

Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2019





Lundy Field Society Annual Report 2019

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LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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Inside back cover – iconic Lundy: the Blue Door



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2019

President

Diana Keast

Vice Presidents

Jennifer George

John Harman

Keith Hiscock

Chair

Alan Rowland

Vice Chair

Belinda Cox

Secretary

Michael Williams

Treasurer

Roger Chapple

Membership Secretary

Sandra Rowland

Committee Members

Andrew Cleave (2018-2021)

André Coutanche (2018-2021)

Christopher Dee (2018-2021)

Tom Dickins (2019-2022)

Trevor Dobie (2018-2021)

Jennifer George (2018-2021)

John Hedger (2018-2021)

Keith Hiscock (2018-2021)

Tim Jones (2019-2022)

Chris Pawson (2018-2021)

Frances Stuart (2018-2021)

Chris Webster (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

Independent Examiner: Bill Williams

WELCOME

Tim Davis (Editor)

I must kick off my renewed stint as editor by thanking Keith Hiscock for taking the helm for the last two Annual Reports. Regular readers will notice some changes to the layout in this issue, which makes greater use of colour through the pages, rather than the more familiar colour plate sections of previous years. This has largely been possible due to the efforts of Lundy Warden Dean Jones, whose camera gets as much use whilst out and about on the island as do his binoculars and notebook. So, thanks Dean, and also all the other regular contributors of Lundy images. I hope readers will draw as much pleasure from their combined efforts as I have done in laying them to page.

One of the most pleasing aspects of recent years is the greater use being made of the LFS logbook, which resides in the Marisco Tavern. It takes me a week of evenings to prepare the logbook each year before it is shipped (actually, flown!) across to the island for Dean to place in the Tavern on New Year's Day. The growing number of fauna and flora records being entered in the logbook has led, as you may have noticed, to a higher number of pages in recent Annual Reports. This has cost implications for printing and mailing, which we have addressed this year by the use of narrative reporting rather than long lists of species records. The latter are presented in a series of sortable, filterable tables on the LFS website at www.lundy.org.uk/index.php/records/2019. That said, the report is still extensive and wide-ranging, for which thanks must go to the contributors, namely island staff Derek Green and Dean Jones, and the regular LFS crew.

One of the challenges of fitting everything in, especially in the current A5 format, means having to use a smaller text size than is perhaps ideal. Thus, if you find yourself squinting at the pages and would like a PDF of the report which you can adjust for comfortable reading on your tablet, PC or Mac, email me at report.editor@lundy.co.uk.

Beyond the usual 'business' reports this time, there are obituaries of two Lundy stalwarts lost to us: former LFS Warden Peter Davis and author and poet Peter Rothwell. Tony Taylor provides an expert round-up of the bird ringing year, and Dean Jones and Martin Elcoate describe their encounters with three birds never previously seen on Lundy. The team of wildlife recorders have collectively penned a concise overview of what was seen and where during the year, and Sam Bosanquet brings the report to a close with an eye-opening account of his quite astonishing bryophyte studies in 2018 and 2019.

My thanks to all the contributors, both wordsmiths and picture-takers. The small number of uncredited images (which otherwise would spoil the intended effect) through the report were taken either by me or Richard Campey, to whom my thanks.

Finally, what to do with a blank inside back cover page? I know! Let's fill it each time with an iconic Lundy image. I've kicked the idea off with a picture of the Blue Door, in the wall behind Government House. I've known it since my first stay on the island in 1974 and have seen it in various states of repair, from good to delapidated, to no door at all. How good it was to find it fully restored in 2019. If you would like to contribute a photo (portrait format only please) of something you consider 'iconic Lundy', do send it to me at report.editor@lundy.co.uk.

Whether you managed to visit Lundy in 2019 or not, I hope what you see and read in the pages that follow will rekindle memories of your time on the island, or inspire you to get back there. At the time of writing, Lundy was about to open its doors again after the long period of Covid-19 lockdown. I can think of no finer antidote to that particular menace than spending time on Lundy.

FOREWORD

Alan Rowland (LFS Chair)

I am writing this shortly after your committee took the decision to postpone the 2020 Annual General Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Much heart-searching took place before we came to this unprecedented conclusion; the heart said 'go ahead', the head said 'postpone'. By the time you read this, you will be aware of the wisdom – or otherwise – of our decision.

Those of you who regularly attend the AGM will be aware that the demography of attendees strikingly mirrors the age-range histogram of those most at risk. The last thing we wanted to do was provide a vector from a group of potential carriers back to Lundy through our guests from the island and export it to our favourite place. Thus, you will need to be patient to hear about, and witness, the detail of the busy year that was 2019 until we are able to reconvene the AGM.

During the year I attended two meetings of the Lundy Management Forum, one at Croyde and the other on Lundy, as well as a Lundy Vision Workshop also held at Croyde. Forum meetings are attended by representatives of statutory bodies and offer a forum at which complicated issues can be addressed and, in some cases, resolved face to face. Examples are proposals to refurbish the Heligoland Trap and to source granite from the Quarries to repair the dam under the track up to Brambles. The Vision Workshop sought to identify what is special about Lundy and to elaborate a long-term vision for wildlife, the pinnacle of which is the reintroduction of the White-tailed Eagle.

In 2019, your Membership Secretary and I carried out our first Lundy Cabbage survey, continuing the 25-year study by Steve Compton and Roger & Rosy Key. We and others from the committee represented the Society at the Landmark Trust's 50th Anniversary celebration on Lundy in September. We also stayed on to assist with the collation and distribution of the Anniversary Stamp issue.

At the time of writing, the Society is looking forward to helping the Marine Festival, being held at Lundy over the summer, both financially and by our experts giving their time and knowledge. We are also supporting the Warden with donations towards the installation of Swift nestboxes, as well as providing a grant to a researcher to 'explore the relative influence of tidal currents and weather patterns on cetacean presence around Lundy*'.

Our publications continue to grow both in size and content, so much so that we are actively looking at ways to minimise our expenditure on printing and distribution. This Annual Report reflects the first steps in this process, with the long lists of species records formerly shown in the *Fauna and Flora* reports now being made available online on the LFS website.

We are now actively planning and anticipating our third 'Discover Lundy' event due in May 2021, at which we hope to see many of you.

**Owing to the Coronavirus lockdown, the grant and the study have been deferred to 2020. Ed.*

OVERVIEW OF 2019

Michael Williams (LFS Secretary)

For me in my role as Secretary, the highlight of the year was taking part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of Lundy's relationship with the Landmark Trust and the National Trust. LFS members were well represented, including significant involvement in the preparations for the weekend, ensuring the event ran as smoothly as possible despite the weather preventing MS *Oldenburg* from sailing on the day of the event. It was especially gratifying to meet many members of the Harman family, descendants of our co-founder Martin Coles Harman.

There were three working parties to Lundy in 2019. The first trip, led by Belinda Cox, kicked off in March and comprised a good mix of 12 hardy volunteers, some new and others experienced. The jobs enjoyed included rhododendron seedling searches, tree surveying (including numbering), sapling maintenance, Alexander control, and bench restoration. However, the visit will be remembered mostly for the headline *Holidaymakers Stranded on Luxury Isle*, as some national newspapers and other media outlets described the marooning, due to the *Oldenburg* suffering a rudder malfunction, and the extra couple of nights spent in either St Helen's Church or the Tavern Wheelhouse.

In May, Trevor Dobie was the leader and the week's visit coincided with an LFS committee meeting in Millcombe House. The work featured sapling maintenance, continuing the tree surveying and labelling, repairs to the Heligoland Trap, Quarry Beach cleaning, drystone wall repairs, and fence replacement along the 'Steps of Doom'.

Belinda was again at the helm for the 13 volunteers taking part in the October working party. More unusual tasks were helping to hang banners in St Helen's Church and clearing the pond outside Brambles Villa. All in all, a very productive year for LFS volunteers.

During 2019 a grant was made to support research into cetacean occurrence around Lundy, with fieldwork due to take place in 2020. We have also put in place an annual allowance for the Lundy Warden for conservation-related expenditure, which we hope will provide valuable support for the Conservation Team.

An enjoyable long weekend in Millcombe and Old House South for the committee gathering in May included a workshop looking at the results of the membership survey and a meeting with members of the island management and conservation teams in attendance. A Communications and Engagement sub-group (comprised of Belinda Cox, Tim Davis, Tim Jones and Chris Pawson) has been set up to consider ways in which the LFS can sustain itself in the long term and enhance its relevance as it moves towards its centenary in 2046. The first stage of the sub-group's work will look at opportunities with social media, and further consultation with the membership based on replies to the survey.

Preparations to celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2021 are well underway. A 'Discover Lundy' week will be held on the island during May and, for the first time in the Society's history, our AGM will be held on Lundy during the week.

Alan and Sandra Rowland have taken over the Lundy Cabbage surveys from Roger & Rosy Key and Steve Compton, who surveyed Lundy's sole endemic plant for 25 years. The survey took place in June, with numbers similar to 2018.

Long-term bird ringing studies continued, focused primarily on two migratory species that have increased on Lundy since rat eradication. Ringing of Manx Shearwaters provides valuable information on their growing breeding population, while colour-ringing and subsequent re-sightings

of Wheatears helps to show the year-to-year variation in (the currently healthy) island population. Storm Petrels were also caught in record numbers. With the addition of the many migrant birds caught in spring and autumn, a total of 3,041 birds of 49 species were ringed during the year. Ringers gave practical demonstrations of the ringing process for other visitors, and evening talks on the insights that it provides. Work has also continued on digitising Lundy's past ringing records, to facilitate analysis for research purposes.

In other matters, Chris Webster has held discussions with Historic England about the Heligoland Trap, erected on the Terrace in 1951 to catch and ring birds. They have agreed to advise the Secretary of State to grant consent for the replacement of the trap. Richard Breese has started work on scanning photos from the Harry Savory archive that was donated to the LFS by the family.

As outlined last year, we were in process of setting up an endowment fund in which to place the Society's cash reserves in order to provide a secure long-term financial footing for the LFS. I'm pleased to report this work was completed in the spring with £20,000 invested and a further £15,000 held as cash in an interest-earning savings account. Grateful thanks to our Treasurer, Roger Chapple, who has done the hard work.

At the end of 2019 Grant and Shelley Sherman left the island. Grant has been the Society's Island Representative for several years and regularly provided guided walks and talks, often during times when the Warden's post was vacant, as well as pursuing his personal interest in Lundy's Guillemot population. Grant would reliably plug the LFS during his talks, encouraging visitors to join. We thank Grant for his valued contributions and wish him and Shelley well for their future on the mainland.

A new volume of the LFS Journal will be published in early 2020. This will be the seventh and final volume edited by Jenny George, with André Coutanche supporting production. As our flagship publication, Jenny has built up the Journal from its start in 2008, typically publishing eight peer-reviewed papers on a biennial basis on subjects ranging from mycology, archaeology, art and history to birds, marine and freshwater biology, and animal behaviour. André has checked the technical data in the papers, ensuring consistency, and has produced the excellent layout. Thank you both for your enormous contribution. Tom Dickins will be taking on the editor's role from Jenny.

Lastly, I am very sorry to record the death of author and artist Peter Rothwell, a long-standing visitor to Lundy. Peter served on the LFS committee between 1999 and 2005. His obituary appears on p.22. We also note the death of Peter Davis, Lundy Warden 1951–1954, whose obituary appears on p.23

Thank you for your support in 2019.



MEMBERSHIP IN 2019

Sandra Rowland (Membership Officer)

As always, may I convey my thanks to all members for paying their annual subscription in 2019 and supporting the Society in that way, and thank everyone who included cards and messages with their subscription cheques – it is always lovely to hear from you. Also a huge thank you to all those members who have given a donation in 2019; large or small they all help to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Society.

Subscription and membership news

I am pleased to say that the Society is still able to keep the subscription rate at the very reasonable price of £25 for individuals and £28 for family membership. A student membership is also available to members or potential members beginning a degree course; the reduced rate is £15, which we hope will encourage future members.

May I remind you that subscriptions become due in January, and 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. Alternatively, if you would like to set up a standing order then also please contact me and I will send you the appropriate form.

I sent 37 letters and emails out in the summer of 2019 to members who had not paid their annual subs, and I'm pleased to report that 18 of those members replied and brought their subs up to date. Those who did not reply, or decided not to renew, had their details removed from the database, in compliance with with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Membership of the Society does, however, continue to increase, membership at the end of 2019 standing at 493 (counting only two members per family membership). As well as sending the Bulletin, Annual Report and Journal to all members, the Society also sends its publications to 16 institutions, including the five 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 five members who sadly passed away during 2019: **Elizabeth White**, **Peter Rothwell**, **Hugh Butterworth**, **Elisabeth Price** and **Geoff Mason**.

In 2019, six LFS members celebrated 50 years continuous membership of the Society. To mark this milestone a card with a message of congratulations was sent to each of them.

New members

Forty-five new members joined the Society in 2019 – we welcome them all. The list below shows the names of new members who have given permission for their names to be published and their main interest, where given, shown.

Dave Sanders	Lundy
Graham and Lissie Lewis	Lundy
Paul Sawford	Conservation Breaks
Caroline Savage	Conservation Breaks
Hannah Batchelor	Conservation Breaks
Julian and Siân Cann	Everything Lundy
Rhonda Knight	Loves Lundy
Caroline Gaskin	Conservation Breaks
Lional and Tricia Oakley	Lundy

Rose Wheeler	Lundy
James and Freya Wright	Love Lundy
Gale Hall	Conservation Breaks
Janet Wilson and Terry Streeter	Walking (Bellringers)
Claire and Len Mitchell	Lundy (Bellringers)
Caroline Canning	Conservation Breaks
Andrew Larsen	Conservation Breaks
Tanya Kynaston and Quentin Taylor	Conservation Breaks
Geoffrey Yeldham	Conservation Breaks
Philip Jenkins	Seabirds
Kryisia Groves	Conservation Breaks
Tracey Wells	Conservation Breaks
Sheri Browning	Ornithology
Mike and Jenny Dennis	Lundy
Martin and Jane Green	Conservation
Carole Waring	Conservation Breaks
Maureen Jones	Wildflowers/plants
Jilly MacKenzie	Conservation Breaks

Change of address

Please email me at my address below if you change your postal address or your email address. This will ensure that you do not miss any of the Society's publications or any important emails that the Secretary might send out.

Finally, do visit our website at www.lundy.org.uk for up-to-date information and all the latest news. Here too you may read or search through our publications and also view the list of LFS and associated 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



FINANCES IN 2019

Roger Chapple (Treasurer)

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2019

INCOME	Year End 31/12/2018	Year End 31/12/2019
Subscriptions	£ 7,995	£ 8,353
AGM auction	£ 382	£ 167
Donations	£ 2,278	£ 1,128
Bird ringing	£ 236	£ 437
Conservation break deposits	£ 330	£ 440
Gift aid	£ 1,257	£ 1,364
Sundry sales	£ 291	£ 284
<i>Protecting Lundy's Marine Life</i>	£ 90	£ 92
<i>The Harman Family's Lundy</i>	£ 734	£ 656
<i>Lundy Fungi</i>	£ 1,603	£ 889
Wright book sales	£ 467	£ -
Colouring book	£ -	£ 67
AGM lunches sold	£ -	£ 305
Jennett's Trust	£ 2,040	£ 2,040
Postage	£ 54	£ 31
Sundries	£ 7	£ 22
Interest	£ 219	£ 126
Stock increase	£ 4,577	£ -
TOTAL INCOME	£ 22,560	£ 16,401
Deduct Expenditure	-£ 19,033	-£ 9,517
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£ 3,527	£ 6,884

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2019

EXPENDITURE	Year End 31/12/2018	Year End 31/12/2019
AGM Boniface Centre	£ 176	£ 186
AGM Catering	£ 160	£ 511
AGM Expenses	£ 28	£ 60
Bird Ringing	£ 571	£ 674
Annual Report	£ 1,941	£ 2,308
Bulletin	£ 904	£ 872
Journal	£ 2,430	£ 200
Grants	£ 400	£ -
Conservation	£ 1,568	£ 2,090
Stationery	£ 230	£ 53
Postage	£ 1,040	£ 855
Website	£ 171	£ 33
Colouring book	£ -	£ 377
<i>Lundy Fungi</i>	£ 8,528	£ -
Committee expenses	£ 78	£ 147
Sundries	£ 25	£ 64
Advisor's fees	£ -	£ 45
Members survey	£ -	£ 109
Stock reduction	£ -	£ 933
Non Grant Financial Support	£ 783	£ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 19,033	£ 9,517

FINANCES IN 2019 continued

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ACCOUNTS AND BALANCE SHEET 2019

CURRENT ASSETS	Year End 31/12/2018	Year End 31/12/2019
Stock	£ 6,167	£ 5,234
NS&I account	£ 30,364	£ 381
Bank balances	£ 6,349	£ 3,248
CAF deposit	£ –	£ 15,109
DL deposits - 2021	£ –	£ 5,608
Debtor	£ 173	£ –
	£ 43,053	£ 29,580
Less		
Advance subscriptions	-£ 485	-£ 597
Advance conservation deposits	-£ 250	-£ 350
Creditors	-£ 614	-£ 45
Net current assets	£ 41,704	£ 28,588
Other Assets		
Liontrust Sustainable Fund (see note)	£ –	£ 20,000
Total Assets	£ 41,704	£ 48,588
Reserves		
Brought forward	£ 38,177	£ 41,704
Transfer to specific reserve	£ –	-£ 20,000
Add surplus for year	£ 3,527	£ 6,884
General reserves	£ 41,704	£ 28,588
Specific reserves (see note)	£ –	£ 20,000
Total Reserves	£ 41,704	£ 48,588

Note: It was considered prudent to provide an endowment to meet the costs of future major projects. A sum of money was invested in an Ethical Fund in which income and capital would be accumulated. At the balance sheet date the investment had a market value of £21,586. In order to reflect this commitment a similar sum was transferred out of general reserves into a specific reserve.

Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2019

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1 January to 31 December 2019, 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
3 February 2020

ISLAND REPORT

Derek Green (General Manager, The Lundy Co Ltd)

Despite the prospect of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Landmark Trust's tenure on Lundy in style, inevitably it was the weather that made the headlines.

Fresh easterly winds at Easter combined with an errant rope made national headlines as MS *Oldenburg* had to be rescued and towed back to Ilfracombe, leaving 79 visitors stranded on an already full island for an extra couple of nights. Islanders rallied in true Lundy style, going out of their way to accommodate the 'castaways' – writing yet another adventure into the annals of the island's long history. Two days later, *Oldenburg* was declared safe and the smiling castaways were 'rescued', arriving cheerfully back in Bideford with the media inevitably waiting.

The weather also played its part in 50th Anniversary plans, carefully laid out during the year for a grand celebration of all things Lundy. However, on the day strong winds dictated events and a scaled-down celebration was held, with several guests being flown over by helicopter to ensure that the day was marked in style. Representatives from the National Trust joined with Trustees and senior management of the Landmark Trust, along with Lord David Owen and members of the Harman family. Other guests included many people with a close island connection who had, in their own way, helped shape the destiny of the island over the past 50 years. A new guide book was commissioned to mark the occasion, with Michael Williams suitably charged with its production, and, in the usual way of things, we issued a new set of stamps depicting some of Lundy's finest features.

A stirring church service was held to mark the occasion, followed by speeches and toasts in the square by Mark Harold (NT), Anna Keay (LT) and Barty Smith, who's parents had established the Landmark Trust in 1965 and who shared memories and amusing tales of his youth spent on Lundy. Guests were treated to a superb meal of Lundy lamb roast served from the Black Shed, and the evening was finished off in fine style with a party that only the Marisco Tavern could host. Music was ably provided by island favourites The Dambusers.

During the course of the year, *Oldenburg* was hampered regularly by inclement weather, which affected 18 sailings, reducing passenger numbers to just 15,103 (1,976 fewer than in 2018). Thankfully, good weather finally arrived in July and the ship enjoyed nine capacity sailings in a short space of time. The total passenger count for the year was 16,451, comprising 9,979 day-trippers and 5,442 staying visitors. Of the latter, 1,348 (up 19 on 2018) flew across during the winter helicopter season. Five of the scheduled 36 flying days of the winter season were affected by weather, but thankfully not during the peak festive period.

Oldenburg entered dry dock in November, and it soon became clear that her rudder stock had been damaged during the Easter incident and would require replacing. This has proved the greatest of challenges but a solution is in hand and we are confident that she will prevail and sail in time for the 2020 season.

Island properties again enjoyed healthy bookings, with occupancy of 87% for all available nights. Castle Cottage proved the most popular and was fully booked for the year, with Old House North a close second at 96%. Improvements to properties continued with more new kitchens and an external make-over for both Bramble Villas and the Old School (which remained Blue!) after being insulated and re-clad with new tin. Further work saw the finish to the mammoth task of re-cladding the Black Shed, creating a better working area for the island. Windows at the Castle and in the Square were refurbished and in November work was also carried out to replace rusting spindles in Old Light tower, courtesy of aptly named 'Old Light Building Conservation', better known as Charlie Smith and Rachel Thomson.



The Landmark Trust flag flies above the Ugly marking 50 years of tenure on Lundy, and (right) the Trust's Director Anna Keay speaking at the anniversary celebrations (photos: Shaun Barnes).

At the North Light, Trinity House began their project to move the light from the roof of the acoustic room back into the original lantern room. This involved refurbishing the main tower and accommodation block, returning it to something like its former glory. The internal features have been mostly preserved and results to date are impressive – not least the fact that all of the fragile and hugely expensive diamond-shaped panes of glass had to be replaced during bad weather. The final result will protect the rich heritage of the building for the future, and could present opportunities for the island as the accommodation block has been formally separated from the technical area.

One of the most important projects was without doubt the installation of the water treatment plant, reducing the need to import some 32,000 plastic bottles of water, and leading to a patient but determined campaign of plastic reduction, led by Sue Waterfield (Manager, General Stores). Lundy was deservedly awarded plastic-free status in November 2019, which attracted extensive press interest. Local company Boshers provided a two-minute beach clean station for Lundy which encourages everyone to keep plastic off the island. Also making the news on the plastic-free front was campaigner Sadie Davies, who in August became the first woman to swim from Hartland Point to Lundy. It took her nine hours, for which she became the proud recipient of the Cyril Webber Cup, awarded by the Right Honourable John Rous of Clovelly.

The newly refurbished St Helen's Centre provided the perfect stage to host a visit by the Cornwall Seal Group and their excellent exhibition telling the life story of 'Septimus the Seal'. Proving an instant hit with everyone who visited during the six weeks of the exhibition, St Helen's showed its true value as a multi-use centre for the island. Many of the visitors and children visiting the church were expertly guided by our team of 'Lundy Ambassadors', under the direction of Frances Stuart and Rosie Ellis – the latter joining us last summer to ably take over the role of Education Officer.

In May the Cloud Appreciation Society paid the island a visit. The group utilised St Helen's for their meeting, which was beamed live around the world using modern technology to its utmost, bringing Lundy to a whole new audience.

There have been many positive outcomes from the refurbishment of St Helen's, and it was only fitting when in June the project won 'Heritage Project of the Year' at the 2019 Michelmores



Clockwise from left: Lundy's postbox with its celebratory makeover; the second all-island race gets under way; the Shore Office and Ship's crew; and Lundy's team in 2019 (photos: Derek Green, Graham Hobbs & Shaun Barnes).

Property Awards held at Sandy Park Conference Centre in Exeter. I was delighted to accept the award on behalf of the island, the Parochial Church Council and the team who brought the challenging project to fruition. Other initiatives that resulted from the project included the arrival of our Trampers, Large Print Guides, Easy Read Guides and a BSL (British Sign Language) tablet, as well as much better online information to help improve our overall access for visitors.

The island hosted a number of events through the year, including the second all-island race, which again proved popular and is becoming part of our annual calendar. The annual 'Fly-in' brought 21 small aircraft from across the region to the island early in August, and cruise ships the *Hebridean Sky* and *Ocean Nova* both called in.

The farm had another busy year, with new foals Lundy St John and Lundy Mary joining the herd, appropriately named after the late Sir John Smith and Mary Gade respectively.

There were a number of staff changes during the year with the departure of long-standing Chief Engineer Steve Roberts from the *Oldenburg*, whilst on the island we said farewell to long-standing islanders Grant and Shelley Sherman, Nick Herbert and Rachel Threlkeld, and Mike Jones and Emily Trapnell. Emily has taken up a position with Falmouth Coastguard, her voice now regularly heard on VHF radio. We wish them all well in their new ventures.

2019 proved to be a challenge in many ways, but the resilience of the islanders, the ship's crew and the fantastic support from the Shore Office ensured that Lundy continued to run smoothly. My thanks to them all for their dedication to the island, the ship and our shore-based operations.

Undoubtedly the main news of the year – in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary – was the signing of a new lease with the National Trust. Both organisations have worked closely, through many challenging times, over the last 50 years to ensure the island remains open and accessible for the nation. It has been an incredible privilege to have been party to ensuring that our close working relationship will continue for another 50 years.

Finally, thank you the LFS for your ongoing support.

All the very best!

CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Dean Woodfin Jones (Lundy Warden)

Fabulous flocks of wintering Kittiwakes foraging for a meal within the island's No Take Zone, perfectly camouflaged Woodcock nestled in the undergrowth awaiting the evening spoils in Tillage Field, male Skylarks periodically erupting into the crisp blue winter sky to signal the oncoming season. Yes, it's January once again. Where did last year go?!

As Lundy enters a new decade and 'shuts down' for most of the month of January, we here in the Conservation Team are taking the opportunity to reminisce about yet another spectacular and eventful year on our magical isle. What truly fortunate folk we all are to live in such an exciting environment full of remarkable wildlife – above and below the waves – interesting and considerate people, and a never-ending schedule of exciting events and goings-on.

Some of the best of these for me in 2019 were ... that beautiful day Zoë and I nearly choked on clouds of flying ants as we sat agape with amazement at the sight of a mammoth Minke Whale cruising past North Light ... those two hours I spent lying on the main track surrounded by sheep 'mines', as I watched the visiting Black-headed Bunting feed just metres away ... those six weeks with the spectacular Cornwall Seal Group and Research Trust and their didactic Grey Seal skeleton 'Septimus' ... each and every time I delved into the idyllic waters of the island's Marine Protected Area, particularly that afternoon where we were joined by a monster Barrel Jellyfish ... and the day the new embroidered banners were hung proudly in the church – all of which illustrate a love for the island and the unbreakable community spirit here in North Devon. I could go on and on...!

One very special event to mention was the Golden Anniversary of the running of Lundy by the Landmark Trust and the signing of its new 50-year lease. No longer must visitors jump from wash-tub tenders to reach the island's shores, witness invasive Rhododendron pushing out island endemics, read of rats eating unborn burrow-nesting seabirds, buildings lying roofless and unloved, or destructive fishing methods blighting our seas. It is truly incredible how Lundy has transformed and prospered in what is really a short period of time in the grand scheme of things. Yet despite all this change, Lundy still retains its unfathomable charm, mystery and ecological and educational importance – and it's not done yet!

2019 was another very busy year for finding and treating Rhododendron. Thankfully the team had ample help from both National Trust and Lundy Field Society work parties, which located a total of 1,482 plants (compared to 7,786 in 2018). Of these 1,252 were along the East Sidelands, particularly around the Terrace area which was the last section of coast where the extensive Rhody stands were cut and burnt. On top of the island, 230 plants were found and treated and four flowering plants removed before setting seed. It is incredibly encouraging to see this huge reduction in the number of young plants present on the island, illustrating that everyone's hard work will continue to improve the natural biodiversity of the east coast and the continued re-establishment of our endemic Lundy Cabbage. A massive thank you to everyone who has helped out with this ambitious project over the years; together we have found and removed from the island a total of 87,532 plants since 2011! A huge and, to date, highly successful effort.

Continuing on the flora front, 2019 saw an increased effort in planting numerous young trees and shrubs in Millcombe, mainly blackthorn, willow, alder and oak. After identifying, numbering and carrying out condition assessments on all the trees in the valley, it was evident that quite a few of the old trees were reaching the end of their days. Therefore to ensure a succession of plants that support the incredible diversity of insects and bird life which rely on Millcombe for food, shelter and a place to breed, 200 young trees were planted in the winter of 2019. In addition,

another 250 plants are currently growing in our nursery, ready to go out in 2020. All being well, we will be enjoying the wonders of Millcombe for years to come, and – if we are lucky – we may even see the return to the valley of some of the island's lost breeding birds, such as Song Thrush.

The massively important biosecurity effort continued with the monthly checking of 70 rodent monitoring stations across the island. Luckily for us and the island's wildlife there were no confirmed sightings of rats or mice in 2019 – though we did have one scare late in the autumn of a potential mouse at North Lighthouse. Thankfully, after four weeks of monitoring, there were no signs of a rodent having sneaked onto the island. Instead we got loads of poo, teeth marks and camera-trap footage of our endearing native Pygmy Shrews.

Once again I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave their time and energy to the island in 2019. In particular, I must single out the fabulous work of the Lundy Ambassadors, who helped enormously with so many guided walks, outreach talks and school groups over the season. Then there were the National Trust and Lundy Field Society working parties which assisted with some of the island's larger and more physical tasks, such as clearing Brambles Pond, fixing fences, Rhody searching, and shifting all the granite and old Rhody brush up to the Terrace for the purpose of fixing fallen walls and for keeping visitors warm in the Marisco Tavern throughout the winter! Then of course there are the Conservation Team Volunteers who all worked their socks off to help with the running of the island and with the annual monitoring of Lundy's special inhabitants, namely our charming little Puffins and portly seal pups. I tip my tatty hat to you all!

The Lundy Conservation Team in 2019. Clockwise from left: Edmund Goody, Nick Herbert, Dean Jones, Alex Sydenham, Caitlin Worsley, Siân Cann and Rosie Parsons (photo: Zoë Barton).





*Team Seal (l-r): Caitlin Cunningham, Samantha Nieto, Dean Jones and Rosie Ellis
(photo: Zoë Barton).*

And last but by no means least, a huge thank you to the little lady from the Valleys, Siân Cann (former Assistant Warden) for the spectacular job she did on developing the St Helen's Centre project, and to Nick Herbert (former Ranger) for looking after and maintaining the island's infrastructure, footpaths and drystone walls, treating problem plants and managing work parties. Lundy wishes you both all the very best with your new lives over there on the big island.

Following on from Siân – for those who have yet to meet her – is our new Education Officer, Rosie Ellis. Rosie came to Lundy after working as an Assistant Beach Ranger with the National Trust in Woolacombe. Since she arrived here in late August, Rosie has excelled well beyond expectations, very much delving full throttle into her new role and Lundy life – in fact, so much so that you'd think she has always been here!

At the time of writing, the days are now starting to lengthen, meaning the start of the 2020 sailing season is not far away. After her well-deserved break, our beloved *MS Oldenburg* will shortly be back out on the high seas, delivering lots of lovely goodies to keep us fuelled through the rest of the winter months. The Conservation Team are very busy too, planning for the upcoming season, finishing off the island's annual reports, leading visitors on guided walks, carrying out important biosecurity measures, and helping plan Lundy's first Marine Festival. 2020 is already shaping up to be a very busy and exciting year – hope to see you all there!

All the very best.

LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Robert Irving (LMPAAG Secretary)

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 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 2019 it met on 7th May on board MS *Oldenburg* moored alongside Bideford Quay; and on 22nd 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 2019, a variety of issues were brought to the attention of the Group and discussed. These are summarised below:

Sharing the minutes of the Lundy Management Forum with Advisory Group members

After 20 or so years of sharing the minutes of each Advisory Group meeting with members of the island's Management Forum, it was suggested that Advisory Group members be allowed to view the minutes of the Management Forum meetings, in a *quid pro quo* agreement. Such an agreement would also mean that a spoken report of each Forum meeting by its Chair, Derek Green, to the Advisory Group would be deemed unnecessary. This proposal was put to the Forum at their meeting on 8th May 2019 with the response that "... Forum members were happy for the written minutes of their meetings to be shared with the Advisory Group, on the understanding that any sensitive issues be redacted". Note that Robert Irving currently acts as Secretary to both the Advisory Group and the Management Forum.

Adding marine biological records to the NBN national database

Keith Hiscock informed the Group at its May meeting that all of Lundy's historical marine records from the 1970s onwards had now been added to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) database, which means that national distribution maps for species will now include occurrences at Lundy. He had spent some considerable time allocating locations to the Lundy records so that these could be mapped accurately. Access to the database is free of charge and is available at: www.nbn.org.uk.

The North Devon Marine Pioneer project

The Group has been involved with this project, hosted by the North Devon Biosphere, since its start in 2015. It is due to end in March 2020. Most work had focused on producing a Marine Natural Capital Plan, which will complement the Terrestrial Natural Capital Plan produced by the sister Landscape Pioneer project, also centred on North Devon. It is hoped the Marine Natural Capital Plan will fit into the South West Marine Plan (being drawn up by the Marine Management Organisation). The Plan contains an Assets and Risks Register, which was commissioned to be undertaken by Dr Siân Rees and colleagues at Plymouth University.

A number of five-minute films (collectively entitled *Journey to the Sea*) have been produced as part of the project, linking the Landscape Pioneer with the Marine Pioneer. By following the flow

of water from a catchment area, via a river to an estuary and coastal waters, and then to the offshore island of Lundy, they tie in the lives of people directly involved with these areas through interviews. Dean Jones was featured in the Lundy film.

The status of the wreck of HMS *Montagu*

Hefin Meara took over the role of Marine Archaeologist from Alison James at Historic England towards the end of 2018. He intends to come along to as many Advisory Group meetings as he can, although he was unable to make the May meeting. However, he had been involved with supporting the Advisory Group's proposal that the wreck of HMS *Montagu* at Lundy should be recognised in some way for its historical importance. As part of the wreck's assessment, a dive team from Wessex Archaeology, together with volunteer divers from the Help for Heroes charity, had undertaken a number of survey dives on the wreck during 2018, and their subsequent report provided justification for the proposal.

At the October meeting, Hefin was able to tell us that the Secretary of State for the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport had agreed to the wreck becoming a Scheduled Monument. This designation is usually used for terrestrial archaeological sites of importance (Lundy already has 41!) and we understand this is the first time it has been used for an entirely submerged shipwreck site. It means that divers may continue to visit the site without the need for a licence, unlike a Protected Wreck designation (such as the *Iona II*) which requires divers to apply for a licence before visiting the site. Montagu Steps, adjacent to where the wreck lies, have also been designated a Scheduled Monument.

Plans for a Marine Festival at Lundy in 2020

Efforts got underway during the second half of 2019 to start the planning of a major three-month Marine Festival at Lundy from June to September 2020. At the heart of the festival will be a marine bioblitz (where as many species as possible are recorded, both intertidally and subtidally). In addition to the bioblitz, there will also be a number of citizen-science projects which will help to record the 'state of health' of the Marine Protected Area (MPA). Various activities, displays and competitions are also being planned.

Updating the MPA's Zoning Scheme map

The need to update the MPA's Zoning Scheme had been recognised for some time, as the map currently being used dates from 2012. Many of the changes which needed to be included in an updated map related to various new fisheries regulations which had been brought in by the Devon and Severn IFCA. The last of these changes (for the time being), most of which were associated with the introduction of new permitting byelaws, happened towards the end of 2018.

One other inclusion that has been made to the map relates to the designation of HMS *Montagu*, which became a scheduled monument in September 2019, bringing the total number of historic wreck sites within the MPA to three. Collaboration between the IFCA, Natural England, the Lundy Company, the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and the Advisory Group's Secretary allowed for the relevant GIS mapping layers from various organisations to be collated and formed into a single map. The results of this work, in the form of a new Zoning Scheme map for the MPA, are presented on pp.20-21.

Visit by Philip Newman, Marine Environment Protection Officer, Skomer MCZ

For several years now, I have been keen to encourage closer relationships between the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) team working on the island of Skomer, off Pembrokeshire, with the Conservation Team on Lundy. Like Lundy, Skomer is famous for its nationally important seabird populations. There are also connections in the marine sphere, with the Skomer MCZ also starting out as a Marine Nature Reserve in 1990, being only the second such MNR to be designated in the UK (after Lundy in 1986). The marine life at Skomer is very similar to Lundy's, both intertidally

and subtidally. The island of Skomer is owned by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) with the terrestrial part of the island being managed by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. The intertidal and subtidal parts of the island (the MCZ) remain managed by NRW.

Philip Newman, who was the Marine Nature Reserve's first warden in 1991 and is now the MCZ's Marine Environment Protection Officer, gave a presentation to both the Advisory Group and to Lundy's Management Forum at the October 2019 meeting. Management of the Skomer MCZ is undertaken by a team of two full-time and two part-time staff. They place a very high value on the continuation of consistent monitoring studies, some of which began in the late 1980s. Such long-term monitoring projects are vital in assessing trends in the marine environment and to working out what lessons they are telling us. It is hoped that a reciprocal visit to Skomer can be made in the not-too-distant future.

WWF UK-SEAS Project

The results of the 'Compass Card' questionnaire survey, an assessment system indicating how well or poorly a Marine Protected Area is being managed, were shared with Advisory Group members at the May meeting by Sarah Young of WWF. Lundy had fared pretty well overall, but there were definite areas where an assessment of 'room for improvement' would be apt. These included 'a sustainable income stream to cover management costs' (noted as being a barrier to MPA self-sufficiency); and there were lower scores for the themes of 'monitoring' and 'resources'. Two WWF summary reports on this part of the project are available online: <https://ukseasproject.org.uk/marine-governance>.

Another part of the project looked at the role of sustainable finance for MPAs. A figure of £156,000 *per annum* had been arrived at for a North Devon MPA to be managed effectively. If this figure is then multiplied by the number of MPAs in the UK (175 as of May 2019), this amounts to an annual spend of £27.3 million – a sum that doesn't exist as yet! A further report on this has been published by WWF (available to download at the aforementioned website).

Sadly, the UK-SEAS project was unexpectedly brought to a halt in September 2019 when the main sponsor of the project, Sky Ocean Rescue, decided to withdraw and transfer its sponsorship to tackle plastic pollution in the oceans.

Submission by the Advisory Group's Chair to the government review into the need for Highly Protected Marine Areas

During the second half of 2019, the government initiated a review into the need for Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) throughout English inshore and offshore waters (and also the offshore waters of Northern Ireland), with the possibility of increasing their number. The review was led by Richard Benyon, a former fisheries minister. Lundy's No Take Zone off the island's east coast is one such HPMA, and Keith Hiscock had submitted an online reply to the consultation. He felt there were two main reasons to establish more HPMAs: firstly, as fish recovery areas (which would need to be quite large); and secondly, as areas which would be as close as possible to being in a natural state, so that natural fluctuations in abundance and such traits as growth rates and longevity of species could be studied.

If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, Robert would be happy to raise them on your behalf: Robert@sea-scope.co.uk.



LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ZONING SCHEME

The Lundy Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established as a Marine Nature Reserve in 1986 to protect the remarkable diversity of marine habitats and wildlife which are present around the island. The MPA is currently used by a variety of people undertaking various diverse activities. This Zoning Scheme has been developed to enable everyone to enjoy the MPA whilst also protecting this special place.

The Lundy Marine Protected Area encompasses several separate designations, each of which is associated with different specific protections. Originally established as a Marine Nature Reserve in 1986 (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981), the exact same MNR area became a Marine Conservation Zone in 2010 (under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009). In 2003, the No Take Zone was established under a Devon Sea Fisheries Committee (now the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority) byelaw. In 2005, the Marine Nature Reserve became a Special Area of Conservation under the European Habitats Directive (1992); and, in 2016, the whole MPA was included within the much larger Bristol Channel Approaches SAC – specifically designed to protect the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*. The foreshore around the island (to low water mark) is included with a Site of Special Scientific Interest designation (which includes much of the island) made in 1976.

Within the MPA, special protection is given to the following habitats: intertidal and subtidal reefs; shallow sediment seabeds; and submerged or partially submerged sea caves. The following species are also afforded special protection: short-beaked common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*; bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*; Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus*; harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*; minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*; long-finned pilot whale *Globicephala melas*; grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*; basking shark *Cetorhinus maximus*; pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa*; and spiny lobster *Palinurus elephas*.

Spearfishing is prohibited by byelaw throughout the SAC and MCZ.

This Zoning Scheme is accompanied by a Code of Conduct, much of which is underpinned by law, to which all users of the MPA should adhere.

¹ Features and species protected within the SAC and the MCZ are described above.

² The No Netting Area is designated under D&SIFCA Netting Permit Byelaw (Annex 4).

³ The No Take Zone was established to protect sensitive and slow-growing reef communities and to enhance our understanding of the effects of these zones and their role in wildlife management. All extractive activities are prohibited from within the No Take Zone (unless under the auspices of a scientific licence).

⁴ This area, centred on the Landing Bay, is recognised as being an area where swimming, snorkelling and other water sports are likely to be taking place. Boat traffic should be aware.

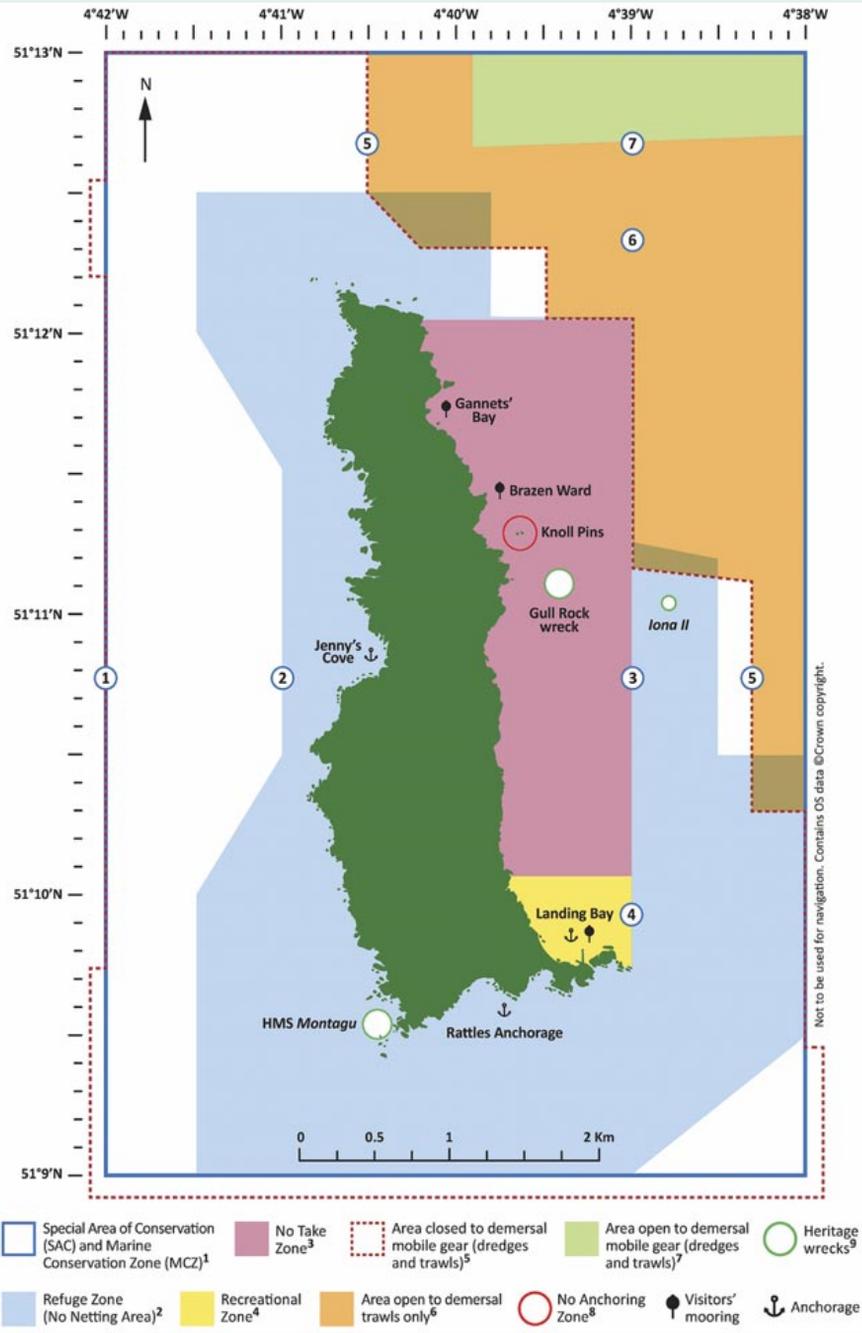
⁵ Area closed to demersal mobile gear (dredges and trawls) designated under D&SIFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (Annex 1).

⁶ Area open to demersal trawls only designated under D&SIFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (Annex 1a).

⁷ Area open to demersal mobile gear (dredges and trawls) designated under D&SIFCA Mobile Fishing Permit Byelaw (Annex 1b).

⁸ A No Anchoring/No Shot Lines Zone extends for 100m around the Knoll Pins in order to protect the delicate marine life associated with these rock pinnacles.

⁹ Lundy has three heritage wrecks. The *Iona II* and the Gull Rock wreck site were designated as Protected Wrecks in 1989. HMS *Montagu* was designated a Scheduled Monument in 2019. A licence is required to dive on a Protected Wreck, but not on a Scheduled Monument.



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OBITUARY

PETER ROTHWELL 1946–2019



Peter was born in Manchester and moved to North Devon as a child where he developed a love for the area, particularly Lundy. Peter studied art at Dartington College, later teaching and lecturing, and achieved notable success with his own work, often inspired by the North Devon landscape. Jointly with Ann Westcott, he ran the Westwell Sketching Breaks during the 1990s, with the group staying in and taking their inspiration from Millcombe. Ann and Peter would also regularly stay in Tibbetts, his favourite property which inspired his writing.

He published a number of books about the island, including *The Lundy Granite Company: an industrial adventure* (jointly with Myrtle Ternstrom) and *Lundy: An Island Sketchbook*. With Ann he produced the collectible *Lundy Island: a monograph*, a reprint of one of the earliest Lundy books, written by J.R. Chanter in 1877.

A long-standing member of the Lundy Field Society, Peter served on our committee from 1997 to 2005.

In 2010 he was appointed as Librarian for the Landmark Trust in the South West, including

Lundy, curating the collections of books in each property. He continued in this role until 2018, making annual trips around each building.

In 2012 Peter published *Ancient Sunlight*, a novel set in North Devon and Lundy and capturing the unique landscape of the area. The book brought him an award for historical fiction from The Winston Graham Trust.

Despite illness, he maintained his independence and continued working until shortly before his death, still painting and dealing in rare books. He was determined to reach Lundy again in 2019 as it would mark the 60th anniversary of his first visit. Sadly, this proved not to be possible.

He is greatly missed by his family, friends, former students and everyone connected with Lundy whose lives he touched.

Michael Williams

With thanks to Peter's wife, Sally

OBITUARY

PETER DAVIS 1929–2019

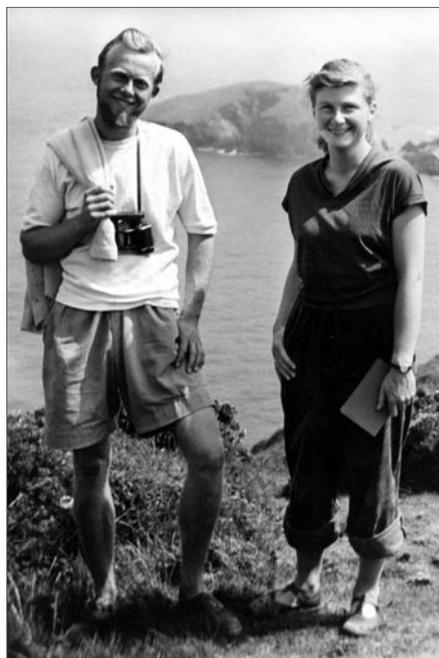
Peter Davis, who died on 28th October 2019 at the age of 91, devoted his life to the study and conservation of birds, beginning his career as Lundy's sixth LFS Warden from 1951 to 1954.

A Yorkshireman, born in Bradford on 8 October 1928, Peter was educated at Woodhouse Grove school in Apperley Bridge. He left the University of Leeds with a BA in geography in 1951, soon taking up the post of Lundy Warden, quickly proving himself not only a highly competent ornithologist but also very popular with islanders and visitors alike. In October 1952, he found an American Robin in the Terrace Heligoland Trap – the first of what, for him, would be three 'firsts' for Britain.

Sadly, tragedy struck a year later when, while counting cliff-nesting Guillemots and Razorbills, his fiancée, Wendy Anne Mitchell, higher up the cliff, slipped and fell to her death.

After Lundy, Peter became warden on Skokholm, off the Pembrokeshire coast, where he met his future wife, Angela Tame. In 1957 the couple moved to Fair Isle Bird Observatory, between Orkney and Shetland, where Peter spent six years as warden, finding Britain's first Song Sparrow, a North American vagrant, and first River Warbler, from eastern and central Europe.

In 1966, after a short spell with the British Trust for Ornithology in Tring, Hertfordshire, Peter, Angela and their three young children moved to Ceredigion in west Wales. It was here that he dedicated the rest of his working life to reversing the decline of the Red Kite – which at the time had been reduced to 23 breeding pairs – first as the Kite Recorder for Wales for over 30 years, and later as a founder and trustee of the Welsh Kite Trust.



He ended his long and distinguished career as the Nature Conservancy Council regional officer for south and mid-Wales. Although he retired in 1988, he was still recording, writing and advising on kites and other issues until well into his 70s. That Red Kites are now a common sight across much of Britain is due in no small part to Peter's dedicated efforts.

A gentle, kind man with a sharp intellect and keen sense of humour, Peter Davis inspired several generations of birders, naturalists and conservationists. He wrote or co-authored several books and more than 150 scientific papers, including *A List of the Birds of Lundy* (1954), *The Red Kites of Wales* (2005) and *The Birds of Ceredigion* (2010). He also edited the *Dyfed Bird Report*, the journal of the West Wales Naturalists' Trust, from 1967 to 1988.

He was awarded an MBE in 2007.

Tim Davis

Peter Davis with Wendy Anne Mitchell.

BIRDS ON LUNDY 2019

Tim Davis & Tim Jones (gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk)

REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR

A total of 158 species were recorded during 2019. Highlights included:

- Overwintering **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (October 2018 to February 2019)
- Record numbers of **Red-throated Divers** and **Kittiwakes** offshore in early February
- Early arrival of **Puffin**, **Sand Martin**, **Swallow** and **Wheatear** – all seen in late February
- Lundy's first **Cattle Egret** in March
- An unprecedented five **Subalpine Warblers** (four Eastern, one Western) in April/May
- A huge passage of 5,000 **Swallows** and 700 **House Martins** on one day in May
- A male **Red-footed Falcon** and Lundy's first **Squacco Heron** in May
- A July count of 468 **Puffins**
- Confirmed breeding by **Whitethroats** (rearing two broods) for the first time since 1978
- An adult male **Black-headed Bunting** in late August and early September
- A record flock of **Grey Herons** in September
- Lundy's first **Isabelline Wheatear** and a **Red-eyed Vireo** in October
- A record count of migrant **Ring Ouzels** in October
- A series of exceptionally late **Manx Shearwaters** in November & December
- A record number of **Mediterranean Gull** sightings through the year

JANUARY – max temp 10.4C, min -0.2C, mean 6.9C. Rainfall 86.1mm

The year started mainly dry and settled but also rather cloudy, and it remained generally dry and often mild during the first half of the month but progressively less settled as high pressure slipped away to the south-west. The rest of January was mostly colder and more changeable with frequent north-westerly winds, though milder air spread in for a time from 25th, and it was extremely windy on 27th with NW gusts approaching 60 mph.

The settled start to the month was emphasised by a singing **Skylark** on New Year's Day. Also on 1st **Fulmars** were already re-occupying the breeding ledges at Long Roost. A late-night walk through the farm fields on 4th produced sightings of three feeding **Woodcock** and eight **Snipe**. Often calm – even glassy – seas off the Landing Bay from 6th to 13th provided ideal seabird-watching conditions, with abundant feeding **auks** (max 800 on 10th) and **Kittiwakes** (max 631 on 10th) together with small numbers of **Shags** and **Gannets**. The same settled weather brought a high mid-winter count of seven **Goldcrests** along the East Side copses and thickets on 13th, either wintering birds revealing themselves more than usual in the quiet conditions, or perhaps passing through the island. Among regular landbirds were a single **Woodpigeon** on six dates, a **Kestrel** on eight dates, up to three **Redwings** in the first half of the month, one or two **Song Thrushes** on scattered dates, a peak of just five **Blackbirds**, up to three **Stonechats** on three dates, single **Pied Wagtails** on 7th & 11th, maxima of five **Robins** and five **Dunnocks**, one or two **Meadow Pipts** on four dates, up to five **Chaffinches**, and a single **Goldfinch** on eight dates.

Less common species and rarities

Red-throated Divers were a real feature of the month, being recorded on 17 dates, with a peak count of 12 on 19th, whilst single **Great Northern Divers** were noted on four dates from 1st to 8th and a lone **Black-throated Diver** was in the Landing Bay on 17th & 18th, making a January diver

Male Wigeon, Pondsburry, 2nd January (photo: Dean Jones).

hat-trick. The overwintering female **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, recorded regularly in Nov & Dec 2018, put in its first appearance of 2019 on 4th, and an overwintering female **Sparrowhawk** managed to find enough passerine prey to sustain herself, being seen with a male Blackbird in her talons on 5th. Among the other more unusual species were a pair of **Wigeon** on Pondsburry on 1st (the drake remaining on 2nd); a **Lapwing** over Ackland's Moor, a female **Reed Bunting** in the *Molinia* tussocks around Pondsburry, and two **Chiffchaffs** in Millcombe on 2nd (with up to four later in the month); a male **Bullfinch** in Millcombe on 5th & 8th; the **Reed Bunting** again on 6th; six **Common Scoters** flying north on 8th; and small numbers of **Common Gulls** on nine dates (max seven on 23rd) and **Mediterranean Gulls** on five dates (max three on 9th). A **Chiffchaff** showing plumage characteristics consistent with 'Siberian' **Chiffchaff** (*P. c. tristis*) was in Millcombe from 9th to 17th, but unfortunately remained silent – the characteristic call being required to clinch identification. Finally, three first-year **Cormorants** were on Great Shutter Rock on 19th.

FEBRUARY – max temp 13.6C, min -0.4C, mean 8.3C. Rainfall 52.6mm

February started off cold, with snow in parts of southern England (though not Lundy). In contrast, the rest of the month was very mild. It was rather changeable from 4th to 12th with westerly winds, including the arrival of Storm Erik on 7th/8th (max gust on Lundy 71.5 mph) before a southerly incursion from North Africa brought unseasonably mild and sunny weather to most parts of the country from 13th to 15th. After another short, changeable spell from 16th to 20th, the southerly flow returned from 21st to 27th bringing record-breaking temperatures and plenty of dry, sunny weather by day, with cold nights. The fine spell broke down from the west on the last day of the month.

A **Redwing** on 1st turned out to be the only record for the month (and there were no **Fieldfares** at all). The imminent arrival of spring was heralded by stick-carrying **Ravens** building (or perhaps renovating) their nest at Halfway Wall Bay on 1st, then bringing in nest-lining material on 3rd. There were record winter counts of **Kittiwakes** feeding around the island during early Feb, peaking at an estimated 3,000 on 4th. Over 3,000 **Guillemots**, about 2,000 **Razorbills** and 225 **Fulmars** were on the breeding ledges on 3rd, whilst 52 **Oystercatchers** were counted during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on the same day. Oystercatcher pairs were loudly and aggressively defending breeding territories all along the East Side on 6th, and three **Skylarks** singing in Middle Park, also on 6th, added to the spring-like feel of things. **Starlings** were gathering nesting material on 20th, **Teal** peaked at 10 (4 males and 6 females) on 21st, the same day as an influx of nine **Stonechats**, and the first hint of finch passage brought a small arrival of seven **Chaffinches** and four **Linnets** on 22nd. An exceptionally early **Wheatear** (one of the first recorded in the whole of the UK in 2019) was among The Cheeses above Jenny's Cove on 24th, the same day that two equally precocious **Sand Martins** flew north, and the first song-fighting **Meadow Pipit** was seen at the Castle. The following day, the **Meadow Pipit** count reached 41, including a single flock of 30 migrants, and the first **Siskin** of the year was in Millcombe. As February drew to a close, the first two **Puffins** were seen on the water at Jenny's Cove on 27th, the same day that **Shags** were investigating and renovating nest sites in Threequarter Wall Bay, **Chiffchaff** and **Chaffinch** were singing in Millcombe, a small passage of **Pied Wagtails** was noted, and **Blackbird** numbers reached 13, the highest of the year to date.





Lundy's earliest ever Wheatear, a male in Jenny's Cove, 24th February (photo: Dean Jones).

Less common species and rarities

The overwintering female **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was seen regularly until 6th, but not thereafter. **Red-throated Divers** continued to be seen on most days, mainly off the Landing Bay, with a record high count of 22 on 18th. Other less common species included good numbers of **Common Gulls** off the East Side early and late in the month, with 20 on 2nd & 3rd and 16 on 20th. A single adult **Mediterranean Gull** was seen in the same area on 19th, and an adult **Black-headed Gull** was in Lighthouse Field on 1st. A female **Black Redstart** was at Benjamin's Chair on 2nd and a **Lapwing** with two **Golden Plovers** on the Airfield and a **Jackdaw** in Lighthouse Field were seen on the same date. Two **Chiffchaffs** (likely two of the individuals recorded in Jan) were in Millcombe on 3rd, with ones and twos seen regularly for the rest of the month. The overwintering female **Sparrowhawk** put in appearances on scattered dates throughout the month, a male **Kestrel** was seen on 5th & 6th, and a displaying pair was over Millcombe on 14th, though not seen subsequently. A female **Reed Bunting** was seen on 14th, a **Mistle Thrush** appeared in Millcombe Wood on 17th, and a **Stock Dove** over the valley and Village area on the morning of 20th was being hotly pursued by two **Peregrines** – but survived the experience, being seen near the Ugly in the afternoon. Eight **Golden Plovers** flew over the Airfield on 21st, whilst 27th saw two **Collared Doves** (the first of the year) in **Millcombe**, a female **Black Redstart** in Jenny's Cove and a female **Reed Bunting** on Tibbetts Hill.

MARCH – max temp 13.4C, min 2.9C, mean 8.3C. Rainfall 129.8mm

From the start of the month right through to 17th, the first half of March was very unsettled, being dominated by westerly and north-westerly winds and frequent rain-bearing fronts moving in off the Atlantic, interspersed with brighter showery weather. Named storms Freya (3rd/4th) and Gareth (12th/13th) brought spells of particularly wet and windy weather, with peak windspeeds on Lundy of 69.7 and 64 mph, respectively. The second half of the month was generally much more settled with high pressure close by. It was largely cloudy until 23rd, but the last week was often very sunny – except for fog on 29th.

A **Goldcrest** was in full song in the 'Secret Garden', Millcombe on 8th and at least six **Puffins** were on land at Jenny's Cove on 10th. The 17th brought a singing **Woodpigeon**, whilst a good passage of **Meadow Pipits** continued throughout the morning of 17th, lasting until early afternoon (a total of 220 logged for the day). The movement continued on 18th, when 208 were counted in an hour-and-a-half. On the same day, **Carion Crows** were gathering nesting material near Government House and a **Grey Wagtail** was in the stream-bed below Millcombe House. The

22nd brought a significant influx of **Chiffchaffs** (64), together with the first **Swallow**, first two **Willow Warblers** and first three **Blackcaps** of the spring, and the first **Manx Shearwaters** were heard calling over Millcombe between 20:00 and 22:00 hrs. The same evening brought a significant but short-lived audible passage of **Redwings** (estimated at 100 to 200 individuals) over the Village and Lighthouse Field at around 22:00 hrs during a 25-minute period of misty low cloud. The following morning a **Curlew** called loudly over the Village and the first two **White Wagtails** of the year were feeding outside the Tavern. **Rock Pipits** were displaying at South West Point, alongside a singing colour-ringed **Wheatear**. The 24th brought more migrants, including a male **Ring Ouzel** near Old Light, the first **House Martin** over St Mark's Stone, and a female **Merlin**. The 26th saw a high March count of 166 **Puffins** at Jenny's Cove, and a **Woodpigeon** was sitting on the cliffs next to **Guillemots** and **Razorbills!** The 26th also saw nine **Cormorants** flying north, a single **Golden Plover**, the highest March count of **Teal** (comprising two males and four females on Pondsbury), and 55 **Sand Martins** moving through. Perhaps the same **Curlew** heard on 24th was feeding in fields in the south of the island from 26th to 30th. A **Ringed Plover** was calling over South End before dropping into Lighthouse Field on 25th, and two **Snipe** were seen on 27th. A **Brambling** called in flight as it headed north over Old Light on 28th. Foggy conditions on 29th grounded three **Redwings** (and the helicopter!), whilst the month ended with a **Ring Ouzel** in Millcombe and St Helen's Field on 30th, counts of 30 **Swallows** and six **House Martins**, also on 30th, and two **Ringed Plovers** in South West Field on 30th and 31st.

Less common species and rarities

The overwintering female **Sparrowhawk** continued to put in regular appearances from 4th to the end of the month. A single **Great Northern Diver** was in the Landing Bay on four dates from 4th to 8th (also on 16th) and there were still 15 **Red-throated Divers** off the East Side on 2nd, decreasing to a single bird by 6th. A female **Reed Bunting** at Quarter Wall Pond on 8th was followed by a male in full breeding plumage in Millcombe on 17th, and further females on 19th (Millcombe), 25th (Paradise Row) and 27th (Pondsbury). A much anticipated 'first' for Lundy came in the form of a **Cattle Egret** sitting on rocks on the south side of Lametor on 24th, which also saw the first **Firecrest** of the year along the Terrace. A **Ringed Plover** was calling over South End before dropping into Lighthouse Field on 25th, the same date that a **Stock Dove** was in St Helen's Field. Two **Red Kites** were circling high over Ackland's Moor in fine, sunny weather on the morning of 26th and – perhaps even more astonishingly – a **Treecreeper** was found feeding amongst the rocks at Jenny's Cove! Finally, two **Black Redstarts** (a female and a 2nd calendar-year male) were logged on 27th.

Grey Wagtail, Millcombe Pond, 19th March (photo: Dean Jones).



FIRST DATES FOR SPRING MIGRANTS

February	16 th	Swallow
	24 th	Sand Martin, Wheatear
	27 th	Puffin
March	22 nd	Manx Shearwater, Willow Warbler, Blackcap
	23 rd	Curlew, White Wagtail
	24 th	Firecrest, House Martin, Ring Ouzel
	25 th	Ringed Plover
April	2 nd	Pied Flycatcher
	3 rd	Sandwich Tern
	8 th	Redstart
	15 th	Grasshopper Warbler, Whimbrel
	17 th	Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Tree Pipit
	18 th	Collared Dove
	19 th	Lesser Whitethroat
	20 th	Common Sandpiper, Spotted Flycatcher, Yellow Wagtail
	22 nd	Dunlin, Cuckoo, Garden Warbler
	25 th	Reed Warbler, Whinchat
	28 th	Nightingale
29 th	Swift, Wood Warbler	



NB. For Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and Black Redstart, the first arrivals of spring migrants were masked by the presence of overwintering birds.

LAST DATES FOR 'WINTER' VISITORS

February	8 th	Woodcock
March	6 th	Red-throated Diver
	30 th	Redwing
April	28 th	Brambling
	30 th	Fieldfare
May	17 th	Great Northern Diver
June	2 nd	Merlin

*Cuckoo, Millcombe, 24th April and (below)
Brambling, Millcombe, 22nd April
(photos: Dean Jones).*



BREEDING SPECIES IN 2019

The following species were all confirmed as breeding successfully:

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

In addition, the following species may have bred:

Teal – probably attempted to breed in the Pondsby area, but no young seen

Storm Petrel – probably bred near North Light; possible elsewhere

Kestrel – possibly bred; territorial in spring, but no subsequent evidence

Rock Pipit, Hell's Gates, 10th September (photo: Martin Thorne).





Male (left) and female Redstarts, Millcombe, 8th April (photos: Philip Lymbery).

APRIL – max temp 19.7C, min 2.7C, mean 9.5C. Rainfall 58.7mm

April started off with a rather cold and unsettled spell for the first five days or so. Easterly winds then persisted until mid-month, initially bringing warmer weather but it turned colder again from 9th to 16th in the strengthening wind, which made things challenging in Millcombe and elsewhere along the East Side for would-be observers and ringers alike. Things warmed up between 17th and 22nd, coinciding with the Easter weekend, as the wind turned more south-easterly, bringing with it some significant arrivals of migrants. The last week was much more changeable, including a wet and windy spell associated with the passage of Storm Hannah on 26th/27th, when winds peaked on Lundy at 70.7 mph, though things had settled down again by 28th and the month ended quietly.

There was a significant influx of around 50 **Blackcaps** on 1st and a male **Ring Ouzel** was at the Quarries. Single male **Pied Flycatchers**, possibly one and the same bird, were in St Helen's Copse, Barton Field and Millcombe on 2nd to 4th, whilst on 5th 19 **Swallows** headed north, a **redpoll** (unidentified to species) was over the East Side, two female **Sparrowhawks** were at the Terrace and 25 **Wheatears** were counted along the West Side. **Swallow** numbers reached 54 on 7th. The first **Redstarts** of the year (a male and two females) were in Millcombe on 8th, coinciding with a modest arrival of **Chiffchaffs**, **Willow Warblers** and **Blackcaps** along the East Side. Another male **Ring Ouzel** and 68 **Puffins** were seen at Jenny's Cove on 10th, along with three pairs of **Teal** on Pondsbury. Four **Carrion Crows** were watched leaving the island and flying towards Hartland Point until lost from view through binoculars on 11th. A third male **Ring Ouzel** was at Old Light on 12th, and 50 **Willow Warblers**, a strong passage of 1,000 **Swallows** and 58 **Wheatear** were logged, whilst a count of 207 **Puffins** included 134 at Jenny's Cove. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted sitting on eggs on the same date and two probable 'Greenland' **Wheatears** were at North End. Three **Blackcaps** were seen among the rocks at Jenny's Cove on the morning of 13th and three **Snipe** were flushed from Ackland's Moor. The first **Whimbrel** of spring was on the West Side north of Threequarter Wall on 15th. On the same day, the first **Grasshopper Warbler** of the year was reeling outside Government House, with the same or another by Blue Bung on 16th, whilst the first **Tree Pipit** was calling loudly over Millcombe on 17th, the same date that the first **Whitethroat** – a female, unusually – was seen by Government House Pond and the first **Sedge Warbler** was trapped and ringed. A **Collared Dove** was in the Village on 18th and there was a notable movement of **Blackcaps** from 19th to 21st, with 69 ringed on 19th, followed by a fall of at least 300 birds on 20th and 150 on 21st. A male **Yellow Wagtail**, the first of the year, was at Pondsbury on 20th, whilst a **Grey Wagtail** was seen at the Devil's Kitchen. A female **Brambling** was feeding with a small group of **Chaffinches** in Barton Field on 21st, the same date as a **Wood Warbler** and a **Merlin** were seen in the vicinity of the Quarries, and four **White Wagtails** delivered the highest total for the month. The first **Dunlin** of the year was at South West Point on 22nd, when other notable records included two **Yellow Wagtails**, the first **Garden Warbler** and the first **Cuckoo** – a calling male in Millcombe.

The **Yellow Wagtail** count increased to three on 23rd, feeding alongside two **White Wagtails** in Barton Field. A **Common Sandpiper** was in the Landing Bay on 25th and there were six **Whimbrel** above the Quarries on 27th. At the end of the month, the female **Brambling** was still in Millcombe on 28th, and the first **Mallard** ducklings appeared. A **Wood Warbler** was singing in Millcombe on 29th, the same morning as the valley was alive with a huge fall of at least 1,000 **Willow Warblers**. Single **Dunlin** and **Ringed Plover** were together in South West Field on 30th, when other notable migrants included a **Spotted Flycatcher**, a female **Pied Flycatcher**, three **Reed Warblers**, two **Tree Pipits**, two **Lesser Redpolls** and a **Siskin** (all in Millcombe), a **Swift** at South West Point, two male **Whinchats** at Quarter Wall/Brick Field and a **Cuckoo** calling from the Rocket Pole area at dusk, and all-island totals reached 500 **Swallows**, 30 **Wheatears**, 15 **Whitethroats**, 15 **Sedge Warblers** and 50 **Willow Warblers**.



Male Pied Flycatcher, Millcombe, 3rd April
(photo: Philip Lymbery).

Less common species and rarities

A female **Marsh Harrier** flew high over the Quarries and south-east towards the mainland on 1st, a **Sandwich Tern** was in the Landing Bay on 3rd, single **Firecrests** were in Millcombe on 4th & 7th, and a non-calling **Chiffchaff** showing characters of 'Siberian' **Chiffchaff** was in Millcombe on 5th. A **Rook**, first reported on 4th, was outside Paradise Row on 6th, whilst other uncommon species on this date included a **Black Redstart** near Old Light, a male **Greenfinch** in Millcombe (others recorded on 21st & 29th), and a **Reed Bunting**. The **Rook** was feeding with **Carrion Crows** in Tent Field on 8th, a female **Black Redstart** was on top of the Black Shed on 10th, and a **Stock Dove** arrived in off the sea at North End on 12th. Coinciding with the arrival of warmer weather, an **Osprey** was photographed along the East Side on 18th. A **Lesser Whitethroat** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 19th and the island's first-ever spring **Yellow-browed Warbler** was found in upper Millcombe on 20th. A 2nd calendar-year male **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** was trapped in Millcombe on 22nd. A much-travelled **African Pied Crow** (most likely of captive or ship-assisted origin) paid a brief visit to the island on 23rd, a **Nightingale** was trapped in Millcombe on 28th, and a ring-tail **Hen Harrier** was seen on 30th, the same date that another **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** – this time a 2nd calendar-year female – was seen near Millcombe House and mist-netted shortly afterwards in the Secret Garden.

MAY – max temp 17.2C, min 4.9C, mean 11.3C. Rainfall 25.1mm

May started off generally cool, with an unseasonably cold northerly flow on 3rd/4th, and it was often rather cloudy. The second week began showery, cool and windy at times, but then high pressure slowly built across the country, and between 12th and 24th the weather was often quite settled, dry and sunny, though with a chilly northerly or easterly wind at times. It turned more changeable from 25th onwards, but the month ended on a warm note.

The main spring passage of hirundines occurred during the first half of the month, with 1,000 **Swallows** logged on 1st and 10th and a whopping 5,000 estimated on 12th, the same date that

700 **House Martins** and 50 **Swifts** piled through. Migration of later-moving warbler species also reached its peak, including 31 **Sedge Warblers** and 45 **Whitethroats** on 9th, alongside a notable count of 80 **Spotted Flycatchers**. A **Turtle Dove** was around the farm on 1st where it was seen regularly until 8th (often in company with a **Collared Dove**), followed by further singletons on 14th & 31st. One or two **Cuckoos** were recorded on 10 scattered dates from 6th to the end of the month, and there were single **Black Redstarts** on 1st & 6th, with two on 14th. Other less common migrants included three **Grasshopper Warblers** on 6th, a **Wood Warbler** (trapped and ringed) on 7th, one or two **Reed Warblers** on several dates from 1st to 6th, and single **Lesser Whitethroats** on four dates from 6th to 16th. **Whinchats** were logged on just three days from 7th to 14th, single **Pied Flycatchers** on four well-scattered dates, **Tree Pipits** peaked at four on 1st, whilst **Yellow Wagtails** (ones and twos only) were noted on six dates from 3rd to 24th and the last **White Wagtails** of spring were singles on 1st & 9th. Other migrants included a male **Merlin** over Jenny's Cove on 12th, a **Black-headed Gull** in the Landing Bay on 16th, a **Great Northern Diver** flying north at cliff-top height along the East Side on 17th, single **Common Gulls** on 1st & 22nd, and there was a notable passage of **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** mid-month, with peak counts of eight **Ringed Plover** on 14th and 30 **Dunlin** on 15th. The 14th brought added diversity to the wader tally when one or two **Redshanks** were in the south of the island and two **Greenshanks** flew over Middle Park calling, and there were also two **Golden Plovers** on 15th. The long-staying female **Sparrowhawk** finally left the island, being seen on six dates up to and including 14th.

Manx Shearwaters reached their highest-observed daytime total for the year to date, with 150 on 17th – just a fraction of those undoubtedly coming ashore under cover of darkness. Eight were ringed and three birds retrapped at the Old Light colony on the night of 26th/27th, while a **Storm Petrel** overflowed the area at dusk. A further 12 new birds and 21 retraps were caught on 29th/30th. The first observation of adult **Puffins** taking food into burrows was made on 20th at Jenny's Cove, whilst the highest count of adults for the month was 120 on 14th. The first **Guillemot** chick of the year was seen on 24th and the first **Razorbill** chick on 31st. The month's peak count of 246 adult **Kittiwakes** was made on 20th.

Among the island's breeding landbirds, a mating pair of **Chaffinches** and **Goldfinches** gathering nesting material were seen in Millcombe on 5th, and adult **Stonechats** were carrying food and faecal sacs near Pondsbury on the same date, with another pair taking food to a nest along the Beach Road on 11th. Successful breeding at both sites was confirmed when fledged young were seen on 23rd and 27th, respectively. Calls heard from the vicinity of Quarters Pond on 6th (and again on 28th & 31st) indicated the presence of **Water Rail** chicks, but none was ever seen! **Carriion Crow** chicks were calling from a nest in Millcombe on 11th, the same date that an adult **Skylark** was carrying food near South West Point. A female **Wheatear** was nest-building at the northern end of the Earthquake on 12th, a male **Blackbird** was carrying food in Millcombe (first fledglings seen on 25th, also in Millcombe), and nesting **Starlings** were seen flying in and out of the old stonemason machine. **Rock Pipits** were feeding young on the West Side on 23rd, **Duncock** and **Robin** pairs were feeding chicks in nests in Millcombe on 27th and 28th, respectively, and an adult **Wren** was carrying food beside the Beach Road on 28th. Three **Wheatear** chicks were emerging from a nest hole at Jenny's Cove to be fed on 30th, and **Linnet** fledglings were along the East Side on 31st, the same day that an adult **Chaffinch** was delivering food to chicks in Millcombe.

Rarities

A male **Western Subalpine Warbler** was trapped in Millcombe on 1st. A singing male **Continental Coal Tit** was seen and heard frequently from 2nd to 5th, and a **Woodlark** was seen briefly near the Church and on Castle Hill on 2nd. A **Hooded Crow** flew north past the Church with **Carriion Crows** early in the morning of 5th, a putative **Swallow x House Martin** hybrid was circling Government House, and the fourth **Subalpine Warbler** of the spring – another second-year male



Lundy's first Squacco Heron in flight and on Rat Island, 31st May (photos: Alex Sydenham).

Eastern – seen initially in sycamores below Brambles, was subsequently trapped and ringed. This was followed just a few days later, on 11th, by a 2nd calendar-year female **Eastern Subalpine Warbler**, bringing the total of **Subalpine Warblers** for the spring to an unprecedented (and highly improbable) five! A female **Dotterel** was at North End on 13th and two were in Middle Park on 14th. A typically elusive **Hawfinch** was in Millcombe during the morning of 15th and a female **Marsh Harrier** ranged widely over the island on the same day. A second-year male **Red-footed Falcon** graced Middle Park for several hours on 18th, where it predated large numbers of Emperor Moths. This exquisite small raptor was followed on 23rd by an equally exquisite small heron, Lundy's first-ever **Squacco Heron**, initially at Gannets' Bay and subsequently seen in flight off the Terrace on 27th and in the vicinity of Rat Island from 28th to 31st.

JUNE – max temp 23.6C, min 8C, mean 13.4C. Rainfall 124.2mm

June began fine but was generally rather unsettled and cool from 3rd to 20th, and particularly cool, cloudy and wet between 10th and 13th. A ridge of high pressure brought dry, sunny weather on 21st and 22nd, then the latter part of the month was mainly warm and humid, with a hot and sunny spell from 27th to 29th.

The month kicked off with calling **Cuckoos** in Millcombe and near Montagu Steps on 1st. The same day brought an unusually late sighting of a **Merlin**, perched on the wire fence dividing the Tent Field and 'helicopter' field, an adult **Skylark** feeding a fledgling at Rocket Pole Pond and a **Tree Pipit** calling in flight over Benjamin's Chair. There were four **Spotted Flycatchers** on 2nd, but only ones and twos thereafter, with no sign of any breeding. The **Merlin** was seen again on 2nd, flying past Old Light and across Ackland's Moor, and a **Turtle Dove** was hotly pursued by a **Peregrine** over the Terrace. A **Cuckoo** was along the West Side just north of Halfway Wall on 3rd and lone **Golden Plover** and **Whimbrel** were the last of the spring. A **Yellow Wagtail** was on the sidings near John O'Groat's on 4th. A trickle of hirundine migration continued during the first ten days or so, with 20 **House Martins** on 4th, a single **Sand Martin** on 5th and 18 **Swallows** on 9th & 10th. Small numbers of **Willow Warblers** and **Whitethroats** were seen throughout the month but there was no evidence of breeding. A confirmed 'Greenland' **Wheatear** was trapped near the West Side Heinkel crash site on 6th, the same date that **Peregrine** chicks from one eyrie



Luke Sutton and Seb Loram place colour-rings on a Lundy Peregrine chick – part of the long-running study of the island's top predator (photos: Dean Jones).

were colour-ringed for the first time ever on Lundy. An adult **Dunnock** feeding recently fledged chicks and a male **Chaffinch** carrying food were seen in Millcombe on 7th, whilst many fledgling **Rock Pipits** were seen north of Halfway Wall, and two adult **Wrens** with calling chicks were at the Earthquake on 9th. Fifty-six active (and very noisy!) **Starling** nests were found in the Village, Church and Old Light on 10th. A male **Chiffchaff** was building a nest along the Terrace on 12th and sightings in Millcombe that day included a **Cuckoo** (also on 14th & 16th) and fledgling **Robins**. A female **Blackcap** was gathering food in lower Millcombe on 15th. The first **Goldfinch** fledglings were in Millcombe on 19th and a late **Swift** flew north along the East Side. Three more **Swifts** were around the Village on 22nd, the same day as the first **Starling** fledglings appeared on the roof of Paradise Row – much later than in 2018. Also on 22nd, a male **Redstart** was at Halfway Wall. Single **Grey Herons** were seen on five dates from 19th to 28th, and there were two on 23rd. Twenty-six **Oystercatchers** were on rocks at Brazen Ward on 26th. Successful breeding by **Blackcaps** was confirmed when two fledglings were seen with an adult female just below Brambles on 29th, whilst on the same date, but in upper Millcombe, a pair of **Whitethroats** were feeding at least two chicks – the first confirmation of breeding on the island since 1978.

Forty **Manx Shearwaters** (20 new and 20 retraps) were caught at the Old Light colony on the night of 1st/2nd and three of the shearwater nestboxes were found to be occupied by incubating birds on 3rd. Two **Cormorants** flew south on 6th. Unusually calm conditions, good light and a powerful telescope enabled 21 **Puffins** in Lundy Roads on 10th to be aged as pre-breeding immatures. A **Storm Petrel** was flushed from short heather between the top of North Light steps and John O'Groats on 14th and flew out to sea. It was thought the bird may have been grounded during very windy conditions.

Rarities

A female **Red-backed Shrike** was near St Helen's Combe on 6th and an **Alpine Swift** was feeding along the Terrace and Quarries on the afternoon of 8th. A male **Golden Oriole** was in full song at the top of Millcombe for about 20 minutes during the morning of 21st. One of the more



Herring Gulls harass an unwanted visitor in the form of a Buzzard that arrived from the south-east on 25th July and departed the next day (photo: Alex Sydenham).

astonishing records of the year – though not for the island itself – concerned a **Roller** that perched in the rigging of a yacht en route from Pembrokeshire to Lundy on 30th (see p.80).

JULY – Max temp 25.7C, min 11.2C, mean 16.6C. Rainfall 59.8mm

Things started off rather cool with north-westerly winds, though high pressure remained close to South West England, meaning that the first half of the month was mostly dry and settled but with unremarkable temperatures. The second half of July was much wetter with plenty of thundery showers, but with a hot sunny spell from 22nd to 25th.

A pair of **Pied Wagtails** were gathering food for chicks in the farmyard on 3rd and an adult **Cuckoo** was in Millcombe on the same day. Single **Grey Herons** were recorded on six dates from 2nd to 17th. The first fledgling **Swallows** of the year were in the Church porch on 5th, whilst the first **Fulmar** chick was seen at Jenny's Cove on 7th. On the same day, adult **Chiffchaffs** were gathering food in the Terrace willows and another pair were feeding chicks in the Battlements Sycamores, Millcombe, on 24th. The highest **Puffin** count of the year was also made on 7th when 468 were between South West Point and St James's Stone. A **Buzzard** flew in off the sea from the south-east on 25th and the Church **Swallows** were already incubating a second brood. On 26th, the **Buzzard** was seen leaving the island, an **Oystercatcher** pair were seen with a chick in the Landing Bay, and another pair of **Pied Wagtails** were feeding young, this time in Millcombe. There were records of one each of **Dunlin**, **Curlew** and **Whimbrel** on scattered dates – presumably already on return migration south. Passage of warblers was certainly well underway by the end of the month, with a fall of at least 95 **Willow Warblers** and four **Sedge Warblers** on 27th, though the breeding **Whitethroats** in upper Millcombe had only just fledged a second brood by this date, when at least three chicks were seen. The month drew to a close with two **Sand Martins** and the first **Spotted Flycatcher** of the 'autumn' (the latter in the Terrace willows) on 28th, a **Swift** off South West Point on 30th and two **Cuckoos** and a **Water Rail** (at Quarters Pond) on 31st.

AUGUST – Max temp 25.3C, min 12.3C, mean 16.7C. Rainfall 88.9mm

The first three weeks of the month were dominated mostly by showery conditions. After a relatively quiet start, deep depressions brought wet and windy weather on the 9th/10th (winds of 61 mph on Lundy) 14th and 16th. A hot spell developed from the 21st to 27th, setting new record high temperatures for the Bank Holiday weekend in south-east England, but although very warm, it was not record breaking on Lundy. The weather turned cooler and more unsettled again from 28th.

There was a further fall of 71 **Willow Warblers** on 1st, together with a **Sedge Warbler** in Millcombe. The first returning **Tree Pipit** of autumn was over Millcombe on 2nd, along with a **Spotted Flycatcher** on the Terrace, whilst an evening seawatch produced an estimated 3,000 rafting **Manx Shearwaters**, and a mass emergence of flying ants saw large numbers of gulls taking to the skies to enjoy the ephemeral bounty. Seawatching during gale-force south-westerlies on 9th yielded surprisingly few seabirds apart from 761 **Manx Shearwaters**, but a juvenile **Grey Heron** arrived from the east, battling hard into the gusty headwinds, whilst a notable selection of waders included eight **Curlews**, a **Dunlin** and a **Black-tailed Godwit** flying past Rat Island, and two **Ringed Plovers** off North End. The gales were equally challenging for the **Swallows** nesting in the Church porch, which struggled to catch insects to feed to their chicks. Almost 3,000 **Manx Shearwaters** were counted during a seawatch on 10th amidst continuing gales, two **Turnstones** were sheltering in the short heather at North End, Pondsburry attracted a lone **Redshank**, and the **Grey Heron** was seeking out a meal at Quarry Pond. Further single **Ringed Plovers** were noted on 10th & 11th, whilst 11th also yielded a juvenile **Cuckoo** in Millcombe and **Chiffchaffs** feeding very young chicks in Smelly Gully – almost certainly a second brood on this date. Another **Tree Pipit** passed over on 13th and the first passage **Goldcrest** was logged on 15th. A post-breeding flock of around 200 **Linnets** was near Halfway Wall on 17th and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** was heading west off North Light on 18th. Passerine migration kicked up a gear in the last week or so of August, with daily **Tree Pipit** records of up to four birds from 24th to 28th, an influx of 60 **Swallows** and five **White Wagtails** (the latter feeding in Tent Field) on 25th, single **Reed Warblers** trapped in Millcombe on both 25th & 26th, 11 **Pied Flycatchers** on 25th, a significant fall of 250 **Willow Warblers** – together with 12 **Spotted Flycatchers**, six **Whinchats** and 70 **Wheatears** – on 26th, a **Redstart** on 27th and a **Yellow Wagtail** over St John's Valley on 28th. The business of rearing young was very much still continuing for some of the island's later-breeding seabirds including **Fulmar**, **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel**. Thirty-seven **Storm Petrels** were trapped near North Light on the night of 23rd/24th and 39 on 27th/28th. A **Grey Heron** flew past the petrel ringers at dusk on 23rd, whilst a flock of six flew in off the sea near Rat Island early in the morning of 25th. The 25th and 26th brought several flocks of up to 12 passage **Curlews** overflying the island, with another **Black-tailed Godwit** loosely associating with one flock on 26th, the same date as single **Redshank** and **Greenshank** were heard calling in flight. More **Ringed Plovers** (all single birds) were logged on five dates from 25th to 30th, and 2,538 **Manx Shearwaters** passed Rat Island in two hours on 30th.

Rarities

An **Icterine Warbler**, first seen in upper Millcombe on 23rd, was trapped and ringed on 26th. Also on 23rd, a **Wryneck** was foraging outside Brambles for a short while before flying up into Millcombe Wood. Presumably the same individual on 25th flew out of Smelly Gully and up to the rocks just behind the Walled Gardens where it hopped around for five minutes or so before disappearing back into the gully. On the same day and in the same area as the **Wryneck**, a very showy **Nightingale** – the second of the year – provided unusually prolonged, close views as it flitted up from Smelly Gully to forage on the ground near Millcombe Pond. The 26th brought one of the 'birds of the year' to the island when an adult male **Black-headed Bunting** was discovered on the roof of Paradise Row. Happily, it remained on the island, though elusive at times, for 11 days altogether, enabling all birders staying on the island, and some day visitors, to catch up



*Lundy's fourth Black-headed Bunting which arrived on 26th August and stayed for 11 days
(photo: Dean Jones).*

with it. Finally, a single **Sooty Shearwater** flew past Rat Island within a loose flock of **Manx Shearwaters** on 30th.

SEPTEMBER – Max temp 25.7C, min 11.7C, mean 15.3C. Rainfall 139mm

The first six days were dominated by changeable westerlies, after which things started to settle down slowly. A mainly dry and often sunny period lasted from 13th to 20th, with some warm days and cool nights, but the weather turned very wet at times during the last third of September, which raised rainfall totals above the long-term average in most parts of England and Wales.

The first week was relatively quiet, with single **Sparrowhawk**, **Golden Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Green Sandpiper** and the first **Merlin** of the season being among the more notable non-passerine sightings. As usual, there were further scattered records of waders during the month, including **Golden Plover** (maximum 2), **Ringed Plover** (2), **Dunlin** (3), **Turnstone** (1), **Snipe** (2) and **Jack Snipe** (1). **Grey Herons** were a real feature, with single birds logged on a dozen days from 1st to 30th, sadly including one found dead at Quarter Wall Pond on 11th, but there was an exceptional flock of 19 flying south on 14th. With most focus on migration, it's easy to forget that young **Manx Shearwaters** continue to fledge from their burrows during September, and a further 31 chicks were ringed on the nights of 5th & 7th. More surprising was a late landbird breeding record when two **Woodpigeon** chicks fledged from a nest in Millcombe on 12th. Warbler and hirundine passage got off to a modest start in terms of numbers, but a **Reed Warbler** on 1st and single **Sedge Warbler**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Tree Pipit** on 2nd added variety. The second week or so brought more sustained hirundine movements, with the logged totals for **Swallow** exceeding 500 on four dates from 8th to 15th, including 1,195 on 8th, the same day that 408 **Sand Martins** were counted. Warbler numbers remained generally rather low throughout September, with no more than 20 **Willow Warblers** and six **Whitethroats** on any one date, though an influx of **Blackcaps** and **Chiffchaffs** on 18th gave totals of 70 and 50, respectively – by some margin the highest counts for either species during the month. The same day also saw by far the autumn's biggest southbound push of **Swallows** with some 3,200 logged, along with 500 **House**



Autumn migration in full swing during September, with Sand Martins and Swallows on wires in Lighthouse Field and (inset I-r) Spotted Flycatcher, Grasshopper Warbler and Snow Bunting (photos: Dean Jones and Martin Thorne).

Martins. There were one or two **Garden Warblers** on five dates from 8th to 19th, another lone **Sedge Warbler** on 8th (which proved to be the last of the year) and a single **Grasshopper Warbler** on 18th. **Goldcrests** passed through in quite good numbers all month, with 20 or more on ten dates and a fall of 180 on 23rd. The first **Firecrest** of autumn appeared on 16th, with one to five birds seen on most days to the end of the month. Among thrushes and chats, there were single **Ring Ouzels** on three dates from 18th, and single **Whinchats** on just four dates from 9th, whilst **Wheatear** numbers were also unremarkable, with a maximum of 36 on 9th. Unusually, for what was once a reliable September bird on Lundy, there were no **Redstarts** at all. Flycatchers were represented by one to three **Pied Flycatchers** on six dates and **Spotted Flycatchers** on 13 dates, with 10 on 14th and 20 on 18th easily the highest totals. Alongside modest numbers of **Pied Wagtails** and un-raced **alba wagtails** (combined maximum of 13 on 8th) were single **White Wagtails** on 7th & 22nd, a single **Yellow Wagtail** on 18th followed by four on 22nd, and one or two **Grey Wagtails** on 13 dates. The first Arctic-breeding buntings of the autumn were logged from mid-month onwards, with single calling **Lapland Buntings** on 15th & 20th and one or two **Snow Buntings** along the main track from 27th to 30th. The 30th also brought the biggest movement of **Meadow Pipits** of the autumn so far, with a total of 476.

Rarities

The **Black-headed Bunting** was seen again on 4th & 5th, generally in the vicinity of Tillage and Brick Fields. A **Barred Warbler** was briefly in Millcombe on 10th, whilst even scarcer in Lundy terms were two female **Tufted Ducks** on Pondsburry on 15th, the same day that a male **Crossbill** dropped into Millcombe. Two **Common Rosefinches** – a first-year bird and, unusually for autumn, an adult male – were in Millcombe towards the end of the month (first seen on 21st and

22nd, respectively); both were trapped and ringed. A **Wryneck** was just south of the Terrace on 22nd, a **Treecreeper** was found in Millcombe on 24th (staying until the next day), a young **Red-breasted Merganser** turned up in the Landing Bay on 27th, and a seawatch on 29th yielded a first-winter **Little Gull**, three adult **Arctic Terns** and an adult **Pomarine Skua** among an excellent variety of more typical Lundy seabirds.

OCTOBER – Max temp 17.1C, min 5.7C, mean 12.3C. Rainfall 200.8mm

The jet stream tracked right over southern Britain for much of October, resulting in a cloudy, wet and sometimes very windy month for most of the country, with flooding affecting many areas. The weather briefly turned more settled under a ridge of high pressure from 21st to 23rd, but cloud and rain soon returned to the South West. Winds reached force 9 or 10 on the island on 4th, 18th & 25th.

The month opened with single **Spotted** and **Pied Flycatchers** still to be found on 1st, in Millcombe and at Quarry Pond respectively, whilst a **Willow Warbler** also put in an appearance. The **Pied Flycatcher** remained until 3rd, and the last **Spotted Flycatchers** were logged on 6th and 15th, but one or two **Willow Warblers** continued to be seen until 23rd. The extremely unsettled conditions, with a succession of low-pressure systems arriving off the Atlantic, did little in general to encourage most summer migrants to linger, or to favour the arrival of birds from continental Europe and Scandinavia. Nevertheless, brief 'weather windows' opened up on a few occasions, particularly from mid-month, resulting in some really excellent days of migration watching. A drop in the wind overnight on 11th/12th, for example, brought a fall of at least 150 **Blackcaps** and 50 **Goldcrests** on 12th. However, it was the 15th – predominantly dry with patchy cloud, long sunny spells and a light WSW wind – that was truly migrant-filled from first light. Logged totals included 450 **Redwings**, 60 **Song Thrushes**, 25 **Ring Ouzels**, 4 **Mistle Thrushes**, 4 **Fieldfares**, 100 **S Skylarks**, 250 **Swallows**, 400 **Starlings**, 130 **Siskins** and a wide variety of other species both common and scarce. **Swallow** counts reached treble digits for the last time in 2019 on 15th (250), 16th (200) and 17th (100), whilst a fall of 150 **Goldcrests** occurred on 19th, alongside a further influx of 150 **Redwings**. A slightly longer weather window from 21st to 23rd brought an additional 107 **Fieldfares** and 250 **Redwings**, as well as the arrival of the first **Woodcock** and **Black Redstart** of the autumn, whilst a very late female **Redstart** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe and a **Lesser Whitethroat** was near the Timekeeper's Hut. Although it was not a 'named' storm, the 25th saw the island battered by severe gales from midday, leading to a 'splash & dash' early departure for MS *Odenburg* on its last passenger-carrying service of the season, whilst a day of continuous heavy rain followed on 26th, turning the island's water courses into raging torrents and making it all the more remarkable that eight **Swallows** graced a contrastingly clear and sunny day on 27th. **Chaffinch** migration was once again a feature of late October, though numbers did not reach the extraordinary heights of some years past; 1,000 on 23rd and 1,700 on 28th were the maximum totals logged. **Snow Buntings** continued to be seen regularly throughout the month, with records on 19 days and a maximum of 14 on 15th. There were further single **Lapland Buntings** on four dates in the second half of the month. There was not the build-up of feeding seabirds off the East Side that has occurred in many recent Octobers, though there were scattered records of up to three **Bonxies** and **Arctic Skuas**, a handful of **Black-headed**, **Common** and **Mediterranean Gulls**, up to five **Manx Shearwaters** recorded on eight dates, and a brief concentration of storm-driven **Kittiwakes** feeding in Lundy Roads on 27th.

Rarities

As usual, October proved to be one of the most productive months of the year for rare and scarce birds on the island. Heading the cast were a transatlantic vagrant in the form of a **Red-eyed Vireo** in Quarter Wall Copse on 13th and Lundy's first **Isabelline Wheatear** (also the first for Devon) above the Beach Road on 18th. A juvenile **Rose-coloured Starling** stayed around the farm from 6th to 21st, a **Richard's Pipit** flew south over the Airfield on 15th, the second **Barred Warbler** of

LAST DATES FOR SUMMER MIGRANTS

July	29 th	Puffin
August	11 th	Cuckoo
September	1 st	Reed Warbler
	8 th	Sedge Warbler
	14 th	Swift
	18 th	Grasshopper Warbler
	19 th	Garden Warbler
	21 st	Whinchat
	23 rd	Tree Pipit
October	25 th	Whitethroat
	3 rd	Pied Flycatcher
	15 th	Spotted Flycatcher Yellow Wagtail
	20 th	Wheatear
	22 nd	Sand Martin
	23 rd	Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Ring Ouzel, Redstart
	24 th	House Martin
November	24 th	Swallow
	27 th	Chiffchaff
December	1 st	Blackcap
	31 st	Manx Shearwater

FIRST DATES FOR AUTUMN MIGRANTS/WINTER VISITORS

August	27 th	Merlin
September	15 th	Lapland Bunting
	16 th	Firecrest
	19 th	Lesser Redpoll
	21 st	Jack Snipe
October	4 th	Redwing
	10 th	Yellow-browed Warbler
	11 th	Great Northern Diver Reed Bunting
	12 th	Siskin
	15 th	Fieldfare
	18 th	Brambling
	23 rd	Woodcock
November	27 th	Black Redstart Snow Bunting
	28 th	Red-throated Diver

*Below: Merlin, Main Track, 30th November
(photo: Dean Jones).*





This juvenile Dotterel graced the Lundy plateau from 6th to 13th October (photo: Dean Jones).

the autumn was along the Terrace on 17th, and a first-winter **Little Bunting** was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23rd. Though nowadays seen annually in small numbers, **Yellow-browed Warblers** continue to be a much-anticipated autumn highlight on Lundy and this year there were sightings on eight dates from 10th to 23rd, with a maximum of five on 15th. Also in the category of 'regular in small numbers' were a juvenile **Dotterel** on the plateau from 6th to 13th, a **Treecreeper** in Millcombe almost daily from 8th to 25th, four **Balearic Shearwaters** on 11th, a ringtail **Hen Harrier** plus a non-calling **Chiffchaff** showing plumage characteristics of '**Siberian**' **Chiffchaff** on 15th, the year's second **Short-eared Owl** that briefly flew out over the Landing Bay from the Beach Road before turning and dropping back into vegetation on 18th, and a **Hawfinch** in Millcombe on 24th. Altogether scarcer for Lundy were a **Kingfisher** whizzing through the Devil's Kitchen on 7th, a juvenile **Whooper Swan** flying past the Castle on 12th, a **Cetti's Warbler** at Millcombe Pond on 14th (presumably the same individual that was ringed on 23rd and remained on the island into November), a **Pomarine Skua** off the Terrace on 17th, a **Quail** flushed along the Lower East Side Path on 19th, and a **Long-tailed Tit** in Millcombe on 21st.

NOVEMBER – Max temp 14.2C, min 4.2C, mean 9C. Rainfall 146mm

The jet stream continued to track further south than usual, bringing further spells of cloudy, wet and windy weather, although there were a few more settled interludes. Across England, rainfall was 132% of the long-term average and sunshine amounts were well below average. Temperatures were often also lower than normal with chilly winds, though it was briefly milder early and late in the month.



A Redwing in the Farmyard and (inset) a female Stonechat (photos: Dean Jones).

A calmer day on 1st saw the plateau wreathed in fog, but there was some early visible migration of **Chaffinches**, **Fieldfares** and **Redwings** heading off into the mist, and a significant movement of seabirds passing Rat Island on a NE-to-SW heading. These comprised over 1,000 auks (of which at least 70% were **Guillemots**), 750 **Kittiwakes** and 40 **Gannets** of all age classes. Other birds noted during the day included two **Firecrests**, a **Chiffchaff** and at least six **Blackcaps**. Severe gales returned on 2nd, with observations over the next few days consequently limited, though two **Swallows** were seen on both 2nd & 3rd and a lone **Chiffchaff** remained in Millcombe. The 6th brought new influxes of **Chaffinches** (216), **Starlings** (425), small numbers of thrushes and three **Snow Buntings**, along with single **Woodcock**, **Snipe** and **Merlin**. The often-challenging weather conditions during the middle two weeks of the month are captured in the Warden's description of 14th as, "a truly miserable day with strong and chilly north-easterlies coinciding with a constant deluge of rain throughout". This period saw a continued mixture of pulses of migration – weather permitting – by typical late-autumn species, with **Chaffinches**, thrushes and **Starlings** making up the bulk of numbers. Of these, only **Starlings** staged any significant arrival, with at least 1,000 logged on 17th. A wide range of other species included single **Golden Plovers** on 7th & 10th, one or two **Woodcocks** and **Merlins** on scattered dates, a lone **Woodpigeon** on two days, a handful of **Chiffchaffs**, **Blackcaps** and crests, one or two **Mistle Thrushes** on three days, up to 12 **Bramblings** (this, the highest count, on 15th), single-digit records of **Goldfinch**, **Linnet** and **Siskin**, a **Greenfinch** on three dates, further sightings of one or two **Snow Buntings**, and five **Reed Buntings** on 17th. Out at sea there were still up to

six **Manx Shearwaters** to be found between 12th and 24th. During the second half of November there were also two late **Bonxie** records, a smattering of **Common, Mediterranean** and **Black-headed Gulls** among the more numerous **Kittiwakes** and **Herring Gulls** off the East Side, and a notable 327 **Gannets** on 24th. As usual, landbird migration slowed substantially towards the end of the month, but a very late **Swallow** was seen in the Village on 24th, the same day as a respectable 184 **Chaffinches** were still moving south. As November drew to a close, the first two **Red-throated Divers** of the winter flew past the Landing Bay on 28th.

Rarities

Two adult **Whooper Swans** were on Pondsbury and later in Lighthouse Field on 6th. What seems likely to be the same elusive **Cetti's Warbler** that arrived in October popped up again at Millcombe Pond on 1st, then in brambles at the head of St Helen's Combe on 16th and finally back in Millcombe on 17th. A female **Wigeon** was on Pondsbury on 12th & 13th.

DECEMBER – Max temp 11.7C, min 3.2C, mean 8.4C. Rainfall 148.5mm

December started with a cold, settled, sunny spell under the influence of a transient ridge of high pressure, but it quickly turned mild, wet and windy again, and this westerly regime persisted until Christmas. The last few days of the year were generally drier but often remaining rather cloudy.

Writing for the Lundy Birds blog on 23rd, Dean Jones reflected on conditions during the first three weeks of December: *"The darkest day of the year has come and gone, and Lundy is now very much enveloped in a mid-winter embrace. Weather wise, it has been another mixed bag but mostly wet and windy, give or take a few settled, milder afternoons. In fact, so much rain has fallen on the island this month that we have already surpassed the mean total rainfall for December (1971–2018)*, which has resulted in the island's shallow soils – particularly on the plateau – becoming absolutely saturated, creating small pools and ponds all over the island and miniature flowing burns along coastal paths. Ackland's Moor Marsh too has continued to swell, spreading out to areas on both sides of the High Street Field wall (to the delight of the gulls), so much so that it is now contending for the title of largest body of freshwater on the island (look out Pondsbury)! But despite the frequent squalls creating less than perfect conditions for birding (it is hard to sneak up on the wary gulls in Brick Field due to the noisy squelches from leaky welly boots), the rain clouds and the afternoon light have provided some beautiful wintery skylscapes at times, complete with breath-taking, technicoloured rainbows on one or two special days."*

*Overall, 2019 ended up the third wettest year since 1971, with total rainfall of just over one-and-a-quarter metres or 1,259mm, compared with the record 1330.8mm set in 2012.



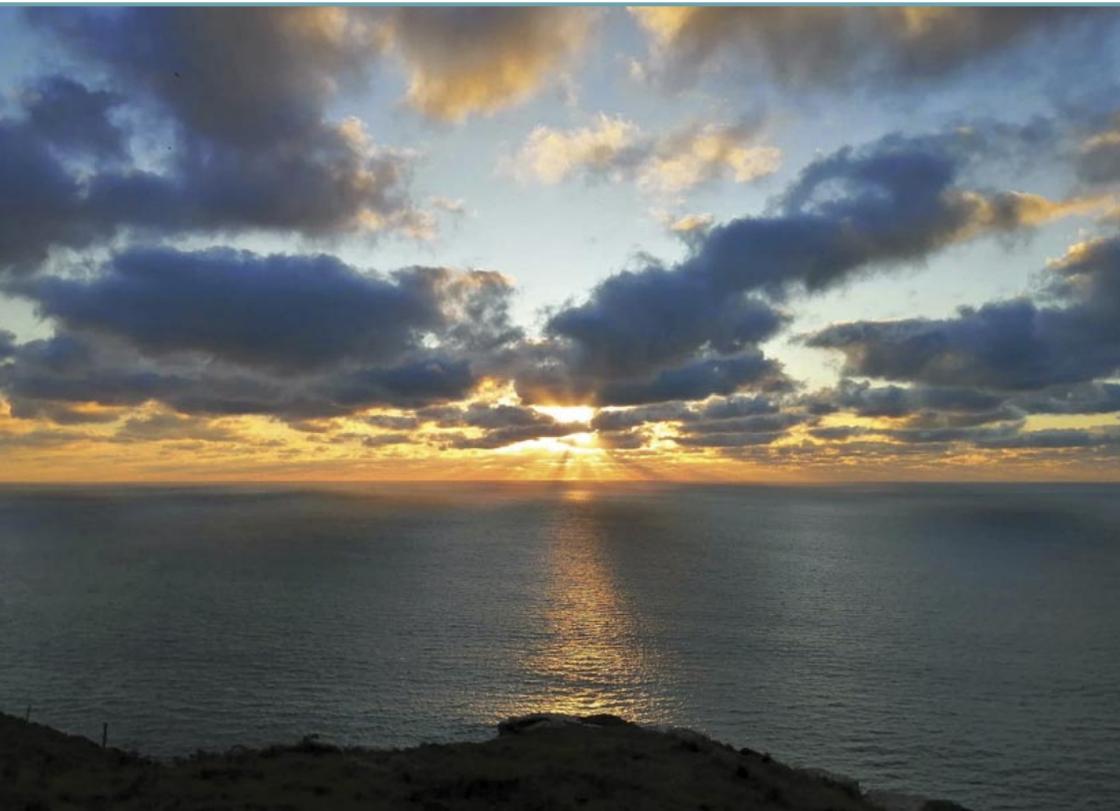
Rudolf the red-breasted Robin carolling away in Millcombe (photo: Dean Jones).

Unsurprisingly, a combination of the onset of the winter lull in migratory movements, combined with the frequently awful weather, meant that the pages of the LFS logbook took on their sparser winter appearance. Up to 19 **Teal** and 11 **Mallards** no doubt enjoyed the wide choice of wetland areas in which to feed, whilst up to three **Great Northern** and two **Red-throated Divers** were off the East Side, and a lone **Cormorant** was seen on 1st. **Gannets** were present in unusually high numbers around the turn of the year, with 79 on 28th, whilst 550 **Kittiwakes** were logged on 30th, and there was a high count for Lundy of 20 **Common Gulls** on 4th accompanied by an adult **Mediterranean Gull**. Among the more remarkable sightings of the month must be records of single **Manx Shearwaters** on four dates from 5th to 31st, whilst more typical of the season was the presence of 184 **Fulmars** at breeding ledges on 21st. Waders were represented by small numbers of **Oystercatchers**, single **Golden Plovers** on 22nd & 31st, two **Woodcocks** on 1st and 17 **Snipe** on 26th. A **Kestrel** seen early and late in the month was perhaps a long-staying individual, but a female **Merlin** on 1st & 2nd was most likely a late passage migrant, as were single **Snow** and **Lapland Buntings** and a male **Blackcap** on 1st. Among other passerines, small numbers of **Skylark**, **Goldcrest**, **Blackbird**, **Song Thrush**, **Redwing**, **Fieldfare**, **Robin**, **Stonechat**, **Dunnock** and **Goldfinch** were recorded on many days – all in single digits with the exception of 10 **Skylarks** on 30th. Relatively unusual records for December were single male **Pied Wagtails** on 4th & 11th and six **Linnets** on Christmas Day.

Rarities

Five **Whooper Swans** flew east on 3rd and first-winter **Iceland Gulls** (whether a single bird or two or three different individuals is unclear) were in Brick Field on 23rd, on floodwater between Old Light and the water tanks on 26th and in flight past North Light on 31st.

The December sun sets on another exceptional year of Lundy birds (photo: Dean Jones).



BIRDS IN 2019 – NOMENCLATURE AND SEQUENCE

The Systematic List follows The British List (9th edition, summarised version dated January 2020) 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 primarily 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 at least partly reflective of variations in observer coverage.

ASSESSMENT OF RECORDS OF RARE BIRDS

Records of species and sub-species that are vagrants to Britain (e.g. Squacco Heron, Isabelline Wheatear) 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. Alpine Swift, Barred Warbler) 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 enter supporting notes for all records of rare species 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! Photos and video-clips are especially welcome; these can be emailed to the Lundy Bird Recorders at gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

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 2019. Further updates will be added as new observations continue build on the knowledge gained from almost 75 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 (text and/or captioned photos), which can be emailed to gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Observers' names are included in the Systematic List for all accepted 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

We are grateful to the island residents and visitors, whether or not they class themselves as birdwatchers, who contribute sightings to the LFS logbook. This 2019 Lundy bird report (as well as other wildlife reports) is a distillation of thousands of hours of observation by many dozens of individuals.

We note once again the outstanding contribution made by Dean Woodfin Jones, the resident Lundy Warden, together with his colleagues from the island Conservation Team, both staff and volunteers.

Special thanks to Devon Birds, particularly County Bird Recorder Kevin Rylands and Data Manager Karen Sims, for providing copies of BirdTrack data and other Lundy records submitted to Devon Birds, and for working closely with us on the assessment of rarity records, which help to ensure consistency between the respective bird reports published by Devon Birds and LFS.

Others who have helped us in various ways include Chris & Carol Baillie, Zoë Barton, Sam Bosanquet, Richard Campey, Chris & Mandy Dee, James Diamond, Rob Duncan, Martin Elcoate, Chas Holt, Andy Jayne, Ivan Lakin, Pete Lambden, Philip & Helen Lymbery, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Grant Sherman, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Andy Trout, Nik Ward, Mark & Julia Webber, Lucy Winder and Justin Zantboer.

Great Northern Diver, Landing Bay, 29th December (photo: Dean Jones).



THE BIRDS OF 2019

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

[Common Quail]

Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.

One was flushed along the Lower East Path above White Beach during the late morning of 19 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Tim Jones) – the first record since Jun 2014 and only the second in autumn since LFS records began in 1947. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.

An exceptional year, with three autumn and early-winter records. A juvenile flew south-west over the Castle early in the morning of 12 Oct (Andy Jayne). Two adults landed on Pondsburry at 12:50 hrs on 6 Nov (Alan & Sandra Rowland); at 14.00 they were in Lighthouse Field (Chris Dee & Sue Waterfield) and an hour later were seen in flight again, having been disturbed by a Coastguard helicopter (Alan & Sandra Rowland). A flock of five adults flew along the East Side on 3 Dec (Rosie Ellis). These constitute the 16th to 18th LFS records, the last being in Oct 2012. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn; occasional winter visitor.

Two (a male and female) were on Pondsburry on 1 Jan (Alan & Sandra Rowland, Robert Pell); the drake was still present on 2nd. A female was on Pondsburry on 12 & 13 Nov (Dean Jones, Martin Thorne).

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.

Descendants of escaped domesticated Mallards in 1987 (Davis & Jones 2007) continue to survive despite the depredations of gulls and Peregrines, this year producing at least five broods, the first, of 12 ducklings, seen on Pondsburry on 26 Apr. The peak count of 12 birds recorded in each of the last three months of the year is about average for winter and – to date – has been sufficient to sustain the population, likely bolstered by occasional wild immigrant birds.

Maximum monthly counts of fully-grown birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	10	5	8	11	9	9	10	9	12	12	12

Teal *Anas crecca*

[Eurasian Teal]

Regular migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. First breeding record in 2015, followed by successful breeding in 2016–2018, inclusive.

Three males and four females, probably part of the small breeding population established in 2015, were on Pondsburry on 13 Jan and similar numbers were seen for much of the spring, with a maximum of 10 (4m, 6f) on 21 Feb. It is thought that nesting was again attempted, but there was no firm evidence and no ducklings were seen. On 21 Dec six males were performing courtship displays to 12 females on Pondsburry (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
7	10	6	7	6	–	–	1	3	2	15	19
4	7	4	14	13	–	–	3	5	13	14	10

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Lundy vagrant.

Two females were roosting on an island in Pondsburry on 15 Sep (Jan Swan).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Lundy vagrant.

An immature bird in the Landing Bay on 27 Sep (Chris Dee *et al.*) was only the 10th LFS record and the first since three were seen on 15 Oct 2011.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra**Uncommon passage migrant.*

Seawatches from the Ugly produced six on 8 Jan, the first Lundy record for this month (Dean Jones), and two males and a female heading south on 15 Oct (Tim Jones). Two flew past North Light on 19 Sep (Martin Thorne).

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One over North Quarry and the Terrace at 14:50 hrs on 8 Jun – “A striking bird with ‘presence’ and a joy to see” (Chris & Carol Baillie). The seventh record for the island, the last being in Mar/Apr 2012. Record accepted by DBRC.

Swift *Apus apus*

[Common Swift]

Common spring and autumn migrant and non-breeding summer visitor, though generally in small numbers.

The first of the year were single birds on 29 & 30 Apr. Spring passage peaked at 50 birds on 12 May, with double-digit counts on four other days in the first half of the month. Subsequent double-digit counts occurred on 24 Jun (17), 25 Jun (15), 2 Jul (14), 3 Jul (11), 4 Jul (35) and 5 Jul (25). The last of the year were two on 14 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	50	17	35	3	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	16	10	9	4	4	–	–	–

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).

In spring, recorded on 25 dates between 22 Apr and 16 Jun. An adult male heard calling outside the Tavern on 22 Apr was the first of the year. Two were flying together from upper Millcombe around to the East Side on 10 May. A male was by the Airfield and a probable female at Halfway Wall on 16 May. A juvenile was seen in Millcombe on 11 Aug but there is no evidence to suggest that it was a Lundy-bred bird.

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
–	–	–	2	10	15	–	4	3	1	1	1
–	–	–	3	15	13	–	5	7	4	2	11

Stock Dove *Columba oenas**Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant.*

Four records, including single birds on 20 Feb, 25 Mar & 17 Oct, whilst on 12 Apr one was feeding in Barton Field in the early morning, and one (potentially the same individual having second thoughts about leaving the island, or possibly a second bird) was seen coming in off the sea at North End at midday.

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.

Two were in the incongruous setting of Long Roost on 13 May. One was carrying nesting material in Millcombe on 16 May and successful breeding was confirmed when two newly fledged young were in Millcombe on 10 Jun. A further two young, which fledged prematurely (perhaps due to the presence of two Sparrowhawks) from a rather late nest, were huddling together underneath one of the memorial benches in Millcombe on 12 Sep. The highest count of the year was 30 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	2	22	15	9	6	6	8	9	30	1	2
6	13	21	29	29	24	16	22	24	22	3	7

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

[European Turtle Dove]

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

Three records: one around the Lambing Shed/Bull's Paradise consorting with a Collared Dove on 1 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) was present until 8 May, one on 14th (location not reported) and a late migrant on the Terrace on 31 May (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.

The highest count of the year was six on 15 May, including a group of five in Millcombe and one near Tibbetts. One was sitting on top of Lametor on 16 May. Although song was heard on several occasions, there was no evidence of any breeding attempt.

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	6	2	–	1	1	–	–	–
–	1	–	8	11	6	–	1	1	–	–	–

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 or 2016-2018.*

Four records in Jan were of a single bird at Quarters Pond. An adult was calling from Quarters Pond very early in the morning of 6 May, along with "constant squeaky calls suggesting juvenile birds may be present" (Sam Bosanquet). Breeding was confirmed in the same location when an adult with small young were heard calling during the evening of 28 May (Tony Taylor). The highest count during the year was three, on seven dates between 12 & 23 Oct and again on 4 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
1	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	3
4	9	7	6	10	6	1	5	15	20	12	3

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

[Eurasian Oystercatcher]

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

Fifty-two birds – likely a mix of Lundy breeders and wintering/passage birds – were counted during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter on 3 Feb. Several pairs were already defending breeding territories along the East Side on 6th, but there was no full island census of breeding sites or numbers. An adult with young were in the Landing Bay on 26 Jul.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	52	32	28	27	42	37	13	9	19	9	7

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

[Northern Lapwing]

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor; formerly recorded in much larger numbers. Bred regularly until 2000.

Single Lapwings were seen on only five days (*cf.* 18 days in 2018): 2 & 6 Jan, 1 & 2 Feb and 1 Dec – the worst return since LFS records began in 1947 and illustrative of the decline nationally of this beautiful and once common plover.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

[European Golden Plover]

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

Most records consisted of one or two birds, with only three counts of five or more: eight over the Airfield on 21 Feb, eight at North End on 2 May and five 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
–	8	1	3	8	1	–	1	2	5	1	1
–	5	1	1	5	1	–	2	8	15	2	3

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

[Common Ringed Plover]

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

In spring, recorded on 12 days from 25 Mar to 23 May, comprising four days in late Mar (max two on 30th), one day in Apr (a single on 30th) and seven days in May (max eight in Middle Park on 14th). On autumn passage seen on 14 days from 9 Aug to 22 Sep, all records being of single birds, except for two on 9 Aug and 18 Sep.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

[Eurasian Dotterel]

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

A female was at North End on 13 May (Tim Davis) and two were in Middle Park the following day (Alan & Sandra Rowland). A juvenile, first seen by the Old Hospital on 6 Oct (Paul Bullock *et al.*), remained in the general vicinity of Quarter Wall, being seen at Quarry Cottages and at the eastern end of the Airfield, until 13th. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus**Regular spring and autumn migrant in small and declining numbers.*

Spring passage birds were logged on 21 days from 15 Apr to 3 Jun. There were three on 23, 29 & 30 Apr & 1 May, and six on 27 Apr. All other records were of single birds. Autumn passage was noted on just three dates: one on 23 Aug, two on 25th and one on 1 Sep.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

[Eurasian Curlew]

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

Spring passage records were again sparse, birds seen on 11 days, the first on 23 Mar, with a maximum of four on 28 Apr. A very early autumn passage bird was heard calling over the Village on 26 Jul. One flew in off the sea over The Battery on 8 Aug. Notable flocks of 10 and 12 birds were over South West Field on 25 Aug (Martin Thorne), with a further nine seen heading south the following day (Richard Taylor). Although these are the highest island counts since Aug 1995, the wider context is one of continuing declines in British, Irish and continental/Fennoscandian breeding populations.

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	4	1	–	1	22	–	–	–	–
–	–	6	4	1	–	1	4	–	–	–	–

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa**Rare passage migrant; one winter record.*

One, closely followed by a Dunlin, flew south past Rat Island on 9 Aug (Dean Jones). On 26 Aug one “loosely associated with seven Curlews” flew past Old Light calling (Richard Taylor).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

[Ruddy Turnstone]

Increasingly uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

Two immatures were “*hiding from the winds in the short heather at North End*” on 10 Aug (Dean Jones). One, calling loudly, flew low over Quarter Wall on 9 Sep (Dean Jones). One flew south along the East Side on 14 Sep (Dean Jones).

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



Dunlin, Brick Field Pond, 14th August (photo: Dean Jones).

Spring passage birds were logged on 15 days between 22 Apr (one) and 22 May (one), with unusually high counts in mid-May. Four in full summer plumage in company with two Ringed Plovers were feeding on bare ground by the West Side track above Devil's Slide on 13 May. Peak counts were more than 20 on 14 May in multiple locations including the Airfield, Pondsburry, Middle Park, Middle Park Pond and North End, and at least 30 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
–	–	–	6	30	–	1	1	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	11	–	2	3	3	–	–	–

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

[Eurasian Woodcock]

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

Three were in Tillage Field and on the Airfield during a late-night walk by Warden Dean Jones on 4 Jan. Six were reported by rabbit counters on the night of 8 Feb. Autumn passage appeared sparse, with records of ones and twos only on 11 dates from 23 Oct to 1 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
3	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	2
1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	7	1

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Records on six days, in autumn only: one flushed from the north-east corner of Pondsburry on 21 Sep (Dean Jones); singles on 11, 13 (at Pondsburry) & 20 Oct (one "flushed from *Molinia* just west of Pondsburry" – Sam Bosanquet); and singles on 27 & 29 Nov (Neil & Andy Trout).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

[Common Snipe]

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, generally in small numbers; occasional hard-weather influxes.

In the first winter period eight were in Tillage and Brick Fields on the night of 4 Jan. Spring passage was negligible with records on just five days in Mar and Apr (max two). The peak count in autumn occurred mid-morning on 12 Oct when 14 were circling high over Pondsburry before pitching down to earth. The highest count of the year was 17 around Pondsburry on 26 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
8	3	2	2	–	–	–	–	2	14	3	17
4	7	2	3	–	–	–	–	2	18	12	9

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers (though the abundance of hard-to-view shoreline habitat must mean that many are missed); very rare in winter.

A disappointing year with just two spring records: one at the Landing Bay on 25 Apr and one on 14 May in the Devil's Kitchen.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Rare spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

One on 6 Sep: a bird heard calling as it flew along the East Side (Ivan Lakin) was also heard and seen by two other observers on top of the island.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

[Common Redshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

One was heard calling and seen in flight over the Ugly at 06:55 hrs on 14 May (Chris Dee, Tim Jones). The same or a different bird was heard and seen over Millcombe at 14.15 (Tim Davis). One was at Pondsby on the evening of 10 Aug (Nick Upton). One called repeatedly from the Landing Bay area at 07:00 hrs and again an hour later on 26 Aug (Tony Taylor).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

[Common Greenshank]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Two flew north over Middle Park on 14 May (Tim Jones). One was heard calling over the top of the island from Millcombe at 08:30 hrs on 26 Aug (Tony Taylor & Dean Jones); probably the same bird was later seen flying over Castle Hill heading towards South West Point at 10:10 hrs (Richard Taylor).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

[Black-legged Kittiwake]

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

The highest count in the first winter period was an estimated 3,000 birds feeding and rafting off the East Side on 4 Feb – a record for the period since LFS began collecting data in 1947, though Perry (1940) reported in excess of 3,000 breeding pairs in 1939. In Feb 2019 the vast majority were adults, with less than 1% first-winter birds. High counts in late autumn and early winter included 500 on 27 Oct, while a movement of seabirds in the early morning of 1 Nov saw an estimated 750 Kittiwakes passing south-west off Rat Island. Some 600 were feeding off the south-east coast in the early afternoon of 30 Dec.

Monitoring at the Aztec Bay Kittiwake colony south of St Mark's Stone in 2019 showed a welcome marked increase in the number of occupied nests: 103 compared to 65 in 2018 and 87 in 2017 (Jones 2019). However, the decline in pairs nesting in the Threequarter Wall Buttress colony continued, with 29 pairs present compared to 41 in 2018 (from a recent maximum of 105 pairs in 2008; Jones 2019). A round-island boat trip on 5 Jul, though a little late in the season, permitted counts of areas that are not visible from land (e.g. caves at Threequarter Wall). This yielded a total of 347 apparently occupied nests: 148 in Jenny's Cove, 140 at Aztec Bay and 59 at Threequarter Wall (Dean Jones). Small chicks (age estimate 1-2 days) were seen at Aztec Bay on 12 Jun (Myra Bugesa & Kirtsy Neller, Middlesex University).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
631	3,000	88	200+	246	247	279	225	229	500	750	600

*There was no full breeding census in 2019 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 October; occasional cold-weather influxes.

Only three records during the first eight months of the year: an adult in upper Lighthouse Field on 1 Feb, a 2nd calendar-year bird in the Landing Bay on 16 May and a notable flock of 12 off the East Side in poor weather on 23 Jun (Tim Smith). Autumn brought sightings on five dates, all involving single birds off the Landing Bay/East Side: a first-year bird on 21 Sep; an adult daily from 15 to 17 Oct; and an adult on 28 Nov – the last of the year.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Lundy vagrant.

A first-winter bird was feeding with Kittiwakes off the Landing Bay at 16:00 hrs on 29 Sep (Dean Jones) – the seventh LFS record, the last being one off North Light on 22 Oct 2013.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Still uncommon but increasingly regular non-breeding visitor.

There were records on 19 days – itself a record. One to three birds were noted amongst Kittiwake flocks off the Landing Bay on eight days from 2 Jan to 9 Feb (Dean Jones). An adult in winter plumage was off North Light heading west on 18 Aug (Dean Jones). Two to four birds were again amongst rafts of feeding Kittiwakes off the East Side from 16 to 18 Oct (Martin Elcoate *et al.*). Two were close inshore off the East Side on 24 Oct (Chris Baillie). One to two (involving at least two adults and a first-winter bird) were foraging off the East Side on six days between 19 Nov & 4 Dec (Dean Jones).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

[Mew Gull]

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

Recorded on nine days in Jan, max seven on 23rd and nine days in Feb, max 20 on 2nd & 3rd. In autumn, one to two birds on 16-18 Oct were followed by peak counts of six on 20 Nov and 20 on 4 Dec, with five on the last day of the year. Apart from three birds off North Light on 3 Feb, two off Aztec Bay (in Jenny's Cove) on 22 May, and the five birds on 31 Dec off the North End, all sightings were from the vicinity of the Landing Bay.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

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

The highest count of the year was of 118 during a land-based circumnavigation of the entire island perimeter on 7 Feb. Forty-six were counted on a similar survey on 9 Jun. Breeding confirmed: birds were sitting on eggs on 12 Apr; fledglings were noted at The Battery on 10 Jul.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	118	28	52	29	46	8	20	19	14	15	21

*There was no breeding census in 2019 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.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.

In late Dec, first-winter birds were in Brick Field on 23rd (Rosie Ellis & Dean Jones), on floodwater between Old Light and the water tanks on 26th (Philip & Helen Lymbery) and in flight past North Light on 31st (Dean Jones). Photos were taken on all three dates, but the level of detail shown is insufficient to confirm whether or not more than a single bird was involved. Record 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.

Breeding confirmed: adults were incubating eggs at Jenny's Cove on 30 Apr. The highest count of the year (781 on 9 Jun) was made during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
155	489	280	389	214	781	109	62	12	160	300	517

*There was no breeding census in 2019 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, particularly for May & Jul.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common but declining breeding species; common passage migrant; generally uncommon in winter.
Breeding confirmed. One was gathering nesting material from the side of Smelly Gully on 2 May. The highest count of the year (243 on 9 Jun) was made during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	22	144	195	106	243	–	31	7	8	13	125

*There was no breeding census in 2019 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, particularly for May & Jul.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Uncommon migrant, late March to early October.

One was in the Landing Bay on 3 Apr (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Uncommon passage migrant April to October.

The only record was of one during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Lundy vagrant.

The only record was of three adults during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

‘**Commic Tern**’ unidentified Common or Arctic Tern *Sterna hirundo* or *S. paradisaea*

Five juveniles were seen from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones). One was off the East Side on 8 Oct (Martin Thorne).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

Recorded off the East Side, typically amongst feeding gulls and auks, on seven dates in autumn from 29 Sep (one) to 24 Nov (two), with a maximum of three on 18 Oct (Dean Jones *et al.*)

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

A single adult was seen during an afternoon seawatch from the Ugly on 29 Sep (Dean Jones), and a juvenile was off the Terrace on 17 Oct (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Andy Jayne *et al.*). These are the 9th and 10th records for Lundy. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

[Parasitic Jaeger]

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

A light-morph bird on 17 May was harrying Kittiwakes off Rat Island before flying off westwards. There were only three autumn records, all between 29 Sep and 16 Oct: three (a dark-morph adult, a light-morph adult and a juvenile) were chasing Kittiwakes off the East Side on 29 Sep (Dean Jones); four dark-morph birds were off the East Side on 4 Oct (Dean Jones); and a light-morph bird was off the Landing Bay on 16 Oct (Martin Elcoate).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

[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 year's highest counts were of 4,543 birds on 12 Apr and 6,415 birds (excluding chicks) on 9 Jun, the latter during a land-based circumnavigation of the island perimeter (Dean Jones). Successful breeding was confirmed; chicks (estimated to be 2-3 days old) were first seen on 24 May at St Mark's Stone. Productivity was very good within this colony with an average of 0.69 chicks fledged from 141 breeding pairs. The first fledglings were recorded on 18 Jun and chick rearing continued up until 3 Jul

at least in this area (Dean Jones). A colour-ringed individual (red ring with white numbering 0114) was seen at Jenny's Cove on 26 Jun. It had been ringed as a nestling on Skokholm, Pembrokeshire, in Jul 2013 (Dean Jones). In late autumn, 323 were occupying ledges in Jenny's Cove on 28 Nov (Neil & Andy Trout).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	3,126	858	4,543	424	6,415	293	6	2	8	323	201

*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

A perimeter walk of the island's coast produced the year's highest count, of 2,396 birds, on 12 Apr (Dean Jones). The first chick was noted on 31 May.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
94	2,159	864	2,396	170	1,955	60	2	231	34	57	81

*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table are not representative of the breeding population as a whole.

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.

Birds were first recorded on the water at Jenny's Cove on 27 Feb (Dean Jones), 15 days earlier than 2018 and 17 days before the first of 2017. This constitutes the earliest ever record of Puffins for the island, being a week ahead of the previous record of 6 Mar 1983. The first confirmation of breeding was noted on 20 May (food being taken into a burrow in Jenny's Cove). The number of Puffins in a monitoring area at Jenny's Cove increased to 98 in 2019, compared with 40 in 2013, further underlining the success of the rat-eradication programme. Within this area, Puffins nest in very close proximity to numerous Razorbills, Guillemots, Fulmars and Kittiwakes, as well as a number of nesting Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which again successfully raised young in the heart of the Puffin colony, along with two pairs of Herring Gull (Jones 2019). The highest count of the year was of 468 on 7 Jul between The Battery and St Mark's Stone (Dean Jones). A few days later, on 11 Jul, 401 were counted at Jenny's Cove alone, comprising 264 on land and 137 on the water. The last Puffin sighting of the year was of 27 birds on 29 Jul.

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	2	166	197	120	337	468	-	-	-	-	-

*There was no full breeding census in 2019 and the breeding season counts included in the table do not necessarily reflect the total breeding population.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

[Red-throated Loon]

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded in the Landing Bay or elsewhere off the East Side from 3 Jan to 6 Mar, with one to twelve birds on most days, but maxima of 14 on 3 Feb, 15 on 2 Feb and 2 Mar, and 22 on 18 Feb, an all-time record count for the island (Dean Jones *et al.*). During the second winter period, two flew south along the East Side on 28 Nov, one was off the Landing Bay on 2 Dec, and two were off Rat Island on 29 Dec (Dean Jones).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

[Arctic Loon]

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One was in the Landing Bay on 17 & 18 Jan in company with Red-throated Divers (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

[Common Loon]

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

Recorded on 32 days, the first one off North Light – an unusual location – on New Year's Day. One was flying north along the side of the island at plateau height on 17 May. Two were in the Landing Bay on 22 Dec – “*Lovely to hear the birds calling to each other between bouts of diving near the Sugar Loaf*” (Dean Jones). The highest count for the year was three on 23 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
1	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	3
4	9	5	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	12

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

Uncommon passage migrant. First confirmation of breeding in 2014.

One was seen at dusk on 26 May flying over the Old Light Manx Shearwater colony and 10 were mist-netted in this area during the breeding season (Tony Taylor *et al.*). On 14 Jun one was flushed from short heather at North End and watched flying out to sea over North East Point in strengthening wind (Tom Dickens). On the night of 23/24 Aug, 37 birds were trapped near North Light – 28 ‘new’ birds, seven Lundy-ringed retraps from 2017 and 2018, and two birds ringed elsewhere. On 27th/28th, at the same site, 24 more new birds were caught along with a further eight Lundy-ringed retraps and five ringed elsewhere – see *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.86. Several birds on both nights had very full crops of food, suggesting they were feeding young.



The fledgling Storm Petrel (pictured left) ringed in the Old Light shearwater colony on 5 Oct 2014 (the first confirmed breeding record of the species for Lundy) was trapped and released at a breeding colony in the Channel Islands on 27 Jul 2019 – see also p.86 (photo: Tony Taylor).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

[Northern Fulmar]

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

The highest count of the year came in the first winter period, 227 on and around breeding ledges on 3 Feb. After 19 were logged on 1 Sep, typically the post-breeding period produced single-digit counts on just five days until 12 Nov, when a count of 100 marked the start of the birds' return to the ledges.

The overall island population is at an all-time high, with 227 breeding pairs in the last complete survey in 2017; this despite a gradual decline in Fulmars nesting on Gannets' Rock from 65 pairs in 1986 to 31 apparently occupied nests in 2019. In this, the sixth year of monitoring at the site (2007-10, 2018 & 2019), 15 chicks fledged from the 31 nests, representing a productivity value of 0.48 young per nest (compared with 0.39 in 2018; Jones 2019). The first chick, estimated to be 2-7 days old, was seen on 5 Jul (eight days earlier than the first in 2018).

Maximum count for each month*

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
91	227	142	205	79	195	30	70	19	7	100	184

*There was no full island breeding census in 2019 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.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea**Lundy vagrant.*

One flew past Rat Island with Manx Shearwaters during a morning seawatch from the Ugly on 30 Aug (Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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 calling birds heard from Millcombe on the evening of 22 Mar. Maximum counts were at least 1,000 on 18 Jun, 2,538 on 30 Aug, 2,991 on 10 Aug and the year's peak of at least 3,000 on 2 Aug. Birds were heard (from the Village) calling at 23:00 hrs on 5 Oct. One was off the Landing Bay on 5 Dec: "Very surprised to see this bird so late in the year. Watched for some three minutes as it flew north along the east coast in typical shearwater fashion ... showing all black above and a very clean white underside (ruling out Balearic Shearwater)" (Dean Jones). There were three even later records: one on 21 Dec at the North End, "watched for around two minutes as it foraged close in to the North Light" (Dean Jones); one on 29 Dec, "watched in great detail for around an hour and a half, initially flying between gull flocks ... landing and then diving for a meal" (Dean Jones); and finally two sightings of a single bird on 31 Dec, off Rat Island in the morning and around the East Side in the early afternoon. It is interesting to speculate whether these exceptionally late records might have involved the same bird, perhaps one not in sufficient condition to make the long flight to winter in South American waters.

Summarising ongoing ringing studies of Lundy's breeding shearwaters, Tony Taylor reports that: "Breeding colonies visited at night were as busy and noisy as ever, but ringing totals were lower than in the previous eight years because of reduced coverage. Ninety-three adults were ringed in late May, early June and early September, and 141 chicks were also ringed. Another 62 previously ringed adults were recaptured. Breeding or pre-breeding adults were found occupying five nestboxes in early June. Three of these pairs had laid eggs and two reared chicks successfully." See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.85.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
–	–	39	109	150	1,000	10	3,000+	12	5	6	1

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Scarce autumn visitor and passage migrant. Devon rarity.

Four during a morning seawatch from the Ugly on 11 Oct (Andy Jayne, Dean Jones). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

[Northern Gannet]

Common offshore, especially from spring to autumn, with peak numbers usually in late summer and typically less frequent in winter; formerly bred (until early 1900s).

Recorded throughout the year, with a spring max of 28 on 30 Apr, a typical late-summer peak of 227 on 10 Aug, but unusually high late-autumn/early winter counts of 329 on 24 Nov and 105 on 2 Dec, perhaps associated with the persistently unsettled weather during the last quarter of 2019.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	5	6	28	15	41	16	227	50	54	329	105
18	8	15	18	24	16	10	21	15	23	16	18

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

[European Shag]

Common breeding species present throughout the year, but numbers usually smaller in winter.

Shags can largely vacate the island in cold winters, but the generally mild conditions of early and late 2019 ensured their presence throughout. The high count of 50 on 16 Feb was probably a result of exceptionally mild weather stimulating Lundy breeders to return to the island earlier than normal. Breeding confirmed: one was prospecting for a nest site at Threequarter Wall Bay on 27 Feb; a bird was carrying nest material at Great Shutter Rock on 11 Apr; and fledglings were seen at Long Roost on 1 Jul. The post-fledging annual max of 172 was on 4 Aug.

Maximum count for each month (from the LFS logbook)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	50	30	53	37	113	20	172	38	43	13	6

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

[Great Cormorant]

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

Recorded on 42 days through the year, in every month except Jul, with a peak of 10 on 23 Jun. As usual, most frequent during spring and autumn passage. On 12 Oct, "an immature bird alighted on Pondsburry but only stayed for 2-3 minutes before flying off again... Presumably the same individual was touring the island on 13th and 14th. I was amazed to see it circle and then almost alight on Barton Pond and straight after almost alight on the roof of the Tavern before having second thoughts at the last moment!" (Andy Jayne). One was on Pondsburry on 2 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
3	2	9	4	6	10	–	6	4	8	3	1
1	1	6	4	3	4	–	5	1	14	2	1

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

UK vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One, originally seen on the shoreline at Gannets' Bay on 23 May, reappeared around Rat Island on 28th, where it lingered until 31st (Dean Jones, Seb Loram, Luke Sutton *et al.*). This constitutes the first Lundy record of this beautiful migratory heron, which breeds in southern and eastern Europe and winters mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. Record accepted by BBRC. See p.83.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Nationally scarce migrant and colonising UK breeder. Not previously recorded on Lundy.

One perched on the south-facing side of Lametor in the early morning of 24 Mar (Dean Jones). This is the much-anticipated first Lundy record of a species that is currently extending its breeding range north and west across Europe, the first confirmed breeding in the UK having occurred on the Somerset Levels in 2008. Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder. See p.82.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Uncommon visitor; most regular from midsummer to early autumn.

Recorded on the unusually high number of 55 days between 19 Jun (one mobbed by a Herring Gull over Pondsburry) and 15 Oct (two), with one or more long-staying individuals in Jun-Aug. Higher counts included three off North Light on 4 Aug and seven (six in flight over Quarter Wall, one resting in Brick Field) on 25 Aug. A flock of 19 birds flying south on 14 Sep exceeded the previous record day total of

Grey Heron, Brick Field, 8th August (photo: Dean Jones).



16 on 25 Jul 1975. A long-staying bird arrived on 24 Sep and was seen in various places on the shoreline and the plateau until last recorded on 10 Oct. Two in flight off the East Side on 14 Oct, and possibly the same two the following day, were 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
–	–	–	–	–	2	1	7	19	2	–	–
–	–	–	–	–	6	6	19	13	11	–	–

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant.

Three records, all in October: one on 10th flew north along the East Side (Tim Smith); one on Pondsbury on 24 Oct flew off west before turning to the south (Mark & Jo Harris); and one on 27th seen in flight near North End, landing periodically in pools on the main track before flying south (Trevor & Karen Dobie) was later feeding in flooded grassland by the water tanks, and seen again the following day in St John's Valley (Chris & Carol Baillie).



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

[Western Osprey]

Scarce, but now annual passage migrant.

One along the East Side on 18 Apr (photo: Pete Lambden). One arriving from the north-west, crossed the island and continued south down the East Side on 17 Sep (John Lane).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

[Eurasian Sparrowhawk]

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

Although there were some lengthy gaps between sightings, it seems probable that multiple records of a single female in

Nov and Dec 2018 and from Jan to May 2019 (last sighting on 14th) refer to just one overwintering bird. There were no further records until a female on 31 Jul. Between then and the end of the year, birds were seen on 62 days, with a peak of three on 14, 16 & 22 Sep, and 14 Oct. The last was a 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
1	1	1	2	1	–	1	2	3	2	2	–
8	10	8	21	6	–	1	3	21	28	9	–

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

[Western Marsh Harrier]

Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring.

A female flew high over the Quarries and on out to sea south-east towards the mainland at 13:00 hrs on 1 Apr (Andrew Cleave & Michael Foord). On 15 May a female drifted over Millcombe at 08:55 hrs and was later seen over South End and Tillage/Brick Field (being mobbed by crows) and quartering over Pondsbury. It was last seen flying north over Threequarter Wall at 14:55 hrs (Tim Davis, Tim Jones, Chris Pawson *et al.*).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.

A female/ring-tailed bird was over Montagu Steps on 15 Oct (Belinda Cox & Mandy Dee). A ringtail on 17 Nov flying north along the West Side was initially seen at Punchbowl Valley (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Red Kite *Milvus migrans*

Lundy vagrant. Devon rarity.

Two circled over Ackland's Moor for at least 10 minutes at 10:40 hrs on 26 Mar before drifting off north (Andy Jayne, Pete Burkill & David Grey). One of these birds was also seen over the Village (M. Lee). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

[Common Buzzard]

Uncommon visitor; formerly a breeding resident (last nesting attempt in 1965).

One flew south mobbed by Carrion Crows on 15 May (R & CJ Morrison). One flew in off the sea over Rat Island on 25 Jul (Dean Jones) and departed the island the next day (Alex Sydenham). One flew north over Millcombe, harried by Carrion Crows, on 10 Nov (J Richards).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and rare winter visitor.*

One seen by rabbit counters whilst lamping on the night of 8 Feb. One on 18 Oct flew out over the Landing Bay from near Windy Corner, before turning back and concealing itself in vegetation below the Beach Road (Tim Davis).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

[Common Kingfisher]

Lundy vagrant.

One "zoomed through Hell's Gate and disappeared round Rat Island" on 7 Oct (Martin Thorne) – the first record since Aug 2016.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

[Eurasian Wryneck]

Nationally scarce migrant.

One was on the fence and track outside Brambles on 23 Aug before flying up into Millcombe Wood and out of sight (Tony Taylor *et al.*). Likely the same bird on 25 Aug flew out from Smelly Gully and up to the rocks behind the walled gardens where it hopped around for a few minutes before disappearing back into the gully (Dean Jones *et al.*). One perched in willows just south of the Terrace on 22 Sep (Derek Baggott & Ben Rousseau). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.



*Wryneck, Millcombe, 25th August
(photo: Dean Jones)*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major**Rare passage migrant and post-breeding visitor; one overwintering record (2018/19).*

The long-staying female first seen in Millcombe on 16 Oct 2018 was still present on 4 Jan and was last recorded on 6 Feb (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

[Common Kestrel]

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

Two were displaying and calling over Millcombe and the Beach Road on 14 Feb (Alan Rowland) and a displaying pair, behaving extremely territorially, was seen near Old Light on 16 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). However, there was no subsequent evidence that a breeding attempt took place.

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	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
8	4	5	12	20	7	8	11	15	21	12	5

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A 2nd calendar-year male on 18 May was first seen in flight during the late morning between Quarter Wall and Pondsby. It flew north as far as Gannets' Combe but then settled for around three hours in Middle Park, where it put on a superbly aerobatic display, feeding almost continuously on Emperor Moths, which it caught, dismembered and ate in flight, using the main track marker stones and gorse bushes near Tibbetts as lookout perches from which to launch its sorties (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones *et al.*). The falcon continued to feed until 14:20 hrs at which point it flew north over Threequarter

Wall, circled to gain height, and left the island to the north-west. The 8th Lundy record, the last being in May 2003. Record accepted by DBRC.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

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

Recorded on 12 days in spring and 38 days in autumn, the first of the year a spring-passage female over the Terrace on 24 Mar (Dean Jones). Most records were of single birds, with two being the highest count on five dates, 15-18 Oct and 13 Nov. The last in autumn was a female on 2 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
–	–	1	1	1	1	–	1	1	2	2	1
–	–	1	6	3	2	–	1	4	20	11	2

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

[Peregrine Falcon]

Breeds; recorded in all months in recent years.

Recorded in every month, with peak counts of six on 12 Apr and 16 May, and seven on 23 May and 4 Aug. At least four were recorded throughout the winter months (Jan-Mar & Nov-Dec) with breeding birds returning to territories by the end of Mar. There were five occupied breeding territories; adults were first seen incubating eggs on 12 Apr and three pairs managed to fledge a total of six chicks, with the first fledglings recorded on 24 Jun. Three chicks were fitted with blue colour-rings (the first time that Lundy Peregrines have been colour marked) on 6 Jun.

Request: *Kindly report any sightings of colour-ringed Peregrines directly to the Warden. Please help to protect the island's breeding birds by not revealing nest locations in the LFS logbook, on social media, or elsewhere.*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Nationally scarce migrant. Devon rarity.

A female was near St Helen's Copse on 6 Jun (Chris & Carol Baillie). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

UK vagrant.

A first-year bird, initially seen in flight, settled on an exposed branch of an ash tree on the northern edge of Quarter Wall Copse for a couple minutes at about 13:30 hrs on 13 Oct. This afforded excellent telescope views from a range of 20 m before the bird dropped back and out of sight. It was relocated at about 15:00 hrs feeding in the canopy towards the south-east corner of the copse, loosely accompanied by a group of Goldcrests and Firecrests, and was last seen about 30 minutes later (Tim Davis, James Diamond, Martin Elcoate, Andy Jayne & Tim Jones). The 9th Lundy record and the second consecutive year after one in Millcombe in Oct 2018. Record accepted by BBRC.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

[Eurasian Golden Oriole]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A singing male in Millcombe on 21 Jun (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). Dean related the encounter in the LFS logbook: "I heard a brief call which sounded good for Golden Oriole. I made my way slowly and quietly to where the call had come from and the bird then burst into full song from the top of an old oak tree at the top of Millcombe. It sang here for about 20 minutes, allowing me to get some recordings on my phone, but then stopped singing and began moving through the canopy where I was able to see the bird periodically through the foliage." Record accepted by DBRC.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

[Western Jackdaw]

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

One first seen in the upper Lighthouse Field on 2 Feb (Tim Davis & Tim Jones) was present until 7th, frequenting the Tillage and Brick Fields and also the pigsty. Three on the main track at Quarter Wall on 22 Oct took off and flew north (Sam Bosanquet).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

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

One first reported on 4 Apr (Jo King) was outside Paradise Row on 6 Apr and feeding with Carrion Crows in Tent Field on 8th (Dean Jones).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeds; present throughout the year.

A pair were gathering nesting material near Government House on 18 Mar. Four were seen to leave the island in the direction of Hartland Point on 11 Apr. Breeding was confirmed on 11 May when juvenile birds were heard calling from a nest in Millcombe Wood. At least five other nest sites were located: St Helen's & Quarter Wall Copses, Castle/Hammers Copse, above Needle Rock, and Quarry Bay. The peak count for the year was 64 on 27 Sep.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30	42	40	36	30	30	11	55	64	32	55	44

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

One was in flight with six Carrion Crows heading north past the Church in the early morning of 5 May. Record accepted by DBRC.

Raven *Corvus corax*

[Northern Raven]

Breeds; present throughout the year.

One was carrying nesting material (sticks) towards Halfway Wall Bay on 1 Feb, and two days later both birds were seen carrying lining material to the nest. Adults were feeding young at the same site on 2 May and at a nest along the South End on 3 May. Other pairs nested on Goat Island and at Long Roost. A pair and two young were at St Philip's Stone on 13 May. The highest count of the year was 13 on 3 Feb.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	13	6	9	10*	11	5	8	12	9	8	6

*Plus two juvenile birds

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

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

A very active and mobile singing male of the continental race *P. a. ater* was present in Millcombe from 1-5 May (Tim Jones *et al.*) and trapped and ringed on 2nd. On the last date the bird was observed over Brambles and Castle Hill at 06:45 hrs flying high towards the east, in the direction of the North Devon mainland, making a strange, shrill, very high-pitched call. On this occasion it turned around and dropped back down into Millcombe, but repeated this behaviour several times, apparently intent on leaving the island. It must have finally made a successful break for it as it was not seen later in the day. Record accepted by DBRC.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Lundy vagrant.

One calling in flight near the Church at 12:45 hrs on 2 May (Rob Duncan & David Kightley) was seen and heard again on Castle Hill at 14:45 hrs (Richard Campey). Record accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

[Eurasian Skylark]

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

One was singing on New Year's Day (Robert Pell) and many breeding territories were taken up in Feb during unusually mild weather. Warden Dean Jones mapped 49 song territories during the breeding season. Successful breeding confirmed: an adult carrying food was seen near South West Point on 11 May and an adult was feeding a fledgling at Rocket Pole Pond on 1 Jun (Richard & Rebecca Taylor). The highest autumn-passage count was of 100 birds on 15 Oct.



Continental Coal Tit, Millcombe, 1st May (photo: 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
3	40	39	53	39	65	15	7	18	100	7	10
9	19	11	27	22	19	6	12	16	22	12	9

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common spring and autumn migrant; occasional in summer.

The first of the year were two on the extraordinarily early date of 24 Feb, with a further singleton on 28th. After four on 5 Mar, spring migration really got under way in the second half of the month, with peaks of 51 on 24th and 55 on 26th. Passage was noted on 23 further days in Apr (max 25 on 11th) and May (max 10 on 1st) with a late straggler on 5 Jun. One or two on four days during Jul were perhaps failed breeders before more concerted autumn passage was noted from 18 Aug onwards. Peak movement occurred on 8 Sep when an estimated 500 birds were logged. After two on 18 & 19 Oct feeding along the East Side, a single on 22 Oct was 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
–	2	55	25	10	1	2	11	500	2	–	–
–	2	11	13	10	1	4	6	13	6	–	–

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 year were two over the Village during the late morning of 16 Feb, with another three elsewhere during the day, making this the earliest ever date for Swallow on Lundy. Spring passage peaked on 12 May when some 5,000 birds (considered to be a gross underestimate) were logged. A total of four pairs attempted to breed but only three managed to fledge chicks (Tillage/Brick Field pigsty, Quarry Pond and Church porch). The first fledglings were seen in the Church porch on 5 Jul and the same pair of adults were incubating a second brood by 25 Jul, but this and another pair that attempted a second brood both seemed to fail at the early egg stage. Autumn passage peaks of 1,195 and 3,200 came on 8 & 18 Sep respectively. The last of the season was one over the Village on the very late date of 24 Nov (Lucy Winder).

On 5 May, Sam Bosanquet noted: “A putative Swallow x House Martin hybrid circling over Government House with Swallows and House Martins – size and structure as Swallow with swept-back wings and forked tail, though streamers not as long as typical for Swallow; peach-coloured rump and dark throat.”

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	30	2,170	5,000	18	10	66	3,200	250	2	–
–	1	7	24	30	26	13	23	26	23	4	–

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

[Common House Martin]

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

A single bird over St Mark’s Stone on 24 Mar was the first of the year. As in most years, peak spring passage occurred in May with three-digit counts on six days between 1st & 15th and an estimated 700 being the highest day-count on 12th. Autumn passage peaked on 18 Sep with 500 passing through. Thereafter, the highest count was 20 on 1 Oct, with three on 24 Oct the last birds 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
–	–	6	40	700	20	4	1	500	20	–	–
–	–	4	13	28	14	4	3	16	16	–	–

Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Lundy vagrant.

One in dense vegetation on the bund of Millcombe Pond on 14 Oct (Andy Jayne & Tim Jones) was seen briefly in the willow clump in St John’s Valley the following day (James Diamond *et al.*). Presumably the same bird was back at Millcombe Pond on 1 Nov (Chris Baillie), at the head of St Helen’s stream, where it reaches the Upper East Side Path, on 16 Nov, and again at Millcombe Pond on 17th (Dean Jones). This is only the fifth record for Lundy.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Very rare autumn migrant and exceptional in spring/early summer; has overwintered once (2008/09).

One feeding in sycamores in Millcombe on 21 Oct (Dean Jones) was the first since Oct 2017.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant, occurring with declining frequency.

Spring sightings involved just two single birds, a male singing in Millcombe on 29 Apr (Dean Jones) and one trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 7 May (Rob Duncan & David Kightley). There were no autumn records.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Nationally scarce migrant.

Lundy’s first ever spring record of this delightful Siberian-breeding leaf warbler came from upper Millcombe on 20 Apr (Andy Trout). In autumn, there were sightings on eight dates from 10 to 23 Oct, with a maximum of five (all in Millcombe) on 15th (Tim Davis, James Diamond *et al.*). All other dates involved ones and twos. The only birds away from Millcombe were singles between the Terrace Trap willows and the Timekeeper’s Hut on 19th and at Quarter Wall Copse on 23rd. As usual the total number of individuals was difficult to assess, but there were at least ten. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

The first birds arrived in Millcombe on 22 Mar. There was a steady passage of birds through Apr with peaks of 45 on 8th, 50 on 12th, 60 on 21st and a spring maximum of 1,000 on 29th. After 35 on 2 May and 25 on 7th, numbers fell to between one and four birds on most days up to 25 Jun. Whilst song was heard in mid-May, on 2 & 4 Jun and again on 5 Jul, there was no evidence of attempted breeding. Autumn passage commenced in late Jul with at least 95 on 27th. Higher counts through Aug were 71 on 1st and the autumn maximum of 250 on 26th, whilst Sep brought a peak of 20 on both 8th and 18th. The last of the year was a single bird 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
–	–	2	1,000	35	4	95	250	20	2	–	–
–	–	8	24	30	21	3	25	18	9	–	–

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

[Common Chiffchaff]

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

Between one and four overwintering birds were recorded during Jan and Feb, and into early Mar. An unusually high early spring count of 64 birds was made on 22 Mar, with the season's peak of 100 occurring on 29 Apr. Breeding was confirmed for three pairs: one was nest-building on the Terrace on 12 Jun (Chris Baillie); one was collecting food in the Terrace willows on 7 Jul (Dean Jones); and an adult was feeding chicks in sycamores near the Battlements on 24 Jul (Dean Jones); and an adult was feeding very young chicks in Smelly Gully on 11 Aug – almost certainly a second brood but far too soon to be the same pair that were feeding young at the end of Jul (Dean Jones). Between one and six birds were present on most days in Aug, with autumn passage peaks of 50 and 30 on 18 & 19 Sep respectively. Passage dribbled on into Nov, with six on 8th, and the last record for the year a single bird on 28 Nov.

Non-calling birds showing plumage typical of 'Siberian' Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* were seen in Millcombe from 9 to 17 Jan inclusive (Dean Jones) and on 5 & 6 Apr (Jo King, Philip Lymbery), and in bracken at Threequarter Wall Bay on 15 Oct (Andy Jayne). In line with the current policy of Devon Birds, which only accepts as 'confirmed' records of calling 'Siberian' Chiffchaff, these three occurrences have been accepted by the Devon Bird Recorder as 'grey chiffchaffs' (unidentified *P. c. tristis/abietinus*).

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	2	64	100	20	4	3	6	50	20	6	–
19	20	21	25	30	17	8	20	24	22	12	–

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common spring and autumn migrant, generally more numerous in spring. Breeds sporadically.

After one bird on 17 Apr, spring passage continued until 24 May, with highs of 25 on 7 May and 31 on 9 May. Four birds on 27 Jul marked the start of autumn movement, though there were records on only nine further days, with a maximum of seven on 26 Aug and the last of the year being one on 8 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
–	–	–	15	31	–	1	7	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	10	19	–	1	7	2	–	–	–

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

[Eurasian Reed Warbler]

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.

Recorded on six days in spring: one on 25 Apr and three in Millcombe on 30 Apr; two in Millcombe on 1 May, with further singles that month on 2nd, 3rd and 6th. Autumn passage migrants, all single birds, were reported on just three days: 25 & 26 Aug (both trapped and ringed in Millcombe) and 1 Sep, in elder below St Helen's Copse.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Nationally scarce migrant.

One in blackthorn scrub in upper Millcombe on 23 Aug (Dean Jones) was seen again in Millcombe on 25th, then trapped and ringed there on 26th (Rebecca & Richard Taylor, Tony Taylor). Record accepted by DBRC.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

[Common Grasshopper Warbler]

Common spring migrant; uncommon autumn migrant.

A much better showing this spring than in 2018, with birds present on 10 days (first on 15 Apr reeling in brambles next to Government House) and maxima of six on 21 Apr and three on 6 May, two of which were also reeling. In autumn, one "flushed from nettles along the High Street" on 18 Sep was the only record.

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	3	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	5	5	–	–	–	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.

Two males and a female on 22 Mar were the first of the year. A fall of at least 300 on 20 Apr was by far the highest spring-passage count. A female collecting food in lower Millcombe on 15 Jun indicated a breeding attempt; successful breeding was confirmed when two fledglings were seen with an adult female below Brambles on 29 Jun. Peak counts in autumn were 70 on 18 Sep and 150 on 12 Oct (including 60 on the Terrace). The last of the year was a late autumn migrant – a single male on 1 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
–	–	5	300	30	3	5	8	70	150	6	1
–	–	9	27	28	15	7	19	26	25	10	1

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

A slightly better year than of late, with records on 15 days in spring and eight in autumn. A single bird was seen on 22 Apr, with the spring maximum of three occurring a few days later on 29th. In May one or two birds were recorded on 10 days between 5th and 19th, and two, potentially failed breeders passing through, were present on 25 Jun. The first of five autumn-passage records of ones and twos was a single bird on 25 Aug; the last, another singleton, on 19 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
–	–	–	3	2	2	–	2	2	–	–	–
–	–	–	4	10	1	–	3	5	–	–	–

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Nationally scarce migrant.

There were two autumn records, both of first-winter birds: one seen briefly in Millcombe on 10 Sep (Nik Ward) and one feeding in willow and blackberry scrub by the Terrace Trap on 17 Oct (James Diamond *et al.*) Records accepted by DBRC.



Barred Warbler, Terrace, 17th October
(photo: Dean Jones).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

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

Four records, all of single birds. One trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 19 Apr (Chris Dee) was probably the same bird seen on 21st and 23rd. A male was seen and heard singing on the side of the Ugly and around the walled gardens in Millcombe on 15 May and was still present the next day (Tim Jones *et al.*). In autumn, one was in elder at the top of Smelly Gully on 2 Sep (Dean Jones) and one above the Terrace on 22 Oct (Sam Bosanquet) was still present on 23rd (Chris Baillie).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

[Common Whitethroat]

Common migrant in spring and autumn; sporadic breeder.

A female in ivy next to Government House Pond on 17 Apr was the first of the year, whilst the spring-passage peak of 45 occurred on 9 May. Successful breeding was confirmed on 29 Jun when a pair in upper Millcombe were seen feeding at least two chicks (David Lindo) – the first confirmation of breeding on the island since 1978. A second brood of at least three chicks was in the same area on 27 Jul (Dean

Jones). Regular records of one to four birds through much of Aug probably included a mix of Lundy-bred birds and southbound migrants. The highest autumn-passage count was 14 on 26 Aug, followed by six on 9 Sep. The last two of the year were on 25 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
–	–	–	3	45	5	5	14	6	–	–	–
–	–	–	9	27	23	8	15	15	–	–	–

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

UK vagrant. Complex and not wholly resolved taxonomy. The official British List maintained by the BOU, and followed here, currently includes Subalpine Warbler as a single species S. cantillans. BBRC, however, distinguishes Eastern Subalpine Warbler and Western Subalpine Warbler. Following an international review published shortly before this report was finalised, it is likely that Eastern Subalpine Warbler (S. c. cantillans and S. c. albistriata) and Western Subalpine Warbler (S. iberiae) will soon be formally recognised as separate species within the British List.

In a remarkable and unprecedented series of records for Lundy, Devon and the wider UK, five individuals occurred in Millcombe during a three-week period in spring, from 22 Apr to 11 May inclusive.

All were trapped and ringed, though two were initially seen in the field on the day of trapping. Thanks to DNA analysis of shed body feathers, initial assignment to race made by visual examination in the hand and observation in the field was confirmed for all five individuals. These comprised four Eastern Subalpine Warblers and one Western Subalpine Warbler, as follows: a 2nd calendar-year (c-y) male Eastern (race *cantillans*) on 22 Apr; a 2nd c-y female Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 30 Apr; a 2nd c-y male Western on 1 May and subsequently seen in the field on 5th; a 2nd c-y male Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 6 May; and finally a 2nd c-y female Eastern (race *albistriata*) on 11 May. Observers/ringers comprised Richard Campey, Tim Davis, Rob Duncan, Dean Jones, Tim Jones & David Kightley. Records accepted by BBRC.



Eastern type Subalpine Warbler, Millcombe, 11th May (photo: Dean Jones).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

[Common Firecrest]

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

In spring, single birds were recorded on six dates between 24 Mar and 7 Apr. The first of these was on the Terrace, with the others all in Millcombe. Autumn sightings occurred on 30 days between 16 Sep and 20 Nov with a max of five on 23 Sep, mainly in Millcombe, the East Side copses and along the Terrace.

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	–	–	–	–	5	4	2	–
–	–	4	2	–	–	–	–	11	14	5	–

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

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

Recorded in all months except Jun and Jul, with birds present in both winter periods (max seven on 13 Jan, “scattered along the east coast and Millcombe” – Dean Jones). An early spring peak of 19 occurred on 24 Mar, otherwise one or two birds only were recorded through Apr up to 17 May. There was no indication of any breeding attempt. Autumn passage started in mid-Aug and day-totals reached seven by 25th. As usual the main movements were in Sep and Oct, when there were two three-digit counts: 180 on 23 Sep and 150 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
7	8	19	3	2	–	–	7	180	150	9	3
14	17	21	19	7	–	–	13	25	28	20	9

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

[Eurasian Wren]

Common breeding resident; ringing evidence of dispersal to mainland.

The year's highest count (28) was on 2 May and comprised 21 singing males along the East Side, all heard from the Lower East Side Path (as far as the north end of the Quarries), with a further three in Millcombe and one along the Beach Road. An additional five were singing along the West Side on 13 May, indicative of the ability of this species to survive in demanding locations. The combined total of 33 song territories is still only a partial count as Wrens were also widely, if thinly, distributed in other suitable areas elsewhere on the sidelands and the plateau, from Lametor to North Light. The first confirmation of breeding in 2019 came on 28 May with an adult carrying food to a nest beside the Beach Road. An adult was carrying food to chicks (heard only) at the Earthquake on 9 Jun. The high Oct count probably reflects an influx of Wren-counting birders rather than an influx of Wrens!

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	17	22	20	28	20	6	12	12	25	20	7

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

[Eurasian Treecreeper]

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

In one of the more unlikely observations of the year, one was feeding amongst rocks at Jenny's Cove on 26 Mar (Andy Jayne). In autumn, one was in Millcombe Wood on 24 & 25 Sep. What is considered to have been a different bird was in Millcombe on 8 Oct and remained until 25 Oct (ringed on 22nd).

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*

[Rosy Starling]

Nationally scarce migrant.

A juvenile at the Tillage/Brick Field pigsty, seen briefly on 6 Oct (Ryan Miller), was relocated in the farmyard on 9 Oct, where it remained – focused on the food dispenser in the chicken run! – with forays to the Lambing Shed and Lighthouse Field, often showing at very close range to multiple observers until its last appearance on 21 Oct (Dean Jones). The 26th record for the island. Record accepted by DBRC.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

[Common Starling]

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

Starlings were already gathering nesting material on 20 Feb, but colder conditions later in the spring seem to have caused this early start to stall. A nesting pair was flying in and out of the old stonecrusher in Tent Field on 12 May and an adult was gathering nesting material in St Helen's Field on 14 May. A total of 56 active nests were located on 10 Jun in the Village, Church and Old Light (Dean Jones). The first fledglings of the year were not seen until 22 Jun (some three weeks later than in 2018). The year's maximum count occurred on 17 Nov with a "single flock of 800-900 Starlings in off the South End first thing; the noise upon arrival was incredible. The entire flock then settled in Barton Field to feed – scaring the life out of the ponies! Birds were also arriving from the north in small but steady flocks – estimate at least 1,000+ birds overall – an incredible sight!" (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
160	240	150	200	128	60	61	130	100	500	1,000	135

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon but regular spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

The first of the year was a male near Old Light on 24 Mar. In autumn, recorded on 10 dates from 18 Sep to 23 Oct. An astonishing count of 25 scattered along the East Side between Millcombe and the north end of the Quarries (including two flying in off the sea) on 15 Oct was the highest ever for Lundy, the previous record being 20 on 2 & 3 Oct 1951.



Male Ring Ouzel, Old Light, 24th March (photo: 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	–	–	–	–	1	25	–	–
–	–	2	5	–	–	–	–	3	7	–	–

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

[Common Blackbird]

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

Numbers were consistent with the island’s breeding population during the first winter period and there was little evidence of spring passage. Breeding was confirmed when a male was carrying food in Millcombe on 12 May, while the first fledglings of the year were noted there on 25 May. Altogether at least six pairs bred (three in Millcombe and singles at Paradise Row, Quarter Wall Copse and the Terrace). Additional territorial males were noted at St Helen’s Copse, Halfway Wall Bay and Gannets’ Combe. The first noticeable influx of autumn passage was 17 on 15 Oct, followed by 30 on 19th and 40 on 22nd & 23rd. Nov brought further arrivals, including 21 on 9th and 41 – the highest count of the year – on 16th.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	8	10	15	16	9	6	5	5	40	41	9

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Regular migrant, generally in small numbers, in early spring; much more frequent and more numerous in late autumn; winter visitor in variable numbers, with occasional hard-weather influxes.

Belying its status as a regular spring migrant, there were just two spring records, both of single birds on 24 & 30 Apr. Autumn passage kicked off much as usual in mid-Oct with four on 15th. Thereafter recorded on most days until 4 Dec, with peaks of 107 on 21 Oct and at least 200 on 5 Nov the only triple-digit counts of the year. Three feeding in Barton Field on 20 Dec were 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
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	107	200	5
–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	12	21	4

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

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

Wintering birds were present in the first half of Jan, with a max of three on 10th. One on Ackland's Moor on 1 Feb was the only other winter record, with another single on the cusp of spring on 2 Mar. A strong but brief audible passage of between 100 and 200 Redwings occurred during a 25-minute spell of low cloud and mist at around 22:00 hrs on 22 Mar, with many birds calling from above the Village and lower Lighthouse Field (Dean Jones). Two on 30 Mar and one on 4 Apr were the last of an otherwise sparse spring passage. The first autumn birds were six perched with Starlings on the Barn on 30 Sep. Movements continued into early Dec, with peaks of 450 on 15 Oct, 250 on 23 Oct, 200 on 5 Nov and 77 on 17 Nov. Numbers dwindled thereafter and only single birds were logged in the last week of 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
3	1	200	1	–	–	–	–	6	450	200	7
5	1	5	1	–	–	–	–	1	20	24	10

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Regular migrant in small numbers in early spring; more numerous and more frequent in mid to late autumn; winter influxes during hard weather. Sporadic breeding resident prior to 2010.

One to three birds were logged on 28 days up to the end of Feb, followed by a small spring passage of ones and twos between 16 Mar and 19 Apr. The next sighting was not until a single bird on 30 Sep, marking the start of autumn passage which extended until the first week of Dec. Sixty on 15 Oct was by far the highest count, with 24 on 16 Nov the only other 20+ figure. Seven arrived with small numbers of Fieldfare and Redwing in late Dec, with at least one still around on New Year's Eve.

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	2	–	–	–	–	1	60	24	7
13	15	5	5	–	–	–	–	1	14	22	10

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

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

Recorded on five days in autumn from 20 Oct to 22 Nov: two together in Millcombe on 20 Oct; one in Millcombe on 22 Oct; one feeding with Redwings in Barton Field on 16 Nov; two calling loudly in Millcombe on 17 Nov; and one in Millcombe on 22 Nov (all records Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

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

Spring passage extended from 20 Apr (a single bird) to 2 Jun (four) with what must have been a startling but spectacular fall of 80 on 9 May – a sunny but windy morning after a stormy day on 8th. All other records were in single figures. One was seen eating a male Emperor Moth on the Terrace on 10 May. Ones and twos were recorded on scattered dates late in Jun, but there was no evidence of a breeding attempt. One was in the Terrace willows on 28 Jul and possibly the same individual was seen on 2 Aug. More sustained passage was noted from 20 Aug (two birds) to 20 Sep (two), with a peak of 20 on 18 Sep. Single late migrants were present on 30 Sep and 1, 6 & 15 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	80	4	1	12	20	1	–	–
–	–	–	3	23	13	1	8	15	3	–	–

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

[European Robin]

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

Present throughout the year with a spring peak of seven on three days to the end of Mar. There was no evidence of any significant spring passage. A pair were courtship feeding in Millcombe on 14 May; an adult was feeding chicks in a nest in Millcombe on 28 May; and the first fledged juvenile of the year

was noted in Millcombe on 12 Jun. Apart from double-digit counts on two days in Aug (11 on 25th) and Sep (10 on 25th), higher counts signalling the onset of autumn passage weren't logged until mid-Oct, with 23 on 13th and peaks of 30 on 15th and the year's high of 40 on 19th. Numbers fell away in the last week of Oct, with a Nov max of 14 on 13th and between one and six birds through to the end of Dec.

Maximum count for each month											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	7	3	5	4	3	11	10	40	14	6



Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

[Common Nightingale]

Rare spring and autumn migrant. Devon rarity.

One was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 28 Apr (Rob Duncan *et al.*). A remarkably confiding individual (photo: Dean Jones) was at the top of Smelly Gully – in the same area as a Wryneck – and feeding on grass around Millcombe Pond on 25 Aug (Dean Jones *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

[European Pied Flycatcher]

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

The first spring arrival was a male in St Helen's Copse on the early date of 2 Apr, probably the same bird as recorded on both of the following two days. Thereafter, migrants were recorded on eight days from 20 Apr to 25 May. All were single birds except for 3m & 2f on 20 Apr and two on 21 Apr. Autumn passage was recorded on 15 dates from 23 Aug (five) to 3 Oct (one), but largely concentrated into the first three weeks of this period, with a peak of 11 on 25 Aug and 10 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
–	–	–	5	1	–	–	11	3	1	–	–
–	–	–	6	5	–	–	6	6	3	–	–

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

Following the only record for the first winter period, at Benjamin's Chair on 2 Feb, spring passage was noted from 27 Feb (one at Jenny's Cove, coinciding with the first Puffins) to 14 May when a female was interacting with a female Common Redstart around Constable Rock. The highest counts were three on 24 Mar (all f) and 12 Apr (m & 2f). In autumn recorded on eight days between 23 Oct and 30 Nov, with a max of two on 24 & 25 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	3	3	2	–	–	–	–	2	1	–
–	2	3	7	3	–	–	–	–	3	5	–

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

[Common Redstart]

Common but declining spring and autumn migrant in small numbers.

In spring there were records on 13 dates from 8 Apr (three, the max for the year) to 14 May. A male, perhaps a failed mainland breeder, was at Halfway Wall on the unusual date of 22 Jun. An extremely meagre autumn passage consisted of single birds on just three dates between 27 Aug and 23 Oct (the latter a female trapped and ringed in Millcombe).

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	–	1	–	1	–	–
–	–	–	9	3	1	–	1	–	2	–	–

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra**Uncommon spring migrant; more regular in autumn; occasional records in midsummer.*

There were just five spring records of this declining Afro-Palaearctic migrant: a female on 25 Apr near the Tent Field stonecrusher; two males at Quarter Wall/Brick Field on 30 Apr; single males on 7 & 9 May; and a male and a female in Middle Park/Threequarter Wall on 14 May. Autumn passage was similarly sparse with six on 26 Aug followed by singles on 9, 18, 20 & 21 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	–	–	6	1	–	–	–
–	–	–	2	3	–	–	1	4	–	–	–



Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

[European Stonechat]

Breeds occasionally; uncommon spring migrant and regular autumn migrant; sporadic in winter.

Wintering birds were recorded on three days in Jan, with three on 5th the first record of the year. The only real sign of spring passage was a count of nine on 21 Feb. Breeding was confirmed by a pair carrying food east of Pondsbury on 5 May and fledged young seen in the same area on 23 May. Confirmation of a second breeding pair came on 11 May when a male was seen carrying an Emperor Moth to a nest on the seaward side of the Beach Road; both adults and three fledglings were seen there on 27 May. A third pair with two newly fledged young were on the northern slope above Pondsbury on 23 May. Finally, on 26 Jul, a fourth brood of three fledglings were with a male below the rhododendron-brash tree-planting enclosure near St Helen's Combe. During autumn passage at least 10 were around Halfway Wall on 20 Oct, the peak count of 15 occurring on 16 Oct. Small numbers remained 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
3	9	2	2	6	3	4	4	7	15	5	3
3	15	6	6	17	4	5	9	14	27	23	9

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

[Northern Wheatear]

Summer visitor; breeds; common spring and autumn migrant.

The sighting by Warden Dean Jones of a male at Jenny's Cove during the morning of 24 Feb was (by seven days) the earliest Lundy record for this species and one of the first seen in the whole of the UK in 2019. More typically, the next was on 17 Mar, followed on 24th by the highest count for the month, 37. The April max of 58 occurred on 12th. The first fledged chicks were being fed in Jenny's Cove on 30 May. Birds showing characteristics of 'Greenland' Wheatear *O. o. leucorhoa* were seen on 12 Apr (two) and 3 May (one), whilst a confirmed individual of this race was trapped on the West Side on 6 Jun. Autumn-passage peaks occurred on 26 Aug (70) and 9 Sep (36), with single-figure counts thereafter until the last bird of the year was noted at Halfway Wall on 20 Oct.

Summarising the continuing long-term BTO Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) colour-ringing study of Lundy's Wheatears, Tony Taylor reports that 53% of the breeding birds recorded in 2018 survived their migration and returned to breed in 2019. This was slightly below the 2013-18 average return rate. Even so, there were a record 54 pairs in the study area (the south and west coasts between the Castle and Halfway Wall) and the population estimate for the whole island was 118 pairs – the second highest total recorded after 121 in 2017. A colour-ringed male, holding territory on the sidelands just south of Quarter Wall Copse, was originally ringed on Lundy in 2012 (with colour-rings added in 2015). See also *Bird Ringing on Lundy*, p.85.

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
–	1	37	58	39	70	30	70	36	4	–	–
–	1	10	27	19	15	10	16	16	13	–	–

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina**UK vagrant. Not previously recorded on Lundy.*

One, briefly, between the Beach Road and Hammers track on 18 Oct (Martin Elcoate). Seen in rapidly deteriorating weather conditions, the bird could not be relocated. Fortunately, some snatched photos, followed by Martin's forensic and doggedly patient marshalling of all the evidence, ultimately led to the clinching of a superb first for the island – see p.84. Record accepted by BBRC.

Whinchat, Timekeeper's Hut, 9th May
(photo: Dean Jones).

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
14	45	20	85	45	35	50	30	40	55	20	91

Three birds were watched leaving the island to the south-east in the late afternoon of 16 Oct.

Lucy Winder reports on behalf of the long-running House Sparrow research programme:

The 2019 breeding season started very late, with only eight broods in the entirety of May, just one of which contained chicks that survived to fledging. Mainland birds were easily on their second or even third brood by the start of June, whereas the Lundy breeding season had really only just begun to take off. We speculate this was because of cold night-time temperatures throughout May. The spell of warm weather in February 2019 caused many other species to begin breeding very early in the year. However, unlike many other passerines, House Sparrows are not reliant on particular seasonal events (such as tree masting) and therefore can afford to wait until conditions become more suitable.

The late season effectively meant that the Lundy sparrows skipped a brood. Typically, the island birds have three broods, with some higher-quality pairs rearing four, but most birds in 2019 had two broods, with only a handful having three. There was a total of 103 broods, compared to 175 in 2018. Ringing occurs when the chicks are 12 days old, with almost all birds reaching this age going on to fledge successfully. Some 217 nestlings were ringed in 2019, compared with 309 nestlings ringed in 2018, so productivity was much lower in 2019. However, the smaller number of fledged birds is not concerning, being due simply to the delayed start to nesting.

We caught 134 individual birds on our annual winter trip at the end of November, of which 60% were juveniles that had fledged in 2019, but only 15% were birds that fledged in 2018 (the remainder being at least two years old). Though it is normal to have a higher proportion of juveniles – because surviving the first winter is very challenging – the number of adults was particularly low. This is potentially indicative of a lower breeding population to come during the 2020 breeding season. In any wild population there are peaks and troughs in population size; the last few years prior to 2019 saw particularly large breeding populations, so the fall in the adult population recorded in late 2019 is by no means a cause for concern.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Breeding resident in small numbers; small influxes of passage migrants detected occasionally in autumn. 2019 was an encouraging year for Duncocks on Lundy with good overwinter survival apparent and double-digit counts in seven months, peaking at 16 on both 19 Oct and 25 Dec. Breeding confirmed: at least four pairs in Millcombe, one at St Helen's Combe, one above White Beach, one near South Light, one below the Terrace and another at Quarter Wall Copse. Adults were feeding chicks at nests in Millcombe on 2 & 27 May and fledglings were seen on 7 Jun.

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	10	12	4	10	5	4	10	7	16	10	16

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 much more numerous, particularly in autumn. The continental race M. f. flava 'Blue-headed Wagtail' occurs occasionally in spring; all other races are vagrants.

A better showing this year, with records on 11 spring days and five autumn days. In spring, birds were noted on four successive days from 20 Apr, with a peak of two males and a female on 23rd, then in May between 3rd and 24th, followed by one along the sidelands below John O'Groats on 4 Jun. Southbound birds were noted on 24 & 25 Aug, 18 & 22 Sep (max 4 on the latter date) and 15 Oct.



Yellow Wagtail, Brick Field, 3rd May (photo: 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
–	–	–	3	2	1	–	1	4	1	–	–
–	–	–	4	6	1	–	2	2	1	–	–

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

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

Recorded in all months except Dec and Jan, with the usual peak in Sep and Oct, though no more than two birds on any day through 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
–	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	–
–	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	13	10	1	–

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 mid-winter. White Wagtail: occurs annually during both spring and autumn migrations.

Birds were present in all months, with the highest spring-passage count being 17 (of which 12 confirmed as Pied) on 22 Mar. Autumn-passage peaks were 23 on 25 Aug and 31 (mainly calling 'fly-overs') on 15 Oct. A pair of Pied Wagtails were gathering food for chicks in the farmyard on 3 Jul, while a second pair were feeding two young in Millcombe on 26 Jul.

Maximum combined counts of Pied Wagtail & unidentified alba wagtail for each month, with proportion confirmed as Pied in bold (top); number of days recorded (bottom)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	8	17 (12)	9 (3)	6	2	3	23 (8)	13 (2)	31 (1)	1	1
2	11	17	23	28	18	14	23	18	31	7	3

White Wagtails were recorded on 19 days during spring passage, from 23 Mar to 9 May, with a max of four on 21 Apr. There were just four autumn records, between 26 Aug (the seasonal max of five) and 22 Oct, though it is likely that a proportion of un-raced 'fly-over' birds on other dates, particularly in Aug/Sep, were White Wagtails.

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	4	1	–	–	5	1	1	–	–
–	–	6	11	2	–	–	1	2	1	–	–

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi**Nationally scarce migrant.*

One flew south over the Airfield at 08:20 hrs on 15 Oct (Andy Jayne). Record accepted by DBRC.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis**Breeds; very common passage migrant in spring and autumn; uncommon in winter.*

After a handful of wintering birds in Jan and early Feb, spring passage was already underway by mid-Feb, with peak counts of 200 and 247 occurring on 17 & 18 Mar. A pair were seen carrying nesting material in South West Field on 9 May, with birds delivering food to young in the Rocket Pole area on 20 May. Counts of 300 or more, marking the main period of autumn passage, occurred on 8 Sep (350), 26 Sep (325), 30 Sep (476), 12 Oct (600), 15 Oct (320) and 16 Oct (400). Numbers dwindled very rapidly from late Oct, with 12 on 27 Oct and 10 on 13 Nov being the last double-digit counts 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	41	247	118	80	69	54	184	476	600	10	3
4	18	16	29	24	16	10	15	24	29	17	6

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis**Uncommon spring and autumn migrant.*

One calling loudly over Millcombe on 17 Apr was the first of the year. Spring-passage migrants were logged on a further 18 dates, peaking at four on 1 May, with the last a singleton on 1 Jun. Autumn movement was recorded on 12 dates from 25 Aug to 23 Sep, with four again the highest count, on both 25 & 27 Aug. Nearly all were birds calling in flight over Millcombe/St John's Valley, Castle Hill or South End.

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	1	–	4	3	–	–	–
–	–	–	7	11	1	–	7	5	–	–	–

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

[Eurasian Rock Pipit]

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

Successful breeding was noted on 23 May with an adult delivering food to young on the West Side on 23 May. Fledglings were seen north of Halfway Wall on 7 Jun. The highest counts of the year were of 30 on 28 Oct, and 35 on 28 Dec (Philip & Helen Lymbery).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	20	24	14	7	15	1	5	4	30	15	35

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.

Given the low single-digits size of the breeding population, the small gathering of Chaffinch in Barton Field numbering 13 on 21 Apr was probably mostly composed of passage birds. A male, mimicking perfectly the contact call of a Great Spotted Woodpecker, was heard at Quarter Wall Copse and in Millcombe on 1 May (Tim Davis & Tim Jones). A pair were seen copulating at the top of Smelly Gully on 5 May, with food being taken to chicks on 31st and a male carrying food in Millcombe on 7 Jun. There was no evidence of breeding elsewhere. Monthly numbers through the year reflected those of recent years, with the autumn-passage peak occurring as usual in late Oct, with maxima of 1,000 on 23rd and 1,700 on 28th. Counts of 100 or more in November were 216 (6th), 193 (13th) and 184 (24th).

Maximum count for each month

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	9	13	5	6	2	8	22	1,700	216	11



Tree Pipit, Millcombe, 1st May (photo: Richard Campey).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

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

In spring, one flew north calling over Old Light in the early morning of 28 Mar, and a female was present on five days between 21 & 28 April. Autumn passage was logged on 28 dates from 18 Oct (one sitting on a fence wire near Blue Bung) to 2 Dec, peaking at 12 on 15 Nov – the only double-digit count of the year.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

A typically wary individual was in Millcombe from 06:30 hrs to at least 10:45 hrs on 15 May (Tim Davis, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). One flew down Millcombe towards the Castle at 09:00 hrs on 24 Oct, calling as it went. Presumably the same bird was over Millcombe flying towards the Ugly flagpole at approximately 11:30 hrs (Dean Jones, Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

[Eurasian Bullfinch]

Rare spring migrant and very rare autumn migrant.

A male in Millcombe during the late morning on 5 Jan was still present on 8th in the Secret Garden (Dean Jones). A female was in Millcombe on 23 & 24 Oct (Chris Baillie, Justin Zantboer *et al.*).

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrina*

Nationally scarce migrant.

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 21 Sep. A first-year bird seen briefly in Millcombe on 26 Sep (Mike Jackson) was thought likely to be the same individual, and the sighting of a ringed first-year bird in Millcombe on 2 Oct (Dean Jones) eventually confirmed the presence of a single long-stayer. An adult male perched briefly outside Brambles before disappearing down the valley on 22 Sep was presumed the same adult male trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 25 Sep (Derek Baggott, Chris Dee *et al.*). Records accepted by DBRC.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

[European Greenfinch]

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

There were four spring records: a male in Millcombe on 6 Apr; single males on 21 & 29 Apr; and a single bird on 20 May. Two were by Millcombe Pond on the unusual date of 2 Jul. Autumn passage consisted of one to three birds on nine days between 11 & 23 Oct, followed by further singles on 16, 17 & 20 Nov.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

[Common Linnet]

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

The first of the year were two on 13 Feb. Regular occurrences, involving both Lundy breeding birds and passage migrants, began with two on 22 Mar, rising to spring maxima of 95 on 21 Apr, 150 on 1 May, 143 the following day, and thereafter double-figure counts of 50 or more on six days up to 17 May. Breeding was confirmed when adults were seen collecting nesting material on 2 & 9 May, with fledglings already along the East Side on 31 May. Post-breeding flocks began to build up in Jul (e.g. 62 on 26th), augmented during Aug and Sep by migrants, with 100 or more noted on seven dates: 4 Aug (122), 15 Aug (108), 17 Aug (200 – the highest count of the year), 28 Aug (120), 8 Sep (122), 9 Sep (114) and 15 Sep (167). In the second winter period six were seen on Christmas 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
–	4	27	95	150	62	62	200	167	52	7	6
–	4	10	25	25	21	12	20	19	23	10	2

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

[Common Redpoll]

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

Recorded on 20 days in 2019 compared to 38 days in 2018, with 14 spring records (max three on 21 Apr and 1 May) and just six autumn records (max two on 19 Sep and 22 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	3	–	–	–	2	2	–	–
–	–	–	10	4	–	–	–	1	5	–	–

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

[Red Crossbill]

Rare summer and autumn migrant, but occurring in large numbers during 'invasion' years.

A male that flew in, calling, with three Chaffinches perched on top of a spruce tree in Millcombe on 15 Sep. It crossed to Millcombe Wood where it stayed for about 30 minutes before flying off to the south-east, calling strongly (Jan Swan, Keith Dean & Chris Dee).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

[European Goldfinch]

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

Recorded in every month of the year. After an influx of 20 on 22 Mar, spring migration was quiet with just six counts of more than 20 birds until 35 on 28 Apr, and May peaks of 40 on 1st and 35 on 4th. Six pairs were estimated to have bred in Millcombe, with single pairs also at Quarter Wall Copse and along the Terrace. A pair was carrying nesting material in Millcombe on 5 May, and a juvenile was seen at Castle Parade on 7 Jul. Autumn passage was modest with no three-digit counts, the highest being 43 on 22 Sep and 40 on 6 & 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	7	20	35	40	19	23	25	43	40	6	6
8	7	16	26	27	22	13	25	24	27	20	14

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

[Eurasian Siskin]

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

Unusually there were two late-winter/early-spring records: a single in Millcombe on 25 Feb and three on 27 Feb. These were followed by two on 27 Mar and records on 12 dates between 16 Apr and 14 May, all of single birds except for five on 28 Apr. Autumn passage, logged on 21 dates, commenced with one on 12 Oct and peaked at 130 on 15th, 90 on 16th, 70 on 17th and 100 on 23rd. Thereafter numbers fell away, the last two noted on 29 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	2	5	1	–	–	–	–	130	7	–
–	2	1	7	5	–	–	–	–	16	5	–

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

[Lapland Longspur]

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

Singles calling in flight were logged on nine dates between 15 Sep and 1 Dec, with the majority between mid-Oct and mid-Nov (Chris Baillie, Sam Bosanquet, Richard Campey, Dean Jones, Tim Jones). Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

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

In autumn recorded by multiple observers on approximately 40 dates from 27 Sep (one) to 2 Dec (one), the majority of sightings comprised of one to three birds, with a maximum of 14 – including a flock of 13 a little way north of the stile at the western end of Threequarter Wall – on 15 Oct. Locations were widespread, most frequently along the main track. Records accepted by Devon Bird Recorder.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla**Nationally scarce migrant.*

A first-winter bird was trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 23 Oct (Rob Duncan, Ellie & Justin Zantboer *et al.*). Record accepted by DBRC; the 19th for Lundy, the last being in Oct 2015.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala**UK vagrant.*

A superb adult male was first seen on 26 Aug perched on the roof of Paradise Row, then feeding in adjacent allotments (Dean Jones *et al.*). It put in subsequent appearances on 30 & 31 Aug and on 2, 4 & 5 Sep, primarily on the main track next to Brick and Tillage Fields, but as far north as Tibbetts at one point on 31st. This is the fourth record for Lundy, the last being in mid-Jul 1997 (also a male, along the main track near Pondsburry). Record accepted by BBRC.

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 “calling loudly from a gorse bush just south of Pondsburry” on 2 Jan, probably the same bird seen there on 6th (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). A “stunning male in near full breeding plumage” was in Millcombe on 17 Mar (Dean Jones). Three were observed in the Pondsburry/Quarter Wall area on 13 Oct, two still present the following day when one was also calling in flight over Castle Hill. The year’s peak count of seven occurred on 15 Oct: one over Castle Hill, two in off the sea at the Terrace, one at Threequarter Wall and three at Quarter Wall. Five were between Quarter Wall Pond and Pondsburry on 17 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
1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	7	5	–
2	2	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	13	1	–

References

Davis, T.J. & Jones, T.A. 2007. *The Birds of Lundy*. Harpers Mill Publishing for Devon Birds and LFS, Berrynarbor, Devon.

Jones, D.W. 2019. *Cliff nesting seabird productivity on Lundy 2019*. Lundy, Bristol Channel EX39 2LY

Perry, R. 1940. *Lundy, Isle of Puffins*, p.263. Lindsay Drummond Ltd, London.

RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAIN REPORT

The following reports are considered unsubstantiated owing to a lack of supporting details. Further information that may confirm any of these reports can be sent to gen@birdsoflundy.org.uk.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla* – one flying south off the Landing Bay on 5 Oct.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera* – a male and two females on Pondsburry on 17 Sep.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope* – one on Pondsburry on 23 Apr.

Red Kite *Milvus migrans* – one near Tibbetts flying north on 29 Jul.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* – one at Jenny's Cove on 26 Aug.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* – one reported "at Quarry" on 21 Apr.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* – two reported on the unusual date of 25 Jun.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* – one on 24 Jun.

Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus* – one near the Laundry on 18 Jul.

RECORDS ASSESSED AS NOT PROVEN

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Nationally scarce migrant.

The record of a small wader, thought probably to be this species, seen at Halfway Wall on 30 Jul, was assessed by DBRC as 'not proven'.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Lundy vagrant and Devon rarity.

2018. A submission of one over the West Side, north of Tibbetts, on 1 Nov 2018 was assessed by DBRC as not proven.

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).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

[European Storm Petrel]

One seen from MS *Oldenburg* on crossing to Lundy about 30 minutes out from the island (Mandy Dee, Tony Taylor).

Roller *Coracias garrulus*

[European Roller]

UK vagrant.

One perched in the rigging of a yacht sailing from Milford Haven to Lundy on 30 Jun flew off in the direction of the island when about three miles offshore. The observer, David Milledge, kindly emailed a report and photos to Dean Jones a few days later, but at this point the bird was probably long gone and there were certainly no sightings on/from the island itself. Record accepted by BBRC. To date, the only record of a Roller seen on Lundy was of one perched on the (then) telegraph wires at Castle Hill on 25 Aug 1949.



*Roller, off Lundy, 30th June
(photo: David Milledge).*



Pied Crow atop the Lundy General Stores, 23rd April (photo: Dean Jones).

African Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Native to sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. Outside of its range considered as likely escapes from captivity or ship-assisted wanderers.

A message from Dean Jones on 23 Apr brought news that a Pied Crow, one which had been wandering extensively around England and Wales for the previous 10 months – and which popped up eating sardines in a Clovelly garden after a 12-day sojourn in Cornwall – had made it to Lundy. The crow first appeared in East Yorkshire in June 2018, after which it was seen in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Essex, East Sussex, North Somerset, Pembrokeshire, Cornwall and the Devon mainland. On Lundy it was first seen next to Sue Waterfield's Paradise Row bird feeders shortly after midday, and subsequently by many staff and visitors throughout the afternoon in various parts of the Village, and as far afield as the Cemetery.

Records north of the Sahara, including those in Britain and elsewhere in Europe, are generally considered to be either the result of escapes from captivity, or due to birds hitching a ride on a passing ship. A December 2018 BirdGuides article about the individual concluded that the bird's origins "are still clearly up in the air ... This bird's presence has been widely discussed both in literature and online, and it's arguably surprising that an owner hasn't yet come forward to claim it. Perhaps its origins don't lie in Britain after all". The crow confounded predictions of an onward trip to South Wales, or even a return to East Yorkshire, instead choosing to return to the North Devon mainland, where it was seen in Morthoe on 25 Apr, then neighbouring Woolacombe on 26th, where it was still present on 29th, affording excellent views along the sea front.

For more about the Pied Crow, including a video-clip taken by Dean, visit the Lundybirds blog at <http://lundybirds.blogspot.com/2019/04/23rd-apr-pied-crow.html>.

THREE BIRDS NEW TO LUNDY

CATTLE EGRET

Dean Woodfin Jones

Since my arrival on Lundy in the winter of 2017, I have been birding nearly every day in the hope that at some point I'd be fortunate enough to find a first for the island. Luckily for me, on 24th March I had the whole day off from office duties so I thought I'd make the most of the good weather and spend the day walking around the entire length of Lundy's coastline in search of birds.

Here I hoped to see some nice migrants such as Ring Ouzel and Black Redstart between the buttresses and bays, as well as seabirds returning to breeding ledges and, if lucky, a few colour-ringed Wheatears back from their wintering ground in sub-Saharan Africa.

I had got up before sunrise, awaking to a day of chilly north-easterlies, beautiful clear skies and excellent visibility. With my island wrap-arounds, I usually start at Castle Parade and make my way along the west with the light behind me, then back along the east as the sun shifts overhead.

As I approached the end of the Parade I noticed a medium-sized white heron sheltering from the winds on the rocks behind the Lametor. I remember saying to myself, "wow a Little Egret, what a smashing Lundy scarcity to start the day!". I had seen Little Egret in pretty much the exact same spot as this bird in 2017, as well as one of my most memorable and exciting Lundy finds, a Black-crowned Night Heron – the fourth record for the island. Then after further examination I realised that something was a tad off about this egret. Through my bins the bird looked stockier, more compact in build and with a fairly short neck and bill – unlike Little Egret. I got my scope up to get a better look: thick, pinkish legs – not black with yellow feet as in Little Egret – and an all yellow bill. I had found Lundy's first Cattle Egret!

The bird was well tucked up, obviously not enjoying the weather. In fact the bird barely moved at all during the length of the observation, other than a few wiggles and adjustments to avoid spray from the sea as it crashed into the rocks below. From here I enjoyed the bird for around 15 minutes or so before I needed to shoot off for my long walk around the island.

These rocks at low tide are seemingly a magic spot for 'lost' herons and one I always make an effort to visit, particularly during an unpleasant northerly wind and a good low tide in spring. Dreaming on, I wondered what would be the next heron species I see here. Great White Egret or Purple Heron maybe? Or maybe something truly ridiculous like Great Blue Heron. On Lundy anything can happen!

Lundy's first Cattle Egret, Lametor, 24th March (photo: Dean Jones).



SQUACCO HERON

Dean Woodfin Jones

The morning of 25th May started off in a bit of a whirlwind with a few hours of birding in Millcombe in the morning, followed by preparations for an early ship arriving from Bideford. This day was a special one however, as I had some noteworthy guests arriving to monitor some of the island's breeding birds – Luke Sutton and Seb Loram.

Post-arrival of the ship, we headed straight to the North End of the island to look for birds, planning to then slowly make our way back south towards to the *Oldenburg* by the end of the day. We had just made it to the southern end of Gannets' Bay when all of sudden I heard a group of Oystercatchers making a racket close to the shore. As we looked down from our lofty granite ledge, we saw five Oystercatchers chasing a rather large, tawny-buff brown bird close in to the shore of the bay. My heart started racing! Luckily the bird ended up landing on a big slab of granite next to the low shore just below us. After a second or so – lifting my binoculars – a rush of excitement and momentary disbelief ran over me. I was looking at a Squacco Heron!

Despite the harassment from the Oystercatchers, the bird managed to get some rest for a couple of minutes, enough time for me to get my scope on it and to obtain some 'iffy' but important record shots, and of course for Luke and Seb to get onto the bird. Then, coaxed by the still ticked-off Oystercatchers, the heron sneaked off behind some large boulders and out of view. After around five minutes or so, the bird emerged from its rocky hideout and was seen flying off towards Gannets' Rock with the five Oystercatchers in hot pursuit! A truly fantastic-looking bird, particularly in flight with its beautiful snowy white wings and tail, features not seen when the bird was perched.

The heron remained on the island for a total of eight days, seen once more a few days after this initial sighting along the east coast. From 28th May the bird then settled for four days around Rat Island, allowing some superb prolonged views during appropriate tides. The bird even managed to get a little 'twitch' going on the 30th as it sat in full view opposite the Jetty, to the delight of the newly disembarked day-trippers and bird-ringing team.

This was easily one of the highlights from what was an outstanding season for rare birds on Lundy – and an encounter I will never forget.

Dean's finding of the Cattle Egret and the Squacco Heron, together with Martin Elcoate's discovery of the Isabelline Wheatear (see overleaf), brings the number of bird species recorded on Lundy by the end of 2019 to 331. Ed.

Lundy's first Squacco Heron, Rat Island, 25th May (photo: Dean Jones).



ISABELLINE WHEATEAR – A FIRST FOR LUNDY AND DEVON

Martin Elcoate

On 12 October 2019 I travelled to Lundy with Tim Davis, James Diamond and Tim Jones to spend my first ever week on the island. Each day had its own theme, with the theme for 18 October being force 8 south-westerly winds and heavy rain showers. The only sensible birding options were seawatching and working the East Side lower slopes.

At 16:00 hrs I headed down the Beach Road where TD had seen a Short-eared Owl. As I walked back up, and just before reaching Smelly Gully, a wheatear flew across the road and landed above me. The bird hunkered down on a rock, sheltering from the gale. I was struck by its pale brown uniform colour, with the dark alula [a tiny feather on the leading edge of the wings] standing out. Alarm bells rang! However, it did not strike me as an obvious Isabelline Wheatear. I had no experience of this species and I could only recall pictures of tall, slim, long-legged birds on short turf.



I quickly took a few photographs. Being a digital camera, there is a delay between taking a photograph and returning to a live view. The wheatear flew while I took the last photograph so I didn't see where it had gone. Unable to relocate the bird, I sought help. TJ arrived quickly but we could not relocate it. I searched the headland above Beach Road, but the wind was such that it made standing difficult. The bird was either sheltering among the boulders and vegetation on the slope or had been caught in the wind. It was not seen again and I had watched it for less than five minutes.

With limited bird identification resources to hand, we (TJ, JD and myself) thought the body and upper-wing plumage looked good for Isabelline, but were concerned by the structure and head pattern. It was only the following day that I received comments on Twitter that I may have found an Isabelline. After spending the next few days researching and analysing my photographs, everything pointed towards Isabelline Wheatear. The record has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee as the first for Lundy and Devon.

Descriptive notes

- The wheatear lacked any rusty tones to the tertials, secondaries and coverts. The colour of these feather tracts was cold, pale brown without any obvious black or dark brown markings on the closed wing. The secondaries appeared to have pale fringes. The bird appeared concolourous above, with only the primaries and alula standing out as dark feathers. Underparts were concolourous (and paler than the upperparts) other than a slightly brighter tone on the flanks.
- The head pattern was consistent with photographs of Isabelline, albeit at the less distinct end of the spectrum. The supercilium, such as there was, was restricted to before the eye and contrasted with the dark lores.
- The wing and tail proportions were entirely consistent with Isabelline, with primary projection equal to the exposed tertials and wings only reaching level with the tip of the undertail-coverts.
- My photograph of the tail pattern in flight wasn't conclusive but seemed to demonstrate a black band equal in width to the white rump/undertail coverts. The images of the closed tail also seemed to show a deep black terminal tail band, approximately two-thirds of the outer-tail feathers.
- The only key feature not noted was the underwing, which was always going to be a challenge given the brief views.

BIRD RINGING ON LUNDY

Tony Taylor (*ammataylor@yahoo.co.uk*)

Visiting ringers were on Lundy for four-and-a-half weeks from mid-April to mid-May, catching spring migrants. Though weather conditions were changeable, more than 1,300 birds were ringed at this stage. These were mainly warblers, with Blackcaps making up over half of them.

Three weeks in late May and early June were spent on the long-term Wheatear study, together with some night-time Manx Shearwater ringing. Then over 16 days in late August and early September there was more shearwater ringing, along with some productive targeting of Storm Petrels by night and autumn migrants by day. Migrants were then ringed during the last two weeks of September and three days in late October.

A total of 3,042 birds were ringed in 2019. This was an increase compared to 2018, with large numbers of migrant passerines more than compensating for a comparatively low number of Manx Shearwaters; and in spite of the disappointing shearwater total, other nocturnal work resulted in a record 61 Storm Petrels being ringed, as part of the effort to understand their breeding population on Lundy.

Blackcap topped the totals list for the third year in a row, with 719 ringed. Swallow (517), Willow Warbler (431), Chiffchaff (224) and Goldcrest (211) were all caught in greater numbers than in 2018, while Sedge Warbler (117) and Whitethroat (77) showed the most notable increases. In both cases these are the highest totals since 2000, with average annual catches over the intervening 18 years of just 38 and 25 respectively.

The headline rarities were the remarkable five Subalpine Warblers ringed in spring, bringing Lundy's all-time total for the species to 13. Also of note was a Cetti's Warbler, just the fourth to be ringed on the island, while a Little Bunting, a Nightingale and an Icterine Warbler brought their respective totals to seven, 11 and 19. Two Common Rosefinches were added to the 30 ringed in previous years.

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. A record 55 Wheatears were newly colour-ringed, and 46 birds colour-ringed in previous years were re-sighted within the study area. One other bird bred outside the area and so does not contribute to the official data, but he is the oldest known Lundy Wheatear, at eight years.

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.

*Male Wheatear, West Side, 24th March
(photo: Dean Jones).*



In all, 49 different species were ringed during 2019, the highest number since 2012. The year's ringing totals are shown opposite. As the equivalent table in the 2018 Annual Report omitted a column from the original list, a corrected version is also included here.

MANX SHEARWATERS

A combination of weather conditions, the timing of the shearwater breeding season and the dates of ringing visits to the breeding slopes all affect the number of adults and chicks ringed. Circumstances in 2019 resulted in fewer birds being caught, even though the colonies were clearly thriving. Totals of 141 chicks and 93 adults were newly ringed, and 62 different ringed adults were recaptured one or more times. These included seven birds originally ringed as chicks. Four were from 2015 and 2016, returning at an age when they would be looking for burrows and mates, but birds from 2008, 2011 and 2013 were old enough to be breeders.

There was increased uptake of the shearwater nestboxes, with five occupied. Nine different adults were found in them, and six of these birds had been ringed in previous years. Two were the returning pair that originally bred in 2017, but unfortunately they failed at the late egg or early chick stage in 2019. Two other pairs laid eggs and reared their chicks successfully.

STORM PETRELS

Like Manx Shearwaters, Storm Petrels breed in burrows which they only enter or leave under cover of darkness. They are also much smaller than shearwaters, and almost entirely black, so finding and monitoring them is a considerable challenge. In an effort to discover more about their breeding population on Lundy, petrels were targeted with mist-nets in late August, at night, on the slope at the North End where they had been heard calling from burrows in 2017 and 2018.

At this site 76 birds were caught in 2019, 29 of them without the use of a sound lure. While sound lures result in bigger catches, they can attract large numbers of wandering birds that are not local breeders. So the strategy at the colony was to start each visit without using lures, then use them later in the night to boost numbers, noting which birds were caught in which phase. Twelve of the birds caught in 2019 had originally been ringed at the same site in 2017 or 2018, and in some cases were caught twice in the same year, so these are likely to be local breeders. Several birds were carrying very full crops of food, suggesting they were visiting burrows with chicks.

Another ten birds were caught in mist-nets on slopes between Old Light and the Battery. Nine of these were caught while sound lures were playing, and one individual was caught again the next night at the North End. As it did not have a well-developed brood patch, it was almost certainly a wandering pre-breeder. However, studies at other sites suggest that the opposite cannot be assumed: some birds develop brood patches before reaching breeding age.

Though population studies of petrel breeding colonies are very challenging, it is hoped that repeat visits to the North End site in future years will gradually shed light on what is happening there.

One bird caught north of Old Light and six at the North End had been ringed elsewhere, showing the extent to which some petrels wander during the breeding season. Two had come from County Cork in south-west Ireland, one from the south-west tip of Cornwall, one from North Devon and the rest from Pembrokeshire. Four of them had been ringed within the previous six weeks.

A remarkable record came from the Channel Islands, where the Storm Petrel ringed as a chick on Lundy in 2014 was mist-netted at a breeding colony, without the use of a sound lure. It will be fascinating to see if it is a settled breeder and is caught there again, or whether it just made a fleeting visit.

Full details of all these Storm Petrel ringing controls are given on p.88.

LUNDY RINGING TOTALS

	2018	2019		2018	2019
Woodpigeon	1	2	Song Thrush	6	3
Storm Petrel	37	61	Spotted Flycatcher	5	24
Manx Shearwater	(361) 521	(141) 234	Robin	34	32
Sparrowhawk	1		Nightingale		1
G S Woodpecker	1		Pied Flycatcher	6	7
Coal Tit		1	Redstart	2	4
Skylark	(3) 4		Stonechat	2	8
Sand Martin	2	15	Wheatear	(9) 41	(4) 60
Swallow	461	517	House Sparrow	36	27
House Martin	7	11	Duncock	21	19
Cetti's Warbler		1	Grey Wagtail	1	
Wood Warbler		1	Pied Wagtail	1	
Pallas's Warbler	1		Meadow Pipit	41	24
Yellow-browed Warbler	5	1	Tree Pipit		4
Willow Warbler	325	431	Rock Pipit	1	1
Chiffchaff	185	224	Brambling	2	2
Sedge Warbler	26	117	Chaffinch	32	32
Reed Warbler	3	8	Bullfinch	1	
Icterine Warbler		1	Common Rosefinch		2
Grasshopper Warbler		6	Greenfinch	1	1
Blackcap	563	719	Linnet	12	10
Garden Warbler	4	8	Lesser Redpoll	11	2
Lesser Whitethroat		3	Goldfinch	161	56
Whitethroat	7	77	Siskin	1	
Subalpine Warbler		5	Little Bunting		1
Firecrest	5	6	Reed Bunting	1	
Goldcrest	96	211			
Wren	11	31	Total	2,724	3,042
Treecreeper		1	Number of species	45	49
Starling		1			
Blackbird	14	22			
Redwing	25	7			

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

Willow Warbler, Millcombe, 29th April (photo: Dean Jones).



RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

In addition to the Storm Petrels described above, 14 other ringed birds showed movements to or from Lundy in 2019. Most of these birds' movements fit well with expected migration routes involving western Britain, Ireland, western France and, in the case of one Blackcap, on into Spain.

One particularly noteworthy record involves a Goldfinch that was ringed in the extreme south-west of Ireland in late April, when most pairs are settled and have already reached the egg-laying stage. By late August it was on Lundy, where it was caught along with two recently fledged young. That late in the breeding season, they would be from a second or perhaps a third brood of the year. What had prompted this adult to move more than 300 km at some stage between those dates?

Another interesting record is of a Guillemot, ringed as a chick on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, in 2013 and seen on Lundy in June 2019. It was not breeding, but had reached an age when it was likely to be looking for a breeding site and mate. It is unusual for Guillemots to breed away from their natal colony.

There is also a Willow Warbler record from 1995 that has recently come to light. It was not flagged up as a control at the time, and has now been discovered during the ongoing process of digitising old ringing records.

Details of all these birds are given below.

Storm Petrel 2473747 – ringed as an adult at Hartland Point, Devon, 3.8.19. Controlled on Lundy, 27.8.19 (24 days; 26 km; **direction** NNW, **bearing** 333°).

Storm Petrel 2580670 – ringed as a pullus on Lundy, 5.10.14. Controlled on Burhou Island, Alderney, CHANNEL ISLANDS, 27.7.19 (1,756 days; 235 km; SE, 134°).

Storm Petrel 2685874 – ringed as an adult on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, 30.7.14. Controlled on Lundy, 28.8.19 (1,855 days; 70 km; SE, 144°).

Storm Petrel 2714564 – ringed as an adult at Hot Point, The Lizard, Cornwall, 22.6.17. Controlled on Lundy, 23.8.19 (792 days; 142 km; NNE, 15°).

Storm Petrel 2742211 – ringed as an adult at Wootack Point, Marloes, Pembrokeshire, 16.7.19. Controlled on Lundy, 23.8.19 (38 days; 72 km; SE, 147°).

Storm Petrel 2735527 – ringed as an adult at Old Head of Kinsale, Cork, IRELAND, 22.7.18. Controlled on Lundy, 27.8.19 (401 days; 273 km; ESE, 101°).

Storm Petrel 2745285 – ringed as an adult on Cape Clear Island, Cork, IRELAND, 17.8.19. Controlled on Lundy, 27.8.19 (10 days; 337 km; E, 95°).

Storm Petrel 2746457 – ringed as an adult on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, 2.8.19. Controlled on Lundy, 26.8.19 (24 days; 72 km; SE, 144°).

Guillemot N05511, with red colour-ring, engraved 0114 – ringed as a pullus on Skomer Island, Pembrokeshire, 8.7.13. Re-sighted on Lundy, 26.6.19 (2,179 days; 76 km; SE, 145°).

Goldcrest LRV011 – ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 23.9.19. Controlled at Keyhaven Marshes, Hampshire, 17.11.19 (55 days; 223 km; ESE, 103°).

Willow Warbler KYN356 – ringed as a first-year bird on Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, 30.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 29.4.19 (242 days; 74 km; SE, 145°).

Blackcap AYD2111 – ringed as a first-year female at Beachy Head, East Sussex, 22.9.18. Controlled on Lundy, 5.5.19 (225 days; 348 km; W, 278°).

Blackcap ABB7781 – ringed as a first-year female on Lundy, 13.9.18. Found dead (not fresh; hit wires) at Socuéllamos, Ciudad Real, SPAIN, 22.11.19 (435 days; 1329 km; S, 174°).

Lesser Whitethroat AAC9100 – ringed as a first-year bird at Kilpaison Marsh, Rhoscrowther, Pembrokeshire, 30.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 23.4.19 (236 days; 62 km; SSE, 155°).

Sedge Warbler Paris 7447202 – ringed as an adult female at Le Bonhomme, St-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE, 5.8.15. Controlled on Lundy, 30.4.19 (1364 days; 505 km; NNW, 335°).

Sedge Warbler ADB7438 – ringed as a first-year bird at South Milton Ley, Devon, 9.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 7.5.19 (271 days; 116 km; NNW, 331°).

Sedge Warbler 8372245 – ringed as a first-year bird at Tour aux Moutons, Donges, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE, 15.9.18. Controlled on Lundy, 7.5.19 (234 days; 468 km; NNW, 337°).

Sedge Warbler S730803 – ringed as a first-year bird at Lough Beg, Ringaskiddy, Cork, IRELAND, 3.9.18. Controlled on Lundy, 10.5.19 (249 days; 263 km; ESE, 106°).

Sedge Warbler 8298291 – ringed as a first-year bird at Mars-Ouest, Saint-Philbert-de-Grand-Lieu, Loire-Atlantique, FRANCE, 6.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 14.5.19 (281 days; 500 km; NNW, 335°).

Sedge Warbler 8752046 – ringed as a first-year bird at Sandouville, Seine-Maritime, FRANCE, 30.8.18. Controlled on Lundy, 7.5.19 (250 days; 400 km; WNW, 298°).

Reed Warbler S498854 – ringed as a first-year bird at Blackers Rock, Lough Neagh, Tyrone, N. IRELAND, 13.8.17. Controlled on Lundy, 6.5.19 (631 days; 404 km; SSE, 162°).

Goldfinch AVA4847 – ringed as an adult male on Cape Clear Island, Cork, IRELAND, 22.4.19. Controlled on Lundy, 24.8.19 (124 days; 338 km; E, 96°).

Lundy ringing control 1995 (details received in 2019)

Willow Warbler 3L5103 – ringed as an adult bird at South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, 17.8.1994. Controlled on Lundy, 9.4.1995 (235 days; 334 km; SSW, 198°).



FAUNA AND FLORA RECORDS (for groups other than birds)

The following reports have been compiled by the recorders for each group of taxa. The records summarised have been 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 entries will have been checked with the originators.

WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES

Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones

The most frequently reported 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. As in 2017 and 2018, the number of days with sightings from the island of Harbour Porpoise exceeded those of Common Dolphin (respectively 33 Harbour Porpoises in 2017, 25 in 2018 and 26 in 2019, and 14 Common Dolphins in 2017, 19 in 2018 and 14 in 2019). Bottlenose Dolphins appear to be infrequent visitors to Lundy (there is believed to be one pod of about 28 individuals in South West England: Ruth Williams, South West Bottlenose Dolphin Consortium, pers. comm.), with two sightings in 2016, one sighting of two individuals in 2017, no sightings in 2018 and, in 2019, one sighting from the island of nine individuals.

MARINElife place a Wildlife Officer on MS *Oldenburg* on trips to and from Lundy generally once a week and, in 2019, from early April to the end of October. They report cetaceans seen on passage. The records are not strictly 'at Lundy' but are relevant to report separately. There were 24 passages with observations in 2019, with: one to four Harbour Porpoises on seven passages; one to five Common Dolphins on each of 13 passages, but more than 25 on 22 Jun and 32 in two groups on 14 Sep; and five Bottlenose Dolphins on 18 May and two on 25 May.

Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*

2 Aug – one off North End came from the north and was seen surfacing before its direction shifted to the west, after which it was seen to surface another four times (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton).

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

The first recorded observation was on 10 Jan when ten were seen feeding off the East Side (Dean Jones). On 18 Jun, large shoals of 'bait fish' were seen along the west coast, attracting thousands of seabirds and over 60 Common Dolphins, including many young individuals (Dean Jones). Otherwise, maximum numbers seen from the island on any one occasion were c.23 (in two pods) on 2 Aug (Dean

Common Dolphins, 12th October (photographed from Oldenburg by Steve McAusland, MARINElife).



Jones & Zoë Barton) and 25-30 off South West Point moving north on 28 Aug (Tony Taylor). A series of timed observations were made from Castle Parade by Chris and Sharron Blackmore between 8 & 20 Jul. In all, records were logged on 14 days, with the last on 17 October. Thanks also to Andrew Bengely, Siân Cann, Mandy Dee, Andy Jayne, M Jones, Tim Jones and Steve McAusland.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

12 Jun – nine were off the West Side, approximately between Quarter Wall and Threequarter Wall. “Some social interaction was apparent at the surface: ‘lobtailing’ with occasional upward tail flick, flipping some surface water into the air, several high leaps ... after initial interest, seabirds ignored the dolphins – maybe suggesting their activity was not related to feeding” (Chris & Carol Baillie).

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Observations were logged on 26 days. There were records on five dates in Jan from various locations (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton), the next records in the middle two weeks of July when Chris and Sharron Blackmore made timed observations from Castle Parade and additional observations off the west coast. Porpoises were mostly present in small numbers but a pod of seven was observed off North End on 2 Aug (Dean Jones & Zoë Barton). Sometimes seen with calves. The last record of the year was of two around the Hen & Chickens on 21 Dec. Thanks also to John-Paul Healey and Paul Thompson.

SEALS

Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones

Grey Seal *Haliocoerus grypus*

The following records are taken from the LFS logbook and a monitoring report, ‘Atlantic Grey Seal *Haliocoerus grypus* population and productivity studies in 2019’, prepared by Dean Jones.

There were 33 logbook observations of seals from 3 Feb to 19 Dec. Grey Seals are observed frequently and are considered always present. Records of high counts or behavioural observations were:

2 May – 37 on the East Side, “some ‘playing’ with two Barrel Jellyfish” (Tim Davis & Tim Jones).

1 Jul – 154 counted on a round-the-island trip (Dean Jones).

3 Aug – many swimming near Pilot’s Quay/Half tide Rock, including one “playing with a pink/orange object that was probably fishing gear of some sort” (Cassandra Phillips).

4 Aug – 194 hauled out from Virgin’s Spring around to Surf Point (Dean Jones).

25 Aug – an “altercation between a juvenile gull trying to steal from a seal only to get pulled underwater and possibly losing part of its wing” (Martin Thorne).

Thanks also to Mike Amble, Chris & Sharron Blackmore, Liz Davies, Chris Dee, Kev Flack, John-Paul Healy, Paddy Keith, JME Morris, Denis Mullen, Brigitte Needs, Chris Pawson, S Saben, Jan Swan, Ann Taylor, Paul Thompson, Ruth Wilcode and M & I Woollacott.

From the monitoring report:

- The distribution of seals around Lundy is heavily influenced by both weather and sea state. The highest number of animals hauled out from the 46 monitoring sub-sections was from the Mousehole and Trap area on 4 Aug – here 45 individuals were counted on the rocks immediately below the buttress. The rocks and small islets at Puffin Slope and Kittiwake Gully were found to be the most popular throughout the study period (a mean of 17 animals throughout the season).
- The highest count of seals on one day was 206 animals (125 females, 34 males, 29 juveniles, three weaners, seven white-coat pups and nine adults of unknown sex) on 15 Sep – 35 more animals than the mean highest counts since 2006.
- The first pup of 2019 occurred on 28 Jul in Gannets’ Bay (Rob & Sue Waterfield) – 21 days earlier than the first of 2018 (18 Aug at Ladies’ Beach).
- A total of 43 individual white-coat pups were recorded in 2019, 17 more pups than in both 2018 and 2017.

- Dead pups were seen floating offshore, some near cave entrances in the north-east, which if alive may not have been accounted for in 2019. The general impression was that the level of mortality of young pups was rather high, with a least 11 (26% of all pups) being found dead during the season.
- Three records of entanglement were recorded, involving three different animals (six in 2018) ensnared with discarded fishing equipment (one adult male, one adult female and one juvenile).

MARINE FISHES

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. The number of Basking Shark sightings continues to be low and corresponds to a reduction in sightings since 2013 throughout South West England. After no records in 2018 (there were low/no records at locations throughout the South West), the three records of Sunfish in 2019 are notable.

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

7 Jul – one between the jetty and Rat Island, viewed from Castle Parade (Sue Sharkie-Hurrell).

Sunfish *Mola mola*

10 Jul – one c.150 m north-east of the Landing Beach seen in a 'lapping swim' north-east to just beyond the jetty (Chris & Sharron Blackmore).

1 Aug – one near the jetty (Rob Waterfield and Mike Jones).

9 Aug – one off North End (Dean Jones).

Sea Stickleback (Fifteen-spined Stickleback) *Spinachia spinachia*

4 May – two with nests observed on the jetty: one at the seaward end on one of the vertical pilings and another on one of the cross members (Tim Mountjoy). Sticklebacks are only occasionally observed and records of nests are rare.

Yarrell's Blenny *Chirolophis ascanii*

1 Jun – one on the MV *Robert*, in a pipe. A northern species (Tim Mountjoy).

A Sea Stickleback with the start of a nest entangled in green seaweed (photo: Tim Mountjoy).



MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Keith Hiscock and Dean Woodfin Jones

As in 2018, records of marine invertebrates have been separated into **Gelatinous plankton** and **Shore and seabed**. For 2019, a separate category for **Ocean surface drifters and strandings** has been initiated. For 'Shore and seabed', the 2018 Annual Report provides an account of species that are (and were in 2019) normally encountered during 'rockpool rambles' and 'snorkel safaris' and those that had been reported from subtidal habitats. Here, we feature records 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, 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.

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

A siphonophore (string jelly) *Nanomia cara*

3 Jun – abundant off the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

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

Many-ribbed Jellyfish *Aequorea* sp.

21 Jun – two in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

A hydrozoan *Neoturris pileata*

3 Jun – one near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

A hydrozoan *Neoturris* sp.

21 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

25 Jun – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

5 Jul – one in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

A hydromedusa ?*Clytia hemisphaerica*

20 Apr – one in a rockpool (Dean Jones).

CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

Barrel Jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus*

Recorded on 16 days between 22 Mar and 8 Nov. Mostly individuals or a few from walks along the east coast but 10+ on 27 Mar off Quarry Beach (Malcolm Lee), 23 from the Landing Bay to Quarter Wall Bay on 19 Apr (Dean Jones) and 'loads about' on 21 Apr (Appledore Sub-Aqua Club Facebook). Thanks also to Chris & Sharron Blackmore, Siân Cann, Belinda Cox, Annette Dutton, Rosie Ellis, Samantha Nieto and E & S O'Donnell.

Blue Jellyfish *Cyanea lamarckii*

10 Apr – about 10 small in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

4 May – about 100 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

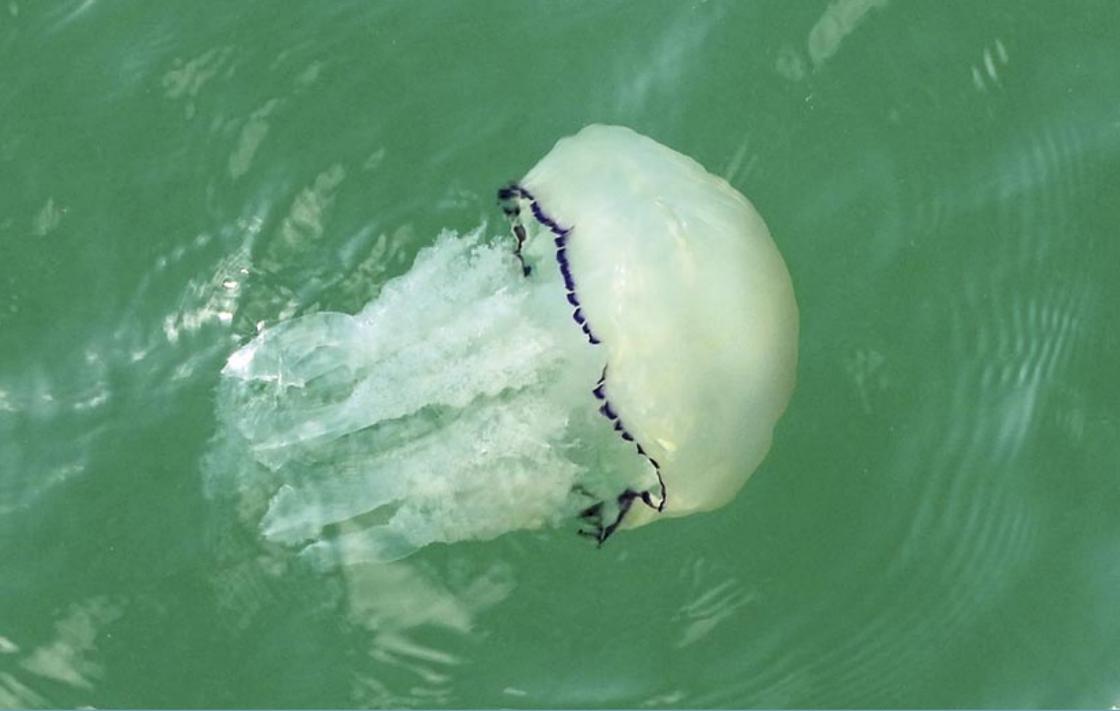
6 Jun – one with a small gadoid hiding in the tentacles (Dean Jones).

21 Jun – about 20 in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – seven in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Moon Jellyfish *Aurelia aurita*

23 Apr – a large individual (c.30 cm across) in the Landing Bay (Belinda Cox).



Barrel Jellyfish, Landing Bay, 19th October (photo: Annette Dutton, MARINElife).

21 Jun – about 60 near the jetty (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – about 100 seen from the jetty (Dean Jones).

Compass Jellyfish *Chrysaora hysoscella*

21 Jun – three north of Rat Island (Dean Jones).

2 Jul – 12 seen from the jetty (Dean Jones).

CTENOPHORA

Melon Comb Jelly *Beroë cucumis*

21 Jun – two near the jetty (Dean Jones).

Northern Comb Jelly *Bolinopsis infundibulum*

3 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones).

Sea Gooseberry *Pleurobrachia pileus*

3 Jun – small numbers near the jetty (Dean Jones & Mike Jones).

6 May – small numbers in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

OCEAN SURFACE DRIFTERS AND STRANDINGS

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

By-the-wind Sailor *Velevella velella*

8 Sep – three washed up next to Rat Island (Dean Jones) – see photo opposite.

15 Sep – present next to the jetty (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – nine washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Portuguese Man O' War *Physalia physalis*

21 Oct – Ten washed up in the Landing Bay and one floating off Miller's Cake (Dean Jones).

CRUSTACEA

Common Goose Barnacle *Lepas anatifera*

17 Mar – six on a piece of polystyrene at the top of Jenny's Cove (Dean Jones).

13 Jun – about 150 on a washed-up buoy (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – 20 washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

Buoy Barnacle *Dosima fascicularis*

15 Sep – a clump washed up on a piece of plastic next to the jetty (Dean Jones).

21 Oct – seven washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones).

MOLLUSCA

Cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis*

13 Jun – 'lots' of cuttlefish 'bones' washed up in the Landing Bay (Dean Jones). [*Cuttlefish have, in the past, been rarely seen at Lundy.*]

SEASHORE AND SEABED

Sightings on seashores and subtidal zones of unusual species or those that indicate breeding times.

CNIDARIA: HYDROZOA

A hydroid *Candelabrum cocksii*

18 Sep – two at Devil's Kitchen (Dean Jones). [*See the 2018 report for significance, although it seems that the species is being reported more frequently in recent years in South West England.*]

CNIDARIA: ANTHOZOA

Scarlet and Gold Star Coral *Balanophyllia regia*

20 Apr – counts at the two monitoring sites on the lowest shore at Devil's Kitchen recorded c.48 at the eastern site and c.110 at the western site (c.32 and 72 respectively in 2018). At the lower midshore pool where slate had fallen away in the 2013/14 storms, c.19 were counted (20 in 2018). Also noted were a few pin-head sized corals at both lower shore sites. It was estimated that 90% of all the cup corals were more than 2 mm diameter (Dean Jones).

Devonshire Cup Coral *Caryophyllia smithii*

20 Apr – seven at the eastern monitoring site and one at the western site (see above) (Dean Jones).

By-the-wind Sailor, Rat Island, 8th September (photo: Dean Jones).



FRESHWATER FISH

Jennifer George

The freshwater fish in the Lundy ponds are members of the carp family that were introduced by the island owner, Martin Coles Harman (1929-54) during the early years of his tenure. Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus*, Crucian Carp *Carassius carassius*, Mirror Carp *Cyprinus carpio carpio*, Tench *Tinca tinca* and Rudd *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* have all been recorded in the larger ponds since the 1970s.

Today Golden Orfe can be seen in Quarry Pond and in May 2019, 57 were observed by Tim Jones and Tim Davis who recorded 20 golden adults and 37 juveniles. There is a fairly large population of Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond and in June 2019 a shoal of 30 fish was observed by Alan Rowland. Rudd have not been seen since September 2006 when about 100 were found in Quarterwall Pond. The pond was drying up during an autumn drought and Roger Fursdon transferred them to Rocket Pole Pond. The numbers surviving are unknown.

An interesting discovery of 39 dead European Eel *Anguilla anguilla* elvers in early April 2019 was made by Philip and Helen Lymbery outside Brambles Villa. The young eels were evidently trying to reach St John's Stream and possibly succumbed to the cold weather at that time. Eels and elvers have been observed in rock pools in the Devil's Kitchen area in past years and they obviously find their way up the island via St John's Stream. In September 2017, a mature eel was found in Millcombe Pond whilst it was being cleared out by the Lundy Conservation Team.

There has been practically no monitoring of the fish in the Lundy ponds, so it would be helpful if visitors and staff could enter numbers of any fish seen – particularly Golden Orfe in Quarry Pond and Mirror Carp in Rocket Pole Pond – in the LFS logbook.

Golden Orfe swimming amidst reflections on a bright sunny day in Quarry Pond in May 2018 and (inset) a Mirror Carp which was taken from Rocket Pole Pond in a net and photographed in a dish under water to show the unevenly spaced mirror-like scales that are characteristic of this species (Common Carp has a regular, evenly spaced scale pattern). The fish was returned alive to the pond. (Photos: Jennifer George).



INTRODUCED REPTILES / NATIVE & FERAL LAND MAMMALS / BATS

Chris Dee

There are no native reptiles on Lundy but Slow-worms *Anguis fragilis* 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. There were no records in 2019, but the species is probably under-recorded and members are encouraged to note all sightings in the LFS logbook.

Native Land Mammals

Lundy has just one native terrestrial mammal, Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*, which is widely distributed across the island and can be found throughout the year. It is probably associated with most properties and in 2019 was reported from Old Light Upper, Hammers, Bramble Villa East, Castle Cottage, Castle Keep South and Tibbetts. Away from human habitation there have been sightings at Ackland's Moor, the Ugly, Millcombe, Brick Field, Rocket Pole, Tent Field and the Terrace.

Feral Land Mammals

The populations of feral ungulates continue to be monitored and numbers controlled in accordance with the island's terrestrial management plan. The annual island-wide stock count was undertaken from 26-28 March. These early spring surveys provide the best estimation of numbers, but extra counts by visitors are useful for the record.

Sika Deer *Cervus nippon*

The stock count estimated a population of 99 individuals, comprising four stags, 15 prickets, 65 hinds/yearlings and 15 calves (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). A cull in October reduced the population by one.

Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count estimated 228 individuals, comprising 40 rams, 182 ewes and six lambs (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). A total of 93 individuals were removed by the cull in October.

Goat *Capra aegagrus*

Goats continue to be actively discouraged south of Quarter Wall to reduce grazing pressure on Lundy Cabbage and the slow-growing woody vegetation in Millcombe. The stock count found 30 individuals, comprising nine billies, 15 nannies and six kids (various observers, *per* Dean Jones). The cull in October reduced the population by four.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Rabbit numbers remain low as a result of disease (Myxomatosis / Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease) but continue to show signs of a slow recovery, with only one dead animal noted. Individuals or small groups were reported from widespread locations across the island, including North End, Jenny's Cove, Pilot's Quay and Castle Hill.

Bats

Bats are occasionally observed on Lundy and are usually assumed to be one of the native pipistrelle species: Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* or Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*. Only three sightings were reported: from the Village (Dean Jones) on 26 Jul, Millcombe (Rob Waterfield) on 11 Aug, and two in Millcombe (A J Bellamy, Peter Slader & Nik Ward) on 7 Sep.

Footnote. A letter from Felix Gade to Martin Coles Harman dated 15 August 1930, found in archive material donated to the LFS by Diana Keast, expresses the view that the introduced Red Squirrels *Sciurus vulgaris* were no longer alive on Lundy.

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Jennifer George

Monitoring of the Lundy pond and stream invertebrates has been carried out by Alan Rowland, who in 2019 mainly studied the more temporary ponds – Government House Pond and Kistvaen Pond – as well as Millcombe Pond and St John's Stream at Brambles and Millcombe.

In October 2019 the pond adjacent to Brambles was re-established by the Lundy Conservation Team. A survey three weeks later in early November showed that at least three species had reached the pond, probably from St John's Stream: 25 Jenkins' Spire Snails *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, one Dytiscid diving beetle larva and one small worm of the family Naididae.

The offshore island form of the crustacean Water Slater *Proasellus meridianus* (photo A below) that occurs in many of the larger ponds on the island was also found in the smaller temporary ponds. It can obviously survive the seasonal drying-up of these ponds, probably by burrowing into the mud at the roots of the aquatic plants. It is closely related to the British terrestrial wood louse that inhabits dark damp places.



(A) Water Slater *Proasellus meridianus* – a bottom-dweller which crawls amongst debris and dead leaves. Here it is photographed in a dish to show the characteristic white colouration pattern on its head that distinguishes it from the more common mainland form *Proasellus aquaticus* (photo: Alan Rowland); (B) a caddis larva *Diplectrona felix* – a stream-dweller that has no case. It catches its food, mainly organic debris and plant material, in a silk net that it builds between stones in the bottom of the stream (photo: Alan Rowland); (C) an adult diving beetle of the Dytiscidae family. This large beetle is well adapted for swimming, with its streamlined body and legs fringed with strong swimming hairs. It is a voracious carnivore feeding on other invertebrates, tadpoles and even small fish (photo: John Clegg); (D) a Lesser Water Boatman *Corixa* sp. With its oar-like legs fringed with hairs, it is often found amongst water plants. Most species feed on algae and plant debris but some also feed on small invertebrates (photo: John Clegg).



Brambles Pond in November 2019 (photo: Alan Rowland).

Flatworms (Platyhelminthes) were found in the temporary ponds and St John's Stream. The Microturbellarian *Dalyellia viridis* was found in numbers in Kistvaen Pond; individuals have previously been found on just two occasions in Ackland's Moor Pond. This small flatworm has green algal cells, *Chlorella*, in its tissues, providing it with oxygen which obviously contributes to its survival in anaerobic conditions that can occur in temporary ponds. *Dalyellia* predates on small crustacean water fleas and copepods and chironomid midge larvae that also occur in Kistvaen Pond.

Large numbers of Jenkins' Spire Snail occurred in Government House Pond in the winter months and also in St John's Stream at Brambles. In his 1993 survey, Peter Long found this small mollusc in many of the streams on the island and it is no surprise that it was found in the re-established Brambles Pond in November.

Insects, particularly water bugs (Hemiptera), water beetles (Coleoptera) and non-biting midge larvae (Chironomidae), were fairly dominant in the 2019 surveys. Kistvaen Pond had the greatest diversity, with both Greater Water Boatman *Notonecta viridis* and Lesser Water Boatman *Corixa panzeri* found there in May and September. The dominant beetle, again in Kistvaen Pond, belonged to the Dytiscidae family of diving beetles, whose larvae were particularly prevalent from February through to September. An interesting find in February 2019 was the larva of the caddis fly *Diplectrona felix* (photo B opposite) with several discovered in St John's Stream at Millcombe and one larva in Millcombe Pond, probably washed in from the stream. This small caddis larva, which has no case and occurs in small streams on the mainland, had not previously been recorded in Lundy freshwaters. This caddis has a one-year life cycle, adults emerging in the summer months. The adult of the species does not appear to be attracted to light traps and probably will not be found in Lundy moth traps.

Further information on the invertebrates found in Lundy's temporary ponds and St John's Stream in 2019 can be found in the detailed spreadsheet available on the LFS website, and in a paper by Alan Rowland on Government House Pond and Kistvaen Pond in the recent LFS Journal, Volume 7, 2020.

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Alan Rowland

There were no visiting specialists submitting species lists in 2019, but nevertheless there were many and varied sightings throughout the year, with records in most months. We are also fortunate to have a Conservation Team on Lundy willing and able to recognise and record on all aspects of flora and fauna seen on the island.

The following records (with full details on the LFS website) have been extracted from the LFS logbook, with additional sightings copied from iRecord. We are increasingly seeing online records submitted via various portals; iRecord phone app, iNaturalist, UKBMS, iRecord Dragonfly app, as well as the web-based portal all accumulated into the iRecord website – there are 434 Lundy records for 2019 alone in iRecord.

An asterisk* denotes a new SPECIES; two asterisks** a new FAMILY and a new SPECIES; and three*** a new ORDER reported in 2019, although not necessarily new to Lundy.

Horsehair Worms Nematomorpha

Following the first sighting of this species last year, more sightings were made and the classification narrowed down to *Gordius* sp. Five horsehair worms were recorded in November.

Slugs and Snails Gastropoda

Six species of snail and two of slugs were reported. Mandy Dee extended the species list with Strawberry Snail *Trochulus striolatus*** and a Discus Snail *Discus rotundatus***, while Alan & Sandra Rowland added Wall or Tree Snail *Balea perversa*** and a whorl snail *Vertigo* sp.** found in the newly excavated Brambles Pond area.

A consequence of submitting records to iRecord is that verification of species is carried out by experts in their field. What we have been reporting as Leopard Slugs *Lehmannia maixumus* are in fact either *L. maximus* or *L. marginata* Tree Slugs – a new species record for Lundy. I have had verification of historic records which show Tree Slugs occurring as early as 2013, with Tree Slug* recorded by Richard Breese at North End in 2019.

Spiders, Harvestmen and Mites Arachnidae

Only seven spiders of three different species were reported, all of which have occurred previously. Most properties will have hosted the spider-eating Cellar Spider *Pholcus phalangioides* and garden orb-we spiders which are prolific breeders, while Mandy Dee recorded a Zebra Spider *Salticus scenicus*.

Strawberry Snail (photo: Mandy Dee) and Tree Slug (photo: Richard Breese).





Pill Millipede and (right) Bristletail (photos: Alan Rowland)

Woodlice, Centipedes and Millipedes Myriapoda

It was a poor year for these species, with only 10 Pill millipedes *Glomeris marginata* being reported between April and July.

Bristletails Archaeognatha

There were four records of Bristletail *Petrobius maritimus*, reported from St John's Valley (May), the Quarries (August) and the Old Hospital (May and June), though they can be found throughout the year.

Dragonflies and Damselflies Odonata

Tim Davis

Logbook entries were made on 28 dates from 1 Jun to 7 Oct, with a single record in Feb (25th). Seven species were noted: **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum*, **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ischnura elegans*, **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*, **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator*, **Vagrant Emperor** *Anax ephippiger*, **Red-veined Darter** *S. fonscolombii*, and **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum*.

Damselflies were recorded at Quarter Wall Pond, Rocket Pole Pond and 'near' Pondsbury (no counts were made here during the year), with maxima of 18 Common Blue on 28 Jul and 39 Blue-tailed on 5 Jul, both from Quarter Wall Pond. Common Darters were noted between 3 Jul and 23 Oct, with a max of three on 21 Sep. Single Migrant Hawkers were seen on just four dates between 23 Aug and 7 Oct, in Millcombe, Quarter Wall Copse, foraging above willows on the Terrace, and outside the Lundy General Stores! Emperor Dragonflies bred for the second year running, with ovipositing by two females noted at Quarter Wall Pond on 28 Jul. Warden Dean Jones enjoyed a brief encounter with Lundy's second Vagrant Emperor on 25 Feb at Benjamin's Chair, and also Lundy's second Red-veined Darter, a male, at Castle Parade on 3 Jul.

In addition, unidentified dragonflies were seen very briefly by Dean on two occasions: "A large dull brown-grey dragonfly with obvious bright blue saddle in off the sea near the Jetty" on 5 Jul, thought to be either a Vagrant Emperor or a Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope* (the latter would be new for Lundy); and two Aeshna (hawker) species seen flying in off the sea on 18 Sep.

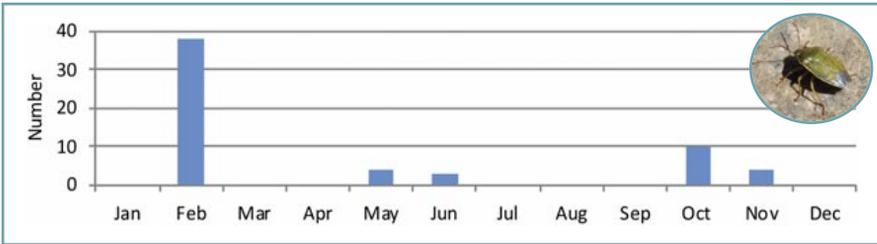
Other observers: Zoë Barton, Tim Davis, Kate Humble, Tim Jones, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Alex Sydenham, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Martin Thorne and Nick Upton.

Grasshoppers and Crickets Orthoptera

None were reported.

Bugs Hemiptera

The only true bug reported was Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus*, of which 59 were seen between February and November (see graphic overleaf). The sightings in November were of dead shieldbugs, infected with *Sporothrix schenckii*, according to John Hedger.



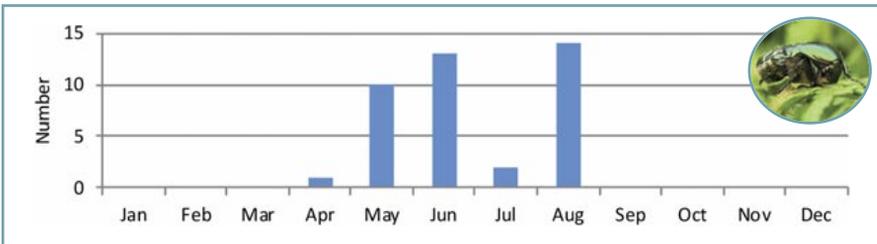
Gorse Shieldbug sightings in 2019 (photo: Alan Rowland).

Beetles Coleoptera

Twenty-two species were recorded, but none new for Lundy. Once again, the five most common beetles featured highly in the observations reported in the logbook; histograms below for two of them show the spread of sightings. Included were Black Snail Beetle *Silpha atrata* and Pollen Beetle *Meligethes aeneus* but only two records of 7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*, although Red Soldier Beetles *Rhagonycha fulva* were prolific. The other species were whirligig beetles *Gyrinus* sp., Bronze Carabid Beetle *Carabus nemoralis*, Shore Sexton Beetle *Necrodes littoralis*, Devil's Coach-horse *Ocyopus olens*, a rove beetle *Staphylinus erythropterus*, the dor beetles *Geotrupes spiniger* and *Anoplopterus stercorosus*, a click beetle *Athous haemorrhoidalis*, a darkling beetle *Isomira murina*, Sulphur Beetle *Cteniopis sulphureus*, Heather Beetle *Lochmaea suturalis* (for only the second time since 1998), Celery Leaf Beetle *Phaedon tumidulus* and a weevil *Sitona sulcifrons*.

Rosechafer *Cetonia aurata*

A total of 40 were recorded between April and August, with a maximum of seven being seen on one day and a pair mating in June.



Rosechafer sightings in 2019 (photo: Dean Jones).

Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris*

Recorded on four occasions in April and May, with a total of 11 on 12 May.

Black Oil Beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*

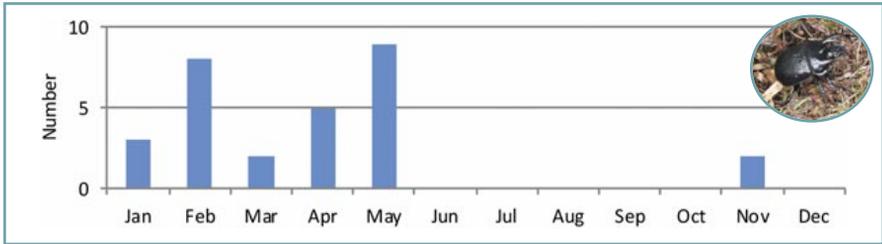
A total of 36 beetles were recorded in the logbook, all between February and May, with a maximum of five on 29 Apr. A pair were seen mating on 17 Feb on the Lower East Side Path and another pair on 23 Apr near the Devil's Limekiln; otherwise all sightings were around the Castle and along the South End. [To date, no Violet Oil Beetles *M. violaceus* have been confidently sighted, but if the species is found, a close-up photo of the rear of the pronotum is needed to determine the record.]

Dor Beetle *Geotrupes stercorus*

There were sightings of 36 beetles between February and November, with a maximum of eight in June, but with the highest number of sightings (16) made in May. These totals are much lower than in 2018, perhaps due to reduced recorder effort.

Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus*

Another easily identifiable beetle and well reported, with 27 records from November to May. Not as common as Dor Beetle, with fewer seen at any one time, the highest being four in February on the Terrace.



Minotaur Beetle sightings in 2019 (photo: John Hedger).

True Flies Diptera

2019 was a Large Tachinid Fly *Tachina grossa* year, with 11 sightings of 33 flies in July and August, whereas only one Noon Day Fly *Mesembrina meridiana* was recorded. Three hoverfly species, Marmalade Hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus*, Pied Hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastris* and a *Syrphus* sp. were also reported, along with dung flies Scathophagidae spp. and a new species of leaf-miner, *Chromatomyia aprilina***.

Bees, Wasps and Ants Hymenoptera

Fewer bees were reported but there were records of Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum*, Buff-tailed Bee *B. terrestris*, Red-tailed Bumblebee *B. lapidarius* and Heather Bee *Colletes succinctus*. Wasps featured Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris*, Red-banded Sand Wasp *Ammophila sabulosa* (for the third year running), a new species, *Symmorphus picosus*** and a Ruby-tailed Wasp Chrysididae sp. An additional sawfly was reported, Striped Alder Sawfly *Hemichroa crocea***. Ants are a fairly new addition to the Lundy list, with flying ants *Lasius* sp. swarming on 2 Aug and Yellow Meadow Ants *Lasius flavus*** seen prospecting on cow dung in May.

Thanks to the following who submitted records in 2019: Bianca & Andrew, Kate L'Amiee, Richard Breese, Elliot Chandler, Andrew Cleave, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis & Tim Jones, Chris & Mandy Dee, Kobe Garfoot, Ian & Tina Hartley, Dean Jones & Zoe Barton, Brigitte Needs, Steve & Eliza O'Donnell, S Pascos, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Jo Shepherd, Frances Stuart, Nick Upton, Paddy & Keith Taylor, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Sue Waterfield, Elizabeth Wilby and Steve Wing.

A Syrphus hoverfly and (right) Marmalade Hoverfly (photos: Alan Rowland).



*Painted Lady, Upper East Side Path,
7th August (photo: Dean Jones).*



Butterflies

Anthony John

Eighteen species of butterfly were recorded on Lundy in 2019, one less than in 2018.

The year started with an early record of a **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* in Millcombe on 13 Jan; the following month a **Small Tortoiseshell** *Aglais urticae* was near North Lighthouse on 21st, and in Millcombe a **Peacock** *Inachis io* was seen on 24th and a **Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* on 28th; all of these dates are much earlier than in the previous three years. In April an **Orange-tip** *Anthocharis cardamines* was seen on 1st, and the first **Small White** *Pieris rapae* and **Green-veined White** *Pieris napi* appeared on 8th.

The summer of 2019 produced large numbers of two species, **Meadow Brown** *Maniola jurtina* and Painted Lady. For Meadow Brown in July there were 10 counts of 100 or more, three of which were over 200, and a peak of 251 on 7th; a further three counts of 100+ occurred in August. There were two influxes of Painted Ladies, the first in June on 24th (189 counted) and 25th (250). The second influx came in early August when 100 or more were counted on six days between 1st and 8th; 284 were counted on 1st and 601 the next day.

Six species of scarcer butterflies were seen on Lundy in 2019. Orange-tip (four records from April to June), **Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus* (two singles, 1 Aug and 1 Oct), **Speckled Wood** *Parage aegeria* (one on 27 Aug), **Gatekeeper** *Pyronia tithonus* (singles on 29 June, 7 Jul and possibly 3 Sep), **Grayling** *Hipparchia semele* (six records between 23 Jul and 1 Sep) and **Comma** *Polygona c-album* (eight records from 19 Aug to 18 Sep). There were no records of **Wall Brown** *Lasiommata megera* or **Holly Blue** *Celastrina argiolus*.

To sum up the year for butterflies, I will use the concept of 'butterfly-days'; to explain this term, ten Painted Lady butterflies seen on ten successive days would equate to 100 'butterfly-days'. In subsequent years by using this term it should be easier to compare numbers of butterflies seen in 2019 with those in future years. The total number of 'butterfly-days' for the 12 most common species were: Large White *Pieris brassicae* 144, Small White 77, Green-veined White 109, Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* 456, Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus* 163, Meadow Brown 2,517, Red Admiral 1,092, Painted Lady 3,226, Peacock 29, Small Tortoiseshell 68, Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas* 49, and Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus* 69.

Moths

Anthony John

During 2019, 134 species of moths were recorded on Lundy, 36 micro-moths and 98 macro-moths (238 species were recorded in 2018). Fifteen species were new for Lundy, 10 micro-moths and five macro-moths. Moth traps were deployed on 23 nights, in January (1), February (2), April (3), May (3), June (5), July (4), August (4) and October (1). Most traps were placed in Millcombe, other sites including Paradise Row and Benjamin's Chair; 18 of the 23 trap-nights were carried out by Dean Jones. During a visit by Exeter University in late April/May additional traps were placed at four locations over five nights. Daytime searches for day-flying moths were done on an ad-hoc basis.

The species new to Lundy, in checklist order, were: micro-moths: *Adela croesella*, *Tinea pallescentella*, *Ypsolopha mucronella*, *Diurnea fagella*, *Agonopterix yeatiana*, *Depressaria pulcherrimella*, *Caryocolum vicinella*, *Aphelia paleana*, *Aethes francillana* and *Scoparia subfusca*; macro-moths: Vestal *Rhodometra sacra*, Oak-tree Pug *Eupithecia dodoneata*, Mottled Umber *Erannis defoliaria*, Small Marbled *Eublemma parva* and Red Chestnut *Cerastis rubricosa*.

Early in January two new species were found – *Tinea pallescentella* and Mottled Umber – followed by another two additions to the list in February in a Skinner trap in Millcombe – *Ypsolopha mucronella* and *Diurnea fagella*. On 20 Apr an MV trap set outside the church produced *Agonopterix yeatiana* and Oak-tree Pug, both new to Lundy. During a visit by Exeter University researchers in late April/May to study the effect of artificial light on moth diversity, another two new species were added to the Lundy list – Red Chestnut and Vestal. They also recorded another Oak-tree Pug.

On 5 May at least 28 male Emperor Moths were noted at Pondsburry. Two instances of predation were reported: a male Emperor Moth was eaten by a Spotted Flycatcher on the Terrace on 10 May, and on 20 May a Swallow was seen catching and eating Emperor Moths on Tibbett's Hill. Over 100 Cocksfoot moths *Glyphipterix simpliciella* were seen in Millcombe on 22 May; they were also numerous on 24 May and 1 Jun. This is only the third year they have been reported on Lundy, following records in 1984 and 2018. On 22 Jun, *Adela croesella*, also new for Lundy, was seen on an umbellifer in Millcombe.

On 7 Jul a Skinner trap set at Benjamin's Chair resulted in 47 species, including four new species for Lundy – single *Depressaria pulcherrimella*, *Caryocolum vicinella*, *Scoparia subfusca* and two Small Marbled. There were also two nationally rare/scarce species – Thyme Pug *Eupithecia distinctaria* and

Two micro-moths: Esperia sulphurella, Millcombe, 19th May and (right), new for Lundy, Tinea pallescentella, Paradise Row, 2nd January (photos: Dean Jones).





Devonshire Wainscot *Mythimna putrescens* (five) – and three species that are rare/scarce on Lundy – Small Mottled Willow *Spodoptera exigua* (one previous record in 1986), White-point *Mythimna albipuncta* (one previous record in 2009) and Shoulder-striped Wainscot *Mythimna comma* (two previous records, in 2011 and 2018). Another Shoulder-striped Wainscot was caught at Paradise Row on 8 Jul. A further trap at Benjamin's Chair on 26 Jul revealed *Aethes francillana*, also new to Lundy.

Other than those mentioned above, several moths were recorded in 2019 for the second or third time on Lundy. There were second records for *Depressaria daucella* (first recorded in 1988), *Syndemis musculana* (2018), Leopard Moth *Zeuzera pyrina* (2009) and Sword-grass *Xylena exsoleta* (2013). Recorded for the third time were Cocksfoot Moth (previously in 1984 and 2018), *Dolicharthria punctalis* (1988, 1995), Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides* (2009, 2018), Winter Moth *Operophtera brumata* (2007, 2018), Swallow-tailed Moth *Ourapteryx sambucaria* (1973, 2018), Herald *Scoliopteryx libatrix* (2010, 2018), Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (2017, 2018), Mullein *Cucullia verbasci* (2011, 2013), Bordered Straw *Heliothis peltigera* (1968, 2015) and Early Grey *Xylocampa areola* (1998, 2015).

Twelve species of migrant moths were recorded. Diamond-backed Moths *Plutella xylostella* (from 4 Jan to 18 Sep), Rusty-dot Pearl *Udea ferrugalis*, Rush Veneer *Nomophila noctuella*, Convolvulus Hawk-moth *Agrius convolvuli* (25 & 27 Aug, 14 Sep), Vestal (30 Apr), Small Marbled (7 Jul), Bordered Straw (5 Aug), Small Mottled Willow (7 Jul), White-point (7 Jul), Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (four dates from 26 Feb to 25 May 25). Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* was seen on 33 days from 31 May to 21 Oct, max three on two days in August. Silver Y *Autographa gamma* was seen on 27 days from 22 Apr to 20 Oct, max 29 on 2 Aug.

Thanks to all the following observers for their butterfly and moth observations in 2019: Derek Baggott, Chris & Carol Baillie, Zoë Barton, Aaron Cann, Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Louise Cookson, Tim Davis, Keith Dean, Paul Dean, Chris Dee, Mandy Dee, Nicki Hattings, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Paddy Keith, Pia Murrell, Steve O'Donnell, Brigitte Needs, Rosie Parsons, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Rachel Sylvia, Richard & Rebecca Taylor, Tony & Ann Taylor, Martin Thorne, Emily Trapnell, Andy Trout, Nick Upton, Caitlin Worsley, Jenna & Dan, Rosie & Ed, Sue Waterfield, Steve Wing and Ellie Zantboer.

Particular thanks to Dean Jones for all his help with this Lepidoptera account.

Convolvulus Hawk-moth, main track near Pondsbury, 27th August (photo: Richard Taylor).



Clockwise from top left: Western Clover, South Light, May, Creeping Willow catkins, Lundy plateau, March, and Hare's-foot Clover, Millcombe, June (photos: Andrew Cleave).

FLORA

Andrew Cleave

The first botanical records for the year came in mid-January with **Primroses** *Primula vulgaris* in flower in Quarter Wall Copse, and by early February a few **Daffodils** *Narcissus* sp. and **Snowdrops** *Galanthus* sp. had started to open up. Other early-flowering species found in a few sheltered spots in Millcombe were **Ivy-leaved Toadflax** *Cymbalaria muralis* and **Wall Pennywort** *Umbilicus rupestris*. Later in the month the first **Sea Campion** *Silene uniflora* flowers were found at Benjamin's Chair.

By the end of February the first **Lesser Celandines** *Ficaria verna* had opened and a few **Honeysuckle** *Lonicera periclymenum* flowers were found in sheltered spots. The beginning of March saw the first **Hawthorn** *Crataegus monogyna* flowers open and later in the month **Ground Ivy** *Glechoma hederacea* and **Herb Robert** *Geranium robertianum* were also blooming. By the end of March **Thrift** *Armeria maritima* and **Kidney Vetch** *Anthyllis vulneraria* were showing some colour on the slopes below the South Light. Some well-developed fronds of **Small Adder's-tongue Fern** *Ophioglossum azoricum*, some showing developing sporangia, were found in the usual areas near Rocket Pole Pond, and on top of the island the **Creeping Willow** *Salix repens* was very colourful with a fine display of yellow catkins covering large areas. **Common Fumitory** *Fumaria officinalis* was found in flower on a sheltered wall in the Village.

In the first week of April **Common Lousewort** *Pedicularis sylvatica* appeared on the slopes below Rocket Pole Pond, and as the month progressed **Scarlet Pimpernel** *Anagallis arvensis* and **Spring**



The ever-growing Wood Vetch colony along the Beach Road in late May (photo: Andrew Cleave).

Vetch *Vicia lathyroides* were found near the Ugly, and **Common Milkwort** *Polygala vulgaris* appeared in several areas at the South End. **Lundy Cabbage** *Coincya wrightii* flowers put in their first appearance in Smelly Gully just before the end of April, and then increased greatly as spring progressed. By the end of April, all the expected spring species were flowering well, and some areas, like the slopes around the South Light, were very colourful.

In early May, **Western Clover** *Trifolium occidentale* was found again in the South Light compound, confirming a record from 2018. This is a new species for the Lundy flora, and is typical of exposed coastal sites like this. It also occurs further west on similar situations around the coasts of Devon and Cornwall and is particularly common on the Isles of Scilly. Lundy represents one of its easternmost stations in the UK. The close-cropped turf along the Quarry Terrace suits various small, procumbent species, including **Common Bird's-foot** *Ornithopus perpusillus* which was flowering well by the end of May. Also in May Tim Jones and Tim Davis carried out a count of Small Adder's-tongue Ferns growing just north of Halfway Wall. A 150-metre long transect, 1 metre wide, produced a count of 1,257 plants, giving an indication of just how abundant this species is on Lundy. This habitat also favours the inconspicuous **Allseed** *Radiola linoides*, which was noted in various sites on the north and west of the island during May and early June.

The ever-growing patch of **Wood Vetch** *Vicia sylvatica* (pictured above) near the bottom of the Beach Road started flowering near the end of May and continued to put on a good display for about two weeks. This species, which is a scarcity on the mainland, seems to thrive on the slopes on either side of the road and puts on a magnificent display. **Balm-leaved Figwort** *Scrophularia scorodonia* was reported from the Beach Road slopes and also many sites further along the East Side in areas cleared of Rhododendron in previous years. These open areas also favour **Heath Groundsel** *Senecio sylvaticaus*

which colonises quickly and is a great attraction to nectar-feeding insects. **Foxgloves** *Digitalis purpurea* (pictured below) put on a magnificent display this year, with some specimens towering well over two metres in height on the East Side.

Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense* and **Knotted Clover** *Trifolium striatum* appeared in early June, both favouring man-made habitats, especially the tops of walls and edges of paths around Millcombe. Two related species, insignificant and often overlooked, also did well in grassy areas around Millcombe and the Village; **Lesser Trefoil** *Trifolium dubium* and **Slender Trefoil** *Trifolium micranthum* are both very common in short grass such as Millcombe House lawn. The grassy verge in the Village, opposite the Barn, provided an excellent display of flowers, having been left uncut this year. **Knotted Hedgeparsley** *Torilis nodosa* appeared there for the first time, and a species of **Rocket** *Diplotaxis (tenuifolia)* possibly a bird-seed alien, also flowered well for a while. **Common Mallow** *Malva sylvestris* did well at this site and elsewhere around the south of the island. This verge was the last known site on Lundy for **White Horehound** *Marrubium vulgare*, last seen and photographed there in the late 1980s, so perhaps more sensitive management of these areas might encourage the return of some of the island's lost plants.

Another inhabitant of Lundy's many stone walls is **Sea Fern Grass** *Catapodium marinum* which is common, but overlooked, growing on most of the walls around the Village. **Skullcap** *Scutellaria galericulata* was found in flower near Quarter Wall Pond and at the top of Gannets' Combe where around 50 flowering spikes were counted. The colony of **Heath Spotted Orchids** *Dactylorhiza maculata* at Pondsburry seemed to be thriving, with many flowering spikes found in early June. Visitors walking up the Beach Road were treated to a good display of **Betony** *Betonica officinalis* on the steep slopes, with the less conspicuous **Wood Sage** *Teucrium scorodonia* also doing well at this site and at many other areas along the East Side. One of the last botanical records for the year was for **Twiggy Mullein** *Verbascum virgatum* still flowering at the end of September in the walled gardens. This West Country speciality is rather erratic in its appearance and being a biennial sometimes misses a year.

Contributors: Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis, Mandy Dee, Keith Dobie, Dean Jones, Tim Jones, Steve O'Donnell, N Phillips, Alan & Sandra Rowland, Richard & Rebecca Taylor.

Towering Foxgloves along the Lower East Side Path through St Helen's Combe in June (photo: Andrew Cleave).





*Egg-shell Slime Mould and (right) Hairy Earthtongue
(photos: Alan Rowland).*

FUNGI

Mandy Dee

The wet summer and mild, wet autumn meant that 2019 was a superb year for many species of fungi. We had 498 records, 40% up on 2018, with a total of 244 species recorded, an increase of 34% on the previous year. Fifty new species were added to the island list, along with an impressive 26 second records, which are equally useful as they confirm previous identifications.

January started well with a count of 23 fruit bodies of **Grey Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus lacmus* at North End (Alan & Sandra Rowland). There were also early records of both **Dog Vomit Slime Mould** *Fuligo septica* and **Egg-shell Slime Mould** *Leocarpus fragilis*. **False Puffball** *Enteridium lycoperdon*, another slime mould, was recorded by Dean Jones outside Barton Cottages in April. There were, as usual, only a handful of records through the spring and summer, the most interesting being *Puccinia striiformis*, a new rust species found by Dean Jones on Soft Creeping Grass.

By late September the main fungus season was well underway, and a week of recording by Mandy Dee and John Hedger produced many new records. **Riverine Bolete** *Xerocomellus ripariellus* was found in the thickets of Creeping Willow near Pondsby. The bright orange **Chanterelle** *Cantharellus cibarius* was also found in that area, and is the first official record, although there is anecdotal evidence of previous fruit bodies. Close examination of the dead logs and branches in Millcombe revealed 12 new species, including the small black lumps of *Nemania confluens* on a dead sycamore branch.

Three new dung fungi were found, plus five species recorded for the second time, including *Cheilymenia fimicola*, a little orange disc with eyelash-type hairs around the rim, found on a cowpat in Punchbowl Valley. A Fungus Foray was run for visitors, and an impressive 32 species were found.

In October, Mandy Dee, visiting with the LFS Work Party, reported large numbers of waxcaps and pinkgills proliferating on the unimproved grasslands. She also found a new species, **Slender Parasol** *Macrolepiota mastoidea*, growing beside the main track in Millcombe. **Smoky Spindles** *Clavaria fumosa* was recorded for the second time, this time in Lighthouse Field where it was seen repeatedly through the rest of the autumn, so may be an increasingly frequent species.

By early November, when Mandy and John returned for another week of recording, the island's grasslands were covered with fungi, with even the narrow grassy verge on the track past the church hosting many interesting species, including waxcaps, clubs, corals and earthtongues. The annual Grey Waxcap survey of North End produced a count of 1,245 fruit bodies, well up on recent years. There were second records of both **Garlic Waxcap** *Hygrocybe helobia* and **Limestone Waxcap** *Hygrocybe calcephila*, both on the very short turf over the ruined buildings near Quarter Wall.



Garlic Waxcap and (right) Nemania confluens (photos: Mandy Dee).

Club fungi were in abundance, with **Yellow Club** *Clavulinopsis helvola* present in huge numbers in almost every area of grass. Yellow Club is very variable and there are several similar species, so microscopic analysis of likely specimens was undertaken, giving us a first record for **Handsome Club** *C. laeticolor*, as well as several specimens of **Apricot Club** *C. luteoalba*.

It was a fantastic year for the rare earthtongues, with detailed microscopy revealing two new species for the island, **Deceptive Earthtongue** *Geoglossum fallax* and *Geoglossum barlae*, found near Ponsbury. **Glutinous Earthtongue** *Glutinoglossum glutinosum*, **Hairy Earthtongue** *Trichoglossum hirsutum* and *Geoglossum cookeanum* were also recorded, with the little black tongues to be found in grass verges at Golden Pond, by the main track near Ponsbury, on Ackland's Moor and at Rocket Pole.

Other new records included the tiny **Hairy Parachute** *Crinipellis scabella*, found growing on a grass stem near the Castle. **Tawny Funnel** *Paralepista flaccida*, a large, gingery brown toadstool which is common on the mainland, appeared for the first time next to a path in South West Field. A cluster of large mushrooms in Lighthouse Field caused much head scratching before being identified as the **Salty Mushroom** *Agaricus bernardii*.

A second Fungus Foray was well-attended by visitors, who, despite the truly atrocious weather, were enthusiastic in helping to identify and record the amazing 36 species of fungi that were found in close proximity to the Village. John Hedger continued his long-running project, analysing fungi on incubated dung, and added another three species to the island's impressive list.

Thanks to the following observers for adding records to the logbook: Chris & Carol Baillie, Siân Cann, Andrew Cleave, Louise Cookson, Belinda Cox, Tim Davis, Chris Dee, Dean Woodfin Jones, Tim Jones, S O'Donnell, Alan & Sandra Rowland.



The November Fungus Foray – well wrapped up against the atrocious weather! (photo: Mandy Dee).

BRYOPHYTES (MOSESSES, LIVERWORTS & HORNWORTS) ON LUNDY IN 2018 AND 2019

Sam Bosanquet (Bryophyte Recorder for Carmarthenshire, Monmouthshire & Pembrokeshire)

I visited Lundy twice in 2018 and twice in 2019. In 2018, recording during letterboxing walks coupled with evening wanders out from Old Light on 12th to 15th May and 29th to 30th August produced 212 records of 66 bryophyte taxa (19 liverworts & 47 mosses). In 2019, recording during a family visit from 4th to 6th May 2019 produced 113 records of 52 bryophyte taxa. I returned on my own between 19th and 22nd October 2019 to carry out dedicated dawn to dusk recording of bryophytes on the island using a 200x200m Ordnance Survey grid. This trip generated 1,151 records of 168 taxa (2 hornworts, 48 liverworts and 118 mosses): more than doubling the number of bryophyte records in the Lundy bryophyte dataset to 2,276. Full data are given in Excel format on the LFS website, have been sent to the British Bryological Society (BBS) Recorder for Devon, and will be available on the National Biodiversity Network.

Most county bryophyte Floras use a 2x2km (tetrad) grid for mapping distributions, but Lundy's size makes it ideal for finer-scale mapping. Having divided the island into 200x200m squares, I considered there were 123 which were likely to support bryophytes and would be accessible without undue risk. Although complete recording of these tiny plants even within a 200x200m square is impossible, one to three hours is usually enough to get a good record of what species are present. Seventy-six squares are now considered acceptably covered and another couple of focused visits should achieve acceptable island-wide coverage. Some areas of the plateau are exceedingly species-poor, whereas Millcombe, the Quarries and Gannets' Combe are bryophyte-rich with 40 or more species per 200x200m square.

In 2018, three new bryophyte taxa for Lundy were noted, and a *Fossombronina* sp. recorded in 2017 was found with sporophytes in 2018, allowing identification as *F. maritima*. Twenty-nine bryophyte taxa (1 hornwort, 9 liverworts and 19 mosses) were newly recorded for Lundy in 2019, taking the island's tally of bryophytes to 199 taxa (2 hornworts, 54 liverworts and 143 mosses). The most notable discoveries in 2019 were *Isothecium myosuroides* var. *brachythecioides*, a montane taxon new for South West England; *Rhynchostegium alopecuroides*, a Nationally Scarce oceanic species; *Blasia pusilla*, which had not been seen anywhere in Devon since before 2000; *Lophozia sudetica*, which has a couple of Dartmoor colonies but has not been found in North Devon; and *Scapania scandica*, with just four previous Devon records.

The dynamism of the Lundy bryophyte flora was demonstrated by a return to Quarry Beach in 2018, where *Philonotis rigida* was recorded the previous year. Both colonies of this Nationally Rare species – the rarest bryophyte recorded on Lundy – had been lost due to natural erosion. It has to be hoped that *P. rigida* survives elsewhere on the island, or with re-grow at Quarry Beach once the slumping soil has temporarily stabilised.

Most of the 199 bryophyte taxa recorded from Lundy have been seen by me during the last three years, but 14 have not: *Heterocladium wulfsbergii* (2006), *Sphagnum cuspidatum* (2005), *Cephalozia pleniceps* (1975), *Kurzia pauciflora* (1975), *Lophozia incisa* (1975), *Riccardia latifrons* (1975), *Scapania nemorea* (1959), *Heterocladium heteropterum* var. *heteropterum* (1950), *Racomitrium aciculare* (1950), *Tortella nitida* (1950), *Bryum archangelicum* (pre-1980), *Eurhynchium crassinervium* (pre-1980), *Racomitrium aquaticum* (pre-1980) and *Rhabdoweisia fugax* (pre-1980).

The list below covers the notable bryophytes recorded in 2018 and 2019. The * symbol indicates those which appear to be new for Lundy, following scrutiny of the BBS database, Paton (1975), Cox (1959) and the NBN Atlas (<https://nbnatlas.org>).



The Liverwort *Blasia pusilla* with distinctive horn-like gemma receptacles in Gannets' Combe
(photo: Sam Bosanquet).

HORNWORTS

Anthoceros punctatus: 2 records in 2019. Found at Gannets' Combe and the north Quarries gully, the third and fourth colonies.

**Phaeoceros laevis*: 1 record in 2019. First record: 100x100cm patch on bank in coastal stream gully on west coast east of St Peter's Stone (SS13214703). A relatively frequent hornwort in SW England.

LIVERWORTS

Aneura pinguis: 3 records in 2019. One of the large, loose-growing *Aneura* taxa in flushes above Threequarter Wall Bay and Jenny's Cove, the first localised Lundy records.

**Barbilophozia attenuata*: 1 record in 2018. First record: several patches with gemmae on N-facing rocks of a tor near Tibbetts (SS13884611). This is a locally frequent liverwort in much of western Britain, and was very much expected on the tors of Lundy. 2 records in 2019, in Quarter Wall Copse and Gannets' Combe.

**Blasia pusilla*: 1 record in 2019. First record: 80x80cm and 80x40cm patches where path crosses stream in Gannets' Combe (SS13574725). A distinctive thallose liverwort with very few Devon records.

**Cephaloziella divaricata*: 13 records in 2019. First record: thin peat over granite by track north of Threequarter Wall (SS13354711). Widespread in the north of the island.

**Cephaloziella hampeana*: 2 records in 2019. First record: on Sphagnum in flushed mire by Pondsburry (SS13504551). Recorded in two locations near Pondsburry.

Chiloscyphus polyanthos s.s.: 4 records in 2019. On rocks in four streams, the first localised records.

**Fossombronia maritima*: 1 record in 2018. First record: damp peat over granite, Middle Park (SS13344647). One sporophyte was found on a *Fossombronia* patch at Middle Park, confirming the identification of *F. maritima* new for North Devon (v.-c. 4). It is likely that the *Fossombronia* above Jenny's Cove is also *F. maritima*, but small plants by a track in St John's Valley are likely to be *F. incurva*, a colony by Quarry Pond and *Fossombronia* spp. in a ditch at Quarter Wall (2017) are probably *F. wondraczekii*, and a streamside colony at Quarter Wall Copse may be *F. pusilla*. Ripe spores are needed to identify members of this genus.

Frullania teneriffae: 1 record in 2019. On a rockface in Gannets' Combe, the third Lundy record.

**Gymnocolea inflata*: 8 records in 2019. First record: thin peat over granite by track north of Threequarter Wall (SS13414708). Apparently restricted to the northernmost quarter of the island.

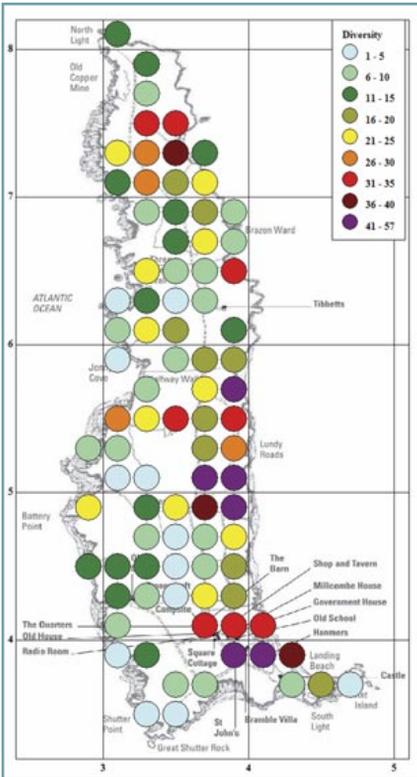


Fig. 1. Recorded bryophyte diversity (all species) on Lundy after the 2019 visits.

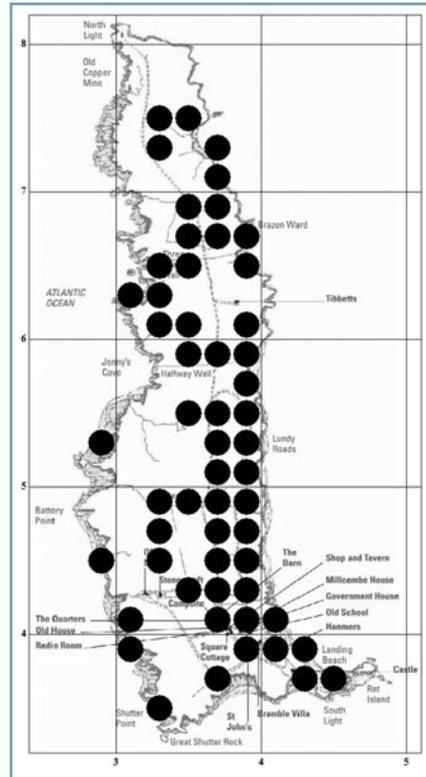


Fig. 2. The recorded distribution of the common moss *Hypnum cupressiforme*.

Kurzia sylvatica: 2 records in 2019. Tiny colonies in heathland at Gannets' Combe and Pondsbury, the second and third localised records.

Lejeunea cavifolia: 1 record in 2018. Found in the north-western part of the island (SS13134808) in May 2018. The only previous records are from the Landing Bay area. 2 records in 2019.

Lejeunea lamacerina: 2 records in 2019. By streams at Quarter Wall Copse and Quarries south, the first localised records.

Lepidozia cupressina: 5 records in 2019. This uncommon liverwort has now been recorded from six rockfaces in Gannets' Combe, with a few large patches.

**Lophozia sudetica*: 1 record in 2019. First record: several patches on north-facing rock outcrops above Landing Bay road (SS14224383). The first record for northern Devon of this upland liverwort.

**Marsupella emarginata* var. *emarginata*: 1 record in 2019. First record: 3x2cm patch on mineral soil among rocks of northernmost of the Quarries (SS13814564). A new liverwort genus for Lundy.

Pellia endiviifolia: 1 record in 2019. By Quarry Pond, the third Lundy record.

**Pellia neesiana*: 3 records in 2019. First record: male plants by a flush above Threequarter Wall Bay (SS13964646). Also noted in Gannets' Combe and the north Quarries gully.

Plagiochila (killarniensis) bifaria: 1 record in 2018. A few patches were found in a deep gully at

Earthquake (near the letterbox). The only previous Lundy records were from the coastal slopes of the Landing Bay. 3 records in 2019, two from the Landing Bay, where *P. bifaria* is frequent, plus a new colony on a tor on the east coast at Halfway Wall.

**Riccardia chamedryfolia*: 2 records in 2019. First record: mire by pond in quarry floor, Quarry Pond (SS13764504). Also recorded from a flush near Jenny's Cove.

Scapania sp.: 1 record in 2019. Probable *Scapania lingulata* collected from thin soil over rock in St John's Valley would be new for SW England, but the small specimen was too dry to allow microscope confirmation.

**Scapania scandica*: 1 record in 2019. First record: about 20 shoots on gritty peat bank about 3m above stream in Gannets' Combe (SS13434743). The fifth record for Devon.

Scapania undulata: 5 records in 2019. Recorded in five coastal streams, representing the second to sixth known Lundy colonies.

Tritomaria exsectiformis: 1 record in 2018. Frequent over 50x50cm of peaty coastal slope near the 'Forgotten Heinkel' letterbox on the west coast (SS13004535). 1 record in 2019. In lichen-rich heath in Gannets' Combe. The only previous Lundy record was from the Battery steps in 2017.

MOSESSE

**Andreaea rothii* subsp. *falcata*: 1 record in 2018. First record: several patches with old fruit on rock in flush above Jenny's Cove (SS13194549). This is an upland genus in Britain, and there are scattered colonies of *A. rothii* on Exmoor, Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor.

**Atrichum undulatum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: four tufts on stream bank in Quarter Wall Copse (SS13884486). A common woodland moss on the mainland but remarkably rare on Lundy.

**Barbula convoluta* var. *commutata*: 1 record in 2018. First record: Old Light garden (SS13204427). 2 records in 2019. The other British variety of *B. convoluta* – var. *convoluta* – was found in St John's Valley in 2017 and on the track across Widow's Tenement in 2019. These two taxa are sometimes considered distinct species, with var. *commutata* being separated as *B. sardoa*.

**Brachythecium mildeanum*: 2 records in 2019. First record: concrete pad at Lundy Farm (SS13694418). A common ruderal moss on the mainland.

**Bryum bornholmense*: 1 record in 2019. First record: on peat in heathland above the Quarries (SS13794531). Frequent in heathland in SW England and easily overlooked as other tuberous *Bryum*.

**Bryum donianum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: locally frequent on top of wall by Landing Bay road (SS14214387). South-western in Britain; overlooked previously as I've hurried up or down the road.

Bryum pseudotriquetrum: 1 record in 2018. Found by a stream on Ackland's Moor (SS13034458) in 2018. There is only one previous localised Lundy record, from Quarter Wall, but there are also broad 'Lundy' records from 1960 and 1997. 6 records in 2019.

Bryum radiculosum: 1 record in 2019. On mortar of Quarter Wall Cottages, the first localised record.

Campylopus brevipilus: 1 record in 2018. Noted on damp peat over granite at Middle Park (SS13344647) in 2018, following a 2017 record above Jenny's Cove and broad 'Lundy' records from 1950, 1960 and 1997. 9 records in 2019. Locally abundant on thin peat over rock in the northern half of the island; this heathland moss has declined substantially in Britain in recent decades.

Cryphaea heteromalla: 2 records in 2019. The second and third Lundy records of this common epiphyte, both from walls.

**Dicranella rufescens*: 1 record in 2019. First record: frequent on eroding mineral stream bank of North Quarries gully (SS13864571). Mixed with *Pohlia annotina*, which was also new for Lundy.

Dicranum scottianum: 5 records in 2019. Three colonies in the Quarries area and two in Gannets' Combe, extending the known range of this uncommon western moss which had previously been seen on a single rockface in the latter area.

Didymodon nicholsonii: 1 record in 2019. On concrete at the Farm, the first localised Lundy record.



The moss Hookeria lucens in Gannets' Combe (photo: Sam Bosanquet).

**Didymodon vinealis*: 2 records in 2019. First record: mortar of Quarter Wall Cottages (SS13794495). This reasonably common lime-loving moss was also seen on a rock by the track north of the Village.

**Entosthodon attenuatus*: 7 records in 2019. First record: occasional on stream bank north-east of Jenny's Cove (SS13324612). All seven records are from two streams on the west coast between Halfway Wall and Threequarter Wall. An uncommon, western species in Britain.

Epipterygium tozeri: 1 record in 2018. Two patches on soil in a hole in a tor at The Cheeses (SS13354575) were a surprise, as previous Lundy records were from sheltered areas of the east coast, in Millcombe and Quarry Beach. 6 records in 2019.

Fissidens bryoides var. *cespitans* (*curnovii*): 1 record in 2018. Found in a damp hole in a tor at The Cheeses (SS13354577). The only previous localised record was from Quarry Beach, but there are 1960 and 1997 'Lundy' records. 6 records in 2019.

**Fissidens dubius*: 1 record in 2019. On three rocks in coastal stream at the south end of the Quarries (SS13874506). A large and distinctive lime-loving *Fissidens*.

Hookeria lucens: 4 records in 2019. Found in three stream valleys on the east coast; the second to fourth Lundy colonies of this strikingly glossy moss.

Hypnum cupressiforme var. *lacunosum*: 1 record in 2019. On a wall top by the Landing Bay, the second Lundy record of this calcicolous form of *H. cupressiforme*.

**Isoetecium myosuroides* var. *brachythecioides* (*I. interludens*): 1 record in 2019. First record: a few patches on the base of a cliff above Threequarter Wall Bay (SS13934645). The first record for SW England of this taxon, which is now regarded as a separate species to *I. myosuroides*. It is occasional in the mountains of Wales, Cumbria and Scotland but common in the Hebrides and Shetland.

Orthodontium lineare: 1 record in 2018. The second Lundy record, of a colony with sporophytes, was from peat near the 'Forgotten Heinkel' letterbox (SS12994535). 7 records in 2019. Widespread records of this non-native species, which was found new to Lundy in 2017.

**Orthotrichum affine*: 7 records in 2019. First record: on concrete of wall at Quarters (SS13664405). Although mostly an epiphyte on the mainland, six of its seven Lundy colonies are on walls or rocks.



The moss Racomitrium lanuginosum, Lundy Quarries (photo: Sam Bosanquet).

**Orthotrichum tenellum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: on willow by Quarry Pond (SS13754504). It was a challenge to reach the Quarry Pond willows, rewarded by this epiphyte new for Lundy!

Philonotis fontana: 5 records in 2019. Scattered in the stream gully at the north end of the Quarries.

Plagiothecium denticulatum var. *denticulatum*: 1 record in 2019. One patch in Gannets' Combe, the second localised Lundy record.

Plagiothecium succulentum: 1 record in 2018. Found in a wet hole in a tor at The Cheeses (SS13354577); the two previous island records of this woodland moss were from the East Side. 1 record in 2019, from the stream gully at the north end of the Quarries.

Pleurozium schreberi: 4 records in 2019. Abundant on the wet floor of one of the Quarries and found on two banks nearby, but remarkably rare on Lundy given its ubiquity in upland Britain.

Pogonatum aloides: 3 records in 2019. On three banks in the Quarries area, the only localised records.

Pohlia sp.: 1 record in 2019. A *Pohlia* collected from a stream bank in Gannets' Combe is probably the scarce *P. lescuriana*, but the specimen lacked tubers so could not be identified conclusively.

**Pohlia annotina*: 1 record in 2019. First record: several shoots among *Dicranella rufescens* on stream bank in North Quarries gully (SS13864571). Frequent in upland Britain, but reproducing using bulbils and therefore a poor long-distance colonist.

Pohlia lutescens: 2 records in 2019. At Quarter Wall Copse and North Quarries gully, the second and third Lundy records.

Polytrichum commune var. *commune*: 2 records in 2019. Found growing through *Sphagnum* in two areas at the Quarries, but surprisingly rare on Lundy.

Polytrichum piliferum: 3 records in 2019. Seen in three places around the Quarries, the second to fourth Lundy records.

**Pseudocrossidium revolutum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: mortar of Quarter Wall Cottages (SS13794495). Widespread but uncommon on mortar in Britain; presumably introduced with the mortar to Lundy.

Racomitrium heterostichum s.s.: 1 record in 2019. In block scree below the Quarries, the second localised record.

Racomitrium lanuginosum: 2 records in 2019. On granite blocks in two areas at the Quarries, representing the first localised Lundy records of this distinctive montane moss.

Rhizomnium punctatum: 4 records in 2019. Records from three streams on the east coast are the first localised Lundy colonies.

Rhynchostegiella tenella: 3 records in 2018. Found on walls in three places in the Old Light/Ackland's Moor area, indicating *R. tenella* is present more widely than previous Village records suggested. 3 records in 2019.

**Rhynchostegium alopecuroides* (*Platyhypnidium lusitanicum*): 1 record in 2019. First record: in waterfall in coastal stream on west coast north of Threequarter Wall (SS13214702). A Nationally Scarce south-western species in Britain and a very unexpected addition to the Lundy bryophyte flora.

Rhytidadelphus triquetrus: 2 records in 2019. Only known from the slopes above Landing Bay.

Sciuro-hypnum plumosum: 3 records in 2019. Found by three streams in the Quarries area, the first localised records.

**Sciuro-hypnum populeum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: on rocks by stream in Quarter Wall Copse (SS13884486). Frequent in western Britain.

**Sphagnum capillifolium* subsp. *rubellum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: one patch in flushed mire north-east of Pondsbury (SS13504551). Found whilst I introduced Lundy warden Dean Jones to the island's bryophytes.

**Sphagnum fimbriatum*: 1 record in 2019. First record: one patch in deep shade of *Carex paniculata* tussocks in Gannets' Combe (SS13274736). The rarity of this species on Lundy is surprising.

**Sphagnum inundatum*: 8 records in 2019. First record: in flushed mire NE of Pondsbury (SS13494551). Also present in several flushes along the west coast but less common than *S. denticulatum*.

Syntrichia laevipila: 1 record in 2019. On concrete at Quarters. The first localised Lundy record of this species, which normally grows on trees.

**Syntrichia ruraliformis*: 1 record in 2019. First record: on concrete wall by road above the Landing Bay (SS14144395). Easily spotted thanks to recent rain. (I have walked past this colony many times in dry weather and missed it.)

Syntrichia ruralis: 2 records in 2019. Found at the Farm and Landing Bay, the second and third records.

Thamnobryum alopecurum: 1 record in 2018. A small colony on rocks by the stream in St Helen's Combe (SS13954425) is in a similar situation to the 2017 Millcombe population. 1 record in 2019. On rocks in Quarter Wall Copse, the third Lundy site.

Ulota crispa s.s.: correction to the 2017 record as the identification as *U. intermedia* was corrected to *U. crispa* by the BBS Recorder for Mosses. 1 record in 2019. Tufts on willow by Quarry Pond are the second Lundy record.

Warnstorfia exannulata: 2 records in 2019. Locally frequent with *Anagallis tenella* and *Eleocharis multicaulis* in a flush near Halfway Wall, and also recorded in a flush north-east of Jenny's Cove; the first localised records.

Warnstorfia fluitans: 1 record in 2018. A colony on damp peat over granite at Widow's Tenement (SS13334690) is the only recent record of this moorland moss; it was also reported by Cox (1959). 5 records in 2019. Scattered on wet peaty ground in the northern half of the island.

References

- Cox, R.M. 1959. Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 13: 49-53.
Paton, J.A. 1975. Hepatics on Lundy. *Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society* 26: 18.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- For general information about the Lundy Field Society and the purchase of copies of its publications (including back numbers of the Lundy Field Society Annual Report), please contact:
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Secretary LFS, 166 Wileman Way, Cambridge CB3 1AR
Email: secretary@lundy.org.uk
- For information about membership of the Lundy Field Society please contact:
SANDRA ROWLAND
Membership Secretary LFS, Mole Cottage, Chapel Close, Woodford, Morwenstow, Cornwall EX23 9JR
Email: membership@lundy.org.uk
- For information about the Lundy Field Society, and about the island itself (including a virtual tour), visit the Society's website at:
www.lundy.org.uk
- For information about visiting Lundy, including accommodation, and general information about the island, visit the Landmark Trust's Lundy website at:
www.lundyisland.co.uk
- For information about Lundy's special conservation significance, visit Natural England's website at:
www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/lundy.aspx
- For information about Lundy's bird life, visit *The Birds of Lundy* website at:
www.birdsoflundy.org.uk

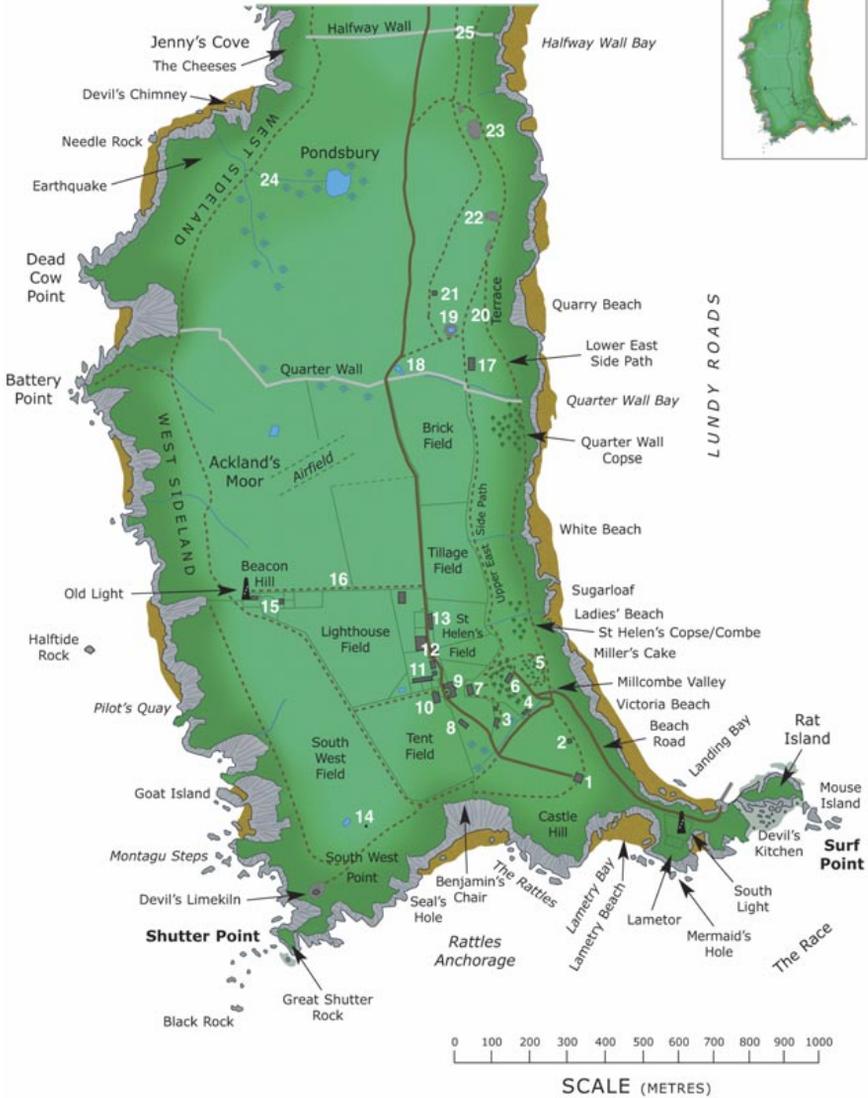
LFS CAR-STICKERS are printed in dark red on white on self-cling vinyl, 20 cm long x 5 cm high. Cost: £1 each. Please send a stamped addressed envelope and a cheque payable to 'Lundy Field Society' to:

André Coutanche, 14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8LB

The envelope you send should be at least 20 cm long to avoid having to fold the car-sticker.

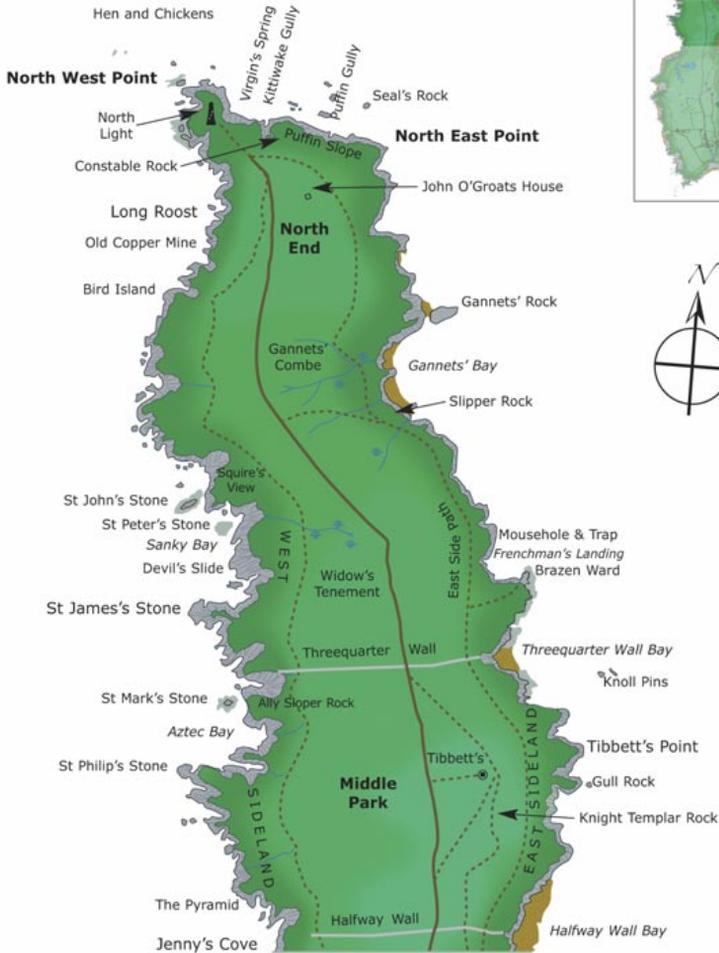


Lundy South



Map reproduced from 'The Birds of Lundy' (2007) courtesy of Tim Davis & Tim Jones.

Lundy North



Number key

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 Marisco Castle | 10 Black Shed | 18 Quarter Wall Pond & Quarter Wall Trap |
| 2 Hammers | 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 Stoneycroft & 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 | | |

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY
Founded 1946

CONSTITUTION

(adopted at the Annual General Meeting, 3rd 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.
- 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.



Lundy's iconic Blue Door restored to its former glory, October 2019 (photo: Tim Davis).



Razorbill *Alca torda*, St Mark's Stone, 24th May 2019
(photo: Dean Jones).

Front cover: Yarrell's Blenny *Chirolophis ascanii*, MV Robert,
1st June 2019 (photo: Tim Mountjoy).



Lundy Field Society
Annual Report No.69

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