

# Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group

## Report for 2002

Compiled by  
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Expedition dates:  
22<sup>nd</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002

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## INTRODUCTION

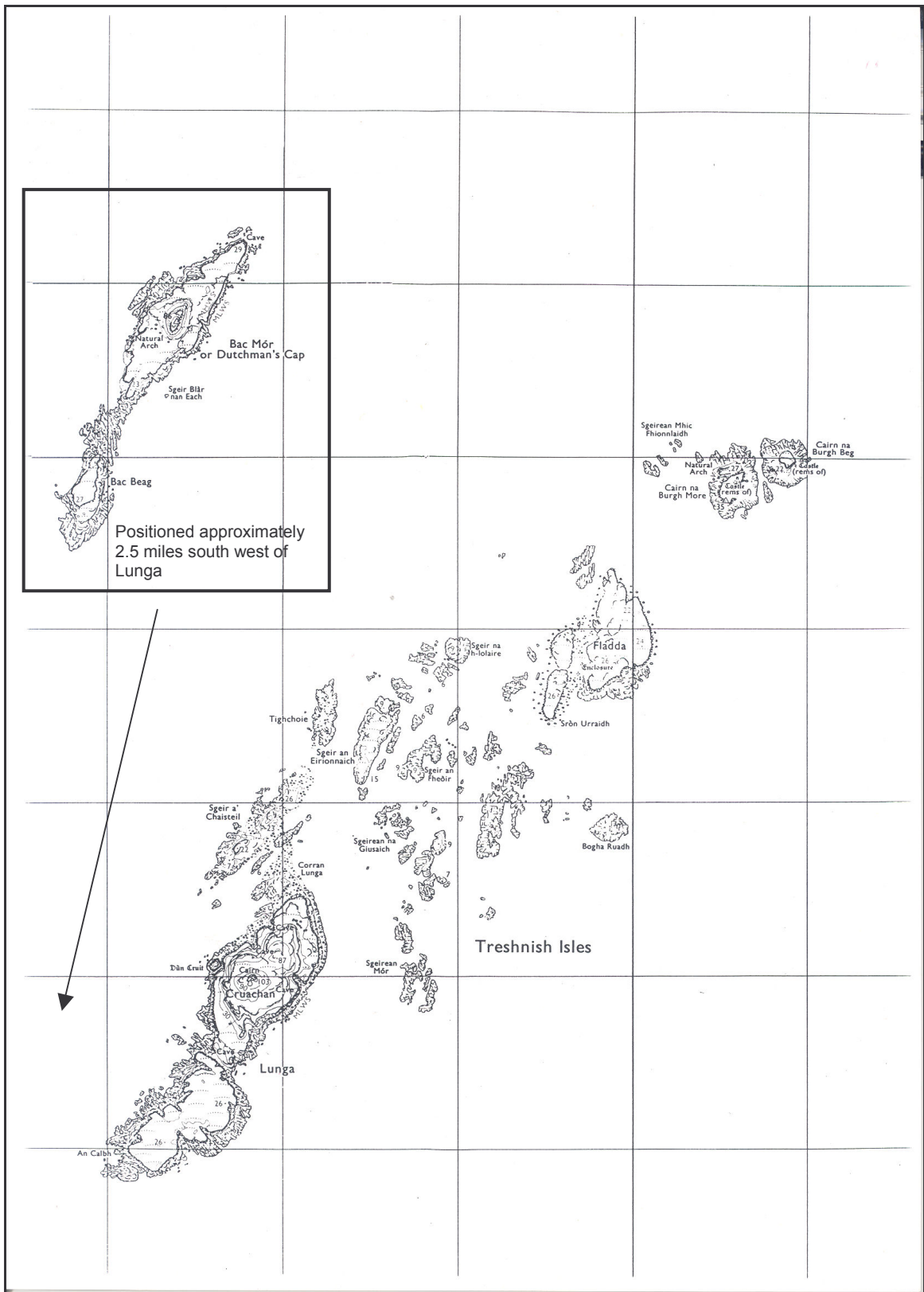
Since 1971, the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) has undertaken to monitor through ringing and census work, the breeding seabird populations of the Treshnish Isles, Argyll (Walker & Cooper 1996). This report summarises the results of the Group's 24<sup>th</sup> expedition to the Treshnish Isles on 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

As in previous years, the expedition's base was set up around the ruined village site at the northern end of Lunga. The majority of the week's fieldwork was centred upon Lunga & Sgeir a Chaisteil where a now annual full seabird census and the systematic ringing of specific seabird colonies was undertaken. With much logistical help from Iain Morrison and his family, expedition members were in addition able to census in part the seabird colonies on Fladda, Sgeir an Eirionnaich and Sgeir an Fheoir in 2002.

All TIARG census and ringing data are fed into two national monitoring programmes, the Seabird Colony Register (J.N.C.C.) and National Ringing Database (British Trust for Ornithology), respectively. The data supplied are of great conservation value as they are the sole means by which the seabird colonies of the Treshnish Isles are currently monitored. The conservation importance of these islands is recognised by their designation as a Special Protection Area by the UK Government for the breeding colonies of seabirds they support. Financial support for the monitoring work TIARG undertook in 2002 was given by the Hebridean Trust.

Any comments on the report and how future editions can be improved upon for relaying information required by conservation agencies are much welcomed.

# MAP OF THE TRESHNISH ISLES



## WEATHER

According to the Meteorological Office, the weather for the week before the expedition was fine and sunny.

The average temperature for the whole of June in West Scotland was about average for the month, though the average hours of sunshine were below the long term average. Also rainfall for the month as a whole was almost double the long term average for June.

This extra rainfall was defiantly evident during the visit, with no rain on only two of the eight days. Moderate winds occurred for much of the visit initially from the SW, shifting round to the NW at the week's end. As a consequence, only one night was suitable for mist netting, and then for an all too brief calm interlude. However it mean't the midges were kept at bay whilst the wind strength and direction provide good fleyg-netting.

Tiree and Coll were seen intermitantly throughout the week, as conditions where frequently dull and overcast.

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Heavy rain early morning soon cleared in time for our departure on the Oban-Criagnure ferry. The morning continued to be overcast, with a light breeze, force 2, and a temperature of 13°C. Soon after our arrival at Lunga and timed perfectly for erecting the tents, drizzle past through followed later that night by rain, the temperature falling overnight to 11°C.

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

In the morning, still overcast, the temperature was around 14°C, though the wind had picked up to force 3 gusting to force 4, from the SW. Around 14.15 there was a very heavy rain shower, though this passed. By the evening (22.00) both the temperature and wind had fallen to 10°C and Force 3 respectively.

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

With another overcast morning, the temperature was again low at 11°C, the wind providing a light breeze from the SW at Force 2, occasionally gusting 3. At 06.00 a heavy rain shower passed through followed by light rain bewteen 09.30-11.00, this accompanied by increase in wind speed to a gentle breeze at Force 3.

### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Much warmer, in the morning, with a temperature of 17°C but the skies remaining overcast. The wind was a moderate to fresh breeze, Force 4-5 still from the SW.

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Early morning (05.30) rain and strong winds started the day. The rain had stopped by 07.00 leaving conditions overcast, misty and with a wind of Force 3 gusting to 4/5. By 09.00 light drizzle had set in for ½ hour or so. It was not then until 16.30 that a further two light rain showers went through within the hour, accompanied by an increase in wind to a fresh breeze at Force 5. The wind remained fresh throughout the night though shifting round to the NW.

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Fresh winds persisted into the early morning. Dry with clear skies most of the day (!) allowed us excellent views north to Skye. In the early evening (17.00) a strong breeze from the NW occasionally gusted to near gale force at Force 6-7.

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Broken cloud was overhead throughout the day and the temperature recorded as 15°C. Overnight the wind had dropped to a gentle breeze, Force 3, gusting to 5 but remaining from the NW.

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Overnight rain showers continued into the morning, the dry intervals allowing us some relief when packing up wet tents. Understandably the skies were overcast during the day with a temperature recorded of 13°C and the wind finally logged as still coming from the NW. Lunga was left behind under yet another shower.

Km/hr	Beaufort wind scale	Wind Force
6-11	2	light breeze
12-19	3	gentle breeze
20-28	4	moderate breeze
29-38	5	Fresh Breeze
39-49	6	strong breeze
50-61	7	Near Gale

## ISLAND VISITORS

Boat traffic to the island was for a second year less than of recent, poor weather being the most likely explanation as visitor numbers were again reported to be healthy by Iain Morrison. No canoes appeared, and only 4 small yachts berthed, the crews making brief trips ashore. Iain Morrison's boats called most days, whilst it's understood the wind conditions prevented Gordon Grant's boats from Iona operating to Lunga. Only one other charter boat visited during the week, a regular, from Inter-island Cruises.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS FOR 2002

The following systematic list is a brief account of those bird species seen whilst the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group were present on the Treshnish Isles, 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002. Unless specified, no records are available for the Cairn na Burghs and the Dutchmans. The status comments refer to the species' occurrence during the breeding season as recorded by previous years expeditions. A detailed breakdown of breeding seabird numbers on the Treshnish Isles in 2002 is provided in a subsequent section of the report.

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda, Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. The breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil was estimated at 449 based upon apparently occupied sites.

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

A regular breeding species

Presumed breeding birds were seen at night on Lunga.

### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A common breeding species

Many birds were heard churring from burrows on Fladda, Sgeir a Chaisteil and Lunga. A brief pause one night in the otherwise relentless breeze throughout the trip enabled the capture of 25 birds at the Village.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*

Regularly seen offshore

Excluding the 27<sup>th</sup> June, between 1 and 4 birds were recorded offshore on three dates, all adults. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, a total of approximately 50 birds were noted passing the islands.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda, Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. The breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil was 259 and 27 pairs respectively, based upon a nest count.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A rare visitor

1 heading S. on 23<sup>rd</sup> June was noted from Lunga. This is the first documented record of this species by a TIARG expedition. The nearest breeding colony is on Mull (Craik 2001).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Breeding noted in some years, with a moulting flock present during late summer

The late summer moult flock in June held at least 79 birds, typically residing around the islands of Sgeir an Eirionnaich, Fladda and Sgeir an Fheadir. Though a lower population than for recent years (see table below), the doubling of numbers during the expedition suggests the moult flock may still to have peaked. The breeding population on those major islands adjacent to the Treshnish Isles is increasing (Craik 2001). Extensive areas of vegetation heavily grazed and trampled by geese were located once again at the south end of Lunga where there was a brood of at least one gosling. Two pairs of adults were resident throughout the expedition on Sgeirean na Guisaich.

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Peak count	25	160	240	268	79

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Rare visitor

One pair was seen on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Sgeir an Eirionnaich.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

An incubating female was located on the Boulder Beach, Lunga. Elsewhere on Lunga a minimum of 2 broods of between 3 and 7 young were noted (1 south end, 1 Corran Lunga). On Chaisteil two incubating females and a further two empty lined nests were located. Of those birds not associated with broods in late June, up to 112 birds were present between Fladda and Lunga, the majority moulting males. Elsewhere up to three females were noted around the south end of Lunga.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Until recently, one pair bred in most years

Up to two moulting adults were seen almost daily on Lunga within the vicinity of the last proven breeding record in 1998. These birds were seen on one occasion to head off to Mull.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Seen most years with breeding known to occur on adjacent coasts

Singles noted along the west coast of Lunga on two dates, including a unsuccessful attempt at predating Puffins and then on the second date a bird seen flying south past Harp Rock claspings a Puffin. Several Peregrine kills of Puffin and Manx Shearwater were noted around Lunga's north end.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Probably a regular breeder in small numbers

What was presumed to be one male occasionally called during four nights (22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>) from around the Village, Lunga. On 26<sup>th</sup> June, the same or different individual was heard calling from the saddle north-east of the summit of Cruachan, a site also frequented in previous years.

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

Eleven breeding pairs were found to be holding territories on Lunga's beaches and rocky outcrops (2 in area 5, 3 in area 6a, 1 in area 8, 1 in Shag alley, 4 at Corran Lunga and 1 at Tarbet west) with only two chicks (Boulder Beach), 3 eggs (Tarbet west) and a brooding bird (area 5a) located amongst these. Elsewhere territorial pairs were located at Fladda (1+ at south end), Sgeir a Chaisteil (4 pairs) and pair present on Sgeir an Fheoir. Small flocks of presumed failed breeders were evident on Lunga with up to 8 birds noted at the south end (area 6a).

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

One or two pairs breed

The behaviour of one pair to intruders was highly suggestive of a breeding on the Landing Beach (Corran Lunga) where on 23<sup>rd</sup> June a third adult was present. Observations suggested at least one pair attempted to breed on Sgeir a Chaisteil and one pair on Fladda's south-east coast (beside the Common Gull colony). The distribution of these breeding pairs were much as noted in recent years.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Regularly breeds in small numbers

Following an apparent reduction in numbers in 2001, the population had returned to that of recent years on Lunga. Three male birds displayed north of Tarbet on Lunga, this east of the Village the north-east end of Lunga, above the Well and from the slopes of Cruchacen above Shag Alley. Three birds were at the latter site on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Three pairs were considered to be on breeding territories along the western half of the southern end of Lunga, areas 6 & 7.

During the brief visit to Fladda on the 28th June, a single bird was flushed from a nest on the west coast.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Irregular visitor

Single birds were heard on Lunga from the Village in the north-east, and at Tarbet on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Brief visits to Fladda and past Sgeir an Eirionnaich on the 28<sup>th</sup> June found one and five birds respectively.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

One pair occasionally breeds

One pair was noted alarming at Lunga's Landing Beach on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June. Further alarming individuals suggestive of the presence of one breeding pair at Sgeir a Chaisteil. Atypically, no birds were located along either the southern shore or in the north bay of Fladda during a brief visit.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Small numbers seen daily presumably from the breeding colony on Coll

Up to 4 seen on 5 dates around Lunga, generally offshore from the Harp Rock - Sgeir a Chaisteil coast pirating incoming auks and Kittiwakes. No more than either two dark or two light phase birds were observed at any one time.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

An increasingly regular species, with one pair holding territory since 1996 where breeding was confirmed in 1998.

Following three years of birds regularly seen roosting and displaying on high ground south of the Tarbet (area 6), breeding was finally confirmed in 2002 with a pair incubating two eggs. A third bird was present briefly with this pair on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Successful breeding on the west coast of Fladda was also confirmed for a second pair with 2 chicks located. Time prevented confirmation of whether a third pair noted within the same territory on Fladda (east side) as occupied since 1996, had bred successfully.

Singles were occasionally noted offshore from the seabird colonies of Lunga's west coast.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Irregular breeding species in small numbers

Breeding was once again confirmed on the south-east of Fladda, the colony having expanded



on previous years to 10 pairs; 12 chicks were ringed. Single birds were occasionally seen or heard from the north end of Lunga.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

Regularly breeding species in small numbers

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga (area 8) with 2 pairs on territory. On passing Sgeir na h-lolaire on 28th June, a breeding pair were observed in the gullery along with five loafing birds, two adults and 3 subadults. Up to 12 non-breeders were noted on Sgeir a Chaisteil, as on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

A common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga (42 pairs), Sgeir a Chaisteil (21 pairs), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (1 pair) and Sgeir na h-lolaire (65 adults). No birds were occupying territories on Sgeirean na Guisaich. The virtual absence of breeding birds on Corran Lunga compared with the 13-15 pairs recorded during the 1990's; continues with only 2 pairs noted in 2002.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

A regular breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Fladda, Lunga (42 pairs), Sgeir a Chaisteil (7 pairs). Scanned from adjacent land or a boat, breeding was also considered to have occurred on Sgeir an Eirionnaich (9+ pairs), Sgeirean na Guisaich (north 3 pairs, south 0 pairs) and Sgeir an Fheòir (6 pairs) amongst those islands between Fladda and Lunga.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A localised breeding species

Breeding was only confirmed on Lunga (986 pairs), the main colony situated around Harp Rock. Typically a flock of up to 630 adults and immatures were noted daily on rocks between Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Irregular breeding species

An estimated 150 birds took flight from a ternery on Sgeir an Eirionnaich with the passage of our boat, of which over 75% were considered to be Common Terns, the remainder Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*. Several days earlier on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 240 terns were estimated to be in flight above this colony.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Irregular breeding species

See above account for Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*.

**Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga, Fladda and Sgeir a Chaisteil, the main concentration typically located within the vicinity of Harp Rock with 6920 adult birds estimated.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Common breeding species

Breeding was confirmed on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil. Birds were also seen at suitable breeding sites on Fladda.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Eleven adult birds were seen at Lunga's south end, area 6a, these included 2 pairs at cliff clint nest sites in the north-east corner. Adult birds were also typically seen in the waters around Fladda and the Sgeir an Eirionnaich - Sgeir an Fheòir sea area, with 20 birds counted during a cruise of these waters on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Common breeding species

Breeding adults were apparently occupying burrows on Lunga and Sgeir a Chaisteil.



**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Regular breeding species in very small numbers

Two birds were seen flying to Lunga from Fladda whilst singles were noted at Harp Rock, further south towards Tarbet, and at a sea cave between Shearwater Gully and Shag Alley. The southernmost cave of two between Harp Rock and the north end of Lunga showed signs of occupancy by birds.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

A minimum of three singing birds were considered to be holding territory on Lunga; one at the south end (area 6), a single bird on the north slope of Cruachan summit and one further north above the Village.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rutisco*

An irregular visitor

One birds was seen over the Village, Lunga on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Widespread breeding species on Lunga and Fladda with no estimation of territories made though probably less numerous than Rock Pipit.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Common breeding species along the coast of Lunga with birds also noted on Fladda and Sgeir a Chaisteil.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Irregular breeding species

At least one pair bred on Lunga with an adult regularly seen feeding a juvenile within the vicinity of the Village at the north-east end. Elsewhere on Lunga, juveniles were noted on single dates on the Boulder Beach and at Shearwater Gulley. An adult was regularly noted from Tarbet whilst two males were seen in dispute at Shearwater Gulley on 25<sup>th</sup> June. The same day, one bird, an adult was noted on Sgeir a Chaisteil by a team member marooned there for a tide.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Regular breeding species, quite common where habitat suitable.

As in previous years, the vast majority of records of the species were confined to the northern half of Lunga, predominately amongst the boulder scree and bracken covered slopes from Cruachan down to the sea and on Corran Lunga. However, all count sectors of Lunga had a minimum of one singing male, many several. Single nests were found at East Tarbet (area 9) and the Well, whilst adult carrying a faecal sack was observed at Shearwater Gulley. Of those full grown birds aged, juveniles were noted in areas 1, 6a and 14.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Irregular breeding species

No birds were recorded by the 2002 expedition.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Irregular visitor

One bird was recorded in the low lying ground between the north and south bays of Fladda during the expedition's brief visit on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

A minimum of five families of dependant and presumed locally bred young were noted on Lunga around the north-east Village, East Tarbet, Harp Rock, north of Shag Alley and north of Shearwater Gully. Two further family parties were also found on Sgeir a Chaisteil on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Elsewhere birds were noted on Fladda during a brief visit on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Rare visitor

The expedition's brief visit to Fladda on 24th June, found a male in full song in Bramble fringing the western edge of the low lying ground between the north and south bays. This sighting represents the first record by TIARG of the species on the Treshnish Isles.

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Rare visitor

Following a two year absence, a single bird was noted calling from the reedbed at the south-east end of Lunga. Previous records also refer to a single individual at the same locality, on those occasions singing, during late June in the years 1997-9.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

The species was noted daily on Lunga, predominately in those areas from Cruachan summit southwards involving both moulting adults and non-moulting juveniles. A minimum of 7 birds were involved that included two pairs of adults and two juveniles suggesting at least one pair may have successfully bred on the island. No nest site was found. One bird was seen on Sgeir a Chaisteil on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

As in previous years, caches (shell remains) of corvid-predated seabird eggs were found around the cliff tops of area 7 adjacent to East Tarbet.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

At least one pair breeds in most years

Between two and four birds were logged daily on Lunga, involving a minimum of four individuals that included 3 non-moulting birds (juveniles?) on 23<sup>rd</sup> June above Cruachan. On several occasions two birds were noted over Fladda. No nest site was found.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

As the week progressed, the flocks reported around Lunga daily increased in size from 6 on 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 30 and 25 birds on the Boulder Beach and South Cruachan respectively on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The flocks were comprised of both adults and juveniles, the island's population peak at the week's end at between 31 and 55 birds. The finding of a Starling's egg shell on Lunga confirmed the species status as a breeder.

**Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Regular breeding species in small numbers

Up to six birds were regularly seen with in the vicinity of the Village at north-east Lunga. Elsewhere up to 2 pairs were noted around Tarbet as on 25<sup>th</sup> June, whilst parties of between 2 and 6 birds were regularly recorded from the west and east side of Cruachan, in particular the slopes of Shearwater Gully. No juveniles were specifically identified on Lunga though a female mist netted at the Village was with well developed brood patch.

Elsewhere birds were noted on Fladda during a brief visit on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF MAMMALS FOR 2002

**Otter** *Lutra lutra*

Evidence of presence regularly noted

Fresh spraint, less than 24 hours old, was found at Harp Rock.

**House Mouse** *Mus musculus*

Resident

At least one animal was present indoors at the expedition base, the Village at the north end of Lunga.

**Rabbit** *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Resident, numbers much reduced in recent years.

Though no systematic monitoring of this species occurred, casual observations on Lunga suggested fewer visible animals to that noted in 2001, this perhaps a consequence of the wet weather. All sightings of black individuals were of singles noted at Harp Rock, Shearwater Gully, Shag Alley, the south end (area 7), Puffin colony above area 12a and singles beside the two gullies on the north-east coast.

No animals were seen during brief visits to Fladda.

**Grey Seal** *Halichoerus grypus*

Regularly breeding species

Up to 21 animals regularly hauled out on intertidal reefs north and north-east of Lunga. A single animal was also noted off the South end of Lunga.

**Common Seal** *Phoca vitulina*

Rare visitor

One animal was seen off Lunga on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BUTTERFLIES FOR 2002

**Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus*

Regularly breeder

A very poor year for the species with the only individuals noted being on single dates at Tarbet, Shag Alley, the Village, south end (area 6) and south of Shearwater Gully.

### OTHER SPECIES RECORDED SYSTEMATICALLY

**Oyster Plant**

Resident species known only from "colonies" at Tarbet (west), Lunga and the north end of Sgeir a Chaisteil.

99 plants were identified on the beach at Tarbet (west), Lunga. No count was made of the Sgeir a Chaisteil plants though no significant change in extent was thought to have occurred.

**2002 BREEDING SEABIRD CENSUS DATA FOR LUNGA AND SGEIR A' CHAISTEIL**

**Totals for each Sub Colony Zones of Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil**

Sector	Count unit	Count Sectors on Lunga (1 - 12) and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (13)													Lunga & Chaisteil Totals*		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	6a	7	8	9	10	11	12		12a	13
Fulmar	AON	28	1	13	62		40			39		14	33	102	17	100	449
Shag	AON	28	43	25	32	3				27		46	28	27		27	286
Lesser B-b Gull	PRS									2							2
Herring Gull	PRS	2						4	34				1	1		21	63
Great B-b Gull	PRS					28		13				1				7	49
Kittiwake	AON											21	939	13	13		986
Bonxie	AON							1									1
Razorbill	IND	102	48	60	96		27			38		50	536	128	30	23	1138
Guillemot	IND	35	1	4	12							108	6920	80	29	152	7341
Black Guillemot	PRS						6										6
Puffin	IND	76	108	42	24					3		28				62	343
Puffin	AOB											229	380	439	544	201	1793

**Key to count unit codes:**

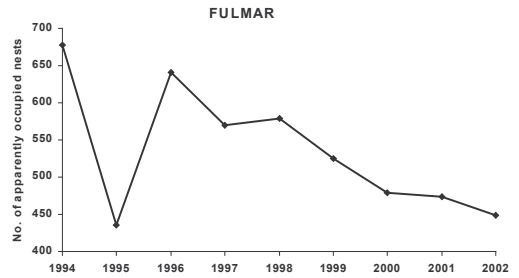
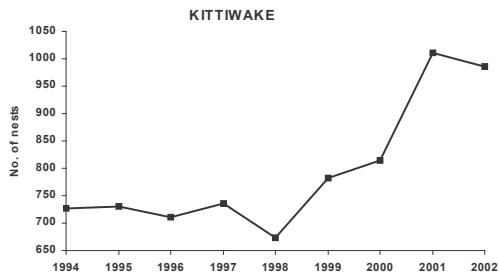
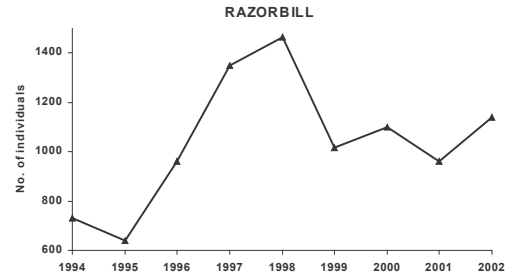
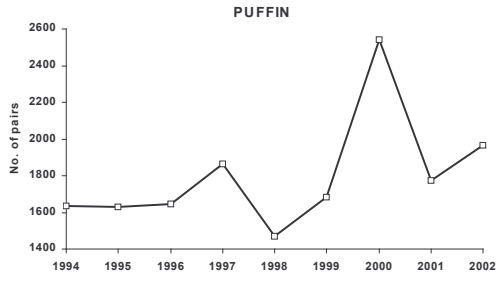
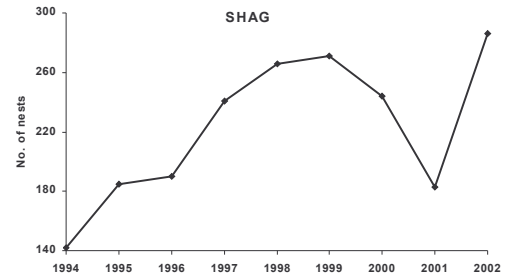
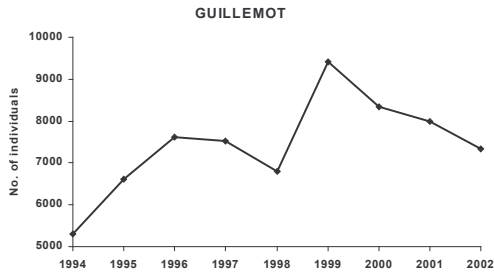
AON = Apparently occupied nest

IND = Individuals

PRS = Pairs

AOB = Apparently occupied burrow

## POPULATION CHANGES IN A SELECTION OF BREEDING SPECIES ON LUNGA, 1994 – 2002



**TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS FOR 2002**

Site	Species	Adults	Pulli	Retraps	Controls	Total
Fladda	Common Gull		11			11
	Great Skua		1			1
Lunga	Fulmar	22		7		29
	Storm Petrel	15		7	3	25
	Shag	10	87	8		105
	Herring Gull		11			11
	Great Black-backed Gull		5			5
	Kittiwake	3		10		13
	Guillemot	425		36	4	465
	Razorbill	89	21	36	2	111
	Puffin	351		30		381
	Meadow Pipit	4				4
	Rock Pipit	2				2
	Wheatear	2				2
	Twite	1				1
Treshnish Isles	Grand total for 2002	877	21	112	6	1154

Note: Rings used in 2002 were registered under *Treshnish Auk Ringing Group, Hardman, Juckes & Cooper, and Robin Ward.*

Retraps: No retraps of birds ringed earlier during the 2002 expedition are included.

**AN ASSESSMENT OF TIARG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRITISH AND IRISH RINGING SCHEME.**

Since 1971, the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group (TIARG) has ringed over 24,000 seabirds between the years 1971 - 2002, a substantial proportion of the national ringing total for some species and years. Tabulated below is TIARG's contribution to the National Ringing totals in 2000 (Clark *et al* 2002)\*.

	Juv/ad ringed 2000			Pulli ringed 2000			Ringing Totals to & incl 2000		
	UK & Eire	TIARG	% UK & Eire	UK & Eire	TIARG	% UK & Eire	UK & Eire	TIARG	% UK & Eire
Fulmar	650	12	0.02	1,189	0	0	105,386	266	0.3
Manx Shearwater	1,838	4		1,047	0	0	295,220	53	0.02
Storm Petrel	10,149	814	8.0	50	0	0	376,684	7722	2.1
Shag	340	5	1.5	5,027	54	1.2	191,800	1114	0.6
Herring Gull	839	0	0	4,811	15	0.3	293,512	396	0.1
Great black-backed Gull	100	0	0	3,343	2	0.1	65,678	265	0.4
Kittiwake	817	13	0.02	1,732	0	0	119,138	155	0.1
Guillemot	2,640	890	33.7	9,369	2	0	257,474	5001	1.9
Razorbill	406	132	32.5	1,933	1	0	94,192	2112	2.2
Puffin	8,799	389	4.4	1,403	0	0	213,415	4203	2.0

\* 2000 is the most recent British & Irish annual ringing totals available at the time of publication.

**TRESHNISH RINGING TOTALS 1971 - 2002**

SPECIES	1971	1974	1976	1977	1978	1980	1982	1984	1986	1989	1991
Fulmar	17	6	4		8	21	14	18	7	21	15
Manx Shearwater		2	13		4	4	1	8			
Storm Petrel		254	22		1	283		203	800	411	975
Shag	150	7	10	10	24	80	50	160		40	10
Buzzard						1	2				
Oystercatcher		1				1	4	2			
Common Sandpiper											
Great Skua											
Common Gull											
Herring Gull	6	1			14	46	35	56	4	4	3
Great Black-backed Gull	3	6	3	7	6	22	14	35		22	15
Kittiwake						1	1	1	2	2	4
Guillemot	32	20	14		66	502	137	364	180	250	306
Razorbill	65	72	90		115	266	218	236	151	103	64
Black Guillemot											
Puffin	70	198	271		203	200	208	182	174	160	114
Meadow Pipit											
Rock Pipit									5	1	
Pied Wagtail											
Wren											
Wheatear			12					1	3		
Willow Warbler											
Twite											
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1427</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1326</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>1506</b>

SPECIES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	TOTAL
Fulmar		4	27	38	7	24	23	12	25	22	313
Manx Shearwater		9	1		2	1	4	4			53
Storm Petrel	75	440	536	331	1104	741	732	814	1030	15	8767
Shag		10	59	96	99	150	100	59	37	97	1248
Buzzard											3
Oystercatcher							2		1		11
Common Sandpiper						1					1
Great Skua						1				1	2
Black-headed Gull											
Common Gull						4		5	11	11	31
Herring Gull		5	24	19	52	73	39	15	11	11	418
Great Black-b. Gull		6	25	16	48	19	16	2	27	5	297
Kittiwake		6	10	1	50	41	23	13	11	3	169
Guillemot		109	498	349	472	503	507	892	312	425	5738
Razorbill		81	101	105	98	112	102	133	31	110	2253
Black Guillemot					1				1		2
Puffin		358	236	301	267	398	274	389	214	351	4768
Meadow Pipit			4		1			12	1	4	22
Rock Pipit			2	4	2		2	1	2	2	21
Pied Wagtail		1	3	2							6
Wren			3						1		4
Wheatear				5	24	37	22	50	24	2	180
Willow Warbler			1								1
Twite					2					1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1530</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>2130</b>	<b>2109</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>2401</b>	<b>1739</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>24311</b>

NOTES: Data for 1971 - 1995 extracted from Walker & Cooper (1996).  
Ringing data for a three day visit in 1972 was not available.



## RECENT RINGING RECOVERIES

### STORM PETREL

TIARG have in the past year received details of 53 recoveries of birds ringed within Britain and Ireland in the months July - August and controlled by TIARG on Fladda or Lunga in June - July 2000 & 2001. These recoveries are summarised in both the table and map below; all birds were ringed as adults (Euring code 4).

Ringing Site	No. of controls at:		Time interval (days)		Distance km	Direction (degrees)
	Fladda	Lunga	min	Max		
Rubha Port Na Caranean	1	0	4740	4740	56	189
Lub Score, Trotternish, Isle Of Skye	1	0	686	686	130	181
Sanda Island, Kintyre, Strathclyde	1	9	317	7274	146	340
Tullagh Point, Co.Donegal, Eire	1	1	1052	1056	149	27
Shiant Islands, Western Isles	1	1	6938	7661	156	181
Corsewall Point, Dumfries & Galloway	1	0	2532	2532	184	335
The Gobbins, Co.Antrim, N.I.	1	0	4729	4729	192	346
Copeland, Co.Down, N.I.	1	2	331	3960	209	345
Isle Of May, Fife Region	1	1	2519	3611	240	278
Faraidh Head, Highland Region	1	0	1410	1410	252	202
Sheepland Harbour, Ardglass, Co.Down, N.I.	1	2	701	2880	252	348
Rathlin O'birne, Donegal	1	0	1787	1787	255	37
Eilean Nan Ron, Highland Region	1	2	336	1438	262	209
Strathy Point, Highland Region	0	1	2512	2512	274	212
Calf Of Man, Isle Of Man	2	1	1432	5092	290	340
Langness, Isle Of Man	1	0	1068	1068	293	338
Brough Of Birsay, Orkney	1	1	1049	1411	346	212
Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear	0	1	2918	2918	353	298
Auskerry, Orkney	1	1	5468	10200	364	219
North Ronaldsay, Orkney	3	3	329	1813	396	216
Bardsey Island, Gwynedd	1	0	339	339	429	346
Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire	1	0	3993	3993	461	303
Gwennap Head, Cornwall	1	0	705	705	720	356
Annet Island, Scilly Isles	1	0	2547	2547	735	360
Ponta De Almadena, Faro, Algarve, Portugal	1	1	739	1101	2164	5







<b>Guillemot</b> R19628	4 XF	27/06/00 24/06/01	Lunga Lunga 0km	360 degs	362 days
<b>Guillemot</b> T82217	4 SR	28/06/91 4/01/00	Lunga Theix, Morbihan, France 1018km	165 degs	3112 days
Remarks: Oil victim, taken into care, later released.					
<b>Guillemot</b> X02292	1 R	8/07/93 28/06/01	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	2912 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X03607	1 R	3/07/91 26/06/01	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	3646 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X03787	1 R	3/07/91 27/06/00	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	3282 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X15510	1 R	6/07/92 28/06/00	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	2914 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X25007	1 R	2/07/94 23/06/01	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	2548 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X31088	1 R	29/06/95 27/06/00	Sumburgh, Shetland Lunga 480km	219 degs	1825 days
<b>Guillemot</b> X39900	6 XF	23/06/96 03/01/00	Lunga Brittany Coast, Finistere, France 952km	172 degs	1289 days
Remarks: Dead on beach, oil victim					
<b>Guillemot</b> X43577	1 R	04/07/95 24/06/00	Isle Of Canna, Highland Region Lunga 63km	174 degs	1817 days







## THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2002

A list of participants through the years, with brief notes on the work performed

- 1971** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Eatough, Shiela Anderson, Dick Hansford.  
Full census and ringing.  
*This was the first trip and the Treshnish Isles were included in a “mopping up” of islands not fully covered during the 1969/70 “Operation Seafarer” National Seabird Census.*
- 1972** Barry Lawson, Geoff Ward, Bevan Craddock.  
Part census and ringing  
*Forced to leave after three days due to bad weather.*
- 1973** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Geoff Cope.  
*Trip abandoned – unable to land due to rough seas*
- 1974** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Geoff Cope, Tom Pool.  
Census of Lunga and ringing  
An RAF Helicopter landed a photographer onto Harp Rock, causing many bird casualties.
- 1976** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Geoff Cope, Tony Kilgallen.  
Full census Lunga – Fladda and ringing.  
*Very hot summer.*
- 1977** Barry Lawson, John Hodson.  
Ringing only.  
*Called in on “Corrywreckan” boat cruise.*
- 1978** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.  
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1980** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker, David Lawson.  
Ringing only
- 1981** Geoff Ward, Geoff Cope.  
Part census and photography
- 1982** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker, Andrew Lawson.  
Ringing only.
- 1984** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.  
Ringing only.
- 1986** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Geoff Ward, John Hodson, Simon Walker, Andrew Lawson.  
Full census with ringing
- 1989** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, John Hodson, Simon Walker.  
Ringing only.
- 1991** Barry Lawson, Peter Deans, Simon Walker, David & Andrew Lawson, Jan Densham.  
Ringing only.
- 1993** Roger Broad *et al.* (Scottish Natural Heritage charter)  
Full census of The Dutchman’s, Lunga, Chaisteil and Fladda.  
Chris Redfern *et al.*  
Storm Petrel ringing.

## THE EXPEDITIONS 1971 – 2001 (con't)

- 1994** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Danny Lenain.  
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1995** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Jan Densham, Fergus Henderson.  
Full census Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1996** Simon Walker, Mike Smith, Dennis Cooper, Danny Lenain, Robin Ward  
Full census of Lunga and Chaisteil and ringing.
- 1997** Simon Walker, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Steve Willis, Chris Spray  
Full census of Lunga – Fladda and ringing.
- 1998** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Steve  
Willis, Steve Worwood  
Full census of Lunga – Fladda and ringing.
- 1999**  
Week 1 Simon Walker, Dennis Cooper, Steve Willis, John Osbourne.  
Week 2 Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Jan  
Densham  
Full census of the Treshnish Isles for *Seabird 2000* and ringing
- 2000**  
Week 1 John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Damian Offer  
Full census of Manx Shearwater on Lunga for *Seabird 2000*. Limited passerine ringing.  
Week 2 Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Steve Willis, Andrew  
Carter, Steve Woodward  
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Tern census for  
*Seabird 2000*. Ringing.
- 2001** Simon Walker, John Hodson, Dennis Cooper, Robin Ward, Damian Offer, Andrew  
Carter  
Completion of census for *Seabird 2000*. Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands  
between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.
- 2002** Simon Walker, Robin Ward, Andrew Carter, Phil Bone, Sara Brown, Jackie Hay.  
Full census of Lunga, Chaisteil and the islands between Lunga – Fladda. Ringing.

**RINGS USED ON THE TRESHNISH ISLES SINCE 1927**

SHAG RINGS	A2 RINGS	E RINGS	F RINGS	G RINGS	H RINGS	RAZORBILL RINGS	GUILLEMOTS RINGS	MISC. RINGS
1080101 - 110	2010581 - 583	EF75001 - 500	FC52551 - 558	GH21301 - 350	HT09001 - 004	M46501 - 750	T14001 - 500	1F4094 - 097
1087111 - 120	2101991 - 2000	EH33377 - 380	FC52571	GJ35401 - 500	HT17871 - 890	M55001 - 500	T14501 - 15000	C331894 - 900
1105561 - 570	2121401 - 500	EH54501 - 55000	FR13606 - 636	GJ76001 - 800	HT17931 - 940	M72451 - 800	T82001 - 300	E196501 - 520
1123541 - 550	2167051 - 068	EH89256	FR14401 - 500	GJ99081 - 082	HT34021 - 030	M85501 - 800	X39501 - 40000	JB44316 ('94)
1123671 - 690	2170201 - 203	EH89260	FR56351 - 400	GK34351 - 354	HT68201 - 210	M88001 - 300	X56501 - 57000	K039209 - 230
1123961 - 970	2238501 - 600	EH98001 - 300	FS51016 - 500	GK50214 - 220	HT68221 - 226	M92501 - 700	X63001 - 500	K419290 - 295
1159651 - 700	2261001 - 500	EK29501 - 900	FS87001 - 100	GK50551 - 570	HT80301 - 400	X67501 - 68000	NA84296 - 299	
1163701 - 740	2284001 - 5000	EK72657 - 660	FV10611 - 620	GK62985 - 990	HW05351 - 360	X79501 - 80000		
1168001 - 100	2309901 - 10000	EK91471 - 490	FV10646 - 650	GK90821 - 840	HW06951 - 7000	X99001 - 500		
1170601 - 700	2311301 - 400	EN22001 - 500	FV54446 - 460	GK91471 - 490	HW08994 - 09000	R07001 - 100		
1187901 - 950	2311503 - 784	EP85608 - 612	FV62410	GP13416 - 450	HW37361	R19401 - 20200		
1237401 - 450	2311801 - 2000	EP85687 - 700	FV62416 - 226	GP62201 - 207	HW68101 - 110			
1322951 - 960	2348001 - 500	ER03701 - 800	FV96681 - 684	GP74501 - 75000	HW68161 - 170			
1328481 - 490	2369301 - 400	ES64018 - 020	SS96101 - 300		HW74971 - 990			
1350801 - 900	2405001 - 6000	ET19501 - 700			HW87211 - 225			
1357901 - 8000	2430701 - 900	ET52501 - 800			HW94907 - 913			
1366901 - 7000	2436501 - 7000	ET52801 - 3000						
1373751 - 3809	2444501 - 5000	ET80001 - 500						
	2446201 - 300	EG61000 - 500						
	2455501 - 6000	EG88501 - 556						
	2480001 - 500							
	2513501 - 4000							
	2538001 - 500							
	2538501 - 800							