Pond, I determined to search there for more in the following year. In the meantime, I undertook a desk study into the moth's occurrence on Lundy. My first port of call was the LFS series of Annual Reports. I could find no mention of Brown China-mark Moth. I then discovered a list of Lundy Moths (Beavan & Heckford, 2014). Although titled as provisional, it is a thorough list of moths extracted from LFS Annual Reports as well as Chanter 1877, Parfitt 1878, Longstaff 1907 and Palmer 1946. Their species total stood at 349 species and did include Brown China-mark. Like me, they had found no mention of the species in the LFS Annual Reports.

In researching, and subsequent communication with one of the authors, (Heckford, pers. comm.) it appears that the only records they could find were attributed to Longstaff and to Palmer. I was able to confirm the references; Palmer (1946) quotes a record by Mr F. R. D. Onslow (Longstaff, 1907) under its earlier binomial of *Hydrocampa nymphaeata*. Onslow recorded a number of moths on a visit to Lundy which can only be assumed to be in 1907 as no date is quoted other than that of publication of the notes.

E. nymphaeata is common throughout the UK with almost 5,000 occurrences recorded on the National Biodiversity Network website although the nearest records they have are both around Torrington. However, Devon Moth records include sightings much nearer to Lundy: at Braunton Burrows, Bideford, Croyde and near Lynton (Heckford, pers. comm.)

Whilst the research described here does not identify the Brown China-mark Moth as a new species record for Lundy, it does confirm that it may be under-recorded and that no sightings have been reported for 111 years.

Results

Following the sighting at home and on my summer visit to Lundy in June 2018, I tried to find any larvae in Quarter Wall Pond which had begun to develop a mat of Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) and Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*). I found what appeared to be an oval double case of leaves 3.5mm in length, but could see no obvious larva. Under the microscope I did see a tiny larva, but it did not resemble a caterpillar. On reflection it was a very early instar (Plate 2).



Plate 3. Brown China-mark Moth on *Potamogeton polygonifolius* in Quarter Wall Pond.
© Alan Rowland

Up to five adults were seen on four dates between 19th and 29th June 2018 at Quarter Wall Pond (Plate 3) and another in September at Quarry Pond. Richard Taylor also recorded a sighting at Brick Field Pond on the 29th and a further two at Pondsburry on the 30th August. On a subsequent visit in September of 2018, I was able to look for mature larvae in a more systematic way. I recovered two larval cases, both occupied on 30th September and was able to observe and photograph them (Plate 2). Larvae were very actively searching for food. The introduction of another piece of leaf stimulated the larvae to move to it and begin voraciously to devour it.

In order to ensure continuity of the Quarterwall Pond colony, the larvae were returned to the location from where they were taken.

I have yet to find a leaf mine or a larva.

A moth of the same Acentropinae sub-family, Ringed China-mark Moth (*Paroponyx stratiotata*) was recorded on 16th July 2018 by Sam Bosanquet near to Bramble Villas. The larvae of this species is totally different from the Brown China-mark. It is up to 30mm long with a distinctive set of up to eight branching gill filaments on each abdominal body section. It lives in a loose silken tube attached to the stem or leaves of *Potamogeton* and is yet another larval species to find.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Mr R. Heckford for his patience in walking me through the changes in entomological nomenclature.

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PARASITIC WASPS

by

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During August and September 2018, various empty and, as it later proved, occupied cocoons were found on stems of, Soft Rush *Juncus efusus* and Creeping Willow *Salix repens*.

I had not realised exactly what they were but wanted to find out what had caused them.

I saved a couple of specimens and forgot about them for a few weeks. When I went to photograph one, the pot in which it was stored had around 50 very small winged insects lying dead adjacent to the cocoon. On examination these were confirmed as wasps – two-winged and with long antennae. Each wasp was on average 0.24mm in length with antennae the same length. The cocoon, when fresh, had the consistency of candyfloss but when old and dried was more like a cotton bud in texture.

Researches on Facebook groups suggested that they were from the Family Braconidae, Subfamily Microgastinae (parasitic wasps). They are one of the most species rich subfamilies of parasitic wasps which are internal or external parasites of other insects. The Braconidae has 1300 species in the UK. Braconid wasps mainly prey on the larval stages of Coleoptera, Diptera or Lepidoptera. The wasp larvae develop from eggs laid in their hosts which are immature stages of other insects. When the wasp larvae are about to emerge to produce a cocoon, the host larvae is killed by the process. Braconidae are very host specific and are of interest as biological pest control in some countries.

The wasps were sent for determination to the country expert Dr Mark Shaw of the National Museums Scotland who identified them as *Cotesia offela*. A similar species, *C. tibilis*, may also occur on Lundy and is difficult to separate without specialist skills. They both construct similar structures and parasitize similar species, mainly noctuid moths.

I followed this up with researches using Shaw & Huddleston (1991) where I was able to piece together the life history with some help from Dr Shaw. The original species name, from 1885,



Figure 1. Cocoon on Creeping Willow.



Figure 2. Cortesia ofela adult.

was *Microgaster perspicua* which, in 1974 changed to *Apanteles ofella* before its most recent designation as *C. ofella*.

Dissecting the cotton like mass revealed what appeared to be an internal wasp's nest. This was very similar to what you expect from a full sized conventional nest. A ball of numerous small honeycomb structures with the remains of the pupal wasp cases left inside. There was no sign of any host that the egg-laying female might have injected with her eggs. However, what remains is a deflated skin which soon perishes and is blown away.

The braconid wasp cocoon is actually a mass cocoon constructed by these larvae as they exited the host body. It is produced before the central communal honeycomb arrangement which is also cooperatively produced.



Figure 3. Internal honeycomb (left) and outer covering (right).

Life Cycle

After hatching, females mate straight away and begin to lay 16-52 eggs in host caterpillars (Figure 4: 1). These develop into larvae (Figure 4: 2). Fifteen to twenty days later, larvae emerge killing the host (Figure 4: 3). These larvae cluster together abandoning the host and spin cocoons in a group and an extra layer around the cocoon cluster, where they remain for 7-10 days (Figure 4: 4) before adults hatch and the process repeats (Figure 4: 5) (Based on information extracted from Shaw and Huddleston, RES Hymenopteran Handbook)

How they overwinter is open to conjecture. They may remain in the same or a different host, most likely to be a Noctuid larva, perhaps in the cocoon stage. However *C. tibialis* is less host-specific and overwinters in partly grown *Xestia* sp. caterpillars as early instar parasitoids.

Although a fairly common species, *C. ofella* have not previously been reported from Lundy.

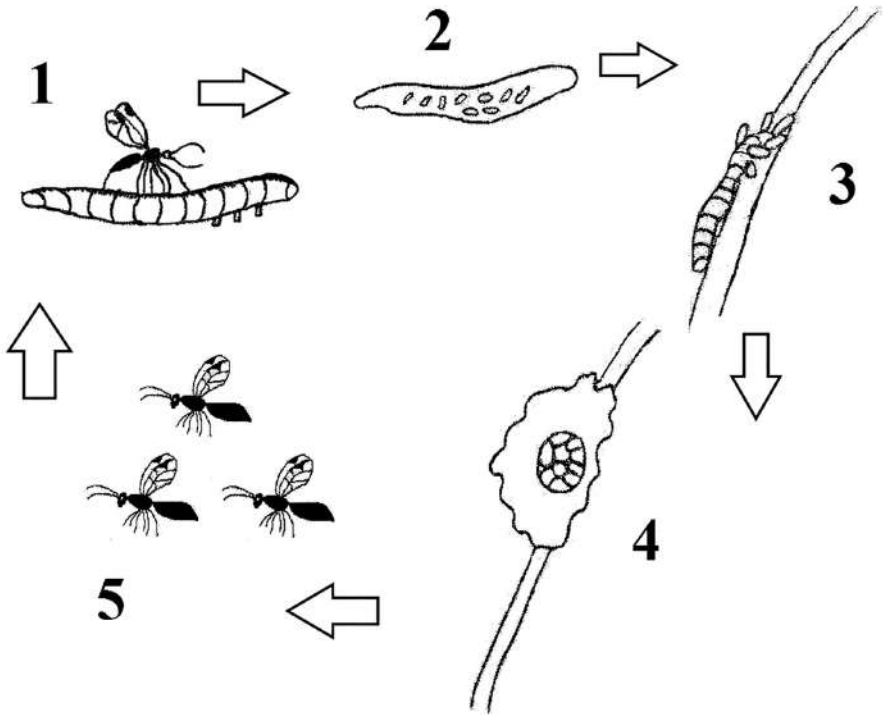


Figure 4. Parasitic wasp life cycle.

Reference

Shaw, M.R. and Huddleston, T. 1991. *Classification and biology of braconid wasps (Hymenoptera: Braconidae)* (Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects 7/11). Royal Entomological Society of London.

BUMBLEBEES ON LUNDY IN 2018

by

SIÂN CANN

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On the 17th May 2018 the Bumblebee Conservation Trust came to the island for the first time, to train the Conservation Team in Bumblebee identification, and to do an initial survey of the different species of Bumblebee on Lundy.

The survey was led by Daisy Headley, Conservation Officer for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. We began the survey halfway down the cliff at Montagu Steps, and recorded all the way along to the South West point, then along the southern end of the island to Benson's Cave, down past Hamners, through Millcombe Valley and along the Upper East Coast Path, and from the Quarries along Quarter Wall and ending in the dense vegetation of Middle Park.



*Daisy Headley and her volunteer John Butler identifying a bumblebee on the Upper East Coast path.
© Siân Cann*

We began at 11:30 am and finished at 16:10. The weather conditions were warm, dry and sunny, with a slight easterly breeze. The results are shown below:

Species	Caste	Number	Flower visited
<i>Bombus terrestris</i> (Buff-tailed Bumblebee)	Queen	11	3x thrift, 2x bluebell, 1x gorse, 1x sea campion, 4 flying
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i> (Common Carder Bumblebee)	Queen	24	4x bluebell, 6x birds-foot trefoil, 10x gorse, 2x ground ivy, 5 flying
<i>Bombus lucorum s.l.</i> (White-tailed Bumblebee)	Queen	8	5x thrift, 1x bluebell, 1x gorse, 1 flying
<i>Bombus hortorum</i> (Garden Bumblebee)	Queen	5	2x gorse, 1x red campion, 2 flying
<i>Bombus jonellus</i> (Heath Bumblebee)	Queen	2	1x thrift, 1x gorse
<i>Bombus</i> *	Queen	24	1x bluebell, 23 flying
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Worker	2	1x gorse, 1x birds-foot trefoil
<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	Unknown	3	2x kidney vetch, 1x ground ivy

*It was not possible to identify these Queens to species level

It was noted that several of the *Bombus terrestris* queens were particularly dark in appearance with a reduced dark yellow collar, which on one individual was almost imperceptible.

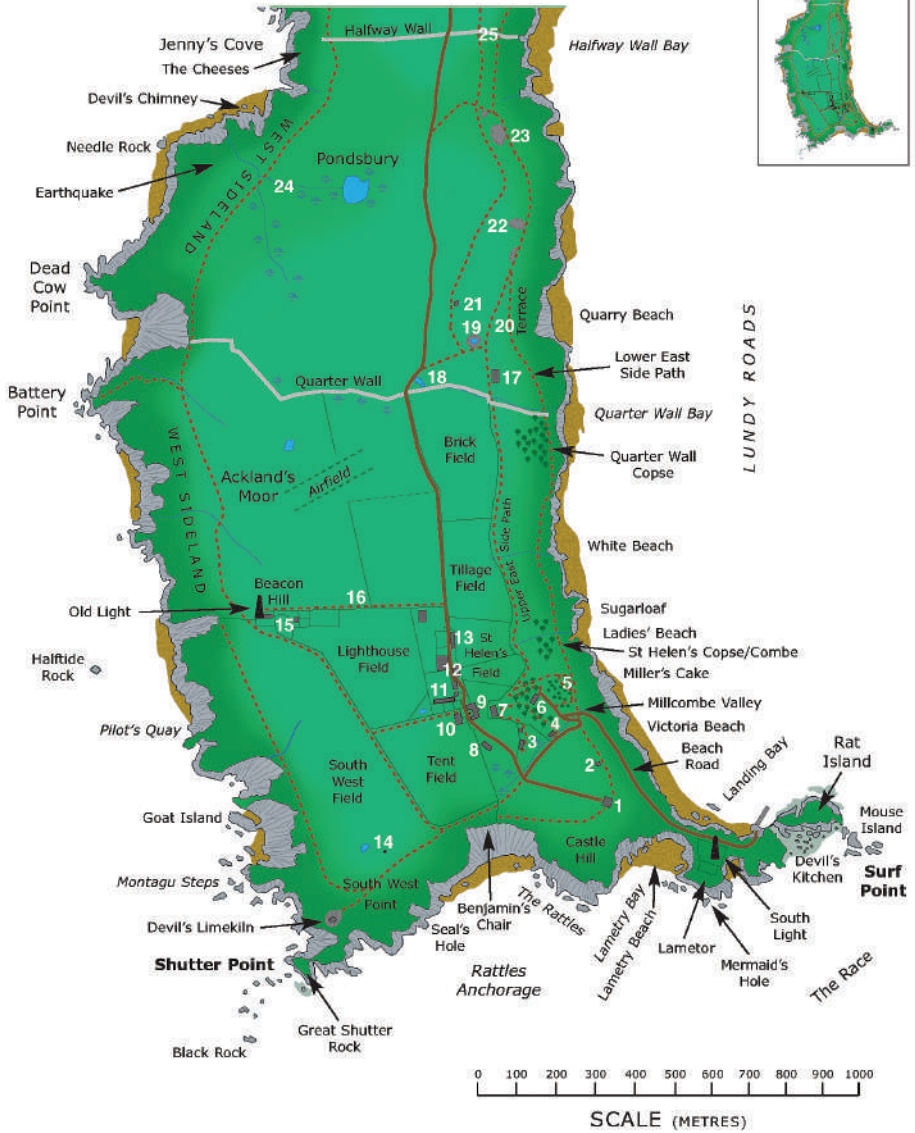


*Common Carder Bumblebee found
on Millcombe bend.
© Siân Cann*

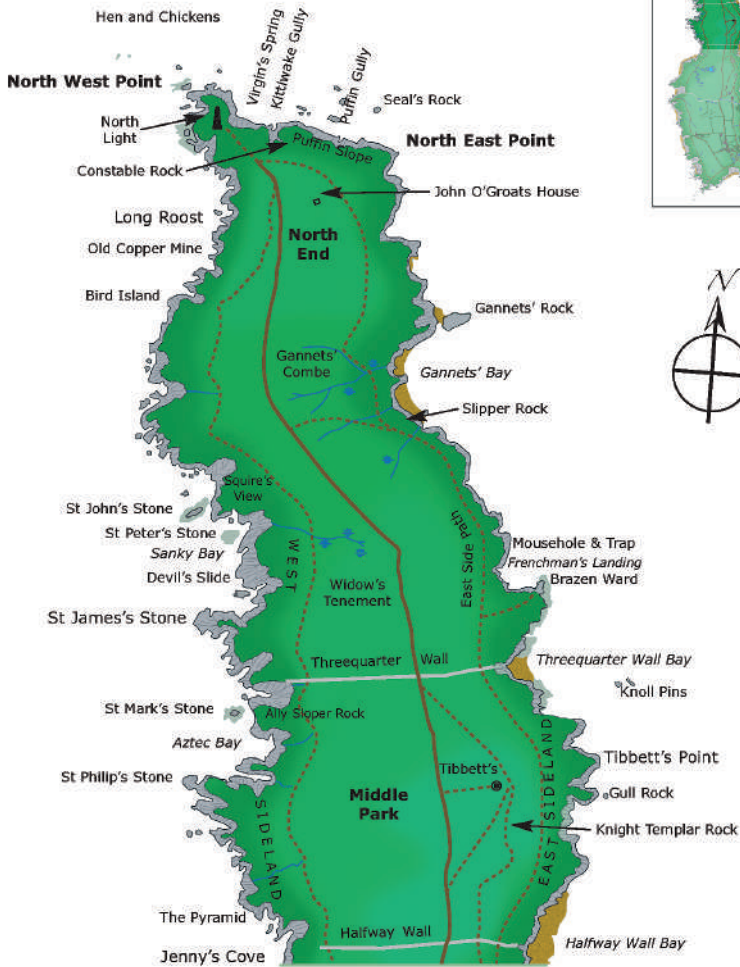


*Lundy Conservation volunteer Kathryn
MacKinnon and Ranger Nick Herbert
learning to identify bumblebees.
© Siân Cann*

Lundy South



Lundy North



Number key

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Marisco Castle | 10 Black Shed | 18 Quarter Wall Pond & Quarter Wall Trap |
| 2 Hanmers | 11 Campsite, Quarters (Pig's Paradise) & Reservoir Pond | 19 Quarry Pond |
| 3 St John's Valley, Old School & Big & Little St John's | 12 Shop, Museum & High Street | 20 Terrace Trap |
| 4 Brambles Villa | 13 Barton Cottages | 21 Old Hospital |
| 5 The Ugly | 14 Rocket Pole, Rocket Pole Pond & Rocket Pole Marsh | 22 VC Quarry |
| 6 Millcombe House | 15 Stonecroft & Cemetery | 23 North Quarry |
| 7 Government House | 16 Water Tanks | 24 Punchbowl Valley |
| 8 Church of St Helena | 17 Quarter Wall Cottages | 25 Logan Stone |
| 9 Old House & Marisco Tavern | | |

CONSTITUTION of the Lundy Field Society, adopted by the Annual General Meeting, 3 March 2012

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be The Lundy Field Society.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) To further the study of Lundy and in particular its history, natural history and archaeology;
- b) To undertake investigations in these fields;
- c) To further the conservation of wildlife and antiquities of the island.

3. POWERS

In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the Society through its Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- a) to promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research;
- b) to act as a co-ordinating body and to co-operate with the local authorities, statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having objects similar to those of the Society;
- c) to promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature which further the objects of the Society;
- d) to publish papers, reports and other literature;
- e) to hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions;
- f) to educate public opinion and to give advice and information;
- g) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose;
- h) subject to such consents as may be required by law, to borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions;
- i) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who support the objects of the Society. Membership of the Society shall not confer any right on members to use the Society's name for any activity unless agreed by the Executive Committee. Any member behaving in a manner prejudicial to the interests and work of the Society shall be liable to expulsion. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if his or her subscription is more than six months in arrears at the time. Corporate bodies may at the discretion of the Executive Committee become members of the Society. On payment of a fee they shall receive Society publications. Members of such corporate bodies may be invited to attend meetings of the Society; each corporate body will have a single vote. Subscriptions shall be due on 1 January each year. The rates of subscriptions shall be agreed by an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Society shall appoint an Executive Committee consisting of Officers and more than six and not more than twelve other members. The Officers of the Society shall comprise Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) The other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill up to three casual vacancies occurring among the members of the Executive Committee between General Meetings.
- d) In addition to the Officers and other members of the Executive Committee, a President and Vice-Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society. The President and Vice-Presidents shall not be members of the Executive Committee by virtue of that role, but the individuals may be elected to the Executive Committee as Officers or other members.

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e) The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt. Co-opted members shall not have the right to vote. Co-opted members shall stand down at each AGM but may be co-opted again by the Executive Committee until the next AGM.

f) The quorum shall comprise nine members of the Executive Committee. Each member of the Executive Committee except co-opted members shall have one vote. In the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

g) The Executive Committee may constitute such Working Groups from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Convenor of each Working Group shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each Working Group shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Working Groups shall be subordinate to and may be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

6. MEETINGS

a) An Annual General Meeting shall be held, normally in March. The Executive Committee shall upon the request in writing of not less than fifteen members stating the motion or motions to be brought forward call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society. Such a meeting may also be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee. At least 14 days notice shall be given to members of all General Meetings. At all General Meetings the decisions shall be taken on a majority of those members present and voting.

b) It shall be the duty of every member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any meeting of the Society (including any meeting of the Executive Committee or a Working Group) at which he or she may be present to declare such interest and he or she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

7. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Committee shall, out of monies received by the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall use the residue of such monies as it thinks fit for or towards the objects of the Society. The assets of the Society shall be held in its name and not that of one or more individuals.

8. INVESTMENT

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purposes shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investment or securities as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may for the time being be required by law.

9. AMENDMENTS

Any proposed alteration or addition to the Constitution must be notified to the Honorary Secretary at least 28 days before a General Meeting and communicated by him or her to all members not less than 14 days before the Meeting. Amendments must be carried by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting, but no amendment may be made which would have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity at law. Any proposed amendment of which notice has been given may be altered prior to voting thereon without further notice being given to members. The notice of any proposed amendment sent to members shall state that alterations to its wording may be considered and adopted at the General Meeting at which it is considered without further notice to the membership. The Chairman may refuse to allow any alteration to a proposed amendment if in his opinion the alteration is such as to require further notice to the membership before voting.

10. WINDING UP

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, they shall call a meeting of all members of the Society of which not less than 28 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the Society may determine, or, if that cannot be done, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.